

# *The Woman's Club of Palo Alto*

## *December 2012 Newsletter*

President: Eileen Brooks

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

### **President's Letter**

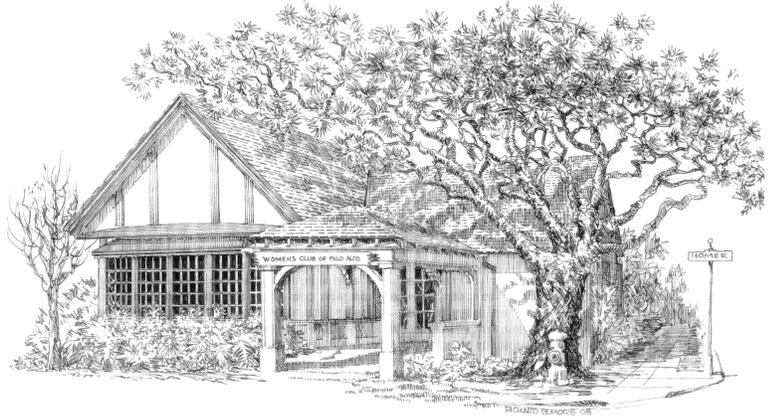
I was in D.C. in November, visiting with my family. Every year, we wrap a sibling reunion around Veteran's Day, as our family has always been full of Vets and we are suckers for showing our appreciation in big, ceremonial ways.

WWII was my dad's and uncles' war, so we always attend the wreath-laying and Honor Flight line-up at the WWII Memorial.

Then, we walk towards the Lincoln Memorial and The Wall. Vietnam was our war; both my brothers-in-law served, my brother spent two tours there and my boyfriend at the time was a medic stateside. A friend of my sister's was an Army nurse. Four kids from my town died there. We stood on the grass with thousands of Vets and their buddies and families and listened to the speakers. It was hot. The Honor Guard at The Wall was motionless and sweating. No one in the audience moved and no one complained. We listened to nurses' stories, officers' stories and grunts' stories. The speeches ended and we turned to those Vietnam Vets near us and said "Welcome Home," the now-classic greeting to those who had followed orders in an unpopular war and returned to the States, broken and decidedly unwelcome at the time. A bagpiper played Amazing Grace. And when Taps was played, we all cried, as we are moved to do every year.

Please support and acknowledge our Vets. When you see them in the airports (or, anywhere) thank them for their service. And please, join us Dec. 6 at our Clubhouse as we gather to sign Holiday cards for the Palo Alto VA - our simple form of love and respect to those who, for our sake, put themselves in harm's way.

*Eileen Brooks*



### **Wednesday, December 19**

## **Getting to Know You: A Social Hour with Members and Music**

HOSTED BY GLORIA HOM AND NANCY MACLEOD

**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 and \$10.00 for guests. Email Gloria to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal at:*  
[dghom@yahoo.com](mailto:dghom@yahoo.com)

### **Look Inside!**

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- \*Board Business\*
- Committees • Interest Groups •
- Holiday Events •

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

## Board Business

### November, 2012 Board Meeting

- Treasurer Leika Kejriwal is in India and will present the Financials at the Jan., 2013 Board meeting.
- The Finance Committee is compiling a Policies and Procedures Journal to collect the policies and procedures adopted or reviewed by the Board. This Journal should be helpful in defining the parameters for preparing the budget document and should serve as a means to capture the 'institutional' memory of actions as the Board members and officers turn over.
- The House and Grounds Committee will focus on two things this fall: 1) assessing the structure of and equipment in the clubhouse, and 2) moving forward on several projects that must be done this fiscal year: Heating/AC, Landscaping on Homer, Storage space under the stage, Room dividers used by Renters.
- Our insurances are in the process of being updated. Our tax relationship with our House Manager is now State and Federal compliant.

Complete Board meeting Agenda and Minutes are available for general membership review. Please contact Eileen Brooks, President. [eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

### Check out our Website!

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

**Decorate the Clubhouse for the Holidays - Saturday, December 1, 10:00 am.** Join us in making our house festive for the month of December. We'll put up the tree and the menorah and wreaths, decorate the mantle, and add other lovely touches. Contact Sue Krumbein at [suekrumbein@gmail.com](mailto:suekrumbein@gmail.com).

### December 19 Luncheon

Due to the shift in academic scheduling this year (Exams before the winter break), the Castilleja Middle School Choir is not able to sing for us at our December Luncheon. We apologize for the change. Our Program Committee has risen to the occasion and put together a fun and festive program for us to enjoy. Join us as we greet old friends and make new ones, all in spirit of the Holiday season.

## History Corner

### Discrimination Hurts

Someday, history will give more notice to 1970's women, like Betty Friedan, who pushed gender equity. I thought of them when I examined a book titled *American Poetry in 1976*. I ignored the 25 male poets and just read the four women, Joyce Carol Oates, Linda Pastan, Adrienne Rich, and Anne Sexton. Each wrote about women's unequal status in our culture. Adrienne Rich wrote: "Until we can understand the assumptions in which we are drenched we cannot know ourselves. And this drive for self-knowledge, for women, is more than a search for identity."

Those words drove home for me discrimination against women practiced by the State Office of Historic Preservation that never helped save the 1840s house of Juana Briones. Before the recent demolition of the house and the land's being offered for sale for millions of dollars, the State Office's on-line site showed a photograph of the driveway and bushes, although pictures exist of three original rooms. They had evidence. Experts and concerned citizens went to Sacramento to request action. The City commissioned studies by preservation architects that proved, without doubt, the authenticity of the structure.

That oldest Palo Alto house now is gone, very much because women's history lacks the status it deserves. Besides the unique building, the importance of its owner should have assured its preservation. Historian J. N. Bowman, in the magazine of the California Historical Society (CHS), in 1957 wrote correctly that Juana Briones was "the pre-eminent woman of Hispanic California."

Fortunately, CHS in San Francisco is designing an exhibit about her, to open in 2014.

—Jeanne McDonnell

### VOLUNTEERING FOR VETS

**Thursday, December 6, 10-noon  
at the Clubhouse**

Join us as we sign Holiday cards for Vets at the Palo Alto VA. Cards provided. Stop by the Clubhouse anytime between 10 and noon. Enjoy coffee, tea, etc., lots of laughs, and festive Holiday music (thanks, Sue Kemp). This one event covers all the bases: Friendship, Self-Improvement, Community Involvement

More info from Eileen Brooks  
at [eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

## Holiday Party! Friday, December 14, 6-8 pm at the Clubhouse

Pot Luck – bring an appetizer or dessert to share • Guests invited • Wine for purchase  
Come and be merry! Info from Eileen Brooks at [eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

## Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements and Events

- **House and Grounds** – The Garden Is Gorgeous! On Sat., Nov. 17, in light rain, a group of eight planted over 300 bulbs in the beds at the Clubhouse. It was a fun and satisfying event. Caroline Willis organized the planting and assigned tasks. We planted a wide variety of beautiful bulbs, then enjoyed a great pot luck lunch on the porch. We look forward to enjoying both the bloom and fragrance of these flowers. Thanks to Eileen Brooks, Sue Krumbein, Kathleen and Don Knott, Jeanne McDonnell, Lolly Osborne, Judi Swope, and Caroline Willis; we all had such a great time and look forward to sharing our bounty with all of you!
- **Woman's Club History Walk**, Tuesday, December 11 - A visit to the Metropolitan Club of San Francisco. We will be guests in the private historic Metropolitan Women's Club of San Francisco. A full day of activity includes a train ride, a tour of the Marines Memorial Theater, stroll around Union Square, lunch and private tour of the club. RSVP. Contact: Lolly Osborne, [lolly@osbofamily.com](mailto:lolly@osbofamily.com), 650.799.1958.
- **Community Outreach** – A heartwarming response from club members for sheets and bedding at our November luncheon. The Fisher House at the VA Hospital delightfully received 17 sheet sets and 5 comforters & blankets for their Vet family guests. The Haven Family House was busy staging apartments when we arrived with 31 new and used sheet sets, 13 blankets/comforters and 2 full pot/pan sets. Thank you club members! We continue to work at Haven Family House the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month from 10-12noon. December 12, Wed. @ 4pm @ Mary Grace Bertch's home - Community Outreach Committee end of year meeting.
- **Philanthropy** – Deadline for Philanthropy Grant applications is December 1. Contact Jackie Schoelerman or Rezvan Moghaddam.
- **Rentals Marketing** – The holidays are coming! Our lovely, historic, circa 1916, Clubhouse has some available rental dates open during the November/December Holiday season. If your boss or friends are looking for a Holiday Party venue, please refer them to Helen Gracon or [rentals@womansclubofpaloalto.org](mailto:rentals@womansclubofpaloalto.org).
- **Bridge** – 1st and 3rd Thursday at the Clubhouse - Beginners: 10AM – Noon. (NOTE: Dec. 6 - Beginners meet at Meg Monroe's. Contact Meg Monroe at [Monroe.meg1@gmail.com](mailto:Monroe.meg1@gmail.com).) Advanced Beginners: 2.15PM – 4.15PM; Open Play: 2.15PM- 4.15PM at the Clubhouse. Contact Nancy Bjork @ [ncbjork@gmail.com](mailto:ncbjork@gmail.com)
- **Book Group** – Korea is our subject this fall. Please Look After Mom by Kyuung-Sook Shin, Dec. 18. One member commits to being the discussion leader, and does extra research. If you are not on the email list, call Jeanne McDonnell in case of a change of venue.
- **Knit/Stitch Group** – 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 2-4 pm. Contact Sarah French for more info at [frenchelmore@yahoo.com](mailto:frenchelmore@yahoo.com)

### LANDMARK LEADERS SPEAKER SERIES

An Evening Series for the Community presented  
by the Woman's Club of Palo Alto  
*Timely topics, global issues, local expertise*

\*Ticketed events open to the public; Available  
online at [www.landmarkleaders.org](http://www.landmarkleaders.org)

**Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Reflections on Women in the Media**, featuring  
the documentary "Miss Representation," with dis-  
cussion led by Diana Diamond, journalist. \$15.

**Tuesday, January 22, 2013, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Reproductive Realities: Choosing Our Future**,  
featuring Linda Williams and others. \$25.

**Tuesday, March 12, 2013, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Music to Our Ears: Midpeninsula Maestros**, fea-  
turing the Albany Consort. \$25.

**Wednesday, April 24, 2013, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.**  
**Orchestrating Musical Success**, featuring  
acclaimed pianist and musical entrepreneur Wu  
Han. \$25

# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Saturday, December 1 – 10:30 am** – Help decorate the Clubhouse for the Holidays.  
Contact Sue Krumbein at [suekrumbein@gmail.com](mailto:suekrumbein@gmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 4, 7-9 pm** – Landmark Leaders screening of Miss Representation; Reflections on Women in the Media. At the Clubhouse. \$15. Tix at [www.landmarkleaders.org](http://www.landmarkleaders.org)

**Wednesday, December 5** – Board Meeting, 5-7 pm at the Clubhouse.

**Thursday, December 6** - Volunteering for Vets, 10-noon at the Clubhouse. Signing Holiday Cards.  
Contact Eileen Brooks at [eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

**Thursday, December 6 and 20** – Bridge, Beginner w/Prue, 10-noon (Dec. 6 at Meg Monroe's); Intermediate w/Prue and Open Play, 2:15-4:15, at the Clubhouse. Contact Nancy Bjork at [ncbjork@gmail.com](mailto:ncbjork@gmail.com)

**Friday, December 7 and 21** – Knit/Stitch Group, 2-4 pm. Contact Sarah French at [frenchelmore@yahoo.com](mailto:frenchelmore@yahoo.com)

**Tuesday, December 11** – Drop-in Social – 5-7 pm at the Clubhouse.  
Contact Celiene O'Hara at [celienet@aol.com](mailto:celienet@aol.com)

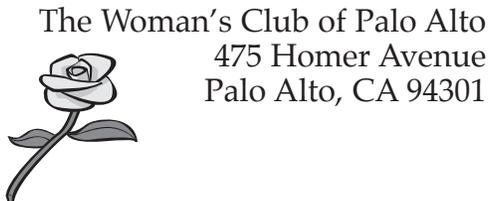
**Thursday, December 13** – Cine'Circle and the Reel Buffs – 7 pm at the Clubhouse. Movie TBA.  
Hosted by Melaine Bales Hennessey. Call Melaine at 326.0776 for info.

**Friday, December 14** – Holiday Pot Luck Party – 6-8 pm at the Clubhouse. Guests welcome.  
Wine for purchase. Contact Eileen Brooks at [eibrooks@hotmail.com](mailto:eibrooks@hotmail.com)

**Tuesday, December 18** – Book Group, 7:30 pm. Call Jeanne McDonnell at 321.5260 for meeting venue.

**Tuesday, December 18** – Investment Club, 6:15 pm at the Clubhouse. Call Jana Stevens at 650.327.0370

**Wednesday, December 19** – Luncheon – Getting to Know You – A Social Hour with Members and Music.  
Hosted by Gloria Hom and Nancy MacLeod.



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Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement