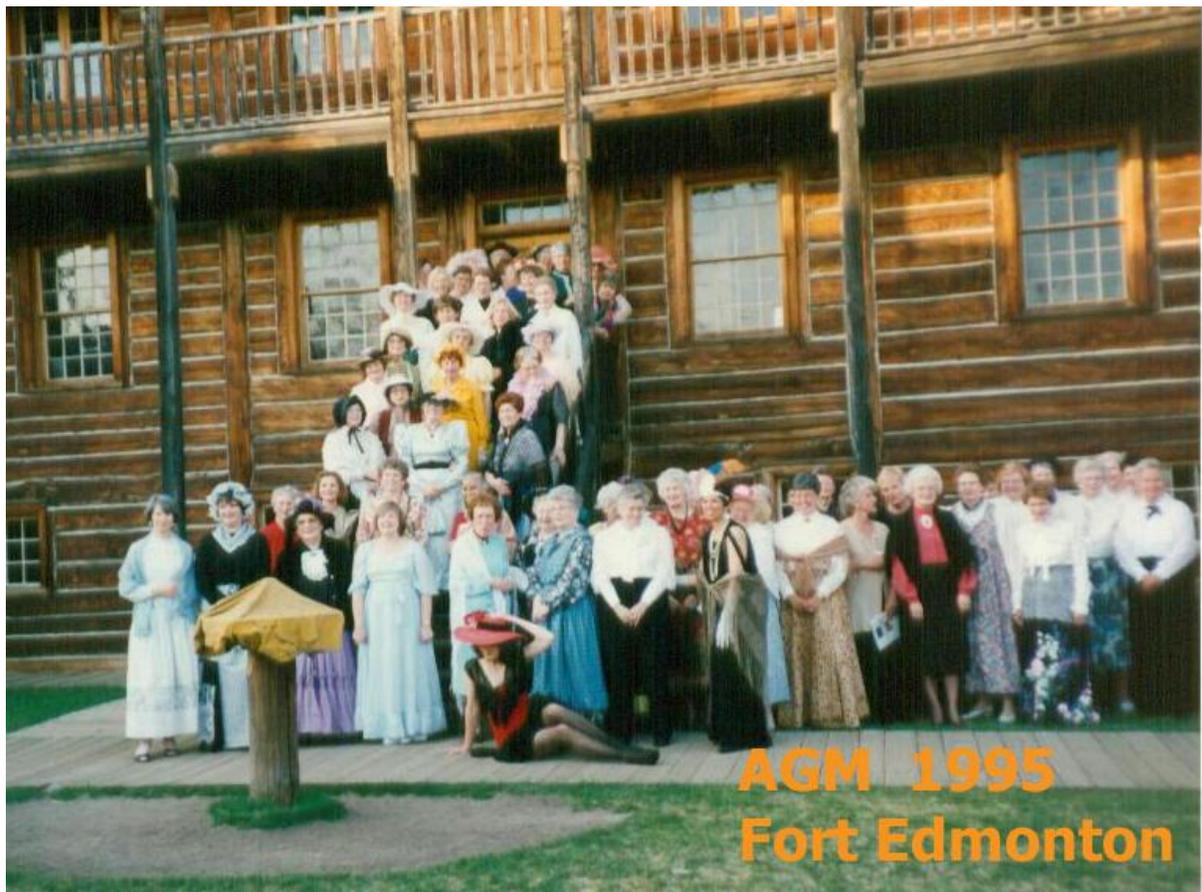


A further chapter in The Story of The Faculty Women's Club

1983-84 to 2008-2009



by
Norma Gutteridge

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The Story of
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Norma Gutteridge
(Written from a personal point of view)

Documents consulted were: Presidents' Reports, Minutes, Newsletters and Directories from 1983 to 2008 (with a peek at some documents of the 1960s) courtesy of the University's Book and Record Depository (BARD)

The original Story of the Faculty Women's Club was compiled and written for the Fiftieth Anniversary by Sheila Petersen. It covered the years from the Club's founding in 1933 to 1983. I had so much enjoyed reading the original Story that I was inspired to continue it on to the present day for the Seventy-fifth Anniversary and I would like to thank Sheila Petersen for her interest and encouragement while the work was in progress.

I also wish to acknowledge the work of Laura Steadward in researching and providing the photographs and to thank her for her support during the writing of this part of the Story.

Prologue

When we look back to 1983 we see a rather different Canada from the one we live in today. Then the Liberals seemed to have been in power in Ottawa forever without any chance of being superseded, there having been only a short period during which the Conservatives ruled, under Joe Clark, since the early 1960s. Pierre Trudeau was still the Prime Minister. On the other hand there are similarities because then, as now, the Progressive Conservatives ruled supreme in Alberta and the province was coming down from a boom as oil exploration halted and the price of a barrel of oil slithered down the scale. At the time of writing, we do not know how far the present recession is going to go. We do know that in 1983, there were empty houses and apartments all over Edmonton as people left to find work elsewhere and the province hunkered down to weather some lean years. Although the university, under the presidency of Dr. Myer Horowitz, was certainly adversely affected, the Faculty Women's Club was not and it continued to flourish. Its strength was in the groups and although some died the death, others sprouted and bloomed in their place. Some, like Knitting, lay in abeyance for a while only to be resurrected to huge acclaim.

The demographics of the Club changed between 1983 and 2008. It is an older club today than the one that celebrated its fiftieth anniversary. Reading through the lists of members, it would seem that a goodly percentage of the membership today is the same as it was then, but everyone is a quarter of a century older. That does make a difference. Some younger women have joined our ranks, of course, but older women seem to constitute the majority of our membership and it shows in the events that are organized now against those of twenty-five years ago.

There were lots of outdoor activities in the eighties. We still have golf and tennis, of course, and two walking groups that attract good numbers, but we don't seem to have cross-country skiing on Sunday mornings any more. The enthusiastic Curling Group no longer exists, nor the Badminton Group. In the 1980s we had bird watching; skiing, snowshoeing, and skating; bus trips to outlying areas; fashion shows and other events that called for dressing up. There was even dancing at the Faculty Club on Friday and Saturday night. All these events called for a rather greater outlay of energy than we seem to be capable of today.

Nevertheless, the Club continues to cater for the membership in ways that are satisfactory to it now, and the original purpose of the Club – socializing and making friends among those living a similar lifestyle – continues to be at the forefront of all our activities. Indeed there are many thriving friendships of thirty years standing or more and new ones are being forged all the time.



Above: canoeing, 1990s
At right: snowshoeing, 1991



The Club is embarking on the last quarter of its first century in good heart and with optimism for the future. Let's now look more closely at the last twenty-five years

The 1980s

Young women were no longer joining in the numbers they once did. Society changed perceptibly in the eighties as the "women's lib" movement of the seventies flowered into a new consciousness among young women that they could "have it all" -- career, marriage, and family -- but not, alas, membership in a Club that held its events mainly during the day. This perhaps affected our Club more than other sectors of society because so many academics meet the women they will marry at university, often in graduate school. These are the women who now wanted to be professionals in their own right.

The minutes of the period record anguished discussions¹ on how the membership might be increased. It was high by today's standards, floating between 240 and 280, but that was far below what had been the apogee of the Club in the fifties and sixties when it could boast a couple of hundred more than that. This is a problem that continues to confront today's executive committees and they may take comfort from the fact that their counterparts of previous periods never got around to solving it either.

As is explained in the pages of the original *Story*, the Club was started in 1933 to give faculty women, both wives of professors and female professors,

¹ One such discussion can be read in the Minutes of the Executive meeting, October 1988

opportunities to meet each other socially as they were not allowed to join the all-male Faculty Club. At that time women were shut out of nearly all of society's organizations, both professional and social, and they would have accepted this as a fact of life against which it was impossible to fight. It is telling that in the Minutes of the 1930s, neatly hand-written in a small notebook, members are always referred to as Mrs. Rowan, Mrs. Weir, Mrs. Wallace etc., as if they were mere reflections of their husbands, rather than individuals in their own right. It was not until 1977-78 that a member's own first name was given in the List of Past Presidents in the Directory instead of her husband's' initials and this did not become the official policy of the Club until ten years later. ² It had taken a World War to start a change that gradually rippled through society, until, at just about the time of our 50th anniversary, in 1983, Jeanne Sauvé was appointed the first female Governor-General of Canada and Bertha Wilson was appointed as the first woman to the Canadian Supreme Court. [As an aside, 1983 was also the year that metric weights and measurements became law and the "Gimli Glider," Air Canada's Flight 143, from Montreal had to crash land in a field near Gimli, Manitoba, because less fuel than was needed for its flight to Edmonton was put on board owing to a confusion between the two measuring systems!]

The Club started off 1984 in grand style by sponsoring a University Showcase that was open to the public and demonstrated the University's talent in various areas. There was music, with performances by the St. Cecilia Orchestra, the Edmonton Youth Orchestra, the Pro Coro Canada Chamber Choir, and the Madrigal Singers. Then, to quote the brochure: "In the glistening pool area, Olympic medalist Cam Henning will demonstrate his backstroke. The Aurora Synchronized Swim Club will show us why this sport has recently become an Olympic event." There were gymnastics, a demonstration by the Edmonton Festival Ballet, and displays put on by the Department of Art and Design. The Club certainly demonstrated its organizational skills in the highly successful staging of this event, despite many nervous misgivings beforehand.

In 1984 we joined forces with the University of Alberta Women's Academic Association to see if we could all share some space in Emily Murphy House. Such space was eventually offered, but Housing and Food Services, under whose auspices the House functioned, laid down such rules and restrictions that the executive did not feel able to go ahead with this plan.

Groups continued to be the backbone of the Club. They had first been mooted at an executive meeting on September 29, 1960 when Mrs. Walter Johns, wife of the university's president, had offered her house as a place where members might gather to play bridge. This suggestion was taken up with alacrity and members were asked to come up with other ideas. By 1962 several groups had been

² See Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, October 1988.

formed including Bridge, International Friendship, Keep Fit and Swim, and Toast Mistress or Cicero, which was concerned with public speaking. By 1963 Gourmet Cooking had been introduced, and International Friendship had grown to 46 members. It was a one of the most popular groups right into the early nineties. Members invited foreign students for meals, engaged appropriate speakers, and presented slide shows of their travels abroad. Often lunches were given with the food prepared from recipes of the featured country. It is not clear why this group failed after being strongly supported through three decades. There is always the possibility, though, that it may be revived one of these days, as the Knitting Group has been.

To return to the 1980s Alice Coutts started both Play Reading and Singing for Pleasure around 1985, adding these cultural activities to the already popular Art Gallery Tours. Sketching which, by way of Rusty Pencils, eventually became today's Drawing Together, was born about the same time, and the Reading Circle had so many members that it was divided up.



Above: the first Knitting Group 1988. Below: the Play Readers





Gourmet Cooking continued to be a very popular group. Its members invited experts in to give demonstrations and actually published their own annual cookbooks – their energy and enthusiasm was immense. Groups that have not survived, but which had avid support during the 1980s, are Aid and Action; Woman’s Affairs, which invited speakers on various topics of especial interest to women; Blood Transfusion, which did sterling duty helping out the Red Cross at their clinics; and the Investment Club. Altogether 25 Groups were listed as active in 1988-89. [See Appendix 1]

The constitution was changed in 1987, for the first time since 1964. The changes were worked on by a small group and presented to the membership for ratification at the Fall Tea. In the amended constitution the categories of eligible women were cut from eight to four; terms of office were now described for the first time, and instead of a mere sentence about fees, the section was broadened to encompass banking and signing officers. A clause was added regarding nominations, and a further clause was added to the section on amendments. During the 1980s the subscription fee was raised to \$10.00.

Convenors’ Dinners were pot-luck affairs in the eighties and prepared by members of the executive. Sometimes they were held at a member’s home, sometimes in a University venue such as the 4th floor lounge of the Physical Education Building – somewhere with a kitchen. Today the convenors’ and executive members’ Dinner is held every January at the Faculty Club or a hotel and all one has to do is walk to the buffet and load one’s plate. In the mid-eighties, there was plenty of hard work attached to the preparation and clean-up involved in this event. Some members talk fondly of the days when they washed dishes into the early hours while finishing up the wine! The Club usually paid for the wine that accompanied the dinners back then. The incumbent executives

were ambitious in their offerings -- in 1988, for example, their menu called for Bœuf Bourguignon with rice, salad, vegetables and dip, and carrot cake to follow.

*At right: Convenors' Dinner
1988, held in the Butterdome*



There were speakers galore in the eighties. It would seem that the members had a passion for being spoken to on every possible occasion. Speakers were invited to the Spring and Fall Lunches (the Fall Lunch has since been dropped), the Fall Tea, and the Banquet and Annual General Meeting, as well as to meetings on specialist topics arranged by groups. Tickets were prepared for every event and people signing up always had a ticket to show that they had paid. A member of the Executive was in charge of tickets, and it must have been a job with a lot of work attached to it. There is a binder with pages and pages of mounted tickets that in itself constitutes a history of the Club's events over many years. This is now in the archives and is a testament to the enthusiasm and energy shown by the members who compiled it.

The most noteworthy project of the eighties, after the production of the splendid quilt that hung for 25 years in University Hall, was the publication *We Can Achieve A History of Women in Sport at the University of Alberta*. This was the result of the Campus History Group's work. The group researched and wrote it and, furthermore, raised the money needed to print and bind it. Published by Academic Printing and Publishing, the book was launched with great fanfare at University House in November 1988, with President Horowitz presiding. Copies went on sale at the University Bookstore and it is now quite a rare item.

*From left to right: Esther Kreisel, Muriel Affleck
Marianne Elder, Pat Dobson*



There had always been a list of members with their addresses and phone numbers of course. The list was typed with carbon copies, which were no doubt distributed to members of the executive only. It seems impossible to believe that copies could have been produced for every member during the fifties, say, when the membership was around 600. During the 1980s this list of members' names, addresses and phone numbers was put on to the university's mainframe computer under the auspices of a Directory Committee. The list was printed out as a directory for all members every two years. Towards the end of the decade, the members of the executive discussed the possibility of bringing out the directory every year³ and this was eventually accomplished. Changes were gradually made, such as including the neighborhood in the address, resulting in the directory we have today.

Dr. Horowitz stepped down from the presidency of the university in 1989 and he and his wife Barbara eventually moved to British Columbia. Barbara Horowitz had been involved in the Club as had few other Presidents' wives. She had been Club President in her own right (1974-75) as well as Honorary President on account of her husband (1979-89). She participated in a number of activities, including making the quilt, and was always writing letters of thanks after events and encouraging and helping in any way she could. The Club decided to give her a great send-off with a special "Roast" at the Annual Banquet, during which groups presented her with their offerings as keepsakes, including a cleverly designed scarf knitted in the university colors by the Knitting Group.

³ See Minutes of the Executive Committee meeting, May 1988



Above: Myer and Barbara Horowitz. Left: Scarf made by Knitting Group



Hilarious skits were written and performed by members, and the Singing Group wrote a special song, *Hello Barbara*, which went to the tune of *Hello Dolly*:

“Hello Barbara, well hello Barbara
It’s so nice to have you here where you belong.
You’ve done so much for us,
That the whole chorus
Wants to thank you with the singing of this little song.
You’ve been the best hostess
Done the very mostest
That a President’s Lady could have done.
So, let us now fellers
Give her a wow, wow, wow, fellas
Barbara will always be our Number One!”

There were specially invited guests and everybody had a wonderful time.

The 1990s

Ask any member what she most remembers about the Club during the 1990s and she will invariably mention an event that called for dressing up. Who could forget the Wedding Memories night at the AGM and Banquet of 1993 celebrating the Club's sixtieth anniversary? On that auspicious occasion members wore either their own wedding gown or someone else's and habitués of the Royal Glenora watched in slack-jawed astonishment as one 'bride' after another entered the club and mounted the stairs.



Four of the "brides." From left to right: Joan Hardin, Mae Berkel Avé, May Boland, Lilian Green

Then there was the 1995 AGM and Banquet held at Fort Edmonton, when everyone dressed "Fur Trade," or "Klondike," and Alice Coutts wrote and produced a melodrama entitled *Love Conquers All*, which was performed with considerable élan by the Play Readers. Later in the decade a western style barbeque was held at the same venue when it was all Stetsons, cowboy boots, and country music.

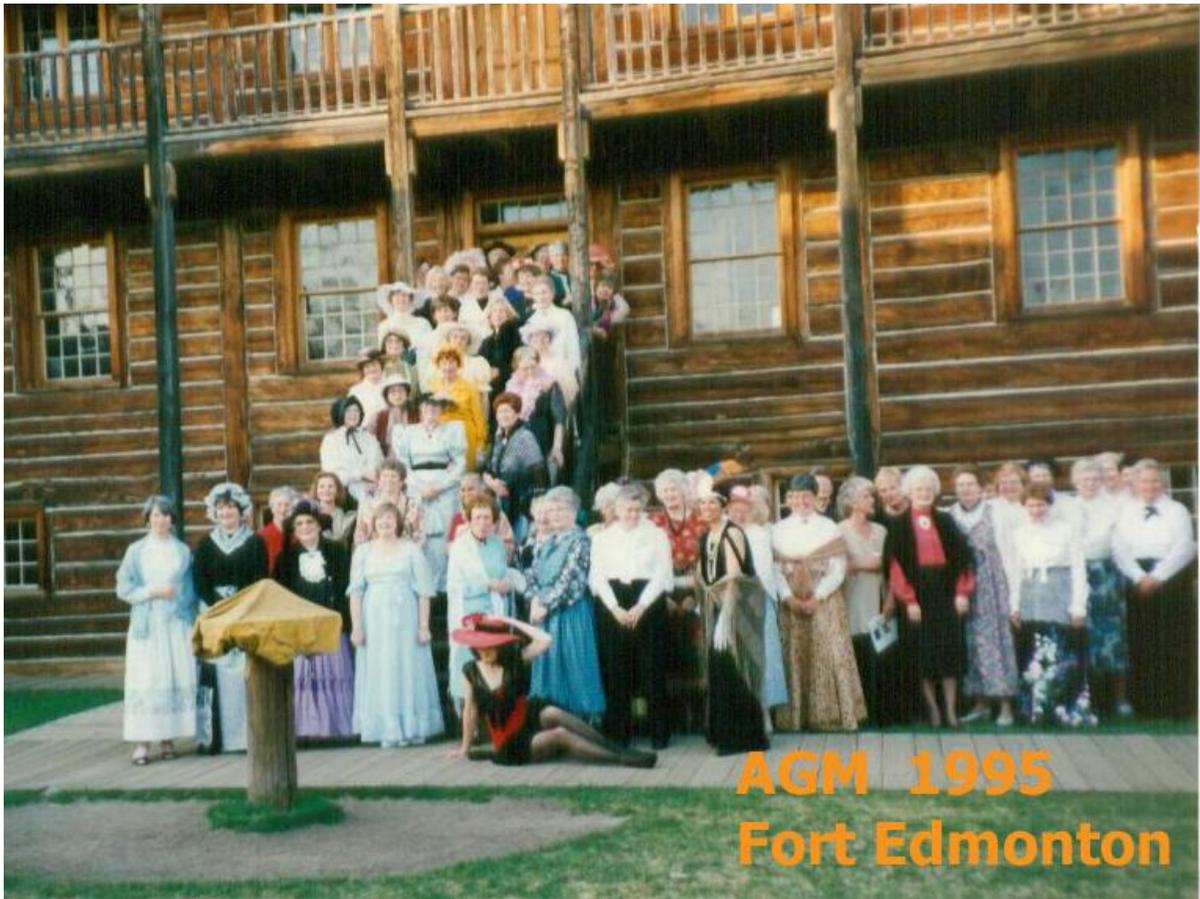
Fashion shows, during which members of the Executive often acted as the models, were very popular and were part of the program at many an AGM. Yet others were held as separate events.



AGM 1995
From left to right:
Gillian Rostoker, Muriel Affleck, Vi Moskalyk



AGM 1995
From left to right:
Jeannette Thomson, Eve Campbell, Sarah Nyland, Sheila Petersen



Most groups continued to thrive throughout the nineties, although there were others as well as those already mentioned that, although being popular for years, no longer drew adherents. Bible Study, for example, had had a long run under the convenorship of Tina Wiebe, but it did not outlast her retirement from it. Ilonka Wormsbecker had shown films once a month for years. During the eighties she had switched over to videos, but the group kept going. It did not, however, survive the nineties. New groups included Moms and Tots, Newcomers, Spanish Conversation, Sunday Strollers, Support Group, and Walking with Waggers. The long defunct Cicero Club, which was concerned with public speaking was revived in 1999 although it did not last for long; and Golf had put in an appearance. By this time too, Gourmet Cooking had become Gourmet Dinners. Twenty-five groups are listed for 1998-99. [See Appendix 2]



From left to right: Rhoda Sheinen, Anne Elliott, Nettie Enns, ---, Kay Ball, Eunice Barron, Pam Gerard, Helen Thorye (visiting professor's wife)

Throughout the nineties there was a great interest in crafts. Madeleine Miklos convened a very popular Crafts Group and every year saw some sort of craft workshop being held, whether on flower arranging, pottery, Ukrainian egg painting, or creative photo albums. There seems to have been a constant enthusiasm for these workshops as they were all well attended.

Pottery Party at City Art Centre December 1996
Front Row: Toine Rhemtulla, Suzanne Ellyin, Jane Wilson, Adeline Lerohl (Instructor)
Back Row: Joan MacKenzie, Leslie Moss and Dorothy Alderman



The Newsletter had started out in life as an actual letter that was sent out to members to announce or remind them of upcoming events. It was enlarged during the eighties to become a standard feature of the Club, and with the coming of personal computers it was possible to put together a much more sophisticated publication for the same or less outlay of money. Photographs began to appear as scanners became available, and there were little line drawings and other vignettes, making the pages much more attractive. The Newsletter really flourished during the nineties when a succession of enterprising editors put together an interesting issue every quarter. The usual announcements of future events and listings of the interest groups were supplemented by more imaginative material. We began to see the occasional poem, pithy quotation, or recipe, and the description of a recent Club event. It would seem that members were seized with wanderlust during the nineties because the Newsletters are suddenly full of travelogues as members share their experiences in Northern India, Peru, Ireland, Tibet, Brazil, China, and other far away places.

A feature of the club during the nineties was the Weekend Get-Away held at Strawberry Creek, the country lodge owned by Tina Wiebe and her family, which she opened up to members every summer for a long weekend . Those who took advantage of her generosity were able to go on long rambles through the surrounding countryside, read, write, or work on crafts, and join in community events each evening after eating delicious meals. Everyone returned to the city feeling relaxed and/or stimulated.



Two views of Strawberry Creek. At right: Marjorie Foth, Josette Davenport, Connie Gledhill, Orla Ryan



Until the early nineties, there were three classes of members: “Active,” “Life,” and “Honorary.” Active members were either members of the academic staff as determined by the Board of Governors or the wife or partner of such a person. Life members were retired staff, wives or partners of retired staff, widows of men who had been active academic staff when they died, and widows of retired academic staff. There is much discussion recorded in the minutes at the turn of the decade⁴ as to why there should be “life members” and “active members,” seeing that all were asked to pay their dues. In 1991, the distinction was abandoned and everyone was considered an “active member.” The class of Honorary Members was retained and two ladies who did not qualify as actual members were so designated in 1995: Dorothy Beckwith who accompanied the Singing Group at the piano, and Laurie Sobey who gave instruction to the Quilting Group. They were not required to pay subscriptions. Throughout the years the executive has retained the privilege of designating any other women for membership as they so choose. Female members of the Senate and of the Board of Governors or the wives of their male members have been so counted. They do not pay a subscription either which, by the way, was increased to \$15 in the mid-nineties.

⁴ See Minutes of November 5, 1990



Ladies of the Quilting Group and their piece de resistance: their work of art presented to the University on the occasion of its 75th Anniversary in 1983

The sixtieth anniversary of the Club was celebrated in 1993 and in recognition of the event the Club donated \$3,000 to the University Library for the purchase of monographs for the Department of Film Studies. Coming at a difficult time for book purchases owing to financial constraints, this was much appreciated and the library arranged for a matching grant so that \$6,000 was made available to buy the books. Since then the Club has made a number of donations to the University's Scholarship Fund and occasionally to other charities.

In 1994, there was another change of president at the university, and the Club said farewell to Josette Davenport who had been an active Hon. President, going on the walks and joining in a number of events. She was suitably feted at the Banquet and presented with photos and other mementos. Judith Fraser, who was also happy to support the Club in any way she could, filled the post until 2004 when her husband, Rod Fraser, was replaced by a woman university president, Dr. Indira Samarasekera. Here was something that would have surprised Dr. Wallace. He was sympathetic to the plight of both women faculty and faculty wives in their not being allowed to join the male Faculty Club, which is why he suggested forming a club of their own in 1933, but the thought that one day a woman might hold his own distinguished position is unlikely to have occurred to him.

The Retired Members' Tea had always been a prominent feature of the Club's year. It was subsidized by the university and originally held in the home of the President's wife, who always presided. The archives are stuffed with reports on it. The Retired Members' Tea was changed to the Retired Members' Coffee Morning in 1995, although retaining its dignity in being under the auspices of our Honorary President and it still prompted a wealth of reports. Invitations were printed and sent out to all retiring female academics and wives of retiring staff, which constituted a great deal of work on the part of the executive member responsible for addressing some 50 or 60 invitation envelopes and keeping track

of the replies. The Coffee Morning, like the Retired Members' Tea, continued to be a centerpiece of the Club's year throughout the nineties.

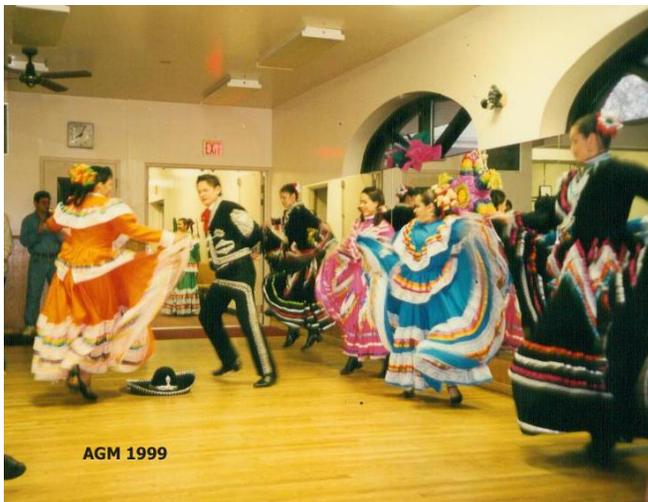
Today's members often ask how the Club got the gavel that is presented to each new President as she assumes office at the Annual General Meeting. Shaped rather like a shillelagh, an Irish club, it is most distinctive and thus gives rise to questions about its provenance. It was a gift from member Carol Newbound, who died in 1993. It is therefore a kind of remembrance of her when the gavel makes its annual appearance. There was talk at the time of having an engraved

plaque put on the gavel but this has never been done. Perhaps it should be.



*Handing over the gavel
Sylvia Kernahan to Orla Ryan, 2008*

The 1990s went out in a flurry of ruffled skirts at the AGM with "Fiesta Grande," an evening filled with the music, food, and dance of Mexico, held at the Strathcona Community Centre. A Mexican menu of Prawns with Tequila and Lime, Aztec Beef with Nuevo Mole Poblano, and Mexican Souffle Dessert tickled most palettes and everyone had a mucho bueno evening.



The 2000s

And so we come to the present decade, of which eight years have come and gone and we are launched into the ninth. Looking back from 2009, it can be seen that the Club has gone through several metamorphoses. It began as a vehicle for bringing together the university's women, whether staff members themselves, or wives of staff members, to socialize, mainly by giving Teas at which, formally dressed in tea-gowns, hats, and gloves, they politely chatted to each other, addressing even dear friends as Mrs..... as was then the custom everywhere. They provided all the sandwiches, cakes, squares, cookies, tea, and coffee consumed at the Teas, set up the table, cleared it, and washed the dishes. Rigid rules were laid down concerning who did what and when, of which more later. For many years, the Club was also responsible for the teas given following Convocation ceremonies for which, again, they provided the food and did the work involved.

The Tea-giving format (with the addition of knitting and bandage rolling for the Red Cross in wartime) worked for the Club for nearly 30 years but, as we have seen, interest groups were introduced in the early 1960s as women began to look for something more than Teas on which to flex their creative muscles. Once started there was no looking back and during the 1960s and 1970s groups proliferated. By the time of the 50th anniversary in 1983 there were 28 interest groups covering a wide range of activities and, as noted earlier, many of them were pursued outdoors or called for advanced physical exertion indoors, as with badminton and curling.

During the 25 years between 1958 (the 25-year mark) and 1983 (the fifty year mark), society loosened up to an incredible extent. Women now addressed each other by their Christian names and turned up at formal daytime functions without hats or gloves. It had become acceptable for women to wear pants to lunches and even dinners, something that would have shocked us in earlier years. Subjects that would never have been mentioned in polite society were now discussed freely. However, it was not until I began reading the minutes and other documents in the archives that I realized how relaxed and casual we have become, how laid back we are in everything we undertake. Executive meetings were held weekly and then monthly pretty well up to the end of the 1990s. In the 2000s they take place quarterly, with perhaps a sub-committee meeting put together at the last moment if the occasion requires it. It rarely does. The Program Committee (originally the Social Committee), consisting of three people, often supplemented by the three Presidents (Present, Future, and Past), do meet a few extra times to plan the upcoming events and delegate duties to bring them to fruition. People do research possibilities and gather information about venues and prices. The Annual Fall Registration Event is planned and

carried out in timely fashion and it is discussed and analyzed afterwards in an effort to forestall any shortcomings next time, but there are no written rules, no hard and fast delegation of responsibilities, no heavy hand of supervision.



Part of the Gariepy/Bakewell tablecloth

The 1960s, however, are like another world. The instructions for the Autumn Tea of 1964 would do credit to General Eisenhower planning the invasion of Normandy. They are typed, single spaced, on an 8 x 11½ page and every possible eventuality is accounted for. The first people to arrive are the tea-towel bearers. They are given a strict time at which they must enter the kitchen. Next the tablecloth person has to be at her post with her precious burden -- the donated large and beautiful hand-worked Gariepy/Bakewell tablecloth, now held in the University Collections.

One by one, group by group, each set of ladies is given instructions and the exact time at which each one must snap into action. Two maids are to be hired for the afternoon and the Treasurer is to pay them \$3 each at the end of the proceedings. When the tablecloth needs laundering, and it cannot be washed too often because of its delicate nature, it is to be taken to Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd Convent at 8421 101 Avenue (ask for the Mother Superior). The charge is \$5, a considerable sum when you consider that an afternoon's work as a maid at the Fall Tea was worth only \$3, but obviously enormous care and expertise was needed to wash and iron such an heirloom.

During these earlier days members were expected to provide the comestibles to be consumed at the Tea and do all the work from setting up the table to washing the dishes. Until the end of the 80s and into the 90s this *modus operandi* continued, as with the Convenors' Dinners mentioned above. Women may have donned their white gloves with alacrity but they were equally willing to exchange them for rubber ones and take a turn at the kitchen sink without question. They also often provided three or more cakes of their own baking or three-dozen sandwiches. Nowadays executives feel diffident about asking members to bring one cake or some squares and certainly would never ask them to do any menial work. All that is left to a professional staff, whether at the Faculty Club or some other venue. The only exception during the last few years has been the Saturday afternoon events held at the Windsor Park Community

Hall. Then executive members have brought along their delicious home baking and provided everything else needed right down to the tea, coffee, milk, and sugar. Needless to say, though, the dainties are served on cardboard plates, accompanied by plastic cutlery and Styrofoam cups so that no dishes need to be washed, and the tablecloth, far from being expensively laundered by nuns, is either taken home and thrown in the washing machine or, more likely, put in the garbage bag with all the other disposables!

In the early years of the new century, the decision was taken by an executive to do away with tickets for events and membership cards. This caused some confusion and unhappiness at first. "How will I be able to prove that I have paid?" was a common concern. Members needed assurance that their names had been duly logged and that they would not be asked to pay twice, but experience soon showed them that they had nothing to worry about. The loss of a membership card also raised some hackles. That card had been a precious tie to the Club and many were loathe to see it go. However people soon adjusted and now no one doubts for a moment when they pay for an event that their names will be on the list of the paid, and they know that they are just as much members of the Club without a card as with one. Another whole swathe of work has been deftly eliminated.

The Retired Members' Coffee Morning was discontinued in 2005 owing to poor attendance in the previous few years. The amount of work and expense could no longer be justified. Thus died one of the last formal events of the Club year, still missed by many, especially the older members for whom it was a wonderful opportunity to meet friends and catch up with each other's news in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. Unfortunately, these older members had largely given up driving and so had no way of getting to the venue. The very women who most enjoyed the event didn't show up for it, through no fault of their own, and this brought about its demise. It must also be said that in the early 2000s there were several successive Coffee Mornings when the weather was so bad that it stopped many older members from venturing out.

The new decade and indeed the new millennium kicked off in grand style with the Medieval Banquet held at the Celtic Hall for the AGM in April 2000, when dressing up reached heights never before achieved. The accompanying photos show the ingenious costumes and accoutrements devised by the members that could rival anything produced by the costume department at MGM in its heyday.





The banquet consisted of medieval dishes and was accompanied by suitable music. The event is remembered by all who attended as a highlight in the life of the Club. It also turned out to be the last hoorah for the passion for dressing up that had raged throughout the 1990s. Apart from a request to “dress as for a cruise” at the AGM of 2002, dressing up has been abandoned. What was one of the most popular activities of the last 20 years has just fallen into desuetude. We not only don’t dress up to attend formal events any more, we don’t dress up for fun events either.

Interest groups, however, continue to flourish. Some died the death, like the Support Group, which existed to step into the breach and assist any member in need, whether from sickness, accident, bereavement, or other family crisis. The Newcomers Group ceased for a few years only to be magically revived in 2007 under the energetic convenorship of Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein and Gwen Magnus, and the same happened with Knitting, which was taken up again with enthusiasm by a good-sized group under the convenorship of Sylvia Kernahan and Valerie Wasylishen. Christine Forth has recently initiated a Creative Writing Support Group and this, again, is a revival of a group that had once blossomed but had been defunct for some years. Other newcomers are a Travel Group, convened by Bridget Netzell, and Couples Who Cook led by Peggi Ferguson-Pell. Crafts ceased when Madeleine Miklos left and no workshops have been offered for years. It is strange that one of the most beloved hobbies of the 80s and 90s has been abandoned apart from Quilting, which retains its popularity. Moms and Tots fell by the wayside when its convenor went on Sabbatical and so far has proved impossible to revive. Almost everything else has continued but, sadly, Singing for Pleasure and

German Conversation have both been dropped this year. That we still have vigorous golf, tennis, and walking groups shows that we have not completely given up our physicality. Twenty-seven groups are listed in the Directory for 2008-2009. (See Appendix 3.)



Happy Wanderers walk summer and winter



Two groups enjoying a summer afternoon. Left: Drawing Together; Right: The Golfing Group

Early in the decade more constitutional changes took place. Holders of executive positions had always represented faculties and when, for example, the executive representative for engineering had finished her term of duty, someone affiliated with engineering would be found to replace her. In 2001 this was changed so that executive members were chosen from the membership at large. Another change concerned the definition of membership. Hitherto it had been "academic staff as determined by the Board of Governors" (of the university) but was now... "as determined by the AASUA (the Association of Academic Staff of the University of Alberta)." The subscription had been increased to \$20, first year of membership free of charge, but that benefit was revoked in 2005.

For the first time since its inception the Club has been without an Honorary President as Dr. Indira Samarasekera, who became President of the University of Alberta in 2004, and who obviously does not have a wife, declined to take up the

honorary position because of the enormous demands on her time. She understandably felt that she could not promise to be at any particular event as it was all too likely that there would be another, more important, claim on her. At the beginning of 2009, however, Dr. Samarasekera agreed to accept the title of Honorary President although she could not promise to attend any of our functions. Fortunately, the number requiring the formal presence of an Honorary President has been cut to the minimum. Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein, wife of the Provost, has agreed to substitute for the President when needed and on those occasions she will be treated as a guest. Ellen has carried out her duties most deftly and charmingly, so the loss has not been felt very keenly.

The main change that has taken place in the 2000s is the Club's embrace of the electronic world. For some years now, minutes have been circulated to executive members by e-mail. This has meant a modest saving in postage and stationery. Around the turn of the century, the executive decided to establish a Club website that would be available from the main university site. It has been a labour of love for several people, specifically Bonnie Austen, Joan Hube, Beatrice Nearey, and Margot Wanke. In the last we found our ideal web master. Margot took over the website in 2004 and completely redesigned it for easy usage and visual elegance. The Newsletter is posted there each time it comes out, and various events are advertised on it. The names of the executive are posted, as are all the interest groups with the names and telephone numbers etc., of the convenors.

Then came the decision to distribute the Newsletter electronically, which was in the event quite a momentous one. There was extensive debate in executive meetings about the feelings some members might have regarding their privacy. For instance, photographs with names given in captions would be floating in cyberspace, so to speak. Some people might be uncomfortable about that. Not every member, of course, was equipped to receive the Newsletter electronically, so it was recognized at the start that some copies would have to be printed and distributed in the ordinary way. Others just might not want to receive it as e-mail. It was decided that a disclaimer notice printed on the membership form would solve the problem. If anyone did not want to participate, they could say that when they signed up and paid their dues and their wishes would be respected. Some legal advice was sought concerning the wording of the disclaimer and it was included on the membership form in the fall of 2007. The majority of the membership had no problems with the idea and the number of Newsletters that had to be printed, stuffed into envelopes, have stamps affixed, and posted declined considerably.

Another electronic venture has been the revival of the brochure in a much more professional looking guise than heretofore. There had been a brochure in the

past: a letter size sheet folded in two, with all four sides crammed with small typewritten material explaining the goals of the Club and advertising the interest groups. In the early 2000s the executive once again took up the challenge of producing a brochure, but this time it was designed by Joan Hube's daughter, whose profession is graphic design. Thus we have an eye-catching, three-fold brochure adorned with coloured photos and wording reduced to brief comments about the Club with the website given as a source of further information. The executive members' names are listed as are groups with their convenors and these can be changed every year by typing in the new names. New photographs can easily be inserted. Joan Hube has the brochure on her computer and produces small batches as needed at cost. The brochures are always available at the front of the Faculty Club, and are placed in the packages made up for new staff at their orientation sessions.

As I said at the beginning, the Club, however changed it might be from that envisioned by Dr. & Mrs. Wallace in 1933, continues their intent that university women should be brought together for mutual enjoyment and the forming of lifetime friendships. The Club has always been what the members want it to be. No doubt by the time the 100th anniversary rolls around, the Club will have changed again and its members will look back in some amazement at what interested us and how we carried out our arrangements.

A 75th Anniversary Committee has been formed and is planning a number of special events. Of course we shall look back to 1933 and a world that now prompts our little smiles of indulgence at the quaintness of their aspirations. Yet we know that we are not exempt from similar smiles in the future when members look back at our endeavors. All groups are being asked to celebrate our 75 years of existence in their own way, mostly by looking back to 1933. Our first event: Honouring Our Heritage, a coffee morning was held at Alumnae House in October, 2008. The two most senior former Presidents, Betty Lilge (1961/62) and Joan Greene (1969/70), joined with our current President, Orla Ryan, to cut the Anniversary Cake. The famed "Processional" quilt made by the Quilting Group for the university to celebrate its 75th Anniversary and our own 50th was on display, as was the hallowed Gariepy/Bakewell tablecloth, and many members were able to see these treasures for the first time. A "Heritage walk" was also held in October, whereby members walked around the campus to see where original professors lived and taught. Led by Marilyn Gaa wearing clothes and hat reminiscent of 1933, around 30 members visited a number of campus locations on a crisp and windy morning.

On February 7, 2009 a Special Event entitled *Rewind, Pause, Fast Forward* was held, at which a choir of musical members, led by Julia Boberg, performed songs published in 1933 and 1934. Three researchers from the University of Alberta:

Moira Glerum, Susan Christian, and Martin Ferguson-Pell spoke on how they saw the future in relation to their own medical specialty. They were also brave enough to have their predictions for the future put into the time capsule that will be opened at the 100th Anniversary.

In a world that has sustained as many changes as ours has in the last 75 years, it is a great achievement that the Club has lasted the course. We have no doubt at all that it will also meet the challenges of the future and be there to celebrate the Centenary in its own fashion.

A 75th Anniversary Event: The Heritage Walk



Epilogue

I cannot close this account without reference to what might be called *The Mystery of the Disappearing Silver Tea Services*. Sheila Petersen mentions the purchase of such a tea service “for the Faculty Club” in her *Story of the Faculty Women’s Club* published for the 50th Anniversary in 1983. In the Minutes of an executive meeting on December 7, 1990 it was mentioned that the Club’s silver tea service had not been seen for some time and the Club was having to borrow one when needed. On January 21, 1991 it was noted in the Minutes that Marjorie Bowker

had been President (1955/56) when the tea service was acquired and perhaps she would know what had happened to it. On April 8, alas, the Minutes record that Marjorie Bowker had no recollection of such a purchase. The phantom tea service raised its head again in the second part of the three-part history of the Club that Bonnie Austen wrote for the Newsletter in 1999: "...However, the annual tea continued," she writes, "and the Faculty Women's Club bought a silver tea service for the Faculty Club..." Apparently still no one knew of its whereabouts. The phantom popped up again at an executive meeting⁵ during my presidency. It was asserted that the Club had once bought a silver tea service and, furthermore, a member who had two of them had presented another to the Club. Neither had been seen for years. I wrote to Mr. Graf, Manager of the Faculty Club, asking if *it*, or indeed *they*, had been put in store there years ago and forgotten about, but he assured me that he knew exactly what the Faculty Club had in storage and no silver tea services were listed on his inventory. Will the phantom silver tea services continue to haunt successive executives down the years? Will they have once again assumed material form by the Centenary in 2033? Stay tuned.

The End
(for now)

⁵ See Minutes of August 25, 2006

Presidents of the Faculty Women's Club during the last 25 years

Photos were taken by Joan Hube at a coffee morning given by Sheila Petersen in the summer of 2008.



*Joan Mis (1989-1990)
Lorraine McDonald (1988-1989)
Margot Wanke (2004-2005)*



*Marilyn Gaa (1997-1998)
Joan Hardin (2005-2006)
Vi Moskalyk (1986-1987)*



*Sarah Nyland (1993-1994)
Arti Koshal (1994-1995)
Jane Wilson (1996-1997)*



Dorothy Alderman (1985-1986)
Bonnie Austen (1999-2000)
Norma Gutteridge (2006-2007)



Orla Ryan (2008-2009)
Helen Otto (1984-1985)
Eve Campbell (1991-1992)



Hannelore Pinnington (2000-2001)
Goody Stricker de Márquez (2001-2002)
Barbara Freeman (1987-1988)
Sylvia Kernahan (2007-2008)

Below are photographs of Presidents who were not at the coffee morning and were photographed at other times.



Pamela Gerard (2003-2004)



Patricia Ginsberg (2002-2003)



Gaye Jones (1998-1999)



Julia Boberg (1995-1996)



Frances Siemens (1990-1991)



Phyllis Aherne (1992-1993)

Appendix 1

Interest Groups 1988-89

(As listed in the 1988-89 Directory)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Convenor(s)</i>
Aid and Action	Murina Bauer
Art Gallery Tours	Rosemary McCaughey
Badminton	Wasanti Paranjape/ Margaret Dossetor
Bible Study	Tina Wiebe
Book Review	Phyllis Aherne
Afternoon Bridge	Lillian Wonders
Duplicate Bridge	Betty Finch/Phyllis Freeman
Evening Bridge	Lynne Austin
Mixed Bridge	Ruth Clandinin
Campus Blood Donor Clinic	Margaret Dossetor/Isabel Barker
Film Showing	Ilonka Wormsbecker
Flower Arranging	Louise Webster
French Conversation	Lilian Green
German Conversation	Hannelore Pinnington
Gourmet Cooking	Madeleine Miklos
International Friendship	Rhoda Sheinin /Claudine Nelson
Keep Fit	Dorothy Ayer/Wasanti Paranjape
Knitting	Stephanie Scrimger
Lunching Out	Heather Martin/ Joan Hube/ Ann Elliott
Play Reading	Alice Coutts
Quilting	Mary Kay Campenot/ Helen Peters
Reading Circle	Nettie Enns
Singing for Pleasure	Sarah Nyland/ Ann Elliott
Tennis	Frances Siemens
Women's Affairs	Durlari Prithipaul

Appendix 2

Interest Groups 1998-99)

(As listed in the 1989-1999 Directory)

<i>Group</i>	<i>Convenor(s)</i>
Art Gallery Tours	Eunice Barron
Book Discussion Group	Phyllis Aherne/Tovah Yedlin
Afternoon Contract Bridge	Pat Eidem
Duplicate Bridge	Barbara Blackley/May Bowland
Mixed Bridge	May Bowland
Crafts	Madeleine Miklos
French Conversation	Sarah Nyland
German Conversation	Hannelore Pinnington
Golf	Bonnie Austen
Happy Wanderers' Walking Group	Pam Gerard
Independent Adventure	Nadhla Al-Salam
Lunching Out	Kaye Quon, Gillian Rostoker/ Anne D'Alquen
Moms and Tots Together	Mary Kirkpatrick
Newcomers	Marilyn Gaa
Play Reading	Alice Coutts
Quilting	Dorothy Alderman /Gillian Rostoker
Reading Circle	Frieda Bollinger/ Madeleine Miklos/ Eve Campbell/Nola Neufeld
Rusty Pencils	Dorothy Alderman
Singing for Pleasure	Leslie Moss/Bev Oster
Skating	Suzanne Ellyin
Spanish Conversation	Margot Wanke
Sunday Strollers	Beatrice Nearey
Support Group	Bev Oster
Tennis	Toine Rhemtulla/Rhoda Sheinin
Walking with Waggers	Marilyn Gaa

Appendix 3

Interest Groups 2008-09

(As listed in the 2008-09 Directory)

Group	Convenor(s)
75th Anniversary Singers	Julia Boberg/ Sarah Nyland
Art Gallery Tours	Eunice Barron/Michelle Wilson
Book Discussion (evening)	Laura Steadward
Book Discussion (afternoon)	Barbara O'Brien
Afternoon Contract Bridge	May Bowland/ Faye Kay
Duplicate Bridge	Joan Hardin
Mixed Bridge	Gillian Rostoker
Couples Who Cook	Peggi Ferguson-Pell
Creative Writing Support Group	Christine Forth
Drawing Together	Ursula Maydell
Epicurious Lunching	Bev Armstrong / Patty Morgenstern
French Conversation	Sarah Nyland
Garden Interest Group	Felicity Pickard/ Jane McCreery
Golf	Bonnie Austen/ Eunice Barron
Gourmet Dining	Bonnie Austen/ Susan Cubit
Happy Wanderers' Walking Group	Christine Forth
Knitting Group	Sylvia Kernahan /Valerie Wasylshen
Lunching Out	Wanda Cree/Laura Steadward
Newcomers	Ellen Calabrese-Amrhein /Gwen Magnus
Play Reading	Norma Gutteridge/ Kirsten Krismer/ Sheenah Coutts
Quilting	Kathleen Beck/Gaye Jones
Reading Circles	Pam Muirhead/ Norma McIntosh/ Sheila Petersen/ Orla Ryan
Spanish Conversation	Jamie Loebenberg
Tennis	Angela Pawluk/ Rhoda Sheinin
Theatre Matinees	Eunice Barron/Gwen Magnus
Travel Group	Bridget Netzell
Walking with Waggers	Marilyn Gaa