



*La Mesa Woman's Club*  
 A Member of GFWC, CFWC &  
 Southern District  
 CA Federation of Woman's Clubs



*GAVEL TALK - DECEMBER 2020*

*Pat Kelly, Editor*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS		BIRTHDAY CORNER
<b>DECEMBER</b> Fri 4th Executive Board 9:30 am	<b>JANUARY 2021</b> Fri 1st <i>Happy New Year</i> Fri 8th Executive Board 9:30 am	 Nancy Evans-Watson 10th Beth Miller 21st

*Presidents' Message*

*Betsy Quinn and Kathy Tinsley*



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members, a heart of grace, and a soul generated by love.” Coretta Scott King

**December greetings!** We sincerely hope that each of you enjoyed Thanksgiving and were left with loving, lasting memories of a special—if different—holiday. As 2020 ends, we're hopeful for the promise of a vaccine and the resulting decrease in the number of Covid cases. All of us are ready for a fresh start and eventual return to normalcy. Please continue to be vigilant—stay safe and keep each other healthy. This month our executive board meeting as well as our general assembly will be held on Zoom, since these meetings are considered non-essential. We are grateful to Marsha MacDonald and her Zoom account for keeping us connected during this time.

We offer the above quote, by the widow of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as a tribute to all of you LMWC members. Our group of volunteers regularly demonstrates compassion in the many ways we care for our community and for each other. Be sure to read the excellent press coverage given by Jeff Clemetson in the most recent edition of the “La Mesa Courier.” An outpouring of love show to Gertrude Findlay on her 100th birthday touched her, her family, and her neighbors. We're grateful for the members who shared in this special celebration.



Our clubhouse sale continues to move slowly through the various departments in our city. We're encouraged by the progress so far and hope to close escrow early next year. In preparation for this event, we would like to divest the clubhouse of its contents. Our thanks to Judy Burgess, who compiled a list of items that will be available. Most everything will be sold or donated, so now's the time to claim that table or folding chair you've always wanted! If you'd like to request an item, please let Judy know.

In closing, we offer another quote, the last verse of Longfellow's beloved Christmas carol, “I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day,” as our heartfelt wish for you and your families.  
 “Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
 God is not dead; nor  
 Does he sleep!  
 The Wrong shall fail,  
 The Right prevail,  
 With peace on earth, goodwill to men.”

With our love,  
 Kathy and Betsy

Hi everyone, it's hard to believe December 2020 has arrived. On one hand, I look back at the difficult year we have been through and I wonder how we ever made it through. On the other hand, I look back and see how busy we have been serving our community and reaching out to our members in friendship and sisterhood. I realize that while this year has been difficult in many ways, it has made us stronger. As we celebrate our Christmas & Holiday season, may we continue to remember those in our community who need our support. May we also continue to strengthen our bonds of friendship within LMWC and begin a new year fresh with faith and determination to be the best that we can be.

November was another busy time for our LMWC members. With help from so many of you we honored our veterans with cards of appreciation and remembrance; we provided Vials of Life, donated by the Sharp-Grossmont Hospital Senior Resource Center, and cheerful greetings and Holiday cards to 350 East County Meals on Wheels clients; we provided 20 Vials of Life and more than 280 items of food, toiletries, warm holiday socks and holiday cards with cheerful messages to twenty La Mesa homebound seniors; we provided 15 Vials of Life to the La Mesa Chamber of Commerce, and together we shared the Joy of the Season by giving to others.

Sincere notes of appreciation go to Elaine, Lou, Margaret, Jean Johnston, Pat Kelly, Judy, Betsy, Kathy, Nora, Margie, Marsha, and Sandi.

Our monetary donations were very limited this year. I am happy to report that your board voted to leave a LMWC legacy and support the La Mesa Historical Society by purchasing a brick for their new landscape project. The brick will be inscribed with the following words, ***"La Mesa Woman's Club Established May 1902, In the Volunteer Spirit"***.



Honeybees are rapidly declining in number and are in danger of disappearing. Honeybees are essential to healthy crops and to the environment. Saving honeybees and increasing the number of honeybee hives throughout the world is a special project of our CFWC State President, Pam Ament. All women's clubs in California are asked to purchase a

Heifer International has a honeybee gift donation program. One honeybee hive package may be purchased for a \$30 donation. The honeybee package includes one hive, box and training in bookkeeping techniques for the farmer. Your board voted to purchase a honeybee hive through Heifer International. *On the day of our purchase a monetary matching program increased our one hive donation to a donation of three hives.* Pat requested a donation notification be sent to Pam by Heifer International. The very next day Pam sent an email to Pat to thank LMWC for our donation in her honor. Our small gift is making a large impact.



Recently Margie, our Education & Scholarship Chairperson and I were talking. We agreed that our December "Gavel Talk" newsletter would be a perfect place to Honor and Congratulate our 2020 Scholarship recipients. I am happy to report that all five winners received a congratulatory letter on LMWC letterhead stationery and their \$1,000 checks before Thanksgiving. Now it is my pleasure to introduce, in alphabetical order, each scholarship winner. Again, this year, these students are amazing!

**Noor Behnam** graduated from Valhalla High School with a 4.82 GPA. His academic transcript reflects straight A grades throughout high school. His AP-Calculus teacher writes, "He is remarkable! A very gifted, independent & caring person. (He is an) attentive listener and an eloquent speaker! His counselor writes, "Noor is a phenomenal student. He has challenged himself with a rigorous schedule of classes and excelled academically...Noor will have great success in his future." His extra-curricular activities include Band, volleyball, Norse Crew, Academic League & CA Scholastic Federation. His community service includes Junior Volunteer Board at Sharp Grossmont Hospital and lab assistant with an independent research project at Salk Institute.

**Veronica Berg** graduated from Helix Charter High School with a 4.79 GPA. Her academic transcript reflects straight A grades. Her American Sign Language instructor writes, "Veronica demonstrates a true desire to learn and grapple with new and complex concepts, demonstrates leadership and compassion. She served tirelessly in ASB." Her counselor writes, "Veronica's course history is a

hive in Pam's name.

take, and performs well, in academically rigorous coursework." Her extra-curricular activities include being a member of the school water polo team all 4 years; serving on ASB, being President and a Lifetime Member of the National Honor Society and the CA Scholarship Federation. Her community service included working with special needs students attending Helix special education programs. As her senior project she organized an Olympics for the Super Scotties (students with moderate/severe disabilities) which was attended by more than 400 people. She also volunteered with the SD Registrar of Voters, working the polls for the 2018 general election and the 2020 primary election.

**Rachel Hua** graduated from Helix Charter High School with a 4.84 GPA. Her school extra-curricular activities included Helix Girls Tennis, Varsity Doubles #2 all 4 years. She was also a member of the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement Club where she was a member of the National Engineering Design Challenge Team. She and her team developed a water filtration device to be used throughout La Mesa's storm drain systems. The device would filter debris from the water and was programmed to automatically run and convert the mechanical energy of the running water to electrical energy that residents can use. Rachel was a member and officer in the Helix Interact Club where she conducted meetings and coordinated service projects. Her community service included 3 years volunteering at the SD County Library's La Mesa Branch. She also served as an intern in La Mesa's Resident Leadership Academy. Rachel is another straight A student. Her AP Statistics instructor writes, "AP Stats is a difficult class, and Rachel has absolutely shined. She is consistently performing at the top of the class." Her counselor writes, "Rachel is a thoughtful, conscientious, dedicated, and passionate student who deeply cares about her education...I am confident in her ability to succeed in college."

**Mirna Issa** graduated from Santana High School with a 4.738 GPA. Her extra-curricular activities included being a member of ACE (Architecture Construction, Engineering Mentor Program), founding and being President of the Feeding Hunger Club, and an officer in the Varsity Academic League, and the Acts of Kindness Club. Her community service activities include volunteering in the Junior Volunteer Program at Sharp-Grossmont Hospital, membership in the LEO Club of Lions Clubs

testament to her academic prowess. (She) seeks to International and President in Key Club International. Her counselor writes, "Mirna has chosen the most rigorous course load and has gotten straight A's in all subject areas. She is bright, hardworking, self-motivated and committed to her goals and will do extremely well in the college environment."

**Soleen Mansoor** graduated from El Cajon Valley High School with a 4.674 GPA, straight A grades and first in her class of 338 students. Her English/AVID teacher writes that while pursuing a biology major, Soleen has taken every AP class offered at El Cajon Valley High School. Her extra-curricular activities included being Captain of the ECVHS Girls Soccer team. As a member of Club Inspire, she worked with special education students organizing events like beach clean-ups and movie nights. In her Junior year, as a member of ECVHS Links Crew, she assisted Freshmen students adjust to high school. students who struggled with Algebra and volunteered another 50 hours as an AVID Tutor helping and encouraging sophomore students. Soleen wrote in her Student Essay, "Every day I see students smoking or using drugs. Addiction causes students to have lower grades, a higher rate of absence, and an increased potential of dropping out. Since these are my classmates, I realized that I needed to take action..." Soleen joined STAAND (Students Against Alcohol 'N Drugs). She helped organize activities on campus and in the community to promote drug and alcohol awareness and provide access to help. She was also a member of the Lion's Club sponsored campus LEO Club where she helped with community events like preparing and delivering boxes of food to families in need during Christmas and assisting with El Cajon's Mother Goose parade.

#### **STUDENT ESSAYS:**

As a final note each scholarship applicant is asked to write an essay to answer the question, "What is the most serious problem in your community?" I found it interesting that each student identified a different problem.

One student wrote about the problem with smoking and drugs and the affect they have on students. She offers that by becoming involved with a program working to increase awareness of the drug problem with students would develop more role models and advocate for a safe and healthy school and community environment.

Another student wrote about an increasing cultural divide and how each culture in his community creates its own isolated bubble. He writes that separation from other cultures breeds hatred because we do not understand each other. He states that the “easiest way to stifle prejudices is by increasing exposure to different types of people...By making the effort to interact with people of different cultures we can learn to accept and support people regardless of their background.

A third student wrote about political polarization. She wrote that due to the political polarization, politicians are increasingly unwilling to work with one another. She states that this divide makes change for the betterment of society impossible. If political parties were able to find common ground, they would be able to make positive changes in society.

The fourth student wrote that she did not realize how many homeless individuals reside in La Mesa and that free food distribution to the homeless is not being utilized. She offers that increased advertisement and awareness programs would help the homeless to use this free food distribution program.

The fifth student wrote about vaping and the use of a vaping product called a Juul. She states that “threatening to create a new generation of nicotine addicts, the Juul must be stopped.” She proposes advocating for legislation to ban flavors in vaping products and their sale in youth-accessible stores. She also proposes a week dedicated to vaping awareness and the dangers of vaping.

**2nd VICE PRESIDENT**

**Lou Turner**

Thanksgiving Day has passed and I hope all of you had a very nice day with your families even though it was probably a smaller celebration and lower-key from previous years.

**Membership**

As you know, it’s time to collect dues for 2021 and I would like to thank, coincidentally, the 21 members who already sent in their checks. Dues will remain at \$50 per person and be collected through the mail. Please make checks payable to: La Mesa Woman’s Club or simply “LMWC” and write 2021 Dues on the memo line and mail directly to me: Lou Turner, 4325 Avenida Gregory, Spring Valley 91977.

Please let me know if you have moved, or if you have a new phone number or email address. We are hopeful everyone will continue their membership but please email (lnjturner@cox.net) me if for some reason you will not be renewing or call 619-462-4746 to leave me a message. We hope to receive all checks before December 31st.



Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a happy “back-to-normal” New Year.

**3rd VICE-PRESIDENT**

**Margie Hartman**



**SAVE THE DATE**

The Executive Board has tentatively changed the October 30th fundraiser date to April 30, 2021 (5th Friday) as the date for our Roaring Twenties fundraiser.



**Programs to Posters to Possibilities...** that is what this year is all about. There is a future, it's in the forecast; a vaccine is coming! Attached below is a picture of my grandson writing his letter to Santa.



It says... Dear Santa, "I hope you don't get Covid".  
Yes... things around La Mesa are different. Yes, the Clubhouse and its future will be different; however, we are still "One Strong Community" for the better good of others. That is what La Mesa Woman's Club is all about. Though you are sheltered in this season, please know that we care, and we are here for each other.

Last months "program" was a wonderful speaker. *Nancy Watson Evans*, a Veteran, and one of our own. She shared her life story and loyalty to serving her family and her country. It was heartfelt and appreciated by those who were able to log on and zoom. We hope in the further that we can continue to have speakers for informative sessions until we can gather again as friends and club members. It was my pleasure serving as your "Program Chair".

We may not have a plaque to hang on the wall, for a short time. We may not have a doorbell to ring, for a short time... However, what we do have is each other! Your continued membership and caring for others will keep us all together. And yes..... Programs will be in the future.

Darcy and Judy wish you a very healthy Holiday Season.  
As our founder has said.... **Let's remember to be Kind!**

**Cornelius Bowser Jr.**

**Judy Burgess**

Cornelius celebrated his birthday on Saturday, November 28th. Everyone appreciates the dedication he has given to the LMWC since he started in April 2019. Keeping the inside and outside of the clubhouse in good working condition has been a huge job and his efforts have not gone unnoticed. He is always eager to help in any way from setting up & tearing down of events and cleaning up from the homeless. But most of all we miss Cornelius playing the piano and entertaining us at various meetings and events.

**Bancroft School Holiday Gift Giving**

**Marsha McDonald**



**Ho! Ho! Ho!** It's that time again. Bancroft has many families that need help for the holidays. That hasn't changed, in fact it's probably needed more now than ever before. What has changed is how we can give the gifts. Covid keeps us from adopting a child, shopping and wrapping the gifts for Christmas. What we can do is provide gift cards in the amount of \$25 that the counselor can distribute to the families. It's easier for us, but not nearly as much fun. I'm sure that next year will be back to normal! You can mail me your gift cards to me at 9464 Showplace Drive, La Mesa, 91941 or call me and I will pick them up from you at your home. You can always drop them off at the clubhouse on Monday, December 7. I will be there from 10-12 that morning. Thank you ahead of time for your generosity in providing the cards to help make a child's Christmas a very special one. This year Bancroft families need a great deal of help for the holiday. And we can provide some of that help by being secret Santas. It makes us feel as good as the kids!

**GERTRUDE'S 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**



**Car decorating group**



**Gertrude in her place of honor and Gertrude greeting Nora**



**Pictured from left to right: Elaine, Lou, Sandi, Pat Betsy, Marsha, Darcy, Shirley and Kathy with Gertrude front and center.**

**Gertrude was presented with a beautiful flower arrangement, and balloons spelling out "100" plus a red and blue bouquet of 100th birthday balloons.**

**The following article was printed in the La Mesa Courier along with the picture at left.**

**La Mesa Women's Club celebrates member's 100th birthday**

On Nov. 4, Gertrude Findley, a 35-year member of the La Mesa Woman's Club, celebrated her 100th birthday. In lieu of an indoor party, club members honored her by driving by her home in a caravan of decorated cars, honking and cheering. Gertrude was born in Des Moines, Iowa to parents from Norway and Denmark. She grew up with three brothers and a sister. After graduating from high school, she worked as a bookkeeper. She met her husband Paul, who was a farmer in Grimes, Iowa. They married in 1942, and then Paul was drafted and sent to England with the Army Signal Corps. He spent the next four years working with military photographers and was assigned to photograph various concentration camps following their liberation at the end of the war.

Gertrude and Paul moved to Burbank in the '50s with their daughter, Jean Pauline McCoy. After Paul's death in 1985, Gertrude moved to El Cajon and joined the La Mesa Woman's Club. She has been an avid golfer and world traveler. She enjoys spending time with her family of two grandsons and two great-granddaughters. She keeps alert and active by playing bridge several times a month. With her elegant and sophisticated demeanor, Gertrude is a well-respected member of the La Mesa Woman's Club.

	<p>The clubhouse is closed indefinitely due to the corona virus mandate to suspend all gatherings.</p>
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<p><b>Bridge Dates:</b> <b>No bridge sessions until further notice.</b> <b>Sorry, ladies.</b></p>	
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