

# women's club bulletin

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Congratulations to Louise Prompers, Editor. The November Bulletin is vibrant and the high resolution on-line version is fabulous. A huge Thank You to Barbara Ellis for editing for the past 2.5 years.

CWC's most festive annual program, the Holiday Luncheon at the Athenaeum, is on Wednesday, December 11th. There are several options for making and paying for reservations. This event is open only to CWC members and their guests.

If you are unsure of whether you have renewed your membership for 2013-14, contact Barbara Weber, Membership Chair, at [gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net), or Katie Clark at [ktclark@caltech.edu](mailto:ktclark@caltech.edu). Send in your renewal by December 13 to continue receiving email notices of programs and events and be listed in the new Roster. Members can expect the Roster to arrive in the mail sometime in January. Your membership and financial support are vital the Caltech Women's Club.

The winter CWC Open House is on Friday, January 31, in the Rathskeller from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. Come meet potential new members, enjoy some refreshments, lively conversation and see the newly renovated Rathskeller.

Whether you are raising children or conversing with your grandchildren, you don't want to miss the opportunity to hear Tina Payne Bryson, child development and parenting expert and co-author of *The Whole-Brain Child*, on January 21.

Trity Pourbahrami has organized a lunchtime panel discussion on "Navigating Motherhood and Your Career" on Tuesday, February 4, 2014 in the Avery Library. Reservations forms are in this Bulletin.

The Nominating Committee has formed to select next year's executive officers and committee chairmen. Please contact Sandhya Ravichandran at [sandhya\\_ravi@yahoo.com](mailto:sandhya_ravi@yahoo.com) if you are interested in serving on the 2014-15 Board. Visit the website for a complete list of officers and committees.

Please note there is no January Bulletin. Webmaster Marcia Brown will email monthly updates to members and interim news will be posted on the website, [www.cwclub.caltech.edu](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu).

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am especially grateful for the creative and dedicated Board that serves with me this year. We all wish you warm and fulfilling times with friends and family throughout the coming holidays.

**Judy Collins**



## Issue Highlights

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## Save the Date

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| December 11      | Holiday Luncheon, Athenaeum. See <a href="#">page 3</a> .                               |
| January 21, 2014 | Program: Tina Payne Bryson, Dabney Lounge. See <a href="#">page 5</a> .                 |
| January 31       | Open House, refreshments at the Athenaeum's Rathskeller. See <a href="#">page 2</a> .   |
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# December 2013 and January 2014 Calendar of Meetings & Programs

For updated calendar information, see [www.cwclub.caltech.edu](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu).

## CWC Board Meeting

Wednesday December 4, 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Millikan Board Room.

All are welcome.

No Board Meeting in January 2014.

## CATS Study Session and Business Meeting

Tuesday December 3 and January 7, 2014, Athenaeum Mezzanine.

Study Session: 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Business Meeting: noon to 1:00 p.m.

Contact: Romy Wyllie (626-794-7773).

## CATS Campus Tours

No tour in December.

Thursday January 23, 2014, 10:30 a.m.

Tours last between 1 hour 30 minutes and 2 hours. Meet at the Athenaeum, 551 S. Hill. To make a reservation contact James Muro (626-395-4654), or complete the reservation form on our website, <http://cats.caltech.edu>.

## Children's Playgroup

### - Wednesdays in the Park

Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. to noon, Tournament Park.

Contact: Mari Brito ([maribrito@gmail.com](mailto:maribrito@gmail.com)) and Anna Parsons-Lamb ([pars0053@hotmail.com](mailto:pars0053@hotmail.com)).

### - Thursdays in the Park

Thursdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., Grant Park.

Contact: Anna Parsons-Lamb ([pars0053@hotmail.com](mailto:pars0053@hotmail.com)).

### - H.E.L.P. & Toy Library

Open every Thursday (except holidays) from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 234 S. Catalina Ave, rear house.

### - Household Equipment Loan Pool/ Furniture Pool

Contact: Eva Keqi ([evakeqi@gmail.com](mailto:evakeqi@gmail.com)). Questions? Send an email to [furnpool@caltech.edu](mailto:furnpool@caltech.edu).

### - Toy Library

Contact: Marie Medvednik ([marie.medvednik@gmail.com](mailto:marie.medvednik@gmail.com)).

### - Babysitting Co-op

Email [babysittingcoop@caltech.edu](mailto:babysittingcoop@caltech.edu) or come to the Wednesdays in the Park

Playgroup. Contact: Arden Thomas ([arden.e.thomas@gmail.com](mailto:arden.e.thomas@gmail.com)).

## Activities and Interest Groups

### Morning Book Discussion Group

December, *Germinal* by Emile Zola. Contact: Micheline Vogt (626-794-7823) for date, time and place.

Monday January 13, 2014, *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. Meet for breakfast at the Athenaeum, 8:00 a.m. Contact: Micheline Vogt by the Tuesday prior to the meeting date to make a reservation.

### Book Lovers' Soiree

Monday December 9, *The Reluctant Fundamentalist* by Mohsin Hamid.

Monday January 13, 2014, *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* by Katherine Boo. 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., Athenaeum Mezzanine or the Rathskeller if the Mezzanine is not available.

Contact: Barbara Weber (818-790-2159, [gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net)) and Laurie Yeomans (818-790-4984, [leyeomans@hotmail.com](mailto:leyeomans@hotmail.com)).

### Caltech Women's Investment Group

Wednesday December 11 and January 22, 2014, 7:00 p.m., Avery Conference Room.

Contact: Charlene Reichert (626-441-6543, [chreichert@earthlink.net](mailto:chreichert@earthlink.net)).

### Garden Adventures

Contact: Kathleen Slater (626-577-0067, [katsgarden@jps.net](mailto:katsgarden@jps.net)).

The Garden Adventures will not have another event until spring.

### Hiking Group

Thursday December 12 (see below).

Thursday January 16, 2014 (the Gabriolino trail from JPL to Paul Little campground, meet at 8:30 a.m. at the very western end of Altadena Drive in Altadena).

Contact: Barbara Ellis (626-564-9107 or 626-319-8285, [babs.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:babs.ellis@gmail.com)).

On December 12 we're hiking to Echo Mountain via the Lower Sam Merrill trail from the top of Lake Avenue, Altadena. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the big iron gates situated at the point where Lake Avenue ends and West Loma Alta

starts. The 5 mile round trip with a 1,400 ft elevation gain is worth it as the views from the top are amazing, and we can explore the ruins of the old railway, the hotel, and the echo tubes. Car pooling is available.

### Caltech Playreaders

#### Theater of the Imagination 63<sup>rd</sup> Season: "Scandalous!"

The Playreaders will not have readings in December and January 2014.

Tuesday February 4, 2014, *The Premature Corpse* by Mike Johnson (pseud. for Jack Sharkey) (1990).

8:00 p.m., Athenaeum Hall of Associates. Directed and introduced by John Davidson.

A cheap motel room. A shyster, who's wanted by the mob, held in witness protection. His snarky wife. Her lover. A government agent. A suspicious-looking surgeon enlisted to alter the guy's appearance. Standard thriller stuff, right? When're they gonna break down the door? Just wait...

No reservations needed for the reading (admission for CWC members is \$3, and \$4 for all others). If you would like to read a part, contact or introduce yourself to casting coordinators Diana St. James ([saintj@caltech.edu](mailto:saintj@caltech.edu)) or Ashley Stroupe ([ashley\\_stroupe@yahoo.com](mailto:ashley_stroupe@yahoo.com)). To be added to the Playreaders mailing list, contact Shona Stirbl ([brogdenstirbl@yahoo.com](mailto:brogdenstirbl@yahoo.com)).

## Annual Events and Programs

### Holiday Luncheon

Wednesday December 11, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Athenaeum. See [page 3](#).

### Program: Tina Payne Bryson

Tuesday January 21, 2014, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m., Dabney Lounge. See [page 5](#).

### Open House

Friday January 31, 2014, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., refreshments at the Athenaeum's Rathskeller. Contact: Katie Clark (626-403-7163, [ktclark@caltech.edu](mailto:ktclark@caltech.edu)).

### Program: Panel Discussion on "Navigating Motherhood and Your Career"

Tuesday February 4, 2014, noon to 1:00 p.m., Avery Library. See [page 7](#).



CALTECH WOMEN'S CLUB

# HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A DELIGHTFUL HOLIDAY GATHERING  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2013  
FROM 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM AT THE ATHENAEUM

## RSVP by Thursday, December 5 to hold your space

Fees are \$33 for CWC members who are faculty/staff and their guests or \$25 for members who are postdocs or students

Find the RSVP form in the November issue of the CWC bulletin. It's available on the web at [www.cwclub.caltech.edu/events/holiday-luncheon.html](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu/events/holiday-luncheon.html). Details about submitting the RSVP online and payment options are also on the same holiday luncheon web site.

If you have questions, please contact Marcia Brown ([marciab@caltech.edu](mailto:marciab@caltech.edu)) or Aimee Knudson ([aknudson@astro.caltech.edu](mailto:aknudson@astro.caltech.edu))

## Garden Adventures' visit to Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden

We were treated to an informative talk by the owners of the garden, Jim and Connie Haddad. They have done an amazing job of restoring this Pasadena jewel box of a garden. They delighted us with personal stories of their adventures in the garden. For instance, the property was purchased by Mr. Haddad's mother who also owned the Poulsen Art gallery on

San Pasqual in Pasadena. She went to an auction to buy two antique chairs and ended up buying the whole property.

The teahouse is a copy of the original which was destroyed in a fire. The Haddads lived in the teahouse as newlyweds. They have so many great stories and we were so charmed by the opportunity to have a guided walk. They are hoping guests will want to have special events in this lovely garden.

The Storrier Stearns Garden is open on the last Sunday of the month. You can go to their website and see more photos and historical information: [japanesegardenpasadena.com](http://japanesegardenpasadena.com).

*Kathleen Slater*





# Wednesday Playgroup's Halloween Potluck

On October 30th, the CWC Wednesday Playgroup held our annual Halloween Potluck in Tournament Park with lots of yummy food, cute costumes and good friends. We also had a mini pumpkin hunt (borrowing from Easter). The Wednesday Playgroup meets every week in the park. Right now our kid age range is mostly from 1-3.5, but all are welcome! - *Lara Ratzlaff*

Photos by **Ella Cameron.**

The Wednesday Playgroup could use your help organizing! Please email Anna Parsons-Lamb (pars0053@hotmail.com) or Mari Brito (maribrito@gmail.com) if you are interested.



## Welcome New CWC Members

Caltech Women's Club is happy to announce our new members. Welcome all, we hope to see you soon!

Veronica Aguirre	Reneé Hoffman-Tratt	Heidi McFarland
Aubrie Amelang	Karla Horst	Olga Neumann
Barbara Avouac	Susan James	Louise Prompers
Emily Blythe	Ning Jiang	Annette Ramos
Shona Brogden-Stirbl	Sarah Keiski	Denise Robb
Todd Brun	Christine Kennedy	Daniela Roellig
Myvan Bui	Cara King	Laura Ruaro
Beatrice Caprez	Anna Komar	Susan Ruffins
Elizabeth Cochran	Maria Johnson	Cynthia Sholin
Diane Cromer	Kriechbaum	Shirley Slattery
Cecile deVine	Krista Larsen	Robert Stirbl
Anna Engqvist	Ann Lindline	Benjamin
Ying Fan	Jennifer Lowe	Sveinbjornsson
Pamela Fong	Susan Manby	Jian Yuan Thum
Parvin Forouhar	Smaranda Marinescu	Sara Thompson
Elise Furlan	Keren Markuze	Xi Xi
Linda Hoeglund	Camille McCarthy	Tessa Yao

Did we spell a name wrong? Please email Barbara Weber (gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net).

## Thank you Barbara!

Barbara Ellis' first Bulletin as Editor was the February issue of 2011. We owe her a big thank you for 2.5 years of commitment to making beautiful, witty and interesting Bulletins! Also, be sure to remember that she doesn't really get rest, now that's she is retired from being Editor. Barbara still works as Business Editor for the Bulletin, she made the October 2013 issue (including the Activities

Handbook!) when the new Editor was out eating cheese, and she has proven to be the best proofreader in the world and a fantastic mentor to the new Editor. For all this, thank you Barbara!

*Louise Prompers*



Photo by **Regina Birkhofer-Gross.**

The Caltech Women's Club invites you to a conversation with

## Tina Payne Bryson, PhD

The child development and parenting expert helping you raise children who are happy, healthy, and fully themselves



Tuesday, January 21, 2014  
Dabney Lounge

10:00 am to 11:30 am

Coffee and light refreshments will  
be served

Visit [www.tinabryson.com](http://www.tinabryson.com) to learn  
more about Dr. Bryson

*"Tina Bryson is an inspiring teacher who knows how to tell captivating stories to demonstrate clearly how to apply science in ways that deeply enhance a child's development. Professionals and parents alike will both enjoy and benefit from Tina's compelling experiential learning approach."* quote from Daniel J. Siegel, MD. He is co-author with Bryson of *The Whole-Brain Child*

**Please RSVP by Tuesday, January 14.** You can reserve your spot by returning the form below and a check by post. For this event, we have an online reservation form at <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cwclub/events/rsvp.html>. If you choose to RSVP online, we can accept payment by post, online bill pay or you can pay by credit card at the door

Child care is available for this event. For details about how to request child care please follow the childcare link from the RSVP page <http://www.its.caltech.edu/~cwclub/events/rsvp.html>

If you have questions or need more information contact Marcia Brown,  
[marciab@caltech.edu](mailto:marciab@caltech.edu) or phone: 626-395-4013

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January 21, 2014: Tina Payne Bryson, PhD  
Reservations and checks must be received by January 14th

Name \_\_\_\_\_ email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

I am a CWC member x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Fee for my guests x \$10 each \_\_\_\_\_

I am not a CWC member x \$15 \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the RSVP form and a check payable to the Caltech Women's Club to:  
Caltech Women's Club – Bryson Program  
1200 E. California Blvd MC 104B-6, Pasadena, CA 91125



## Who's on Board?

*This is the first in a series of profiles on your Caltech Women's Club board members. This time, get to know Judy Collins.*

### **What's your position in the Caltech Women's Club board and what do you like most about it?**

I am the President of the 2013-14 Board. Our Board members are creative and dedicated and commit a great deal of time and energy to CWC. Being President gives me the opportunity to focus our attention on the issues I feel most passionate about: outreach and communications.

### **When and why did you join the Caltech Women's Club?**

I first joined CWC in 1963 when I arrived as a 23 year old graduate student wife. My husband and I were high school sweethearts and we were married when we were 21. I arrived in Pasadena with a new Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and licenses to practice pharmacy in Arizona and California. My husband was nose-down in studies and wind tunnels. I needed a job, a maternity doctor and a host of new friends. My new friends in CWC taught me everything I needed to know about Caltech and Pasadena and became my surrogate family.

### **In which CWC groups have you been active?**

In the 1960's, CWC was divided into the Women's Club for faculty wives and the Junior Women's Club for graduate and postdoc wives. I participated in the

Preschool Playgroups and Baby Sitting Co-Op and used the Baby Furniture Pool and Well Baby Clinic. I also was Secretary of the Junior Women's Club. I dropped out of the club in the 1970's when I was working more hours as a pharmacist at Huntington Hospital and raising our two sons. In 1984 I became a Clinical Instructor of Pharmacy for USC and in 1991, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pharmacy. I was also asked by the Huntington Medical Staff President to serve on the Continuing Medical Education Committee in 1997. After retirement from my pharmacy career in 2000, I rejoined CWC and immediately became a member of CATS, stimulating a different part of my brain and getting to know a really interesting and smart group of women. Starting in 2006, I served three terms as CWC Treasurer, edited the Pasadena Area Guide, and was Vice President from 2011 to 2013.

### **Which CWC activity or event holds your dearest memories?**

My most cherished memory was having the opportunity to give Carol Carmichael and her guest from Georgia a two hour architectural tour of the Caltech campus in January, 2007. She had not been here very long and it was exhilarating to have so much knowledge of the architectural history of the campus to share. It was also an opportunity to get to know her more personally.

### **What do you like to do when you're not busy for the CWC?**

We have a second home in Mammoth Lakes and we spend at least



**Judy and her husband Don in Sequoia National Park, 1985. Photo: France Meindl.**

a third of our time there. It is a beautiful place to walk and play golf and cross country ski. We even get fall colors when the aspens and willows turn. We have also volunteered for the Mammoth Lakes Jazz Jubilee for the past 8 years.

### **Do you have children and pets?**

I have a grown son who is a Deputy District Attorney for LA County and two granddaughters in high school. Our younger son died in 1984.

### **If you could make a wish for the CWC, what would it be?**

I wish more members of the Caltech and JPL community were aware of our wonderful programs, activities and services and would join this great organization. I am looking forward to working on the Centennial Celebration in honor of our founding in 1916.

## Perfection??

Do not look for it in the Caltech Women's Club because we are all volunteers, all busy women that have many other responsibilities. We are just trying to make the Caltech community a little better, more hospitable, more welcoming. So, if not every event goes totally without a hitch, if some emails do not arrive in time or some pictures are out of focus, just take it easy and if you feel that you would do it better, faster, more perfect: PLEASE VOLUNTEER for that position. We need all the help that we can get.

Speaking about volunteering, we need photos to be taken at the Christmas Lunch because our unofficial photographer (me) is out of town that day. Just email any suitable pictures to Louise Prompers (louiseprompers@hotmail.com) soon after the event.

*Regina Birkhofer-Gross*



## COTTAGE CO-OP NURSERY SCHOOL

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Saturday, November 2, 2013

2014 Info Nights:

Thursday, January 9 – Wednesday, January 29 – Thursday, February 20

Please complete the admissions form on our website and we will send you an invitation!

[www.cottagecoop.org](http://www.cottagecoop.org)

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# Navigating Motherhood & Your Career

Caltech Women's Club Hosted Panel Discussion  
**Tuesday February 4, 2014**  
 Box Lunch 11:45 Panel Discussion Noon - 1pm

Avery Library @ Caltech  
 Q & A to follow

Each woman navigating the challenges and opportunities of motherhood and a career has a story! We invite you to attend this panel discussion to learn about the creative solutions adopted by a handful of career women traversing the different stages of motherhood.

For more information contact: [trity@caltech.edu](mailto:trity@caltech.edu)

## Reservation Form

Reservations and checks must be received no later than January 24, 2014

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s) Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Program and Box Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 each (CWC members and guests)

Program and Box Lunch \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12 each (non-members)

\_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Sandwich or \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Sandwich

Program only \_\_\_\_\_ free (CWC members and guests)

Program only \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5 each (non-members)

\$\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed (*please do not combine payments for different events*)

Childcare for your pre-school age child (ages 2-5) will be available at the Children's Center from 11am to 2pm. Please contact Liz Ledezma at 395-6860. Reservations for the Center are due by January 23, 2014. You will need to provide a lunch for your child.

Please send this completed reservation form and check, made payable to Caltech Women's Club to:  
 Natalie Cohen 1725 Homet Rd., Pasadena, CA 91106

# Caltech's Tournament Park

by Jim Campbell

Do you know which football team has played the most games in the Rose Bowl? Would you be surprised to hear it was Caltech? Well it's true! The Rose Bowl stadium was located in Tournament Park at the corner of Wilson and California, where the Keith Spalding building (Business Services) is today. At the time, our school's name was Throop Polytechnic Institute. The original name was Throop University (1891-1893), followed by Throop Polytechnic Institute (1893-1913), and Throop College of Technology (1913-1919), before finally becoming the California Institute of Technology in 1920. The football team played all its home games in Tournament Park from 1892 until the new Rose Bowl stadium was built in the Arroyo in 1922.

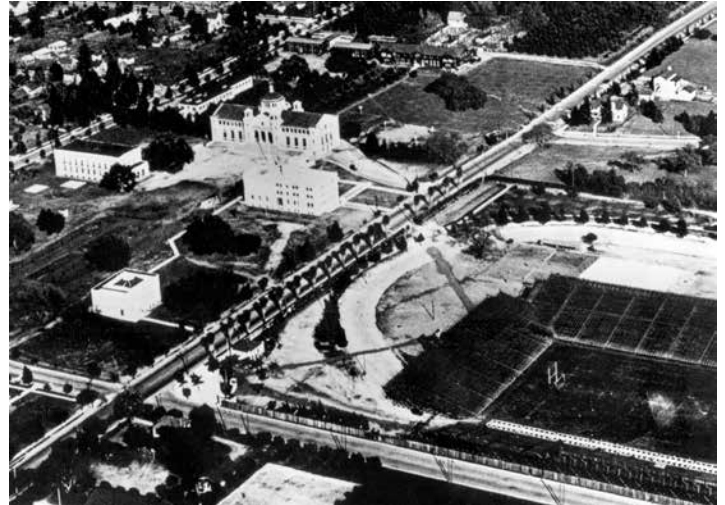


**Throop Polytechnic's football team in 1895.**

**Photo: E.F. Kohler.**

It all began when Benjamin D. Wilson, who had acquired the old Rancho San Pasqual Spanish land grant which included most of the San Gabriel Valley, donated 22-1/2 acres to the burgeoning City of Pasadena for a park. In the early days it was a meeting place for people of the area and in 1892, the third annual Rose Parade began and ended there. Annually thereafter, the park was filled with people in tents, building and decorating floats. Sandwiches and hundreds of gallons of coffee were consumed.

In 1902, the first New Years day Rose Bowl football game (Stanford vs. Michigan) was held in what was now known as Tournament Park. Seating was provided for 2,500 people but 8,000 showed up. Football games were suspended for twelve years while more seating was added. The park, however, was not idle. Between games, a multitude of events were held. In 1903, polo attracted 2,000 spectators. In 1904, hurdle racing, horse racing, ostrich racing, and chariot racing (ala Ben Hur) were held. Circuses were held to raise funds for community service clubs. Ten thousand people came to the Knights of Columbus BBQ. Trick Horse shows and Indian encampments took place. In 1909, Roy Knabenshue was conducting balloon flights and Charles Willard was flying his airplane. The Chicago Cubs held spring training in the park until P.K.

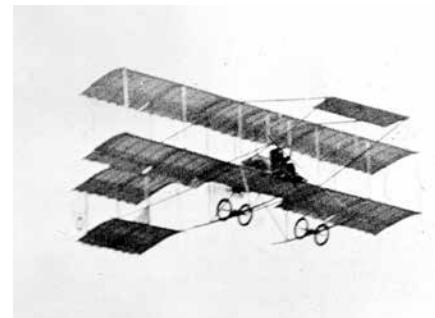


**1922 Aerial view of Caltech with Tournament Park on the south side of California Boulevard.**

**Photo: Caltech Archives.**

Wrigley bought Catalina Island and the team moved there. By 1915 the stadium had expanded to seat 25,000.

In 1910, William Randolph Hearst, the publishing tycoon, offered a prize of \$50,000 to anyone who could fly an airplane from coast to coast in less than 30 days. Several failed in the attempt. But in 1911, Cal Rodgers took up the challenge in his new Wright Flyer called the Vin Fiz (Orville Wright taught him how to fly). The Armour Company used the event to advertise their new soft drink and financed the expedition. Forty-nine days and somewhere between 16 and 39 uncontrolled mishaps later, Rodgers landed his aircraft in the Rose Bowl to a waiting crowd of 20,000. Hearst was persuaded to award the prize to Rodgers in spite of the extra time it took. A plaque in the present day park commemorates the event.



**In 1911 Cal Rodgers flew the Vin Fiz across the US, landing at the Rose Bowl in Tournament Park.**

**Photo: Caltech Archives.**

After 1922 when the Rose Bowl games moved to the new stadium in the Arroyo, Tournament Park continued to be utilized. Horse stables were built, tennis was available, and dances continued until 1932. Push Ball games against local colleges were popular. Shriners held their picnics and the Health Department raised guinea pigs for experimental purposes.

Recognizing that Caltech needed to expand, the people of Pasadena voted to sell the park to Caltech in 1948. Over time,



Caltech has built athletic facilities, two buildings, a parking garage and a maintenance yard on the land. The new Child Care Center will also be added and operational in early 2014. Of the original 22-1/2 acres, the City retained 2.8 acres as a community park to satisfy the concern of the neighbors. This too was sold to Caltech in 1980 with the stipulation it remain as a public park.

Today this small version of Tournament Park is a wonderful spot to read a book or eat a picnic lunch. The CWC children's playgroup holds "Wednesdays in the Park." Several home schooling groups use the park on a regular basis and Dr. Alan Cummings, member of the Professional Staff, and his bird watching group comes through at Wednesday noon.



**Push Ball game being played in Tournament Park.  
Photo: Caltech Archives.**

If you ever have an occasion to visit the park on a quiet day, it may just be the rustling of the leaves in the trees but perhaps, if you listen carefully, it might be the sound of an ancient aircraft engine you hear, or the roar of a crowd as ghostly chariot racers pass by.



**The present day Tournament Park.  
Photo: Jan Jitse Venselaar.**

*This is the 16th in a series of articles about the campus by members of the Caltech Architectural Tour Service (CATS). All articles have been edited by Romy Wyllie.*

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\*Transportation available from area schools

**Nationally accredited with excellent ratios**

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 Los Angeles Times

## CATS: New Members Needed

Website: <http://cats.caltech.edu>

The Caltech Architectural Tour Service will offer a training program this fall.

- CATS is a group of Women's Club members who give architectural tours of the campus. We hold a 1.5 hour study session followed by a 1 hour business meeting in the Athenaeum on the 1st Tuesday of the month. We also take field trips to places of architectural interest.
- Anyone can join – all you need is an interest in the campus and some flexible time. We have a script of our tour material and give personal training to new members. If you are interested, call Romy Wyllie, 626-794-7773 or email: [romy@caltech.edu](mailto:romy@caltech.edu).

**Caltech *presents***

**December 4, 2013 • 8 P.M.**

**From Spinning Black Holes to Exploding Stars:  
A New View of the Energetic Universe**

**EARNEST C.  
WATSON**  
LECTURE SERIES



**Fiona A. Harrison**  
Professor of Physics and Astronomy

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# ROCKAPELLA

**Saturday, December 7, 2013 / 8 p.m.**

**\$38, 33, 28; \$10 Youth**



Rockapella spreads the holiday joy with their stunning, world-class voices. Often imitated, never duplicated, this certifiably unique pop musical group has taken the traditional genre of a *cappella* to a new level.



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## Caltech Moms' Book Launch

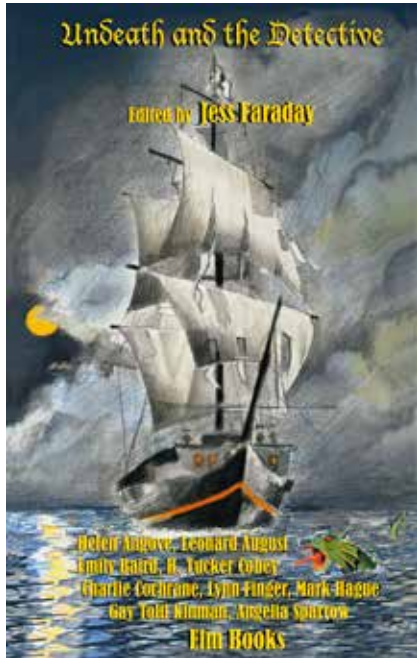
If you married a Caltech guy, chances are you've got enough smarts that, when you have kids and decide to be a stay-at-home mom, you're not going to find changing the diapers is quite enough stimulation for you. Turning to drink isn't the most life-affirming solution, so some of us turn to writing instead.

The second weekend in November saw a book-signing event for *Undeath and the Detective*, hosted by Book'em Mysteries Bookstore in South Pasadena. *Undeath and the Detective* is an anthology of creepy murder

mystery stories recently published by new publisher Elm Books – contributed to by no less than three Caltech spouses, who many will know as CWC members, Furniture Pool volunteers, and Playgroup alumni.

*Undeath and the Detective* contains Emily Baird's tale of undead celebrities and the challenges they pose to security in high-end malls, Helen Angove's Regency murder mystery with a victim who refuses to let her legacy die with her, and seven other stories selected by editor Jess Faraday (better known in Caltech circles as Jessica Goeller).

*Undeath and the Detective* is available as a paperback directly from [www.elm-books.com](http://www.elm-books.com), and as an e-book from [www.smashwords.com](http://www.smashwords.com).



## CWC Open Houses

Stop by one of these casual family-friendly events to learn about the current activities of the Caltech Women's Club.

**Friday January 31, 2014, 5:30 to 7:00 p.m.**  
Refreshments at the Athenaeum's Rathskeller

**Thursday April 10, 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.**  
Coffee at the Red Door Café

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# Barbara Avouac's Transition Process

by Louise Prompers

*This is the third in a series of profiles of the varied, intriguing members of the CWC.*

As the spouse of a postdoctoral scholar, I vividly remember my first encounter with Barbara Avouac. We had just moved to Pasadena and were visiting the Caltech campus for the first time: an appointment at the Human Resources (HR) office. I did not feel good that day. The transition from the Netherlands, where it was already autumn, to an exceptionally hot September in Pasadena, had led to a bladder infection. I knew I needed to see a doctor, but it was just another hurdle to take at a time when we had so much to figure out and arrange, in a country that was foreign to us. So, sitting there at the HR office, I knew I had to ask for help. The help came from Barbara. I remember she was so incredibly nice and understanding. But also how efficient she was in helping me: by the end of the day I had seen a doctor and I had the medication I needed.

A few days later I saw Barbara again at the Scholar and Family Resources Orientation, which she organizes every month for arriving scholars. She presented valuable information on life in Pasadena (housing, Department of Motor Vehicles, health insurance, parenting, socializing, English classes, etc.), but she also told us about her own transition, including a story of something that went horribly wrong. When she moved to Pasadena with her family, it was the end of December and some family members who had lived in the US had told them about the huge end-of-the-year-discounts that car dealers have. Taking the advice, they bought a car within their first days of arrival. However, they were not aware of the fact that they first needed a Social Security Number to get things started, then the California driver's license, and car insurance. And of course the dealer cashed the check immediately, even though they asked him to wait 2 to 3 days because the money wasn't yet transferred from France to their new US bank account. They were already in debt, on their second day in the US.

Knowing that everybody has a story, and that a transition is never easy, helped me tremendously. I felt I wasn't alone, and I already knew I could ask Barbara

for help when I would need it. Knowing this made my life easier. My story does not stand by itself. Barbara helps an average of 15 scholars (and their families) every month.



**When did you become the Transition and Relocation Consultant at Caltech and how did you get involved in this?**

In February 2008 I started helping newcomers to Caltech as a freelance consultant. I worked a lot from home and met people outside the Red Door Café, where children could run around and be loud, since a lot of the people I helped had young children. Then I got the idea of a website for arriving scholars. Caltech gave me the green light to make this website and I became a Caltech employee. Before that I had gone to Pasadena City College to get my child education certification, and served as a substitute preschool teacher in Pasadena for two years. But this was not really what I wanted to do. I wanted to use what I had learned through my own transition. As a newcomer in Pasadena, I had to figure out quite a lot of things. I have two children and two stepchildren, the youngest now 10, the oldest now 21. My stepchildren live in France, and used to visit Pasadena every school break. For this family, with a wide range of ages, it was necessary for me to learn a lot in a short amount of time; understanding the education system (e.g. private versus public schools), banking, health insurance, Department of Motor Vehicles, etc. In addition I experienced

missing my family and friends, dealing with the fact that you can't speak your native language, missing food (especially the French baguette), missing rain. I love my job as the Transition and Relocation Consultant because I completely feel what people go through when they arrive here. I have been there; I have experienced all the ups and downs myself. I remember being so excited about the possibilities that a new place brings, but at the same time I felt challenged and overwhelmed. But that's normal, it's part of the transition process.

**When did you arrive in Pasadena and what was the reason for moving?**

My husband, Jean-Philippe Avouac, got a position as faculty in the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences. We moved from Paris to Pasadena on December 28, 2002. We wanted to be in Pasadena for the Rose Parade!

**Could you tell us a bit about your life, education and career before moving to Pasadena?**

I have a Master's in Human Resources, a Bachelor's in Law and a Bachelor's in Political Science. In France I worked as a recruiter for 12 years. I had just got my coach certification 4 months before moving to the US.

**As Transition and Relocation Consultant, what kind of questions do you get the most?**

Most questions are about parenting. I get a broad spectrum of questions on this subject. There are a lot of choices to make when it comes to childcare and education, and this is hard when you don't know the system. Also, parents come to me for advice on how to improve their social network and meet other parents. Then there are questions about housing, the car driving process, banking, cellular phones and SIM cards,



**Barbara with her first daughter, Violette. Summer 2001.**



where to find English lessons, shopping, etc. Finally, a lot of questions have to do with missing the food of someone's home country.

People come to me for general advice on a subject, but questions can also be about very specific, complicated situations. I remember a postdoc from Japan who did not speak a word of English. He was completely lost, desperate even. I emailed the Caltech Women's Club to ask for assistance and they connected him with a Japanese buddy.

**I can imagine it can be a challenge to reach those who – for some reason – do not ask questions. How important is this aspect of outreach in your work and how do you do this?**

I work with many people on campus. I try hard to let everyone on campus – including organizations such as the Caltech Women's Club, the Caltech International Spouses Club, the Caltech Postdoc Association, and the Caltech Y – know that they can tell newcomers: "Go and see Barbara if you have any questions." Every month the International Scholars Services and I give an orientation session that scholars and their families can attend. If there are two or more children, free childcare is provided. I try to have an open door policy, I want everyone to feel comfortable about coming to me. The people with whom I work in Human Resources (Renee Soriano, Narine Malkchyan and Vicki Pratt) are a great team and they help me tremendously.

Another way to help people, apart from answering questions, is to build partnerships and provide services for scholars and their families. About 18 months ago this crazy idea popped into my head: what if there was a public school affiliated with Caltech? This would help the Caltech families tremendously. We could save them the headache of exploring and applying to different schools. Together with Hall Daily, the Director of Government Relations at Caltech, and Julia McCallin, April White Castañeda, Angelica Santana and Priscilla Gubatan from Human Resources, we started to meet representatives from the Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) regularly. In September 2014, the elementary public school Longfellow (transitional kindergarten up to 5th

grade) is going to be affiliated with Caltech. This could not have happened without great teamwork.

Also, together with Susan Schwartz from Pasadena Education Network (PEN), we organize the Pasadena Unified Education Series; a series of events to provide parents with information about public schools in Pasadena, that started in June 2013. Every month there are one or two events, at the Avery Library. This is the very first time that such events are being held on the Caltech campus.

**Is it difficult for you to help arriving scholars when they have limited knowledge of the English language? What is your approach to this?**

I can relate to the language problem, so I try to make them feel as comfortable as possible about it. If they come to me with this problem, that's already a huge step forward. There is of course a lot of information on free language courses that I can give. The good thing is that Americans are never offensive or judgmental when it comes to limited language skills. They are always happy to see that you are trying hard to learn the language and are impressed that you speak more than one language.

**You told me you get a lot of questions from spouses about the job search. Many spouses gave up careers to come here. How do you feel about this?**

I get this question a lot: "Help me find a job." But as much as I would like to do that, I cannot provide them with jobs. Having been a recruiter I know that that's a different, full-time job. But I try to connect people, and give them advice. For example: create or update your LinkedIn page, apply for work authorization if your visa allows it, try to start somewhere as a volunteer. When volunteering, you will learn a lot, and it will look good on your resume.

But it hurts me so much to see intelligent, well-educated people come here and not be able to work because of their visa status. I get frustrated when I see them struggling with the fact that they don't feel useful and that they now depend on the salary of their spouse. It's hard to be married to a scientist. You



**Pont du Gard, France. Summer 2006.**

follow your spouse but you still want to be yourself.

**When your job is to help many new scholars every year, I think the work is never "done." How do you keep from working 24 hours a day?**

I love my job and it is part of my life, so I don't feel the need to set strict boundaries for myself regarding my work. When I'm not working, these situations are always present somewhere in my mind. I strongly believe in the importance of talking to people, creating a network, asking for assistance, exchanging ideas, and receiving feedback.

**What do you like to do outside of work?**

We play tennis as a family. We also love hiking – my husband is a good hiker. And we are members of many museums. But whatever the activity, the most important thing for me is to have a lot of family time, just being together.

**What has been the most rewarding thing about your own transition?**

When I share an idea with the people whom I work with every day, they are always supportive and encouraging; this is one of the characteristics of US culture: try it – do it! I totally embrace that way of thinking. Usually, the ideas come from the feedback I receive from postdocs. One of these ideas was to create an alternative to Caltech Child Care, which has a long waiting list. This idea started the process to create the Cooperative Caltech Preschool, which opened its doors at the beginning of 2012.

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## It's never too Late to Join the CWC!

### Membership

Join now for the 2013-2014 year. Contact: Barbara Weber, gobarbweb@sbcglobal.net or cwcmembership@caltech.edu, 818-790-2159.

Membership in the Caltech Women's Club is open to anyone who is affiliated with Caltech, JPL, the Huntington Library, the affiliated Observatories, or the Caltech Associates. The CWC has a diverse membership of about 205 women (and a few men), with many international members, and a broad range of ages from graduate students to members who have been in the Club for more than 20 years. Membership dues are \$25 per year with electronic delivery of the Bulletin; \$35 with printed delivery of the Bulletin; \$10 for postdocs; free for students. A downloadable form is available at [www.cwclub.caltech.edu](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu).

### CWC Bulletin

Contact: Louise Prompers, [louiseprompers@hotmail.com](mailto:louiseprompers@hotmail.com), 626-354-3550.

The Bulletin is published each month between October and May (except for January). Items that you think would be of interest to the membership are always welcome. Our next issue will be published at the beginning of February. Please email any photos, news or adverts to Louise by **January 9th**.

To help defray the cost of publishing, the Bulletin carries advertisements that are sponsored by, and may be of interest to, our members. The cost of adverts can be found on our website under "Publications." If you would like to place an ad in the Bulletin, please contact the Bulletin Business Editor, Barbara Ellis, 626-564-9107, [babs.ellis@gmail.com](mailto:babs.ellis@gmail.com).

### Website

Contact: Marcia Brown, [marciab@caltech.edu](mailto:marciab@caltech.edu), 626-345-1956. The CWC website is [www.cwclub.caltech.edu](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu). Go to the website for information on upcoming events and downloadable reservation forms for CWC events. To post information about an event or activity, contact Marcia.

### CWC Pasadena Area Guide

The Pasadena Area Guide is a resource for both newcomers and longtime members. It features recommendations for services, restaurants, shops, and activities, as well as useful information about the local area, and opportunities for volunteers. The guide is on the web at [www.cwclub.caltech.edu/publications/area-guide.html](http://www.cwclub.caltech.edu/publications/area-guide.html). Please email your additions, revisions, or deletions to the Area Guide Editor, Karen Brunschwig, at [kabrunschwig@gmail.com](mailto:kabrunschwig@gmail.com). Thank you for helping to make the Guide a valuable resource for the members of our community.



The Hiking Group in Millard Canyon (November 14, 2013).

*The purpose of the Caltech Women's Club is "to promote friendships and the sharing of mutual interests"*

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