

**A
CONTINUATION
OF THE
HISTORY OF THE
UNIVERSITY ARTS WOMEN'S CLUB**

1975-1999

**Compiled and Written
by
Helen P. B. Smith**

Foreward

In 1974 a short history of the University Arts Women's Club was compiled and written at the request of the University Historian, Professor Robin Harris. Information based on this material was to be used in the 2-volume publication, *A History of the University of Toronto*, marking the University's sesquicentennial year. This history was completed by Helen Smith with additional anecdotes by Mrs. W. H. T. Baillie, Mrs. G.S. Brett and Mrs. M. Woodside. In 1975 this history was published by the club for distribution to members.

To commemorate the 70th year of the existence of the UAWC, it was agreed by the Executive in May 1999 to publish an updated booklet describing the history of the club. Gloria French, the UAWC President, asked Helen Smith if she would be willing to update the history of the club for the years 1975 to 1999.

Helen graciously undertook this time consuming task and completed work on the project by the end of the summer of 1999.

Julie Wilson gave generously of her time to put it on the computer, had it published, and then put the book together.

The updated history shows that over the whole seventy years the original objectives of the club as described in the constitution have been steadily fulfilled.

Through the friendships it engenders, UAWC provides intangible benefits and support to all its members.

Gloria French
President

Julie Wilson
Publications

I Introduction

It is a pleasure and privilege to write of the UAWC in the 25 years following the 1974-75 publications of 'A Brief History of the University Arts Women's Club' (1929-1974). The reminiscences of Mrs Baillie (Zoology), Mrs Brett (Philosophy) and Mrs Woodside (U.C.) gave delightful perspective to the earlier account; we wish that they were here with us today.

The stability of the UAWC, in its 70 years of existence, is a remarkable accomplishment and fulfills the original intent of Lady Falconer and the founding members in 1929, who saw the club's purpose as 'simply friendship: mutual acquaintance which would be just as profitable to older members as to younger.' Our 157 members, in 1999, testify to that friendship and stability; the object of the UAWC as stated in the constitution never will be revised!

It may be useful, in writing of the club's history from 1974-1999, to follow the headings devised by the late Phyllis Holladay (Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations) for the 1974 booklet.

II Moving Tents and Ports of Call

The UAWC has met in the Parish Hall of St. Thomas' Church, 383 Huron St., for 30 years, with gratitude for its accessibility and for the use of the kitchen and china and the storage of our silver. The kind financial support of the successive Deans of Arts and Science is appreciated and acknowledged continually. Our 'moving tent' seems to have come to rest; we trust that our new motto will be 'sextons come and sextons go/ but we remain forever.'

III Speaking of Traditions

The traditional Christmas Party at the President's House, 93 Highland Ave., has continued with the hospitable welcome of Mmes. Ham, Strangway, Connell and Ann E. Wilson. We remember with particular thankfulness the chamber music provided for the evening parties in the 1980's by the late Lois Dove (Chemistry) and her delightful group. In 1996, in accordance with members' wishes, the time of the party was changed to noon: elegant lunches have been provided by the UAWC Gourmet Lunch Group and the traditional carol singing, with Sue Polany (Chemistry) as pianist, follows the luncheon and pleasant visiting.

The Faculty Ball/Dinner Dance was discontinued with regret in 1982, after 13 [terpsichorean] years. A 'February Fest' pot-luck supper for members and husbands was held from 1983-85: at the Faculty Club (1983) and 'The Union' (1984 and 1985).

Members of the UAWC have been happy to contribute their services to the successive Deans of Arts and Science at the annual 'University of Toronto Day', held on campus in the autumn.

IV Changing Times Echo the Past

The club's membership, in 1999, stands at 155. The comment of Betty MacRae (Astronomy) in 1969 interestingly still holds true: 'the paid-up memberships remain at a constant and the average of 75 members turning out for general meetings, is that of the average of 40 years ago.

The UAWC Interest Groups, now in their 37th year, are flourishing, they are an integral part of the club and a tribute to Lila DeLury

(Mathematics) who re-instated them after their brief 1940-41 existence. In 1999, the Groups include Antiques and Art Appreciation (a merger of the two groups took place in 1997), Bridge (Two Tables), French Conversation, Gourmet Lunch, Outings, Reading, Stitch and chat, Theatre/Movie. The Garden Arts and Play-Reading Groups, now discontinued, are remembered fondly.

The matter of a wider UAWC membership has been considered (with resulting Constitutional changes) over the years. In 1981-82, executive and committee discussions were held on the question of enlarging UAWC membership to include University of Toronto women not covered by the Articles of the Constitution. The members of the UAWC wanted the club to continue in its existing form, but in response to these suggestions and discussions the University of Toronto Women's Association (UTWA) was established in 1982, under the thoughtful and dedicated direction of Marjorie Ivey (Physics).¹ In 1991-92, a possible merger of the UAWC with UTWA and the Applied Science Women's Association was discussed by the 'Futures' Committee, with members appointed from UAWC and UTWA, under the chairmanship of Peg Brook (Chemistry). Again, this amalgamation was considered unnecessary; Peg noted in her 1992 Committee Report that the 1991-92 UAWC Executive gave 'a strong endorsement of the value and difference of all 3 clubs and the ease with which members moved from one to the other' coupled with the assurance that we were 'almost one club with 3 important

1. A history of UTWA would be of great benefit: in the Group's 17 years, through its earlier Simcoe Hall Shop and its annual University of Toronto Convocations Rose Sale; 8 self supporting U of T Scholarships have been established; one at New College is named for Marjorie Ivey

parts.' At the Annual Meeting, April 23, 1992, Section A.2 (Membership) of the UAWC Constitution ('upon written application to the President of the Club and on recommendation of the Executive committee, the wife or widow of a member, or a woman herself a member (active or retired) of the Academic staff of the University of Toronto, not described in the above categories, may become a member of the club') was amended to read; 'the wife or widow of a member, or a woman herself a member, (active or retired) of the Academic staff of the University of Toronto, not described in the above categories, may become a member of the club.' ('Upon written applicationcommittee' deleted.)

V Friendship and Good Works

These two virtues have existed within the club from its inception. A particular manifestation of them was suggested to the UAWC Executive in 1982 by the late Janet Thornton (History) in the form of a 'Volunteer Referral Service', of benefit to all members. Jan's 1988 Report, submitted to the Executive, is in keeping with the ethos of the UAWC. 'In the course of its history, the club has met the challenges of changing conditions within the University and the differing contemporary needs of its members the Volunteer Referral Service would consist of an Index of Information compiled by a small UAWC group, to put potential volunteers in touch with experienced workers, or the appropriate organization, to meet the special needs of members. This group also would be willing to give aid to those confronted with the 'suddenly single' problems of widowhood or divorce'. Jan's practical, thoughtful plan reflects the essential spirit of the club and has been of quiet benefit to members in the ensuing years.

VI Programmes Reflect the Times.

The Programme Convenors for the four General Meetings and the Annual Luncheons have planned admirable series in the last 25 years. The careful balance of 'town and gown' - artistic, cultural, social, political and academic lectures, often illustrated with slides - is a remarkable achievement. Members are refreshed, amused, diverted and restored! Two spring luncheon occasions warrant particular mention; the pleasure the Club took, in 1982, in honouring (the late) Edith Baillie (Zoology) on her 90th birthday, and in paying special tribute to Barbara Brieger (Fine Art) in 1998, the 50th Anniversary of her UAWC Presidency.

At the request of the French and German Interest Groups, the first General Meeting of 1998-99 (October 15) welcomed Prof Gerry Helleiner (Political Science) as speaker; his lecture, 'Globalization, Democracy and Poverty - Development Country Perspectives' was given in memory of his mother Gretl Helleiner (Political Economy), a long time faithful UAWC member and a pillar of the French and German Interest Groups, whose death in October 1997 deprived us of a wise, unique spirit. Lilit Zekulin (Slavic Studies) paid moving tribute to Mrs Helleiner before the lecture.

VII Getting the Word Out

The UAWC mailings to members now consist of a Fall Newsletter (with the enclosure of the yearly brochure) and a spring newsletter. Our annual fees (\$5 in April 1974) have increased to \$20.00. The present Executive consists of 14 members. The positions of Departmental Representatives were eliminated in

1993-94. A marvellous addition to our yearly Brochure in 1994-95 was the listing of members names, telephone numbers and Interest Group affiliations. The Brochure for new members, compiled and mailed each fall from 1968-81 was discontinued in 1982, but newcomers are welcomed yearly at a gathering planned by the UAWC Executive's Social-Newcomers Convenor.

VIII Contents of the Moving Tent

The archives material, in these 25 years, has expanded from 2 fat little boxes to 3 fat little filing cases but its nature remains unchanged! The club's silver is housed in a locked cupboard in St. Thomas' Church Parish Hall and appears regularly on the tables for the delightful 'lunches and punches' arranged by the inspired Tea Convenors before each General Meeting. In 1994, a sugar bowl and cream jug were re-silvered in memory of two of our Past Presidents, Phyllis Holladay (Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations) and Eva Scherk (Mathematics); in 1995, a small round silver tray was given to the club in memory of Janet Thornton and of all the UAWC members who have served the Club faithfully in their time; in 1997, a silver sugar bowl and cream jug were purchased by the club in memory of Amy Stagg (Italian and Spanish).

IX The Purposes Maintained

The final paragraph of the UAWC History was written 25 years ago and looked back 45 years to the 1929 founding of the club. L. P. Hartley (in the Go-Between (1953) wrote; 'the past is a foreign country, they do things differently there'. It is all the more remarkable, then, that the 1974 paragraph can be quoted in

1999 with 'no variableness nor shadow of turning'.

We do indeed have cause to be grateful to our friends and benefactors, for the interest and active aid of the successive Deans of Art and Science and to all the loyal members who, in the years of our existence, have watched the club change with the changing times and yet, thanks to their efforts, keep its integrity and maintain its central purpose; friendship.

Presidents of the UAWC, 1929-1999

1929-30	Mrs. B. A. Bensley
1930-31	Mrs. Lash Miller
1931-32	Mrs. G. S. Brett
1932-33	Mrs. R. D. Thomson
1933-34	Mrs. W. H. Parks
1934-35	Mrs. M. A. Buchanan
1935-36	Mrs. E. M. Walker
1936-37	Mrs. J. Satterly
1937-38	Mrs. J. M. Shaw
1938-39	Mrs. W. Moore
1939-40	Mrs. A. G. Huntsman
1940-41	Mrs. E. A. Bott
1941-42	Mrs. W. P. M. Kennedy
1942-43	Mrs. G. W. Brown
1943-44	Mrs. E. H. Craigie
1944-45	Mrs. G. H. Duff
1945-46	Mrs. H. I. Innis
1946-47	Mrs. T. F. Mellwraith
1947-48	Mrs. J. W. McArthur
1948-49	Mrs. P. H. Brieger
1949-50	Mrs. E. Goggio

1950-51	Mrs. K. S. Bernhardt
1951-52	Mrs. H. S. M. Coxeter
1952-53	Mrs. D. S. Ainslie
1953-54	Mrs. T. A. Goudge
1954-55	Mrs. J. F. Heard
1955-56	Mrs. M. St. A. Woodside
1956-57	Mrs. B. Wilkinson
1957-58	Mrs. J. H. Parker
1958-59	Mrs. C. R. Myers
1959-60	Mrs. G. Langford
1960-61	Mrs. W. A. C. Dobson
1961-62	Mrs. G. S. Vickers
1962-63	Mrs. D. B. DeLury
1963-64	Mrs. S. G. Clark
1964-65	Mrs. C. E. Atwood
1965-66	Mrs. V. B. Meen
1966-67	Mrs. D. J. LeRoy
1967-68	Mrs. A. J. Arrowood
1968-69	Mrs. D. A. MacRae
1969-70	Mrs. R. M. Smith
1970-71	Mrs P. G. Rooney
1971-72	Mrs. H. G. Skilling
1972-73	Mrs. P. Scherk
1973-74	Mrs. R. F. G. Sweet
1974-75	Mrs. L. M. Kenny
1975-76	Mrs H. E. Johns
1976-77	Mrs R. M. Savory
1977-78	Mrs J. S. Holladay Jr.
1978-79	Mrs G. Zekulin
1979-80	Mrs J. A. Hellebust

1980-81	Mrs E. Seaquist	1980-81
1981-82	Mrs I. W. J. Still	1981-82
1982-83	Mrs F. D. Manchester	1982-83
1983-84	Mrs R. M. Farquhar	1983-84
1984-85	Mrs Jean Elliott	1984-85
1985-86	Mrs R. I Crouse	1985-86
1986-87	Mrs J. E. Dove	1986-87
1987-88	Mrs Ross MacDonald	1987-88
1988-89	Mrs J. G. Nairn	1988-89
1989-90	Mrs A. G. Brook	1989-90

1990-91	Mrs. A. G. Harrison	1990-91
1991-92	Mrs W. E. Grasham	1991-92
1992-93	Mrs W. O. Fennell	1992-93
1993-94	Mrs J. S. Hurd	1993-94
1994-95	Mrs Anne McLean	1994-95
1995-96	Mrs J. N. P. Hume	1995-96
1996-97	Mrs Alan Howatson	1996-97
1997-98	Mrs E. G. Clarke	1997-98
1998-99	Mrs E. W. Gruetznr	1998-99
1999-2000	Mrs J. B. French	1999-2000