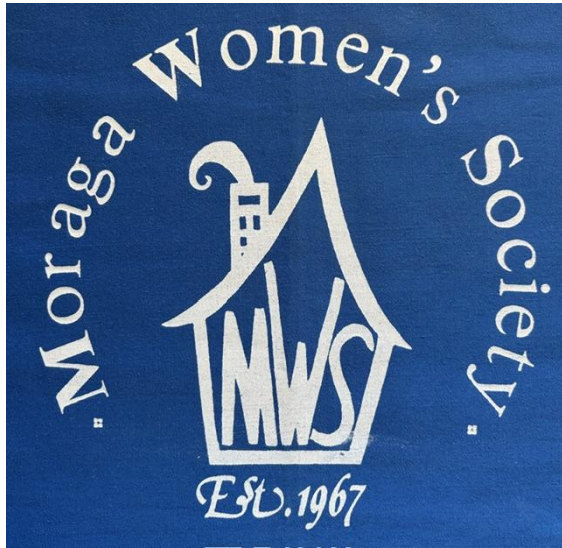


Moraga Women's Society



**A Visual Tour of Photos,
Rosters and Clippings**

The 2017 Swan Song

1967-2017



MORAGA WOMEN'S
SOCIETY
CELEBRATES
50 YEARS
OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

			IN ATTENDANCE		
Judy	Ayres	Past President		Bev	Pearson
Phyllis	Blevins			Betty	Ready
Gail	Bjornsen			Jackie	Reising
Sophie	Braccini	Lamorinda Weekly		Rachel	Riddle
Judy	Butler	Past President		Anita	Rohner
LaVonne	Carter			Pat	Rouleau
Diane	Cella			Ginny	Ruble
Sally	Church			Jane	Sandstrom
Roberta	Cohn	Past President		Nancy	Schick
Nancy	Comprelli	Past President		Wendy	Scheck
Bea	Cunningham	Past President		Vilma	Sharrock
Alyce	Cyr			Marilyn	Simonsen
Ellen	Dale			Charlene	Spielvogel
Marge	DeJohn			Donna	Sumner
Pat	Dollé			Mat	Terry
Gloria	Enstrom				
Lorli	French				
Jean	Glaser	Past President			
Sharon	Galliani				
Peggy	Good				
Ree	Hardy	Past President			
Febe	Harrington				
Celia	Hasbrook				
Roberta	Klaproth	President			
Elaine	Lind				
Colleen	Lund	Past President			
Jean	Macy	Past President			
Bev	Matthews	Past President			
Marjorie	Mason				
Hank	Maxwell				
Diane	Merson				
Louise	Milford	Past President			
Rena	Munson				
Teresa	Onoda	Mayor of Moraga			

Moraga Women's Society invites its past members to join them for a day of renewing friendships and celebrating the accomplishments of service to the community for these past 50 years. MWS has contributed about \$400,000 to our community during that time.

Please join us for a Tea and a trip down Memory Lane on Monday, October 16, at 2:00 at the Hacienda de Las Flores Pavilion, 2100 Donald Drive, Moraga. A shuttle down to the Pavilion from the Hacienda parking lot will be provided.

PLEASE RSVP no later than Oct 2 to Nancy Comprelli at 925-376-3187 or francycom@comcast.net. Please provide us with your phone number and email when you RSVP. We look forward to seeing you on Oct. 16th.

Hello Ladies,☺

☺

Our 50th Celebration Tea was scheduled for outside at the beautiful Hacienda Pavilion on Monday. Because of the growing concern over the terrible air quality, we have had to find another venue where we can be inside.☺

☺

The time will remain the same, but we will be in the Center for Ministry Room at the Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church at 433 Moraga Way, Orinda. (I will have a sign with a balloon on it there.)☺

☺

We look forward to seeing you on Monday.☺

☺

Could you please acknowledge receipt of this email so that I know you know the new location. Thanks.☺

☺

Sincerely,☺

Nancy Comprelli☺

A PROCLAMATION HONORING

Moraga Women's Society

WHEREAS, Moraga Women's Society was founded in 1967 with 18 charter members; and

WHEREAS, Moraga Women's Society was the first women's service organization in Moraga; and

WHEREAS, Moraga Women's Society is a non-profit organization and all monies raised from outside sources are used for the betterment of the community and the people therein; and

WHEREAS, during the last 50 years Moraga Women's Society has contributed approximately \$400,000 and major contributions have gone to the Acalanes High School District; Moraga School District; Moraga Parks and Recreation; Moraga Library and Town of Moraga; and

WHEREAS, the object of the Moraga Women's Society is to provide community service, promote cultural improvement and provide social activities for its members; and

WHEREAS, major fundraising events through the years have been "Holiday Homes and Boutiques;" "Honorary Mayor's Races" (held before Moraga was incorporated); "Casino Nights;" "Artists' Faires;" "Brunches, Bridges and Bunko;" "Fashion Shows;" "Marathon Bridge;" and "Pear Festival inflatables;" and

WHEREAS, an event celebration will be held October 16, 2017 for present and past members.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Teresa Onoda, Mayor of the Town of Moraga, along with my fellow Councilmembers, do hereby honor the Moraga Women's Society for their contributions and wish them a wonderful event celebration on October 16, 2017.



Teresa Onoda
Teresa Onoda, Mayor



Past Presidents

1967-68	Katie Diffenderfer	1988-89	Sharon Fritz
1968-69	Louise Milford	1989-90	Judy Ayres
1969-70	Bev Gableman & Joyce Butler	1990-91	Diane Beardsley
1970-71	Jean Mulroy	1991-92	Judy April
1971-72	Marilyn Alstrand	1992-93	Donna Walsh
1972-73	Roberta Cohn	1993-94	Marietta Biehn
1973-74	Sue Holmes	1994-95	Ree Hardy
1974-75	Estelle Haugen	1995-97	Jackie Reising
1975-77	Shirley Giese	1997-98	Bev Matthews
1977-78	Jackie Goodman	1998-00	Bea Cunningham
1978-79	Sue Keleman	2000-02	Roberta Klaproth
1979-80	Judy Butler	2002-03	Bea Cunningham
1980-81	Colleen Lund	2003-04	Jean Glaser
1981-82	Betty Iverson	2004-05	Nancy Comprelli
1982-83	Woody Coulter	2005-08	Colleen Lund
1983-84	Nancy Comprelli	2008-10	Roberta Klaproth
1984-85	Jean Macy	2010-11	Judy Butler
1985-86	Sara Parker	2011-12	Jackie Reising
1986-87	Jane Marszewski	2012-14	Rachel Riddle
1987-88	Louise Barr	2014-16	Susan Sperry
		2016-17	Roberta Klaproth



PAST PRESIDENTS IN ATTENDANCE

Louise Milford	1968 -69
Roberta Cohn	1972-73
Judy Butler	1979 - 80, 2010-11
Colleen Lund	1980-81, 2005-08
Nancy Comprelli	1983-84, 2004-05
Jean Macy	1984-84
~~Sharon Fritz~~	~~1988-89~~
Judy Ayres	1989-90
Donna Walsh-Sumner	1992-93
Ree Hardy	1994-95
Jackie Reising	1995-97, 2011-12
Bev Matthews	1997-98
Bea Cunningham	1998-2000, 2002-03
Roberta Klaproth	2000-02, 2008-10, 2016-17
Jean Glaser	2003-04
Rachel Riddle	2012-14
~~Susan Sperry~~	~~2014-16~~

MWS TOTAL SERVICE CONTRIBUTIONS
1967 - 2017

A Friendly Manor	\$ 4,515
Acalanes High School District	34,216
Hospice of Contra Costa County	3,700
Lafayette/Moraga Youth Association	8,250
Lamorinda Adult Respite Center	4,700
Lamorinda Youth Employment Services	2,900
Moraga Historical Society	1,350
Moraga Library	42,066
Moraga Parks and Recreation	89,532
Moraga Rescue Unit/Fire Dept.	3,202
Moraga School District	129,570
Rheem Ensemble	2,128
Scholarships	20,816
Sr. Helpline Services (Contact Care)	25,578
S.T.A.N.D. (Battered Women's)	3,250
Town of Moraga, 4 th of July	2,390
Other Donations	14,832

<u>TOTAL Contributions</u>	\$392,995
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Fundraisers:

Honorary Mayor's Race
 Casino Nights
 Do Your Own Thing
 House Tours & Boutiques
 Dinner theater
 Theater parties
 Cookbooks
 Garage Sales
 Working at Benefit Guild
 Artists Faire
 Fashion Shows - Good will Bags, Hospice, Drapers & Damons
 Bridge, Brunch, Bunko (or Bingo)
 Michaan's Appraisal events
 Marathon Bridge

Hands on:

After school rec program
 Kite flying contests
 Art contests for kids
 Painting pavilion, putting up mirrors
 Making items for the boutiques at the House Tours
 Making and furnishing doll houses for raffle
 Making doll house & furniture for Children's Library
 Decorating the Christmas tree at the Hacienda
 Remodeling the Brides Room at Hacienda
 Volunteering at Moraga Triathlon
 Friendly Manor - collecting donations for

Who we have supported:

Schools

After school recreation program
Football field lights at Campo
Tennis Courts Lights
Model UN at Campo
Ride for Life - Campo
Campo Band
Uniforms for Campo Band
Computers at Campo
Artists in Schools program
Money for science, math & reading programs
Money for AV equipment
Grad Night
Scholarships - seniors at Campo & Miramonte
LMYA
Moraga Educational Foundation
Drug & Alcohol program
Music programs
JM scoreboard in gym
Outdoor garden at JM
Walk through Calif & Walk through the Revolution programs
at elementary schools

Park & Rec/Town

Summer recreation programs
Pavilion renovation
Grass at the Pavilion
Furniture for the Pavilion
Remodel of Brides Room at Hacienda
Furniture, mirror and drapes in Fireside Room
Towards remodel of kitchen
Chairs, tables, equipment
Water tank for truck for median watering
Trees
Community Theater at Los Perales

Summer camp programs and supplies
Band Shell in Commons
Bench in the Commons
Play equipment at Commons
Fire works

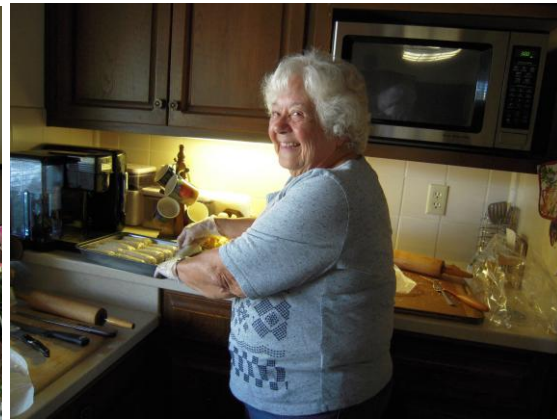
Library

Landscaping
Doll house
Books & tapes
Furniture for Children's Library
Computer tables in Children's Library
Current Redo of Children's Library

Fire Department

Rescue Unit
Equipment
Doll house for fire safety teaching at schools (Hazard House)

Others: Contact Care Teen-to-Teen Hot Line, Summer Youth Theater,
Moraga Little Theater, Rheem Ensemble, Battered Women's,
Youth employment, Moraga Historical Society



Preparing & Setting up for the Celebration





**Mayor Teresa Onoda Reads
Town's Proclamation**

















Notes taken from early MWS rosters

67-68

membership limited to 75 members

new members sponsored by 2 members, presented to and approved by whole membership in Oct & April

new members assigned to one work project and a fun affair to be a member in good standing, couldn't miss more than 3 meetings per year at the end of the year a member's status was determined as to renewal of membership (ie., missing more than 3 meetings, might be asked to leave) each member had to accept responsibility as an officer, a committee chair, or a member of a work project group - each year

Committees were Ways & Means, Service, and Social

dues were \$3

marathon bridge group started

68-69

Meetings were in homes

Lots of socials

69-70

Dues were increased to \$5

70-71

Fund Raisers/Service projects: Children's Art Festival at the Moraga Shopping Center & House Tour

Meetings at MVP

Couples bridge was a group

71-72

Fund Raisers-Service Projects: Children's Art Festival, House Tour

72-73

Fund Raisers/Service Projects: Bike Registration, Kite Flying Contest, Children's Art Festival, House Tour

73-74

Fund Raisers/Service Projects: House Tour, Honorary Mayor's Race, Kite Flying

74-75

Fund Raisers: Kite Flying Contest, House Tour

House Tour sold 584 tickets at \$3 and \$4

75-76

Dues increased to \$7.50

House tour profit was \$5,150 - 792 tickets sold at \$4.50

Had active, inactive and associate members

78-79

Fund Raisers: Artists Faire at the Hacienda, Fashion Show Luncheon

80-81

Dues raised to \$8



Gloria Engstrom – longest member - since 1969

Moraga Women's Society's swan song, a fond farewell to an ending era

By Sophie Braccini



Past Moraga Women Society presidents, from left: Roberta Klaproth (current president), Nancy Comprelli, Bea Cunningham, Jean Glaser, Ree Hardy, Jackie Reising, Judy Ayres, Donna Sumner, Rachel Riddle, Colleen Lund, Judy Butler, Beverly Matthews, Jean Macy, Roberta Cohn and Louise Milford. Photo Cindy Cattell

It was a bittersweet 50-year celebration. Tea and desserts, lovely smiling faces of some 60 women, and shared memories filled the nicely decorated hall of a local church on Oct. 16, but there was a tinge of sadness since this was the final meeting of the Moraga Women's Society. Because the members have aged and did not attract a new generation of women, the longtime friends that remain will continue as a social group only, stepping back from their work as a vibrant and generous nonprofit that gave to community schools, the library, parks and organizations.

Many of the women present

were in their 70s or 80s, members who joined the society in the 1970s; they were active before the town was incorporated and during the early days of the incorporation. These were times when many new homes seemed to spring up from the ground and the town was being formed. But it is now a different period, as past president Roberta Klaproth put it: a generation is saying goodbye and fading into the background. The ladies did it most gracefully.

During this final tea, Colleen Lund retold the history of the society. She focused on the very first years in the winter of 1966-67,

when a group of ladies who volunteered at the Moraga newcomers' club wanted to create more stimulating programs serving the community. Since the club did not accommodate their desires, the women chartered a new group in the spring of 1967: MWS. The objective was to further the development of Moraga – a county unincorporated area at the time – and find ways to raise money for the schools, parks and recreation, and local nonprofits. Moraga, unlike today, was developing at a fast pace. The women also wanted a place to make friends.

The MWS became a place to

become involved when moving into one of the many new Moraga homes. Nancy Comprelli, who joined in 1978, remembers that rules were strict and that she needed two sponsors to be admitted, as well as an immediate commitment to one of the three committees: ways-and-means, service or social.

From the start, MWS created some signature events that enlivened the social life, such as the Holiday Homes Tour and Boutique that continued until 2009. Comprelli, who remembers working with friends on building intricate dollhouses that were big auction items, says that nowadays people hesitate opening their homes for visits.

One of the signature events that the MWS created was the Honorary Mayor Races that were held before the town incorporated. Each "candidate" fundraised to "buy" votes at 10 cents a ballot; the funds were raised to subsidize the future library and parks. The campaign led to the creation of multiple fun events where candidates made outrageous speeches. Lund told how the community brimmed with energy and fun as each candidate created occasions to collect "votes." Elinor Dickenson, Postmaster, was the first Moraga honorary mayor. Some \$6,000 was raised during the campaign.

Lund remembers how the society was filled with creativity when

all the members put on a variety of fundraisers. They established the dog parade that still goes on for the Fourth of July, an arts and crafts festival that was quite vibrant until Lafayette started its own, a fashion show, a Bridge-brunch and Bunco event, and more. A total of \$400,000 was raised that helped fund the Campolindo football field, equipment at the Commons, computers at Campolindo, the outdoor garden at Joaquin Moraga Intermediate, the Walk through California and Walk through the Revolution programs in the elementary schools, refurbishing the fireside room at the Hacienda de las Flores, books and programs at the library, and more. There was also a lot of hands-on volunteering, such as the decorating of the Christmas tree at the Hacienda, something that the MWS will continue.

Over the years, friendships were strengthened, but after a period, no new members signed up. A 2014 newspaper article reported that service club memberships had been dwindling nationwide, the main reason being that people are busier than ever.

Comprelli says that her own daughter, who lives in Moraga, was a member of the Moraga Juniors and that upon leaving that group, all her energy was geared toward the schools; she says that today's parents are worn out.