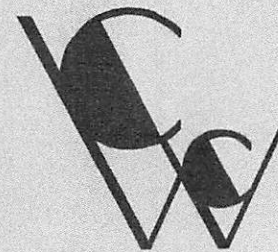


# College Club West



Celebrating  
75 Years  
1926-2001

## THE LAST TEN YEARS 1991-2001

This is the fourth edition of the College Club West history. For the 40th anniversary of the Club, its Historian, Margaret Manor Butler, authored an edition that included pictures. In 1976 a supplement was written by Olive Jenkins King, the Club Historian, for the years from 1966 to 1976. The Creative Writing Group edited another history, Reflections, for the fifteen years from 1976 to 1991. This review of the Club history is being presented for the years 1991 to 2001 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of College Club West. Some review of the earlier history is included for members who do not have (or have access to) the earlier books or are new members of CCW.

College Club West is seventy-five years old. Many women have been members during its long history. The Club has a lengthy list of former Board members and sixty-seven past presidents. Some women have been members for fifty years, but there are no surviving charter members.

Lakewood College Club, as it was originally named, began on April 6, 1926 when a group of women gathered at the home of Mrs. Susan Doudican to discuss the formation of a club for college educated women. One month later 93 women, representing 45 colleges, had joined paying annual dues of \$5.00. By the end of that month, the constitution had been adopted and fifteen members were chosen to serve as its first Board of Trustees.

When the Club was first formed, associate memberships were available to women who had not completed a degree. In 1930 the requirement was increased to 45 hours and then to 60 hours. In 1936 associate memberships were eliminated.

College Club West today follows many of the plans established in the beginning: an evening meeting the first Wednesday of the month and an afternoon meeting, the third Wednesday. From the beginning speakers were provided for the general meetings. Husbands were invited to attend evening meetings. The Group programs began

with: psychology, French conversation, English literature and drama, and interior decoration. By May 1927 the membership was 250 and represented 63 colleges.

In 1980 the Club name, Lakewood College Club, was changed to College Club West since many members had moved beyond Lakewood and the general meetings were held at Rocky River Memorial Hall.

In April 1991 a dinner was held to celebrate the 65th anniversary of College Club West. Virginia Royer was president and Dorothy Schultz served as chairman for the event. The catered dinner at Rocky River Memorial Hall is remembered for too few servers but it was a festive atmosphere. Arlene Kadel, accompanied by Loretta Conrad, led a choral group of CCW members. Carol Meermans served as mistress of ceremonies. A fashion show displayed members' clothing representing the 65 years of the Club history. The outfits were modeled by Club members.

The 1990-91 year concluded with programs by the Cleveland Playhouse director, the Avon Lake Women's Chorus and author Pat Leimbach. In June, Viola McDowell took the reins as president for 1991-92.

The winter of 1991 was the time of Desert Storm. The United States came to the aid of Kuwait to successfully force the Iraqi forces from their small country. In Cleveland, 1991 saw the opening of Key Tower with its striking white top. It was the first building to exceed the Terminal Tower in height.

Dick Goddard was the leadoff speaker in September 1991. Programs for the year varied from a "Postcard History of Rocky River" to Christmas decorations, from a pictorial tour of India to Spanish dancers, from Millionaires Row to a magician. The Singing Angels entertained. A new group, Quilting, was formed to encourage a popular trend.

In November 1992 Bill Clinton was elected President of the United States. The Higbee Company was taken over by Dillards

Department Stores. In February of 1993 The May Company downtown closed its doors and Kaufmann signs went up at all their suburban stores.

Mildred Cook became CCW President for the 1992-93 Club years. Members laughed at programs by Del Donahoo, cookbook author Robin Benzle, and **Plain Dealer** music critic Jane Scott, a CCW member. Several music programs were highlighted including a Christmas program by the West Shore Pops. Member Loretta Conrad accompanied on the piano.

During this year, a paid treasurer was hired. The treasurer's job was difficult and many Board members did not feel competent to handle it well. Carol Gibb, the first appointed treasurer, committed to a three year term.

In 1992 a German Group was formed. The Board chose Beck Center for the 1993 spring theater party. The locale of the theater was convenient and a pre-theater dinner was held there.

Two women were appointed to head two local universities. In 1992 Dr. Jerry Sue Thornton became the President of Cuyahoga Community College. Dr. Claire Van Ummersen became President of Cleveland State University in 1993.

The 1993-94 Club year was a year of educational programs. The topics varied from world events to music, from quilting to health issues. Cuyahoga County Prosecutor Stephanie Tubbs Jones (now a U.S. Representative) was the annual dinner speaker in June. The Club President for the year was Carol Hildebrandt whose mother, Gwen Tietjen, is also a CCW member.

President Anne Cox was the leader for the 1994-95 Club year. The meeting time was moved fifteen minutes earlier (7:45 PM and 12:45 PM) with the dessert served first. Again the programs covered a wide spectrum. Dulcimer music was played as well as vocal music and a harpist. Members learned about the Cleveland Crib Disaster of 1916. Tips were presented on stress management and Adele Malley

came with Chocolate. Herbs, the "Stuffy Nose" and the Maritime Museum filled the program calendar.

Another reading group was added. The Evening Reading Discussion Group was formed for women for whom a daytime group was not convenient.

Jacobs Field and Gund Arena both opened in 1994. This made Tower City a hub of activity with a walkway through to the sports facilities. The terrible bombing of a federal office building in Oklahoma City happened in April of 1995.

The 1995 September organizational meeting hit a homerun with speaker Sharon Hargrove, wife of the Cleveland Indians manager, Mike. Snow Thomas was the 1995-96 Club president. Programs during the year enlightened members on the Amish, "Scams and Frauds", the Lake Shore Electric Railway, and Lake View Cemetery landmarks. Geiger's Pendelton Shop presented a fashion show.

The CCW Quilt, Needlework and Miniature Groups shared their crafts at a March meeting. The May Board Members Luncheon was held at the Gwinn Mansion in Bratenahl. The rest of the calendar was filled out with music and character monologues. Mary Adams and LaDonna Moore became co-chairs of Know Your City and with the use of bus tours, led CCW members many places. Carol Hildebrandt took the job of Treasurer.

Nineteen ninety-five was Cleveland's bicentennial year. Many special events were held. The city was alive with excitement in the fall of 1995 when the Cleveland Indians won the American League pennant. Sadly, they were defeated in the World Series by the Atlanta Braves. The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame opened on the lakefront.

Cleveland was shocked in November of 1995 when owner, Art Modell moved the Cleveland Browns football team to Baltimore. The Browns large fan base and Cleveland Mayor Mike White fought hard and the following June the NFL announced a new franchise would be given to Cleveland within three years. They were also to

retain the name, the "Cleveland Browns". Building a new stadium was a requirement. The winter of '95-'96 set a record as the snowiest winter in Cleveland history.

Another College Club West year began with "Color Commentary for the Cleveland Indians". Patricia Santa-Emma was President for the 1996-97 calendar year. The Club learned about the "Connecticut Connection" to the Cleveland history of the Western Reserve. One speaker introduced "The Wonder Down Under", Australia, that is.

For the February Group Chairmen's Luncheon, the Creative Writing Group shared their writings on the subject of "love". March programs covered Shakespeare and Wearable Art. The May Board Members' luncheon was held at the Hermit Club in Cleveland. Doris Krueger started a new group for members who wanted to play Bocce Ball. The Tennis Group reorganized.

President Bill Clinton was re-elected in 1996. He appointed the first woman Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. In Cleveland the Great Lakes Science Center opened on the Lakefront.

Frances Baran was President in 1997-98. A sad footnote is that she passed away only a year and a half after she graciously served in that office.

Bill Allman from the Berea Summer Theater entertained at the first meeting of the year. The programs continued with "Historic Fashions" from the Kent State Museum and book man, Richard Gildenmeister. Club members learned about Cleveland restoration and the Cleveland Metroparks. Del Donahoo and Leon Bibb both visited and so did a host from the WVIZ Auction. There were music programs too.

Four new groups were introduced. The Watercolor and Discovery Groups did not draw many members and did not continue. The new groups of Investment-Evening S&P and Walking for Fun are still thriving.

In July 1997 Jacobs Field hosted the baseball All Star game and in the winter of 1998, the basketball All Star game was held at Gund Arena. the Cleveland Indians were the American League champs again in the fall of 1997. A heart breaking loss in the ninth inning of the seventh game of the World Series against Tampa Bay ended a thrill-packed season.

In 1998 the College Club of Cleveland was one hundred years old. College Club West was invited to share in their festivities and gave them a gift of a clock for their club's house.

1998-99 was led by President Karla Westlake. The Lunch Bunch was a new group for women who enjoy eating out but don't drive in the evening. As has been the Club's history, programs varied from educational to entertaining. CCW meetings had art, dance, comedy, music, etiquette, estate planning and Women in History. One speaker tried to improve memory.

An active past-president and life-long member, Virginia Drusendahl, passed away. She had played an important role in the growth of the Club. Again CCW had a new Treasurer: Vera Molls.

Desegregation of the Cleveland Public Schools ended. Mayor Mike White took control of the floundering system. He dismissed the elected Board of Education, appointed a new Board, and hired the system's first woman superintendent, Barbara Byrd-Bennett.

Al Lerner purchased the new Cleveland Browns franchise for five hundred and thirty million dollars. Completion of the redoing of the Allen Theater finished the restoration of Playhouse Square. The four theaters there make it the largest theater complex outside New York City. Septuplets were born in Iowa.

1999 saw the first impeachment trial of a sitting U.S. president. President Clinton was chastised for inappropriate sexual behavior with a young White House intern in the Oval Office and then lying to the country about his action.

In the 1999-2000 year with Joann Piper as President, a contest was held to select a logo for College Club West. Muggsy Mason's design was chosen. Another cooking group, Recipe Sampling, began. A Beginning Bridge Group was also formed. Past-President Karla Westlake successfully revamped the New Members group.

Many historical events occurred in 1999. The Cleveland Browns Stadium was completed on the site of the former Cleveland Municipal Stadium and the "new" Browns were on the field when the season began. Dick Jacobs sold the Cleveland Indians to Larry Dolan and his family for three hundred twenty million dollars. Weather brought terrible flooding to parts of the southeastern United States. The United States with NATO became involved in the civil conflict in Bosnia. U.S. Air Force pilots led bombing raids on strategic targets.

One enlightening CCW program in 1999 was "Is It an an Antique or a Collectible?" The Riverside Choir of young people entertained at the December dinner. Their enthusiasm and CCW members' participation was special. "Meet Margaret Bourke-White" was a February program. AS a change of pace the theater party for 2000 was held at the Clague Playhouse in Westlake. A traveler to China and the Goodwill Vintage Fashion Show kept the programs moving.

CCW member Jane Scott, the Plain Dealer writer, reminisced at the April luncheon when College Club West annually entertains the Board of the College Club of Cleveland. Although there is no official affiliation of the two clubs, there is a long history of shared values and friendship.

In January of 2000 Severance Hall reopened after an extensive renovation. Gund Arena hosted the U.S. National Figure Skating Championships. Tiger Woods became the elite of golf.

In June of 2000 eight women were each awarded a \$1000.00 scholarship. The first CCW scholarships were given in 1972 when four women were given a total of \$1500.00. Since College Club West

has no fundraisers, member contributions to the Scholarship Fund and wise investments have made this possible. Since 1972 over one hundred thousand dollars has been given to 167 women in awards of \$200.00 to \$1500.00 each.

The summer of 2000 saw terrible wildfires that swept the western United States. A cease fire was finally reached to end the fighting in Bosnia. The Middle East erupted with more turmoil. In November 2000 the closeness of the presidential election was on hold through numerous recounts, legal haggling and court decisions for thirty-six days. Governor George W. Bush of Texas was finally declared President-elect of the United States.

2000-01 is the seventy-fifth anniversary year for the Club. What an achievement! Carolyn Rummery is the new President. Programs for the year have already included a portrayal of Lucy Hayes, information on the International Women's Air & Space Museum and Armond Budish bringing members up to date on estate concerns. "Why Your Vote is Important" and "Rediscovering Ohio" were also fall programs and the Avon Lake Women's Chorus sang for Christmas.

In 2001 it became necessary to increase the Club dues to \$30.00. In 1926 the dues were \$5.00. Inflation has affected Club expenses but dues have remained low.

In College Club West's seventy-fifth year it supports thirty-five interest groups covering many subjects. The Club maintains a membership of 500. Its values have remained constant and much of the organization remains the same even as it has moved into a new century. The city of Rocky River is building a new hall near the present one so the College Club West meeting place will move there in the future. CCW members can take pride in their organization on its seventy-fifth birthday.

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Aided by the Creative Writing Group members of 2000-01