

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

February 2015 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members:

During this year a board-led subcommittee was formed that is pondering the issue of balancing our revenue sources. Right now there is a conflict between members wanting dependable access to the Club and the Club's unavailability due to the financial need to generate income, mostly through rentals.

We are a success! Our Club's membership is full, 225, and there is a waiting list. The Clubhouse that we all own a piece of is 'getting fit' as she approaches her 100th birthday. Thanks to the efforts of a dedicated, small volunteer group who manage rentals, the Club has become a great place to stage a party. However, as the Finance Committee reviewed the current budget, some little known and even less appreciated financial facts need to be shared.

According to our finance committee:

Membership dues including the luncheon assessment paid only 32% of the cost for 'keeping the lights on' and supporting the Club's diverse programs.

Rentals income represented 61% of the Club's income and subsidized the cost of keeping the lights on and underwriting all the Club's programs.

Fixed costs alone to keep the clubhouse warm, efficient, and inviting made up 57% of this year's expenses; more than what members paid in dues.

Program expenses like luncheons, socials, and other member uses of the club cost 43% of the expense budget, and were 137% of member dues.

Necessary work on the Clubhouse 'to keep our lady fit', funded from savings, is equal to a \$373. contribution by each member in addition to dues paid.

As your President, my goals have been to encourage all members to build friendships and to increase participation in activities offered at our club; and, of course, 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, temporary stewardship of our building.

So how do we resolve the issue of enjoying a clubhouse 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 all



Wednesday, February 18th Luncheon

Program: "Six Months on the Job: Current Observations and What the Future Holds"

Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, Superintendent of PAUSD

HOSTED BY NINA MOORE

11:00 AM Member and Guest Sign-in

**11:50 President's Welcome, Luncheon
is Served**

12:30 Program & Dessert

LUNCHEON is offered at \$10.00 for members and \$15.00 for guests. E-mail Nina Moore to to reserve for a guest or if you need a vegetarian meal. at ninamoore100@aol.com.net

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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 plan to come to the General Business Meeting on Thursday, March 19th and let your voice be heard. See you at lunch and at the Business Meeting on March 19!

Vicki Sullivan

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Board Meeting summary, January 7, 2015

Gwen Barry stated that our club is currently fiscally sound.

Membership report: Lolly Osborne reported that 14 women are on the waiting list. It was observed that not as many members are attending luncheons. A general conclusion was that members choose various ways to be active in the club. An increasing number of working women are not as free for lunch.

House and Grounds: Lisa Sten reported that the Steinway piano was refurbished in time for a wedding. Vicki will ask Sue Kemp to use the Steinway at the next luncheon so members will hear the improvements that resulted from their donations. ADA ramp is almost complete except for handrails and signs directing to access. The project finished 16% under budget. Carol Lippert was proud of this fact and said that contractors were excellent. Bonus issue for janitorial services by Sylvia was raised. Rentals Chair was very complimentary about Silvia's work and her positive attitude. After discussion, the board decided to calculate the bonus by looking at total income and base the performance bonus on that. *Key issues.* Emily Renzel stated concern about control of house keys, especially for rentals.

Financial report: *Organizational budget.* Meg Monroe reported on the organizational budget adjustment just completed for the half year. She increased the reserve, put more in savings, and increased certain budget categories. It is normal for accounts to vary somewhat with happenings. There was a discussion of the distribution of the newsletter online, given a question as to whether members read it. It was also observed that members don't necessarily read it in mailed version either. *Capital adjustment status:* Meg Monroe reported that we have completed four of six fiscal year capital projects under budget except for the kitchen upgrade which was 3% over due to the cost of city permits. The club did very well on capital projects and is to be commended. *Suggested revisions to the capital inventories.* Meg Monroe provided a status report on inventories at the end of the first planning period. This affects our capital allocations for the next 10 years. The critical issue is to move those items not done in the first planning to either the next planning period, Fiscal Yr. 2016-2019, or into the third planning period, Fiscal Yr. 2020-2025. One project was added to the maintenance and structural inventory this year, replacement of the main ballroom floor. This would cost \$30,000. The ADA mandated mobile stage lift was moved to the third planning period. At the request of rentals committee, a gas insert in the fireside room fire-

History Corner Beverly Willis

Many of us are familiar with the work of Julia Morgan and have visited her signature creations such as the Berkeley Women's City Club and Merrill Hall at Asilomar, to name just two. Mary Coulter, who studied at the California School of Design in San Francisco, was a renowned architect who specialized in the Pueblo Revival Style. And then there's **Beverly Willis**, designer of the San Francisco City Ballet Building in the Civic Center. There's much that is interesting about Beverly Willis, who, though now retired as a practicing architect, took leadership roles in design, philanthropy, environmental sustainability, and advocacy for women in her field. Born in 1928 and educated in Hawaii, Ms. Willis settled in San Francisco and opened Beverly Willis Architects in 1958. In 2002, she founded the Beverly Willis Architectural Foundation to "to change the culture of the building industry so that women's work, whether in contemporary practices or historical narratives, is acknowledged, respected and valued." If you google "Beverly Willis," you will be impressed with her many honors and awards. I like to think that if Beverly Willis lived in Palo Alto, she would be a member of the Woman's Club.

Peggy McKee

place was added to the contents inventory for the second planning period. The budget for AV equipment will be increased to \$15,000, and move to the second planning period. This discussion helps with planning by moving expenditures to reflect club needs and financial realities. Our cost estimates have been too conservative. The revised inventories show \$308,000 over the next 10 years, an increase of over 10% over the estimate made when we adopted the plan in 2012-2013.

Nominating Committee Report: Carol Lippert announced the committee of Sarah French, Liz Kniss, Kathy Torgersen, Lisa Sten and three others.

Subcommittee on Revenue Balance. Margot Ogus reported that in the next few weeks the committee will interview various members and will prepare a survey for all members. Any member may voice an opinion by phone or email to Margo Ogus or any other committee member. We will need some knowledge of the budget, current dues, rentals, fundraising, H&G costs, philanthropy and daily costs of running the club, in order to make reasonable conclusions about funding and managing the club.

Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

Annual Business Meeting:

Thursday, March 19, 2015,

at the Clubhouse

(food will be served).

Come listen and voice your opinion.

Mystery Book Club Thursday, February 12 at the Clubhouse. This month's book is *River of Darkness* by Rennie Airth. Location is the Clubhouse, usual time: 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Outreach We will NOT be taking a field trip to a Philanthropy Award Grantee or clipping coupons as our Feb. Outreach activities. Sorry for the confusion.

****Our Feb. WC Luncheon Collection will be men's/women's socks for the Downtown Streets Team.****

The office of DST is ecstatic that our club is having a sock drive - it is their most needed and least donated item! As always, the Outreach Committee welcomes your suggestions for projects and collections. Contact Eileen Brooks.

Bunco Night, Thursday, MARCH 26th, 7-9 PM @ the clubhouse is planned for all club members by the New Member Class of 2014. Bunco, prizes, snacks, wine and laughter will be available at this "Friendraiser". \$15 charge. More information at the February Luncheon.

Book Group Our theme for the Spring is Pulitzer Prize Winner books. We will discuss *A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey on Tuesday, February 24th at 7:15 pm. A US officer helps a Sicilian village replace their town bell that had been taken by the Fascists. The March book will be *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy.

Rentals Committee The rentals committee would like to thank Carol Diamond and Wynne Furth who are covering screening and showing during January. We are always looking for new recruits for the rentals committee. There are many roles to be filled from sales oriented positions to back office help which has lots of contact with the clients. Just contact Joanne Jones or Carol Lipfert.



Clubhouse Centennial on the Horizon

"We Believe the Woman's Club in starting this building is preparing to contribute a great deal to the future of this city." —PA Times, June 10, 1916

The kickoff event for the Centennial is only months away, and planning is in full swing. As you read this, Co-chairs Sue Krumbein and Lolly Osborne along with Eileen Brooks are finding chairs for the events and committees. The Gaveleers were very helpful in this planning and will continue to serve in an advisory capacity, helping us with their experience and expertise. At the February Luncheon, members will be able to sign up for committees. Read on to see what we have planned!

On October 21, 2015, the Centennial will kick off with a Fashion Show, combining history and clothing through the years. Members will be able to model or watch the fashion show, marveling over how much women's fashions have changed in 100 years. We're sure many of you have legendary items in your closets, and we'll turn to costume banks and theaters for clothing.

Then in January, 2016, we'll launch the History of the Clubhouse with a program outlining how the clubhouse got built at 475 Homer Avenue, including the people who led the way, events that affected the club, and how the Woman's Club of Palo Alto responded to the times.

In February, 2016, we'll celebrate our community involvement, one of three pillars of the Woman's Club. We'll look back at those who took a leadership role when it was very challenging and also look at the way the club has evolved as women have a more prominent role in our community.

The focus in **April, 2016**, will be flowers. Club members arranged and painted flowers, and we'll celebrate that with our own Flower Show. **In June, 2016**, we'll hold a Rededication as the clubhouse was dedicated in June, 1916. We will celebrate with speeches, music, and food, and welcome the public. Photos of the 1916 Dedication Ceremony are on display in the Fireside Room.

A Holiday Party in **December, 2016** will close the Centennial Celebration. The focus will be on celebrating and music, which has been a part of the Woman's Club over the years.

We are very excited about the numerous ways to celebrate many aspects of the Woman's Club and the Clubhouse. We look forward to your getting involved.

February Calendar of Upcoming Events

Tuesday, Feb. 3, History Walk 8:45, Levi Stadium Tour \$25 Carpool, Contact: lolly@osbofamily.com

Wednesday, Feb. 4, Board Meeting, 5 - 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

Fridays, Feb 6 and 20, Knit & Stitch, 2-4 pm Call Sarah French for location at 650 329-9091

**Tuesday, Feb. 10, Townie Bikers, Meet at 11:00 at the west end of the bike bridge over 101 on Oregon Avenue.
We will bike through the Baylands to Mtn. View for lunch.**

Tuesday, Feb. 10, Drop-in Social, 5-7 pm, at the Clubhouse, For information, contact Celiene O'Hara, 650-367-8122

Wednesday, Feb. 11 and 25 Outreach, 9:45 am Work at Haven Family House.

Contact Anne Ercolani at ajecpa04@yahoo.com

Wednesday, Feb. 11, Ciné Circle, 7:00 -8:30 pm at the Clubhouse, Movie is Birdman.

Contact Rezvan Moghaddam at 650 571-1794

Thursday, Feb. 12, Mystery Book Club, 6-7:30 pm at the Clubhouse, Book: *River of Darkness* by Rennie Airth.

Contact: Deanna Dickman at 650-326-1796

Friday, Feb. 13, SJMuseum of Art, 10:15 am – 3:45 pm

Contact Eileen Brooks

Thursdays, Feb. 5 and 19. Bridge, Instruction with Prue Saunders from 2:15 – 4:15 pm at the Clubhouse. On other Thursdays, practice bridge at members' homes. Locations TBD Contact Nancy Bjork at ncbjork@gmail.com

Tuesday, Feb. 17, Investment Club, 6-8 pm at the Clubhouse. Questions? Ask Rosemary Busher

**Wednesday, Feb. 18, Monthly Luncheon, Speaker "Dr. Glenn "Max" McGee, Superintendent of PAUSD,
"Six Months on the Job: Current Observations: What the Future Holds"**

Tuesday, Feb. 24, Book Group, 7:15 pm at the Clubhouse. Book: *A Bell for Adano* by John Hersey,

Contact: Anne Ercolani at ajecpa04@yahoo.com

Wednesday Feb. 25, Outreach Committee Meeting, 4:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Contact Eileen Brooks

Save the date: March 19, Annual Business Meeting, at the Clubhouse (food will be served)



The Woman's Club of
Palo Alto
475 Homer Avenue

www.womansclubofpaloalto.org

Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement