



The Laurel News and Notes

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



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 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 for assistance.

Important COVID-19 Vaccine Information – Donna Farrell spoke with Austin Hall at the Madison Senior Center. If you know of anyone 75 or older who has not received their Covid 19 vaccination, please call the Senior Center. They want to help everyone in this age group get vaccinated. You may contact the Senior Center at 203-245-5627. If you get their voicemail, please leave a message and someone will get back to you. They are hoping people are set up in the VAMS system (vams.cdc.gov) but if they are not able to do this, they will help you.

If you have access to a computer and email, please register yourself on the VAMS system. You will receive follow up emails from VAMS on how to make an appointment for vaccine clinics in your are

Upcoming General Membership Meetings – The speaker for our March 9th meeting with Jennifer Marlon of the Yale Department of Climate Change. Please email questions that you may have regarding climate change to **Carol Musante**, and she will forward to Jennifer prior to the meeting. Carol’s email address is: Carol.musante@comcast.net.

For our April meeting, Liz Early will be working with Lynne Sarro to arrange for a speaker to address understanding Covid19 and the vaccine. This should be an interesting and informative meeting, given everything that has transpired over the past year.

Please contact Lynne Sarro with any suggestions or ideas that you may have about a May meeting topic.

And fingers crossed...an in-person get together for June!



STATE PROJECT – MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS

Thank you to those who signed up to assist with the NAMI-CT “Caring Cards” project. Tool kits with all the necessary information and instructions will be sent out soon. NAMI makes sure that every patient from a hospital in CT that treats survivors of suicide attempts has a "caring card" given to them when discharged. The cards have hand written messages explaining that they are not alone and they do matter. The kits are to be sent to me. Once I receive them, I will notify you and arrange to get them to those who volunteered.



Let's Get Together – It's been almost a year since we were last together, in person, as a group. If you have any ideas about ways that we can get together as a group, following CDC and local guidelines, please contact **Jan Crawford, Social Chairwoman** at either **lincrawmadison@comcast.net** or **203-779-5582**.



Food Pantry – Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. Please drop off your donations at Phyllis' house, as Donna will not be away. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Phyllis' address is 8 Runnymede Lane. During January the Club donated a total of 54 pounds of peanut butter and jelly!

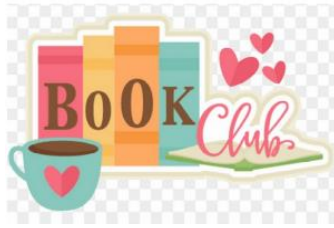
Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!

Here's a little fun tidbit, provided by Carol Musante.

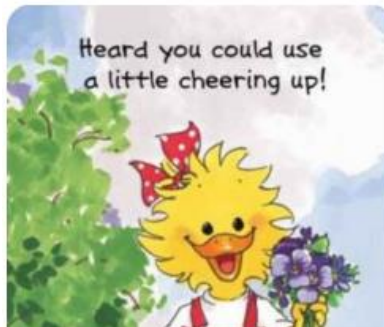
In 1895, John Kellogg, a nutritionist and future cereal pioneer, filed a patent to use a peanut paste, to improve the health of patients in a sanitarium. During World War I people began to use peanuts to substitute for meat on Meatless Mondays. In the late 1920s, a St Louis baker invented a bread slicer, which made it easy for kids to construct their PB and Jelly sandwiches. In this century, the average American kid eats some 1,500 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches before graduation from high school.



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



Book Club - If you are interested in joining the Book Club, please contact **Josephine Mokriski** at either josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or at 203-245-0706. There is a meeting on Wednesday, February 17th at 3:00 p.m. The book is **The Other Woman** by Daniel Silva. The March meeting will be either March 16th or 18th. Once the date and time are determined, the Zoom invitation will be sent. The book for March is **The Last Flight** by Julie Clark. Betty King is the Facilitator.



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 the finishing touches on the little bags with school items for children. If you have any ideas as to where to distribute these bags, please contact Donna directly. Her email address is farrell.donna@gmail.com.



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 – Our knitting club remains active, in spite of the challenges of Covid19. **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 – Our **Walking Club** remains committed to staying fit and healthy. 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 club women and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place.

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



Conservation and Environment – Margaret Hopkins and Carol Musante, Co-Chairpersons. If you have any suggestions as to how we can involve the Madison community in conservation and environment issues and activities, please contact Carol Musante at Carol.musante@comcast.net.



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH!

March was chosen to be National Women's History Month in the United States, declared as such by a biennial Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress since 1987.

The theme for 2021 National Women's History Month captures the spirit of these **challenging times**. Since most 2020 **women's suffrage** centennial celebrations were curtailed, the National Women's History Alliance is extending the annual theme for 2021 to "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced."

Here are a few ways to **celebrate women** this **month**.

1. **Celebrate Women** on Social Media
2. Buy a Coffee for a **Woman** that Inspires You
3. Get Involved with Organizations that Support **Women** and Girls
4. Host Guest Speakers

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Wednesday 02/17/2021 – Book Club

Tuesday 03/09/2021 – General Membership Meeting

Monday 03/15/2021 – Board Meeting

