

# The Woman's Club of Palo Alto

## February 2016 Newsletter

### A Note From the President

Dear Members,

Whatever the outcome of the Feb. 5 vote count on our dues proposal, our Club will accept the results and move forward as one. In the meantime we can reflect on the great times we had this past fall and look ahead to an event-packed winter/spring season.



Looking back, our sold-out Holiday Party set a new standard for food, music and decoration of our Clubhouse. The martini bar was a big hit, as were the substantial hors d'oeuvres. Kathy Torgersen and her spectacular team purchased and cooked the food and prepped the drinks -- Kathy's hard-working husband helped out by cooking 42 pounds of beef! And professional servers helped everyone enjoy the party. The clean-up crew (same team, different clothes) took down the lovely Christmas lights and trees the next day, storing them away for the next event.

Looking forward, the Centennial Committee is ramping up events honoring the 100th anniversary of our Clubhouse. Check in with Sue Krumbein and Lolly Osborne if you want to be on the inside of what's happening. With touches of our proud history, fashion, flowers and food, you can join in the fun, and meet new friends.

If you want to send Valentine wishes to veterans or check out other ways you can give an hour or two to make a real difference, contact Eileen Brooks. If you love our Clubhouse and want to learn ways to participate in keeping it great, contact Lisa Sten. If you want to meet interesting new members, contact Lolly Osborne -- she has many options for those looking to make connections. And if your New Year's Resolution includes more exercise, talk to Judith Steiner of the "Townie Bikers" group or Lolly Osborne and Sue Krumbein of the History Walking Group -- there are ways to have companionship and work out with Woman's Club members.

Have fun! And if there's something you want to do but see no organized group, talk to Joanne Jones. She'll help you find a way to get started, and bring your friends along.



Warmly,

Carol



CENTENNIAL YEAR

## Photos from the January Luncheon

### Wednesday, February 17th Luncheon Program:

Women and the Environment  
Member Lisa Van Dusen  
will facilitate the discussion.

---

11:00 Doors open for mingling

11:40 Meeting Called to Order  
Pledge & Collect

11:45 Luncheon is served

12:10 Club Business & Announcements  
followed by Program

---

Thanks go to February luncheon co-chairs  
Grace Hinton and Caroline Willis!

To reserve for a guest or to order a  
vegetarian meal, contact  
Grace (grace\_hinton@yahoo.com)  
or carolinewillis@mac.com)

---

### Women and the Environment – Watch Your Inbox for Survey!

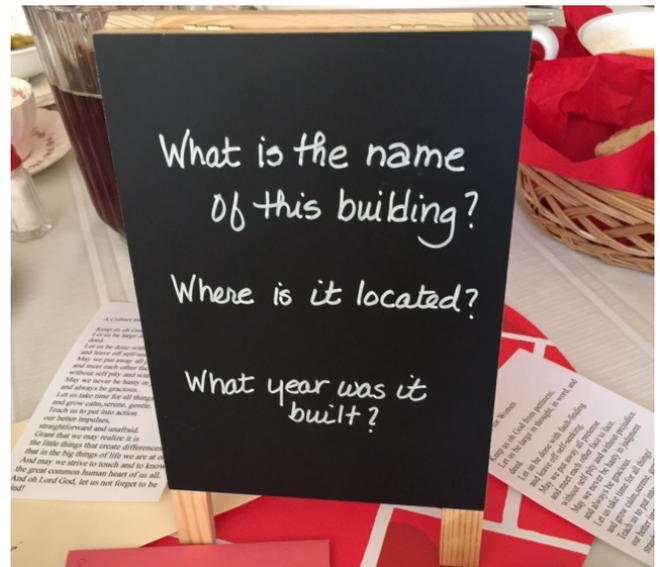
Join us for February's luncheon, Wednesday the 17th, for an exciting program on women and the environment. Our panel, moderated by member Lisa Van Dusen, will feature three local women who are making a difference: Debbie Mytels, Enid Pearson and Sandra Slater. In the meantime, watch your inbox for a survey about your experiences with environmental issues. Members of the organizing committee for February's program are Wanda Cavanaugh, Julie Jerome, Catherine Martineau and Judith Steiner.



A full house for lunch



Sue Krumbein, Steve Staiger, Gail Woolley & Karen Homan



An inventive and creative series of table displays to match the historic theme

## FEBRUARY 2016 CALENDAR

**Thursday, Feb. 4: Bridge Lessons** at 2:15 p.m. from Prue Saunders at the Clubhouse.  
For more information, contact Nancy Bjork.

**Friday, Feb. 5: The Knitting Group** will meet from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the home of a volunteer hostess.  
If you'd like to participate, contact Ginnie Noh.

**Tuesday, Feb. 9: The Monthly Drop-In Social** will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Clubhouse.  
For more information, contact Celiene O'Hara.

**Wednesday, Feb. 10: The Outreach Committee** will meet at Haven Family House  
in Menlo Park for sorting. Contact Eileen Brooks.

**Thursday, Feb. 11: The Bridge Group** will meet for practice at the home of a member.  
Contact Nancy Bjork.

**Thursday, Feb. 11: The Mystery Book Club** (temporarily full) will meet at 6 p.m. at the Clubhouse to  
discuss "The Suspect" by Michael Robotham. Contact Deanna Dickman.

**Friday, Feb. 12: The Museum Friday Group** will participate in a private docent tour of the Anderson  
Collection at Stanford. Contact Donna Bohling or Eileen Brooks.

**Wednesday, Feb. 17: February Luncheon** with speakers about women and the environment, moderated  
by member Lisa Van Dusen. Doors open at 11; lunch served at 11:45. To reserve for a guest, or to order a  
vegetarian/gluten free lunch, contact lunch co-chairs Grace Hinton and Caroline Willis.

**Thursday, Feb. 18: Bridge Lessons** at 2:15 p.m. from Prue Saunders at the Clubhouse.  
For more information, contact Nancy Bjork.

**Friday, Feb. 19: The Knitting Group** will meet from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the home of a volunteer hostess.  
Contact Ginnie Noh.

**Tuesday, February 23: The Book Group** will meet at 7:15 p.m. at the Clubhouse to discuss  
"Between Shades of Gray" by Ruta Sepetys. Contact Anne Ercolani.

**Wednesday, Feb. 24: The Outreach Committee** will meet at Haven Family House in Menlo Park for  
sorting. Contact Eileen Brooks.

**Thursday, Feb. 25: The Bridge Group** will meet for practice at the home of a member.  
Contact Nancy Bjork.

**Volunteers needed for House & Grounds**  
**Get to know your clubhouse from the inside out!**  
contact Lisa Sten [lstn@harrell-remodelling.com](mailto:lstn@harrell-remodelling.com)



## BEHIND THE GREEN DOOR

Got a boa, a flapper's headband or that mink jacket your mother wore? If so, you're ready for Founders Follies and Speakeasy." Join us Wednesday, March 16, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Green Door, aka the Woman's Clubhouse. Knock three times and the door will open just a crack. Whisper your secret password and you'll be whisked back to the time of our foremothers, whose decades spoke volumes. Don't miss this once-in-a-lifetime experience: food and drink; music and a cool vibe; and a special program, all of which will delight and surprise you! It's members only, and you must buy your \$10 ticket ahead of time. It will be available at the February luncheon, or by mailing a check payable to the Woman's Club of Palo Alto to Sue Krumbein, 2371 Bryant St., Palo Alto, 94301.

## VOTE ON DUES PROPOSAL STILL UNDERWAY

Absentee voters have until 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 4, to return their ballots on the proposed increase in annual Woman's Club dues from \$175 to \$350. At the Jan. 20 luncheon, 161 members cast their votes in person, and also voted to temporarily suspend the by-laws to allow absentee ballots to be sent to members not able to vote in person that day. The following day, Jan. 21, a committee consisting of Sarah French, Julie Jerome and Meg Monroe mailed out absentee ballots, including stamped, self-addressed envelopes for return to the Woman's Club. Absentee voters may return their ballots to the Club by mail or by hand. Following the absentee deadline, a committee consisting of Sarah French, Bonnie Packer and Vicki Sullivan will count all votes cast, and results will be announced by eblast. Assisting with in-person voting on Jan. 20 were Linda Anderson, Wanda Cavanaugh, Julie Jerome, Bonnie Packer and Ellen Rosenblum. The election was organized by Meg Monroe and Wynne Furth, the Club's Parliamentarian.



# Outreach

## Request for Socks

The Outreach Committee continues to lead us in helping the less fortunate in our community. Since the start of our 2015-16 Woman's Club season we have volunteered 310 hours; collected and distributed \$8,000 in in-kind donations to local nonprofits and signed more than 500 holiday cards for vets at the Menlo Park VA. Thank you all for your generosity!



Please bring socks to our Feb. 17 luncheon! These will go to the Downtown Streets Team. According to the team, this is the most needed and least donated item.

–Eileen Brooks

# 100

# 100 Years

# 100

## A Lively, Historic, Fun-Filled Centennial Celebration

Local historian Steve Staiger's Jan. 20 presentation was the first program in our Centennial year. A California native, librarian and historian, Steve shared with us what was happening in the world in 1916. That took us back 100 years, and within that context he talked about four buildings in Palo Alto that share a number of traits: they're public buildings, not homes; they've housed a variety of groups over the years; they were and are part of the fabric of Palo Alto; and they are still in use today. These include Fraternal Hall, MacArthur Park, the Pacific Art League, and, of course, our own Clubhouse. We are certainly in good company.

In February, Wanda Cavanaugh, Julie Jerome, Catherine Martineau and Judith Steiner bring us a program focused on the environment, an area on which our foremothers were very focused, especially planting trees and keeping them watered. Watch for an environmental survey from that group, as it will be a fun way for all of us to participate.

In March, we'll enjoy "Founders' Follies and Speak Easy," an evening program, 6-8pm, where we will party and be treated to a show full of fun and information about our foremothers. For this event, we need costumes. If you have clothing, hats, shoes, or accessories from 1890 to 1960, contact Janine Hodgson at [janinehodgson@yahoo.com](mailto:janinehodgson@yahoo.com). We'd love to see what various club members have in their "historic" closets.

As Centennial Co-Chairs, we'd like to congratulate the Woman's Club on a beautiful, 100 year old clubhouse. That is quite an accomplishment.

Sue Krumbein and Lolly Osborne

## Get Set for Art

Museum Friday continues to roll! We have completed five fun museum adventures. Now on to the “Final Four” of the year! Please contact Eileen Brooks or Donna Bohling to reserve your spot or be added to our email list. No drop-ins.

On Friday, Feb 12 we will participate in a private docent tour of The Anderson Collection at Stanford (<https://anderson.stanford.edu>).

Friday, March 11, we'll travel to the Walt Disney Museum in the Presidio to view the “Mel Shaw: An Animator on Horseback” exhibition (<http://waltdisney.org/exhibitions> ). We will make arrangements for a docent, as well as lunch in the Presido.

Friday, April 8, we'll head to the de Young Museum for the Oscar de la Renta retrospective (<http://deyoung.famsf.org/exhibitions/oscar-de-la-renta-retrospective>). Lunch in the museum café on your own.

Friday, June 10, the newly opened SFMOMA (<https://www.sfmoma.org>)!

Don't delay! Our bus can accommodate 24 and no more. – Donna Bohling



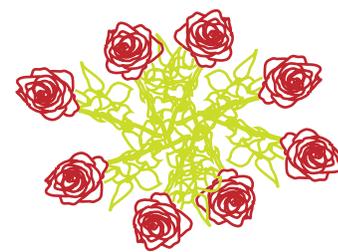
### “Betrayal, Survival and Revenge”

The CineCircle's movie to watch in February is “The Revenant,” a story of betrayal, survival and revenge. It won a Golden Globe for best picture, drama; and has been nominated for Oscars in many categories, including best picture. It was brought back for a second run since the nomination, and is having a strong response in the theatres. (Warning: significant violence.) The Cine Circle will discuss this movie Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse. RSVP to Cine Circle Co-Chairs Nancy Wong or Shannon Griscom.



### Read Your Way through Central Europe and the Baltics

The Book Group's Spring 2016 series is books about Central Eastern Europe and the Baltics. The group will meet Tuesday, Feb. 23 at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the first book in the series, “Between Shades of Gray” by Ruta Sepetys. Ellie Heister will lead the discussion. Next month's selection is “Disturbing the Peace: A Conversation with Karel Huilala” by Vaclav Havel. – Anne Ercolani



# Congratulations to our 20 Year members!



Betsy Bechtel



Karen Holman



Gloria Hom



Nancy Kalkbrenner



Lydia Pugliese



Susie M Richardson



Ninna Traugott

Congratulations are in order for seven of our members who, this year, mark their 20th year of membership in the Woman's Club of Palo Alto. We hope you will join us at the Feb. 17 luncheon when we recognize these women who have been instrumental in the growth and strength of our Club. Their continuing participation has helped our Club emerge from a historical low to the active, thriving Club we are proud of today. For many years we had only a few members who were of such distinguished standing, and now we have 18. The Gaveleers, a group of past Club presidents, will spearhead a celebration of this milestone reached by the members listed below. When you see them, please be sure to congratulate and thank them.

- Wanda Cavanaugh

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Would you like to comment on any of the stories presented in the newsletter? If so send your comments to the editor & they will be considered for publication. Please keep your submissions to between 150 & 200 words. We look forward to seeing member comments on our newsletter.

[christinakenrick@gmail.com](mailto:christinakenrick@gmail.com)

# An Invitation from the Commonwealth Club

## A Valentine's Day Social

I'd like to invite your network at the Palo Alto Women's Club to join us at our annual Valentine's day social; this year we'll be exploring the science of seduction with Dr. Jennifer Rhodes, a licensed psychologist, dating coach and image consultant. We'll start the party with snacks and booze, and then Dr. Rhodes will enlighten us about what seduction really means and how it plays into all of our interactions.

We'd also love it if you could help to spread the word. Here are 3 simple ways you can help:

- 1) Rsvp on Facebook and invite your network to attend.
- 2) Send a 20% off discount code to your professional or personal networking groups (we'll give you the code!)
- 3) Include the event in your next email newsletter

Let me know if you're interested and available to attend or if you would like me to make you a discount code for your network. We would love to have you join us and it would be great if you could spread the word!

I've posted the event details and ticket links below; if you have any questions feel free to shoot me an email.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Best,

Keely O'Brien

INFORUM Fellow The Commonwealth Club

kobrien@commonwealthclub.org

916-626-7101

**WHEN:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 from 6:15 PM to 9:00 PM

**WHERE:** 555 Post St., San Francisco

**WHAT:** Dr. Jennifer Rhodes, a licensed psychologist, dating coach and image consultant helps us to sharpen our seduction skills before we get social at the annual INFORUM V-Day shindig, full of booze, snacks and plenty of chances to practice your new tactics.

Get tickets: <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/valentines-day-the-inforum-way-science-of-seduction-with-dr-jennifer-rhodes-tickets-20797699479?aff=OrganizationPAWC>

Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1671590459779961/>



# History Corner - Our Environmental Legacy

From 1897 through the 1950's, the Club's Village Improvement Committee planted, maintained and preserved hundreds of trees on city streets and in parks. Palo Alto's designation as "Tree City" is partly the result of these efforts. Club members also lobbied the Council to establish city parks. Five acres of parkland, known as Eleanor Pardee Park, was donated to the City by Club President, Emily Pardee Karns Dixon. To preserve redwoods, the Club supported a 1910 forestry bill in the state legislature, opposed cutting the trees lining the road to Lake Tahoe, and worked with the San Jose Woman's Club, Stanford President David Starr Jordan and the Sempervirens Fund to establish Big Basin Redwoods State Park. The 1920's saw members distributing seedlings throughout the city from Palo Alto's newly created tree nursery. Depression years brought the Club's greatest victory: the 1933 dedication of a memorial hearthstone at Humboldt Redwoods State Park. Designed by architect Julia Morgan, the memorial sits amid 1,000 redwoods on a 106-acre grove purchased by women's clubs throughout California. The hearthstone inscription reads: "Would that we were great as these and men were brotherly as trees."

Individual members also had a tremendous impact on our local environment. Hike the 533 acres of the Enid Pearson-Arastradero Preserve, and enjoy the handiwork of former Club Treasurer and City Council member, Enid Pearson. To protect and preserve open space, Pearson enabled the passage of a 1965 Park Dedication Ordinance requiring voters' approval before selling or developing Palo Alto parkland. Stroll the Baylands and you encounter a 15-acre fresh water pond honoring former Club President and City Council member, Emily Renzel. Renzel is known for her efforts to protect parks, open space and bay habitats. As individuals and as a group, the Woman's Club has a rich environmental legacy.

--Marilyn McDonald



**El Palo Alto  
circa 1910 & 2004**

*Sequoia sempervirens*





## History Walk

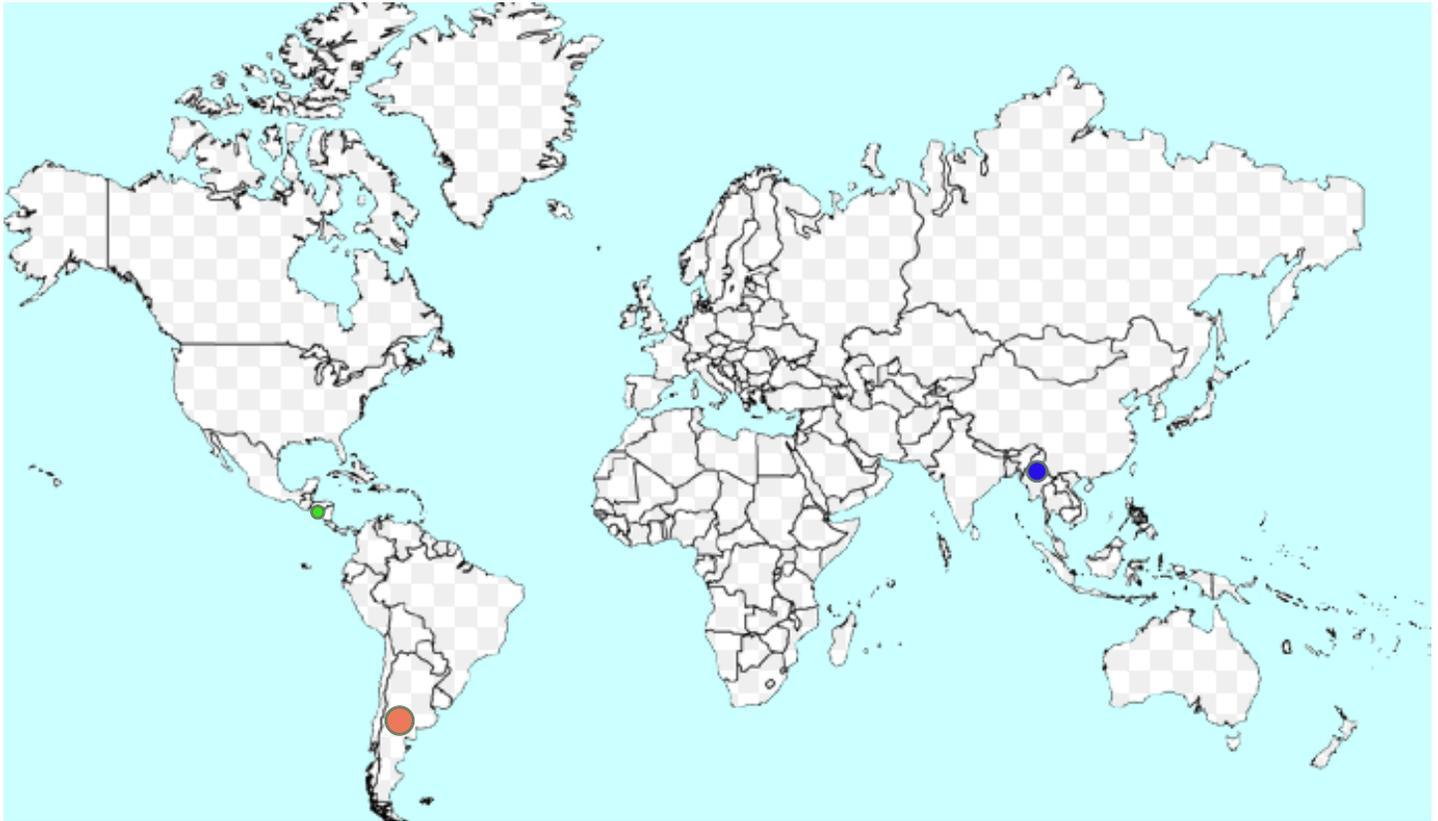
Eight club members attended the History Walk. The program was presented by Jacqueline Hartman, founder of the Red Barn Horse Leadership Program. We all came away feeling we had a better understanding of our emotions and how the power of a horse helped us see this.

- Lolly Osborne



# Where in the world do we go?

Lets see how many different countries members of the Woman's Club visit each year. If you have been somewhere interesting this year send your destination to: [joanne.jones.usa@gmail.com](mailto:joanne.jones.usa@gmail.com)



- Patagonia - JS
- Guatemala - Lolly O
- Burma- SF