

In the gold glow of post World War II, Brecksville Women's Club was born—an outgrowth of the Women's Committee of Brecksville Little Theater. Believing the community needed a cultural, philanthropic and social outlet for women in the area, 10 young women met on September 26, 1949 and founded the club. The years since then have proved it was a wise move.

In the golden glow of a half-century of "making members useful to society and helpful to each other", BWC will mark the Big One September 23. Fiftieth Anniversary Chairman Annette Gorris and committee have arranged for the organization to take over Swingos-on-the-Lake's entire restaurant that afternoon. The Four Lads will guide the BWC lassies in a reminiscent sail through "Moments to Remember."

"Although the celebration is a private party for members only, we are expecting recognition on the state and national levels" said President Joan Kules. "Governor Bob Taft has proclaimed Sunday, September 26 as Brecksville Women's Club Day. George Gintoli, CEO of Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System (NBHS) is to present us with that proclamation and one from NBHS, where our members have volunteered for 50 years," she explained. At the beginning of this year Brecksville and Broadview Heights Mayors Jerry Hruby and Leo Bender issued proclamations naming "1999 Brecksville Women's Club's 50th Anniversary Year."

The formal presentations will be brief however and lighted-hearted merriment is expected to prevail as members recollect anecdotes about volunteering, fundraising, social gatherings and special events. Some are expected to appear in skits recalling humorous incidents chairmen have encountered in raising thousands of dollars to help hundreds of causes. Those attending will be asked to write a brief greeting to be put into a time capsule which will be opened by BWC in the year 2005.

When the club was founded late in '49, the world was on the verge of a new decade and now, 50 years later, the world is on the verge of a new century. Marian Huefner, BWC's second President, and Mary Hoffman, BWC's third president, recall some turbulent but fun times for the fledgling group which numbered 35 by the end of 1950-51. (Of course, Brecksville was only a village then—it would be 12 years later that it reached city status with a population of 5,000.)

In the 50's era when saddle shoes, poodle skirts and malt shakes were "it", the group often held social events with their husbands as guests. Marian, laughing, recalls being in charge of refreshments for one of these events, arriving at the party with her husband and not thinking about the desserts she left at home until it was refreshment time. Mary says she misses the camaraderie of the smaller membership when everybody knew everybody else. Today with a membership of 300 women from 35 Northeast Ohio communities and Florida, it is more difficult to know everyone. Both ladies treasure friendships they have made throughout the years and as charter members they will be awarded Lifetime Memberships at the celebration. The late Betty Hoffman, first president and founding leader, was awarded a Lifetime Membership when the Club marked its 30th anniversary in 1979. There are currently 19 past presidents on the active roster

and 31 ladies who have belonged for 25 years or longer!

Since 1949, a chief money-making event has traditionally been a luncheon fashion show. At first these were in the form of garden parties with the members doing all the work. "There was no such thing as rain insurance and the weather was undependable," said Orah DeHamm, past president and a member for more than 40 years. She remembers scrambling into a member's home when the rain hit the backyard party.

These events were moved indoors, but "minor calamities" also happened that weren't weather related. "Old-timers" recall one such incident when the food committee members all plugged in their electric roasters and blew out the lights in St. Basil's Church Hall.

More often, the fashion fundraisers came off without a hitch. "One year we each roasted turkeys at home and combined the meat in a main dish salad," said Margaret Mansbery, a past president. "This was a lovely affair we held at Camp Cheerful's main auditorium in the Metro Parks." The fashion show fundraisers have been held at various places—the Holiday Inn, Landerhaven, Windham Hotel, etc. BWC's 50th major fundraiser is set for May 1, 2000 at the Hilton Hotel across from Summit Mall.

In the fall of 1973, a second fundraising event—the President's Ball—became a part of the club's activities. After 10 years the ball's popularity declined and since then a variety of money-making affairs have been staged such as card parties, holiday bazaars, Day at the Races and a Celebrity Fingerpainting Auction. Profits from the fundraiser go into the philanthropic fund and are distributed at the end of each club year. BWC has given away more than \$150,000 to a variety of causes with the largest percentage to education in the form of scholarships and education awards.

In addition to monetary help, BWC purchased a washer and dryer for patients at the old Broadview Center, bought books for the library, obtained eyeglasses for needy students and provided for families who needed assistance during the Christmas season. When a fire damaged Brecksville Old Town Hall, the club gave \$2,000 for kitchen repairs. It has purchased paintings for both Brecksville and Broadview Heights city halls.

In its first year, the club began helping the less fortunate, staging monthly parties at Hawthornden State Hospital (now Northcoast Behavioral Healthcare System). Former president Mary Ann Celebrezze has chaired this project for the last five years and each month she and her workers take Bingo games, prizes and refreshments to the facility for the mentally ill.

Ruth McMahon, a NBHS volunteer for many years, remembers that in the early days the parties were held in the evenings and in the segregated cottages—dancing and singing with the male patients and playing games with the female patients. "In those days it was not unusual for a female patient to strip naked," Ruth said. "We would just ignore her and a staff member would take over." Ruth also recalls one snowy evening the volunteer group came in the back entrance and the gate was closed they went to leave. There was nothing they could do but back up the steep hill to get off the grounds. Nowadays that gate is closed and the parties are in the afternoon with mixed groups.

Throughout the years, BWC members have served as nannies for the babies of unwed mothers at Marycrest School and helped with the mentally handicapped at the old Broadview Center.

"In the early '70s, BWC received a great deal of recognition from the Federation of Women's Clubs of Cleveland for its volunteer work and types of projects," said Cecile Clarenbach, a former president. "We won the first place award among 45 clubs numerous times over the years for our philanthropic events and volunteer efforts."

The Federation was dissolved in the early '90s with the decline of women's clubs making BWC rather unique for its longevity and healthy operations.

"We had baby-sitting service for our members in the '70s," said Rita Morris, another past president. "The cost of the baby-sitter was partly subsidized by the club so young mothers could attend the meetings," she explained. Nowadays, many of these members' children are grown. The group no longer prepares their own lunches and for the past seven years has considered St. Michael's Woodside Party Center as its headquarters.

Many friendships have been built up in participating in bowling, bridge, golfing, antiquing, special lunch outings, bus tours, Cleveland Orchestra Concert series, and theatrical productions. These and many more activities through the years will give those attending the "Moments to Remember" celebration a true sense of renewed sisterhood and commitment to BWC.

H.R. 2116, VETERANS MILLENNIUM HEALTH CARE ACT

HON. RON PACKARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, America's veterans are forgotten far too often. My colleagues and I are committed to protecting veterans' programs and ensuring that our nation honors its commitment to our men and women in the military. To do anything less would be to abandon the very principles that veterans fought so hard to preserve.

We are committed to securing our veterans' future and are working now to provide funding to honor our promise to them. Last week the House of Representatives approved the Veterans Administration/Housing and Urban Development Appropriations bill, which contained a \$1.7 billion increase for veterans health care, totaling \$196 billion.

Yesterday, Congress passed the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act, which expands veterans eligibility for care and dramatically improves the care provided to veterans in their homes. The expanded care includes geriatric evaluations, nursing home care, adult day health care, and other types of home health care. The act also requires the Veterans Administration to operate and maintain a national program of extended services.

The Veterans Millennium Health Care Act coupled with the funds provided in our annual veterans appropriations legislation, affirms our nation's appreciation for our aging veterans and our commitment to provide them with the health care they will need in the coming years.

I thank my colleagues for supporting veterans by voting in favor of this crucial legislation.

MR. RAY ARVIZU, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE U.S. HCC

HON. ED PASTOR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. PASTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Ray Arvizu's recent election to Chair the Board of Directors for the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC). I am confident that the experience, knowledge and passion Mr. Arvizu brings with him will ensure the continued growth and effectiveness of the USHCC.

For more than 15 years, Mr. Arvizu has pledged his time and talents to promote and elevate marketing to Hispanics. In recent years, Mr. Arvizu has guided his company, Arvizu Promotions and Marketing Events, in Phoenix, Arizona, onto the short list of Arizona's most successful ad agencies. From the beginning, hard work and dedication to be the best have been Mr. Arvizu's hallmark.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Mr. Arvizu has been active within the Hispanic and local communities throughout his career. He currently serves on several distinguished boards, including: the Boys and Girls Club of Metropolitan Phoenix, Phoenix Chamber of Commerce, and the Grand Canyon Minority Council. He is also the Co-Chair of the National Community of Latino Leadership Forum and prior to his election to Chair the USHCC, Mr. Arvizu served as the Vice-Chair of the Chamber.

As the former Vice-Chair of the Chamber and successful businessman, Mr. Arvizu has demonstrated the foresight and creative energy which make him an asset in all his endeavors. Without a doubt, these traits will serve him well as he continues to fulfill the USHCC mission: To advocate, promote and facilitate the success of Hispanic businesses.

I wish him the best of luck as he leads the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce into the new millennium.

HONORING THE NATIONAL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA OF ARMENIA

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia (NCOA) for their performances around the world and genuine cultural representation of their country.

The NCOA consists of 25 of the most accomplished instrumentalists in the young republic under the baton of Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian. They have been honored with great success in the past, such as representing Armenia in 1997 at the Cultural Capital of Europe Festival in Thessaloniki, Greece. And in December 1998, the orchestra released a compact disk through PolyGram/Germany presenting a synthesis of

ancient and contemporary works of Armenian composers. At home, the NCOA performs every third week at the Komitas Chamber Music Hall in Yerevan. In addition, the orchestra performs around the globe and has toured Europe, South America, and the United States.

Conductor Gharabekian was born in the Old World in 1955 and moved to the United States as a youth. He received his Master's Degree in Music Composition from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and engaged in postgraduate studies at Mainz University in Germany. Maestro Gharabekian's numerous honors include the Lucien Wulsin Performance Award for the best concert aired on National Public Radio; the American Society of Composers' Award for adventuresome programming; the Harvard Music Association's "Best Performance Award," and the Boston Globe's "Best of the Year" designation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor the achievements of the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, for being one of the leading instrumental groups of the Republic of Armenia and sharing such beautiful cultural music across the world. It is Principal Conductor Aram Gharabekian's exceptional leadership and devotion that has warranted this recognition, and has lead to the success of the orchestra. I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia and Conductor Gharabekian many more years of continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, due to mechanical difficulties with my flight from my district I missed rollcall vote 429. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

HONORING COAST GUARD VOLUNTEER JIM CLOUD

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join the citizens of Crescent City in honoring Jim Cloud, who for 6 years served without pay as Crescent City Harbor's sole marine safety examiner for the U.S. Coast Guard.

During the August district work period, Jim was honored by his volunteer peers and the Coast Guard for his dedication to marine safety. Indeed, Jim was known for taking his job seriously and, as the Coast Guard said during the ceremony honoring him, Jim "contributed to the overall safety of more than 425 fishermen and 170 fishing vessels."

Crescent City Harbor is home to more than 25 percent of the fishing vessel fleet between the Oregon border and San Francisco Bay. The coastal waters fished by these vessels are treacherous and the weather ever-changing. As such, the role of the marine safety examiner is critical to ensuring that commercial

vessels are seaworthy and prepared for any emergency.

For Jim, the work was a labor of love. Coming from a long family history of seamen, Jim joined the Brookings Coast Guard Auxiliary in the mid-1980's. During his tenure, he assisted the Coast Guard in search and rescues and teaching boating and safety classes.

But, in particular, his service as a marine safety examiner will always be remembered and appreciated. In conferring its Award of Operational Merit, the Coast Guard acknowledged that Jim's efforts "helped reduce the number of fishermen deaths, injuries, as well as property loss and environmental damage."

To which Jim replied "I feel good about doing my little part. It was a good deal for the harbor and a good deal for me."

Thank you, Jim, for a job well done.

TRAGEDY IN TAIWAN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in great sadness to recognize the enormous tragedy that has stricken the citizens of Taiwan. I extend condolences to the Ambassador and the numerous families that have been devastated by this earthquake. The people of this country have been great allies to the United States and their ongoing struggle for independence parallels the many perils experience by my people here in this country.

I have visited Taiwan on numerous occasions and have always been warmly received by both its government officials and private citizens, and believe that it is only right that I continue to carry the torch of friendship during their time of need. While the United States is currently recuperating from the aftermath of its own natural disaster, it is important that we share in Taiwan's grief. I have personally been in contact with the Ambassador and have pledged my full support toward helping them recover from this tragedy. I ask my colleagues in the House to follow my act of solidarity and pledge their support to our comrades in Taiwan.

THE HERMELIN BRAIN TUMOR CENTER—NEW HOPE FOR CANCER PATIENTS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 22, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, this year in the United States some 20,000 new cases of primary brain tumors will be diagnosed, and more than 100,000 cases of cancer migrating to the brain from a different site will be found. Traditional treatment regimens of surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation have not stopped the natural progression of the disease in far too many cases, and new therapies are desperately needed.

Finding new treatments often means years of laboratory investigation, followed by both clinical trials and the examination of results, before such therapies can be deemed successful and made available to patients.