



"All I need is room enough to lay a hat and a few friends"

Dorothy Parker

Entering the Douglaston Club, was a sight to behold. More than 50 hats were on display. Each hat on a stand, a placard identifying the owner and the genre of the hat. There were many "oohs" and "aahs" as members collected around the tables showcasing this magnificent display.

At another table were hats offered for sale - truly glamorous and reminiscent of times gone by – another era.

The collection of hats on display included, among others, a bridal veil, a nurse's cap, a boudoir cap, vintage hats previously owned by mothers, sisters, family and friends – many of which had traveled far and wide. Hats that were found in attics; hats that traveled from Italy; hats that traveled to Italy. Hats that were 50, 75 years old.

Fascinators were well represented as well. There was a Witch's hat and even an Elmer Fudd Doggie Hat – both of which brought smiles to many faces. There were heartfelt stories given by 13 members each offering explanations of the hat's original owner bringing back memories of loved ones and/or their own experiences. Some of the talks were humorous while others were informative, enlightening and heart-rending.

There were vintage photos of Hedda Hopper (*the doyenne of hats*); photos of family members wearing displayed hats and photos of several members from many years ago - including Bette Gallo photos wearing her signature hats.

Last, but certainly not least, was a table dedicated to **Bette Gallo** and her array of hats. The backstory to this Program of Hats and the inspiration behind the Program was our dear deceased member, Bette. As you remember Bette, rarely was she seen without a hat adorning her head. When Bette passed on, her family graciously donated the hats to the **WCD**. Thus a seed was planted.

Fast forward several months and many days and hours of arduous work performed by a team of dedicated women. Each offered their talents to bring this Program to fruition. We must thank Helene Schutz, Maria DiChiara, and Mary Taylor. Without them, this Program would not have been possible. Additional thank you to Aida Ieraci, Joyce Ramirez and Maura Wrynn who assisted on the big day. "*Hats off*" to these hard-working, talented, creative women and to all the participants for enabling us to enjoy a nostalgic fun afternoon of

HATS HATS HATS!

A.A.