



The BEAT of the Federation

PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER

Editor: DONNA M. SHIBLEY, GFWC MASSACHUSETTS PRESIDENT 2020-2022

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VOLUME 8

Executive Committee:

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Treasurer

Darlene Coutu
Treasurer@gfwcma.org

Director of Junior Clubs

Katie Robey
kdrobey@robeybaur.org

Help Wanted:

We have some
Chairmen openings:

Environment
Communications and
Public Relations
Legislation/Public
Policy

Fundraising Committee

Email President Shibley
if you are interested.

We'd love to have
you join the Board of
Directors.

President's message:

Happy Valentine's Day to our members who continue to open their hearts, their wallets, and offer a helping hand. We all give our **Hearts & Hands for GFWC** even with current restrictions in place. I am available (a phone call/an email away) to help Club Presidents with ideas and suggestions to keep your members involved, while working on club business until we can safely meet in person.



Publicity: Do you have club news to share with GFWC? If there a club success story to tell? Email to be considered for GFWC's Blog. Share upcoming club projects with **GFWC MA** to be including on our website or to *Federation TOPICS* editor Darlene Coutu(due March 20 spring edition.)

GFWC Affiliate Webinars:

GFWC News & Notes provided info about upcoming GFWC Affiliate webinars. These are available on specific days and times; if you register but cannot attend in person, you will be sent the link to watch at your convenience. Sign up through the Member Portal. Need help signing up? Contact Membership Services at gfwc@gfwc.org and/or call GFWC.

♥ **Prevent Child Abuse America** ~ February 17 @ 4:00pm

♥ **Canine Companions for Independence** ~ February 24 @ 4:00pm

♥ **UN Foundation Shot@Life Campaign** ~ March 10 @ 4:00pm

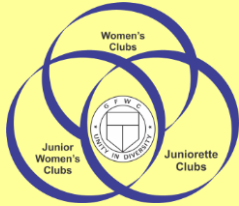
Already shown ♥ **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital** ~ contact me and I can send you the broadcast link.

GFWC Woman's History Month ~ Speaker Sara Hammel, a journalist, bestselling author and screenwriter and first Jane Cunningham Croly Award will talk about her book, "The Strong Ones," and her journey since 1996 when she won the award from GFWC. Sign up through the Member Portal by March 3.

This issue featuring information on: GFWC Affiliate Webinars, GFWC Woman's History Month, Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk, Club list of members, MA Scholarships, Jennie June Award, February and March fundraisers, ESO Book group, Legislation and Public Policy update, Membership Grant, MassSTAR virtual leadership sessions, Items for sale, 1898 Society, and GFWC and GFWC MA contests. Please share.

Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk:

There will be an email invite coming soon for you as Club President to join this State President on Thursday night, **March 4 @ 6:00** for a Heart to Heart talk. Our **special guest, Pat Furtado**, GFWC MA Membership Chairman who will talk about **Hearts of our Members**. Please attend ♥



For Sale:

Support the
Massachusetts
President's focus area:
Domestic Violence and
Sexual Assault Awareness
and Prevention



Purchase a heart
diversity pin for \$5.00
each or a heart/hand
bracelet for \$20.00 All
proceeds will go towards
club grants and DV/SA
A&P. Contact
Bernadette Bennett for
your purchases:
bbennett@bu.edu



**Show your support of
GFWC Massachusetts
by joining
The 1898 Society.**

Members are dedicated
to the financial well-
being of our state
organization, funds
contribute to the welfare
of this Federation. We
encourage all members
to join each year at
\$18.98 per year.

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 Massachusetts Scholarships and Memorial Education Scholarship for Graduate Study ~ due dates are March 1, 2021. Have you gotten the information to your local schools? Or publicized these?

Our next **Board of Directors Meeting** is Saturday, February 27, 2021 via Zoom. We are on schedule with the 4 times per year BoD meetings.

GFWC Jennie June Award:

The GFWC Jennie Award, the only national honor bestowed by GFWC, recognizes individuals for personal excellence. Named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, writer for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June", club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation's highest honor. Nominee's paperwork is due June 1, 2021.

February's Fundraiser:

PRETTY IN PINK/RED/PURPLE ~ A beautiful quilt, made by Jen Nowak. Prize entries are \$5.00 each or 3/\$10.00. Drawing will be held at the end of the month. Pay by check (GFWC MA and mail to Treasurer Darlene Coutu, P.O. Box 236, Pepperell, MA 01463) or pay via Venmo.

March Madness Fundraiser:

Back by popular demand - \$100 in lottery tickets,



Fundraiser winners:

November's Suffragist 100 package ~ winner Darlene Coutu

December's Vera Bradley package ~ winner Jen Nowak

January's LUCKY 2021 \$100 Lottery tickets ~ winner Maureen Crowley

GFWC ESO update: from Pat Furtado

She attended several Zoom meetings with the National ESO chairperson, Tina Daniels. ESO is now open to any book read as long as it fits into a designated category and **every** book fits into a category. The ESO lists have been updated and can be used a guide. Consider joining the ESO FaceBook group that has some live chats and a monthly book read. It is GFWC 2020 2022 ESO book Club. All are welcome to join the group.

Legislation and Public Policy:

Time for Women to have Equal Rights:

Urge Members of Congress to cosponsor bipartisan House Joint Resolution 17 and Senate Joint Resolution 1 to remove the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. In January 2020, the necessary three-quarters, or 38 states, ratified the proposed Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Unfortunately, the United States Archivist refused to publish and certify the ratification based on a 2020 memorandum from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of General Counsel, stating that the deadline had passed.

Congress must press forward and end any unnecessary barriers to the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment. **Please take action.**



**GFWC MA Website
GFWCMA.org
Scavenger Hunt #7**

Can you find and answer these questions:

1. About GFWC~GFWC

Did You Know: What decade did women's clubs establish 75% of America's public libraries, credited by the American Library Association?

2. Events~Club Events:

Which Massachusetts club just sponsored a Zoom Trivia night? Contact them for info on this easy fundraiser.

3. Members~Fundraising:

Who do you contact to buy a pup bandana?

4. Calendar: What day in March is Absolutely Incredible Kid Day?

5. Members~GFWC MA Program Information:

What club recently donated 13 baby blankets to the March of Dimes Blanket Challenge?

Remember your State President as well as the Officers are available for you. Let us know what topic(s) you are looking for ♥ We want you to feel supported at this unprecedented time.

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. Applications must be received by these dates for membership events occurring in the designated seasonal recruitment cycle:

- Spring seasonal recruitment membership grant deadline~**March 1, 2021**
 - Summer seasonal recruitment membership grant deadline~**June 1, 2021**
- Find the application on the GFWCMA website.

MassSTAR:

Virtual Leadership Circle Sessions for high school Juniors held on March 6, March 27, April 17, and May 8. Encourage 1-3 students per high school to reserve their spots at [Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation - MYL Foundation \(massyouthleadership.org\)](https://massyouthleadership.org)

GFWC MA CONTESTS:

WRITING CONTESTS: postmarked to GFWC MA HQ by 2/15/2021

GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest ~ Short stories are limited to 2,000 words.

GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest ~ Poetry entries can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines, maximum of 50 lines.

Youth Short Story Writing Contest ~ Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. One entry per person per category.

Youth Poetry Writing Contest ~ Poetry entries can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines, maximum of 50 lines. One entry per person per category.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTESTS: postmarked to GFWC MA HQ by 3/1/2021

THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST ~

Our World Up Close ~ Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world.

Natural Wonders ~ Use wide angles and panoramas, or moody landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.

Reflections ~ Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

GFWC VOLUNTEERS IN ACTION ~ These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen.

GFWC CONTESTS:

WEBSITE Contest ~ clubs can enter, due to GFWC by March 15, 2021

NEWSLETTER Contest ~ clubs can enter, due to GFWC by March 15, 2021

GFWC MA FaceBook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/GFWCMA>

Join us here for postings that are relevant to GFWC Massachusetts.

GFWC MA website ~ <https://www.gfwcma.org/>:

Keep within easy access. There are many forms and documents within reach. Don't forget to send Donna Shibley any upcoming **Club Events** to be included on the website: Events - Club Events.