



UNIVERSITY WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
AT CHAPEL HILL

FOUNDED
1949

FEBRUARY 2023

President's Letter

Greetings,

Welcome everyone. I hope you have enjoyed our 2022-2023 activities so far this year. It has been wonderful to be open again after two years of COVID restrictions! Our activities are back on track and we continue to attract new members. We had a fantastic Holiday Reception at Extraordinary Ventures on December 3, and we have already booked the same venue for next year.

With spring around the corner, we have great programs lined up for you to enjoy. On March 16, we will have our annual meeting with the election of officers for next year. Following the business part of our meeting, Gail Norwood, author of "Escape from Grief Prison: Story of Love, Loss, and Healing," will talk about her experiences. Please be sure to mark your calendars and come to the Carolina Meadows Lecture Room at 10:30 a.m. on March 16.

On April 20, we will hold our Spring Luncheon at the Chapel Hill Country Club. This is always a fun event, and this year we are pleased that Rhonda Wilkerson, a retired UNC-Chapel Hill professor and North Carolina Museum of Art docent, will speak about her collection of 21st-century North Carolina art. We will enjoy excellent food, music, wine and camaraderie – all for \$30. An invitation and sign up will be sent about a month before the program, so be sure to check your email.

Please remember to tell your friends about our club. Our updated website (<https://uwc.web.unc.edu>) has information about upcoming events and details about joining UWC and renewing your membership. For people who join or renew now, the dues through May 31 are only \$17.50. Our new year begins June 1, and after more than 20 years without an increase in annual dues, we need to increase club dues to make sure we can cover the cost of our activities and our scholarship obligations. We are proud that providing scholarships for two area young women to attend UNC-Chapel Hill is one of the primary goals of our organization. Dues, payable June 1, 2023, will be \$50 for the 2023-2024 club year. Checks are payable to UWC and should be mailed to the University Woman's Club, PO Box 4561, Chapel Hill, NC 27515.

The Board and I look forward to seeing all of you at the March Program and the Spring Luncheon.

Sandra J. Pickering
President

FALL OUT OF THE BOX ACTIVITIES

Southern Supreme Fruitcake Factory In Our Own Backyard

As part of the 'In Our Own Backyard' offerings of the UWC, *ten* members and guests traveled to Bear Creek, NC in the southern part of Chatham County on Wednesday, November 16th. We learned about the history of the bakery and watched the employees as they created their handmade, delightful treats. We sampled food items and then shopped. The bakery offers fruitcake, candies, decorations, and more and has been featured in Southern Living and Our State Magazine.

We enjoyed a delightful meal at Carolina Brewery in Pittsboro on the way home. The fall leaves and the weather were beautiful!



HOLIDAY PARTY FUN AND FELLOWSHIP



Spring Luncheon and Program

Thursday April 20, 2023

Noon

Chapel Hill Country Club

Rhonda M. Wilkerson, Ph.D. will be our speaker. Dr. Wilkerson is a storyteller, educator, and collector. She was a Clinical Associate Professor in UNC's School of Education for more than 30 years, and also found time to be a North Carolina Museum of Art docent for many years. The title of her presentation will be "Rhonda's Top 10 from Her Collection of 21ST Century Artists".



IN OUR OWN BACKYARD-SPRING 2023

NC Symphony Concert

If there is enough interest, we're ready to head back to a "Friday Favorites" performance of the N.C. Symphony in Raleigh.

- When: Friday April 28 at noon
- Cost: Tickets are \$33 for a group of 10 or more (savings of \$6 per ticket)
- Performance: Saint-Saens Cello Concerto No. 1, performed by cellist Sterling Elliot, conducted by Grant Llewellyn
- Optional lunch in downtown Raleigh afterward.
- Tickets must be purchased in advance to take advantage of the group discount. If you are interested, and can commit to purchasing a ticket, let Patty Courtright know by March 15: pattycourtright@gmail.com. Patty will need your check for \$33 by the end of March. If fewer than 10 people can attend, the trip will be cancelled.

Activity/ Interest Groups Status:

Active by Zooming and online applications as well as in person:

Evening Book Discussion: Second Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Books are selected yearly. Cora Jean Edgell, edgellcj@med.unc.edu and Linda Convissor, Linda_Convissor@unc.edu

Recipe Collection: Many of you have said you are cooking more and like so many, you've also said you're searching for simple, easy recipes with fewer ingredients. To help all of us, we will be publishing a COVID-19 easy recipe. If you have a great simple recipe with readily available ingredients, send them to Sandra Pickering at sjpickering52@gmail.com for possible publication. Please include credit for any source, whether your great aunt or a particular newspaper, book or an on-line site.

Gourmet Dining: The group decided not to meet in person until the dangers of Covid and its variants are over. Genie Jansen, 919-929-5860, geniej@bellsouth.net

German Conversation: Group meets on second Fridays at 2:00 p.m. (note the change of day!). Contact Lilian Pruett, 919-942-4322, lilianpruett@gmail.com. The resumption of in-person meetings, planned to begin in Jan. 2022, has been currently put on hold in response to new restrictions owing to the Omicron spread. Lilian will notify current members of the group when meetings can resume. Stay active and healthy!

First Tuesday Lunch Group: Meets at 12:00 Noon. The hostess suggests a theme and each member brings a dish of her choosing. Currently not meeting. Carol Ziemiecki 919-967-9117, ca-z0414@gmail.com

NC Museum of Art. The NC Museum of Art has opened to the public with timed tickets and social distancing. There are no Docent-led tours at this time. We are trying to work out virtual tours and group tours for our UWC group, most likely with our past Docent, Rhonda Wilkerson. The visits will possibly be followed by lunch. To be sent the zoom link for virtual tours, please send your email to Jennifer Trapani at jtrapani@redwoodsgroup.com or Sandra J. Pickering at sjpickering52@gmail.com.

Book Discussion: Second Mondays from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Donna Wightman, 919-929-5222, donna.s.wightman@gmail.com or Penny Aldrich- 919-929-2631, pennyaldrich@gmail.com

Mahjongg: Meets every Tuesday from 1:15 to 3:00 p.m. in the Carolina Meadows Game Room. For both beginners and experienced players. Judy Tilson, 207-233-9120, judytilson1@gmail.com,

Wine Tasting: Group meets six to seven times a year on Friday or Saturday evenings and will resume events when it is deemed safe to do so. Couples and singles welcome. Contact Linda Naylor, 919-493-3702, Lnaylor@email.unc.edu

Social Bridge.

Social Bridge In Person

Second and fourth Thursdays 1:00-4:00

All players serve as hostesses on a rotating basis. Light refreshments are served. The hostess invites all of the members and fills in with subs as needed.

Social Bridge Online, using Bridge Base

Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons 2:00-4:00

Players are invited to play each week and can choose to play in one or both games.

Contact Mary Hoffman

maryh hoffman@gmail.com 919-636-2133

Auckland Museum Tours. TBA

From the Board: 2023-24 Dues Increase

The University Woman's Club last raised its dues some 20 years ago despite now funding two scholarships for young women from Orange, Durham or Chatham counties for their entire four years at UNC-Chapel Hill, in addition to the club's operating costs. The scholarship recipients are chosen by the University's Office of Scholarships and Student Aid based on the students' academic achievement and potential and financial need.

Our two scholarships account for our largest item in our budget, for a total of \$3,000 annually.

Since 2000, prices overall adjusted for inflation have increased a total of 70 percent. Since 2010 alone, prices have increased a total of 34 percent. This past year, UWC was forced to operate at a deficit budget.

Some of this is due to the pandemic and its inflationary pressures. Also, as with many other organizations, our membership has not been moving recently in a positive direction. Our current membership stands at 145, down from 200 prior to the pandemic.

To date, we have cut our budget to the bare bones in terms of operating costs while at the same time continuing to offer our two scholarships as well as many benefits for our members, including our Fall Reception, our Holiday Party, our March program with a speaker, our Spring Luncheon with music and a speaker, and our many, highly popular interest groups from bridge to gourmet dinners.

We continue to draw on members' volunteer time and their talents to plan and carry out these many activities as another way to keep our operating costs as modest as possible.

We desire to continue to offer you our wonderful benefits and at the same time, fund our scholarships fully. As a result, the Board has discussed what to do about our budget for nearly a year now. To continue to fund our scholarships and operate in a prudent manner, the Board made the decision to raise club dues to \$50 a year.

We trust you will continue to support your University Woman's Club with all your heart. Please know that two young women of college age are grateful for all that you do!

Proposed UWC Budget 2023-2034 with \$50 dues based on 133 members

Clockwise from top

Blue- Scholarship- 39%

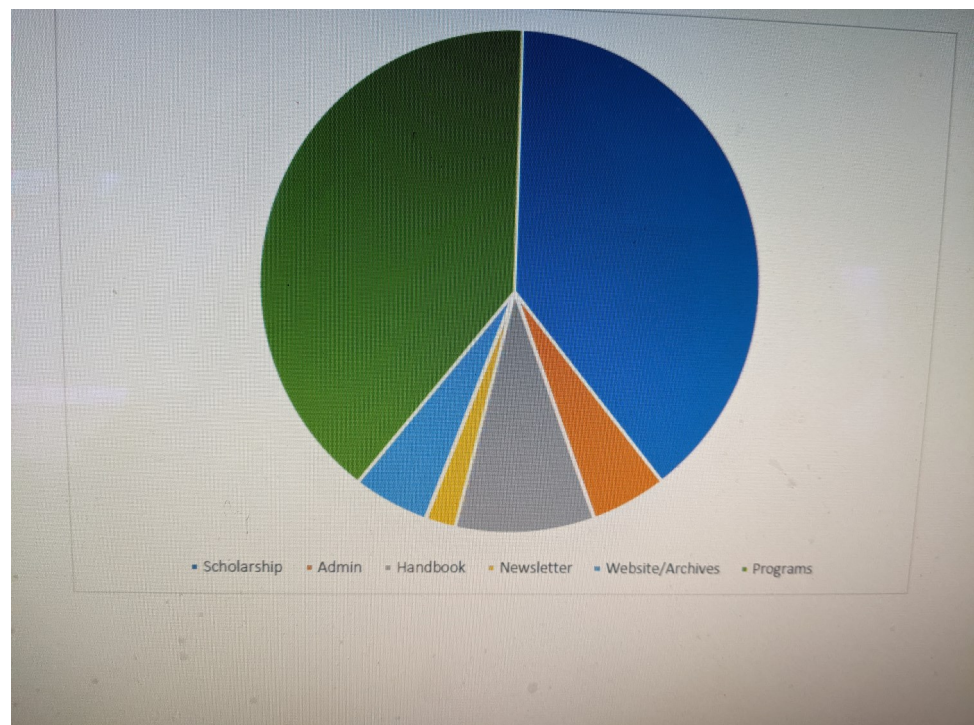
Orange- Administration
- 5.1%

Gray -Handbook- 9.4%

Yellow- Newsletter- 2%

Lighter Blue- Website/
Archives-5.1 %

Green- Programs- 9.5%



Recipe

Courtesy: Margaret Lospinuso

Chocolate Walnut Clusters

Ingredients:

2 cups coarsely chopped walnuts (pecans, or other favorite nuts)
1/4 cup soft butter
1/2 cup sugar
1 egg
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla
1.5 - 2 oz unsweetened chocolate (for more intense chocolate use 2 oz)
1/2 cup flour
1/4 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt

For an extra luxurious experience substitute 3.5 oz of chocolate from a bar of Ghirardelli 70% (or even 72%) chocolate for the 1.5oz squares of unsweetened chocolate and reduce the sugar to 1/3 cup. And since Ghirardelli chocolate bars are 4 oz, not 3.5 oz, that extra square is for the cook! Someone has to do quality control on the chocolate, right?

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Cream the butter and sugar, then beat in the egg and vanilla. Melt the chocolate and dribble into the sugar mixture stirring constantly (or cool the melted chocolate-just don't let the heat of the hot melted chocolate melt the butter and/or cook the egg). Stir in the dry ingredients and walnuts. The dough will be stiff.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto greased cookie sheets, or line your cookie sheets with baking parchment and then you won't have to grease anything or scrub cookie sheets after baking, and you can have the dough already dropped onto multiple sheets ready to slide onto your cookie sheets as each batch comes out of the oven. Bake for 10 minutes at 350. The cookies will still be soft. Use a timer and take them out at 10 minutes. The clusters don't spread much, so you can get a goodly number on each sheet. Cool the cookies on the sheet for a minute or two, then transfer to a rack to cool.

Makes about 40 cookies, depending on the size of your teaspoon.

