

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

December 2014 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members:

December can be a hectic month, with holiday shopping, and visitors for family celebrations. Before things get too busy, please reserve some time to come to three social events at the clubhouse. On December 9 the Monthly Drop-in Social will feature Sarah French and her Avenidas Ukulele Band. On December 12 from 6 to 8 PM, the WCPA Board will host our annual Holiday Party with potluck appetizers and desserts. Guests are gleefully welcomed. Our December 17 monthly luncheon features Dr. Larry Gerston, whose witty approach to the national election should offer something for all to chuckle about. If you sponsored a new member in the last two years, please ask her to join you at the December luncheon, the evening holiday party or the Drop-in Social. Let's help new members build friendships within the club. Along the same vein, page 4 lists dates when interest groups meet. Enrich your own membership by attending one of the activities. We now have two book groups, a movie group, a biking group, History Walks and Museum Trips, besides different levels of bridge, and a knit and stitch group. If you are not able to attend a luncheon, there are two occasions this month to drop in for a party after work, the monthly drop-in social, or the holiday party.

On another subject, the board authorized the establishment of a new Committee on Revenue Balance to examine the Club's revenues and to recommend how to diversify and balance our sources of income. The recommendations of this committee will be incorporated into the 2015-2016 budget discussions. So January and February will be busy months as the committee offers opportunities for members to share their perspectives and to meet at the club and learn about the issues related to revenue balance. Some of your questions may be answered by reading the November board minutes on page 2.

Right now, in this month of special celebrations and family get-togethers, I want to wish each and every member a holiday filled with friendship, peace, and joy, in your home and in your world.

Vicki Sullivan



Wednesday, December 17th Luncheon

Program: "A Humorous View of the Past Election, and What's to Come"

Larry Gerston, San Jose State Professor and National Media Guest on Politics

HOSTED BY SHIRLEY KLYNN AND SALLIE WHALEY

11:00 AM Member and Guest Sign-in

11:50 President's Welcome, Luncheon is Served

12:24 Business meeting

12:30 Program & Dessert

LUNCHEON is offered at \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests. E-mail Sallie Whaley to to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal. at salliewhaley@hotmail.com

Look Inside!

- Information about our December Get-Togethers •
 - Information about our December speaker •
 - Board Minutes • History Corner •
 - Committee & Interest Group News •

Minutes From the WCPA Executive Board, Nov. 5, 2014

Treasurer Reports. Gwen Barry reported Jack Morton reviewed and approved the tax report. She advised that payment arrangements such as Eventbright should be managed by the Treasurer to keep things straight. Board directed \$150 transferred to the Philanthropy restricted fund based on \$50 donated in memory of 3 deceased members. Rental income for October was \$6100. Property taxes were paid. \$1000 was donated for historic renovation. About \$3000 was collected for renovation of the Steinway piano.

Membership Report. Osborne reported that the class of new members met and are working on an activity. Ten women are on the waiting list. There was some discussion about criteria for being on the waiting list. There was consensus that the sponsor is the key to successful introduction and seasoning of new members. It was agreed that some more thought should go into criteria for membership.

Centennial Plans Osborne reported that planning for the Centennial celebration is now focused on FY15-16. A September to June 2015-2016 observance is planned.

House and Grounds. Lisa Sten is the representative to the Board for H&G. There was discussion of the ramp process and damage to the ballroom floor.

Federation Report submitted by Eileen Brooks. We decided to continue membership in the Federation at the cost of \$5000. per year since our tax-exempt status is through the Federation. It was decided to stay in the Federation but not attend all Federation meetings.

Rentals Committee. Lippert reported on 26 rentals scheduled this fiscal year. Lippert and Monroe reported on rental requirement changes. Motion approved to increase deposit to \$1000. and reduce capacity to 120 from 150.

Finance Committee. The cost to repair the Steinway based on a 2nd bid is \$5567. Our generous members donated \$5100. The rest is from unrestricted Historic Preservation donations in annual dues. Board approved \$6402 with 15% contingency. Monroe also reported a net of \$13,028 from Painted Chairs as a result of late payment from Eventbright, changing income/expense report for FY13-14.

ADA Ramp Progress Report: Lippert reported that the plans comply with all codes. The hard surface is being worked on first. Iron hand rails will follow.

Woman's Club National Register Application. President Sullivan attended a City Council meeting to thank them for supporting our application for National Register recognition for the one hundred year old Clubhouse. Margaret Feuer and Marilyn McDonald have spearheaded this request and attended the state hearing before the State Historic Preservation Organization to finalize the recognition.

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Ad Hoc Committee on Rentals and Dues: Update, Recommendations, Action. Margo Ogus reported for the Ad Hoc Committee. The Committee was charged to investigate the issue of rental income as our main source of income and to look at the possibility of developing other sources to fund operating and capital budgets. The Committee included: Shambora, Lippert and Zwiép from Rentals Committee; Monroe from Finance; Sten and Shambora/Renzel from H&G, Osborne from Membership, and Ogus from the Board. There is concern about wear and tear to Clubhouse by rental to large groups as well as conflicts that occur between rentals and member use of the Club.

Some progress has been made on the issue of wear and tear by increasing the price and reducing capacity. The group defined the dilemma as balancing between rentals' impact on the house and the availability of the Club to members. The issues go straight to finance questions: fewer rentals may require a higher obligation for member dues. These conversations must continue with a plan to report to membership about the balance. The process requires educating members about the difficulties. The process needs to build trust rather than frustration. The process will likely involve separating out all the issues and putting them back together. At this point, no one is forcing a certain approach and there are no premature conclusions. As discussion evolved, it was clear that the Board needs to take charge of the tenor of the program. Premature discussion outside of the Board will not be helpful. The process and result must reflect the Club's values as noted in the collect. Board's job is to come up with the process for educating members and taking input from interest groups. A chair and two other members will define the purpose, recommend committee members to the Board, and establish a process for information gathering. The problem is a balancing of Dues and Fundraising, rather than Dues and Rentals, since rentals are a means of fundraising. Margo Ogus is the Chair and Sylvie Way is Co-Chair. They are charged with establishing the Committee on Revenue Balance, and to come up with a process and timeline to resolve the issue. President Sullivan will announce the conclusions of the Board to the membership very soon and let them know that no decisions have been made yet on funding the club. The Committee will rely on membership participation in order to arrive at the best funding balance for the club now and into the future.

Community Outreach Committee Our Luncheon Collections: Sept.– Over 280 Early Reader books for 10 Books A Home. Oct.– Over 380 lbs. of food for the All Saint's Food Closet. Nov.– Over 60 Sheet Sets, 10 Bed Pillows and 5 blankets for Haven Family House. Well done! Thanks for caring about your community! No December Outreach monthly meeting – Happy Holidays!

Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

History Corner Clelia D. Mosher

Clelia D. Mosher (1863-1940) is a woman many of us have never heard of, but she was an early figure in the scientific study of women, and her professional career was local! Encouraged by her father in her interest in science, Mosher went to Wellesley College and University of Wisconsin, but she earned her bachelor's (1893) and master's (1894) degrees in physiology from Stanford. Further studies earned her an MD from Johns Hopkins, but she returned to Stanford to teach personal hygiene as assistant professor in 1910. In her studies of menstrual cramps, Mosher developed a protocol of muscle building exercises dubbed "moshers" to counteract "cramps." She interviewed and sent questionnaires to dozens of women to find out what they thought about their personal and family lives. She challenged conventional wisdom regarding women's sexual habits and preferences. In the 1970s, Stanford professor Carl Degler found her papers in the Stanford archives, a treasure trove of raw data about women's preferences, expectations, and lives. Although Professor Mosher did not publish her findings, she kept detailed records, which became a gold mine for later scholars who examined what women thought about their lives in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

—Peggy McKee

Wednesday, December 17, Monthly Luncheon. The speaker is Dr. Larry Gerston, professor emeritus of San Jose State University. His focus has been on U.S. public policy process at the national and state levels. He has a witty approach to his subject, the national election, and should offer something for all sides of the political spectrum.

Book Club On Tues. Dec. 16th at the Club, 7:15 pm. We will discuss *My Beloved World*, a memoir of Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor's life before her appointment to the Supreme Court. We will choose books for our next series (February-June) based on the theme chosen at our November meeting. In January we will talk about *The Man Without a Face*, a biography of Vladimir Putin by Masha Gessen.

Townie Bikers The Townie Bike Group will meet at 11 on December 4 at the east entrance to the pedestrian tunnel on California Avenue in Palo Alto. We will ride to Los Altos for lunch. Whatever your biking level is, please join us on our rides and good lunchtime conversation. Call Shannon McEntee (704-4674) or Judith Steiner (321-1024)

Membership: New members, Class of 2014, met @ 3pm on Mon. 12/1 @ the clubhouse. They plan an event to engage all club members. Many participate in interest groups. All donors contributing to Philanthropy and Historic Preservation during our membership drive have been sent thank you notes. Wait list for membership is 10. Membership applications are available at luncheons and from Lolly Osborne.

Tuesday Drop-in Social This month, we are asking all of you to bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre to share on December, 9th. Liquid refreshments are on the house! During the Social, Sarah French and her Avenidas Ukulele Band will entertain us with holiday music and a sing-a-long. Come and celebrate the Holidays. To let Celiene know what you will bring, contact her at celienet@aol.com.

Ciné Circle New Meeting Time, Wednesday, December 10, 7:00-8:30 pm at the club discussing *Rosewater*. Directed by Jon Stewart, *Rosewater*, tells about the experience of an Iranian-Canadian journalist, Maziar Bahari, who is detained by Iran forces for over 100 days. They brutally interrogate him suspecting he is a spy.— Shannon Griscom and Rezvan Moghaddan

Mystery Book Club will continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month, December 11th at the Clubhouse, 6-7:30 p.m. Our December Book is *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty. Jeanne Aufmuth will run the discussion. A hard-back copy is being passed around. Notify Vicki Sullivan if you want to read it; send her an email to be next on the list.

Museum Fridays December 12th we will tour Grace Cathedral and have Lunch at LuLu, offering a seasonal Provencal menu. This tour is fully booked. Space available on the Jan. (Asian Art Museum), Feb. (Anderson Collection at the Cantor) and March (Ai WeiWei on Alcatraz) trips. April/May trips tbd. —E. Brooks, D. Bohling, G. Bechtold for info

The Philanthropy Committee reviewed the grant process and timeline in October. Grant applications are on the Club's website. Until January 15, members can submit grant applications to the committee for consideration. —Jackie Schoelerman and Rezvan Moghaddam, Co-Chairs

Federation News Young Musicians Competition, sponsored by the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) Vocalist, Pianist, and other Instrumentalist categories; applicants must be under 22 years of age; entries must be submitted by Feb. 1, 2015. — Contact Eileen Brooks .

Bridge The bridge group meets each Thursday at the Club at 2:15. First and third Thursdays are lessons with Prue, other Thursdays are for practice. December 18th we will practice at the home of Nancy McGaraghan, since the Club is rented. We will not play on Christmas.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Wednesday, Dec. 3, Board Meeting, 5 - 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Thursdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18, Intermediate and Advanced Bridge, 2:15 – 4:15 pm.
Dec. 4 and 11 at the Clubhouse and Dec. 18 will be at the home of Nancy McGaraghan.
Contact Nancy Bjork at ncbjork@gmail.com.

Thursday, Dec. 4, Townie Bikers, Meet at 11 am at the east entrance to the pedestrian tunnel on California Ave. in Palo Alto. We will ride to Los Altos for lunch.
Contact Shannon McEntee (704-4674) or Judith Steiner (321-1024) with questions

Fridays, Dec. 5 and 19, Knit & Stitch, 2-4 pm
Call Sarah French for location at 650 329-9091

Tuesday, Dec. 9, Drop-in Social, 5-7 pm, at the Clubhouse. This month is a pot luck. Please bring a hearty hors d'oeuvre to share. Liquid refreshments provided. Entertainment will feature a sing-along starring the Avenidas Ukulele Band. For information, contact Celiene O'Hara, [650-367-8122](tel:650-367-8122)

Wednesday, Dec. 10 Outreach, 9:45 am to 12 noon.
Work at Haven Family House. Contact Anne Ercolani at ajecpa04@yahoo.com

Wed. Dec. 10, Ciné Circle, 7:00-8:30 pm
Meet at the Clubhouse to discuss the movie "Rosewater." Contact Rezvan Moghaddam at 650 571-1794

Thursday, Dec. 11, Mystery Book Club, 6-7:30 pm at Clubhouse
Book *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarty, Contact: Deanna Dickman at [650-326-1796](tel:650-326-1796)

Friday, Dec. 12, Museum Friday (sold out)

Friday, Dec. 12, Woman's Club Holiday Party 6 -8 pm. Come visit with fellow members, enjoy a glass of wine (for purchase), refreshments provided by your Board, and the piano playing of Sue Kemp.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, Book Group, 7:15 pm at the Clubhouse. We will discuss *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. We will also choose the five books in our next series (February-June). Contact Anne Ercolani ajecpa04@yahoo.com

Wednesday, Dec. 17 Monthly Luncheon, Speaker Larry Gerston, San Jose political science professor
"A humorous view of the elections – and what's to come"



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475 Homer Avenue
Palo Alto, CA 94301

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Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement