

# The Illinois Club

Volume 19, Number 4  
February 2009  
www.TheIllinoisClub.org

## The 2008-2009 Board

President	Susan Haney
1st VP Programs	Mary Jo Thomsen
2nd VPs Newcomers	Bryan Endres Jody Endres
Asst. 2nd VPs Newcomers	Andrew Leakey Lisa Ainsworth
3rd VP Interest Groups	Cathy Williams
Asst. 3rd VP Interest Groups	Jenny Kokini
Scholarship Asst. Scholarship	Stephanie Price Kathleen Nagle
Recording Secretary	Paula Watson
Corresponding Secretary	Vivian Larson
Treasurer Asst. Treasurer	Debbie Day Vacant
Budget	Nancy Diamond Marguerite Maguire
Newsletter Asst. Newsletter	Jody Endres Rachel Shekar
Membership Asst. Membership	Victoria Wittig Vacant
Meeting Manager	Dana Lamb
Publicity	Carrol Bunick Pat Thiessen
Archivist	Vivian Larson
Tours	Katie Andrews
Hospitality	Sandy Camargo
Webmaster	Birgit McCall
Past President	Ann Long

## Celebrating Over 100 Years at Illinois

### A letter from the President . . .

We've done it!

In the August newsletter, we set a goal of \$100,000 for our Make-A-Difference Endowment Fund. We now have over \$103,000! Among those who made this resounding success possible are Stan and Judy Ikenberry (our Holiday Party Hosts), the Antiques Group auction, and the late Ethel Williams' generous bequest.

In addition--and this is the most fantastical news of all--the Club has now received its first disbursement of \$240,000 from the Isabelle Purnell estate. More details of Isabelle's fascinating life can be found inside. Since Isabelle was a retired teacher, our new Purnell fund will generate \$12,000 of income annually for future teacher scholarship awards.

The addition of the Purnell income to our scholarship program brings our awards this spring to a record \$18,000! Our future-teacher winner from last year, Rachel Jones, graciously assisted the scholarship committee in generating teacher applicants.

All this has inspired Mike and me to begin a scholarship fund for future social workers this year. Judy Ikenberry, our generous giving mothers, and incredible previous award winners have influenced us greatly. It will take a few years for us to get there, but we wanted to start now since it has been such an inspirational and gratifying year. It's the cherry on top of the sundae.

More details of all things scholarship are inside, plus our much anticipated architectural boat cruise of Chicago. The date has been changed to get the best guides available, so it is now one week later on Saturday, May 2. Sign up quickly, as seats are limited and the tour always proves very popular! Mike and I will see you on the bus, as well as at the Scholarship Awards Brunch. We can't wait!

Other brewing developments include the possible introduction of the online payment system PayPal by this spring. Also, please review the draft Constitutional amendment inside, which will be up for a vote at the Awards Brunch. Because the Board was unable to find someone willing to be President next year, I have volunteered to serve again. Board term limits contained in the Constitution, however, prohibit me from doing so. Mary Jo Thomsen has agreed to join us as 1st VP, and therefore will be in line for the 2010-2011 Presidency.

As always, my e-mail boxes and phone lines are open, so drop me a line or give me a jingle. And thanks! I'm truly enjoying this year!

Sincerely, Susan



# Scholarship Awards Brunch

## The Illinois Club Board 2009 – 2010

### Elected Positions

President .....	Susan Haney
First Vice President, Programs .....	Mary Jo Thomsen
Second Vice President, Newcomers' .....	Bryan Endres & ..... Jody Endres
Assistant Second Vice President .....	
Third Vice President, Interest Groups .....	Cathy Williams
Assistant Third Vice President .....	Jenny Kokini
Recording Secretary .....	Paula Watson
Corresponding Secretary .....	Vivian Larson
Treasurer .....	Debbie Day
Assistant Treasurer.....	Birgit McCall
Budget .....	Sally Spaulding
Meeting Manager.....	Jane Myers
Membership/Directory Chair .....	Christina Myers
Assistant Membership Chair .....	Carol DeVoss
Newsletter Chair .....	Jody Endres
Assistant Newsletter Chair .....	Lilian Barria
Publicity Co-Chair (General) .....	
Publicity Co-Chair (Interest Groups) .....	Pat Thiessen
Scholarship Chair .....	Sandi Thomas
Assistant Scholarship Chair .....	
Past President .....	Ann Long

### Appointed Positions

Archivist.....	Vivian Larson
Hospitality .....	Sandy Camargo
Tours .....	
Webmaster .....	Birgit McCall
Scholarship Committee.....	Susan Haney ..... Pam Bates ..... Katy Andrews ..... Marcy Joncich ..... Christina Myers

At the Scholarship Awards Brunch we will not only be enjoying our award winners' talents and good food, we will also be voting on the New Board for next year, as well as a Constitutional amendment designed to make our Board easier to fill and more productive. Voting on constitutional amendments must be done at meetings and you must be there in person to vote. No absentee ballots, unfortunately!

We would like to change the wording in the Constitution to:

### Article IV, Section 2, Part C. TERM

No member may be nominated to serve more than five consecutive years on the Governing Board with the exception of the president who may have served four consecutive years prior to nomination as president. The president may serve no more than two consecutive terms in office. Vacancies occurring during a term in office shall be filled by Executive Committee appointments.

Please arrive at the Brunch by 10 a.m. to vote on the amendment, as well as listen to Glenn play, and see Jovanny's paintings, Craig's models, and everything else we have on tap!

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## Join The Illinois Club

If you would like to join our group, please visit our website, [www.TheIllinoisClub.org](http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org), to download a membership form. It's accessed in the sidebar under "JOIN US". Or you may call or email Susan Haney at 217-356-2464 or [susanhaney1@gmail.com](mailto:susanhaney1@gmail.com) with any questions you might have.

# Interest Group News

## The Elegant Auction

The Elegant Auction held by the **Antiques and Collectibles Group** at Jane Myers' home was very successful. With Clarie Skaperdas as the auctioneer, \$1,182 was raised for the Scholarship Fund. Claire was assisted by Gloria Rainer, Sheila Ott, and Jane Myers. Several members of The Illinois Club who had not previously attended the group were warmly welcomed to this festive event. Spirited bidding, good company, and great snacks led to a delightful time. Thanks to all who contributed items and/or bought something - even your unsuccessful bids contributed to the ultimate total!



Claire Skaperdas, Gloria Rainer, Sheila Ott and Jane Myers participate in the auction.

## Newcomers Chair to Establish New Member Recruitment Committee

In lieu of hosting a Spring series of events, **Newcomers** Co-Chairs Bryan and Jody Endres will be convening a Committee to study how to most effectively recruit new members. The Committee will examine membership trends and recommend a comprehensive plan, with particular focus on gaining and retaining new members 40 years of age and under. The Co-Chairs will present the Committee's findings and recommendations at the Spring joint board meeting.

Any current member is welcome to participate in the Committee. Our first meeting will be held Friday, March 6, 2008 at 6 p.m. at the Endres' house. We'll provide the food and drink—you provide the ideas and spirit that are critical to tackling this very important issue. If you are interested, email Jody Endres at [jody.endres@comcast.net](mailto:jody.endres@comcast.net) or phone at 217-344-7255.

## Eagle Watching

Members of the **Hiking Group** traveled to Starved Rock State Park in Northern Illinois to eagle watch on January 18<sup>th</sup>. They viewed over 50 eagles during their trip.



A few of the intrepid members of the Hiking Group who braved 20°F temperatures.



Photo courtesy of Ann and Roy Campbell

# A Fond Farewell to Ethel Williams

Ethel Williams, a long-time member, passed away December 10, 2008, leaving a bequest of \$2,000 to the Scholarship Fund. This is a fond remembrance of her by Amy Ricketts Brandon.



Ethel Williams with her grandson Brian Williams and his wife Paula

Ethel Williams was my neighbor in Urbana and long time best friend. It was a love of flowers and our gardens that first drew us together. We would meet every Monday morning for coffee to share our gardens and gardening experiences. Ethel loved flowers for their colors, for their shapes, for their perfumes, and for their variety. She loved them in her garden, in her friend's gardens, or in public places.

We traveled together, enjoying flowers in strange places. Our first trip was to East Africa to visit her son, Bruce who was stationed in the Peace Corps there. Bruce planned an automobile trip to show us the countries of Kenya and Tanzania – a safari of our own! We took a number of pictures of the area, its animals, and of course its flowers.

Since we had never been out of our country before, we planned to visit other countries on the way to and from Africa. We had stops in Paris, in Madrid, in Athens, and on the return trip, in Rome and in London, visiting gardens in all of them. It was all an adventure! We enjoyed showing our slides to several groups including, of course, the University of Illinois Women's Club. Even though I had finally left Urbana to return to my home state, Washington, we kept in touch, and even planned more trips to take together.

We had a wonderful two weeks in Hawaii – and yes, saw so many flowers there! We even returned to England and enjoyed their big London flower show and the Botanic Gardens among other things.

Ethel shared her love of flowers with others. She, herself was like a flower, reaching out to all, with her smiles and friendly words to everyone.

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## Holiday Party

Nearly 100 people came to the magical Holiday Party at the Ikenberrys' home. It was a beautiful day filled with wonderful food, great friends, and fabulous music. Stan and Judy warmly welcomed us into their home and made us all feel very special. Many hearts and hands went into this fantastic scholarship fundraiser, where we raised over \$1000 for our Make-A-Difference Scholarship Fund.

It was truly an international affair, with foods, decorations, accents, and attire that reflected our diverse heritages. Everyone that came went home glowing with the holiday spirit. Thank you to everyone who donated food, drinks, musical gifts, time, and money to this incredible evening. You made the event magical beyond words. And thank you most of all to Stan and Judy Ikenberry, who made it all possible.



Members shared homemade holiday food and enjoyed the festive atmosphere.

# Isabelle Purnell Donates \$240,000 to The Illinois Club Scholarship Fund

Isabelle Purnell, a long-time Illinois Club member and avid advocate of education causes, passed away on March 10, 2006 at the age of 93. The recent settlement of her estate, however, has revealed that Isabelle generously bequeathed more than \$240,000 to The Illinois Club Scholarship Fund.

Throughout her remarkable life, Isabelle was active in the Club's Antiques and Collectibles, Cosmopolitan, and Knit'n'Things Interest Groups. It is said by some that her house in Mahomet was like a museum, a treasure trove brimming with Fiesta Ware, Hummel figurines, and other collectibles gathered through extensive travels. Isabelle journeyed to all seven continents and over 100 countries, including trips to the Great Wall of China and the jungles of South America. She attended Columbia University, Illinois State University, and the University of Illinois, and worked for years as an educator. She brought her love of education on one of her most memorable adventures—to Chile—where she taught at the Iquique school. An avid photographer and historian, Isabelle authored the 441-page book titled "An Unofficial History of Mahomet, Illinois" and other works about the area, which have been invaluable to preserving Central Illinois' history.

One of the amazing facets of Isabelle's life recently was shared by her long-time caretaker, Lee—her love of physical fitness. Isabelle played nine holes of golf every morning. Even more astounding were her trips from Mahomet to Normal on the back of Lee's tandem bicycle to visit friends. They would rise at dawn and head for Normal, stopping half-way in Leroy to enjoy a second breakfast. When she arrived in Normal, she would shower, change into clothes she had packed for the journey, and go to church with friends. After lunch, she and her friends would play cards before heading the 46 miles back to Mahomet. Remarkably, she continued these rides into her seventies!

Now, through her prodigious gift to The Illinois Club Scholarship Fund, Isabelle's legacy will ensure that younger generations are inoculated with the same love of education, fitness, and adventure. Isabelle's gift is truly an inspiration for all of us to make a difference in the lives of others by supporting The Illinois Club, whether through time, monetary donation, or participation in the Club's many, varied activities.



Porama Saengcharoenrat, Vivian Larson, Jane Myers,  
Marie Tompkins, Isabelle Purnell

## Remembering Isabelle

I first became acquainted with Isabelle through participating in the United Methodist Church programs such as the Baby Fold in Bloomington, Cunningham Home in Urbana and the Wesley United Methodist Foundation on campus. She cared deeply about the welfare of our youth. With her carrot colored hair and vivaciousness, Isabelle became an active member of our Club upon her retirement. We all quickly learned that she would add spirit, spice and adventure to any event.

The Antiques and Collectibles Group was at the top of her interest as she never missed a meeting. The group met several times at her home in Mahomet to learn about her collections. She added much enthusiasm to any topic of discussion. We also learned about her pioneer family settling in Mahomet on a farm. She was very proud of her ancestors and wrote an account of the early history of her family in this area.

Isabelle was an avid golfer who played daily, weather permitting, at Lake of the Woods. You will note a large tract of woods in the park, Purnell Woods, given by her to Champaign County for all of us to enjoy.

One would always see Isabelle and her sister taking part in events at the Club's general meetings. She made many friends during her long career of teaching and with her interests in history, antiques, and education.

We were all enhanced by her enthusiasm for life and her kindness and are thus diminished by her loss.

- Jane Myers

# Murder at Frenchy's

Several actors from the CU Theater Company graced us with their talents and sense of fun as we got together at the Champaign Country Club for our third annual Murder Mystery Dinner. The setting this time was a 1920's speakeasy called Frenchy's. We enjoyed good food, the music of the Roaring 20's, flapper costumes, and a few shady characters, including that highly suspicious nun who was allegedly trying to change the water into wine, as well as those guys carrying "violin" and other cases.

And speaking of shady characters, did you see that very stiff guy who vaguely resembled our impeached governor? In case you missed him, he was over in the corner, next to the empty Senate seat. Oddly enough, he was helping us raise a little money for scholarships. Hmm... Highly suspicious!

The winners for the best costumes were Lorrie Pearson and Jeffrey Hickman, a couple of guests who really threw themselves into the spirit of the party. They received early Valentine's Day chocolates. Susan Haney was the lucky winner for guessing correctly who the murder was. She won theater tickets to a CUTC production later this year. Everyone had a "roaring" time in our speakeasy for the night, much of it at the ex-gov's expense.



Frenchy with our best-dressed winners, Lorrie Pearson and Jeffrey Hickman.

And just to show that we live in a small world, did you notice a few nights after our adventure in Frenchy's, that one of the actors was in WILL's documentary on

Lincoln? He was playing the part of a lawyer who worked with Lincoln. If you're having trouble remembering, just think about the bouncer who wanted to bounce the nun...

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## Subscribe to The Illinois Club E-mail List

If you would like to be on the e-mail list, please go to [listserv.illinois.edu/archives/tic.html](http://listserv.illinois.edu/archives/tic.html) and follow the instructions to join the list or email Ann Campbell with "Subscribe to TIC" (The Illinois Club) in the subject line.

Questions? Contact Ann Campbell at 352-1487 or [anncampbell51@gmail.com](mailto:anncampbell51@gmail.com)

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## Want to Help Organize a Children's Carnival?

The Newcomers Group would like to host an end-of-year event to celebrate warm weather and good friends. And, we're long over-due for a child-friendly event. We'd like to reserve space at a park some evening, order pizzas, and provide children's games and prizes. All we need now are a few creative individuals with any time to spare to help us organize it! This could be the "kick-off" event for a reinvigorated parent-child group, which many have expressed interest in. Email Jody Endres at [jody.endres@comcast.net](mailto:jody.endres@comcast.net) with your ideas, including potential dates/times, games, and what you'd like to be "in charge" of! We really need some volunteer help!

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- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 3.7.09  | <b>Scholarship Awards Brunch</b><br>ACES Library<br>10:00 AM -12:15 PM |
| 3.16.09 | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Paula Watson's Home<br>7 PM                    |
| 5.2.09  | <b>Spring Tour:</b><br>Chicago Architecture<br>7 AM                    |
| 5.7.09  | <b>Spring Luncheon</b><br>Champaign Country Club<br>11:30 - 1:30 PM    |
| 5.18.09 | <b>Board Meeting</b><br>Vivian Larson's Home<br>6:30 PM                |

# Chicago Spring Tour - Architectural boat cruise, Millenium Park, shopping, and Art Institute

**\*\* Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> \*\* NEW DATE \*\***

The tour is open to everyone, and husbands will be most welcome. The cost is \$72 per member, \$77 per guest.

Please note that we are limited to 53 people.

We'll start our day at 7 a.m. in the old Hobby Lobby/County Market parking lot at 2002 Glenn Park Dr., Champaign (off N. Mattis Ave.). Hot drinks, a continental breakfast, good friends, and anticipation will while away the hours until we reach Chicago, where we will enjoy a 90-minute architectural boat cruise of Chicago's rivers and lakefront with commentary by architectural experts. You may choose to be indoors or outdoors for the cruise.



Afterwards, we will make stops for shopping (including **Water Tower Place** with its stunning eight-level atrium featuring more than 100 of your favorite stores and restaurants plus distinctive specialty shops and boutiques), **Millenium Park** with its Bean, and the **Art Institute**. You choose what you want to do. Lunch will be on your own. We will pick up everyone at the end of this fabulous day, and return to Champaign around 7 p.m. with snacks, wine, and more good cheer to accompany us on the way home.



**For those who are interested in the Art Institute, in addition to the museum's permanent exhibits, there will be at least three special exhibits:** *Modern and Contemporary Works on Paper* encompasses rarely exhibited works on paper highlighting modern and contemporary drawings in all stages of a work of art, from highly finished works of art to notational and diagrammatic sheets. It includes works by wildly diverse artists such as Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Max Beckmann, Ernst Kirchner, Willem de Kooning, Lee Krasner, Jasper Johns, Roy Lichtenstein, Felix Gonzalez-Torres, Martin Kippenberger, Robert Mangold, Sylvia Plimack Mangold, Robert Ryman, Richard Tuttle, and Le Corbusier.

*Ink on Paper: Japanese Monochromatic Prints* focuses on the creativity of artists who are restrained in their use of color in Japanese woodblock prints of ukiyo-e, or pictures of the floating world. Works range from the 17th century up to the present day, including works by Utagawa Hiroshige.

*Multiples, Parts, and Pieces* focuses primarily on late 20th-century artists such as Marcel Broodthaers, Jenny Holzer, Dieter Roth, and Ed Ruscha. This exhibition provides a glimpse at how an artistic concept can be put to work in the form of books and serial publications.

## Reservation Form for Chicago Spring Tour

Members' Names \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Guest's Names \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed (\$72 per member, \$77 per guest) \_\_\_\_\_

**Make Checks Payable to:** The Illinois Club

**Reservation and Refund Deadline:** Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Mail to:** Katy Andrews 404 Dropseed Drive Savoy, Illinois 61874

mkchandrews@sbcglobal.net 217- 359-6863



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