

MICHIGAN DAMES UNIVERSITY WIVES

The first University Dames Club began at Harvard in 1896. As Harvard Dames moved on to other universities they started chapters at their new university. The club's purpose was to create a sense of community between the wives of students as well as offer social and intellectual activities, and an opportunity for service projects.

The Michigan Dames Chapter was a member of the National Association of University Dames and was formed in 1921 – the same year that the Faculty Women's Club was started by a small group of women in Mrs. Burton's parlor. The Dames were married women who were University students or wives of University students. (Annual Meeting April 14 1971)

Officers included: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

Standing Committees

Program

Publicity (printed a monthly newsletter called the Gazette)

Each interest group had a Faculty Women's Club sponsor and two co-chairs. The responsibility of the FWC sponsors was to offer suggestions for programs and meeting places, to attend interest group meetings from time to time, and perhaps to host a meeting in her home. The interest groups met once a month, and change from year to year depending on the interests of the members. Examples of interest sections included:

Book
Bridge
Charm & Home
Child Study
Choral
Cooking
Drama
Creative Arts

The interest groups planned and carried out service projects. These projects ranged from baking cookies for children in the foundling home and giving parties for underprivileged or hospitalized children and elderly patients, to stuffing envelopes for charity organizations.

Dames special events included: A Dance, Fashion Show, Christmas Teas, Christmas Parties for their children, Housewives Holiday and a Spring Banquet.

In later years the Michigan Dames name was changed to University Wives. There are no records as to when the club was disbanded, but it was probably in the early 1970s.

(Information from the Faculty Women's Club archives in the Bentley Historical Library.)