



# PWC News, Reviews & Coups

## News What's Happening?

*The following is a list of upcoming club events. Please check your directory for further details such as cost and reserving your spot.*

### 2011 EVENTS EVENING GROUP

(All events begin at 6:30 pm)

- Feb 17** – Chinese New Year, Year of the Rabbit (See pg. 4.)
- Mar 17** – Who Cut the Cheese? Education and Tasting
- Apr 21** – Fiesta Days, TexMex Celebration
- May 19** – 1960's Flower Power, Installation of Officers
- June 16** – Happy Sweet 16 PWC – Let's Party

### DAY GROUP

- Feb. 15** - Past Presidents Honored at Luncheon
- March 15** - St. Patrick's Day
- April 19** - Scholarship Lunch
- May 17** - English High Tea
- June 21** - Installation

## Club Objective

The objective of this organization shall be to unite the influence and enterprise of the women of the organization: to promote educational, moral, and civic activities; to endeavor to carry out its programs; to stimulate club spirit; and to create a center for social and intellectual advancement.  
— Article II of the Petaluma Woman's Club By-laws 2007

## Presidents' Message

### HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As I reach the mid-point in my presidency of the Petaluma Woman's Club, I cannot help but reflect upon the amazing dedication of our members and all the wonderful events that have taken place at the club. We have increased our membership and provided an inspiring and fun place for women of all ages to gather and celebrate just being together. In addition to that, we have donated a record number of coats to Petaluma People Services and our treasury is healthy and sound (unlike our state and nation).

As we look forward to 2011, I wish all of you the very best: health, happiness, and most of all, love. Here is my tribute to you for the New Year:

#### Happy New Year to You!

Happy New Year to You!  
 May every great new day  
 Bring you sweet surprises--  
 A happiness buffet.  
 Happy New Year to You,  
 And when the new year's done,  
 May the next year be even better,  
 Full of pleasure, joy and fun.

-Joanna Fuchs

With sincere thanks and much love,

Linda Frost  
Evening Group President

## EVENT TIPS

In an effort to support our committees to plan effectively, please RSVP for each monthly event. Members will be billed \$15 if a reservation has been made, but the member doesn't attend.

**Day Group:** call the reservation hotline at 707-765-8866 by 12:00 Saturday noon before the event. Events are \$15.00 or \$20 at the door/late reservations.

**Evening Group:** call the reservation hotline at 707-237-2314 by 5 pm Friday before the event, or email [membership@petalumawomensclub.org](mailto:membership@petalumawomensclub.org). Events are now \$15.00 or \$18 at the door/late reservations (unless otherwise announced).

## Meet New Members

### NEW MEMBER BIOS – Evening Group

By C.G. Broderick, New Member Liaison

#### Janny Van Alderen

Janny (“yaw-nee”) and her husband were on the way to Sea Ranch when they drove through Petaluma. “It was so charming, with lots of open space around it,” said Janny. “We were already thinking of leaving Hawaii and were looking for a new place to live.” They have lived here about a year and a half, and love it!

Janny works as an international tour director. “My work is 100% travel, and when I am in Petaluma it means that I am not working that day or week.” She loves to hike, read, watch independent and/or foreign movies, and do volunteer work. In the future Janny would like to work less, and be home so she can volunteer more!

#### Amanda Kvalheim

Love brought Amanda Kvalheim to Petaluma. Amanda met and married her husband here, and they have been living in Petaluma for the last twenty years. Amanda is a mother to two daughters attending Petaluma High School. Amanda keeps herself busy volunteering as an art docent in the elementary schools, and serves on the school committee. She also is taking care of her mother. For leisure she likes to spend time doing quilting, reading and painting.

#### Taryn Obaid

Taryn and her husband are both California natives (Marin and Monterey). They settled in Petaluma three years ago, having long admired Petaluma's distinct heritage, down-to-earth community and diverse amenities. Taryn keeps herself busy during the day working as a Market Analyst for Fireman's Fund Insurance in Novato. She loves her work and finds it incredibly complex and interesting. Taryn enjoys swimming, gardening, hiking and day trips with her husband. She also enjoys local history, reading, dancing, music, film, dining out, beer, cocktails, fashion, spending time with friends, family and meeting new people when traveling. Taryn looks forward to getting to know her fellow PWC members, trying new things and especially having fun.

#### Debbie Crowley

Submitted by Danielle Couch

Debbie Crowley was born and reared in San Carlos, CA. She moved to Petaluma 14 years ago to raise her three daughters, aged 13, 19, and 22. On weekdays, Debbie commutes to Wells Fargo headquarters in San Francisco, where she was recently promoted to VP of Quality Assurance

## News Bytes

1. New Rental Brochure to promote increased rentals is in the works
2. Remember that prospective members can join anytime. A prorated dues structure allows us to calculate remaining dues for any time of year.
3. Members must be 21 years of age to attend our events that include alcohol. There a couple of events annually that are appropriate for children and/or husbands to attend.

## PPSC COAT DRIVE

### THE RESULTS ARE IN!

In a thank you letter from PPSC, we found out...

We got 142 coats, jackets and sweatshirts! We also loved the gloves, hats and scarves - amazing. All but about six are gone. Thank you again to everyone at the Woman's Club - it is an amazing group of women.

(signed)

Elece Hempel

Associate Executive Director  
Petaluma People Services  
Center

## Meet New Members, continued

of Small Business Lending. In her spare time, Debbie enjoys tending to her Old English Rose garden, where she has over 120 varieties of roses! If that isn't enough to keep a gal busy, her other passions include playing the bass guitar, cheering on the SF Giants, or traveling to stock car races.



## "What's Monique Reading?"

There's plenty of great books out there to sink your teeth into. With the hopes that one of your New Year's resolutions is to read more, here are a few gems to get you started...

*Russian Winter* by Daphne Kalotay from Publishers Weekly

Kalotay makes a powerful debut with a novel about a Soviet-era prima ballerina, now retired and living in Boston, who confronts her past as she puts up for auction the jewelry she took with her when she left her husband and defected. Nina "The Butterfly" Revskaya, 79, reveals little about the past to curious auction house representative Drew Brooks as he peruses her cache of exquisite jewelry. Nina likewise rebuffs inquiries from foreign language professor Grigori Solodin, who has translated the works of Nina's poet husband and who offers an additional item for auction: the amber necklace he inherited from the parents he never knew. In extended flashbacks, Nina recalls intimate moments and misunderstandings with her husband, happy and disturbing times with his Jewish composer best friend, and encounters with her own childhood friend. Meanwhile, Drew and Grigori delve into the jewelry's provenance, hoping to learn as much about the jewels as their own pasts. While the Soviet-era romance can lean too much on melodrama, Kalotay turns out a mostly entrancing story thanks to a skillful depiction of artistic life behind the Iron Curtain and intriguing glimpses into auction house operations.

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*Backseat Saints* by Joshilyn Jackson from Booklist.

**\*Starred Review\*** Jackson's absorbing and rewarding fourth novel spotlights Rose Mae Lolly, a minor character from her popular debut, *Gods in Alabama* (2005). Rose is now living under the thumb of her abusive husband and his domineering father. A Gypsy in an airport who reads her tarot cards turns Rose's life upside down when she tells Rose that if she doesn't kill her husband, he will surely kill her. When Rose realizes that the Gypsy is in fact her mother, who abandoned her when Rose was eight and left her with her abusive father, she takes her advice, but accidentally shoots her beloved dog instead. Rose comes to believe that hope lies in

**Next Issue Deadline:**

**April 1, 2011**

Send information by Oct. 1 to [alice.forsyth@comcast.net](mailto:alice.forsyth@comcast.net) or [Lyndi@sonic.net](mailto:Lyndi@sonic.net) or mail to L. Brown, P.O. Box 1030, Pennngrove, CA 94951.

**WE'RE ON THE WEB!** at [www.petalumawomansclub.org](http://www.petalumawomansclub.org) and facebook

To mail to PWC:

Day Group  
P.O. Box 285  
Petaluma 94953

Evening Group  
P.O. Box 4914  
Petaluma 94955

**RECIPES**

Thanks to Shirley Pozzi for this great dessert that she served to the Board at the November meeting.

**PUMPKIN DESSERT**

1 can (29oz) pumpkin pie mix

1 can (13oz) evaporated milk

1 cup butter, melted

1 cup nuts, chopped

4 eggs

1 cup sugar

1 box yellow cake mix

Mix pumpkin, eggs, milk & sugar. Pour into greased 9x13 pan. Sprinkle cake mix over top; drizzle melted butter over all. Top with nuts. Bake at 350 for 1 hour or until set. Serve with whipped cream.

**Book Reviews continued**

finding Jim, the high-school football star who was the only boy who ever treated her well. As her search for Jim morphs into a bid to free herself of her past, Rose goes on a cross-country mission to escape her husband and find herself. Jackson peels back Rose's hard edges and resignation to reveal a smart, earnest, brave, and surprisingly hopeful young woman who yearns to make a better life for herself. Rose's salvation, when it comes, is positively breathtaking.

\* A starred review means that the book is the cream of the crop.



**Evening Group Celebrates New Year in February Event**

**CHINESE NEW YEAR**

Just what is Chinese New Year? There's actually a lot more to it than lion dances and firecrackers, although these two pieces of tradition are integral and more visible, Chinese New Year to China is like Christmas to the West. In essence, Chinese New Year is preparing for a new year, spending time with family, gift giving and, the all important, food-fest. February 17 at PWC there will be a food fest celebrating the Year of the Rabbit.

PWC Evening Group will dine, learn about traditions and honor all *Year of the Rabbit* women - anyone born 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975 or 1987. No matter what year you were born in, red is important. People wear red clothes, they write poems on red paper, and give children 'luck money' in red envelopes. The symbolism behind the red color is fire, and fire burns off bad luck. So come, wear red and be ready to celebrate new beginnings! (Check out Rabbit attributes on page 6.)

**From the Files**

Friday, August 13, 2010 (SF Chronicle)  
*Jennifer Steinhauer*, New York Times

**L.A. Women's Club Evolves**

Of all the cliches about this town that are probably untrue - no one reads, or has the lips that God gave them - it is undeniable that Los Angeles has often been a poor guardian of its physical history. Scores of historical buildings have been razed or weirdly repurposed over the last century, and large swaths of this young city have been

**Continued on next pages.**

## RECIPES

This appeared in the PD in the Recipe Request column, and dates to the 1930s. It uses items commonly found in the pantry. Shirley Pozzi said her family just loved it!

### Graham Cracker Pie

**Crust:**

1 packet (9 double) graham crackers, crushed  
1/2 c. sugar  
2 Tbsp butter, room temp.  
1 tsp cinnamon

**Filling:**

3 eggs, separated  
2 c. milk  
1/2 c. sugar, plus 3 Tbsp more for meringue  
2 Tbsp cornstarch  
2 Tbsp butter  
1 tsp vanilla extract

**To make pie shell:**

Cream the butter, sugar and cinnamon. Add graham cracker crumbs and mix well. Press 2/3 mixture into bottom and up the sides of slightly greased 8" or 9" pie plate. Reserve 1/3 of crumbs for top.

**To make filling:**

Separate the eggs, reserving the whites. Combine yolks, milk, sugar, cornstarch and butter in a double boiler and cook until slightly thickened and the consistency of pudding. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Pour the custard into the prepared crust. Beat the egg whites until stiff, adding the 3 Tbsp sugar gradually. Spread meringue on top of custard and sprinkle with reserved crumbs. Bake at 350 for 30 min. Let cool completely before cutting.

plowed with nary a trace left to examine.

An interesting exception is the Ebell Club, a woman's social club that still operates in one of its original buildings, erected in 1927 in the tony Hancock Park neighborhood. Established in 1897 as a substitute for the university education that women were largely denied, the club had 2,500 members in its heyday in the 1920s, and activities included Shakespeare, gardening and art appreciation.

The club, one of the first of its kind in the country, is now struggling with a 21st century problem - how to persuade modern women that such a club has contemporary value to them.

The Italian renaissance revival building - a national landmark - covers its \$2 million in annual bills largely through its uses as a theater and rental space. But the women who continue to gather for singing, socializing and study are passionate about maintaining the building's original purpose.

"You can find in this club something you cannot find on Facebook, in wine bars, or any number of places which offer social interaction: genuine friendship and mutual concern," said Shirlee Haizlip, the club's president. "It is a wondrous thing to be constantly surrounded by three generations of women."

Women's clubs were established in American life shortly after the Civil War. "It was a time women all over the country decided a woman's place is not in the home, that they needed to get out," said Karen Blair, a history professor and expert on women's clubs at Central Washington University. "So they got together to study literature, history, philosophy and poetry."

In 1868 in New York, a journalist named Jane Cunningham Croly founded her own club, Sorosis, after she was denied entry to an all-male press club where Charles Dickens was speaking. Croly was instrumental in the creation of clubs throughout the country, whose missions soon began to include various political and social welfare agendas, from women's suffrage to child labor to public health.

The Ebell was named after Adrian Ebell, a German professor who traveled around California forming study groups for women. In the beginning of the 20th century, the Ebell was one of the largest and most elite clubs in the nation.

The club's home - not its original but by far the longest serving - is an enormous, meandering building designed by architect Sumner Hunt, with an elaborate coffered ceiling with gilded rosettes, a grand entrance on Wilshire Boulevard fashioned from 200 separate pieces of wrought iron, and all sorts of fancy sitting rooms, like the one where the Queen of Romania once infamously smoked.

The stairs maintain their original risers, which were built to allow women to hold their dresses while climbing them with

## The Year of the Rabbit

Those born in the year of the rabbit are...

~ gentle, sensitive, modest, merciful and have a strong memory

~ humorous, clever, kind trusted and conscientious

~ not for a dull life - they create romantic or interesting situations

~ articulate, talented, admired and ambitious

~ virtuous, tactful, reserved and have excellent taste

~ financially lucky, but too conservative and wise to gamble

grace. But while the club is one of the few old buildings in Los Angeles that maintains its original purpose, attracting women - who began to leave the women's clubs nationally around the 1970s - is a battle.

Haizlip said membership has recently increased to 480, up from 325 in 1993, but her goal is to get back to at least 1,000 women, still far shy of the number during the club's glory days. Membership efforts now focus on women between 30 and 40 years old, with programs concerning things like child rearing and mind-body workshops.

The membership of the General Federation of Women's Clubs is 10 percent of what it was in the middle of the last century, when the federation had 100,000 members, said spokeswoman Michele Mount.

"Women's clubs are a victim of our own success," Mount said. "The past presidents of these clubs would have been CEOs, and now they are that instead of being members of clubs."

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**Linda Frost and Elece Hempel counting coats**