State of the Club Address
President of the Board, Karen Whiteside

March 21, 2012

It has been my great pleasure to have had the honor of being your president for the past year. Little had I expected to find myself in this office when my husband and I joined the club in November, 2007. However, I think that we have both grown to love the club as much as you do. It is composed of wonderful people who enjoy having fun in pleasant surroundings. We are indeed lucky to have made so many friends.

As a club, we are very fortunate to have the availability of so many varied interest groups. No matter what one may be interested in doing, he or she can find it here. Everything from A to Y—that is, Antiques to Yoga. Whether you are looking for a group to shop with (Shop til You Drop) or a group to eat with (Dining Out, Lunchettes, and Gourmet Dining), you can find just the right, welcoming group.

Besides the interest groups, there are many other activities offered here in our club rooms or off site at several different locations. This year saw the return of the travel series thanks to the efforts of Ron Kovener. And who doesn’t like to travel. These travel talks gave us the opportunity to see many exciting sights without the packing and unpacking of distant traveling. And it was cheaper, too!!!

The University Women’s Club has had some wonderful luncheons as has the Luncheon Club. Both of these were through the efforts of Ruth DiSilvestro and Marilyn Brinley, respectively. Where can you go and have a wonderfully delicious complete meal and then be entertained by talented, well-prepared aspiring performers and/or enlightened by very articulate, well informed, interesting speakers! These events are definitely worth every penny of the price. And they are available to you right here in the club.

In addition to these luncheons, we have had other special events. The year began with a Yard Party to thank those who donated funds toward the purchase of a square of the beautiful new carpet that was installed in the Faculty Room, upstairs hallway, and stair way. Lu Cregar and Barb Aspy headed this event. It was a wonderful way to be thanked.

Since the Art Museum was closed for repairs, Jazz in July was not held last summer. To replace the pitch-in that we usually have here in the club for one of those evenings, we had a “Movie Night”. We took a trip back in time and down memory lane by having a southern style dinner and the movie “Gone with the Wind”. Of course, the food was delicious and the company was superb. And all brought to us by Sondra Woodhouse and Barb Aspy.
The annual Welcome Reception was well attended and everyone enjoyed meeting Dr. Singell, the new head of the College of Arts and Sciences, and his wife. The food was supplied by Meadowood. Of course, we know what a wonderful spread they do…from the delicious food to the marvelous presentation. Lu Cregar did a fantastic job of putting together another one of her over-the-top evening for us.

The highlight event of the year was the Madrigal Dinner, our Christmas event. Linda and Ed Heath worked miracles and, after pulling many rabbits out of their hats, reminded us of how delightful the old Madrigal evenings in Alumni Hall were. I had many people tell me personally what fun the evening was and how much they hoped we would do it again next December.

Other events held at the club were the New Year’s Eve party hosted by Kate and Bill Kroll, the Basketball Pot Luck hosted by Janie Harnett and the Super Bowl Party hosted by Bob Whiteside. These events were all well attended and provided all present with great evenings, many surprises, and, again, delicious food. Without the efforts and dedication of our members, these programs and other activities would not be possible. It does take work and imagination to come up with events and programs that are interesting, worthwhile, and fun.

Please remember that your club does need you if we are to continue to have such activities. Also, if you have ideas for events, please do pass them on to Barb Aspy or to any Board members. We are always looking for new and fresh ideas.

On the good news side, we have had about 70 new members join this past year. I would like to say a welcome to each and every one of them. As wonderful as it is that we gained new members, it is also sad to say that we have lost some members. Some of those may have moved from one category of membership to another but are still members in the club itself. Some have passed away and will be sorely missed by us all. Some have moved away and we wish those happiness and success along the way and hope that they will return for a visit. All in all, our membership has remained more or less stable this past year.

As I said earlier, we are a very lucky club here at Indiana University. We have absolutely beautiful rooms at our disposal. Besides this room and the Faculty Room, we also have a library, a pool room and a sitting room. We have two complete kitchens. We have a Club Manager who keeps things running smoothly. And yes, Barb does make it look easy. She is here every day to take care of all the necessary details that the rest of us take for granted. All of this cost money. And, here is the rub. When we look at the sources of our income we can list dues, annual sponsorships, and rentals. It is expensive to maintain what we have.

Rentals have now been low for the past several years. We are using reserve funds each month to maintain what we have. Although we are able to continue like this for some time to come, it is important that we plan for the future and not just hope that the number of rentals will increase. We cannot and should not wait. This is one of the challenges that our club faces in the days and months to come.
Again, I want to thank each one for his or her support during my term as president. You have all been wonderfully receptive to the programs and events we have had. You have made my job as president one that I will always fondly remember.

Thank you.

Karen Whiteside