

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## November 2011 Newsletter

President: Eileen Brooks

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

### President's Letter

It was easy to see our giant hearts on display at the October Luncheon. The Haven Family House donations tables overflowed, to say the least. Once again, the Woman's Club stepped up to help these families in need. Donations in kind totaled upwards of \$3400. Hooray for us!

Our Philanthropy Committee continues our "Community Involvement" as they plan the second Nancy Cassidy Children's Concert for February 11, 2012. Funds generated at that concert will augment the already budgeted Philanthropy funds...all to help our very worthy grant recipients.

As you know, our General Funds come from member Dues and from Rentals. And, from Fundraisers. Another group of WC members has been busy brainstorming Fundraising ideas to insure that our beautiful Clubhouse is not only maintained, but improved. (A few of the house issues that will need attention in the future: replace the roof, do termite work, update the kitchen, restore the historic screen, address the sloping southwest corner of the ballroom, install a side patio, update our office furniture, acquire furniture for the foyer, improve interior and exterior lighting, and paint the exterior of the house.) As this enthusiastic group moves forward with their ideas (The Kitchen Tour is back!), please support them with your talents and resources.

Two reminders:

- Bring canned goods for the Food Bank to the November Luncheon. Put them in the baskets provided on each Luncheon table.

- The December Luncheon will be held on December 14.

*-Eileen Brooks*



### Wednesday, November 16

## Water, Money, Politics, and Fish: Shaping and Reshaping the Future of California's Water Resources

**David L. Freyberg**

Department of Civil and Environmental  
Engineering, Stanford University

HOSTED BY ANNE ERCOLANI  
AND SUSIE RICHARDSON

**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 Anne Ercolani for guest reservations or if you need a vegetarian meal at: [aercola@attglobal.net](mailto:aercola@attglobal.net)*

### Look Inside!

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

## Book Group

### Tuesday, November 29, 7:30 p.m.

at the Clubhouse

We will discuss *22 Britannia Road* by Amanda Hodgkinson, the third in our fall series of books with subject matter relating to Ireland and England.

If you are not on the group's email list, contact Jeanne McDonnell, in case a change of venue is necessary. Note that we adjusted November and December from the usual 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday for Thanksgiving and Christmas commitments. Subsequent books are:

December *Half a Life* by V. S. Naipaul  
 January *The Hand that First Held Mine*  
 by Maggie O'Farrell

New members welcome. Contact Jeanne McDonnell  
 jfmc@aol.com

— Jeanne McDonnell

## Board Business

### October, 2011 Board Meeting

- Communications, Membership, Finance and Fundraising Committees are up and running.
- The Board approved the Philanthropy Committee's request for \$1000. to be used for promotional items for the Nancy Cassidy event. Funds to be repaid to the WC General Fund after the event.
- The Board approved Carol Muller's request for a new evening program – Eldercare: Sharing, Exploring and Responding to Our Needs. Program Monday, Nov. 7.
- Final Board Protocols and Ethics documents were distributed; final edits of the Board and Member Job Description document were accepted (for distribution at the November Board meeting.)
- Barbara Spreng updated the Board on the current status of the Planning for the Future survey – results are being tabulated and sorted.

Board meeting Agenda and Minutes are available for general membership review. Please contact Eileen Brooks, President.

[eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

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

## History Corner

### Kathleen Norris 1880-1966

Palo Alto Kathleen Norris made a fortune from the novels she wrote; enough to have built a home in Palo Alto that still remains beautiful. She was so famous in her time that she was featured on a cover of Time magazine in 1935.

What reminded me of her was an article in the New Yorker about the Belgian author, Georges Simenon, born in 1903. I first heard of Simenon when I was a student of comparative literature at the University of Brussels. He wrote nearly 200 novels, Norris wrote 80, but both of them profited grandly from their works.

I had previously read and liked Norris, and I thought now that I would go to the library and choose from, perhaps only 40 of her books, since she was so notable a local. To my astonishment, the Palo Alto Library has a total of two, plus one about San Francisco, where she was born, in the Z collection (that must be read in the library.)

I started to read *Certain People of Importance*, which is excellent for showing what life was really like for people of Marin County and San Francisco in the 1880s. Girls had effectively one option in life, and that was marriage. Among the people in the book who make it real: Hispanic ranchers who still spoke Spanish and lived in the hospitable style of their culture, an Indian man who worked for them, Easterners who came West for work, and Americans for whom class featured large. A recommended read.

Jeanne McDonnell

## For more about Dr. James Doty

For those who are interested in learning more about Dr. James Doty (our October Luncheon speaker) and his work on Compassion, The Center for Compassion and Altruism Research and Education website address is: <http://ccare.stanford.edu/>

## In the spirit of Thanksgiving...

Please bring a canned good to add to the basket on your table at the November luncheon. We will donate these items to the Food Bank.  
*Thank You, The November Luncheon Committee*

## Committee and Interest Group Updates

### Planning for the Future

First, we want to thank all those who took the time to fill out the survey. About one third of our members responded, giving us a good sample of ideas and opinions to guide our planning. A vast majority of respondents indicated that financial reporting, asset management and club operations should be a priority and the Board has already begun considering ways to address these issues. Additional survey results can be read in a comprehensive Board Report, posted on our website (go to Club Activities, then Executive Board Documents). Stay tuned for further progress as we *plan for the future* of the Woman's Club.

*—Julie Jerome and Barbara Spreng*

### Community Outreach

The four tables loaded with donations for Haven Family House spoke volumes about the generosity and, yes, compassion of our club and its members for those in our community who need help. Representatives from HFH were overwhelmed and thrilled!

Dr. James Doty's talk on compassion, and how to become more so, certainly fit right into the mood of the luncheon. If Dr. Doty is right, all of us have improved mental and physical health as a result of our generosity. That "human feeling" we experienced is one we should strive for every day. Thanks to everyone for giving so much!

If you are interested in joining members of the Outreach Committee at Haven Family House, we work there the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10am to 2pm. Also, we are sponsoring a Giveaway Event at HFH on November 19, 10am to 12:00. If you'd like to join us for either, contact Donna Bohling at [donna@bohling.com](mailto:donna@bohling.com).

### Philanthropy

The Philanthropy committee is collecting the club member's nonprofit nomination forms for our annual Philanthropy Grants. If you know of a non-profit that you would like considered, please submit your nomination forms to Jackie Schoelerman.

Call Jackie Schoelerman at 650-855-9700 or email [Jackie@apr.com](mailto:Jackie@apr.com) to reserve your tickets to the February 11, 2012 children's concert with Nancy Cassidy or to purchase her CDs. Give Nancy Cassidy's music CD as your holiday gift for those special little loved ones.

### History Walks

**TUES. DEC. 6th at GRACE CATHEDRAL**

A 1:00 pm docent led tour as the Holiday season begins. The history of this church began in 1849, was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake and a new structure begun in 1928 completed in 1964. Truly "San Francisco's Church" with Ghiberti doors, labyrinths, stained glass, chapels and music all shared with a very diverse community. We will take **CalTrain #135 9:37am from California Ave.**, a short bus ride, a walk up Nob Hill and lunch in a park. Contact Lolly Osborne at [lolly@osbofamily.com](mailto:lolly@osbofamily.com)

### Woman's Club Bridge

**Thursday, November 3 & Thursday, November 17**

Contact Mary Haverstock for more information or to get on the mailing list - [mgh956@gmail.com](mailto:mgh956@gmail.com)

**November 7, 2011 — 7:30-9:00 pm**

A Palo Alto Woman's Club Discussion at the Club

### Eldercare: Sharing, Exploring, and Responding to Our Needs

Many of us are engaged in the care of one or more elders — a parent, spouse, or another relative or person. Aging has unpredictable variations, making eldercare challenging for society, governments, and individuals. This care can involve physical care, psychological support, management of care, and/or finances, either from a distance or in person.

For these reasons, there will be a facilitated discussion for interested PAWC members to reflect upon and give voice to some of their experiences and current needs in eldercare, providing information and support, and considering the need for and interest in future Club activities related to this theme.

**RSVP:** If you are interested in this topic (whether or not you can attend the discussion on November 7), please contact: Carol Muller, [cblue@stanfordalumni.org](mailto:cblue@stanfordalumni.org), 650-843-1352, and indicate if you will attend November 7, and please indicate your interests and suggestions for ways in which the Club can respond to them.

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday, Nov. 2 - Board Meeting** 5-7 pm at the Clubhouse

**Monday, Nov. 7 - Eldercare: Sharing, Exploring, and Responding to Our Needs** 7:30-9 pm at the Clubhouse. A facilitated discussion for interested club members. Call Carol Muller for info 843-1352

**Tuesday, Nov. 8 - Drop In Social** 5-7 pm at the Clubhouse  
Hosted by Celiene O'Hara 367-8122

**Thursday, Nov. 10 - Ciné Circle and the Reel Buffs** - Meeting at 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Movie TBA.  
Hosted by Melaine Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 650.326.0776 for info

**Tuesday, Nov. 15 - Investment Club**, 6:15 pm at the Clubhouse. Call Carol Martin 408.923.2492

**Wednesday, Nov. 16 Luncheon - The Future of California's Water Resource**, David L. Freyberg,  
Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Stanford University  
HOSTED BY ANNE ERCOLANI AND SUSIE RICHARDSON

**Tuesday, Nov. 29- Book Group** at 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Note date change.  
Call Jeanne McDonnell 321-5260



The Woman's Club of Palo Alto  
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[www.womansclubofpaloalto.org](http://www.womansclubofpaloalto.org)

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement