

*General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts*  
**FEDERATION TOPICS**

*A Newsletter for Massachusetts Clubwomen*

Spring/Summer2017

*"Shall I compare thee to a summer's day? Thou art more lovely and more temperate. ...And summer's lease hath all too short a date."*  
*William Shakespeare*



***Ladies Looking Lovely on Derby Day at GFWC of Massachusetts Annual Meeting***



***Lovely Junior Officers Celebrating Earth Day at Junior Annual Conference***



***Lovely Room with a View  
2017 GFWC International Convention  
Palm Desert, California***

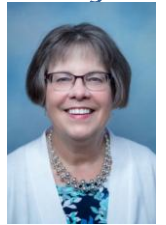
## *Inside Headquarters - Message from the President*



My fellow club women and friends;  
I can't believe we are in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of this administration already. I just returned from the Annual Convention in Palm Desert, CA where the average temperature was 122 degrees every day, so you can say that Massachusetts club women received a "warm welcome". Almost 800 women came together to vote on bylaws, resolutions and a new budget to keep us moving forward. Our Partners – Heifer, Shot@Life, Canine Companions (with puppy Shea II), Operation Smile, UNICEF, all were in attendance and we heard from all of them. I, for one was very proud to represent Massachusetts as your President and hear how much we donated to all of our Partners and get recognized by receiving Certificates for our efforts. It was wonderful to see all that you donated to the SAVERS event on July 15, 2017. We filled a truck with a lot of goodies to raise some money we so desperately need. For now I hope you thoroughly enjoy the summer, your families and friends, come back refreshed and ready in the fall to begin a new year; until then: Keep a Song in your Heart; a Prayer on your Lips; Peace on your Mind; and Federation in your Soul.

God Bless,  
Elfie

## *Greetings from Junior Membership*



Summer's here, clubs are on vacation, GFWC Convention was a success and now we celebrate. But wait – not so fast. September is just around the corner and another club year is about to be launched on its way, right? Well, maybe, but let's stop, take a rest, enjoy what we have and get re-energized to move forward.

This past year was wonderful for Massachusetts Juniors – 50+ new members added and a Juniorette club, every club reporting and every club earning an award at our Annual Conference in April. We had the opportunity to come together for a whirlwind, jam-packed day of Thornton Burgess conservation, hearing Sally Snowman the delightful FEMALE keeper of Boston Light, raffles, contests, clubwoman camaraderie and, of course, some friendly bowl competition - all about how we Grow, Connect, and Change our World.

We energized enough to prepare for GFWC Convention in lovely HOT Palm Desert, California. This Director was kept in MA due to a work commitment. I admit I did shed tears. However, our succession plan works! Jen Nowak duly represented Massachusetts Juniors at all applicable events. She was even able to deliver our annual Junior region report in the required 2 minutes. We did a LOT in those 120 seconds!

This Director is incredibly proud to represent Massachusetts Junior Membership. We are an enthusiastic, energetic, focused, driven, group of women. As I travel to your clubs and events and meet you, I am constantly amazed at how similar we all are in our intentions to volunteer for the good of our communities, but SO different in our paths to that success. And that success extends to GFWC International. No spoiler alert here – just a personal invitation to join your fellow Juniors at our Fall Conference to find out just how successful we were!

Breathe deep the fragrant summer air (barbecue or flowers – your choice!), enjoy the city/beach/mountains/sunsets/sunrises, savor how you have connected to GFWC, grown in some way, and most assuredly have changed our world. You, Junior Clubwoman, are too cool for words! Enjoy your summer. See you again, refreshed and ready to roll, in September.

In warmest Junior appreciation and love,

*Martha*

# Midwinter Meeting

## Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center



*Left: U.S. Representative Niki Tsongas, speaking to Midwinter Meeting attendees about women being critically important in the political arena.*



*Right: President Parker with Dr. Maina and Paul Fanning from Higashi School after accepting donations of art supplies for the students.*

# Special Event!!



*Who are these smart, vivacious, beautiful women in **red**? They are some of our very own GFWC of Massachusetts leaders at the annual Go Red for Women luncheon at the Boston Park Plaza Hotel. Left to right: Martha Casassa, Director of Junior Clubs, Lynne Stader, First Vice President and Past Director of Junior Clubs, Diane McCurley, Recording Secretary and Past Director of Junior Clubs, Elizabeth McKeon, Junior Home Life Chairman and attendance organizer, Katie Robey, Legislation/Public Policy Chairman and Junior Conservation Co-Chair, and Mary Ann Pierce, Membership/Leadership Chairman and immediate Past President and Past Director of Junior Clubs,*



*At left, Martha Casassa, Director of Junior Clubs with Lynne Stader, First Vice President, viewing displays at the Go Red for Women luncheon.*

## Club Happenings

### Coming to a Town Near You?

State officers have been out and about this spring sharing federation news, hearing excellent speakers, and sharing success stories of our clubs. In April President Parker and First Vice President Lynne Stader attended the April meeting of the **GFWC Pepperell Woman's Club** where members were gearing up for their Annual Town Talent Show

*Are we coming to see you? Don't forget invitations are welcome and may be mailed to any officer (see state MANUAL) or emailed to headquarters at [gfwcma@aol.com](mailto:gfwcma@aol.com). Several visits are already scheduled for the fall: **Nahant Woman's Club, Sterling Women's Club, Braintree Women's Club, Agawam Junior Women's Club, Ousamequin Club, The Holly Club of Wrentham....?***



**Stoughton Woman's Club** President, Nancy Urell with GFWC of MA 1st Vice President, Lynne Stader at Stoughton's Annual Meeting. Nancy received a pin signifying her 30 years of Federation service!

President Parker helps **Upton Woman's Club** celebrate 117 years!! Cake honors the late Joan Shanahan.



President Parker and 1st Vice President, Lynne Stader visit **Lunenburg Woman's Club**. Pictured with and Club President, Kathleen Dupuis and Diane Norton.

Directors, Past and Present at **Cape District Roundtable** Emily Duserick, Director (left) with 1st VP Lynne Stader and immediate past Director, Janet Daly (right).



**Needham Women's Club** honors women veteran's with canoe trip down the Charles River and picnic lunch. What fun!!!

## *MassSTAR Leadership Seminar*

On Saturday, June 10th twelve GFWC of Massachusetts members (Bay State Contemporary Club) joined with staff and students (100+) of the Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation at the annual MassSTAR seminar. GFWC of Massachusetts has been a major sponsor of this hugely successful program for over 13 years. The past few years have seen the attendees work on a service project benefitting the Birthday Wishes organization by wrapping and filling boxes for the "Birthday in a Box" program for kids living in shelters who wouldn't otherwise have a birthday party. Thanks to all from GFWC of Massachusetts for their support!



*GFWC of MA ready to go!*



*MassSTAR ambassadors busy wrapping! Notice the shirts!*



*Boxes to the ceiling!! Great job ladies!*



*Lily Tang, recipient of the **Marta DiBenedetto** Scholarship with **Diane Murphy & Martha Casassa.***

## *Junior Annual Conference*



*Director of Junior Clubs, **Martha Casassa** with GFWC of Massachusetts President **Elfriede Parker** ready to get things rolling!*



*Dr. Sally Snowman, the only female lighthouse keeper in Mass. spoke of her unique profession.*



*Home Life Chairman, **Beth McKeon** presents award to **Sandy Krafzig**, Northboro Juniors.*



***Marlborough Juniors** win the P&A Bowl for the first time in 43 years!!*



***Edie Edlund**, Public Issues chairman presents award to **Lynne Stader** for the **Westford Women's Club.***



# CONGRATULATIONS! TO ALL!



Members of the **Junior Woman's Club of Walpole** accept the Barbara Baker Tray from Director **Martha Casassa**.

**Diane McCurley**, Communications and Public Relations Chairmen presents award to **Rosalie Dialessi** for the **Agawam Junior Women's Club**.

## Annual Meeting



**President Parker** with Memorial Education Fellowship recipient, **Alicia Ranucci**.



**President Parker** and Past State President **June Alfano** present **Italian Woman's Club of Boston** Scholarship to **Gabriella Ricciardone**.



**Nickels for Notes** Scholarship recipient, **Eric Tarlin** performs on the saxophone following the presentation of scholarships. Nice sound!



**Carolyn Kain**, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Autism Commission informs us of what our state provides for those with autism.



Celebrating the **1898 Society** on Derby Day at Annual Meeting! Such a wonderful group of women wearing their finest chapeaux!

## 1st Vice President Lynne Stader presents Outstanding Performance Bowls



**Mary Ann Pierce**  
Bay State Contemporary Club



**Maureen Crowley**  
Braintree Women's Club



**Leslie Dorr**  
Ousamequin Club

# GFWC International Convention - Who's Who?



*Who are these serious women?*  
International President **Sheila Shea** with New England Region President **Debra Capuano** and Massachusetts President **Elfriede Parker** and Asst. Director of Junior Clubs **Jen Nowak** at Opening Ceremonies.



*Who is the flat woman that Jen Nowak is holding?*  
None other than Mass. Director of Jr. Clubs **Martha Casassa** "attending" Convention with **Jen** and **President Parker**.



*Who is that woman on the far right sleeping during Convention?*  
Our own **President Elfriede Parker** being a good sport and participating in hypnosis presentation.



*Who is that uniformed woman, fourth from the left dancing to "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy"?*  
Our own International President **Sheila Shea** along with the other members of the Executive Committee and Parliamentarian, on sax, **Shirley Gomes**.



*Who are these happy women?*  
GFWC International President **Sheila Shea** and Director of Junior Clubs **Jolie Frankfurth** presenting award to GFWC of Massachusetts President **Elfriede Parker** and our Asst. Director **Jen Nowak**. Yeah!



*Who is that person with the funny ears? Why it's* **Donna Shibley**, Convention & Meetings Chairman, making announcements.

## Fabulous Fundraising



**Bay State Contemporary Club** held a profitable fundraiser at 5 Charming Charlie locations in one day! Try it!



**Donna Shibley** winning ? at Foxwoods fundraiser for GFWC of MA



**T Jablanski**, with **Ted Pierce**, making "room for one more" while loading the truck for the SAVERS fundraiser.

## Membership MATTERS

**GFWC'S "IT'S THE REAL DEAL" RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN CONTINUES!**

Join GFWC clubs nationwide in our popular membership recruitment campaign.

June, July, and August

**GO FISH FOR MEMBERS**

Report due August 31



September, October, and November

**BRIDGE THE GAP**

Report due November 30



**Look for lots more Membership information and new competition at Informational Day!**

## Leadership

**District Director Summer Retreat** On July 14th GFWC of Massachusetts held its first **Summer Retreat** for District Directors at Sudbury Headquarters with a series of mini-training workshops followed by a lovely lunch at Wayside Inn. GFWC of MA Headquarters Secretary Diane McCurley was invited as a guest. Directors reviewed the Appointments process, discussed strategies and information for successful Roundtables, and reviewed report writing strategies to share with their club presidents. The event was coordinated by Chairman of Directors Lucille Barton and Lynne Stader, Dean of Directors. Directors enjoyed the time together to ask questions and share ideas. These ladies are ready to get back to business this fall!





## Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC)

### Lights! Camera! Action!



Take some tips from members of the **GFWC Bourne Women's Club** on an important way to share the history and story of your club. Enjoy this video filmed earlier this year by a local cable channel as a segment for the town's historical society. Members created wonderful documentation for their archives while sharing the good news of GFWC clubs.

Great job, ladies! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRtHnanqfik>

### Upcoming Events

**September 7** GFWC of Massachusetts **Informational Day**/Manual Day, GFWC of Massachusetts HQ

**October 20-22** New England Region Conference, Windsor, CT

**October 28** Junior Membership Fall Conference,

**November 4** GFWC of Massachusetts Fall Meeting, Delaney House, Holyoke

**December 1** Club Institute Holiday at HQ (Cookie swap anyone?)

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**Note from the editor:** Hope you enjoyed this edition of **Topics**. Please keep our state newsletter in mind when your club does something new/fun/important in your community and take lots of pictures that you will send to me at [gfwcma@aol.com](mailto:gfwcma@aol.com) for publication in the next issue! When will that be?

Hopefully, **December!**

**Thanks for reading!**

**Diane McCurley**, Interim Editor

