

DateLine

UCSC WOMEN'S CLUB
*Where Campus and Community
Come Together*

2006

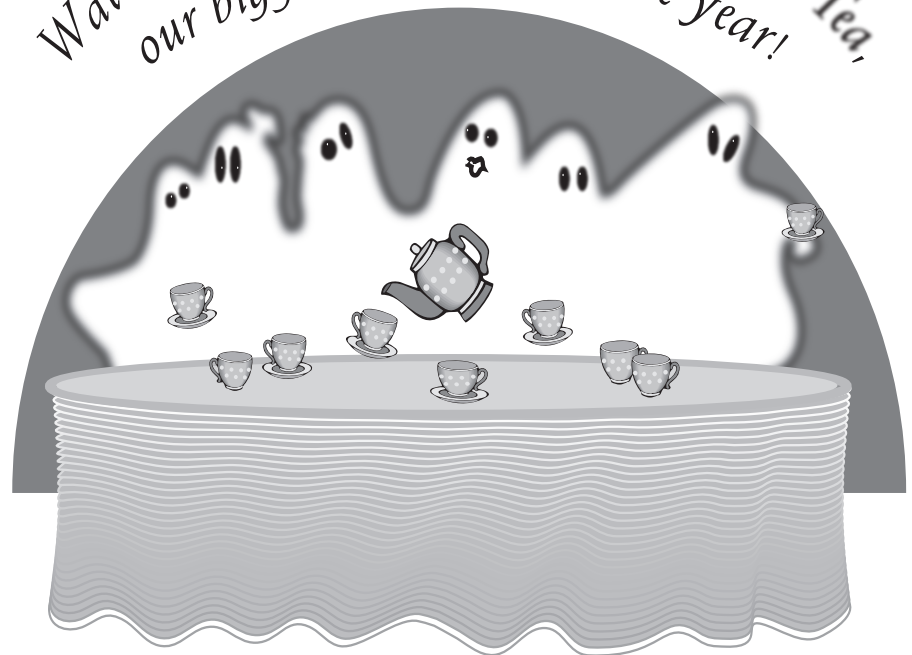
Winter

Vol. 9 Issue 5

Mission Statement

The UCSC Women's Club is open to all women of the campus and town communities. Its purpose is to be of service to the university, to foster friendships between town and gown, and to encourage understanding and support for the mission and functions of the university. A special goal of the club is to develop scholarships for re-entry students.

*Watch for your invitation to the Phantom Tea,
our biggest fundraiser of the year!*



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InterCampus Meeting

Dive into the deep and find out more about elephant seals from Burney Le Boeuf, go into space with Adriane Steinacker as she discusses found objects larger than Pluto in the heavens above, and then come back down to UCSC and take a tour of the campus (without leaving your seats) with Frank Zwart. There will be a performance group and you will be able to enjoy a continental breakfast and a delicious lunch while conversing with friends and meeting new ones from other campuses at the Annual InterCampus Meeting on Wednesday, March 29th, at UCSC. We have invited women's groups from all the UC campuses, Merced as well, and this year we are including Stanford also. So mark the date on your calendar as you will not want to miss such an informative and engaging meeting.

2005—06

UCSC Women's Club board roster

Officers

- President - May Clark
- 1st VP - Andrea Cohen
- 2nd VP - Helga Cathrein
- Secretary - Sarah Schuster
- Treasurer - Mary Wells

Coordinators

- Scholarship - Ellen Kimmel
- Interest Groups - Bev Merkley
- Membership - Laurie Salatich
- Newsletter - Sally Lester
- Publicity - Barbara Vorlop
- Fundraising - Felice Sandoval
- Hospitality - Cynthia Noble-Vesecky
- Food - Pat Miller

Members-at-large

- Frances Drake
- Inga Hoffman
- Mia Kang
- Heidi McGough
- Dorothea Ditchfield
- Grace Jacobs
- Corinne Miller
- Marline Bushey
- Estelle Levine

Staff Liaison

Liz Evanovich

Chancellor's Representative

Donna Blitzer
<http://womensclub.ucsc.edu>

Coming Soon

Annie Glass Factory Tour, Friday, February 3 or Saturday, February 4 at 9 am. For more information contact Bev Merkley at bevmmerkley@yahoo.com or 421-9396.

INTEREST GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

FILOLI AND BEYOND

The weather was a little bit warmer than cooler, dryer than wet, but the group a lot happier than sad. Nine early risers gathered Friday, December 2, 2005 at the Scotts Valley parking lot for carpooling to a special Christmas at Filoli event.

At the entrance to the manor house volunteers greeted us and immediately placed shopping bags in our hands that were replaced the moment they got filled and then whisked away to Will Call (the place of reckoning). This ensured a frenzy of purchasing every sort of ornament, arrangement, tableware, and kitchen doodad imaginable and then some. The group also took plenty of time to ooh and ahh at the glorious decorations throughout the lavishly adorned house. The theme was Victorian, and many birds, their nests and feathers,

greenery, and ribbons graced every crevice and corner of the mansion. In the ballroom, musicians from violinists to choral groups regaled us with holiday songs to create the holiday spirit (and provide rest from the arduous shopping marathon).

We stopped off at Buck's in nearby Woodside to titillate some other senses, although we did not start up a dot. bomb, uh com, company while downing many savory dishes. We ended the adventure with quick looks at the bakery and grocery stores in Woodside, havens for the gourmet among us.

On Saturday another group no doubt replicated our great pleasure in this outing to Filoli. Our only regret is we didn't know about the 50% off sale of everything on Monday, Dec. 5th until we were checking out!!



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FARM TOUR

Did you know that the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (also known as the Farm) at UCSC is in the midst of a four-year program to determine if blueberries can be grown commercially in Santa Cruz County? Did you know that 40 apprentices work and live (in tents) at the Farm and come from all over the globe? Did you know that the Farm is made up of three components: the Life Lab, the CSA program, and the Farm? The Life Lab opened in 2002 and is open to school groups to help students learn about garden-based science and ecology. The CSA (Community Supported

Agriculture) program offers the public an opportunity to buy a share of the Farm's products. The Farm, of course, produces these products in both large farm fields where machinery can be used and in small farm plots where the work is all done by hand. Everything is grown organically in the fields. To assist in keeping down pests, herbs are grown to attract the pests away from the crops, and there is a bird box built for an owl to help keep the gopher and other rodent populations controlled.

This and much more information was given to us as we toured the Farm and Garden in November. The site is very

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Opportunities

Interested in the how and why of the Club's operations? Like to make decisions? Have an idea you would like to share and have implemented? Enjoying getting to know some of the other women in the Club better? Then exercise your voice and power and join us on next year's Board! Please contact May Clark, President, and let her know of your interest in being on the Board.

We will be sending out invitations to the Phantom Tea Party, our annual fund raiser, at the end of January or beginning of February. If you can spare a few hours to help stuff and label envelopes we can use your help. We don't know yet when this will happen but contact May Clark, President, and let her know that you would be willing to help. We will let you know the time, date, and place when we have that information. There is no obligation if you express an interest in volunteering.

Our silent auction will be held this year at the April meeting. We welcome items from everyone. Also if you know of a good restaurant, a wonderful hair salon, a relaxing masseur that you use frequently consider asking the owners for a donation of a gift certificate for our auction. As you shop you may think of good ideas for putting together a basket of goodies for our auction as well. Any ideas or suggestions for the auction are welcome. Please let Felice Sandoval, our Fundraising Coordinator, know if you come up with an idea or item for the auction.

INTERESTS *continued from page 2*

interesting and has beautiful views across Monterey Bay. It was great having a tour guide who could answer our questions and who could tell us many interesting facts about the Farm. Visitors are welcome to walk around the gardens at any time. A self-guided tour booklet is available near the entrance gate. Our thanks to Heidi McGough for arranging the tour for the Women's Club.

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The Hiking Group on an invigorating trek at Big Basin.

UCSC WOMEN'S CLUB

PROGRAMS 2005-2006

FEBRUARY 1, 2006
Alma Martinez, Theatre
Arts Assistant Professor
Latino Images in Film

APRIL 5, 2006
Dr. Phil Crews, Chemistry
Professor, Vintner and
Owner of Pelican Ranch

MARCH 1, 2006
Christine King,
Certified Trainer and
Mediator, Nonviolent
Communication
The Power of Empathy

MAY 3, 2006
Spring Luncheon at
Peachwoods with
Scholarship Recipients

An Adventurous Life

By Sally Lester

Bess Blodgett greets you with a quick smile and sparkling blue eyes, her silver hair tied in a jaunty ribbon. While she's not tall in stature, she's big on experience. She's lived in Texas, Nevada, and California, and, outside the US in Okinawa, Argentina and Thailand. Bess has also spent time in Washington DC, Copenhagen, and Prague (before the fall of Communism). An accomplished artist, she has attended painting classes throughout France and Italy.



Possibly one of our longest-lived Women's Club members, Bess was born in 1910 in Petaluma, California, at a time when Petaluma was becoming "the chicken capital of the world." Bess' father, a pharmacist, was intrigued with the idea raising chickens, so he bought a little chicken ranch where Bess was born. Later, utilizing his medical background, Bess' father began developing medications for chicken ailments. This eventually led to his successfully opening the first and only "chicken pharmacy."

Bess' mother died when she was born. She grew up with her father, her older sister, and a housekeeper who had a great influence on her. Bess still remembers the housekeeper gardening, and encouraging her to plant sweet peas. Bess has been a gardener ever since. She also learned how to sew, before she went to junior high school, so she could dress more stylishly than the housekeeper's old fashioned taste would allow.

Out of high school Bess attended California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. Although it didn't take her long to figure out she'd never be able to make her living as a painter, she excelled at fashion design. Incorporating her artistic and sewing abilities, she studied with a couturier who taught her the French method of draping. Bess went on to design for manufacturers, and later worked for

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Magnin's custom designs where she would interpret a couture design that was a size four into sizes that fit the larger customers.

A brief marriage took her to Nevada where her daughter Carol was born. When the marriage ended Bess returned to San Francisco, finding work despite the Depression.

Later Bess and Jack Blodgett, a man she had known in college, married and moved to Mill Valley. Jack was in the import/export business with a very old San Francisco firm. They had a daughter, Lynn.

In the mid-1940s when the girls were about 8 and 12, the family moved to Buenos Aires. Jack, a very innovative and creative person, was sent there to try to corner the shark liver market to provide vitamin A to the Air Force, which needed it for their night flyers.

After a couple of years in Buenos Aires the family moved to Patagonia, at the tip of South America, caravanning down in trucks through a flat landscape very much like parts of Nevada with no hills, valleys, or trees. Along the way they came upon an enormous cart. The back wheel was 10 feet in diameter. Bess' daughter, Lynn, stood in front of the wheel and said "Take my picture, Mama" so Bess did. Years later Bess painted a picture from the photograph and it hangs above her dining table today.

Jack had already been to Patagonia on a scouting trip to locate a place for them to live, a cod packing plant! Luckily he didn't intend for them to live in the plant. For a month all four of them lived in a truck while two little pre-fabricated houses were constructed, one for Jack and Bess and one for the girls. The girls thought they were pretty smart to have their own house.

In the late 1940s the family returned to Mill Valley. They were there for about two years before leaving for Brownsville, Texas so Jack could start

his own business. Unfortunately, the company floundered. As Bess said, "He could make millions for a company but not for himself." After three years Jack went back to the old firm who sent him to Okinawa. This was 1954 and, as Bess says, "it was still smoking out there." There they lived in an apartment next to a warehouse. There were two huge military bases and less than 100 commercial, non-military American families. When her daughter, Carol, left Japan to get married, Bess took over her job at the air base. Bess was in her early 40's "still pretty young" and she was happy to have the job. Jack was angry and said, "You know, I always wanted to get to the point where you could just play. You've always done your share of the work, and here you are, you have two servants in the house and one outside, and you could just have a nice time. And you go get a job!" Of her decision Bess says, "He wasn't mad at me often. The first time was when I cut my hair in about 1940—I was about thirty years old. I was so old—I was older than I am now. I was a wife and mother, and I wasn't anybody. The next time he was mad was when I came home with a job!" Obviously Jack adjusted to Bess' working. When she returned from a visit to Carol and found her position had been eliminated he offered her a job at one of his three offices in Okinawa, a household moving office.

Jack was not concerned with her lack of experience. He said, "You're a people person—you get along with people, you love to meet new people, you're immediate best friends with whoever's around—you're perfect for the job." That made Bess feel good—it was nice for him to have such confidence in her.

She worked for a year, without one single complaint or breakage—a perfect record. Then the moving company cabled Jack—"It has come to our attention that E.K. Blodgett is a woman. Fire her and hire a man!"

Jack was really mad! He sent back several strong arguments, both financial and logistical, for keeping Bess, but the company insisted, "Never mind. Only a man for this job." Bess was, "Mad as hell." She believes the reason they had a perfect record was that the Okinawans who worked in packing adored Jack, so they wanted his wife to look good. They went out of their way to make sure her jobs were perfect. Bess says, "They thought the world of him, and so did I."

In the early 1970's Jack and Bess moved to Santa Cruz where Jack worked with his brother in Blodgett Travel. He had lived with his grandmother in Santa Cruz in 1920 after his grandfather died. Bess wanted to get to know people in town, so she went to the university where she started volunteering at McHenry Library in Special Collections. She was a lifelong gardener, so when she heard some folks talking about starting a group "Friends of the Farm and Garden," she joined them as one of the founding members. And she joined the Women's Club. She says, "I'm not a women's clubber, but I was impressed that the UCSC Women's Club was supporting women returning to school to complete their education. Also, the UCSC Women's Club has always had high caliber programs."

Three years after Jack and Bess moved to Santa Cruz, Jack died at 62 after a brief illness. Reflecting on her husband, Bess says, "Jack dragged me around the world—a lot of it wasn't much different from camping, but he always thought of my comfort. Someone asked me at a luncheon, 'Where were you the happiest?' I was happy in all those places." Asked when she was the happiest, she said, "When I met Jack, because I'd spent my life looking for someone to love me. Not having a mother seemed to be an unbearable absence. Jack died young, but we had fun. And he knew all my faults and he loved me to pieces. You couldn't ask for more than that in a lifetime."