

GFWC MASSACHUSETTS
Federation TOPICS
A newsletter for Clubwomen



Message From President, Donna Shibley



This 62nd GFWC Massachusetts President is thrilled and honored to serve Massachusetts clubwomen. With the officers: T Jablanski, 1st Vice President; Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President; Terry Rouvalis, Recording Secretary; Donna Canavan, Corresponding Secretary; Darlene Coutu, Treasurer and Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Robey we are sure to have an amazing adventure and I know this will be an administration to remember. With the current restrictions in place and concerns about meeting in person your state leaders are exploring *new ways* of conducting business, getting responsibilities taken care of and learning as they go along. The whirlwind of emotions with this *new way* of volunteering can be stressful on all of us, but we are trying to use our **Hearts &**

Hearts for GFWC in positive ways. How many *new ways* of doing things have we encountered in 2020?

So far we have held the *first ever* taped **Installation of Officers** in May and *first ever* taped **Tools of the Trade ~ Club Leaders Day** in September. We have asked each Club President or their designee to watch the Club Leaders Day video and report back to Darlene at Treasurer@gfwcma.org that they did. And don't forget to enter the Hammer Contest for a chance to win prizes. **Manuals** will be delivered by mail and/or hand delivered by a State Officer.

This President attended the GFWC Board of Directors meeting via BigMarker. Business was taken care of and much information passed out. *No traveling* was needed. Missing the opportunity to bond and socialize with the other State Presidents is not the way we wanted to share the highlights of our administrations, but having a designated Facebook page strictly for State Presidents has helped.

Our first GFWC Massachusetts **Board of Directors Meeting** was held in person, at our Headquarters in Sudbury outside under the beautiful skies of Memorial Forest. The second hybrid meeting had some of us meeting (socially distanced and mask wearing) at our HQ and some of us meeting via *Zoom*. This Board is *now* 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 me if you are interested.

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In this issue
Meet your 2020-2022 Officers as they explain how COVID affected them

Editor: Darlene Coutu

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Who would have thought we would be able to participate in
GFWC Summer Webinar Series?

A new way of learning was offered to our clubmembers. Were you able to join any of these?

- Building Your Leadership Toolkit with GFWC Leadership Chairman Shannon Bailey and Committee
- Gathering Facts & Working For Change, Legislation/Public Policy and Activity in an Election Year with GFWC Legislation and Public Policy Chairman Vicky Ann Trimmer and Committee
- Communications 101: From Club to Crisis and Everything in Between with GFWC Communications and Public Relations Chairman Karyn Charvat and Committee
- Advocating for Children in GFWC Volunteering: It's not just for Juniors Anymore the Juniors' Special Program with GFWC Chairman Carrie Zimmerman and fellow Junior Board members
- Hats Off to Membership with GFWC Membership Chairman Becky Wright and Committee
- Leading to Better Tomorrows with the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman Jan Allen and Committee

Navigating this **new way** of life personally and with our volunteer work has many challenges. Missing the social interaction with our clubmembers is the biggest and hardest **new** that we are all experiencing. Keep contact with your fellow clubwoman and GFWC sisters up front in your daily lives. I know Massachusetts clubwomen will always give their **Hearts & Hands to GFWC** and I can't wait to safely meet again and share our success.

***"Be the
hardest-working
person you
know. If you're
not, someone
else will be"***

**Ian Breenan,
Screenwriter**

Not Just for Club Presidents: Heart to Heart Talks

This is an invite for you as Club President to join the GFWC Massachusetts President, Donna Shibley on a night in the first week of each month ~ the next one is Tuesday, October 6 at 6:30PM for a Heart-to-Heart talk. The goal is to check in on the pulse of your club. So far there have been two Heart to Heart talks with the President and don't fret if you missed them. These informal Zoom talks are being offered every month, some with special guests invites. October's featured guests will include GFWC MA Treasurer Darlene Coutu (to answer any questions you might have) and GFWC MA Fundraising Chairman Mary Ann Pierce (to offer virtual fundraising ideas). Hope to see you there.



Katie Robey, Director of Junior Membership

The last issue of *Federation Topics* was the Winter 2020 Issue. That issue had information about contests and awards and save-the-date information for Annual Meetings to take place in 2020. With the new year underway, I began the tasks necessary to become Director of Junior Clubs. I worked with Martha Casassa to choose chairman, worked with Juniorette Caitlyn Geary to design my logo, ordered business cards and planned my installation. All of this took place with something called Covid-19 in the background.



I grew up in Missouri and my father and several family members still live there. My father's birthday is March 16 and he was turning 92. I don't get to see him that often, so I planned a trip to coincide with his birthday. Although that background noise was starting to get louder, I decided to make the trip. While there, I received notice the New England Region Spring Meeting was cancelled as a precaution. Governor Baker ordered schools closed for three weeks from March 17-April 7, banned eating at restaurants, and banned gatherings of more than 25 in an effort to slow the spread of what was no longer just noise, but was clearly cause for concern.

While many of us hoped things would get better, it became clear that we were in this for the long run.

As I read Joan Vennoch's article in *The Boston Globe*, "Is Zoom kindergarten really possible?" I was inspired to finally write my article for *Federation Topics*. Vennoch writes that "over the past six months, work-at-home adults learned the challenges of Zoom." I would argue that she is missing another segment of the population who also needed to learn the challenges of Zoom as well as Microsoft Teams and BigMarker—the members of GFWC.

As more and more in-person meetings were cancelled, members of GFWC MA Junior Membership took on the challenge. Email was used to hold elections for the officers for 2020-2022 administration. With clubwomen who are also "work-at-home adults" and well versed in Zoom, Director Nowak was able to wrap up her administration using both Zoom and emails. Using Zoom, we held an online installation of officers for the 2020-2022 administration, held a hybrid Executive Board meeting and held a Zoom Junior Jumpstart. I have used a new medium, VidHug to tape messages that are incorporated into a video and attended GFWC webinars and Board of Directors meeting using BigMarker.

President Shibley and I are planning the newly designed hybrid Combined Fall Meeting to be held at Headquarters via in-person and Zoom. It is appropriately called *The Spirit of Change is in the Air*. The *Globe* article quotes a professor who says, "Children are absolutely capable of learning through whatever modality is presented to them." I thank the members of GFWC MA Junior membership who are also willing to adapt and learn through "whatever modality" they are presented with.

This Director wrote her welcome letter for the MA Club Manual quoting the 1950's song Put on a Happy Face, "*Take off the gloomy mask of tragedy, it's not your style; you'll look so good that you'll be glad; You decided to smile...*" Today we "*put on a mask for safety; yes, it's very in style; don't look so gloomy and you'll be glad; you decided to smile...underneath.*"

As your club adapts to follow social distancing rules, please remember *GFWC volunteers with art in our hearts* and a mask on our face!

IJF



T Jablanski, First Vice President



*“All you need is
love. But a little
chocolate now
and then doesn’t
hurt”*

Charles Schulze,
Cartoonist

**I remember a time when as a small child I would often
roll around and lay in the grass.**

**I would stare at the vastness of the blue sky, wondering
what all the little particles floating around were.
I would close my eyes, allowing the sun to sit gently on my
face.**

**I would feel my breath slow and my spirit grow calm.
My mind promising never to forget this moment.**

~~~

**Creating joyful moments in these uncertain times can be a  
challenge.**

**I've been spared in so many ways during this pandemic.  
I, like most, struggle with the social distancing.  
The loss of familiar human contact.**

**I mourn for what was such simple gestures, a hug, a smile.  
Gestures that have such power over my mood.**

~~~

**I find myself often reclining in my favorite patio chair
staring into the wide-open blue skies,
drinking up the sun's warmth.**

**Closing my eyes, I am there again.
The grass, soft, tickling my arms and neck.
A calm, carefree spirit, if only for a brief present moment.
I am thankful!**

T Jablanski 2020

Jen Nowak, Second Vice President



In February I would have thought a **hybrid meeting** is driving around in an electric car to see a friend. I must **Zoom** in an hour, means that I will be in a rush to get somewhere. **Flatten the curve** should be the new name of a diet. Is a **green screen** the same thing as grey matter? **Contagious** and **infectious** is the best way to describe a great laugh! **Isolation** is what I would do to myself to get a few hours of peace. And a **Super-spreader** has to be a new kitchen tool!

However, since **COVID-19** those new terms and many more are now our everyday language. This **pandemic** has changed our lives forever, a moment in history that will be remembered.

Each person has been affected by this virus that has spread, not only across the country but across the globe.

Being a GFWC leader during this time has strengthened and educated me in more ways than I thought possible. We have become creative in ways to stay in touch with our membership, and other leaders in the state, region, and national organization. We have had to reach out and depend on each other to make the best possible decisions while keeping the health and safety of the members a priority.

The new normal is yet to be defined, however technology has offered us the opportunity to socialize with friends while we are **social distancing**, meet with far away committee colleagues and family members, and kept us safe while shopping from home. Although the learning curve has been stretched in the last few months, it has strengthened each of us to think of everyday tasks differently.

I feel the GFWC Massachusetts leaders have worked diligently as a team to persevere these uncertain times, bringing forth the excitement of a new administration. Although this pandemic has wreaked havoc with our club's activities, volunteering never stops – it just might be different for a little while. This officer has performed many GFWC duties, however the biggest was assisting the Chairman to complete their CSP, SP and AP pages. Please check them out on the GFWC MA website.

Remember the motto ~ *Living the Volunteer Spirit* and add to that *Hearts & Hands for GFWC* and we have a winning combination to “**Start the Spread**” of good work in our communities.

I look forward to the time we can all meet again safely and without hesitation,
Jen Nowak

The BEAT of the Federation

This monthly President's newsletter delivered via email is for you and to also share with your clubmembers. It includes timely topics of interest, save the dates, happenings across the state updates on what your State President has been up to.

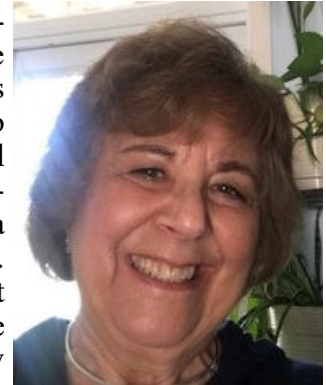


“I really think a champion is defined not by their wins but by how they can recover when they fall.”

Serena Williams

Terry Rouvalis, Recording Secretary

March 13th was the day Governor Baker announced his shelter in place order as a stop gap measure for the spread of the Coronavirus. Initially it was for two weeks. My thoughts were for two weeks it's doable. When it was extended to four weeks I became philosophical and thought this too shall pass. We are now in month six of quasi shelter in place precautions and my thoughts are ENOUGH! I can't travel, see a play or concert, and I can't hug my children or grandchildren. This kind of thinking along with living alone can easily put me into a grumpy downward spiral. In spite of this woe is military reality is I have much of which to be grateful but how to keep the positive attitude can be a challenge.



“Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.”

Ruth Bader Ginsburg

I have a copy of the Collect tacked to my desk and occasionally I read it for inspiration, my favorite lines being “And oh, Lord God, let us forget not To be kind!” One day while reflecting on this pearl of wisdom it occurred to me that as a member of GFWC one way I can practice “Living the Volunteer Spirit” is by applying this principal of kindness to all I encounter. I can smile at the grocery store cashiers and clerks, thank them for their efforts, or share a pleasantry with them. I can refrain from gesturing to that idiot that just cut me off and smile at him instead, (it's always a him). When I call a club member or a friend for what I initially perceive as a quick call and it turns out to be anything but, I can be patient because who knows how long it's been since they talked to someone, or for that matter how long I have talked to another human being. If that rare mood to bake should strike I can share the results with some of my neighbors. And of course I can always set up a zoom meeting with friends and family to ensure all is well with them. All these acts contribute to maintaining that positive attitude. We may have to socially distance for some time to come, but these small gestures of kindness can make a difference to the person to whom they are directed and to myself as well; nudging ENOUGH! into *this too shall pass*. Because it will!

Connect with GFWC

Login to the Member Portal at GFWC:

You as a GFWC Member need to set up an account by registering with your email and create a password.

On the GFWC website <http://www.gfwc.org>, click “Login to the New Members-only Portal” or click the following link: <http://gfwc.users.membersuite.com/home>.

The GFWC Club Manual:

Exclusively available in the GFWC Member Portal.

How to find the GFWC Club Manual in the Member-Portal:

Log in to GFWC Member Portal: <https://gfwc.users.membersuite.com/home>

1. On the top right-hand corner select your profile icon
2. Select "My Digital Libraries" from drop down options
3. Select "Resources"

Select the relevant document or folder

If you have trouble signing into the portal, call 202.443.4392 or email GFWC Headquarters.

Donna Canavan, Corresponding Secretary

The last six months of living have been overwhelming! Working from home, virtual academics for students, instacart, medical appointments, church services, club meetings and town hall meetings 2020. How we shop, how we where we choose to go have normal.”



Planning events with family lence. Bar Mitzvahs, baby vices, dance recitals and en us the opportunity to be- these occasions with our live-streaming.

and friends has also been a chal- showers, weddings, funeral ser- graduation ceremonies have giv- come creative as we celebrate loved ones through the use of



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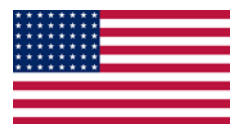
Change is difficult. We have learned to survive the coronavirus pandemic by adjust- ing our lifestyles to manage the uncertainty caused by this virus. Some of the things we have learned are to “prioritize” or “reprioritize” what matters to us and to look at life from a different perspective with everything we do in our daily lives.

The Coronavirus has educated us in many new ways beyond the ZOOM method of communication. Our new way of living is certainly here to stay as we strive to “stay

VOTING

Diane Murphy, GFWC MA Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman was asked to put together information for our members regarding all you need to know on the Voting Process in the Commonwealth. This information is posted on the GFWC MA website and includes topics such as:

- Where to vote
- When to vote
- How to vote (Check-In, Mark Your Ballot, Check-Out, Cast Your Ballot)
- Showing Identification
- Voting from a Previous Address
- Not on the List of Voters
- Voting by mail
- Absentee voting
- Absentee vs. Early Voting (Applying for an Absentee Ballot, Emergency Absentee Ballots, Returning your Ballot)



November State Election voter registration deadline: **October 24, 2020**



You're in a Zoom meeting and Alexa answers a question from someone on the video call.

Darlene Coutu, Treasurer



I was so excited to be elected to the position of GFWC of Massachusetts Treasurer! The first order of business (after the Zoom Installation of Officers!) would be to acquire authorization to do the business of banking – if only the banks were open! Due to the pandemic, customers were required to use the drive-up window for all business. For the business of changing authorizations on the GFWC MA accounts, this would require two outgoing officers and two incoming officers from GFWC MA and GFWC MA Junior Membership approaching the drive up window in separate vehicles due to social distancing!

WHAAAAT?? We decided to wait patiently until the restrictions were removed and bank reopened. Patience was short as it became clear there was no immediate plan for anything to reopen! After working with another branch and driving around obtaining signatures from outgoing and incoming officers, finally, this officer was able to begin learning the responsibilities of GFWC MA financials!

With masks, shields, and lots of antibacterial hand sanitizer, T Jablanski and I began meeting at headquarters. I'm so thankful for the training, and all the old files I have acquired. There are a lot of unique situations regarding the financial business of the Federation, and I'm diligently working toward acquiring the expertise of my predecessors.

I learned to coordinate Zoom meetings with my siblings and their families. It has been so enjoyable to "see" more of my nieces and nephews than I ever would in person! It seemed like no matter what day I chose to hold a Zoom Family Meeting, everyone was home and available!

Since the self-quarantine began and eating out was no longer an option, I started cooking and eating at home. What a concept! I was preparing healthy meals for my husband and me. This was amazing! As a result of eating the way we should, we both lost weight. I hope we continue this behavior once the restaurants are in full swing.

I also found time to clean out some closets and prepare bags of clothing to be donated to savers. The timing was perfect for the upcoming Savers FUNDrive!

I am blessed and thankful that my family and friends have not been ill or worse during this pandemic. My heart goes out to families who suffered the loss of loved ones during this time. To all my Federation Friends, please wear your masks, stay socially distanced, zoom when you can, and stay safe and healthy.

Marisa Jablanski, Junior Membership Assistant Director



“You don’t make progress by standing on the sidelines whimpering and complaining. You make progress by implementing ideas.”

Shirley Chisholm

When Governor Baker issued a thought we may be home for a get back to normal. What I did would be far different from would mean becoming well-for every meeting and confer-creating daily Facebook posts our Junior Clubs and present helping to create recorded normal meant watching the Facebook Live while Facetim-meant teaching my PreK students through virtual meetings. That normal meant celebrating friends and family milestones by driving past their houses and honking. That normal meant stripping away everything we were used to doing and having to learn new ways to make things work. But you know what the amazing part of it was? We all MADE IT WORK.



Stay at Home order in mid-March, I few weeks and then things would n’t realize was that our ‘normal’ what we were used to. That normal versed in running Zoom video chats ence call. That normal would mean to acknowledge the hard work of all awards. That normal would mean Zoom Officer Installations. That Easter Sunday church service on ing with my family. That normal meant teaching my PreK students through virtual meetings. That normal meant celebrating friends and family milestones by driving past their houses and honking. That normal meant stripping away everything we were used to doing and having to learn new ways to make things work. But you know what the amazing part of it was? We all MADE IT WORK.

Instead of staying as unconnected as we were feeling, we found a way to meet online instead, where we could still see each other while we spoke. Instead of giving up on the end of the last administration, we celebrated everyone’s accomplishments on a social media platform that gave more recognition to those clubs and clubwomen than they normally would have received. Instead of waiting for a time when we could meet again in person, we gave our new administration the attention they deserved by giving them a platform to share their ideas and passion for the next two years. Instead of wallowing in the idea that holidays were spent apart, we found new ways to spend time with our families virtually or through safe distances. Instead of letting children’s education slide for months, we discovered strengths inside ourselves to teach in different ways. Instead of letting friends’ milestones pass us by, we filled neighborhoods with the music of our cars and voices to let them know they weren’t forgotten. We made it work. As clubwomen, as families, as friends, we found a way to take these six months and stay connected in a time where everything is disconnected. I appreciated the opportunity to change my way of thinking and change myself to adapt to this ‘normal’ that we’re living in now. And I’m excited to see what other changes it brings our way!

Special Arts and Culture Award



A “President’s Prize” of \$100 plus an award certificate will be given at the 2021 and 2022 GFWC Annual Conventions to the club that best interprets the official GFWC holiday theme. The official theme for 2020 is “What a Wonderful World” and for 2021 the theme is “Good Tidings of Comfort and Joy.” Clubs can interpret the theme in any way that fits a club-sponsored holiday event or project, such as homemade or decorated stockings filled for a children’s shelter, a holiday party for nursing home residents, or a holiday tree at a local library or community center. To apply for the award, complete the President’s Prize Award Form and mail or email it to Arts and Culture Chairman by March 15.

Nancy Coughlin, Junior Membership Treasurer

“What a Difference Nine Months Can Make”



Nine months does not seem like a long time but since the COVID 19 pandemic began I have been surprised and amazed at the changes that have affected our daily lives.

Nine months ago, I would have grabbed my keys and driven my car to a Club meeting, to work or to visit with friends and family without thinking twice. COVID 19 changed all that. Remembering to bring (not to mention wear) a mask and stay at least six feet apart is the norm now. On the upside, my car now goes a month without a fill up.

Nine months ago, I enjoyed going out to dinner with my husband or meeting with friends for breakfast. Thanks to the nice weather we can still go to outside dining or to local parks, but what will we do when the weather gets chilly? Wear our parkas and introduce BYOHCAG (Bring Your Own Hot Coffee and Gloves)?

Nine months ago, I had no trouble finding toilet paper on the grocery store shelves. Good thing I shopped at Bj's in February and purchased a mega pack before the ---- hit the fan.

Nine months ago, I would never have imagined that I would be sewing so many face masks and headbands for nurses, teachers, family, and friends. I am so grateful for my new sewing machine!

Nine months ago, I would have been able to go on vacation without having to spit into a vial and get a negative test result. Traveling by plane is out for me. I will travel by car. Autumn is coming to New England and there is no better place to be. Pass me that vial and I will gladly head up to Maine!

Nine months ago, I would have laughed if you told me I would be mastering virtual zoom meetings or work with google docs and google photos. It is not quite the same as in person, but at least we can stay connected and share ideas. The upside? I can go to work in yoga pants and a t-shirt.

In these past nine months I have spent more time outdoors hiking locally and in New Hampshire, gardening and taken golf lessons.

All this has reinforced my belief that GFWC members are a group of dynamic, resilient and creative woman who can adapt to these changes and still find ways to improve our clubs, our communities, and strengthen our relationships with each other.

Nancy Coughlin
Treasurer, GFWC Junior Membership



“Social change is brought about by those who dare and act, who can think unconventionally and who can court unpopularity.”

Indira Gandhi



Kathleen Goneau, Corresponding Secretary

Greetings, I am proud to be leading you in your Club Communications and Public Relations. I am a MJWC sister and proud to be a GFWC State Chair and your 2020-2022 Recording Secretary. Public Relations, what is it and how can it help your club? According to Wikimedia; public relations is a strategic communication process that builds mutually beneficial relationships between an organization and their public. It can also be defined as the practice of managing communications between an organization and its membership. Having a strong Communications and Public Relations plan can help you grow your club membership, build your relationships in your community and strengthen your partnerships for event planning and fundraising.



The GFWC website (www.gfwc.org) has extensive information on Communications and Public Relations 2020-2022 Club Manual, Advancement Guides. In addition, check out the website, what do you like about the layout, how can you use this information to improve your club's website? The most effective way to grow your resources for your club's communications is to learn from your sister clubs. Find them on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and follow them.

“Technique and ability alone do not get you to the top; it is the willpower that is most important.”

Junko Tabei



GFWC Massachusetts and Junior Membership Combined Fall Meeting:

**A Spirit of Change is in the Air
Saturday, October 24, 2020**

This is a hybrid meeting (some meeting at HQ in Sudbury and some meeting via Zoom) Starting at 10:00am the morning session includes reports, recognitions, and resolutions and bylaws. The afternoon features two speakers: Ashley Bendikson (activist on teen dating violence prevention) and Steven Sykes (March of Dimes) and updates from Chairman and reporting how tos.

Donation opportunities: hard cover baby books and healthy snacks for new moms
Many fundraising opportunities - take a chance on the state **The Paper Bag Raffle** (take a chance to win a fabulous prize) and the **Ricky Gomes Memorial Scholarship 50/50**.

Beth McKeon, Junior Membership Recording Secretary



I will never forget sitting at a meeting after school on March 12th, being told that we would DEFINITELY be in school the next day and even the following Monday. The superintendent had made that very clear to all principals. Of course we all know now that that was not what happened. I did not go back to school the following day or any day after that in the 2019-2020 school year. Like many others, I quickly learned the ins and outs of Zoom, Google Classroom and numerous other technology life lines. It was not an easy transition but a necessary one. At the same time my professional world was being flipped upside down, my new club presidency was turned sideways as well. Only one board meeting into my presidency, we

were forced to continue meeting through Zoom and canceling many of our beloved annual fundraisers. Though it is still a work in progress, we have found ways to continue helping our community and our members.

Though Covid has created hardships in many places there is one way it has been a true blessing. I was able to spend a significant amount of time with my one year old nephew. His daycare had closed, but my sister and brother-in-law still had to work, so I babysat three times a week from March to June. It has been the greatest gift to spend this time with my nephew and build a relationship that will last a lifetime.

It's always a good idea to try to find the silver lining in any situation whether professionally, personally, and anything in between.

111th New England Region Annual Conference October 16-17, 2020

Register and view via BigMarker Meeting

Friday there is a LEADS (Leadership, Education, and Development) Seminar from 11:30 - 1:30 and a Social from 6:00pm - 7:00pm.

Saturday starting at 1:00pm participants will have the opportunity to meet their Region Officers as well as the GFWC President and President-elect, hear an outside speaker, learn more about GFWC programs, engage through "polls" and "chat," and take part in any social opportunities.

Many fundraising opportunities - take a chance on the state **It's In The Bag Raffle** and the Capital Campaign **Pearls of Wisdom 50/50**.

Advancements & Programs Forum on Facebook

Join the **GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum**. To find it - type the name in the Facebook search bar (look for the magnify glass). You will need to answer a few questions and then you will be IN for loads of important information! Engage with like-minded GFWC members and learn of the many projects, clubs are doing in other places in the country and world.



***"Passion is the
log that keeps
the fire of
purpose
blazing."***

Oprah Winfrey



Report Writing - Jen Nowak, Chairman

Let's Wrap it Up!

End of year report writing will be here before you know it! There are a few updates for Clubs to know about.

GFWC has made a few edits to the names of the Community Service Programs – Now they are called: **Arts & Culture, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and Health & Wellness**. Are you wondering where International Outreach went? Well, it can be fit into any of the other Community Service Program Areas that the project will fit into. For example, if your club had a speaker about the education in a third world country, that could go under Education and Libraries, or a club made smile splits for Operation Smile that could be reported under Health and Wellness. If you are still not sure, there are some great guidelines listed on our GFWCMA.org website to help you decide where to report your project.

There is one big change, Clubs need to be aware, what was known as Partnerships are NOW called **GFWC Affiliate Organizations**. For this year they are: **Heifer International, March of Dimes, Operation Smile, Prevent Child Abuse America, St Jude's, Shot@Life, UNICEF and HOBY**. Reporting on Affiliate Organizations is a little different too. On the **2020 GFWC MA Club Statistical Form** (*found on the state website*) there is a dedicated line for each Affiliate Organization. However, projects done with **Affiliate Organizations CAN** (Yes, I repeat CAN) also be reported under a **Special Program or Community Service Program Area**. Here is an example: a club made mask straps for St. Jude's, the number of members, hours and donation totals will be reported under St. Jude's **HOWEVER** those same totals of hours, members and donation totals **can** also be reported under Health and Wellness. The **ONLY** time double reporting is accepted is when it is with an Affiliate Organization and a SP or CSP area. If there are questions about where to report a project, please know you can reach out to this officer for help.

I am asking all clubs to *Please* fill out a **2020 GFWCMA Club Statistical Form** – the title might sound intimidating but, this is the work the club members do all year long. Make sure that club projects and activities are documented throughout the year, to make filling out the statistical form easy. As a state we submit these totals to GFWC, so it is important to give realistic figures on your form. Together every club in Massachusetts – Women's Clubs, Junior Women's Clubs and the Juniette Club are included in the state totals.

How is your club at keeping track of activities? This part can be the biggest challenge when it comes to report writing. I will offer my assistance to any club who is looking for suggestions on an easy ways to keep track of club activities, there are many ways to do this and together we can find an option that will work best for your club's style of leadership. Please reach out and ask.

The date that that your club reports need to be emailed or mailed in by is January 31, 2021. You can begin this job now and write up any activities that have happened since January 1st, you do not have to wait until the year is over to start this process.

Please don't think of report writing as a difficult task –it is an **ACHIEVEMENT!** Once all these figures are gathered and the forms are filled out, that is a proud moment for every GFWC Member recalling all the accomplishments your club did in just one year!

I want to thank you in advance for taking the time to report your club activities, I want to read these stories, hear about how many people your club helped and how much fun the members had. This is what makes GFWC Membership Special.



TOGETHER
GFWC MA
will shine
because we
are the
Hearts
&
Hands
for
GFWC

Memorial Forest - Nancy Coughlin & Mary Kemp, Co-chairmen

If you have been to Headquarters lately, we hope that you have noticed that the Diane McCurley Memorial Garden is well underway. With the assistance of Diane's daughter, Beth McKeon and Beth's husband Matt, a plan was drawn up. With the money donated by members and a plan, the Memorial Forest Committee with a whole bunch of help from Canon was able to get started on the first phase.

Canon did a fabulous job clearing out the overgrown bushes on the driveway side of the HQ building and then cleared out all the roots and rototilled the soil in preparation for planting. Plants were chosen and picked up at the nursery. Two committee members with spouses in tow; did the planting. After the first planting, a few more flowering perennials were purchased and on the second day of labor, the additional flowers were placed, bark mulch was put down and paver steps were laid.



We are positive Diane approves, because when we returned for the second day of planting, we were greeted with this rose, the first bloom on the first plants!

Phase Two will include a small, white picket fence around the air conditioning unit and the installation of a new bench. Once these plants are established, there most likely will be a few additions to the area. We hope you are planning to attend Fall Conference where you will hear about a few opportunities each of you will have to contribute to the Garden. Thank you to everyone who donated to the Garden to honor such a special Clubwoman.



The MF Committee also wants to thank Diane Erickson who inspired us to do some other work around the HQ Building. Diane has been busy putting out flower boxes and planters that did a lot to brighten up the area. She and Canon also did some pruning and clearing of the front and forest side of the building. The MF Committee continued that work by moving the stone bench that was in front of HQ near the bird bath creating the "Serenity Garden". It will

be more serene when the bird bath and bench are cleaned! We have also cleared away the ground cover in the back of the building away from the building and the parking lot and laid mulch for a cleaner look.

We encourage all members of the Federation to consider purchasing a brick for the This Is Us Unity Walkway and or making a donation to the Memorial Forest. This is a beautiful, piece of nature but it needs our help to maintain the property and help combat the sometimes destructive force of Mother Nature!



***"Aging is not
"lost youth"
but a new
stage of oppor-
tunity and
strength."***

Betty Friedan



Scholarships - Lucille Barton, Chairman

Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Study

Lynne Stader, Chairman

The stress of searching for financial aid is overwhelming for parents and students. The GFWC of MA Scholarships can help. Please direct their attention to www.gfwcma.org/scholarships.html to learn what the criteria is for each. Last year 31 scholarships were awarded amounting to \$25,000. Scholarships are awarded to High School, Undergraduate and Graduate students. Applicants must be a resident of Massachusetts, but does not need to belong to the Federation, they just need to apply. Need help? I'll do my best – please reach out to me. Spread the word!!

Scholarships available from GFWC of MA:

Hurry...Deadlines are 3/1/2021

For individuals maintaining legal residence in Massachusetts



Boston City Federation Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - woman returning to college after an absence of at least four years.

Business Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - Undergraduate or Graduate

Catherine E. Philbin Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - Study in Public Health - Undergraduate or Graduate.

Communication Disorder/Speech Therapy Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - Graduate Study
Education-Teaching Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - applicant must be a senior in a Massachusetts high school or home schooled and has achieved the standards for graduation set by the town of residence, who will enroll in a four-year accredited college or university in a teacher-training program that leads to certification to teach.

International Study Abroad Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - The award is to be used for a 12 Credit Summer Session, Semester, or Full Year Program beginning between June 1, 2021 and February 1, 2022

Julia Ward Howe Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - Graduate Study in Political Science.

Music Scholarship for an Undergraduate Major in Voice starting at \$500.00 - applicant must be an undergraduate currently enrolled in a four-year accredited college, university or school of music, majoring in voice.

Nickels for Notes Music Scholarship starting at \$500.00 - who will major in Piano, Instrument, Music Education, Music Therapy or Voice - applicant must be a senior in a Massachusetts high school, or home schooled and have achieved the standards for graduation set by the town of residence.

Pennies for Art Scholarship starting \$500.00 - applicant must be a senior in a Massachusetts high school, or home schooled and has achieved the standards for graduation set by the town of residence.

Women's Italian Club of Boston Scholarships of \$1000.00 - (1) applicant must be a senior in a Massachusetts high school, or home schooled, and has achieved the standards for graduation set by the town of residence. (2) applicant is an undergraduate college sophomore or junior major in Music.

Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Study minimum of \$3000.00 - Graduate Study - Mental Health Counseling, Epidemiology, and Public Health - woman maintaining legal residence in Massachusetts for a minimum of 5 years.

YES- Clubwomen ARE eligible for GFWC scholarships.

YES- All application forms are available on the GFWC.org website.

YES- We need YOU- our Members- to help get the word out to others about GFWC MA scholarships.

Please contact our state scholarship Chairmen for suggestions on connecting your local high school guidance department to these opportunities for recognition and financial assistance.

**“Let us make
our future now,
and let us make
our dreams
tomorrow's
reality.”**

**Malala
Yousafzai**

GFWC JUNIORS' SPECIAL PROGRAM:

Advocates for Children

Elaine Oppenheimer, Chairman

Are you looking for ideas for GFWC's Advocates for Children week, October 25-31, 2020?

Here are a few project ideas:

Check with your local homeless shelter and fulfill their urgent request for brand new clothing for homeless children. Organizations may have an Amazon Wish List making fulfillment easy and convenient.

Make COVID-19 Kits containing the following new items: face masks, hand soap, hand sanitizer, hand towel, in a Ziploc bag.

Hold a winter wear clothing drive. Check COVID-19 rules about donating to your selected charity to make sure gently used items are acceptable. Some shelters require that all items are brand new.

Create Welcome Baby Bags to donate to a shelter – Estimated cost is \$100 per bag. Items include: 2 sleepers, 3 onesies, 3 socks, 1 hat, 1 bib, 1-2 bottles, 2 face cloths, 1 towel, 1 baby wash, 1 diaper cream, 1 container wipes, 1 crib blanket, 1 receiving blanket and a card.

Trick or Treat for UNICEF Virtual Events- Encourage kids to register online at <https://www.unicefusa.org/trick-or-treat> for their digital, orange box and to participate in fun activities to earn “coins” that add up to real-life impact.

Family Promise MetroWest – Houses for Change project; <https://familypromise.org/houses-for-change>.

Collect children's books, label them with the name of the club, and distributed them to low-income apartment complexes. Place the books in the laundry rooms provided for residents. Children are encouraged to read while waiting for laundry or to borrow a book and return it.

Think ahead to the holidays. Partner with an organization to create an opportunity for children to select a gift for their mother. The children pick from a wide a variety of donated jewelry for the ideal gift. Collect jewelry boxes and wrap the lids with wrapping paper so the gifts can be boxed and ready to go.

How about adding a fun, social element to your project? Hold an outdoor masquerade ball! Organize small groups to meet in a host's backyard for witches' brew and collect donations. Hosts can Zoom together and hold a contest for the best masks, most donations collected, etc. Members that don't wish to socialize in person can still join via Zoom.



***“Knowing what
must be done
does away with
fear.”***

Rosa Parks



***“I’d rather
regret the
things I’ve done
than regret the
things I haven’t
done.”***

Lucille Ball

GFWC SIGNATURE PROGRAM

Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Bernadette Bennett, GFWC MA Chairman

Trisha Rusco, Junior Membership Chairman

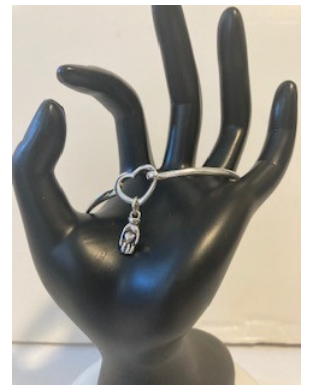
While we all may be aware of October being National Violence Awareness Month, many of us may not know how the movement started. According to the Domestic Violence Awareness month History by NRC DV, “Domestic Violence Month (DVAM) evolved from the “Day of Unity” in October 1981 observed by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence. The intent was to connect advocates across the nation who were working to end violence against women and their children. The Day of Unity soon became an entire week devoted to a range of activities conducted at the local, state, and national levels. The activities conducted were as varied and diverse as the program sponsors but had common themes: mourning those who have died because of domestic violence, celebrating those who have survived, and connection those who work to end violence.”

Flash forward to today - coronavirus had lead to a surge in domestic violence, leaving victims and their children struggling to find access to food, safe housing, transportation, childcare, and job opportunities. Moreover, it has often forced them to choose between being abused or being homeless. Within our communities, we need to search for ways to help these victims -- be it through doing food drives for local food pantries, or reaching out to domestic violence shelters and treatment centers to provide health and beauty supplies or “Move Out Kits” including plates, bowls, cups, and other kitchenware or household items for families who are able to leave the shelters and move into their own place to start their new lives. Offering our support and providing donations of any sort can help victims take charge of their lives and provide the help they need.

Also, Purple Thursday is a national day of action each October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Please show support on Thursday, October 22nd by wearing purple -- a color that has long been worn by women to seek justice. The goal of the day is to raise awareness about domestic, spousal, and teen dating violence. You can also show your support by sharing photos of yourself or your club and its members online using the hashtag #Purple Thursday.



GFWC Massachusetts is selling Heart pins (\$5.00) and Heart with a Hand Charm bracelet (\$20.00) Our State President's symbol is Hearts & Hands which is fitting for the Signature Program. The funds collected will support Grants to be given out to Club who will support local Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Projects. Please email: bben-nett@bu.edu for more information.



Centennial 2020 Committee Update

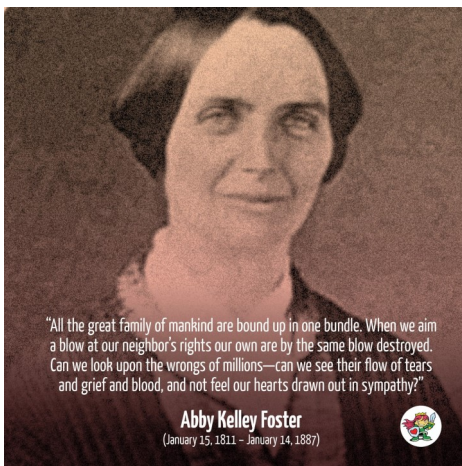
The Centennial 2020 Committee was formed two and a half years ago by President Lynne Stader to raise money for the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and to raise awareness of the Suffragist movement in preparation of the 100th Anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment on August 26, 2020. During this period, we did both. Enough money was raised to have a plaque placed on the wall of the Turning Point Memorial for both GFWC Massachusetts and GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership (\$2,000). It was our hope that some Massachusetts members could be on hand for the grand opening, but the pandemic put a financial money wrench in the museum completion. We look forward to the time when we can visit the completed memorial. In addition, GFWC MA partnered with Suffrage MA100. Representatives of this organization have attended many of our conferences and offered our members great resource materials. This chairman has attended monthly meetings of this organization in anticipation of a large celebration in Boston in October of 2021.

In celebration of the 19th Amendment in August, several of our clubs held celebrations big and small and I will highlight a few here. In honor of the 100th anniversary the GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club members presented Judith Black as Lucy Stone to the public in June as a video and live stream performance. Lucy Stone, born in Brookfield Massachusetts in 1818, decided it was time for this nation to demonstrate the democracy it preached. Crisscrossing the country, she spoke eloquently and passionately about the most important issues of her time. A contemporary of Susan B Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, the best-known female orator of her era appeared and addressed the issues of Woman's Rights and Abolition and shared with her audience chapters from her own life. The GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club held a town wide celebration honoring the suffragettes and the female office holders in their town, past and present. The GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club held a 19th Amendment enactment on the town common complete members dressed in period attire, a soap box, and the reciting excerpts from some of the speeches given by suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony. NJWC's event also included information about voter registration and members marched up and down the main street with signs that read "vote". GFWC Taunton & Raynham Juniors members met to celebrate the centennial of the women's right to vote in member Nancy Brown's backyard complete with dress, sashes, and hats! I am sure that other clubs held their own celebrations and I would love to hear more about them.



"Go where least wanted, for there you are most needed."

Abby Kelley Foster



There were many well know Suffragettes right here in Massachusetts such as Julie Ward Howe, who founded the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1893 with 23 Clubs, Louisa May Alcott, Abby Kelley Foster and many more.

For this article today, I would like to tell you a little bit more about Abby Kelley Foster. Abby was born in Pelham, MA in 1811. She was the seventh daughter born into a Quaker farming family. Her Quaker family believed that girls as well as boys should be educated. She began her education in Worcester, MA and then at the New

Continued from page 18

England Friends Boarding School in Providence, Rhode Island. Kelley was an American abolitionist and radical social reformer from the 1830's to 1870's. She became a fundraiser, lecturer, and committee organizer for the influential American Anti-Slavery Society, where she worked closely with William Lloyd Garrison and other radicals. She married fellow abolitionist and lecturer Stephen Symonds Foster, and they both worked for equal rights for women and for Africans enslaved in the Americas. Kelley spoke about women's rights in Seneca Falls, NY five years before the Seneca Falls convention would be held there. Kelley influenced future suffragists such as Susan B. Anthony and Lucy Stone by encouraging them to take on a role in political activism. She helped organize and was a key speaker at the first National Women's Rights convention held in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1850.

After the American Civil War, Kelley supported the passage of the 15th Amendment to the Constitution. Other female activists resisted any amendment that did not include women's suffrage. This caused a split between her and Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton due to their strong opposition. Kelly believed that Black Americans deserved not just freedom from slavery but full social equality. She also believed that women should be considered completely equal to men.

In 1872, Kelley and her husband Stephen Symonds Foster refused to pay taxes on their jointly owned property; they argued that as Kelley could not vote, she was a victim of taxation without representation. Their farm was consequently seized and sold but was repurchased for them by friends.

Abby Kelley Foster died on January 14, 1887, one day before her 86th birthday. Abby's legacy remains with Liberty Farm in Worcester, Massachusetts, the home of Abby Kelley and Stephen Symonds Foster. It was designated a National Historic Landmark because of its association with their lives and working for abolitionism. It is privately owned and not open to the public.

Abby's House, a shelter for women that opened in Worcester in 1976, is named in her honor. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame.

Abby Kelley Foster Charter Public School in Worcester, Massachusetts that opened in 1998 is named in her honor.

For many women casting ballots in elections today, stories of the fight for women's suffrage in America are exactly that: stories gleaned from history books and long-forgotten school lessons. While many of us recall the courageous and trailblazing women behind the decades-long push to secure women the right to vote when we slip into the voting booth to weigh in on local ballot measures and elect city, state, and federal leaders, the anniversary of the 19th Amendment's formal adoption provides another opportunity to pay tribute to those that made women's vote count.

It took more than half a century of tireless work for American women to secure the right to vote.



**PLEASE
EXERCISE
THAT
RIGHT
AND
VOTE!**

Women, revolt at the idea of
marrying for the sake of a home, for
the sake of a support—of marrying
the purse instead of the man.

...Teach our daughters that they are
as much bound to become
independent as their brothers.

-Abby Kelley Foster, 1851

Ask a Suffragist

Stories and Wisdom from
America's First Feminists

askasuffragist.com

Check out the Etsy Shop
TC23Designs for
 GFWC MA unique
Heart and Hand
 design jewelry

HEARTS & HANDS SHOP

Become a member
 for \$18.98.
 All proceeds
 support
 GFWC MA.

1898 SOCIETY

All Things Fundraising

\$20
Shirt with Massachusetts
state bird,
the chickadee!
All proceeds support
GFWC MA

CHICKADEE SHIRTS

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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.



ZOOM Meetings



The Zoom meeting is over but you and one other person can't figure out how to leave the meeting. Awkward!

Because we cannot meet in person, there are a few options open to clubs and committees.

ZOOM might be the way to go. If you choose this virtual meeting platform there are a few tips and reminders you should keep in mind as you conduct your ZOOM meeting.

Conducting a ZOOM meeting.

- Set your **meeting date** set and send your meeting **invitation**.
- Attached past **minutes** and **treasurer** reports to the invitation.
- Make sure you send out your **agenda** prior to the meeting date. This lets your members review what will be covered in the meeting and allows presenters to be prepared.
- Simplify your **meeting material** as much as possible. Audiences typically are a little less attentive at a virtual meeting; the longer your meeting goes, the less attentive they will become. If you have chairmen reporting, have them simplify their reports as much as possible during the actual meeting.
- Remember to leave time in your agenda for **social time**, as this is still an important element for your club and members. Allow at least 15–20 minutes either before the meeting starts or after it is over for members to chit chat.
- In addition to sending out your agenda prior to the meeting date, **delegate a host** for your meeting. If you have many members in attendance, you might delegate a few co-hosts. Hosts help answer member's questions about accessing the meeting, admit members into the meeting and also make sure members' microphones are on mute as they come into the meeting. Hosts can also help facilitate ZOOM's "Chat" feature during the meeting. You will want to encourage your members to use the "Chat" feature to talk socially and to ask any questions regarding the meeting content.
- Your actual meeting will be conducted the same virtually as it would be if you were meeting in person. This means that you should adhere to *Robert's Rules of Order* just as you would at a "live" meeting. The President of the club will call the meeting to order and the meeting will get underway following the meeting's agenda. Make sure you follow *Robert's Rules of Order* throughout the entire meeting. This is very important as you do not want to lose control of the meeting.
- There have been questions on how to recite the **Pledge of Allegiance** during a virtual meeting. You may want to delegate one person to recite it and then those attending the meeting can recite it at home on their own. Make sure the person reciting has a flag they can hold. You may also use a video clip of the Pledge of Allegiance for all to watch and recite on their own.
- Regarding the **Club Collect/Junior Pledge** the same ideas as the Pledge of Allegiance can be used to recite the Club Collect and/or the Junior Pledge.
- Have **fun** with your meeting and switch up what you are presenting so you don't lose your audience's interest. Maybe have a fun theme for the meeting and include an ice breaker that can be done virtually. This will help you keep your members engaged during the meeting.

ZOOM Continued from page 21



For the ZOOM Meeting attendee

- Check your background, it is cluttered?
- How is the lighting?
- Are you "dressed " for a business meeting/presentation?
- Is your face in the center of the screen? head centered?
- Are you on mute if not speaking?
- Are you in a place where non attendees (pets, hubby, grandkids) will not interfere?
- Remember if you are on camera your face tells all (look interested)!
- Are you eating during the meeting? Probably not a good idea to eat in front of others unless it is a snack and drink event.

- If you need to "leave" the meeting (bathroom break) you can click "shut video off" and as long as you have set up a profile picture set up in advance, that profile picture will come on and the audio will still be on; when you come back to the meeting take that option off to rejoin in person

**Dove
chocolate
Tastes so
much better
than their
soap.**

@RevSvenTV



Zoom Installation of GFWC MA Officers





GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman’s Club continued its tradition of delivering thank you baskets to first responders in Marlborough and Hudson on Sept. 11. With Covid restrictions, no homemade goodies were allowed, but members donated packaged items and some shopped with club funds to make up baskets. Members delivered them to our combined nine police and fire stations.



GFWC MA Junior Membership Junior Jumpstart

**Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club
Judy Wilchynski, President**

The Dennis-Yarmouth Women's Club is thrilled to continue supporting our community projects despite COVID-19. Though our in person meetings are cancelled we have scheduled "drive through drop offs" during our regular meeting day. Donated items and gift cards will be used to support three food pantries, a domestic violence shelter for women and children, A Baby Center for their holiday "drive through " party and gift cards for the Salvation Army teenager gifts.

In addition, a club member has made 550 masks as part of the Dennis Yarmouth Lions Club Mask Challenge. The club donated \$100 for materials. Three members wrote postcards for Reclaim Our Vote to encourage voting during the election.

Our November "speaker" will present a written summary of Veterans Outreach Cape Cod to share with the members. Donations for Cape Cod veterans include kitchen utensils and towels for distribution.

The board will reassess in January availability and safety to meet or not. Despite the set back club members are finding new ways to get involved and continuing our community improvement programs.

Happy Fall and Happy Holidays to all! Stay well and safe.



**GFWC MA Executive Committee
Zoom Meeting**



**Braintree Women's Club
Book Club**



**GFWC MA & Junior Membership
Combined
Executive Committee Meeting**



**GFWC MA
Board of Directors Meeting**



**GFWC MA
Executive Committee
Following acknowledgement of
2020 Memorials and Tributes
At
Memorial Forest**



DATES TO REMEMBER

- October 8 Savers FUNDrive - Last day to drop off bags at Headquarters
- October 7 Junior Executive Board
- October 16-17 New England Region Conference via BigMarker
- October 24 Combined Fall Meeting - hybrid meeting at HQ and via Zoom
- October 25-31 GFWC Advocates for Children week
- November 4 Junior Executive Board/Holiday Party
- November 7 Executive Committee
- November 21 Board of Directors/Holiday party
- December 9 GFWC Holiday Reception - GFWC Headquarters, Washington DC
- December 31 DUE: Club Dues
- December 31 DUE: End of Year Club Contributions

Enjoy the season

