





GFWC MASSACHUSETTS

Federation TOPICS

A newsletter for Clubwomen



Spring
Renewal

GFWC Massachusetts Board of Directors Meeting

The GFWC Massachusetts 2020-2022 Board of Directors is composed of the Executive Committee (EC); all Standing Committee Chairmen; Chairmen of all GFWC Programs, Advancement Areas, Awards and Contests and Committee members. This group of leaders said YES to this State President to assist with the running of the Massachusetts Federation. Each member brings their strength as a leader and their commitment to working together trying to accomplish something, not merely to exist.

March is Women's History Month

Did you know that in May 1941, Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers of Massachusetts introduced a bill to create a women's auxiliary army? However, it took Congress a full year to approve the measure. The bill gave women the option to volunteer for women's units attached to the military, but women were not drafted. Information from the National Women's History Museum (<https://www.womenshistory.org/>)

More amazing women are listed in the margins of this issue. Be sure to "Google" these fabulous women to learn more about their accomplishments.

Editor: Darlene Coutu

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Message From President, Donna Shibley



Spring Renewal

As we head into spring, I will be looking forward to my perennial flowers popping their heads up, the return of our feathered friends, warmer weather and opportunities to sit outside (widening my social circle) with vaccinated family and friends. ♥ With restrictions being lifted we will carefully approach our volunteering business with safety in mind while using our **Hearts & Hearts for GFWC** in ways to make a difference. Challenges are still here but in a year's time we have learned how to navigate those obstacles. Continue to keep in contact with your fellow clubwoman and GFWC sisters and let them know you care.

So much is happening with the opening of meeting places and venues. Even though we made the difficult decision to keep the 2021 GFWC MA Combined Annual Convention virtual, this President is excited to be planning and attending upcoming in person GFWC summer and fall events.

The **2021 GFWC Massachusetts Combined Annual Convention: Hearts and Hands Together** will be held on Saturday, May 1. This virtual Zoom meeting will have myself and Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Robey presiding. Highlights will include:

Friday night **Fun Night** ~ Reverse Trivia starting at 7:00pm. Join in the fun.

Friday night **1898 Society Reception** starting at 8:00pm. Celebrate by wearing your best flowery hat, clothing, and/or jewelry as we toast to our group. Anyone can join for an \$18.98 donation.

Business of the Federation, Bylaws, Resolutions, Annual Reports

Presenting Awards, Trophies, Recognitions, and Anniversaries

GFWC President-elect, Deb Strahanoski will be the special guest speaker in the afternoon

From Your Heart Raffle ~ donate a prize to raffle off and take a chance to win. Two ways to help support GFWC Massachusetts.

The Second Step ~ Essential item donations (the **E** in **H-E-A-R-T**) conveniently available to donate with the designated Amazon link. Please look for The Second Step address when you check out and include a note in the gift box with club name/clubmember name. Every donation will be appreciated.

Hands on Activities ~ What to do while Zooming. Get ready with great suggestions to keep attendees busy. Get your supplies ready. There will be a show and tell at the end of the meeting.

Please register and encourage your clubmembers to attend.

PROMOTE, PERSUADE, PROMPT this state meeting.

Each club should be represented at every state meeting.

Join us as we PROUDLY celebrate club accomplishments in 2020. ♥

GFWC Massachusetts LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar)

A prerecorded leadership seminar available May 1 after 1:00 is being presented by **Alicia Sheridan, GFWC MA Leadership Chairman** and **Beth McKeon, GFWC MA Junior Leadership Chairman**. Watch for more information on this CAN'T MISS event. Open to ALL. Register at gfwcmaleads@gmail.com

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**Sandra Day
O'Connor**

*First woman
on the
Supreme
Court*

1981

President's Message *continued from page 2*

Join clubwomen from our region at the **2021 GFWC NER Conference: Celebrate Change** to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Westborough on **Friday September 17- Sunday, September 19**. NER President JoAnn Calnen will be presiding welcoming GFWC Guests: GFWC President Marian St.Clair and GFWC President-elect, Deb Strahanoski. Massachusetts is the host state so make sure put on your party clothes and join us at the state night banquet featuring special guest Sara Hammel. Join for the fun and federation friendship with fellow New Englanders. Jen Nowak, NER Conference Chairman will be reaching out for assistance.

Join Massachusetts clubwomen as we travel to Atlanta, Georgia to attend the **2021 GFWC Annual Convention: Celebrating Culture, Cultivating Connections** to be held the Atlanta Marriott Marquis (\$129 per night) from **Saturday, August 28, to Monday, August 30**. GFWC International President Marian St.Clair will be presiding. Additionally, a Board of Directors Meeting, the 2020 and 2021 LEADS training, a 2020-2022 Installation, and a Celebration Banquet "Gateway to the World," will be held on Friday, August 27.

Our fourth GFWC Massachusetts **Board of Directors Meeting** in February was held via Zoom. This Board is on schedule meeting four times a year to conduct business. Are you interested in this opportunity to broaden your volunteer work? We have the following positions still open: Environment Chairman, Communications & Public Relations Chairman, Legislation/Public Policy Chairman, Resolutions Committee member. Please email this President if you are interested.

We decided that because GFWC is offering **Webinars**, at this time GFWC MA does not have any plans for producing any. But if there is a topic might you be interested in learning more about, please reach out to this President.

Have you as a Club President or club leader participated in one of the **Heart to Heart** talks via Zoom? We've had eight chats so far. These informal Zoom talks are meant to help us stay connected and we sometimes have special guests. Watch for an email invite to the April 8, 2021 talk with special guest Bernadette Bennett, GFWC MA Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman talking about our upcoming fundraiser with proceeds to benefit Domestic Violence Club Grants. Hope to see you there.

The monthly President's newsletter **The BEAT of the Federation** is delivered via email to ALL Club President's and GFWC MA Board of Directors members. Please continue to share with your clubmembers. It includes timely topics of interest, save the dates, happenings across the state. Be in the know and share with your clubmembers.

**Stay Safe
Stay Healthy
Stay Involved
Stay Connected**



**Amelia
Earhart**

*First woman
to cross the
Atlantic in an
airplane*

1928

Director of Junior Membership, Katie Robey



Aretha Franklin

First women elected to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

1987

Won her 18th Grammy Award making her one of the most honored artists in Grammy history

2008

Did you know there are 2 springs each year? One begins on March 1st and is a meteorological spring based on weather scientists dividing the year into quarters to compare seasonal statistics. The other begins on March 19, 20, or 21 each year and is an astronomical spring based on the position of the Earth in relation to the Sun. This year the spring equinox will occur on Saturday, March 20 at 5:37 am EDT.



The spring equinox is celebrated as a time of rebirth and abundance. Spring brings new beginnings whether it's a new wardrobe or new seedlings to plant in your garden. It's a chance to open the windows and let the fresh air and sunshine into the house, to watch the birds reappear that have migrated south and watch the earth slowly turn green again.

The pandemic has affected our plans for Combined Annual Meeting; however, we are all hopeful of other new beginnings that spring can bring. There's hope that warm weather will mean clubs can meet again by using the outdoors. There's hope that work on the Diane McCurley Memorial Garden at Headquarters can continue and that we may see some garden flags created by clubs for Annual Convention hanging on display. There's hope we can have a Day at the Forest this year. There's hope for renewed spirits and new volunteer opportunities as vaccines change the pandemic landscape.

Robin Williams said, "Spring is nature's way of saying, "Let's party." GFWC MA clubwomen are you ready to celebrate the equinox and party?"

This poem written by Amanda Gorman was for the January 20 inauguration, but her last words fit with the current times:

*We will rebuild, reconcile and recover
and every known nook of our nation and
every corner called our country,
our people diverse and beautiful will emerge,
battered and beautiful
When day comes we step out of the shade,
aflake and unafraid
The new dawn blooms as we free it
For there is always light,
if only we're brave enough to see it
If only we're brave enough to be it*



Legislation and Public Policy

Be sure to sign up for the Legislative Action Center:

Sign up and keep abreast of legislation on affecting issues or find your representatives and their contact info from the national level to the local level. On the website homepage click, "What We do", click and find "Public Policy", for the link to sign up.

Legislation and Public Policy:

Please Take Action on GFWC's Legislative Priorities

- [Time for Women to have Equal Rights](#) ~ It's time for women to have equal rights under the law! Urge Congress to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the U.S. Constitution and reaffirm congressional support for women's equality.
- [End Campus Sexual Assault](#) ~ Victims of sexual assault require specialized medical treatment and counseling services. Campus sexual assault survivors suffer high rates of PTSD, depression, and drug or alcohol abuse which can hamper both the ability to succeed in school and future employment. Educational equity for women and girls requires fair, responsive, fully developed campus sexual assault policies, knowledgeable administrators, and ultimately, an end to sexual violence on college campuses.
- [Reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act](#) ~ It's time to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 1620, devoting resources to local communities by enhancing and expanding prevention programs and services to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking.

This legislation that was supported by GFWC and signed into law from January 3, 2019 - January 3, 2021:

- [Federal - HR 1980](#) A bill to establish in the Smithsonian Institution a comprehensive women's history museum, and for other purposes.
- [Federal - HR 1957](#) Great American Outdoors Act
- [Federal - HR 133](#) Consolidated Appropriations Act

Education and Libraries Ann Marie Bielenin, Chairman

Welcome to Bookshop!

Bookshop is an online bookstore with a mission to financially support local, independent bookstores. They believe that bookstores are essential to a healthy culture. They're where authors can connect with readers, where they discover new writers, where children get hooked on the thrill of reading that can last a lifetime. They're also anchors for downtowns and communities.

As more and more people buy their books online, they wanted to create an easy, convenient way for people to get their books and support bookstores at the same time. If you want to find a specific local bookstore to support, find them on their map and they'll receive the full profit off your order. Otherwise, your order will contribute to an earnings pool that will be evenly distributed among independent bookstores (even those that don't use Bookshop).

If interested in supporting local bookstores,, please log on to bookshop.org. You can enter your zip code and find the bookstores near you.

**Victoria
Claflin
Woodhull
Matin**

*A leader of
the
women's
suffrage
movement
who ran for
President of
the United
States*

1872

Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President



Thank you to **ALL** who submitted Club Reports for 2020.

I am happy to announce all GFWC Massachusetts Award Entries have been sent to GFWC and GFWC National Chairmen!

The dedication from every Club Report Writer is truly appreciated. Massachusetts totals are impressive even with the challenging times 2020 presented.

At the GFWC MA Combined Annual Convention we will be announcing the top creative projects for both Women's Clubs and Junior Women's Clubs. Hope to see you on Zoom on May 1st.



Can't wait to read the 2021 reports as we are able to get back in the swing of working within our communities.

**Julia
Ward
Howe,
Boston, MA**

*Advocate for
abolitionism
and a social
activist,
particularly
for women's
suffrage.*

*One of the
founders of
GFWC*

1890

GFWC MA 2020 Program Statistics

Each year, GFWC MA calculates the total amount of projects, volunteer hours, and both in-kind and dollars donated for the work of its Massachusetts clubs. The Annual Program Statistics Report is based on the two special programs, six community service programs, and the advancement programs that were active in the 2020 calendar year.

Number of Projects: **971**
 Volunteer Hours: **44,637**
 Dollars Donated: **\$ 150,382**
 In-Kind Donations: **\$ 102,991.00**

Just imagine if EVERY Massachusetts club reported what our numbers would be ♥

Congratulations to GFWC Massachusetts Clubs

Civic Engagement & Outreach

Diane M. Murphy, Chairman

Safeguard Against Scams and Fraud

The following contains information on scams and fraud. The information is from the Massachusetts website (Mass.gov) and AARP (aarp.org)

- **Ask for identification.** A shirt or jacket is not proof of someone's affiliation.
- **Beware** of people going **door-to-door or cold-calling you.** Con artists will ask for personal information.
- Use contact information posted on government websites or from other official sources
- **Do not give personal information** to people who claim to be government employees. If you apply for individual assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) will ask for your Social Security or bank account number during registration.
- **Don't provide personal information** on the phone if you didn't start the call
- **If in doubt,** do not give out your information. Report anyone claiming to be a government worker to local police.
- FEMA-contracted housing inspectors assess damages, but do not determine cost estimates. They also don't hire or endorse specific contractors to repair damage.
- Some people may pose as insurance specialists who can convince FEMA to increase home damage assistance. Ignore them.
- Public insurance adjusters often come to the scene of a disaster to promote their services. Read this Massachusetts Division of Insurance [Consumer Alert – Public Insurance Adjusters](#) for tips on choosing a public insurance adjuster.
- Some scammers may attempt to purchase goods with fake FEMA vouchers. FEMA does not offer vouchers.

Only donate to recognized disaster relief organizations.

In these days of COVID-19 there has been an uptick of scammers. Please be aware!

1. Vaccine scams. [You can't pay to skip the line, reserve an appointment spot or join a clinical trial.](#) Be wary of inbound calls or texts that ask for your Social Security number, financial details or insurance information to reserve your spot. There also have been reports of scammers impersonating local health departments and vaccine providers. Never share personal, financial or medical information with people you don't know. If your pharmacy sends you a text, don't respond; instead reach out with a phone number you know is legit.

2. Vaccine-for-sale scams. Ignore ads touting vaccine for sale from an online pharmacy or elsewhere. It is not.

3. Contact tracing scams. Genuine contact tracers will not ask for money or your Social Security number, bank account or credit card number. Nor will you be asked to disclose your immigration status.

"Real contact tracers will not ask for money. They will not ask for your Social Security number or your bank or credit card numbers. They also won't ask your immigration status."

—Lisa Schifferle, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office for Older Americans.

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**Diahann
Carroll**

*First African
American
women
in a sitcom
depicted in a
non-servant
role.*

*First African
American
nominated for
an Emmy as
lead actress in
a comedy.*

1969

Continued from page 7

4. At-home test kit scams. While the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has authorized at-home diagnostic tests for COVID-19, scammers are posing as Medicare representatives and asking for Social Security numbers in exchange for what they purport is a free test kit. Some promise overnight delivery. Don't believe it. Instead check with your health department to find a legitimate testing site.

5. Government payment scams. Government agencies will not ask you for payments via cash, gift cards, wire transfers or cryptocurrency.

6. Air filter scams. Fraudsters are emailing, texting, calling and sending letters claiming they have air filters that “will remove COVID-19 from the air in your home.” The claim is false.

7. Charity scams. [Any emergency or disaster leads to a spike in fraudulent charities](#), so do your homework before giving, especially if the request arises on social media.

8. Errand scams. Bad actors will offer to go to the store for you or do another errand, but run off with your money without delivering the goods or performing the task. Instead of paying a stranger, ask for help from a trusted neighbor or friend.

9. Package scams. Last fall leading up to the holidays, there was a rise in text messages with links that led to websites impersonating legitimate delivery companies. Victims were asked for money or personal information for the delivery of bogus packages or goods they never ordered.

10. Peer-to-peer (P2P) mobile payment scams. [Exercise caution if you are asked for a fast digital payment](#). The Venmo app, for example, points out that it is intended for use

Arts and Culture & Federation Day at the Forest/Memorial Forest

Junior Membership Co-Chairman - Nancy Coughlin & Mary Kemp

Garden Flag Contest Update

What has stayed the same – *Flags can be created using any materials you choose *Flags should measure 12” wide and 18” long *Winning Flags may be displayed in the new garden or around Headquarters *Winning entries will be announced at the Combined Annual Meeting.

What has changed -- *Since our combined Annual Meeting will be via zoom and not in-person we would kindly ask that you 1) Mail your flag entry to Nancy Coughlin, 28 Leland Drive, Northborough, MA 01532 2) Entries must be received by Saturday, April 24, 2021 3) Include your name, address, email address, phone number, club name and if you wish any special information about your design. 3) We will send an email confirmation when your entry is received.

Be creative but most of all have fun designing and making your own unique garden flag.

Sally Ride

*First woman
in space*

1983

Nominating Committee

Sheila E. Shea, Chairman

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Greetings and Happy Spring from the GFWC Massachusetts Nominating Committee, including Jen Nowak, *Immediate Past Director of Junior Clubs*, Martha Casassa, Diane Erickson, Pat Owens, and Sheila Shea, *Chairman*. I know we are all excited about the arrival of Spring and the renewed spirit and hope for the future it always brings, and this year, more than ever. I know the GFWC Massachusetts Executive Committee and Board of Directors have worked very hard to keep us all informed and connected during the challenging times of the past year. Yet, it is also time to look forward toward the next administration and continuing the outstanding work of GFWC Massachusetts clubs and members. Now is the time to begin preparations for continuing the great legacy and purpose of GFWC Massachusetts into 2022-2024.

Although it seems a long way off, it really isn't too early for members to seriously consider the opportunity of serving as an officer on our GFWC Massachusetts Executive Committee. Many of you are already contributing at a high level and are very qualified for the position or you know of someone in your club who is. We need your help in securing future leaders for GFWC Massachusetts. I know it was a very valuable and rewarding experience for me when I served as an officer of GFWC Massachusetts and I have every reason to believe it will be for you too.

Please refer to our GFWC Massachusetts Bylaws available at GFWCMA.ORG/MEMBERS/Governing Documents/Bylaws for what you need to know to become part of the GFWC Massachusetts Executive Committee for 2022-2024.

Information on the Duties of the Officers is contained in **Article V—Officers, Executive Committee (EC) and Their Duties**.

Information on Eligibility and the Endorsement is contained in **Article XI—Nominations and Elections** (Pertinent excerpts listed below:)

Section 2. Responsibilities of Nominating Committee

A. The Nominating Committee shall review endorsed candidates for the office of First Vice President, Second Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer to make sure they meet the criteria specified below:

1. To be eligible to serve as an Officer, a prospective nominee shall be a member of an active GFWC Massachusetts Club. She shall have served as President of such a club for at least one year and/or as a member of the Board of Directors of GFWC Massachusetts for at least two years.
2. Each candidate must be endorsed for a specific office by a majority vote of her club, properly documented.
3. This endorsement accompanied by qualifications and resume, must be submitted before October 1 of the odd calendar year to the Nominating Committee Chairman.

Many of you have participated in leadership roles in your club and on the GFWC Massachusetts Board of Directors and should be willing to step up and participate in the future of our beloved GFWC Massachusetts. I can assure you will have the support and dedication of many GFWC Massachusetts members and it will be a very rewarding and fulfilling experience to be part of the leadership of GFWC Massachusetts. Please let this Nominating Committee Chairman know if you have any questions, need more information, or if I can help in any way. I look forward to hearing many of you from you!

**Prudence
Wright,
Pepperell,
MA**

*Lead more
than 30 female
militia during
the
Revolutionary
War*

1775

Memorial Forest Management Plan

from President Shibley

Our Federation had a **Forest Management Plan** written in 2010 which was set to expire in 2020. Gary Gouldrup, a New England Forestry consultant was hired by GFWC Massachusetts to develop a 10-year Forest Stewardship and Bird Habitat Assessment Plan after GFWC MA applied for and received financial assistance from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. The plan was approved in 2021 with thoughts going forward for continued forest management, inhabitant respect, and tree harvesting on our property. We will work with the Sudbury Valley Trustees, the Department of Conservation and Recreation and the gas company in the future.

Due to storm damage to or property in the spring and fall of 2020 it was evident that many trees surrounding the caretaker's cottage were deceased and a threat to the inhabitants. In order to remove the trees, approval and paperwork needed to be completed to satisfy the Department of Environmental Protection, Sudbury Conservation Commission, and the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program of the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife departments. The State President took on this monumental task. The official approval was given in March 2021 for the much-needed work to begin. Many hours were spent on this project, with rules and regulations respected and followed. Prices for tree removal are being collected and will be reviewed in 2021.

Civic Engagement & Outreach

A few suggestions from Chairman, Diane M. Murphy

Are there any quilters in your club? Learn how to make quilts for veterans at Quilts of Valor at (<https://www.qovf.org/make-a-qov/>). Why not have several clubs join together to make a quilt.

Do not forget to get in touch with your local veteran agent to see what the needs are of your local women veterans. Have your club members make up goodie bags for the women veterans.



Harriet Tubman
Escaped slavery
1850
Saved over 70 slaves.
Member of the Black Union Soldiers, who rescued more 700+ slaves.

Served as a nurse, spy, and scout.
1863



Community Service Program: Environment

Compiled by Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President

There are many exciting Environmental Celebrations this Spring. Now is the time to plan your club activities.

National Park Week – April 17 – 25, 2021

There are 15 National Park Service Sites in Massachusetts for families to enjoy. Annual Park Pass costs \$80. However, there are many discounted rates available: Military Pass, Annual 4th Grade Pass, Senior Pass, Access Pass and Volunteer Pass, see if you are eligible for any discounts. Did you know there will be 6 days in 2021 that admission to National Parks will be free? January 18, Birthday of MLK, Jr.; April 17, first day of National Park Wee; August 4, 1st anniversary of the Great American Outdoors Act; August 25, National Park Service Birthday; September 25, National Public Lands Day; November 11, Veterans Day. Recharge with nature. Visit a National Park.

-Virtual Tours- If you are unable to travel, visit the parks and activities virtually.
<https://www.nationalparks.org/connect/blog/take-virtual-visit-national-park>



Earth Day – Thursday, April 22, 2021

The theme of Earth Day 2021 is “Restore Our Earth.”

Cleanup projects on roadways, parks or waterways are wonderful! Help keep our water and air clean. Support river and ocean cleanups to keep our fish and all marine life healthy. Recycle and upcycle your plastic bags. Crochet with Plaryn, yarn made from plastic bags.

Get outside, Celebrate the Earth!

Arbor Day – Friday, April 30, 2021



Ideas to Celebrate Arbor Day:

- Plant trees individually, with the club, or students
- Have a professional or arborist teach how to plant a tree properly and which trees are best to use to replant lost trees. Also discuss tree care and the benefits of planting trees native to the area.
- Buy books on trees for your Library.
- Have an Arbor Day poster contest or coloring contest for youth.
- Read a book about trees
- Take a nature walk or hike noticing different tree varieties and bring a field guide to help with identification.
- Visit a botanical garden or arboretum.
- Become a member of your favorite conservation or wildlife organization.

**Ellen Swall
Richards,
Westford, MA**

*First woman
admitted to
the
Massachusetts
Institute of
Technology.*

*1873
graduate*



Fundraising & Development

Chairman, Mary Ann Pierce

Since being inside the home so much, I have made a valiant effort to purge "stuff". And not necessarily donate... Why do we save so many notes, agendas, and cards? I do enjoy finding and reading memories from years gone by but at some point, we need to trim the clutter!

My other renewal is putting my health and recovering from surgery ready to chase my grands around on a reconstructed knee without pain! Who would have thought you walk hours after surgery with help or that before you know it you are a pro at stairs again! Yes, the cane is visible reminder to those who don't know me... walk by me with care! Cars do stop if I cross the street much quicker than before!

Another thought is spending quality time with family and friends! Can't wait for that to happen and soon! Family here vaccinated so we are raring to go!

Geraldine Ferraro

First woman in America to run for Vice President on a major-party platform

1984

MARCH Fundraiser \$100 in Lottery Tickets

Prize entries \$5.00 each, 3/\$10.00 and the drawing will be held at the end of the month. Pay by check payable to "GFWC MA" and mailed to GFWCMA Treasurer, P O Box 236, Pepperell, MA 01463, or through Venmo "GFWC Massachusetts".

DECEMBER Winner of the Vera Bradley package - Jen Nowak
JANUARY Winner of the \$100 in lottery tickets - Maureen Crowley
FEBRUARY Winner of the Pretty in pink/red/purple quilt - Joyce Clark

1898 Society

Become a member for \$18.98. All proceeds support GFWC MA. We will celebrate together on Friday, April 30 at 8:00pm

Chickadee Shirts

\$20 each. All proceeds support GFWC MA.

Other item for sale: contact Donna Shibley for colors and choices

Tissue Pack Holders

\$4.00 each or 3/\$10.00 this would be a great small gift for someone special, ask about special orders.

Pup Bandanas

\$10.00 each for the fashionable pup - XS, S, M, L, XL sizes

Be sure to check out our Fundraising page at gfwcma.org for details!



Club Yearbooks/Information

Mail a hard copy of your yearbook or email your list of clubmember names, addresses, phone number, email to our HQ Secretary. This information will securely stay at our HQ.

GFWC Membership Grant

Funding is available to help underwrite membership recruiting efforts at the club level. GFWC is offering \$50 for club member recruitment activities in conjunction with seasonal recruitment campaign activities.

- Summer seasonal recruitment membership grant deadline ~ **June 1, 2021**
Find the application on the GFWC MA website.

MassSTAR

Virtual Leadership Circle Sessions for high school Juniors are being held on March 27, April 17, and May 8. Encourage 1-3 high school Juniors to reserve their spots at [Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation - MYL Foundation](http://MassachusettsYouthLeadershipFoundation-MYLFoundation.org) (massyouthleadership.org)

990-N Tax Filing

In order to maintain your tax-exempt status, each GFWC Massachusetts club must file a tax return within five months of your fiscal end-of-year. Clubs with income of less than \$50,000 per year should file a simple 990-N. Instructions are available at www.gfwcma.org. Click on "Members", then "Tax Filings for Clubs" for a step-by-step PowerPoint presentation to help you file. It's that easy! Be sure to send a copy of your confirmation sheet to treasurer@gfwcma.org. Have questions? Please email Treasurer, Darlene Coutu at treasurer@gfwcma.org for assistance.

Manual Sheets

Can you believe it is time again to fill out the Manual Sheet? The information being asked for is used to update our State Manual/Directory. Even if none of the information has changed, please fill out this form so that we may have complete and verified information for our state records. The Club President **AND** Club Treasurer signatures **are required**. GFWC MA needs your information promptly for Manual distributed in late summer.

**Lydia Chapin
Taft,
Mendon, MA**

*First
woman known
to legally vote
in colonial
America.*

*Uxbridge
1756*

Read Across America in Springfield



**Hattie
Caraway**

*First
woman
elected to
U.S. Senate*

1925

GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club wanted to recognize March 2nd Read Across America Day however, members were not comfortable going into classrooms. One member reached out to a teacher at the Edward P. Boland Elementary School in Springfield. It was decided to do 30 minute virtual story time with kindergarten and 1st grade students. A total of 6 classrooms and approximately 190 students would be included. Each reader was assigned a classroom and the school sent Zoom links for the reader to sign in that day. The chairman created a flyer with information needed for the presenter along with a few facts about Dr. Seuss they could share with the students. Dr. Seuss style hats were given to the readers, to help make the zoom meeting festive. The teachers were so excited to have new interaction with the students, as zoom learning was taking a toll on spirits of the children.

The chairman worked with the school representative and choose the book *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish* by Dr. Seuss. A google slide presentation was created so the students could follow along on screen and a scavenger hunt activity was planned after the story was read. The scavenger hunt was easy enough for all students to enjoy. They were given a short amount of time to go and find items by color. The WJWC member would ask for 2 colors at a time, students would go and pick something from around their house and bring it back, each student would show their choices. By doing the 2 items at a time, the WJWC member just watched the time and could stop when they were approaching the 30-minute deadline. WJWC reached out to Links-to-Libraries, a local nonprofit who encourages reading as a lifelong skill, to get a book donated for each child that day. Also reaching out to the Dr. Seuss Museum a club member was able to get plain white bookmarks and paper hats that the teachers could use as a classroom craft activity.

When story time was over, it was undecided who enjoyed this more, the students or the readers!

Submitted by:

Jen Nowak – jwnowak@charter.net | 413-535-9093

Woman's Club of Newton Highlands

The Woman's Club of Newton Highlands delivered 55 hats for St. Jude Hospital.



Westborough Women's Club WINS at BINGO!

On a cold, snow-covered evening, 52 WWC members participated in WWC's first Bingo via Zoom, in the comfort of their homes. Three games were played, 255 Bingo cards were purchased, and 5 members met the Bingo challenge. Many players thought all members were winners by their participation in such a fun event. Very exciting was the \$945 raised for the WWC to help meet the needs of the community.

SAVE your Bingo Cards!!! We are hoping to play "Family & Friends Bingo" in the early spring. New cards for new players and replacement cards will easily be available for purchase at that time. Stay tuned!

By Reene Hatherley
President, Westborough Women's Club



Hopkinton Women's Club

The Hopkinton Women's Club continued its annual Valentine's Day tradition of assembling bags filled with personal care items and donating them to a local charity. This year's recipient was Compassion New England of Milford (www.compassionne.com) that runs a thrift shop, supplies household and food items, provides shelter to families who need to stay nearby their loved ones undergoing medical treatments at MGH and offers vocational training to people with disabilities.





Hanover Woman’s Club, Juniors
 Gift bags for VA Medical Center

Members of the Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors collected gift bags of items needed by the female patients at the VA Medical Center in Brockton. Needed items and some fun gifts were included in the bags. Two baskets of Movie Night items, candy, popcorn and movies were welcome for their community room on their unit. This is a yearly project by the club.

By Mary Anne Cirino



#6 Snowman Wreath

White, red, and black snowman to cheer up any door this holiday!



#10 Clean Christmas

Advent Calendar, cleaning products, 6 rolls of toilet paper, soap, Glade candle, liquid soap, wipes, apron, cleaning gloves, and more!



#11 Terri’s Treasures

Snowmen, angels, cookies, candy, socks, polar bears, a gift certificate. This tree is packed!



#7 Gift Cards Galore!

Aldi’s, Kohls, Dunkin’, Target, T.J Maxx/Marshalls/Home Goods

Milford Juniors Woman’s Club
 Gala of Trees

The Milford Juniors recently pivoted our Gala of Trees to an online event and had tremendous success! Covid has decreased our members for the year dramatically, but the mighty group decorated trees, obtained sponsors and shared the event. We have over 60 participants and reached our goal with only half the items! (We chose the most popular)

This money will allow us to continue to offer a scholarship to a senior girl this year. It was a wonderful way to end the year .

By Paula Mullahoo, President



Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club Drive Through Donations

Without meetings in person the Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club pivoted to drive through donations for local organizations. The membership book each month lists donations needed and where it will help. In the fall members donated kitchen utensils and towels for the Veterans Home in Dennis, food items and gift cards for Salvation Army, Safe Harbor and A Baby Center. The drive through are held on the same day and location as planned. Members drive through and drop off their donations for a dedicated hour. Kathy Kurniawan and Debbie MacDonald are the Community Improvement committee chairs. In February donations went to a local food pantry. The food pantry received a cart full of food and \$345 in donations.

In March donations went to A Baby Center in Hyannis. A Baby Center in March received 600 diapers, 1,168 diaper wipes and \$845 in cash donations. It is a win win all around!

By Judy Wilchynski



President Shibley's Heart to Heart Zoom call for Club Presidents



Marlborough Junior Woman's Club President Shibley wins the BBQ Basket from the Marlborough Juniors online raffle.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- April 1 Clubwoman Award and Julia Ward Howe President's Award nominations due
- April 8 Heart to Heart with Club Presidents (Zoom)
- April 17 Executive Committee ~ social 9:30am, start 10:00am at HQ
- April 17 MassSTAR Virtual Conference ~ 11:00am - 1:00pm
- April 18-24 GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
- April 24 GFWC Federation Day
- April 30 Fun Night and 1898 Society Reception ~ 7:00-8:00pm (Zoom)
- May 1 Combined Annual Convention ~ social 8:45am, start 9:00am (Zoom)
- May 2 Massachusetts LEADS ~ 11:00am - 1:00pm (Zoom)
- May 8 MassSTAR Virtual Conference ~ 11:00am - 1:00pm
- May 13 Executive Committee ~ social 6:30pm, start 7:00pm (Zoom)
- May 29 Board of Directors ~ social 9:30am, start 10:00am at HQ
- May 29 Federation Day at the Forest ~ 1:00pm
- June 15 Manual Sheets due
- June 25-27 GFWC Board of Directors meeting ~ TBD
- July 21-31 Best of Britain, GFWC President's tour
- August 4 Junior Executive Board
- August 12 Executive Committee ~ social 6:30pm. Start 7:00pm
- August 21 Board of Directors ~ social 9:30am, start 10:00am at HQ
- August 19 Junior Jumpstart (Leadership) ~ 6:00pm
- August 23 Club Leaders Day ~ social 6:30pm, start 7:00pm
- August 28-30 GFWC Convention ~ Atlanta, GA

