



# Women's Club News

University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign

Volume 16, Number 2

October 2005

## 2005-2006 Women's Club Board

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Celebrating 100 Years of Building Community at UIUC

## A Word from the President . . .

It has been a very busy month for our Club! We welcomed new and returning members at our Fall Sign-up at Lincoln Square. Many thanks to Meeting Manager Jane Myers for organizing the successful event and to all the members who helped set up and take down tables and chairs. Thanks to Ann Long, Barbara Garlick, and the chairs of our 26 interest groups for helping with their wonderful displays. Susan Haney and Jenna Finch did a fine job coordinating over a dozen not-for-profit groups from the community who were present to meet with members. We also appreciate those who helped at a second sign-up on campus, and thank Nancy Komlanc for organizing this.

There are many new interest groups launching this fall, and we hope you can find the time to visit one. Check the website for meeting information. The Newcomers' lunch was a great chance to chat with our newest members, and to play with some really cute babies. Our Parent-Child group had their first meeting, and it was wonderful to see how many different nationalities were represented. The Women's Club is truly building community!

Be sure to check out our two upcoming tours, one to Japan House, and one to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield. Find out more details in this newsletter. We hope you can join us for our Fall Luncheon on Wed. October 19<sup>th</sup>. It will be held at the Levis Center, with a talk by Krannert Director Mike Ross, followed by a tour of The Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Please send in your reservations and consider inviting a guest who might want to learn more about our Club.

Our Centennial year and its celebrations are only a few months away! Our next newsletter will reveal some of the upcoming events. In the meantime, enjoy reading about our first 25 years of our history. We will continue the journey through our first century, thanks to the work of Archivist Vivian Larson and Centennial Celebration Publicity Chair, Nancy Komlanc.

Enjoy the Fall,  
*Sandi Thomas*

In Memoriam  
Nolie Bentley  
1920 – 2005  
President, 1974 – 1975

## Tours

We will offer two tours this fall, the first in October to Japan House and its gardens, and the second to the Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library in Springfield.

### **Japan House - Thursday October 27 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. \$5.00**

Sign-up with Helen Burch via e-mail at [hcburch@soltec.net](mailto:hcburch@soltec.net) or by phone at 328-1186.

**General Information:** Japan House is located south of Florida on the east side of Lincoln Ave. There is metered parking south of Japan House so bring quarters or use your President's Council hang tag. The walk is easy, without any steps.

### **Lincoln Presidential Museum & Library in Springfield - November 29 or 30 or December 1 or 2 (depending on bus & museum availability)**

Sign-up with Sandi Thomas at [sandit@insightbb.com](mailto:sandit@insightbb.com) if you're interested and want to be placed on a list.

**General Information:** Time: approximately 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Cost: \$25 (including bus & tickets, lunch on your own.) More details on Website and by e-mail, as soon as they are available.

*To get yourself a beautiful Motawi tile,  
commemorating the UI Morrow Plots,  
contact Jennifer Richardson at 493-8764*

*jennrich@uiuc.edu*

*Available in green or yellow.  
\$35 each.*



### **A Century of History for the UIUC Women's Club—The First 25 Years**

by Nancy Komlanc and Vivian Larson

Since the Women's Club will turn 100 years old in 2006, we saw it fitting to study and share its rich history with all club members. Thanks go, in part, to Women's Club members over the first 100 years who kept detailed records of club events. Thanks also go to the University of Illinois Library Archives Department for housing these wonderful records and maintaining them in such good condition.

It was in February 1906 that a few women from the UIUC campus met and started a nameless club. In October that same year the club officially became the "University Women's Club" with its first president, Mrs. D.O Barto. Meetings were held monthly on Tuesday afternoons at the Women's Building. Two years later dues were set at \$.50, and by then there were already 200 members! In these early years typically cake, ice cream, and coffee were served, and it was traditional each year in March to hold an "evening of entertainment with husbands invited." In 1911, 17 dozen spoons were ordered ("Modern Art" by Reed & Barton) for the club's exclusive use only in the Women's Building. The club had to borrow plates and cups.

During World War I in 1917, "conditions (social and national) became so unsettled that after all plans had been made to make the April meeting an 'evening affair which should include the husbands,' the whole affair was given up and thus the March meeting" concluded the year. During WWI, when meetings weren't cancelled, informal talks were given on War efforts such as "The YMCA War Fund." The Sewing group stitched for the Red Cross effort.

In 1918 "the October meeting was postponed because of the influenza and pneumonia epidemic; consequently, the club began 4 months later" in February. There was small attendance this year "due to so many women having their time fully occupied with Red Cross or other war work." That year the club donated \$25 to the University Loan Fund for needy students. However, the May meeting seemed grand with entertainment by members with violin solos, piano solos, and a ladies' quartet. In 1919 military officers' wives were the guests of honor. One event during the year even had 300 members present! By 1921 entertainment included one-act plays.

In 1922 there was talk of a new club name. In 1923 this was changed to "The University Women's Tuesday Tea," which members felt was more descriptive of the club's activities. Look for further installments on the history of the Women's Club in subsequent issues of the newsletter.

**Club Correspondence:** Please contact Helen Burch with news regarding members who might appreciate a card from the club.  
[www.UIUCWomensClub.org](http://www.UIUCWomensClub.org)

# **Women's Club Fall Luncheon**

*Wednesday October 19, 2005  
Luncheon & Speaker 11:15 – 12:30  
Levis Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Tour of Krannert 12:45 – 1:45*

## **Reservation Form for Fall Luncheon & Tour**

October 19, 2005  
11:15 - 12:30 at the Levis Center  
12:45 - 1:45 at Krannert

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Reservations \_\_\_\_\_ Names of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to Jane Meyers, 2213 N. Cottonwood, Urbana, IL 61802**

### ***Buffet Menu***

*Roasted Pumpkin Soup  
Sandwiches (assemble your own from a variety of fillings & breads)  
Mixed greens salad with apples, pecans & blue cheese  
Assorted dessert tray – mini fruit tarts, brownies & cookies  
Iced Tea, Coffee or Tea  
\$18 for Members & Guests*

***RSVP by October 13, 2005***

***A bit about our featured speaker ... from the Krannert Center, where “Being Matters”***  
Mike Ross became the sixth director of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts in September 1997. He came to us from the Kathryn Bache Miller Theater at Columbia University, where he was executive director and, previously, its director of artistic activity. At the Miller Theater, Mike established the critically acclaimed multi-arts-presenting program of classical and contemporary music, jazz, theater, film, dance and theater of ideas events. As Krannert’s director he is responsible for the Center’s performing arts programming, its financial and operations management and development.

### ***And a little bit about our program ...***

Our program begins with lunch at the Levis Center, during which Mike Ross will talk about the 2005-06 season, a truly inclusive schedule of events. Following lunch and his talk, we will walk across the street to Krannert for a guided backstage tour, during which we’ll learn a bit about the innovative equipment and building requirements essential to the successful staging of a multitude of performances.

***Parking*** is available both on the streets and in the lower level of Krannert’s parking garage. Bring quarters!



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The Levis Center  
919 West Illinois Street  
Urbana IL 61801  
<http://www.UIUCWomensClub.org>



### Newcomers' Group

During a variety of events launching this academic year we have had an opportunity to greet numerous prospective members of Women's Club and welcome new friends as members of both the Club and Newcomers. We had our group's first official event on September 12, when nineteen women and three babies shared a picnic lunch at Kathy's house. Future events are listed here; please contact one of us for details and to let us know you plan to come. Members in their first two years, whether or not they are new to the community or the University, are included in our Newcomers' group. Please encourage eligible members to participate, as a way to feel more comfortable within the whole Women's Club.

- Thursday, October 6, 2005, 9:00-1:00: Tour of downtown Champaign & Urbana.

Meet at Café Kopi, 109 N. Walnut St., Champaign

- Friday, November 18, 2005, time TBA: Dessert and Theatre (with spouses).

"Charley's Aunt" at Station Theatre, Urbana

- January/February (evening, time TBA): Tour of U of I basketball facilities (with spouses).

- Friday, April 21, 2006, 4:30-6:30: Wine and cheese in the garden (with spouses).

Home of Joy Thornton-Walter, 820 Dodds Drive, Champaign; 351-5197

*Kathy Marshak, kmarshak@prairienet.org  
Joy Thornton-Walter, walter@math.uiuc.edu*

### Upcoming Dates

- **Board Meeting:** Monday October 24, 2005, 7:30 p.m., 1005 S. Douglas, Urbana
- **Holiday Tea:** Tuesday December 13, 2005
- **Deadline** for next newsletter submissions: Tuesday November 1, 2005. Please e-mail your contributions to Helen Cangellaris at [hcangellaris@yahoo.com](mailto:hcangellaris@yahoo.com)