



January

President's Message

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! While I know the holidays were not what we know as our "normal" I do hope you and your families were able to find new and safe ways to celebrate. It seems so strange to have wrapped up a year without celebrating together as Oakmont League, but I am grateful for all of your continued support as we navigate this new frontier together.

I know that we ended 2020 with some significant losses to our Oakmont League family. The loss of Esther Bowen and Chris Halajian, both past presidents and longtime members of Oakmont League, is significant. While Chris had not been able to be a member for a few years now, Esther was always a smiling, warm and energetic presence at our meetings and she will be greatly missed. My thoughts are with the Weir family as they mourn this huge loss, as well as with Marion Graydon-Greene as she mourns the loss of her husband, Paul. We, your Oakmont League family, are here for you in any way we can be.

This year is an assessment year, and for those of you who were able to attend the December meeting heard, we will be offering a decreased assessment amount, as well as a payment plan for anyone who would prefer to pay over time. We recognize that this has been a year unlike any other and that finances are tight for many of us. Assessment letters will be sent out this month with more detailed information, but I wanted to reassure the entire membership that we are working hard to keep costs down and understand the impact that Covid 19 has had on all of us.

Our January general meeting will feature another uplifting and fun presentation and our Program

Chair, Shauna Lehmann has been working hard to find us great presenters for our Zoom meetings. Thank you, Shauna, for shifting gears and making this happen. So, if you have not already tried joining us via Zoom, please do! I would love to see each of your faces and being able to spend the time together does make life seem more normal. If you need any help with Zoom, please feel free to reach out to me. You can just click the link on the invite, it is really that simple! So please join us this month and reconnect with your Oakmont League family.

Our Nominating Committee will soon be hard at work preparing the slate for next year's Board. Please consider taking on a role and being involved in the Board. There are a number of critical positions to fill this year, and we need all of us to pitch in to keep Oakmont League running smoothly and successfully! Think about what positions you could fill and volunteer your time and service!

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy at home and remaining hopeful that one day in the not so distant future (I hope) we will be able to be together. Until then, I hold you each in my heart and prayers for continued good health.

Virtual hugs,

Jackie Kubel
President





Programs

Our General Meeting on January 27th will include a wonderful program by speaker Ashley Yano entitled Meditation & Movement. Ashley will highlight stretches done while sitting to open airways and improve the spine. She will discuss breathing and mindfulness techniques and lead a brief relaxing meditation. Ashley began her journey as a dancer and after college while dancing professionally fell in love with the Gyrotonic Expansion System, a holistic approach to stretch and movement that creates a healthy spine, increased range of motion, and joint stability. As a certified teacher she has been teaching this method for over 12 years. She is also skilled at mindful meditation which has become a valued practice in her life as a married mother of 3 and a business owner. Since the pandemic she has been leading meditation and movement classes to provide tools to help alleviate stress and anxiety as well as create an alignment of mind and body.

Program Ideas wanted!

If you have seen a wonderful Zoom program or know of someone who might make an interesting speaker, please let me know. We would love to hear about any uplifting topics and need programs for February and March. Would any members like to share something and be a speaker? You could show us how you make a special dish with a cooking demo right from your own kitchen. Or share a craft or skill you have that we might be interested in learning about. Please contact me with any ideas.

Thank you.

Shauna Lehmann, Program Chair

Membership

Welcome to new active member Nancy Spencer. She and her husband Carty live in Glendale, she is a huge golfer and member of The Oakmont Country Club, Lake Arrowhead Country Club, USC Board of Business and friends with several Oakmont members. She has also been a very generous supporter of our Fashion Shows and will be a real asset to our organization.

Her contact information: 1524 Hillcrest Avenue, Glendale 91202. Cell phone number

818 324-0630.

Miss seeing all of you in person and looking forward to when we can all be together again.

Carol Eldred, Membership Chairman

Remembrance

Esther Bowen

It's with great sadness that I write to let you know that my dear mother, Esther Bowen, died on December 28th 2020. Esther joined Oakmont League in 1987 and served in many Board positions, including two consecutive terms as President.

My Mom, was born in England in 1932. She lived through WWII and had many stories to tell about her schooling, and about following my Grandfather to different stations in the North of England during the war. After the war she met my Dad, Ken Bowen, at a London dance hall. Their shared passion for dancing brought them together, and later in life remained something that gave them both joy. It was wonderful to see them dancing together - floating across the floor as one.

After marrying, Mom and Dad emigrated to Toronto, Canada, where my brother and I were



born. After a brief stay in Vancouver BC, we made our way south to Glendale California - 50 years ago this month.

Mom was a doer and a servant. She was involved in our church, St. Marks, for many years and created an extended family from our church community. She drove for Meals on Wheels, served in different capacities at church such as a lay reader and choir member and the alter guild. She spent many years as my Girl Scout troop leader. She became more involved in our community through the Women's Committee of the Glendale Symphony Orchestra, The Oakmont League, Las Candelas and Daughters of the British Empire. Mom and Dad enjoyed Dancing with their ballroom group, golfing and traveling around the world. Mom was also an extremely talented seamstress, quilter, knitter, crocheter and needle-pointer. In the US and England, many babies and adults have snuggled up with one of her quilts or blankets, or hung Grandma's needlepoint stockings over the hearth at Christmas.

She leaves a huge legacy to my brother and me and to our families; of faith, devotion to family, service, perseverance and positivity. We love you Mom and are grateful for your life.

Allison Weir

Chris Halajian

Member and past President, Chris Halajian, passed away after a long battle with Alzheimer. She was President from 2013 to 2014 and enjoyed and participated in all that the League had to offer. Chris had 3 children, Helena and Jason of La Canada, Jim of Phoenix. Her sister, Julie George, may be contacted at 323 258-5008 for family details.



Winter Warm-up

Carrot Soup

1 Large Onion
(diced)

1 Bag Carrots (sliced thin) or a lb. of asparagus or other vegetable like squash, etc.

4 Cups Chicken Stock

1 large Potato (diced Sm)

Salt and Pepper

Simmer all the vegetables in the broth until tender
(About 20 minutes)

Purée until smooth (I use the blender and do it in batches)

Cool

Then add:

$\frac{3}{4}$ Pint of Cream

Reheat until almost boiling

Add: 3 T Honey and Cayenne Pepper

This recipe makes 2qts (64oz) or 10 6oz servings

I brown butter and fresh sage and dribble on top of the soup **prior to serving.**

Lydia Brown-Trout



Like many other local organizations, the Oakmont Junior Matrons patriotically supported the bond drives during World War II. Here Matrons president Mrs. Robert A Speed purchases a \$500 bond from Mrs. Jack V. Darling, another Matrons member, who was staffing the bonds booth that day.

(Courtesy of the Special Collections Room of the Glendale Public Library)

Oakmont History

Katherine Yamada

A few years back, when I was spending a lot of time in the Special Collections Room at the Central Library on Harvard, I came across a wonderful old scrapbook assembled by Mrs. Jack V. Darling, a member of what was then called the Oakmont Junior Matrons (now Oakmont League). Not sure how it got to SC, presumably she donated it in her later years.

Turning the pages of the scrapbook, filled with photos, newspaper clippings and mementos of her years in the Matrons group, brought the war years to life.

Included was a News-Press photo taken in April 1944 of club president Mrs. Robert A. Speed, at the Victory House in Glendale, using \$500 worth of club funds to buy a bond in the name of the Matrons.

No doubt, it was an entirely planned bit of public relations, but she (and the newspaper photographer!) found the bonds booth staffed by Mrs. Dar-

ling.

Here's the back story on those bonds: During World War II, the nation needed financing to build up its defense system.

So, a new series of bonds were issued. (The first one, Series A, had been issued in 1935, as a way of promoting safe investments, according to Wikipedia. It was followed by series B, C, and so on.)

By war time, they were up to Series E. President Franklin D. Roosevelt purchased the first one from Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau. The bonds ranged from \$25 to \$10,000.

Various drives were held; each lasted a couple of months. By April 1944, when that photo was taken, the fourth drive had just been completed. It had raised \$16.7 billion, well over the goal of \$14 billion.

The Matrons planned to use the bond as the basis of a new philanthropic fund. They raised the \$500 in various ways, including a series of 9:30 p.m. dances at the Oakmont Country Club called "Dance and Defend." Often club members entertained in their homes before everyone moved on to the club.

The Matrons also supported the community's new War Chest, created by a group of local businessmen, including Harry S. Brown, Glenn Whitney, Mark G. McMahon, Fred D. Gibbs, Carroll Parcher, Albert Cornwell and Don E. MacVicar, who saw a need and "did something" about it."

"Numerous instances where help was required had come about because of the war, but the demands were too large for the Community Chest." So, several existing agencies and several new emergency agencies were combined into one, the War Chest. (Their actions inspired Los Angeles and other large cities to form similar agencies).

"From the beginning the Chest's bylaws were unequivocal in their insistence that every dollar expended must first be authorized by a committee of unpaid volunteer businessmen. Not a single charity dollar was ever expended to defray the cost of a luncheon,



banquet or other social function.'

Because of their donations to the War Chest; to the American Red Cross station wagon fund; and to the Home School, the Oakmont Junior Matrons were lauded for their war efforts by the local media.

They were also cited for their part in the Fourth War Loan Drive by the U.S. Treasury Department. Four other women's groups in Glendale were honored at the same time: the Tuesday Afternoon Club, the Chamber of Commerce Auxiliary, the American Women's Volunteer Service group and Business and Professional Women's Service Club.

You may have noticed that both of the women profiled above are identified only by their husband's name. This was standard journalism procedure in those days and was commonly used socially, also. Take a look at the list of presidents in our yearbook. They are all listed by their husband's names until 2016 when Mrs. Lydia Brown-Trout served as president.

Anyone have information or memories of those days? Would love to hear from you.

Katherine Yamada



January Birthdays

Fran Buchanan 1-19

Kimberly Klosterman 1-23

Sharon Swinford 1-28