



## **FWC History The 1960s**

For the most part, the Faculty Women's Club ran like the proverbial well-oiled machine during the 1960s. In a mere hour and a half each month, the Board kept the club-wide events and necessary tasks going as well as hearing up to ten oral reports from individual sections. The club as a whole had five events per year during this time: the Fall Reception, the "Christmas" Coffee Hour, the Faculty Fun Night, the tea at the President's House, and the Spring Luncheon/Annual Meeting. The Fall Reception, President's House tea, and Spring Luncheon/Annual Meeting were similar to those of today.

However, the "Christmas" (yes, that was the term used) Coffee Hour was a joint affair with the University Men's Club members, who wore suits with boutonnieres, poured the tea and passed the servings of cake. It was held in the Union, and the usual entertainment was to sing Christmas carols around the Christmas tree, although one year they were entertained by a hand-bell choir from the First Presbyterian Church.

Husbands were invited to the Faculty Fun Nights. Generally speaking, there would be a skit, such as "Red Eyes in Ann Arbor" and "Dial M for Michigan," usually presented by one of the drama sections. In addition, there were refreshments and/or a buffet-style dinner, dancing, bridge and other games. One year, the theme was the Gay Nineties, with the host-hostess couples wearing period clothing and the band playing period music.

There was some effort made during the mid-1960s to make the club more welcoming to women Faculty members. Although our club has been the Faculty Women's (not Wives') Club from the beginning and allowed women Faculty members to join, it is also true that the term "Faculty Women" was used primarily to mean the wives of faculty members. Even in the 1960s, members still referred to each other as Mrs. (husband's name). There wasn't even a space on the membership card to indicate that the women herself had faculty status.

During this time, every section's chairman (as they were called at the time) was expected to attend every board meeting and then to relay the relevant information from the Board meeting back to her section members. In these pre-computer days, this was how the club members found out about Board deliberations, such as the proposed change in dues from \$2 to \$3, which passed after a 60-day comment period.



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Some of the 1960s era sections that we no longer have include:

- The Red Carpet, which entertained and befriended university guests' wives.
- Flower Arrangement and Design, which had lectures, such as on using flowering branches.
- Ice Skating, which had 100 members. From September through June, they skated at the U-M Ice Rink, which charged 75 cents per person.

But, most importantly, by 1969, HATS WERE NO LONGER REQUIRED AT THE PRESIDENT'S WIFE'S TEA.