

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB
Historian Report
Year ending December 31, 2017

January 24 – Dan Carmody, President of Detroit's Eastern Market proudly presented the transformation of Eastern Market since 1891. With the help of Eastern Market Partners they have made Detroit healthier, wealthier and happier by increasing the healthy foods throughout the city. He felt that the art, murals and music has brought people together to celebrate good food and each other.

February 14 – Matthew Ball, Michigan's leading boogie-woogie piano master entertained us with music from the 20s, 30s, and 40s. He got us "In the Mood," then toe tapping with Basin Street Blues, and we watched as his fingers flew over the keyboard with Bumble Bee Boogie. Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer" was boogie-woogie interspersed with Ragtime, then there was "Waltzing Matilda," "When the Saints Go Marching In" and ended with a Boogie-Woogie piece he wrote for five-year olds.

February 28 – We were spell-bound as retired Secret Service agent Radford Jones explained how they protected the Presidential Train Travel. Years ago there were only 300 agents and today there are 2,800 agents guarding the Presidents, their families and staff members 7 days a week, 24 hours a day as they traveled around the world.

March 14 – Lisa Langton is a very thoughtful and caring Oakland County Judge as she deliberates each of her cases with understanding for divorced parents, unmarried parents and especially the children of these problem households. With the help of social workers, counselors, lawyers and the courts, each problem is tried with a successful solution.

March 28 – Ed Blondin, Owner and Operator of Hortulus Gardens spoke to us on "The American Gardening Revolution" relating how plants for food, tobacco and cotton have influence our daily lives dating back to the years of George Washington, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson.

April 11 – Stephanie Bergeron, President and CEO of Walsh College spoke with great pride of the highly respected school's faculty. They have guided and directed the students in their Accounting classes, Finance, Administration Management, Marketing Science Technology and many other areas in helping the students make the right decision for their future. Walsh College has raised \$5 million for scholarships.

April 24 – A charming and bubbly Karen Drew, from WDIV Channel 4 News Anchor excitedly told about her experience as a beginning reporter in North Dakota, Alabama, Tennessee and Florida before coming to Detroit. Here she is a street reporter, writes her own stories, buys her own clothes for TV. She is speaker for women rights, and a mother of two daughters 4 and 7.

May 9 – TCH Women’s Club Founders’ Day Tea honored 10 past presidents who received gifts as a gesture of appreciation for their successful leadership and dedication to TCHWC. There were 92 ladies attending the Tea and were served three courses of delicious food and an assortment of mini pastries for dessert. Door prizes were distributed to lucky winners.

May 23 – Monica Tavares, Development Director for “Greening of Detroit” a group that started 20 years ago, helped remove dead trees in the Detroit area. Over the years they have planted over 6,500 trees, worked with volunteers improving the quality of life in neighborhoods, taught young people the skills of farming and partnered with restaurants to use their fresh grown vegetables.

June 6 – Thank you Ellen Ayres and your committee for a wonderful trip to the east and west vicinity of Detroit. Our tour guide Frank Gasarek regaled us with history and stories of the Detroit Riverfront Development, the Historic District, Downtown, Corktown, Midtown, the New Center, Mexican Town, and the Boston Edison District. A visit to Motown introduced us to Berry Gordy’s legacy of 1952-1972 music. To top off our travels we had a delicious lunch at Joe Muir’s on the Riverfront. 52 ladies enjoyed a sunny day and a great trip.

June 13 – Three lovely ladies Kim, Marla and Janet, called the Clifton Sisters, were dressed in a 1940’s style wardrobe and sang classics from the Andrews Sisters and the McGuire Sisters. Melodies like “In the Mood” “Don’t Sit under the Apple Tree” “Sincerely” “Gonna Take A Sentimental Journey” “I’ll Be with You in Apple Blossom Time” “Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy” and many other nostalgic tunes.

June 27 – Py and Jim Wolfe took us on a fantastic voyage to Chili and Antarctica. Through slides we traveled with them by ship visiting Santiago, other large cities in Chili, viewing the Andes Mountains, lakes, and volcanos. Arriving in Antarctica they left the ship by zodiac and explored the island seeing penguins, seals, glaciers, visited a Research Station and a sheep ranch.

July 11 – Michael Hauser, is the author of three books on JL Hudson’s Department Store. For over a century, the store on Woodward Avenue that was more than a store – it was a Detroit icon and world-class cultural treasure. As Mr. Hauser spoke about the JL Hudson Store it brought back many wonderful memories for the ladies. Many members shared their experiences.

July 25 – Patrick Livingston shared the history of Bob Lo Island Amusement Park on the Detroit River. He read passages from the books he authored and showed photos dating back to 1902. Growing up he visited Bob Lo Island every summer and became a crewmember aboard the SS Columbia. There was fun for families on the roller coaster, dance hall, roller rink, merry-go-round, swimming, golf links and the theater.

August 8 – Journalist Devin Scillian, Newscast Anchor, WDIV, Channel 4 is very concerned about the tensions between news reporters and the fake news coming from the White House. In the 34 years, he has been a reporter he has always demanded the truth and stated, “That’s my job!” He feels we need less analyses and more news and good journalism and more support. He has finished another children’s book about an 810-year old tortoise that learns about death.

August 22 – Gary Sacco became the charming impersonator of Frank Sinatra as he captivated our ladies roaming through the room singing great melodies as “Our Love Is Here to Stay,” “Fly Me to the Moon,” “The Lady is a Tramp,” “New York, New York,” “I Did It My Way,” and many more memorial tunes while wearing his famous Frank Sinatra Hat.

September 12 – Dan Musser III is the 4th generation owner and operator of the 1887 Grand Hotel in Mackinaw Island. As a very young man he started working his way up through every department to gain a thorough understanding of all aspects of running the hotel. He became its president at age 26. Many members expressed their delightful experiences at the hotel.

September 26 – Seven Women’s Club members modeled clothes from Chico’s for our Annual Fashion Show. One-hundred thirty-six ladies enjoyed the show, which was followed by a delicious lunch.

October 10 – Dr. Suzanne Baranski representing the non-profit Lakeshore Legal Aid told of the hundreds of low income families, homeless and seniors cope with sexual assault, domestic violence, elder abuse and long-term care with the help of professional civil teams of lawyers

October 24 – What a spectacular performance we witnessed as we listened to Clodagh Earls, soprano, and Jeff Byrnes, baritone from the Michigan Opera Theatre singing opera arias and Broadway melodies. Two of Mozart’s “Don Giovanni” and The Magic Flute were sung. Tunes from “I Feel Pretty” from West Side Story, “I Could Have Danced All Night” from My Fair Lady, “If I Can’t Have Her” from Beauty and the Beast were sung and “Man from La Mancha” and La Boheme ended a fantastic concert.

November 14 – Edee Franklin had a drug related youth. She needed help and there was no one to help her. She learned that more young women were addicted to drugs, prostitution and human trafficking. As her life improved she started the Sanctum House, a safe place for these young women to heal, build confidence in mind, body and spirit.

December 12 – Nineteen Mercyaire singers from Mercy High School performed many Christmas melodies starting with “Jingle Bell Rock,” “Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend,” “The First Noel,” “Holy Night,” and “What Child is This.” Solos were featured and then community singing “Deck the Hall,” “Joy to the World,” “Oh! Come all ye Faithful,” ending with “Silent Night.”

It has been my pleasure to serve TCH Women’s Club as Historian for another great-year.

Marion Beck, Historian 2017