

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB

Historian's Report

Year ending December 31, 2015

The 22nd Annual Meeting of The Community House Women's Club was held on January 13, 2015. President Dolores Urquhart opened the business meeting at 10:30 am. A new slate of officers was approved by the membership with Mary O'Neill elected as the 2015 Women's Club President. Dolores Urquhart presented the president's gavel to Mary O'Neill who gave her inaugural address. A luncheon was served.

January 27 – Maureen Esther entertained us with the tales of the Tudor Period in English history from 1485 to 1603. Maureen summarized in chronological order the reigns of King Richard, Arthur, Henry VII, Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I providing an overview of the entire dynasty.

February 10 –Seven members of the “Acorn Combo” entertained us with nostalgic music from the Swing Era of the 20s and Big Band music from the 40s. They brought a little spring into our snowy winter with renditions of the “Basin Street Blues,” “On the Sunny side of the Street,” “Muskrat Ramble,” “Sentimental Journey,” and “It Ain't What It Used to Be.”

February 24 - Walt Stasinski had the ladies howling with laughter as he reminded us of our early childhood with humorous stories reminiscent of when we played spin the bottle, clapped on roller skates (and the consequences if one skate came off), wondered about boys, attended high school, watched “I Love Lucy” (who gave us lots of laughter) and then all-of-a –sudden we grew into adulthood. He brightened our day on this cold winter day.

March 10 – L. Brooks Patterson, Oakland County Executive has been a guest speaker at our club a number of times over the past years. He is always very well received and enlightens us with “what's new in Oakland County.” He is compassionate about continuing to make our county better and stronger in all ways.

March 15 – The Long-Range Planning Committee held a Spring Mixer at TCHWC to introduce new members and potential members to our club. Refreshments were served.

March 24 – Nine fantastic singers, dancers, musicians and storytellers entertained us from the “Heart of the Hills Players.” These performers ranged from 50 to 80 years old.

April 14 – As an inquisitive young person, Christy McDonald's life lead her to a reporter's job in Flint, a talk show with Bill Bonds, a Channel 7 anchor covering 9/11 to political corruption in the city of Detroit. Her Emmy award-winning anchor led her to be anchor and moderator of MiWeek on PBS Channel 56.

April 28 – Charles Langton, spoke about his background as a lawyer working on a murder trial in Macomb County and handling the court case of Kwame Kilpatrick's text messages. As a Legal Analyst for FOX 2 and WWJ Radio, he answered many questions from the membership about the Road Proposal for Detroit, same sex marriage, Kwame and his wife's IRS case, Wayne County jail, Detroit Water Department, Matty Moroun's “bridge to Canada” and the Insurance Reform.

May 12 – TCH Women’s Club Founders’ Day Tea honored 10 past presidents who received gifts as a gesture of appreciation for their successful leadership and dedication. There were 77 ladies attending this annual event. They were served three courses of delicious food, including fresh fruit, scones, quiche and assorted pastries. Several door prizes were distributed to lucky winners.

May 26 – Jim Glenn, actor and director of numerous Shakespearian plays, vividly depicted the life of William Shakespeare as a busy family man, actor, playwright and businessman. He also coined many new words that we use today. His plays were not celebrated until after his death.

June 2 – It was a beautiful sunny day as 55 ladies from the Women’s Club motored to Detroit to pick up our Tour Guide, Frank Gasarek. The tour took us around downtown Detroit while learning the history of the city. We stopped at the Rivard Plaza viewing the beautiful Detroit River. We visited Indian Village and Lafayette Park and had a delicious lunch at the Roostertail. We had a pleasant trip through Belle Isle, stopped at the Pewabic Pottery Shop and headed home. It was a great day!

June 9 – Nolan Finley, editorial page editor of The Detroit News, spoke about the recovery of Detroit after the bankruptcy. He was optimistic with the future of the city but expressed concern about the problems that need fixing, such as the school system, people losing their homes and the need to bring all ethnic groups together.

June 21 – The Long-Range Planning Committee held a Summer Mixer on the Terrace of the TCH to introduce new members and potential members to our club. Refreshments were served.

June 23 – Annie Hunt told the story with photographs depicting the interesting life of Clara Barton, educator and a Civil War nurse called the “Angel of the Battlefield.” She was a strong-willed woman who cleaned field hospitals, applied dressings and served food to wounded soldiers in close proximity to several battlefields. In 1878 she founded the American Red Cross.

July 14 - Jeffrey Price, saxophonist and Dr. Ina Yoon, pianist from the Flint School of Performing Arts performed beautiful Chamber music to the delight of the members.

July 28 – Michelle Hodges, President of Belle Isle Conservatory, gave an interesting history of Belle Isle from the days of the Underground Railroad Prohibition, Albert Kahn’s architectural designs of the Aquarium, Conservatory, Marshall Frederick’s sculpture, the Scott fountain and the Grand Prix. The park area has provided entertainment to many Detroiters for picnics, boating, watching animals and riding horses. It is the largest city-owned island park in the United States.

August 11 – Five women from five different faiths and moderator, Ellen Ehrlich came from The Wisdom Group of Michigan to answer questions about their faiths from childhood, their misunderstood religions, dealing with stereotypes and the biggest challenge for women in their faith.

August 25 – Sharon Claye, her husband, Don and assistant Lisa La Sever had our members dancing and exercising to music and learning how to balance. Sharon shared easy recipes with us.

September 8 – Roger Weber and his wife, Corinna, graced our meeting as he spoke of his 36 years as a TV reporter in Ohio and in Detroit at Channel 4 WDIV. He has won Emmy and Murrow awards for his reporting.

September 22 – Eight smartly dressed WC members modeled different outfits from Franklin Village Boutique for our Fashion Show.

October 7 – On a beautiful day 54 members and guests of TCHWC traveled by bus to Chelsea for a delicious lunch at the Common Grill and then attended the Purple Rose Theater to see the comedy “Casting Session” written by Jeff Daniels.

October 27 – Loredana Gianino, Market Manager of Olga’s Kitchen spoke of Olga Loizon’s dream of opening an authentic Greek and Mediterranean-inspired restaurant after her 1960 visit to Greece. After overcoming a series of obstacles and with great determination, Olga opened her first restaurant at the Continental Market in Birmingham followed by 27 more locations. A longtime friend, Sylvia Durant spoke endearingly about Olga’s kindness, her laughter, her smile and “The most beautiful lady I have ever met.” Olga’s daughter, Emily Kantor was also in attendance.

November 10 – A charming, Lynn Alexander, Vice President of Public Affairs for Presbyterian Villages of Michigan informed us about the many things that we can do as individuals to keep ourselves vital and alert as we age gracefully. It is extremely important to keep our brain and body active through socialization with others and exercise.

November 11 – The Long-Range Planning Committee held the Fall Mixer at Leon and Lulu’s in Clawson to introduce new members and potential members to our club. Refreshments were served.

December 8 – The Jills are a group of junior and senior high school students who have been a part of the Bloomfield Hills Schools since 1956. They sang many holiday songs and also demonstrated their skills on the hand bells. We were asked to join them in singing our favorite songs with them. Their leader, Jessica Riley, was unable to attend this performance because she was serving jury duty!

It has been my pleasure to serve as TCH Woman’s Club Historian for another great year.

Marion Beck, Historian 2015