

The Women's Faculty Club Newsletter

University of California, Berkeley

October 2013

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At several points in our Club's history, women faculty members have sought to enrich their academic lives through a variety of informal gatherings with other women faculty from across the campus. Their efforts to bring their professional interests out of their own departments and schools and into the gracious atmosphere of our dining room and lounge are recounted in the Club's oral history compiled in 1981-82.

In the early years, there is mention of "The Learned Ladies" meetings at which both scholarly papers – Professor Marian Diamond furnished slides of some of her research - and work addressing the role of women were presented – "*but not belligerently feminist.*" Professor Josephine Miles of the English Department remembered The Dinner Club, held once a month, at which one of a group of twelve women faculty presented their research – "*The first paper I heard was on the Anopheles mosquito – I really got interested in research and science.*" Women faculty in this group spanned the fields of Nutritional Science, German, Mathematics and Economics. And she remembered, in the mid-60s, fund-raising talks and readings at the Club to support positions for, and legal battles waged by, twenty women lecturers in the sciences.

In the mid-1970's, Professor Marian Diamond organized Ben's Forum, a group of twelve senior women professors that met once a quarter at lunch – "*to say what's new with us and what's bothering us ... you get an insight into common problems.*" (Benjamin Franklin had a group of twelve men that he met with just to discuss issues of interest to the group.) A suggestion from Professor Elizabeth Scott then developed an open women's faculty lunch once a month in the Board Room which anyone could attend, with half an hour devoted to what was new in the women's various fields.

The Club's mission today is focused on promoting the educational, professional and service activities of *all persons associated with the University*. One of the ways we serve the entire campus community, while celebrating the special role of women, is through our "Academic Lives" series of lectures and panels. Recent events have honored Berkeley's "Seven Women Deans," looked at the impact of "Academic Friendships" across departmental boundaries, considered dual-career academic couples in "Valentines in Academia," and featured Economics Professor and past Chair of President Obama's Council of Economic Advisors Christina Romer speak about her experiences in both academia and the public sector. And this fall we look forward to our featured Academic Lives event on Tuesday, November 5, 2013, 4 – 6 p.m. where six Women's Faculty Club members/authors will present their most current books. The topics are wide-ranging and reflect the diversity of our members. Members and their books include:

(Continued from page 1)

Renee Chow – *Suburban Space: The Fabric of Dwelling*, Hubert Dreyfus – *All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age*, Louise Fortmann – *Participatory Research in Conservation and Rural Livelihoods: Doing Science Together*, Waverly Lowell – *Living Modern: A Biography of Greenwood Commons*, Laura Nader – *Culture and Dignity: Dialogues Between the Middle East and the West*, Leigh Raiford – *Imprisoned in a Luminous Glare: Photography and the African American Freedom Struggle*,

Join us as these colleagues present their latest works and reflect on its place within their careers.

Sincerely,



Eleanor Swift
President
Board of Directors

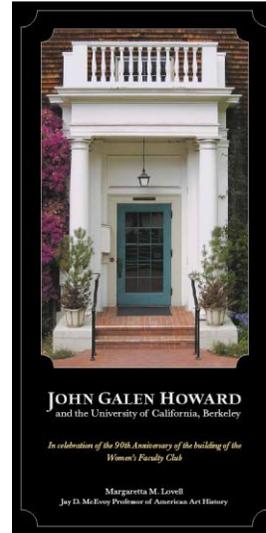
PROGRAM AND EVENTS

Fall “Arts in the Afternoon” Series

Past Events - September 19th – Tour and Reception

Thank you to Miranda Hambro and the Environmental Design Library for graciously welcoming our members and guests to a personal tour of the Library’s exhibit on John Galen Howard. Members enjoyed this last chance to view design drawings and other memorabilia celebrating Howard’s work on campus and beyond.

After the tour members returned to the Club to celebrate and recognize the work of Professor Margaretta Lovell who researched and wrote an outstanding brochure on Howard and the University of California, Berkeley. (Richard Clymer)



The brochure is the culmination of our year-long study of Howard’s work and a celebration of the 90th anniversary of the building of our Club.

The Board of Directors honored Professor Lovell’s work with a newly established “Directors Award of Appreciation” which cited the “intelligence, aesthetic sensibility and generous spirit” of Lovell’s work.

September 26 – “Women Who Left: Giving Voice to Silent Women”

Thanks also to the creative team of Melanie O’Reilly, Celtic singer-songwriter extraordinaire, and Frank Martin, pianist and arranger, who treated members and guests to a unique concert featuring both traditional and new songs on the experience of Irish women immigrants. Melanie’s songs are based on the stories revealed in their diaries and letters. The songs and readings evoked their dreams, their loneliness for home and their determination to make good in this new

world. Melanie's unique style of Celtic Jazz was ably matched with Frank's keyboard arrangements. (Cherie L.R. Wetzel)

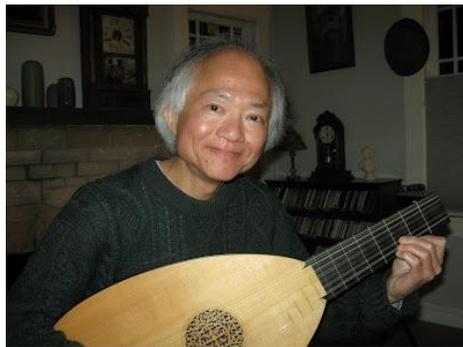


(Melanie O'Reilly and pianist Frank Martin with Mary Catherine Birgeneau – after the concert!)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 17, 4 -6 p.m.

“Baroque Lute and Archtop Guitar: The Art of Diverse Plucked Instruments”



(Franklin Lei)

Franklin Lei will grace our space in October with a concert of both Baroque Lute and Archtop Guitar. Trained as both an engineer (M.I.T.) and a musician (Renaissance and Baroque Lute at State Conservatory of Cologne) Lei offers a unique program that features two of his passions – Baroque Lute and Jazz guitar. (Andrea Peterson)

The concert will feature Johann Sebastian Bach's “Lute Suite in G Minor, BWV 995” as well as more recent jazz compositions arranged for his guitar. Lei's long study of the lute led him to the power of playing jazz guitar “fingerstyle” like lutenists and classical guitarists.

Lei's international performing career spanned 1979-2000. He was the featured soloist at many early music festivals and has recorded for Marco Polo, Naxos and Stradivarius labels.

Tuesday, October 29, 4 – 6 p.m.
“Spaces of Their Own: Julia Morgan – Making Architecture for Women”



(Julia Morgan)

Later in October we will return to our exploration of architectural space as Karen McNeill discusses Julia Morgan and the creation of uniquely women's spaces – including our own Club. McNeill's dissertation at CAL was on Julia Morgan and she has published numerous articles about Morgan's work and influence. One focus of McNeill's work is on the factors that influenced Progressive Era women to build “spaces” of their own which reflected their expanding roles in society as professionals, reformers and educators.

ACADEMIC LIVES

Tuesday, November 5, 4- 6 p.m.
“Women's Faculty Club Authors – Books of Note”

Join us to celebrate the wide diversity of work of Women's Faculty Club authors. Event will feature a brief synopsis of books as well as an opportunity for individual question and answers. Authors may reflect on their most current work within the scope of their overall careers. We hope this will be the first in a series of such events.

DINING ROOM NEWS –October 2013



- **October Dining Room Special – Complimentary cup of soup with purchase of entrée each Friday**
- **We’ve changed bakers! Let us know if you like La Farine’s baguettes and breads**
- **“Tasting Tuesdays” - Join us for lunch on each Tuesday in October – We continue a tradition of small tastings each week. Tastings change each week.**
- **Thank you program for individual members – Receive a complimentary coupon for the Salad Buffet after every eight luncheons within either six month period:
January – June or July - December**
- **Find your (name) within the body of the newsletter and win a \$20 gift certificate**