

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT

Centennial Year, 2025



American Home Luncheon and Centennial Tea

February 21, 2025

What a wonderful afternoon we had on Friday, February 21, 2025, at the American Home Luncheon, Program, and “Afternoon Tea” for the Centennial Celebration.

A short business meeting was held, after which the festivities started.

The tea sandwiches were presented in an elegant display, and they were delicious; cucumber, salmon, egg, and cheese with ham sandwiches, all with cream and cut in different shapes. Also, two platters of salads were served, as well as beautiful flower arrangements were set up. People loved it all. Iraci Di Buono and Joyce Callahan as the Co-Chairs and their committee members of the American Home outdid themselves. Rita Barros prepared all the sandwiches, and they were served on two or three tiered platters, as well as assorted fruit cups were offered. Soft drinks accompanied the meal.

The Centennial Tea program was presented by Bridget Bray (of the Puddings and Biscakes tea line) and Bridget talked about the origins, traditions and etiquette of the long-favored

British afternoon tea service. A display of beautiful teacups & saucers, several gorgeous teapots, tea strainers, tea plates with flower designs were to be admired and used for the tea service.

Two kinds of tea were served, with delicious scones supplied by our super baker Mary Ann Mazza, enjoyed by all with the jam and clotted cream to put on the scones. Petit fours were served and happily consumed in addition to the scones.

Many members wanted to win the large well stocked raffle basket which was put together by Nancy McGarr and Nancy Keelan. Bridget Bray also donated a “Tea Basket” for the raffle. The proceeds were going to the program providing “Release Bags” for the individuals transitioning out of the Bedford Prison.

Both Nancy and Nancy also donated a small paper box “teapot” filled with chocolates as a party favor to all.

It was a delightful afternoon and a very special Centennial celebration enjoyed by our members.

Thank you, and Happy 100th Anniversary.



Centennial Gala

The Woman's Club of Larchmont Celebrates 100 Years!

The night of May 1st was a glow as the Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. celebrated their Centennial at Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck. Was it due to the background music provided by Mamaroneck High School students Leo Federspiel, Samba Seck, Justin Zambrano and Theo Kornblum of Edgemont High School? Or the glimmering lighting provided by Club members Theresa and Peter Fanelli's United Stage Associates and decor designed and decorated by centennial committee member Iraci Di Buono and Designer Rita Barros, with assistance of many members? Could it have been as members and guests mingled with each other and local dignitaries Congressman George Latimer, Mamaroneck Town officials Jaine Elkind Eney, Robin Nachinsky, Sabrina Fiddelman, Anant Nambiar, Allison May, Jean Marie Brescia and Ronald Meister, and Larchmont Village officials Peter Fanelli, Brigid Brennan, and Dana Post? And attendees were greeted at check-in by Centennial Committee Members Camille Odierna and Joyce Callahan while not far away Sophie Kent was busy selling raffle tickets with Janet Demasi, fundraiser Co-chair. Well, all of these moments contributed to the start of a wonderful gala night organized by the Centennial Committee which also included Therese Boyd, Janet Delbrook Day, Joyce Edelstein, Carolyn Gallaher, June Hesler, Michele Laurino, Maria Massimi, Anne

McAndrews, Nancy McGarr, Dorothy Krauss Rainier, and Chair Anne-Mieke Smeets.

Founded in 1925 by twelve women with the objectives of philanthropy, fellowship and service, the Club has supported the community throughout the years. All were welcomed by Club President Anne McAndrews who shared that on the 75th Anniversary, then Club President Helen Bonardi was asked about the direction of the Club going forward. She responded that members would continue to help organizations in the community but "while we are reaching out to these challenges we have an additional goal-to care more for those around us." McAndrews added "Since we can't tell the future, we can at least plan for it," and proposed a strategic plan with alliances with other community groups and to continue the Club's mission with the help of all present. Former Town Supervisor and Town Justice, Dolores Battalia, also spoke on the Club's mission and the need to give comfort and dignity to those who are underserved.

Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney and Board members, by way of a proclamation, thanked and honored the Club "for their countless contributions over ten decades to the Larchmont and Mamaroneck community, and throughout Westchester County, and we congratulate them on their 100th anniversary and wish them another 100 years of making a wonderful difference." The

Village of Larchmont's Proclamation recognized the Club's long history of community assistance starting with the Great Depression and continuing today with financial assistance to local organizations. Steve Otis in a citation acknowledged the Club "On the occasion of its 100th Anniversary of providing fellowship, service and philanthropy and inspiring and exemplifying the very best in our community. From its support of the early Larchmont Library and Flint Park Day Camp, its Women's Exchange during the Depression, its Red Cross and War Bond drives of the 1940s, to its Food Pantry Drives of today, the Woman's Club of Larchmont has shown its readiness to serve the community. Thank you to all its members for making a difference in the lives of so many." And New York State Senator Shelley Mayer's Legislative Resolution stated: "It is the sense of this Legislative Body that when organizations of such noble aims and accomplishments are brought to our attention, they should be celebrated and recognized by all the citizens of the great State of New York, now, therefore, be it RESOLVED that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of The Woman's Club of Larchmont."

Fundraising is an integral part of the Club for the purpose of supporting local organizations. There were over 40 local sponsors and the night was successful in raising additional monies from the raffle of some 28 fantastic baskets. The wonderful fundraising team of members Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas, Barbara Barber, Therese Boyd, Michele Laurino, Joyce Edelstein, Mary Ann Mazza, Lorraine Stratis, Dorothy Krauss Rainier and Janet Demasi, all worked hard at

soliciting amazing items, designing and creating these baskets.

While enjoying a meal of grilled filet mignon or grilled Atlantic salmon, video montages of pictures of present and past Club members and events were displayed in corners of the room.

Anne-Mieke Smeets over the past decades had been busy recording these moments. And thanks to Joyce Edelstein for assembling them, all could enjoy the memories.

The night was topped off with a performance by singer and entertainer Bonnie Rapp who presented a Broadway song from each decade beginning with "Second Hand Rose." Along the way "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," "Hello Dolly," and "What I Did for Love" were some of the tunes ending with songs from *The Little Mermaid*, *Anastasia* and *A Wonderful World*. But perhaps the show stopper was an original song with words written by Club member Dorothy Krauss Rainier to the tune of "500 Miles." All were invited to join Dorothy and Bonnie and sang "So now we'll make a toast to the Club we love the most and raise our glasses to the NEXT 100 years!"

In October 2025, the Centennial Anniversary Book 2025 was presented to Club members. Its compilation was due to the researching and writing of committee members Carolyn Gallaher, Joyce Edelstein, June Hesler, Anne McAndrews, Nancy McGarr, Anne-Mieke Smeets, and editing by Judith Summerfield. Photographs were taken and supplied by Armand and Michele Laurino and Anne-Mieke Smeets. The final book was created by editor and designer David Edelstein.

Centennial Gala, May 1, 2025

Welcome Speech by President Anne McAndrews

Good evening and welcome to our Centennial Gala celebrating the founding of the Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. in 1925. My name is Anne McAndrews and it's my honor to be serving as President of this fine organization. But I have to tell you, I have always wondered why the emphasis on the "incorporated." Well, I just discovered that women could not incorporate in New York State until the 1890s. So, that group having just received the right to vote, (but not the right to serve on a jury until the 1930s), they were going to incorporate.



For our 75th anniversary in 2000, this fabulous history was compiled. We are scanning it to be added to our website. To local history buffs, this is a gem.

So, we decided to compile the Club's history of the last 25 years. And I've been given an assignment. I am to write an essay—on the future!

The past is easier. Like this . . . When this Club was established, women's lives were constrained. We often joke about how women were known by their husband's names. A practice that ended only in 2000!

So, I looked at what was written about the future in *The Woman's Club History: 1925 - 2000* (since that was only yesterday).

While we are reaching out to these challenges, we have an additional goal—to care more for those around us. To make the new neighbor and the newcomer in our town feel welcome, to do errands for a neighbor who is disabled, to take a Club member who does not drive to a meeting or a special happening in Larchmont, to take books to a friend recovering from surgery, to take a newcomer to a town meeting, to entertain a young mother's toddler for a few hours. "Caring continues to be women's most rewarding work," said President Helen Bonardi (2000).

Here is my point . . . our membership is active in many other organizations.

Some of us have known each other from PTA! So, what keeps us, a group of older retired ladies, together, and how does this Club survive?

I propose we get one of those Strategic Plans. Since we can't tell the future, we can at least plan for it. As you know, these Strategic Plans always feature demographics. And we do have demographics.

Another feature of strategic plans I've noticed is available housing supply. Well, thank goodness, we have several apartment buildings built at the time of the founding of our Club which allow many of our members to stay in our community.

A lot of those plans speak about strategic alliances. We will plan to explore those, especially with STEM and the Vision Testing of the Lions Club, among others.

So, you are all going to be part of forming our strategic Plan . . . we have your email addresses . . . suggestions and opportunities are welcome.

We want to continue our missions of fellowship, philanthropy and service . . . with your help.

But it could be that the reason this Club keeps going may be that we enjoy each other's company.

With that in mind, I would like to introduce our elected officials.

Reflections by Dolores Battalia

Good evening to all. Before the festivities begin, I would like to share with you a few moments of reflections on what we are celebrating tonight.

But first, please join me in a moment of silence in honor and memory of all the women whose leadership and stewardship over the past 100 years has gathered us here this evening to celebrate.



100 Years of philanthropy, fellowship and service.

Fellowship . . . a sense of shared connection and belonging to a community of mutual interest and belief. Fellowship is a shared sense of purpose and values.

The value of service: we serve our houses of worship, other charities, our community—on boards and commissions, as elected officials. A commitment to serve the underserved.

Philanthropy is our purpose. At every meeting and every event we host, we raise funds to contribute to another organization. Our funds are dedicated to providing some comfort and dignity to those in need, to those sometimes overlooked, like incarcerated women.

Fellowship, service, and philanthropy are gifts that bring joy to our lives, and for that we are grateful. But it is better to give than to receive, and to that we say "Amen."









Centennial Gala Song



100 YEARS

(to the tune of *500 Miles*)

It was in 1925 that our Woman's Club was born.

So now we want to celebrate 100 years.

Chorus:

100 years, 100 years, 100 years, 100 years

We salute our Woman's Club, 100 years.

Philanthropy, fellowship, and service are our goals

As we celebrate our first 100 years.

Chorus:

100 years, 100 years, 100 years, 100 years

We salute our Woman's Club, 100 years.

We should sing another chorus

to the women who came before us.

And remember when they won the right to vote.

Chorus:

The right to vote, the right to vote, the right to vote, the right to vote.

And remember when they won the right to vote.

So now we'll make a toast to the club we love the most

And raise our glasses to the NEXT 100 years.

"CENT' ANNI"

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At Home on the Sound

Coxe and Graziano Funeral Home

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WC Federation of Women's Clubs

Our appreciation to the following business that donated to the Gala

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Tequila Sunrise

Tony's Nursery

Turquoise Restaurant

25 North Ristorante

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Winetasters of Larchmont

Centennial Celebration Committee

Anne-Mieke Smeets, Chair

Therese Boyd	Joyce Edelstein	Nancy McGarr
Joyce Callahan	Carolyn Gallaher	Camille Odierna
Janet Delbrook Day	June Hesler	Dorothy Krauss Rainier
Janet Demasi	Michele Laurino	Lorraine Stratis
Iraci DiBuono	Maria Massimi	Judith Summerfield
	Anne McAndrews	

Ways and Means Fundraiser Gala Committee

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Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas	Therese Boyd	Michele Laurino
Barbara Barber	Eleanor Dreyfus	Lorraine Stratis

Centennial Gala Decorators

Peter & Theresa Fanelli (USA Company)
Rita Barros, Designer & Decorator

Centennial Gala Supporters

Nili Asherie	Michele Lavion
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