



## *The Laurel News and Notes*

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

*February 2022*



### **HAPPY FEBRUARY!**

A great big Thank You to **Joy Saunders** who gave a wonderful presentation on heart disease and women at our February 8<sup>th</sup> General Membership Meeting. **Joy** recently joined the Women's Club of Madison and immediately became involved. She provided some very helpful information on heart disease and factors that impact it – some of which we can change.

Our next General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at the Senior Center. The meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Board Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. I will forward any updates and/or changes as needed. If you need help with Zoom, please let me know. With regard to Zoom, this is available to Committees and clubs that need to meet, but are unable to do so in-person. Please contact me for more information.

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).



The Coat and Clothing Drive to benefit the Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Awareness will continue until February 15, 2022. **Carol Musante and Corinna Kreamer** will be at the **Senior Center Parking Lot** on the **15<sup>th</sup>** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon** to collect any additional items you may have.



**Hope you are enjoying the GFWC News and Notes.** They always contain interesting information. A great way to keep informed about National happenings.

On the state level, the **Southeast District Day** will be held on **Saturday, April 30, 2022**, at the **Madison Senior Center**. The **District Day Call** is attached to this newsletter.

Also, the **Call to the March GFWC/CT Board Meeting** has been forwarded to all members. The meeting is being held on **Saturday, March 12, 2022, at Cafe Fiore in Cromwell**.



**LEADERSHIP LINES from Katherine DeBurra; President Elect/GFWC/CT**

**[threesams@sbcglobal.net](mailto:threesams@sbcglobal.net) or 203-245-2269**

Hello everyone! I'm writing this to share first with all of you—some my ideas for the State as I take on the Presidency. Thank you to all of you who supported me through this journey! Someone asked me in our Club if I will “still be around” -**YES!** I don't get drafted to a pretty house anywhere and this Club is my roots/family so to speak. I had to laugh just a little. I have decided that as most Presidents -you select a symbol to express your tastes. I will select a beach scene to honor my “home club” of Madison on the shoreline! It offers a lot of options to theme the state meetings such as sand-dollar, starfish, seahorse,...etc. I want my State project to be Women's Health. I'm struggling with a “saying” because I'm inspired by so many and I really cannot use that famous one of mine- “Stay in your own lane!” We can certainly laugh about that though! I welcome suggestions and I may even just draw from a hat from your suggestions! The current President Debbie-chose- “We Rise by Lifting Others”.

I need some assistance with Committee Chairs at the State level. That involves occasional research in the topic and possibly a newsletter article or even table at a state Meeting to share information. It also involves reviewing reports from the State Clubs and actually Josephine did Home Life (name has updated to the list below) back a few years ago and enjoyed it very much! I wish reporting was more successful and done by more clubs and those jobs as Chairs were harder but it is not as involved and actually can be a lot of fun to select winners for District Day, State awards and beyond. The Community Service Areas have changed see list as follows from last year:

**GFWC has launched new Community Service Programs to build upon the difference that the Federation has collectively made throughout the United States—**

and across the globe. 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.

- 1. Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention-**The Signature Program's goal is to increase awareness of and help prevent the widespread occurrence of violence against women in communities across the nation—and the globe. Areas of focus include Intimate Partner Violence, Child Abuse, Teen Dating, Campus Sexual Assault, Elder Abuse, Violence Against Native American Women, Military Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking.
- 2. Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children-GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children** is designed to encourage all woman's, Junior Woman's, Juniorette, and International Affiliate Clubs to make a difference in the life of a child by being an advocate. The Program was envisioned as a way for club women to provide a voice for children and to teach and encourage parents and other caregivers to advocate for children at the grassroots level.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program-**The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community—locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. This Community Service Program highlights and encourages citizenship; crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry, and homeless; and our military personnel and veterans.
- 5. 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.

6. **Environment Community Service Program**-The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world's resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature. Environmental degradation is cumulative and many scientists warn that we are at a tipping point. There is no time like the present to act.

7. **Health and Wellness Community Service Program**-The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our well-being, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas. Please reach out to me with advice, suggestions and willingness to serve at any time! I need and welcome it!

Our Club is transitioning in to new Leadership and I have some advice that served me well in my roles!

**A successful transition plan should begin with planning!**

Create a structured process to ensure leadership and share knowledge and relationships. That flow definitely starts with communication. Just as we learned in Kindergarten... share -share and more share! Current leaders need to let go and share their information with the new leaders. Leaders are very proud of the accomplishments and feel very attached to the projects and the process they leave. No matter how long a leader has served, it is best for all members to have a plan for transferring knowledge and authority as well as "ownership".

To help share all the information that is stored in a leader's head, here is a transition checklist to get everyone off to a great start!

**PART #1-OFFICER TRANSITION.** It's important to know about your office position. Review your Club's history. Review your By-laws and Standing Rules. Review your future objectives and accomplishments from the last administration. Review and pass on records, binders or files with important correspondence. Review your job description, agendas and minutes. Review your financial records. You may need to visit the financial institution to change account information signers and officers. Review your Club's evaluation of projects, the achievements and challenges. Pass on membership lists and contact information. Contracts. Introduce officers and key contact people with their contact information.

**PART #2-PREPARATION.** Understand present and future programs. Develop a calendar with meetings, programs and events. Update your current website, social media pages and other contact information. Establish a structured meeting agenda, with places, times and promotion to encourage attendance.

**PART #3-GOAL SETTING.** Establish new officers, and Clubs' goal. Establish member goals. Present these goals to the members and prioritize goals with the entire membership.

### **Do you know the Mission Statement of GFWC?**

**The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.**

**Hope to hear from many of you soon!**

**Kathy DeBurra  
GFWC/CT President-Elect**



Speaking of Leadership, **Shari Roguski**, past club president, is the Chairperson for this year's **Nominating Committee**. If you are interested in retaining your current position, would like move to another position, would like to take on a position on the Board, or are ready to retire from office, please feel free to reach out to Shari. If you want to find out more about a Board position, feel free to contact the current office holder. The **Committee** will present the slate of officers at the **March General Membership Meeting**. Voting will be at the **April General Membership Meeting**.

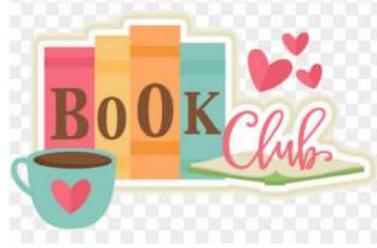


**Disbursements – Lynne Sarro, Vice President**, will be working with her committee to collect the names of organizations seeking funds this year. So far, the **Ronald McDonald House** and **Nite in Hand** have requested funds. We currently have approximately \$1,700 to disburse. However, this amount may change based on expenses.



**Food Pantry – Both Donna Dougherty and Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. You may bring your donations of peanut butter and jelly to the General Membership Meetings or drop off your donations at Phyllis' house, 8 Runnymede Lane. For the month of January, 10 pounds of peanut butter and jelly were donated.

**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**. She may be contacted at either josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or at 203-245-0706. More information to follow as to dates, time, and place. Watch your emails! Here's a preview of upcoming books to be discussed.

**March- The Hail Mary Project -Andy Weir**

**May - The Book of Lost Friends - Lisa Wingate**

**July - Homefront - Kristin Hannah**



**Dee Mulqueen** sent the following to the members regarding the recent collection for **Homes for the Brave**.

Hi All,

I would like to thank all of our members that supported our Homes for the Brave project this year. We had some of you come up with fun new items this year. We have included in each container a fleece blanket, a pillow, a set of sheets, towels and washcloths, 3 pair socks, body wash, a calendar, playing, cards, hats, gloves, shaving cream, razors, tooth paste, tooth brushes and paste, tampons, mini pads, body wash, shampoo, deodorant and underwear. We also have a large container of

clothes that will be distributed by size as needed including many packages of underwear. In addition, one of our members donated some make up bags and some make up so each one of the ladies will receive a bag that we have filled with moisture lotion, facial soap, mini sewing kits, shampoo, combs, chap stick, lipstick, nail polish and nail files etc. For those of you that sent monetary donations, please know that I was able to fill in all the containers with the same contents with your donations. I was short 1 throw, 3 pair of gloves, shaving cream, deodorant, hats and the list goes on.

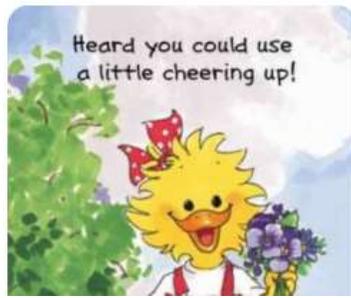
You are amazing women and I am so proud to be part of this group. I thank you for all you have done for our female veterans and I know they will be thankful for all of your contributions. We will deliver in the next few weeks.

Love and Thanks to you all!

**Dee**

Here is what the Club donated!





**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).



**Attention All Walkers** – The Walking Club has been on hiatus for a couple of months, as many of the members are enjoying Florida sunshine. When active, 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. Contact **Barbara DeRosa** for details.



**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, and all the Knitters!**



**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.**



**St. Jude Fund - Josephine Mokriski** continues to collect money for the St. Jude Fund. She will be collecting at the meetings. If you would like to make a contribution, and are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Josephine at either 203-245-0706 or email her at [josephinemokriski@hotmail.com](mailto:josephinemokriski@hotmail.com) . Josephine also is providing monthly updates about St. Jude's. Watch for them in your email. **Thank you Josephine!**



**Donna Farrell and Gail Lennox** are collecting tabs from soda and beer cans – just the tab, not the whole can or top. Please start collecting them. They will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. Please bring the tabs to the meeting or contact

**Donna** or **Gail** directly for drop off information. Ronald McDonald house will receive all of the recycling money.

**Gail** also is collecting empty plastic prescription bottles for Doctor's Without Borders. Please remove the labels from the bottle prior to giving them to **Gail**. Bottles may be brought to the meetings or contact **Gail** for drop off information. These containers are not recyclable so here is a way to put them to good use.



**Membership** – There will be an Orientation Breakfast, for new members only, on Wednesday, February 16, at Christy's in Madison at 9:30 a.m. New members will be meeting with the **Membership Chairperson, Donna Farrell**, to learn more about the Women's Club of Madison.



**Conservation** – **Jennifer Marlon**, a professor from Yale University, will be our guest speaker at the March General Membership Meeting. Her presentation will center on the **effects that climate change has on our health**, primarily people over 50. She encourages audience participation, so get your questions ready.

You may audit classes free from Yale. Two background classes in which you might be interested include: **Climate Change and Health** and **Climate Adaptation and Human Health**.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

**02/14/2022 – Valentine’s Day**  
**02/15/2022 – Madison Referendum**  
**02/21/2022 – Board Meeting**  
**02/21/2022 – Presidents’ Day**

## **JUST FOR FUN**

**02/14/2022 – Library Lovers’ Day**  
**02/15/2022 – Susan B. Anthony Day**  
**02/16/2022 – Do A Grouch A Favor Day**  
**02/17/2022 – Random Act of Kindness Day**  
**02/18/2022 – National Drink Wine Day**  
**02/20/2022 – National Love Your Pet Day**

