

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

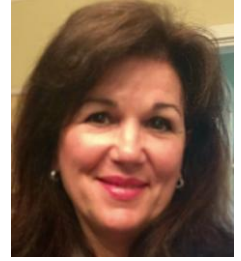
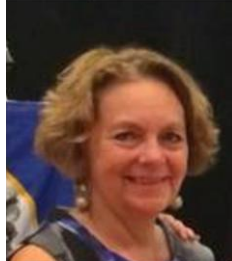
*A Newsletter for Massachusetts Clubwomen*

Issue 17  
Winter 2017

*LET it SNOW!*

*LET it SNOW!*

*LET it SNOW! (NOT!)*



***HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM YOUR GFWC OF MASSACHUSETTS OFFICERS!***



**Coming Soon to the Westford Regency near you!  
GFWC of Massachusetts Midwinter Meeting**



**Special Guest and Keynote Speaker**

The Honorable **Niki Tsongas**, U.S. House of Representatives  
Massachusetts Third Congressional District



Please register and join us on January 28th at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center for a day of information and fun! Deadline for hotel reservations and meeting registration is **January 20th**. Please see Call sent to club presidents on December 23rd for further info.



**Wish List** (sent 1/6/17 to club presidents) for the Higashi  
Please remember to bring along an item or items from the  
School. **Chief Development Officer, Paul Fanning** from  
the school will be speaking to us at this meeting.

## *Inside Headquarters - Message from the President*



**Happy New Year** my friends! I hope you experienced a wonderful holiday season surrounded by family and loved ones. We forget too easy these days what the holidays are all about, with the hustle and bustle of everyday life that keep us so busy. It has been 8 months since this administration came into office and we have accomplished a couple of important things on our to do list. Two weeks ago new roofs were installed on all three buildings, the parking lot has been patched, so we are well on our way to get things done, that need attention.

The Fall Meeting of 2016 was a huge success and we hope to continue with our upcoming Midwinter Meeting on January 28, 2017 at the Westford Regency. It again promises to be a informative, but also fun filled meeting for all. I so look forward to all meetings to further inform you of my President's Project "Autism-A Beacon of Hope" and hopefully further engage with the Boston/Randolph Higashi School to help the children there in any way we can to learn to live with this disease. I know you have all received the wish list from the school of what their needs are; please be generous once again, so we can make a presentation to Paul Fanning at Mid Winter Meeting.

Raffle tickets for the quilt are available from Bernadette Bennett, I hope to raise about \$ 1,000.00 for the Higashi School with this raffle and the drawing will be on May 7, 2017 at our Annual Meeting at the Embassy Suites in Waltham.

Until I see you all at Midwinter:

*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*

Amazing to think that the holidays have passed and we are into 2017. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. Wishing you a new year that is blessed with health and happiness. May 2017 bring us all a kinder, gentler, more peaceful world to live in and work in as we volunteer to make it even better.

Speaking of volunteer work, remember to submit your reports about all the fabulous projects you did in 2016! Junior Membership has taken the technology plunge to make your busy lives easier for reporting. Report formats can be downloaded from the Junior Membership website. Then (in Word format), filled in and e-mailed back. No copies, no postage! Check out the website for more details, We really want to know what YOUR CLUB did in 2016 and will support you to do just that!

In the meantime, enjoy our New England Winter (did I hear no snow??!!). Happy Valentine's Day, too (a blizzard of roses and chocolate??!!). It will be only too soon before the weather warms, Spring approaches, and you can start planning for Annual Conference in April.

In Junior Love and Friendship,

*Martha*

# Fall Meeting

Embassy Suites Hotel, Waltham



**GFWC of Massachusetts President Elfriede Parker with Dr. John Maina of the Boston Higashi School**



**GFWC of Massachusetts Officers and GFWC Secretary Suellen Brazil in their Halloween finery (l-r):** T Jablanski, Treasurer, Martha Casassa, Director of Jr. Clubs, Diane McCurley, Recording Secretary, Suellen, President Elfie, Lynne Stader, 1st V.P., Diane Erickson, Corresponding Secretary and Donna Shibley, 2nd Vice President.



**GFWC Marlborough Juniores President Molly Farrell receiving their club charter from President Parker** along with Club Advisor, Elizabeth McCurley, and members of the sponsoring club GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club, Janice Hynes, Katie Robey and Diane McCurley



# Junior Fall Conference

St. Luke's Parish Hall, Westborough



GFWC of Massachusetts **Junior Membership Officers** giving their most fashionable report of the 2016 New England Region Conference.



Conference attendees making sandwiches for homeless in Worcester.





Lino To and Barbara Picard of Straight Ahead Ministries

Speakers on timely topics, Domestic Violence and Breast Cancer

Nikki Deary of Making Strides Against Breast Cancer



## Holiday Open House at GFWC

GFWC International President **Sheila E. Shea** along with her **Purple Peeps** (minus Diane

Murphy 😞) posing by the gorgeous Christmas Tree at 1734 N Street.



GFWC President's Special Assistant, Martha Michalewicz with cookies from Massachusetts clubwomen--they're going fast!!

## Wreaths Across America

Massachusetts Clubwomen, Donna Shibley (left) and Jen Nowak withstood the very cold, damp weather in Washington D.C. on Dec. 17 participating with other GFWC members putting wreaths on graves at Arlington National Cemetery. This is Jen's third year taking part in this most meaningful event.



## Club Happenings



**The GFWC Taunton Junior Woman's Club** has published a club history book chronicling their 65 years of Federation service. A copy was sent to GFWC Women's History and Resource Center and we have a copy at our Headquarters as well. Please take a look when you come. Shown is Diane McCurley, Headquarters Secretary receiving our copy from Nancy Clark from the Taunton Jrs.

**The Westford Women's Club** celebrated their 40th Anniversary recently and were presented citations from Massachusetts State Representative James Arciero. Shown with Rep. Arciero are club co-presidents, Sandie Taylor and Doreen Boisvert.  
**Congratulations!**



**The Braintree Women's Club** held its annual fashion show, "Fall Family Fashions" recently at the Pembroke Country Club. A luncheon was held and Lord Taylor provided the beautiful fashions that were modeled by our club members and their families. There were many raffle winners of wonderful prizes that were donated by local merchants and members of the club. We thank Lord and Taylor, our members, and friends that helped make this event such a great success. This event is their major fundraiser of the year and it allows them to provide scholarships and support our local community charities such as Marge Crispin Center, Birthday Wishes, the Food Pantry, the Brockton Veterans Hospital, Home for our Troops, and many more. Shown modeling a striking black and silver cocktail dress and eye-catching hat is club past president and caterer extraordinaire, Marta Googins.

**The GFWC Girls for a Greater Good**, our Melrose Juniorettes, spent part of their pre-holiday time baking and decorating cookies for, and spending time interacting and caroling with, residents of the Oosterman Rest Home.







Membership/Leadership Chairman, Mary Ann Pierce recently visited the **Milton Woman's Club**. Shown (l-r) are: Mary Call, VP, Mary Ann, President Patrice Galvin and, seated, Past President Virginia "Ginny" Wells.



## *December Club Institute ~ Holiday at our Headquarters*



**1st Annual  
Cookie Swap was a  
great success!!  
Thanks Mary Ann Pierce,  
Membership Chairman!**



**Sudbury Fire Department EMT  
discusses life saving defibrillator  
information with clubwomen**



## *Support our President's Project*

**Beautiful, handmade quilt created by Annie Wales being raffled at Annual Meeting 2017 for the benefit of the Boston Higashi School, the President's Project. Get your tickets at Midwinter meeting or contact Bernadette Bennett. (bbennett@bu.edu)**



## *Note from the Treasurer*

### **How Do We Rate?**

Have you ever approached a business or company requesting a donation for your club and been told that GFWC of Massachusetts is not recognized by their charity evaluator? What the heck is a charity evaluator? Living in the information age that we are, there are a lot of charities out there and a lot of companies, AKA "charity evaluators", that want to help people choose charities carefully. These companies are not all equal and use a variety of criteria for their charity ratings. Here a few of the top ones.

Charity Navigator which focuses on financial health, accountability and the transparency of a charity. Guide Star will give you basic information on a charity but if you want detailed information you'll need to pay for it.

BBB Wise Giving Alliance is affiliated with the Better Business Bureau, also known as Give.org and they have free reviews.

Type in General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts into any of their search engines and you will find there are "no results". What's going on here? The criteria that Guide Star, Give.org and Charity Navigator use, is that in order for them to rate a charitable organization, that organization needs to have \$1,000,000 in revenue per year. We do not have a million dollars in revenue per year therefore we would not be found or "listed" as some of our members have asked.

If a company or person wants to find us, all they have to do is go to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office at [mass.gov/ago](http://mass.gov/ago) > Doing Business in Massachusetts > Public Charities or Not-for-Profits Annual Filings > Website, type in either our name: General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts, Inc. or our AG number: 005849. It is completely free.

It has been said that a good benchmark for a worthwhile charity is having at least 75% of income spent on programs, or the nonprofit's mission. The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts gives **100%** of your donations to our programs and projects. I believe that makes us an excellent nonprofit organization!

On a different note:

**Please be sure to file your clubs 990N form with the IRS within 5 1/2 months of the end of your club's fiscal year! And keep a copy of the receipt that you have filed!**



## *Membership MATTERS*

Please remember, the deadline to submit new members names, addresses, phone numbers and email for the current **Recruitment campaign, Queen of Hearts**, is February 27, 2017. Three or more new members? See your club name in GFWC Clubwoman magazine! Get your info to Mary Ann Pierce, (mapgfwc@msn.com)

Look for news of a **new GFWC of Massachusetts Membership opportunity** for your club, to be revealed at Midwinter Meeting! Makes you want to be there, right?

Clubs are also reminded of the **Clubwoman of the Year** Contest and the **Club Participation** Contest, see the GFWC of Massachusetts website for further information. The entries are **due April 1st!**

## *Leadership Leaves a Legacy*

Are you or someone in your club interested in developing your knowledge and skills and advancing to increased leadership roles in your club or at the GFWC state or even national level? Please consider applying to be the **LEADS candidate** from Massachusetts to the **LEADSeminar at GFWC Convention** in Palm Desert, California on June 23. Applications are available on the **GFWC of MA website** and are due on **February 1st** to GFWC of MA, P.O. Box 679, Sudbury 01776.



## *Upcoming Events*

**January 28** GFWC of Massachusetts Midwinter Meeting -Westford Regency Inn & Conference Center

**Feb 1** Scholarship Applications and LEADS Application due to GFWCMA, PO Box 679, Sudbury 01776

**Mar 1** Memorial Education Fund Fellowship Applications due to GFWCMA, PO Box 679, Sudbury 01776

**Mar 2** Club Institute and Exec. Board Meeting, Art and photography contest entries due GFWC of MA, HQ,

**Apr 22** Junior Membership Annual Meeting, TBD

**May 6-7** GFWC of Massachusetts Annual Meeting, Embassy Suites Hotel, Waltham

**June 24-26** GFWC International Convention, Palm Desert, CA

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**Note from the "interim" 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 for publication in the next issue! When will that be? Hopefully, around the beginning of April.

Would you know anyone who would like to help compile this wonderful newsletter?

If you do, please let Donna Shibley, dmshibley@gmail.com, know; we can get her going right away!

**Thanks for reading!**

Diane McCurley  
GFWC of Massachusetts  
Headquarters Secretary