

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, INC.



A Continued History: 2000-2025
CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION



Acknowledgements

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Centennial Celebration Book of the Woman's Club of Larchmont. We are celebrating a great milestone: our 100 year anniversary. From our beginning in 1925, the first 75 years have been chronicled in the previous book published in 2000. This book is intended to highlight the changes and improvements which have occurred in our club since 2000, where the previous history of the Club ended. There have been many changes we have seen in the past 25 years, not the least of which is the introduction of the digital world into our daily lives.

Instead of dividing the book into decades, as in the previous edition, we have chosen to highlight changes in the various departments and functions. While our traditional functions of philanthropy and service have not changed, our methods of collecting information and distributing it as well as many other general club interests have been substantially altered.

For the compiling of all this information, we give thanks to our dedicated committee: Joyce Edelstein, Carolyn Gallaher, June Hesler, Ann McAndrews, Nancy McGarr, Anne-Mieke Smeets, and Judith Summerfield. We all have spent hours diligently perusing old copies of Woman's Club letters and *Larch Tree* articles, Yearbooks, and scrapbooks, and even reading and editing each other's copy.

Our sincere thanks to David Edelstein, son of one of our members, who spent his time and energy in layout and reformatting, arranging and rearranging, in order to make our efforts more professional. We are indebted to the Executive Board for their support and to all the Club members who contributed their biographies so generously.

This book is dedicated to all the women who have preceded us as Club members and who have served as officers, directors, chairs and members of committees, edited and worked for *The Larch Tree*, and took photographs. We owe a debt of gratitude to the authors of *The First Sixty Years (1925-1985)* and *The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. – A History 1925-2000*, from which we borrowed to transition to the present day. We hope you find in these pages some enjoyment, inspiration, and pride in what The Woman's Club has achieved as we celebrate our 100 years.

The Centennial Book Committee

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From the President

Welcome to our Club's Centennial celebration, a history of the last twenty-five years, 2000 to 2025.

A fabulous history was prepared for our 75th celebration in 2000, which we are scanning into our webpage this Fall. Now that's something we couldn't say in 2000. Check out our history on your phone! Another thing we could not imagine is watching a program from LMC Media highlighting our fantastic Centennial Gala on our tablets by just touching a link.

We have moved from published magazines to digital newsletters. Our Yearbook lists cell phone numbers yet we hang onto our brightly covered print copy.

After experiencing such change, which seems to be accelerating, how do we face the future? How do we keep relevant enough to attract new



members and continue our objectives of philanthropy, fellowship and service? We have to construct a “strategic plan,” which builds on our strengths, knowledge of the community, and alliances with other organizations. We have already prioritized increasing and broadening our membership.

We are now officially a charitable not-for-profit organization, a “501(c)(3).” We can accept charitable contributions which we disburse to local charities, like an uber-local United Fund! This is a wonderful opportunity to broaden our base.

Many thanks to Anne-Mieke Smeets and her Committee for all the hard work in compiling our latest twenty-five year history . . . on to the next twenty-five!

— Anne McAndrews, President

Club Presidents, 2000-2025



Helen Brady Bonardi
2000-2002



Anne Q. Glasheen
2002-2004



Joanne Schriver
2004-2006



Camille Odierna
2006-2008



Janet Delbrook Day
2008-2010



Lynn A. Kotzen
2010-2012



Lorraine Stratis
2012-2014



Anne-Mieke Smeets
2014-2016, 2020-2021



Patricia O'Donnell
June-November 2016



Valerie Moore O'Keeffe & Janet Demasi
2016-2018



Theresa Fanelli & Soledad Sambrano
2018-2020



Dorothy Krauss Rainier
2021-2022



Anne McAndrews
2022-present

In Memoriam, 2000-2025



Adamson, Ethel — Aug. 2001	Dentzer, Celia — Jan. 2022	Hardy, Mel — Apr. 2008
Anderson, Caroline — Jul. 2010	Dettling, Marie D. — Jun. 2019	Helgren, Syrilda — Dec. 2015
Barberio, Patricia — Oct. 2022	DiBuono, Gail — Jun. 2010	Henigson, Ronnie — Feb. 2014
Barbieri, Ellen — Mar. 2023	Dimond, Connie — May 2008	Herlitz, Geraldine — Jan. 2011
Beringer, Mary Joyce — Jul. 2024	Dufficy, Rosemary — Jan. 2021	Hertz, Sue — Feb. 2015
Berridge, Mary Lee — Sept 2022	Dundee, Eligia — May 2014	Heutchy, Lorna — Jul. 2020
Betzig, Jeanne — Jul. 2001	Dyer, Peggy — Nov. 2006	Hewson, Barbara — Feb. 2010
Betzig, Katherine — Nov. 2016	Espositer, Marion — Jun. 2001	Hiemstra, Myra — Jun. 2016
Bishop, Virginia — Apr. 2008	Fanelli, Frances — Jan. 2014	Hobson, Shirley — Apr. 2001
Blair, Betty — Nov. 2011	Fannan, Phyllis — Jul. 2011	Holby, Aase Grethe — Jan. 2012
Bloom, Mary Louise — Jun. 2005	Faulkner, Joan — Oct. 2013	Holding, Katherine — Nov 2000
Bollengier, Edith — Mar. 2007	Feldman, Sandy — Aug. 2023	Hudders, Margaret — Mar. 2006
Bonardi, Helen — May 2014	Fentas, Ellen — Nov. 2024	Hurley, Janet — Jan. 2014
Bonner, Mary A. — Nov. 2019	Flowers, Esther — Aug. 2008	Jaynes, Doris — Jan. 2001
Bopp, Mary — Dec. 2007	Foley, Patricia — Mar. 2015	Jervis, Adriana Van Nes — May 2025
Brauman, Vivienne — Aug. 2016	Foulke, Maureen — Sep. 2023	Kenmore, Helene — May 2000
Brown, Barbara — Jun. 2013	Fousek, Adrienne A. — Dec 2016	Kinzly, Berta — Dec. 2008
Brown, Eileen — Feb. 2015	Gaffney, Gloria — Feb. 2015	Kluss, Doree — Aug. 2020
Bruno, Cornelia — Dec. 2008	Garrabrant, Betty — May 2024	Korchin, Lee — Sep. 2017
Burt, Jeanne — Oct. 2002	Gerhold, Connie — Nov. 2004	Kotzen, Lynn — Jul. 2013
Byrne, Irene — May 2022	Germano, Louise — May 2008	Kraus, Edna — Oct. 2002
Cashman, Margaret — Dec 2019	Gibson, Nancy — Mar. 2008	Kronenberg, Gisela — Oct. 2012
Clephane, Helen — Jun. 2013	Goldsmith, Joan — Feb. 2010	Kronenberger, Elinor — Feb. 2010
Coleman, Veronica — May 2010	Gordon, Eleanor — Nov. 2021	Link, Marcia — Dec. 2002
Colin, Irene — Jul. 2008	Gray, Glenna B. — Mar. 2017	Lister, Marion — Nov. 2020
Commender, Sue Ellen — Mar. 2023	Gurwitch, Barbara — Sept 2002	Lowy, Ruth — Oct. 2013
Cosgrove, Grace — Sept 2019	Haid, Mary — Jan. 2018	Lucas, Eleanor — Apr. 2002
Crafts, Alita B. — Jun. 2001	Halpern, Michela — Sep. 2014	Luckett, Diana — Oct. 2017
DeFelice, Carol — Mar. 2013	Hanway, Elena — Sep. 2015	Maggard, Nancy — Nov. 2019
Del Guercio, Paula — Jan. 2024	Hardart, Nancy — May 2020	Mallinson, Madeline — Apr. 2006
Delanno, Myra — Apr. 2001	Hardesty, Elizabeth — Apr. 2000	Manley, Marjorie — Jul. 2007

Marvin, Muriel — Jun. 2015	Schoenberger, Phyllis — Aug. 2019
Massimi, Maria — Aug. 2025	Schriver, Joanne — Aug. 2015
Masters, Lucille — Jan. 2012	Serenbetz, Thelma — Aug. 2019
Mattioli, Adriana — Nov. 2020	Seymour, Dorothy — Mar. 2004
McCreary, Betty — Jun. 2016	Sherak, Gladys — Jan. 2018
McGee, Mary — Feb. 2009	Shirk, Annadora — Aug. 2015
McHugh, Elaine — Jan. 2014	Slaughter, Sue — Jan. 2004
Misad, Marian — Apr. 2024	Sloane, Virginia — Aug. 2014
Mohan, Sheelah — Apr. 2023	Smith, Ann B. — 2000
Moran, Betty — Aug. 2018	Sokol, Irene — Sep. 2024
Mucci, Patricia — Jul. 2008	Staudt, Peggy — Jan. 2007
Muldoon, Sylvia — Aug. 2003	Stearne, Heidi — Jun. 2004
Murphy, Laura — Sep. 2014	Steichen, Michele — Jan. 2020
Nagle, Nancy Anne — Dec 2010	Strickland, Maryll — Jan. 2001
Nichol, Virginia — Mar. 2000	Stuart, Helen — Mar. 2005
Noe, Annette — Apr. 2010	Sweeney, Patricia — May 2012
O'Haire, Mary Joyce — Jul. 2017	Tapley, Virginia — Jan. 2000
Page, Betty — Apr. 2024	Thompson, Joan — Aug. 2017
Panno, Joan — Feb. 2024	von Bernuth, Elizabeth — Feb. 2000
Perciaspe, Norma — Feb. 2025	Wegman, Connie — Sept 2011
Peterson, Laura Jane — Mar. 2004	Weiner, Ada — Jul. 2007
Piccone, Margaret — May 2006	Welty, Nama — Mar. 2007
Quinn, Kathleen — Feb. 2020	Wielgus, Irene — Jan. 2020
Riano, Muriel — Jan. 2009	Williams, Joan — Mar. 2000
Richard, St. Clair — Mar. 2004	Wilson, Mary — Apr. 2006
Rising, Janet — Jan. 2020	Winter, Scat — Aug. 2002
Robb, Marion — Dec. 2024	Yamaguchi, Kim — Sep. 2005
Ronan, Roberta — Dec. 2014	Young, Irma — Nov. 2017
Sayers, Ray — Oct. 2022	Young, Phyllis — Feb. 2012
Schaefer, Helene — Apr. 2001	Zegarowicz, Josephine — Dec. 2020
Schlosser, Jacqueline — May 2025	Zulch, Ann — Apr. 2004

In the Beginning

When 12 women organized the Woman's Club of Larchmont on January 30, 1925, it was the culmination of what had long been a dream and desire of a number of women in Larchmont. The founders of the club may not have been exactly on the cutting edge of societal change, but they had noticed that women could accomplish a great deal by banding together.

The general idea of all who are interested in a woman's club is that it shall be nonpartisan, that those who wish to join shall not be barred because of certain politics or religion. The proposed woman's club will be interested in all problems of the community.

The organizing group offered and adopted the following resolutions, which were eventually turned into 'objectives' for the Club. On March 1, 1927, in the Certificate of Incorporation under the Membership Corporation Law, it was stated, "The particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are:

- I. To engage actively in assisting any movement which has for its object the Civic or Philanthropic Betterment of the Community;
- II. To promote interest in Literature, Education and the Fine Arts;
- III. To study and discuss topics of Public Interest."

The Club began holding meetings in the Weaver Street Firehouse Community Room but plans were to have its own clubhouse . . . In 1928, Edward F. Albee offered to present to the Club the beautiful lot next to the Larchmont

Public library as a clubhouse site . . . The offer depended upon the provision that the club members themselves secure the funds to build a suitable clubhouse, mortgage free . . . The project fell victim to the stock market crash of 1929 and the Club continued to meet in the Weaver Street Community Room.

By 1934, the end of the Club's first decade, Club members could look back with pride at their accomplishments. They had fulfilled many of the objectives for which they had been formed with their involvement in philanthropic and community events. They had been instrumental in establishing the Larchmont Public library, The Women's Exchange was a successful, going concern helping many individuals and families through the hard times of the Depression, and efforts to help less fortunate boys in Children's Village continued. The Community had welcomed and participated in events such as the Society Circus, The Columbia Varsity Show and the Art Show, first sponsored by the Club in 1929. The Art Show attracted many professional as well as amateur artists and was a well-attended community event. It continued for 42 years.

Membership in the Club was now full (500), Juniors (100), and the Club was beginning discussions regarding the establishing of a third Section . . . The Club entered its second decade with a great deal of enthusiasm for the future and much pride in its first ten years.

*Adapted from The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc.
A History: 1925-2000*

The Past Twenty-Five Years

An Overview from the Annual President's Reports

It is from the annual President's Report we have a history of our Club. Each year a sample of Club Day programs are mentioned, departments and activities described, trips recounted, the Book and Author and the Philanthropic Luncheons noted, and new events and changes referenced. And many people are acknowledged and thanked for making it all happen.

In the 2000-2001 Yearbook, covering events of September 1999-May 2000, President Lucille Masters recalled the Club's 75th Anniversary events under the leadership of chair Helga Bendix. In May an anniversary luncheon was held with chair Patty O'Brien organizing a hilarious musical summary of the Club's activities. Members were in costume singing ditties about major Club eras. At the Larchmont Public Library there was a display of memorabilia and in December an arts and crafts show was planned at the library as a concluding event.

The following year President Helen Bonardi noted that for the first time in the Club's 75-year history, a tree was donated to the Larchmont Community in appreciation for what Larchmont means to its members (see photo, p.18). A dedication ceremony was held in the park at the corner of Palmer Avenue and Weaver Street. The holly tree planted would be the centerpiece of a planting area and a plaque was added designating The Woman's Club of Larchmont as the donor. And Public Affairs Chair Annette Noe kept the

Club abreast of changes and new rulings on cell-phone use while driving, and unsolicited mailings and phone calls to one's home phone.

Helen Bonardi in the annual report for September 2001-May 2002 writes "None of us will ever forget the tragedy of September 11, 2001. A few months later in November, a Larchmont/Mamaroneck Community Walk organized by Friends in Need to support the community's WTC families was held and the Woman's Club of Larchmont was one of the sponsors. Many of us participated in this walk as well."

"When I became your president, I was scared to death. After my first board meeting, I knew I could do it. No one can succeed as president without a cooperative board. I hit the jackpot!" So wrote President Anne Glasheen in her report for September 2002-May 2003. The following year she mentions two spur of the moment luncheons at Manero's in Greenwich and McGuire's in Mamaroneck with almost 40 at each luncheon. She noted it was another informal way to meet members we don't work with often. While many Presidents thank those who volunteer to make the Club function, Anne wanted to thank all "for making the Club the friendly, happy, sympathetic, philanthropic, downright fun place that it is." New members were encouraged to become involved immediately because it was the best way to meet people.

In the report covering September 2004-May 2005, President Joanne Schriver starts with a

thanks to all while acknowledging the Club's 80th anniversary. She noted members are important to the Club through their support and participation, with so many great women having volunteered in leadership positions. The membership is strong and capable, she declared. The following year she again acknowledges all those who volunteer and that we must always appreciate the hours of work they contribute. She concludes with deeply appreciating the "Service" of so many to help make our Club the "Best."

Camille Odierna, President 2006-2008, continued the theme when she wrote that she had attended many Presidents' Luncheons and Club Day programs presented by member clubs in the Federation and "I'm proud to say that our Club does it right. The level of professionalism in the way we conduct our business meetings and Club Days has made me very proud of our Club, its traditions and objectives."

"Let this Yearbook be your guide to all upcoming events" President Janet Delbrook Day wrote. She encouraged members to mark their calendars and even better try something new. The following year, September 2009-May 2010, as she reviewed the past year's events she underscored the volume, variety and quality of the Club's offerings, finding it very impressive for a volunteer organization. She addressed the position of president as 'a challenging experience but also a richly rewarding one, due in part to the strong support that so many of you gave me.'

And in this report was the first mention of a food drive which was in conjunction with the Book and Author Luncheon. Items were collected for the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force.

In the 2010-2011 President's Report by Lynn Kotzen, a new website, www.WomansClubofLarchmont.org was mentioned as one of the ways members can find out about the Club's activities, in addition to the Yearbook and *The Larch Tree*. And thanks to the Reception Committee, there were now name badges so we could greet members by name.

Hurricane Sandy canceled November Department Day programs on International Affairs, Music and Drama during Lorraine Stratis' first term as president. She also mentioned in her President's Report of 2012-2013 that a donation had been made to the Town of Mamaroneck Community Services Emergency Relief Fund for local recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. Food collection occurred at both the Book and Author and the Philanthropy Luncheons with donations made to the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force. In her second term a committee was working to revamp the website, and a "Driver Buddy Links List" was created to pair members who need a ride with members who can provide one.

With 2015 as the 90th Anniversary of the Club, Anne-Mieke Smeets in her President's Report September 2014-May 2015, wrote the Philanthropic Luncheon launched the celebration. The theme of the luncheon was "Happy Birthday Ninety Years of Giving." Camille Odierna, Chair of the Constitution Committee and Parliamentarian, had a busy year with her committee reviewing the constitution and proposing changes. The membership approved the changes, and they were included in the Yearbook for 2015-2016. A "Plant Donation" program was developed by the Philanthropy committee under Director Maria Massimi.

The intention was to give a plant to a member who had been sick or returning home from a hospital stay. Renee deVries and Webmaster Willem deVries “brought our website, WomansClubofLarchmont.org, into the 21st Century.”

The 90th Anniversary celebration continued on October 2, 2015, with a “High Tea” at the Larchmont Yacht Club and was enjoyed by almost 90 women dressed in roaring twenties style. There was a discussion of a President’s pin. And for the first time in the history of the Club two women, Janet Demasi and Patricia O’Donnell, would serve as co-presidents.

Valerie Moore O’Keeffe would replace Patricia O’Donnell at the end of 2016. Along with Co-President Janet Demasi, the report for 2016-2017 noted the Club participated in the Village of Larchmont’s 125th Celebration by co-sponsoring the program “Victorian Ladies” in which the members participated with great enthusiasm. Club members also participated in the Larchmont Public Library’s Spelling Bee. And money was raised for victims of a Palmer Avenue Fire as well as many items collected for the Mamaroneck Food Pantry through many Club events. The following year they noted that over 1,000 items had been donated to the Food Pantry and gifts were also given to local families in need. Again, Club members participated in the Spelling Bee and also in the Larchmont Annual Arts Festival.

Co-Presidents Theresa Fanelli and Soledad Sambrano in their 2018-2019 President’s Report mention the exciting accomplishment of revision of our Constitution and Bylaws as this placed the Club in position to apply for a 501(c)(3) tax exempt status giving the Club the benefits of a nonprofit organization. In their second year report

they write that after very tedious work by some Club members the application was completed, approved by members and with the State Attorney General for review. They also mention that when they took office in May of 2018, they had two major initiatives: to increase the membership so as to enable the Club to raise more funds for our philanthropic efforts; to launch Staying Connected to reach out to inactive members and encourage them to become more involved in the Club activities. They reported success in both areas, but a continuing effort is needed in order to maintain our membership at a high level, they wrote.

It was during their second year that the COVID-19 lock down occurred and all meetings, programs and activities ceased. Postponed was the Philanthropic Luncheon and cancellation of the May Installation luncheon. Also in March of 2020, *The Larch Tree* went digital. The change was seen as a savings of a substantial amount of money.

Since the COVID-19 virus was a challenge drastically changing our daily lives, the 2020-2021 President’s Report is presented below in order to present a full picture of the steps the Club took to continue to carry on the Club’s events and to also illustrate how the Club responded to community needs.

Dorothy Rainier became president in 2021-2022 after the one-year term of Anne-Mieke Smeets. As she explained, “The President of the Woman’s Club of Larchmont, Inc. usually holds or shares that position for two years but Anne-Mieke Smeets, having served as President previously in 2014-2016, agreed to a one-year term during the first year of the COVID-19 Pandemic in 2020-2021. We are most grateful to Anne-Mieke for agreeing to lead our club through the

unusual and rather difficult year. After a year of virtual meeting and outdoor fundraisers, we were able to meet again in person at the Larchmont Avenue Church's Russell Hall starting in September of 2021. We wore masks and had been vaccinated, we shared refreshments outside after most of our monthly Club Day meetings, thanks to Debbie Campbell and her helpers."

As the 100th Anniversary approached, Anne McAndrews' President's Message 2022-2023 considered it "as the perfect opportunity to reflect on our past and plan for our future. We will honor those remarkable ladies who created a Club with 'objectives' of philanthropy as well as fellowship, service, interested in literature, education and the fine arts and to study and discuss topics of public interest." Commenting on the challenges of COVID, she remarked as to our flexibility and innovation. "Can't meet together? You switched to Zoom meetings and programs. Can't meet inside? You had outdoor events. We hope those obstacles are behind us and just prepared us to use technology better in order to make us more efficient!" And in her message the following year she stated, "This past year we have finally emerged from our COVID cocoon, and all our Club Days, programs, luncheons, fundraising and trips were in-person, successful and enjoyed by all."

And in the 2025-2026 President's Message she commented, "Although the focus of this past year has been our Centennial, many other regular activities continued." And after years of work and waiting, she finally declared, "We are now an IRS section 501(c)(3) organization" and went on to explain that "Now charitable gifts can be donated directly to the Club and along with our fundraising distributed to local charitable groups."

**Excerpts from the 2020-2021
President's Annual Report**
by Anne-Mieke Smeets

What a year it has been! Early 2020 the Covid-19 Pandemic started and February 21, 2020, we had our last in person Club Day meeting. In March New York State went into total lock down. At the end of March the Slate of Officers and Directors was presented to the Membership and approved by e-mail by 46 members on May 11, 2020. The Executive Board also voted electronically to hire a new CPA Cindy Goldstein. On May 15, after all meetings were canceled, a Zoom "Meet and Greet" was organized to get familiar with Zoom. At this meeting the Philanthropic Allocation Committee was asked to allocate funds for organizations involved in helping the less fortunate in our communities, although we had not held our Philanthropic Fundraiser yet. A May 22nd Board meeting was planned, at which we thanked the outgoing Co-Presidents Theresa Fanelli and Soledad Sambrano for all their hard work, and the new Board was installed. As I have been President before from 2014-2016, I agreed to serve as President for one year. A Zoom Board meeting was held immediately after installation, and the list with proposed Philanthropic Distributions was approved. Money donated by Corporate sponsors, members and friends, as well as money from our checking & savings accounts were used. Thank you, Sheelah Mohan, Chair Ways & Means (2020) with sub-chairs, as well as thanks to the Philanthropy Committee.

All subsequent meetings would all be on Zoom during the year. The first Zoom Executive Board meeting after May 22, 2020, was June 12th, followed by one additional July 17th on Zoom until September.

On July 25, I wrote a letter to all the members asking them to donate the money they paid for their reservation(s) for the Philanthropic Fundraiser Luncheon, which many members did.

The Fundraiser was postponed from March 2020 to July, then to September and it finally took place on October 8, 2020, outside in the newly renovated Constitution Park in Larchmont. The Baskets Sale and the Silent Auction were a success, plus reservations donations (totaling \$9,000.00+) so the Club could distribute \$12,000.00 to organizations taking care of people with food insecurity. It was great seeing the other members again, although with Covid-19 rules restrictions!

In the fall a Zoom Professional subscription for the Club was obtained and the account managed by Therese Boyd, who sent out all Zoom invites. June Hesler set up the WCL10538@gmail.com account through which the public could ask for the Zoom link to the Programs. A Club Instagram was opened and managed by Sarah Anna Jonas and monitored by June Hesler.

Joyce Edelstein put together the digital issues of *The Larch Tree* during the year. April/May/June 2020 was the 1st digital issue, and then the September/October 2020 issue and on. Joyce prints about 18 issues of *The Larch Tree* for the members who do not have email and mails them out, every issue is a super job.

Dorothy Rainier and her Programs Committee did a wonderful job putting Programs together on Zoom for the Club Days. In September, the Program was "A Visit with Susan Bonadonna, M.D." She talked about Women's Health; in October "Messages from Moscow: How Russia works to influence American Citizens and Voters" by Thomas Kent; in November was "A Four Month's Trip: Women on the Overland Trails" by Laura Chmielewski, Ph.D. In February, "The Galapagos Islands" by Christina Baal, which was recorded, broadcast, and put on YouTube by LMC-Media TV. In March "New Rochelle: A Community Built by Immigrants" by Barbara Davis and in April we had the Public Affairs program, organized by Janet Demasi, "The Constant Changing Face of Our Community" by Lorraine Walsh, Mayor of Larchmont, and Nancy Seligson, Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor. Unfortunately, Tom Murphy, Mayor of the Village of Mamaroneck could not attend. June Hesler and Therese Boyd also recorded the Club Programs for March and April and sent them out on YouTube.

A wealth of information, and all very interesting programs, with great possibilities on Zoom to present maps, and photos. We also had many guests logging on to our Zoom Programs meetings.

Valerie O'Keeffe and June Hesler organized the Zoom Book & Author Event in December 2020. June managed to set up digital links to the authors biographies and their books. June made links on the Website and published them in *The Larch Tree*. She sent out the press releases to the digital platforms and printed newspapers. Many, many hours of work were involved. The books were interesting, and the authors did a great job presenting their books. A Q&A session followed the presentations. You could pre-order the books from Anderson's Bookshop. The Chairs even managed to get a discount at La Parisienne in Larchmont for bakery items/desserts. A nice touch!

The Education Committee, Chair Susan Doud, organized a safe and Covid-19 rules obeying trip to the Jay Heritage Center in Rye on May 7th, which turned out to be a great success; 38 people signed up! All had a fantastic time, and some signed up to volunteer at the Jay Heritage Center. A job well done.

On May 14, 2021, the Annual Installation of Officers, Directors and Book Passing Luncheon at Orienta Beach Club was the first IN PERSON Luncheon again, outside. The new Board was installed, and all had a marvelous time.

Of course, some Committees were non-active this year because of the pandemic like American Home, Art, Club Day Welcome Desk, Historian/Archives, Tea Table, and Flowers. The Recording Secretary (Christel Pugin) did an excellent job making Minutes, not easy during Zoom meetings, and the Corresponding Secretary (Marsha Kirchoff) sent out many cards. Peggy Rao kept the Website up to date.

I thank all Board members and Committee Chairs very much for their hard work and it was a pleasure working with you to keep the Woman's Club of Larchmont going smoothly throughout this difficult year.

Changes in the Club, 2000=2025

On May 11, 2001, The Woman's Club of Larchmont celebrated its 75th anniversary at the Larchmont Shore Club at the May Installation of the Officers Luncheon, where Patty O'Brien presented a hilarious musical summary of our Woman's Club activities over 75 years, and members in costume sang ditties about major Club eras. A display of memorabilia at the Larchmont Public Library plus photos of members and an arts & crafts show were organized. The wonderful 75th Anniversary Book, by Celia Dentzer and her committee, is worth reading about our Club history, with many other events being depicted by decade.

About 150 members attended the 80th anniversary, which was celebrated at the Philanthropic Fundraiser and Birthday Luncheon on March 30, 2005, at the Larchmont Shore Club.

A High Tea was held in October 2015 for the 90th anniversary at the Larchmont Yacht Club, where 90 people attended, including several husbands and some Federation Clubs Presidents (see photos).

On May 1, 2025, we celebrated our Centennial with a Gala Fundraiser at Orienta Beach Club.

In 2000, the Executive Board of our Club would meet at the First Union Bank Board Room on Palmer Avenue, after that at Mamaroneck Environmental Resource Center on Weaver Street, followed by the Sheldrake Environmental Center, the Weaver Street Firehouse for several years, and from 2011 on, the meetings were held

at the Mamaroneck Town Center and are still being held there to this date.

The Club Days, some luncheons and other events were all organized during these years at Larchmont Avenue Church, mostly in the Carhart Room, and are still conducted there.

There were many Co-Chairs for the Departments and Committees, but not until 2016, did we have our first Co-Presidents. In 2020, Anne-Mieke Smeets became the President again for one year, followed by a one-year of the term for Dorothy Rainier. Our current President, Anne McAndrews, is the first President serving two consecutive terms of two years each.

Many "Club Offices," unfortunately, were cancelled over the years, among these: House, Personnel, Italian Language, Sewing, Workshops, Field Trips, Opera Classes, International Relations, Telephone Squad, Social Services, Duplicate Bridge, and Music. Some parts were incorporated into other Committees, and new "Offices" were established or expanded, such as "Buddy Links," Facebook, Digital Publishing of *The Larch Tree*, Staying Connected, Food Drives, Philanthropy, Spelling Bees, and the website. The difference between Department Days and Club Days was that Club Days were meant to provide programs of interest to all Club members and guests. Department days were meant to explore in greater depth or on a more hands-on approach (field trips) in such topics as drama, music and public affairs.

The Constitution Committee amended the organizational working structure of the Woman's Club with a total overhaul of the Club's Constitution and Bylaws. The committee proposed the changes in April 2019, and they were approved by the Membership. A "Conflict of Interest Policy" was attached to the Bylaws, and is published on the website. Each Board member should now annually sign the Policy and submit it to the Club Secretary. This enormous overhaul rewriting was necessary because we applied for the 501(c)(3) status for our Woman's Club. Therefore, we were obligated to change our Constitution & Bylaws. The Bylaws Committee decided not to make the distinction between Department and Club Days anymore, and revised it to Club Days, Trips, Programs, Luncheons, Community Days, Philanthropy, etc. One other point was that now the Club could admit men as members, but we keep the name of the Club as is. As of today, we have 3 men as members, one member is very active, two men are husbands of members. Of course, there are always changes to the Bylaws, and they are updated regularly. For example, amendments were proposed and approved for Electronic Meetings and Electronic Voting after the Covid-19 pandemic, etc.

The Board now has 6 Officers, 11 Directors and 21 Committee Chairs. Before the change, the Executive Board consisted of 6 Officers, 6 Directors, and 9 Officers, with many Chairs/Co-Chairs of Departments and Committees.

Starting in 2014, for several years, the Public Affairs Committee held an almost yearly program "The Constantly Changing Face of Our Community" with a panel of speakers; the Mayors of Larchmont Village, Mamaroneck Village, and the Supervisor of the Town of Mamaroneck. They

would address the public and a Q & A session followed. This program was always very popular.

The membership in 2000 counted 260 members, including Non-Resident and Honorary Members. In 2010, a total of 220 members, in 2020, there were 161 members, and in 2024, our last Yearbook listed 147 members in total. Therefore, with fewer people, the Committees include fewer members. Only The Ways and Means (Philanthropic Fundraising) is still as of today a large committee. The American Home Committee, at one time had 36 members, and the Tea Table Committee had many members helping and baking, which is a good way for new members to make friends and to get to know the other members! Please, try to recruit a friend or neighbor as a member. We are offering so much as a Club: Good Programs, Luncheons, Food Drives, Friendship, Education, Fine Arts, Philanthropy, etc. Over the years our Club objectives of "Fellowship, Philanthropy and Service" are still the same, especially with Philanthropy as one of the most important goals of the Club! We work hard to help the less fortunate in our communities, especially with food collections, and fundraising, and we are therefore able to donate money throughout the year.

Since the year 2000, there have been a number of social changes. All the Past Presidents after the year 2000 used their own first and last names. Many more women started working over the years, and now, upon retiring, are fortunately interested in becoming Club members.

Special projects were organized during the years, such as the fundraising efforts for victims of Hurricane Sandy, for the victims of a big fire (twice) in Larchmont and Mamaroneck, for the

Victims of Flooding, and during the Covid-19 pandemic, for the food shortage which many people in our communities experienced, and still do. Therefore, we still have successful food drives, toiletries and diaper requests.

The Ways and Means – Philanthropic Fundraising Committee had fewer members involved over the years but became far more successful. In 2000, the proceeds of the Fundraiser for distribution were \$6,237.00, in 2005, it was \$4,650.00, in 2010, it was \$6,800.00, and in 2015, it was \$8,500.00 and slowly went up to \$8,550.00 + with specials to \$9,935.00. In 2021, we had two outdoor Fundraisers (Covid-19 pandemic).

Therese Boyd was very successful in obtaining corporate sponsors. Therefore, the Philanthropic Allocation Committee allocated a total of \$19,100.00 from the postponed October fundraiser together with the May fundraising event.

Since that time, we not only had the corporate sponsors donations, but also had yearlong distributions from receiving money from raffles, baskets, individual donations, etc. During the Covid-19 pandemic, our Fundraiser was cancelled, but most of our members happily donated their reservation money to the Club. In 2024, the proceeds to be distributed in total to all charitable organizations were \$21,903.00 because of the special fundraiser (\$2,200.00) from members' donations in honor of Sheelah Mohan. Our Club has many members who worked relentlessly to attain our most rewarding Club objective of Philanthropy. We are humbled and grateful to be able, through hard work, to help the less fortunate in our communities. Our yearly proceeds of the fundraiser for distribution this year were donated to 20 charitable and well-deserved

organizations, and the Yearlong distributions were contributed to 16 organizations. Included was the Mamaroneck-Larchmont Student Aid Fund who yearly receives a large donation. This year \$3,000.00 was sent. In 2013 a special one-time donation of \$2,500.00 was made from the Reserve Fund to the Cancer Support Team for their special fundraiser.

Our Woman's Club is also a Club Member of the Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs (WCFWC). Camille Odierna has been a long-time Parliamentarian of the Federation, and our Club always includes a Federation Representative on our own Board. As the Federation Registrar for two terms, I am responsible for the Yearbook. Our Club is always well represented at the Federation Fundraiser Luncheons, as well as the Installation Luncheon, the "Woman of the Year" Luncheon, and several others.

Around 2015, the Club purchased a flag-banner for outside the Larchmont Avenue Church meeting room to welcome people. Unfortunately, during the Covid pandemic break for more than a year, the flag was eaten by mice! The Club therefore purchased a new one in 2022.

When we were confronted by the Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, the Club started our first Zoom meetings in May and conducted a "Meet and Greet" on Zoom. Soon afterwards we voted by email to hire a new CPA, and Club business was smoothly conducted on the internet. David Edelstein became our Yearbook designer, and our bulk mailing permit (permit #10) was cancelled, because we did not mail enough pieces anymore. From that time on, we "met" on Zoom, had Programs on Zoom, and distributed the proceeds from the Open-Air Fundraisers on Zoom via

the Philanthropic Allocation Committee. The Philanthropy chairs organized monthly very successful food drives and sometimes toiletries drives outside, and we were able to help many in our communities lessen their food insecurity. Of course, all of us wore masks when outside. We very quickly got used to it all. Even today we continue to have many productive food drives. In May 2021 we had the first in-person luncheon in a tent at Orienta Beach Club. We were all very happy and thankful to see each other again in person.

Of course, quite a few members volunteer for committee functions, and some are very active on the Board. One of our very committed and long-time volunteers was Sheelah Mohan. She participated in many ways over the years, from being Treasurer, Tea Table Chair, Philanthropy Chair, Editor of *The Larch Tree*, proofreader of it and of the Yearbook, Ways & Means Director-Chair, making raffle baskets, etc. When she passed away unexpectedly in April 2023, we held a special fundraiser in Sheelah's honor, which proceeds would benefit the "Visions" organization for the blind. We discovered that Sheelah was involved in many, many more Club activities and did a lot more behind the scenes than we all realized. We all volunteer a lot, but Sheelah was a "Super Volunteer," and we all still miss her.

One major accomplishment was that Joyce Edelstein published the first digital issue of *The Larch Tree* in March 2020, and copied it for those who do not have internet. See her article in this Book. All communication and information to the membership has been by digital means for many years, no phone calls anymore from the Telephone Squad!

Another accomplishment was the establishment of our own website in 2011: "WomansClubofLarchmont.org." Barbara Moran worked on the website the first several years, followed by Willem and Renee de Vries. For many years now Peggy Rao maintained the website, and lately it has been maintained by June Hesler.

Publicity is also mostly done on digital platforms, like The Patch, Nextdoor, The Loop, etc. and sent by email to the membership, as well as to the local printed newspapers. A hard copy of the Yearbook is still being printed yearly in August and quite frequently used by most of our members.

The Treasurer now carries out the financial functions through electronic banking, and last year (2024), began to receive Zelle payments. Some years ago, an ad hoc Reserve Fund Committee was established for an overview of our Holdings, History, etc., and this Committee reports to the Finance Committee and The Executive Board. The Finance Committee sets the guidelines for the Reserve Fund. Our CPA yearly checks all the finances, and, when approved, signs for it.

In 2019, the Board decided to change the 50-year Life Membership to 40 years. As of this year 2025, we have 9 Life members, including one Past President. We hope that many of our members will continue to be active in our Woman's Club of Larchmont for many years, so as to become Life members.

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary and wishing the Club prosperity and increased Membership so many can enjoy the wonderful activities.

Events, 2000-2025

10E Sunday, May 28, 2000 The Journal News W P

Woman's club marks 75 years of philanthropy

Members of the Woman's Club of Larchmont gave themselves a party to celebrate 75 years of helping others — first within the bounds of their own community and then, as membership and needs grew, stretching beyond its boundaries.

The party on May 12 was held at the Larchmont Shore Club and served to honor its outgoing president **Lucille Masters**, who completed two two-year terms in office.

The club began with a group of 12 Larchmont women who came together with the idea of improving the quality of life for women, children and families in their immediate area.

In the ensuing years as membership increased the scope of work has gone beyond Larchmont to include state projects helping children from broken homes, assisting battered women, helping families stricken with major illnesses, aiding working parents in need of child care and helping parents cope with loss of a job.



HELEN SPIRO
Out & About

As in previous years, the club once again will give financial support where needed. Some of the projects being helped during this anniversary year are the New Rochelle Services of Rockland Psychiatric Center, sewing for Westchester Medical Center, Interfaith Council for Affordable Housing, My Sister's Place, and Larchmont/Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force, among others.

Among the party guests, all Larchmont residents, were **Patty O'Brien**, an actress and coach in effective communication; **Eileen Brown**, president of DB Systems, a computer service corporation; **Valerie O'Keefe**, Mamaroneck town supervisor; **Margaret Shultz**, director of the Westchester Non-Profit Loan Fund.



Lucille Masters



courtesy photo
Patty O'Brien, chairman of the club's Drama Department, is shown at right with the club's president Lucille Masters at far left, along with Annette Noe and Doree Kluss. Grace Crossgrove and Maria Kim are in the bottom row.



Events, 2000-2025



Events, 2000-2025



Events, 2000-2025



Events, 2000-2025



Events, 2000-2025



Events, 2000-2025

