

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

February 2014 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

President's Letter

Sitting on the porch at 475 Homer Avenue, one might see the Woman's Club as a wonderful place for lunch once a month. My interest and participation in the Club has increased dramatically since joining 7 years ago and now I have signed on as your President for two years. Starting with Eileen's Presidency, strategic planning has almost finished. What is the future of the Woman's Club from the perspective of the various planning sessions? Right now there is a conflict between members wanting dependable access to the Club and its unavailability because of the need to generate income through rentals.

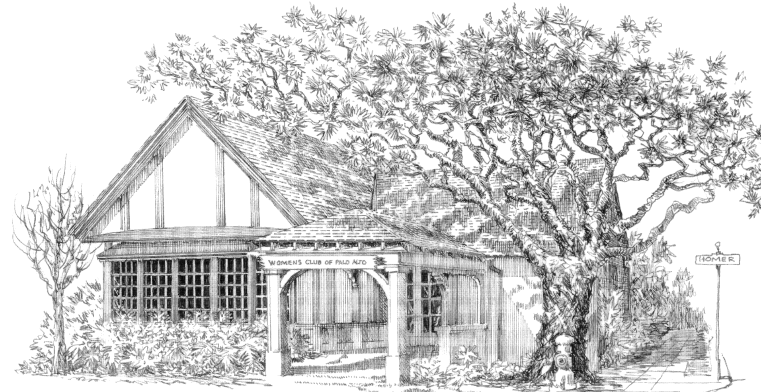
Membership is full, 225, and there is a waiting list. The Clubhouse that we all own a piece of is 'getting fit' (maintenance) as she approaches her 100th birthday. Due to the efforts of a small, dedicated volunteer group who manage rentals, the Clubhouse has become a popular venue. However, as the Finance Committee reviewed the current budget, some little known and even less appreciated financial facts about this year's (FY13-14) budget need to be shared.

According to our finance committee:

Membership dues plus luncheon assessments paid only 30% of the cost for 'keeping the lights on' in the house and supporting our programs. Rentals income represented 62% of the Club's income and subsidized the cost of maintenance and programs. Fixed costs alone made up 44% of this year's expenses; more than members' dues. Program expenses: luncheons, socials, and other uses of the club for member activities cost 56% of the expense budget, and were 138% of members' dues. Necessary work on the Clubhouse 'to keep our lady fit' this year, funded from savings, is equal to a \$373 contribution by each member.

As members, we all own this building. There is no endowment. My goal is to encourage all members to build friendships, increase participation in activities offered, and to keep the clubhouse fit. Together, we each own 1/225th of this grand old lady. With our membership comes the obligation of dues, luncheon help, and also, stewardship of our building.

So how do we resolve the issue of enjoying a club-



Wednesday, February 19th Luncheon

Program: Thinking More About Our Constitution

Jack Rakove, Stanford Professor of History and Political Science, will talk about the ever-changing interpretation of our constitution.

HOSTED BY BEV AARTSS AND GAY BRUCE

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 Bev Aarts to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal at: jcaarts@sbglobal.net

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house and yet paying for its upkeep? Do we double the dues? Do we assess each member an amount to cover upkeep of the house for a few years? Do we hire a house manager to rent out the club more frequently and limit member access even more? Do we all work together on a fundraiser that will raise the roof, so to speak? You tell me! You will have an opportunity in March to share your opinion. *Please come to the General Business Meeting on March 20th and voice your opinion, unless you want others to choose for you.* See you at lunch! Vicki Sul-

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January 8, 2014 Board Meeting

Sarah French reported on the work of the Friendship Strategic Planning Group. One directive was the need for sponsors to be more involved on an ongoing basis. Glanckopf shared a copy of the brochure "Notes for Sponsorship of New Members" that addresses what sponsors should do. It was agreed that the information in the brochure should be included in the directory and on the website. A defined process is needed for matching prospective new members with current members. Also, recent current members need to talk to new members about their experiences. Special interest groups should encourage new members to get involved. Annette Glanckopf proposed creating a group to talk about the big issues in membership, to prioritize the Friendship Report suggestions.

Janitorial Issue: The following motions were passed.

Beginning January 1, monthly rate for house maintenance shall be increased from \$450 to \$550. The additional \$100 per month should cover the cost of liability insurance for the current house cleaner.

That the Club pay the house cleaner for laundry done after club events, an additional \$50 per event that creates laundry. House and Grounds will also budget for an annual deep cleaning of the kitchen.

That the Club work with the house cleaner to find Workman's Compensation coverage by March 1. This may result in an increase in the Clean-up Fee paid by future renters and by club for club events.

Motion: Any contributions that members make for philanthropy as part of dues will be added above the budgeted philanthropy allocation.

Motion: That cash contributions made to Historic Preservation shall be used as a part of the annual budget allocation for House and Grounds. Larger, specifically designated donations for the Clubhouse or grounds should be administered through the capital budget.

Motion: The Board should save at least 10 percent of its projected income each year to build the Capital Budget to address operating contingency, emergency contingency, and maintenance and replacement needs of the house. This money should not be allocated into the Capital Budget until the books are closed at the end of each fiscal year.

Motion: As early as possible a project manager will tell the board of a budgeting problem. Finance officer/Treasurer will figure out where to find the money. Board will vote on revising, delaying, killing or funding the change in the allocation of funds for a project.

Motion: the Woman's Club shall not have any employees. All service providers shall be independent

contractors who can provide, upon request, acceptable documentation that they are independent contractors.

Budget Adjustment Approval for FY2013-14:

Monroe reported that we will make our income target and first steps are being taken for next year's budget. There will be a new expense heading: Club Projects.

Capital Improvement budget – came in way under budget on the rewiring of the house. There is a project over-run on the ADA ramp project

Membership: Annette Glanckopf reports that there are 19 women on the wait list. Two members have transferred in to our club from other locations.

Nataly Funk is from Hamburg, Germany. She was in Sales & Marketing in the Hospitality Industry. Her husband's work in biotech brought them to the area. Their son Cornelius graduates from a German Boarding School this summer. Their daughter Cynthia attends the German International School in Mountain View. Nataly enjoys tennis, biking and taking her dog to the beach.

Joanne Jones comes from Oslo, Norway. In Oslo she completed a Masters degree in Landscape Architecture, focusing on cleaning the waterways of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania. She was a member of International Club Oslo, Norway (ICON). Although born in Canada, Joanne spent most of her adult life elsewhere, having lived in England, Seychelles, Samoa, Vancouver, Oslo and now Sunnyvale. As a member of ICON, she participated in Mah Jong, quilting, a cinema club and a book club. Joanne is already participating in bridge and she looks forward to participating in the book club!

Three Tuesdays you won't want to miss!

Landmark Leaders 2014 programs focus on critical realms of our economy and society, and are designed to inform, inspire, and incite, with timely topics, global issues, and local expertise:

Learn more about the recent "Lean In" phenomenon and what it means for everyone. Get the inside scoop on what women politicians really experience and need to influence policy, and gender differences in political participation. Consider how Silicon Valley values affect you and others, and how you can influence them.

Get tickets today before they sell out for the Tuesday evening programs on February 4, March 11, and April 8 – "early bird" pricing on tickets is currently available at a savings over last year's prices -- \$20 each, or \$50 for the series -- at www.landmarkleaders.org

Invite your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues - Landmark Leaders evenings are a great way for us to share the Club's programs and beautiful facility with our community.

Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

History Corner

The Woman's Club Copes with the Depression

In a previous History Corner, Jeanne McDonnell took us on a trip down "memory lane" to the Woman's Club in the 1990s. I'd like to take us back to 1933-1934, when the "ladies of the club" struggled with the financial challenges of the Depression. The Board minutes of that period present a moving picture of how the leaders worked to hold the institution together with the usual array of concerts and lectures. As they faced resignations due to monetary issues and to pay the normal operational bills, they discussed the financial health of the club at almost every meeting. Then new members paid a \$1.00 initiation fee and \$4.00 annual dues. Fundraisers such as a bake sale in the spring of 1933 netted \$18.90 while the balance in the bank stood at \$94.63. Even so, in 1934, the Board voted not to raise the dues and to allow members in arrears to retain their "good standing." The Board soldiered on bravely, planning a Big Game luncheon at \$.50 per person for November 20, 1934; members paid \$.60 to attend the annual luncheon. At the end of 1934, the Board reported that the Club met its financial obligations, including a hefty bill for insurance, and had a bank balance of \$82.03.

Peggy McKee

FEBRUARY 19 LUNCHEON Our speaker is Jack Rakove, author of six books and a Political Science Professor at Stanford since 1980. His topic is "*The Vices of our Political System*." He has written numerous op-ed articles while teaching at Stanford, and has appeared on TV and radio shows. When his last book, "*Revolutionaries: A New History of the Invention of America*" came out, he was interviewed on the Jon Stewart Show. Come hear this delightful, witty speaker at our February luncheon.

MYSTERY BOOK CLUB Our next meeting will be at Sandy Voorhees', 165 Primrose Way, off Embarcadero. Thursday, Feb. 13, 6-7:30pm. We will discuss *Roseanna* by the Swedish crime writing duo Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo. It is the first novel in the Martin Beck series. Book club limit is 25; sign up on the 13th. Only rule: you must read the book to attend! *Deanna Dickman*

CINÉ CIRCLE Ciné Circle meets at Shannon Griscom's home, 815 Melville Ave, PA, Feb. 13 at 7:30. The Movie is "HER" with Joaquin Phoenix; playing at Palo Alto Square.

THE PHILANTHROPY COMMITTEE has received 15 applications. The committee selected 11 organizations for onsite visits. The 2013-2014 Philanthropy budget is \$15,440. *Jackie Schoelerman & Rezvan Moghaddam*

The Painted Chair Event

A Club Fundraiser March 29, 2014

WHAT: Auction of 60 historic WC chairs,
painted by local artists

WHEN: Saturday, March 29 – 6-9pm

WHERE: WCPA Clubhouse

WHY: Fun, Fame, and Fortune

HOW: Go to website to buy tickets and check out the fabulous painted chairs; don't miss it!

womansclubofpaloalto.org/painted

PAWC HISTORY WALK Visit Chinatown with Gloria Hom. No other neighborhood is layered with so much history. Underneath the superficial exhibits of tourist displays there is a neighborhood that has survived xenophobia, gang wars, violence, gentrification, etc. Gloria will take you through the back alleys of Chinatown, providing an introduction to a significant minority group of Americans in San Francisco. Caltrain #227 leaves PA California Station @ 8:31AM arriving in SF @9:19AM. We will take the #30 Stockton bus to Chinatown, have an early lunch at Great Eastern Café at 10:15 am. and continue non-stop. Return trains depart SF @ 2:07pm or 3:07PM. Please notify Lolly Osborne to reserve Dim Sum Lunch if you can come. Lots of walking, so wear sturdy shoes.

BOOK GROUP On February 25, 7:15, we will discuss the first in our spring series: *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo. We meet the fourth Tuesday at the club at 7:15 unless a rental requires a change of date or venue. The spring series are books members especially like or want to read. March is *By Blood* by Karen Ullman; April's is *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini; for May, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Fowles; and in June, *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. *Jeanne McDonnell*

FEDERATION NEWS Some of our accomplishments as members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the California Federation of Women's Clubs, the Loma Prieta District of Women's Clubs, and the Woman's Club of Palo Alto: *In the 1930's*, established 474 free public and 4,655 traveling libraries; recognized by the American Library Association with founding 75% of all US public libraries. *During WWII*, raised enough \$ to purchase 431 bombers. *Was one of the five women's organizations* chosen to participate in the conference to form the United Nations. *Responsible for the mission bells* along the El Camino Real. *Planted and labeled trees* along the Capital walkways in Sacramento. *Sends hundreds of at-risk kids* to the yearly Northern California Youth Leadership Seminars (NCYLS)

Eileen Brooks

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Feb. 4, Landmark Leaders 2014 presents: , 7:30-9:00 at the Clubhouse,
"Learning, Leaning, and Changing: Women and Work".

Feb. 4 and Feb.18 Advanced Bridge, 2:15 – 4:15 at the Clubhouse.

Feb. 4 and Feb.18 Beginner Bridge, 10:00 – noon, at the Clubhouse.

Wednesday Feb. 5 , Board meeting, 5 -7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Tuesday Feb.11 , Drop-in Social, 5-7 pm, at Emily Renzel's home,
1056 Forest Ave. PA 94301. For more information, contact Celiene O'Hara, 650-367-8122.

Wednesday. Feb.12 and Feb.26 Outreach, 9:45am to 12 noon at Haven Family House for donation sorting.

Thursday, Feb. 13 Mystery Book Club, 6:00-7:30 pm at Sandy Voorhees' home,
165 Primrose Way. the book is *Roseanna* by Sjowall & Wahloo.
Contact: Deanna Dickman, 650-326-1796

Thursday, Feb. 13, Ciné Circle, 7:30 pm. at Shannon Griscom's home, 815 Melville Ave, PA 650-321-4542.
the Movie is "HER" with Joaquin Phoenix.

Friday Feb.14 , History Walk, Chinatown with Gloria Hom
Caltrain#227 leaves PA California Station @ 8:31am Trains depart SF @ 2:07 pm or 3:07 pm

Wednesday, Feb. 19, Luncheon, speaker: Jack Rakove, "The Vices of our Political System"

Tuesday Feb. 25, Book Group, 7:15 pm at the Clubhouse.
Behind the Beautiful Forevers by Katherine Boo. Contact: Anne Ercolani

Wednesday, Feb.26 Outreach Meeting 4 pm at the Clubhouse



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Palo Alto, CA 94301

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Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement