

THE COMMINTY HOUSE SENIOR WOMEN'S CLUB

Report of the Historian

For the year ending December 31, 2010

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Senior Women's Club was held on January 12, 2010. President Helen Cost opened the business meeting. A new slate of officers was approved by the membership. Dee Keller was elected President of TCHSWC for 2010. Helen Cost presented the gavel to Dee Keller who then gave her inaugural address. After a brief meeting, luncheon was served.

January 26 – Speaker, FBI Social Worker Kate Connell, told about locating child pornographers and helping the victimized children and teenagers by educating them on the dangers of the Internet.

February 9th – Musical director, Tim Thomas, conducted 19 young people from Groves High School while they sang classical and modern songs to the delight of everyone. The Evergreen Singers and Mr. Thomas then lead the senior women in a sing-a-long with old favorites like “Peg O’ My Heart”, “The Way You Look Tonight”, “I Love You Truly”, “All the Things You Are”, and “Can’t Help Falling In Love With You.”

February 17th – Special Events Chairpersons, Donna Kelly and Midge Gettel, took the Senior Women on a successful and interesting trip to Ann Arbor to visit the Motawi Tileworks where we saw how these beautiful tiles were made and hand painted. A delicious luncheon followed at the Gandy Dancer Restaurant and was enjoyed by everyone.

February 23rd – Abraham Lincoln came to life as Maureen Esther spoke about his career as President of the United States and his marriage to Mary Todd Lincoln

March 9th – Cynthia Cassell took us on a whirlwind trip as an ABC News Investigative Reporter interviewing Past Presidents of the United States and many other dignitaries. Some that were included were Gerald Ford, George W. Bush, Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm and Debbie Stabenow.

March 23rd - Terri Lynn Land spoke to us on the many changes she has implemented during her eight years as Michigan's Secretary of State.

April 13th – Two violists and a cellist from the Birmingham/ Bloomfield Symphony Orchestra Trio entertained us with beautiful classical music.

April 27th – Dr. Frank George, TV personality, Good Health Reporter from WDIV Channel 4 and emergency room physician, wowed the SWC members as he spoke about staying young and vibrant. He also talked about his recent trip to Haiti to offer medical assistance.

May 11th - The Founders' Day Tea honored 11 Past Presidents of the Senior Women's Club with flowers and many thanks. Lively conversations filled the room as the wait staff

delivered the beautiful plates of delicacies. An edible orchid embellished each plate. Many fine prizes were raffled off to the members.

May 25th – SWC member and magazine writer, Ann Pettersson, gave a fun presentation of the “Fabulous Flappers” Era (1920-1930). She was dressed as a 1920’s Flapper wearing a black dress that hugged tightly below her hips, a long strand of pearls, a black and white shimmering chapeau, rolled up stocking to her knees and carried a long cigarette holder and small silver flask.

Birmingham Mayor Rockeline Hoff spoke briefly on the current status of downtown Birmingham and road repairs surrounding the streets of TCH. She also gave a status report regarding Shain Park and the lack of parking problems across the street.

June 8th – Devin Scillian, TV Newscaster for Channel 4 WDIV, enchanted us with the children’s stories he has written. He read from “Poppy’s Handkerchief,” “Brewster the Rooster” and “Memories of a Goldfish.”

June 22nd – Ron Kagan, Director of the Detroit Zoo told about the many animal rescue shelters around the country saving animals from being destroyed.

July 13 – Colleen Burcar spoke of her experiences working with Dick Purtan for 20 years as a news anchor and as the voice of comic characters.

July 27 – Sharon McRill, owner of Betty Brigade, has helped countless people clean up their cluttered lives, cleaned dirty cars, picked up doggie droppings and assisted moving people.

August 10th – SWC member, Sharon Claye, gave us a number of tips on how to prevent falls. She had the members out of their chairs doing exercises that would help us achieve better balance, independence and more energy.

August 24th – Professional portrait painter and sculpture, Patricia Hill Burnett presented a slide show of the many portraits she painted of famous people, which included Jack Kevorkian, Geoffrey Fieger, Detroit Mayor Archer, Margaret Thatcher, Marlo Thomas, William Milliken and Rosa Parks—to name just a few.

September 14th – The Community House was packed in anticipation of the Annual Fashion Show. Nine SWC members modeled a variety of beautiful clothing provided by Chico’s of Rochester.

September 16th – The Community House conducted their 23rd Annual House Tour, and 62 SWC members volunteered as docents at homes on George and Maryland Streets in Birmingham.

September 28th – Michael Hauser enlightened us with his presentation on 20th Century retailing in downtown Detroit.

October 26th – Dr. Isaiah McKinnon, former Detroit Police Chief, told of his upbringing in Detroit and how he has been helping many young people needing assistance and guidance.

November 9th – “Big Al” Muskavito had us laughing with the humorous stories he related about his interviews with “Fergie” the Duchess of York, Regis Philbin, Hillary Clinton and Mick Jagger. He worked as a sidekick, writer and impersonator for the Dick Purtan show for 19 years. He kept us laughing till the end.

December 14th – Mike Przybylski played Christmas music for a sing-a-long with the Senior Women members and ended with his piano rendition of Boogie Woogie melodies.

It has been a privilege to serve as SWC Historian this past year. All the photographs taken have been preserved creatively in the Senior Women’s scrapbook.

Marion Beck, Historian 2010