

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

January 2011 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Letter

As I look back on the holiday season, the theme of "gifts" stands out in my mind, although not in the usual way.

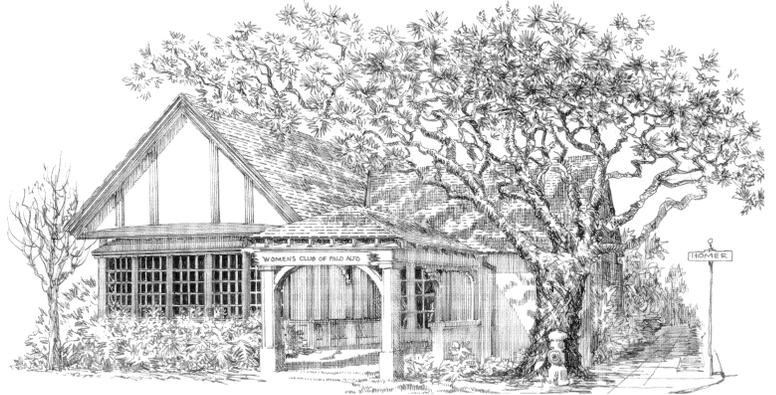
The gift of friendship, reconnecting with old friends and making new friends is something I value so much as a member of the Woman's Club. I have especially cherished the opportunity for friendship at a time in my life when my other involvements and priorities are in transition or shifting.

Whether it is being part of the Club Board, participating on a lunch or standing committee, or attending one of the club's interest groups, I have loved getting to know other members. I have enjoyed exchanging life stories and experiences, discovering common interests and working together to accomplish shared goals. My life is so much richer for these connections.

How fortunate we are that the women who founded this club and those who followed after were committed to its continued existence, both in terms of its purpose and in retaining our clubhouse as a gathering place. Did you know that we are the largest Federated Woman's Club in the state of California? We are also one of a dwindling number of clubs who still own and maintain a clubhouse. There appears to be a strong correlation between clubhouse ownership and club viability.

Earlier this year, I had an interesting conversation with one of our newer members. She was struck by the richness of wisdom among our members who have all led such varied and interesting lives. We brainstormed for a while on a way to share this communal wisdom. We didn't come up with a solution but as I reflect back on this conversation I realize that the gift of wisdom comes with the gift of friendship

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Wednesday, January 19

Laura Carstensen

Stanford Professor of Psychology and Public Policy, Director, Stanford Center on Longevity

Long Life in the 21st Century

HOSTED BY BEVERLY AARTS AND SANDY VOORHEES

11:30 Member and Guest Sign-in

12:00 Luncheon is Served

**12:15 President's Welcome
Program & Dessert**

Luncheon is offered at \$5.00 for members, \$10 for guests. Call Beverly Aarts for guest reservations 529.1829. If you are a vegetarian and are attending the luncheon in January, please e-mail Sandy Voorhees at sandyvoorh@aol.com and let her know.

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
Philanthropy Fundraiser, Kudos Corner,
Chamber Event, House & Grounds,
Nominating Committee, Community Outreach,
Philanthropy Deadline,

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org



Book Group

Tuesday, January 25

7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

Who Has Seen the Wind
by W.O. Mitchell

This intriguing tale of the Saskatchewan prairie, told mainly through the life of a young boy, is the last book in our fall series by Canadian authors. We meet on the fourth Tuesday at the Club. If you are not on the email reminder list, call Jeanne McDonnell to confirm that a change in date or location has not been necessary. New members welcome.

-Jeanne McDonnell,

(Contact me for questions or if you are not on email list.)



Save the Date for a Fun(d)raiser!

Renowned children's singer and Woman's Club member Nancy Cassidy will delight children and adults alike at a special concert to raise funds for the Philanthropy Committee on Saturday morning, February 5th. Tickets will be on sale at our January 15th holiday party along with Nancy's CD's which will make perfect holiday gifts! Tickets are \$10 each. CD's \$15 with a portion going to the Club! Please contact Jean Dawes (jean@dawes.com) or Liz Lillard-Bernal (lizandal@earthlink.net) to volunteer if you can help organize this wonderful event.



KUDOS CORNER

Sue Kemp, who delights us with her lovely piano playing at each luncheon

Pat Davis, Susan Hartzell, Rezvan Moghadam, our December Event Chairs, for such a spectacular party with scrumptious food, sparkling decorations and lively entertainment

Celiene O'Hare for faithfully hosting the monthly Tuesday Night drop in Social with delicious goodies and wine

History Corner History Includes Us

Californians have done their part to proclaim that women actually deserve equal billing in history. A recent notable venture was that the headquarters of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites moved from Chicago to the Grace Hudson Museum in Ukiah.

Longtime staunch worker in the field has been Molly MacGregor, a founder of the National Women's History Project in Santa Rosa. In San Francisco, the International Museum of Women emphasizes online information, in addition to public programs that feature both women's success and serious prejudices against them in some countries abroad.

The Global Fund for Women's first and long-time executive director was Anne Firth Murray, a Palo Altan who encouraged women in developing countries to become entrepreneurs. The Women's Heritage Museum is no more, but one of its foremost original projects, preservation of the Juana Briones House and public programs there, proceeds now, with the goal of acquisition, restoration, and instituting programs that bring history to life in the house and on the land.

The San Diego Women's History Museum and Educational Center could be a worthy travel destination, one of the few such museums in the nation and in fact, the world, and a predecessor to one under developmental in Washington D.C.

This year a group of those who care are working to create statewide celebrations of the centennial of California women's gaining full and equal voting rights in the nation. And let us remember, last but not least, the Palo Alto Woman's Club. We care about women's history, our club's history, and about our historic building that will reach its own centennial five years from now.

—Jeanne McDonnell!

Presidents' letter continued

if we only take the time and opportunity to get to know one another.

For 2011, I hope you experience the gift of friendship and wisdom from your involvement with the Woman's Club.

*Cordially,
Christine and Sandra*

Chamber Event

On Feb. 23rd the Woman’s Club will host the Chamber of Commerce’s Business Mixer at 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. There will be food and wine courtesy of MacArthur Park and Hobeas.

A drawing includes such items as: Free nights at the Sheraton Hotel, Westin Hotel, Keen Hotel, Stanford Terrace Hotel as well as Flowers from Deborah’s Palm and other items.

Since the Woman’s Club is a member of the Chamber the charge is only \$10.00 per person

It is a sought after event that we have been able to get at our Club for your enjoyment.

House and Grounds

If you attended the December dinner at the Woman’s Club, you noticed how gorgeous the clubhouse looked. Not only was it beautifully decorated, but the new lights strung on the front porch glowed invitingly, and the Cowper Street-side plants had settled in to complete the landscape. Unseen was the recently repaired roof, so we are in good shape for the winter. It’s gratifying to see how immaculate our custodian Silvia keeps the clubhouse. We are so fortunate to own and enjoy this building.

Nominating Committee forming in January

The Nominating Committee for the 2011-2012 Board will be formed this month. Five (5) members and two (2) alternates will be elected to the committee at the January luncheon meeting.

These seven people must have been Club members for at least two years and must be present at the January meeting. They will meet immediately after the January luncheon, and as needed thereafter, to determine the Board nominations. The slate of nominees is presented to Executive Board at it’s March meeting and to the membership at the March lunch meeting, when Board nominations are made.

If you would like to participate in the nominating process for next year’s Board, please contact Anne Ercolani (aercola@attglobal.net or 650-852-0620) by January 10th

Community Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has been busy this holiday season. Our members have been working at Haven Family House, staging apartments for new families, sorting donated clothes, and setting up the Community Room for families to “shop” for gifts for their loved ones. We have also put together gift bags for each apartment at HFH. At the November 20th “Clothing Boutique” we discovered by talking to residents that they need and would really appreciate toiletries: common items such as toilet paper, lip balm, shampoo, lotion, toothpaste, razors, and socks. We parceled out the assignments to our Committee members, and on Friday, December 17th, we met at the clubhouse and organized the bags which we decorated with ribbons and a card signed by all our committee members, telling HFH residents that the Woman’s Club of Palo Alto wished them a very happy holiday season. We delivered the bags that day to the apartments at Haven Family House.

One other project emerged when two of our members had the opportunity to talk with Pam Pike, the speaker at our October meeting and a recent graduate of Haven Family House. She shared the challenges of leaving HFH and making it on her own, paying a fairly high rent to live in San Jose and trying to make ends meet on the money she makes at Trader Joe’s, a job she loves. She and her two boys can pay for the basics, but at the end of the month, there is nothing left for clothes and other needs. We filled a bag for her with towels and toiletries and donated \$200 for a gift card at K-Mart where she can buy inexpensive jeans and hoodies for her boys.

In January, we will continue to work at HFH. We are all finding this connection fulfilling and worthwhile. If you have an interest in joining us, contact Sue Krumbein at suekrumbein@yahoo.com.

Philanthropy Reminder

Remember nominations for philanthropy grants are due Jan. 15.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, January 5 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

Tuesday, January 12 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm at the Club House
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. .

Thursday, January 13 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House
This month's movie *The King's Speech*

Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more info.

Wednesday, January 19 - Laura Carstensen,
Stanford Professor of Psychology and Public Policy "**Long Life in the 21st Century**"
HOSTED BY BEVERLY AARTS AND SANDY VOORHEES

Tuesday, January 25 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Club House
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260



The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
475 Homer Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement