

# SIGNPOST

Newsletter of the

## Women's Club of Glen Ridge

April/May/June 2010 Volume 51 Number 8

Club Motto –  
“We live not to  
ourselves alone;  
our work is life.”

--Bailey

### *Annual House Tour and Reception*

**Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Tour 1:00 – 5:00PM**

**Reception 3:30 – 5:30PM**



The culminating event of the year is just around the corner – the much anticipated House Tour! This year’s tour promises to once again delight with a showcase of exceptionally beautiful homes followed by a reception at the Club.

We count on the help of our membership in order to ensure the success of our most important fundraiser. In the next few weeks, you will receive an email or phone call from a member of the Ways and Means Committee asking you to volunteer. We will need docents at every home (for one-hour shifts) and volunteers for the reception, especially those willing to donate fine culinary delights. Please help us achieve 100% volunteer participation from our membership! Both members and non-members are welcome to volunteer their time. All interested volunteers may email [womensclubgr@juno.com](mailto:womensclubgr@juno.com).

Tickets are \$30 for members if purchased by April 30<sup>th</sup>, \$40 if purchased after that date. For non-members, tickets are \$40. You may purchase tickets one of three ways: mail the form below with a check made payable to the Women’s Club of Glen Ridge, 219 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028, call the Club at (973)748-5459 between 8:30AM and 12:30 PM on weekdays with credit card information or register online at [www.womensclubglenridge.com](http://www.womensclubglenridge.com).

### **Annual House Tour: May 2, 2010**



Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Member tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Non-member tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_



# President's Post

It is with mixed emotions that I write my last message to you as President. I have never enjoyed any job as much as I have enjoyed serving in this office for the past four years. The Club was a wonderful place when I began in 2006. Susan Griffith left me with a solid financial base, a willing Board and a beautiful Clubhouse, not to mention a large sum of money that the Club had amassed during the Centennial celebrations. An incoming President could not ask for more.

Over the past four years we have accomplished much as a Club. We began with spending all of the money left behind on the renovation of the Ridgewood Avenue side yard, adding a new walkway, plantings and patio. Our grounds are our first face to both the community and potential renters. We have good cause to be proud. All this was accomplished under the able direction of Joan French and has been lovingly cared for and maintained by Grounds Chair Cindy Blauch. When you see the spring flowers in bloom, remember to thank them.

The next order of business was a facelift for the Mary Raymond Room. New paint on the walls, re-stuffed cushions and finally new curtains brought Mary Raymond into the twenty first century with a bang! More renovations followed. Linda's apartment was refurbished along with the men's room on the lower level, thanks in large part to then-Treasurer Marge Kallies and her husband Chris. The Georgian Room was repainted and the floors refinished. When the Glen Ridge Public Library needed a home during its own renovation, our lower level provided accommodation. As a result, the old "Red Cross Room" became a bright, usable space complete with refurbished restroom and a reinvigorated kitchen area, now used by local Brownie and Girl Scout troops. Finally, my personal vision became a reality when we added a first floor handicap accessible restroom to the Club. With the professional guidance of architect Ken Underwood and Interior Designer Linda Potter, this project was executed in flawless fashion and without interruption to the busy Club schedule. Throughout this period, Arden Epstein served as House chair, assisted by a series of co-chairs- first Meredith Barrentine, followed by Victoria Pearlman and finally Laura Merriman. When you walk into the Club and see what a magnificent space we call home, remember to thank them.

How did we pay for all of these improvements? In a word - rentals. If you have ever been in the Club when a potential client calls or comes to the Club to inquire about using our space for a wedding or party, you know why we are on firm financial ground. Suzanne Tuck has done a magnificent job in handling our rental business. She is kind, personable and professional. I honestly believe that people rent the Club because they are so comfortable working with her. It doesn't hurt, of course, that the building is stunning (see above). We add to the team the tireless work of Linda Farrell. Linda keeps the club in excellent condition- setting up, breaking down, cleaning up, and always with a smile on her face. I think there is something about having an all-female staff. Nobody yells. Next time you are in the office, remember to thank them.

Now, the big question: Why go to the Club other than the fact that it is a beautiful place? Without our members, we are nothing. And without good programming there is no reason to belong to the Club. You don't *join* a building. Happily, we have great coverage in that area as well. Our departments and committees provide extensive opportunities to gather. Whether the event is service, cultural or intellectually oriented there is always something to do. Looking back, it is an amazing array of events that the membership has enjoyed over the last four years.

I was fortunate to come into office when Clemente Brakel and Susan Krein began their term as Art Department Chairs. Under their charge we enjoyed two extraordinary events. HomeGrown, a celebration of the Arts in Glen Ridge woke up the community and gave the Borough pause to consider the depth of artistic talent right here in Glen Ridge. We also saw a special tribute to Kay Cato, long time and well loved caricaturist, as we enjoyed a retrospective of her life and work.

Our Music Department, chaired first by Laura Eveleth and now by Jill Simmons, has experienced incredible growth as well. We have enjoyed a special treat in a tribute to Glen Ridge resident and concert pianist Grace Gimbal, as she performed at the Club. Since then, we have experienced opera, classical music, swing, jazz and Broadway show tunes. The crowning glory, however, has been the incorporation of Music and More into our Club calendar. Jill Simmons, working with local artist Brett Deubner brought world class music into the Club on a regular basis, making excellent use of our beautiful space.

I have had the pleasure of working with Karen Feenaghty as Literature Department Chair for the last four years. Under Karen's discerning eye we have hosted a number of notable authors at both our day and evening programs, including Jayne Anne Phillips, Nancy Theodorou, Pamela Satran, poet Nicole Cooley and Shelley Emling. As well, our book groups have grown and we have a new lending library under the care of Club Librarian Amy Luka. We are a literate group.

Our other departments are thriving as well. The Bible Department under first Pam Dawson and then Samantha Finneran, have given us lectures on Dante, the Salem Witch Trials and the Impact of Puritanism on modern society. Pam then resurrected the Drama Department and we have enjoyed a Renaissance of theatre in the Club ranging from Tea for Three to The Marriage Cure to the hilarious offerings of stand-up comics. Most of these offerings were accompanied by wonderful meals as we instituted a custom of luncheon/programs as part of our monthly meetings. This provided members an opportunity to relax and catch up over a light lunch and increased our monthly attendance. As you enjoy all of the programs, concerts and lectures that we provide, consider the women who work to bring them to you, and remember to thank them.

Our purpose as a Club lies beyond our walls as well. Community Service gives us a means to give back and help others. Over the past four years I've seen a tremendous growth in what we can accomplish. Under first Barb Weston and Anita Agarwal and now Charlotte Forrest and Karen McGovern we have reached out to so many. Habitat for Humanity, Human Needs Food Pantry, Connie Dwyer Breast Center, Bands for Better World, Red Cross, SCEEP, Coat Drive, Babyland, Toni's Kitchen, Project Home, scholarships, donations and support. The Girls' Club, mirroring our commitment to service, support the Community as well. Through these groups, we do make a difference. This is hard work done with commitment. Remember to thank them.

We've made great strides in how we communicate with one another and with the world. Thanks to Marge Kallies we have a beautiful website that brings us into the computer age. Details of all Club events are easily accessible. Potential renters can take a virtual tour of the Club, and that usually leads to a personal visit. Our traffic is heavy, almost 30,000 'hits' already and the site also generates substantial income through advertising fees. We stay connected to each other and businesses pay to stay connected to us. We have reduced our paper communications by going to a larger but less frequent quarterly offering of *Signpost* supplemented by simple postcard reminders in the non-*Signpost* months. We hosted a Networking Night and have created a new Member-to-Member Business Directory to allow us to work with one another in our professional capacities. In addition to Marge, Karen Martin, Ann Marie Morrow, Nancy Rodd, Eileen Lazlo and Meredith Barrentine have kept you abreast of what is going on. Our tireless Historian, Susan Griffith chronicles all of our events for future generations. Shannon Absher has been at my left hand, recording all that goes on and Angela Bellizzi has sent our good wishes and condolences to members in joy and in sorrow. It is through these women that we stay connected. Remember to thank them.

Ways and Means and the Children's Department continue to help keep our coffers filled. For the past four years Deb Lebow, with the help of her fabulous committee has managed to keep the House Tour and the Favorite Doll Tea on the calendars of all of Glen Ridge. Beth Ege, Nayat Doherty and now Anne Brown and Maura Colleary have made the HarvestFest and Children's Holiday Party into treasured traditions. The whole fiscal show has been beautifully overseen throughout my tenure by Marge Kallies, first as Treasurer and now as Finance Chair. I've never lost a minute of sleep over the Club's finances. We're in good shape because of these women. Remember to thank them.

This is a wonderful organization- true in purpose filled with committed women of integrity. We do good things. We enjoy one another's company. We are able stewards of this wonderful building and the traditions that have grown around it. We are a responsible and valued part of the community. I couldn't be more humbled than I am now, knowing the honor that it has been to serve as your President. I thank you all for giving me the opportunity.

With fond regards,

*Prudence*

APRIL 6TH DRAMA DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

**VOTE 11:30AM**

**Vote on new slate of officers and bylaw amendments.**

**QUORUM NEEDED TO VOTE, PLEASE COME EARLY.**

After the business meeting, you can stay to enjoy what follows.

**FEAST 12:00PM**

**Savor a delicious luncheon catered by T.S. Ma.**

Advance Reservations Needed for Lunch—  
See Drama Dept. Page for Details

**LAUGH 1:00 PM**

**Enjoy the premier performance of a new show.**

***Dipes and Wipes***

May 3<sup>rd</sup> through May 29<sup>th</sup>

The **Community Service Department** together with the **Glen Ridge High School Key Club** is sponsoring a drive to collect diapers and wipes to support the Human Needs Food Pantry in Montclair.



Diapers, from sizes newborn to toddlers, and wipes, can be dropped off during the month of May at either the Women's Club during Club office hours or at the High School during school hours.

**Literary Evenings – Come Meet the Authors**



**Tuesday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM** - Please join us as Shelley Emling reads from her fascinating biography, "*The Fossil Hunter: Dinosaurs, Evolution, and the Woman Whose Discoveries Changed Science Forever*".

**Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 8:00PM** – Book Talk with Montclair resident Christina Baker Klein, author of the recently published novel *Bird in Hand* (reviewed in the last edition of the *Signpost*).

Watchung Booksellers will be offering books for sale at these events. Wine and cheese will be served. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

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# DEB IS BACK



DRAMA DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

PERFORMANCE 1:00PM

LUNCHEON AT NOON

BUSINESS MEETING AT 11:30AM

Veteran improvisational comedy performer, Deb Maclean Glancy, returns with a workshop production of her newest piece *Losing it...and Taking it Back*. Here Deb takes another humorous look at a mom's life as she begins to move from middle age to ...well, whatever comes next. Many of us are still chuckling as we recall some of the very funny offbeat characters that Deb created in her previous show, *Motherhood and Other Desperate Acts*.

Come laugh with us as Deb slips in and out of new hilarious characters. The 45-minute performance will be followed by a 15-minute discussion. Deb will share her insights on writing comedy for the stage and hopes that you will share your insights on her new show. This is an opportunity to interact with this talented performer, share your views, get her reaction, and see if your ideas can become part of the show.

The performance and discussion are free for members and \$10 for non-members.

A delicious luncheon catered by the gourmet Chinese restaurant T.S. Ma, for which advance reservations are required, is offered at noon. The luncheon is \$18 for members. Non-members may pay \$25 for a combination of the luncheon and program.

Please call 973-748-5459 for reservations, or go to [www.womensclubglenridge.com](http://www.womensclubglenridge.com)



## **Enterprising Woman: Ellen Morris, Ph.D.**

**Managing Director and Co-Founder of Arc Finance, Ltd.**

**By Nancy Herkness Theodorou**

*As we arrive in the rural village in Mali, all of the children come to greet us with a smile and then the women of the village come to shake hands, say hello and introduce themselves. We get down to business beneath a large shade tree in the center of the village that is used for community meetings. Everyone stops to take part. The discussion is lively and animated, as we communicate through an interpreter who speaks the local language, to try to learn about how they cook, what kind of lighting options they have, how much money they spend on candles and kerosene, how far they travel by foot to collect wood and water, how they earn an income, and other social issues. This is all to better understand some of the struggles faced by the people in developing countries who lack options like lighting, clean water, cooked food, and modern sanitation that we all take for granted.*

This is the experience of Ellen Morris who works on the cutting edge of providing clean energy options to the poorest people in the developing world. As co-founder of the non-profit Arc Finance, Ltd., she works in Ghana, Ethiopia, Kenya, India, the Philippines, Haiti, and Mali to link affordable financing with local energy enterprises in order to benefit people who desperately need clean, safe energy sources to live healthier, and more productive lives. In addition she is an adjunct professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs, teaching graduate level courses on energy and development.

Her students often ask her what career path they should pursue in order to follow in her footsteps. "I tell them I have no idea, because I certainly didn't plan to end up in this field," she says with laugh. It has been a very convoluted career path, with many twists and turns leading to opportunities that got her where she is today. After Ellen received her B.S. in geophysical engineering from the Colorado School of Mines, she spent three years in oil and gas exploration for Texaco, working off the coast of California. That led her to return to school to earn a Ph.D. in marine geophysics from the University of Rhode Island, after which she planned to go back to the oil and gas sector.

Just after graduating, she was awarded a Congressional fellowship in Washington, D.C., aimed at bringing scientists into the policy-making realm. As an advisor on energy and the environment, she became familiar with renewable and efficient energy. "Just before I received the fellowship, I had accepted a job with Exxon Exploration. They allowed me to take my year in Washington, but after that, they kept asking when I would be starting." She never did, choosing instead to join the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, which gave her the introduction that she needed to the technologies, policies, organizations, and most importantly, the opportunity to explore working in developing countries

She married Stefan Magnusson in 1995 and moved to New York City, where she started her own consulting firm, Sustainable Energy Solutions. Her first big client was the United Nations Development Programme's sustainable energy team, a group she continues to work with. It was there that Ellen found her true calling.

"The stark reality is that there are 1.6 billion people in the world without access to electricity. In addition, 2.4 billion people cook with dirty and inefficient fuels such as wood, dung, and charcoal. These two factors limit people's productivity and educational opportunities, create serious health issues, and are bad for the environment," Ellen says. "However, these people do not have other options because a more efficient cook stove or a solar light or even the connection to an existing power grid are simply not affordable."

Arc Finance, Ltd. was founded in 2008 as a way to address those problems. "The poor are potential customers for energy suppliers. What was needed was a set of linkages between customers, financial institutions, and energy enterprises. It's about connecting the dots, and Arc Finance helps to do that with technical expertise, capital, and partnerships."

Structuring a sound relationship among the three groups requires research, trust-building, and strong communication skills. Financial institutions that serve the poor have long known that loans made to women are more likely to be used to improve the entire family's standard of living. It is also a fact that women typically make the decisions about household energy because they are responsible for cooking, gathering fuel, food processing, and other daily activities that require energy.

"Probably one of our most difficult jobs is gathering accurate information, whether it's about people's needs or the reliability of an energy partner or the quality of the products that are locally available," Ellen says. It is necessary to look at the problem from different angles: from the policy side, the enterprise side, and the technology side to see what will work for the customer. "When working in these far flung places, I have never felt I was held back because I am a woman. On the contrary, most people and communities are just extremely grateful that someone is paying attention to their needs and trying to create options for them."

Once the energy needs of the local people are understood, Arc Finance works to link up reliable energy providers with financial institutions willing to extend credit to the bottom of the economic pyramid. Ellen helps the energy providers adjust their business models and develop products to serve this new set of customers properly. She assists the financial institutions in understanding how to design energy loans and identify products that are tailored for this economic group. In Ethiopia, the microfinance sector is weak, so an energy company interested in expanding its market hired Arc Finance to help develop a credit facility.

Much of Arc Finance's work is funded by grants and on a project fee basis from institutions such as the Citi Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank, U.S. Agency for International Development, as well as private enterprises. Arc Finance often partners with other non-profits in the field, such as the Bloomfield-based E+Co, which was founded by two Glen Ridge residents, Christine Eibs-Singer and Phil LaRocco, to provide investment capital for energy entrepreneurs in the developing world. Private sector enterprises also access Arc Finance's expertise in the field, as in the case of the Ethiopian energy enterprise and one in Nicaragua as well.

Ellen travels widely and spends a lot of time on Skype. "It's not at all a nine-to-five job," she admits. "Since my customers are in different time zones, I get calls at all hours, seven days a week." She also attends meetings all over the world, often using these venues to introduce people from institutions she thinks would benefit from working together. At a conference in Manila in 2004, she introduced an innovative solar entrepreneur to a manager from a prominent microfinance institution serving women. These two people went on to pioneer energy lending with products tailored to the poor.

"It's a very relationship-based kind of job. When traveling overseas, I'm often invited into people's homes for dinner and get to meet the whole family. My neighbors in Glen Ridge always want to know what foreign country my current houseguest is from, as we always have our guest room occupied," Ellen says with a smile. "Many of my colleagues have become lifelong friends in our work together tackling energy-poverty. In fact, the greatest benefit of this job is the people I've come to know."

*To find out more about this fascinating field, attend Ellen's program on "Changing Lives through Microfinance and Clean Energy" on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Montclair Adult School. For information on how to register, call 973-746-6636.*



## **ANNUAL MEETING and LUNCHEON**

**Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at Noon**

**Please join us for another delicious lunch prepared by Rebecca Johns as we gather to recognize all our hard work and the fun we have had this past year while planning and attending Club events. It has been a true team effort!**

Advance reservations are requested by May 5<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$15 per person. Please call the office at 973-748-5459 for luncheon reservations or purchase online at [www.womensclubglenridge.com](http://www.womensclubglenridge.com) or mail checks to: The Women's Club of Glen Ridge, 219 Ridgewood Avenue, Glen Ridge, NJ 07028



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## *Girls' Club Corner*

Spring has always been an incredibly busy time for the Girls' Club, and this year is no exception! On Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>, the Club partnered with Neiman Marcus of Short Hills in hosting the first ever **Dresses with Dignity Prom Event**. Dresses with Dignity is a charity founded by Girls' Club President Christina Sliwak that provides gently worn formal dresses for girls who could not afford them otherwise. The event featured live music, free hair and makeup consultations, lite bites, and a custom-made Girls' Club makeup compact for all who participated! This unprecedented event made a huge difference in the lives of girls in the area.

The Club also hosted its annual **Spring Fashion Show** on Tuesday, March 16<sup>th</sup> in the Women's Club. This year's theme was "The Secret Garden," and girls modeled whimsical and romantic fashions from a variety of local boutiques. Our partnering businesses for the clothes featured in the show included Brooks Brothers and Betsey Johnson as well as local businesses Coco, Ruby, Thread, Barbara Eclectic and Dot Reeder. Hairdressers from Bangz Salon and makeup artists from the Bobbi Brown Studio serviced the 31 models walking in the show and O'Boyle's Landscaping Company transformed the Women's Club into a true secret garden. T-shirts, goody bags and lots of incredible raffles were offered to guests. A portion of the evening's proceeds went to help the victims of the recent earthquakes in Haiti.

In April, the Girl's Club is bringing back its annual **Spring Dance** for the first time since 2006! Club members who are interested in attending the dance must earn 25 post-Candy Cane points and will be able to invite a guy to attend. Hopefully, the dance will continue to be a highlight of the Girl's Club year in the future.

This year was a record-breaking year for the Girls' Club. October's annual maniCURE Night raised the most it has ever raised in the history of the Club. Proceeds were donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. The girls introduced new service opportunities like Operation Christmas Child, for which members brought in a total of 330 shoeboxes full of gifts for children around the world. Dresses with Dignity was founded, and the new tradition of inviting Freshman to a Freshman Reception in the beginning of the school year was started. Cumulatively, the **Girls' Club's efforts this year include:** the Community Fund Run, the Montclair Human Needs Food Pantry, Forest Ave School Pizza Party, Women's Club International Department, GRHS Back to School Night, Women's Club Coat Drive, Home and School Kitchen Tour; Women's Club Harvest Festival, Susan G. Komen maniCURE Night, Middleton Early Learning Center Halloween Party, Forest Ave School Jack-O-Lantern Festival, Women's Club Music Committee Baking, Operation Christmas Child, Ashenfelter 8K Race, the Gas Lamp Players Production, Women's Club Winter Wonderland, Mountainside Hospital Magazine Drive, American Red Cross Blood Drive, Bucknell Brigade, SCEEP, Women's Club Office Nights, Maple School of Newark Supply Drive, Forest Ave School Winter Carnival, Women's Club Girls' Night Out, Women's Club LAMP for Haiti, Neiman Marcus Dresses with Dignity Prom Event and Women's Club Doll Tea.

Club members can look forward to more service opportunities in the months of May and June, and freshman are still able to carry over 10 points to next year! In May, elections will take place for next year's panel of officers and representatives, and the elected girls will be formally acknowledged at the year-end dinner. Another new tradition introduced this year is the Officers' Transition Tea. This gives current officers the chance to informally pass the torch to next year's group of dedicated young women who will lead the club to new heights!

The Girls' Club senior officers; Christina Sliwak, Danielle Casadonte, Janel Abrahami, Colleen Waldron, and Jordan Smith would like to sincerely thank the Women's Club and the Girls' Club Advisors for helping to make this year such an incredible success! Their generosity, patience, and expertise throughout the year created a driving force that guided the Officers and Class Representatives through a meaningful learning process and gave all Club members numerous unforgettable experiences.

Submitted by *Janel Abrahami*

# APRIL 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30AM Time for Tots	2 Club Closed	3
4	5	6 12:00PM Monthly Meeting and Drama Open House	7 9:30AM Yoga 9:00AM Finance Mtg. 8:00PM Classics BC	8 9:30AM Time for Tots 8:00PM Book Talk	9	10
11 3:00PM Music for Strings	12	13	14 No Yoga	15 No Time for Tots	16	17
18	19	20 9:00AM Board Meeting GRHS Art Show	21 9:30AM Yoga 8:00PM Novelties BC	22 9:30AM Time for Tots	23	24
25	26 7:30PM Girls' Club General Meeting	27 10:00AM Literary Ladies II	28 9:30AM Yoga	29 9:30AM Time for Tots	30 7:00PM Girls' Club Spring Dance	

Date	Time	Event
2		Club Closed – Good Friday
6	12:00PM	Monthly Meeting and Drama Dept. Open House
7	9:00AM	Finance Committee Meeting
7	8:00PM	Classics Book Club: <u>The Great Gatsby</u> , F. Scott Fitzgerald
8	8:00PM	Literary Evening with Shelley Emling
11	3:00PM	Music for Strings
20	9:00AM	Board Meeting
20		Glen Ridge High School Art Show
21	8:00PM	Novelties Book Club: <u>The Help</u> , By Kathryn Stockett
26	7:30PM	Girls' Club General Meeting
27	10:00AM	Literary Ladies II: <u>American Pastoral</u> , Phillip Roth
30	7:00PM	Girls' Club Spring Dance

### Special Classes

Wednesdays	9:30-10:45AM
Thursdays	9:30-11:00AM

Yoga – No class Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>  
Time for Tots – No meeting Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>



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# MAY 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 1:00PM House Tour and Reception	3 7:30PM Girls' Club Meeting – Officers & Advisors	4	5 9:30AM Yoga 8:00PM Classics	6 9:30AM Time for Tots	7 8:00PM Music and More	8
9	10	11 12:00PM Annual Luncheon	12 9:30AM Yoga 9:00AM Finance	13 9:30AM Time for Tots	14	15
16	17 7:30PM Girls' Club General Meeting	18 9:00AM Board Meeting	19 9:30AM Yoga	20 9:30AM Time for Tots	21	22
23	24 7:00PM Girls' Club Dinner	25 10:00AM Literary Ladies I	26 9:30AM Yoga	27 9:30AM Time for Tots	28	29
30	31 Club Closed					

Date	Time	Event
2	1:00PM	House Tour and Reception
3	7:30PM	Girls' Club Meeting – Officers & Advisors
5	8:00PM	Classics Book Club: <u>Walden</u> , Henry David Thoreau
7	8:00PM	Music and More – Voice in Chamber Music
11	12:00PM	Annual Luncheon
12	9:00AM	Finance Committee Meeting
17	7:30PM	Girls' Club General Meeting
18	9:00AM	Board Meeting
24	7:00PM	Girls' Club Dinner
25	10:00AM	Literary Ladies I: <u>The Hemingses of Monticello: An American Family</u> , Annette Gordon-Reed
31		Club Closed – Memorial Day

### Special Classes

Wednesdays	9:30-10:45AM	Yoga
Thursdays	9:30-11:00AM	Time for Tots



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# JUNE 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30AM Yoga 8:00PM - Classics	3 9:30AM Time for Tots	4	5
6 Girls' Club Officers Transition Tea	7	8	9 9:30AM Yoga 8:00PM Novelties BC	10 9:30AM Time for Tots 6:30PM Year End Cocktail Party	11	12
13	14	15 10:00AM Literary Ladies II	16 9:30 Yoga – Last Class	17 9:30AM Time for Tots	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Date	Time	Event
2	8:00PM	Classics Book Club: <u>Go Tell it on the Mountain</u> , James Baldwin
6		Girls' Club Officers Transition Tea
9	8:00PM	Novelties Book Club
10	6:30-9:00PM	Year End Cocktail Party
15	10:00AM	Literary Ladies II

**Special Classes**

Wednesday	9:30-10:45AM	Yoga – Last class June 16 <sup>th</sup>
Thursdays	9:30-11:00AM	Time for Tots – Last meeting June 17 <sup>th</sup>

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## Finance Chair – Year End Report

As we close in on the end of our fiscal year on April 30<sup>th</sup>, I thought it would be a good time to summarize how we are doing from a financial perspective. On the positive side, several categories made more money than expected; we have made \$2,400 more than planned in advertising revenue and the rental business has made at least \$26,000 *more than planned*. This extraordinary result has more than compensated for the following shortfalls.

Reflecting the economic climate of the past year, all of our fundraising activities have been down by approximately 20%, or \$2,800. Our portfolio's dividends and interest are down \$1,300. Meanwhile, the expenses for supporting our beautiful clubhouse have been higher than expected as house maintenance, repair and utilities required expenditures of an additional \$6,494.

Finally, our year end figures include the cost of the ADA unisex restroom that was built on the first floor this year. For those long time members, you will remember I have been reporting a positive net income in each of the last 4 years. \$25,000 of that cumulative net profit was expended on the ADA project. When the final financial numbers are published, it will appear that we spent far more than we earned, but in fact \$25,000 of that reflects the cost of the new construction and was planned for in setting our course for this year.

Confused or interested in learning more? Feel free to call or email me anytime.

Submitted by *Marge Kallies*



## Year End Cocktail Party

Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 6:30 – 9:00 PM

\$10.00 per person

*Come celebrate another successful year!*



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## The Armchair Reader Review:



### *Half Broke Horses, A True Life Novel*

270 pages

By Jeannette Walls

Jeannette Walls is the author of *The Glass Castle*, her extraordinary childhood memoir of being parented by an alcoholic father and a mentally ill mother. Ms. Walls had planned to make her next book the story of her artistic but troubled mother Rosemary. However, Rosemary insisted that it was Ms. Walls' grandmother Lily Casey Smith who had led the more interesting life. *Half Broke Horses* is the story of Lily told in her own first-person, no-nonsense, take-no-prisoners voice, as her family so vividly remembers it.

Lily's narrative begins with a flash flood sweeping through their farm in west Texas when she was ten years old. Recognizing the omens, she gets herself and her two younger siblings up into the branches of a cottonwood tree just before a six-foot high wall of water slams into it. As the water rises, she keeps them all awake through the night by making them recite their multiplication tables. When the water recedes in the morning, they scramble down and return to the house, where Lily's mother takes credit for their survival, saying it was her prayers that had sent a guardian angel to save them. As her brother and sister fall to their knees to thank their mother, Lily says, "I just stood there looking at them. The way I saw it, I was the one who'd saved us all, not Mom and not some guardian angel. No one was up in that cottonwood tree except the three of us."

That's Lily in a nutshell.

Born in 1901 in a dugout, which was literally a large hole shoveled out of the side of a riverbank, Lily quickly becomes the practical anchor of her family. Her father spent his energies on lawsuits and get-rich-quick schemes such as raising peacocks to sell to rich folks. Her mother worried about her daughters marrying the right man and about "the proprieties", furnishing their dugout with lace doilies and velvet curtains. The young Lily helps her father train carriage horses, the one profession he actually makes a profit from, and keeps his temper in check. When another flood strikes and Lily's mother retreats to high ground to pray, Lily is the one who organizes a bailing crew to save their dugout, saying, "If God gave us the strength to bail—the gumption to try to save ourselves—isn't that what he wanted us to do?"

Lily develops a passion for learning, so her parents scrape together the money to send her to school at the Sisters of Loretto in Santa Fe. There Mother Albertina takes an interest in the bright young farm girl and suggests she consider becoming a teacher. Although Lily only stays at the school for one semester because her father uses her tuition to buy Great Danes for breeding, Lily takes the teacher's examination and passes. When she's hired by a school in Red Lake, Arizona, her father begs her to stay and help him on the ranch. However Lily says, "Dad, I got to strike out on my own sometime. Like you're always saying, I've got to find my Purpose."

So at age fifteen, the newly minted teacher sets off on her mare Patches, riding 500 miles alone, a journey which takes her a month. The characters she meets and the sights she sees are fascinating, both to her and to the reader.

Teaching becomes her lifelong love. Often the one-room schoolhouses she worked in were also where she lived. There were no textbooks so she used whatever the children brought in, from Bibles to seed catalogues. Yet Lily avers that she never met a kid she couldn't teach.

After men return from the war to reclaim all the teaching jobs, Lily moves to Chicago. There she meets and marries Ted Conover, who turns out to be a "crumb bum", as she ever after refers to him. When Lily

(continued from previous page)

confronts him with his secret perfidy, he laments that “by loving you, I’ve destroyed you.” Lily snaps back smartly, “You have a mighty high opinion of yourself. The fact is, you don’t love me, and you haven’t destroyed me. You don’t have what it takes to do that.” Then she slams his office door so hard the glass breaks and throws his ring (which turns out to be a fake) in the lake.

Lily is no stranger to tragedy and pain, yet there is not an ounce of self-pity in her narrative. She faces life head-on, deals with it in her own inimitable way, and moves on to find joy and hope. Despite her hard-headed practicality, she is something of a forward thinker. Encountering automobiles for the first time, she warns her father that the demand for carriage horses will probably dwindle in the not-so-distant future. Not surprisingly, he pooh-poohs the idea. When she sees an airplane on her journey to Red Lake, she decides that someday she will fly one, and, being Lily, she finds a way to take flying lessons.

She has her whimsical side too. When she can’t convince her children there’s a Santa Claus, Lily decides to work magic of a different kind for Christmas. She buys strings of the new-fangled electric Christmas lights and has her second husband Jim string them on a pine tree in their yard.

*Once it grew dark, we called the cowboys out from the bunkhouse, and Jim pulled the hearse up next to the tree. He opened the hood, attached a cable to the battery, and as we all stood in a circle around the tree, he raised the cable and the light cord above his head, and with a flourish, brought them together. The tree burst into color and we all gasped at the red, yellow, green, white, and blue lights boldly glowing in the cold night, the only lights for miles around in the immense darkness of the range. ...A number of the ranch hands had never seen electric lights, and a few of them took off their hats and held them over their hearts.*

Lily’s second marriage is a happy one, resulting in the birth of two children. Those who have read *The Glass Castle* will be intrigued to meet the author’s mother Rosemary as a child who “was also a little like a half-broke horse.” As Rosemary grows into a beauty, she and Lily clash often, especially over Rosemary’s choice of men. Despite Lily’s best attempts to warn her daughter about his shortcomings, Rosemary marries Rex Walls, a “hellion” and a drinker. Their third child is Jeannette, whose birth neatly closes the circle of the generations.

Once started, the Armchair Reader found it difficult to tear herself away from Lily Casey Smith’s life and times. The narrative races along at the speed of one of the Mustangs she helped her father tame. Black-and-white photographs of Lily and her family begin each section of the book, offering the reader tantalizing glimpses of what the characters actually looked like. But they pale in comparison to the vividness of Lily’s own voice and personality. This is one rip-roaring good read.

--Nancy Herkness Theodorou

**We are pleased to welcome the following new members:**

Tricia Mansfield	166 Linden Avenue	Glen Ridge
Heidi von Schreiner	37 Hamilton Road	Glen Ridge
Danielle Arminio-Abate	109 Sherman Avenue	Glen Ridge

**Bylaws and Standing Rules Revisions - Vote at the April 6<sup>th</sup> Monthly Meeting**

On April 6<sup>th</sup> the membership will be voting on a packet of proposed Bylaws and Standing Rules changes. Please review these proposed changes prior to that meeting. Copies can be found on the Club bulletin board and on our web site by accessing the link provided on the Members Page.

Please contact Meredith Barrentine with any questions or comments. Only substantive issues will be discussed at the April meeting. Please note, asterisked items will be voted on all together as they are housekeeping issues.



**The Women's Club of Glen Ridge  
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***Music for Strings* - Sunday, April 11, 2010, 3:00PM**

Featuring members of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra with a program introducing young and old to the wonderful world of strings.

***The Voice in Chamber Music* - Friday, May 7, 2010, 8:00PM**

A presentation of works by Brahms, Loeffler and more.

Featuring special guests Emily Howard, mezzo-soprano and Beth Levin, piano.

These concerts, the final two of the 2009-2010 Season, offer a wonderful opportunity to hear fine music in the Club's beautiful Georgian Room. Please join us. General admission \$12/Club members \$9

***Glen Ridge High School Art Show and Reception***

*Works by our Senior and Advanced Art Students will be on display.*



***Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM - 9:00PM at the Women's Club of Glen Ridge***

*Please come join us to view this year's culmination of art works by our talented Glen Ridge High School Artists. Refreshments will be served.*

*All are welcome.*

*Please note - The Women's Club office will be closed from June 25 through September 1, 2010. The answering machine and email will be checked regularly if members need assistance or access to the Clubhouse over the summer. Have a great summer!*

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**Signpost Staff** Editors: Susan Hughes, Karen Martin, Ann Marie Morrow  
Proofreader: Lori MacDonald

**Signpost**  
Women's Club of Glen Ridge  
219 Ridgewood Avenue  
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028

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