Greetings from UWC President  
Dava Shoffner

Dear UWC Members,

Welcome to a new and different year with the University Women’s Club. Our Board is meeting regularly and making plans (always tentative now) for the upcoming year.

As you will see in this newsletter, we will have our first regular meeting via Zoom on September 11 at noon. Ambassador Margaret Scobey, originally scheduled for the spring meeting, graciously agreed to give her presentation digitally.

Plans for an October event in UT Gardens are proceeding and more information on that will follow. The weather should be beautiful then, and we can distance ourselves in the open air.

I want to comment on the responses to my letter asking each of you to answer a question or two. The responses were somewhat limited, but a lot of you reported that you give annually to the scholarship fund. That is probably the most worthwhile thing we do as a group, and our recipients have written such wonderful letters thanking us. The members of the board are discussing ideas of other community related needs we might want to include in the future club endeavors. (“Community” could be the UTK community, our county, or our state.) There are needs that most of us have not even been aware of, like the food pantry for UTK students in need.

Although only about 16 of you responded that you would probably participate in Zoom meetings with speakers, we decided that was enough to go ahead and schedule this first one. Our Hospitality Chair, Jennifer Benton, will be setting this up on the UTK system. (We owe her a real debt of gratitude as this is way outside of her “job description”!) Peggy Pierce, as the Program Chair, will introduce Ambassador Scobey and manage questions after her presentation.

Please register and join us. You can join a Zoom meeting via your computer (we can’t see you unless you have a camera in the laptop or attached to it), or your phone. The Board had to learn the process, and we had a lot of laughs over dropped audio and video! It is a growth experience but once you do it, you will find it easy (or at least easier!)

I promise that we will give instructions before the session and even while you are joining us, and we will all laugh together as friends. You might even sit with another member (masked, of course) who does feel comfortable with Zooming, and you both can hear Ambassador Scobey.

Stay well, Dava

Ambassador Margaret Scobey to Speak to UWC via Zoom, September 11, Noon

In the UWC’s first Zoom meeting, Ambassador Margaret Scobey will share her perspectives on the Middle East, drawing on her 32-year Foreign Service career in the region. After posts in Jerusalem, Kuwait, Pakistan and Peru, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Yemen and later in Saudi Arabia. She was appointed as the U.S. Ambassador to Syria in 2003. From 2006 to 2007 she was Political Counselor in Baghdad. Her last assignment in the Foreign Service was as Deputy Commandant of the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C.

For the Department of State, Ambassador Scobey also served as Staff Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of Near East and South Asian Affairs, Watch Officer in
the Operations Center, Political-Military Officer in the Office of Israel and Arab-Israeli Affairs, Deputy Director of the Secretariat Staff, and Director of the Office of Arabian Peninsula Affairs.

A native of Memphis, Ambassador Scobey holds a bachelor's and a master's in History from UTK. She has received several awards, including the Department of State award for Distinguished Service and a Presidential Award. Since retiring to East Tennessee, she serves on the boards of Bridge Refugee Services and the Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy.

Information on registering for this Zoom meeting has been emailed to UWC members. If you register for this meeting, you will receive a link from Jennifer Benton a few days before the meeting inviting you to join and explaining how.

2020-21 UWC Board Members*

President: Dava Shoffner 966-9202
dhshoffner@charter.net

Vice President (President-Elect): Sue Hamilton 387-5999 sucham@utk.edu

Secretary: Casey Fox 974-0055 (W); 207-5024 (C) casey@utk.edu

Treasurer: Natalie Smith 979-739-5457
natalesmith64@hotmail.com

Past President: Regina Dean 250-2585 (C) 974-1547
(W) regdean@utk.edu

Programs: Peggy Pierce 577-8480 (H) 405-7738 (C)
pierce@utk.edu

Newsletter: Lisa Carroll 776-6944 lcarroll@icx.net

Yearbook/Media: Megan Venable 591-5912
mvenable@tennessee.edu

Membership: Donna Eason 607-6179
easongirl1961@gmail.com

Interest Groups: Nancy Howell 661-0091
nhowell@utk.edu

Historian/Publicity: Audrey Duncan 588-8371
audreyduncan@comcast.net

Hospitality: Jennifer Benton 423-408-4070
jbento11@utk.edu; Co-Chair (table decorations):
Kathy Lasater 966-5009 drkathyl@aol.com

Holiday Reception: Stacey-Ann Palado 974-2143
spalado@utk.edu

Spring Luncheon: Debbie Woodiel 603-0407
woodield@utk.edu

*All phone numbers are in area code 865 unless otherwise indicated.

Future UWC Meetings

Suffrage Rose Bush Dedication: October 9, 11:30 am. More information will be emailed soon. Given the uncertainties of the pandemic, the UWC plans to continue with outdoor or online activities for the next few months. As soon as conditions make it safe, we will return to our in-person meetings.

UWC Treasurer’s Report for FY 2019-2020

7/09/2019 – 6/30/2020*

Balance on Hand, 7/09/2019 $1,250.56

Income:
Dues 1,328.00
Food 2,265.00
Scholarship (UWC) 447.00
Gifts/Misc. 28.00
Total Income: 4,068.00

Total Funds: $5,318.56

Expenses:
Printing 393.13
Postage 305.50
Office Supplies (paper, checks) 200.04
Food 2,371.09
PO Box Rental 134.00
Scholarships to UT** 647.00
Memorials to UT Libraries 75.00
Honoraria to UT Libraries 250.00
Total Expenses: 4,375.76

Balance on Hand, 6/30/2020  $942.80

Scholarship Fund Balance 7/09/2019 $1,665.00

Through UWC** 647.00
Checks sent to UT through treasurer 1,480.00
Additional contributions directly to UT (includes $950 from Big Orange Give) 1,797.51

Scholarship Fund Total, 6/30/2020 $5,589.51

Two scholarships to be awarded 3,000.00
($1,500 each)

Balance for 2020-2021 $2,589.51

Certificate of Deposit, 6/30/2020: $4,565.81

*Books were closed out on 7/09/19 for FY 2018-2019.

**Includes $200 in honor of 2018-19 UWC President Sharon Smith and 2019-20 UWC President Regina Dean.
Tennessee’s Role in the 19th Amendment

by Nancy Howell, UWC Interest Group Chair

An important Constitutional milestone occurred as the result of a vote 100 years ago in the Tennessee General Assembly. Most University Women’s Club members are probably aware that Tennessee was the final state to approve the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, during a summer of high drama.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of women receiving the right to vote in the United States, the UWC, in collaboration with Dr. Sue Hamilton and UT Gardens, will plant a yellow rose bush at UT Gardens with a plaque that notes the local connection to the historic vote. The yellow rose was a symbol of supporters of the amendment. The UWC dedication of the rose bush and plaque is tentatively planned for early October, with details to be provided soon.

The 96-member Tennessee House was divided on the amendment when the vote came to the floor August 18, 1920. The Senate had already voted for the amendment, but without a majority of yes votes in the House, the amendment would fail not only in the state, but nationally. Thirty-six states were needed to pass the amendment; Tennessee would be the 36th.

Legislators, including Harry Burn from McMinn County, cast their critical votes on that hot August day. Burn, a 24-year-old freshman representative, carried a letter in his pocket from his mother, Febb Ensminger Burn, urging him to vote yes for the amendment. The letter was postmarked August 17, the day before the fateful vote. In the letter, Harry’s mother was critical of some of the racist and “bitter” language of some legislators who were against the amendment’s passage.

“I hope you see enough of politicians to know it is not one of the greatest things to be one. What say ye???” Mrs. Burn wrote her son. “Don’t forget to be a good boy and help Mrs. ‘Thomas Catt’ with her ‘rats.’ Is she the one that put rat in ratification? Ha! No more from Mama this time.”(1) Febb Burn was referring to the efforts of the suffragist, including Carrie Chapman Catt, president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association, who spent much of the summer in Nashville working to pass the amendment. (2)

Harry voted yes, along with three Knox County House members. (3) Although passage of the amendment was monumental, Black women still faced barriers to voting rights. The racial struggles within the movement were significant during the 1920 summer of 1920, with two prominent African-American women, Juno Frankie Pierce of Nashville and Ida B. Wells-Barnett, both of Memphis, advocating for the vote for all women. Pierce’s image appears in the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Monument in Nashville.

Three Tennessee suffragists—Lizzie Crozier French of Knoxville, Anne Dallas Dudley of Nashville, and Elizabeth Avery Meriwether of Memphis—are depicted in the Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial, located at Market Square in downtown Knoxville.

On the first federal election day that included women voters, November 2, 1920, an estimated 10 million women voted, representing about one third of eligible female voters. (4) Although the percentage of eligible male voters outnumbered female voters in every presidential race prior to 1980, female voters have outnumbered male voters in every presidential election since (63% female, 59% male in 2016). (5)

We have not yet found direct information about involvement of past members of University Women’s Club (then Faculty Wives Club) in passage of the 19th Amendment although a 1916 letter from UT President Brown Ayres to Lizzie Crozier French is in French’s archived papers. Katie Anderson Ayres, wife of Brown Ayres, founded the UT Faculty Wives Club in 1912. The short letter concerned a response to a UT professor’s lecture, not the 19th Amendment. Still, we wonder what the women in the early club thought of the women’s suffrage movement and what discussions may have occurred during their gatherings.

1. Febb Burn letter to Harry Burn, Calvin M. McClung Historical Collection, Knox County Public Library
3. John Shearer, Knoxville News Sentinel, Aug. 16, 2020, p.14A
5. Center for American Woman and Politics, Rutgers University “Gender Differences in Voter Turnout), at CAWP.rutgers.edu, viewed 8/10/20

Local Points of Interest to Suffrage History:

Tennessee Woman Suffrage Memorial and Burn Memorial (both sculptures by Alan LeQuire), downtown Knoxville

Tennessee Bar Association Suffrage Events: https://www.tba.org/index.cfm?pg=19th-Amendment-Centennial

WallsforWomen: https://www.dma-events.com/our-projects

Marching to Victory Exhibit at the East Tennessee Historical Society: www.eastTNhistory.org
WUOT (91.9 FM): Knoxville’s Public Radio Station

By Audrey A. Duncan, UWC Historian

For the year 2019-2020 we had the pleasure of having Regina Dean as our President, and she introduced many successful ideas to ensure the continuation of the University Women’s Club. Regina is the Director/General Manager of WUOT public radio, a very important part of the public service mission of the University of Tennessee.

I decided to look into the history of our radio station and how it has added to the growth and development of the university. WUOT began a year-long 70th anniversary celebration in October 2019, with plans for an August 2020 gala at the Knoxville Museum of Art, featuring the presidents of the University of Tennessee and of National Public Radio (NPR). Although that event was cancelled due to the pandemic, WUOT is inviting listeners to “attend” virtual events that showcase local musicians and celebrities. In August WUOT also held an informative webinar for stakeholders in place of the annual open house.

On June 2, 1949, the University of Tennessee applied for a permit to build a noncommercial FM radio station in Knoxville. Obtaining approval, UT built studios on the ground floor of Ayres Hall, home of a former commercial station, which also enabled WUOT to buy its own equipment. The station officially signed on the air October 27, 1949. At first the station was on-air only five and a half hours a day. It offered informational programs, classical music, and reports of student activities, and was operated entirely by two students.

In 1969, WUOT’s studios moved from Ayres Hall to the new Communications Building in Circle Park, where the station had more room and newer equipment. As the years progressed, the radio station increased its power and installed a taller tower, increasing WUOT’s coverage area to parts of North Carolina and Blue Ridge Georgia. By 1971 the tower was relocated to Sharp’s Ridge; the power was boosted to the maximum of 100,000 watts, and stereo broadcasts began.

In 1971, WUOT became a charter member of NPR and carried the first broadcast of “All Things Considered.” The station began adding local news and public affairs programming in the mid-1990s and has won numerous local, regional & national awards. In 2017, the station partnered with an independent producer, Jess Mador, to create “TruckBeat,” a project in which the producer traveled throughout East Tennessee in a converted bakery truck and reported the impacts of the opioid epidemic on rural communities. “TruckBeat” won an international journalism award. Today WUOT also provides a digital signal, WUOT-2, which carries additional public radio talk program.

WUOT is still licensed and supported by the University of Tennessee. It continues to air a mix of news, classical music and jazz, along with programming from NPR, American Public Media, and Public Radio International. It primarily features classical music, but carries NPR news programs daily, as well as jazz music for 90 minutes every weeknight and all evening on Fridays and folk music Saturday evenings. WUOT has been a great addition to the University of Tennessee and the community.

Our March Meeting

Little knowing that it would be our last in-person gathering for many months, UWC members enjoyed a meeting with a Mardi Gras theme on March 13 at Church Street Methodist.

Our speaker, James Newburn, Interim Director of the UT Gardens, gave us an update on plans for the garden.
University Women’s Club (UWC)
Membership Form & Dues Remittal
July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

Please complete, cut out of newsletter (or copy this form) and remit along with your payment.

Name:____________________________________________________________________________
Address: __________________________________________________________________________
City: State: Zip:_____________________________________________________________________
Primary Phone: (       ) Email:

What is your connection to the University of Tennessee System? (Campus/Dept. or College):
_________________________________________________________________________________

What is your spouse or significant other’s connection? (Campus/Dept. or College):
_________________________________________________________________________________

Are you currently employed by the University of Tennessee System? If so, where and in what capacity?
_________________________________________________________________________________

Interest Groups
I am interested in one or more of the following interest groups affiliated with UWC. Please have the leader of the group(s) contact me. Please circle your choice(s):

- Book Review (Day)
- Book Review (Evening)
- Topic Luncheon Group
- UWC Singers
- Day Trippers
- Croquet Group

Annual Dues are $20 for all members.

Make check payable to UWC and mail to: PO Box 10438, Knoxville, TN 37939

Scholarship Fund
The University of Tennessee Women’s Club (UWC) was founded in 1912 by Katie Anderson Ayres, wife of University of Tennessee President Brown Ayres. More than 100 years later the mission of the organization continues: to foster community among University women and to support education. You can support the mission by making a gift to:

The University of Tennessee Foundation, Inc. (UTFI)

Designated for the UWC Dollars for Scholars Fund

In the amount of $15 $25 $50 $75 $100 $200 other:_______

In honor or memory of:______________________________________________________________

Please Mail Your Scholarship Gift to the UWC Address Listed Above
Future UWC Events

Suffrage Rose Dedication in the UT Gardens, October, exact date to be determined.

Future activities will be planned as circumstances permit, but we expect to continue meeting either outdoors or via Zoom for the next few months.

More March Meeting Photos

Sue Todd and Linda Francisco visit during Linda’s last UWC luncheon. She and husband Eddie are moving to Charleston, SC.

From left, Leigh Cheek, Donna Eason, Megan Venable, and Linda Maccabe at the March 13 meeting