

General Federation of Women's Clubs of



Massachusetts



Federation Topics - a newsletter for clubwomen

Issue 16
SUMMER 2016

Massachusetts delegates descend on the city of Baltimore for the installation of Sheila E. Shea as the International President of the General Federation of Women's Club Convention in Baltimore



Inside Highlights

*Daisy Doing

*Officer Notes

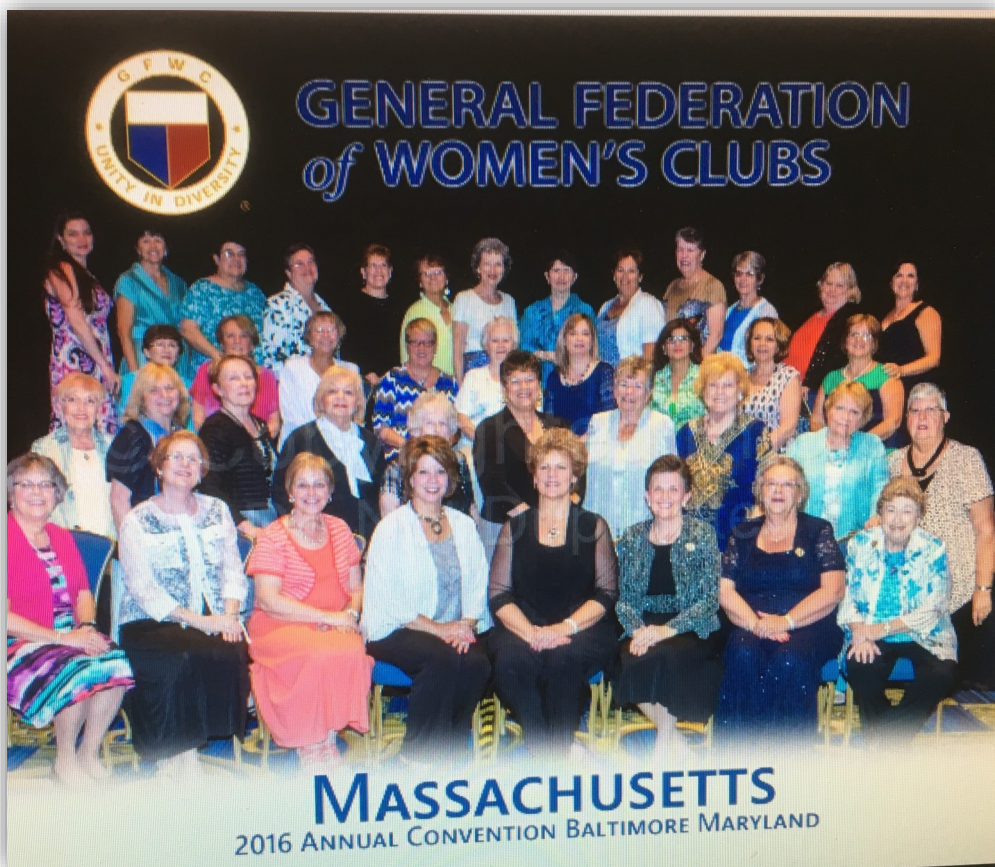
*Annual

*Mass STAR

*Convention

*Club Happennings

*Dates to Remember



Convention and Installation Highlights inside





Inside Headquarters
President, Elfriede Parker



A Beacon of Hope



My dear friends and fellow club women;

Welcome to the 2016-2018 administration! Thank you for your support during this incredible journey.

I am humbled and honored to serve as your president for this administration and would like to ask all of you to join the officers, chairmen and district directors in “ONE TEAM” as the General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts to work together to accomplish great things in your communities and for our Federation.

My thoughts are this:

“Sift intelligence, ambition and understanding together. Mix cooperation, attitude and open mindedness until dissolved, add gradually ability, tactfulness and responsibility, stir initiative and judgement thoroughly, beat in patience until smooth. Blend all ingredients well. Sprinkle cheerfulness and bake in an oven of determination.” This recipe makes enough to serve an entire club as well as it’s prospective members and other guests.

We are one TEAM, one Federation, who will work together for common good for our communities, but most of all our General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts.

My president’s project is “Autism”. 2 of my grandchildren inspired me to choose this project, as they are afflicted with this illness. 1 percent of the population of children in the U.S. ages 3-17 have an autism spectrum disorder (ASD). Prevalence is estimated at 1 in 88 births. Boys are nearly five times more likely than girls to have autism. 1-1.5 million Americans live with an autism spectrum disorder. Based on prevalence data it is estimated approximately 75,000 individuals in Massachusetts have Autism.

Autism is a bio-neurological developmental disability that generally appears before the age of 3, and it greatly varies from person to person (no two people with autism are alike). Individuals with autism typically have difficulties in verbal and non-verbal communication, social interactions, leisure or play activities. They also can suffer from numerous co-morbid medical conditions which may include: allergies, asthma, epilepsy, digestive disorders, persistent viral infections, feeding disorders, sensory integration dysfunction, sleeping disorders, and more.

Currently there is no cure for autism, though with early intervention and treatment, the diverse symptoms related to autism can be greatly improved and in some cases completely overcome.

About 40% of children with autism to NOT speak; about 25-30% of children with autism have some words at 12-18 months of age and then lose them. Others might speak, but not until later in childhood.

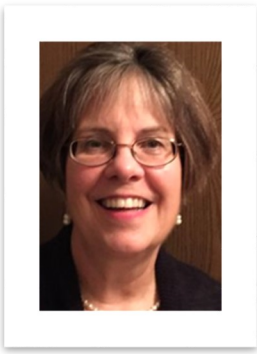
Cost of lifelong care can be reduced by 2/3 with early diagnosis and intervention. The cost of autism over the lifespan is \$3.2 million per person.

So, you see my friends we can make a difference in a child’s life by helping to fund research to find a cure.

In Federation Friendship always

Elfriede Parker





Junior Membership
Director of Junior Clubs
Martha Casassa - Daisy Doings

GFWC – Connect. Grow. Change Our World.



Hello everyone!

How incredibly exciting it is to be your Director of Junior Clubs. I am proud, humbled, and positive about what this next two years will bring. After 25+ years as a Junior, I am constantly amazed at the variety of volunteer efforts and what is accomplished to make our communities, our country, and our world a better place. Please invite me to your meetings. I truly look forward to meeting you and sharing in your excitement and passion for “Living the Volunteer Spirit.”

My Director’s theme is *GFWC – Connect. Grow. Change Our World*. It is symbolized by the GFWC Tree of Life. GFWC forms the roots of our tree, Junior Membership is the trunk, each club is a limb, and each member is a leaf. Together the leaves, limbs, trunk and roots work together to keep the tree alive, thriving, and growing. Our members connect to keep clubs growing and, in turn, keep Junior Membership alive and well. This helps our GFWC roots stay strong to support us. No wonder we are going to change our world!

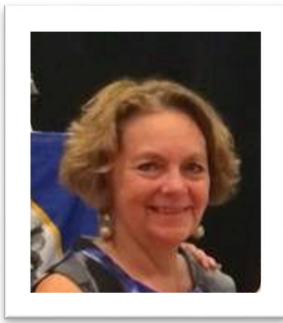
One change we can focus on is hunger in our state. Project Bread is my Director’s Project. They believe that the opposite of hungry isn’t simply full — it’s *healthy*. And because there’s no single face of hunger, they have developed innovative, creative solutions that meet people where they are to provide people of all ages and walks of life with sustainable, reliable access to nutritious food. The “Leaf Loft” is my fundraiser for this project. Volunteers work hard and need pampering. The products at the Leaf Loft are meant to care for women. Many are sourced from women-owned, women-supporting, or ecologically aware businesses.

Your Junior Officers and Board are a great mix of new and seasoned members all working to connect with you, help you grow personally and in clubwork, and to ensure you reach your volunteer goals to make positive changes. To this end we are trying something new. President’s Day this year is being replaced with an event the evening before Fall Conference to meet, dine, learn, and have some fun, too. Coming October 22, is Junior Fall Conference with the theme of “Pick Your Passion: Pink or Purple” in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention month. We plan to cover more than just those 2 topics! Look for the Call coming via e-mail in September.

In closing, I want to quote one of my favorite songs: “everything is awesome, everything is cool when you are part of a team.” You and I and all Massachusetts Juniors are part of an awesome team. We will keep our GFWC tree growing bigger and better as we connect, grow, and change our world. Thank you for being so “wicked awesome.”

Martha

“Leaders don’t create followers, they create more leaders” - Peters



Donna Shibley Second Vice President

Hello fellow clubwomen,
What an exciting time for the 2016-2018 GFWC of MA administration and a wonderful time for all clubwomen to learn more about the GFWC Community Service Programs, Special Projects and

Advancement Area Projects and Programs.

Chairmen are working on their area page(s) and I am looking forward to sharing this information with all MA clubwomen in the near future.

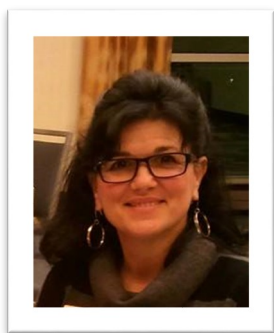
We are still in search of the following Chairmen positions to be filled:

Arts, Music, Domestic Violence Awareness & Prevention, Communications & Public Relations, Fundraising, and International Outreach. Please let me know if you would be interested in finding out what being a Chairman entails.

Looking for some summer reading suggestions? Check out the GFWC Manual available on the GFWC website www.gfwc.org

This well-researched information compiled by GFWC National Chairmen and Committee Members is chock full of tried and true suggested projects and programs. Your clubmembers can utilize this information to liven-up, revamp, or establish new projects and/or programs.

I am looking forward to serving GFWC MA. Feel free to contact me as needed. 413.786.3888 H 413.519.1845 C



T Jablanski Treasurer

Form 990-N (e-Postcard) filing due date

Form 990-N is due every year by the 15th day of the 5th month after the close of your [tax year](#). **You cannot file the e-Postcard until after your tax year ends.**

Example: If your tax year ended on December 31, the e-Postcard is due May 15 of the following year. If the due date falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, the due date is the next business day.



If your 990-N is late, the IRS will send a reminder notice to the last address we (IRS) received.

While there is no penalty assessment for filing Form 990-N late, organizations that fail to file required Forms 990, 990-EZ or 990-N for three consecutive years will [automatically lose their tax-exempt status](#). Revocation of the organization's tax-exempt status will happen on the filing due date of the third consecutively-missed year.

Watch this IRS [YouTube presentation](#) for more information.

Information you will need when filing Form 990-N - Form 990-N is easy to complete. You'll need only [eight items of basic information](#) about your organization. **Copy LINK BELOW and paste into your browser.**

Annual Meeting Seacrest Falmouth MA



Far left: meeting speaker—Author of “Permission Slips” Gayle Suzanne says “Speak kindly about yourself” and “Ask for help when needed” **Bottom left**—banquet room



Top: Ousamequin Club, Left: Wilbraham Women’s Club , Right: Braintree Women’s Club
Winners of the Club Participation Award for overall excellence.



GFWC Massachusetts newly installed officers l-r: T Jablanski, Treasurer, Diane McCurley, Recording Secretary, Donna Shibley, Second Vice President, Lynne Stader, First Vice President, Elfriede Parker, President, Diane Erickson, Corresponding Secretary unavailable

“A leader is someone who demonstrates what’s possible” - Yarnell

Federation Day At the Forest

Remembering Family and Friends who have left us a Legacy!



The sun broke through the clouds on June 2 as clubwomen gathered in memory of clubwomen, family and friends who have died under the trees in our lovely Memorial Forest. More than 50 men and women's names were intoned by the District Directors from the 2014 – 2016 administration following an invocation by 2014 – 2016 Public Issues Chairman Mary Barnes, that also included a request to remember all those service people lost from the Civil War to the present.

A welcome and introductions were offered by 2016-2018 President Elfriede Parker. The guest speaker was Laura Mattei, director of Stewardship for Sudbury Valley Trustees. She spoke about our Memorial Forest, thanking us once more of the gift of over 200 acres, and discussed the shared stewardship of our own grounds and the Trust's multi-town holdings. Starting off with a recording of bird calls, Laura described some of the restoration work conducted to bring back declining bird and insect populations and the removal of invasive plants, plus the re-establishment of a "desert-like" sandy area on our grounds.

A highlight of the day was the unveiling of a granite bench in memory of 2000-2002 President June E. McSweeney, which will be engraved with President Sweeney's signature. It joined other memorials nearby including the Peace Pole presented during the administration of 1998 - 2000 President Shirley A. Gomes.

The day concluded with the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth" led by 1998 – 1990 President June D. Alfano and closing remarks by President Parker.



Top: Over 50 clubwomen, family and friends names were intoned by GFWC of Massachusetts directors, from left, Diane McCurley (partially hidden), Valerie Clapp, Diane Erickson, Darlene Coutu, Emily Duserick at the podium, and Lucille Barton.

Top right: Guest speaker at Federation Day at Memorial Forest was Laura Mattei from the Sudbury Valley Trustees, who opened her talk having the clubwomen listen to bird calls of birds that were once plentiful in the forest and whom they are attempting to bring back in greater numbers.

Right center: 2014-2016 Headquarters Commission Chairman M. Patricia Owens, far right, presented the just-installed granite bench in memory of Past President June E. McSweeney, as, from left, Past President June D. Alfano, Corresponding Secretary Diane Erickson, and President Elfriede Parker look on.

Right bottom: President Elfriede Parker welcomed all the clubwomen attending Federation Day at Memorial Forest, including a large contingent from the Braintree Women's Club who stood as Barbara Swain's name was read. Several clubs and individuals requested that the name of 1984 - 1986 President Penny Billias be remembered at this commemorative event.



Juniors Annual Conference



Project Runway Unconventional Challenge Junior Style!

Brought to you by Junior Membership Arts Co-Chairmen, Nancy Coughlin and Mary Kemp

If you missed the Project Runway Unconventional Challenge Junior Style fashion show at the Junior Membership Annual Conference, then you missed the BEST show ever! The challenge was to make a complete outfit out of reusable tote bags; NOT plastic grocery bags but colorful tote bags. Eight Junior clubs participated with the most creative outfits ever seen! The judges did a phenomenal job; they should be hired for the real Project Runway! One judge's comment "I really



like the slit, not too high, very modest; do you drink a lot of wine when you shop at the Big Y?" Congratulations to the Walpole and Marlboro clubs for their winning designs. And to Elaine Mellon (Dedham) for being the winning model! Way to strut your stuff Girl! It had nothing to do with the 8" heels!

Many, Many thanks to the Junior clubs that participated, Auburn, Dedham, Marlboro, Northboro, Taunton, Past Junior State Officers, Walpole and Wilbraham! We thought this was an idea with some potential but it was your creativity, enthusiasm and good sportsmanship that made it so awesome and so much fun! Also many thanks to our judges: Hank Phillippi Ryan, Karen Soligon, Barrie Coleman and Lynne Stader! Ladies your next career should be fashion model judge!



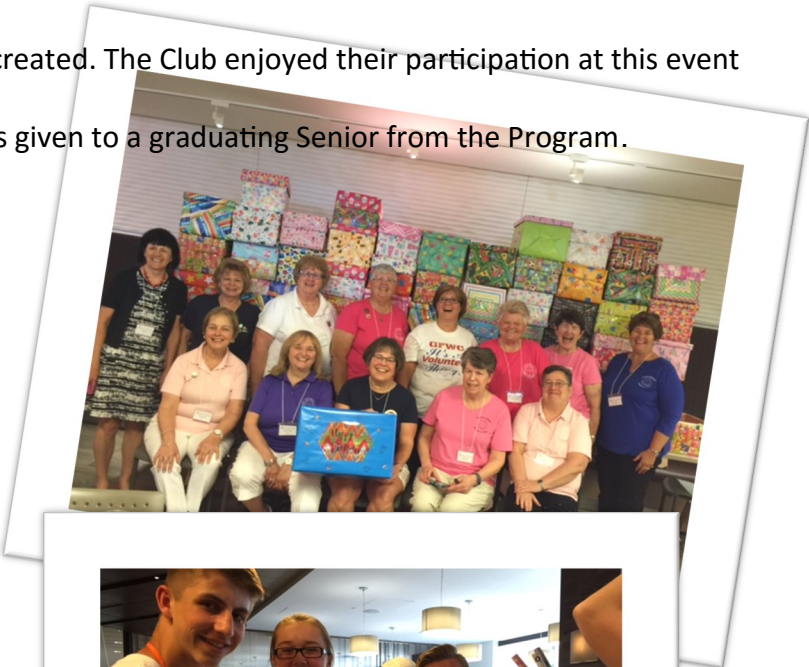
Top left: Hank Phillippi Ryan Keynote speaker and judge for Junior Project Runway with Diane McCurley Director of Junior Clubs 2014-2016 **Top:** Installation of new Junior officers, **l-r** Martha Casassa, Director of Junior Clubs, Jen Nowak, Assistant Director of Junior Clubs, Jeanne Dee, Recording Secretary, Nancy Coughlin, Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Clark, Treasurer. **Bottom left:** Installing Officer, Donna Shibley with newly installed Director of Junior Clubs—Martha Cassassa—All Smiles!

The Mass Star Conference was held on June 3-5 at Laselle College in Newton. Members of the GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club participated in a Volunteer Meet and Greet and conducted a special workshop of Birthday Wishes Boxes. To give back to our community is one of the greatest joys of volunteerism and this club went above and beyond.

The Club collected boxes, wrapping paper and party supplies which they donated. They conducted a workshop and participated in the volunteer fair talking about GFWC. Many of the young female attendees signed up to learn more about the organization and possibly form Juniorette Clubs.

Eighty boxes were wrapped and many cards were created. The Club enjoyed their participation at this event and hope to support it again next year.

On Sunday, the Marta DiBenedetto Scholarship was given to a graduating Senior from the Program.



Convention 2016 Baltimore MD

Charlotte Emerson Brown (first GFWC International President) a.k.a. T Jablanski and Millie Crom (first GFWC Director of Junior Clubs) a.k.a. Donna Shibley Open the 2016 General Federation of Women's Clubs Convention with a nostalgic and informative welcome.



**Business Session Buddies GFWC
MA President Elfriede Parker &
GFWC MA Director of Junior
Clubs Martha Casassa**



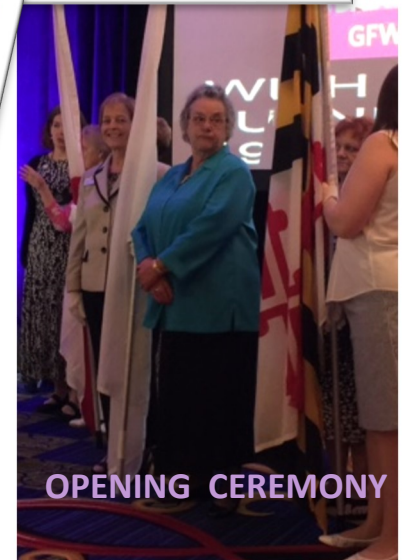
**New England Region Welcome
Diane McCurley 2014-2016 Director of Junior Clubs**



Drumming to the Beat!



**"Gathering of The Goddesses"
Gala Girlfriends**



OPENING CEREMONY

Convention 2016 & Installation Baltimore MD



Left: Shirley Gomes, GFWC Parliamentarian 2016-2018 and Martha Michalewich, GFWC Special Assistant to the President reads congratulatory citations, **Right :** Past Massachusetts State President June Alfano and Massachusetts Director of Junior Clubs 2014-2016 Diane McCurely welcome members to the installation banquet



Massachusetts members clad in their pretty purple shawls await the installation of Sheila E Shela



Dear GFWC of Massachusetts Members,

It is with sincere humility and gratitude that I extend my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all my GFWC of Massachusetts sisters for all your love and support these past ten years. As I reflect on my federation journey culminating in the celebration of the Installation of the 2016-2018 GFWC Officers on June 29, 2016 in Baltimore, it has indeed been a privilege and honor to represent you on the GFWC Executive Committee. Whether you bought jewelry, raffle tickets, attended the fashion show, attended the Installation, or just extended good thoughts and wishes, I am truly grateful to all of you for your incredible outpouring of love and support along the way. The Installation Banquet, Ceremony, and Reception were truly a dream come true for me, one that all GFWC of Massachusetts members should be very proud of. We are always a class act and it showed.

I promise to represent you all in GFWC of Massachusetts fashion as I serve you and all GFWC members as our 51st GFWC International President.

Thanks from the bottom of my heart. You truly are all Heart Friends to me and The Wind Beneath My Wings!

Forever Living the Volunteer Spirit through GFWC!

Sheila

Sheila E. Shea

2016-2018 GFWC International President



Convention 2016

Baltimore MD - Awards

Outstanding State Director of Junior Clubs - Diane McCurley



Massachusetts GFWC AWARDS 2016

Advocates for Children - Education -
International Outreach - Leadership -
Shot@life 5th place -Juniorette
recognition certificate

This recognition is only possible because of the
creative, generous and talented members of the
GFWC Massachusetts federation. THANK YOU!



Fun aboard the Spirit of Baltimore GFWC 2016-2018 Board of Directors



Club Happenings

Barre Women's Club - President Parker and 1st VP Lynne Stader join members of the Barre Women's Club in celebration of their 100th Anniversary



Thursday Morning Club - Left: Kay Koloski, Linda Warner, and Mary White work on Operations Smile dolls.

WANTED ALIVE EDITOR for your state newsletter TOPICS

It's the most fun job in the world. Get to know your federation friends and family.

- **Work from home, on the deck, in bed**
- **Work in your pajamas**
- **Work while eating chocolate**
- **Work while petting your cat or dog**
- **Work on your own schedule**
- **Work whenever... it's the beauty of this job!**
- **No reports**
- **No committee meetings**
- **No wear and tear on your car**

For more information call T Jablanski

WANTED

Dates to Remember

Aug. 26 –30 - GFWC Board of Directors Meeting - Arlington VA

Sept 8 - Informational Day & Executive Board—Manuals will be issued Headquarters, Sudbury

Sept 24 -Walk for St Jude—Franklin Park Zoo

Sept 30—Oct 2 - New England Region Conference—Warwick, Rhode Island

Oct. 21 & 22 - Junior Membership Fall Conference

Oct. 29 - Fall Meeting—Embassy Suites Waltham

Dec. 1 - Holiday at Headquarters



Excerpt from GFWC WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad's 2016 LEADS Presentation:

American women's clubs have roots deep into the 19th century, when a women's decisive place was in home, and within the domestic circle. Understanding the emergence of women's clubs requires knowledge of what it meant to be a "lady," or what is often academically referred to as the "cult of true womanhood." As the 19th century welcomed rapid industrialization, and rearranging social classes, the concept of work became central to the definition of womanhood. In reaction to an influx of immigrants, many of whom were forced to work factories, the upper class and growing middle classes, sought ways to distinguish themselves. The privilege of not needing to work, and being supported by ones husband became a mark of the lady. As one historian noted, a lady "was leisured and ornamental, absorbed in learning the niceties that would render her amusing and enable her to beautify her home... the lady's function of embellishing her family's environment was expanded into being the moral guardian of her home." While women were relegated to the home, men took charge of public and political life, seemingly driving a separating wall between the public and private spheres. However, when we

examine the history and foundations of GFWC, and look towards courageous leaders such as Jane Cunningham Croly, Jane Addams, and Julia Ward Howe, we know that this separation between public and private, and the political and the domestic was a façade, and a barrier which GFWC bravely helped to dismantle.



Thanks for Living the
volunteer Spirit!

JUST FOR
LAUGHS...



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DEADLINE: Summer Issue September 3, 2016

*Pictures need to be 20 or higher DPI (resolution) and sent as JPEGs. **Be sure to provide identification** of subjects in picture and brief description of activity.

Editors reserves the right to edit any copy used in the columns of the GFWC Massachusetts state newsletter

- Federation Topics