

THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB
Historian's Report
Year Ending December 31, 2019

January 22 – Retired Radford Jones, US Secret Service Agent, and his wife, Nancy, joined us as he intrigued us with first-hand experiences working with five U.S. Presidents, Vice Presidents, their families, and Foreign Dignitaries. He trained new staff and when problems arose, he solved them. Photographs of past presidents were shown.

February 12 – Gary Sacco, the charming impersonator of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Bobby Darin, Elvis Presley and many other singers sang to a captivated audience as he roamed through the room entertaining the ladies.

February 26 - Thirteen years ago, Michelle Murphy gave birth to a daughter, Annabelle, who was born with no left arm. She learned about the myoelectric program which provides prostheses for children with birth defects at the Variety Children's Charity. Over the years as Annabelle learned to use a new arm and hand, Michelle volunteered at Variety and eventually became the Executive Director. Annabelle now plays piano, tennis, and table tennis.

March 12 – Nolan Finley is an editorial editor of The Detroit News. He presented his views and concerns on the struggling newspaper industry, trust in the media, the 45-cent gas tax increase to fix our roads, and the government \$21 trillion debt.

March 26 – Carol Bacak-Egbo, teacher and historian, was fascinated with the beautiful trees that were growing on a farmer's property in the early 1800's around 12 Mile and Saginaw Trail (now Woodward Avenue). Early settlers were farmers, Civil War veterans, lawyers, and scientists. Early families were John and Ruth Benjamin, Ezra Parker and his many descendants, and Hamlet Harris, "a free colored person" who in 1839 donated \$25.00 toward construction of the First Baptist Church of Royal Oak.

April 9 - Master Gardener and Designer Ed Blondin took us on a History Lesson of Gardening dating back almost 1,000 years. Gardening began with growing milkweed, wild grapes, potatoes, tomatoes, chili, tobacco, cotton, corn seed until it has brought us to 21st century gardening.

April 22 – THE COMMUNITY HOUSE WOMEN'S CLUB Founders' Day Tea honored past presidents who received gifts as a gesture of appreciation for their successful leadership and dedication to TCHWC. There were 82 ladies attending the Tea. We were served three courses of delicious food and an assortment of mini pastries for dessert. Door prizes were distributed to lucky winners.

May 28 – As Judge of 41B District Court Mt. Clemens, Linda Davis thought all drug addicts were bad. Then she learned her daughter and several young men she knew in her community were also drug addicts and she knew they were not all bad. It was then she began working with Families Against Narcotics, educating young people, doctors, lawyers, and the public regarding prescription drugs.

June 11 – Lt. Jennifer Miles began her career ten years ago with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department. She introduced us to a new way of mentally protecting ourselves in our home, our cars, and our environment. "Do what you need to do – don't listen to others – do what is right for you. It's your choice."

June 26 – Rev. Faith Fowler of the Cass United Methodist Church in Detroit told of the many underprivileged people they have helped through Cass Corridor Social Services. They are now building 25 affordable Tiny Homes in Detroit for the homeless and creating a community where each home is unique.

July 9 – Irene Miller, a Polish Holocaust survivor spoke of the horrors she and her family endured including starvation, freezing temperatures, box car rides for weeks to Soviet Russia, orphanages, and finally escape to the United States. As a young woman, she came to the United States, went to college, married, and had 2 sons and a daughter.

July 23 – James H. Booker brought his knowledge of past presidents' religions dating back to George Washington. More presidents have been Episcopalian than any other religion. Other presidents were Presbyterian, Baptist, Unitarian, Quaker, Disciples of Christ, and Roman Catholic.

August 13 - Leslie Pielack, author of "The Saginaw Trail," told us about settlers Cass, Woodward, Sibley, Willits, Hamilton, Hunter Williams; slaves Forth, Hammer, Harris; Native Americans Shoppenagon, Okemos, and Kishkawk who helped the growth of early Michigan and Oakland County.

August 27 – Erica Kohler proudly informed us that Hope Against Trafficking is creating a safe place for victims of human trafficking in Southeast Michigan. The organization is teaching the victims to rediscover their dignity and rewrite the stories of their lives through Monarch Wings.

September 10 – Matthew Ball, the Boogie-Woogie Kid, had the room toe-tapping and rockin' with his piano renditions of tunes from 1940's- "In the Mood," "You are my Sunshine," and those from New Orleans- "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Ain't Misbehaving," and "Basin Street Blues." He played a fast "Bubble Bee Boogie" and ended with "Amazing Grace."

September 22 – On a beautiful fall afternoon 19 members and 4 guests gathered on the Terrace of the Community House for friendship, sandwiches, and mimosas.

September 24 – Six members modeled clothes from Chicos for our annual Fashion Show. Ninety-four members and guests enjoyed the show, which was followed by a delicious luncheon.

October 8 – The debonair Paul Ritchie took us on a romantic musical trip to London, Paris and Rome. He charmed the ladies while singing "A Foggy Day," "I Love Paris," "Mona Lisa," "Mambo Italiano," "That's Amore" and many other melodies.

October 22 – Spooks and scares, tricks and treats were part of Halloween fun when Art Historian Wendy Evans presented artists' gruesome and macabre paintings.

October 27 – The fall mixer took place at Leon and Lulu's in Clawson. Many of our members roller skated there in the 50's. Refreshments were served as members enjoyed the clothing, books, furniture and each other.

November 12 – Pianist, historian, and lecturer John Milan brought us into the Ragtime era by illustrating the important role Detroit played in Ragtime and Jazz music. Rare photos were shown of Jerome Remick's Publishing House and ancient sheet music with arrangements by Charles N. Daniels and composer Fred Stone. Mr. Milan played several Ragtime and Jazz pieces on the piano and made an interesting presentation.

December 10 – Members and guests gathered to hear the nine singers of the Rachel Rose's Thistle Academy of Arts. Many wonderful Christmas melodies were sung by the group ending with "The 12 Days of

Christmas” where each of the 11 tables of members sang and gestured being turtle doves, geese, swans swimming, maids a milking, and drummers drumming. It was a fun day to welcome the Christmas season.

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

Marion Beck, Historian 2019