

The Illinois Club

<http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org>

Holiday Reception

Dec. 13, 4 – 6 pm
U of I President's House

Newcomers' Inman Dinner & Winter Tales

Jan. 17, 7 – 9 pm

Buzard Organ Builders Tour & Destihl Dinner

Feb. 8, 3:30 – ??

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Celebrating Over 100 Years at Illinois

A Letter from the President...

We have started with an incredible fall. Thanks to Peri Ceperley, we had a great Fall Expo. Hope you saw old friends and made new ones. Everyone should be enjoying their Interest Groups. A weekly email is sent to remind you of interest group meetings and club events.



Julia Schmidt and Linda Lopez arranged a tour to McLean County in October. We visited the Wind Mill Farms, the David Davis Mansion, and the White Oak Vineyard. Despite the rain and cold, everyone had a great day.

As of now, we have 289 members including 18 newcomers.

Thursday December 13th from 4 pm to 6 pm Dr. and Mrs. Robert Easter will be hosting a Holiday Reception at the University of Illinois President's House.

A tour of the local organ manufacturing shop (near Virginia Theater) and dinner in downtown Champaign is planned in February.

Mark your calendar for March 2, 2013, for our Scholarship Awards Brunch at the Hawthorn Suites.

I am always interested in hearing your ideas and suggestions. I hope your holidays are merry.

Sincerely,

Alma G. Bellafiore

president@theillinoisclub.org

Please email your
Interest Group Schedules to
calendar@theillinoisclub.org
for inclusion on the website calendar.
Thank you!



You are invited to *The Illinois Club*
HOLIDAY RECEPTION



President and Mrs. Easter are graciously hosting our holiday reception
711 West Florida Ave., Urbana, IL
Thursday, December 13, 2012
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Members and Guests - \$10 & \$15

*Come join us for holiday fellowship with friends;
meet our University President, Bob Easter, and his wife, Cheryl;
admire their beautiful historic home;
sample delicious refreshments;
and enjoy the music of our 2012 Ikenberry Scholarship winner, Ben Montalbano.*

Reservation & Refund Deadline: December 5, 2012
Marcy Joncich, 705 W. Illinois St., Urbana, IL 61801

reservations@theillinoisclub.org

PayPal address: http://www.theillinoisclub.org/pay_pal/2012_Holiday_Reception.php

(Note: There is a \$1.00 PayPal per ticket service charge.)

Online form: www.theillinoisclub.org/documents/event_reg/2012_Holiday_Reception.pdf



Reservation Form for Holiday Reception

Name _____

Phone _____

Please print names for Name Tags

#Member Tickets _____ @ \$10 ea.

#Guest Tickets _____ @ \$15 ea.

Total \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **The Illinois Club**

Reservation and Refund Deadline: **December 5, 2012**

Mail to: Marcy Joncich 217-384-5544
705 W. Illinois St.
Urbana, IL 61801



McLean County Bus Tour 2012

Our TIC tour to Bloomington was a great success, even though the weather decided to turn chilly and rainy. We enjoyed hot coffee and donuts to help ward off the cold on our way to the Bloomington area for a very full day.

The first stop was the Twin Groves Wind Farm at Ellsworth. We walked on a sidewalk which is the exact height and width of a windmill. A representative of the company gave a one hour presentation on the operation of the windmill farm.



It was then off to the David Davis Mansion for a PowerPoint presentation to describe the layout and contents of Sarah's garden as well as the history of the house and its residents. We then entered the mansion for a complete tour and description of the rooms and décor.

Lunch was at CJ's at the old airport. We finished the day at the White Oak Vineyard with our hosts, Rudy and Mary Hoffman. They had a leisurely wine tasting and cheese tray supplied by The Ropp Jersey Cheese farm.

Julia Schmidt - Tour Director

February 2013 - Buzard Organ Builders Tour



Please join us on Friday, February 8 at 3:30 pm for a tour of the Buzard Pipe Organ Builders (112 W. Hill St. Champaign). We will meet there at 3:30, and there will be an organ under construction which we will get to view. If you ever wondered how some of the fabulous organs in our area are maintained, this is your chance to find out and ask all the questions you want. Their staff includes the founder and artistic designer, John-Paul Buzard, who is also the curator for organs at the University of Illinois; Charles Eames, chief engineer; Brian Davis, tonal director; Keith Williams, service department director; and numerous other skilled organ builders.

After working up an appetite, you have the option to take the short journey for drinks and/or dinner at Destihl, 301 N. Neil. If you park in the 'new' parking ramp behind the M2 building (at Randolph and Hill), you can walk to both Buzard Organ Builders and Destihl. We will not pre-order, since you can order off the menu and then pay your own bill. We plan to arrive at Destihl by 5:00 pm.

There is **no charge** for this tour, but **I do need reservations** in order to let Buzard and Destihl know how many to prepare for. Call Julia Schmidt (403-1110) or Linda Lopez (367-7200) to make your reservation. **Please let us know by Tuesday, February 5.**



Interest Groups

Korean Language Class meets 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month

You can learn a new language using both the right and left brain hemispheres and facilitating balanced mental functioning. If you are interested in learning how to speak Korean, this is a good way to learn.

Time: 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Location: Asian American Cultural Center (AACC) - 2nd floor Resource Room

1210 West Nevada Street, Urbana, IL 61801

Parking is free after 5 pm.

First class starts September 19th, 2012

Due to the small number of people signed up for this class, we may not meet regularly. Please RSVP to Christina Myers at korean@theillinoisclub.org or call 217-298-0511.

Krannert Club meets 3rd Thursday of each month

Come and enjoy the music or gigs, get a glass of wine or tea, chat with friends and unwind. This group will meet once a month during the wine tasting at Krannert Uncorked. Sometimes we will go as a group to see the Krannert performances or to other entertainment events in the community. Krannert parking is free after 5 pm.

Time: 5 pm - 6:30 pm

Location: Stage 5 (Uncorked), Krannert Center

The Krannert Uncorked program has been growing into a very busy event, but it's still a relaxing and fun place. Please RSVP to Christina or Pat so we can get some tables and chairs ready for our group.

RSVP: krannertclub@theillinoisclub.org Christina Myers at 217-298-0511 or Pat Thiessen at 217-367-2877

Supper Club meets 3rd Saturday of each month

An Italian themed dinner at Don and Lisle Casper's home started the Supper Club season. The table was set, guests arrived; members brought foods to complement lasagna and wine; and conversation on a variety of topics made for a relaxed, lively evening. Cowboy Roundup was the theme for the October dinner evening. Homemade beef jerky and smoked cheese appetizers greeted guests. "Cowboys for a day" brought mouthwatering good campfire foods. Reminiscences about days in Texas and travels in general made for lively dinner conversation.

Supper Club meets each month. The theme for the November 17th dinner will be "California Chili Supper." In September, December, February, and May the entire group will meet together. September and December meetings will be held in a member's home while February and May meetings will be in a restaurant. Dinners are held during the other months in rotation among member homes.

For information phone Shirley Splittstoesser 217-367-3330.



An Italian themed dinner at Don and Lisle Casper's home

Report of The Illinois Club Ad Hoc Membership Committee

During the 2011-12 Club year an ad hoc committee was appointed to study membership issues. The Committee consisted of Sandy Camargo and Sharon Michalove, Membership; Stephanie Price and Mary Hosier, Newcomers; Elisa Mustari, Publicity; and was chaired by Kathy Marshak, Past President.

The committee met throughout the year, building up to the presentation of three versions of an online member survey in May 2012. Participation in the effort was excellent, and we appreciate the time members put into their responses. The committee will continue to review survey responses.

At the Board meeting in August 2012, the committee was renewed for a second year, 2012-13. The survey continues to be available for those who have not yet participated. Here is how to locate the three versions of the survey:

Newcomer

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/QQ7MLLT>

Current Member

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/DC3TCNH>

Former Member

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Q2DSD3X>

All three groups of respondents emphasized the value of social interactions at the greater Club level as well as at the smaller interest group level. Most respondents appreciated the Club and were encouraging regarding future membership growth and retention, with social connections as the group's strongest goal.

Ironically, one reason that membership numbers seem to be going down appears to be that the critical mass of membership seems to be lower, which might make the Club seem less desirable. Diversity in ages of members is less than ideal with significant numbers of members in older demographic groups, so younger members sometimes feel less welcome than they have in previous years. Newcomers who completed the survey were all in younger age ranges. Many members or prospective members have extensive demands on their time, so they need to feel that belonging to the Club is worthwhile.

The lapsed member survey included a drawing for one participant to receive a year of membership, and the success of that incentive indicates that many past members are interested in returning to the Club if circumstances fit their needs.

The Committee recommended that it continue for a second year (approved). The Board will rule on other recommendations including the most important suggestion – that the board provide each new member with a mentor. Many participants in the survey felt that pairing new and established members could encourage members to feel welcome and to remain in the Club. The Committee believes that stronger recruiting will be beneficial, including one-on-one invitations and continuing conversations within the University and general communities by all members of the Club.



Board members at the U of I All Employee Expo

Next Board Meeting
January 28, 2013
at 7 pm
Alma Bellafiore's Home

Fall Expo - 2012

Nearly 90 TIC members, friends, and prospective members came to the Hilton Garden Inn Monday, September 10, to greet old and new friends, sign up for interest groups for 2012-13, and to sample some delicious snacks. In addition to signing up for some of the 19 interest groups represented, members could:

- sign up for the Fall Tour
- learn about the Newcomer activities
- see the Big 10 Conference Committee progress
- buy prints and cards by Judy Ikenberry to support our scholarship program.



Registration

New this year were representatives from the C-U schools mentoring program and from OLLI, available to answer questions and share information about these two very worthwhile programs in our community. Thanks to all who participated and to all who came for their contributions to make the 2012 Expo a very enjoyable kickoff for our new year. Didn't make it to the Expo? Find contacts and group information on our interest groups webpage.



Information about Interest Groups



Refreshments

Newcomers' Group 2013

Stephanie Price, Newcomers Chair
217-356-5036

Mary Hosier, Asst. Newcomers Chair
newcomers@theillinoisclub.org

217-621-1074

January 17 at 7 pm Dinner at the new Inman Place & More Winter Tales 17 E. University Ave., C. **Chef Rick**, the new Inman Place chef, will make a personal appearance and share some recipes. We'll see the newly redesigned dining and welcome center, enjoy a fabulous gourmet dinner and get the "inside scoop" on its details from the chef. Afterwards we will sit by the fireplace and be enthralled by a master storyteller weaving tales of winter. A tour of the facility with its beautiful new décor will be offered also. Nominal cost of this fantastic event is \$15. RSVP by emailing newcomers@theillinoisclub.org. **Deadline is January 10th**. Send checks (made out to The Illinois Club) to: Stephanie Price, 4303 Curtis Meadow Dr., Champaign IL 61822.

March 13 at 5:30 pm Tour of the U of I Plant Conservatory

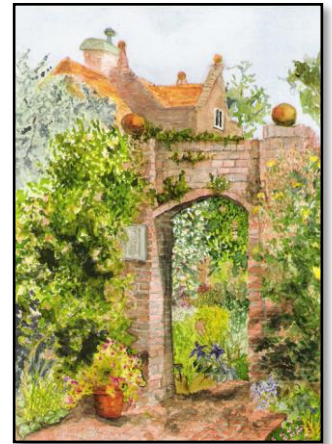
Enjoy a fabulous personal tour with curator, Debbie Black, to see and enjoy the *very rare* Blue Poppies (the only place you can see them after the U of I ACES Open House the weekend before). We will also see rooms of orchids, desert and carnivorous plants, and the lush, tropical 3-story greenhouse. After the one hour tour, we will skip over to nearby Bevier Hall for a 6:30 dinner at the Spice Box. Dinners fill up quickly so we will want an idea of how many will attend as soon as possible. Please notify by emailing newcomers@theillinoisclub.org.

New! Smaller Judy Ikenberry Prints Available Now...



Bellagio

Judy Ikenberry has been hard at work finishing some new paintings, and are they gorgeous! *Bellagio* is an Italian street scene bursting with color, and *English Garden 2* is a serene English garden view. We are able to offer both of these now as signed giclée prints. *Bellagio* is 25.5” x 18.75” and is priced at \$125. *English Garden 2* is 10” x 15” and priced at \$75.



English Garden 2

In addition, virtually all of Judy’s prints are now available in smaller sizes, and most can be purchased as note cards. Each

signed print can easily fit into a standard 16” x 20” frame with two inches of matting around all sides. Sizes of prints are either 10.25” x 15” or 11” x 14.25”. You can buy them at International Galleries or contact Susan Haney at 217-356-2464 or sales@theillinoisclub.org. For other print availability see our website page <http://www.theillinoisclub.org/sales.php>. These gorgeous prints (and note cards) make great gifts! All profits go to our scholarship funds.

Big Ten Conference

Thank you to all who signed up at the Fall Expo to help with our “Cultivating Winning Strategies” Conference this coming June! We really appreciate it. As the conference nears, we will be reaching out to you even more. Right now the Big Ten Committee is organizing the finer details of the schedule and thinking about tours of campus, the Krannert Art Museum, Spurlock Museum, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Japan House, Blue Waters and others. Do you have any ideas for a great mini tour? Please let us know!



Next we will be focusing on the breakout sessions where conference attendees will hear a short presentation on a topic, then we will open the floor up to questions and feedback from others. Do you have any suggestions for what might be an area of interest for clubs like our own? It could be an area where we excel, or maybe an area where we could brainstorm solutions to common problems we might have. If you have any suggestions for tours and breakout sessions (or anything else for that matter), please send them to bigten@theillinoisclub.org. Thank you!

The Illinois Club Events for 2012 – 2013

Holiday Reception	Thurs., Dec. 13; 4 – 6 PM	UI President’s Home, U. (p. 2)
Newcomers’ Inman Dinner & Tales	Thurs., Jan. 17, 2013; 7 – 9 PM	Champaign, Illinois (p. 6)
Buzard Pipe Organ Builders Tour & Destihl	Fri., Feb. 8, 2013; 3:30 – 5 PM 5 PM	Champaign, Illinois (p. 3)
Scholarship Awards Brunch	Sat., Mar. 2, 2013; 10 AM – 12:30 PM	Hawthorn Suites, White Oaks I, C.
Newcomers’ UI Conservatory & Spice Box	Wed., Mar. 13, 2013; 5:30 PM 6:30 PM	Urbana, Illinois (p. 6)
Spring Luncheon	Thurs., May 2, 2013; 11:30 AM – 1:30 PM	Urbana Country Club, Urbana
Big Ten Conference @ Illinois	Friday – Sunday, June 7 – 9, 2013	I Hotel, Champaign (p. 7)

The Illinois Club
P. O. Box 2782
Champaign, IL 61825

<http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org>

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The Illinois Club Board 2012 – 2013

Elected Positions

President Alma Bellafiore
Vice President Peri Ceperley
Newcomers Chair Stephanie Price
Assistant Newcomers Chair Mary Hosier
Interest Groups Chair Pat Thiessen
Assistant Interest Groups Chair Christina Myers
Recording Secretary Jane Heaton
Corresponding Secretary Roma Chenoweth
Treasurer Mary Jo Thomsen
Assistant Treasurer Open
Budget Chair Patricia Simpson
Meeting Manager Open
Membership Chair/Directory Sandy Camargo
Assistant Membership Chair Libby Johnston
Newsletter Chairs Bob & Pat Davis
Publicity Chair Elisa Mustari
Club Communications Chair Ann Campbell
Scholarship Chair Patricia Simpson
Assistant Scholarship Chair Open

Sustaining Member

Past President Sheila Krein

Appointed Positions

Historians Vivian Larson & Dorothea Smith
Reservations Manager Marcy Joncich
Tour Director Julia Schmidt
Webmaster Birgit McCall & Mike Haney

**November Newsletter
Submissions Deadline
January 7, 2013**

