



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S CLUB

AFTERNOON TEA

The annual Afternoon Tea event has been a tradition for many years. On September 29th, more than 60 SIU Women's Club members gathered at the Saluki Alumni Plaza to celebrate its current members and those who laid a strong foundation to support the group's success and longevity.

Since 1937 when SIU women came together to organize social events and then formalized the SIU Women's Club in 1948, this Club has withstood the test of time. In fact, **2023 marks 86 years since those early social events and 75 years since the Club's official organization.** Now that's something to be proud of!

SIU's First Lady Mrs. Laura Mahony hosted the event and provided remarks regarding the university's growth and many points of pride. Other special guests included family members of SIU System Board of Trustees Chair Phil Gilbert (wife Gail, daughter Jennifer, and sister Pam Minton), former SIU First Lady Jo Poshard, and Executive Secretary to SIU's President and Board of Trustees Paula Keith.

Special thanks to the SIU President's Office, Mrs. Laura Mahony, the SIU Alumni Association and Michelle Rust for the beautiful outdoor space, Crystal's Catering, and SIU's Sustainable Farms for the floral arrangements. It was a beautiful day of celebration!





REMEMBERING RUTH MUELLER BELOVED SIU WOMEN'S CLUB CHARTER MEMBER

At our August board meeting we were saddened to learn of the passing of Charter Member Ruth Mueller on July 29th. On the celebration of her 101st birthday in March, Ruth was surrounded by her loving, devoted family and friends who had known her intimately for many years and loved her deeply. She was witty and radiant! She shared a photo taken in 1992 at a Holiday Tea, in Pam Wright's home, honoring Charter members of our Club and had fun identifying all who were in the photo! We are saving the photo and letter in our archives!

Ruth was actively engaged in our Club, in AAUW, the UN Association, and PEO. She continued to be supportive and interested in each organization's involvement in the last decade when she was not able to attend events. She was an avid reader and missed our Book group.

Friends remember Ruth for her love of her German ancestry which was "Volga Deutch" as she referred to it, her sweet temper, always tolerant of others although having opinions that she would never impose on anyone else. She loved music and art, and she often recalled her beloved Vienna and the times that she and Bob, who was director of the SIU School of Music, had spent in that city. Bob would confide that there was not a mean bone in his wife's body. She would invite a friend over to play something for her on the grand piano in her living room. She was

an acute listener who could discern the real from the fake. She was always kind whether the friend played well or not. The friend knew when she was truly pleased because Ruth's eyes sparkled, and she would say "you've been practicing!"

Ruth was a treasure to SIU and to our entire community. As an Academic Advisor in the College of Education, she mentored and guided hundreds of students and encouraged them to learn from world class faculty and access incredible experiential opportunities and valuable network of support – the hallmarks of an SIU education since its inception. Donations in her memory would go toward annual scholarships that our Club awards to women who attend SIU. (Please make check payable to SIU Women's Club and mail to SIU Women's Club, 1740 Innovation Drive, Carbondale IL 62903). Donations may also be made through the SIU Foundation at siuf.org/give - search on SIU Women's Club Scholarships Fund.

Special thanks to Club Member and Membership Director Olga Weidner for providing this lovely tribute.

1992 Holiday Tea



HOLIDAY TEA HONORS CHARTER MEMBERS

Pam Wright's beautifully decorated home provided the perfect seasonal setting for the Holiday Tea honoring our Charter Members on Friday, December 6. Susan Corker was co-hostess.

Twenty-seven charter members were located and mailed special invitations. We were pleased that eleven charter members were able to attend. They were:

Mildred Fishback	Nedra Johnson	Lee Klingberg
Mary Belle Melvin	Ruth Mueller	Frances Phillips
Marie Reed	Mary Simon	Marie Stotlar
Maude Tenney	Marge Widdows	

Honorees were given Christmas corsages made by Susan Corker. Festive harp and violin music was provided by Joyce and Howard Hesketh. Hot wassail, tea, and cookies were served.

Thanks to Pam, Susan and all who helped with arrangements, including: Betty Person, Toni Intraiva, and Sammye Aikman. The tea helped spotlight our special founding members in the "Spirit of the Season".

SUITCASE SISTERS GOES INTERNATIONAL

With suitcases packed and with some apprehension, Julie Bohnsack, Nancy Mundschenk, Joy Wayman, Susan Pearlman, Deborah Corker, Barb Mau, Fran Ores, and Sharon Smaga headed off for the **Suitcase Sisters first international nine-day trip to Northern regions of Ireland** on May 13th.

We traveled from Belfast to Dublin to Galway with many adventures in between. We visited Irish landmarks such as the Cliffs of Moher, the Titanic Museum, Giant's Causeway, the Shrine of Our Lady of Knock and the beautiful Irish landscape. Adventures included high tea at the historic Hardiman Hotel, a weaving demonstration on a wooden loom while we sipped Irish coffee, shopping at the wool shop in the quaint village of Donegal, viewing a carving demonstration by a master artisan at the Celtic Crystal Factory, touring one of the many castles dotting the landscapes, weaving reeds at Brigit's Garden, had front row seats at a concert of Irish singers and dancers, made Irish scones under the direction of the owner and head baker of the Ballyknocken Cookery School, and of course, sharing a few glasses of Guinness together.

Although we were very busy, we had free time to stroll through villages, green country sides and cities. A warm welcome from the locals greeted us at every stop as we were immersed in the rich culture and traditions of Ireland.

This is just a small sampling of the trip. All of the ladies agreed we had a fantastic and fun adventure. In Irish terms, we had the "crack."



Check out the SIU Women's Club Interest Groups

INTEREST GROUP NEWS

WELCOMING NEWCOMERS



The Welcoming Newcomers Group meets the fourth Wednesday of every month at 5:30 p.m. At each dinner, the group discusses where to meet the following month (at a local restaurant or at a member's home with guests contributing through potluck). This is a great way for newcomers to meet other members and for everyone to enjoy dinner out! For more information, contact Amelia Ketzle at aketzle@siu.edu.

ADVENTURE GALS



Adventure Gals headed to Alton, IL on September 16 for the Freedom to Equality Tour. They toured sites along the Underground Railroad. Pictured here are: **1st Row:** Kerry Cole, Anne Marie Hamilton-Brehm, Barbara Crandall-Stotlar, Donna Wilson, Ellin Smith. **2nd Row:** Roxanne Schaal, Peg Falcone, Lynette Knowles. **3rd Row:** Faith Miler, Jan Weiss, Nancy Mundschenk, Camilla Davidson. **4th Row:** Pamela Witter, Karen Renzaglia, Pam Matthews, Sue Burroughs.

EVENING AT THE CINEMA



This group met on October 1 and watched A Haunting in Venice before enjoying a bite to eat at Mod Pizza to discuss movie and socialize. If you see any of these members, you might ask for a review of the movie :)

KNIT 'N STITCH



Knit 'n Stitch
September 28, 2023
Julie Bohnsack, Dorothy Baker,
Sandi Vitt, and Janet Banerjee
met in the home of Sue
Burroughs for a couple hours of
knitting, stitching and lively
conversation.

Join us!
PIC•COLLAGE

Save the Date

2023-2024 EVENTS

FALL SOCIAL

Thursday Nov 9, 2023

4:45-7:00PM

One Innovation Place at SIU

WINTER LUNCHEON

Friday January 12, 2024

11:30-1:00pm

SIU Stadium Club

SPRING BUSINESS MEETING & SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION

Thursday April 25, 2024

4:30-7:30pm

Sharp (University) Museum



2023 Scholarship Recipients

L to R: Haley Lehane, Kendra Halley, True (Prue) Hoang
with Scholarship Director Deb Sarvela

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE

A Note from Scholarship Recipient Kendra Halley

Thank you for contributing to my future success.
I am truly doing my best to further my education
and ultimately hoping to assist in making
healthcare more accessible in rural areas.
Big hug and much gratitude to women who go above
and beyond to support other women. You rock!
Keep inspiring and helping to make dreams come
true. Forever thankful,
Kendra Halley



REMINDER

The **SIU Women's Club's annual membership renewal cycle begins October 1st of each year.** New members joining up to four (4) months prior to this date shall have courtesy membership extended to them for those four months, in addition to their full year membership beginning October 1 of the same year.

In other words, any new members joining June 1 - September 30 will automatically be renewed for the next year. Members who joined prior to June 1, 2023, will need to complete the renewal form and pay the membership fee for the 2023-2024 new year.

To renew or join, simply click JOIN at <https://womensclub.siu.edu>. For those who prefer a hard copy form, simply email your request to siuwomensclub@siu.edu.

The image shows a two-sided info card for the SIU Women's Club. The left side features the club's name and founding year (1937), a graphic of diverse women's silhouettes, and a 'NEW MEMBERS WELCOME' message. It includes a 'SCAN ME' QR code and a Facebook link. The right side is titled 'MEMBERSHIP AND CLUB DETAILS AT WOMENSCLUB.SIU.EDU' and lists 'Scholarships', 'Social Events', and 'Interest Groups'. Contact information is provided at the bottom.



SPREAD THE WORD!

We've made it easier than ever to share the SIU Women's Club. Our new info cards are a great way to invite others to join the club, find an interest group, attend an event, and support SIU student scholarships. Our 2023-2024 goal is to reach 250 members strong! Help us reach this goal by spreading the word. Info cards are available at events or upon request at siuwomensclub@siu.edu.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
WOMEN'S CLUB

FALL SOCIAL

**ONE INNOVATION PLACE
(NEXT TO SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT)
1745 INNOVATION DRIVE | CARBONDALE, IL 62903**

Thursday | November 9 | 4:45-7 PM

Wine Down begins at 4:45 PM

Program at 6 PM

**Guest speaker Sarah VanVooren will discuss the
2024 Total Solar Eclipse**

Food | Wine | Friends

\$15 per person

Members are encouraged to bring a potential new member

**Catering by Bake Me Happy
Wine from Kite Hill Vineyards**

<https://form.jotform.com/232917170550150>