

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

April 2011 Newsletter

Co-Presidents: Christine Shambora, Sandra Pearson

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

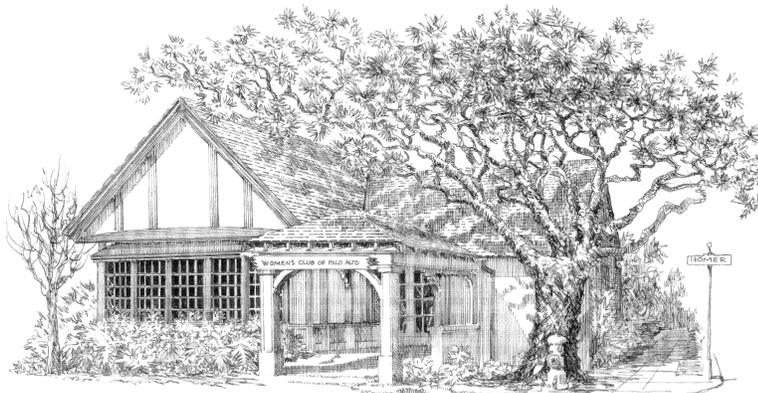
Presidents' Letter

We are very grateful to Sarah French, chair, of the Nominating Committee to have recruited such a talented group of women to serve on the Board next year. As our term as co-presidents begins to wind down, we have begun to reflect on events of the past two years.

One of the biggest changes in our club has been the energy of 47 new members. We've all observed an increase in attendance at luncheons, the advent of new interest groups (Yogilates, Knitting, Bridge, Historic Walks), as well as a stronger commitment to community involvement. Cine Circle continues to thrive. Tuesday Socials, along with the Writing Group, Book Group, History Group, and Investment Club, give us additional opportunities to share ideas. The Program Committee has contributed to our personal growth through a series of stimulating speakers. Our Standing Committees – House and Grounds, Rentals, and Philanthropy -- have reached out to embrace additional members in their very important work.

At our first board retreat in the summer of 2009, we identified various challenges we faced. We decided it was important to clarify the link between community involvement, philanthropy, and fundraising. Thanks to Joan Johnston, Finance Chair, and her able committee, a vision was clearly articulated. * Today, Outreach links with Philanthropy to support one of the annual recipient organizations of the Philanthropy Committee. This year, Haven House has been the beneficiary of our club's commitment to community involvement through 572 volunteer hours by 25 members and donations of household items valued at \$3,000. With the dramatic increase in membership on the Philanthropy Committee, an additional \$4,000 was raised by sponsoring a Nancy Cassidy Children's Concert.

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Wednesday, April 20

**Where will we get our news when
Newspapers are gone?**

Bill Johnson, Publisher, Palo Alto Weekly
plus **Voting for 2011-12 Board**

HOSTED BY MARTI BAERG & CAROL KIPARSKY

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 Carol Kiparsky for guest reservations 321.1426. If you are a vegetarian and are attending the luncheon in April, please e-mail Marti Baerg at marti.baerg@gmail.com and let her know.

Look Inside!

Book Club, 2011-12 Slate for Woman's Club
Officers, History Corner, Community Outreach,
Yogilates Announcement,
Next Historic History Walk



Book Group

Tuesday, April 26, 7:30 p.m.
at the Clubhouse

George Washington Gomez **by Americo Paredes**

We are reading our spring series on the theme of American culture and experience in order of chronology of the topics of the books. This month will be *George Washington Gomez* by Americo Paredes. The era is the depression of the 1930s, the locale is the Texas-Mexico border. Books to follow are

May 24, Kathryn Stockett, *The Help*

June 28, Anne Tyler, *Digging in America*

Jeanne McDonnell

Contact me if you are not on the book group's email reminder list, in case a change of venue or date becomes necessary.

The Woman's Club Nominating Committee presented its slate to the Board of Directors and then to the membership at the March 16th meeting where it was accepted. The membership will vote on the slate at the April 20th meeting.

Slate for 2011-2012

President:	Eileen Brooks
First Vice President:	Leannah Hunt
Second Vice President:	Sandy Voorhees
Treasurer:	Joanne Pinsky
Corresponding Secretary:	Sandy Rickard
Recording Secretary:	Harriet Berner
Finance Officer:	Barbara Spreng

Directors:

Term expires May 31, 2012	Term expires May 31, 2013
Bobbi Fox	Marlene Prendergast
Kay Remsen	Donna Bohling
Wanda Cavanaugh	Annette Glanckoph
	Sue Krumbein

Nominating Committee Members

Sarah French, Chair, Eileen Brooks, Carolyn Tucher, Gail Wooley, Elizabeth Moder-Stern

History Corner **Junior Woman's Club** **of Palo Alto**

In 1941 a group of young women ages 16-24 became the first members of the Junior Woman's Club of Palo Alto. Meetings and activities were "very lively" and conducted in the clubhouse but separately from the Palo Alto Woman's Club group. A sponsor was required for membership. The membership was not limited in number.. A recent conversation with a long time PA resident, Mrs. Albert Santos (Lois) now age 90 and Junior Club member from 1953-56, revealed a very memorable time of many activities, social events and fundraisers. At age 35 you were required to leave the club and most junior members had no desire to move on to the "older group"! In all social articles and newspaper accounts of activities, the women were never listed by their first name, always "Mrs." followed by the husband's name. Articles preserved in scrapbooks at the PAWC document the exuberance of the young members and their many accomplishments. In 1948 most of these young women were moms and wives. They started a play school program that was eventually taken over by the State Adult Education Department. 25-30 interest groups were formed within the group. Family Service Association, Blood Bank donations with reserve for members, library assistance, youth organizations including the Conga Room for teens at Lucie Stern Center, Save the Children's Federation, PA Servicemen's League, Paly Sports Boosters, youth talent exhibits and science fairs were some of the many group activities. In the 50's, "Build a Better Community" was an annual theme and "Bloody Bayshore"... "Stop the Massacre" proponents for speedy completion of the Hwy 101 were big projects. Very successful fundraisers that included fashion shows, teas, drama productions, art shows, music performances and lectures supported all these programs. These young women were indeed "lively"! Boots Gould, a 50-year member of the PAWC, says that this Junior Group was active until about 1988.

-Lolly Osborne

Presidents' letter continued

Another top priority emerged once the architectural firm of Cody Anderson Wasney's completed a bathroom design retaining the historic integrity of the house. Once the contractors' bids were submitted (all approximately twice the originally estimated cost), the Board faced a difficult decision. After careful deliberation, we decided to move ahead with the project. The rationale is documented in the letter we mailed to the membership.* A key component for moving forward, was the commitment to raise additional funds. A group of dedicated and experienced fundraisers formed the Historic Preservation Committee and made personal appeals to members for additional substantial donations. In the process of doing the "asks," we learned that many members did not have a clear understanding of the value of our clubhouse or the costs of maintaining it.* The committee regrouped last fall to consider next steps, including ways to develop a shared vision. As a result, we are now in the process of launching a Woman's Club community conversation to examine our past and chart a future course. Some of the conversation will be focused on developing goals and considering a long range financial plan. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months.

We are beginning to realize we have our feet firmly planted in the past and present but we're also looking towards the future. These are exciting times in the Woman's Club.

Sandra and Christine

**These documents - Community Involvement Report, Membership Letter re Bathroom Remodel 2009, Historic Restoration Report to the Board - are posted on our website, under the newly created Club Activities/Executive Board Documents.*

Outreach Committee

On Saturday, March 12, the Outreach Committee sponsored a Give-Away at Haven Family House with tables and hanging racks filled with clothing, toys, books, baby equipment, and toiletries. Families came to shop and went back to their apartments with many useful items. Outreach members baked cookies which were a treat for everyone, and four WC guests came with committee members to see what Haven Family House was all about. The event was a great success.

We will sponsor another Give-Away on May 21, and we would love any donations you might be able to make. The most pressing needs (used but clean, please) include pots and pans, sharp knives, cutting boards, kitchen sponges, washcloths, twin & double mattress pads, manual can openers, coffee makers, lamps and lamp shades of all sizes, bath mats, mixing bowls, cereal and soup bowls, flatware, shower curtain liners, & pocket calculators. You can drop items off at Sue Krumbein's back porch, 2371 Bryant St., PA.

A number of Woman's Club members have donated furniture to Haven Family House. They will pick up items, so if you have a sofa, a chair, a dresser, a coffee table, side tables, bedside tables, or a dining table and chairs, Haven Family House will arrange a pick up. Contact them directly at 650.325.8719. Be sure to tell them you are a member of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto! Donations are tax deductible.

Members of the Outreach Committee volunteer regularly at Haven Family House, so if you're interested in seeing what they have to offer, do join us. Contact Sue Krumbein at suekrumbein@yahoo.com, and she will pair you with a volunteer. You'll really enjoy the experience.

Next History Walk to Presidio, May 10

The next History Walk will be on Tuesday, May 10, to the Presidio which offers art, historic buildings, wooded areas, and incredible views. We hope to have a National Parks ranger give us a tour. Here's how to sign up: • Call or email Lolly Osborne at lolly@osbofamily.com or 494-7202 to reserve one of the 20 available spots. • Put May 10 on your calendar & plan to arrive at Mitchell Park (enter off E. Meadow) by 9:00 am where the group will carpool to SF. • Bring your lunch and water. Wear comfortable shoes. • A \$5.00 fee covers gas for drivers' cars.

Yogilates' Next Session Begins April 5th

A second session of Yogilates will be offered at the Woman's Club. The class will focus on traditional pilates mat work with a twist of yoga. The ten-week program, tentatively scheduled to begin April 5th, will be limited to fifteen participants. Class will meet at 4:00 pm on Tuesdays for one hour sessions. Cost for the series of ten sessions is \$100. Class is appropriate for all fitness and age levels. No previous experience is necessary. Interested members should contact Melaine Bales Hennessey via email (melainehennessey@gmail.com) or phone (650-326-0776).

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, April 6 - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

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

Thursday, April 14 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at 7:00 pm at the Club House
This month's movie is the much buzzed-about Sundance indie WIN WIN.
Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth.
Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more info.

Wednesday, April 20 - Where Will We Get Our News When Newspapers Are Gone?
Bill Johnson, Publisher Palo Alto Weekly
HOSTED BY MARTI BAERG & CAROL KIPARSKY

Tuesday, April 26 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Club House
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321 5260



The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
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www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement