LARGE TURNOUT FOR OCTOBER LUNCHEON

Forty-six SMA members and guests turned out for the fall Luncheon on October 1. The luncheon was held in a dining room on the 24th floor of the Mirabella at the South Waterfront, offering spectacular views of the Tilikum Crossing bridge, the Willamette River and all points east. Cloud cover obscured the mountain views, but did not dim the enjoyment of the gathered group.

The speaker for the luncheon was State Representative Mitch Greenlick, a health activist with a long history of achievements. After receiving his Ph.D. in Health System Organization he moved to the Portland area, and in 1964 became director of the Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research in Portland and later was named Vice President of Kaiser Foundation Hospital. Starting in 1990, Greenlick served as Professor and Chair of Public Health and Preventive Medicine in the School of Medicine at OHSU; he is now Professor Emeritus. Greenlick is currently the State Representative for District 33 and has served in that post since 2002.

Rep. Greenlick gave an interesting overview of progress that has been made nationwide and in the State of Oregon to provide health insurance and medical care to all. Among his achievements in Oregon he noted his involvement with then-Governor Kitzhaber in 2003 to devise a system of health care “rationing” that had the result of significantly increasing the number of adults in Oregon who had access to health care. In 2005 he helped set up a novel hospital “tax” in order to secure matching Federal health care monies. He described his greatest achievement as helping add 100,000 children to the Oregon Health Plan. He noted that due to efforts in Oregon, and the adoption of the national Affordable Health care Act, the number of uninsured in Oregon is now 5 - 8%, a drop from 20% uninsured in 1988.

A LOVELY NIGHT FOR A GARDEN PARTY

It was a lovely night as SMA members and guests gathered for a pot luck and fund raiser for the Blankets & Books for Babies program. The event was hosted this year on August 9 at the home of Leslie and Stephen Robinson in West Linn and afforded guests a spectacular view from their deck. This year’s event was chaired by Jan Rhodes.

Party goers are asked to bring a dish or dessert to share and make a cash donation to BBB equal to what they might spend for an evening out at a restaurant. Funds raised are used to purchase yarn and material that volunteers knit and sew into blankets for babies born at OHSU. The blankets are each bundled with a purchased book and a “onesie”. If you were unable to attend the event but would still like to support the BBB service project, checks should be made payable to OHSU Foundation and mailed to our treasurer, Anne Yoo.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Let’s bring you up to date on our activities since the last newsletter. Carole Starr and her team organized a wonderful luncheon for our volunteer knitters and sewers this summer at the Portland Golf Club. The luncheon honored our community volunteers as well as the SMA members who organize the project and prepare the packages donated to deserving families giving birth at OHSU.

The month of August saw our annual Dorthea Pennington Garden Party at the beautiful home of Leslie and Stephen Robinson in West Linn.

Susan McAnulty and I attended the College Cup competition which SMA has been funding for the past three years. The College Cup event provides an afternoon of outdoor games for medical students to help them get acquainted outside of the classrooms.

The board will shortly be voting on the first expenditure from the generous Dockery bequest, to acquire some much needed items requested by nurses and social workers in the NICU.

Pam Berg

VOLUNTEERS THANKED FOR THEIR SERVICE

On June 23, 2015, the School of Medicine Alliance and Blankets & Books for Babies program (BBB) were pleased to entertain more than 50 volunteer knitters and sewers at a luncheon at the Portland Golf Club. The volunteer knitters and sewers make our project possible.

Carole Starr gave a presentation including a brief history of the School of Medicine Alliance and Blankets & Books for Babies. The highlight of the program was a presentation given by Verda Dew, social worker at the Mother Baby Unit.

Planning for the luncheon began at the Board’s direction in 2014 to dedicate a portion of Gwynn Dockery’s bequest to honor our volunteers. Jean Morton and Carole Starr were the original planners, and the committee soon grew to include Joan Foley, Lois Garner, Jodi Karr, Susan McAnulty, Sarah McCarty, and Zilpha Haycox.

*Interest Group contacts can be found in your Member Directory. Contact them for details on the groups’ activities, meeting locations, etc.

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2015-16 SMA Officers

President: Pamela Berg
Vice President: Susan McAnulty
Treasurer: Anne Taylor Yoo
Secretary: Ginny Brooks
Past President: Sarah McCarty

SMA newsletters are published quarterly and sent via email to our membership. More photos and other information is available on the website. Click “Members Only” tab, the password is “smamember”.

www.sma-ohsu.org

Send articles, photos or calendar events to: smaohsu@gmail.com
SMA MEMBER PROFILES

In an effort to help our members get to know each other a little better, we are offering some short profiles of SMA members.

Our thanks to Pam Anderson and Joan Kruse for conducting interviews, writing the profiles and supplying photos.

Pam Berg
member since 2004

Our current SMA President, Pam is an Orthoptist who recently retired from OHSU’s Casey Eye Institute after 52 years in the profession. Orthoptics, you may wonder? “It’s kind of like physical therapy for the eyes.” explains Pam. Orthoptists’ motto is “Helping the World See Straight.”

Originally from Reading, England, Pam attended Luckley School for Girls in Berkshire, where there were many girls from families who lived abroad such as the daughters of diplomats. Her home was a popular destination for these classmates, as her mother was a great cook and loved to entertain. Her grandmother was a patron of Drury Lane, so Pam was by association involved in London theatre, seeing first-run shows, as a young girl, such as My Fair Lady with Rex Harrison and Julie Andrews.

Upon graduation from school, Pam entered into the Orthoptics Program at Oxford Eye Hospital at age 17. Following graduation, she worked in Brighton for nine months. Then a position came up in California where she had always wanted to go. It was 80 degrees in LA when Pam arrived in October 1962 in a fuchsia jersey coat over a houndstooth-checked black and white Chanel suit. She was picked up from the airport by two young English orthoptists, one of whom she was to replace, who were wearing shorts and flip-flops. They were both hysterical with laughter.

Los Angeles in 1962 “was a wonder to a 20 year old” although there was very little live theatre, so Pam became involved in the visual arts, beginning with art walks on La Cienega. She joined a church where the rector convened a young people’s group and held talks on such things as Ingmar Bergman movies. These were the times of Twiggy, wild stockings from England, and the Beatles. “My first studio apartment was down the road from MacArthur Park, which looked relaxing, safe and bland, but I was told it was an unsafe area of Wilshire Blvd to eat my lunch.”

Fortunately for Pam, the owners of the orthoptic clinics where she worked were both literary and belonged to the LA Press Club, so Pam was taken under their wing and introduced to some very interesting people in LA, as well as to hip cuisine, jazz clubs and to her first taste of an artichoke.

On a late honeymoon visit to England and France in 1967 Pam and her engineer husband visited family in England and purchased some ceramics and then bought art posters in Paris. At a party in Pacific Palisades where the couple were living, she met someone who told her about councils at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. It was the beginning of her enchantment with art. She started collecting prints and works on paper, eventually became President of the Graphic Arts Council at LACMA after serving years on the board. She was also involved with the Hammer Museum. All this time she was working as an orthoptist at various hospitals, private offices, the Jules Stein Institute at UCLA in addition to private practices in Whittier and Culver City. When one of her bosses left UCLA to accept a job in Ann Arbor, she decided to move from LA and accepted a position at OHSU in 2004.

Currently, Pam is President of the Contemporary Art Council and on the program committee for the Graphic Arts Council at the Portland Art Museum, as well as President of her homeowners association in Mt. Park. All this keeps her very busy in retirement!

With Pam’s interests in the visual and in the visual arts, she brings a unique perspective. If you know Pam, you will discover an accepting, unbiased member who we are fortunate to have in the SMA.

More photos. Please visit our website for photo galleries from the Garden Party, the luncheon for BBB volunteers, and the Fall Luncheon. Scroll to the bottom of the Members Only page to find buttons that will take you to photo archives of interest group events and past luncheons and garden party events.