The BEAT of the Federation

MARCH 16, 2021

Executive Committee:

President:
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President@gfwcma.org

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Treasurer
Darlene Coutu
Treasurer@gfwcma.org

Director of Junior Clubs
Katie Robey
kdrobey@roburybaur.org

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Help Wanted:
We have some Chairmen openings:
Environment
Communications and Public Relations
Legislation/Public Policy
Fundraising Committee
Email President Shibley if you are interested.
We’d love to have you join the Board of Directors.

President’s message:
Happy St. Patty’s Day to our members who continue to have the amazing luck to be in the business of volunteering. We all give our Hearts & Hands for GFWC even with current restrictions in place. I am available (a phone call/an email away) to help Club Presidents with ideas and suggestions to keep your members involved, while working on club business until we can safely meet in person.

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

Events you DO NOT want to miss:
GFWC Massachusetts Combined Annual Convention
President Shibley and Director Robey are EXCITED to invite YOU to the 2021 GFWC Massachusetts Combined Annual Convention: Hearts and Hands Together to be held virtually on Saturday May 1, 2021 starting at 9:00am. Highlights include:
GFWC President-elect, Deb Strahanoski will be the special guest
Friday night Fun Night ~ Reverse Trivia starting at 7:00pm
Friday night 1898 Society Reception starting at 8:00pm
Business of the Federation, Annual Reports
Awards, Recognitions, Anniversaries
From Your Heart Raffle ~ donate and take a chance
The Second Step ~ Essential item donations
Hands on Activities ~ What to do while Zooming
GFWC Massachusetts LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar) Watch for more information on this prerecorded leadership event. Register at gfwcmaleads@gmail.com
Please register and encourage your clubmembers to attend. Each club should have at least one attendee at each state meeting.

GFWC New England Region Conference
NER President JoAnn Calnen is EXCITED to invite YOU to the 2021 GFWC NER Conference: Celebrate Change to be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Westborough on Friday September 17- Sunday, September 19, 2021. GFWC Guests: GFWC President Marian St.Clair and GFWC President-elect, Deb Strahanoski. Massachusetts is the host state so make sure put on your party clothes to you join us at the state night banquet featuring special guest Sara Hammel. Join for the fun and federation friendship with fellow New Englanders. See the save the date flier.

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

VOLUME 9
**For Sale:**
Support the Massachusetts President’s focus area: Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention

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

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**GFWC International Convention**

GFWC International President Marian St.Clair is EXCITED to invite YOU to the **2021 GFWC Annual Convention: Celebrating Culture, Cultivating Connections** to be held the Atlanta Marriott Marquis, Atlanta, Georgia ($129 per night) from Saturday, August 28, to Monday, August 30. Additionally, a Board of Directors Meeting, the 2020 and 2021 LEADS training, a 2020-2022 Installation, and a Celebration Banquet “Gateway to the World,” will be held on Friday, August 27.

**Club Presidents Heart to Heart Talk:**

There will be an email invite coming for you as Club President to join this State President on Thursday night, **April 8 @ 6:00** for a Heart to Heart talk. Our special guest, Bernadette Bennett, GFWC MA Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Chairman will talk about an upcoming **Fundraiser raffle and auction**. Please attend ♥

**State Leadership Tools:**

Find these great tools on the GFWC MA website ~ under Members: Especially for Club Presidents:

- **GFWC MA President’s Handbook** ~ be in the know!
- **GFWC MA Membership Brochure** ~ hot off the presses, make your own copies or request copies from our HQ Secretary.
- **GFWC MA PowerPoint for Members** ~ show members their connection to GFWC and GFWC MA, or make your own club powerpoint.
- **GFWC MA VidHug** ~ show at a club meeting or make your own video.
- **GFWC MA Tools of the Trade Club Leaders PowerPoint** ~ tip and pointers for Presidents. Watch for the 2021 event coming in the fall.

**Upcoming Women’s Club State Awards are due by April 1:**

Information is on the GFWC MA website under Members: Fliers and Forms
- Clubwoman of the Year Award
- Julia Ward Howe Club President’s Award

**GFWC Affiliate Webinars:**

Contact President Shibley for the links to watch these previously presented 30-minute videos:

- **St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital**♥ **UN Foundation Shot@Life**
- **Prevent Child Abuse America**♥ **Canine Companions for Independence**

Sign up through the GFWC Member Portal for these upcoming Webinars:

- **Heifer International** ~ March 17 @ 3:00pm
- **Operation Smile** ~ March 17 @ 4:00pm
- **UNICEF** ~ March 31 @ 4:00pm

Sign up. If you can’t watch at the scheduled time, watch at your convenience when GFWC sends you the link after the event.

**March as Women’s History Month:**

Hope you have been enjoying the FaceBook posts on distinguished women on the GFWC MA and Junior Membership FaceBook pages.

**GFWC Woman’s History Month:**

Did you watch Sara Hammel, journalist, bestselling author, screenwriter and first GFWC Jane Cunningham Croly Award winner talking about her book, “The Strong Ones,” and her journey since 1996 when she won the award? If not, see information under **2021 NER Conference**.
GFHW Jennie June Award:
The GFWC Jennie June Award, the only national honor bestowed by GFWC, recognizes individuals for personal excellence. Named in honor of GFWC’s founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, writer for national newspapers under the pseudonym “Jennie June”, club members are nominated by their clubs to compete at state, regional, and national levels for the Federation’s highest honor. Nominee’s paperwork is due June 1, 2021.

Lucky in March Fundraiser:
Back by popular demand - $100 in lottery tickets. Prize entries are $5.00 each or 3/$10.00. Drawing will be held at the end of the month. Pay by check (GFWC MA and mail to Treasurer Darlene Coutu, P.O. Box 236, Pepperell, MA 01463) or pay via Venmo.

April Fundraiser: to be determined

Past Fundraiser winners:
January’s LUCKY 2021 $100 Lottery tickets ~ winner Maureen Crowley
February’s Pretty in pink/re/purple quilt ~ winner Joyce Clark

Legislation and Public Policy:
Please Take Action on GFWC’s Legislative Priorities
- Time for Women to have Equal Rights
- End Campus Sexual Assault

GFHW AWARD and CONTESTS entries:
All state award entries have been submitted before the March 15 due date. Thank you to Jen Nowak, State Report Writing Chairman for compiling all the club and chairmen write ups. Can’t wait to collect our state awards at the GFWC International Convention in Atlanta with Director Katie Robey. Please make sure this State President knows if your club entered any of these Special Club Contests directly to GFHW:

WEBSITE Contest
NEWSLETTER Contest
WHRC special Suffrage Contest entry
Arts & Culture President’s Prize Award

State Garden Flag Contest:
ALL clubwomen can enter! Update from Nancy Coughlin & Mary Kemp, Junior Membership Arts and Culture Co-Chairmen.

What has stayed the same: Flags can be created using any materials you choose and should measure 12” wide and 18” long. Winning entries will be announced at the Combined Annual Convention.

What has changed: Mail your flag entry to Nancy Coughlin, 28 Leland Drive, Northborough, MA 01532 received by Saturday, April 24, 2021. Include your name, address, email address, phone number, club name and if you wish any special information about your design.

GFHW MA FaceBook page:
https://www.facebook.com/GFWCMA
Join us here for postings that are relevant to GFHW Massachusetts.

GFHW MA website ~ https://www.gfhwma.org/:
Keep within easy access. Don’t forget to send Donna Shibley any upcoming Club Events to be included on the Events: Club Events page.