

The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

June 2017 Newsletter

President: Sue Krumbein

Our 122nd Year



June 21 Luncheon: Woman's Club Awards to Local Nonprofits!

Join us for lunch Wednesday, June 21 when the co-chairs of our Club's Philanthropy Committee, **Rezvan Moghaddam** and **Jackie Schoelerman**, present the local nonprofit organizations to which the committee has chosen to make grants this year. Doors open at 11 a.m.; lunch served at noon; program ends by 1 p.m.



Special thanks to our luncheon co-chairs **Marsha Lowther** and **Anne Ream**! **If you would like to bring a guest**, please contact Carolyn Pierce (cpierce1947@gmail.com) at least one week prior to the lunch. **If you would like a vegetarian or gluten-free meal** please get

in touch with Marsha (marsha_lowther@hotmail.com) or Anne (anne@reamlaw.com) **at least one week prior to the luncheon**. Lunch costs \$10 for members and \$15 for guests.

Our **Outreach Committee** will be collecting **large pump-bottles of hand sanitizer for classrooms in the Ravenswood City School District**. This will be one less thing teachers have to purchase with their own money. We'll store the bottles until August, when Club member Mary Louise Boyd will distribute them to the grateful teachers. Let's help kill those germs!



President's Message

Dear Members,

Since early February, when I knew I was going to be on the 2017-18 slate as board president, I have spent time with many of you, listening to what you had to say. You told me all kinds of things, including that you love the club, that you want to see it thrive, and that you would really like to have more opportunities to be at the club. You want time to get to know new people, learn new things, and find ways to make a difference, and you think that all of that can happen at the clubhouse itself.



Of course, you're right, and the incoming board is already working hard to create those opportunities. We are excited to find ways to have the club open more often and to make it an even warmer, more welcoming place where all kinds of activities can happen. We want to spend more time there too!

Thank you for having confidence in me by electing me president. I am pleased and excited to take on this new role, and I promise to continue to listen to your ideas and concerns.

Warmly,

Sue Krumbain

Philanthropy Committee Announces Selections for 2016-17

The Philanthropy Committee has selected six nonprofits for grants from our Club in 2016-17. We will present checks to the following organizations at the June 21 luncheon:

All Students Matter: \$3,200

All Students Matter is inspired by the belief that all children deserve an equal opportunity to learn. Trained volunteers work in elementary schools in East Palo

Alto and east Menlo Park (Ravenswood City School District). Volunteers commit to assist weekly in the same K-4 classrooms for the full school year. Ninety-five percent of the children come from low-income families; 33 percent are homeless; 83 percent are reading below grade level. This nonprofit impacts the academic performance and emotional well being of 1,600 students. Nominated by Jean Dawes.

Avenidas Early Literacy Program: \$2,000

Avenidas creates a community that supports older adults, providing a wide variety of classes, services and volunteer opportunities. The Early Literacy Program recruits, trains and places retired teachers and other to help in schools providing one-on-one support for struggling readers. This program helps children connect with an adult and improve reading skills and gives seniors a sense of purpose. This group also received a grant from our club in 2013. Nominated by Cathy Kroymann.

Building Futures Now: \$1,800

This is a high-quality after-school and summer academic tutoring program that stays with each child from the age of 8 to college. The program builds critical skills and mindset for a college-bound future by developing the academic and interpersonal potential of underserved students from East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. The program empowers students by combining academic rigor, leadership development and long-term comprehensive support. It supports more than 100 students from 4th through 12th grade. Nominated by Chris Kenrick.

Christmas Bureau of Palo Alto: \$2,500

The Christmas Bureau has existed in Palo Alto for 60 years. Its mission is "to provide holiday cheer to those in need in our community." It provides toys and food as well as monetary assistance to families with limited funds, a lonely senior citizen, a single parent, a child

without a holiday gift. In 2014 it provided gifts to over 2,700 individuals. Recipient families live at or below the poverty level. Nominated by Carol Hubenthal.

East Palo Alto Kids Foundation: \$1,800

The mission of this community-based, all volunteer organization is to promote educational opportunities and academic success for students by awarding grants directly to teachers in East Palo Alto and eastern Menlo Park. It serves approximately 4,500 students from 11 schools, addressing the serious educational funding gap in the community. This group also received a grant from our club in 2010. Nominated by Jacqueline Widmar Stewart.

Random Acts of Flowers: \$2,000

Random Acts of Flowers uses flowers from events, churches, grocery stores and florists that otherwise would go to a land fill. Volunteers make lovely arrangements (using donated vases) and deliver them, along with encouragement and personal moments of kindness to local hospitals, nursing homes, and health care facilities. Nominated by Margaret Carney.

Past grant recipients include:

2016: The Cardiac Therapy Foundation of the Mid-Peninsula, CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), Deborah's Palm, Jeremiah's Promise, Palo Alto Housing Resident Services Program, The Peninsula College Fund

2015: Able Works, Adolescent Counseling Services, Daybreak - a program of Star Vista, Foothill-DeAnza Foundation, Sequoia Adult School Scholars, Street-Code Academy Live in Peace

2014: Cultural Kaleidoscope (Art Center, Palo Alto); Foundation for a College Education; New Voices for Youth; Pursuit of Excellence; Racing Hearts; Women/SV (Women-of-Means Escape Network, Silicon Valley)

2013: Tech Trek: AAUW; Avenidas Early Literacy Program; Bill Wilson Center, Quetzal House; Canopy; Cardiac Therapy Foundation; Reading is Freedom

2012: Child Advocates of Silicon Valley; DreamCatch-

ers; Ecumenical Hunger Program; JustRead, Success for Every Student; Music In The Schools Foundation, WANDA, Youth Community Service

2011: Abilities United; Acterra; Environmental Volunteers; Palo Alto History Museum; Peninsula Stroke Association; Project Safety Net; Reading Partners; Spark

2010: Art of Yoga Project; East Palo Alto Kids Foundation; East Palo Alto Youth Court; Foothill College Extended Opportunity Program (EOSP); Foundation for a College Education; Palo Alto Housing Corp.; Shelter Network: Haven Family House

2009: Blossom Birth Center; Clara Mateo; Opportunity Center Hotel De Zink; Jeremiah's Promise; Music in the Schools; Rosalie Rendu Center (for transportation)

Members of the 2016-17 Philanthropy Committee include Pat Davis, Jean Dawes, Susan Kaye, Bonnie Flanagan, Mary Lou Johnson, Ellie Mansfield, Lynn Martin, Rezvan Moghaddam, Bobbi Fox, Jan Heilman, Bonnie Packer, Katie Seedman, Jackie Schoelerman, Linda Iasic, Amy Andonian, Nancy Wong, Elaine Andersen, Pat Sanders, Kristy Gray, Marita O'Reilly, Mary Dowley and Lieyea Cheng. – **Rezvan Moghaddam and Jackie Schoelerman, Philanthropy Co-Chairs**

What's Happening with the Rentals Committee?

We're making good money for the Club! In the 2016-17 Woman's Club budget, the Rentals Committees' goal was \$81,000 in gross revenue for the fiscal year. During April, we had four rentals, one free not-for-profit



event, and we secured six new contracts! As of May 8, we have brought in \$150,000 in gross revenue, which is an expected \$130,000 net revenue for the Club. That's almost double our goal!

We're saying goodbye to Rentals Manager Gloria Sikora. Gloria, the Rentals Manager, has been with the Club for two years. She and Sue Krumbein have done a Herculean job of building procedures and practices for the Rentals Committee. Gloria has done an

outstanding job of handling contracts and renters. She is organized and very caring. Thank you to Gloria for all her hard work and great attitude! We will really miss her. We are glad she will help train the new House Manager.

We're saying hello to new House Manager Marie-Jo Fremont. We have hired Marie-Jo Fremont to fill the newly created position of House Manager. Marie-Jo will do three jobs: 1) Back-office work for Rentals on contracts, problem solving, and the Club calendar; 2) Support for House and Grounds by managing maintenance contractors that the Club uses; and 3) Administrative tasks. After getting her PhD in Geophysics (she is a seismologist) and working at Union Oil, Marie-Jo worked in several different roles at Hewlett-Packard, and most recently has been an independent business consultant. She lives in Palo Alto and may be seen riding her bike to the Club.

We're having FUN! We will be celebrating our successful year at our last Rentals Committee meeting Monday, June 12, at the Club from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. If you're interested in learning more about the Rentals Committee, come and join us for the meeting. We would love to have you find out more and consider joining our committee.

--Shelley Sweet

Having Fun While Helping Out

On April 26, the Outreach Committee sponsored a volunteer project at the Clubhouse. Fourteen Club members showed up and really went to town. We made 40 pounds of play-dough for the kids in the 10 Books A Home program. 10 Books a Home distributes over 350 pounds of play-dough every year to kids, who use it to learn counting and express their creativity. After we cleaned up our play-dough mess, we assembled 20 beautiful gift bags for the moms at Haven Family House. These gift bags (containing pampering soaps, lotions and other goodies) were given to the moms at our annual May Mothers Dinner, where Outreach volunteers cook and serve an elegant meal to the hard-working resident moms at Haven Family House.



In late April, these women gathered at the Clubhouse to make 40 pounds of play-dough for the nonprofit 10 Books a Home.

On Wednesday, June 28, the Outreach Committee will hold the last planning meeting of the 2016-17 Woman's Club year and we will finalize our recipient list for the next year's monthly luncheon collections. If you know a non-profit that could use easily collected tangible goods, please let us know – we'll be happy to consider them for our 2017-18 monthly luncheon collection rotation. If you have questions, please contact me at eibrooks@hotmail.com.

--Eileen Brooks

News from Fund Development

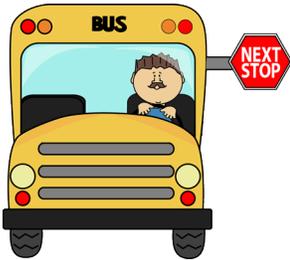
At the April Wine, Women & Wisdom event, members brainstormed for fund development ideas, and all of these suggestions were listed in the May Newsletter. The Fund Development Committee will spend the next month or two addressing those issues and researching those fund-development ideas. Once we have the data, we'll report our findings to the board and to the general membership. Pending board approval, the commit-

**Women
Wine
& Wisdom**

tee also will begin work on a member survey designed to study the feasibility of various methods of large-scale fund-development options. The Committee welcomes all input! Please send your ideas, comments and/or questions to me at eibrooks@hotmail.com.

--Eileen Brooks

End-of-Season Celebration



Museum Fridays celebrated the end of a wonderful season with a happy hour on May 4. Party attendees made suggestions for next year. A big "THANK YOU" to Eileen Brooks and Donna Bohling for launching and supporting

Museum Fridays for the past three years. If you would like to see Museum Fridays continue into the 2017-18 season, please lend a hand!

-- Ginny Bechtold

Mystery Books

The last Mystery Book Group before the summer meets the second Thursday of month, June 8, from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Club. Our June book is "The Bat" by Jo Nesbo. Cathy Mathieu will moderate the discussion.



-- Shelley Sweet

Townie Bikers

Townie Bikers will gather Tuesday, June 13, for a Baylands ride and lunch stop at Michaels. Please meet up at 11 a.m. at the south end of the Cal-



ifornia Avenue bike tunnel by the train station. If you'd like to join us, send your yes reply to me at jeanmac@stanfordalumni.org or text me at 650 248 7294.

--Jean MacDonell

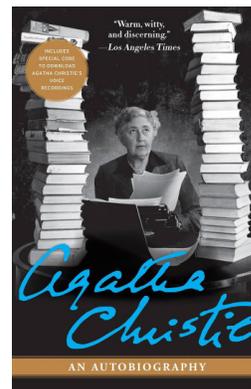
Churchill and D Day

The Cine Circle will meet Tuesday, June 20, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. to discuss "Churchill," a drama about Winston Churchill and the 98 hours before D Day, scheduled for release June 2.



--Nancy Wong

Lives of Interesting Women



The Book Group will meet Tuesday, June 27, at 7:15 p.m. at the Clubhouse to discuss "Agatha Christie: An Autobiography." The last in our spring series on "lives of interesting women," this charming book is an insightful account of the most widely published author of all time.

--Margaret Feuer

A Shameful History

The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) was founded in 1890. An early President, Ella Dietz Clymer, coined the Federation's motto "Unity In Diversity." Her hope was that sectional differences would never disrupt the GFWC.

This hope was put to the test in 1900, when the GFWC held its National Convention in Milwaukee. Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, a black journalist, aboli-



tionist and suffragist attended as a representative of two bi-racial clubs, the New England Woman's Club and the New England Woman's Press Club, as well as the all black New Era Club. All three clubs were members of the GFWC. President Rebecca

Douglas Lowe, a Georgia native, told Ruffin that she could be seated as a representative of the white clubs but not the black one. When Ruffin refused on principle, her credentials were ripped from her chest on the floor of the convention hall. Newspapers across the nation championed Ruffin. Supportive clubs threatened to leave the Federation while the Southern federation lobbied to insert the word "white" as a qualification for membership in the GFWC.

The question of black admission to the GFWC would be presented at the next national Convention in May 1902 in Los Angeles. Meanwhile, California discussed the issue for two years at the individual Club level and at the February 1902 State Convention in San Francisco.

Many Bay area women argued for open admission. One was San Francisco Examiner reporter Mabel Craft who wrote, "Many ladies who are intellectual, sympathetic and lovable have an inherent prejudice against the negro...if we cannot find it in our hearts to...help colored women...we had better break up our Federation."

Most California clubs, including ours, shied away from the subject. Club minutes show that our Board agreed to send two delegates to both conventions and to pay their expenses. However, Board motions to discuss the issue were tabled or laid aside. President Julia Gilbert, in March 1902, read an article to the membership concerning admission of black clubs. A motion was made that our delegates be instructed to vote against the admission of colored clubs to the GFWC; the motion was lost. Just as Palo Alto reached no clear-cut decision, neither did the National Convention. Individual clubs were left to admit black women or not as they wished.

-- Margaret Feuer



Thanks to this crew of member volunteers our garden was raked, pruned and weeded on Monday, May 1.

Photos from May 10, when members of the Outreach Committee prepared and served dinner to the mothers at Haven Family House, a homeless shelter in Menlo Park.



Photos from the April 19 luncheon.



More photos from the April 19 luncheon.



And a few more photos from the April 19 luncheon.



Photos from our May 17 luncheon. Margaret Feuer and Sarah French installed the new board after thanking the past board. Speaker Alice Lyman Wilbur was inspirational with a talk about her life, career and gender change. Photos: Alice and Carolyn Pierce





Thursday, June 1: Bridge Group meets at the Clubhouse from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. for lessons from Prue Saunders. \$15. Contact Nancy Bjork

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

Thursday, June 8: The Mystery Book Group meets from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse to discuss "The Bat" by Jo Nesbo. Contact Shelley Sweet

Tuesday, June 13: Townie Bikers gather at 11 a.m. the California Avenue bike tunnel for a Baylands ride and lunch stop at Michaels. Contact Jean MacDonell

Tuesday, June 13: The Tuesday Drop-In Social meets from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse. \$5. RSVP to Celiene O'Hara

Wednesday, June 14: Members of the Outreach Committee volunteer at Haven Family House in Menlo Park from 9:45 a.m. to noon. Contact Anne Ercolani

Wednesday, June 14: Members of the Outreach Committee prepare and serve a BBQ dinner for families at Haven Family House, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. To help contact, Lolly Osborne

Thursday, June 15: Bridge Group meets at the Clubhouse from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. for lessons from Prue Saunders. \$15. Contact Nancy Bjork

Friday, June 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, June 20: The Cine Circle meets from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Clubhouse to discuss "Churchill." Contact Nancy Wong

Wednesday, June 21: Monthly luncheon featuring local nonprofit leaders who will receive grants from the Woman's Club Philanthropy Committee. Doors open at 11 a.m.; lunch served at noon; program ends by 1 p.m. Outreach Committee will collect large pump-bottles of hand sanitizer for classrooms in the Ravenswood City School District

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

Tuesday, June 27: The Book Group meets at 7:15 p.m. at the Clubhouse to discuss "Agatha Christie: An Autobiography." Contact Margaret Feuer