

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

April 2014 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

Those of you who attended the Painted Chair Events had a real treat. Imagine many artists exhibiting their work at the same venue, and then donating the chairs for an auction. What a terrific two-day event. Thanks so much and hearty congratulations for a fabulously successful benefit to Lolly Osborne, and Sue Krumbein, co-chairs, and their super wonderful crew. The Painted Chair Project had a glorious finish at the auction on Saturday, March 29th. The room was packed, food and wine were plentiful, and the chairs went home to happy customers. There was lots of intrigue as the last groups of chairs were bid upon. I had to use my elbows to cut through the crowds to up a bid.

The question about how to maintain our club lifestyle without raising dues is still a conundrum. Twenty-eight women including presenters attended our Annual Business Meeting on March 20th. That means that those of you who could not attend are encouraging 13% of the membership to speak for the entire membership. It has been suggested that next year, the Annual Business Meeting take place during the March Luncheon instead of having a speaker.

Our Speakers' Series, Landmark Leaders 2014, presented "Women in Politics" on March 11th, encouraged women to take on leadership roles. Over 75 people heard a panel discussion with Mary Hughes, Rebecca Sive, and Lisa Van Dusen about Women in Politics. The audience was highly engaged and many remained long afterwards discussing the issue and asking questions. Clearly this topic that "hit a nerve." On Tuesday, April 8th the Club hosts the last Landmark Leader event for this year. Paula Sandas will lead a discussion with Cecile Andrews and Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann about Community Values: Moving from Conversation to Action. Visit www.landmarkleaders.org to purchase tickets.

Book groups, a film group, knitting, and bridge playing continue through the month. The Drop-in Social is Tuesday, April 8th, from 5-7pm, at Emily Renzel's home. Check the calendar on page 4, join others and enjoy your membership. *Vicki Sullivan*



**Wednesday, April 16th Luncheon
is a DINNER**

**Program: The Problems and Delights
of Running a Restaurant in Palo Alto**

Steve Boyden, managing Partner, Il Fornaio

HOSTED BY MARILYN SIMBECK & CONNIE FASANI

6:00 PM Member and Guest Sign-in

**6:20 President's Welcome, Dinner
is Served**

6:45 Business Meeting

7:00 Program & Dessert

DINNER is offered at \$5.00 for members and \$10.00 for guests. E-mail Marilyn Simbeck at m_simbeck@yahoo.com to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal.

**Watch for your membership renewal
in April. Dues need to be received
by June 15th**

Look Inside! • History Corner •
• Committee & Interest Group News •
• Upcoming Special Events • Federation News •

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

THE FY 14-15 BUDGET AND NOTES ON THE BUSINESS MEETING

The Palo Alto Woman's Club Budget has finally arrived! The Organizational Budget now includes a Capital Budget for allocating the Club's cash assets, and an Operational Budget listing expected income and expenses for FY 2014-15. The Organizational Budget was presented at the Annual Business Meeting on March 20.

Capital Budget: The proposed Capital Budget recommends \$17,500 in capital investment in the Clubhouse next year: a plan for replacing the front porch; added lighting and security for backstage electronics; completion of kitchen update; and landscaping for the side yard and new ADA access ramp. The Capital Budget allocates the remaining cash assets, about \$190,000, among three reserve accounts: operating expenses (reserve if income projections are not met); unexpected expenses caused by an emergency; and savings for major structural maintenance and contents replacement. A fourth reserve account is for Restricted Donations to keep these funds separate from operating funds. Donations can be used to supplement budget allocations for philanthropy, historic preservation or projects designated by the giver.

Operating Budget: The FY 14-15 Operating Budget is a balanced budget. Projected income matches projected expenditures. The Finance Committee observed that there is a lack of diversity in Club revenue sources. Current revenues are from rentals, dues, and luncheons. No increase in dues is recommended for FY 14-15; however, the budget includes continuing the \$25 luncheon assessment plus a \$5 increase in the luncheon fee. The added revenue will help pay the costs of operating the house and pay the janitor for services after the 10 monthly luncheons. Because the rentals function continues to be in transition, the income projection is reduced from 3 full fee rentals in FY 13-14 to 2 in FY 14-15. Since all contributions for philanthropy and historic preservation are accrued to the Capital Budget, they are no longer considered income in the operating budget.

Unique expenditure assumptions for FY 14-15 include: for rentals, funds for additional hours for the book-keeper and back up to support the Rentals Committee volunteers. To encourage fundraising, funds for 'seed money' to support the initial expenses for members who undertake a fundraiser or community program such as Landmark Leaders. Finally, based on the income projection and the projected expenses, only \$785 will be added to the capital reserves for FY 15-16.

Comments on the Organizational Budget: A number of suggestions were made about the budget intended for the Finance Committee and Board to consider in their final review of the FY 14-15 budget. Suggestions included www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

ed: (1), the budget's projected income should include fundraising income because it will serve as an incentive to the membership to undertake fundraisers next year, helping to diversify revenue sources for the Club; (2), if the Board is going to consider hiring assistance to support the Rentals function, they should increase the projected income expectation to support the added expense and provide some savings to build capital at the end of FY14-15; (3), there was near unanimous support for increasing the cost for lunch by \$5.00 to help defray house costs for these events; (4) there was discussion about the reduction in the cash allocated to philanthropy, in light of other expenses, but consensus that members should be encouraged by donations to increase the money for cash grants by the Philanthropy Committee; and (5) next year the Board should consider raising dues, and evaluate carefully the implications of such action on the culture, values, and diversity of the club.

Next Steps in the Budget Process: The Finance Committee will present the final FY 14-15 Organizational Budget to the Board for review, amendment, and approval at the April 5th Board meeting. The Approved Budget will be presented to the membership for adoption by vote at the May luncheon. The Club's FY 14-15 begins on June 1, 2014. All members will be notified when the Board Approved Budget is posted in the Club's DropBox at least 10 days before the May vote. Any comments regarding the Organizational Budget should be sent to Meg Monroe, Finance Chair.

Landmark Leaders

Thursday, April 8, 2014 7:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Community Values:

Moving from Conversation to Action

Have we lost site of our values, both personal and as a community? What is the impact of a fast-paced, ever-changing lifestyle on our ability to determine our values? How have our values changed as our economy has changed? How can we abide by our values and influence our community values when the drive for wealth appears to be all consuming? With the preponderance of social media and e-commerce, our notion of community has changed.... Or has it?

Come join the discussion with Rabbi Patricia Karlin-Neumann, Senior Associate Dean for Religious Life at Stanford and Cecile Andrews, author and "convener" of community as they share insights on maintaining personal values and creating community in our world today.

Paula Sandas

Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

Book Group We meet on the fourth Tuesday at the club at 7:15 pm. For this series, we are reading books that members liked very much or just were eager to read. April will be *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini; in May, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Fowles; and in June, *Persuasion* by Jane Austen

Jeanne McDonnell

The Painted Chair March 28-29 Thank you to all the club members who supported this fundraising event. Report will be ready for April Board Meeting

The Philanthropy Committee In March, thirteen members of the Women's Club serving on the Philanthropy Committee interviewed eleven local non-profit organizations, and discussed their interview findings. The committee voted on 6 non-profits to receive our grants. We will present their names to the WCPA Board for their approval.

Jackie Schoelerman & Rezvan Moghaddam

History Walks

APRIL 9 Wednesday. History of the Theater in San Francisco, Sue Krumbein (SF City Guide & PAWC) will be our docent.**

APRIL 24 Thursday. Pacific Heights Neighborhood Walk. Carolyn Reese (SF City Guide & PAWC) will be our docent.**

8:31am Caltrain #227 from California Ave. PA.Home on 2:07pm train. Meet at the northbound track to join us for the day. Wear good walking shoes, bring water & lunch. RSVP to lolly@osbofamily.com

From the Rentals Committee Did you know that as a Woman's Club member you can rent our beautiful and historic house at a 50% discount for personal parties? What a deal! If you have an important anniversary approaching or a "milestone birthday" in your future, look no further! Our inviting clubhouse can be reserved exclusively for you and your guests. Contact rentals@WomansClubofPaloAlto.org to book your date!

Donna Bohling

Outreach Committee April 9 and 23 9:30am to 12 noon Work at Haven Family House(HFH)

Monthly Lunch /(Dinner Meeting), April 16, 6pm

Program: A behind-the-scenes look at running a restaurant Speaker: Steve Boyden, managing partner, Il Fornaio.

Diana Diamond

WCPA Board elections will occur during this dinner meeting. PLEASE BRING NEW SOCKS (M/F; ANY SIZE) AND TOOTHBRUSHES TO THE APRIL MEETING!

Federation News The Loma Prieta District of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will hold its annual convention in Santa Cruz, April 25 and 26. Our club is responsible for providing centerpieces for the Convention's Friday lunch. Rather than use pretty but useless throw-away items, I would like to use items that can be donated to local homeless shelters. Let's lead by example. (And, wish me luck in making socks and toothbrushes look pretty!)

Thanks, Eileen Brooks

Mystery Book Club Thursday April 10th 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. At the Clubhouse Book: *Nine Coaches Waiting* by Mary Stewart. Great classic suspense novel based in France. Originally published in 1958. *Deanna Dickman*

Membership Renewal First Call: Membership renewals will be mailed out in Mid-April with a due date of June 15th. The good news is that dues will be the same as last year \$175. This year, the policy in the bylaws will be enforced: "If a member does not renew by the date on the form (June 15th), she "shall be deemed delinquent resigned and shall be notified in writing. If, within 18 months, a resigned member wishes to be reinstated, she will be moved to the head of the waiting list."

Annette Glanckopf

History Corner The Berkeley City Club

As we all know, in 1894, twenty-four Palo Alto and Stanford women formally incorporated the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. Across the Bay, a group of women organized the Berkeley City Club in 1927 to contribute to their town's "social, civic, and cultural progress." Like our "founding mothers," they were active participants in all aspects of Berkeley life and wanted their own multi-use building." After purchasing land, of course they engaged Julia Morgan to design their Club House, which opened in 1930. Julia Morgan's stunning "little castle" incorporated Romanesque and Moorish architectural features, gardens, courtyards, a library, and a magnificent indoor swimming pool. In 1930, the re-named "Berkeley Women's City Club" could boast 4000 members, a result of aggressive membership campaigns in the 1920s. It quickly became a center of social, cultural, and family activities. In 1936, Amelia Earhart was a featured speaker! In 1965, the Club went through another iteration when it admitted men and again became The Berkeley City Club. Today the building, having earned Historic Landmark status, serves its community as a private social club, event venue, and Historic Hotel.

Peggy McKee

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday April 2 Board meeting, 5-7 pm at the clubhouse.

April 3rd and April 17 Beginner Bridge, 10 am – noon, at the clubhouse.

Contact Nancy Bjork at ncbjork@gmail.com

Advanced Bridge, 2:15 – 4:15 pm at the clubhouse, contact Nancy Bjork at ncbjork@gmail.com

Tuesday April 8 Drop-in Social, 5-7 pm, at Emily Renzel's home,
1056 Forest Ave. PA 94301. For information, contact Celiene O'Hara, 650-367-8122.

April 9 and 23 Outreach, Wednesday. 9:30am to 12 noon

Work at Haven Family House. Contact lolly@osbofamily.com

Thursday, April 10 Mystery Book Club, 6-7:30 pm at the clubhouse.

Book: *Nine Coaches Waiting* by Mary Stewart. Contact: Deanna Dickman, 650-326-1796

Thursday, April 10 Ciné Circle, 7:30 pm at the Clubhouse. The movie is "Le Weekend", now playing at the Guild

Wednesday, April 9 History Walk, NEW History of the Theater in San Francisco

Sue Krumbein (SF City Guide) will be our docent.

Thursday, April 24 Pacific Heights Neighborhood Walk Carolyn Reese (SF City Guide) will be our docent.**

Contact: lolly@osbofamily.com

Tuesday, April 15 Investment Club, 6-8 pm. at the Clubhouse. Questions? Ask Rosemary Busher

Wednesday, April 16 Monthly Luncheon is a DINNER MEETING, Board Elections.

Program: A behind-the-scenes look at running a restaurant. Speaker: Steve Boyden, managing partner, Il Fornaio

Tuesday, April 22 Book Group, 7:15 pm at the Clubhouse. The book is *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini.

Contact: Anne Ercolani

Wednesday, April 23 Outreach Meeting 4 pm at the clubhouse



The Woman's Club of Palo Alto
475 Homer Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement