

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## June 2011 Newsletter

President: Eileen Brooks

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

### Presidents' Letter

Thanks to all for your votes of confidence. The obvious forward momentum and good energy now at the WC should make my term fun and productive (though not exactly easy.)

I humbly follow the trail that Christine and Sandra have bravely blazed.

I bring optimism galore and big enthusiasm.

#### *My brief bio:*

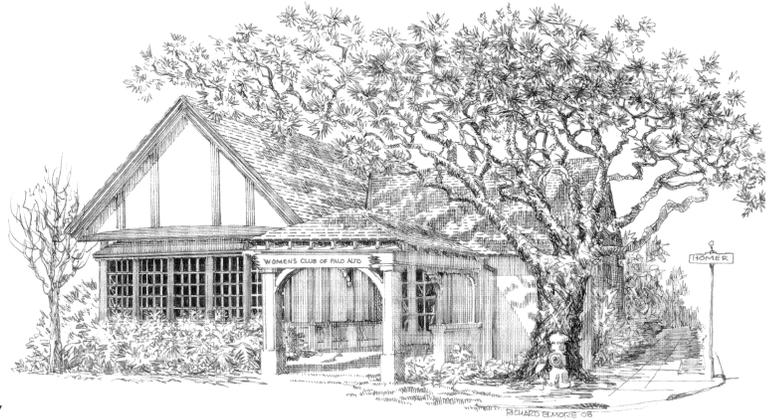
58, CT, 3 sibs, CCSU, UCONN, BS Eng. Ed/ Psych, Travel, CA '86, Husband, Honda, Eichler, no kids, PA Weekly, UCSC Tech Comm, PayPal, Netscape, Retired, Travel, Stanford Hospital, Retired again, Travel, DC, SF, Cape Cod, Gardening, Hiking, UK/Europe Travel, Non-fiction, Yoga, Travel, Travel, Vol. Work, Block Captain, Travel, Travel, Travel.

(Note to self: travel more.)

Packed WC Agenda will include (but not be limited to):

- Fundraisers
- Speaker Series?
- Luncheon re-org
- Separate Biz meetings?
- Endowment Fund?
- Member friendship-building
- More History Walks
- Expanded Board duties?
- Expanded member duties?
- Better coffee
- Landscaping
- New edition of member handbook
- New chairs
- Neighborhood outreach?
- Newsletter revamp?
- More website use
- Rentals marketing

*(continued on page 3)*



### A Woman's Challenges Arlene Blum

Mountain Climber, Author, Scientist

HOSTED BY VALERIE HAMILTON AND AMY RENALDS

**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. Email Valerie for guest reservations at [vhamil1947@aol.com](mailto:vhamil1947@aol.com). If you are a vegetarian and are attending the luncheon in June, please e-mail Amy at [alrenalds@yahoo.com](mailto:alrenalds@yahoo.com) and let her know.*

### Look Inside!

Book Club, The BIG DRAW,  
Kudos Korner, History Corner,  
Bridge/Knit Interest Groups, Community  
Outreach, Walking Group

[www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)



## Book Group

**Tuesday, June 28, 7:30 p.m.**

at the Clubhouse

### *Digging in America* by Anne Tyler

This is the final meeting of our American culture series, Anne Tyler, *Digging in America*.

We may begin discussing our book list for the fall, since we usually select books around a theme such as location, era, or topic.

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

— *Jeanne McDonnell.*

## THE BIG DRAW

The last chance to be a BIG WINNER will be at the June luncheon-- before we do the BIG DRAW you have the final chance to purchase raffle tickets..... Elizabeth and Sarah will be on hand at 11:30 to sell to tickets to those of you who haven't had the opportunity to help support your CLUB... bring your check-book or \$\$ and get in on the chance to be the winner of some great prizes....1 ticket for 10, 3 tickets for 25 and the best deal is 13 tickets for 100....Drawing will take place after lunch--someone will be the BIG IPAD winner...could be you!!

## Kudos Corner

- **Sarah French and Elizabeth Moder-Stern** for organizing The Big Draw
- **Margaret Feuer** for installing the 2011-12 Board
- **Melaine Hennessey** for doing the flowers for the Board installation
- **Jeanne Dawes & Liz Lillard** for their leadership of the Philanthropy Committee

## History Corner Woman's Club of Hollywood, California

A recent article in the New York Times described a painful conflict between older and younger members of the Woman's Club of Hollywood who had differing visions for the club's future. Founded in 1905, the members first met in each other's homes to discuss literature and theater and play some whist. They later met in the basement of the Library, which they built; in 1949, they met in their Club House, a grand, Spanish-style building that once housed the Hollywood School for Girls, a designated historical landmark.

The founding members were community-minded women who began collecting books and solicited a \$10,000 gift from Andrew Carnegie; they built a library and donated it and their book collection to the city of Hollywood; they helped to found the Hollywood Bowl and encouraged its concerts and activities. During both world wars, they supported the Red Cross and raised more than \$100,000 in war bonds. The Club enjoyed a heyday in the 1930s and 1940s and was "an entertainment industry hub for the wives of producers and actors."

The Woman's Club of Hollywood evolved into more of a social club than an organization involved in civic affairs. In addition, by the 1990s, their membership was both dwindling and aging. Early in this century, a group of younger women urged their friends to join the Club and investigated its financial status, its physical plant, and its role and mission in contemporary Hollywood. In February, 2010, a new, energetic Board secured non-profit status for the organization and began to move in directions, more in keeping, the Board commented, with the Club's original vision and mission. They pledged to maintain ongoing commitments to the Salvation Army, Meals on Wheels, and the Humane Society; at the same time they wanted to address current issues such as gang violence, education for inner-city youth, and more aggressive outreach in the community. The Board hired a manager (at \$100,000 a year) to oversee finances, program, community partnerships, and the like. The older members, according to the Times, felt threatened, as rumors circulated that the new Board had entered into negotiations with Hollywood Heritage to raze

*Presidents' letter continued*

- Drop-in Wed. morning coffee (Keurig?)
- "Planning for the Future" roll-out
- Lawn Bowling?
- Passion
- Kindness
- Fun

Any and all other suggestions/ideas honestly and thoroughly considered.

Should be a good ride.

Hang on -

*-Eileen Brooks*

*History corner continued*

the Club House and build condominiums on the historic site. Past presidents formed a group to counter the new leadership, and bitter acrimony characterized interactions between the two groups. The Club website provides no insight into the tense situation, stressing instead yoga classes and an upcoming Empowerment Conference.

*—Peggy McKee*

**Bridge Group**

**Beginner and Intermediate/Advanced Bridge meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 2-4pm.** We will have 2 more sessions left on June 2nd and June 16th and then adjourn for the summer. Beginners who want to continue thru the summer should contact Leika Kejriwal at [leika@leikak.com](mailto:leika@leikak.com). Sign ups for 2011-12 will be at the Fall luncheon. Contact Mary Haverstock for further information at [mgh956@gmail.com](mailto:mgh956@gmail.com).

**Knit/Stitch Interest Group**

**Knit/Stitch meets on 1st and 3rd Fridays from 1-3pm.** We will continue to meet through the summer at Ginnie Noh's home. Everyone is welcome, quilters, crocheters, needlepointers and anyone who does handwork. RSVP to Ginnie Noh at [ginnicaselli@msn.com](mailto:ginnicaselli@msn.com) if you would like to attend.

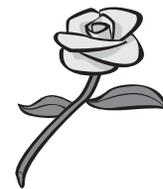
**Community Outreach**

Community Outreach – An Opportunity  
Do you like to talk and laugh? Make new friends? Make a difference? Then the Community Outreach Committee is for you. Community Outreach is a **new** Standing Committee for the Woman's Club this year, and we would love to have you join us. This past year, we supported Haven Family House (HFH) in Menlo Park by managing their donations – clothes, housewares, gifts, and books. Beyond organizing those "closets", we staged apartments for new families moving to HFH, put together gift bags for families at Christmas, and scheduled Give-Aways of the donations three times this year. We work in pairs and groups of women, side by side, getting to know each other and deepening our friendships. It is very fulfilling and fun! Most of our committee works one or two mornings a month at HFH – the schedule is flexible. Contact Sue Krumbein or Donna Bohling anytime and try out Community Outreach.

Are you redecorating? Shelter Network has a truck and will gladly accept donations of furniture for one of the 6 shelters (HFH is one) that they operate on the Peninsula. Call 650-685-5880 X114 and arrange a FREE pick-up.

**Walking Group**

Donna Bohling and Sarah French have led the walking group since November, and it seems that right now there isn't much interest in a regularly scheduled time. We will resume in the Fall if there is interest, so be sure to sign up .....



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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, June 9** - Board Meeting 5:00 pm at the Club House

**Tuesday, June 14 - Drop In Social 5:00-7:00 pm at the Club House**

Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122. .

**Thursday, June 23** - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs at the home of Mary Lou Johnson  
RSVP required. Movie and meeting time TBA. Please check your email for more details.

Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth.

Call Melaine at 650-326-0776 for more info.

**Wednesday, June 15 - Arlene Blum, Mountain Climber, Author, Scientist**

*A Woman's Challenges*

HOSTED BY VALERIE HAMILTON AND AMY RENALDS

**Tuesday, June 28** - 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](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement