

DateLine

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

2008

Winter

Vol. 11 Issue 1

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.

President's Message

Happy New Year! Hopefully you and yours had a sweet and safe holiday season!

With this and every New Year comes a host of opportunities to reflect, set goals, and plan for the future. Together, along with your interest and enthusiasm, our varied goals and activities will enrich each of us individually while simultaneously raising funds to support re-entry students. Our scholarship recipients are ever-grateful for your contributions of time, energy, and money. Thank you for all you do to ensure success for our Club!

A special thank you to our Board for their leadership and guidance.

I hope you will take a moment to read this newsletter for information about upcoming speaker programs, opportunities to get involved, fundraising activities, updates, and events, and an interview with Rita Olsen Pister.

A toast to you and yours in anticipation of what, I am sure, will be another very successful year for our Club!

Yours always,
Andrea Cohen
President

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Board Members	2
Programs.	3
Meet Rita Olsen Pister.	4
Interest Group Calendar	8

For up-to-date Club information, please visit our web site,
<http://womensclub.ucsc.edu>



The SANTA CRUZ Chocolate Festival

A CELEBRATION OF ALL THINGS CHOCOLATE

Tastings, Demonstrations, Silent Auction, Entertainment

Saturday, February 2, 2008

2-5 p.m. at The Attic

931 Pacific Avenue – Downtown Santa Cruz

Organized by the UCSC Women's Club
to Raise Funds for Re-entry Student Scholarships

2007-08

UCSC Women's Club Board Roster

Officers

- President - Andrea Cohen
- 1st Vice President - Sally Lester
- 2nd Vice President -
Cynthia Noble Vesecky
Vanessa Tollefson
- Secretary - Leticia Medina
- Treasurer - Sarah Schuster

Coordinators

- Food - Inga Hoffman
- Fundraising - Lorraine Margon
- Interest Group - Irma Andrews
- Membership - Laurie Salatich
- Newsletter - Hazel Powell
- Publicity - Bonita Sebastian
- Scholarship - Ellen Kimmel
- Sunshine - Estelle Levine
- Website - May Clark

Members-at-Large

- Marline Bushey
- Helga Cathrein
- Lulu Durham
- Nutan Kopel
- Helen Palmer
- Amanda Van Loan
- Mary Wells

Staff Liaison

Liz Evanovich

Chancellor's Representative

Donna Blitzer

Student Affairs

Development Director

Kathleen Hughes

<http://womensclub.ucsc.edu>



Hostess and Fundraising Coordinator Lorraine Margon greets newcomer Jane Michaelis at the October 24 Newcomers' Luncheon.

Newcomer's Luncheon

Our Fall 2007 Newcomer's Luncheon was another terrific opportunity to connect and get to know our new members with lovely refreshments, enlightening conversation, a warm, sunny October day, the engaged presence of eighteen Newcomers and so much more. Thank you to Co-2nd Vice Presidents Cynthia Noble-Vesecky and Vanessa Tollefson for initial coordination efforts.

And a special thank you to Fundraising Coordinator Lorraine Margon for hosting at her lovely home and to Co-hostess Bev Merkley and the entire Board for assisting on the day of the luncheon.

News from our Fundraising Coordinator...

The mercury is rising in our fundraising thermometer; thus far we've raised over \$3,000 toward this year's goal of \$15,000.

Shadowbrook Community Night Raises Over \$600 for Scholarships!

Thanks to everyone who dined at Shadowbrook Restaurant on November 27 as part of the Women's Club "community night" fundraiser. We raised just over \$600 for our re-entry scholarship program. While members and their guests enjoyed an evening of good food and holiday cheer.

Chocolate Festival to Raise Scholarship Funds

Bring your friends and join us for our first annual Santa Cruz Chocolate Festival on Saturday, February 2, 2008, from 2-5 p.m. at The Attic in downtown Santa Cruz. Enjoy chocolate vendors' confections, a chocolate-making demonstration, a silent auction, and live entertainment. Tasting tickets will be sold in advance through The Attic's website, www.theatticsantacruz.com, and at the door. Check The Attic's website for ticket prices.

Additional volunteers are needed on the day of the Festival. Please contact Lorraine Margon, Fundraising Coordinator, at 466-0188 or lorraine21@earthblink.net if you can lend a hand.

Women's Club Fundraising Events

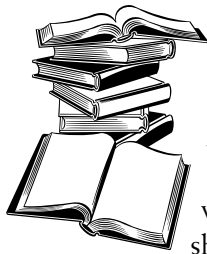
In addition to the Chocolate Festival, we've planned other fundraising for our re-entry scholarships:

Phantom Tea – In March 2008, look for your invitation to enjoy a cup of tea at home while you make a donation to our scholarship fund. Send Phantom Tea invitations to friend who may be willing to contribute to this worthy cause! This "virtual" event raised \$6,000+ last year! There are so many students for whom we can make a difference. Let's try to raise \$7,000 this year!

Show'n'Sell – At our general monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 2, 2008, we will hold our annual Show'n'Sell. Sales of plants, knitted items, and gently-used books and videos will raise funds for our scholarship recipients. Last year this event earned over \$400. Plan to attend this lively meeting and hear our luncheon speaker Catherine Soussloff. Guests are also welcome. If you have questions or items to donate, contact Cynthia Noble-Vesecky at 425-1686.

Human Race – On Saturday, May 10, 2008, our Club will participate in this well-known Santa Cruz fundraiser, organized by the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County. It is a "fun" 10K

Continued on page 4



What We're Reading

Members of our book clubs recommend the following:

At Book Club 2 meetings we have a circle with each member sharing a bit about recently read books. Also, our meetings feature one member reviewing a book that she has selected. Members know the title of this book in advance; if they choose, they can read it.

Mayflower by Nathaniel Philbrick was the October selection. Philbrick tells a fifty-six year intergenerational tale of those who came to a harsh new world and moved from cooperation to fourteen bloody months of war with the native peoples. The ocean voyage, hardships and disease left only four wives alive to celebrate the harvest that we commemorate as the first Thanksgiving. Today some 35 million in the USA can claim to be descendants of the Mayflower passengers. And what of the native tribes that were living in what we now call New England? According to Philbrick, disease, war and lack of knowledge of the white man's property laws dramatically reduced their population and lands. —Nancy Lenz

Do elephants smile? Jacob Jankowski, the main character in *Water for Elephants*, thinks so. This enchanting book, written by Sara Gruen, has been on the New York Times best-seller list for quite a while. And we know why. It is an engrossing and well-told tale. Once you begin this journey, it's hard

to stop. As you near the end, you tend to read more slowly, trying to delay its inevitable final scene.

The Brown Bag Bibliophiles all enjoyed this read, really two stories in one about an old man in a nursing home in present time and a young man who joins the circus during the Great Depression. As Jacob, crabby but still feisty, sits in the nursing home, you cannot help but chuckle at the way he reacts to his neighbors and the absurd foibles of the facility. Interspersed with these stories, you learn the tale of his life on the road with a traveling circus – a world of freaks, drifters, and misfits, struggling to survive during the Great Depression, performing one-night stands in town after endless town.

When you finally do allow yourself to reach the ending, it will delight you! We recommend this book, available in paperback and even large print editions, to anyone who likes to read. —Bonita Sebastian

Any American woman who reads *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini will be grateful that she was born in the USA rather than in Afghanistan. The book is chiefly about two women and their respect and love for each other. The book is well written, and there are many characters and much action. It is set where the Taliban is in control. Although I recommend it as a good read, it is not an easy read. —Helen Palmer

Fundraising *continued from page 3*

walk/run along West Cliff Drive. On race day, join Club members and other groups raising funds for their respective causes while enjoying the scenic views. Pay the registration fee or collect pledges that will benefit our scholarship fund. This year's race theme, "Making Strides, Changing Lives," is something we do well through our

fundraising efforts and our scholarship awards! More information will be available on our website as the date nears. Take a few extra steps each day, and you'll be in great shape for May!

Questions or comments on any fundraising activity? Contact Lorraine Margon, Fundraising Coordinator at 466-0188 or lorraine21@earthlink.net.

2008

UCSC WOMEN'S CLUB PROGRAMS

WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS ARE FROM 11:30 AM – 1 PM

NO JANUARY MEETING

FEBRUARY 6

La Feliz Room, Seymour Center, Long Marine Lab
Andrea Steiner, Ph.D. Research Associate Professor and Lecturer in Community Studies
"Between Apocalypse and the Brave New World: Filling in Real-World Spaces of Population Aging"

MARCH 5

Horticulture II, UCSC Arboretum
Lisa Sloan, Ph.D. Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences, Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies *"California Climate Change: Possible Future Climate and Impacts"*

APRIL 2

Horticulture II, UCSC Arboretum
Catherine Soussloff, Ph.D. UC Presidential Chair and Professor, History of Art and Visual Culture *"Crossing Disciplines and Media Borders in Art History and Visual Culture"*

MAY 7

Peachwoods at Pasatiempo
Spring Luncheon with Scholarship Recipients

Intercampus Gathering

Join us for the Intercampus Gathering for the northern California UC campuses: UC Berkeley, UC Davis, UC San Francisco and UC Santa Cruz. Berkeley will host the event scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008. Check our web site for more details as we receive them from our Berkeley hosts.



Meet Rita Olsen Pister

by Hazel Powell

There's a good reason the UCSC Women's Club has an endowed fund named for Rita Olsen Pister. This gracious and generous woman was an active member of the Women's Club as well as the entire campus community during her time in Santa Cruz when her husband Karl Pister served as UCSC campus chancellor from 1991 to 1996. When she and Karl came to UCSC the first few months of their residency at University House were difficult. It wasn't easy for Rita to have her private residence surrounded by 10,000 students. She was dressed and ready to greet people at eight in the morning, skipping her morning coffee and newspaper. Her job was to befriend the locals. Rita was officially Associate to the Chancellor, a title she took seriously. Along with Ann Levin and the vice chancellor's wife Eileen Tanner, Rita's monthly "Discover UCSC" program involved inviting women from the community for tea, a campus tour, and a lecture from a faculty member. The program continued for the remaining five years Rita was on campus. Also, at various other events, she entertained three or four thousand people a year!

Rita Olsen grew up in Oakland. Her father's family was from Norway, and her mother Mary was of Irish descent. Mary was often the Pister children's baby sitter and even accompanied the family when they went on sabbatical to Ireland from 1965 to 1966.

During her senior year in college Rita met UC Berkeley engineering student

Karl Pister at a dance at Harmon Gym on the Berkeley campus. He called her several times, asking her out, before she finally accepted. During their courtship, they danced to live big band music at the Claremont Hotel Garden Court in Berkeley.

Rita graduated in 1947 from Holy Names College with a major in art and minor in French. She then completed the teacher credentialing program at UC Berkeley and taught at Washington Middle School in Alameda. After a year of teaching, she saved enough money to travel with two college girlfriends in post war Europe where she and her companions were greeted with flowers.

Rita and Karl began married life at the University of Illinois in 1950 while he worked on his Ph.D. Wives of graduate students had meetings to which they brought their mending! Rita explained that as a newlywed, she didn't have any mending. She did, however, begin graduate studies in art and art history at the University of Illinois. After their first year there, they returned to California, and Rita gave birth to the first of their six children at Providence Hospital in Oakland. Rita began caring for her family and supporting her husband in his professional career.

While Karl was on the faculty at Berkeley, Rita managed their Lafayette home and entertained faculty members at many dinners where conversations revolved around the Free Speech Movement and Vatican II. With six children, the family had to be very organized. Eventually, when her oldest son was a teenager, Rita served as principal of their Catholic parish high school in Lafayette. The school served 200 students.

Rita was so organized that she had never needed to learn to drive. But one day when her youngest child was nine months old, he pulled a coffee

pot down on himself and sustained severe burns. No one was available to take Rita and her son to the hospital. At that point, she decided to take driving lessons, and later sat with all of her children when they learned how to drive.

As a dean's wife from 1980 to 1990, Rita hosted many dinners at the campus Berkeley Women's Faculty Club and The Bechtel Center. Also, putting her artistic background to work, she turned Karl's office into an attractive place to invite guests and donors.

While in Santa Cruz, Rita served on several community and campus organizations. Rita explained, "One important thing that I did was invite the different religious groups in for a reception. So the first one we had was in December. I invited the Jewish people to have a Hanukkah celebration. And it was a wonderful experience, just wonderful."

Organizing successful dinners and auctions and serving on the Women's Club Board of Directors and hosting Club meetings at the University House were a part of her life. She gained such respect that in the spring of 1996 the Women's Club designated the club scholarship program as the Rita Olsen Pister Re-entry Scholarship.

Now back in Lafayette, Rita keeps a busy schedule. One of her hobbies is to dress dollhouse miniature dolls in 17th through 20th century nun's habits. She enjoys researching the various Catholic orders and recreating outfits. Other activities still revolve around the University of California.

Rita Olsen Pister has served the University well, and we are proud to have our UCSC Women's Club Endowed Fund for Re-entry Scholarships named for her.