



Newsletter

April 2005

Volume 15, Number 5

2004-2005 Women's Club Board

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A Word from the President...

It is hard to believe that the 2004-05 Board is about to retire and turn over to the 2005-06 Board. Some women will stay for another year or shift their jobs, providing helpful continuity, and we welcome the new ideas of those joining or rejoining the Board. Thanks to all interest group chairs who provide the momentum for the heart of our group. Women's Club would never exist without the participation of many talented individuals.

This Board came in with two major goals, which are well underway thanks to the guidance of our two ad hoc committees on the Constitution and Development. Meeting these goals relies on dedicated Board members and a supportive general membership.

The committee and the Board carefully examined and updated the Club's Constitution, publishing a draft in the December newsletter. The document was further refined and approved by the Board, following input from the membership. We hope you will examine the comparison of proposed revisions with corresponding portions from the previous edition, included in this newsletter. The complete 1999 and 2005 documents are available on our website. Thanks to all who made this important upgrade possible. A vote to accept these changes will take place at our April meeting.

The second major goal, in order to prepare for our centennial celebration of 2006, was to examine the Club's endowment and consider ways to increase these funds for the strength of the group and the benefit of the students who we support with scholarships each year. Such a process is

complex, and with a strong start, will continue into the next Club year. Your creative thoughts and generous gifts are always welcome.

The extension of this process into more detailed preparations for the centennial will rely on a cluster of new committees, spearheaded by incoming First Vice President Cinda Pettigrew. Cinda is full of energy and ideas, and we look forward to hearing more in the next Club year.

Our annual Scholarship Brunch was a delightful event. Those who were able to attend enjoyed the Illini Union setting and buffet, and all of our scholarship recipients--eight Women's Club winners and one Judith Life Ikenberry winner--were able to join us, some bringing family members. The accomplishments of these students never fail to impress us.

The Spring Luncheon will be at Kennedy's Restaurant on Wednesday, April 20, 2005. Turnout is always strong for this event, and we hope many of you will be able to join us. Come to visit with friends, hear our engaging speaker, Kathryn Anthony, and participate in the traditional silent auction whose proceeds benefit the scholarship program.

It has been my honor to serve the Women's Club as President this year, in close partnership with First Vice President Sandi Thomas. As I move over and take on a different Board position, I thank everyone for your encouragement and wish the very best to Sandi and the incoming Board.

Kathy Marshak

Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM

Kennedy's Restaurant, Stone Creek Golf Club, Urbana

Putting Potty Privileging in Perspective: Gender and Family Issues in Restroom Design

Featured Guest Speaker

Kathryn H. Anthony, PhD

Professor and Chair, Design Program Faculty, School of Architecture, UI

Professor, Gender and Women's Studies Program, UI

Professor, Dept. of Landscape Architecture, UI

Kathryn H. Anthony is Professor and Chair of the Design Program Faculty at the School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where she also serves on the faculty of the Dept. of Landscape Architecture and the Gender and Women's Studies Program. Dr. Anthony has been at the University of Illinois for 20 years and is one of the first women in architecture at her school to receive tenure and promotion to Full Professor. She is the author of three books, *Running for Our Lives: An Odyssey with Cancer* (CPS, University of Illinois, 2004); *Designing for Diversity: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in the Architectural Profession* (Urbana and Chicago, University of Illinois Press, 2001); and *Design Juries on Trial: The Renaissance of the Design Studio* (NY, Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1991). She received the 1992 Creative Achievement Award from the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture and the 2003 Collaborative Achievement Award from the American Institute of Architects.

Dr. Anthony has taught a seminar on gender and race in architecture for the past decade that addresses gender issues in restroom design. The course session on restrooms was recently featured in a news segment on WICD-TV in Champaign, Illinois. She will be presenting her research on gender and family issues in restroom design at the upcoming World Toilet Forum and Expo in Shanghai, China in May 2005.

Professor Anthony has served on numerous school, college, and university committees addressing diversity. She recently served as Chair of the Chancellor's Committee on the Status of Women, when she spearheaded a drive to improve public restrooms for women across the University of Illinois campus. She holds a PhD in architecture and a B.A. in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley.

(For an overview of Dr. Anthony's speech, please see page 3.)

Menu

Mixed Baby Green Salad
Baked Fish with Almonds and Grapes
Seasonal Vegetable Stir-Fry with Asparagus
Rice Pilaf
Coffee and Tea

Silent Auction begins at 11:00 AM.

Greetings fellow Women's Club members! Do you have buried treasure in your homes, basements, or attics? Now is the time to dig it out and bring it to the Silent Auction preceding the Spring Luncheon.

We will set up 1/2 hour before the luncheon, at 11:00 AM. Come early with something that you no longer want, but which you think others will like. Browse about, and buy a new treasure for yourself or someone else. All proceeds benefit the Scholarship Fund. If you can't make it, but would like to donate something, contact Susan Haney at 356-2464 or haney@s@prairienet.org. Ideas for donations can include handcrafted items (maybe a special bread or coffee cake that you make) or even a service that you perform, like 2 hours of garden work. We hope to see you there, donating and buying!

Reservations for Spring Luncheon

Wednesday, April 20, 2005, 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM, Kennedy's Restaurant, Urbana

Cost: \$18 per person; spouses and guests welcome. Make checks payable to Women's Club at UIUC.

Please mail to Jane Myers, 2213 N Cottonwood, Urbana, IL 61802 (367-0630) by **April 8, 2005**.

Name _____ Phone _____
Number of reservations _____ Total enclosed _____
Names of those attending _____

Announcements

Thank-you

I'd like to thank Grace Miller under whose tutelage I first started working as the assistant newsletter editor. Not only have I learned a great deal from her, but in the process I've also gained a good friend. Later, when we switched places and I became the editor Grace has been invaluable in assisting me with many aspects of the newsletter production. Through the three years as a team, Grace was there whenever I needed help and she always made the work a pleasure. You are the best, my friend!

Yvona Vlach

Newcomers' Couples Party

Our spring get-together will be on Friday, April 8, at 6:00 PM, at the home of Julie and Tom Dempsey, 143 Oaktree Road, Seymour, IL. Children are welcome and will have a special place to play, so the adults can enjoy themselves, too. Soft drinks and substantial hors d'oeuvres will be provided. Please bring a bottle of wine or a six-pack of beer. This will be a great opportunity to meet new people and have fun! RSVP to Julie (687-4149) or Cinda (367-4588 or cinda@pettigrewconsulting.com).

Upcoming Board Meetings

The Women's Club Board will meet on Monday, April 4, 2005, at 7:30 PM, at the home of Vivian Larson, 411 E. Mumford, Urbana.

Old/New Board meeting will be on Tuesday, May 10, at 11:30 AM, at the home of Jane Myers, 2213 N. Cottonwood, Urbana.

To find more information about the Women's Club, please visit our website at <http://wc-uiuc.prairienet.org>.

Putting Potty Privileging in Perspective: Gender and Family Issues in Restroom Design

by Kathryn H. Anthony, PhD

Although we are all forced to use them whenever we are away from home, public restrooms raise a host of problems for women as well as men, adults as well as children. Restrooms are among the few remaining sex-segregated spaces in the American landscape, and they remain among the more tangible relics of gender discrimination. How many times have you been trapped in long lines at the women's restroom? Why must women be forced to wait uncomfortably to relieve themselves, while men are not? In addition, gender-segregated restrooms no longer work for a significant part of the population. Yet family-friendly or companion-care restrooms that allow males and females to accompany each other are still all too rare.

Why is this the case? And why have these problems persisted for so long? Architects, contractors, engineers, and building code officials rarely contacted women to learn about their special restroom needs. And until recently, women were rarely employed in these male-dominated professions. Nor were women in a position to be able to effectively affect change. Yet as more women gradually enter these professions, they increase the potential for change. And it is often a rare female legislator who has taken the lead to address these pressing issues.

Just as sexual harassment and street harassment were commonplace phenomena long before the terms were invented, I propose that a new label, "potty privileging," be adopted to signify the ways in which public restrooms have long discriminated against certain segments of our society, especially women. And I argue for an end to potty privileging.

Spotlight On Playgroup

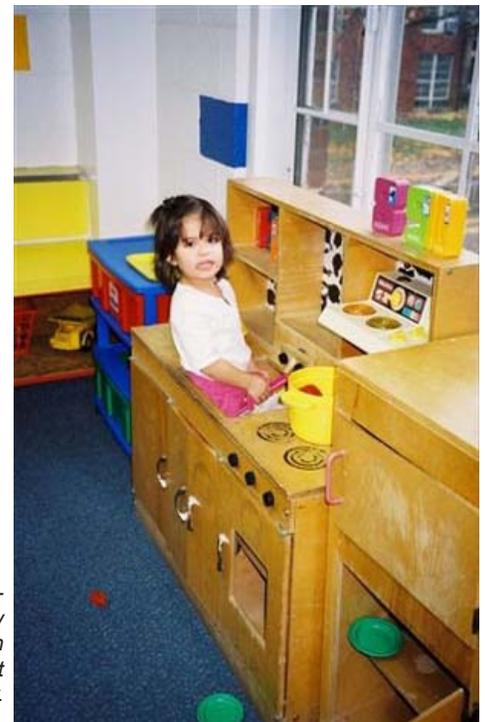
Bimonthly parent-child playgroups are wonderful opportunities for parents to socialize while the children enjoy playing together. New members with infants through pre-

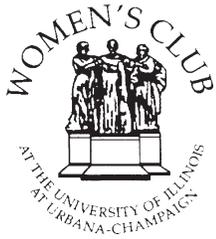


school children are invited to join any time throughout the year. The Playgroup meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at 9:30 AM (except holidays) at the Illinois Disciples Foundation. For more information contact Karen Owens at 356-7712 or Alice de Sturler at 359-2757.

Parents and children having good time at Playgroup meeting.

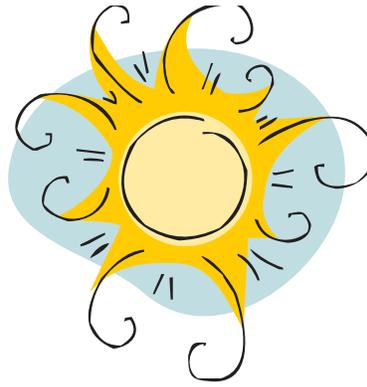
In a child's imagination, even an ordinary kitchen sink can become the most exciting place to play.





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