



# GFWC MASSACHUSETTS FEDERATION TOPICS

*A Newsletter for Clubwomen*



GFWC MA is a proud member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

2024 Special Edition

## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION SPECIAL EDITION



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The GFWC Massachusetts and GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership Annual Convention activities started on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Courtyard Marriott in Marlborough. A fun Jubilee Celebration for Junior Membership was held on Friday, with Gary Marino a renowned comedian, please see the highlights of the evening on pages 4-5.

Saturday the business session began with the processional honoring the Past Presidents and Past Directors of Junior Clubs of Massachusetts and introduced the current state officers. A touching tribute to Dorthy Graham was given by June Alfano, GFWC MA President 1988-1990. Business of the federation was conducted, and elections of the 2024-2026 administration were held.

The afternoon business began with an inspiring presentation from Tara Ostromecky focusing on "Marketing for Membership". Read more about Tara's presentation on page 20. Members say the highlight of every annual convention is to hear the awards presentations. It is always exciting to learn about the club projects that caught the attention of a state chairman and received recognition for the club's creative efforts and hard work. Take a few minutes to read the brief project descriptions, listed farther in the newsletter. We rounded out the afternoon announcing the photography and writing contest winners and presenting certificates to clubs who donated to MassSTAR.

Thank you to clubs and members who supported the raffles, club connection tables, and Pearls and Petals shopping. The donations of party supplies for Birthday Wishes will make a difference for that organization. Your generosity is very appreciated.

We re-convened for dinner, the State Clubwomen Awards, State Overall Achievement Awards, and the final comments from GFWC Massachusetts Director of Junior Clubs Marisa Jablanski and GFWC Massachusetts President T Jablanski. We all enjoyed celebrating the successes.

Thank you to the 2022-2024 administration for planning an informative and fun Annual Convention. Mostly, THANK YOU to you, the members, who attended this great event. Thank you.

*Watch for the 2024 Summer Issue of TOPICS with the Installation of*

*2024-2026 GFWC Massachusetts and  
GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership Officers*

## FROM PAST PRESIDENT T JABLANSKI



As I reflect on my time as president, I am filled with gratitude for the tremendous support and dedication shown by each of you over the past two years.

*“There’s only one thing more precious than our time and that’s who you spend it with.”*  
*Leo Christopher*

Thanks for spending your time with GFWC Massachusetts and me!



Your support and dedication have made a significant impact on our communities, and I am truly grateful for your unwavering commitment to our General Federation of Women’s Clubs Massachusetts. Thanks for Knowing Your Worth!

Love & Peace,

T

## WORTH YOUR WEIGHT IN GOLD

### DAY OF HONOR

A Day Of Honor for GFWC MA 2022-2024 President T Jablanski was held on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at the Trinity Church in Northborough. Clubwomen gathered together to honor her years served as President and enjoyed a lovely brunch. The group was welcomed by GFWC MA Past Director of Junior Clubs Martha Michalewich, who served as hostess and emcee for the day. Memories were shared by presentations from Past GFWC International President Sheila Shea and GFWC MA Past President Mary Ann Pierce. Greetings were shared on behalf of GFWC MA Executive Committee by Terry Rouvalis, GFWC MA 1st Vice President. Diane Erickson, Headquarters Secretary, gave a beautiful grace before the meal. GFWC MA Director of Junior Clubs Marisa Jablanski held a GFWC Trivia Game with the group which highlighted special moments in President T’s GFWC experiences.

GFWC MA Past President Lynne Stader presented President T with her President’s pin while T’s assistant Diane Murphy presented her with a gift from GFWC MA members. T’s club, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman’s Club presented her with flowers and a gift of windchimes.

What a delightful day to honor President Jablanski’s years of service with good friends and delicious food! Thank you for your hard work and service to our state and good luck in any future endeavors. We appreciate all that you have accomplished!

*Submitted by GFWC MA Past President Mary Ann Pierce*

*Photos on pages 22-23*

## FROM PAST DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP MARISA JABLANSKI



What a fantastic weekend we had in Marlborough for our GFWC Annual Convention! Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the weekend a success. We certainly all Stood Tall and Proud with GFWC to celebrate our clubs' accomplishments. The work you have done, and will continue to do, to improve your communities is phenomenal, and you all deserve the acknowledgment of your hard work and dedication. Congratulations to our many clubs who won awards, scholarships, and bowls.

This administration had many highlights for me, but I'd like to touch on just a few.



At the administration's first Junior Jumpstart, the format was changed to allow for a roundtable discussion. This discussion gave the club leaders in attendance the opportunity to have the floor and share successes, frustrations, and questions. Hearing the positive feedback about having the opportunity for this 'vent session' with other clubwomen who 'got it' was so touching to hear.

A longtime dream was to change the way past Directors and Presidents were honored at state meetings. Each Past Director and President had their own table for the luncheon, where they brought things in from their administration to create their own centerpiece. Following the meal, one representative from each table came forward and introduced the leader at their table and share the information they collected during the interviews they were asked to do. Both clubwomen and past leaders shared later that this change in format was inspiring and well worth the added effort.

Having the honor to start our 2024 Annual Convention with a birthday celebration in honor of Junior Membership's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. With twelve past Directors of Junior Clubs in attendance, each one stepped forward and read an inspiring quote from a past GFWC Director. These quotes, that spanned the last century of Junior Membership, still rang true today, and the impact of them all being read aloud by the leaders who have made such important contributions to our state organization was so inspirational.

Closing out this administration, it was important that Communications & Public Relations and Membership were the focus of the luncheon speaker for Annual Convention. Finding the owner and CEO of a woman owned marketing company was a major success! Tara Ostromecky brought youthful and informative insight into how we can all engage and entice new members into our clubs. Using fundraising dollars earmarked for CPR and Membership, we were able to offer three clubs free strategy sessions with Tara and her company, Makin it Marketing. I can't wait to see how these sessions help our clubs gain membership and publicity.

I am so beyond grateful for the opportunities that this position has provided me. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Director of Junior Clubs for 2022-2024. As stated in my final thoughts at the close of our Annual Convention...in a time where women are pulled in so many different directions, I am inspired by the women who continue to serve, who continue to help their communities, and who continue to choose GFWC when there are so many other outside forces pulling them. Thank you all for your dedication to our organization. GFWC Massachusetts, and GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership is alive, strong, and growing because of your commitment and support. Stand Tall and Proud and know that YOU are making a difference with your actions each and every day.

Thank you.

## CREDENTIALS & REGISTRATION

Martha Casassa, Chairman

### **GFWC MA Credentials Conservation Effort**

At each state Meeting or Convention members attending are asked to return their plastic name badges, The paper content can also be recycled along with the plastic holder. As your 2022-2024 Chairman I have been monitoring the return rate. Did you know we achieve about a 68-70% return rate - not great - a grade of C if we were being graded in school. We CAN do better!

Why worry? Over the course of an administration this means we need to buy another box of 100 name badge holders to replace those lost. Not only is non-recyclable plastic ending up in multiple waste streams in our state, but it costs GFWC MA about \$90 each time to replace lost plastic holders. That money could go to a better cause than replacing plastic holders!

As your Credentials Chairman for 2024-2026, I am asking each of you to not only be sure to return your own badge and its paper contents, but to make sure a fellow attendee does as well. The goal: a 100% return rate - a lofty A+ goal, but why not. Helping our Earth and our own finances are worthy causes, don't you agree???

In Federation Friendship,

*Martha*

Martha Casassa

GFWC MA Credentials & Registration Chairman 2024-2026

## GFWC MA JUNIOR CLUBS

### 100 YEARS OF SERVICE

Happy Birthday Junior Membership! The Friday night of the GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention was certainly a fun celebration for the 100 years of Junior Membership in our state. We acknowledged the creation of the 1924 Society, and a gift for Headquarters was presented by Jen Nowak, a full set of the martini glasses from the first six years of its existence. With so many clubwomen in attendance, including twelve Past Directors of Junior Clubs, we feasted on a pasta buffet and enjoyed each other's company while tables told stories of their experiences and favorite moments in their GFWC journey. Clubwomen's journeys were displayed on a brightly colored timeline right outside the banquet room. This timeline showcased when each member joined their local club, when they realized their 'why', and when they first took on a leadership role in the organization. Thank you to all who participated in this exercise. We are creating the history of the next 100 years of Junior Membership with our stories, how do we want to create our lasting impact? Following dinner, we celebrated with birthday cake (of course) followed by a lively game of Music Trivia hosted by our newly installed Director of Junior Clubs, Beth McKeon. She certainly challenged our knowledge of women's history. Following trivia, we enjoyed Comedian Gary Marino, where he made us all laugh as he talked about how the world has gone crazy. We concluded our event by standing as a group and reciting the Junior Pledge. Here's to another successful 100 years of Junior Membership in Massachusetts!



# GFWC MA JUNIOR CLUBS

## 100 YEARS OF SERVICE



GFWC MA Past Directors of Junior Clubs



# GFWCMA ANNUAL CONVENTION





# GFWCMA ANNUAL CONVENTION





GFWCMA ANNUAL CONVENTION



**GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION****2023 AWARDS**

**Sheila E. Shea Club President Award**  
**Robin Gendron ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

**Julia Ward Howe Club President Award**  
**Penny Olson ~ Holly Club of Wrentham**

**Martha Michalewicz Clubwoman of the Year Award**  
**Vicki Greenberg Levine ~ GFWC Marlborough Junior Women's Club**  
**GFWC Massachusetts Clubwoman of the Year Award**  
**Martha Casassa, GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club**

**Marilyn Perry Leadership Award**  
**Gigi Chamberlain ~ GFWC Marlborough Junior Women's Club**

**Junior Membership Achievement Awards:**

**Barbara Baker Tray ~ GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club**

**Division II ( 6-30 members) ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club, Inc**

**Division 1 (31+ members) ~ GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club**

**Programs & Activities Overall Award ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

**Women's Club Achievement Awards:**

- **GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club**
- **GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club**
- **Women's Club of Newton Highlands**



GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club



GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club



GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club



GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club

# GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

## ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

GFWC  
Boston  
Parliamentary Law Club



Woman's Club  
of  
Newton Highlands



GFWC  
Bay State  
Contemporary Club





## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### PROGRAM AWARDS

One of the highlights of the GFWCMA Annual Convention was the presentation of the 2023 Club Awards. The newly elected Director of Junior Clubs, Beth McKeon, and I were thrilled to Oversee this piece of the Convention. All the clubs certainly **showed their worth** and **stood proud** in 2023 serving their communities and proving that GFWCMA Volunteers make a difference. Congratulations to the winners.

#### Women's Club Certificates for Best Projects

##### GFWC SPECIAL AND COMMUNITY PROGRAM

##### Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse Awareness

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Bay State Contemporary Club

The club contributed 48 hours of their time to donate cash and goods to three different local organizations dedicated to supporting the needs and services for victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence as well as Human Trafficking.

##### Advocates for Children

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Braintree Women's Club

As a thank you to the local library for allowing the club's Board of Directors to conduct their business meeting at the facility the club donated \$200. At the request of the club the donation was used for the purchase of books for grammar and middle school children spotlighting Women in History.

###### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Holly Club of Wrentham

10 members donated 34 hours of their time and partnered with the Wrentham Food Bank to purchase and package 27 pairs of pajamas for 13 families totaling \$350.

##### Arts And culture

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Ousamequin Club

Presented a program that demonstrated how to recycle old jewelry into purse jewelry.

##### Civic Engagement

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Braintree Women's Club

Donated \$630 worth of various requested items packaged in tote bags to the residents of Caritas House, a local transitional house for the homeless.

###### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Holly Club

10 Members donated 25 hours of their time and the club donated \$200 towards providing a dinner for all the first responders in their community.

##### Education & Libraries

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Hopkinton Women's Club

Members donated 154 hours and \$9100 providing scholarships and various educational opportunities in their community.

##### Environment

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Ousamequin Club

Two club members spent about 3 hours in April at "our" little space at Iron Works Park in Bridgewater, cleaning up the space the club sponsors as well as helped during town clean-up day.

##### Health and Wellness

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Millbury Women's Club

After hearing the presentation at a state meeting by a representative of NAMSI telling of the need of bringing mental health information into homes, members brought the information to the attention of their local school authorities. Working with NAMSI, and the schools, programs were presented to the students and their families on the support services that are available for mental health.

###### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Ousamequin Club

Holly Club President, Penny Olsen presented the program The Power of Letting Go which included a workshop introducing tools to relieve stress.

## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### PROGRAM AWARDS *continued*

#### GFWC ADVANCEMENT SERVICE PLAN CHAIRMAN

##### Communications and Public Relations

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Ousamequin Club

At their Annual Meeting Banquet, the club celebrated their 125-year anniversary with a member designed printed program and slide show highlighting the history of the club and its relationships to the town. Many of the guests were town dignitaries who thanked the club for their contributions to the community.

##### Fundraising

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Hopkinton Women's Club

The Club partnered with the Hopkinton Emergency Fund to run a Golf Tournament which included raffles, a silent auction and lunch. A net profit was raised of \$17,524 which was divided between the two organizations.

###### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Bay State Contemporary

A Bingo was held at HQ where small purse accessories were given with gift certificates as prizes. Snacks were provided and a small basket raffle contributed to the proceeds of \$415.

##### Leadership

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Ousamequin Club

This clubs' leaders spent 218 hours organizing, seeking projects, publicizing, applying for Cultural Grants and overall operational chores for keeping this club active and attractive to new and existing members. The president and vice president attended State Meetings as well as their club meetings.

##### Membership

###### 1<sup>st</sup> Place ~ Holly Club

The Club held a Membership Tea where each member, besides being treated to some wonderful donated goodies, was honored and given a framed Certificate of Appreciation printed with the date they joined the club, the date the club was formed and signed by the club president.

###### 2<sup>nd</sup> Place ~ Bourne Women's Club

The Club was able to add 4 new members to their rolls as well as the potential to add 4 more in 2024 by holding a late summer picnic, Holiday Hoopla (cookie swap) as well as monitoring their Facebook page for those inquiring information on local activities. Designated members contacted these people and provided information on their club plus inviting them to a meeting.

*Submitted by GFWC MA 1st Vice President Terry Rouvalis*



## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### PROGRAM AWARDS *continued*

#### Junior Membership Program Awards

##### Arts and Culture

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club**

An amazing exhibit called "Seeing the Invisible" of botanical gardens artwork, was viewed by downloading an app onto their smartphones and viewing through the camera.

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Hanover Women's Club, Juniors**

A talented young performer showcased her musical talent at a club meeting, who had been a previous club scholarship winner.

###### **Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club**

Club members were introduced to a meditative art form called Neurographica or Neurographic Art. All members had the opportunity to create their own piece of art.

##### Civic Engagement and Outreach

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

This Club maintains a free closet of clothing for those in need for the Emergency Department of the UMass-Memorial local Hospital. Club restocks socks and underwear monthly.

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Hanover Women's Club, Juniors**

This Junior club sponsored a Candidates night in their community. The club procures a moderator, arranges publication of the event, and reviews the questions being asked.

###### **Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club.**

This club has made it a priority to support the 140 migrant families living in area hotels. The club has bought and donated items to meet the needs of the families.

##### Education and Libraries

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club**

For the National Day of Service, this club partnered with the Rotary Club to identify children who will be food insecure over the weekend.

###### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Hanover Women's Club, Juniors**

This club sponsored a tea to recognize the volunteers of their local library and thank them for their dedication to the community.

###### **Overall Creativity ~ GWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club**

This year on National Wine Day this Club's members held a fundraiser event at their Country Club. The event was a Scholarship Fundraiser for the CSF Dollars for Scholars chapter.



**GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION****PROGRAM AWARDS** *continued***Environment****Special Recognition ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club**

This club participated in "Plastic Free July". The challenge was to encourage town citizens to pledge to not use single use water bottles during the month of July.

**Special Recognition ~ GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club**

The Garden Club assisted members to plant violets in small pots saying "Happy Spring" which in turn would be given to senior citizens involved with the town Senior Center.

**Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

Club is provided a list of reusable items, that a schoolteacher offers to students in the engineering program. The students create projects and become environmentally aware of their supplies.

**Health and Wellness****Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

This Club's 2023 Self Care Fair focused on awareness and resources to help women to better understand the importance of self-care.

**Special Recognition ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

A nurse member has assisted the membership on how to heal their minds, souls, hearts and bodies.

**Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club**

Thirty families from Haiti, Columbia, and the Dominican Republic arrived with very few belongings and were placed in a local hotel. Members have provided a wide variety of goods and services to make sure their needs were met and to brighten the refugees' lives a bit.

**Women's History and Resource Center****Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

In preparation of Women's History Month, members were asked to watch 8 movies highlighting historical women. An interactive trivia game was done at the March meeting.

**Special Recognition ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club**

Two club members visited the GFWC Headquarters for the Holiday Open House. Upon returning a slide presentation was created to share parts of Women's History they gathered while in there.

**Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Westford Women's Club**

Freddie Kay, founder and President of Suffrage100 MA spoke at a town event. Club agreed to host her, strengthen their name recognition within town, and broaden membership.

**Communications and Public Relations****Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

Club launched their Volunteers in Action show on the local cable access channel. The goal of each episode is to highlight the local club and increase the visibility of their presence in the community.

## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### PROGRAM AWARDS *continued*

#### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club**

This Club has a yearbook that is made available to all members when they are installed.

#### **Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Westford Women's Club**

A top priority for this Club was to establish a digital logo to bring a new branding for the club.

#### **Leadership**

#### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

This community has many nonprofits in their city. Several of the organizations came together to discuss better ways to help the community.

#### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club**

GFWC Massachusetts Leadership Chairmen held a Wall of Leaders poster contest at the 2023 Annual Convention. The instructions were to highlight amazing club women and create a poster about them.

#### **Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

"Monthly Leadership Awards" to be selected from the membership who have gone above their duties as a member to take on an initiative to coordinate a project or event.

#### **Legislation and Public Policy**

#### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Marlboro Junior Woman's Club**

This Club requested a proclamation from Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey recognizing October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. It was received and read at the club meeting.

#### **Special Recognition ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club**

This Club began its Leadership Certification with Legislation. Members in attendance signed a message to be sent to members of congress representing AJWC for the EARN IT Act.

#### **Overall Creativity ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club**

Club turned its concern regarding a proposal to build a gasification plant at the city's closed landfill into action. With the advocacy work of Clean Air Taunton, support from the councilors changed their views.

*Submitted by GFWC MA Director of Junior Clubs Beth McKeon*

#### **Ricky Gomes Memorial Scholarship Award**

Ericka Gendron, GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

**GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION****PROGRAM AWARDS** *continued***Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children**

*Special Recognition:* GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club – Bringing Christmas Spirit to Children

*Special Recognition:* Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors – Halloween Parade

*Creativity Award:* GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club – Grow Program

**GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**

*Special Recognition:* GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club – Secure the Call Cell Phone Collection

*Special Recognition:* GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club – RAD Guest Speaker

*Creativity Award:* GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club – Police Resource Packets *Special*

**Fundraising and Development**

*Special Recognition:* GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club – Designer Bag Bingo

*Special Recognition:* Needham Women's Club – Holiday Lights Tour

*Creativity Award:* Junior Woman's Club of Walpole – Festival of Trees

**Membership**

*Special Recognition:* Westford Women's Club – Membership Recruitment Table

*Special recognition:* GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club – Lucky Ladies Shop, Eat, and Talk

*Creativity Award:* Needham Women's Club – Think Pink Membership Event

**JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP CONTEST AWARDS:****Marilyn Perry Leadership Award**

Gigi Chamberlain, GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club

**Martha Michalewich Clubwoman of the Year Award**

Vikki Greenberg Levine, GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club

**Sheila E. Shea Club President Award**

Robin Gendron, GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

*Submitted by GFWC MA Past Director of Junior Clubs Marisa Jablanski*

## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### AWARDS *continued*

#### **Julia Ward Howe Club President**

Penny Olson, GFWC Holly Club of Wrentham

#### **Writing Contest**

**Short Story** *Importance of a Letter* by Mary Barnes, GFWC Pepperell Woman's Club

**Poetry** *Images in Winter* by Jean Guarino, GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

#### **Student Writing -- Category 3 Grade Level 6, 7, 8**

**Short Story** *The Chase* by Adelaide E. Collins, Junior Woman's Club of Walpole

**Poetry** *Lord of the Deep* By Graham Baker, GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

#### **Photography Contest**

**The World in Pictures** *Natural Wonders* by Jeanne Dee, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club

**The World in Pictures** *Our World Up Close* by Jeanne Dee, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club

**The World in Pictures** *Reflections* by Gina Guasconi, Ousamequin Club

**GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit** Jeanne Dee, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club

*Submitted by GFWC MA Past President T Jablanski*



## GFWC MA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

### Undergraduate Scholarships

**Women Returning to School** - Gina Pezzella

**Nickels for Notes** - Abigail Comstock, Micah John, Luke Lasquade

**Education/Teaching** - Jasmine Conde, Jazmyn Kasey, Allison Leighton, Lily Scopelliti, Fiona E Truss

**Pennies for the Arts** - Ashley Mendes

**International Study Abroad** - Annabella Lien, Gianna McColley, Angel Pelissari

**Music – Voice** - Anna Bryk, Maggie Murray

**Women’s Italian Club of Boston** - Maximilian Bennett, Eden Berry, Taylor Broughton, Lazuli Clark, Sophia DellaCioppa, Ayla DeLorenzo, Abigail Guzzi, Madison Holmberg, Julia Malowitz, Fiona Clare Marino

**Business** - Rodrigo Castro, Hannah Collette, Darlene Lam, Emma McDonnell, Shea Nemeskal, Charles Petruney, Dylan Rappoli, Adalis Romero

**Public Health** - Sahsha Barnicle, Reagan Boyd, Mary Chrul, Sofia Estrella, Kelsie Farrah, Abigail Guzzi, Katherine Larsen, Hanna Nemeroff, Gabriella Rusha

### Memorial Education Graduate Scholarships

**Special Education** – Sarah White

**International Study Abroad** – Avital Liberzon

**Business** – Catherine Gallant

**Women Returning to School** – Jane Maloney

**Professional Women’s Club of Boston for Nursing** – Jordan Brown

**Communication Disorder/Speech Therapy** – Rebecca Ann Stachowitz, Bailey Adams, Andrea Cannistraro

**Public Health** – Amelia Harvey, Lauryn Kibugi, Heresa LaForce, Rezwana Uddin, Jeannette Varela, Noemi Guervera, Valerie Gaouette, Melissa Welch

In 2024 an amazing total of over \$77,500 was awarded in scholarships. Thank you to the Memorial Education and the Scholarship Committees for their diligent efforts in choosing worthy recipients.

### Birthday Wishes Donations

A large collection of goods was collected for the Birthday Wishes organization at Annual Convention over the weekend. Close to 500 items which included toys, party supplies and \$100 in Amazon gift Cards were given. Two completed Birthday boxes were also included. The group was thrilled and did share some ways our organization could support them.

Thank you to all clubs who contributed. Stay tuned for more updates and ways to connect with Birthday Wishes. They are now collecting some goods and donations through Amazon wish list. Birthday Boxes will be one easy way to contribute in the future. Watch for new lists of what should be included.

During the past year Birthday Wishes gave away more than 5,000 boxes. So our help would be greatly appreciated!

*Submitted by GFWC MA Past President Mary Ann Pierce*



## GFWC MA ANNUAL CONVENTION

### Guest Speaker, Tara Ostromecky, Makin' It Marketing

Tara Ostromecky, Owner and CEO of Makin' It Marketing, brought an informative presentation on marketing your club to our luncheon during the GFWC Massachusetts Annual Convention. Tara spoke on the importance of each club determining what their Ideal Customer Profile is. What are the characteristics, demographics, and attributes of the women your club is looking to attract. Once you have that determined, it's time to focus on how to get them interested in your club! Tara gave examples of different social media platforms to attract certain demographics, sharing that Instagram and Instagram Reels (short video clips) are the way to go to showcase your club to a large digital audience. Following her presentation, a drawing was held to select three clubs to receive a free 1 hour strategy session with Tara and her company. This session will leave your club with a full, personalized marketing plan to engage and entice new members. These sessions were provided free of charge by GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership through the generous donations clubwomen made at the Pearls and Petals shop, as well as end of year donation forms. Congratulations to the GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club, GFWC, Westford Women's Club, and GFWC Wilbraham Women's Club for being the lucky winners! More information on Tara and Makin' It Marketing, can be found at [www.makinitmarketing.com](http://www.makinitmarketing.com).



### Attention ALL Club Leaders

The 2024 GFWC Massachusetts Directory/Manual will be printed this summer. It is time to let us know about your current club leaders and club information. The form needs to be completed by June 15, 2024, and sent to [HQSecretary@gfwcma.org](mailto:HQSecretary@gfwcma.org) or mailed to PO Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776. The Club Directory Form is on page 21, and both the fillable and printable forms are on the [GFWCMA.org](http://GFWCMA.org) website under the Women's Club tab – flyers and forms. Please send it in ASAP.

**General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts**  
**CLUB DIRECTORY SHEET for STATE MANUAL**

The information requested is used to update our State Manual/Directory. Even if none of the information has changed, please fill out this form so that we may have complete and verified information for our state records.

**2024**

**Due JUNE 15 - Please submit ASAP**

Mail to: GFWC Massachusetts P.O. Box 679 Sudbury MA 01776  
or email to: HQsecretary@gfwcma.org (preferred)

**CLUB & MEETING**

Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

When: (example - 7:30pm third Tuesday) \_\_\_\_\_

Where: (example - St Joe's Church) \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Meeting Month: \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES**

Annual per capita Club DUES amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How many DUES paying members between January 1 - December 31, 2023 \_\_\_\_\_ members

*The number of dues paying members provide is used by the GFWC MA State Treasurer to calculate the club's dues bill, payable by December 31, 2024.*

**President:** \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Vice President:** \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary:** \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Treasurer:** \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**email:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Any correspondence from GFWC Massachusetts or GFWC Massachusetts Junior Membership will be sent to the Officers listed.*

*The club invoice for dues will be emailed to President & Treasurer in November.*

Upon request, a hardcopy invoice will be available for pickup at the GFWC Fall Meeting – check here \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of Officer completing this form:** \_\_\_\_\_



WORTH YOUR WEIGHT IN GOLD  
DAY OF HONOR





WORTH YOUR WEIGHT IN GOLD  
DAY OF HONOR





The Massachusetts Youth Leadership Foundation organizes the MassSTAR Conference, for sophomore students from across the state. An intensive three-day program is planned to challenge the student delegates, broaden their perspectives, and bring out their inner leaders.

GFWC Massachusetts is a proud sponsor each year. Thank you to the generous donations from the listed clubs. A check for \$3480 was presented to Olivia Lavidor MYLF Vice President.

GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club  
 GFWC Boston Parliamentary Law Club  
 Braintree Women's Club  
 Dennis-Yarmouth Woman's Club  
 Hopkinton Women's Club  
 Lunenburg Woman's Club  
 Woman's Club of Newton Highlands  
 Ousamequin Club

GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club  
 GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club, Inc.  
 GFWC Dedham Junior Women's Club  
 GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club  
 GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club  
 Needham Women's Club  
 GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club  
 Junior Woman's Club of Walpole  
 GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club



## DATES TO REMEMBER



Jun 1 Board of Directors Meeting and Federation Day at the Forest  
 Jun 27-Jul 1 GFWC Convention, Chicago, IL  
 Aug 17 Board of Directors Meeting and Leaders Day  
 Sept 13—15 New England Region Conference, Portland, ME

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF MASSACHUSETTS  
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 978-443-4569