

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

February 2011 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

Presidents' Letter

We have a confession to make—when we joined the Woman's Club ten years ago, we thought our only commitment was to attend the monthly luncheons and serve on a luncheon committee annually. The WC was one of many organizations to which we belonged. While we are still active with other groups we have found after these past two years serving as Co-Presidents, that the Woman's Club has become one of our most rewarding involvements. We appreciate the new friendships we have made and admire the dedication so many of you have toward strengthening the club.

We're thrilled with the energy and new special interest groups being introduced each month. Watch for further details if you're interested in the Historical Walks, Yogilates, Knitting, and Bridge (with over 30 sign ups just at the luncheon!). Anne Ercolani appreciated the positive response to serving on the Nominating Committee. If you receive a call with a request to serve next year, either on the board, or as chair of one of the standing committee, "Just Say Yes." (We can vouch for how rewarding it is to truly "belong." Involvement does wonders.)

A major challenge facing our club is a financial one. Even with the carefully researched need to increase dues last year to bring our expenses and our responsibility to maintain the house in closer alignment, a gap between income and expenses remained. To bridge the gap between income and expenses, we have traditionally relied on rentals and an annual fundraiser. We adopted a conservative budget, based on past practices, of assuming the equivalent of 2 rentals per month and a spring fundraiser. The sad news is that rentals are down

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**Wednesday EVENING,
February 16**

The Boomerang Quartet
An Evening of Barbershop Music

HOSTED BY LESLIE HUEY & MEHRAN FARAHANI

6:00 Member and Guest Sign-in

6:30 Dinner is Served

**7:00 President's Welcome
Program & Dessert**

Dinner is offered at \$5.00 for members, \$10 for guests. Call Leslie Huey for guest reservations 575.0783. If you are a vegetarian and are attending the luncheon in February, please e-mail Sandy Voorhees at sandyvoorh@aol.com and let her know.

Look Inside!

Book Club, History Corner,
Kudos Corner, Chamber Event,
Bridge Group, Yogilates, Investment Club,
Community Outreach,
Historic Walking Tour of San Francisco

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org



Book Group

Tuesday, February 22

7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse

March by Geraldine Brooks

We selected the spring 2011 books on the theme of American culture and experience. We will read them chronologically according to their subject matter.

- February 22, Geraldine Brooks, *March*
 - March 22, Timothy Egan, *The Big Burn*
 - April 26. Americo Paredes,
George Washington Gomez
 - May 24, Kathryn Stockett, *The Help*
 - June 28, Anne Tyler, *Digging in America*
- Jeanne McDonnell*

(If you are not on the group's email reminder list, contact me for questions, such as whether a change in date or locale has been necessary. Customarily, we meet on the fourth Tuesday at the Clubhouse. New members welcome.)

Bridge Group (New!)

If you are interested in joining and did not sign up at the January luncheon, please contact Mary Haverstock (mgh956@gmail.com).

KUDOS CORNER

Anne Ercolani for effectively recruiting a Nominating Committee and Sarah French for accepting the chair.

Beverley Aarts— for single handedly baking the entire delicious cookie assortment for the January luncheon

Bridal Faire WC "Marketing Team" – **Helen Gracon, Margaret Feuer, Gail Wooley, Carol Hubenthal, Anne Ercolani** for promoting our club for rentals

Vicki Sullivan –for answering the call for suitable cups and saucers or delicate mugs to supplement our dwindling supply by sleuthing in select "slightly used" shops

History Corner

A Club Woman to the Core

A recently published biography by Virginia Elwood-Akers finally puts Caroline Severance into the starring role in history she has long deserved. The author has called Severance "a forgotten heroine," who participated in the forefront of every human rights movement of her time.

Severance was an abolitionist, a suffragist, an advocate for women's health and the right of women to become physicians, a peace activist, and a social-ist. She was a leader of the woman suffrage movement before the Civil War, and lived to vote in an American presidential election after California women gained full and equal voting rights in 1911.

She was a founder of the Women's Club Movement, which strengthened women's efforts to gain passage of the Nineteenth Amendment by which all women nationally gained the right to vote in 1920.

Severance had been a founding member of the New England Women's Club in 1868 and the National American Woman Suffrage Association a year later. She and her husband moved to Southern California, where, in 1878, she took the lead in originating the first Los Angeles Women's Club.

As a founding member of the Friday Morning Club, the Women's Parliament Association of Southern California, and the Los Angeles Woman Suffrage Association, it was no exaggeration when her contemporaries called her the Mother of Clubs and a builder of the character of the City of Los Angeles.

—*Jeanne McDonnell!*

Yogilates Sessions

Open to All Members

Interested in Yogilates but unwilling to commit to something without first trying it? Attend any of the Club's remaining Yogilates classes on a DROP IN basis for \$12.00 per session. Classes meet on Tuesdays at 4:00 pm for the entire month of February and most of March. Email Melaine Bales Hennessy for more details or just stop by!

Investment Club has an opening

call/email. Carol Martin 408 923 2492 or martin-investments@yahoo.com

Presidents' letter continued

down significantly and there seems little membership interest in organizing a spring fundraiser. The Finance Committee has met and will present a series of budget cutting recommendations to the Board in February.

We know the organizers of the very successful Kitchen Tour tried to enlist support of the membership last fall. Perhaps it seemed too far away. Perhaps your priorities were elsewhere. Perhaps you'd like to help on another event. Whatever the reason, let's all consider ways we might have some fun together while sponsoring a fundraising activity. If you have any fundraising ideas particularly if they could be done on the "fast track" do let us know. We're open to new, creative ideas.

Our hats off to the Philanthropy Committee for their dedication to raise additional funds for other non-profits grants. We hope to see many of you at the Nancy Cassidy Songfest on Saturday, February 5 at either 10:30 or 1 p.m. Bring your children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and neighbors. Nancy will put a song in our hearts and a lilt in our walk.

Happy Valentine's Day, too!

-Christine and Sandra

Business-After-Hours Mixer

**Wednesday, February 23,
5:30 - 7:00 p.m.**

Hosted by the Woman's Club
of Palo Alto
475 Homer Avenue

**Planning a company event,
wedding or special party?**

You won't want to miss this mixer!

The historic Woman's Club of Palo Alto, a Tudor ~Craftsman Clubhouse built in 1916 is a landmark perfect for an event for up to 150 people. Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer provided by MacArthur Park and Hobee's Restaurants in this charming setting. Enter to win a free night at the Sheraton or Westin Hotel, Stanford Terrace Inn or Hotel Keen, or a floral arrangement from Deborah's Palm. For registration and more information, please visit our website.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee has already accomplished many things in 2011, including:

- Thoroughly sorting through donations, organizing bins, and setting aside all usable clothes in the Haven Family House Clothes Closet,
- Holding a clothing give-away for the families who live at Haven Family House,
- Supervising a group of teenagers to sort through, fold and label sheets and towels in the Housewares Closet,
- Sorting through toiletries so that it is easy for families to find what they need,
- Organizing the Haven Family House Toy Closet so that it is easy to find items by age as well as by category,
- Boxing up Christmas decorations, paper, and ribbon to be taken to the warehouse for storage,
- Sorting through items in the Book Room so that they are organized by age and type, and
- Assisting residents and their children in finding books that will interest them.

Those of us who work at Haven Family House find it interesting and fulfilling. We always work at least in pairs, and we have a lot of fun. If you'd like to see what Haven Family House is all about and perhaps join us sometime, contact Sue Krumbein at suekrumbein@yahoo.com or 328-3299.

History Walks

We are pleased to announce another Woman's Club activity. On Tues., March 8, Sue Krumbein, a San Francisco City Guide, will lead a Mission Murals tour for Woman's Club members. To sign up:

- Call or email Lolly Osborne at lolly@osbofamily.com or 494-7207 to make reservations must at least one week in advance.
- There is a \$10.00 fee to cover a donation to SF City Guides and gas for drivers' cars. Lolly will indicate how to pay that fee.
- Plan to arrive at Mitchell Park (enter off E. Meadow) by 9:00 am where the group will carpool to SF.
- Bring your lunch to eat in the park, prior to returning to Palo Alto by 3:00 pm.
- Wear comfortable shoes.

—Eileen Brooks, Sue Krumbein, Lolly Osborne

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, February 2 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

Tuesday, February 9 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm at the Club House
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. .

Thursday, February 10 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House

This month's movie *Blue Valentine* now playing at Aquarius and Century 20
Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more info.

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HOSTED BY LESLIE HUEY & MEHRAN FARAHANI

Tuesday, February 22 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Club House
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260



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Palo Alto, CA 94301

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Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement