

The Eighth Decade:
The First Five Years

1995 – 2000

Membership and Philanthropic
Changes

Spring Garden Parties

Celebrations: 70th and 75th
Anniversaries

Retrenchment

The Future

Presidents



MRS. JOHN F. LEGGETTE
1996-1998



MRS. DAVID MASTERS
1998-2000



MRS. HELEN BONARDI
2000-2002

MEMBERSHIP AND PHILANTHROPY CHANGES

The 1990's moved along. On the national scene, the good times rolled with technology-driven economic growth boosting the stock market and consumer spending. Locally, more families with children moved into the area, swelling the school population but, reflecting broader trends, leaving membership in The Woman's Club unaffected.

MEMBERSHIP

Like many other women's organizations, the Club continued to face problems. The reality was that membership was much lower due to social and economic forces both local and national. The decade began (1995-96) with a total membership of 305, which included 236 Day, 27 Evening, 29 Life, 11 Nonresident and 2 Honorary members. In 1996-97 total membership was 280, down 25 members. Total membership in 1998-99 was 256, probably due in part to the disbanding of the Evening Section. Twenty-seven members were accepted in 1998-99 and 11 in 1999-2000.

Membership rose to 267 in 1999-2000, a most welcome trend. These new members were vibrant, varied in interests (many were recently retired women) and vital to the existence of the Club.

Bylaws clarifying membership and other changes were revised and approved in 1995-96 and again in 1996-97. It became necessary to raise dues to \$50 (1996) to enable us to meet our financial obligations. As President Mary McGee wrote in her annual report (1995-96): "We tried everything to keep our expenses down but they have kept growing just as all prices everywhere. Nevertheless, our dues are the lowest when compared to neighboring clubs."¹

PHILANTHROPY

Philanthropy continued as an important focus. The annual workshops at which gifts and bags of candy were prepared and distributed to various recipients, (the New Rochelle Huguenot Center and, most recently, the New Rochelle Services of Rockland Psychiatric Center) continued to be well supported. Over a four-year period, 3,000 items were prepared for distribution.

Evening Section member, Jane Peterson, had for more than twenty years been chairman of the sewing group of the Evening Section, and at the age of 96, still continued to participate in this unique service of the Club. Caroline Anderson, also an Evening Section member, took over the chairmanship of the sewing group which now also included Day Section members. Items made by the women included dolls and teddy bears for children and "Reach to-Recovery" tote bags for cancer patients at Westchester Medical Center. In 1998-99, 135 items were made, surpassed in 1999-2000 when 200 items were completed.



HELPING HANDS: LEFT, CAROLINE ANDERSON AND YOLAND LEGGETTE, CO-CHAIRWOMEN OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB SEWING COMMITTEE, SHOW A FEW OF THE 200 TEDDY BEARS MADE FOR THIS YEAR'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE WESTCHESTER MEDICAL CENTER.

The Annual Philanthropic Bridges, the main source of funds that the Club distributed each year to community and county beneficiaries, raised an average of \$6,000 at each event. From 1995 to 2000, a total of \$28,841 was given to fifteen to eighteen organizations, mainly those which served women, children and families.

The musical group of the Philanthropy committee still provided entertainment for people in

nursing homes and senior citizens' centers and did so until Chris Schellhammer, the leader, moved to Florida in 1999.

The Annual Bridges were popular and financially profitable. These "Spring Garden Parties" continued to be enjoyable, with the boutiques, the silent auctions, the raffles, the fashion shows and luncheon and the opportunity to play

bridge for a good cause. One particular fashion show featured outfits from the 1920s; later, a fashion show of Victorian costumes was presented. The latter was videotaped by LMC-TV and presented at a Federation "Show and Tell" meeting, receiving an enthusiastic response.

PROGRAM

Programs continued to feed our souls in many directions. Two outstanding programs were Larchmont resident Bridget Paolucci's discussions of Puccini's *La Boheme* (1996) and George Gershwin's *Porgy and Bess* (2000).

The Book and Author Luncheon continued as a delight of the December Holiday Season. Frank McCourt, one outstanding author, spoke about his book, *Angela's Ashes*, in his early ascendancy as a memoirist. Mr. McCourt's autobiography was one of the top ten books for 1996-97 and was listed as number one on the *The New York Times* book list the week

SPRING GARDEN PARTY FASHION SHOW

FEATURING VICTORIAN COSTUMES

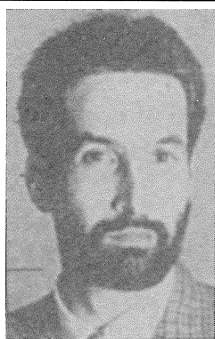
RIGHT: YOLAND LEGGETTE SHOWING OFF THE LATEST IN VICTORIAN BONNET AND PANTALETS.

BELOW, LEFT TO RIGHT: LUCY MALONEY, LORNA HEUTCHY, MARY JOYCE BERINGER, CLAUDINE MCCAULEY, ATHENA PLOUMIS, YOLAND LEGGETTE, PRISCILLA HUMPHRY, AASE HOLBY AND LYNN KOTZEN DRESSED UP IN WONDERFUL VICTORIAN COSTUMES.



after the luncheon. Not long after, he was awarded a Pulitzer Prize. The other author was Samuel G. Freedman (*The Inheritance : How Three Families and America Moved From Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond*). The luncheon was a sellout.

This event, always a popular occasion, featured many diverse and talented writers and their books. Many of the



FRANK MCCURT (LEFT) AND SAMUEL FREEDMAN (RIGHT) SPOKE AT THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT'S ANNUAL BOOK AND AUTHOR LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 13, 1996.

authors were local residents.

Other program activities satisfying various interests were an Italian language class, the book discussion group, opera workshops, duplicate bridge, painting and sketching classes, crafts workshops (basket making), the field trips, Department Days and American Home luncheons. Club Day programs were generally well attended.

CELEBRATIONS



The Seventieth Anniversary of the Woman's Club was acknowledged with a "Looking Back" fashion show at the Spring Garden Party, the Annual Philanthropic Bridge. It featured dresses and outfits from the "Roaring Twenties,"

commemorating the year 1925 when the Club was founded.

A framed Proclamation sent to the Club from Westchester County and signed by George Latimer, County Legislator representing our area, congratu-

LEFT: A PICTURE IN SHADES OF BROWN AND HOLDING A FEATHERED FAN WAS MEMBER PRISCILLA HUMPHRY WEARING A DRESS OF HER MOTHER'S.

MIDDLE: MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES AND DRESSED LIKE A "FLAPPER" OF THE '20S WAS ANNETTE NOE, WHO INTRODUCED THE MODELS OF THE "REMEMBER WHEN" FASHION SHOW.

RIGHT: ATHENA PLOUMIS APPEARED IN SEVERAL "TWENTIES" CREATIONS BUT WAS MOST COLORFUL IN THIS ORANGE VELVET EVENING COAT AND HEADDRESS.



lated the Club on reaching its 70th anniversary.

The 75th Anniversary year began in January 2000 when a toast was given by members at the Club Day meeting, congratulating us for our "birthday." In May a special exhibit of photographs, souvenirs and other memorabilia was placed in two showcases at the Larchmont Public Library, relating to the history of the Club and of interest to both members and nonmembers in the community.

The Annual Luncheon on May 12, 2000, was a festive, "sparkling" event observing this important anniversary as well as the installation of a new president, two other officers and three directors. The guests at the luncheon were entertained by a sextet of Club members led by Patty O'Brien, in a musical medley of songs sung to familiar tunes (with lyrics by Patty) relating to various memories of the past 75 years. A "timely" memento, a souvenir clock, was presented to each guest.

During the year, the Executive Board authorized the preparation of a history booklet to be compiled, published and made available to each club member. The booklet would include a history and highlights and milestones of the Club. It would

include information from Past Presidents' messages, pertinent newspaper articles, and salient photographs and *Larch Tree* articles, many of the latter written by Club members. "Looking Back: The Way We Were" articles were intended to give a sense of the interests, activities and programs of the Club through the decades since its founding. The booklet was planned as an effort to interpret our history and development as well as a reflection of trends and events in the world around us.

The History Book committee was authorized to ask for donations to the project and a letter requesting those was sent to the membership in January 2000. The response was very gratifying.

The concluding planned event for the anniversary year was scheduled as an exhibit of the artistic endeavors of Club members with paintings, photographs, crafts, etc., to be on display in the Oresman Gallery of the Larchmont Public Library during the month of December 2000. All Club members were invited to participate, and a committee was appointed to select the entries and mount the show. An opening reception was planned with the exhibit open to the general public.



PATTY O'BRIEN, THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT'S DRAMA CHAIRMAN, IS SHOWN AT RIGHT. LUCILLE MASTERS, CLUB PRESIDENT, IS AT LEFT WITH ANNETTE NOE AND DOREE KLUSS. GRACE COSGROVE AND MARIA KIM ARE IN FRONT. THE GROUP PRESENTED A THANKS-FOR-THE-MEMORY PROGRAM OF 75 YEARS OF POPULAR SONGS AT THE 75TH BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON.

RETRENCHMENT



The remaining last five years of the century presented the Club with financial problems. As costs for rent and other services kept rising, demands on the resources of the Club were escalating with more and more funds having to be taken out of savings to balance the budget. The Executive Board began to consider how to reduce this demand on Club resources.

The auditing bill was reduced from \$1,800 to \$500 by employing one of our own Club members to audit the books. The terms of the lease for the V.F.W. clubrooms was renegotiated, reducing the monthly rent and stabilizing the amount of that expense for three years (1994-95.)

In the spring of 1997 the Finance Committee addressed the financial situation of the Club and made suggestions for economizing. The Executive Board accepted these suggestions for cutting back on the costs of the Tea Table, Club Day programs and rent, the Yearbook and *The Larch Tree*.

In her annual report for 1994-95, President Mary McGee reported on several measures intended to improve the financial condition of the Club. She wrote: "We started with a new format for *The Larch Tree*, which from all reports has been well received by the membership. We feel it is concise and to the point, everything at your fingertips. We have not saved money with the new format (which is a four-page newsletter) but we have saved on the work load. Hallie Sether was spending weeks every month putting *The Larch Tree* together. Hallie and Vivienne Brauman now are able to give us all the pertinent information without the endless hours needed to put a magazine together. Indirectly, we have saved over \$500 on Workman's Compensation because we do not employ an Editor or Advertising Manager for the new *Larch Tree*."²

These measures, though helpful, could not forestall the inevitable, the loss of our V.F.W. clubroom. A special committee was established by the Executive Board to explore alternative locations for our meeting places. On July 19, 1997, the Board approved moving from the V.F.W. clubroom for financial reasons. That decision and action are explained in the following article which appeared in the September/October 1997 issue of *The Larch Tree*.

"The V.F.W. Move

A heavy financial burden has been lifted from our shoulders by the move from the V.F.W. clubroom, an inevitable and necessary action.

Although for years the financial page in the Yearbook showed a loss of more than \$10,000 a year, some of our members were surprised about the move.

Our lease at \$650 per month extended for one more year until June 1998, but in May 1997, The Woman's Club received a letter from the V.F.W. requesting an increase of \$50 per month. A committee, composed of Camille Odierna, Mary Joyce Beringer, Vivienne Brauman and me, met with officers of the V.F.W. and informed them we could not even continue paying the present rent of \$650 per month. After much discussion, they agreed to release us from our lease.

The Executive Board of the Woman's Club held an emergency meeting in June and voted to move out as soon as possible. The President appointed Mary Joyce Beringer, Grace Cosgrove and me to supervise the move. Our goal was July 31, only 31 days. Mary Joyce reported to the Board her difficulty in finding suitable meeting locations.

A professional appraiser priced our furnishings, some to be sold, some stored. Christine Schellhammer and Blanche Johnson suggested that I contact the Steinway Company concerning our valuable piano. After we negotiated for several weeks, Steinway agreed to pay the Woman's Club \$16,000—a handsome sum. With our improved financial situation, we will now be able to devote more good years to the community and our members.”³

Mary McGee

Other furnishings in the V.F.W. clubroom were sold or distributed. Bound *Larch Trees* were taken to the Larchmont Historical Society's archives in the Town Center. Old Yearbooks, Club scrapbooks, Presidents' notebooks and some files are stored at the Larchmont Avenue Church. The statue, “Dancing Girl,” and the floral oil painting by Carle Blenner, both bequests to the Club from members, were moved to the Larchmont Avenue Church and are on display in the Lindsley Room. The treasured set of floral dishes was disposed of in a silent auction at a Club Day meeting.

In September 1997 the Club began a new club

year with some changes. Club Day meetings had been moved downstairs to the Carhart Room of the Larchmont Avenue Church, except for the October and February meetings when American Home Luncheons were held. On those days the upstairs Russell Hall would be used. Department Days continued at the Church but with a different, limited time schedule. The Book Discussion group began to meet in members' homes, the Duplicate Bridge members met at the Larchmont Yacht Club, the Executive Board found free space in a meeting room at First Union Bank. Members accepted and adapted to the changes.

How did these changes affect the Club? President Lucille Masters in her annual report for 1998-99 asked the question: “How are we doing?” She then posed the answer: “The answer is, extremely well. Contrary to the experience of some women's clubs in Westchester, our membership this past year grew substantially—27 new members—and our programs and activities have flourished. As I remarked in the April-June *Larch Tree*, Larchmont is one of the delightful cosmopolitan communities in Westchester that draw and keep interesting people. The experience of our Club echoes that positive environment.”⁴

THE FUTURE



So what does the future hold for women's clubs in general and ours in particular?

When Helen Bonardi, newly installed president for 2000-2002 was asked about the Club's direction in the new millennium, she replied that members will continue to give their enthusiastic help to many fields of caring in our community, including the Hunger Task Force, I CARE, the Youth Employment Service, My Sister's Place, the Student Aid Fund, the Westchester Medical Center and the Rockland Psychiatric Center.

“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 doesn't 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 toddlers for a few hours. Caring continues to be women's most rewarding work,” said the president.⁵

With that vision of the Club's commitment for the coming years presented for us, we look back at those 12 Founders who, with much forethought and brilliance, planned and formed an organization of women working together. Reaching out to others in the community, we continued to grow over the decades, to survive the good and bad

times, and to become a vital part of the community. Would those Founders be pleased to see how their organization has evolved? Would they be proud of us today? Certainly, we think! Every bit as proud as we are of them and the many, many other women who followed them and have preceded us as members of The Woman's Club of Larchmont.

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Yesterday was once Tomorrow—

While we mused with joy or dread

Ghosts of unseen hosts around us

Led us on with ceaseless tread.

Each Today was once Tomorrow

Soon a Yesterday t'will be,

Let us fold within its bosom

Gems of thought for memory." ⁶

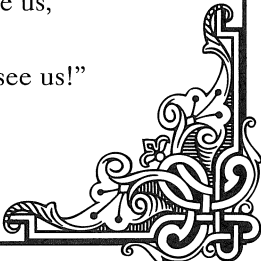
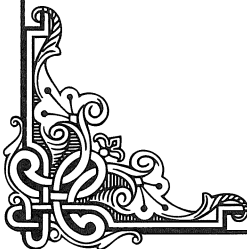
Nathalie Thurston Shelton



"O wad some power the giftie gie us,

To see ourselves as others see us!"

Robert Burns



Looking Back: The Way We Were



BOOK DISCUSSION

In response to a request made to our Board, the following is a selection of titles of books read by our Book Discussion Group over a long period of time:

The Clown, Heinrich Boll

Hotel Du Lac, Anita Brookner

The Plague, Albert Camus

Realms of Gold, Margaret Drabble

Odd Women, George Gissing

The Fifth Child, Doris Lessing

The Shadow Knows, Diane Johnson

Time and Time Again, Molly Keane

The Lonely Passion of Judith Hearne,
Brian Moore

Wide Sargasso Sea, Jean Rhys



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP 2000:

LEFT TO RIGHT: YOLAND
LEGGETTE, RONNIE HENIGSON,
ESTHER FLOWERS, HELEN
BONARDI, LEE KORCHIN, ANN
GLASHEEN; IN FRONT: MURIEL
RIANO, LEADER.

THE LARCH TREE
March 1997

Talking Books

If you're tired of television commercials that constantly interrupt inferior programming and if you're terrified of the complications of the internet, why not try the ease, the comfort and the variety of Talking Books? The equipment is low in cost, simple to use, and you can enjoy the experience whenever and wherever you wish.

Slip the recording into your car tape player for use on long trips or while commuting. Or place one in an easily portable radio/tape player and have your book with breakfast or while sewing or at your bedside. (If you fall asleep you can always rewind.)

There's also a tiny Walkman. It can go anywhere and be a great comfort to the traveller late at night in a hotel room, where it has the added advantage of headphones to shut out unwanted noise. This makes it a perfect hospital companion.

For the visually impaired, an Act of Congress has provided special tapes and a machine to play them, all at no cost, not even postage. With them, catalogues are provided to help you choose. Tapes may be ordered from mail catalogues, but our local libraries provide a very fine representation of any type of book.

While occasionally you may find one that's read in a voice you may not like, the majority are well presented. Henry James's magnificent prose is a delight to hear. *The Moonstone*, by Wilkie Collins, has several actors playing various characters.

There are thrillers by Michael Crichton, Dick Frances or Amanda Cross and novels from Charles Dickens to James Michener to Rosamunde Pilcher. Meet Maeve Binchy's *Circle of Friends*. Get acquainted with Colin Powell's life story, *My American Journey*. Hume Cronin titles his autobiography *A Terrible Liar*. Enjoy *A Year in Provence* with Peter Mayle.

You can travel, learn a foreign language, get to know famous people. Everything is possible in the world of Talking Books.

Janet Weart



THE LARCH TREE
October 1996

Hallie Sether

I can see them now in my mind: marvelous figures of giraffes, tigers, elephants and other animals being hung on the walls of our meeting room, with Hallie directing where they should go.

"I am not an artist," Hallie Sether declares, but she had created them all. The occasion was the annual fund-raising bridge, this one titled "Under the Big Top." Every year the bridge was decorated with a new theme, and many of the figures were made by Hallie herself.

She is moving to Bethesda, Maryland, to live near her daughter, Jo Ann Bowes, and we will miss her vitality, her ability to get things done, and her understanding of human beings.

Hallie joined The Woman's Club of Larchmont in 1968 and has held almost every post, chairing many a committee, among them Membership, Ways and Means and Editor of *The Larch Tree*.

Betty Garrabrant remembers one decorating project that took place years ago. "There was Mary Arden Page in the meeting room watching Hallie on the ladder. We had decided to cover the very large oil paintings for the upcoming event. Hallie was the one who had the guts to climb up the ten-or-twelve foot ladder to get the job done." Betty knows Hallie well. She comments: "If you ask Hallie a question, she will tell you what she thinks." And that candor led to a delightful column for the *The Larch Tree* magazine. She asked members to comment on a matter of interest and then published the answers. There was a funny column,

too. Hallie as "Aunt Tree" wrote made-up questions about items offered by advertisers. The answers would be deliciously humorous.

For years, the 12-page *Larch Tree* was invented by Hallie. Two or three copy editors would read the members' articles at her dining room table and make corrections with a red pencil. All the while, the titmice and chickadees would be pecking at the feeders outside the window, with the squirrels nibbling at the leavings. We copy editors argued over a comma, but we enjoyed the work and the wildlife immensely.

The handsome animals hanging at the Big Top Bridge had a birth in reality for Hallie. She is a prodigious traveler and one year went to Zimbabwe and Botswana with Lorna Heutchy to see the animals live in their natural habitat. "We lived in tents in some of the last places on earth unspoiled by man," Lorna reports. "We'd travel by boat or car in small groups to see rhinos, crocodiles, lions and elephants in the wild."

But these adventures were not without perils. "One day, we traveled to an island by boat and had just landed when our guide shouted, 'Hurry, hurry, go back!'" Lorna reports. "The guide had just managed to get us back in the boat when a herd of elephants came rumbling by. They had never seen man and could have been dangerous."

"Another evening when we were relaxing outside, our guide demanded that we go back to our tent right away," Lorna recalls. "He said that a lion was roaming around and advised us to shine a flashlight and make a noise if we had to leave the tent that night for any reason."

Hallie is a person who not only will walk in lion country but will also solve problems at home with forthrightness. Paula Shamoian has been Hallie's neighbor for many years. "One day, when Hallie and her late husband Wendell returned from a trip in the middle of winter, they found that their pipes had frozen," Paula reports. "Hallie came over to ask me if I'd mind filling a couple of

jugs of water. I did it and thought no more about it. Three days later, Hallie phoned to ask if I'd mind if she came over to take a shower. 'You mean that you still have no water?' I asked. 'How did you manage?' Hallie replied, 'I scooped up some snow and melted it when I needed it.' "

That's Hallie. Always independent and resourceful. We'll miss her a great deal and for many reasons.

Lucille Fisher Masters



THE LARCH TREE April 1997

In the manner of Hallie Sether's Investigative Reporter

We asked: What was one of your most frightening moments?

Annette Noe: I would say the time I was in an automobile accident as I exited Westchester Country Club. I was sixteen years old, thrown from the car and injured.

Evelyn Clark: When my brakes failed as I was driving down a steep hill, leaving Zion Park. I put the car in low gear and curbed it. At the bottom of the hill was a God-given garage able to repair the brakes.

Eleanor Lucas: I was awakened one night by a loud noise. Frightened, I tried to become oriented and pierce the darkness for the source of the noise. Then I heard a distinct, clicking sound that suggested a bomb. Terrified, I finally found the courage to slip out of bed and confront the unknown. It was then I discovered that the cover of my metronome had fallen off the piano and the metronome was faithfully ticking away, "tick tock, tick tock."

Yoland Leggette: Returning from Ireland, we were ready for take-off at Shannon Airport when we were informed departure would be delayed because of a reported bomb on board. We were not allowed to leave the plane while it was thoroughly searched, including under our seats. We spent a frightening two hours until the plane was cleared for take-off.

Kate Kincaid



September/October 1997

When the Club's Steinway piano was sold, Blanche Johnson wrote the following article which appeared in The Larch Tree:

Goodbye 92595B

The Board of The Woman's Club reluctantly decided this year to terminate our arrangement with the V.F.W. as the cost had become a major burden. One of the consequences was that we no longer had a place for our Steinway piano, which was a gift many years ago from a member of The Woman's Club. The piano has been sold back to the Steinway Company for a very nice price. It will be rebuilt and restored.

Not many people know that Steinway and Sons keeps a record of its pianos by way of an identification number stamped inside. Records can tell where the piano was made, to whom it was sold and the price. Many times they lose track after the initial sale but from the unknown it now comes back within this domain. The record will continue. So our piano will start a renewed life as a beautiful and restored instrument, which will be acquired by some discriminating buyer.

A call to Steinway elicited the information that the piano was originally ready for sale in January of 1899 and was sold on February 21, 1899. A Bessie

Swift of Manhattan was the purchaser, but the piano was bought for a Miss S. N. Smith. The piano was returned to the company for repairs in 1940. The Woman's Club already owned it at that time but no one in our Club remembers when it was received or from whom. The best conjecture is that we received it around 1938 or 1939 when a May Hall Smith was President of the Club and may have been related to the original owners. At that time the piano was located in the Larchmont Avenue Church House and correspondence exists detailing the repairs. It is interesting to note that the entire extensive rebuilding, refinishing and carting came to \$615. Tuning was \$5.

We wish our piano well on its next journey and we will have added a little to its history. Bon voyage. We should all fare as well at 98!

Blanche Johnson



(Editor's note: In compiling information for the writing of this book, it was discovered that the Club purchased a piano in 1932-33. [see The First Decade: 1925-1935]. It is speculated that this was probably the Steinway, for information regarding any other purchase or gift of a piano was not found.)



The following article appeared in the local Gannett paper, February 1998.

Dolls Warm Hearts of Sick Children



JANE PETERSON

They are simple little dolls, made of pastel cotton fabric, stuffed with polyester filling and tied at the neck with shiny ribbon. Their tiny eyes are sewn with black thread. Their small mouths are stitched into semicircles.

"I try to make them smile," says Jane Peterson, appraising the facial expression on a pink

striped doll with a bright turquoise bow. Then folding it in her arms, she adds, "When I make them, I think that some little child will be hugging it."

Peterson has never met any of the hundreds of children at Westchester Medical Center who have been comforted by her little dolls over the last 30 years, but she keeps those children in her mind's eye as she sits at the sewing machine in her Larchmont apartment.

She thinks of how they must feel being in the hospital, separated from their families, sick or injured and most definitely, frightened.

"I know there are a lot of children that need them," she says. "There are an awful lot of children there."

Yes, they are simple little dolls. No computer chip is hidden deep inside that makes them giggle or wiggle. But each one does come with a special extra. They are all made with love.

Last week Peterson celebrated her 94th birth-

day, making her a woman who grew up with a needle and thread in her hands. She lived on a dairy farm in Minnesota, arrived in Larchmont in 1926 and worked as a waitress at a New Rochelle tea house until she married. It was when her two daughters were born that she learned to sew with love. She now has four grandchildren whose photographs decorate her apartment.

Peterson began sewing for the hospitalized children in the 1960s when she joined the Larchmont Woman's Club sewing group. She served as the group's chairwoman for almost three decades.

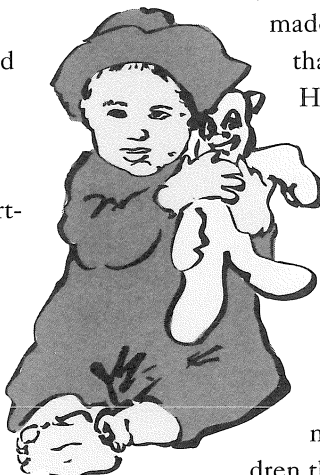
The women make two types of dolls. The cuddly ones with ribbons and bows, and ones made of plain white, beige and brown fabric that are used in medical play. Tricia Hiller, director of the Child/Life Department at the center's Children's Hospital, explains how the dolls help the children and staff who work with them.

Children choose their dolls, then draw faces on them and use them to tell stories, she says. "It helps to minimize some of their fear and gives us more information about what the children think is happening, and why."

Today cataracts impair Peterson's vision and on bad days, walking must be done with a cane, still she's dedicated to her little dolls and the children who receive them.

"I feel wonderful doing this," she says. "You try to do for someone else. I feel we should help everyone."

Barbara Nachman





70th Anniversary Garden Party

Wednesday, March 20, 1996

Oriente Beach Club

11:00 a.m. - \$25 per person

The World War I experience, for whatever reason, brought an end to Victorianism in American manners and morals during the "Roaring Twenties." In that time of disillusionment, materialism and prosperity, everyone seemed bent upon having a good time in the "Jazz Age." Women defied the older conventions—they bobbed their hair, wore lipstick and rouge, wore dresses that grew progressively shorter and even smoked in public.

It was in this environment that our Woman's Club was founded in 1925, perhaps as a reaction to unconventional lifestyles.

Our Anniversary Garden Party, the Annual Philanthropic Ways and Means Luncheon and Bridge, will observe the anniversary year with a Twenties Fashion Show with members modeling fashions—owned or borrowed. Penny Davis will coordinate the fashion show and Annette Noe will act as commentator.

The luncheon, bridge and fashion show will provide social interaction but we must also concentrate on the main purpose of the event—raising funds for our philanthropic causes.

Get involved by contributing jewelry and accessories to the Mini Boutique, by preparing food for the Culinary Table and donating to the Auction and Raffle.

Save the day! Make reservations for luncheon with members or guests, enjoy bridge or just conversation.

If you have a Twenties hat, handbag, or other accessory, wear it in the spirit of the day.

For reservations mail your check to either:

Terry Casey
57 Vine Road
Larchmont, NY 10538

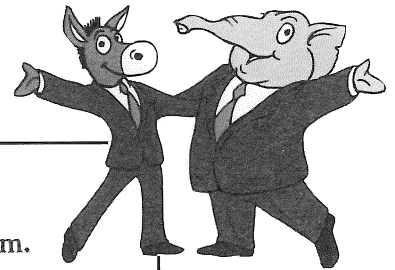
Aase Holby
27 Mohegan Road
Larchmont, NY 10538



The Larch Tree

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT

November / December 1998 / January 1999



Friday, January 15, 1999



Business Meeting • 1:30 p.m.

Program • 2:00 p.m.

Legislative Update - Annette Noe

Have you ever laughed during a legislative report? Only our Annette Noe can report on our lawmakers' work in both a knowledgeable and humorous style.

Currently, Annette is the Federation of Women's Clubs of Westchester's legislative reporter and our own Chairman of Public Affairs.

Annette Noe is a retired elementary school teacher and a proud mother of three daughters. She has lived in Larchmont for 43 years having moved here from New York City. She has been a member of the Woman's Club since 1955.

Come on January 15 and become wiser about new laws that may affect you. From the Washington press coverage, you may not know that our local, state and national legislators have been working. Join us and learn and laugh.

Helga Bendix

VOTE

March / April 2000

Field Trips

Wednesday, May 10, 2000

Caramoor

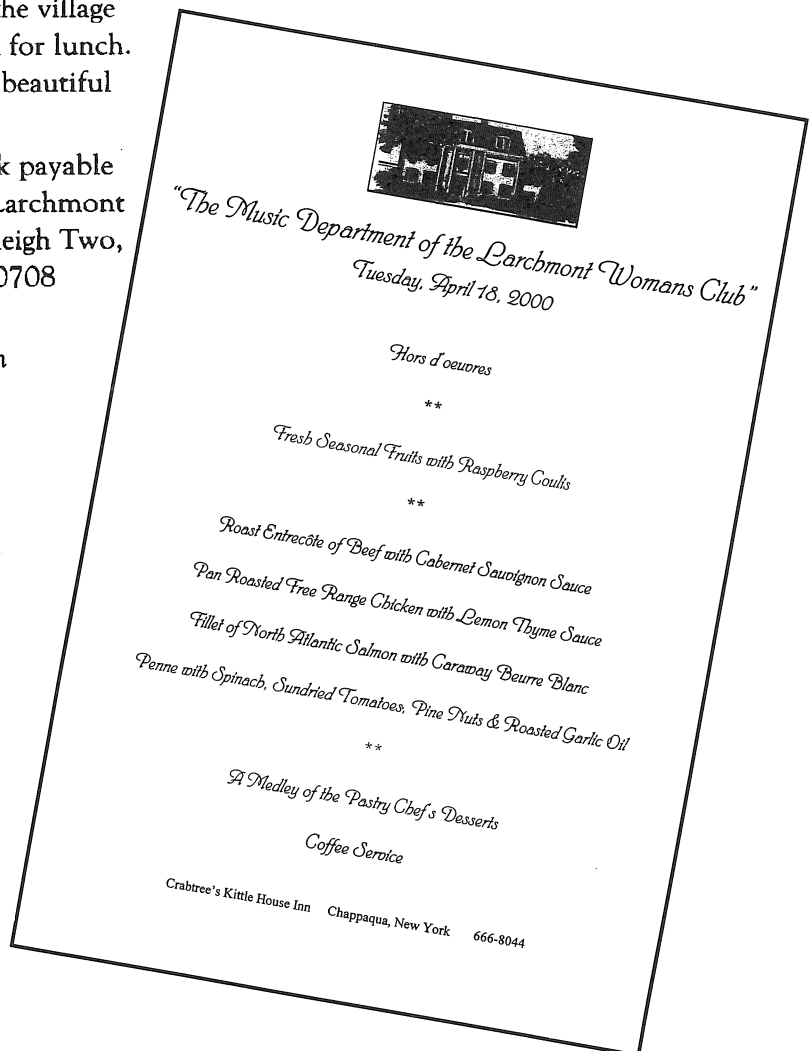
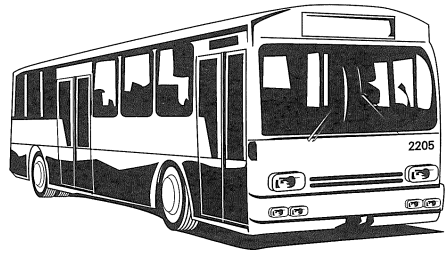
Bus will leave LYC at 9:00 a.m.

The Music Department will sponsor this trip to Caramoor for a morning concert featuring pianist Hui-Mei Lin in the young performers showcase series. After the concert we will go to the lovely Kittle House in the village of now-famous Chappaqua for lunch. Please plan to join us for a beautiful spring trip.

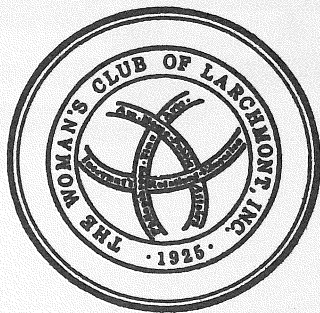
Cost: \$55. Send your check payable to The Woman's Club of Larchmont to Blanche Johnson, Stoneleigh Two, Apt. 6-I, Bronxville, NY 10708

Blanche Johnson

Music Department Chairman



Seventy-Fifth Anniversary



1925 - 2000
May 12, 2000
Larchmont Shore Club
Larchmont, New York

Program

Pledge of Allegiance: Lucille Masters
America The Beautiful: Annette Noe
Anniversary Fanfare: Lucille Masters
Grace: Nama Welty
President's Welcome: Lucille Masters
Introduction of Past Presidents
50 Year Member Honorees
 Jeanne Burt
 Connie Wegman
Lunch and Dessert
Installation of Officers: Yoland Leggette
Presentation of President's Pin and Gavel:
 Lucille Masters
New President's Remarks: Helen Bonardi
Introduction of New Board
Presentation of Past President's Pin: Helga Bendix
75th Special: Helga Bendix
Entertainment: Patty O'Brien
 Pianist: Conrad Andriani
Sale of Flowers and Mementos



*The following remarks were made by Helga Bendix,
First Vice-President and Program Chairman — 1999-2001,
at the Annual Luncheon on May 12, 2000, in her capacity as
Chairman of the Seventy-Fifth Anniversary Committee.*

"The Woman's Club of Larchmont is now 75 years young. Today we celebrate the past, the present and the future. This Club was founded by dedicated women on January 30, 1925, but women like you have kept it alive all these years and will continue to do so for another 75 years or more. Our 100th is just around the corner and some of you may celebrate it just as we have members present today who helped celebrate our 50th and 60th.

"If you are wondering why you see so much blue today you should know that our Club colors were originally navy and King's blue.

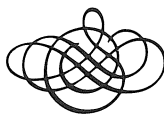
"Your 75th committee has been active all year. At our January Club Day meeting those present toasted our 75th anniversary. Now, in May, you can go to the Larchmont Library to view Club memorabilia displayed in two cases, one at the entrance and the other downstairs by the Gallery.

"It is our pleasure to give you a memento of today's celebration. We hope that you can use the clock. We also hope that it gives meaning to the phrase 'Time Marches On' as our Club does.

"All of this has required hard work by both committee members and others recruited for the cause. As Chair, I thank you all most sincerely.

"Now it is Party Time. Our Drama Department Chair, Patty O'Brien, has arranged music and song to highlight this special occasion. Therefore, I present Patty and her Showstoppers for your entertainment."

*At the annual Luncheon, Patty O'Brien and her "Showstoppers"
performed songs with original lyrics (see page 150) for the entertainment.*



1
Tune is "Charleston ! Charleston!"
Sung by Maria Kim

Flapper, Join Us. Stretch your mind
and your heart today
Let's go, Let's show, Just how much
this Club can accomplish.
Make friends, Have fun, Jump in and
expand your world.
Put down that cigarette, Every day in
every way – Women,
Remember–Always to be kind!



3
Tune is "When I Take My Sugar to Tea"
Sung by Doree Kluss

When we give our time and our heart
Lots of good things do get a start
Sub-Debs, Activators, are so generous
Grasslands, Jennie Clarkson and more.
Mobile X-rays, Community Chest
Book and Author Luncheon is best.
And our New Rochelle Hospital needs us
And the Korean Foundation, too.



2
Tune is "I Got Rhythm"
Sung by Lucille Masters

We got food here , For the home-
less, Helping others,
Who could ask for anything more?
Federation, Children's Village,
Selling war bonds,
Who could ask for anything more?
Old man trouble, I don't mind him.
You won't find him,
Round my door.
Junior Section. Evening Section.
What a Club now,
Who could ask for anything more?
Who could ask for anything more?



4
Tune is "Puff the Magic Dragon"
Sung by Patty O'Brien

Babe Ruth League, Art Show, Little
League
Student Aid and Field Trips,
Broadway matinees.
Phyllis Diller wowed us, Much to
our surprise.
And we took some bridge lessons.
Boy, we're getting wise.
We listened to the Beatles, Wore
our mini-skirts.
We didn't go to Woodstock, Cause
all that noise just hurts.
Kids all wore their hair long, Boys
and girls alike,
And we prayed they'd see the light,
But they said "Fly a kite."

5
Tune is "Mame"
Sung by Annette Noe

We learned to sharpen our duplicate
bridge game
Invited stars of TV and stage fame
Our Operation Bookshelf went to
over fifty thousand books,
Diversional Therapy is more invit-
ing than it sometimes looks.
We cheered our local seniors with
good music
French and Italian language we
learned so quick.
The Larchmont Bicentennial, Book
discussions, Sewing workshops, Yes.
We use computers with great ease.
We find the internet a breeze.
To meet the future, that is our quest.



6
Tune is "I Could Write a Book"
Sung by Lucille, Doree, Patty, Annette
and Grace (Cosgrove)

If they asked us we could write a book
About the Chatsworth fire and learning to
cook.
We could write a preface on how we met,
So the world would never forget.
And the simple secret of the plot
Is just to tell them that we do care a lot.
Then the world discovers as our book ends
How to make new members our Friends.



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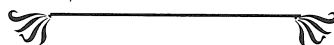
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by Mrs. Libby Lynch Landman

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by Marjorie Manley (Mrs. John L.)

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Past Women Leaders of the Club
by Joanne Schriver

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