

# A HISTORY OF WELCOMING WORLD VISITORS

## RED CARPET to HOSPITALITY FOR WORLD VISITORS to FRIENDS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### Red Carpet

The Red Carpet Section of the Faculty Women's Club was organized in 1959, when a group of members saw the need to meet, become acquainted with and extend hospitality to short-term visitors. The section's intent was to "extend social courtesies to the wives of Visiting Faculty members, women of the faculty, and distinguished campus guests, whether or not they became members of FWC." The goal was to make these people feel at home in Ann Arbor.

In the beginning, guests enjoyed informal coffees and teas in the homes of FWC members. Then the group started meeting for tours, teas, and lectures in the campus area. These meetings and outings were sponsored and financed by FWC.

Hostesses also assisted with lessons in English, cooking and how to operate certain household appliances. Some helped with babysitting and shopping, doing whatever was necessary to help the ladies adjust to their new surroundings.

In 1966, a recommendation was made to and approved by the FWC Board to convert the Red Carpet Club into a special section. However, by the end of the 1960's, hostesses began to outnumber the visitors, as fewer young visitors came to the campus. Most visitors, who remained, joined the local chapter of International Neighbors.

The Red Carpet Section formally disbanded in the early 1970's. When it was active, the many FWC members and campus visitors who participated, enjoyed themselves. The FWC members did a great service for the visitors and also for the Club and the University community.

Written by Betty Arnett, FWC Historian

## Hospitality for World Visitors

Hospitality for World Visitors was started in 1985 by Ernestina Parravano and Enid Galler who saw the need to help our foreign visitors adjust to the University and American life.

Hospitality for World Visitors provided a warm welcome for visiting faculty women and spouses from other countries. The program focused on a one to one relationship of the guest with an American member of the section. Hostesses introduced guests to American life in Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan.

Both Ernestina's and Enid's husbands were in the department of Engineering at the University. Ernestina and Enid both started as co-chairs of the Hospitality for World Visitors group. They also had a Secretary/Treasurer and a steering committee of 6-8 members who were in charge of 4-6 hostesses. Dues began at \$5.

In August and September, Ernestina would collect names and make contact with foreign visitors from the FWC membership chair and the UM department chairs' secretaries. Ernestina would then call each guest, welcome her and find out about her family.

In September, a luncheon for the hostesses would be held in a group member's home to distribute the names of guests and to discuss successful ways to set up relationships.

In October/November, two luncheons were held for hostesses and their guests in the homes of the steering committee. Hostesses were encouraged to meet with their guests on their own and to take them to FWC events like the Fall Reception, newcomer events and the Holiday Tea at the President's House. Another two luncheons were held in February/March for hostesses and their guest.

A Spring Tea Party was held each April with a theme that had 3-4 guests sharing their experiences from their own country. Beautiful invitations were drawn and printed by Nancy Bates each year.

## Spring Tea Themes from 1990:

- 1989 – Tea at President’s House at invitation of President and Mrs. Shapiro. 41 hostesses, 55 foreign guests Dues: \$8
- 1990 – BIRTHDAYS AROUND THE WORLD 45 hostesses
- 1991 – Tea at President Duderstadt’s home featuring Indian culture; 47 hostesses, 65 visiting faculty wives  
FESTIVAL OF HANDIWORK
- 1992 – WEDDINGS AROUND THE WORLD 48 hostesses
- 1993 – REMEMBRANCES OF GRANDPARENTS 35 hostesses
- 1994 – SCHOOLS AROUND THE WORLD 40 hostesses
- 1995 – FOODS OF WELCOME AROUND THE WORLD 40 hostesses
- 1996 – FESTIVALS AND HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD 39 hostesses
- 1997 – CHILDREN’S BOOKS AROUND THE WORLD 43 hostesses, 27 guests
- 1998 – KITCHEN MEMORIES AROUND THE WORLD 47 hostesses, 27 guests
- 1999 – FOODS AROUND THE WORLD – IT WOULDN’T BE A MEAL WITHOUT..... 44 hostesses
- 2000 – GAMES AROUND THE WORLD 45 hostesses
- 2002 – EXPERIENCES IN LEARNING ENGLISH AND UNDERSTANDING AMERICAN CULTURE
- 2003 – ROLE OF WOMEN COMPARED WITH ROLE OF MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER 37 hostesses Dues \$10
- 2004 – VOLUNTEERISM AROUND THE WORLD 40 hostesses
- 2005 – COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS 40 hostesses

2006 – WEDDINGS AROUND THE WORLD 40 hostesses  
2007 – MEMORIES OF OUR GRANDPARENTS 39 hostesses  
2008 – INFLUENCE OF TEACHERS 37 members  
2009 – IT'S A SMALL WORLD 37 hostesses  
2010 – UNEXPECTED IMPRESSIONS ON FIRST ARRIVAL IN A  
FOREIGN COUNTRY 32 hostesses  
2011 – TEA CUSTOMS AROUND THE WORLD  
NEW LEADERS: Jenny Carpenter & Karen Stern  
50 members and guests  
changed to: one Fall luncheon and Spring tea in April  
2012 – SPICES AROUND THE WORLD 40 hostesses  
2013 – TRADITIONAL FASHIONS AROUND THE WORLD  
NEW LEADERS: Margaret McClamroch and Ann Staiger

### Friends From Around the World

In the Fall of 2014, the new leaders of the group were Margaret McClamroch and Karen Stern. The group was still called Hospitality for World Visitors. We had been having difficulty finding foreign faculty/spouses to join our group mainly due to privacy issues (unable to obtain names from departments) and the decrease in foreign faculty coming to the university. We ended up with more hostesses than guests. And the guests we sponsored were here on a permanent basis, not visiting faculty. So, in order for our group to survive, we decided to change the focus of our group to having American and foreign members sharing their culture and traditions with one another. Everyone who belonged to our group had to be a member of FWC. We

petitioned FWC to have our name changed to Friends From Around the World. We had 36 hostesses that year. We realized that getting together more frequently would be beneficial to new visitors. So we changed our format to having an event every month so we could all get to know one another better. Our dues remained at \$10.

September: Picnic at Gallup Park Meeting Room

October: Apple Picking at Wasem's

November: Fall Luncheon at Jenny Carpenter's home

December: Cookie Exchange at Karen Stern's home

February: Summer in February at Donna Wicker's home

March: Matthaei Botanical Garden, Coffee at Moonwinks

April: Spring Tea – A VISIT TO VIETNAM – by Helen Pham

2015-2016 – We had 47 members

September: Kickoff Luncheon at Gallup Park Mtg. Room

October: Apple/Pumpkin Picking at Wasem's

November: Fall Luncheon at Indu Prasad's home

December: Cookie Exchange at Karen Stern's

February: Valentine Party at Rosemary Ice's home

March: St. Patrick's Day celebration at Conor O'Neils

April: Spring Tea – OVERVIEW OF THAILAND at Ora Aicher's home.

2016 – 2017 – 48 members; average attendance 20

September: Luncheon at Gallup Park

October: Dexter Cider Mill

November: Fall Luncheon at Indu Prasad's home

December: Cookie Exchange at Karen Stern's home

February: Valentine Coffee and Chat at Zingerman's  
March: Cleary's Irish Bar (St. Patrick's Day) and Jiffy Mix  
Plant Tour  
April: Spring Tea – IS CUBA CHANGING? by Professor  
Sylvia Pedraza at the home of Margaret McClamroch

Written by Karen Stern  
Co-chair, Friends from Around the World  
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