

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

September 2016 Newsletter

President: Carol Lippert

Our 122nd Year

*Dear lovely member,
It is September.*

*Our club year begins,
We re-greet with grins.*

*Our Clubhouse is steady,
Our programs are ready.*

*We welcome you once more,
And promise to never be a bore!*



Our September 21 Luncheon



Welcome back! Join us for lunch Wednesday, Sept. 21, when our speaker takes us on a visual tour of the beautiful and historic homes of some of our Club's earliest members. Docent Joyce Rice, a Palo Alto resident, will narrate the tour and share details of these women's lives during Palo Alto's formative years. This is the third and final tour in the series created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of our Clubhouse. Joyce, a former docent in Oak Park, Illinois and with Palo Alto Stanford Heritage, currently leads architectural tours of downtown Oakland.

Luncheon Schedule

11 a.m.	Doors open
12 p.m.	Lunch served
12:20 p.m.	Club business
12:30 p.m.	Speaker
1 p.m.	End of program

Special thanks to our September luncheon co-chairs Joanne Jones and Alice Smith! **If you would like to bring a guest** or if you would like a vegetarian or gluten-free meal please get in touch with Joanne (joanne.jones.usa@gmail.com) or Alice (asmith36@sbcglobal.net). Lunch costs \$10 for members, \$15 for guests.

At the luncheon our Outreach Committee will be collecting donations of early-reader books for the nonprofit 10 Books a Home. This group serves preschoolers in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park by sending volunteers into homes to read with children and their parents.

LUNCHEON ETIQUETTE

All members pay for luncheons for themselves and guests. Speaker and one guest are covered by the Club. Luncheon committee members are exempted from payment the month they work. Members who cannot work on their committed day will be billed \$40 unless they arrange to work at another lunch before their committed event day.

Letter from President Carol Lippert

A Little Change, a Lot of Fun



Dear Members,

Welcome to the new season of the Woman's Club!

Our committees are planning quite a year. Thanks to thoughtful work by Carolyn Pierce, our luncheon speakers will feed your brains along with your bodies. Make sure to join us at the luncheon on Wednesday, Sept 21.



We will welcome the class of 2016-17 at a Clubhouse reception on Wednesday evening, September 14. We'll be celebrating 29 new members. Current members, please join us at 6:15 p.m. for drinks and nibbles and a chance to meet the group.

Feeling a little jealous? If you joined a few years ago you didn't have the fun of being part of an official, "new-member class" (great idea, Lolly Osborne). But Carolyn Pierce has a remedy -- Class Friendship walks! Saturday Sept 24th is the first one, for classes of 2012 and 2013 -- come and connect! See article below, or contact Carolyn for details.

The new member list has been closed for this year -- we aren't inviting any more new members to join in 2016-17. But we do have a waiting list, and members are encouraged to host their friends to luncheons and encourage their possible interest and applications.

If you like short-term projects, we are already planning the Holiday party - Last year was a tremendous success - come join Kathy Torgersen and meet a savvy group of women who know how to make an unforgettable event.

The Suggestion Box will be in the lobby for the first luncheon. Feel free to share ideas. And if you sign it, we'll call you back!

Warmly, *Carol*

Welcome, New Members!

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto welcomes 29 new members this fall. Their names are listed below, and their brief bios will be published in upcoming newsletters.



Elaine Anderson	Michele Marincovich
Amy Andonian	Irene Morgan
Mary-Louise Boyd	Marita O-Reilly
Margaret Carney	Tahira Piracha
Lie-Yea Cheng	Nancy Player
Denise Ching	Karen Recht
Chrissy Coolidge	Holly Rubenstein
Katie Cooney	Deborah Seaman
Ursula Cooney	Katie Seedman
Susan Graf	Donna Sheridan
Kristy Gray	Jacqueline Stewart
Anne Gregor	Jackie Wheeler
Jolene Hsu	Jolaine Woodson
Marilyn Lavezzo	Kristine Zavoli
Gabrielle Layton	

During this year's renewal cycle the Club also received 37 resignations, as well as donations of \$1,700 to the Historic Preservation Fund and \$2,300 to the Philanthropy Fund.

Please consider becoming a "big sister" to a member of the class of 2016. This could entail inviting them to join you for coffee, inviting them to join you at a luncheon, inviting them to join you at an interest group you attend or offering to be a resource/mentor. If you're interested, please e-mail me for more information. - **Margo Ogus**

Reception to Welcome New Members



All are invited to attend a reception to welcome our newest members on Wednesday, Sept. 14 from 6:15 to 7:30. Board members will provide wine and food. New members, please arrive at 5:30 for New Member Orientation in the Fireside Room. - **Margo Ogus**

New this Fall: Membership Class Friendship Walks

New-member events of the past two years have been highly successful in building strong club relationships for participants; but many who have been in the Club longer didn't have this special opportunity.



To rectify this, we are holding several Baylands "Friendship Walks" this fall, (and again in spring 2017) for previous membership years. For the classes of 2012 and 2013, our walk will be Saturday, Sept. 24. For the classes of 2009,

2010 and 2011, our walk will be Saturday, Oct. 8. For all other membership classes: We hope you already have lots of friends by now, but please feel free to join either of the dates above.

Joanne Jones, Carol Lippert, and Carolyn Pierce will lead a walk from the Mountain View end of San Antonio Road. (Go to the north end of San Antonio and turn right. Park near the Mountain View entrance to the Baylands -- about 110 yards after you turn.) We will walk for about 40 minutes, arriving at Michael's Restaurant where we will eat. Everyone will buy her own food, and we will sit together. We will then walk back to our cars using a shorter, 25-minute route. If you want to join just for lunch, come around 11:30 to Michael's. We will have nametags for everyone. No need to RSVP, just come. But be a bit early as we will start walking at 10:30 a.m. sharp. - **Carolyn Pierce**

Want to Play Bridge?

All are welcome to our Bridge Group, which meets at the Club on the first and third Thursday's of the month from 2:15 to 4:15 pm for lessons from Prue Saunders. The lessons are \$15 each, payable directly to Prue. On the other Thursday's we play for practice at members' homes. For any questions contact me at ncbjork@gmail.com.



- **Nancy Bjork**

Knit & Stitch

The Knit & Stitch group meets the first and third Friday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the home of a volunteer hostess. Contact me for more information. - **Ginnie Noh**

Townie Bikers

Join us for fun local rides with a lunch stop! Beginning in October, we'll meet at 11 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. Routes TBD. All riders at all levels are welcome. Our first ride will be October 11 to Los Altos. Find out more at the September orientation and luncheon.



- **Shannon McEntee and Jean MacDonell**

Tuesday Socials Resume

Hello Ladies! The Tuesday Social Gabfest will resume normal operations on Tuesday, Sept. 13th! 5:00- 7:00 p.m. and \$5 per person as usual. Such a DEAL and all are welcome! Please RSVP to me at Celiene.ohara@gmail.com so we can get a rough number. But drop-ins always welcome! - **Celiene O'Hara**

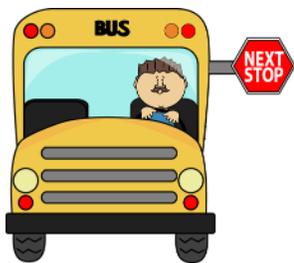
Explore with the Book Group

In keeping with our fall theme of "explorers and exploration," the Book Group will meet Tuesday, Sept. 27, at 7:15 at the Clubhouse to discuss "*The White Nile*" by Alan Moorehead. New readers are welcome.



Later this fall we'll read "*Kabloona*" by Gontran de Poncins; "*The Moor's Account*" by Laila Lalami; "*Wind, Sand and Stars*" by Antoine de Saint-Exupery and "*Passionate Nomad: The Life of Freya Stark*" by Jane F. Geniesse. - **Margaret Feuer**

Museum Friday Bus Revs Up



- Cantor Art Museum
- Rosie the Riveter Museum
- Mission Dolores

Get on the bus for Museum Fridays!

Well, for October we don't need a bus because the museum we're visiting is only a mile away. On Friday, Oct. 7, Professor Alex Nemerov will give us a private tour of the Cantor Art Museum exhibit of photographer Lewis Hine.

On Friday, Nov. 11, a National Park ranger will see us through the Rosie the Riveter Museum in Richmond, followed by lunch at Assemble Restaurant. Bus transportation. \$72, lunch included.

On Friday, Dec. 9, we'll get a private tour of Mission Dolores in San Francisco followed by lunch at Restaurant LuLu. Bus transportation. \$90, lunch included.

– Eileen Brooks

Friendships, Fun and Profits for our Club



The 17 members of the Rentals Committee have had a busy summer. Besides traveling, spending time with family, enjoying the outdoors or catching up on projects, they have screened calls from renters, showed the Clubhouse, sent contracts to our rentals manager and welcomed renters to the Club on their special day. This group of women makes a big contribution to the Woman's Club, as \$81,000 of the 2016-17 budget will come in from rentals revenue.

Besides our work to rent the Club we meet monthly to talk about our progress, various projects and how we can improve what we do. We also enjoy Happy

Hour. After all, we joined the Woman's Club to make friends and we find that our monthly Happy Hour is one way to make that happen.

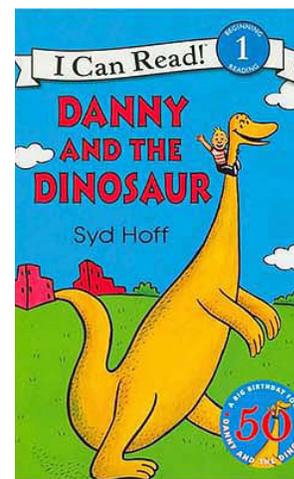
If you're interested in finding out more about the Rentals Committee, get in touch with one of its co-chairs, Sue Krumbein or Shelley Sweet, or talk with anyone at the Rentals table at the new-member reception. We welcome new members! – Sue Krumbein

Outreach Committee Report

Thank you, members, for contributing to last year's successful season of Woman's Club Giving. In 2015-16 we provided \$13,281 worth of in-kind donations to deserving local non-profits.

Our ongoing work involves sorting donations at Haven Family House on the second and fourth Wednesday morning each month from 9:45 to noon. It's fun! If you're interested, contact Anne Ercolani.

We kick off our upcoming season of monthly luncheon collections September 21 by gathering your donations of early-reader books for the nonprofit 10 Books a Home. This worthy organization serving pre-school kids in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park matches pre-schoolers with reading role models who meet and read with the kids and with



their parents to foster a reading and learning environment and a habit for the whole family, because, as their motto says "success starts at home." It works! For our part, the early-reader books that we donate stock the 10 Books A Home library so role models always have a new book to bring to their students. It is a brilliant idea that I have watched from its initial tiny plan in 2009 to full and happy, successful fruition. Please be generous in September and help 10 Books A Home give underprivileged kids a reading advantage.

Upcoming Collections:

October 19 Luncheon: — Non-perishable food for the All Saints Food Bank

November 16 Luncheon: — Wrapped nuts, candies and cookies for holiday goody bags for the vets at the Defenders Lodge at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System

- Eileen Brooks

Our Club is In Search Of...

A Webmaster: The webmaster updates member information on the website, usually about once a month. This includes posting the monthly newsletter on the site, adding new member events, reminders about upcoming events, and the occasional photo. Our website maintenance uses the visual editor provided by SquareSpace. This job is about 1-2 hours, once a month.

A Newsletter Designer: The newsletter designer takes all the articles for our monthly newsletter (already fully prepared in Word format) and converts them to a nice graphic design of her choice. Photos optional.



A House & Grounds Committee member: This committee of fun ladies meets monthly and oversees the maintenance of our beautiful house and grounds.

For more information on any of these roles, please contact **Carol Lippert** (calippert@gmail.com) or 650 323-5961.

Do you like to play with rhyme?

Why don't you give it a try sometime?

Keep it short, keep it sweet

Include the word of the month as a treat.

We'll publish it next month. Send entries to christinakenrick@gmail.com by September 25.

History Corner

Charles Dickens

and The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

Charles Dickens died in 1870. What then was his connection to our Club, which was founded in 1894? The answer: Dickens provided the stimulus for the creation of our parent organization, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). In 1869, Charles Dickens was invited to speak at a banquet given by The New York City Press Club. Tickets to this event were a hot item. Women, however, were not invited to attend. This infuriated female journalists.

It particularly infuriated Jane Cunningham Croly who had been a professional journalist for over 40 years, had served on the editorial boards of several New York City newspapers and was the first female journalist to be syndicated nationally. Her reaction to this snub was to form a club, called Sorosis, for female journalists only. Unfortunately, no one would rent meeting space to the group as it was deemed improper for women to appear in public without a



male companion. A room above Delmonico's Restaurant in the Village was finally secured and Sorosis met there for 21 years.

Croly realized that groups of women across the nation were forming clubs for suffrage, temperance, civic reform, gardening and literature. She invited 100 of them to a conference in New York City. In 1890, representatives of 63 clubs met and formed the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Their goal: to allow women of diverse interests to gather outside the home for self-education and personal development.

On June 20, 1894, 2,935.4 miles away from the Sorosis Club, twenty-four women met to form the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. They adopted a constitution, elected officers and dedicated themselves to "Self-Improvement, Mutual Help and Community Work." The Woman's Club of Palo Alto joined the GFWC in 1898 and the California Federation of Women's Clubs (CFWC) in 1900.

What would Charles Dickens have made of all this?

- Margaret R. Feuer

Summer Social — Why We Need Women

Political strategist Mary Hughes discusses “why we need women” at a joint event of the Woman’s Club and the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto held at our Clubhouse on Wednesday, Aug. 17.



Members of the Woman’s Club and the League of Women Voters of Palo Alto listen as political strategist Mary Hughes discusses “why we need women” at summer social held at our Clubhouse on Wednesday, Aug. 17.



Photos by Ellen Forbes



Thursday, Sept. 1: Bridge Group meets at the Club from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. for lessons from Prue Saunders. The lessons are \$15 each, payable directly to Prue. For more information, contact Nancy Bjork.

Friday, Sept. 2: Knit & Stitch meets from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the home of a volunteer hostess. Contact Ginnie Noh for more information.

Thursday, Sept. 8: Bridge Group meets for practice at a member's home. For information contact Nancy Bjork.

Thursday, Sept. 8: The Mystery Book Group will meet from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at a member's home to discuss "Red Heroine" by Qiu Xiaolong. RSVP to Susan Kaye (a49erwoman@gmail.com) or Shelley Sweet (shelleysweet@i4process.com).

Tuesday, Sept. 13: The monthly Drop-In Social meets from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse. Drop-ins always welcome but RSVP, if possible, to Celiene O'Hara.

Wednesday, Sept. 14: Outreach Committee sorts donations at Haven Family House in Menlo Park; 9:45 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Anne Ercolani.

Wednesday, Sept. 14: A reception to welcome new members will be held at the Clubhouse from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. (New members should arrive at 5:30 p.m. for new-member orientation). For more information, contact Margo Ogus.

Thursday, Sept. 15: Bridge Group meets at the Club from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. for lessons from Prue Saunders. The lessons are \$15 each, payable directly to Prue. For more information, contact Nancy Bjork.

Friday, Sept. 16: Knit & Stitch meets from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the home of a volunteer hostess. Contact Ginnie Noh for more information.

Tuesday, Sept. 20: The Cine Circle meets from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. to discuss "Florence Foster Jenkins." RSVP to Nancy Wong (nancywong8@gmail.com), Shannon Griscom (griscom1@aol.com) or Susan Kaye (a49erwoman@gmail.com).

Wednesday, Sept. 21: September Luncheon. Speaker Joyce Rice takes us on a visual tour of the beautiful and historic homes of some of our Club's earliest members. Doors open at 11; lunch served at noon; program ends at 1 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 22: Bridge Group meets for practice at a member's home. For information contact Nancy Bjork.

Saturday, Sept. 24: Friendship Walk and lunch in the Baylands. Meet at 10:20 a.m. at the Mountain View entrance to the Baylands near the end of San Antonio Road. No need to RSVP. For more information contact Carolyn Pierce.

Tuesday, Sept. 27: The Book Group meets at 7:15 at the Clubhouse to discuss "The White Nile" by Alan Moorehead. Contact Margaret Feuer.

Wednesday, Sept. 28: Outreach Committee sorts donations at Haven Family House in Menlo Park; 9:45 a.m. to noon. For more information, contact Anne Ercolani.

Thursday, Sept. 29: Bridge Group meets for practice at a member's home. For information contact Nancy Bjork.