



## *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. **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](mailto:patriciathal@aim.com).



**Let's Get Together – Yippee!** Our June meeting/dinner will be held on **Tuesday, June 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, Madison.** Box dinners will be provided by **What's Cookin'.** More information will follow. Watch your emails for the menu and specifics! We may actually install the 2020-2022 WCM Officers – better late than never.

CDC, state, and local Covid19 regulations will apply.



**GFWC/CT CONVENTION** was held on May 14 and May 15, 2021, via Zoom. I am very proud to announce that the Club earned second place, large clubs, for Legislative Action and Public Policy and for Veterans' Project and first place, large clubs, for Leadership! Way to go, Women's Club of Madison!

The GFWC National Convention will be held – in person – August 27 through August 30, 2021, at the Marriott Marquee Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. The New England Regional Conference is planned for September 17 through September 19, 2021. I will forward the calls for both conferences when I receive them.



## **STATE PROJECT – MENTAL ILLNESS AWARENESS**

**May is Mental Health Awareness Month** – The following article, by GFWC/CT State President, Debbie Fiore, was featured in the recent GFWC News and Notes.

“May is Mental Health Awareness Month, which is also the focus of GFWC Connecticut State President Debbie Fiore’s project. Mental health awareness was chosen as the state project before the pandemic, but has proven to be increasingly necessary with the rise of mental illness due to the pandemic. The trauma of losing the pre-pandemic lifestyle has made it necessary for people to learn to cope with anxiety and depression. [National Alliance on Mental Illness \(NAMI\)](#) has the resources to help and GFWC Connecticut has partnered with them.

Caring Cards is a project that is part of NAMI Connecticut’s Suicide Prevention Initiative, which helps

support the transition of people who are in a suicidal crisis as they continue their journey toward recovery. Members write hopeful messages on the cards, sign their first name, and send them back to NAMI. The cards will be received by young people entering and exiting mental health treatment related to suicidal thoughts and attempts. Because of the support from the clubs, NAMI will be expanding this project to new locations and hope to reach every in-patient psychiatric program in the state.

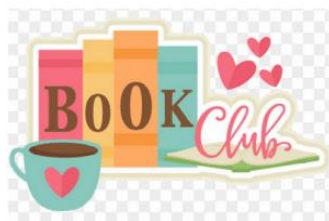
Many GFWC Connecticut clubs are joining [NAMI Walks Your Way Connecticut](#) on May 22, and raising funds in their communities, some are even doing remote walks. At the state meetings, there were speakers from NAMI and GFWC Affiliate Organization [Canine Companions for Independence](#). Monetary donations have been given to both organizations to support their programs.

GFWC Connecticut is recognizing the importance of self-care by sponsoring two walking/exercise contests among clubs for physical and mental health. Any exercise is encouraged, with clubs keeping track of members' activities and offering prizes.

GFWC Woman's Club of Enfield partnered with Healthtrax and sponsored NAMI Walks Your Way Connecticut. The club also used this opportunity to promote membership.”



**Food Pantry** – Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. Please drop off your donations at Phyllis' house. Her address is 8 Runnymead Lane. **Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!**



**Book Club** - If you are interested in joining the Book Club or have any suggestions for future books, 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](mailto:pshmadison@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](mailto:josephinemokriski@hotmail.com) or call her at 203-245-0706. Josephine also is providing monthly updates about St. Jude's. Watch for them in your email. **Thank you Josephine!**



**Knitting Club** – Anyone interested in knitting or crocheting afghan squares may contact either **Barbara DeRosa** or **Denise Daly** for instructions. Barbara's email address is [dderosa73@comcast.net](mailto:dderosa73@comcast.net) or call her at 203-245-6063. Denise's email address is [ddaly524@gmail.com](mailto:ddaly524@gmail.com) or call her at 203-458-3309.

**Thank you to Barbara, Denise for co-chairing the Knitting Club and all the Knitters!**



**Attention All Walkers** – Now that Spring is here, let's get outside, meet up with friends, and take a walk. Our group meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m. at East Wharf and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at Hammonasset Park.



**Website** – Check out our 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.**



**Disbursements** – The following organizations each received \$500 from the Club this year: ABC House, American Legion, and Nite in Hand! Wonderful to support these great local programs!



**Don't Forget – Dues are due by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Dues are \$50.** You should make checks payable to the Women's Club of Madison. Send your dues, along with the personal information form, to:

**Women's Club of Madison  
P.O. Box 691  
Madison, CT 06443**

**Thank you!**



**Let me know what you think...**

Over the years, when we have met in person, there have been some delicious sweet and savory dishes prepared for meetings. If any of you have some recipes to share, please forward to me. I will include them in future newsletters. While we may not be able to get together as a group, we can still share some of the recipes for goodies that people have prepared over the years.

**REMINDER: If you have not already done so, please get vaccinated. I want all of our wonderful members to stay healthy!**



## **Memorial Day Observance**

The American Legion Griswold Post 79 Memorial Day Ceremony will take place at 11:00 a.m., Monday, May 31 on the Madison Town Green. Please note that masks are required. Please practice social distancing.

**The 2021 Memorial Day Parade was canceled earlier this year due to the uncertainty of the pandemic.**

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup> – Memorial Day**

**June 5<sup>th</sup> – World Environment Day**

**June 6<sup>th</sup> - D-Day**

**June 15<sup>th</sup> – June Meeting and Dinner at the American Legion**

**June 20<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day**

**And just for the fun of it...**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Smile Day**

**May 31<sup>st</sup> – National Macaroon Day**

**June 7<sup>th</sup> – National Chocolate Ice Cream Day**

**June 16<sup>th</sup> – National Fudge Day**