



"Give them something to talk about!"

# FOCUS



The Newsletter of the  
General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut

Volume 37, Edition 11

Summer 2011

www.gfwcct.org

## President JoAnn Calnen



Dear Members,  
What a terrific year with GFWC/CT! Congratulations to all for the wonderful projects, successes within your communities and dedication to volunteer work.

May Convention adjourned with the result that many clubs were recognized for their work. Members had the opportunity to hear our guest speakers - Mark Robinson, author of Smoke, Fire, and Angels, and Karen Jarmoc, Interim Director of the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence, as well as an unplanned visit by Senator Richard Blumenthal. Our members also voted in favor of the bylaw amendments and the cyber bullying resolution. Thank you to those committees for their hard work preparing the proposals.

Please watch for the Call to our next meeting, the August Board meeting, as well as our Call to the New England Region Conference. Both will be sent out during the summer months and you should expect to see them six weeks prior to the date of the meeting.

I wish each of you a lovely summer. I am looking forward to our 2011-2012 year to be as full of accomplishments as this past year has been.

With warm wishes,  
JoAnn



May 13-14, 2011  
Convention Pictures



## President Elect Nancy Kalyan

I hope that you all enjoyed our State Convention and the Memorial Day Weekend! "Thank You" to club presidents for attending the Convention and sharing something fun about themselves or what they like to do. It was quite interesting to know that many of our current presidents share the exact or similar interests.

Time is running out to purchase tickets for the performance of "WICKED" at the Bushnell, Sunday, August 28, at 6:30 p.m. Rear balcony seats are still available for \$31.50. If any member would like to be seated in another area, discounted ticket prices are orchestra/front mezzanine \$70.75 or rear mezzanine/front balcony \$53.75. Please call me for tickets at 860-741-2444. **Order deadline is Friday, June 17, 2011.**

A reminder to club presidents and treasurers interested in joining the GFWC/CT 501c3 umbrella - the deadline to send your club's information to me is **June 30, 2011**. If you have any problems or questions, please call JoAnn or myself.

In my new position as President Elect, it is customary for me to start filling positions on the executive board. Please don't be surprised if I approach you about a position on the board - **just say yes!** I am also asking clubs to please start to put together any projects they might want to present at the May Convention for our new two-year State Project to be voted on that weekend. Please meet with your club, put together and submit a winning State Project that we will all be proud to work on with great compassion and generosity.

Yours in Federation, Nancy

### **Third Vice President Kim Hohlfeld**

Hard to believe we are a year into this administration already. I want to thank our seven District and Assistant District Directors for all of their efforts in planning and executing their individual District Days. They were terrific events with each District having distinctive successes to share. The pride and camaraderie on each day was evident, and I think we all left feeling exhilarated and motivated to grow our organization.

To reflect on our last year, I am proud to report many successes in our GFWC/CT clubs. Membership is a high priority within all clubs. Several clubs reported increased membership on their recent Seasonal Recruitment Campaign forms. This last year, we have also welcomed our 49<sup>th</sup> club to GFWC/CT. Congratulations to Enfield for sponsoring their Junioresse Club.

Clubs are also recognizing and taking great strides in retaining existing members. I want to personally thank each club who worked tirelessly updating their membership records in an effort to recognize their members for years of service. To date, Connecticut clubs have honored over 250 members for 25 or more years of service and 21 pins for 50 or more years of service in this last year. I, for one, can't help but feel proud to be part of an organization surrounded by so many committed and dedicated women who have served our clubs so well for so many years. They are an inspiration to us all.

As most clubs are celebrating their end of year with annual luncheons and preparing for their new year, I have a request. Please take this time to initiate a strategy for your upcoming year. Ask yourselves - How will we increase membership? How do I make my club a greater presence in the community? What events will we initiate to gain new members? How do we increase our PR? Please consider beginning your brainstorming sessions now to ensure your club's future successes in the 2011/2012 administration.

Many resources are available to your club, and I hope each of you will consider utilizing all the tools available to you. Start with the Membership

Manual tips and ideas available on the gfwc.org website, network with your neighboring clubs and share their successful ideas or contact me to begin your club's membership strategy for the upcoming year. Any club that has taken part in a "Membership Brainstorming/Strategy Session" will attest that some great ideas as well as renewed enthusiasm come out of these meetings. Please call or email me to get started at 860-306-0371 or [ralph.hohlfeld@snet.net](mailto:ralph.hohlfeld@snet.net)

Thank you to each of our GFWC/CT clubs for a successful year and making **membership** such a priority. I look forward to working with you to make our next year even more successful.

### **Recording Secretary Pat Kearney**

I want to take this opportunity to thank my fellow Officers and all the Community Service and Committee Chairmen for providing me with a copy of the report you delivered at our GFWC/CT meetings. This is a very valuable method to assure the accurate documentation of the information presented at these meetings. I also want to thank the District and Assistant District Directors for inviting me to your District Days. I really enjoyed your meetings and getting to meet your members. The viewing of your Arts and Crafts was very impressive. I look forward to joining you again next year.

### **Corresponding Secretary Maddy Marzullo**

It truly has been my pleasure to serve as the Executive Committee's Corresponding Secretary this past year. It has been wonderful getting to know so many of you - I have been blessed. I look forward to another year of remarkable experiences. Thank you for all you do for GFWC/CT.



Giggle a lot, the more we laugh,  
the more we release endorphins,  
the body's natural painkiller.



**Treasurer  
Hemlata Khona**

I cannot believe one year has passed by. If you missed your District Day, this was my request - if you and any non-members like friends or family wish to contribute to our scholarship fund or our two-year state project, FOOD Bank, through the GFWC/CT pay pal account, please go to the secure site at [www.gfwcct.org](http://www.gfwcct.org) and earn some mileage on your credit card at the same time. Our economy is still struggling and many need our help. Thank you for your support in the past year and have a wonderful and safe summer.

**Assistant Treasurer  
Georgeann Kishner**

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your Assistant Treasurer these past few months. It was a wonderful experience and I am looking forward to another great year.

As Assistant Treasurer, it is my duty to collect dues and to update membership rosters. On August 1, I will be sending club presidents a list of their club members, a membership update form (for any new members since April 15) and a dues notice. This year, you will have the option of receiving the membership roster in an Excel spreadsheet. More information will be in the August 1<sup>st</sup> mailing. This information is due back to me by August 31. I am also responsible for fundraising at the state level. I wish to thank you for your continued support of all of our fundraising activities. Have a wonderful summer!

**Member At Large  
JoAnn Bruno**

As Member At Large, I have had a relatively quiet job this past year. All comments received were relayed to State President JoAnn Calnen and her Executive Committee. Be assured that whatever is of concern to you, is of concern to us. I am always available to listen and keep your anonymity, if requested. Let me know what's on your mind - email [bruno1968@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bruno1968@sbcglobal.net) or call 203-445-1599. Remember the "Squawk Cards" are always available at every state board meeting.

**Public Relations Committee  
JoAnn Bruno, Chairman**

As your Public Relations chairman, it has been a very busy year. This active committee has been convening on a regular basis throughout the year to come up with new, interesting and positive ways to promote GFWC, GFWC/CT and to give public relations assistance to clubs. Let me hear from you if you have any suggestions.

At our Summer Orientation meeting in August, there will be information for all club presidents in the Rolling Mailbox. Be sure to pick it up and consider using the information provided.

One note - I am looking for suggestions for our column in the CT Women's Journal, which is a free publication in New Haven, Hartford and New London counties - which can also be seen on their website, [www.ctwomensjournals.com](http://www.ctwomensjournals.com). Previous articles have been on AMP, VETS Oasis, GFWC History, GFWC/CT High School Art Contest, GFWC/CT Membership and Women's EXPO. Most recently, I have written on 2010-2012 State Project - CT Food Bank/FoodShare, Domestic Violence Awareness, GFWC/CT Scholarships, We Make a Difference - GFWC/CT Highlights, Digital Reflections and for May/June GFWC/CT Tick Bookmarks and Lyme Disease. If you would like to make suggestions for future topics, please send me any pertinent background information so a comprehensive informative article can be written.

**Community Improvement Program  
Maggie Centruelli, Chairman**

We are in the second year and now need to finalize our thoughts around submitting and preparing the report. Contest rules:

- the Project Book must not exceed 7 lbs. or measure more than 15 x 20 inches
- this project covers the period March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2012
- Club entries must be sent to the State GFWC Chairman, postmarked by March 10, 2012
- refer to Club Manual or GFWC website for details, forms and deadlines

Phone Maggie Centurelli at 860-747-6494 or email at [mcenturelli@comcast.net](mailto:mcenturelli@comcast.net).

## Advocates for Children Mischa Campbell, Chairman

Does this state know how to advocate when given a direction and a purpose? At this time, we are preparing to make our third delivery to the Children in Placement offices in New Haven with more cameras, photo albums and photo frames that have been so generously collected by clubs all over the state this past year. To date, we have collected over 200 cameras and 250 photo albums that have already started to reach the Children in Placement throughout the state.

I would like to thank District 4 Director, Diane McCaffrey, and Assistant Director, Mary Flynn, for coordinating the collection and the generosity of the clubs at their District Day: Cranford Club, GFWC The Harwinton Woman's Club, Woman's Club of Greater New Milford, Sharon's Woman's Club, Inc., Terryville Woman's Club, GFWC, Thomaston Woman's Club, The Torrington Woman's Club, Inc., and The Woman's Club of Woodbury. Many new memories will be developed and kept in the albums and frames supplied.

At the May Convention, a member of the Sharon's Woman's Club, Inc. told me of a young man working in a florist shop. He was preparing their unique, yet practical, District Day basket of spring flowers and a check prepared for CIP to purchase additional cameras, or to use for the development of film, where necessary. When the member explained the need for the design, he commented, "I was a foster child and I wish I had someone do this for me so I could have memories to look back on". One never knows in our daily life who we know has lived in foster care or with an extended family, or whose best friend hides a secret life of shame not being able to share their past.

Your generous donations have made a difference in a child's life to carry forward with their memories of meetings with family, school friends they may never see again, or school teachers that have reached out a helping hand. Only knowing that their Guardian ad Litem are gaining their trust to help them build a safe and permanent home for them, one step at a time, with your assistance.

## State Project Patty Meglio, Chairman

Well, it's been a busy year for all of us and the figures are proof of that.

Nancy Carrington, CEO of the CT Food Bank, is extremely impressed with our progress, and you should be too! In the past 12 months, members have given **2,597 hours of their time, raised a total of \$17,789, and donated a total of 49,465 pounds of food**, which is close to our goal of 50,000 pounds. We've blasted through those numbers in record time! I've decided to change the goal once again and double our food goal to 100,000 pounds by May 2012. We can do it!

Many of you have stepped up to the plate and rallied your members in support of the CT Food Bank and Foodshare. Over the past year, I traveled to quite a few club meetings and found that most of you have monthly food drives in place. Some of you organize your collections in unique and fun ways. Many clubs are also packing holiday food baskets for needy families and making monetary donations and food gift cards to their local pantries, soup kitchens and the CT Food Bank/Foodshare.

While collecting food has its benefits, the CT Food Bank and Foodshare can stretch a dollar like no one can. **For every \$10 that you raise, they can provide 34 meals to someone in need.** So, consider including an occasional fundraiser or put out a collection jar at your club meetings.

Some of you participated in the "Walk Against Hunger". I know of two groups - one being the



Paula Malec, Mayor DeStefano, Barbara DeRosa, Barbara Buxton, Donna Dougherty and Halina Mabry.

State Project Committee members, and the other being members of GFWC Women's Club of Madison, who participated in the walk on Sunday, May 1, in New Haven. Together we raised \$1,115 for the CT Food Bank. JoAnn Calnen got a group together and

did the walk for Foodshare in Hartford.

Your efforts are amazing, but please don't stop now. Act as if it were impossible to fail, because failure has no place at our table.

## Club Winners at the State Convention in May

Department	Small Club	Medium Club	Large Club
Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention	Windsor Locks - 1st Stratford - 2nd	Harwinton - 1st Madison - 2nd	Enfield -1st Newtown - 2nd
Advocates for Children	North Haven - 1st Northeastern Connecticut- 2nd	Ridgefield - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Windsor - 1st Newtown - 2nd
Arts Partnership	North Haven - 1st Northford - 2nd	Ridgefield - 1st Plainville - 2nd	Sharon -1st Enfield - 2nd
Arts Collaboration	Waterbury - 1st Bethel - 2nd	North Branford - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Tie: Mystic - 1st and Newtown - 1st Enfield - 2nd
Naoma Morgenstein Award	Mystic Woman's Club		
Conservation Partnership		Newington/Wethersfield - 1st Glastonbury - 2nd	Windsor - 1st Danbury/New Fairfield - 2nd
Conservation Collaboration	Northford - 1st Bethel - 2nd	North Branford - 1st Somers - 2nd	Newtown - 1st Woodbury - 2nd
Vancisin Award	North Branford Woman's Club		
Education Partnership			Trumbull - 1st
Education Collaboration	Thomaston - 1st Greater New Milford - 2nd	Torrington - 1st Newington/Wethersfield - 2nd	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st East Hartford - 2nd
Laurel Girls State		Tie: Harwinton - 1st and Glastonbury -1st	Trumbull - 1st
Home Life Partnership		Tie: North Branford - 1st and Harwinton - 1st	Enfield - 1st
Home Life Collaboration	Greater New Milford - 1st North Haven - 2nd	North Branford - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Windsor - 1st Woodbury - 2nd
State Project (Food Banks)	Northford - 1st Greater New Milford - 2nd	Ridgefield -1st Newington/Wethersfield - 2nd	Newtown - 1st Enfield - 2nd
International Outreach Partnership	Windsor Locks - 1st North Haven - 2nd	Plainville - 1st Ridgefield - 2nd	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st Trumbull - 2nd
International Outreach Collaboration		Madison - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st
Public Issues Partnership			Farmingbury of Wolcott - 1st
Public Issues Collaboration	Bethel -1st	North Branford - 1st in conjunction with Northford - 1st	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st Hamden - 2nd
State Veterans Hospital	Bethel - 1st Northford - 2nd	Madison - 1st Ridgefield - 2nd	Newtown - 1st Farmingbury of Wolcott - 2nd
Communications and Identity	Bethel - 1st Windsor Locks - 2nd	North Branford - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Farmingbury of Wolcott - 1st Danbury/New Fairfield - 2nd
Ursula Kolb Casioppo Federation Awareness Gavel	Farmingbury Woman's Club of Wolcott GFWC		
Press Book			Newtown Woman's Club
Fundraising	Bethel - 1st Windsor Locks - 2nd	Ellington - 1st Ridgefield - 2nd	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st Mystic - 2nd
Leadership	North Haven -1st Bethel - 2nd	Madison - 1st Harwinton - 2nd	Farmington Valley - 1st Danbury/New Fairfield - 2nd
Membership	Windsor Locks - 1st Greater New Milford - 2nd	Plainville - 1st North Branford - 2nd	Danbury/New Fairfield - 1st Enfield - 2nd
Women's History and Resource Center	Windsor Locks - 1st	Glastonbury - 1st	Newtown - 1st Woodbury - 2nd
Plummer Gavel	North Branford Woman's Club		
Pettis Gavel	Woman's Club of Plainville		
Sutton Gavel	Hamden Woman's Club		
Gabriel Award	Woman's Club of Enfield		
Lafontaine VIP Award	Betty Kopiec		

## NER Conference 9/23/11 - 9/25/11

The New England Region Conference Call will be out this summer. Please watch for that email or correspondence.

Join us for our Mystical Meeting at the Hilton in Mystic, Connecticut. Our International President, Carlene Garner, will be attending and the meeting will be chaired by Kathy White, NER President. At our evening meals, entertainment will include Dan LaRosa, hypnotist, and Judy Buch, ventriloquist. Take this opportunity to learn about our International organization.

Make your hotel reservations now to find out "What's in your future?" at the conference to be



held in Mystic, Connecticut at the Hilton Hotel. A block of rooms have been reserved for September 22, 2011 - September 25, 2011. The special room rate of \$149 will be available until August 25 or until the group block is sold-out, whichever comes first. To book a room, log onto [www.gfwcct.org](http://www.gfwcct.org) and click on the NER conference for more information or call Hilton Mystic, 20 Coogan Blvd., Mystic, CT, 06355-1900, telephone 860-572-0731.

## Home Life Collaboration Carol Mendygral, Chairman

On Sunday, May 22, 2011, the Arthritis Foundation held its New Haven County Arthritis Walk in East Haven, Connecticut. This event was held to raise funds to fight Arthritis, the nation's most common cause of disability for many people.



LuEllen Perkins, Regional Walk Director, and Carole Mendygral

The Arthritic Foundation honored the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut for over 20 years of support by presenting the "You Make A Difference Award". Carole Mendygral, Home Life Collaboration Chairman, accepted the award.

## CLUB NEWS

### SIMSBURY WOMAN'S CLUB 42nd Annual

### *Arts and Crafts*

### *Festival*

*Saturday and Sunday*

**September 17 & 18**

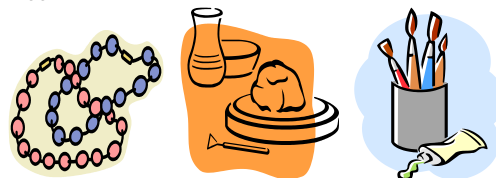
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Rain or Shine

*On Iron Horse Blvd. Center of Simsbury  
Over 100 Juried Artists & Craftpersons*

*- Live Demonstrations*

*Free Admission Free Parking  
Coffee and Baked Goods Available*



Contact: [simsburywomansclub@hotmail.com](mailto:simsburywomansclub@hotmail.com) or Janice  
(860)651-0788

Member General Federation of Women's Clubs

## Suffield Woman's Club

After an absence of several years, the Suffield Woman's Club will again be participating in the Suffield on the Green celebration in September. This is a yearly event including many organizations in town. The club will have a booth on the South Lawn and will have a variety of handmade items for sale, all provided by the members. Members will be staffing the booth on Saturday, September 10, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on Sunday, September 11, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Many volunteers will be involved in making this fundraiser a success. They will man the sales booth on both days, set it up on Saturday morning and break it down on Sunday afternoon. The entire club is involved, whether making items to sell, or signing up to be at the booth for the sale days. Co-chairs are Diane O'Grady and Mary Margaret Tracy.

## Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC

The Fifth Annual "Federation for Food" collection took place Saturday, April 16, 2011, at Stop and Shop, Sand Hill Plaza, Route 25, Newtown, Connecticut from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This time we "Stuffed a Bus" - Bus #13 donated by bus owner and operator, Phil Carroll. The Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC Inc. manned the entrance and bus, collecting seven shopping carts full of food (approximate values of 215 pounds and dollar value of \$300) as well as \$233 in donations. Thank you to Nancy Kennedy and Jo Ann Bruno, co-chairs of the event, and the 18 Newtown Woman's Club members who took turns on a very cold windy day to help. Special thanks to Phil Carroll who took the time to partner with us to make this event a success. It's wonderful when a community comes together to help others. All donations were split between the FAITH Food Pantry and Salvation Army Food Cupboard at Newtown Social Services office.



Yvonne Kopins and Jo Ann Bruno, Newtown Woman's Club members and Phil Carroll, Owner/Operator of Bus #13

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Newtown Woman's Club GFWC, Inc. put flags out for Memorial Day in honor of our veterans.



Marie Sturdevant, Pat Bailey, Jean Smith, Marilyn Alexander, Millie Anderson, Jere Vockins and in front Marion Thompson.

### 2011 Federation Calendar

June 16-20.....GFWC 120<sup>th</sup> International Convention, Milwaukee, WI  
 August 6.....Executive Board Meeting, Waterbury Holiday Inn  
 Sept. 23-25.....102<sup>nd</sup> New England Region  
 October 15.....GFWC/CT Fall Conference Birchmeadow (tentative)

## Windsor Woman's Club, GFWC

The April meeting of the Windsor Woman's Club, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, began with a presentation by Roberta Ball, a master gardener, who spoke on "Changing Gardens to be More Maintenance Free". The members listened and took copious notes on how to make their garden less of a chore, and more of a place of enjoyment and relaxation - such as placing "thirsty" plants together, instead of scattered about the garden.



Roberta Ball

\*\*\*\*\*

The GFWC Windsor Woman's Club, a member of GFWC, recently honored several ladies who have reached the milestone of 25 years or more as members of the club.



back row: Barbara (Muff) Fowler, May Checho, Maureen Fernandes, Mary Long, Marge Jageler and Barbara Burns.  
 Front row: Peg Shea, Ann Cecere, Margaret Putnam, Claire Dallesander, Betty McDermott and Janet Allen.  
 Missing: Ann Walsh, Marie Bruhn, and Liz Paklos

Also, Ann Walsh, Claire Dallesander and Barbara Fowler meet the criteria for the Laurel Award.

Thank you all so much for your dedication!

## Suffield Woman's Club

This year, the GFWC North Haven Woman's Club is proud to have presented the First Annual GFWC North Haven Woman's Club Colleen Savage Memorial Scholarship to a worthy North Haven High School graduating female senior. Colleen was one of the first members of the club. She loved to knit and crochet for others. She loved animals, especially cats. She was so proud of her Irish heritage. She always gave of herself in many hours of volunteering and working for the good of other people. All of these qualities are definitely what The General Federation of Women's Clubs are all about. We can only hope that the award winner who receives this award will continue to follow in Colleen's footsteps.

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**Vets Oasis  
Gloria Hutchinson**

The following was received from David Walsh, Veterans Advisor, Tunxis Community College  
*Gloria:*

*The Tunxis Oasis has made a tremendous difference for our student veterans. It's given them a place to get to know each other, share experiences, and share advice on navigating the college experience as veterans. I meet with each new veteran enrolling at Tunxis. When I show them the Oasis, it's obvious that they immediately feel welcome and more confident about beginning or resuming their education here.*

*It has also been the catalyst for our first Veterans' Club, an official student organization supported by student activity fees. Karen DeBari of our English department graciously accepted the role of Club advisor, and she has also become a mentor*

*and friend to many Tunxis veterans.*

*None of this would have been possible without the dedication of the Farmington Valley, Bristol, and Plainville Women's Clubs. Lucille Shearer of the Farmington Valley Club has been a tireless supporter of our veterans and has become one of the Tunxis family. She and her Club colleagues provide a vital service to Tunxis veterans.*

*Thank you for your efforts on behalf of veterans here and around our state.*

**Next Focus Deadline - August 15, 2011**

Please submit photos as attachments in jpg format, and articles in either (.doc format) or (.txt format). If you have a Mac, please convert your file to a PC format.

Contact Betty Kopiec

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FIRST CLASS  
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WINDSOR, CT  
PERMIT NO. 276

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.  
c/o Betty Kopiec, Co-Editor Focus  
8 Doris Street  
Unionville, CT 06085