

A CENTURY OF SERVICE

# Scarsdale

## WOMAN'S CLUB

CONNECT. SERVE. GROW.

1919 Membership Form

I DESIRE TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE  
**SCARSDALE WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.**

Initiation Fee, \$100.00;	Annual Dues, \$10.00	( )
" " 20.00;	" " 10.00	( )
" " " "	" " 10.00	( )
" " " "	" " 2.00	( )

The class for Charter Members closes November 1st, 1919.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

FOUNDERS \_\_\_\_\_  
CHARTER MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
SUSTAINING MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_  
ACTIVE MEMBERS \_\_\_\_\_

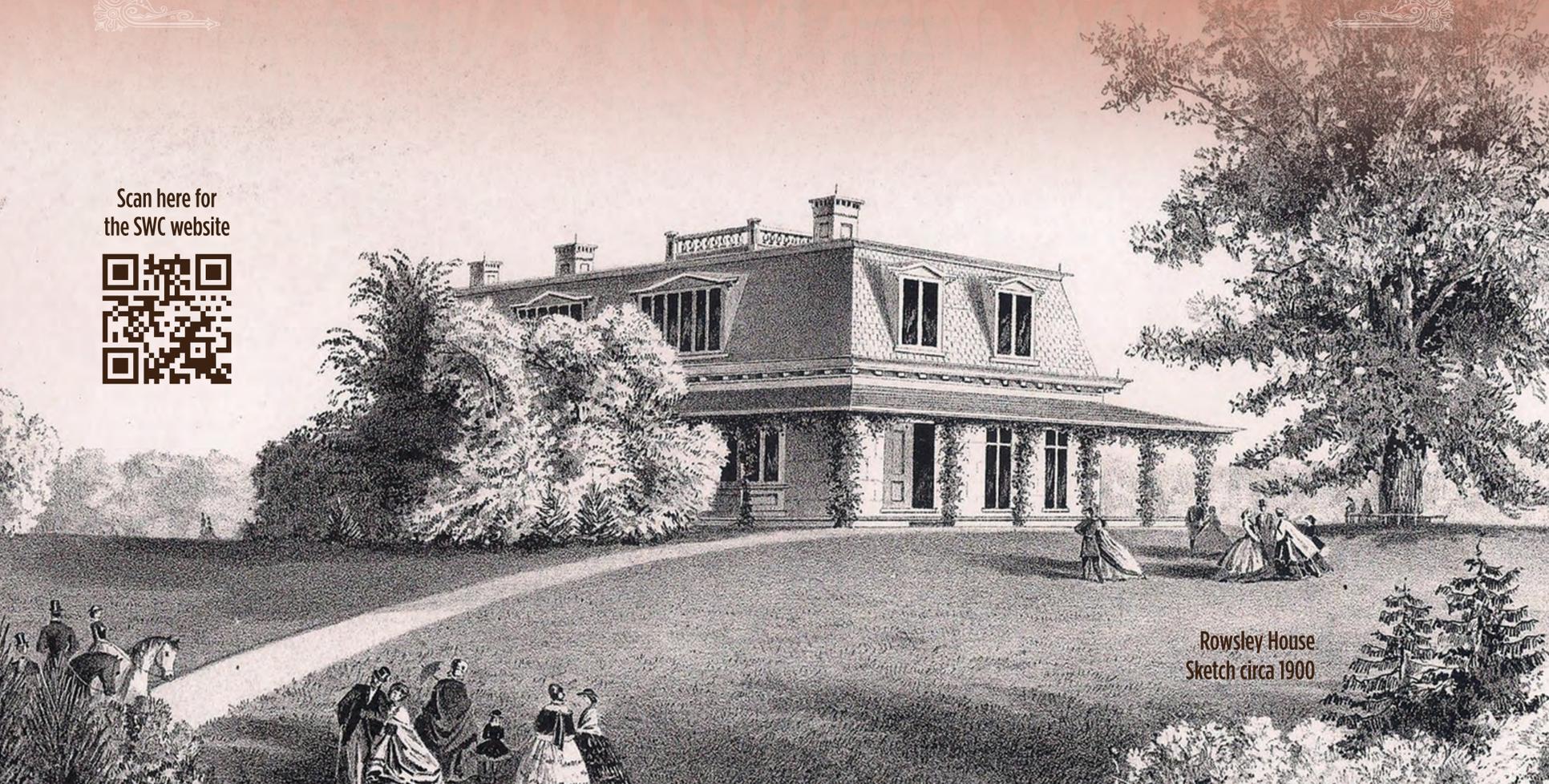
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
MRS. J. LARNED GREEN, TREASURER  
SCARSDALE, N. Y.  
CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED

This is the mission of the Scarsdale Woman's Club. The Club was established in 1919 by a group of women who had already been volunteering together for suffrage, and then for the war effort. They established the Scarsdale Woman's Club to continue their goals of sorority and philanthropy. The wealthy

landowner Miss Emily Butler donated a club house in the form of Wayside Cottage. Soon the Club had outgrown Wayside and purchased Rowsley, on Drake Road, where it still resides. Today, the Scarsdale

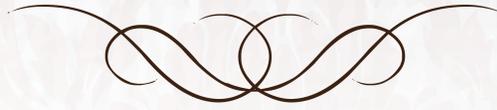
Woman's Club continues its tradition of education and philanthropy with its Wednesday programs, sections of cultural interest, and outreach and contributions to various charities. Through the Committee of 100, now the Philanthropy Committee, the Club's involvement with the current needs of Westchester's women and children continues. Proud of its heritage in the Village of Scarsdale and Westchester County, the club continues to foster its message of education, cultural enrichment, and philanthropic involvement.

Scan here for  
the SWC website



Rowsley House  
Sketch circa 1900

# WOMAN'S CLUB *Founders*



Florence Bethell (President 1920-22, 1928-31)

In 1915, a group of public-spirited women began meeting to pursue their civic interests; particularly, the Women's Suffrage Movement. During World War I they worked together for the Red Cross, Liberty Bond drives, the community garden at Wayside Cottage, and more. After the war, a core of the group wanted to continue the sense of satisfaction gained from mutual accomplishment. They considered forming a woman's club. Consequently, they incorporated as The Scarsdale Woman's Club on December 23, 1918, to foster the welfare of the community, to be a center for community civic life, and to maintain a clubhouse for the use and enjoyment of its members. There were 21 founding members and 55 charter members. The Club's first first president was Jane Brewer Atwater, followed by Florence Bethell. Both had been involved in the group that began meeting in 1915, and were essential in the founding of the Club.

Mrs. Atwater, of 42 Crane Road, was heavily involved in the negotiations to obtain the use of Wayside Cottage from Miss Butler, and the purchase of Rowsley. After her term as president she remained involved in the Club, serving as chairman of the house committee, and as finance chair in 1926. She passed away in November, 1933, at the age of 65, having lived in Scarsdale for 22 years. Mrs. Bethell followed Mrs. Atwater as president, serving from 1920-1922 and again from 1928-1931. She helped organize many other community groups, including the Scarsdale Suffrage League in 1915, the Wayside Players, and the local League of Women Voters. She served as a trustee of the Scarsdale Foundation, and as a President of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. James the Less. She lived a long life, passing away in May of 1956 at the age of 83.



Jane Atwater (President 1919-20)

# FROM Wayside TO Rowsley



Wayside Inn

Learn more about  
Wayside Here



When the Woman's Club first incorporated in 1919 they made their home at the historic Wayside Inn. Its owner, Emily Butler, deeded Wayside to the Village of Scarsdale with the stipulation that the Woman's Club be granted use of the property as long as it so desired. Listed on the National Registry of Historic Sites,

Wayside Cottage is believed to date back to 1717 and has evolved and grown over the years from a one-room farmhouse, to an inn, tavern, post office, and library. The Junior League of Westchester County has acted as custodian of the Cottage since 1953.

When the membership exceeded the capacity of Wayside, larger quarters were needed, and in 1928 the property known as Rowsley Cottage, at 37 Drake Road, was purchased for a clubhouse. Rowsley was built by William Bailey Lang in 1858. Lang designed the house after a residence in Derbyshire, England, of the same name. Built in the 19th century mansard roof style, the entrance features a set of eight stained glass windows executed in silver stain and amber glass designed to give a medieval light as one enters the 120 foot long hall. Many features in the Lang home were copied from

English houses, such as the carved mantels, wood panelling, and mansard roof. The manor's library is a reproduction of a room in the Hotel de Cluny of Paris. Rowsley was named an Historic Landmark by the Village of Scarsdale in 1968; and in 2008, it was designated by the Nation as a site on the National Register of Historic Places. When the Club purchased the property, initial modifications were done to ready the building for use. Over the years, the house has been expanded to meet the needs of its members, with renovations and additions to the music room, the dining room, basement, kitchen, and restrooms, including the installation of an ADA compliant bathroom. It is impossible to speak of Rowsley without mentioning the majestic white oak tree which sits in front of the house. Approximately 490 years old, the tree was designated a Legacy Tree by the Village of Scarsdale in 2013.



Rowsley Cottage

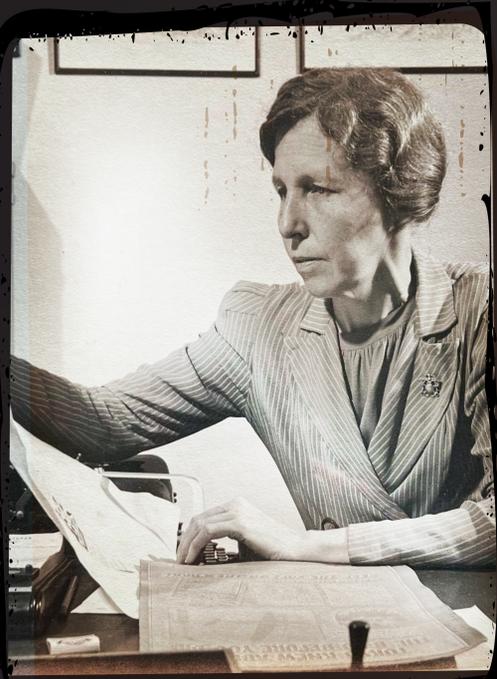
Learn more about  
Rowsley Here



# Community IMPACT

THE SCARSDALE INQUIRER The Scarsdale Inquirer was first published on July 4th, 1901, under the auspices of the Arthur Manor Society of Christian Endeavor, with the stated purpose being “to report faithfully all local affairs, and to promote the welfare of the town of Scarsdale and her citizens...”. By 1919 the paper was defunct. One of the first endeavors of the Woman’s Club was to purchase the paper for \$1 and restart publication. The

Ruth Chalmers ( President 1926-27; Editor of Scarsdale Inquirer)



Visiting Nurse from NARAS

Woman’s Club edited and published the award-winning paper for 40 years, increasing its numbers from 400 subscribers in November 1919 to over 5,000 at its sale in 1959. For the large majority of that time the paper was edited by club member Ruth Nash Chalmers. In 1926 she reluctantly agreed to serve as a reporter for 10 hours a week. Four years later, in 1930, she took over as Publisher, increasing her workload from 10 to nearly 60 hours a week. She held the position until her retirement in 1959. Upon her retirement it was discovered that no one else was willing or able to step into her role, and for that reason, along with cost-related issues, the Woman’s Club sold the Inquirer to the Patent Trader and its founder Carll Tucker, Jr. It is to Ruth’s great credit that the Village of Scarsdale expressed dismay at the news of this change of ownership. The people had come to expect that their local paper would be locally owned. The Inquirer won a many journalism awards during its time under the ownership of the Woman’s Club, and as far as can be determined, was the first newspaper in the United States to be run entirely by women.

VISITING NURSE SERVICES In 1905 the “Nursing and Relief Association of Scarsdale” was begun at the home of Mrs. Oliver A. Hyatt, who became its first president. In 1921 the Woman’s Club offered to pay half the

salary of a full-time nurse. The next year the Service became a department of the Community Service Committee. The Nursing Service separated from the Woman’s Club in 1945 and thereafter came under the supervision of the Westchester County Department of Health, but still received financial support from the Woman’s Club. In 1967 the Service merged with a number of other visiting nurse services and became the Associated Nurse Services, Inc., now known as Westchester VNS.

# Community

## IMPACT



Wayside Players

### SCARSDALE ART ASSOCIATION

An Art Section was added to the Scarsdale Woman's Club in 1924, with the notable involvement of Anna Richards Brewster, Scarsdale resident and well-known impressionist, whose paintings still hang on the walls of the Scarsdale Library. In 1938 the Scarsdale Art Association was formed at a meeting at the Woman's Club. General Edward C. Young was elected its first president. The Association still exists today, with activities including numerous exhibits, programs at the girl scout house, as well as an outdoor showcase and sale.



Scarsdale Woman's Club Pageant



Scarsdale Art Association Show

### SCARSDALE EDGEMONT FAMILY COUNSELING SERVICE



Learn more about  
SEFCS Here



In 1920, the Social Services Committee of the Scarsdale Woman's Club secured the services of Miss Florence Clendenning, who had for 18 years worked at the Jacob A. Riis Neighborhood Settlement House. The Committee changed its name to the Community Service Committee, with the hope "through the leadership of Miss Clendenning to organize community playgrounds, community sings, clubs, hikes, etc." In 1944 the group incorporated as Scarsdale Community Service, separating from the Woman's Club. In 1951 the name was changed to Family Service of Scarsdale, Inc. Over the years Edgemont was included in the group's service area, and the name evolved to Scarsdale Edgemont Family Counseling Service, by which the organization is known today.

# Continuing SERVICE



The Scarsdale Woman's Club has left its mark on in many other ways over the years. Its founding members were involved in the creation of the Scarsdale League of Women Voters. They supported their local hospital through the Scarsdale Auxiliary of White Plains Hospital. The Friends of the Scarsdale Library emerged from a Woman's Club committee, and the Club was involved in the creation of the Non-Partisan System of nominating village officers. Other organizations that emerged from Club Committees are the Advisory Council on Parks and Recreation; the Scarsdale Foundation; Scarsdale Girl Scouts; Scarsdale Woman's Exchange; and the Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Today, the Woman's Club continues to support various organizations and charities, including Scarsdale Meals on Wheels, Westchester Community College Scholarships, Family Ties of Westchester, the Wayside Players as well as the Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps. Donations of books and clothing are also accepted through Operation Bookshelf.

Scarsdale Volunteer Ambulance Corps

