



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 December! First Selectwoman Peggy Lyons will be joining us at our December Meeting. Mrs. Lyons expressed an interest in learning more about the Women's Club of Madison. This might also be a great opportunity for us to get some ideas for a future Community Improvement Project. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 8th at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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. If anyone is aware of a member needing assistance with Zoom, please let me know. Board meetings are held on the third Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted, 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. There is no Board Meeting in December.

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 email me at patriciathal@aim.com.



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. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Phyllis' address is 8 Runnymede Lane and Donna's is 38 Aylesbury Circle.

Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!

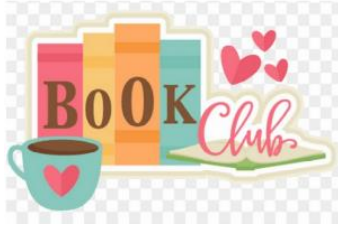


Dee Mulqueen is coordinating this project. Items may be dropped off at Hammonasset Package Store, 1333 Boston Post Road, Madison or contact Dee at 203-530-4608 to arrange to drop items off at her home or to arrange for a pick up. **Thank you Dee!**

If you need a list of the items, please contact me. My email address is patriciathal@aim.com.



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.



Our **Book Club** meets every other month. In November, the Club met via Zoom. Sounds like it worked out well. All are invited to read the book, attend the meeting, and enjoy the lively discussions. The next meeting of the Book Club is January 20, 2021. The book is **The Furious Hours** by Casey Cep. If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact Josephine Mokriski at either josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or at 203-245-0706,



Pauline Hale is the Club **Corresponding Secretary**. 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. She will send a card from the Club, letting our member know that we are all thinking about her. Pauline's email address is pshmadison@gmail.com.



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.



Santa Letters – Santa Letter Mailboxes have been 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. Sue’s email is **Shermo1981@att.net** or you may contact her at 203-245-1114.

Also, Sue needs volunteers to go to Stop and Shop to wipe down the Santa mailboxes each day with sanitizing wipes. Three volunteers are needed. Please contact Sue directly if you are able to volunteer.



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.



Babysitting Seminar – **Have you volunteered to help with the 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.



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. Unfortunately, Covid hit and plans changed. This lovely 3 foot tabletop tree made by members of the Madison Women's Club contains many handmade ornaments in shades of aqua and white and is being offered for \$75.00 If interested, please call Dee at 203-530-4608. Happy Holidays! If you have ideas as to where and how to sell the tree, please contact Dee at either **deemulqueen@yahoo.com** or **203-530-4608**.





Shopping During Covid19 – 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. Maybe a gift certificate? Remember to **Love your locals!**

We are very fortunate to have Hammonasset State Park in our town. It's a great place to walk, sit on the beach and relax, go for a swim, or enjoy the beautiful nature center. **The Friends of Hammonasset** now have a website. Check out their new web store at <https://hammonasset.org/store>. This is a great way to support Hammonasset.



St. Jude Fund - Josephine Mokriski continues to collect money for the St. Jude Fund. If you would like to make a contribution, please contact Josephine at josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or call her at 203-245-0706. **Thank you Josephine!**



Knitting Club – This year our **Knitting Club's "Putting Together" Parties** are taking on a slightly different look. 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. Barbara's email address is dderosa72@comcast.net or call her at 203-245-6063. Denise's email address is ddaly524@gmail.com or call her at 203-458-3309.

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 at 203-605-4841.**



GFWC has launched its five new community service programs. The following information was taken from the GFWC's website. Moving forward, I will be hi-lighting both the Community Service Programs and Special Programs.

“The Community Service Programs and Special Programs have been re-structured to help clubs light a path for the future and better address the current and upcoming needs of its communities.”

Arts and Culture Community Service Program

The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support art and cultural programs in their clubs and communities, and to expand understanding on every level, from local and regional to national and international. Our goal is to create projects that include crafts, dance, drama, food, music, and other manifestations of art and culture that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place.”



Conservation – Margaret Hopkins and Carol Musante, Co-chairpersons.

“THE CLIMATE COP

The biggest problem nations are facing is Carbon dioxide emissions, says the founder of the Climate-Tracer. The climate tracer is the first-of-its-kind environmental tool. It will track polluter’s worldwide in real time. The information it collects will help environmental organizations verify that governments around the globe are honoring pledges to cut greenhouse gasses to help protect our environments.”



Carol Musante reached out to our October Speakers from the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services regarding ways the Club might be able to assist the program. The Club decided to do a Coat Drive and Food Drive.

Carol provided the following update:

“I am happy to announce that we have been able to collect 19 adult coats and jackets for the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence and will be receiving 7 coats and 4 new children’s jackets and gloves on November 30. Danielle, from the Center will be picking up the coats and jackets Thursday, December 3. Annie Edwards has graciously sponsored a child at the Center to help them have what they need.

The clients at the Center are extremely thankful to you for helping to keep them warm this winter. I would like to thank all of you who were able to donate and Shari, who helped pick up coats. Again, we see the Madison Women’s Club helping those in need.”

Thank you to all you helped with this project and donated coats. Great job ladies!

Items needed for the **Food Drive** include boxes of mac and cheese, canned fruits and kid fruit cups, canned corn, beans, chili, baked beans, canned milk, Progresso type soups, Ramen Noodle packs (any flavors), pickles, coffee, tea, hot chocolate mix, jarred tomato sauce, and pasta.

Any food donated to the shelter goes right into the shelter kitchens which is only consumed by the clients.

For more information, please contact **Carol** at 203-421-3402 or Carol.musante@comcast.net.



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!

DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 8th - General Membership Meeting – 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

December 10th – Hanukkah begins

December 12th – GFWC/CT December Board Meeting and Holiday Party – 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

December 25th – Christmas Day

December 31st – New Year’s Eve

