ACTIVITIES

SPEAKER LUNCHEONS
Held in area restaurants, the three annual luncheons provide an opportunity for SMA members and their guests to become acquainted and to hear informative talks on subjects of interest about OHSU and the Portland community.

INTEREST GROUPS
Groups have been formed among members with particular interests. Interest Groups include: Movies, Gardening, Book Groups (both day and evening groups) and Threads (for knitting and other needlework). These groups generally meet monthly and are enthusiastically supported and enjoyed by our members.

DORTHEA DRAKE PENNINGTON ANNUAL SUMMER GARDEN PARTY
In 2007, the annual Blankets and Books for Babies Potluck was renamed to honor Dorthea Drake Pennington, late member of SMA who originated the Blankets and Books for Babies (B3) project in the 1980s. Proceeds from the Garden Party are used primarily to support B3. A fuller description of our B3 project appears below.

SERVICE PROJECTS & PHILANTHROPY

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE PROGRAM SUPPORT
Over the nearly 70 years since SMA was formed, the group has provided financial and volunteer support to a number of programs: child psychiatry camperships, Poison Control Information Center funding, music therapy for autistic children, renovation of the medical student lounge and on-call rooms, and furnishings and supplies for student study areas in the BICC. An annual memorial contribution is made to an OHSU Foundation fund to honor members or their spouses who have died. In 2007-2008, to commemorate SMA’s 60th anniversary, a $13,500 gift was made to furnish a suite of on-call rooms used by medical students. Since 2014 SMA has funded the College Cup, a welcoming social event featuring friendly competition among new student groups in the School of Medicine.
BLANKETS AND BOOKS FOR BABIES (B3)
This longstanding service project, coordinated and supported by financial contributions from our members, provides layettes to needy infants born at OHSU and some satellite clinics. Included in each gift package is a book, gown, booties and a blanket or quilt hand-made by community volunteers or our own Threads group. This project also provides hand-made pillows for the “Hug” program to provide comfort to children after cardiac surgery.

GWYNN DOCKERY TASK FORCE
In 2014 SMA received a generous bequest for our Blankets and Books for Babies service project from the estate of long-time member Gwynn Dockery. The Dockery Task Force was formed to determine how best to make use of the bequest. The Task Force sponsored a luncheon to thank the many community volunteers who make the B3 project possible and have identified a significant capital improvement project that will provide a much-needed family lounge area for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at OHSU. Once completed, this project will represent an approximately $40,000 gift to OHSU.