

HISTORIAN'S HISTORY!

While most of our scrapbooks relay information on installations, teas and speakers, sometimes there are tidbits that give insight into what the Club actually did, enjoy what follows.

1920 -1935 – Ladies' Issues - AWC promoted a Town Forum with meetings in homes talking about issues of the day.

1942 - Luncheon on Fire! AWC rented rooms in the Henry Hotel for member uses and the library. As the women were setting up for one monthly luncheon, a passing motorist saw a fire at the hotel. The women, not to be daunted by a fire, picked up their food, moved to a member's nearby yard and continued the meeting! While there was lots of smoke from the defective flue no one was harmed. (As a side note: Making our own food for business mtgs and luncheons continued until nearly 2005, after which a catered service did luncheons only.)

Early 1950's – Drama in the Club? Yep - AWC had a drama section which put on plays and performances.

1951, 1961 and 2018 – Chairs, Chairs and More Chairs! All were years in which new chairs were purchased!! LOL

1952 = Got Rummage? Rummage Sales were noted by the president as being very successful. They continued these or 'garage sales' until **2011**. In later years they did it twice a year in the fall and in the spring.

1953 = Fundraising.... In the Annual Report of 1953, the Spring Fashion Show reported netted \$200.

1953 - Paving the Way! AWC's parking area was 1st paved for \$1100, **which was borrowed**.

1955 – AWC On-the-Move! Excursion group toured the Sunset House & Ghirardelli Square.

1955 – Sponsored Membership. The membership at the time totaled 175 and to join the Club, **two club members** were required to sponsor the new member.



1960 – Fundraising Again... The Club was looking for new ways to raise money and they began the Holiday Flaire.

1961 – Mentors! The more things change the more they stay the same: a new member complained that “she received nothing but the monthly bulletin and is not meeting members, nor does she know enough about the Club activities”. New member mentoring is always a work in progress.

1969 – Philanthropic Giving. Did you know AWC had a speaker who was involved in Indian Affairs for over 40 years and she noted that in 1952 AWC gave \$6 to purchase a pair of shoes for a needy Indian boy. She also explained that AWC helped put a young man named Frank through Fresno State who was at that time, 1969, now coordinator of mentally retarded and crippled students.

1976 – Green Thumbs. For the Bicentennial, members helped plant 200 Liberty Trees on all school grounds in Alamo, Danville and San Ramon

1976 & 1989 - Community Involved! We are charter members of Tao House ('76) and the Museum of San Ramon Valley ('89)

1978 – Time Capsule! The California State Parks Foundation invited AWC to participate in its Time Capsule. The capsule, located in Big Basin Redwood State Park, is to be opened in 2028. No record remains of what AWC put into the capsule. Let's plan an excursion in 2028!



Historian's History, Continued

1991- Shed Arrives - The storage shed was funded by a silent auction.

1991- Badge-or-Fine! - Fines were given for members not wearing their badge at meetings!

1980 – Good Neighbors - AWC began leasing a portion of its land for the building next door (Beta HealthCare) and we still do to this day!

1994 – Being Philanthropic – The first Hospice Tree Lighting was held and that year 350 baby caps were knit for hospitals.

2001 - What an Accomplishment! AWC former President and former parliamentarian, and long-time member, now deceased, Virgie Jones wrote that *“under the crafts section of CFWC she had hand-knit over the years almost 2000 newborn baby caps for Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek.”*

Tidbits from our umbrella General Federated Women's Clubs (GFWC) and California Federated Women's Clubs (CFWC)

1906 - Did you know that General Federated Women's Clubs is credited by the first chief of the Pure Food Bureau to spearheading the campaign of the Pure Food and Drug Act passage which led to creation of the Food and Drug Administration?

1925 - GFWC initiated a spotlight on the home. That survey led to inclusion of 'homemaker' as an occupation five years later on the 1930 census.

Why a yellow rose is given to new members is that the California Federation Women's Club adopted the golden rose in 1970 and the giving of the rose signifies welcome into that 'sisterhood'.



And now you know more about where we started to get where we are now!
Vicki Koc, Historian