

The Union, the League, and the Commons

Mary Kinley and Enid Wasserman

Many of you have commented that walking into our entrance at Houghton Hall is like walking through



the front door of the Michigan League or the Michigan Union. This is no coincidence. The architects who designed UC used

many of the same Arts and Crafts design elements from these venerable campus buildings. The richness of tradition is seen in the vaulted ceilings, the indirect lighting, the tile floors, and the wide, gracious oak-paneled hallways.

The Union and the League were designed in the early 1920's by the successful Chicago architectural firm of Pond and Pond. Allen and Irving Pond were brothers who grew up in Ann Arbor, went to Ann Arbor High and then the University of Michigan. Irving scored the first touchdown for Michigan in an intercollegiate football game!

Feeling a strong connection to the town and the University, the Pond brothers wanted the Union and the League to represent the philosophy of the Arts and Crafts Movement, a movement in which they played a prominent role. "For Irving Pond, the Union was ultimately a symbol of social solidarity, of life itself." It was designed to be masculine, admitting only men at that time. By contrast, the League's interior design represented a feminine elegance.

The brothers wanted these buildings to "express a development of character – both mental and

physical attributes...and create an environment where character and friendship are cultivated." You may have noticed the graceful figures high above the doors of each building, representing friendship and character.

Other familiar names that dominated this period were William Morris, Frank Lloyd Wright, Gustav Stickley and Mary Chase Perry Stratton. Enter the Michigan League and you will notice the beautiful glazed tiles on the floor which were made in the renowned Pewabic Pottery Art Studio in Detroit, which was co-founded by Mary Chase Perry Stratton. What all these artists have in common is the simplicity, functionality and beauty in their designs. We have a copy of the famous "Stickley Chair" in our living room with William Morris-type upholstery.

With this rich architectural history as our backdrop, the new furniture that was chosen for our living room reflects



this style, also referred to as "the mission style." King's Chosen, a local Ann Arbor furniture gallery, specializes in this era using Amish craftsmen from surrounding states to custom make each piece. While there are still finishing touches to be done in the room, we hope you will come and enjoy this new space --- read the newspaper, check out a few books from the library, or chat with a neighbor.

Column 1 Photo Upper Left: Al Feuerwerker and Brad Bates sharing the "Vision" of the Commons pre-construction
Column 2 Photo Lower Right: Al and Brad relishing the "Reality" in the comfort of the UC Living Room

Photographs courtesy of Brad Bates

From the President

Jeff Stross

Currently, there are two major issues before the UCA Board. The first is the selection of three new board members that will take place at the Annual Meeting on April 17th at 7:00 p.m. The nominating committee, chaired by Karen Gotting, will present a slate of candidates to serve. You will receive proper notification in accordance with our by-laws. The second issue is whether we should lower the minimum age for residence at University Commons. We can amend the

bylaws to allow up to 20% of the units to be sold to people between the ages of 50-55 and still fulfill the requirements of the Federal Housing Acts. This will widen the potential pool of potential buyers, bring in younger members who may help share the work load, and facilitate the transfer of units to children. If you have any concerns about this possible change, do not hesitate to contact a Board Member.

From the Community Director

Margaret Stephenson

If you are getting impatient for the real warm weather, we have a delightful distraction from the rainy and cool days ahead. Mark your calendar for a special cultural East-West weekend coming up on May 5 and 6. Thanks to Marcus Chao, Mary Kinley, and Enid Wasserman, as well as several residents who will participate, we have a day of Chinese dancing and fun planned with our neighbors, the Golden Year Troupe, on Saturday. The following day we are delighted to offer a concert by award winning pianist, Xiaofeng Wu, who will play for us just prior to leaving for his European tour.



Library Latest

Ellen Stross, Chair



We have a handsome new display case at the library entrance so that we may show off some of the special books in our collection. We are especially proud of the first book which we are displaying. This important and scarce 1954 book describes the *new* Constitution of India in its historical context. The author was one of the individuals at the heart of the process of developing the historic document and is the father of University Commons resident Nagesh Srinivasan. The book was tracked down and presented to the University Commons Library by Chuck Kelly to commemorate the talk given by Nagesh Srinivasan on the subject of India's Constitution.

The Podcast Doctor is In

For those of you who enjoy taking advantage of audio podcast offerings on the internet, check out UC resident David Stutz's new educational project, which he developed through the UM Department of General Medicine. On **AskthePodcastDoctor**, Dr. Stutz takes your medical questions via email and answers them through taped interviews with health care experts. You can access this informative program by going to the UM Health System's website's podcast link at:

<http://www.med.umich.edu/podcast/>; or go directly to the program's website: www.askthepodcastdoctor.org
There is no cost to listen to or download the weekly podcast segments.

Karen Stutz assists David as his co-producer, recording editor and web manager.

Your feedback is welcome; and please pass along this new link to your family and friends.

Passages

Congratulations to:

Marcia and Leon Friedman on their grandson, Jacob Friedman, becoming a Bar Mitzvah

Ellen and Jeff Stross on the birth of their granddaughter, Carly Elizabeth Katzman

Karen and David Stutz on the birth of their granddaughter, Shira Nehama Marmor

Condolences to:

The Family of UC resident and friend, **Bill Ross**

Check your monthly calendars for the wonderful schedule of Spring Programs.

Please Share Your News with Us!

Contact Karen Stutz, Editor
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Trips and Travel

Jane Gelman, Chair

A guided tour of the internationally famed Stearns Collection of Musical Instruments, housed at the nearby School of Music, is planned for April 12. On April 14, we've scheduled a bus trip to the Frederik Meijer Gardens and Sculpture Park and



the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Museum in Grand Rapids.

We've made arrangements for another trip to the Purple Rose Theater on May 2 to see the world premiere production of *When the Lights Come On*.

University Commons Photo Corner

CALL FOR INTERESTED RESIDENT PHOTOGRAPHERS

Diane Kirkpatrick

We hope that you have been enjoying the displays of photographs by fellow residents on the west wall of the dining room (just to your right as you enter). Last year Brad Bates proposed to the Art Committee that this wall would be an ideal place to mount exhibits of selected photographs by a changing list of the talented photographers among our residents. While we were developing our procedures, we were able to inaugurate the exhibitions with two different displays of already framed-and-mounted black-and-white photographs, graciously loaned by Lou Graff, who had taken them in Europe some years ago. Many of you commented on enjoying those photographs.

Beginning last October, we initiated our new series with a display of four 8x10 color digital photographs taken by Brad Bates. These were up for three months, until mid-January, when they were replaced by the second exhibit: four 8x10 color digital photographs taken by Diane Kirkpatrick. In mid-April, our third exhibition will go up of four 8x10 digital photographs taken by Fred Lim.

We now wish to plan ahead to schedule exhibitions for the three-month slots following Fred Lim's collection.

Procedures:

- 1) If you are interested in sharing some of your images with the community, please contact Brad Bates (Unit 828, batesb@umich.edu), or Diane Kirkpatrick (Unit 305 dianek@umich.edu, before she leaves for London on May 2).
- 2) Brad designed the frames and mats to accommodate successive mixed quartets of vertical and horizontal 8 x 10 prints, which can be hung without replacing nails. At the right of the exhibition space, near the entrance door, is a smaller frame that displays the photographer's name and the titles of the photos.
- 3) For each exhibition, we need four 8 x 10 prints. Brad can provide the dimensions for printing images to fit the 8x10 mat openings, and also the dimensions for printing the exhibiting photographer's name and photo titles. If you are unable to print 8x10 images from your selected images, Brad has generously offered to print images for you.

We look forward to sharing the photo-vision of many of our neighbors in the coming years.

The Woods at the Future University Commons – 1998

Betty Graham, Nature Reporter



**All we had was a canopy and folding chairs and a construction road.
But the trees were waiting for us and the Nature Writer!**

Mini-Profile of UC Resident Bea McLogan

Frieda Morgenstern, *Special Features Editor*



Bea is a staunch Michigana, born in Ann Arbor, a product of the University of Michigan, an embodiment of what the Founding Fathers of University Commons envisioned -- close ties to the U-M.

Brought up in Ann Arbor, except for three years in China where her father, a U-M Professor of Civil Engineering, taught at Pei Yang University in Tientsin at the behest of U-M President Angell, she went through the Ann Arbor Schools and on to receive her degree at U-M in 1944. She met Ted, also an *alumnus*, and they were married in 1945.

Bea has a plethora of accomplishments under her belt. She was a WAVE in World War II. When she and Ted lived in Flint, she earned her teacher's certificate and her MA as a reading specialist, taught remedial reading in the Flint Public Schools, and was a member of the Junior League, the YWCA, the Urban League, and the Child Guidance Clinic. When they moved to Suttons Bay, she

volunteered at the Blood Bank and the Friends of the Suttons Bay Library.

Ted and Bea have seven children (one son, six daughters), twenty-one grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren (another due in July). They run the gamut of such occupations as airline pilot, land architect, nurse practitioner, a health educator at the University of Melbourne, and a Long Island correspondent for WCBS.

When asked what activities she takes part in at the Commons, she laughingly reminded me that she is so baby-oriented now that she has little time to do much volunteer work, although, she is co-chair of the Film Committee and attends Learning in Retirement Classes to stay abreast of things. In the community she belongs to a Book Club, the Ann Arbor Thrift Shop, and is active in St. Mary's Students' Chapel.

Her hobbies, as one might expect, are knitting, needlepoint, baby-quilting, writing e-mails to grandchildren, getting ready for the baby shower.

Fitness at the Commons

Joyce Crane, *Chair*

Who would have thought that exercising could be so much fun? Drop by the Fitness Center any Monday or Wednesday morning and you will see the "FUNctional Fitness for Older Adults" class in full swing - exercising actively and looking as though they are having fun at the same time. Diane Casey, a staff member of the UM Spine Program, leads the class in exercises to increase strength, endurance, balance and flexibility.

Also to note in the Fitness Center - the NuStep, a new piece of equipment designed to provide cardiovascular conditioning and simultaneous upper and lower body strengthening without putting undue stress on the hip, knee and shoulder joints. It is in heavy demand in fitness centers around Ann Arbor, and already a well-used, valued addition to our facility.

Photos Courtesy of Brad Bates



UC's FUNctional Fitness Class in Action



Margaret DeMuth on the NuStep