

AWC Changes 1916 to Today?

Imagining Alamo Women's Club members in 1916 is possible when we look at old scrapbooks and minutes. Over time there are waves of change, some root and hold over decades and some are short-lived.

First the name changed from the *Alamo Mother's Club* to the *Alamo Community Club* then in 1949 to the *Alamo Women's Club*. The location changed a lot in the first 35 years but once the Clubhouse was built in 1951 the permanent location was established.

The AWC meeting format was stable for many years. After the Call to Order, the Pledge of Allegiance was recited by everyone just as we do today. Then the reciting of the *Collect for Club Women* was followed by a song. It seems the Collect and song continued into the 2000's before being dropped, according to long time member Barbara Ingraham. The collect is published in our handbook each year.

Luncheon meetings had speakers from 1920's onward. In the 1920's and 1930's the focus was a strong emphasis on speakers who spoke on farming/gardening and making one's own clothing. Many speakers were music related and often AWC had play and poetry reciting. Singers and musicians as speakers continued until the 1970's, but the plays and poetry seemed to fall off after WWII.

The 1940's efforts were war directed in many meetings, as well as providing support to staff the watchtower in Alamo, sponsoring a canteen, and sewing for the Red Cross.

In the 1950's native American Indian affair issues became more pronounced. Besides speakers on Indian welfare and raising funds for Indians, one of the Club officers was the Indian Affairs Chairman. Clubwomen seem to focus support on the area's Mi-Wok tribe. 40 years of Club efforts were geared toward Native American issues.

1952 through 2011 AWC had many annual, and sometimes bi-annual, fundraising rummage/garage sales. Many Club photos show AWC members working these sales.

In the 1970's there was an AWC officer for Consumer Concerns (remember Ralph Nader?) and the minutes range from mentioning mail order fraud, not mixing aspirin and cough syrups together, and that January is a good month to buy appliances and art supplies!

From 1980 through recent times AWC members embrace fashion shows at luncheons, including '100 years of AWC Fashion' which we celebrated in 2016 at our Centennial Luncheon, complete with champagne!

For 106 years through all the trends our Club remains the first and oldest service club in Alamo!

Vicki Koc, Historian