



The Laurel News and Notes

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

January

It was great to welcome Debbie Fiore, GFWC/CT President to our January meeting. She provided an update regarding state projects and upcoming events. Debbie's state project for her term in office is Mental Illness Awareness. Her symbol is the hummingbird and her motto is "We rise by lifting others". She discussed the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. The Connecticut office is located in West Hartford. NAMI provides card of encouragement to people who have attempted suicide. Debbie is looking for clubs interested in working with the Connecticut office of NAMI and helping to write the cards. She will provide more information as it becomes available. Thank you Debbie for meeting with us and for your kind words regarding the Women's Club of Madison!



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.

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.

COVID-19 testing is now available on a first come, first serve basis at Hammonasset State Park, Camping area. The testing site is open 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Sunday. No appointment needed. Community Health Center opened the new testing center to offer free COVID-19 testing to children and adults of all ages. There is a **COVID-19 Testing Form** that should be completed prior to going to the Park. This will expedite the process.

Madison Alerts – If you have not already done so, please consider signing up for Madison's new communication system, Madison Alerts. In order to register, you will need an email address. You may sign up at www.madisonct.org/madisonalerts. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, he or she may contact the Madison Senior Center at 203-45-5627.

Starting January 14th, the town is asking any Madison resident age 65 or older who wants to receive the vaccine to please complete the survey located at www.madsonct.org/vaccine. If you know of someone who does not have internet access, he or she may contact the Madison Senior Center at 203-45-5627.



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 Jan Crawford, Social Chairwoman. You may contact Jan at lincrawmadison@comcast.net or 203-779-5582. 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. The Club donated 151 pounds of peanut butter and jelly during the last quarter of 2020!

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

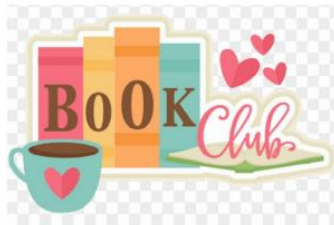


Website – Denise Rose is doing a great job with our website. She is including a newsletter section, snippets from meetings regarding upcoming events, news from the State GFWC, information about the book clubs, etc. Check out the website at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com>. Thank you Denise.



Thank you **Dee Mulqueen** for organizing and coordinating the Veterans' Project! Dee filled five large plastic bins with the items donated by the Club. If you are able to donate either a Walmart gift card or some socks, please contact Dee directly at 203-530-4608 or email her at deemulqueen@yahoo.com.

The American Legion Auxiliary is selling patriotic masks. They are \$5 each and may be purchased at Hammonasset Package Store, 1333 Boston Post Road, Madison.



Our **Book Club** will be meeting on January 20, 2021 at 3:00 p.m., via Zoom. 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 goal is to have the bags ready to be distributed by the end of January. If you would like more information or would like to donate items, please contact Donna directly. Her phone number is 203-804-2693 or email her at farrell.donna@gmail.com.



Santa Letters – The Santa Letter project was a great success this year! **Sue Hermonat** did a fantastic job organizing the project, as well as her 18 little elves. Over 111 letters were received and responded to! The Club received some nice thank you's from parents and several moms indicated an interest in the Club.



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, etc. While she will be available for consultation, a committee is needed in order for this to be successful.** Funds raised by this program go toward our annual disbursements.



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!**



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 past year our **Knitting Club** donated 36 afghans to the Madison Police Department, two afghans to Little Miracles, and five afghans and prayer shawls to Homes for the Brave. **Barbara DeRosa** and **Denise Daly** have instructions on how to make the afghan squares. Please contact either Barbara or Denise to obtain either the knitting instructions or a kit to 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**.

Psst...January is Walk Your Dog Month....





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.”

Education and Libraries Community Service Program

“We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in the Education and Libraries Community Service Program are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities. These projects promote libraries, literacy, and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.”

Please visit the GFWC website at <https://www.gfwc.org/> for more information.



Conservation and Environment – Margaret Hopkins and Carol Musante, Co-Chairpersons.

The American Girl’s 2021 Girl of the Year doll is Kira Bailey. According to the American Girls website, Kira’s big dream is to work with animals, especially at her aunt’s animal sanctuary in Australia. While visiting her aunt, Kira learns more about caring for animals and how issues stemming from climate change, like droughts and bushfires, can threaten wildlife. Kira looks after an orphaned koala. During the Australia fires of 2020, koalas were killed by the hundreds.

Carol recently read a sign in a ladies' room, noting the benefits of hand dryers. According to the sign, one tone of paper towels consumes 17 trees, three cubic yards of landfill space, and pollutes 20,000 gallons of water!

There is a disease called Coffee Leaf Rust which is spreading among coffee plantations. The disease is affecting coffee leaf plantations worldwide and may cause coffee to become scarce in a few years.

Due to Covid19, the noise level on earth is down 50%!



Did you know that....January is National Hobby Month? Picking up a new hobby or getting back to one you have done in the past is a great way to start the new year. We've all been under a lot of pressure and feeling stressed due to Covid19 and restrictions. Maybe a hobby – a new or old passion – is a way to take some time for yourself and do something you enjoy. Reading, yoga, trying new recipes, or starting that exercise program we have all been putting off is just what you need. Feel free to share what you are doing – you can have some space in the newsletter, if you like.

While you are at it have a cup of tea, to celebrate **National Hot Tea Month...Also celebrated in January!**

DATES TO REMEMBER:

January 18th – Board Meeting – 5:30 p.m. via Zoom

January 20th – Book Club – 3:00 p.m., via Zoom

