



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts



Federation Topics - a newsletter for Clubwomen

Winter 2019

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts Headquarters - P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776 www.gfwcma.org
Member GFWC International – www.gfwc.org

"If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded."

Maya Angelou



Several of our GFWC leaders, dressed in their crimson finest, attended the American Heart Association Galentine's Day Tea at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Boston on Sunday, February 10th. (Someone forgot the flat GFWC. 😞) A fun but also serious day listening to stroke survivors and physicians discuss their stories and giving us a mandate to share with all our women friends and family to listen to our body and be proactive in our diet, exercise and talking to our doctor. (l-r) Mary Ann Pierce, Fundraising Chairman and Past State President, Katie Robey, Bylaws Chairman and Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, Diane McCurley, 2nd Vice President, Beth McKeon, Junior Education Chairman, Robin O'Connor, Federation Station Chairman and Donna Canavan, Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention and Communications/PR Chairman.

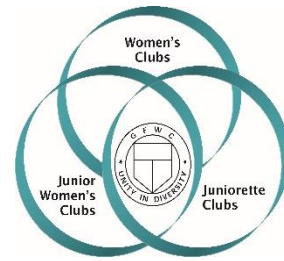
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Lynne M. Stader



I recently read an article- a bit too technical for me- but written to explain that winter is the nighttime of the year. Feels like it doesn't it? Nature rests to be ready for the activity of spring. So winter is a time to slow down and find some peace in the pace of our lives. That's not easy for the women I know! Volunteers and the need for volunteering doesn't stop just because the thermometer drops. I know our clubwomen have many activities happening right now and in the pipeline for 2019, because that's what our members do, and our communities are better for it.

This issue of *Topics* features updates from our state chairmen. Please know that you can reach out to these dedicated members of our state executive board any time for project ideas or answers to questions about current initiatives. We encourage any and all member participation! I know my own club has always benefitted from the new ideas that we get from GFWC. Club presidents should be receiving their copy of *Clubwoman Magazine* to pass along to members, and, should be signed up to receive *GFWC News & Notes*, a weekly e-publication. These two publications, along with this president's monthly *Club Connections* and *GFWC Massachusetts Topics* sent quarterly are your best resources for sharing the news and endeavors of GFWC.

Please check the Dates to Remember in this issue and plan to join us at federation events. I am looking forward to Annual Meeting- May 4-5, 2019- when we will share the successes of our clubs, celebrate scholarship and fellowship recipients, and enjoy the company of our sisters in GFWC. The Teal and Purple Domestic Violence Awareness Brunch features Miss Massachusetts 2018 Gabby Taveras and will celebrate all our members have done to support the Teal and Purple Creativity Contest. Please plan to come and support this special event.

Now grab a warm beverage and enjoy this issue of *Topics*. Stay warm!

Lynne





Junior Membership Connection
Jen Nowak
Director of Junior Clubs



A huge thank you to all Massachusetts club women who took the time to submit information on what your clubs did in 2018. I have had the privilege to read some of these reports and once again *GFWC Volunteers were Making Magic*. Across the state Police and Fire Departments were supported, domestic violence shelters received much needed help, awareness and support of health issues, library and food banks accepted donations, to name just a modest part of what we did. The Massachusetts Reports that will be submitted to GFWC will be nothing short of excellent. Thank you all for volunteering.

Our time to celebrate this awesome work will be at the Annual Conference on 4/27 at Stoneforge in Raynham, and Annual Meeting on May 4 & 5 at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlborough. Mark your calendars now, Lynne and I hope to see many of you on those two weekends.

I cannot forget about Wreaths Across America on December 15th, as I am finally starting to see clubs after the holidays, I am catching all the stories of that day. They really are heartwarming to hear the effort members put in that day. And the financial support showed to our fallen hero's is very gratifying.

March 2nd is Read Across America Day, now is the time to plan a project with your local library or school to show your club's support. And plan to make one of your book choices a Dr. Seuss book to celebrate his birthday.

Arbor Day will soon follow on April 27, 2019. Take part in one of the GFWC President's Grand Initiatives of planting 1,000 trees on Arbor Day. If you join the Arbor Day Foundation for \$10, you or your club will receive: 10 free seedlings to plant locally, 10 trees will be planted in your name in a national park and a tee shirt. So find a creative way to get tree seedlings donated and plant them on April 27th.

Spring is almost here, and that time of year is always busy for clubs. Make sure to document your club activities and post them on social media, spread the word of your club's good deeds.

Remember, *GFWC Volunteers Make Magic* while being *Stronger Together*.

Jen

Holiday Fun!

Many activities kept Massachusetts club women busy during the holiday season.



At Holiday at Headquarter our Annual Cookie Swap offered soooo many delicious choices!! Shown is only a small sampling.
A real favorite of our club women!

President Lynne Stader reads the traditional Christmas Story at Holiday at Headquarters.



Basket Raffles were also in abundance at Club Institute's Holiday at Headquarters. Many went home with some beautiful items to give as gifts or beautify their homes.



Federation Station offered many seasonal items for women to select for stocking stuffers.

Each table of attendees was able to create a beautiful fleece blanket to be sent to the March of Dimes (a GFWC partner) for presentation at a baby shower at a military base



Massachusetts met the challenge!

GFWC asked every state to submit a Christmas tree (not taller than 18" and fully decorated) for display at Holiday at Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Both GFWC of Massachusetts (shown below left) and our Junior Membership outdid themselves with unique creations!



Created by Diane McCurley
2nd Vice President



Created by Jen Nowak
Director of Junior Clubs

House to House to House we will go!



GFWC of Massachusetts members supporting the Needham Women's Club's Annual Holiday House Tour on December 9th. Left to right: President Lynne Stader, Mary Ann Pierce, Fundraising Chairman, Katie Robey, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, Donna Shibley, 1st Vice President, Jen Nowak, Director of Junior Clubs, Diane McCurley, 2nd Vice President and Robin O'Connor, Federation Station Chairman.

BINGO!!

On Friday, November 16th GFWC of Massachusetts held their first BINGO event at Headquarters in Sudbury. Under the auspices of Bingo Queens, Mary Ann Pierce, Donna Shibley, T Jablanski and Diane McCurley everyone had a great time and many went home with terrific prizes.



Mary Kemp studies her cards
very carefully!



Our players anxiously
await the next game!

NEXT BINGO!



Who's ready for an afternoon of fun with friends? Due to the success of our first event, we are holding a second BINGO event.

WHEN: Sunday, March 17

WHERE: GFWC MA Headquarters, Sudbury

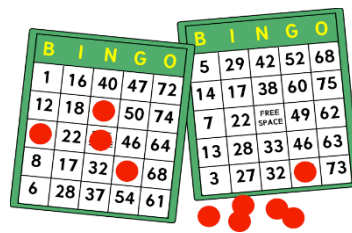
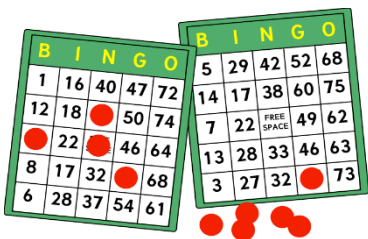
TIME: 1:00-3:00 pm

COST: \$25.00 per person

THEME: Yes, It is **St. Patrick's Day** -  wear **green** to be considered for special **green** prizes.

Price includes: free raffle tickets, 4 bingo cards (more are available to purchase), snacks, beverages and prizes galore! BYOB is allowed.

Contact Donna to secure your spot:
dmshibley@gmail.com or 413-519-1845



Come support GFWC Massachusetts, have FUN, and win some great prizes!

CLUB HAPPENINGS

Millbury Woman's Club

Induction of a new member Pamela Hill
by Joanne Jacobson with Lee Correira.



Pepperell Woman's Club



Pepperell Woman's Club Veterans' Luncheon
On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Pepperell had served in the armed forces. In attendance were veterans from World War II, the Vietnam era, and the Gulf War. **Front row:** Karen Hutchinson; Darlene Coutu; Jackie Triehy; Jim Triehy (US Army WWII); and Jean Connolly. **Back row:** Mary Barnes; Wendy Cummings; Albert Loftin(US Navy); Don Coutu (US Air Force); Nancy Whalen; Grant Triehy; Lara Triehy (US Army); Ryan Gatton (US Marine Corps); Don Durant (US Navy); Sue Tanguay; and Bob Connolly (US Army). A ham dinner including a dessert table was provided by the members of the Pepperell Woman's Club which was enjoyed by all



Jacquelyn Triehy was honored at the the November meeting of the **Pepperell Woman's Club** for 50 years of service as a club woman. Pictured is the presentation of her 50-year pin by PWC President, Darlene Coutu. Congrats Jacquelyn!



Hopkinton Woman's Club

At their January meeting the members of the **Hopkinton Woman's Club** presented GFWC of Massachusetts President Lynne Stader with 400 books for the President's Project, More Than Words. Good job ladies!





**Coming Up at
CLUB INSTITUTE**
Diane McCurley, Chairman



Thursday, March 7, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Location ~ **GFWC of MA Headquarters, 245 Dutton Road, Sudbury**
Please join us for this special morning program!

Featuring ...

International Outreach Community Service Program

Mary C. Baird, Chairman

With special presentation by Sheila E. Shea on her OPERATION SMILE mission.

Conservation Community Service Program

Laurie LaBrecque, Chairman

What's This Thing Called "Repair Café"?

Arts Community Service Program

Diane Murphy, Chairman

**Special Presentation by Yvette Madany, Hopkinton Woman's Club
Chinese Calligraphy**

March 7th is also a very busy day for collecting things at GFWC Massachusetts Headquarters. We certainly don't expect everyone to donate to all but if you have things that are appropriate for us to take off your hands, please participate!

- ✓ Soles4Souls – collecting gently used shoes for distribution to individuals in need
- ✓ Teal & Purple Creativity Contest – bring your entry for this contest to be held at Annual Meeting. Firm deadline is March 15th.
- ✓ Dr. Seuss Books – collecting as part of GFWC 2018-2020 Grand Initiatives to donate 1,000 books to children's centers and libraries
- ✓ Books for MTW – always welcome. Weather permitting, the door to the outside bin will be open so you can put your bags and boxes inside.
- ✓ SAVERS Fundraiser – soft goods for our April 20th donation day (see flyer in this Newsletter for details.)
- ✓ Haiti Trip – Several GFWC Massachusetts club women are traveling to Haiti to assist Foundation for Peace in their humanitarian efforts. They would love to bring many of these items with them: dictionaries: French/English, Spanish/Creole; white board markers; Sudoku puzzle books; calculator for high schoolers; rulers; card games (without words); pens, pencils, pencil sharpeners; bubbles; jump ropes; crayons, colored pencils; toothbrushes,

toothpaste; coloring books; adult and child children's vitamins;
composition notebooks (not spiral); Band-aids; hand sanitizers;
flip flops, all sizes; wash cloths; underwear (boys and girls) all sizes.

And don't forget, the **GFWC CONTESTS!**

Entries for: Photography, Creative Writing

See GFWCMA website for details and Creative Arts Waiver



ARTS – Diane Murphy, Chairman

Dmm7852@gmail.com

Teal and Purple Creativity Contest

What can you make with teal and purple? Can you knit a scarf? Create a handbag? Make jewelry? Paint? Decorate a tee shirt? Create note cards? Stitch a pillow? Decorate a picture frame? Make a flower arrangement? Make a Quilt? Decorate a ball cap? Use your talents in a new way and show your support. Include application below with your entry. Contact Diane with questions.

We Support Teal and Purple Creativity Contest Entry Form

Entries due to GFWC of MA Headquarters **by March 15, 2019**

Name of Item _____ Club _____

Entrant's Name _____ Suggested Auction Value: \$ _____

Contact Phone # _____ Contact Email _____

Basic Description of the item



PUBLIC ISSUES – Cindy Brogan

cynthiabrogan@yahoo.com

It's important to remember as the weather gets warmer there will be more people walking and riding bicycles. Be on the lookout for them while driving. Encourage your children and grandchildren to wear safety helmets. This is also a good time to start a walking group and check out walking trails in your town.

Techie's Tips: Spoofing Reminder

Mary Ellen Brock clubpresident70@yandex.com

Subject: Request

Good Morning Your Name,

Are you available? I need a personal favor from you. I'm giving out amazon gift cards to patients at Hospice Care units across the community. The one's I have aren't enough, so I need you to kindly make arrangements on how to get some more amazon gift cards at any store close to you, you will be reimbursed.

Thanks,

Mary Ellen Brock

Unfortunately, an email like the sample above could find its way into your inbox. Without closer inspection, it might be easy to mistake this as legitimate:

- A name you recognize appears as the sender.
- It addresses you by name.
- The content (giving to those in need) is relevant to GFWC.

Spoofing is the practice of creating emails that aim to trick recipients into thinking it is from someone they know. It's a way for scammers to take advantage of you. If you receive an email requesting money or the purchase of items from what appears to be a fellow GFWC club member, check the email address. In the sample, the email says it is from Mary Ellen Brock. But when you look at the email address, it's generic and does not match her real email address. That's the number one sign of a fraudulent email; always carefully check the source of suspicious emails like this one.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION – Donna Canavan

Donnacan715@aol.com

FEBRUARY IS TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

It's important for teenagers to know what a safe and healthy relationship looks and feels like, especially if it's their first one. They might not recognize abusive patterns or behaviors. They also might only know how to identify physical abuse and not psychological, emotional and digital abuse (using technology such as cell phones or social media to abuse and control). Visit www.loveisrespect.org to educate yourself and youth in your community on teen dating violence, indicators, and healthy relationships. Use GFWC's Action Guides as resources!



PRESIDENT'S PROJECT – Lucille Barton
jelab@beld.net

NEW YEAR- New Ways to Support the President's Project!

Our club members are wonderful for the ways in which you have supported our President's Project this past year. Thank you, thank you!!! With **over 11,000 books** sourced to date, we have surpassed all expectations to reach our goal this first year.

Now we must look forward to the coming year and make plans to continue our successful venture. Here are a few suggestions along with the contacts at MTW who are ready to help:

- **CALL JOHN! AND KEEP THE BOOKS COMING.** Hopefully, we can reach 20,000 donations of books, CD's and DVD's by the end of next year. Spring will be here soon- check local yard sales for donations. Have a bag at monthly meetings. If you have more than 6 cartons or more than 200 books and in the Greater Boston area, MTW will come and pick them up. **** Reach out to their book drive account Bookdrives@mtwyouth.org or to (617)-674-5555 and **John** will assist you as soon as possible.
- **CALL MADELINE! CAN YOU SCHEDULE A BOOK VENDOR TABLE** at local event? Do you sell table space for vendors at church or club fairs? Contact **Madeline** at MTW to schedule a table. She will answer all your questions and give you any needed help. **** Her e-mail is mmccormick@mtw.org.
- **CALL BEVERLY! AND SCHEDULE A DAY OF SERVICE at MTW in Waltham.** Groups of up to 10 club members can meet the young people, get a tour of the facility, and help scan books into the system. **** Contact **Beverly Eugene- Graham**, Volunteer Coordinator bgraham@mtwyouth.org

Don't forget- GFWC Massachusetts can also support MTW by purchasing books. Our members can BUY BOOKS FROM MTW ONLINE, get books at one of their 2 bookstores, or at the More Than Words table at any of our state federation conferences. Online purchases can be made through Amazon used books sales.

Watch for a state federation **DAY OF SERVICE** to be announced in the 2019 Calendar of Events for clubwomen.



SAVERS

FUNDrive™

Is your closet overcrowded?
Are your drawers bulging?
Is spring cleaning calling you?
Are ready to channel your M. Kondo spirit?

GFWC Massachusetts is holding an **All Soft Goods FUNDrive**. This will benefit our nonprofit because **SAVERS** pays the most per lb - .25 - which is the fastest and easiest way to reach our goal!

WHEN: anytime before Saturday, April 20

DROP OFF: GFWC MA Headquarters, Sudbury

TIME: any Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday. Please call our Headquarters Secretary, Diane prior to drop off @ 978-443-4569



ACCEPTING: Clothing, Shoes, Bedding, Towels and Accessories: Hats, Mittens, Scarves, Ties, Socks, Purses, Wallets, Backpacks, Bags, Belts, and Jewelry



Support GFWC Massachusetts and feel great about donating items you no longer need or do not bring you joy!



FUNDRAISER

SAVE THE DATE:

GFWC Massachusetts is pleased to sponsor a dine-out fundraiser in conjunction with the Chill Kitchen & Bar. Partnerships like this are a perfect fit for the community.

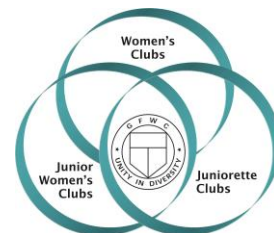
when: Saturday, April 13, 2019 from 9:00 am - 12:00 midnight

where: 416 Boston Post Road E. Marlborough, MA

why: to support GFWC MA fundraising efforts and to support local businesses.

how: visit Chill Kitchen & Bar for lunch and/or dinner, dine-in and/or take-out, of your total pre-tax bill (alcohol not eligible) will be donated to GFWC MA.

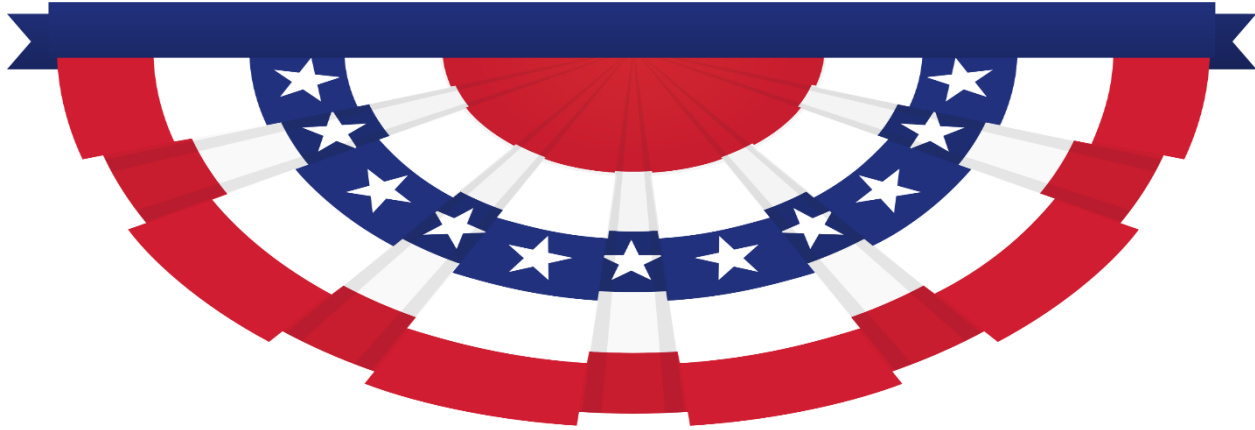
bring: this flier and give to your server, feel free to pass out fliers to family and friends.



15%

Thank you in advance
for your support!





Save the Date

Saturday, April 27, 2019 at 9:30 a.m.

GFWC Massachusetts Junior Annual Conference

“Every Little Thing We Do is Magic”

Stoneforge Tavern & Publick House
90 Paramount Drive, Raynham



Junior Fun Night:

Friday, April 26th will be Junior Fun Night.

Plan to stay Friday night at the Courtyard by Marriott, 37 Paramount Drive, Raynham

Service Project:

★ Fire and Police Appreciation – clubs will make a memento to take and deliver locally

It's Time to Celebrate:

All Junior Club's accomplishments in 2018 – Share your Magic!

★ Marilyn Perry Leadership Award



★ Martha Michalewicz Clubwoman Award



★ Sheila E. Shea Junior Club President Award



★ Barbara Baker Tray



★ Silver Bowl Awards – Large Club, Small Club, Best Overall Club

Raffles

Awards

Networking

Shopping

Dates to Remember

March 7 – Club Institute

March 17 – BINGO

April 13 – Chill Kitchen & Bar dine-out fundraiser, Marlborough

April 20 – SAVERS

April 27 – Junior Annual Conference, Stoneforge, Raynham

May 4-5 – Annual Meeting, Courtyard Marlborough

June 6 – Federation Day at the Forest

June 28-July 1 – GFWC Convention, Austin Texas

Happy
Valentine's
Day

Hope you enjoyed this edition of TOPICS. When your club does something new/fun/important in your community, takes lots of pictures and send them to gfwcma@aol.com for publication in our next issue! Thanks for reading!

Diane McCurley, Editor