

CVAP

Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic
2022~2023

Year In Review





2022-2023 Elected Executive Board

President

1st Vice President, Programs

2nd Vice President, Membership

Recording Secretary

Corresponding Secretary

Treasurer

Assistant Treasurer

Benefit Treasurer

Joyce Johnson

Ann Dew

Kathie Allen

Giorgi Duvall

Ginger Whelan

Pamela Sinco

Jane Auerswald

Cheryl Johnsen

AΦ

AΦ

KΔ

KΔ

KΔ

AΦ

AΓΔ

AΓΔ

2022-2023 Appointed Chairs

Benefit

Bylaws and Standing Rules

Email Communications & Website

Facebook

Financial Advisor

Historian

Luncheon Arrangements

Luncheon Notice Emails/Pink Cards

Luncheon Reservations

Hostesses

New Member Activity

Newsletter

Nominating Committee Chair

Parliamentarian

Laurie Anderson & Sandy Dyer

Peggy Buenzli

Bridgette Roman

Ramona Frost-Ruiz

Karen Gonzales

Shelley Whitaker

Lisa Corcoran/Peggy Buenzli

Bridgette Roman

Ginger Whelan

Judy Chamberlain

Jane Auerswald

Shelley Whitaker

Sandy Dyer

Stephanie Carter

The summer of 2022 was an active one for CVAP with delightful and delicious lunches every 2nd Thursday of the months of June through October. *Jodie Miller* set up the lunch venues, which were attended by many of our members who live in the desert full time. The picture below was taken at the Spaghetti Factory! Other venues included J's Deli, P.F. Chang's and Enzo's in La Quinta. These lunches were purely for socialization with no meeting and were TONS of FUN!!



2022 SUMMER LUNCHEONS



2022-2023 Special Projects

Toys for Tots (December)

Books for Children (February)

Old Bags Bazaar

Spring Farewell Party (April)

Summer Luncheons

Judy Austin

Nancy Ringman

Stephanie Carter, Killian Chatterton

Judy Sanders, Nancy Ringman

Jodie Miller

2022-2023 Meetings

November 10th	Desert Willow
December 8th	Big Horn
January 12th	The Lakes
February 9th	Monterey Country Club
April 13th	Indian Ridge
May 6th	Mission Hills

November: CVAP members met at the Desert Willow Golf Resort and enjoyed hearing a presentation from the Avid Director for Desert Sands Unified School District, Dr. Kari Lynn Penny. Dr. Penny is passionate about educational equity and spoke about how the Avid program opens doors for students and works hard to keep those doors open.



The **December** meeting, held at the Big Horn Golf Club, was filled with holiday surprises, including the presence of two Marines who welcomed the generous gifts from CVAP's Toys for Tots program, and a lovely musical performance by the Palm Desert Joslyn Center Choir.



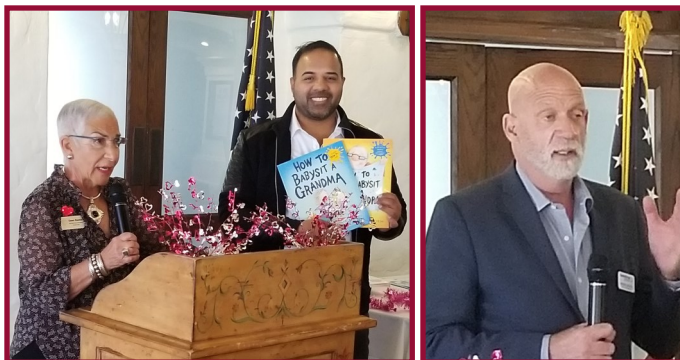
Judy Austin, Toys 4 Tots program Chair, pictured (top) with the two marines who thanked the membership for the toys. The young woman to the right of Judy had been an Alpha Omicron Pi in college.

Our **January** luncheon and meeting was held at The Lakes Country Club in Palm Desert.

City Astronomer Eric McLaughlin from the Rancho Mirage Library and Observatory spoke to us explaining how the Observatory "provides a unique gateway for visitors to look deep into the cosmos and learn about places grander than the mind is capable of grasping." Eric was a proficient presenter and took many great questions from the members.



On **February 9**, we met at Monterey Country Club and heard presentations from Josh Zahid (Loma Linda Children's Hospital Foundation) and Dawn Raschid, VP of the Children's Hospital Guild. They thanked the membership for the many donations of children's books in our Special Project headed by **Nancy Ringman**.



Next, we heard from Rob Maher from the Guide Dogs of the Desert. Rob introduced our member **Linda Simmons**, who has been a trainer with the organization for three years. Linda walked her newest trainee, Lulu, around the luncheon tables.

Our **April** meeting was held at the Indian Ridge Country Club, where we heard a presentation from the Animal Samaritan Organization. We learned about the services available, including shelter care and veterinarian aid for dogs and cats, and the adoption process at the facilities.



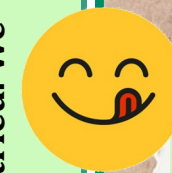
Supper Club is ... a Super Night Out!

For many years CVAP members and spouses and their friends have joined together for a 4th Wednesday night out for dinner. In 2022-2023, under the leadership of **Peggy Buenzli** and **Jan and Cheryl Johnsen**, we have enjoyed a variety of dinner venues in our local area. Our group dinners varied in size from 12 to 24 people and our conversations were always lively and entertaining. Often we had a separate room creating enhanced visiting opportunities!

CVAP members, spouses, and friends enjoyed eating at the Daily Grill on El Paseo on January 25th.



WALDO'S was one of the newer restaurants we tried. We had many couples eating together that night!



Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic

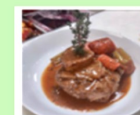
SUPPER CLUB

Please join other CVAP Members and their guests for dinner:

When: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. (PST)

Where: Waldo's Ristorante
74970 Country Club Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

RSVP: On or before Sunday, February 19, 2023, at 5 p.m. (PST) to Jan Johnsen - Click the link above to email your reservation! After your email reservation, Jan will email you a confirmation. If you don't receive a confirmation, please call: (425) 260-3445



Benefit Reaches into the Galaxy & Beyond!



Our annual Benefit for our Scholarship Awards reached for the stars and had a happy landing. March 6th found us at La Quinta Country Club with the scene set from outer space. Tables had small replicas of space men and star ships with large stars centering each table, and the walls were covered with aliens from outer space, and star balloons. Face painters were busy making members feel they had found a new home in space and added to the theme of the day.

Inside our venue we found a partial helix set of tables which held amazing Silent Auction items for the many bidders. Under the excellent direction of **Karen Gonzales**, fabulous choices were bid on until our meal started. Top bidders were rewarded later with their treasures. In another area our "Old Bags Bazaar", under the watchful eye of **Joyce Johnson, Jan Johnsen**, and other volunteers, had many smart buyers finding that perfect handbag for that special outfit. **Killian Chatterton**, Chair, set up the tables before the sale.

Our meal of a lovely salad with meat and fish choices was well received, and then we were set for our main event. **Dr. James Melton**, "Chief Ambassador of the Mars Society", renowned author and journalist on Mars, presented our talk with a power point presentation showing where the U.S.A. has been in our quest of space, and where we are going for future landings on Mars. Dr. Melton is pictured (left) with Benefit co-chair, Laurie Anderson.

We again thank La Quinta Country Club and **Sandy Dyer** for our lovely facility and thanks to **Laurie Anderson** and her committee for setting up the fun and informative theme. We made \$15,000 after deducting expenses from the Scholarship Luncheon on this annual event!

Welcome & Registration



Kathie Allen, Jane Auerswold, Cheryl Johnsen, and Sandy Dyer welcomed and registered guests as they arrived.

Face Painting



Julie Hodges and her Mom, Joyce Johnson, display the handiwork of face painting on Joyce.



Jodie Miller speaks to members & guests while sharing her beautifully painted face!

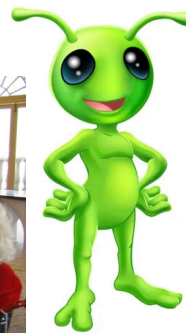
Old Bags Bazaar



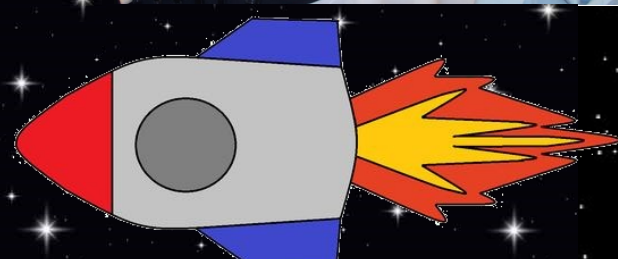
Above: Christine Elliott, Barbara Van Dyke, Joyce Johnson, and Marsha Shean get ready to help shoppers find the purse of their dreams. Above right: Jan Johnsen & Sharon Hubbard joyfully accept payment for "Old Bag" purchases!



Killian Chatterton, Pattie Kelleher, and Sharon Hubbard are dressed to meet Martians!



Barbara Huffman and Judy Austin pause from the action for a photo opportunity.



Community Service Awards



November: Linda Simmons, ΔΓ, for her activities with the Rose Society, the Braille Institute and Guide Dogs of the Desert.



December: Judy Sanders, KKG, for her activities with the Big Horn Institute, Olive Crest, and opening her home to us for our April Farewell parties.



January: Karen Gonzales, AΓΔ, who volunteers for the Palm Desert Library where she manages the book store. Karen has also served as President of the Friends of the Palm Desert Library and has held many offices in our CVAP group.



February: Ginger Whelan, KA, for her involvement in Junior League as well as being very active in CVAP, holding many offices and contributing countless volunteer hours.



Karen Speros, AXΩ, was awarded at our **April** meeting for her volunteer activities at the World Quest Mentorship Program and the Virginia Waring International Piano Competition. Karen also contributes to the CVAP Scholarship Committee as an interviewer of young women scholars from Palm Desert and La Quinta high schools.

*Thank you
for all you do!*

New CVAP Members *October 2022 thru June 2023*



Antoinette (Toni) Harms
Kappa Alpha Theta
Beloit College, WI



Candi Lee
Zeta Tau Alpha
Stanford University



Connie Linton
Alpha Chi Omega
UC Santa Barbara
Connie finished her degree at UC Davis
& earned an MBA at Santa Clara



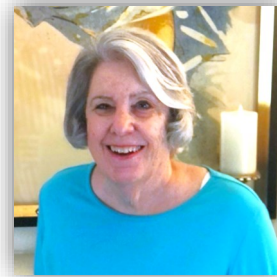
Courtney Crandall
Franklin
Alpha Phi
UCLA



Joan Petrucci
Alpha Gamma Delta
Cal State University
Chico



Karen Graham
Delta Delta Delta
Miami University
Oxford, Ohio



Kimberly Miller Klink
Chi Omega
University of Arizona



Marsha Shean
Delta Gamma
San Jose State



Maya Jones
Kappa Kappa Gamma
UCLA



Michelle Stansfield
Alpha Delta Pi
Northern Arizona
University



Pattie Kelleher
Delta Delta Delta
UCLA



Sally Hazzard
Alpha Gamma
Delta
San Diego State



Sara Hanson
Alpha Sigma Alpha



Susie Schow
Delta Delta Delta
UC Berkeley

*Congratulations
& Welcome
to our CVAP
Family!*

IN LOVING
Memory **CVAP**

Remembers those we lost
June 2022 ~ May 2023



Mary Hinsdale, Delta Gamma, University of Oregon

Diane Jessup, Delta Gamma, University of Southern California

Joyce Terrill, Alpha Gamma Delta, Thiel College; University of Pennsylvania, Claremont Grad College

Pat Thinger, Delta Gamma, University of Colorado

***Susan Meyer**, Pi Beta Phi, Northwestern University

***Linda Stewart**, Kappa Alpha Theta, University of Southern California

Thank you to these members who are dearly missed. We especially pay tribute to:

*** Susan Meyer**, who was the Benefit Chair of our Rhodes Fashion Show for two years.

*** Linda Stewart**, who actively volunteered on our Scholarship Committee for many years.

Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic offers scholarships to students



Your Turn
Linda Simmons
Guest columnist

Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic (CVAP) is believed to be the oldest, continuing nonprofit organization in the Coachella Valley.

CVAP was established in 1954 at the home of Lillian Carter in Bermuda Dunes.

It has grown from a small group of women to a dynamic organization of nearly 200 members from every part of the United States.

Many are winter residents who find friends and fun in the desert during the season.

CVAP members represent all major professional fields, including education, law, medicine, business and the arts.

Our goal is to be a proactive voice regarding issues

that are important to our communities and to actively participate in philanthropic projects. For over 65 years, we have served as a resource of scholarship money to students in the Coachella Valley.

Since 1954, CVAP has awarded over 500 scholarships to college-bound young women graduates of Coachella Valley public high schools. CVAP also encourages our scholarship recipients who subsequently pledge a national sorority to apply for our sorority membership award designed to help defray sorority expenses.

Each spring, CVAP's scholarship committee presents education scholarships to qualified, selected young women graduating from a Coachella Valley public high school or who have completed two years of College of the Desert and are planning to attend a four-year university with a National Panhellenic Conference system as a full-time student. The National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) is the umbrella organization for 26 international and national sororities founded in 1902.

This year, the membership raised over \$65,000 to award two high school senior women from each of the 10 local public high schools' monies toward their 4-year education at an NPC-recognized university. Many of the selected scholarship winners are the first-generation Hispanic female in their family to pursue higher education.

The careers they endeavor to achieve vary from medical research including neuroscience and genetics, aerospace engineering, medical doctors, nursing, to criminal justice law and politics.

The uniqueness of these young women is that many want to return to the Coachella Valley with the intent to practice in their chosen profession. There are areas they say they can contribute to improve the quality of life, the environment, social and mental health and serve the population in the community they grew up in.

Linda Simmons is the Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic scholarship chair . Her email is linda468@aol.com.



Hoy

For Shelomith, the move to the desert was not an easy one.

After promoting from Saint Theresa Catholic School in Palm Springs, Hoy was set to start anew at Palm Springs High when — boom — life changed for everyone.

The COVID-19 pandemic arrived, and in-person classes went away.

Suddenly, Hoy's opportunity to start fresh in public school went up in the air. The chance to plant roots with new friends changed from something tangible into a grid of digital pixels and faces on Zoom.

Hoy called the effects of the pandemic "devastating."

"I would say that I was impacted most socially because I went into high school really knowing nobody, and I didn't have that opportunity to branch out and meet new people like I had wanted to," she said.

Determined, Hoy went to great lengths to make friends.

"I joined all the clubs online," she said. "I was in French Club. I never even took a French class."

It was like throwing darts at the wall.

"I would say one of the most surprising things that I learned is there's a disparity between the connections you make online and in-person," Hoy said. "This whole experience kind of really emphasized for me the value of connections and having strong relationships with the people that you surround yourself with."

Eventually, Hoy found a place as a leader of the Rotary Interact Club, and she vowed not to skip quintessential in-person events like prom.

But even as her socializing picked up, it was her all-online freshman year that fundamentally shifted her

high school trajectory. For its drawbacks, it also led her on a path to early graduation and dual enrollment at COD.

"I felt kind of stagnated in a way because I wasn't able to branch out," Hoy said. "I was planning on being thoroughly involved (socially), so I just decided to channel all of this nervous energy into the thing that I'd always excelled at the most — which is academics."

Hoy knew a friend in Arizona on track to graduate from high school with her associate degree.

"And, so that's where I got that idea," she said.

By the end of her freshman year, Hoy had already logged college credit thanks to COD's dual enrollment program, which allows high school students to earn college credit in classes taught by college-approved high school teachers.

Hoy's first dual enrollment class was taught by Erin Graham, an English teacher renowned for her mentorship.

"When I told her my motivations, she understood," Hoy said of Graham. "She didn't question it."

"Everyone who I ever shared my plans with always met me with such belief in my potential. They were confident in me, and they placed their faith in me," Hoy added. "I feel like that's something that has really been like a springboard in terms of my achievement. I credit a lot of my accomplishments to the people who were behind me all of this time."

Fast forward two years and Hoy's accomplishments include associate degrees in economics and psychology from COD, six AP classes and a GPA of 4.6 at Palm Springs High.

Her declared major at UCLA is applied math, but Hoy admits she's not quite sure what she wants to do with it.

"I can really use that to go into any field," Hoy said.

Her resilience and determination will also be useful wherever she turns next.

Jonathan Horwitz covers education for The Desert Sun. Reach him at jonathan.horwitz@desertsun.com.

* Editor's Note: Shelomith Hoy was a 2022 CVAP Scholarship winner from Palm Springs High School.



Shelomith Hoy is a student at Palm Springs High School who not only will graduate in just three years but has also earned two associate degrees from College of the Desert. She is photographed at Palm Springs High School on May 17.

JAY CALDERON/THE DESERT SUN

Making history: Palm Springs High grad headed to UCLA after finishing school in 3 years

Jonathan Horwitz
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Palm Springs High student will become the first in school history this June to graduate in three years with not just her high school diploma but two associate degrees from College of the Desert, as well. She'll be attending UCLA in the fall. Her life journey has been as impressive as her curriculum vitae.

Shelomith Hoy was born in the Philippines and moved to Chino Hills when she was 9. Her mother had been living in California for years to work as a registered nurse while Shelomith and her father stayed in the Philippines, waiting for U.S. immigration paperwork to process. Call her part of the FaceTime generation.

"I don't really say that I grew up without a mom because we called every night," she said. "I grew up during the evolution of Apple and FaceTime and

all these apps we used to talk on."

Some time after her family reunified in Chino Hills, the Hoyes moved to the desert. Mom took a job as a nurse with Palm Springs Unified, and dad, whose business degree from the Philippines is not recognized in this country, took on jobs as a cook at local golf clubs. Currently, he works at The Springs in Rancho Mirage.



Alexa Duque

Camp shows girls what's possible in STEM careers

Eliana Perez
Palm Springs Desert Sun
USA TODAY NETWORK

For many students, high school is a time to make important decisions about college and what will follow. But **Alexa Duque**, currently a senior at Palm Springs High, got a head start on that five years ago, when she attended a summer camp for middle school girls interested in science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM.

The camp program, Tech Trek, is only a week long, yet its impact can last a lifetime.

"When applying to colleges, I applied to the environmental science major ... Ever since having that (camp) experience and learning that was even a field and being able to learn more indepth about it, it really stuck with me," Duque said.

Though she had an interest inscience before participating in Tech Trek, Duque said what she could do with STEM used to be a mystery. "The most I knew was, I could be a scientist, but in regard to what they actually do was very vague to me," she said.

When at camp in 2018, however, Duque got a clear picture as she was introduced to women in science dedicated to nature conservation and advocacy—something she now hopes to do.

"With a major in environmental science, I plan to do more in-field research, in terms of becoming a conservation specialist or analyst ... because I think it's really important to make sure that, as the world around us develops, we keep in mind it's still a living, breathing planet and we have to maintain the health of it," Duque said.

She will start studying at UC Berkeley this fall.

Historian Scrapbook Editor's Note: The rest of this 5/22/23 article focuses on the camp rather than our scholar, Alexa Duque.



2022-2023 CVAP Board Hard at Work!



Clockwise from bottom left: Shelley Whitaker, Killian Chatterton, Pam Sinco, Sandy Dyer, Peggy Buenzil, Cheryl Johnsen, Ann Dew, Karen Gonzales, Laurie Anderson, Margaret Kelso, Lisa Corcoran (?), Nancy Ringman. Photo by Board Member Giorgi Duvall.

Missing: Joyce Johnson, Kathie Allen, Ginger Whelan, Jane Auerswald, Bridgette Roman, Judy Chamberlain, Martha Blackburn, Linda Simmons, Stephanie Carter, Julie Hodges, Judy Austin, Judy Sanders, Ramona Frost-Ruiz, and Jodie Miller.

Sorority Membership Awards



Two of our 2022 scholarship recipients, **Natalie Wilberts** (above left) a graduate from Shadow Hills High School, and **Ava Philson** (above right) a graduate from Palm Desert High School, pledged NPC sororities during the 2022-2023 school year.

Natalie Wilberts pledged Gamma Phi Beta at Pepperdine University in Malibu, and Ava Philson pledged Kappa Delta at U.C.L.A.

Both young women will be receiving their Sorority Membership Awards in the summer of 2023.
CONGRATULATIONS!!

CVAP Receives Two Awards from National Panhellenic for Programs & Scholarships



Congratulations!

In the fall of 2022, our **Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic** was selected as a recipient of two national awards from the National Panhellenic Conference: (1) The Citation of Merit and (2) Programming Excellence.

These awards recognize the success of the Coachella Valley Alumnae Panhellenic in meeting the criteria of high achievement and consistent cooperation with NPC. This includes furthering sorority life by communicating with NPC and the area coordinator along with providing outstanding support to the sorority experience through marketing/publicity, philanthropic involvement, scholarship and sorority education in the community.





Near the end of the 2022-2023 season of CVAP, our elected Officers and Board Chairs put on a “Farewell” party for all the members who are leaving the desert for cooler places during the summer months. **Judy Sanders** once again volunteered her lovely lakeside home for our “Farewell until Fall” event.

Nancy Ringman volunteered to help set up the Farewell. The officers planned the menu and brought the food. We had a variety of easy to eat hors d’oeuvres, meat dishes, sandwiches, and desserts. The beverages were provided by officers and Board members. Everyone enjoyed the afternoon party!



Hostess Judy Sanders with Charlie Consoli



Ann Dew and Pam Sinco enjoying some of the festive decor



Beedy Ritchie, Bruce Neiner, and Joyce Johnson



Pam Blodgett, Judy Chamberlain and Shelley Whitaker



Sandy Dyer, Peggy Buenzli, Stephanie Carter (with Lucky), Joyce Johnson, Joan Tegen, and Nancy Ringman



Judy's home was the perfect backdrop for a 'Farewell Fling' ... from the many flamingos adorning her property, to her wonderful assistant, to her



Laurie Anderson, Pam Blodgett, and Connie Linton



CVAP husbands and friends visit together as they enjoy the party!



Judy's happy party attendee, “Lucky” says FAREWELL to CVAP 2022-2023!



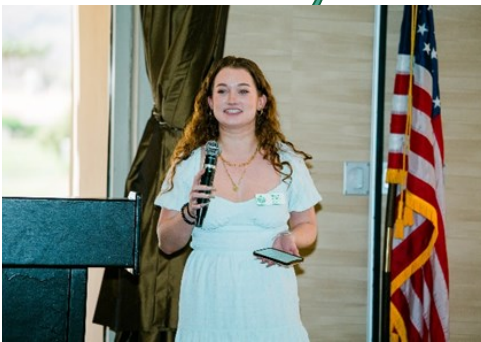
Clockwise from front left: Bev McKeon, Judy Chamberlain, Sandy Dyer, Cheryl Johnsen, Jodie Miller, Peggy Buenzli, Karen Gonzales, and Karen Speros.



2023 CVAP Scholarship Class Honored at May 6 Luncheon



Back Row: Allison Morden, Destiny Casas, Karissa Pertler, Shafaa Munjal, Genesys Corado-Galica, Jayda Esparza, Melissa Perez-Rodriguez, Dayana Zaragoza-Hernandez, Caitlyn Hill, Jianna Palma-Pinzon, Arlene Celestino-Herrera, and Alexa Daque.
Front Row: April Nunez-Aceves, Joslyn Serrano, Isabel Zuniga, Shelomith Hoy, Analis Pulido, Nazli Perez-Munoz, and Crystal Romero.
Not Pictured: Jada Dotson



Our Annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon was held on May 6 at Mission Hills Country Club. Guest speakers were **Maya Jones** (above left) a 2017 scholar from La Quinta HS. Maya graduated from UCLA where she was a Kappa Kappa Gamma and is now a CVAP member, and **Ava Philson** (above right) scholar class of 2022, Palm Desert HS and Kappa Delta at UCLA. Both women gave heartfelt testimonies of how our scholarships are enriching their lives.



Linda Simmons (left) Scholarship Chair, introduced the guest speakers and our Scholarship class of 2023.



Joining the 2023 scholars are Scholarship Committee Members and Interviewers. Standing on the left side of the girls are Julie Hodges, Linda Simmons (Chair) and Mary Warrick. Seated left to right are Charlie Consoli, Barbara Mueller, Marsha Shean, Tootie Killingsworth, Sally Alvino, Giorgi Duvall, Candi Lee and CVAP President, Joyce Johnson.



Killian Chatterton, Carol Adney, Margaret Kelso, Cheryl Johnsen, and Sally Hazzard.



Gail Murphy, Judy Sanders, Judy Chamberlain, Bridgette Roman, and Kate Reeves enjoy the program.



LEFT: Ann Dew, Jane Auerswald & Carol Adney with Scholars & guests



Dr. Bill Johnson, Sally Alvino & Jodie Miller (standing) and Peggy Buenzli with scholars and guests.



Kathie Allen and Nancy Ringman welcome and register guests