

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

December 2011 Newsletter

President: Eileen Brooks

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

President's Letter

I'm thinking of holding monthly coffees at the Clubhouse. Our building is beautiful – let's enjoy it whenever we can.

The experiment begins Thursday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. – noon. We'll be signing Holiday cards for delivery to the resident/clinic patients at the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Hope you'll stop by.

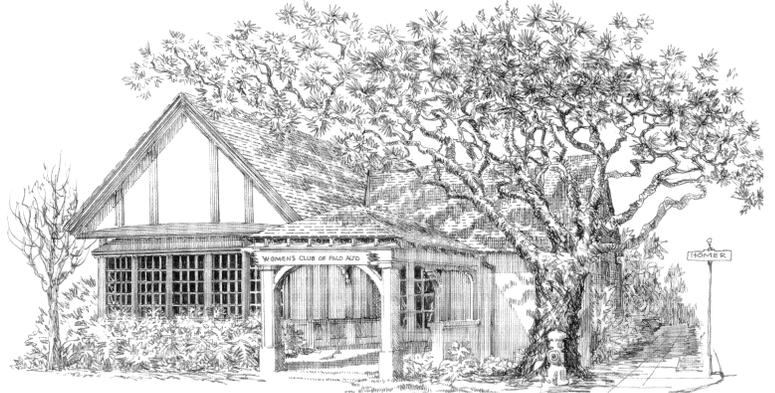
Jeanne McDonnell, from our History Committee, found many references of past WC support of our service personnel:

- During WWI, WC ladies helped out at the Army Post that was in Menlo Park.
- The WC held dances in our Clubhouse for the soldiers.
- When military caskets were shipped to SF for burial, our sweet foremothers met the trains and put flowers on the caskets.
- In the 1920's, the WC women raised funds for the Piano Fund at the Veteran's Hospital - the "Veteran's Christmas Cheer."
- The WC provided subscriptions to the Illustrated London News and the London Daily News for the Veteran's Hospital and also gave "comparatively new magazines" to the hospital.
- The WC women visited the wives and mothers of the men at the Veteran's Hospital, as those women "were very lonesome."
- The WC women sewed bed jackets and socks for the men at the Veteran's Hospital.
- During WWII, the WC women knit sweaters and socks for the servicemen and sent packages to them overseas.
- In the 1980's, the WC women visited the VA Center in Menlo Park with homemade treats, cards, gifts and music.

This is the perfect season to begin again this honorable tradition.

Happy Holidays to all –

-Eileen Brooks



Wednesday, December 14

The Madrigals

A lively a cappella choral group
from Palo Alto High School.

HOSTED BY GWEN BARRY AND BETSY BECHTEL

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 Betsy Bechtel for guest reservations or if you need a vegetarian meal at: betsybechtel@gmail.com

Look Inside!

- Book Group • History Corner •
- Board Business • History Walks
- Committee Updates • Holiday Party •
- Coffee, Cookies and Cards •

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Book Group

Tuesday, December 20, 7:30 p.m.
at the Clubhouse

Our December book is *Half a Life* by V. S. Naipaul. Our topic for the five Fall books is that they are related to England or Ireland. This author describes being an outsider in England and other places. Our January 24th book will be *The Hand the First Held Mine* by Maggie O'Farrell. 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 our December date from the usual 4th Tuesday because of Christmas commitments.

— *Jeanne McDonnell*

Board Business

November, 2011 Board Meeting

- Membership Chair, Sandy Voorhees, reported that we have 16 women on our Membership Waiting List.
- The Board approved a Rentals Marketing Proposal from Helen Gracon. A \$100. Member Incentive (for bringing in a full rate rental) will be in place until June, 2012.
- Barbara Spreng presented the Planning for the Future Member Survey report. Top 3 issues that members are interested in: Long-range Facilities Improvements and Maintenance Plan; Tools to inform and engage Membership with regard to Asset Management and Operations; Clear Philanthropic Mission and Vision. Full report is available on the WC website under Executive Board Documents.
- The Communications task force submitted their interim report. Final report with recommendations is due Dec. 7.
- The Board discussed suggestions for handling the possible greater-than-normal attendance at our April 2012 Luncheon (the speaker is *Cutting for Stone* author, Abraham Verghese.) It was decided that no guests would be accepted and that attendance would be limited to WC members and an invitation extended to those on the WC Membership Waiting List.

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

eibrooks@hotmail.com

History Corner Another Heroine

The big names in California suffrage are well known, but there are also lesser known women who "did their bit." At first, mainstream, white, middle class suffragists did not reach across class barriers to their working "sisters," but after their epic defeat in 1896, they looked to groups such as the Woman's Socialist Union of California and the Woman's International Union Label League for additional support. Waitresses, laundry workers, fruit pickers, and teachers joined the movement. Working women wanted, in addition to the vote, a more just society for themselves and their children. San Francisco shop girls gathered for lunch at Selina Solomons' Votes for Women Club on Sutter Street. Solomons enlisted young volunteers to canvas neighborhoods, "especially South of Market, the home of poor working people" and mobilized 1000 of them to serve as poll watchers on election day in 1911. She convinced Phoebe Anderson Hearst to donate the use of her Dreamland skating rink as a resting place for her volunteers. On October 10, 1911, Proposition 8 enfranchised California women. Selina Solomons wrote that it "was the greatest day of my life!"

Peggy McKee



Woman's Club Holiday Party Friday, Dec. 16, 6-8 p.m.

For Members and Sig. O.'s

No Charge

Bring an appetizer to share that serves 10

Wine for purchase

Stop by and enjoy some Holiday Cheer!

Pat Davis at patd2120@comcast.net

Sarah French frenchelmore@yahoo.com

The Rentals Committee is looking for a new member

Qualifications: Likes meeting new people; Likes making a sale; Likes contributing 41% of the total Club income. Contact Margaret Feuer at portulaca@earthlink.net or any member of the Rentals Committee.

Committee and Interest Group Updates

Community Outreach

Community Outreach was *super* busy in November: organizing the Haven Family House (HFH) closets and storage sheds, providing desserts for the HFH Gratitude Gathering, and on Nov. 19, holding a fabulous Give-Away of new clothing, toys, household items, books, and costume jewelry donated by our WC members. Over 25 families were served, including 75 children and several "alum" families who have graduated from the Shelter Network Program (photos on our WC website.) Your October WC donations of household items was awesome. Just about all of our donations -- the pillows, dishes, glasses, pots and pans, knives, and linens -- have already been given to new families who arrived at Haven Family House this past month. Thank you all!

Philanthropy

The Philanthropy committee is sponsoring the 2nd annual Nancy Cassidy Children's Concert on February 11, 2012 at 10:30am. Last year's Concert sold out within a few days. The Concert had the children dancing along with all the music. Please make your reservations as quickly as possible before we open the concert to the general public. Tickets are \$15 to the general public and \$10 for members. Please email your tickets & CDs reservations to cassidytickets@gmail.com

The music CD's are \$15 each and will make a wonderful Holiday gifts for your loved ones. We have limited quantities for sale and they are selling fast.

Rentals Marketing Member Incentive

Help build our reserve--we all benefit.

We're starting our campaign with you--our best ambassadors and best resource for referrals. Please help us connect to your community.

Bring in a full-rate rental (not discounted) and receive \$100 either in cash; as a membership renewal rebate; towards your own Clubhouse rental; OR to use as a donation to the charity of your choice (including the Woman's Club!)

Details from Helen Gracon, hgracon@gmail.com

History Walks

Dec. 6th Tuesday at Grace Cathedral

Join us for a docent led walk through the splendors of the Grace Cathedral as this Holiday season approaches.

The history of this church began in 1849. The Church was destroyed in the 1906 earthquake, a new structure began in 1928 and was completed in 1964. Our docent will give details about the Ghiberti doors, labyrinths, stained glass windows, chapels and stories about this diverse San Francisco community. We will take CalTrain #135 9:37am from California Ave. Station. A short bus ride to Market Street, a walk up Nob Hill and lunch in a park will precede the 1 p.m. tour. We should be back in PA about 4:30pm. Rain or shine bring lunch, water, \$\$\$ and sturdy walking shoes.

RSVP to: Lolly Osborne 650-799-1958 or lolly@osbofamily.com

Woman's Club Bridge

The Bridge Group will meet Thursday, December 1 but will not meet December 15.

Please contact Mary Haverstock mgh956@gmail.com if you would like to be added to the Bridge Group mailing list.

Coffee, Cookies and Cards December 8, 10-noon

at the Clubhouse

We will be signing Holiday cards for delivery to the resident/clinic patients at the Palo Alto Veteran's Hospital.

Bring:

- 5-10 Holiday cards and envelopes (generic, please – no religious; I'll have plenty of extras if you don't have any to bring)
- 5-10 cookies to share (we'll have extras if you don't have time to bake – ha!)
- \$1./per cup of coffee (you're on your own for the \$)

Stop in to visit and enjoy our clubhouse decked out for the Holidays. Come and embrace the reason for the season – friendship and giving.

More info: Eileen Brooks, eibrooks@hotmail.com.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, Dec. 7 - Board Meeting 5-7 pm at the Clubhouse

Thursday, Dec. 8 – Coffee, Cookies and Cards, 10 a.m. to noon at the Clubhouse.

Contact Eileen Brooks at eibrooks@hotmail.com

Thursday, Dec. 8 - Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Movie TBA. Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey and Jeanne Aufmuth. Call Melaine at 326.0776 for info.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 - Luncheon – The Madrigals, a lively a cappella choral group from Palo Alto High School. Hosted by Gwen Barry and Betsy Bechtel.

Friday, Dec. 16 – Holiday Party - 6-8 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Members and Sig.O.'s No charge. Bring an appetizer to serve 10. Wine for purchase.

Contact Pat Davis at patd2120@comcast.net or Sarah French at frenchelmore@yahoo.com

Tuesday, Dec. 20 - Book Group at 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Note date change.

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