

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## September 2015 Newsletter



### A Note From the President



Greetings Members-

What a great year the committees have planned !

Because it's our House Centennial Year, several activities will focus on our history and many will look to our future.

Interest groups offer activities from bicycling to museum visits, and book clubs to bridge.

If you're looking to give to the community in ways that are meaningful to you, there are a variety of opportunities on the community outreach calendar .

So check the calendar, meet new friends and connect with old friends, and most of all, enjoy the Club.

Carol



### Wednesday, Sept 16th Luncheon

PROGRAM:

**YES WE CAN:  
ACHIEVING FINANCIAL STABILITY**

PRESENTED BY

**CATHY KROYMANN**

HOSTED BY:

**LOLLY OSBORNE & SUE KRUMBEIN**

**11:00 Doors open for visiting**

**11:50 President's Welcome;**

**Outreach 2015/16 Eileen Brooks**

**Achieving Financial Stability**

**Presentation by C Kroymann**

**Q & A for Revenue Balancing**

**Committee**

**12:30 Lunch & Dessert - Buffet Style**

*LUNCHEON is offered at*

*\$10.00 for members,*

*\$15.00 for guests.*

**To reserve for a guest or to order a vegetarian meal, [lolly@osbofamily.com](mailto:lolly@osbofamily.com)**

### September Monthly Luncheon Collection

Early Reader Books for 10 Books A Home

This organization has a proven record of ensuring that under-served preschoolers are positioned in their homes for school success. Contact Eileen Brooks for info.

**Success Starts at Home!**

**Please bring lots of books!**

## FINANCIAL CHOICES LOOMING

A committee that's spent the past nine months exploring ways to make the Woman's Club financially sustainable will present its recommendations at the September luncheon.

Currently, dues account for about one-third of the club's expenses; rental income accounts for another third and the rest is essentially unfunded, said Margo Ogus, a member of the Revenue Balance and Equity Committee. The costs include ongoing maintenance expenses for the clubhouse, such as sewage work, a new access ramp and, a few years from now, the need for a new roof.

"None of us came in with any preconceived ideas about the right way to finance the club," Ogus said. "We thought, 'Let's research it and survey the membership.'"

The committee reviewed club finances and past documents, interviewed 32 stakeholders and, in April, surveyed the entire membership about financial options, receiving about 150 responses from the 225 members.

"The interesting thing about the survey results was how many comments we got," Ogus

said. "We received a lot of input about ways to equitably fund the club, getting into the issue of volunteering versus paying. A lot of people thought fundraising was a great idea but there was very little response to the question of whether they would actually participate in organizing the fundraising."

Besides Ogus, committee members are Julie Jerome, Cathy Kroymann, Sylvie Way and Joan Zwiep. They will be available to answer questions following the Sept. 16 presentation.

Written by  
Chris Kenrick

**The Woman's Club of Palo Alto executive board meeting minutes are getting a new home! Minutes will be available on the website but until we are technically savvy enough to make this happen please contact our recording secretary for a copy of the latest board minutes.**

## INTRODUCING GLORIA SIKORA RENTALS MANAGER

Gloria Sikora, who became our Rentals Manager in June, is handling all the back office jobs that were formerly done by volunteers on the Rentals Committee. Once a contract is signed with a client, Gloria becomes the contact and handles everything until the event is over.

Before retiring, Gloria worked as a patent secretary in a law firm, and she has all those essential qualities – organization, attention to detail, writing skills, gracious manners, and more – that she needs to handle the office management of our rentals. Gloria works from home and is at the club most Tuesday afternoons.

When she is not working on WC contracts, Gloria enjoys exercise, travel, friends and her kitties, Eva and Cleo. She has been a real asset for the Rentals Committee already.



## COMMITTEES, INTEREST GROUPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### BOOK CLUB

The book group of the Woman's Club opens the season Tuesday, Sept. 22, with a discussion of Wallace Stegner's "Angle of Repose." New participants are welcome.

The group has met consistently since 1997. Members select a theme and choose five books in advance for the spring season and the fall season.

"Our members have always liked being able to read the books if they are on vacation, even if they can't attend, partly because having a single topic gives all the books meaning from the context," said member Jeanne McDonnell.

Themes over the years have included women who won the Nobel Prize for literature; books about various cities in the world; Northern California authors; biographies of women with different professions; immigration issues; books

related by geographical areas (such as Central/South America, India, Korea) or by time period and books with art themes.

This fall the book group will continue with the spring theme of reading Pulitzer Prize-winning authors. The list includes "A Death in the Family" by James Agee; "Growing Up" by Russell Baker; "Martin Dressler: The Tale of an American Dreamer" by Steve Millhauser; and "The Devil in the Grove: Thurgood Marshall, the Groveland Boys and the Dawn of a New America" by Gilbert King.

Meetings usually draw about 10 members, who rate the book on a scale of one to five. Meetings are on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the club boardroom. For more information, contact book group coordinator Anne Ercolani at [ajecpa04@yahoo.com](mailto:ajecpa04@yahoo.com)



### KNIT & STITCH

The Knitting Group meets the first and third Friday of each month in the home of a volunteer hostess.

"This is a close 'knit' group of ladies who are building stronger friendships within the club, picking up tricks, new techniques, patterns and inspiration for their knitting projects, all while having fun and enjoying delicious snacks too," says knitting group coordinator Ginnie Noh.

"All skill levels are welcome and we are happy to set our own projects aside to teach," she adds. For more information, contact Ginnie at [ginniecaselli@msn.com](mailto:ginniecaselli@msn.com) or 650 213-8906.

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH COMMITTEE

\*Continuing the tradition of our foremothers by serving the less fortunate in our community

\*Monthly planning meetings, 4th Wed. of the month, 4:30-5:30 at the Clubhouse

\*Haven Family House volunteering - 2nd and 4th Wed. of the month, 9:45-noon

Contact Eileen Brooks for info



## COMMITTEES, INTEREST GROUPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### CINE CIRCLE MARKS TENTH YEAR

Cine Circle, the Club's movie group, kicks off the fall season Wednesday, Sept. 9 with a discussion of "Straight Outta Compton."

"The group is rather small right now, but very lively and involved," says co-coordinator Shannon Griscom. "We welcome anyone who has an interest in film and discussion."

If you'd like to join the e-mail list of this group, please sign up at the September luncheon or contact Griscom (griscom1@aol.com) or co-coordinator Nancy Wong (nancywong8@gmail.com). Cine Circle currently has a mailing list of 25, with about seven or eight showing up for the monthly meeting.

Entering its tenth year this fall, Cine Circle gathers at the clubhouse on the second Wednesday of every month from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The following month's film either is selected at the end of the discussion or the group facilitators pick it two to three weeks before the next session, allowing time for members to see it.

Last year's discussion topics included "A Most Wanted Man," "Boyhood," "PRIDE," "Rosewater," "Imitation Game," "Birdman," "Still Alice," "Wild Tales," "Far from the Madding Crowd," "Ex Machina" and "Inside Out."

### EVENING DROP IN SOCIAL

Meets 2nd Tuesday of the month  
5-7 pm

\$5 per person, guests and new members welcome

### RENTALS COMMITTEE

Rentals Revenue Goal for FY 15-16: \$54,000  
Year to Date: \$29,725

NEW MEMBERS ALWAYS WELCOME

### MUSEUM FRIDAYS

2nd Friday of the month

\*Enjoy a relaxing day out and feed your soul. Join us on the bus!

\*Sept. 11, Turner at the deYoung - \$28.

\*Oct. 9, Museum of the African Diaspora, docent Tour, lunch in SF at Amber India - \$62.

\*Nov. 13, 1915 Pan Pacific Exhibition Art at the deYoung - \$28.

\*Dec. 11, SF City Hall docent Tour, lunch in SF at LuLu - \$95.

Checks made out and sent to Eileen Brooks, 780 Montrose Ave., Palo Alto, CA 94303

Contact Donna Bohling, Eileen Brooks or Ginny Bechtold for info.

## COMMITTEES, INTEREST GROUPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### INVESTMENT CLUB

The Investment Club of the Woman's Club of Palo Alto is a group of 15 women who started investing together in 1998. Seven of the founding members are still active in the group.

Every quarter, each member kicks in \$100 for regular investing through the club. The group uses research from different online sources to decide what looks good for possible investment opportunities. Members have a stock they are responsible for reporting on to the entire group. The group takes a vote for what to buy and sell.

The group meets monthly over dinner to talk about businesses and what has been going on in the market, occasionally inviting a speaker to offer advice and share knowledge.

"The not-as-fun part is filing taxes and preparing some of the necessary paperwork in April," said Investment Club coordinator Rosemary Busher. We use a software program to help keep records straight.

"Each of us is painfully aware that it is 'Big Money' and fast, online transactions that carry the market these days. But we remain steadfast to 'carry on and keep investing' by learning as we go and watching our returns," she said.

People interested in joining the Investment Club are encouraged to get on the waiting list. The group is capped at 15 for ease of managing meetings and investments, Busher said. She can be contacted at [rosemary@busher.org](mailto:rosemary@busher.org).

### TOWNIE BIKERS

Townie Bikers meet monthly on Tuesdays 11 a.m. for a ride, followed by lunch together. All levels welcome.

Contact: Judith Steiner.

### BRIDGE

The Bridge Group meets at the Club on the first and third Thursdays of every month for 2 hours at 2:15. We have lessons on these days; the lessons are \$15 for our instructor, Prue Saunders. All Club members are welcome regardless of level of play. On the alternate Thursdays we meet at members' houses for practice.

Anyone interested in participating can email Nancy Bjork at [ncbjork@gmail.com](mailto:ncbjork@gmail.com)

all levels welcome



## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Mark your calendars for a welcome reception for new members on Wednesday, Sept. 9, from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse. New members this fall are:

Nancy Alexander  
Paula Collins  
Frances Duffie  
Trudy Eichstadt  
Nancy Hannibal  
Louise Hansen  
Sally Keyes  
Jean MacDonell  
Lynn Martin  
Stephanie Martinson  
Terry McMahon  
Louise Rising  
Annette Ross  
Kathy Shen  
Jenny Stone  
Shelley Sweet  
Robin Welles  
Karen White



## COMMITTEES, INTEREST GROUPS, ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

### HISTORY COMMITTEE

Below is a dispatch from the History Committee of the Woman's Club, which provides regular short items having to do with women's history, women's clubs or stories of local historical interest. History Committee members Peggy McKee and Jeanne McDonnell take turns finding and writing up the items.

#### The Margarita Club by Peggy McKee

On a recent trip to Evanston, Illinois, we stayed at the Margarita European Inn. I was surprised to learn that the building, which houses the inn, had been founded in 1927 as the "Margarita Club for Working Women." Father David O'Leary and his sister Margaret Lynch—with support from St. Mary's Catholic church—purchased the land to create "proper housing" for young businesswomen. They named it after their mother, Margaret O'Leary, the first female resident of Evanston. Their goal was to "furnish girls not in a position to pay a great deal a home with all the comforts and care that they would find with their own people." The rooms were small with bathrooms down the hall. Mary Magill, the Club's first manager, strictly enforced its rules: she allowed no men (or boys) above the first floor. Although funded by the Catholic Church, Father O'Leary specified that Protestant women be allowed and encouraged to make their home at the Margarita Club and serve on its board. What astonished me was that I had never heard of the Margarita Club although I grew up near Evanston and my mother was a life-long member of the Woman's Club of Evanston. The Margarita Club/Margarita European Inn—after a series of renovations—remains an elegant Georgian building on Oak Avenue in the heart of old Evanston, not far from Northwestern University and Lake Michigan. The more I learn about the era of women's clubs, the more interested I am!



Class of 2014 BUNCO night

### MYSTERY BOOK CLUB

The Mystery Book holds its first fall meeting Thursday Sept. 10 for a discussion of "The Gods of Gotham" by Lindsay Faye. The group meets the second Thursday of each month at the Clubhouse from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. "We have a glass of wine and discuss the chosen mystery/suspense novel," says coordinator Deanne Dickman. "Only rule is that you have to read the book to attend." For more information contact Dickman at [deannadickman@gmail.com](mailto:deannadickman@gmail.com) or 831 596-3838.



Outreach members Mary Grace Bettsch, Lolly Osborne Anne Ercolani & Jean Pressey



History Walk at Sutro Baths & Sutro Park



## SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Friday Sept. 4: Knitting group meets at 2 p.m. at a member's home. Contact Ginnie Noh for details.

Wednesday Sept. 9: Outreach Committee volunteers will sort household donations at Haven Family House between 9:45 and noon. Contact: Anne Ercolani.

Wednesday Sept. 9: New member orientation 5 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Reception for all to welcome new members, 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Thursday Sept 10: Mystery Book Club to discuss "The Gods of Gotham" by Lindsay Faye from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Contact Deanna Dickman.

Wednesday Sept. 16: Luncheon at 11:30 at Clubhouse. \$10 per person; \$15 for guests.

Friday Sept. 18: Knitting group meets at 2 p.m. at a member's home. Contact Ginnie Noh.

Tuesday Sept. 22: Book Club to discuss "Angle of Repose" by Wallace Stegner from 7:15 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Contact: Anne Ercolani.

Wednesday Sept. 23: Outreach Committee volunteers will sort household donations at Haven Family House between 9:45 and noon. Contact: Anne Ercolani.

Tuesday Oct. 13: Townie Bikers meet at 11 a.m. for a ride, followed by lunch together. All levels welcome. Details of the ride to follow. Contact: Judith Steiner.

## STOP PRESS

Further details are arriving about the upcoming Museum Friday trip for 9th October

Museum Friday exhibit, "Portraits and Other Likenesses" from the SFMOMA. What does it mean to make a portrait? On view at the recently renovated Museum of the African Diaspora, this SFMOMA exhibit considers how portraiture has evolved from personal identification to a genre beyond physical traits and invested in fiction, subversion, stereotype and fantasy. JOIN US! The cost is \$62 and covers your seat on our private bus, a docent tour of the exhibit, and lunch at Amber India.