

# THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, INC.

## A History: 1925-2000

*Organized January 30, 1925*

*Admitted to State Federation 1926*

*Federated Westchester County 1926*

|                            |     |
|----------------------------|-----|
| FOUNDERS .....             | 12  |
| CHARTER MEMBERS .....      | 104 |
| MEMBERSHIP, MAY 1925 ..... | 391 |
| MEMBERSHIP, 1926 .....     | 500 |



DESIGNED AND PRINTED BY  
BAIR GRAPHICS, INC.  
TWIN PRODUCTION & DESIGN  
MAMARONECK, NEW YORK





CLUB FOUNDERS

MRS. A. H. T. BANZHAF

MRS. CLARA CARPENTERS

MRS. ARTHUR DUNN

MRS. C. H. DYER

MRS. H. C. GIBSON

MRS. C. GRIFFIN

MRS. HENRY LAVERS

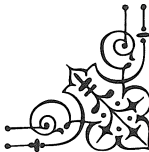
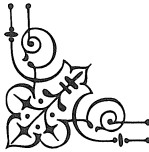
MRS. S. L. LOOMIS

MRS. C. C. MERRITT

MRS. GEORGE W. MULLER

MRS. W. A. SHELTON

MRS. W. E. WEBB



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Dear Reader,

Welcome to the commemorative 75th Anniversary book, "The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc., A History: 1925-2000."

This book, intended to be a short history of seventy-five years, was authorized by the Executive Board of the Club. In these pages we have tried to record the evolution of the Club, its traditions and its contributions to the community in which we live. In doing so, the Club's enrichment of the lives of its members over the years is apparent.

In developing the book, the committee decided to divide the years into decades, recording highlights and important changes in each period. In our effort to provide members with a sense of past years in the Club, we have relied upon information about those years as recorded in *The Larch Tree*, annual Yearbooks, annual reports and Presidents' reports.

The compiling of the history and condensing of the subject matter required time and effort and we are indebted to several Club members who assisted with the transcribing of copy: Joan Faulkner, Margaret Schultz and LeNelle Suharto (and also Bill Dentzer, a spouse). We appreciated the aid of Stephanie Saiyo, Archivist, and Dr. Judith Doolin Spikes, both of the Larchmont Historical Society. Diane Courtney, Director, and Maryll Strickland of the Larchmont Public Library also were of great assistance.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Lori Bair and her associates at Twin Production and Design for the preparation and printing of the book. Lori took our idea of the book and our rambling text, the selection of articles and photos and developed a viable format for the book you now hold in your hands. Her expertise, contributions and suggestions for graphics, etc., and her long hours of arranging and rearranging our copy into a book were extraordinary.

We are indebted to the Executive Board for its support of the project and are especially grateful to all of you Club members who contributed so generously with your financial contributions and offered support and encouragement.

This book is dedicated to all the women who have preceded us as Club members and who through the years served as Club Officers, Directors, chairmen and members of committees, edited, worked and wrote for *The Larch Tree* (many articles have been included), took photographs (some also in the book), and kept the scrapbooks and yearbooks (valuable sources of information.) We follow in their footsteps to strive to attain the objectives proposed by the Founders.

We hope you will find in these pages some enjoyment, inspiration, and pride in what The Woman's Club has achieved in its 75 years.

The Committee

*Celia Dentzer*

*Eleanor Lucas*

*Ann Zulch*

Larchmont, New York  
November 2000



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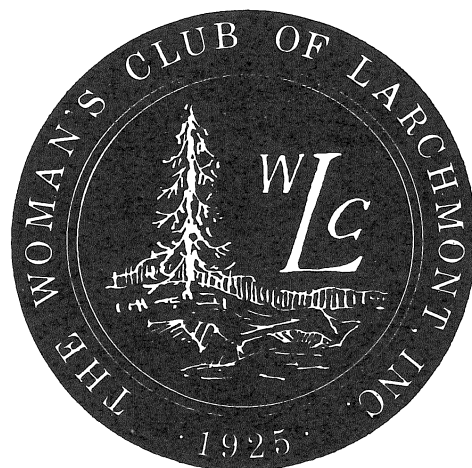
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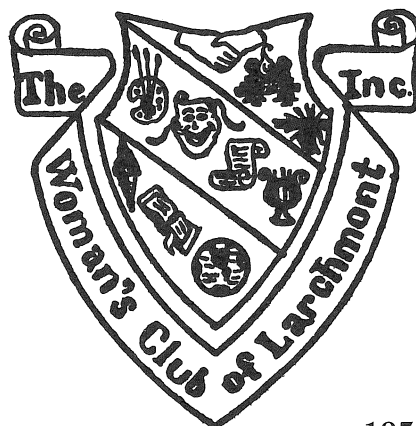
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# CLUB SEALS

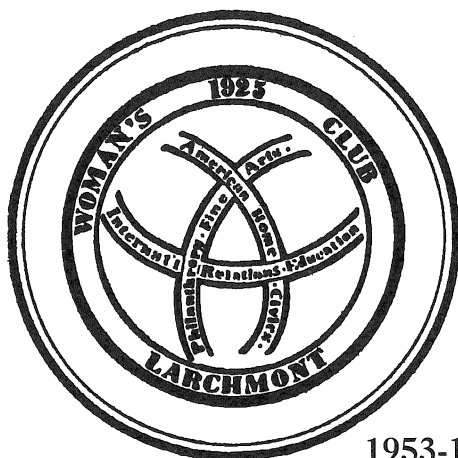
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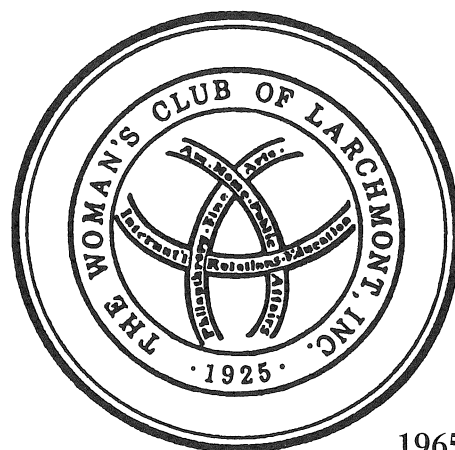
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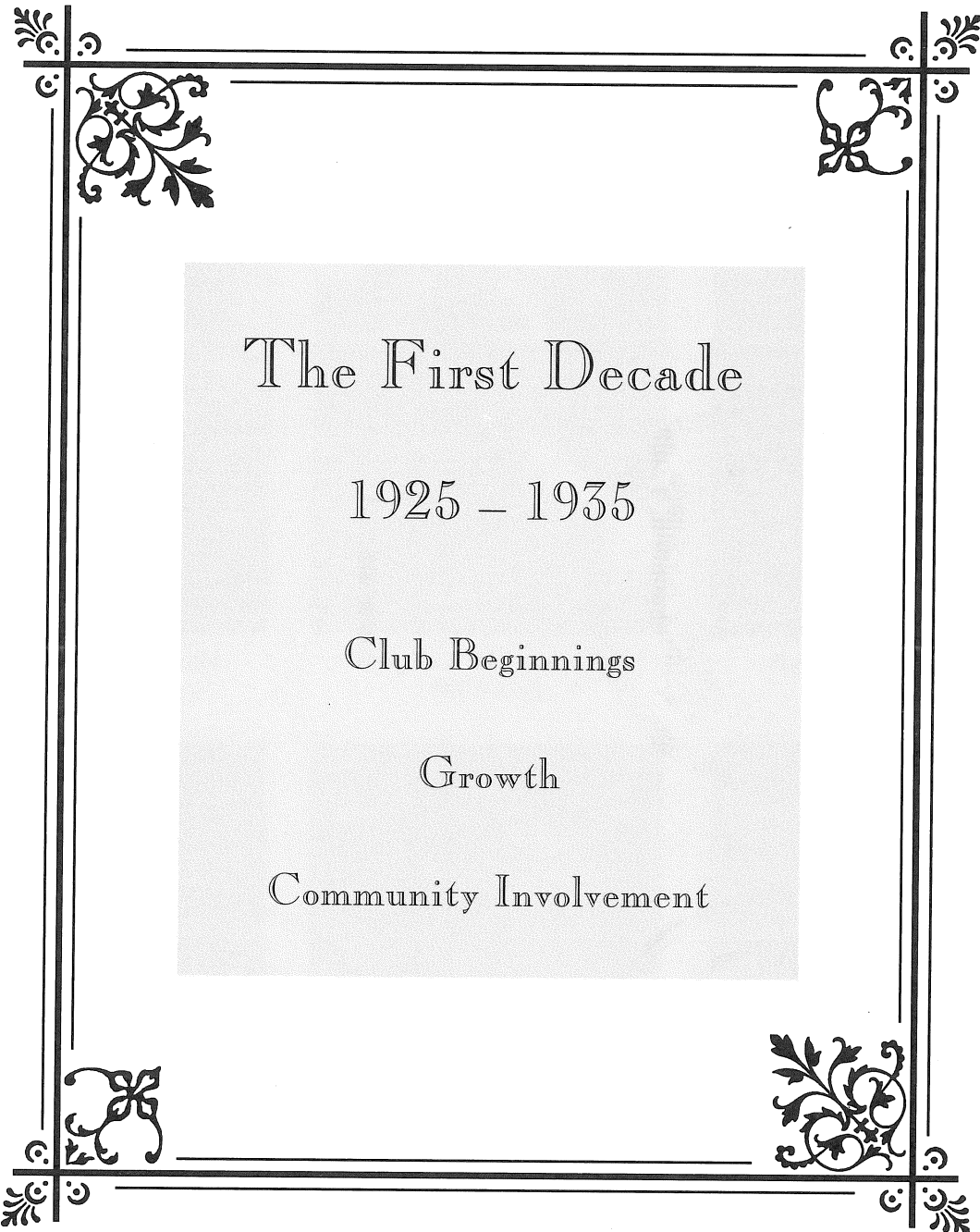
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# The First Decade

1925 – 1935

Club Beginnings

Growth

Community Involvement

# Presidents



MRS. HARRY C. GIBSON  
1925-1926



MRS. ALBERT H. T. BANZHAF  
1926-1928



MRS. THEODORE N. UTZ  
1928-1930



MRS. JOHN MILLIGAN  
1930-1932



MRS. W. EARLE TEE  
1932-1934



MRS. HAROLD A. KNIGHT  
1934-1936

## CLUB BEGINNINGS

In 1924 or 1925 the following article appeared in *The New York Times*: "Larchmont, as well as Scarsdale, will have a woman's club, since a club of that nature is in the process of formation. No general meeting has yet been held to elect officers and adopt a constitution, but one will be held in the near future. The general idea of all Larchmont women interested in a woman's club is that it shall be nonpartisan as to religion and politics. The proposed woman's club will be interested in all problems of the community."<sup>1</sup>

*The Larchmont Times* also reported: "A new club probably to be known as the Larchmont Woman's Club is in the process of formation here and will blossom out soon as one of the largest organizations of the village. This is the opinion of all those who are interested in the new movement. No general meeting has yet been held to elect officers and adopt a constitution, but it is understood that such a one is to be held in the near future.

"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."<sup>2</sup>

"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 dream had, perhaps, grown out of the long-fought battle for female suffrage, which had become a reality in 1920 with the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment. At any event and even though the founders of the club may not have been exactly on the cutting edge of societal change, they had noticed that women could accomplish a great deal by banding together."<sup>3</sup>

The women meeting that cold January day at the invitation of Mrs. William E. Webb and Mrs.

Edward C. Griffin included Mrs. A. H. T. Banzhaf, at whose home the meeting was held, and the following women: Mrs. Clara Carpenter, Mrs. Arthur Dunn, Mrs. E. H. Dyer, Mrs. H. C. Gibson, Mrs. Edward C. Griffin, Mrs. Henry Lavers, Mrs. S. L. Loomis, Mrs. C. C. Merritt, Mrs. George W. Muller, Mrs. W. A. Shelton and Mrs. W. E. Webb.

These twelve women offered and adopted the following resolutions:

- I. That a club to be known as The Woman's Club of Larchmont be established.
- II. That it be independent of any religious organization or any other club.
- III. That it be a medium through which women could work for the civic and philanthropic betterment of the community.
- IV. That topics of public interest and educational value be studied and discussed.

These resolutions 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 adopted a "Collect" which first appeared in the 1928-29 Yearbook and continues to be read at each Club meeting to this day in year 2000. It still also appears in the annual Yearbook and on the membership cards.

The Club's Constitution and Bylaws were drawn up and adopted in 1926-27.

## A Collect for Club Women

*By Mary Stuart*

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large  
in thought, in word, in deed.

"Let us be done with fault-finding, and leave off  
self-seeking.

"May we put away all pretense and meet each  
other face to face without self-pity and without  
prejudice.

"May we never be hasty in judgement and always  
generous.

"Teach us to put into action our better impulses,  
straightforward and unafraid.

"Let us take time for all things; make us grow  
calm, serene, gentle.

"Grant that we may realize it is the little things  
that create differences; that in the big things of life  
we are as one.

"And may we strive to touch and to know the  
great common heart of us all, and let us not forget to  
be kind."

## MARY STUART'S "Collect for Club Women"

*put into verse by*

*Polly Hopkins*

To broader thoughts and deeds, Oh! Father, lead us.  
Take from our hearts all arrogance and pride,  
That we may give of Thee to all who need us  
Putting ourselves and our small aims aside.

Help us to bring to life a wider vision.  
Give us broad minds and clear, that with THINE aid  
We shall be wise in every great decision,  
Generous, long suffering, courteous and unafraid.

Let not the hurry and the stress of living  
Blind us to all the gentleness of love—  
But with calm purpose, still amidst the striving.  
Keep our hearts fixed on things that are Above.



### LARCHMONT WOMAN'S CLUB SOCIETY CIRCUS – SEPTEMBER 27 AND 28, 1927



PARTICIPATING WERE: MRS. FRANK F. HOFFMAN, MRS. E. T. CHILDS, MRS. B.C. McCULLOCH, MRS. R. W. HILL, MISS M. MERRITT, MRS. R. L. JENKS, MRS. C. M. CARPENTER, MRS. ALBERT BANZHAF, PRESIDENT OF CLUB; MRS. A. W. BECKER, CHAIRMAN OF CIRCUS; MRS. GERALD HALL, MRS. F. C. GOODE, MISS MYRTLE WILSON, MRS. ERNEST WILSON, MRS. H.J. STENGEL, MRS. T. D. WILLIAMS, MRS. F. W. STEVENS, MRS. CHARLES C. WORTH.



# THE CLUB WAS ADMITTED TO THE STATE AND COUNTY FEDERATIONS IN 1926.

## CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION UNDER MEMBERSHIP CORPORATIONS LAW

We, the undersigned, all being of full age, at least two-thirds of whom are citizens of the United States, and one of whom is a resident of the State of New York, desiring to form a membership corporation, pursuant to Section 10, Article II of the Membership Corporations Law, do hereby certify as follows:

FIRST: The name of the proposed corporation is "THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF LARCHMONT, INC."

SECOND: The particular objects for which the corporation is to be formed are:

To engage actively in assisting any movement which has for its object the Civic or Philanthropic Betterment of the Community.

To promote interest in Literature, Education and the Fine Arts.

To study and discuss topics of Public Interest.

THIRD: The territory in which the operations of the Corporation will be principally conducted is the Village of Larchmont, County of Westchester, State of New York.

FOURTH: The principal office of the corporation is to be located in the Village of Larchmont, County of Westchester, State of New York.

FIFTH: The number of its directors shall be six.

SIXTH: The names and places of residence of the persons to be its directors until its first annual meeting are as follows:

Mrs. Clarence C. Merritt  
Howell Park, Larchmont, N. Y.  
Mrs. Edward C. Griffin  
51 Woodbine Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.  
Mrs. H. Creighton Ingalls  
34 Oak Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.  
Mrs. Cordelia V. Dugane  
108 Mountain Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.  
Mrs. Warland E. Conklin  
238 Rockingstone Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.  
Mrs. Samuel L. Loomis  
51 Pinebrook Ave., Larchmont, N. Y.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have made, signed, acknowledged and filed this certificate in duplicate.

Dated this 1st day of March, 1927.

Mrs. Clarence C. Merritt  
Mrs. Edward C. Griffin  
Mrs. H. Creighton Ingalls  
Mrs. Cordelia V. Dugane  
Mrs. Warland E. Conklin

## CERTIFICATE OF JUSTICE

I hereby approve of the foregoing certificate and of the filing thereof.

Humphrey J. Lynch,  
Justice of the Supreme Court  
of the State of New York,  
County of Westchester.

SUPREME COURT,  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER.

The Club began holding meetings in the Weaver Street Firehouse Community Room but plans were to have its own clubhouse. With that in mind the Ways and Means Committee gave a number of delightful card parties, sponsored the Columbia Varsity Show of 1926 and the Society Circus (1927) with the proceeds directed toward a building fund.



In 1928, Edward F. Albee offered to present to the Club the beautiful lot next to the Larchmont Public Library as a clubhouse site. Mrs. William J. Moran, one of the Club's charter members, told the mem-

bership at a business meeting on January 20 how the offer had come about and painted a glowing picture of what ownership of a clubhouse would mean to the Club as a whole. The offer depended upon the provision that the club members themselves secure the funds to build a suitable clubhouse, mortgage free. Mrs. Moran also informed the interested club women that Frank Moore, the architect for the Town Hall and the Larchmont Public Library, had offered his services as architect for the new building. Mrs. C. C. Merritt, chairman of the building committee, proposed a carefully worked-out plan whereby a mortgage-free clubhouse costing approximately \$80,000 to build might be financed. Its basic principle was the purchase by individual club members of

FRANK MOORE, THE  
ARCHITECT FOR THE  
TOWN HALL AND THE  
LARCHMONT PUBLIC  
LIBRARY, HAD OFFERED  
HIS SERVICES AS  
ARCHITECT.



\$100 certificates. If 500 of these were subscribed—\$50,000 of the need—the rest of the money was to be raised by the issuing of interest-bearing bonds and through rentals and other means at the Club's disposal.

"The project fell victim to the stock market crash of 1929 and the Club continued to meet in the Weaver Street Community Room."<sup>4</sup>

A Building Fund was established subsequently in 1935 at the suggestion of the Finance Committee.

## GROWTH



### MEMBERSHIP

A charter meeting was held February 27, 1925, with a membership of 118 women. "Membership was limited to 500 and was by invitation only ... Since the total population of Larchmont, according to the 1925 New York State Census, was slightly under 4,000, it might appear that the club aspired to enroll nearly every adult woman in residence; but the membership was ... drawn from the unincorporated area of the Town of Mamaroneck, as well as from the Village of Larchmont. In addition, the club did not attain its full complement of members until 1932."<sup>5</sup>

The Executive Board of the Club on May 18, 1926 resolved to form a Junior membership. Applicants had to be 16 to 25 years of age, be daughters of members and unmarried. Dues were set at five dollars per year and members would have all privileges of the club except voting. An initiation

1925

### PRESIDENT'S GREETING

Dear Club Members:

The club since its organization a few months ago, has had a remarkable and rapid growth.

We are about to start on the work of our first year.

As the future opens with its splendid possibilities, let us strive earnestly to work for club progress, for a better understanding of one another, and for the community in which we live. Having something definite to give, we should consider it an honor and privilege to have a part in this great work.

The future and success of our club depends upon what we do now. We need to give it our loyal support in all its undertakings, and our best energies for its development. Then, in the years to come, we shall be proud of having had a part in building the foundations of the Woman's Club of Larchmont.

Sincerely,

*Elizabeth S. Gibson*



fee would be paid upon becoming a regular member. Subsequently, the Board reconsidered and in October 1926 voted to reduce the five-dollar fee to two dollars a year for five years. The initiation fee

was waived. In 1931 all applicants for membership in the Juniors had to be passed upon by the Chairman of Membership and five Club members. The Juniors attained full membership (100) by 1933.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### PHILANTHROPY

One of the prime objectives at the founding of The Woman's Club in 1925 was the "Civic and Philanthropic Betterment of the Community," a goal realized from the beginning.

In the 1926-27 club year, a cottage housing 20 boys was adopted and maintained at Children's Village in Dobbs Ferry. In addition, vanloads of furniture were collected, enabling Children's Village to open three other cottages.

The President's annual report of April 1932 reported that the Ways and Means Committee had raised funds in cooperation with the Larchmont Unemployment Relief Committee, as well as donating \$500 to that effort. The Club contributed \$1,000 to support the cottage at Children's Village and adopted a local family in great need. The latter project meant paying a regular weekly grant to the family until it was once more financially sound.

### *Prominent County Women Gather in Larchmont*



THIS IS A GROUP OF PROMINENT WOMEN AT THE GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY WOMEN'S CLUB AT LARCHMONT FRIDAY. LEFT TO RIGHT—MRS. CLARENCE B. HANFORD, HASTINGS; MRS. E. J. PICKWICK; MRS. THEODORE N. UTZ, PRESIDENT OF LARCHMONT CLUB; MRS. JOHN G. ANDERSON, CRESTWOOD; MRS. ALBERT BANZHAF, LARCHMONT; MRS. A. EMERSON HADLOCH, SCARSDALE; MRS. WILLIS HAVEN PUTNUM, BRONXVILLE; MRS. ALBERT PIKE, KATONAH. (MARCH 6, 1930.)

Also in 1932, the Club established the Women's Exchange, an example of community service. The aim of the project was, through sales of food and other items, to help women help themselves and the response was generous. Approximately \$1,000 a month was earned by the consignors. About 30 Larchmont families were practically supported by the Exchange and a number of them were able to pay off their mortgages.

"For its enterprise (i.e. the Woman's Exchange)...which supported about 25 Larchmont families, the Club was awarded an Outstanding Service citation by the NY State Federation of Woman's Clubs."<sup>6</sup>

The following year, 1933, the Women's Exchange continued to be the greatest philanthropic effort. As Exchange sales increased, so did expenses, its large monthly deficit financed from the Club treasury. A sum of \$500 was again donated to Children's Village in addition to the parties and gifts for the boys in our cottages there. A sum of \$100 was given to the Community Chest as well as smaller sums to other charities and needy individuals. The popular self-supporting shop was operated well into the 40's.

## PROGRAM

"The Club calendar for the first fully official year—September 22, 1926 to May 20, 1927—included no fewer than 70 programs and business meetings. Programs were mounted by eight departments: Art, Music, Drama, Literature, Home Economics, Civic, Education and Current Events. The women also found time to decorate a prize-winning float for the 1926 Fourth of July Parade (which featured Miss Mabel Merritt as 'the true Molly Pitcher, the Spirit of 1776 incarnate'); to decorate and furnish a new house on Linwood Road in Larchmont Woods for a Better Homes Exhibit during the week of April 21, 1927; and to bring about the removal of the 'unsightly billboards' from the New Haven and Boston-and-Westchester railroad stations...."<sup>7</sup>

To assist with its Club and Department Day programs, the Club purchased a piano. The statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements for May 1, 1932 to April 30, 1933 carried an item in the "listing of disbursements not budgeted for" which stated: "To Purchase Piano ... \$900.00."<sup>8</sup> This was for the purchase of a Steinway piano, Model B, made of rosewood and manufactured in 1899. The piano was moved to the Larchmont Avenue Church and used by the church members as well as for Club meetings there. The Music Department held many of its meetings at the church. Subsequent financial statements of the Club listed receipts of amounts of \$16, \$9, \$6, and \$3,— rental payments for use of the piano. The piano was moved to the Club rooms at Orienta Beach Club in 1970, then to the V.F.W. clubroom while the Club rented those and finally sold in 1998 when the Club left the V.F.W. It was sold to the Steinway Company for \$16,000.

One important part of the Club program was its service to the community. This was much in evidence with the Club's relationship to the Larchmont Library. The November 25, 1926, issue of *The Larchmont Times* reported:

## **"LARCHMONT LIBRARY TO OPEN SATURDAY After Many Delays, Local Institution Will Open Its Doors to Public Next Saturday.**

"Larchmont's beautiful library building, idle and empty for more than a year, will at last open its doors for its avowed purpose when the formal opening will be held on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. (November 27, 1926) The occasion will take the form of a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. under the

*(continued on page 16)*



**THE SPIRIT  
OF 1922  
IN LARCHMONT.**

WITH APOLOGIES  
TO A WELL KNOWN  
PAINTING



of the objectives for which they had been formed with their involvement in philanthropic and community events. They had been instrumental in the establishing of 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

auspices of the Larchmont Woman's Club. The exercises will be in charge of a committee of the club headed by Mrs. John Duncan Holby....

"Thus comes to realization," says a statement from the library, 'the dream that had its origin in the Larchmont Mother's Council (now merged with the Woman's Club) which later broadened into a campaign when residents of the Larchmont Postal District gave generously in money and from their libraries, until the necessary sums were realized. Special mention must be made in this regard of the generosity of E. F. Albee, who not only contributed the land on which the building stands and several hundred books, but also contributed generously to the building fund and \$5,000 additional for new books.'"

By 1934, the end of the Club's first decade, Club members could look back with pride at their accomplishments. They had fulfilled many

boys in Children's Village continued. The Community had welcomed and participated in events like 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 of the county 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 Constitution and Bylaws had been revised and updated. Pressure on the Ways and Means Committee was eased when the Club decided to hold only two fund raising events per year instead of the numerous "bridges" and parties that had helped increase the Building Fund. The Club celebrated its tenth anniversary with a delightful birthday party at which the Drama Department performed an original play written by one of the members, Mrs. William Moran.

The Club entered its second decade with a great deal of enthusiasm for the future and much pride in its first ten years.

## Looking Back: The Way We Were

*This article appeared in The Larch Tree, February 1985.*

One of the early members of the Junior Section, formed in 1926 was:

### ALITA BOOTS CRAFTS On Her 50<sup>th</sup> Year in the Club

In January 1985 the Woman's Club of Larchmont honored Alita Boots Crafts for her long membership in the Club. Boots herself has not kept track of the length of her association with the club; she is a "doer" and she's been far too busy all the time "doing" to start counting.

Boots' mother, Mrs. J. Andrew Crafts, was an early member of the Larchmont Woman's Club and Boots and her Sigma Delta sorority sisters from Larchmont and Larchmont Woods were frequently called upon to assist their mothers with the musical and dramatic programs being given by the ladies of this newly formed club. Boots and her friends performed in the Club's Society Circus at the Weaver Street firehouse and in the elaborate production of the Mikado, both in Larchmont and "on the road" in New Rochelle. They were a huge success.

The high school daughters became, through these and similar entertainments, a group in their own right, uniting formally as the "Junior Section of the Woman's Club of Larchmont" and electing their own officers, with Boots as Treasurer. The criteria for membership was twofold: your mother had to be a member of the "Senior Section" and you had to be at least sixteen years old. The new



Department's goal was to raise money for worthy causes, which they did quite successfully by giving tea dances in the afternoon and formal dances in the evening at the Westchester, Orienta Beach and Larchmont Shore Clubs.

The Juniors' membership reached one hundred, and was kept at that figure for many years. The early members graduated from high school, then college or business school, and marriage punctuated their activities. Boots, who studied piano for more than ten years, came from a home in which music was always important, toyed with the idea of a career in music. However, a more practical option was business school, which appealed to Boots from the very beginning. After graduation she began her long and happy career as executive secretary to the head of the Advertising Display Department of Eastman Kodak Company in its main office in New York City.



WOMAN'S CLUB  
JUNIORS' BENEFIT  
DANCE COMMITTEE

LEFT TO RIGHT:  
MISS ALITA BOOTS  
CRAFTS, CHAIRMAN OF  
THE DANCE;  
MRS. SHIRLEY PRICE,  
ORCHESTRA CHAIRMAN;  
MISS ELEANOR  
MILLIGAN, CHAIRMAN  
OF PATRONESSES; MISS  
GRACE BANZHAF, TICK-  
ET CHAIRMAN, MISS  
GERTRUDE E. HOL-  
BROOK, CHAIRMAN OF  
PUBLICITY.

Meanwhile, back in Larchmont, a new element had been added to the Woman's Club, known as the Evening or Limited Membership Section, and Boots was asked to complete the term of its recording secretary, who was moving away. Boots graciously came to the rescue, and another agreeable Club venture began for her. In the Evening Department, Boots has been chairman of the group *twice*, serving from 1948 to 1950 and again from 1969 to 1971. In addition, she has been in charge of the Candlelight Supper, on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee, House chairman, Ways and Means chairman for six years and has been Evening Department editor for *The Larch Tree* since 1971.

Soon after her retirement from business, Boots joined the Active Section of the Club, but still maintained her commitment to the Evening Department. She has served as chairman of the Evening Department Section of the Federation for two terms, 1976 to 1978, and 1978 to 1980. The Westchester County Federation of Women's Clubs quickly noted the gem in their midst, and Boots has served as Federation's corresponding secretary

from 1980 to 82, a very capable second vice president in charge of program from 1982 to 84. She is currently their recording secretary.

In her spare time Boots, who loves all music from classical to jazz (and even some rock & roll if she doesn't have to look at the performers), enjoys listening to her extensive record collection, and making her own music at the piano. Another absorbing hobby has been collecting U.S. and foreign coins for many years. Her interest in collecting First Day Covers was prompted by her former boss, who was an avid collector himself. Boots' interest in photography has been a great boon to the Woman's Club and to the Federation where she has commemorated so many events with her camera.

And what does Boots think of her years of service to the Woman's Club? "Well," she said, "I don't know why anyone should make a to-do over it. I just moved from one thing to another that needed doing, and it hasn't seemed so very long at all." And we say, "You are right, Boots. It really hasn't been long enough."





*From the first President's Annual Report:*

“... As your presiding officer I have been proud to serve you, and have been richly rewarded with your friendship and loyalty. Through our work we have been drawn closer together, and have been helped toward a better understanding. We realize we are women of keener vision, higher purpose and better interests. To all who assisted in the work of the year I wish to express my gratitude for their encouragement and support.

As a result of your efforts may this club become the greatest and most powerful influence for good in the community, and what you have contributed be an inspiration to those who will some day take your place.”

Faithfully,

Elizabeth Shermer Gibson

May 1926



## *A School for Club Women*

*By Madeleine Auld, and given at the  
Executive Board spring luncheon in 1927.*



With the hope that it may be of general interest, I am about to relate a little adventure that befell me shortly after joining the Larchmont Woman's Club.

A train upon which I was traveling northward stopped at a junction to change engines and the conductor volunteered the information that we'd probably be delayed an hour or so, and would I care to step up the hill to see the School for Club Women which had been attracting a great deal of attention. Naturally, I was very curious and stepped with alacrity to the entrance where an energetic woman met me and asked "Student or Visitor?"

"Visitor?"

"You'll probably become a student. All visitors do. They feel the need immediately. We are exceedingly thorough. Register, please? Larchmont, new club..."

"Larchmont is one of the finest..." I began, but she interrupted.

"Every woman says that of her own club. Can you sing the first verse of *America the Beautiful* without one la, la, la?"

Much annoyed to get caught at the very start, I pretended to sneeze.

"Humph, I thought so," she said and her tone was quite rude. "Look here," she opened a door to what appeared to be a barber shop. Rows of

seated women. Upon every head was a tin helmet, pressed down hard. Sounds of radio music oozed out. *America the Beautiful*, the first verse. Words and music played one hundred times ... forced into the brain. "Later when those women are tested if one la, la, las, or hums, back she goes for another dose!"

Shuddering, I pointed across the hall. "What's in that room? The same thing?"

"Oh, no.... Observe ... those smaller tin forms are on their left sides. The Collect for Club Women is being drilled into their hearts."

"Doesn't that hurt?"

"No. It does them good. They are deliriously happy when they realize that it is the little things that create differences and that in the big things of life we are as one. Watch them grow calm, serene, gentle."

The guide stepped up to a swinging door and thrust it open. I heard a gasping, shuddering sound, a suppressed moan ... there was a gurgle.... "Another murder?" my voice trembled.

"You're timid too! Go on, go in." As I hesitated, she fairly pushed me in. Before us out on the extreme ends of four planks over a deep pool, were several shrinking females.

They were begging. "Oh don't ask me to do it! I never have. I never can! Oh, do get somebody else...oh, please." One was actually sobbing.

"Why, it's tragic," I said. "What are they being forced to do?"

"These are possible chairmen of Departments."

With moans and groans they went off the planks and into the depths below. The most timid one sobbed and gurgled as she struck the water which was so clear I could see her go to the bottom of the pool, where something was fastened. It looked like a life preserver. She grabbed at it, pulled, tugged. She grew mad. She yanked that life preserver up as she snorted with rage. Her rage turned to glee for she rose like a lark. The life preserver seemed a magical thing.

My guide was grinning and called out "Read what it says on it." and the young swimmer responded in loud clear tones, "COURAGE."

"Good! All anyone needs to do is to plunge right in and get courage."

We went through a door on the opposite side of the pool and stumbled over some trash cans. "Queer looking rubbish. What is it?" I asked.

"Every club member here has thrown away her inferiority complex. Nobody wants them. They're a perfect nuisance."

We traversed a long corridor with numerous doors on each side. "All sorts of problems are being talked over in these rooms. Press, Printing, Programs, Parliamentary Law...Now, this is the Echo Hall we've just entered. If any woman wants to tell all her reasons for not attending meetings, or is too critical, or enjoys retarding legislation, she is put in here and obliged to listen for hours to herself talk. All her phrases and criticisms are echoed back at her until she is heartily tired of her own voice. They beg to come out and are very considerate afterward. Frequently, they become our most useful members.

"Women are gradually learning that most people in the world have to overcome the same faults, the same difficulties, which they supposed were solely their own problems. These women have laid aside bickering, personal prejudices and

jealous striving and are now working for larger more important things in life. Our classes grow steadily."

"You are doing fine, important work," I volunteered, feeling all antagonism leave me.

"We have something upstairs of which we are quite proud," she announced, indicating an elevator. Up we went to the top of the building and she stood in front of a door such as one sees on huge safes. "It's really precious." Her hands were busy with a combination lock which finally dropped into place and the heavy metal door swung out.

In a well-lighted room stood a strange looking framework of a woman, and I asked, "What in the world?"

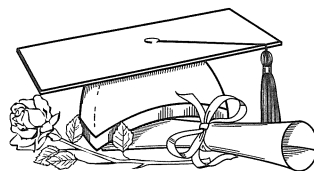
"This is our model president."

"What can you mean?"

"This is the way every president of every woman's club should be constructed: first, an iron constitution, and see ... here are the nerves – impressively – of steel. Well-hidden but undeniably in the framework is plenty of brass. There are times when, unless a president is positively brazen, she crumples up. She is silver-tongued, she has a heart of gold. In fact, she is made of true metal."

"Oh," I protested. "We've had the finest kind of presidents in our club, and certainly they were no such creatures underneath as you have shown me!"

"They were, my dear, they were...else they never could have survived being resident of The Woman's Club of Larchmont."



At the installation of our second president, Mrs. A. H. Banzhaf,  
the retiring president read the following poem written by  
Mrs. Banzhaf "with apologies to Mr. Longfellow."



*In a Little Place Called Larchmont*

"In a little place called Larchmont,  
Larchmont Manor, if you please,  
Dwelt there people of refinement,  
And their yachts sailed in the breeze.

"Word went out, this town of Larchmont  
Was a charming place to dwell,  
So they came from Brooklyn, Pelham,  
White Plains, even New Rochelle.

"Raised their eyes, these Manor dwellers,  
As these new ones came so fast,  
Surely this influx of people  
Will soon end, it cannot last.

"Bought the land, these thrifty new ones,  
Built fine homes and planted too,  
Helped the village with improvements,  
Then looked round for more to do.

"Now they have, Oh! many sections,  
Gardens, Woods, and Acres too,  
Heights and Center, Park and Shoreland,  
What is Larchmont coming to?

"Happy thought on part of some one,  
That a Woman's Club would be,  
Just the thing the village needed  
To unite in unity

"All the sections of the Village  
So that each would have a part  
In a better understanding  
Of the varied human heart.

"So this Woman's Club was started  
And is running with a will,  
May it always do its duty  
And the public weal fulfill!"