

**Women's Club of Madison
News and Notes
September/October 2020**



Happy Fall! I hope these little snippets of information help to keep all of you up to date on Club activities. I will also forward copies of the General Membership Meeting Minutes to all of you each month so that even if you are not able to attend a meeting, you still know the latest. All General Membership Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month. Unless otherwise noted, they are at 6:30 p.m. and are via Zoom. If you are new to Zoom meetings, the Guilford Public Library offers assistance. Check out their website for more details. Board meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. and are also via Zoom. I will forward the Zoom access information and agendas prior to both meetings. Board meetings are open to all members.



October Get Together – It's been a while since we have all met in person. Some members have expressed an interest in getting together, while still staying within Covid19 guidelines. Kathy DeBurra and Annie Edwards came up with a great, fun idea – a “brown bag” lunch. All members who are interested should plan to meet at the Surf Club at noon on October 13th for lunch, bocce tournament, and a contest (to be voted on by attendees) for the most creative lunch box/bag. A prize to be awarded! **This is not in lieu of our regular Zoom meeting that evening.** This is a let's get together, catch up, and have a fun afternoon! Remember to dress for the weather – it will be October at the Surf Club, so it may be a bit breezy. **There is no rain date.**



Food Pantry – Donations of peanut butter and jelly may be dropped off at either **Donna Dougherty's home or Phyllis Denton's home** on Tuesday. Both Donna and Phyllis volunteer at the Food Pantry on Wednesday and will bring your donation to the Food Pantry.



Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month – Donna Farrell has contacted the Chamber of Commerce. We have from October 20 to the end of October to place signs and bows around town. Donna has the signs and bows. **Dawn Tiscia** has volunteered to assist with this great project. Please contact either Dawn or me if you are available to help out. The First Selectwoman's Office will issue a proclamation on October 14th.



Walking Group – The Walking Group continues to walk every morning at 9:00 a.m. On Wednesday, they walk at Hammonasset State Park. The other days they meet at East Wharf. Please contact Barbara DeRosa for specifics.



December Meeting – Typically in December the club members go out for dinner. However, this year, due to Covid19, we are looking for other ways to get together as a group, while still maintaining social distancing. **If you have any ideas, please forward to Lynne Sarro, Vice President.**

Programs for the Upcoming Year – If you have any ideas for programs for the coming club year, please forward to Lynne Sarro. Jessica Holman will be our October speaker. She will present on domestic violence, how to support a survivor, and The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services. In addition, she has invited the members to attend the Sound of Hope and Candlelight Vigil on October 7th.



CTGFWC State Advocate for Children – Donna Farrell is putting together little bags with school items for children. Items include glue sticks, crayons, pencils, Elmer's glue, and safety scissors. Donna's letter to the club is included on our website. A copy of the letter also has been sent to each Club member.

GFWC New England Region Conference – Virtual Meeting – All of you should have received the call for the GFWCNER Conference. It is being held October 16-17, 2020. Information regarding access to the virtual meeting was also forwarded to you. If you did not receive it, please contact me and I will forward it. Also, there will be a raffle of some really great items. If you did not receive that information, please let me know. It looks like a great conference. Speakers include Marian Simmons-St. Clair, the 53rd GFWC International President and Debra Strahanoski, 53rd GFWC President Elect. Registration is \$35.00.



Babysitting Seminar – This is a major fundraising project. Kathy DeBurra has been in contact with the Beach and Rec Department and the program will be on-line. **Kathy will need lots of assistance with this – publicity, organization of speakers, class set-up, filming, etc. While she will be available for consultation, a committee is needed in order for this to be successful.** Otherwise, we will be extremely limited with regard to any funds available in the Spring for disbursement to community organizations.



Fundraising – If you have any ideas regarding fundraising projects that will be in line with the Covid19 guidelines, please forward to me. I will add you to the agenda for our October meeting. There are lots of ideas on line, many of which we could do within the Covid19 guidelines.

Throws Fundraiser – Pauline Hale reported at our recent Board Meeting that the North Branford Women's Club did a fundraiser, in which they sold throws, decorated with scenes of the town. Donna is checking out some options for our Club. More information to follow.



Website – Denise Rose is doing a great job with our website. She is including a newsletter section, for snippets from meetings regarding upcoming events, news from the State GFWC, information about the book clubs, etc. Check out the website at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com>. Thank you Denise!



Brown Grocery Bags – Many of us have asked what to do with the brown grocery bags we get from Stop and Shop and Roberts. Carol Musante, Conservation Co-Chair, has contacted the office of Madison's First Selectwoman. Brown bags should be picked up by trash services. You may purchase a pass to use the landfill, located in Guilford.



Small Business Saturday – The Chamber of Commerce Small Business Saturday is scheduled for November 28th. The Chamber has asked if the Club would be interested in running the Gingerbread House Display Contest. Donna will be getting more information to bring to the Club, prior to any final decision being made. **Santa Claus** is scheduled to arrive that day as well. Sue Hermonat and Carol Musante are looking into ways we might be able to help children get their letters to Santa in time for Christmas and help him get his responses to all the little ones. More information will be available soon. Should the Club decide to move forward with being involved in either of these activities, lots of help will be needed.



St. Jude Fund - As you know, Josephine Mokriski has been collecting money for St. Jude's. Due to Covid19, our last meeting was in March and that was the last opportunity we had to contribute. If you would like to contribute money for St. Jude's, either mail it to Josephine or drop it off at her home. Our 12 months are up with the September contributions. It is possible to continue this. Please give it some thought. I will add it to the October agenda for your consideration.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 7th - Sound of Hope and Candlelight Vigil

October 13th – Lunch and Bocci at the Surf Club – Noon

October 13th – General Membership Meeting – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

October 14th – Proclamation – Domestic Violence Awareness

October 19th – Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

October 16th and 17th – GFWC New England Region Virtual Conference

October 20th – Deck the town in bows for Domestic Violence Awareness and Breast Cancer Awareness

Looking forward to a fun filled, exciting, busy Club year! Enjoy the beautiful Fall weather. See you in October.

Pat Thal