

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## April 2015 Newsletter

President: Victoria Sullivan

Editor: Carol Hubenthal

### President's Letter

Dear Fellow Members,

Twenty-four women including presenters and ten board members attended our **Annual Business Meeting** on March 19<sup>th</sup>. That means that those of you who could not attend the meeting are encouraging 13% of the membership to speak for the rest of our members. It has been suggested that next year, the **Annual Business Meeting** take place during the March Luncheon instead of having a speaker.

Many more people showed up for a hilarious evening of Bunco, put on by our newest members from the Class of 2014-15. If you rolled three of a kind of the designated hot number, you yelled Bunco and got to wear the coveted knitted oversized dice. However, your fame was short-lived, only lasting until the next player rolled a Bunco. Prizes were awarded to the biggest winner, and also the biggest loser. By moving from table to table, always joined by a new partner, you were sure to meet almost everyone in the room. Obviously, we need more Bunco Nights and less Business meetings!!

Next up this April is a dinner meeting, and our speaker is Will Sundquist, a winemaker and wine connoisseur. We will also be selling his wine by the glass, from Jason-Stephens Winery. Please join us for this happy event, our only evening meeting this year.

Throughout this month there are 2 book groups, a film group, a very gentle biking group, a museum tour, a walking tour, knitting, and bridge playing. Plus the Drop-in Social is the second Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, from 5-7 PM, at the Clubhouse. Check the calendar on page 4, join your fellow members, and enjoy your membership!

*Vicki Sullivan*

**Watch for your  
membership renewal in May!**

**Dues need to be received by June 15**



**Wednesday, April 15th  
Luncheon is DINNER**

**Board Elections**

**Program: BAY AREA WINES**

**Will Sunquist, wine expert from Jason-Stephens  
Winery in Santa Clara Valley**

**HOSTED BY SARAH FRENCH AND JULIE JEROME**

**5:30 PM** Doors open for visiting  
Wine by the glass for sale from  
Jason- Stephens Winery

**5:55** President's Welcome, Dinner is  
served

**6:25** Business Meeting, including elec  
tions

**6:45** Program begins  
DINNER is offered at \$10.00 for members and  
\$15.00 for guests. E-mail Julie Jerome to reserve for a  
guest or for a vegetarian meal at [juliejjj@aol.com](mailto:juliejjj@aol.com)

### Look Inside!

- History Corner •
- Board Minutes Summary • Committee News
- Wanted: Newsletter editor for June •
- Interest Group News •
- Centennial news • Calendar of Events

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**Board Meeting Minutes**  
**March 4, 2015**  
**COMMITTEE REPORTS.**

**Nominating Committee Report.** Sue Krumbein, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate for the officers and board members. The slate will be presented to the members March 18, voted on by membership on April 18, and the new Board installed on May 20. C. Lippert led the discussion regarding organization of next year's Board. The intent is to provide all Board members with a portfolio after working further on job descriptions so that responsibilities are clear. Nominees have agreed to assignments and are ready to begin upon election. There is a balance of new and long-term members on the new board. Developing new talent is an important goal. Osborne will continue to chair membership. Motion to approve the slate passed unanimously.

**Rentals.** The committee reported on the impact of the rental increase in rents for events. Lippert reported that there is concern that the number of rentals already booked for FY15-16 is less than the number booked at this time for FY14-15. She noted that the necessary increase in deposit, reduction of maximum number to 120 occupants and increase in daily fee moved our facilities from "inexpensive" to competitive and this has had an impact on future bookings. She closed by justifying the need to protect the house as the driving force for these increases. Way mentioned that the Revenue Balancing Committee will consider this important. A decrease in rentals will be relevant to both committees.

**Membership and Activities.** Osborne reported that 21 are on the waiting list, usually 28 on the history walks and that the 2014 class is sponsoring a BUNCO Night March 26 at the clubhouse. Plans for the Centennial observation are going well. Members are volunteering for various activities and there is great enthusiasm. People are signing up for various activities. There will be a meeting March 24 at 4:30 to present the proposed activities.

**Treasurer's Report.** Barry raised the issue of donations of food to luncheons (how such donations are acknowledged and how they are handled on the books). This led to a broader discussion of policy about donations to luncheons. The current process is that donations to lunches become unspent funds, flow into the reserve, and ultimately flow into philanthropy. There was more comfort in receiving donations for events rather than luncheons. The Board agreed that such donations are regarded by the donors as market-

ing tools, rather than charity. Barry asked how donors should be thanked by the Club. The current rule is to send letters of thank you for donors of \$100 or more. There was a motion (Monroe, Way) to continue the letter for donations of \$100 or more and to send emails under the direction of the Treasurer noting appreciation for donations under \$100.

**FY15-16 BUDGET ISSUES.** Finance Officer Monroe presented several issues relevant to the budget process and referred members to her reports. She led the discussion and called for conclusions as follows:

**Budget Appropriation for Purchase of National Historic Registry Plaque.** Feuer has requested the appropriation should be available this budget year to purchase and install the plaque so all will be finished for the Centennial. Approved allocation of \$2000 from Operating Reserve into House and Grounds.

**Recognition of Volunteer Hours for 2012, 2013 and 2014.** Tracking volunteer hours is an important part of the tax exemption we receive from the National Federation. As a 501(c)(3) organization we own our clubhouse, but we do not have to pay taxes on income received from rentals of the facilities. Philanthropy in both cash and in kind, is an essential part of receiving the tax exemption. The approved Volunteer Hours shall be included as part of the tax documentation provided to the Club's tax preparer as official record of philanthropy undertaken by the Club.

**Status of Member Assessment for Lunches.** Finance Committee recommended a 2-year, \$35 assessment. Motion passed to keep the assessment at \$25 for one year.

**Finance Committee Recommended Budget for FY15-16.** The budget will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting for a vote. Way spoke up to debate making these changes in the FY15-16 budget and to attend the Annual Meeting. The Budget and Memo was in the Board packet.

**OPERATING BUDGET** has five sources of income. There will be no dues increase. There is an assumption of 2.5 rentals per month. The rentals program wishes to add a rentals clerk to do back office paper work at \$10,800 per year. There will be an increase in janitorial rate. Funds for philanthropic grants will remain the same. There are increases in rental advertising costs, memorial donations and website costs in order to secure our domain for three years. There were questions about the rentals clerk as to the need, the cost and bonding requirement.

*(Board Minutes continued on page 4)*

## Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

### MONTHLY LUNCH (DINNER MEETING)

April 16th, 5:30 PM.

April's DINNER speaker, Will Sundquist, started out as a home winemaker, which fueled his passion to learn more about wines. He studied in the UC Davis Winemaking Program and then worked for the winemaker of Kathryn Kennedy Winery. Certainly Will fine-tuned his palate working as a manager of Beltramo's Fine Wines, one of California's largest independent wine retailers. Since 2012 Will Sundquist has taught 2 Summer Wine Classes, Interacting with California's Vineyard Culture, at Stanford University, while managing sales at Jason-Stephens Winery. Wine from J-S Winery will be available by the glass.

Membership Renewal Envelopes 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 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. —Lolly Osborne

**BOOK GROUP** We meet on the fourth Tuesday, April 23rd at the club at 7:15 pm. For this series, Pulitzer Prize Winners, chosen by members, the April book is *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton; in May, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* by John Fowles; and in June, *Persuasion* by Jane Austen. We have begun choosing books for fall so that members can read some of them over the summer. The fall topic is Science Fiction. *Jeanne McDonnell* .

**Mystery Book Group**, Thursday, April 9, is canceled. We will discuss *Still Life* at the May 14th meeting. Set in a small town outside Montréal, this mystery is the first of eleven Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels. June's book choice is even more compelling. William Brodrick, the author of *The Sixth Lamentation*, is considered a master of historical recreation, precision plotting, and morally complex characterization. The story is a convergence of the Holocaust, Christian forgiveness, and moral authority. It is the first in the Father Anselm Series. Join us in May!

**Ciné Circle** meets Wednesday, April 8th, at the Club house at 7PM: We will discuss "Wild Tales," a film of six stories of wild passions from Argentina, a film experience not to be missed! It includes a wedding from hell, road rage beyond description, betray-

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### History Corner Honoring Julia Gilbert

With the fantastic new Mitchell Park Library and Community Center, and the sensitive reconstruction and enlargement on Newell Rd. of the former Main, now renamed Rinconada Library, the impressive Palo Alto Library System should thank the originators, Julia Gilbert and the Woman's Club. At that time, even having such a resource was unusual and impressive.

To help the community understand the benefit of access to a wide range of reading material, the Club first opened a reading room. Separate rooms were provided since men and women were uncomfortable sharing space.

The Club Library Committee, headed by Gilbert, convinced John Parkinson on his trip to the Eastern U.S. to meet with Andrew Carnegie to request funding. The request succeeded, even though the town's population was smaller than the Carnegie Foundation's rules required. The newly built library on Hamilton Ave. opened in 1904. When it was decided that the collection should be catalogued, Gilbert's dedication continued. She did most of the work herself.

—*Jeanne McDonnell*

al, and more. Plan to "calm down" after seeing this amazing film, and then come to discuss it April 8th. *Shannon Griscom and Rezoan Moghaddam.*

**Community Outreach Committee** Monthly Meetings, 4th Wednesday, 4 - 5:30 pm at the Clubhouse  
**April 15 Outreach Collection:** Cleaning Supplies for Haven Family House families - plastic buckets, toilet bowl cleaner, brushes, all purpose spray cleaner, rubber gloves, paper towels.

**May 20 Collection** - Travel size shampoo/soap/combs/ tooth paste & brushes for East Palo Alto Project WeHOPE mobile shower unit.

**WC Archives Search:** Did you know that in 1900-1901 merchants of Palo Alto requested help from our WC in keeping small children off the streets? Or, that in 1903, the WCPA Exec Committee discussed a "means of suppressing Sunday football"? Or, that in Nov., 1918, there was no Rentals Report "due to a

## Committees, Interest Groups, Announcements & Events

*(Committee, Interest Groups continued from page 3)*

ban on public gatherings on account of the flu[e] epidemic"? For our Clubhouse's Centennial celebration, the Outreach Committee is researching ways that our Club was involved in our community. If you would like to learn some amazing Club history while helping, please join us! Contact E. Brooks

**Museum Fridays** - Sign up now for April and May

April 10 - Legion of Honor - The Costume Collection from the Brooklyn Museum, <https://legionofhonor.famsf.org/highstyle/about>

May 8 - deYoung, Botticelli to Braque, Contact D. Bohling, E. Brooks

**Townie Bikers** meet at the pedestrian bridge over 101 at Greer and Oregon Ave. at 11AM to ride Baylands Trails to lunch in Mountain View, taking a different route than the one we took in February.

### History Walks

April 21st - Tuesday Windhover Contemplation Exhibit @ Stanford Meet @ Tressider (Pay) Parking Lot @ 9:30AM Docent led tour 10-11:00 AM. Nathan Oliveria large works of art in a very tranquil, quiet space. A must see! Contact Lolly Osborne

May 5th -Tuesday - 10:00AM Stanford Architecture Walk SEQ (Science & Engineering Quad)

**Philanthropy Committee Report** Since January 27th, teams of Philanthropy committee members scheduled and completed 11 site visits. On March 16th, committee members met to share and discuss the information from their site visits at the following organizations: Able Works, Adolescent Counseling Services, Daybreak – a program of Star Vista, Food Closet, Environmental Volunteers, Foothill-DeAnza Foundation, Pacific Stroke Association, Stepping Stones to Success, Sequoia Adult School Scholars, Stanford Red Barn Leadership Program, and Street-Code Academy. The committee finalized their recommendations at this meeting and the slate of finalists has been forwarded to the Board for consideration and approval. *Jackie Schoelerman and Rezvan Moghadam – Philanthropy Co-Chairs*

**Rentals Committee** has had yet another good month. We would like to especially thank Jeanine Savello who stepped up and did most of the key handoffs in March. Thanks also to Eileen Brooks, who found time to do a key handoff. Judy Frost is doing the screening and Mary Griffith is doing the showing for March! Well done, ladies. Your efforts are much

appreciated!

Don't forget that **Cypress Quartet** is playing again in May if anyone would like to support them. As always we welcome volunteers to our hardworking committee. We are looking for anyone who lives nearby who could do some key handoffs. It doesn't take much time on the part of the volunteer but is really appreciated. Please let Joanne Jones know if you can help!

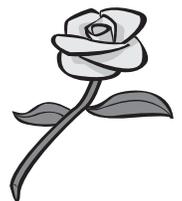
**From the Rentals Committee** Did you know that as a Woman's Club member you can rent our beautiful and historic house at a 50% discount for personal parties? What a deal! If you have an important anniversary approaching or a "milestone birthday" in your future, look no further! Our inviting clubhouse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

*(Board Minutes continued from page 2)*

**Capital Budget. Cash and Savings.** How to allocate funds among these reserve funds is the issue for the Capital budget. The Finance Committee's recommendation is: 26% to back up the operating budget; 6% to emergency reserve, and 64% to the maintenance/structural reserve. The remaining 4% may be used for cash flow during the year. S. Way noted that it is important for minutes to reflect our thinking on our commitment of our reserves because it helps with our tax exemption.

### May Luncheon will have a new LOOK

Chairs will be arranged auditorium style, business meeting with Philanthropy speakers will be followed by Budget Approval and Installation of officers. Bulletin board will be available on outside porch for announcements. Buffet lunch will follow program to end the afternoon. A few small tables will be available for those in need of assistance. This format will allow time to mingle before the program and during the lunch.



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## April Calendar of Upcoming Events

**Wednesday, April 1, Board Meeting**, 5 - 7 pm at the Clubhouse.

**Thursdays, April 2 and 16 Bridge** 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](mailto:ncbjork@gmail.com)

**Friday, April 3 and 17, Knit & Stitch**, 2-4 pm. Call Sarah French for location at 650 329-9091

**Wednesday, April 8 and 22, Outreach**, 9:45-Noon. Contact: Anne Ercolani at [ajecpa04@yahoo.com](mailto:ajecpa04@yahoo.com)

**Wednesday, April 8, Ciné Circle**, 7:00-8:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Movie: "Wild Tales"  
Contact Shannon Griscom or Rezvan Moghaddam

**Thursday, Apr. 9, Mystery Book Club**, is CANCELED. Deanna Dickman at [650-326-1796](tel:650-326-1796)

**Friday, April 10, Museum Bus** to Legion of Honor to see Brooklyn Museum Costume Collection  
Contact D.Bohling or E.Brooks

**Tuesday, Apr.14 , 11am Townie Bikers** meet at pedestrian bridge over 101 at Oregon Ave. to ride Baylands Trails to lunch.  
Contact Judith Steiner.

**Tuesday, April 14 Drop-in Social**, 5-7 pm, at the Clubhouse. \$5.00 entry  
For information, contact Celiene O'Hara, [650-367-8122](tel:650-367-8122)

**Wednesday, April 15 Monthly Luncheon is DINNER**. Speaker: Will Sundquist, renowned wine connoisseur.

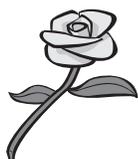
**Tuesday, Apr. 21, History Walk**, Windhover Contemplation Exhibit @ Stanford  
Meet @ Tressider (Pay) Parking Lot @ 9:30AM. Contact Lolly Osborne

**Tuesday, April 21 Investment Club**, 6-8 pm at the Clubhouse. Questions? Ask Rosemary Busher

**Wednesday April 22, Outreach Committee Meeting**, 4:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Contact Eileen Brooks

**Thurs. Apr. 24 Pacific Heights Neighborhood Walk See info., p.3.**

**Tuesday, April 28, Book Group**, 7:15 pm at the Clubhouse. Book: Edith Wharton, *The Age of Innocence*,  
Contact: Anne Ercolani at [ajecpa04@yahoo.com](mailto:ajecpa04@yahoo.com)



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Friendship, Self-Improvement, and Community Involvement