

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

January 2014 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

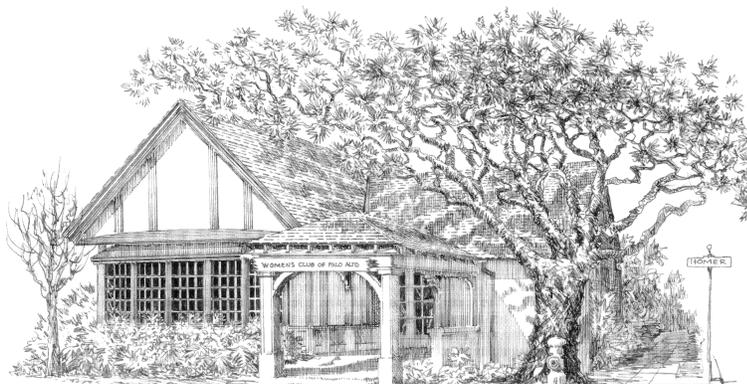
President's Letter

If you joined the Woman's Club just to come to lunch, then you may not be interested in this month's speakers, Cynthia Reed and Sherrill Kirsch. They represent land and sea excursions and will lure you away from peaceful Palo Alto to check off locations on your bucket list. In February, if you come for lunch, you will meet Jack Rakove, Stanford professor of Political Science, and son of my beloved Poli Sci professor, Milton Rakove, who introduced me to politics, Chicago style, years ago. Welcome to a new year of club luncheons.

At January's luncheon, we will elect a nominating committee. If Marlene Prendergast asks you to join the committee, just say yes. If the nominating committee asks you to be on the 2014-2015 Board, just say yes. The Woman's Club needs to ensure that new ideas will keep coming, helping this club to evolve with the times. What, you can't make the luncheons because you work? Get on the board and advocate for more dinner meetings. You want a poetry group? Start a new group this winter. Deanna Dickman and Bobbi Fox started a new mystery book group, and I am late to everything, including sending out this newsletter, because I can't put down their January book choice, *The Keeper of Lost Causes*.

The nominating committee will be charged to replace three terrific directors in their specific slots as directors, although they may serve in a different office, such as one of the officers. Carol Lippert has done a wonderful job designing and supervising our new ADA approved ramp. Lolly Osborne has been excellent as Luncheon Chair and absolutely brilliant heading up Community Outreach Jackie Schoelerman has spent many hours on the Philanthropy Committee evaluating applicants for grants from the Woman's Club.

My dream would be to have three new directors trained by Sue Krumbein, who took on the Chair of House and Grounds three years ago. Since then, the house has been quaking in its foundations, never knowing what else would be done to revamp



Wednesday, January 15 Luncheon

Program: What's On Your Bucket List?

Travel Experts Cynthia Reed and Sherrill Kirsch will give us some exciting ideas about travel

HOSTED BY PAT DAVIS AND DIXIE STORKMAN

11:30 Member and Guest Sign-in

12:00 Luncheon is Served, President's Welcome; Business Meeting

12:30 Program & Dessert

Luncheon is offered at \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for guests. E-mail Pat Davis to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal at: patd2120@comcast.net

Look Inside!

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and protect this fine old lady. Sue's first project was to refresh the landscape. Two years ago, Sue managed a comprehensive inspection and assessment of the clubhouse from foundation to roof, and then carried out the improvements needed. Sue also supervised our Janitorial staff, organizing their schedule to prepare and clean up before and after uses of our clubhouse. After putting our clubhouse in order, Sue has now moved on to take over two other responsibilities, helping out with the

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www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

December 4, 2013 Board Meeting

Financial Report: Half the Club year is past. On the income side, the Rentals Committee has earned 88% of their FY2013-14 revenue target. On the expense side, only 22% of the operating budget has been spent. Coming up soon are the operating expenses and money committed to the ADA ramp project.

A question was raised about philanthropic donations. A recent donation designated that the gift be added over and above the Club's already-budgeted philanthropic donation, rather than be used as part of the amount currently budgeted for philanthropy. This item will be on the January agenda along with the budget adjustment discussion. Finance officer Meg Monroe will prepare a summary for discussion. If the policy changes, the narrative in the budget can be revised to reflect a new policy.

Luncheon Committee Report: There were 132 at the November luncheon. It's hard to estimate how many might be at the December luncheon.

Centennial Committee Report: The Chair Project is progressing. 56 chairs are out being painted. Another 28 of different type chairs are also being painted. The target is 100 chairs for auction by March 29. There will be a viewing of the chairs on March 28 at the Clubhouse. The auction will be on March 29, also at the club. There will be a \$35 admission fee for the auction.

New Business.

League of Women Voters Forum on Women: They have sold 90 tickets. There will be a panel discussion on the past, present, future of women. There is a charge for lunch.

Membership: There are 18 people on the waiting list. Annette said that she would inform those on the list from last year know that they are still on the list.

Strategic Plan Update: Marlene Prendergast noted that the Friendship working group completed all of its work except for outreach to members. It was pointed out that the Friendship committee report should include how proposed programs can be implemented, by different offices or individuals. The Property Management Group arrived at a tentative recommendation, but is waiting for Rentals Committee input. The Fundraising Strategy Working Group met in November and meets again in January. Meg noted that the working group's assignment was very broad. They are charged to develop policy and programmatic approaches. Implementation would be at the direction of the Board, and was not intended to be the responsibility of the working group members.

Finance Committee: There were three points of information for the Board. Meg is seeking a volunteer to be on the Finance Committee. Second, the adjusted budget will be coming to the Board in January. Third the budget cycle is beginning. In mid-December the call for budget requests for FY 14-15 will go out to all officers, committee chairs, and members responsible for budget line items.

Forum on the Status of Women, December 7th at WCPA

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto and the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto co-hosted a forum on the Status of Women at the Club on Saturday, December 7th on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary of the local League of Women Voters. More than 90 women (and a few men) attended the three-hour event.

Marlene Prendergast, long-time member of both organizations, welcomed the attendees on behalf of the Woman's Club. Mary Alice Thornton, President of the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto convened the conference. A distinguished panel of professional women spoke individually and discussed among themselves the more recent gains women have made in political, economic and personal forums. Barbara Spreng, also a member of both organizations, was a great moderator. Panelists included Carol Christ, former professor at UC Berkeley and President of Smith College, who elaborated on the many fields of endeavor that are still not open to women equally. Ladoris Cordell, Stanford Law graduate, former Superior Court Judge and currently Independent Police Auditor for the City of San Jose, summarized some very recent court cases that discriminated quite amazingly against women. Myra Strober, Director of the Center for Research on Gender at Stanford University, presented statistics indicating the extent of discrimination toward women even in this age of enlightenment. Audience questions indicated special interest in the issues that women face in balancing a career and motherhood at the same time. This was a very positive event for both organizations.

This collaboration with the League of Women Voters highlighted our involvement in the community, showed off our clubhouse, and indicated that we can be an organization of civic importance. For the future, we should enthusiastically encourage our members to attend events that increase our reputation in the community. In the "olden days", the Woman's Club was active in civic affairs and we often commend that activity as important. It should be the same today.

Marlene Prendergast

Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

Make a Bucket List and Don't Miss Great Travel Tips!!

Our January program is presented by Cynthia Reed of Abercrombie & Kent and Sherrill Kaplan of Seabourn and Holland American Cruises. These two ladies have traveled to the most exotic and interesting land and sea destinations in the world during their extensive travel careers over many years. They are continually sought after to speak at some very prestigious events. We are fortunate to have them speaking at our January 15th luncheon. They have had various high level positions in the travel industry, so you can get answers to your questions on all aspects of travel.

They may even be able recommend gifts that are unique and priceless treasures from different locations. Come early to pick up travel brochures to take home. Their travel talk is an event you will not want to miss.

Bobbi Fox

Philanthropy

The philanthropy committee has received 15 non profit nominations from our club members. They will meet on January 13th to decide how many non profits to interview, based on the amount of money they are able to receive from our 2013-2014 budget.

*Jackie Schoelerman and Rezvan Moghaddam,
Philanthropy co-chairs*

The Mystery Book Club will have its inaugural meeting January 9th from 6-7:30pm at the clubhouse.

There's only one rule so far: You must read the book to attend. *The Keeper of Lost Causes* by Jussi Adler-Olsen is a thriller that is hard to put down. The author has you turning pages to find out what happens to a missing person, imprisoned in a wretched condition. Whose prisoner is she, and will she give up hope before she is saved? Contact is Deanna Dickman. No need to RSVP. Just show up!

Centennial Event

Some of the Painted Chairs have arrived at the clubhouse ahead of the February first deadline. They are really fun and creative! They will be auctioned off at a gala open to the public on Saturday, March 29, 2014. Proceeds from the auction will be split between the Pacific Art League and the Woman's Club. Prizes will be awarded for the most creative chairs. For information, contact Lolly Osborne, 650-494-7207.

Book Group

The January book selection is the last of a group of books with Native American themes and/or authors. *Skeleton Man* is authored by Tony Hillerman. It's a mystery set in and around the Grand Canyon. In January we will return to the normal 4th Tuesday schedule, with a 7:15 start time. At this January meeting, we will also choose the 5 books for spring. They will be books members really enjoyed, or really want to read, no central topic. Bring your favorite book or notes about it to the meeting on January 28th, and give the hard sell to your book. New members always welcome. No prior experience needed! Contact Ann Ercolani for questions.

Ciné Circle

Ciné Circle will meet on Thursday, January 9 at 7:30 PM, due to a time conflict with another group. We will discuss the movie *Philomena*, with a sterling performance by Judith Dench. In February our meeting date will return to the first Thursday of the month, with a 7:00 start time. You are welcome to join us. Contact Carolyn Zerboni (854-0817) or Shannon Griscom (321-4542) for more information.

Investment Club

The Investment Club is currently fully subscribed. However, anyone interested is welcome to be a guest at any meeting to learn about the Investment Club, so that she can be notified when an opening occurs. For information, Contact Pat Sanders or Margaret Feuer.

Knit/Stitch/Handicraft

What, can't knit? Join the group and chat as you sew or quilt. See calendar for meeting dates, location, and contact.

Bridge

The advanced beginner group always meets for lessons the first and third Thursdays at 2:15, and meets for practice at a home on the alternating Thursdays. Contact Nancy Bjork for details. Check the calendar for meeting times and dates.

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Centennial Committee and the History Walks. Thank you Sue for your energy and enthusiasm.

Hopefully your holiday decorations and any lingering guests are put away and your house is back to normal. So I will see you at our luncheon on January 15th. I feel certain that Pat Davis and Dixie Storkman will serve you the best \$5.00 lunch you can buy. Happy New Year!

Vicki Sullivan

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Advanced Bridge Jan.7th & Jan. 21st 2:15 to 4:15, at the clubhouse

Beginner Bridge, Jan.7th & Jan. 21st , 10:00-noon, at the clubhouse.

Board Meeting, Jan.8th Wednesday, 5-7 PM at the Clubhouse

Ciné Circle Jan.9th, Thursday, 7:30 PM-9:30 PM. Discussing Philomena, starring Judy Dench
For more information, contact Carolyn Zerboni or Shannon Griscom.

Drop-in Social, Tuesday, Jan. 14th 5-7 PM. at Emily Renzel's home, 1056 Forest Ave.
For more information, contact: Celiene O'Hara

Investment Club, Tuesday, Jan.21st. 6:00 PM. at the Clubhouse.
For more information, contact Pat Sanders or Margaret Feuer.

Knit, Stitch, and Handicraft Group 1st & 3rd Fridays, 2-4 PM. Contact Sarah French

Luncheon, Wednesday, Jan. 15th, What's On Your Bucket List?
Travel experts will give you lots of suggestions.

Book Group, Tue. Jan. 28th at 7:15 PM. at the Clubhouse.
The book is *Skeleton Man* by Tony Hillerman, Contact: Anne Ercolani

Landmark leaders 2014 presents: Women and Leadership in our Technology-Dominated Economy
Tuesday February 4, 2014 7:30-9:00 at the clubhouse



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

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement