

THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WOMAN'S CLUB

90 YEARS: A BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE

The First Years: 1909-1919

It was November 1, 1909, and the University's enrollment was 475, only 65 of whom were women students. The first meeting of the "Ladies of the Faculty of the State University" was in the Education Building. Deciding on the mission of the Club and the selection of an appropriate name created much discussion. An informal tea from 3:00 to 5:00 pm on the first Monday of each month at members' homes was agreed upon. On December 6th, 40 members were present who voted to have Mrs. W. T. Lafferty as president for a two-year term, and dues were set at 50 cents. The major mission of the Club was to assist students. One member offered to furnish milk to any ill student who was not hospitalized. Hosting afternoon teas for the female residents of Patterson Hall also was discussed. The Woman's Club of Kentucky State University was chosen as the Club's name in January, 1910.

Many of the meetings were social in nature—teas, readings of books and plays, piano recitals, etc. By summer, service activities included maintaining a State University room at Good Samaritan Hospital, looking into converting the triangle in front of the University into a park, offering prizes to encourage male students to keep neat dormitory rooms, and asking the Board of Trustees to see that hot water was piped into the dormitories.

In March of 1911, the Club voted to join the State Federation of [Women's] Clubs as a move to "bring this Club more closely in touch with people in the State." Efforts to help students had expanded to include furnishing pajamas to boys who were sick and to providing them with sheets and table covers. Securing hot water for the dormitories was still an issue in April, 1911. In October, a college fair was held to raise money and a Student Benefit Fund was established.

By 1912, Club members expressed concern about the increased demands in dues and requirements set by the State Federation By-Laws. But fun was to be had with initiating a yearly Halloween party for faculty. The campus YMCA asked that shades and curtains be furnished for the Y's large room and that it be kept neat and clean. A candy pull was given to raise the needed funds.

In January 1913, a committee was appointed to identify the names of new professors so that their wives could be visited and asked to join the Club. Dues were raised to \$1.00.

These early members planned dances and other social events through the years. They also urged their husbands to use their influence with the "powers that be" so that the Music Department could grant academic credit to girls enrolled in music classes. How to lower "vice" in Lexington was a civic concern. Items were given to a lending closet, and some students were helped with food.

In 1917, the University conferred 153 degrees. Club members encouraged girls to join the campus YWCA and helped with the community swimming pool at Maxwell School. For World War I efforts, members sewed, knitted, gave money to furnish the inside of an ambulance at the front, and sent books to soldiers. Home front activities centered around Camp Buell where they provided entertainment, cooked, and looked after the sick at that Army base. In 1919, a Liberty Bond was purchased for the Student Loan Fund, and food conservation was practiced by omitting refreshments at meetings. The list of their war efforts was long and varied.

In March of 1919, Miss McKinnon, head of the Home Educational Department, spoke to about 45 members and appealed for financial aid for girls, giving examples of girls being unable to continue in school due to a lack of funds. Club members were encouraged to provide opportunities for girls to earn money by working in members' homes. After much debate about giving money to a loan fund to be used exclusively for female students, a motion was passed that an Emergency Loan Fund just for girls be instituted. Could this have been the start of the student loan and scholarship programs that the Club has continued to develop through the years?

Obviously, these first years of the Club signaled an impressive beginning. Fortunately, those "beginnings" have continued through the succeeding 90 years!

The Decade of the 20s

This decade followed the end of the "Great War" and all of the activities that it entailed. The 19th Amendment, passed in 1920, gave nationwide suffrage to women. Frances Jewell McVey, University President Frank McVey's wife, conducted meetings at Maxwell Place, the official residence, to organize Kentucky and Lexington Chapters of the League of Women Voters. It was the decade of the flapper—the mannish bob and clean-shaven men. The farmers were in trouble and banks were failing. The Scopes Trial was in 1925 and Amelia Earhart flew the Atlantic in 1928. The 1929 Stock Market Crash marked the end of post-war prosperity. Through it all, the Woman's Club continued in orderly fashion, never missing a beat.

Early in 1920, a revised constitution was adopted in which the name became "The Woman's Club of the University of Kentucky." The constitution stated: "The object shall be to promote good fellowship among the members, and to advance the best interests of the University, and to render such patriotic service to our Government as our circumstances will permit." In addition to faculty wives, any woman connected with the teaching or the executive force was eligible to become an honorary member when her name was proposed. Annual dues continued to be \$1.00, and a quorum was set at nine members.

The Club met monthly throughout the academic year and a membership of 100 was anticipated. Programs were varied. A 1920 program featured Miss Adelaide Crane who talked of her recent work abroad with the American Commission on Armenian Relief. Different Club "departments" were

responsible for programs and refreshments were served. Programs featured faculty members, performers from the Music Department, and outside speakers. In 1920, the Club started the annual fall reception for new faculty and took full responsibility for planning and carrying it out, including paying the bills.

The Club remained a member of the Kentucky Federation of Woman's Clubs and regularly sent delegates to those meetings. Reports made annually to the regional Federation meetings were very revealing of both the nature of the Woman's Club and its conflicts with Federation goals. The 1923 and 1924 reports included the following: "Ours is not an organization for study (other Clubs in the Federation were). We are organized to provide good fellowship among faculty members and to address, in any way we can, the best interests of the boys and girls who come to us from their homes all over the state. We also provide good fellowship among our members. The deans of men and women turn to the Woman's Club for help in putting touches of homelike influence and surroundings into lives of students. We have assisted fraternities in furnishing houses, likewise for the YMCA and YWCA. The hospital committee visits the sick, carries flowers and delicacies to sick students and faculty." Monies to fund these and other projects were raised in many ways including bridge parties, children's parties, candy/bake sales, vaudeville shows, and special film showings. A very successful lecture series on the early history of Lexington was given by Mrs. Lafferty, the Club's first president.

Through these years, the Club maintained and increased an endowed hospital fund which later became a general welfare fund, and regularly supported a student loan fund. A shower for women students netted 100 cups, saucers, and spoons for a recreation room where the students entertained University guests and speakers. Books were provided for a reading room in the women's dormitory, a Halloween party was given for students in the gymnasium—hoping to keep them out of mischief in the community, and pajamas and toilet articles were collected for students in the infirmary. While women of the '20s often are remembered as flappers, the record of the Woman's Club during this decade reflects both light and serious activities as members worked to fulfill their newly adopted objectives.

The Decade of the 30s

In the 30s the Club, struggling along during the Depression, kept the dues at \$2.00 but remitted \$1.00 to each member. The Book Club and the Student Welfare Fund Committee were organized, and it was recommended to the Executive Board that the Club membership be printed in the Club's yearbook. The Club enjoyed fashion parades, dinners, a March excursion trip to the Cincinnati flower show, several fund-raising projects, and many other activities. Four delegates and four alternate delegates were elected each year to attend the annual convention of the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs.

During the regular January 1930 meeting, members were invited to "*stay for tea*" afterward to help initiate the Club's new tea service which was purchased in New York City by Mrs. Pryor. Club minutes show that thereafter tea was served following regular meetings.

Committees and Interest Groups included the following: Finance, Budget, Member, Social, Legislative, Hospital, Dormitory, Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Hostess, Federation, Publicity, Literature, Music, American Homes, New Comers, Faculty Brides, International Relations, Dinners, Child Study, Reading Circle of Arts, Garden Study, and Reading Circle. The Child Study group met twice a month at the School of Education with talks by local and national educators. The Garden Club met monthly and, among other activities, the 62 members grew flowers for the Hospital Committee. One year the Hospital Committee reported 500 calls were made on faculty and students. That committee also distributed fruits, various foods, games, books, magazines, jig-saw puzzles, and toiletries in addition to flowers. The Club established a \$400 Student Loan Fund to help needy students with hospital expenses.

A loan from the Club's savings fund to the Woman's Building Committee assisted in financing the redecorating of President Patterson's former home as a Woman's Building. "Committee members did much of the actual work of preparing this building for the girls."

The Membership Chair asked for a definition of membership with regard to mothers and sisters of faculty members. The Club voted to amend the constitution as follows:

Amendment to Article I. Any woman whose affiliation with the University is not described in Article I. and who desires membership in the Club may be declared eligible to membership upon the vote of the Executive Board.

On November 27, 1934, membership was 175, and the Club celebrated the organization's 25th birthday with a Silver Anniversary Dinner. A tea was sponsored in Frankfort for wives of members of the Kentucky Assembly as part of the 25th anniversary celebration.

In 1939-1940, the Club Historian wrote:

. . . while we have traveled a long way, and have developed many forms and means of expression since the days of our Golden Jubilee skit, we are still the same women, with the same motivating interest in serving our school and its students, even though our modes and methods may properly change with the times.

The Decade of the 40s

The decade of the 40s was marked with the beginning and end of World War II which had a dramatic impact on the country and on the University. As the Woman's Club continued to be

actively involved in University and community affairs, increasing attention was given to international events.

The United States entered the war in 1941. The Club helped sell war bonds totaling \$124,945, and Club members bought bonds amounting to \$16,000. They gave many pints of blood, spent 2,000 hours rolling bandages, 2,000 hours sewing for the Red Cross, 2,400 hours on Civilian Defense activities, and 238 hours working as nurse aides. Members also grew 125 Victory Gardens and canned 1,700 quarts of fruits and vegetables.

A Consumer's Study Group was organized which cooperated with the National Defense Council for furthering good nutrition practices. At one meeting of the International Affairs Group, the speaker was the Director of London's Tate Museum who spoke on protecting art treasures in time of war.

The effects of World War II were reflected in reports of Club activities. Sugarless tea and cookies were served at all functions with the observation that "there is even something about a sugarless cup of tea that adds to a meeting." The budget was tight, but by being "frugal," the Club had successful events.

Club members' interest in student aid and the arts continued. Financial assistance was made available to students through a loan fund held by the Club. In 1940, the Club had a fund-raiser called a College Fair. The proceeds went toward furnishing a hospital room for boys in Calvert Cottage which was located immediately south of Patterson Hall. Activities at the Fair included a baseball game for University Seniors and Faculty. In the [Buell] Armory and gymnasium were needlework booths, a "post office" kissing booth, and a mystery booth.

In addition to student aid activities, Club focus on the arts was demonstrated by active member involvement in various interest groups. Members wrote and staged plays and made elaborate costumes which were used in the productions; musical programs were presented by Club members at meetings of the Music group; the Book group had 100 or more participants and as many as 60 books were circulated in some years. The large Garden group also was active. Annual Club membership averaged about 300 in this decade.

Annual committee reports to the Club president were first published in October 1940 in the *Woman's Club Bulletin*, precursor to the present monthly newsletter. That year the Club's budget was \$236.40. A Bride's Club was started for the many young faculty wives. The University President's wife, Frances Jewell McVey, entertained newcomers and their husbands with a Christmas party, one of numerous occasions when Mrs. McVey welcomed University friends and others to Maxwell Place, often inviting them to "stay for tea."

Spring luncheons had been held at local country clubs or at Patterson Hall, but during the war years, the annual luncheon was omitted and a musical program was given at the Student Union. Dr. Herman L Donovan became University President in 1941, and the Club welcomed President and Mrs. Donovan with a special party.

In April 1947, the Club published a cookbook entitled, *Stay for Tea* to honor Frances Jewell McVey and to raise money for student aid. The Foreword in the cookbook explains the purpose as follows:

The Woman's Club of the University of Kentucky has chosen a compilation of her favorite recipes of its members—past and present—as a means of raising money for the Frances Jewell McVey Scholarship Fund. This fund was created shortly after the death of Mrs. McVey in 1945, her Kentucky friends feeling that her interest in education could best be continued by giving as many students as possible the opportunity she craved for them.

Stay for Tea is a symbol of that gracious hospitality which Frances Jewell McVey, as hostess at Maxwell Place, extended to one and all. Her guests assembled, singly and by hundreds, from near and far places, always to be greeted with her cordial outstretched hand of welcome.

Articles on Cooking, Southern Cooking, Kentucky Cooking, were written and published by Mrs. McVey, not to emphasize food as food, but as a part of that larger realm of hospitality within which she dwelt. Many of her favorite recipes are included here.

Six months after publication, \$3,200 in cookbook profits were deposited in the Frances Jewell McVey Scholarship Fund, administered by the Kentucky Research Foundation. Seventeen months later, memorials to Mrs. McVey and cookbook profits totaled \$18,000, and the first \$450.00 scholarship was awarded.

After the war ended, President Donovan asked that a clothing drive be held for Heidelberg University. Club members participated in the drive and packed 147 boxes of good clothing for shipping to Germany. At the request of the Donovans, the Dames Club was formed for wives of returning veterans.

Just as the Club's activities and interests adapted to changing events during the war years, the Club moved with the times into different and appropriate directions with the end of the war. Transitional activities would extend into the decades which were to follow.

The Decade of the '50s

The University of Kentucky campus in the '50s was calm before the storms of the '60 and 70s. One of the University's greatest concerns was providing for the educational and campus housing needs of World War II and Korean War veterans who came to the University on the GI Bill. In 1950, enrollment growth to 10,219 students and establishment of the A. B. Chandler Medical Center necessitated more faculty members. The increased number of faculty members affected the Woman's Club of the University of Kentucky (WCUK) because most faculty members had wives who needed to be welcomed and to be made a part of the University family. Several of our present members were among the wives who came to the University at that time, and they have fond memories of a Club member personally calling on them at their homes. The new faculty wives were invited to join the WCUK and were informed about the different departments of the Club. Some of the departments were Music, Garden, Book Circulation, Book Discussion, Sewing, International Relations, and Newcomers. Newcomers had their own agenda and during those three years, many Newcomer bridge groups were organized. Several of these groups continue today with some of the original members. Some lasting friendships began at that time.

Club meetings in the '50s were more formal. Members wore hats and white gloves and had tea or punch and cookies before the meetings. The Guignol Theatre, at that time a converted Army barracks located beside Jewell Hall, was the site of all Club meetings.

The Woman's Club continued its support of students. Sponsorship of the Dames Club, whose membership now included wives of graduate students, continued. Club members also furnished magazines for students in the Infirmary and entertained international students in homes of members, especially during holidays.

For the University, the Club remained responsible for the Fall Reception in honor of new faculty. Members decorated the reception area, and they furnished and served the cookies, small sandwiches, and punch at the reception. In the '50s during the annual Farm and Home Week, Homemakers from throughout Kentucky were entertained by the Club.

As a member of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, the WCUK joined other clubs in the community collecting blankets, clothing, and kitchen utensils for flood victims in eastern Kentucky. Books also were collected for the Lee County Library.

In the Fall of 1959, Betty Dickey, a Club member and wife of University President Frank G. Dickey, entertained WCUK members and new faculty wives with a lovely garden reception at Maxwell Place. Members had advance notice that a special guest would attend the reception. Anna Roosevelt Halsted, whose husband was a new Medical Center faculty member, was that special guest, Anna was gracious, friendly, and resembled her father, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. This reception was a

significant social event to remember and an exciting conclusion to the decade of the '50s for the Woman's Club.

The Decade of the '60s: The Winds of Change

We heard Bob Dylan's song "Where have all the flowers gone?...Where have all the children gone?...The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind. The answer is blowing in the wind." Rachel Carson echoes these observations in her best seller Silent Spring. This decade experienced hippies, flower children, restless graduate and undergraduate students, many new faculty, the first class of medical students, and five different presidents of the University, including one interim president. Student protests against the United States' participation in the Vietnam War climaxed with the burning of the R.O.T.C. building. This time of upheaval in the nation and on campus resulted in changes in the format of the University and of the Woman's Club of the University of Kentucky (WCUK).

Demands on the use of the Guignol Theatre made it imperative that other places be found for Club meetings. The new King Alumni House offered space for our "equipment" and for meetings. The Student Union, Chemistry/Physics building, Erikson Hall, and other campus locations were used at appropriate times. The fall membership tea was held at Cooper House and the annual Fall Reception honoring new faculty was held at Spindletop Hall for the first time.

By April 1961, 400 members were on the Club's rolls and dues were raised from \$2 to \$3.50. The \$600 annual assessment by the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs claimed too large a portion of the Club's budget. Realizing the Club's primary commitment was to the University community, the WCUK withdrew from the Federation in 1966. Changes made within the Club's structure included: Newcomers status was reduced from three to two years; the president's term was reduced from two years to one year; and a president-elect was elected to serve a one-year term. A new interest group called Antiques Study Group was started. Fund-raising efforts concentrated on the Frances Jewel McVey Scholarship fund.

As the '60s drew to a close, three major events demanded members' time and energy as they worked on numerous committees and participated in many of the activities associated with those events: the inauguration of University President John Oswald; the University's Centennial Celebration; and the national meeting of the American Society for Engineering Education for which the WCUK planned and provided all hosting functions for the 2000 who attended.

At the end of the decade membership rolls numbered 500. Though quite tumultuous, this decade of "the winds of change" presented many and diverse challenges which resulted in positive contributions to the Club and to the University community.

1970 - 1979: A Transitional Decade

The 70s were filled with interesting times for the University of Kentucky Woman's Club. Although some of the 70s interest groups have continued until the 1990s, the Dames Club, Picture Rental, Ceramics, Garden, Music, Couples Bowling, Tennis, Exercise groups, Reading for the Blind, and Women's Faculty Group no longer are active. Dinner dances at Spindletop Hall added a new dimension to the Club's social activities, but that activity also ran its course.

This decade of the 70s had many firsts. In 1974, the Club changed its name to The University of Kentucky Woman's Club, and in 1977, incorporation papers were filed. The Holiday Greeting, a successful fund-raiser for the UKWC Aid Fund, was started and continues to be an annual project. The policy to cancel meetings was adopted if the Fayette County Public Schools were not in session due to bad weather. The Twenty-Plus Interest Group was organized to provide social activities for members who have been associated with the University for twenty years or more or who have retired.

Another significant first was the establishment of a new UKWC Aid Fund to award scholarships for non-traditional women students enrolled at the University of Kentucky. Prior to this time, the Frances Jewell McVey Scholarship Fund had been administered by the University. From this juncture on, the UKWC Aid Fund was invested by the Club and, in consultation with University Financial Aid representatives, scholarships were awarded by the Club. In the Aid Fund's 25 years, more than 150 scholarships have been awarded to women students. Being true to a primary mission of the Club since 1909, in addition to scholarship grants, the Aid Fund provided financial assistance to selected endeavors that benefit University students.

All this was possible due to the Club again successfully publishing a cookbook, *Stay for Tea, Again*, in 1975. This effort involved many members and included tasting sessions to test all recipes and work sessions in which members and some husbands actually assembled the cookbooks in the basement of McVey Hall. Original artwork by Club members depicted well-known campus landmarks, and selected recipes from the original *Stay for Tea* were included and were designated by a teacup and saucer in the margins of the pages.

Although Club meetings had been held at various campus locations through the years, having a Club House had been a dream of many members. In 1977, the University agreed to lease Hamilton House — on the corner of South Limestone and Keeneland Drive — to the Club on a trial basis for one year. All of the Club's general meetings and most of the Interest Groups met there. Much work by Club members was required to make the house suitable for Club functions. However, operating costs proved to be too great, so the lease was not renewed. The Club then accepted the offer of the E.S. Good Barn for meetings and has continued to hold some functions there. Thus, the dream of having a Club House ended.

The 70s were full of fun. We danced more, worked hard on new projects, and enjoyed the University of Kentucky Woman's Club and each other.

Decade of the 1980s

The ebb and flow of UKWC events continued with several dramatic changes occurring in the University community. Enrollment was over 20,000. In 1987, Otis Singletary retired as President of the University. In recognition of her many contributions, the Club honored Gloria Singletary at the April 1987 meeting/luncheon at Spindletop Hall, presented her with an engraved crystal salad/punch bowl, and named one of the Aid Fund scholarships the "Gloria Singletary Scholarship Award." Louise Roselle, wife of the next University President, David P. Roselle, also was a very active supporter of the Club. In 1989, Dr. Roselle resigned to become President of the University of Delaware. The Club presented Mrs. Roselle with a Lenox tureen in appreciation for her many efforts on the Club's behalf.

One of the Club's objectives is "helping newcomers become acquainted with the University and Lexington." Varying efforts have met with varied success. The September Welcome Coffee annually provides opportunities for newcomers to become acquainted with activities available through the UK Woman's Club. This event, formerly held at the E.S. Good Barn, has been held since 1982 in the President's Room at Commonwealth Stadium, courtesy of the University President. In the early '80s, packets of helpful information were distributed to newcomers at this coffee and delivered to newcomers' homes. Family events included picnics and theatre parties in addition to several newcomer coffees in homes of members. The Mom & Tots Group was a real service and resource for Club newcomers then as well as now. In 1982, a representative of this group became a member of the Club's Executive Board. Included among other social events in 1984 was a joint meeting with the University of Louisville Women's Club members at Spindletop Hall for a luncheon, followed by a visit to the Kentucky Horse Park. In 1986, a silver tea service was acquired for \$209.95 and was designated for Club use.

With more mature women returning to the University, the UKWC hosted well-attended receptions during the first five years of the '80s for adult women returning to school. The changing lifestyles of women also drew more of them into the workforce, influencing their interests and limiting their time available for UKWC membership. Even so, the slight fluctuations in membership numbers are interesting to note: 350 ('80-81); 329 ('81-82); 308 ('82-83); 333 ('83-84); 326 ('84-85); 323 ('86-87); and 352 ('88-89). Dues in the 1980s increased from \$6 to \$10. Associate memberships dues were approximately half the member's dues; associate membership was rescinded in 1986.

Special service projects during this decade included providing financial assistance to print Day Care Directories which were distributed through the Academic Support Services, and to purchase two \$694 machines for the Lexington Bureau for the Blind to assist blind University

students. Service to campus events included ushering for the 1980 Summer Sounds Concert and participating in the 1980 Woman's Awareness Week. As early as 1981, direct service to international students began and included: assisting with the annual Spring International Pastry Cafe; donating blankets, household items, and warm outer clothing for international students to The Lending Closet (1985); donating \$100 annually to the International Classroom Project, all of which still are being supported. In addition, in 1986, the Club awarded a special \$500 scholarship to a Haitian student enrolled in the College of Allied Health Professions.

The publication of a third cookbook, *Stay for Tea . . . and More* in 1984 culminated a major four-year fund-raising project. Many Club members and husbands were involved to successfully complete this project. Profits of over \$15,000 from the 7,500 books printed were designated for the Aid Fund. Additional monies for the Aid Fund were procured from members' taking items to the Recycling Center in 1988.

Since the UKWC began awarding scholarships to older women in 1973, amounts available for annual grants increased from \$1,600 in 1980-81 to \$5,000 in 1987-88. Support for the Aid Fund principally came from profits from the cookbook sales, Holiday Greetings donations, dissolving the Nell Donovan Fund, and investment earnings.

When the Nell Donovan Loan Fund was dissolved in 1988, the remaining funds were transferred from the University to the UKWC Aid Fund. At that time, the Club budgeted \$250 to be called the Nell Donovan Student Emergency Aid Fund. Loans for up to \$50 were distributed through Academic Support Services to students with emergency needs.

These are the notable highlights of the decade. Left unsaid is what the UK Woman's Club has meant to the members who participated in the various activities available to them and who formed lifetime friendships and memories. In the process, they gave hope for the future through scholarships and service for those known and unknown individuals associated with our University community.

Decade of the 1990s

The '90s was and is the decade of a new beginning. The University of Kentucky inaugurated a new president, Dr. Charles Wethington, appointed a new Director of Athletics, and new basketball and football coaches. Lexington Campus enrollment was in the mid-20,000's. The University of Kentucky Woman's Club also was ready to begin a new decade. The Club had more than 500 members in the 1960s, but in the next three decades, membership gradually declined to 300-350. Many University women were employed out of the home and were unable to be involved in the Club. With the gracious help of the new UK President's wife, Judy Wethington, a long-time member and past UKWC President, efforts were made to increase interest and participation in the Woman's Club activities. Mrs. Wethington hosted Newcomer Receptions, Wine and Cheese Theatre Parties for members and newcomers, and annual Holiday Teas at Maxwell Place. A self-study group was

formed to examine the Club's organization, purpose, and direction. Through questionnaires and discussions, the group examined the membership eligibility and recruitment potential, future programs and activities, fund-raising, and ways to increase the Club's visibility on campus. As a result of the study, the Club's newsletter was sent to all new faculty wives for several months. This practice was discontinued when membership failed to increase. Dues were increased to \$12 effective for the 1996-97 Club year.

For administrative purposes, the Club organizes its activities into two major categories: eight Interest groups and five smaller Special Activities groups. All Club members are encouraged to participate in any or all of the Interest and Special Activities groups in which they are interested.

The LIVELY ARTS GROUP was organized in response to interest shown in the arts and culture. The group, consisting of Club members and couples, meets three times a year, usually on weekends, attending plays, opera, ballet, and concerts. Optional lunch or brunch is arranged before the events.

The HISTORY AND TOURS Interest Group, formerly the Antiques Study Group, has monthly meetings ranging from one-day activities to overnight trips. Examples of group activities are lectures on the history and renovation of Lexington's Hope House and visiting U.S. Senator John Sherman Cooper's home in Somerset (KY).

Overnight trips were a new venture for this group. The first overnighter was a visit to the Andrew Jackson home and other historic houses (Nashville, TN). Other overnighters were the Biltmore Estate of the Vanderbilts and a tour of Carl Sandburg's home (Asheville, NC), Monticello and the University of Virginia (Charlottesville), the Monet Exhibit at the Art Institute of Chicago, the Frank Lloyd Wright home and other buildings designed by him (Chicago). Other overnight tours have been arranged, and currently luncheons with speakers as well as tours are on the schedule. This is a very popular interest group; attendance usually ranges from 30 to 50 members at each meeting.

Another well-attended interest group, the BOOK DISCUSSION Group, meets eight times a year in members' homes for coffee and conversation prior to discussing contemporary books. Membership ranges from 35-40. For those members who enjoy books but cannot attend the meetings, the BOOK CIRCULATION Group reads and circulates 10-12 books through two reading circles.

The morning DRAMA GROUP has 30 or more members, meets seven times a year in members' homes with time for refreshments, and then reads a play at each meeting. An evening Drama Group was formed in the Fall of 1999 with 8-10 members attending.

The MOMS AND TOTS Interest Group is very active. Members meet with their children on a weekly basis either in homes, at playgrounds, or other child-friendly sites. Other activities include attending Children's Theatre plays and special field trips. Moms' Night Out and Moms' Saturday breakfasts

once a month are popular events. From 1996 to 1999, membership in MOMS AND TOTS increased from 10 to more than 30.

The TWENTY-PLUS Interest Group is comprised of UKWC members who have either retired or been associated with the University for twenty years or more. This group, averaging 40-60, meets twice a Club year for luncheons and speakers. For more than 30 years, TWENTY-PLUS has provided opportunities for older members to continue their association with each other.

The Special Activities Groups include LADIES DAY and EVENING BRIDGE Groups, an EVENING COUPLES BRIDGE Group, and a SEWING Group with brown bag lunches in members' homes. The DINNER Group has a number of couples who meet regularly. They have in-home dinners, restaurant dinners, and several group events.

The major project of the UKWC in this decade has been to sponsor scholarships to women 23 years or older—changed to 25 years of age in 1999—who return to the University to continue their education. Funds continue to be raised by the Holiday Greetings project. The Kroger Certificate program was started in the mid-90s and has grown to be a profitable fundraiser. In 1998-99, \$3,655 was earned from the purchase of Kroger certificates by members. In addition, the Ways and Means Committee has added more than \$3,000 to the Aid Fund through bake sales, raffles, and a garage sale.

Virginia Lane, a longtime member, left \$20,000 to the UKWC Aid Fund for scholarships in 1993, and the Virginia Lane Scholarship has been awarded each year since. In 1997, another member, Katharine Guy, willed \$11,000 to the UKWC Aid Fund for scholarships in memory of Frances Jewell McVey. In the past two years many memorial contributions have been made to the scholarship fund in memory of members and friends. All of these contributions and fund raising efforts made it possible for the Scholarship and Budget-Investment Committees to increase the total amount awarded from \$7,000 in 1991 to \$10,000 in 1997. In 1998 and 1999, five \$3,000 scholarships each year were awarded to five recipients. In May 1999, the Club approved the policy to fund full tuition scholarships at the undergraduate in-state level. Renewed interest and enthusiasm in the University of Kentucky Woman's Club has been evidenced in this decade of the '90s. With this new momentum in the Club, the University of Kentucky Woman's Club members will cross THE BRIDGE TO THE FUTURE.

100 YEARS: A CENTURY OF SERVICE

1999-2009: The First Decade of the New Millennium

This completes the “Bridge to the Future” series, reprinted in newsletters to celebrate the Centennial Year of the University of Kentucky Woman’s Club. During the past ten years the evolution of change has impacted the organization, as it has the University and the nation. Those changes have brought us to our present, vital organization, carrying on the rich history of the previous ninety years, preserving its goals and objectives, and culminating a century of service.

At the beginning of the decade, the goal to “have an impact and make a difference” was realized through initiatives to welcome newcomers and to be helpful to the student body, especially international students and non-traditional female students. These goals evolved into a change in the by-laws to clarify eligibility criteria for membership, resulting in guidelines for more inclusive membership. The Board position of Club Historian was created as a mechanism to preserve our rich history, a tribute to all those who had contributed to the success of the organization over the past ninety years. The Student Welfare Committee maintained the “Closet”, distributing useful items and clothing donated by members to students in need. They also organized the International Student lunch during the students’ January orientation, a tradition carried on to the present day.

At this time, and throughout the decade, the Ways and Means committee had a significant impact on generating resources to supplement the Club’s investments in support of scholarships for non-traditional students over 25 years of age. They are tenacious in organizing successful craft and bake sales, yard sales, and other activities depending on the members’ talents and skills. Each year since 1999, scholarships have been awarded for the full amount of undergraduate tuition, a significant increase in funding for students over previous years. Since the inception of the Student Aid Fund in 1973, a total of 181 scholarships have been awarded, in the amount of \$322,259. The total scholarship money awarded during this decade was \$180,424, or 56% of the total amount. These efforts over the decade truly did ‘have an impact and make a difference’.

The year 2001 brought the retirement of Dr. Wethington and the inauguration of Dr. Lee T. Todd. The Welcome Coffee on September 11, 2001, went on despite the devastating news of the bombing of the World Trade Centers. Members took consolation in being with friends as updates of the horrific event were shared, and with the realization that the world had changed drastically. Several members addressed the group including Mrs. Patricia Todd, providing concern, condolences and encouragement, especially for those members with ties to the areas and victims affected.

In 2002, a need was identified to utilize Club funds in a more efficient manner, thus a committee was formed. With thorough researching of the possibilities, a major commitment to student financial support was realized with the investment of Club funds to create an Endowment, in conjunction with the UK Development Office and the Graduate School. With matching funds from the Bucks for Brains, Club funds were doubled for greater impact. This provided a mechanism for the Club's name to be perpetuated with the awarding of fellowships to graduate level students, based on a competitive process through the Graduate School. Each year, a Club member sits on the committee in an advisory capacity to the faculty making the selections. Since 2007, 20 students have received awards, for a total of \$43,000. The leadership of the Club continues to provide wise oversight of resources to maximize student support.

Throughout the decade, recruitment of new members has been a goal, a key to ensuring vibrancy of the organization. For the same reason, the Board was reorganized in the middle of the decade, to create more efficient functioning, with some positions of leadership becoming non-Board positions. Later in the decade, the organization experienced role changes, as we no longer provided hostesses for the President's Reception and the New Faculty Reception. But former roles were quickly replaced with new and different activities. Throughout the decade, many activities were offered to satisfy a variety of interests. In addition to the current Interest Groups, some examples are UK Family Playgroup including Babysitting Co-op and Mom's Morning Out, Gardening, and Lively Arts.

Celebration of this Centennial Year began with the Welcome Coffee featuring 'A Walk Down Memory Lane'. Faculty members from the Department of Theatre created an exhibit of clothing designs representing the past one hundred years, creating nostalgia as members perused items and albums from the Club Archives.

The major centennial project has been the production of the cookbook, *Stay for Tea, the Centennial Edition*, with proceeds benefiting the Student Aid Fund. Students in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science, School of Human Environmental Sciences, updated recipes from the earlier three editions in the *Stay for Tea* series, with healthier modifications of the old recipes. The best of the student recipes were included in the centennial cookbook. Club members then developed additional updated recipes, testing them in small lunch and dinner groups within the framework of a new activity group called 'Recipe Makeovers'. The resulting cookbook, with side-by-side recipes and nutrition facts, offers a historical perspective on the foods of the Club, at the same time satisfying current tastes and nutritional needs.

Our membership includes enthusiastic supporters of our goals to provide social contact, offer cultural opportunities, provide supportive services to students, and help advance the best interests of the University. The UK Woman's Club looks forward to a bright and rewarding future, continuing into the next century of service.