

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB  
Historian's Report  
Year Ending December 31, 2018

**January 23** – Kurt Sebaly spoke lovingly about the blind and multi-disabled children, ages one through twelve. He and his staff work daily at the Penrickton Center for Blind Children in Taylor. As Executive Director since 1986 he has enjoyed helping Nicolas with no language, Noah who screamed and deaf Jennifer. The Center is a private, non-profit five day residential and day care agency.

**February 13** – A charming Chris Ayotte entered the room singing as Frank Sinatra and wearing his traditional hat. As “The Man of Many Voices” he began his impressions of Dean Martin singing while a little “intoxicated,” followed by Nat King Cole, Neil Diamond, Elvis Presley and many others. His impressions and facial expression of several U.S. Presidents had us laughing.

**February 27** – Retired U.S. Secret Service Agent Radford Jones began by referring to the shootings that took place in Parkland, Florida high school in February. These types of shootings have taken place in our country since 1865 with four U.S. Presidents assassinated. Attempts on the lives of Theodore and Franklin Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan, Harry Truman and Gerald Ford have all failed and the shooters captured. Mr. Jones is now an Instructor at the School of Criminal Justice at Michigan State University

**March 13** – Michael Hauser brought an array of collectible items from early 20<sup>th</sup> century Detroit's legitimate theaters, palatial movie palaces, vaudeville, burlesque and newsreels. There were colorful books on musicals and plays performed and concession stand items such as popcorn and Coke drinks. A video, “50 Years at the Fisher,” “The Reel Story of 1921” and the 1950 Cinerama with Lowell Thomas were shown. It brought back fond memories for our members of yesteryear.

**March 27** – Mary Liz Curtin, owner of Leon & Lulu in Clawson came with a suitcase, tote bags, handbags and clothing to show us how to pack and travel “light.” She suggested taking only two colors of clothing that can be inter-changeable, a sweater, a scarf, a raincoat and a support for your back while on the plane. Take extra copies of passport, driver's license, credit cards, prescriptions, and hide a \$100.00 bill and carry extra singles. She suggested “Never take anything you haven't used before.”

**April 10** - M.L. Elrick, Investigative Reporter for Detroit Free Press and WJBK Channel 2 impressed upon us to be aware of ‘fake’ news using the Information Act available to everyone to get the correct details of a situation. Politicians fear us because we have the power to change things. Mr. Elrick stressed the truth when reporting the news and urged us to do the same.

**April 24** – An upbeat, Bree Boettner from the Detroit Historical Society presented a fascinating history of Detroit. From its settlement in 1701 Detroit became a leading producer of lumber, the world's busiest waterway, automobiles, music, troops off to fight WWI, prohibition, Purple Gang, Art Institute, Detroit Public Library, Bob Lo Boat, depression, building military airplanes for WWII, ending up in 2018 as the beautiful City of Detroit.

**May 15** - THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB Founders' Day Tea honored twelve past presidents who received gifts as an appreciation for their successful leadership and dedication to TCHWC. There were 77 guests who enjoyed scones, tea sandwiches and dessert bonbons. Door

prizes were distributed to lucky winners.

**May 22** – 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, Peggy Kinnard introduced her former student, Paul Ritchie. She has followed his career over the years as he became a poet, musician, song writer and cabaret performer. Mr. Richie entertained us singing melodies from the Tin Pan Alley era to the golden years of Broadway show tunes. He sang lyrics written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Rodgers and Hammerstein.

**June 12** – Ingrid Jacques replaced Barry King who was unable to attend. Ingrid is an associate of Detroit News Editorial Page Editor, Nolan Finley. She spoke highly of women in politics and what they are trying to accomplish. She is encouraging young women to run for political office.

**June 19** – On a lovely morning TCHWC members and friends boarded a bus for a Mystery Trip. After driving some distance, we arrived at the Old Trail Railroad Station in Blissfield, Michigan. Our surprise was a train ride and a delicious lunch on coach River Raisin. We were entertained by three wonderful actors performing for us. We thank Mary O'Neill and her Committee for a fun and interesting trip.

**June 26** – Paul Gross, WDIV-TV Meteorologist, introduced us to “The Science of Climate Control.” With photos and scales showing the increase in warmer weather, carbon dioxide and greenhouse gases, more hot days over 90 degrees are in the future. Ocean temperatures have risen across most of the globe in the last century.

**July 14** - Oakland County Sheriff Michael Bouchard told us how to defend ourselves wherever we go because of all the shootings taking place in our country. He also informed us of the addictive pain medication that is being misused causing many deaths.

**July 2** - Violist Bill Millicevic and pianist Susan Clark Joul members of the Rochester Symphony Orchestra took us on a “Journey from History.” They played several arias from French and Austrian composers to more modern composers. They finished by singing “Stormy Weather” and “The Song is You”.

**August 14** – Travelers Jim & Py Wolfe took us on a journey to ancient Turkey. We saw the Blue Mosque, harems, museum Hagia Sophia, and Mount Nemrut statues. Visited beautiful Istanbul, shopped at the Grand Bazaar, saw families and children at school, sailed on a two-masted schooner along the Aegean and Mediterranean and took a balloon ride over Cappadocia.

**August 28** – Emory Clark and his rowing teammates won the 1964 Olympic gold medal in Tokyo, Japan. He spoke proudly about his 8-man crew and what they accomplished after a lot of hard work. The last 25 years Mr. Clark and two vintage oarsmen have raced around the world in the Veterans' Regattas.

**September 11** – Wendy Evans, Art Historian, introduced us to a new way of viewing Norman Rockwell's artwork. Showing his paintings and describing each of them with emphasis on detail we became more aware of the fine history of his American art.

**September 16** – The Mixer was held at The Community House Terrace on a lovely summer day enjoying the friendships of members and friends. Tea sandwiches and mimosas were served.

**September 25** – Five of our members modeled clothes from Chico's for our Annual Fashion Show. One-hundred eighteen members and guests enjoyed the show, which was followed by a delicious

lunch.

**October 9** – Barry King, father of 11-year old Timothy who was abducted in Birmingham and later murdered in 1977, shared the work he has done during 41-years trying to find out who murdered his son.

**October 23** – Sheri DeCrew known as the “Button Lady” displayed a large variety of buttons from her collection some dating back to 1897. She told us the history of collecting buttons which started 5,000 years ago.

**Nov. 4** – The Fall Mixer took place at Leon and Lulu’s in Clawson. Many of our members roller skated here in the 50’s. Refreshments were served as members enjoyed the clothing, books, furniture and just having fun.

**Nov. 13** – Alison Beatty dressed as a very young “Rosie the Riveter” and told about the 65,000 women workers at the Willow Run B-24 bomber plant in 1940 during World War II to support the war effort. They were known for flexing their muscles and stating, “We Can Do It.” Willow Run is planning a Rosie the Riveter museum.

**Dec. 11** – Rachel Rose, co-founder of Thistle Rose Academy of the Arts introduced four singers who entertained us with a variety of lovely Christmas music. One of the singers joined us among the 12 tables of members as we sang “The 12 Days of Christmas” as each table gestured being turtle doves, geese, swans swimming, maid a milking and drummers drumming. It was a fun time!

It has been my pleasure to serve THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN’S CLUB as Historian for another great year.

Marion Beck, Historian 2018