

"Give them something to talk about!"



FOCUS



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

Volume 37, Edition 12

Fall 2011

www.gfwcct.org

President JoAnn Calnen



Dear GFWC Connecticut Members,

"It is one of those beautiful compensations of this life that no one can sincerely try to help another without helping himself." - Ralph

Waldo Emerson This quote applies to all of our members in Federation. As we volunteer in our communities, knowledge and awareness of our efforts spread. As your President, I had the pleasure of attending one evening of the Laurel Girls State week that the American Legion hosts each year. As I reported at the board meeting, your financial support is not wasted. These young women are motivated to learn about our government and about leadership. Attending the final concert of Laurel Music Camp was also a pleasure. This camp helps to develop the musical talents of students from all parts of Connecticut. The students rehearse together for a week for the final performance as they learn from experienced instructors in chorus, orchestra, jazz and concert. Our support of the camp over the years was gratefully acknowledged by the directors - just two examples of the effect we do have in our communities.

Please take advantage of the tools and resources that were shared at our board meeting: the briefing kit, the programs presented by the Community Service Program Chairmen and the "At Home Tea" fundraiser for our state project as well as the Domestic Violence Awareness "Sock Project". They are all great ideas to promote in your clubs as you plan the coming year's events.

We have two important meetings this fall, and I ask that you join us for both if you are able. The New England Region Conference will be held

September 23 - 25 in Mystic, CT. Please register for one day or the entire conference. Connecticut is hosting a great meeting with the tremendous work of the NER Convention committee. Region conferences bring the messages from GFWC to the state federations; find out more about our organization.

Fall Conference is October 15 and the call is included in this issue of Focus. This is one of two meetings each year that all members have a vote and a voice in the state federation. Don't waste that opportunity.

Thank you for all the great work you did this past year and all you are planning to do this coming year. You truly "Give them something to talk about!"

In Friendship and Pride, JoAnn

President Elect Nancy Kalyan

At our Executive Board meeting in July, I reminded attendees to think about a project that they might want to present at the May Convention to vote on for our new 2012-2014 two-year State Federation Project. Put together and submit a project that your club has been working on and would like the support of the State Federation to take it to the next level. The project that is chosen will have all the backing of our state federation members who will be proud to work on it with great compassion and generosity.

We are looking for applications for the Volunteer Appreciation Award. This award will be given out at our May 2012 Convention and it may be the last time that GFWC/CT gives this award. The Volunteer Award criteria is very similar to the Jenny June award given by GFWC International. Any club that is interested in submitting a member should notify me by February 1, 2012. All information can be found in the Redbook on page P-18.

**Corresponding Secretary
Maddy Marzullo**

I have an *extremely important appeal* to all our club members. As discussed at our August 6th board meeting, FOCUS has become a very costly publication to physically mail out via USPS. Now that we are working with only two issues this coming year, I am urgently asking for "all club members" to provide us with their email address in order to send out the FOCUS notices at publication time. We are working with a very tight budget for this coming year. With your help in doing this, we will save monies that can be used on other important causes.

If you did not include your email address with your current membership dues, please email it to me directly – it will be used for this publication only. In the subject line, type your *club name* in order for me to place you with your club.

GFWC/CT sincerely appreciates your help.

**Public Relations Committee
JoAnn Bruno, Chairman**

Several members of your PR Committee have been busy working over the summer months to put together our new GFWC/CT Briefing Kit. One sample kit was given to each club at the August 6th state board meeting. It has been compiled to provide background details and talking points for clubwomen involved in recruiting members, developing programs, raising awareness about GFWC, GFWC/CT and your club for communication with the public. Keep this as your sample, make copies as needed and be sure to add specific club information to it. Let us know what you think of it. Be sure to visit the Ways/Means table for inexpensive items, i.e. ball-point pens, GFWC/CT bookmarks, car decals and magnets to help you promote our federation.

Other August 6th handouts included: 1) How to order a GFWC Metal Road sign – go to www.gfwc.org and click on Marketplace. As stated, you will need to check with your local Highway Department and/or State Department of Transportation for specific guidelines as to the height of the post, installation, etc. Each town has their own guidelines. 2) GFWC/CT "Round" Club Signs – you've seen them at the Somers and Bethel fundraising tables... now you can order your own. Con-

tact Dan McKee, Designs & Signs, 331 Federal Road, Brookfield, CT. 06804 – 203-775-0152 – special discount price of \$50.00 per sign. Be sure to follow GFWC guidelines – the trademark "R" must be there and you cannot add butterflies – flowers – or "dots" between G F W C or any other embellishment. Go to www.gfwc.org for emblematic guidelines.

Watch for other items coming from this committee during the year to help promote your clubs, GFWC and GFWC/CT.

SISTERS ARE TREASURERS PROJECT

Become part of our wonderful GFWC/CT public relations effort by participating in the holiday "Sisters are Treasures" project!

It's easy! Each club donates a handmade ornament or two which will decorate our tree placed in the Wadsworth Antheneum Festival of Trees and Traditions (December 2 - 11, 2011). The trees, seen by thousands of people, are auctioned off.

Ornament requirements: (1) it be made from vintage or vintage-costume jewelry and/or other treasures (remember you won't be getting it back!); (2) it have a bow made from pink ribbon tied to the hanger you provide; (3) it is as visible (shiny!) as possible with size 2"x2" to 6"x6" and (4) have your club name and date inscribed somewhere subtle. (The color theme will be off white and pink, but feel free to go outside the box!)

The purpose is to show everyone how our founding sisters celebrated the privilege of being a woman in their time!

Ornaments need to be turned in by the October 15th fall meeting in Southbury or make other arrangements for it to be dropped off.

Kelly Leach of Killingworth (jkleach@snet.net • 860-510-2301) or Jo Ann Bruno (bruno1968@sbcglobal.net • 203-445-1599) will answer any questions. Ornaments can be handed to either of us or put in a special collection box that will be set up at the October 15th meeting in the room where sales and raffles are held.

Use your creativity as an individual or as an entire club and remember to have lots of fun!

2011 Federation Calendar

Sept. 23-25 102nd New England Region, Mystic, CT
October 15 GFWC/CT Fall Conference
Crowne Plaza, Southbury, CT

Member At Large JoAnn Bruno

As your Member At Large, and the liaison to President, JoAnn Calnen and her Executive Committee, I am always available to listen to your thoughts and suggestions. If you have something to share, let me hear from you at 203-445-1599 or bruno1968@sbcglobal.net.

State Project Patty Meglio, Chairman

To generate money for the State Project, please invite people to have a cup of tea on us. Write a letter that describes your organization, its goals, and what the money raised will be used for. Your club selects 25-30 people to target for a mail out from your town, friends and family. I included a stamped self-addressed envelope to increase the likelihood of donation. Mail the invitations, including the letter, form, tea bag, and stamped self-addressed envelope.



I was able to secure a donation from **Harney & Sons Teas** for free teabags for this fundraiser. Recently, I spoke to Mr. Harney personally and found that he is very concerned about the increasing need for food assistance in our state. The only expense would be the stationary, postage and envelopes. You can buy cheap envelopes at the dollar store.

If each club mailed 25 invitations and received 10 responses of \$5, it would raise a few thousand dollars for the state project. Perhaps your club could have your own tea party to make the invitation list and prepare the envelopes for mailing.

If you would like an electronic copy of the letter and form, email me at info@northfordwomensclub.org or go online to the GFWC/CT website, and go here: Food Bank and Foodshare program ideas: http://www.gfwcct.org/GFWC/html/foodbank_ideas.html.

September 30 is the deadline for ordering teabags. If you choose, you can order the teabags early and do the mailing later in the year. If you are interested, contact me at 203-484-0733.

Cost constraints make is necessary to cut the issues of FOCUS to only two - Fall and Spring.

CSP - Home Life Partnership Linda Louise LaCasse, Chairman

As a follow up to GFWC's Home Life Community Service Partnership Program with the National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF), we encourage each of our GFWC/CT Clubs to participate in the Pearls of Strength fundraising effort. *Pearls of Strength* bracelets are available in white or black genuine, freshwater cultured pearls on silk thread and knotted between each pearl. Both styles have a sterling silver clasp. They are available from NOF for \$20 each and can be sold for \$25 as a club fundraiser. NOF offers two options to participate: 1) pre-purchase a minimum of 10 at \$20 each and sell for \$25 each; the club keeps all the proceeds or 2) take orders and payments in advance, send \$20 for each bracelet sold to NOF with the order form and keep the remaining \$5 for your club. The funds raised will assist NOF with their programs of awareness. Have fun with this program. Any questions please contact Linda Louise LaCasse at (860)604-3887 or gfwcct@yahoo.com or NOF at (800)231-4222.

CSP - Home Life Collaboration Carole Mendygral, Chairman

Women who are surviving Breast Cancer surgery (lumpectomy, mastectomy, breast reconstruction) or even cardiac surgery will find their chest area is tender. They can use these small soft pillows for comfort. We, as members of the GFWC/CT, hope to help ease some pain by providing cancer comfort pillows.

Club women have asked about making these cancer pillows for women who are going through cancer treatment.

PILLOW CASE INSTRUCTIONS: Cut 2 pieces of washable material 9" x 13", or fold a piece of material to form a 9" x 13" pattern. With the right sides placed facing each other, sew the 3 sides. Sew lace or hem the open end. Turn right side out and place over the pillow.

PILLOW INSTRUCTIONS: Cut 2 pieces of washable material, 8" x 12" (something strong and soft, like cotton). With the right sides facing each other, sew the 3 sides and part of the 4th, Turn the pillow right side out. Stuff to the point of being firm, without over stuffing. Turn the remaining open end in and top stitch it closed.

Inside the pillow case put a note letting them know where and who made the pillow. You might want to say, *"Especially For You -This Comfort Pillow was made by members of GFWC/CT. We hope and pray that you will be healthy again soon."* This may be put on a business card. You might want to include you club information, email and meeting info. The pillow can go to local hospitals or doctors' offices. I also have a list of Cancer Hospitals in Connecticut.

If you would like more information, contact Carole at 203-234-3906 or mendy4950@usa.com.



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.



OFFICIAL CALL TO GFWC/CT FALL CONFERENCE

JoAnn Calnen, *President*



"Give them something to talk about!"

Saturday, October 15, 2011

Crowne Plaza, Southbury - 1284 Strongtown Road, Southbury 06488

All members of GFWC/CT are encouraged to attend the Fall Conference and learn more of the plans, projects and ideas for the coming year.

8:30AM Registration – Coffee/Tea

9:30AM Call to Order

Opening Ceremonies

Reports of Officers

Business Meeting

Presentation of proposed GFWC/CT

Resolutions

Report on State Project – Nancy Carrington,

President & CEO of the CT Foodbank

11:30AM Social Time

12:00PM Lunch

1:00PM Business meeting resumed

LEADS, CSP updates and

2 Minute Speed Dating "GFWC/CT style"

2:15PM Raffles

2:30PM Adjournment

Tons of Tuna Drive – If you would like to help the CT/Foodbank

State Project, please bring cans of Tuna to the Fall Conference.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: CROSS REPORTING OF CHILD AND SPOUSAL ABUSE AND ANIMAL CRUELTY

WHEREAS, there is a growing acknowledgement that there is a link between cases of animal cruelty and cases of spousal or child abuse; and
WHEREAS, there is a significant overlap nationally in emergency calls for animal abuse and emergency calls for spousal or child abuse; and
WHEREAS, animal abuse has been recognized as an indicator of future violence by law enforcement agencies such as the FBI, and
WHEREAS, only three states (Connecticut, West Virginia and Illinois) currently have laws mandating cross-reporting of animal abuse and spousal or child abuse; therefore

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs encourage its members throughout the United States to contact their state legislatures and urge them to enact legislation requiring the cross-reporting of animal abuse and spousal or child abuse.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION: CAYLEE'S LAW

WHEREAS, there are currently no state or federal statutes that address the situation where a minor child's disappearance goes unreported for a lengthy period of time; and

WHEREAS, there is no requirement for local police departments to follow Connecticut State Police policy with respect to missing children and no uniform established policy that local police must follow; and

WHEREAS, Connecticut does not specify the criteria for evaluating and responding to missing persons complaints and does not prescribe the investigative or search techniques local police officers must employ; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Connecticut General Assembly be requested to amend Chapter 939 (Offenses against the Person) of the Connecticut General Statutes to require that: Any parent, guardian, or caretaker of a minor child who fails to report a missing child to law enforcement authorities within 6 hours upon determining that the child is missing shall be guilty of a class A misdemeanor,

- a) Any parent, guardian, or caretaker of a minor child who fails to report a missing child to law enforcement authorities within 48 hours upon determining that the child is missing shall be guilty of a class D felony,
- b) Any parent, guardian, or caretaker of a minor child who knowingly makes a false statement or misrepresents a material fact to law enforcement authorities shall be guilty of a class D felony and, If such misrepresentation results in serious injury or death of the child, shall be guilty of a class C felony; and

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut urge its members to contact their state senators and representatives and encourage them to amend Chapter 939 of the Connecticut General Statutes as stated above; and

RESOLVED, that the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut and its members urge the Connecticut General Assembly and Governor Daniel Malloy to establish guidelines for local police departments to follow with respect to missing children.

PLEASE NOTE: this is **CROWN PLAZA, SOUTHURY – 203-598-7600** immediately off the Interstate on your right
FROM POINTS WEST & SOUTH (Danbury): Take Interest 84 to Exit 16 and turn Right off exit
FROM POINTS EAST & NORTH (Hartford): Take Interest 84 West to Exit 16 and turn Right off exit.



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.



GFWC/CT Reservation Form

Saturday, October 15, 2011 FALL CONFERENCE

Crowne Plaza, Southbury

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 5, 2011

Registration: \$4.00 Plated Luncheon: \$28.00 Total: \$32.00

~ Meal Selection ~

Chicken Southbury Grilled NY Strip Steak Stuffed Sole Vegetarian
w/capers, artichoke hearts and roasted peppers Marinated fire roasted vegetables
Includes Salad, Coffee, Tea and Dessert

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Any Dietary Restrictions: _____

GFWC/CT Board Position: _____

Are you a 2011-2012 Club President? Yes No

Display Table Reservation Form ~ October 15, 2011 Fall Conference

½ Table \$5.00 Full Table \$10.00

Name: _____

Club: _____

There is no charge for tables to CSP Chairmen and Committee Chairmen, but registration is required.

Please have tables ready by 9:00AM

~ All registration and table reservations are on one form for Fall Conference ~
Complete and mail checks to: Kathy Tobin, PO Box 548, Northford, CT 06472
Make checks payable to: GFWC/CT

CLUB NEWS

Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club

The GFWC Newington/Wethersfield Woman's Club has chosen Knit-a-Square for KasCare as one of the projects for their International Program. Members and friends will be crocheting or knitting eight inch by eight inch blocks, leaving three feet of the yarn on the finished block. These blocks will be sent to South Africa and made into beautiful blankets. There are 3,000 people from 35 countries that are participating in this project. The blocks can be made into hats, pullovers and vests as well as blankets. The need is great as stated on their web page, www.kascare.org. This is essential for abandoned children and orphans who are suffering from lack of basic needs or are critically ill with HIV/AIDS to keep warm.



Hamden Woman's Club

Members of the Hamden Woman's Club, Inc. have finalized plans for its 19th Annual Charity Luncheon/Fashion Show and Raffle. With the theme "Heart to H.A.R.T", the event will take place on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Zandri's Stillwood Inn in Wallingford. Fashions will be provided by Dress Barn of Hamden.

Proceeds raised will be donated to H.A.R.T., who provide housing and support services to individuals with developmental disabilities and to the Hamden Food Bank. For tickets (\$35 per person), call Marge at 203-281-0118

The following GFWC/CT standing rule was approved by the board on August 6, 2011:

Section II Mailings

D. Email addresses of members will not be used for purposes other than the business of GFWC, GFWC/CT and/or its clubs without the permission of the member. All efforts to maintain privacy will be made with regard to electronic communication; i.e. use of BCC (blind carbon copy) in group emails.

District 6 Clubs

On an early spring visit to the Manchester Community College Veterans' Oasis, the Assistant Director of District 6 and members of the East Hartford Woman's Club were given a first look at a project envisioned by the Vice-President of the Veteran's Club, Anthony Amador.

The ladies were so impressed and inspired by Tony's designs that they invited him to be the keynote speaker at District 6 Day on April 16, 2011. Tony came up



Left to right: Peg Spiller, Edyce Steimer, Bev Leone, Donna Recknagel, Leslie Apostalon, Ta'Shema Odoms, Kay McNamara. Front: Tony Amador

with his Graduation Sash project when he learned that no special recognition was to be given to veterans graduating from the college. In fact, while doing research, he discovered that only two colleges on the eastern seaboard gave special recognition to veterans.

At District Day, Tony brought samples of the sashes he designed and showed them to everyone. Members were fascinated and asked how they might contribute. Tony said that an MCC professor was a partial sponsor and that he was using some of his own funds to have the sashes created, not only for this year's graduates, but for those in the future. That day, one member quickly donated her half of the 50/50 raffle to Tony.

A week later, after District 6 Directors were alerted by Tony that additional funds were needed to realize his project, an email was sent to all District 6 Club Presidents asking if any donations were possible. Miraculously, all of the funds needed were forthcoming from the East Hartford, Newington/Wethersfield, Windsor and Bloomfield clubs.

A presentation was made to Tony at the MCC Veterans Center. Tony then informed us that a sash in a shadowbox would be a permanent fixture in the Oasis with a plaque thanking the members of the GFWC/CT District 6.

Woman's' Club of Woodbury

Saturday, December 10, 2011
10 AM - 4 PM * Woodbury, CT
Snow Date December 11

On Saturday, December 10, 2011 the Woman's Club of Woodbury will present the 17th Annual **Holiday House Tour**, which will feature a 19th century



Designer Showcase House, as well as five other fine Woodbury homes. In keeping with the holiday spirit, the tour will include the Leroy Anderson House where the American musical classic "Sleigh Ride" was composed. **Tickets are \$20 when purchased in advance / \$25 if purchased on tour day.**

Registered as a National Historic House, the Designer Showcase House will be decorated by area decorators and artisans reflecting "Christmas in Connecticut" and will feature a special **Preview Party on Friday evening, December 9**, the day before the tour. At the preview party, ticket-holders will stroll through the beautifully decorated rooms of this 19th century Greek revival rectory, meeting the designers and enjoying wine, hors d'oeuvres, and Christmas music. **Special tickets for the December 10th tour that also include the December 9th preview party are \$50.**

Tickets for the Friday Preview Party and the Saturday House Tour will go on sale in mid-November at the following vendors: in Woodbury, at Canfield Corner Pharmacy, Woodbury Drug, A Touch of Holly and The Curtis House; in Southbury, at Newbury Place and Down on Main Street; in Oxford, at Yankee Quilters. Tickets may also be purchased by sending a request for tickets to The Woman's Club of Woodbury, PO Box 1014, Woodbury, CT 06798. Requests should include a check, payable to WCW, to pay for tickets ordered and a stamped, self addressed #10 envelope. Tickets will be available on the day of the tour at the Woodbury Senior Center.

Contact us at 203- 263- 3810 or visit our web page at woodburyct.org/organization.

Women's Club of Madison

Women's Club of Madison Presents

Fall into Fashion



*Fashion Show,
Seaside Luncheon and Art Raffle!*

Sunday, October 30, 2011
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The Madison Beach Hotel
Madison, CT

*Featuring Fashions from bellaPer-
lina, Jolie Boutique, France-
Ameriques, Khaki and Black, and
the Country Shop of Madison*

Tickets \$40.00

Wine Tasting

Madison Art Society Art Exhibit & Sale

On Friday, September 23, 2011, from 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. at the Madison Winter Club, 251 Boston Post Road, the Women's Club of Madison and Hammonasset Package Store will host a Wine Tasting. This will benefit the Madison Food Pantry.



Tickets are \$25.00 and are available at Hammonasset Package Store, R.J. Julia, bellaPerlina, Ravies Real Estate or by calling 203-453-6412 or 203-245-4879.

GFWC/CT Membership Update Form

Rules for Membership Update Form

Please list all new or transferred members who have joined your club since filling the last update form.

- Circle "N" if she is new or has rejoined after one year.
- Circle "T" if she is a transfer from another club.
- List the name of the member who referred her to the club.
- Remit \$17 dues per member, payable to GFWC/CT

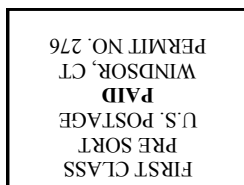
Send form and dues to the Assistant Treasurer:

Georgeann Kushner
107 Logging Trail Road
Danbury, CT 06811
Phone: 203 748-5445
E-mail: gkushner@comcast.net

Be Legible Please!

Club Name: _____
Person completing form: _____
Phone: _____
E-mail: _____
N - T
Name: _____
Address: _____

Email: _____
Phone: _____
Referred by: _____



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