



The Laurel News and Notes

Newsletter of The Women's Club of Madison Member of General Federation of Women's Club of Connecticut, Inc



Happy November! We started off the month with our first ever virtual New and Perspective Member Meet and Greet. It was great to see so many in attendance – with three new/perspective members joining for the event. Board members and committee chairpersons spoke briefly about their respective roles. I will be including a few with each edition of our mini-newsletter. If you are interested in finding out more about an office or committee, please feel free to contact me and I will provide you with the contact information.

Just a reminder - 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.

If you have any items for the agenda or would like to include committee information or information relevant to the Women's Club of Madison in this newsletter, please contact me.



Let's Get Together – If you have any ideas about ways that we can get together as a group, please let me know. Forward your ideas to me and I will send them out to the Club for discussion. Remember any in person get together must follow CDC and local guidelines.



Food Pantry – Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. Please drop off your donations at either Phyllis' or Donna's home. **Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!**



November Meeting – **Dee Mulqueen** has arranged for Elizabeth Gorenbergh of Homes for the Brave to be our speaker at the November Meeting. She has a positive story to share and a short video presentation. Hope to see you all at our November meeting. Dee received the list of items needed and it has been forwarded to the club. I will forward it again in case you did not receive it.

Also, on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Veterans' Day Service on the Green. All are welcome. Please consider attending and honoring our Veterans.

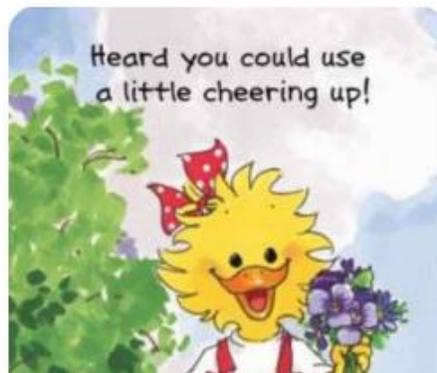


Website – **Denise Rose** is doing a great job with our website. She is including a newsletter section, for snippets from meetings regarding upcoming events, news from the State GFWC, information about the book clubs, etc. Check out the website at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com>. Thank you Denise!

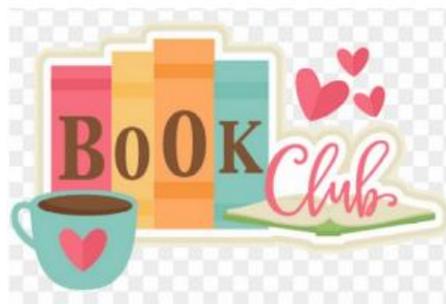


Brown Grocery Bags – **Carol Musante**, Conservation Co-Chair, has contacted the office of Madison’s First Selectwoman regarding what to do with the brown grocery bags we get from Stop and Shop and Roberts. Brown bags should be picked up by trash services. You also may purchase a pass to use the landfill, located in Guilford. Carol has some great speakers lined up for the Spring.

Thank you Carol for keeping us mindful of our environment and getting involved in our community’s conservation projects!



Pauline Hale is the Club **Corresponding Secretary**. One of Pauline’s responsibilities is being in charge of **cheer**, sending greeting cards and notes to members who are ill or may need a bit of cheering up. She also sends notes and cards for birthdays, anniversaries, and other special events in their lives or their families’ lives. If you know of a member who is ill, in need of a bit of cheer, or is celebrating a special event, please contact Pauline.



Our **Book Club** meets every other month and the next meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 18th, at 1:00 p.m.** **Josephine Mokriski** is hosting the meeting. This month’s book is **Ordinary Grace** written by William Kent Kruger. All are invited! I have emailed the complete list of books for the year.



December Meeting – This year due to Covid19, we are looking for ways to get together as a group to celebrate the holiday season, while still maintaining social distancing. **If you have any ideas, please forward to Lynne Sarro, Vice President.**

Santa Letters – Santa Letter Mailboxes will be placed at Robert’s and Stop and Shop on November 27th. Volunteers are needed to help get the letters to Santa and his elves. Please contact **Sue Hermonat** to volunteer. Sue will have sample letters, paper, and envelopes available and Santa’s helpers will be able to complete their tasks in time for Christmas from the comfort of their own homes. Thank you Sue for coordinating this.



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. Donna would like to have everything ready to go for December.



Small Business Saturday – The Chamber of Commerce Small Business Saturday is scheduled for November 28th. Remember to **Love Your Local** and plan to shop that day!



Fundraising – If you have any ideas regarding fundraising projects that will be in line with the Covid19 guidelines, please forward to me. There are lots of ideas on line, many of which we could do while staying safe and healthy.

Throws Fundraiser – **Pauline Hale** reported at a 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.

Christmas Trees – We had planned to decorate small Christmas Trees and sell them as a fundraiser this year. **Dee Mulqueen** and her committee were hard at work in March planning the trees and making decorations. Then Covid19 hit and plans needed to be reevaluated. Dee, in the meantime, completed one beautiful tree and is planning to reach out to her committee to brainstorm what to do next. If you have any ideas, please contact Dee.

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.



Shopping During Covid19 – Many of us are hesitant to head out to do errands during the pandemic. Several of our local merchants offer delivery, curbside pickup, and special senior hours. Contact your favorite locals for details. Local restaurants offer take-out service. Think of ways that you can help support our local businesses during this time. Remember to **Love your locals!**



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. Josephine provided the following update. Josephine also sent along some photos and stories, which I have forwarded to you.

Thank you Josephine!



Knitting Club – This year our **Knitting Club** celebrates its **Twentieth Anniversary!** Over the years, our members, along with residents of The Hearth at Tuxis Pond, have knitted beautiful afghans, which are donated to the Madison Police Department and The Village in Hartford, a place for children who have been removed from their homes due to domestic violence or abuse. The Police Department keeps some afghans in their cars to comfort children who have been involved in an accident or other incident. In 2019 alone the Knitting Club members donated 45 afghans. Usually, **Barbara DeRosa** hosts a “Putting Together Party” at her home to sew the afghan rectangles together. However, this year, due to Covid19, **Barbara and her co-chairperson Denise Daly** have put together kits, consisting of several 7” x 9” rectangles, along with some yarn. Please contact either Barbara or Denise to obtain a kit and help put together these lovely afghans.

Thank you to Barbara, Denise, and all the Knitters!



Attention All Walkers – Did you know we have a very active **Walking Club?** Members walk every day at 9:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday they meet at East Wharf and on Wednesday at Hammonasset Park. For more information contact **Donna Dougherty**.



Did You Know....The **Collect** was written as a prayer to instill a sense of unity among women working together with wide interests and important goals. Mary Stewart worked for women's suffrage nationally and attended the meeting in St. Louis, where the National Federation was launched in 1890. Founded in 1890, GFWC's roots can be traced back to 1868 when Jane Cunningham Croly, a professional journalist, attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Thank you **Donna Farrell** for sharing this information at our recent New and Perspective Member Get Together.



Mark your calendars and cross your fingers.... Southeast District Day is scheduled for April 8, 2021 at the Pine Orchard Club in Branford. This is a great opportunity to meet members of other clubs, have a great luncheon with friends, and be involved!

DATES TO REMEMBER:

November 10th – General Membership Meeting – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

November 11th – Veterans' Day Service on Town Green – 11:00 a.m.

November 16th – Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

November 26th – HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

November 28th - Love Your Local – Shop Local!