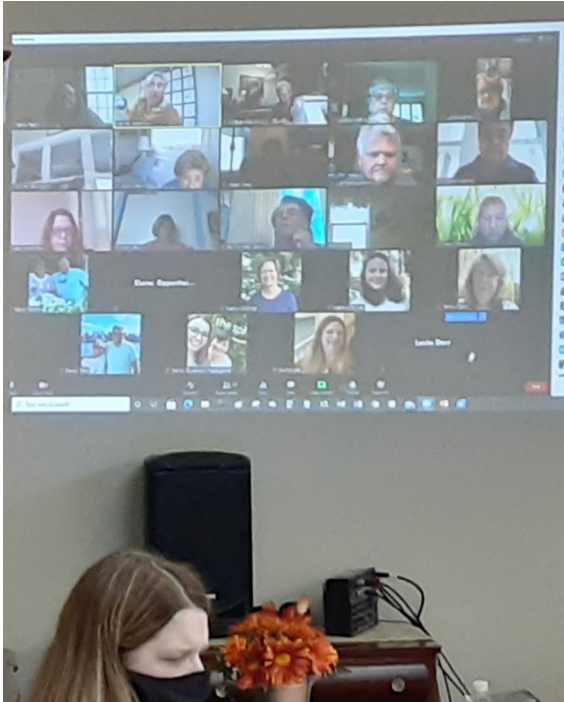


GFWC MASSACHUSETTS
Federation TOPICS
A newsletter for Clubwomen



**In this
 issue
 Meet your
 2020-2022
 Chairmen**



Combined Women's and Junior Women's Fall Meeting
The Spirit of Change is in the Air

This hybrid meeting, with President, Donna Shibley and Director of Junior Clubs, Katie Robey presiding had 54 attendees. Some of us met at GFWC MA Headquarters in Sudbury which was filled to capacity with social distancing. And many more participated via Zoom (thanks to Marisa Jablanski for being our technical support). We conducted essential business of our Federation, heard reports and many timely updates by our State Chairmen. Thank you to all who participated in our fundraising efforts. Highlights included special presentations by Ashley Bendiksen, advocate and national speaker on domestic violence issues and Steven Sycks, March of Dimes with new mom, Mary Beth Ryan which were indeed all heart touching. Congratulations to Martha Casassa who won the trivia contest and the Ruth Bader Ginsburg doll! The extra touches (the PowerPoint, trivia contest, videos, and songs) made the day one to remember. Some technical difficulties didn't dampen our spirits. Special thanks to all who made this possible.

Editor: Darlene Coutu

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Message From President, Donna Shibley



As we round out this memorable year this President is proud to say we are taking care of business and having FUN ♥ This President added some Fun Trivia at our Combined Fall Meeting with a wonderful prize, she added a Festive Fun scavenger hunt at our November Board of Directors and invited special guest Mrs. Claus to attend the December 2nd Heart to Heart Talk with the President. Even with restrictions still in place and heightened concerns about meeting in person, your state leaders are conducting business, taking care of responsibilities, continually learning while including FUN for attendees. This new way of volunteering has many challenges but we are using our **Hearts & Hearts for GFWC** in positive ways to keep our spirits up and volunteering in the forefront.

This President attended the **GFWC NER Conference** via BigMarker on October 17th. NER President JoAnn Calnen presided as business was taken care of and Chairmen reports were given with much information. Our special guests included GFWC International President, Marian St.Clair and GFWC President-elect, Deb Stahanoski. I was happy to present the State President's report for Massachusetts and deliver the invite to the 2021 NER Conference hosted by Massachusetts. (for more information see The BEAT of the Federation October 24, 2020 edition)

Our third GFWC Massachusetts **Board of Directors Meeting** in November was held via Zoom. This Board is on schedule 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.

In 2021 we are putting together **GFWC Massachusetts Webinars**. Is there a topic might you be interesting in learning more about?

Communications and Public Relations: How can you use social media to promote your club? Fundraising: How can clubs reach out to the community for monetary support of your projects? Membership: How can we keep our members invested in our club if we can't meet in person? Let me know what you are looking to learn.

Have you as a Club President or club leader participated in one of the **Heart to Heart** talks via Zoom? We've had five chats so far. These informal Zoom talks are meant to help us stay connected and some have special guests. Watch for an email the first Sunday of the month for the invite to January's Wednesday 1/6/2021 talk. Hope to see you there.

The monthly President's newsletter **The BEAT of the Federation** is delivered via email to Club President's and Board of Directors members. Please continue to 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.

Cont'd on page 3

***"Don't be afraid
to be amazing --
you already are"***

Kathy Weller

President's Message *continued from page 2*

Navigating these months with our volunteer work has many challenges. Missing the social interaction with our clubmembers is the biggest and hardest part that we are experiencing. Keep contact with your fellow clubwoman and GFWC sisters and let them know you care. Massachusetts clubwomen continue to give their **Hearts & Hands to GFWC** and I can't wait to safely meet again and share our success.

Now on to my favorite Holiday tradition: On this Thanksgiving a total of 37 cousins and their spouses were scheduled to secretly pick Secret Santa names and the 13 children of cousins (6 babies were born in 2020) were to pick Secret Santa names for their group. I am the keeper and reminder of the list! At Christmas we would all gather at my sister and brother-in-law's house for dinner and the fun reveal. Next year we will continue with this tradition.

I hope your holidays are safe and you are able to celebrate in some way with family and friends. I appreciate every one of our clubmembers. Your passion and commitment to making this world a better place -- one project, one donation, one helping hand, one heartfelt action at a time is valued. I wish you Happy Holidays and Blessings for a healthy New Year.

GFWC Writing Contests

The GFWC Writing Contests seek to provide an avenue for GFWC members and community youth to freely express themselves and draw upon their experiences through writing. These submissions illustrate the talent of GFWC members and are a reflection of our communities. GFWC offers short story and poetry contests for members and youth in the communities GFWC serves.

Theme for 2021 is the Covid19 pandemic, your feelings and/or experiences.

Please submit all entries in printed format. No handwritten entries, please! Entries must be submitted (postmarked by January 31, 2021) to the President of the local Club for review of entry requirements, prior to forwarding to the State Chairman, postmarked by February 15, 2021.

GFWC Member Short Story Writing Contest

- Authors must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Short stories are limited to 2,000 words.

GFWC Member Poetry Writing Contest

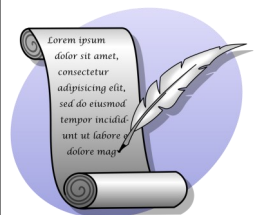
- Authors must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Poetry entries can be any style, with a minimum length of eight lines, maximum of 50 lines.

Youth Short Story Writing Contest

- Short stories are limited to 2,000 words.
- One entry per person per category.

Youth Poetry Writing Contest

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





Katie Robey, Director of Junior Membership

With Thanksgiving behind us, it's time to think about the holidays that are approaching. As a diverse group of GFWC clubwomen, some may be celebrating Hanukkah on December 11th, Christmas on December 25th, or Kwanzaa on December 26th. Others may celebrate Festivus on December 23rd as an alternate to what is becoming a more and more commercialized Christmas season. Regardless of what you are celebrating, we all may need to join in the Festivus tradition of "Airing of Grievances" updated to share our "grievance" with the year 2020 vs specific people and hope for a better New Year.



My family celebrates Christmas as a secular family holiday with gifts arriving by Santa Claus on Christmas Eve, placed under a real tree, and opened on Christmas. A family tradition was started when I received several small ornaments from my mother-in-law. On December 1st, I hang a string of lights and some boughs of evergreen on our mantel and create a countdown to Christmas. My children would help me hang one ornament each day. An Advent calendar with the story of the Nutcracker told on 24 small hanging cardboard "books" provides the day of month and is hung along with an ornament. The children are grown, but the tradition continues today.

"Don't wait for extraordinary opportunity, seize common occasions and make them great."

Orison Swett Marden

My husband and I moved to Massachusetts in 1983 leaving his family in Iowa and mine in Missouri. When our children were young, we tried to make a trip to visit family for the holidays. My parent's anniversary was December 31st so we would usually go to Iowa for Christmas and then to Missouri. Traveling during the winter can be hectic and we always hoped we didn't have to go "over the river and through the snow" or that our flight was cancelled and we were stranded in Chicago! When we couldn't travel to visit family, we were fortunate to have an "adopted family" to visit on Christmas day to exchange gifts and share Christmas dinner.

Over the years, my family has started new traditions-picking up daughter from airport as she comes home for holiday, Chinese food on Christmas Eve, opening presents around son's work schedule, and adding in my daughter's dog to the Christmas morning family photo. We still have a real tree and Santa still comes on Christmas Eve!

Covid-19 has changed the way all of us do things and has impacted how GFWC MA clubs have held our meetings, our fundraising activities and our community service projects. Through it all, we continue to make this world a better place. The last sentences of From the Past to the Future, A history of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs 1893-1988 is still appropriate today—"Time and again we have received the gauntlet, we have accepted it and won. There is still much to do but we have the past to guide us into the future of an even better world."

Wishing my GFWC MA sisters and their families a season filled with warm moments and cherished memories as you celebrate the traditions of your own holiday. Here's to new beginnings in 2021.

GFWC Holiday Open House

Hosted by GFWC International President Marian St.Clair, you will be welcomed into the historic GFWC Headquarters in Washington, DC, to experience a bit of holiday magic!

Register through the GFWC Member Portal (<https://gfwc.users.membersuite.com/auth/portal-login>) by December 14! After logging in, select “Events” and then “2020 Remote Holiday Open House.” Registration will close Monday, December 14th at 11:59pm EST. All registered attendees will receive a personalized BigMarker link the day before the Holiday Open House takes place.

Inspired by the 2020 holiday theme, It’s a Wonderful World, the home’s entry and entertainment areas feature a sparkling winter wonderland accented with woodland wildlife. See the holiday transformation of 1734 N Street, hear about a few of the President’s special embellishments, and learn more about the history of our beautiful building.



From the desk of the Treasurer

Congratulations to the **Junior Woman’s Club of Walpole** -- the first club to submit annual dues! Thank you to all the clubs who have mailed annual dues per the invoices sent to club presidents in November. If you haven’t sent your check, please mail it before the December 31, 2020 deadline.

As a reminder, club contributions are due on or before December 31, 2020 using the newly-revised 2020 Club Contribution Form. And remember that if the Treasurer receives your check after funds and been sent to the GFWC affiliates, your contribution will be applied to the following year! So don’t be late!

Please mail checks payable to GFWC to Darlene Coutu, P O Box 236, Pepperell, MA 01463.

Have questions? Please email me at treasurer@gfwcma.org

*“Adventure is
worthwhile in
itself”*

Amelia Earhart

GFWC 2019 Program Statistics

Each year, GFWC calculates the total amount of projects, volunteer hours, and both in-kind and dollars donated for the work of its clubs. The Annual Program Statistics Report is based on the two special programs, six community service programs, and the advancement programs that were active in the 2019 calendar year.

Number of Projects: 152,537

Volunteer Hours: 6,396,308.86

Dollars Donated: \$ 14,142,835.70

In-Kind Donations: \$ 12,057,071.24

Just imagine if EVERY club reported what our numbers would be ♥



Jen Nowak, 2nd Vice President and Resolutions Chairman

Be Informed and READ ON -



Don't let the first sentence stop you.....

Resolutions are tools members should use to advocate and educate about important issues at the local, state, and national levels. That is the statement you will read in the GFWC Club Manual.

Are you still asking what is a Resolution? Well simply put, is it our statement to say we will *resolve* to do something about a *problem*. The “whereases” are the problems and the “resolves” are the answers. We take the problem (a resolution) GFWC members

want fixed to our local, state, and national legislators (better known as the people who can make a law from our suggestions).

When GFWC creates a resolution, we believe as members WE can be a part of the solution. Did you know that as a club, if you are looking for a new project, you could read the resolutions and get ideas of how to help? Those are the “resolves” we put in resolutions, many of these resolutions’ clubs do without even realizing it.

For an example look at *GFWC Massachusetts Resolution* under **Civic Engagement and Outreach, Resolution #22 War Veterans and Military Personnel** - The last resolve says: *That the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts urges its members to support and participate in programs assisting and honoring military families and veterans such as Veterans Administration Medical Centers, Fisher House-Boston, the USO and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Soldiers’ Homes.* How many clubs here in Massachusetts do those things?

Did you know that right now there are approximately 200 *GFWC Resolutions* and 60 *GFWC Massachusetts Resolutions* on the books? GFWC is a loud voice when it comes from taking a resolution, moving it to a Bill, then into a Law. Our voices are heard when we come together with concern. To find *GFWC Resolutions* go to the Member Portal under “My Digital Library” and go to “R” to see the full list. *GFWC Massachusetts Resolutions* are on the members tab, under governing documents.

The GFWC Massachusetts Resolution Committee, consisting of Beth McKeon, Sarah Williams Sargent and Jen Nowak (Chairman), are working to streamline the *GFWC Massachusetts Resolutions*. When reviewing *GFWC Massachusetts Resolutions* if there is a *GFWC Resolution* that reflects the same concern and language, the Committee will recommend the *GFWC Massachusetts Resolution* to be rescinded. Thankfully, GFWC Resolutions Committee has members representing the entire United States and they work hard to research and update the resolutions regularly. These are voted on at the GFWC International Convention each June, and another reason why it is important to attend GFWC International Conventions as a clubwoman, so your voice is heard.

If you need a quick and cute refresher on becoming a law – go to YouTube.com and watch [“I’m Just a Bill” by Schoolhouse Rocks](#). It helps understand the process.



Diane M. Murphy, Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman

Hello everyone and welcome to Civic Engagement and Outreach.

I am Diane Murphy and here is a little about myself. I am married to Kenny and have three grown children Sean, Colleen and Meghan. Oh, I cannot forget Buddy, my yellow lab. I retired from Randolph Public Schools in September after 27 years working as a special education paraprofessional.

I joined the GFWC Randolph September 1993 then known as Library Association. I have held office in RJWC, and again I am president. In 1998 I started Massachusetts Junior Member- as Assistant to MA Director of serving as chairman in most of the Massachusetts and GFWC Membership Websites. In 2012-2014 Massachusetts Director of Junior International level I served as of Junior Clubs, an International Liaison, Domestic Violence Awareness Committee and most recently served as GFWC President Assistant under GFWC President Sheila Shea.



Junior Woman’s Club in Randolph Junior Ladies every chairmanship and currently serving as club serving on the GFWC ship Executive Board serving Junior Clubs, and then committees. I created GFWC Massachusetts Junior Mem- I had the honor of serving as Membership. At the GFWC Assistant to GFWC Director

My interested in [Civic Engagement and Outreach](#) comes from following reasons. I have been involved in my town in many ways, served as a town meeting member for 24 years until the changed form of government. I have worked on many town and state candidates’ campaigns. Participated in the town fully volunteer build of Imagination Station Playground then served as an officer on the committee. Been involved in the town’s Little League for 18 years.

I am from a family of veterans. My dad, brothers, cousins, uncles, grandfathers and my great grandfather fought for our country from the Civil War to Afghanistan. Needless, to say veterans are an important part of my life. Oh, almost forgot I am a life member of the AMVETS Auxiliary.

Civic Engagement and Outreach has many projects that can be done as an individual clubwoman or as group projects with your clubs especially during the holiday season: Feed the and clothe the homeless and needy. Donate to food pantries and homeless shelters. Do not forget about your community Senior citizens. Check on them provide food and your time. Purchase wreaths for ‘Wreath Across America’ on December 19th. Remember your first responders, bring them a meal or all those special treats your make for the holidays. Be prepared for winter storms and disasters. Have a disaster toolkit in easy reach in your home. BE aware for phone scams and credit card fraud.

Please know if you have any questions and if there is anything, I can help you with I am only email or phone call away. dmm7852@gmail.com | 617-435-7417

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.



“You can, you should, and if you’re brave enough to start, you will.”

Stephen King



***“You’re braver
than you be-
lieve, stronger
than you seem,
and smarter
than you think.”***

**Christopher
Robin**



Membership Chairman, Junior Membership Marisa Jablanski

I have been a clubwoman for eleven years now. I originally joined as a way to bond with my then mother in law. I quickly fell in love with my home club, the GFWC Auburn Junior Woman’s Club, and GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership as well. I almost immediately became involved at the state level, serving first as an assistant to the Director of Junior Clubs, and then branching out into various chairman positions. I am currently the Assistant Director for Junior Membership, and with that position comes the responsibility to serve as Membership Chairman. Members are the lifeblood of this organization. Without them we would cease to exist. During this time where most clubs are not meeting in person, it’s important for clubs to still let their club members know that they are important and appreciated.

With Christmas nearing, I’d like to share my favorite holiday tradition – Grinch Day! For four years now, we have celebrated all things Grinchy with my family. We watch all three Grinch movies, wear Grinch themed clothing, come up with Grinch puzzles and games, and my father always carves the ‘roast beast’ for dinner. Each year, we get more and more in depth with our level of Grinchiness, and my daughter, Tessa, looks forward to it most of all! Happy Grinchmas from my family to yours!



Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Chairman, Junior Membership Trisha Rusco

Hello! I am Trisha Rusco. I have been a member of the Dedham Junior Women's Club since 2009, and am co-chair of the Socials Committee, and our recently added Domestic Violence Committee, named Safe Haven. I am also currently Junior Membership Chairman of the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention. While I have never directly been a victim of domestic violence, I have been a registered nurse for 34 years, and have worked with patients, as well as many friends and family members of my own who have been, and it has become a growing passion of mine to help raise awareness and put an end to it, and all the pain and suffering it causes its victims and their families. I have even gone so far as to looking into pursuing my masters in Forensic Nursing in the future.

Growing up, we always did a Christmas Gift Yankee swap with my father's family, which has become a favorite holiday tradition of mine. Being on the Social's Committee for the DJWC, for our Christmas party I like add a little twist and try a different type each year to make it a little more entertaining that just picking a number and present in that order, and so far, all the members have seemed to enjoy it! I wish you all Happy Holidays and a healthy, HAPPY New Year!

Eryn Clavelli, Civic Engagement and Outreach, Junior Membership



Greetings Fellow Clubwomen,

I would like to share a bit about myself and my GFWC MA Junior interests. I joined the Dedham Junior Women's Club (DJWC) in 2013 shortly after my move to the community. It was a change of scenery for me as I had been living in Alabama. Originally, from Connecticut the move was an opportunity to return to New England and locate closer to family.

Community building is my passion. This is the impetus that brought me to the Dedham Junior Women's Club. I wanted to meet like-minded women. Volunteering allows me to combine my personal interests with community needs. GFWC DJWC offers incentives — goodwill, friendship, and social justice opportunities — to implement projects that address particular community needs. The particular areas that feed my spirit are literacy, collaboration with international partners, and cross-cultural communication. However, I constantly learn about other civic areas from fellow clubwomen.

Civic Engagement although a new programmatic, designation for GFWC MA Jr, is at the crossroads of community life. There is a bit of everything—local, national, and international. A quick glance at the calendar, shows us that throughout the year there are many ways to approach the challenges facing our communities. With the diverse perspectives that community life brings, there are also opportunities to interact with other groups seeking similar goals. Moreover, the intergenerational nature of the club and the committees energize me.



One of my favorite times of year is the celebration at the end of the old year and the beginning of the New Year. It calls up great memories built on long-standing traditions. Similarly, with the festivities I enjoy getting to know the newcomers in the community and the intriguing customs that reflect other times and other places. What a wonderful way to get to know new neighbors!

I am always available. Feel free to call and say hello, ask questions or discuss ideas that you would like to share. The more we get to know each other, the more we learn from each other. Happy Holidays! May your New Year 2021 be amazing!



Alicia Sheridan, Leadership Chairman



Hello! My name is Alicia Sheridan and I'm your Leadership Chairman for 2020-2022!

My mom, who is a club member, introduced me to the Holly Club of Wrentham 5 years ago as a way of reacclimating my self to the area after living in Virginia Beach for the last 15 years. I'm currently serving my second term as the President. My love of volunteer work and giving back to my community led me to GFWC MA where I found more opportunities to flourish and help at the state level.

Funny enough, my interest in leadership started when I was born. I'm an Aries and the oldest child in my family,

so as you can imagine, it was natural for me to take charge, hahaha! These leadership traits faired me well in the corporate world as a Trainer and a member of management. When it was suggested that I apply for the LEADS program, there was no hesitation, and I was selected as the MA LEADS candidate for 2018. I enjoy being the Leadership Chairman because I love helping aspiring leaders grow and become successful! I truly believe future leaders will sustain our clubs and organizations!

My favorite Christmas tradition is the Yankee Swap! We have a Yankee Swap every year at the Sheridan Christmas party. There are many laughs as the gifts are unwrapped and stolen from one another! I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday!

"Always be a first-rate version of yourself."

Judy Garland

Ann Marie Bielenin, Education and Libraries

ESO Facebook Book Group

The Education and Libraries ESO Facebook Book Group will meet online to discuss various books. There will be a featured book each month. The month of December features "The Woman's Hour: the great fight to win the vote" by Elaine Weiss in honor of the 100th year anniversary of suffrage during 2020. During the month on Tuesdays, readers are encouraged to post their thoughts on our "Tuesday Chats" on the ESO private Facebook page.

Not an ESO member yet? What do I do?

Request to be added to the GFWC 2020-2022 ESO Book Club on Facebook. Order or download your book. Read and discuss the book on the group page during the month. Join the 800 plus members on the page who are loving the chance to read together!

In December remember these dates:

Talk It Up Tuesdays – December 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29

Post your thoughts about the book on Tuesdays.



Brenda Geary, Health & Wellness, Junior Membership



Health and Wellness – Take time for you!

There is so much going on in the world. We cannot help but feel stressed to do what we always do; we all know that right now that is just not possible. Mel Robbins (life coach extraordinaire) spoke at the Massachusetts Conference for Women, and she reminded all of us that *“Anxiety is a normal part of life and by having a simple process for meeting it and not reacting to it but responding to it, you will see a profound difference in your ability to move through your life and face the road-blocks and obstacles that life throws at you and just keep rolling down the highway.”*

Holidays

Keeping that in mind, the holidays are certainly going to be different for all of us this year. Many of our family traditions will look a little different this year. My big Italian family cannot be all in the same space and have 7 fish and pasta – it would be just too much to try to keep all of us safe. Our traditional meal will change, so in the words of Mel Robbins– *“if it’s not going to be the same, shake things up and make it memorable”*. Here are a few ideas from her thoughts.

Costumes!

A different menu.

Pajamas all day.

A movie marathon.

Play games (our favorite is Heads Up).

Go for a hike or a bike ride.

Create a themed drink.

Make a scavenger hunt.

Do some arts and crafts.

Go crazy on the cheeseboard.



Her point is to plan something. If you have something planned that you can look forward to, it will make your holidays better even though they are different.

Daily Life

Try this suggestion of a Five-Day Challenge to help with your daily motivation.

1. Leave the phone somewhere other than your bedside table. (tell people to call you so you can sleep and ignore the texts that come in late)
2. When the alarm goes off – get up, say (your name) I LOVE YOU. Hearing it first will actually make you smile.
3. Look in the mirror and “high five” yourself – remind yourself that you are amazing and can handle anything the world throws at you today.
4. Make your bed... I know many do, for those that don’t it’s actually very satisfying.
5. Write down 1 thing that you are going to do for you today! It’s a promise to take care of yourself.

Mel’s infectious can-do attitude has helped so many during this pandemic. If you haven’t heard about her, Google or YouTube and find her fabulous motivational speeches.

Hope your holidays are amazing, full of health, love and fun.



Memorial Education Scholarships for Graduate Study

Lynne Stader, Chairman

Did you know that beginning in the late 1960s GFWC Massachusetts clubs have been investing club donations designated for graduate fellowships? Thanks to their foresight of GFWC MA clubwomen, our federation awards several substantial graduate scholarships each year.

Do you know a woman on track for post-graduate work in **Mental Health Counseling** or **Public Health**? These are the fields of study selected for 2021 applicants. NOTE: These fields can include programs for **Higher Education Counselors** and **Substance Abuse** or **Trauma Counselors**, and Public Health may have concentrations such as **Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, Health Administration, & Environmental and Occupational Health**. These fields have been so important as we face modern challenges to global health!

Help spread the Good News!

Does your club have a Scholarship Chairman or Public Relations Chairman? Is your club sharing this information *in your club newsletter? On your club website? On your club Facebook page?* Don't forget to include the following link to the Application Form which provides complete information on eligibility and requirements. Application deadline is March 1, 2021.

www.gfwcma.org/uploads/1/2/9/6/12968947/2021_memorial_educ_application_final.pdf

Scholarships - Lucille Barton, Chairman



This is the time of year, when Student Advisors and Guidance Counselors are helping High School seniors with college applications and furnishing information for the availability of scholarships which will aid these young people to go to the institution of their choice. This is also the time when we should be reaching out to these advisors to make them aware of the GFWCMA web site (www.gfwcma.org) listing scholarship opportunities as they begin their research. At the present time we offer eight scholarships to graduating high school seniors: Education-Teaching, Nickels and Notes, Pennies for Arts, and The Italian Woman's Club of Boston Scholarships, Music for Undergraduate in Voice, Catherine E. Philibin Public Health, International Study Abroad, and Business. Requirements and filing deadline can be found on the application.

You are a very important part in this process. It requires very little effort – make this information available to the Advisors by passing on this information. If you can, run off a copy of these scholarships, mail or bring them personally to the Guidance Office. They in turn can post them for the student's information. Many requests have already been made asking for information, there is a great need for financial aid. You also can help by reminding club members that there is possible help for someone they might know!

If you have questions, please contact Lucille Barton, Scholarships@gfwcma.org

Scholarships available from GFWC of MA

at <http://www.gfwcma.org/scholarships.html>

Hurry...Deadlines are March 31, 2021

For women 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 a Massachusetts resident and 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.



Mary Ann Pierce, Fundraising & Development Chairman



ARE YOU READY TO FUNDRAISE?

No one said that fundraising for a cause or group is easy. It's a challenge. As a non-profit group we are in competition with many other organizations reaching out for support. What can we do to draw attention to our group?

Here are few ideas:

Make your group known for your volunteerism and commitment to your community. Choose an event that demonstrates who you are.

Support other groups in your community and they will support you.

Stick with an event or project and market it well. Never give up. If you have a good project, follow it through.

Be adaptable. Can't meet in person, make it virtual, drive by or an online event. Zoom is the new 2020 Rage, use it wisely.

Take your original event and turn it into a virtual event.

Don't be afraid to ask for support. Banks, insurance agencies, grocery stores make great sponsors. All anyone can say is no. Sponsors are the best way to make a successful event.

Create a Fundraising Team. Working together and sharing the responsibilities works and can lead to great success. Everybody has a strength, work with it.

And as Don Quixote did, "Dream the impossible dream", it can come true!

*"Go out there
and do
something
remarkable."*

Wendy
Wasserstein

Pup Bandanas
\$10 each
Tissue pack holders
\$4 each or 3/\$10
Contact Donna Shibley for
size and color choices.

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

Pup Bandanas and Tissue Pack Holders

All Things Fundraising

1898 SOCIETY

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

*“Things don’t just
happen, they are
made to happen.”*

John F Kennedy

CHICKADEE SHIRTS

NOVEMBER Fundraiser

The Susan B Anthony package RAFFLE ITEM (total retail value of \$100) was won by Darlene Coutu. Thank you to all who purchased tickets.

DECEMBER Fundraiser

Vera Bradley package (total retail value \$200)

Includes: Vera Bradley Merry Mischief Grand Tote Set (bag is 15" H x 23" W, small pouch is 5 1/2" H x 7 1/2" W), Vera Bradley Travel mug, Macy's Holiday Land reindeer watch, Marshall's \$25.00 gift card, Inc. Red ball earrings, Christmas Tree headband.

Prize entries \$5.00 each, 3/\$10.00 and the drawing will be held at the end of the month pay by check (GFWC MA mailed to our Treasurer) or through Venmo GFWC Massachusetts.

JANUARY Fundraiser

Think popcorn -- who doesn't love this tasty treat! Stay tuned for more details.

MassSTAR



While we are patiently waiting until we can safely meet in person for our annual 3-Day MassSTAR Citizenship Conference at Lasell University, we are actively creating new ways to connect and engage with students.

LAUNCHING IN EARLY SPRING 2021

VIRTUAL CITIZENSHIP WORKSHOP SERIES

This is a unique opportunity for high school students to dive deep into meaningful activities & conversations about community, belonging, and active citizenship through a series of Zoom workshops with peers across the state of Massachusetts!

MORE DETAILS TO COME IN FEBRUARY!
FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT TRAM-ANH.NGUYEN@MASSYOUTHLEADERSHIP.ORG

WWW.MASSYOUTHLEADERSHIP.ORG

MassSTAR information should be sent to Guidance Counselors in the beginning of the year. If your High School has not participated, perhaps the materials have not been sent to them or they have just put them aside and forgotten. If this has happened, MassSTAR needs to be informed so that the packet can be sent. A Sophomore is selected by the Guidance Counselor and teachers to participate in a wonderful opportunity to attend a spring retreat and meet other students from across the state and become aware of their civic responsibilities and needs of others. Your club can also help by donating to MassSTAR when you fill out your Contribution Sheet. Any donations for MassSTAR should be reported under Leadership.

MassSTAR: <https://www.massyouthleadership.org/masstar.html>

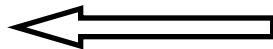


2020 HOLIDAY PARTY

President Donna Shibley hosted the Holiday Party on December 10, 2020 with clubwomen joining from home via zoom -- it's 2020! With flashing lights, ugly sweaters, antlers, hats, festive jewelry, and a holiday toast, good cheer was all around. Mrs. Claus arrived and read a special GFWC Massachusetts story that somewhat resembled "Twas the Night Before Christmas" (rewritten by Jen Nowak). Two of Santa's elves showed up -- Tinsel and Sparkles -- with both a nice list and a naughty list. Although these women have done amazing things this year which had nice list potential, there apparently needs to be some improvement to secure a solid position on the nice list! Everyone had lots of laughs and agreed to do better in time for the big guy's visit!



Chickadee ornaments for GFWC Holiday Tree



GFWC Massachusetts Banner





**GFWC Needham Women's Club
Holiday House Tour**



November Executive Committee



MILLBURY WOMEN'S CLUB SNACK PROJECT

The Millbury Women's Club raised \$1300 to be used with the permission of the Millbury School Superintendent Greg Myers to purchase Through lists from the Guidance Counselors from each of the three schools snacks for the Elementary, Middle Schools and essential personal items for the High School. After a shopping spree for the schools, items were put together and delivered to the schools. Some additional funds to be used in the Spring to refurbish the Snacks as needed.



December Heart to Heart Talk with the President



Needham Women's Club
Gift bags for first responders



Savers FunDrive

GFWC MA Combined Hybrid Fall Meeting



Ashley Bediksen, Guest Speaker



Bag Contest & Raffle



Maximum capacity at Headquarters with social distancing



Facemasks for the season



President, Donna Shibley and 1st Vice President, T Jablanski



Clubwomen "Zooming" from home

DATES TO REMEMBER

December 31, 2020 DUE: Club Dues

December 31, 2020 DUE: End of Year Club Contributions

2021

January 18-24 DUE: Junior Women's Reports

January 31 DUE: Women's Club Statistical Forms and Project Reports

January 31 DUE: Club Participation Entry (award bowls)

January 31 DUE: Chairmen reports

February 1 DUE: LEADS application

February 3 Junior Executive Board - 6:00pm light snack, start 6:30

February 6 Executive Committee - social 9:30, start time 10:00

February 27 Board of Directors - social 9:30, start time 10:00

March 1 DUE: Junior Women's Contests

March 1 DUE: GFWC MA Scholarship applications

March 3 GFWC Women's History Celebration, GFWC Headquarters, Washington DC

