RAIN, RAIN, GO AWAY

I live in San Anselmo. Whenever it rains, one of the TV stations sends a mobile unit to my town to report on the rapidly rising waters of the San Anselmo Creek. It’s become something of a joke. I have lived here for more than 20 years and the creek has actually flooded twice — but the news teams are always there at the first sign of rain, hopeful. Flood sirens go off when the creek reaches flood level. I have heard the flood sirens more times this past month than in the last 20 years, and this morning they woke us up, like the alarm clock we didn’t set. When the sirens sound, you are supposed to grab your valuables and move to higher ground. We live on higher ground, so we don’t evacuate. But still, it is unnerving. And I am sick of it. We all know we needed rain. But enough, already.

On a lighter note, it is Spring Semester. Even tho the equinox is still a month away—at SFSU it is SPRING. Woo Hoo! Always the Pollyanna, I look for the brighter side and celebrate whatever I can.

It has been a good couple of months for the University Women’s Association -- despite the current political scene which is unsettling for many of us and for women in particular. We received an unexpected contribution to the Gloria Spencer UWA Scholarship Endowment Fund, a very generous donation of $20,000 from the estate of Florence Haimes, who passed away in June, 2015 at the age of 98. Until it became too difficult for her, Florence was an active member of the UWA, and she traveled with us on many of the earlier cruises. She is fondly remembered — and her contribution to the endowment fund will enable us to provide scholarships for many more students over the years to come. We know that would have made her very happy.

The Holiday Luncheon in December was quite possibly the best ever. As anticipated, the Saint Francis Yacht Club was an exceptional venue — and we have already scheduled a return visit for the 2017 Holiday Luncheon: Saturday, December 3. Put that date on your calendar now.

We have a rich and full schedule of events on tap for spring. Read more about them in this newsletter—and make a reservation today for the first of these events, a tour of the Contemporary Jewish Museum in San Francisco on Friday, March 3. The February 27 reservation deadline is fast approaching.
Two dates to save: **Friday, March 31, for an Afternoon Tea at Katia’s Russian Tea Room.** (It’s Cesar Chavez Day, campus is closed, so join us for tea.) And **Wednesday, May 3, for the Spring Luncheon in the Vista Room** on campus, where we introduce and honor our UWA Scholarship Recipients for 2016-2017. We hope to see many of you at these events.

Best wishes for a happy and productive spring semester. Happy spring to us all. Starting now.

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**BREAKING NEWS!**

**MORE $$$ FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2017-2018**

At its first meeting of the Spring Semester, the UWA Board approved a $1,200 increase in funding for the 2017-2018 scholarships. The Scholarship Committee, Chaired by **Annie Antler**, will determine if it would be better to increase the number of scholarships from six to seven, or augment the amount of the six existing scholarships. The increase is largely due to a generous contribution from the Estate of **Florence Haimes** to the Gloria Spencer UWA Scholarship Endowment Fund. Only the interest on this account is used for scholarships each year, ensuring that the fund itself is not depleted. And it continues to grow, thanks to contributions from members and friends like you.

Scholarship Applications are being accepted now, and the final deadline for 2017-2018 is March 15. If you know of a promising student in need of financial support, please direct her or him to [www.sfsu.edu/~finaid](http://www.sfsu.edu/~finaid). The UWA Scholarship is available to current SFSU students with a high level of academic achievement and a demonstrated need for financial assistance.

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**The UWA Board** is a group of dedicated women who give a little time and energy to support the Women’s Association in its mission and activities. The Board meets about once a month during the academic year. We encourage others (you?) to consider joining the Board, and we would particularly welcome those of you who are current faculty or staff at SFSU. If you would like to become a member of the board -- or if you have any questions, suggestions, or an idea for an event -- please contact one of the board members listed below.

- **Lily Gee** Acting President [lilygee@mail.sfsu.edu](mailto:lilygee@mail.sfsu.edu)
- **Annie Antler** Vice President and Scholarship Chair [anntngynt@yahoo.com](mailto:anntngynt@yahoo.com)
- **Connie Tallerico** Scholarship Opportunity Administrator & Membership Coordinator [cftallerico@gmail.com](mailto:cftallerico@gmail.com)
- **Donna Ryan** Secretary & Retirement Representative [drisiaem@yahoo.com](mailto:drisiaem@yahoo.com)
- **Arline Van Ness** Treasurer [arlinevn@comcast.net](mailto:arlinevn@comcast.net)
- **Lin Ivory** Program Director & Newsletter Editor [linivory@comcast.net](mailto:linivory@comcast.net)
- **Ilona Vandergriff** Faculty Representative [vdgriff@sfsu.edu](mailto:vdgriff@sfsu.edu)
- **Lorna Hill** Member at Large [hillgraph@gmail.com](mailto:hillgraph@gmail.com)

**HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS:** **Bérénice La Marchand**, Past President; and **Jeanne Mangerich**, Honors Convocation Coordinator.
A RUSSIAN TEA

You may have seen an article in the Sunday Chronicle a few weeks ago describing “A food tour of SF’s vibrant Russian community.” In truth, there is no tour. But the article highlights several unique Russian restaurants, bakeries, markets, and churches located in San Francisco’s Richmond District. According to the article, “S.F.’s Russian American community keeps its culinary culture alive in the Richmond.” I mentioned the article to my good friend Lana Thomson, who many of you know is a Russian American herself. I suggested that it might make a good event for the UWA. A month later she called and proclaimed that she had a Russian Tea for me. Katia’s Russian Tea Room was one of the restaurants mentioned in the article, and Katia, it seems, is a friend of Lana’s. She will be retiring shortly, after 20+ years of running this very successful, award-winning tea room. She will open her doors for our group, shortly before she closes them for good. And she promises to provide an amazing menu of Russian savories and desserts just for us. As an added treat, if you would like to purchase any Russian pastries or other delicacies, Lana will walk us over to a nearby Russian bakery (also featured in the Chronicle article) after our tea. Watch for the flyer with all the details, coming soon to your e-mail or snail mail. Save the date: Friday, March 31, at 2:30 p.m. (The campus will be closed for Cesar Chavez Day.)

CRUISE UPDATE

Four more people have signed up for the UWA Scholarship Cruise, bringing our total to twenty: Jessica and Barclay Beattie, Lily Gee and Nancy Noble, Elogeanne and Gene Grossman, Lin and Bob Ivory, Jim and Elaine Kohn, Betty and Cecilia Lam, Jack and Renee Lundy, Sheila McClear and Sam Zaif, Arline and Jim Van Ness, Camele Wanat and Carole Hockady. Not everyone is comfortable making travel plans too far in advance. For the benefit of those of you who are just now thinking about where you want to go on your vacation this year, I am enclosing a copy of the cruise flyer to remind you of the dates and fabulous itinerary. The Oceania cruise leaves on August 30 for a 12 day odyssey beginning in Rome (Civitavecchia) and ending in Venice. There is no deadline – people who signed up early received better amenities than those who sign up later. But the ship can become sold out at any time, and when that happens, it’s too late. If you are thinking about joining us on this wonderful journey, sign up now and avoid disappointment later. Check out the flyer…. And then call our travel agent, Tom Fell and make your reservations!
HOLIDAY LUNCHEONS
2016 AND 2017

By all accounts, the 2016 Holiday Luncheon was the best ever. We could not have chosen a more perfect day. The sun was shining, and guests sipped their wine on the deck while enjoying spectacular views of city and the bay. The lunch itself was excellent. And we had the best turn-out in years – both new friends and old. We are grateful to Donna and Tim Ryan for making this all possible by hosting us at the yacht club. And, BREAKING NEWS! They are going to host us again for 2017! We have already reserved “our” room for SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2017. Save the date.

But here’s the bad news. We were all having so much fun at the December luncheon that we forgot to take any pictures! We snapped this one photo (previous column) on the way out the door, after nearly everyone was gone and the room had been cleared. Pictured are the three remaining revelers, Sheila McClear, Donna Ryan, and Lin Ivory. With or without photos, I think we can safely say that a good time was had by all.

REMEMBERING POLLY GLYER

Helen P. Glyer passed away on November 4 at the age of 98. She was a lively soul, and she could always energize a crowd. Polly was a regular at our events for many years, and you could count on her to lead the crowd in songs or cheers, whatever the occasion called for. She was good spirited and had a mischievous twinkle in her eyes. Polly began her career at SFSU in 1947 and was a professor of Recreation and Leisure Studies. She met her husband Richard, at SFSU. He was a Drama professor. Although I never knew him, I can imagine that the two of them made quite an entertaining pair. We will miss Polly’s joyful energy and happy spirit.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A LONG WET WINTER. I'M STARTING TO MOLD."

Reprinted from the Fall, 1982, Psychology Department Mini-Cat(alogue). Cartoon by Lin (Bushart) Ivory. Guess I didn’t like rain much back then, either.