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Pine Tree Notes (January-February 2019)

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PINE TREE NOTES



January/February 2019



Presidents Letter:

Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends – now it's back to business!

The planning of the GFWC Maine Spring Convention is well underway and it is going to be an exciting one! The GFWC Maine Executive Committee is listening to you, the members, and we want you all to come away from the Conferences and Conventions feeling fulfilled, engaged and excited!

The Travis Mills Foundation will be represented on Thursday with a speaker from their organization. A group of GFWC Maine members traveled to their open house in Belgrade in December and toured the beautiful facility and was honored to meet and have pictures taken with Travis Mills himself! GFWC Maine's President's Special Project Fund is very close to the goal of presenting the Travis Mills Foundation with a check for \$1,000 to send a female veteran for a week stay at the retreat, and we can accomplish this in time for the Spring Convention if everyone who took a Clink bag would fill it & turn it in to their local Hannaford! More about the GFWC Spring Convention, which will be held on May 2nd and 3rd at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport – both GFWC President-elect Marian St.Clair and GFWC NER President Mary Baird will be attending this Convention! We have a lot of fun planned, including a hands-on project making no-sew pillows, a "Great Gatsby" theme for Thursday night's banquet with fun entertainment (20's dress suggested, although not required), and a Dr Seuss luncheon on Friday. More details will be coming in the next addition of Pine Tree Notes, but start planning now! For those of you who didn't attend GFWC Maine Fall Conference or missed it in the last edition of Pine Tree Notes, my goals for the next year and a half are:

Operation Hope: Heroin Opiate Prevention Effort (We already met this goal & gave a donation!)

Travis Mills Foundation – Sponsor one week of camp for a female veteran

Dr Seuss Books – Donation of books to underprivileged children in Maine

Honor Fight of Maine – Sponsor one complete bus trip for Maine Veterans while in Washington, DC

Woman's Suffragette Memorial in Arlington, VA

GFWC Maine Elder Abuse Scholarship – Given to one high school senior to raise awareness.

Let's continue to "Be the Change" in the lives of others by creating positive changes through our volunteer service and acts of kindness, both large and small.

In Federation and in Friendship,
Nancy Ames
GFWC Maine President



2018-2020 GFWC Maine President's Project

'Honoring Those Who Serve'

Raising awareness for the men and women who protect and serve: veterans, police, first responders and active duty men and women, will be of focus. Supporting organizations like The Travis Mills Foundation a nonprofit organization formed to benefit and assist wounded and injured veterans and their families, Honor Flight Maine, where transportation of our heroes to Washington, D.C. to tour, experience and reflect at their memorials, Housing the Homeless Program at Togus for displaced veterans fulfilling a 'wish list' of home essentials, and Operation Hope, a program for those suffering from substance abuse to receive guidance from local police departments for placement to residential treatment facilities.

Happy New Year!

We want bring everyone up-to-date regarding the president's project.

The first project was fulfilled at the 2018 GFWC Maine Fall Conference in October, when \$250 was presented to Waterville Chief of Police, Joseph Massey, for Operation HOPE. In addition, at the conference, eleven housewarming baskets were presented to the Togus VA Medical Center for homeless veterans, thanks to your great generosity!

We are excited the \$1000 needed to be raised to send a female veteran to the Travis Mills

Foundation Retreat for a week has had its first donation!

Thanks to the GFWC Semper Fidelis Club's "Ugly Sweater Walk", \$500.00 has been raised for this project! And with a few CLYNK "Bottle Drive" donations, we are a little more than halfway there. Please, if you took a bag, we encourage you to fill it and drop it off at your participating Hannaford store. If all 200 bags distributed already, another \$1000 can be obtained just through that program! (If you already have a CLYNK account, you can designate funds from that to the GFWC Maine account, it's just that easy!) A speaker from the Travis Mills Foundation will speak at the 2019 GFWC Maine Spring Convention, it would be wonderful to present a check at that time! Also, don't forget about the "Bee the Change" jars. One club's idea at the beginning of each meeting, was to pass the 'jar' around and share good news and donating any loose change or dollars. It is a nice way to remind us of all the good things in our lives!



If your club has raised money towards any of President Nancy's projects, you can mail it to:

**Joyce Noonan,
10 Jacqueline Way, Apt. 132
Westbrook, ME 04092**

Thank you for all you do to support our GFWC Maine Presidents' Projects!

Best regards,

Joyce Noonan & Karie Watson
Presidents Project Co-Chairman



Times are changing! And we must be the change!
District Presidents please inform your high school art departments of the new contact for the art contest. Include the contest rules from the Directory on page 86. Plan your District Art Show with the new judging award categories as mentioned in the Directory, Rule 4, page 84. (four best entries: 1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th, one, Honorable Mention, plus two, Awards of Merit, receiving a certificate.)

There will be 4 place winners at the State Art Show. (Pg. 86, add 4th Place-\$40) This allows each District to bring seven entries to the GFWC Maine Art Show at the GFWC Maine Spring Conference.

Time is now! - To think about writing something for the GFWC Creative Writing for Clubwomen contest! Be creative. Write about things that you know about. Think you can, and you can, be a writer! Send your poetry & writing entries to:

Robert Morrill
4 Emily Lane
Windham, ME 04062.
Email: rjdutton36@aol.com

(Mark this deadline: 3-1-19)

Photography rules are in the Directory pages 88 to 90.

Note: The Year In Pictures is mailed to:
GFWC A Year in Pictures Contest
1734 N Street NW
Washington DC, 20036-2990

Please send a signed Wavier.

The other entries are submitted to the Art Department Chairman, Barbara Hathaway. Please inform me of your intent to enter the Photo Contest and how many entries. Thank You.

Thank you to the clubs that have sent in donations thus far. Your contributions make a difference in the life of students and support teachers and the Arts. Please consider adding one more art program or project for 2019.

Be the Art change.
Barbara Hathaway, Chairman



As I sit here and I am thinking of some words of wisdom for all of us this New Year.

I used to work for Zig Ziglar and Jim Rohn when they had big events at the Fleet Center in Boston. These two men were two of the best, positive motivational speakers. I collected tickets and sold books and tapes at session breaks. I was invited to attend any lecture and learned fast to be ALWAYS positive through our all of the ups and downs of life. I learned for things to change, I needed to change and for things to get better, I needed to get better. I learned you need goals, without them, you are like a boat without a rudder.... going nowhere.

So, as we ponder these positive facts.... What could we do better to increase our membership? We could share with everyone what we do as a volunteer for GFWC. Talk about the projects we are working on like Honor Flight Maine, Travis Mills Foundation or ones your Club represents. We support our community. Tell them things you do that make a difference. We are one of the world's largest and oldest nonpartisan, nondenominational woman's volunteer service organization. This is sure to start a conversation and invite them to a meeting or event.

I learned at LEADS, and I saw the large scope of how GFWC makes a difference in things we support. We must grow and stay strong; our community and world are counting on us. Each Club is a 'spoke' in the wheel and we need every spoke to make the wheel go around!

I would love to hear from each Club. If you are struggling, maybe I can help. If you have added new members, I would love to hear about the story behind it. If you just have ideas or thoughts you would like to talk about, I am here.

Lindamlougee@gmail.com or 207-341-1538

Linda Lougee, Chairman

GFWC Maine State Wide High School Elder Abuse Essay Contest 2019

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I am asking each of you to "BEE" The One in 2019! As most of you know I am serving as the GFWC Maine Signature Program Domestic Violence and Awareness Chairman, once again, in President Nancy's administration.

Our Club members have been very generous, with their donations to the **State-wide High School Elder Abuse Essay Contest**, for the past three years and I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Once again, we are partnering with MCEAP (Maine Council Elder Abuse Prevention) and LSE (Legal Services for the Elderly) to present a \$1,000.00 scholarship, in June on Elder Abuse Awareness Day, to the individual writing the winning state-wide essay.

At this time, we are short reaching our goal of \$1,000.00 by \$450.00. I believe that our members will come through, as they have in the past, and send in a donation that your budgets can support. Individual donations are also, welcome.

MCEAP and LSE do all of the production work, getting posters up, contacting all schools in Maine and making sure every school has the applications in their guidance offices. GFWC Maine part is raising the money, something that we are good at for worthy causes. And the Elder Abuse Awareness at the High School level is definitely worthy of our donations don't you think?

So, I am sending a plea that your Club will consider mailing me a check supporting our Essay Contest.

Please make Checks payable to:

GFWC Maine

Mail to:

**Kathy White,
15 Memorial Drive,
Winterport, Maine 04496**

(Please Write on your check in the Memo: Elder Abuse Essay Contest)

I thank you in advance for your generosity and dedication to GFWC Maine's Signature Program. President Nancy has included the State-

Wide Essay Contest in her President's Special Project. Our Elder Abuse High School Essay Contest is a testament to how GFWC Maine members work together and partner with other organizations to prevent Domestic Violence in our State. There is no excuse for abuse!

If you have any questions please contact me by email, phone 223-5746 and I will do my best to answer your concerns.

I wish each and every one a very prosperous and healthy 2019!

Katherine White

GFWC Maine Signature Program Chairman

NO EXCUSE FOR ELDER ABUSE



EDUCATIONAL LOAN FUND AND MAUDE MACKENZIE SCHOLARSHIP

This is a notice of availability; please refer to the GFWC Maine Directory pages 78-81. Download applications at: www.gfwcmaine.org
All applications need to be received by April 1st 2019.

Mail to:

Norma Manning, Chairman
124 Austin Street
Westbrook, ME 04092

Attention GFWC Maine Northern District:

Fall travel and crazy holidays are behind so we can turn our thoughts to the Northern District Meeting. March 30, 2019 at Jeff's Catering located in Brewer for 9am-2:30pm. Please share this date with all members and be sure to attend, for this is always a fun and informative meeting.

The District High School Art Show will take place at this meeting. More details and registration forms to come. In hopes of seeing many of your there; a time to share and a time to marvel at our local talents.

Libby Wiers, Northern District President



Happy New Year everyone! As we begin 2019, it is time for each of us to ponder what we want to do, and where we will start serving GFWC. There is no better time to start than NOW! Leadership is like a jigsaw puzzle. Putting each piece together will end in success. You will need the following:

- **Vision:** Dream of what you want to become and stretch to achieve it!
- **Communication:** Clear, concise, and regular communications keep members informed and moving forward!
- **Motivation:** Create enthusiasm and passion that translates vision into action and action into realities!
- **Relationships:** Developing strong relationships, both internal and external, will ensure greatness!
- **Example:** Great leaders don't tell how to do something; they are engaged alongside members showing how!
- **Empower:** Equip members with skills and inspire them to take action!

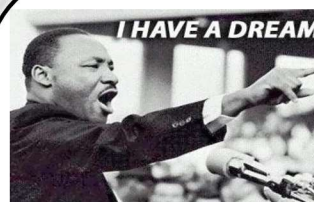
None of us is as smart as all of us! Build a collaborative team to make BIG things happen and keep close to the grassroots of GFWC! Make sure meetings and presentations are informative and inspire a call to action! Be creative and build in time for fun and networking. These informal times build the bond that strengthens GFWC!

GFWC leaders examine carefully the needs of our organization and potential leaders who possess knowledge and skills to move your team closer to realizing a shared vision! Surround yourself with the very BEST of leaders who are dedicated and willing to take risks! There are

those who don't just want to be "good" – they want to be **"GREAT"**! So, find them and collaboratively raise the bar for your organization. What makes that difference, and how can you move forward that level of excellence in leadership? Great leaders possess the following:

- Gain a comprehensive **knowledge**
- Demonstrate **enthusiasm** and **creativity**
- Are **passionate** about what they are doing
- Have deep sense of **commitment** and **responsibility**
- **Believe** in goals and team's ability to accomplish
- Take the ordinary and **make it amazing!**
- **Organize** others for success
- Are **supportive** of the team
- Are **flexible** and can **regroup**
- **Handle problems** or disappointments calmly
- Use feedback and **evaluation** as a powerful tool
- **Exceed all expectations** – stretching leadership potential

Anne H. Cress
GFWC Maine Leadership Chairman



2018-2020

GFWC INITIATIVE

In 1994 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in January

was declared a National Day of Service. Each and every club in GFWC is asked to do a service project on that day. Please consider your time on January 21st, 2019; it may be in any area, any type of project.

OUR GOAL IS 1,000 CLUBS PARTICIPATING.

CONSERVATION

Environmental education; care for our air, land, and water; recycling; litter cleanup; partnerships with community groups, schools, and children; support of wildlife; energy conservation; tree planting; and beautification - this is what the Conservation Community Service Program is all about. Work to become more aware of conservation issues, enrich your communities, and become stewards of the environment. Enjoy the great outdoors!



Incorporate any and all of these topics into your conservation plans:

- Recycling
- Environmental Education and Awareness
- Outdoor Exploration
- Air and Water Quality
- Waste Handling
- Natural Resource Restoration
- Tree Planting
- Beautification
- Wildlife Protection
- Proper Care for Domesticated Animals
- Food Sources
- Community Gardens
- Preservation of Existing Waterways
- Energy Conservation

Be part of GFWC clubs planting 1,000 trees on Arbor Day. Obtain free trees by joining the National Arbor Day Foundation. Request free trees from The National Wildlife Federation Trees for Wildlife program. Purchase tree saplings from a local nursery.

Hosting a special event is a great way to draw attention to your club and GFWC and brings people together to learn about us. Holiday receptions, candidates' forums, art shows, book signings, lectures, and discussions are just a few examples of events in which clubs can participate. Consider partnering with local organizations to expand your outreach efforts. Be sure your club receives recognition for its efforts in event signage and recognition materials.

ESO Epsilon Sigma Omicron

ESO provides clubwomen with a structured reading program that is educational and stimulates a desire for self-improvement. ESO goals include:

- Encouraging clubwomen's pursuit of higher education
- Creating an additional means to unite women in volunteerism
- Developing a support network for women returning to school
- Improving current and develop new study skills
- Stimulating systematic home reading and study with minimal supervision
- Encouraging the establishment of home libraries and greater use of public libraries



Encouraging the formation of reading/study/discussion groups. Go to www.gfwc.org and download book list and report form.

EDUCATION

Today, the wind was blowing, snow was falling, and rain was turning to ice on the road. As someone said, "not a fit day for man or beast." We have quite a few of those days in Maine. Some people complain about the winter storms while others see storms as an opportunity. That opportunity is a chance to grab a book you've wanted to read, make a cup of tea, sit in your favorite chair and enjoy this wonderful opportunity.

GFWC has always been a strong supporter of making certain that books are available to everyone. Local clubs provide books to schools, local libraries, day care and other places where children and adults have access to books.

International GFWC President Mary Ellen Brock introduced an initiative to supply 1,000 new Dr. Seuss books by March, 2020. These 1,000 books will be distributed to hospitals, daycares, homeless shelters. They will also be taken to schools in need. The hope is that every club will participate by donating to GFWC headquarters and also collect Dr Seuss books for their local communities.

So, let's go GFWC Maine. Let's contribute to the effort of President Brock and let's collect Dr. Seuss books in

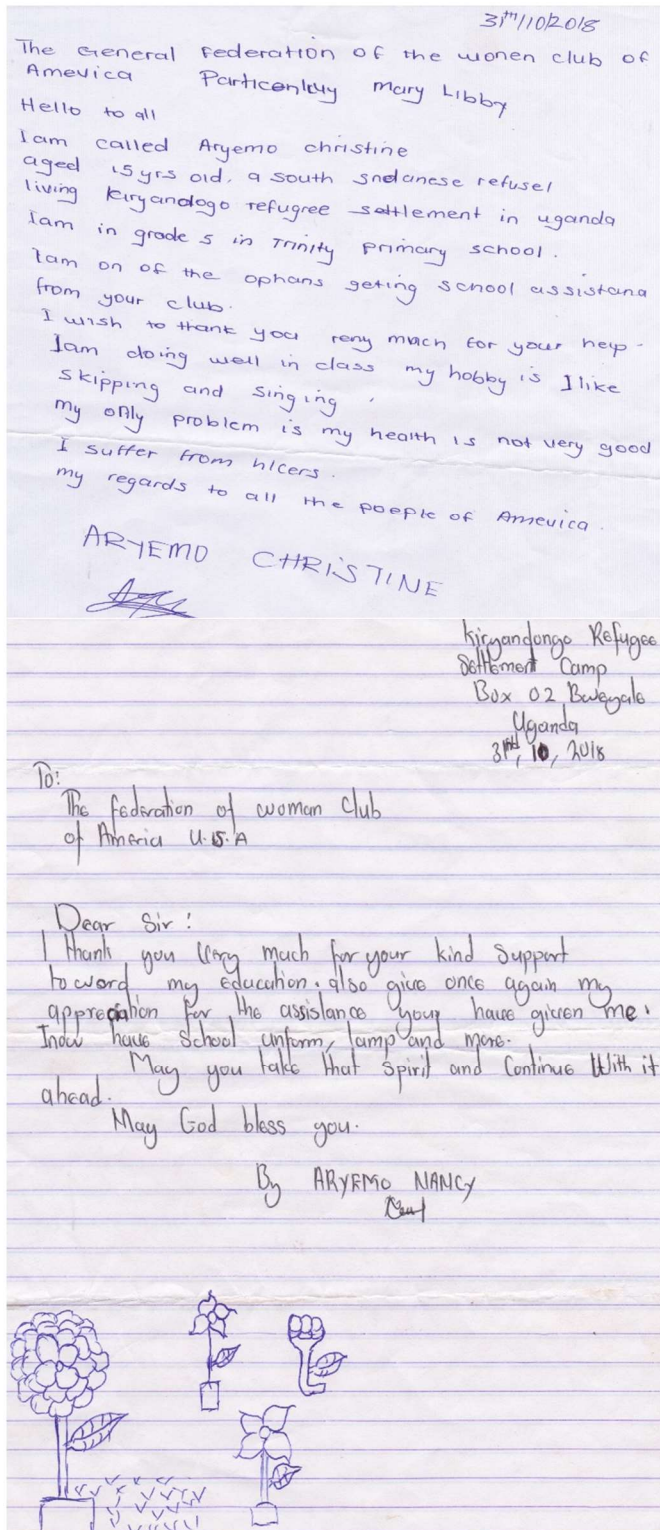


our own communities. Check with your local schools to see if there is a need for ESL books. Let us know how you plan to obtain books. Good Luck. READ.

CLUB NEWS

Mary Libby, Chairman

The Nyolo Hope Primary School – communique



Northern District

GFWC Castine Woman's Club

Gee Wilikers!!! The **Castine Woman's Club** enjoyed an eventful 2018 year that just zoomed by! Another exhilarating new year is already upon us!

The Club closed out 2018 with a fascinating talk in December by German language professor Anette Rodrigues, dressed in German period clothing, speaking on Castine's Revolutionary Characters. The talk was suggested by CWC member Sue Hazlett. Guests were treated to ginger cookies made from a recipe from the Revolutionary War period along with other delicious sweets made by new CWC member Hale Asyali. Anette hopes to encourage greater participation in Castine's Revolutionary War re-enactments and encampments that take place every September.

The CWC plans to fill 2019 with engaging events and meetings. The Club, as usual, will not hold general meetings in January, February, and March. The Club is scaling back on its winter activities but plans to possibly hold a winter community dinner-at-noon and a winter coffeehouse co-sponsored with the Wilson Museum. The Club along with the Wilson Museum hopes to entice Maine Maritime Academy students to attend the coffeehouse and become more familiar and involved with the Wilson Museum and the greater Castine community.

The Club will resume its regular monthly general membership meetings in April. The Club's general meetings will continue to be held at and generously co-hosted by the Wilson Museum this year. As usual, the community is invited and always welcome.

The Castine Woman's Club wishes everyone a wonderful and successful new year!

Val Taub, President

GFWC Newport Woman's Club

WOW!! With the singing of Auld Lang Syne another year has flown by and 2019 is well on its way!! The GFWC Newport Woman's Club November meeting was hosted by the local American Legion Post in our town. Honor Flight of Maine Board Member and representative, Joy Asuncion, spoke on the many flights to Washington, D.C. in which she had the opportunity to organize and participate. We also had the great honor of having veterans from WWII and Viet Nam as guests; two of whom were Honor Flight attendees. Prior to that meeting we gathered at the Newport

Cultural Center to place PURPLE RIBBONS that recognize the GFWC International Signature Program: Domestic Violence and Awareness. Informational brochures from "Partners for Peace," our local Domestic Violence Awareness Center, were also placed in the building.

Debbie Ferrell, immediate Past President, hosted our December Christmas Party at her festive lakeside home. A rollicking Yankee Swap was held with all members bringing an ornament...so much fun to receive a beautiful new ornament for your tree! And then of course the FOOD...all members brought their favorite holiday goodie along with the recipe.

We have a "Day of Service" planned for January 21, MLK Day, to work on fleece blankets for the needy. This satisfies one of the Seven Grand Initiatives project set forth by GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock. What a fun way to work toward this goal. Also, in the works for our club in March is a BIRTHDAY PARTY for Dr Seuss at our local library. We are partnering with our Children's librarian to make this Saturday event a real fun time for children and their parents.

It is the hope of the GFWC Newport Woman's Club that each and every one of you has a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Jane Briggs, President

THE PATAWA CLUB

Happy New Year!

In the holiday season spirit of giving, the Patawa Club had a busy and successful end of 2018! In the beginning of November, we had a guest speaker from the non-profit agency of Wings for Children and Families, located in Bangor, talk to our group about their purpose of specializing in providing mental health care & case management services to adults and children throughout the State of Maine. Our speaker, Jenny Gage, expressed what a great need that many Wings families, especially children have around the holidays and as a club we decided to adopt two families to give back to for Christmas. Over the course of November and early December, both active and honorary club members purchased gifts and collected monetary donations for each family, which resulted in a big club wrapping party for all of the gifts that were donated to Wings. Also, in November, we had a handful of club members participate in the Bowl for Kids' Sake event, held at Family Fun Lanes in Bangor, a total of \$550 was raised for the Big Brothers Big Sisters organization. Additionally, we participated in the "PURSE Project" in which club members donated about

67 gently used purses from their own closets, stuffed with toiletry items that were delivered to both the Partners for Peace and Wellsprings organizations. As a club, we all very much look forward to the month of December as it is a time to gather, celebrate, have fun, and raise some money with our annual holiday silent auction. This year, our auction was held at Happy Endings dessert bar in downtown Bangor, where club members and their guests gathered to spread some holiday cheer while bidding on numerous silent auction items. As a result, Patawa was able to raise about \$1300, which will be decided upon and distributed to local charities in April 2019. It is hard to believe that it is the beginning of another year already! As of January 1st, Patawa has 26 active members and we look forward to continuing to grow our chapter as well as to volunteer and give back to our many local organizations in 2019. Cheers for a very healthy and prosperous New Year!

Jen Spencer, President

GFWC Winterport Woman's Club

The Winterport Woman's Club had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas season, living the volunteer spirit!

Thanks to generous community support we sold out of our Community Calendars, which is one of our major fundraisers, at the polls on Election Day, November 6. On Saturday, November 10, our dedicated club members braved the freezing rain and cold to collect enough turkeys, gift cards and cash to supply our local food pantry, the Neighbors Cupboard, with the equivalent of 90 turkeys for their Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners! Special thanks to drive chair Kathy Urquhart, and Librarian Mary Lester and the Winterport Memorial Library Board for hosting us that day. Our club also donated \$600 to the Cupboard to support our ongoing efforts to fight food insecurity in our community.

Our fundraising this year has enabled us to support the Leroy H. Smith Elementary School's Santa's Helpers who provide winter clothing and Christmas gifts to students in need, and to provide a generous donation to the Town of Winterport fuel assistance fund. We also sponsored a literacy tree with over 75 children's books, toys, homemade gingerbread men and decorations that garnered lots of attention and bids at the Samuel L. Wagner Middle School Community Christmas Festival. Our club members donated books and toys, painted, baked, and made decorations, and

to support a student food and clothing pantry at the middle school.

Members Ellen Van Vranken and Joan Bowman took on the enormous task of unpacking and preparing the 16 lighted wreaths that brighten Main Street in Winterport village, and on Saturday, December 1, community volunteers Stan Bowden and Greg Herz raised and installed the wreaths which glowed through the holiday season.

A couple of our hardy members were able to cut and gather greens and red berries to fill planters throughout the village, before everything froze solid in late November. They placed holiday arrangements at the Woman's Club stone planter, library and post office before the deep freeze hit. We hope all local residents and visitors enjoyed our way of spreading Christmas cheer.

Our club will take a winter break this year in January and February, as we never seem to have the weather cooperate with our meeting dates! Our next meeting is scheduled for March 13 at 6:30 p.m. at the Victoria Grant Center. As always, we invite any interested women from the community and surrounding towns to join us, meet some of our members, and find out more about our club. Please visit our Facebook page, "Winterport Woman's Club GFWC", for information and upcoming meeting dates.

Gloria Aurelio, President

GFWC Outlook Club

Great fellowship, new members and two successful fund raisers!

Donations were made to the Hartland Library, Art Contest, Shepherd's Godparents/Nikki's Hope, The Capital Campaign, Maine Youth Leadership, St. Jude's, and the Uganda School. We also purchased a video about human trafficking. It was presented at the library by Past President Kathie Clark.

In addition to the money given to Nikki's Hope, a large fruit basket was prepared and delivered to them for Christmas.

We had a local family that lost everything in a house fire. Members responded by putting together a car load of items for their use.

A 71-year Club member was 95 years old in April. We honored her with flowers and all enjoyed cake and ice cream.

The fundraisers were a yard sale with items donated by Club members and friends. A raffle was held in November. The three Theme Baskets were prepared with items donated by members with a beautiful Swedish Weave Handmade Blanket as the featured

item.

We're honored that our own Libby Wiers is the new GFWC Maine Northern District President.

Wynona (Nonie) Rusgatis, President

GFWC Lubec Woman's Club

Fall was a busy season for the Lubec Woman's Club. A donation of \$1000 was made to the Lubec Library for the roof replacement project. A very successful Turkey raffle was held. The winner received a certificate for a turkey dinner from our local Lyons IGA.

A scholarship meeting was held at the local school for the seniors from Lubec. A representative from FAME provided parents and students information on funding of a college education. This program was greatly appreciated by parents trying to navigate the tricky road of financial aid.

Our December meeting was held at the home of Cathy and David Dean. We enjoyed great company and food as well as hot chocolate made in a crock pot. Instead of a gift exchange member brought toys that were donated to the Toys and Treasures program. This program was developed by a mother and her daughter to make sure no child goes without at Christmas. All year long they collect new items to be given to families and senior citizens. The woman's club members enjoyed shopping for children as was seen by the lovely assortment of toys from sleds to baby dolls.

We finished up the year with our annual serving, singing and sweets at the Veteran and Senior luncheon. This is a wonderful community event. The Mason's prepare the food, LCOC provides the funding and the LWC serves the meal. It is a time for food and fellowship for our senior citizens and veterans. We sang prior to the luncheon and our past president, Ruth Ahrens, provided the keyboard accompaniment. We looked forward to participating in this event each year.

Happy New Year to all.

Julia Brady, President

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all from GFWC Semper Fidelis Club! With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind us, it will be good to get back into the everyday pace of life.

Since the last Pine Tree Notes we have concluded four of our annual fundraisers. Our Community Calendar sale went very well netting more than \$1,400 in ads, listings and calendars. The Thanksgiving Pie Sale was a

huge success with \$596 worth of pies sold, making everyone's Thanksgiving a little sweeter. Poinsettias were sold to help bring some Christmas beauty into homes and cash for us to the tune of \$625. Our final pre-holiday fundraiser was the selling of RADA Cutlery (which everyone loves) making us \$640. September through December are certainly very busy with all the fundraising we do!

We also took time to have fun a little fun along the way. We once again participated in the Festival of Trees at the Redington Home. The home places trees throughout its establishment and community organizations, businesses and individuals decorate them. As part of Skowhegan's Holiday Stroll, the public is invited to visit the home, view the trees and vote for the one they like the best. The residents enjoy the trees and all the visitors. Our tree was decorated with 30 sock dolls and red hearts with members' wishes written on them. Our crafty Dot LaCasse made 60 sock dolls, the ones on the tree and 30 additional ones to give to children who visited the tree.

Raising money for one of President Nancy's projects was a part of our holidays. We held an Ugly Sweater Walk asking people to donate \$10 each to participate with all proceeds going to the Travis Mills Foundation to help send a female veteran to one of the retreats there. The Ugly Sweater Walk took place during the town's Holiday Stroll. We walked through the streets of downtown Skowhegan to the Redington Home. Participants donned their ugly sweaters, carried signs telling who we were and what we were doing, and stopped along the way to sing Christmas Carols. Prizes were awarded for the 3 ugliest sweaters. The walk ended with cookies made by members and hot chocolate being served to the public at the Redington Home. A fun time was had by all and we donated \$500 to President Nancy's project.

Members hung orbs in the small Pocket Park downtown to add some festive lighting for the holidays. A new twist was added to our Yankee Swap Christmas celebration. Everyone picked a number from a basket and chose a gift from under the tree in the order of their number. Each person unwrapped the gift they had chosen and displayed it so all could see it. We then began at a random spot with that person rolling a die and we all had to do what was listed on a poster that corresponded to the number rolled. Roll a 1 – keep your gift, roll a 2 - take anyone's gift, roll a 3 – everyone passes their gift 2 places to the left, roll a 4 – everyone passes their gift 3 places to the right, roll a 5 – keep your gift, and roll a 6 – take anyone's gift. Everyone in turn then rolled the die and we followed

what the poster said to do. Three times around and we ended the game. Good fun and laughs!!

In the spirit of the season, baskets were given to three families – one at Thanksgiving and two at Christmas. For Christmas a family was adopted through the Family Violence Project and a second family was adopted through a known need and presents were provided for both. Pajamas and books were donated to The Sweet Dreams Project.

Like all of you, we are in the processes of compiling our yearly statistics and writing our reports to submit by the deadline.

We look are looking forward to what is in store for 2019 and to continuing our club work.

Carol Jarvis, President

GFWC MIOSAC Club

First off, who would have thought that a meeting would be *cancelled in November due to a snow storm?!?* To top it off, the rescheduled meeting date was cancelled again – for the very same reason! Thankfully things were well underway for the club projects planned for December! These club women were fully invested in two Christmas events – partnering with other organizations to help support their outreach efforts. The MIOSAC Club donated a fully decorated tree to participate in the Builders Club Miracle Tree Event. The Builders Club is comprised of young people at the local middle school and is affiliated with Kiwanis International. Club women had selected “winter” as the theme, so the tree was beautifully decorated with traditional bobbles as well as crocheted snowflakes, knitted hats, mittens, scarves, and lots of items beneath the branches - hot cocoa, a bag of goodies to make s'mores, snow themed decorations -- wow, even a snow themed quilt! Let's not forget to mention the assorted gift cards hanging from the boughs! The event was held at The Commons (Central Hall) and this tree was one of several dozen entries by community organizations, businesses, and individuals. T'was a pleasure to attend the event and participate in purchasing tickets and dropping them off one by one into their respective containers hoping to win one of the trees. (Yippee! One MIOSAC member was fortunate to win one!) It was reported in the local newspaper that this event raised over \$9,000 which the Builders Club will be donating to area charities.

Once again, the MIOSAC Club adopted two children to help support the Kiwanis Club Christmas project. First, members donated money, and once it was known that two could be provided for, a list was received from the Kiwanis Club as to the needs and sizes of the children (warm coats and clothing is the priority – and of course a few toys are always added in!) A committee of elves was formed to do the shopping. The club also made a donation to the Kiwanis Club to help with any incidentals – such as wrapping paper for the parents to wrap the gifts themselves.

The weather, though quite cold and a bit icy, did not hold back members from having a lovely Christmas Party, hosted by Barb Austin at her home, with Cathie Goodine, co-hosting. A fun cheerful time together, after enjoying a delicious meal, the gift “exchange” followed. Rather than purchase gifts for each other, names had been drawn at a previous meeting, and gifts were purchased in honor of that person and then donated to the “adopt-a-child” program. Lots of laughter followed as the gifts were opened with members trying to guess who the gift was bought for. Sometimes what was thought to be easy, wasn’t so after all. For instance – a camera “for” Vicki Moschella, because she takes photos at the meetings and events for the scrapbook) – there were some who thought it was “for” Tami Cox who won third place in the GFWC photography contest!! Such fun -- and all for such a good cause, too!

Wishing each and every one a wonderful 2019! Peace.
Suzanne Raymond, President

Southern District

GFWC Westbrook Woman’s Club

Westbrook Woman’s Club has been very busy! November is lobster roll time, our big fundraiser. Members were busy getting orders. Our November 6 meeting was our work day when we put together the boxes, put a thank you label on each box, placed a napkin in side, and put them in groups of 25. Our dining room is stacked with boxes everywhere. Each member is asked to bring in 4 dozen cookies. Orders this year were the most ever 1,071. A challenge to have orders ready for pick-up or delivery by 10:00 a.m. The BIG DAY is November 7 and starts at 5:30 a.m. when the lobster meat arrives. Members start to arrive at the Westbrook/Warren Congregational Church to

swing into action – a lot to do. Each member comes with an assigned job so we can have a well-organized operation. We had 32 members and 5 volunteer husbands or friends busily working. With team work and yes fun! Our members met the deadline and the job was done perfectly. Our ladies are **SUPER WOMEN!!** We raised \$6,384.45 which will be used for scholarships for Westbrook High School and Regional Vocational School students. All this hard work is worth it when a scholarship check is handed to a student to help them toward further education.

Unfortunately, winter set in early and we were not able to have our November 20 meeting.

December 6th, our Club participated in the Mad Hatters Tea Party which is part of the Festival of Trees. The tea party turns our dining room into Christmas theme tables, with our bone china cups and saucier with festive holiday cookies and tea served by our members. Several of the assisted living facilities in the area transport their residents to the church for our tea party and holiday music concert. They enjoy this special time! In the evening members of our Club welcomed the Drouin Dance studio. They present a wonderful program for family and visitors. Everyone enjoys these special events and our members make perfect hostesses.

Westbrook Woman’s Club looks forward to our Christmas meeting on December 18. We had 47 members and guests enjoy a wonderful catered lunch and invite the Westbrook High School music department to come and entertain us with music of the season. How delighted to have such a talented group of youth spend time with us. This makes a nice change after the previous busy weeks.

As 2018 comes to a close we can look back with pride on the accomplishments of our Club and we look forward to 2019. This will be our 100th anniversary year!!

Westbrook Woman’s Club will be looking forward to “Be the Change”.

Beth A. Turner, President

GFWC Livermore Falls Women’s Club

I am happy to report that we gained four new members this year in part from our membership drive in October. At our November meeting we had as our guest speaker Senator Lisa Keim and Southern District Co-Presidents Norma Manning and Pat Currier. Senator Keim spoke about the Legislature priorities for the upcoming year: minimum wage, Telehealth Connection Project, outside interests influencing Maine, redistricting and Medicaid Expansion.

Pat Currier complimented the Club on using committees to share responsibilities and praised its mentoring program for new members. She also mentioned it was time to notify schools of the Art Show, the Free Loan and Maude MacKenize and Scholarships.

An Art Committee was formed with Chair, Peggy Stires, and Barbara Letalien, Madeleine Winger and Ellen Young. They met and began planning for the local Art Show to be held in late March or early April. The committee is waiting on the school to contact them before they proceed with further plans.

Our bake sale chair, Ghislaine Berube-Huges reported that proceeds from the bake sale would benefit the Livermore Fire Dept. We also had a raffle basket. The raffle basket chair, Muriel Bowerman mentioned who won the raffle basket and both she and Ghislaine thanked everyone who contributed.

In early November we learned that the Winter Special Olympics needed 500 knitted hats and scarves for their upcoming winter Olympics games in late January. Five members, Ellen, Barb, Madeleine, Brenda Tardiff and Christine Judd volunteered to knit hats and scarves for this cause. Ellen picked up a dozen hats and scarves and gave them to our local Special Olympics group. At our December meeting we joined the Historical Society for our annual Holiday Luncheon and entertainment of Christmas music.

It was decided that we not meet during January or February so our next meeting will be in March with Pharmacist Steve Macki as our guest speaker.

Ellen Young, President

Waldoboro Woman's Club

In budget discussions, the Waldoboro Woman's Club agreed to add a new contribution of \$200 to the Waldoboro Flag Fund and to increase scholarship grants from \$1,000 to \$1500. To accomplish this, move \$9,000 was designated from regular funds and \$12,000 from the M. Walter Designated Fund. The club voted to continue support to the GFWC Elder Abuse Scholarship. In an effort to preserve the club's records, it was voted to place our scrapbook collection in the Waldoboro Historical Society's Artifacts Storage and to donate receptacles for this plan.

The need for a new brochure was recognized and \$200 was voted to accomplish. Presently, the brochure is being printed.

The Annual Club Christmas Luncheon was held on December 11, at Schooner Cove in Damariscotta. The seventeen members brought cookies for the Lincoln Home, the Memory Center, and Waldoboro Green. Gifts of toys, books, and mittens were given for

the Waldoboro Toys for Tots Program. Marilyn Andrews gave "Ode to Old Age" as the Thought for the Day, and President Judi Lawrence announced donations given by members at regular meetings over the year: \$8 Food Pantry, \$32 Dimes for Veterans, and \$8 International Program for Children. Club members gathered for the annual photo in front of the Christmas Tree. The meal was delicious, the company grand, and the service great!

Jean Lawrence, secretary

GFWC Research Club of Limerick

November

On the 6th which was Election Day, we had a table where we conducted a 50/50 Raffle. The Charity we collected for was the Honor Flight of Maine to support GFWC Maine President's challenge. We collected \$581.50. Half of which was given to a local lady. At our club meeting the next week one of our club members gave enough money to make the donation to Honor Flight to be an even \$300. This meeting's program featured Caring Unlimited which is a domestic violence prevention organization that we have supported for many years. It was great to get an update of what they have been doing helping women and men in the York County area. We had collected items of various personal need items and presented them.

December

Our town has an annual day of events to kick off the Christmas Season. Our club ends the day with The Christmas Tree lighting, sing along and then treating the town to homemade cookies and hot chocolate. Our meeting a week later is our annual Christmas party. The club members bring their gifts for the veterans at the veteran's home. We have a time of food supplied by the executive board and directors. We have a lively Yankee swap and the evening ended singing carols. Happy 2019 to all.

Lovedy Alexander, President



Dates to Remember:

January 21st Martin Luther King Day

March 1st Pine Tree Note submissions due

March 2nd Dr Seuss Birthday Read Across America

May 2nd-3rd GFWC Maine Spring Convention in Freeport, ME

June 29th-July 1st GFWC International Convention in Austin, TX



GFWC Semper Fidelis 'Ugly Sweater Walk'

GFWC
Maine



GFWC Newport Woman's Club members with Betsey Ross of House of Hope Homeless Shelter for Women Veterans

SNAPSHOTS

GFWC Newport Woman's Club
Christmas Celebration



Joy Asuncion of Honor Flight Maine speaking to GFWC Newport Woman's Club

Meredeth Randlett Happy 95yrs +
71-year member GFWC Outlook Club!



GFWC Livermore Falls Club with Southern District Presidents Norma Manning & Pat Currier



GFWC Outlook Club President Nonie Rusgaitis & member Brenda Seekins



Waldoboro Woman's Club Annual Christmas Luncheon



GFWC Winterport Woman's Club

