

Women's Club News

University of Illinois at Urbana – Champaign



Volume 16, Number 3

November 2005

Celebrating 100 Years of Building Community at UIUC

2005-2006 Women's Club Board

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A Word from the President . . .

It is with great pleasure that I announce the first exciting events of our Centennial Year, 2006. Our kick-off gala, *Night of 100 Lights, A Centennial Celebration*, will be held on Saturday, January 21, 2006, 7-10 pm in the Illini Union Ballroom. It will be an amazing evening of special entertainment, including a string quartet and jazz musicians from the University, and a chance to recognize our Past Presidents. The Club will be making special transportation arrangements so that all members can enjoy this historic occasion.

Our second celebration will focus on the roots of our Club, as we hold a Tuesday Tea on Valentine's Day, at Clark-Lindsey Village. We will put on our hats and gloves, and honor our long-time members. We hope you can plan to attend. I would like to express my gratitude to members of the Centennial Celebration Committee for their hard work planning these events.

We decided that on this occasion of our 100th Birthday, the Women's Club would like to bestow a fitting gift on our organization, a campaign to increase our Scholarship Endowment fund. This is a great way to give back to our wonderful university and to assist deserving students. That is why I am proud to introduce our Decades of Giving. More information is in this newsletter, and updates will be given throughout the year. We were pleased to have a very enthusiastic response to a luncheon held to help introduce this campaign. David Bruns, from Student Affairs, gave a dynamic presentation, and Mary White joined us as well. Feel free to contact our Treasurer, Nancy Diamond, at ndiamond@uiuc.edu for more details on our Decades. Everyone is invited to participate at the level of their choice. We appreciate all the scholarship donations that have already been made this year.

We enjoyed a wonderful Fall Luncheon, thanks to the planning and decorating of Cinda Pettigrew, Jane Myers, Viv Larson and Susan Haney. Special thanks to our guest speaker, Mike Ross, and to the Krannert staff for our backstage tour. Many members took advantage of the enlightening tour of Japan House, thanks to the efforts of Helen Burch. There may be last-minute seats available for the trip to the Lincoln Museum in Springfield on December 1st. Please contact me at sandit@insightbb.com if you are interested. Thanks to Sarah Wisseman, Sandy Camargo and Birgit McCall for reformatting our extensive membership data and preparing our annual Membership Directory, which is included with this issue.

We appreciate Mary White opening the President's home for our Holiday Tea, on Tuesday, December 13th. Please use the contact information on the event announcement to respond to Diane Carothers. We hope that you can join us for this festive gathering.

In closing, I want to wish you and your family a very special holiday season. I look forward to our upcoming Centennial Celebrations. Let us be proud of our rich heritage and help build a bright future for the Women's Club.

Happy Holidays,

Sandi Thomas



Decades of Giving

An opportunity to increase our Scholarship Endowment

Please consider giving in the Decade of your choice:

___ **1906 – \$ 50**
___ **1926 – \$ 100**
___ **1946 – \$ 150**
___ **1966 – \$ 250**
___ **1986 – \$ 500**
___ **2006 – \$1000**

All participants will be acknowledged at various times in the newsletter and at events throughout the year. Participants at the 2006 level will be honored at a special reception at the President's House in the fall of 2006!

***Send Decades checks payable to UIF – Women's Club
(or ask about payroll deduction or stock transfer)
with your contact information to :
Nancy Diamond 403 Brookens Dr., Urbana, IL 61801***

Of special note: Giving levels within the President's Council as of January 1, 2006 are set to go up substantially. Through December 31, 2005 donors may still pledge \$15,000 over a 10-year period to qualify for Council membership. Past gifts count toward the membership requisites. Contact David Bruns, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Development, 244-8060 or dbruns@uiuc.edu, if you wish to take advantage of this opportunity.



Alexandra Graham, playgroup member and daughter of Alyssa Nevin, seems pleased with the pumpkins, particularly the "Decades of Giving" pumpkin, designed and carved by Viv Larson and Susan Haney.



***Night of 100 Lights
A Centennial Celebration
1906-2006***

***Illini Union Ballroom
January 21, 2006 from 7 PM until 10 PM***

Desserts and Dancing

Entertainment

***String Quartet
Illini Jazz Combo and a few surprises***

\$35 per person

***Watch your mailbox for further information . . .
Please bring your friends!***

A Century of History for the UIUC Women's Club—the 2nd 25 Years

by Nancy Komlanc and Vivian Larson

Here's more history of the first 100 years of the Women's Club. Thanks, 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 keeping them in such wonderful condition.

Remember the twelve dozen spoons that the Club purchased in 1911? They were all sold to the University in 1925 for \$60.00, though we don't know why.

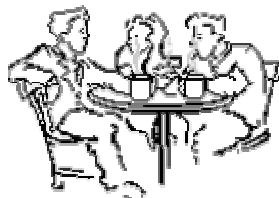
Here's the big mystery question: Where was the "Women's Building" where Women's Club meetings were held for so many years, and does it still stand today? This mystery has been solved! The "Women's Building" still stands on the Quad today and is now the English Building. Between these two names the building was called Bevier Hall before the current Bevier Hall was built on Goodwin Ave. (A. S. Weller, *100 Years of Campus Architecture*, U of I Press, 1968).

In the early years, wives of local ministers were welcomed as Women's Club members. Back then it was common to have hundreds of members attend meetings each month with 35-50 hostesses! The spring "annual receptions" had a receiving line which consisted of six women from the Executive Board. Meetings had entertainment such as vocalists with piano accompaniment, readings from a professor of English, or dancing to the Virginia Reel.

In 1930 annual dues were \$10—they haven't gone up much since then, have they ladies! Due to "non-payment of membership fees," women were dropped from the club after receiving polite reminder letters. In 1931 a newsletter was started to help increase membership.

In 1928 the Club voted to "sponsor the newly formed 'Newcomers' Club' and consider it auxiliary to the Tuesday Tea Club." Dues for this club were \$.25 annually. "Mrs. J.H. Reedy had long felt the need for such an organization here and had been hopeful that a Newcomers' Club would be formed." Mrs. David Kinley, wife of the University President, enthusiastic about the club, obtained a list of the appointed staff members' wives from the President's office. The following year chairmen of the following committees were appointed—"membership, social and courtesy." The courtesy group visited the sick and assisted in making personal membership calls. Membership this first year quickly increased from 40 to 86. The primary purpose was social, enabling new women to become acquainted with others who had just come to campus and participating in the life of the University and the community. Whereas in the first year this club met in women's homes, it graduated quickly to meeting in the Women's Building. However, as the Depression years came (1932-1935), the size of the club reduced dramatically with fewer professors being hired, so they met in homes until the club became too large again. By 1937 there were 140 members in the Newcomers' Club with dues of \$.50. In 1941 monthly meetings for the Women's Club moved from the Women's Building to the brand new Illini Union.

In 1942 both the Tuesday Tea and the Newcomers' Club started to be affected by WWII. Since so many men were called to war, more and more women worked on campus and therefore many could not participate in the daytime activities. However, club activities were kept up as morale boosters. By 1945 the men started returning home in droves—hallelujah!



Mary White and the Women's Club Board

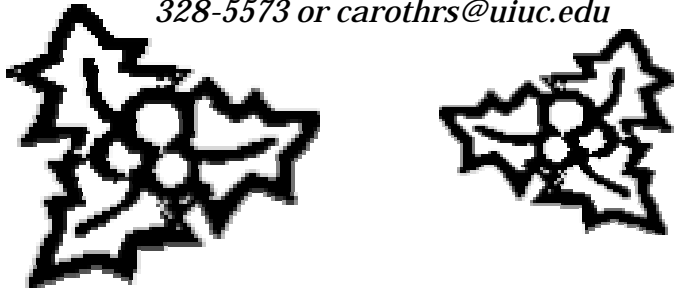
Request the Honor of your Presence for

Holiday Tea

*The President's House
711 West Florida Avenue
Urbana*

***Tuesday, December 13, 2005
3:30 pm until 5:30 pm***

*Please RSVP by Dec 9th to Diane Carothers
328-5573 or carothrs@uiuc.edu*



Newcomers' Group News

Participants enjoyed our October event, a tour of downtown Champaign and downtown Urbana, featuring guided visits to several historic buildings, followed by lunch at Milo's. Our next event will be a theatre evening, featuring "Deathtrap" at the Station Theatre on Friday, November 18, followed by dessert at Silvercreek. Please contact one of us for details and to let us know you plan to come. Members in their first two years with Women's Club are included in our Newcomers' group. Please encourage eligible members to join us at any time during the year.

Friday, November 18, 2005, 7:45: Theatre and dessert (with spouse or guest)
"Deathtrap" at Station Theatre, Urbana

Monday, February 6, 2005, 5:30: Tour of U of I basketball facilities (with spouse or guest)
and dinner at El Toro, Neil Street, Champaign

Friday, April 21, 2006, 4:30-6:30: Wine and cheese in the garden (with spouse or guest)
home of Joy Thornton-Walter, 820 Dodds Drive, Champaign; 351-5197

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

Snapshots from our Fall Luncheon



***Mary Tavis, Barbara Peckham,
Past President Judy Skreiner and
Gay Roberts share a moment.***



Dishing up at the scrumptious buffet

***Welcoming Committee
Nancy Diamond,
Diane Carothers
and Jane Myers***



... and a parting shot ...



*President Sandi Thomas
and Guest Speaker, Krannert Director Mike Ross*

Spotlight on an Interest Group



Rita Gentry, Nancy Works and Gloria Rainer

The *Antiques and Collectibles* Interest Group has done it again! At its yearly auction, on October 12th, the group raised \$1000 for the Club's Scholarship Fund. Sandra Beak opened up her home for the event; auctioneer Nancy Works pounded the gavel; Gloria Rainer and Rita Gentry hosted; and, once again, the bidders munched from Yoko Muroga's artistic and delicious treat bags. The group began its tradition of holding a fundraising auction several years ago in response to a suggestion from the Club leadership that individual interest groups might try to raise some money for the scholarship fund. No doubt the group's generosity will be much appreciated by our scholarship recipients come spring!



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The Perfect Gift!

Beautiful Motawi Tiles

Commemorating the UI Morrow Plots

Available in matte finish,
yellow or green
\$35 each

Proceeds to benefit the
Women's Club Scholarship Fund

Contacts:

Dorothea Smith - 367-0567

Jennifer Richardson - jennrich@uiuc.edu



Upcoming Events

- Board Meeting: Tuesday November 29th, 7:30 pm, 3101 Valley Brook Drive, Champaign
- Holiday Tea: Tuesday December 13th, 3:30 – 5:30, The President's House
- Deadline for next Newsletter submissions: January 17, 2006. Please e-mail hcangellaris@yahoo.com

www.UIUCWomensClub.org

