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Pine Tree Notes (March-April 2019)

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General Federation of Women's Clubs - Maine Chapter

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PINE TREE NOTES



March/April 2019



President's Letter:

Snow, snow and more snow – is it ever going to end? I know we live in Maine, so it is expected, but I am sure looking forward to warmer weather!

It doesn't seem possible the first year of the 2018-2020 Administration is winding down. The GFWC Maine Executive Committee met in February and had a very productive meeting. We will be making some very exciting announcements at our Spring Convention, so stay tuned!

Reporting season is upon us. What a thrill to be able to read all Club reports and narratives of the many accomplishments of which Maine clubwomen have been involved in the past year. We certainly are the "Change". I am currently working on writing my annual report to GFWC Headquarters and I couldn't be prouder of the GFWC Maine Clubs.

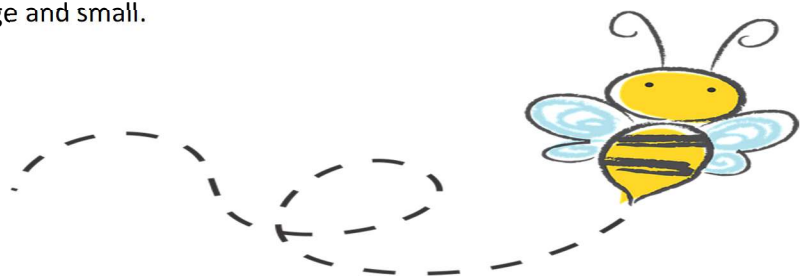
More about the GFWC Spring Convention, which will be held on May 2nd and 3rd at the Hilton Garden Inn in Freeport – both GFWC President-elect Marian St. Clair and GFWC NER President Mary Baird will be attending this Convention! We have a lot of fun planned, including a hands-on project making no-sew pillows to go along with Dr Seuss books to be donated to a Domestic Violence Shelter, a "Great Gatsby" theme for Thursday night's banquet with fun entertainment (Roaring 20's dress suggested, although not required), and a Dr Seuss luncheon on Friday. Be sure to look over the "Call" for this two-day meeting in this edition of the PTN's. Please be sure to print out copies of the registration forms and meal choices to share with your Club. The hotel information is also in this newsletter; the deadline for reserving rooms is April 2 to get the GFWC rate, so book your room as soon as possible! Encourage members of your Club to attend this function. It will be a wonderful experience for you and for them.

The District Meetings and Art Shows are right around the corner. Please support your District President by attending the one in your District. There is so much talent in your local high schools, and it is always fun when we all get together.

The State President's Special Project Committee has informed me we are \$150 away from our goal to be able to send a female veteran to the Travis Mills Retreat. If you still have the green Clynk bags that were handed out at Fall Conference, please drink more soda, juice, water, beer and wine and get those bags filled up so we can meet this goal! Wouldn't it be wonderful to be able to hand the representative from the Travis Mills Foundation a check at the Spring Convention after their presentation?

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



Presidents Project:



BAG IT



TAG IT



DROP IT

We are \$150 away from meeting the goal to give the Travis Mills Foundation a check for \$1,000 to send a female veteran to a week at the Travis Mills Retreat, so filling those bags will help us meet that goal! Please, if you took a bag, we encourage you to fill it and drop it off at your participating Hannaford store before Spring Convention!

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**



We want to 'raise' the Thermometer! Let us know of your fundraising for these worthwhile projects!

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

Best regards,
Joyce Noonan & Karie Watson
Presidents Project Co-Chairman



GFWC Maine Executive Committee

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Coffee in one hand Confidence in the other

Leadership

Hang in there ladies! I can promise you we will all see dandelions once again at some point in our lifetime!!

How do you view yourself as a GFWC Leader? Do you ever ponder this question? If not, you may want to make some time to do so, and give it some serious thought.

Everybody defines leadership differently, but I really like the way John Maxwell defines leadership, “A **leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way.**”

Irrespective of how you define a leader, she can prove to be a difference maker between success and failure. A good GFWC leader has a futuristic vision and knows how to turn her ideas into real-world success stories.

1. **Honesty and Integrity**

The 34th President of the United States, Dwight D. Eisenhower, once said, “**The supreme quality of leadership is unquestionably integrity.**” Without it, no real success is possible, no matter whether it is on a football field, in an executive office, or in a position of authority in an organization. Honesty and integrity are two important ingredients that make a good leader. How can you expect your club members to be honest when you lack these qualities yourself? Leaders succeed when they stick to their values and core beliefs.

2. **Confidence**

To be an effective leader, ensure that other clubwomen will follow your own decisions and never follow your lead. As a woman oozing with confidence, show assertiveness to gain the respect of your clubwomen. This does not mean you should be overconfident, but you should at least reflect the degree of confidence required to ensure that your clubwomen trust you as a leader.



you should be confident enough to

direction. If you are unsure about qualities, then your members will not follow your lead. As a GFWC leader, you have to be confident enough to show some “swagger” and respect of your clubwomen. You should be overconfident, but the degree of confidence required to ensure that your clubwomen trust you as a leader.

3. **Inspire Others**

Probably the most difficult job for a leader is to persuade others to follow. It can only be possible if you inspire your clubwomen by setting a good example. When the going gets tough, members will look up to you to see how you react to the situation. If you handle it well, they will follow suit. As a GFWC leader, you should think in a positive manner. This positive approach should then be visible through your actions and carry-through. Remember to remain calm under pressure and keep the motivation level up. As John Quincy Adams put it, “**If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more, and become more, you are a leader.**” If you are successful in inspiring your members, you can easily overcome any current and future challenge easily.

4. **Commitment and Passion**

Your club members look up to you, and if you want them to give their all, you will have to be passionate about it too. When members see you getting your hands “into the mix,” they will also give it their best shot! It will also help you gain the respect of your members and infuse new energy into your Club, which helps everyone perform better. Never let your members think you lack passion or commitment. Give it your “all” 100% of the time.

Arts

We say we are in the arts when speaking of fine arts to performing arts. Imagine the possibilities in the arts. Programs can be devised from social to cultural, political to activist, theatrical, educational, even emotional and health. Inspire a program or project that you like or have interest in as attending art exhibits or going to a gallery together as a group. Be inspired. Inspire others to join in your program or project. Decide on a reason for your program. It could be to promote arts in your community or an artist or student artist. Maybe you can add a project for a literary club, or beautify some part of your community. How about a benefit for the library, food pantry or club. The businesses in the community may want to partnership with your program. Get as many involved as you can.

Programs in fine arts, theatrical, poetry and writing, musical, drama all provide education, entertainment and socializing. District Presidents and their clubs will be planning High School Art Contests for 2019. Awards can be 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place winners, one honorable place from each district, and two Awards of Merit from each district.

The photography contests will be held at the Spring Convention, May 2nd & 3rd. Bring your photos with you, but let the art department know you plan to enter, and how many photos.

Rules are on pages 88 and 89.

A year in Pictures Contest is on page 89 in the directory. Send your entry to the GFWC Headquarters by May 15th. Send a signed wavier for each entry. You can print one from the GFWC Manuel at

www.gfwc.org

A lot of talent goes into organizing the Scrapbooks so bring them so we all can see what your club is doing. Good luck and thanks for all the donations to the Arts.

Barbara Hathaway

GFWC Maine Art Chairman

bhaway@myfairpoint.net

Southern District Art Show



The Southern District Art Show will be held at the Westbrook Community Center, 426 Bridge Street, Westbrook, April 16th, 1-3 p.m. The community center has graciously waived their fee for us. No registration

is required.

Please come and support our students.

Club presidents will be presenting updates on club activities. All are welcome to attend. Coffee, Tea and dessert will be served.

Membership

Make it a point to carry a business card or information about your club. Pass them out to others when asked "What have you been doing?" Share the projects the club has done. Use Facebook to share the project. Example: "We just finished putting together a project on Dr. Seuss for "Read Across America Day." Keep it light and later call them and say " I was thinking about our conversation and I never even asked if you would like to join me to our next meeting?" Then let her answer and you will have a start of a conversation.

Cheryl Stevens and myself started a Juniorette Club at Nokomis High School and we have 5 members and growing. If anyone wants to know about this, we will share the knowledge we have learned. Keep on singing the praises of fun, sisterhood and striving for a cause! For all you do a big "THANK YOU"

Linda Lougee

GFWC Maine Membership Chairman



EDUCATION

This chairman has just finished reading your clubs' reports on your activities for education. All of your projects were creative, and you seemed to have enjoyed doing them.

We are looking forward to learn about your activities for Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's birthday. Reading to children is one of the most important activity parents and grandparents can enjoy with their children. Not only does the child benefit educationally, but also it creates a wonderful bonding time. Important adults in a child's life influence the way children think about education. By reading to a child, you are showing that you value learning.

Congratulations on your activities to raise money for scholarships. The amount of scholarship monies given to high school seniors is outstanding.

The orphans in the Hope Nyolo School are in need of scholarship money to continue their education. As you read in the previous PTN, your support was deeply appreciated and they asked us not to forget them.

If you or your club would like to help these students continue their education, please make a donation to MAPSJ and put "orphans' fund" on the notation. Send them to: Mary Libby, 8 Lewis St. Westbrook, 04092.

We are looking forward to the May Convention in Freeport. Plan to be there.



Mary Libby
GFWC Maine Education Chairman

Dear Madam Mary Libby;

We are hereby thanking Women Federation of America, we are so glad what your office has done for us Libby. It was so grateful for such co-operation and support.

- We the women group is doing well, with our daily activities such as:*
- Loan scheme*
- Commerical agriculture*
- Producing candles, and body jelly.*
- Distribution of sanitary kit to school girls and venerable women in our community.*

*The sanitary reusable pads are so beautiful and good. The girls are very happy for your offers to them. This has improved their (girls) school attendance and concentration; please send our thanks to the great generation federation of the women club of America for their partnership with "**Cam Kwoki Federation of women club**".*

*We shall appreciate if you pay our yearly dues fees to the General Federation of America. **

Goal:

We need to keep:-

- Poultry keeping*
- Orphan support*
- Rearing of goats and pig keeping*

Hiring place for selling our products

(Money was put aside from our fundraising to pay these dues. - Mary Libby)

PUBLIC ISSUES

Where has the year gone! It is almost time to start planning another club year. Having said that, what programs can be included in the plans for a new year? As Public Issues chairman, I am going to recommend several programs to think about. President Nancy has as one of her goals for her administration, a one week stay at the Travis Mills Foundation for a female veteran. Some other areas to look at as civic and social responsibilities are citizenship, emergency and disaster preparedness and safety and crime prevention. Our GFWC Club Manual has many suggestions for programs in these areas under Community Service Programs.

As Celene Post, Chairman of GFWC Public Issues, said in her remarks to club women at the convention in St. Louis, "Ladies, we ask that you take our project ideas back to your local club and district meetings. Be our "enthusiasm" as you share the news about these projects.

Presenting new ideas is not easy as we often hear, "That's not the way we did it before" or "We tried that once a long time ago, it was not successful, so we shouldn't try again." So, I will pose this question as I close my remarks.

"WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOUR CLUB DID SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME?" Why not make it now, with all the great ideas you have heard today from your CSP chairman? Your club members are awaiting your ideas for the 2018-2020 administration."

As you plan your next club year, consider having a program addressing each of the Community Service Programs. Reach out into your community and do "Something for the first time."

Marjorie Pfeiffer
GFWC Maine Public Issues Chairman



LEGISLATION/PUBLIC POLICY

A gentle reminder that one of Mary Ellen Brock's Grand Initiatives for the 2018-2020 Administration is "Recognize the Red": Goal is for members to sign their name (and the name of their club and State Federation and GFWC) in Red when mailing or emailing letters to government officials in support of legislation so they begin to recognize GFWC's advocacy efforts. For traditional letters, the member should write her return address in Red and put a big check mark in Red on the outside of the envelope. Another goal is that 1,000 members join the Legislative Action Center. To sign up for the LAC, go to the GFWC website (GFWC.org). Click on the "Public Policy" tab, and then click on the link that says "Take Action." You will then begin receiving on specific legislation GFWC is supporting. These updates will let members know when they should contact their national legislators about a particular bill.

The legislative process is outlined in the Legislative/Public Policy Advancement Guide in the GFWC Club Manual. This would make a great program for a club meeting, especially if a member of your State Legislature were present to answer questions.

Marjorie Pfeiffer,
GFWC Legislation/Policy Committee Member

Home Life

Happy Spring, Everyone!! (well almost). I am happy to report that 15 of 17 clubs submitted reports in Home Life Community Service Programs area. I look forward to awarding the Maine State and Maine Club Creativity Awards again at spring convention.

As you set up your programs for the upcoming year in September, I urge your committees to take a look at club programs and projects that are offered in your GFWC Club Manual. For



instance, the March of Dimes is asking clubwomen to knit preemie hats and blankets. This is something many of us can do and what a rewarding accomplishment it

is to swath a tiny newborn in a warm and cuddly hat and blanket!

Even though we may not be able to house a puppy to do early training for **Canine Companions**, we can, as one club did, make a monetary donation to help further the cause. Don't forget **Inside Knowledge About Gynecologic Cancer, Easter Seals, and the Heart Truth**. They are all GFWC Partners and have ideas, handouts, printable and project suggestions for you to access as you plan next year's programs. Remember the number ONE thing that keeps clubwomen coming to meetings is *interesting programs!* Access what is free to you and help your club and GFWC grow!

Looking forward to seeing you in May!!

Sally Manchester
GFWC Maine Home Life Chairman

Northern District Art Show

The Northern District Art Show will be held at the Jeff's Catering, 15 Littlefield Way, Brewer, March 30th, 10am-2pm. Remarks by GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames, Club presidents, comments from the judges and the 'Turning Point Suffragette Memorial'.

Register with Libby Wiers mnlbby49@gmail.com, by March 15th, \$20 registration fee includes coffee & pastries; lunch of a chef's choice hot item, meat & cheese platter, bread/rolls & condiments, house salad, dessert and beverages; tax & gratuity included. All welcome!

Turning Point Suffragist Memorial

Update:

New England friends!

I have some great news regarding Turning Point for you. A husband and wife from Alexandria, VA recently made a donation of \$130,000 to Turning Point. How great is that! It certainly has made a dent in the amount of money that we need to raise.

I have been delighted with the enthusiasm that all of you have shown for this wonderful memorial. We are going to be well represented on the donors wall. I know that you have had ongoing fundraising efforts and are working on reaching a minimum of \$1000. If you haven't already done so I encourage you to send in your donations as soon as you can. You do not need to wait until you have the entire \$1000. TPSMA will establish an account for you and track your periodic donations.

At this point, time is of the essence. We need to have as much money as possible sent in by spring, 2019 so that the actual building can begin. If we have not raised the full \$2 million, the plan is going to have to be scaled down. We want to avoid scaling back as much as we can. Please let me know if you would like some ideas for fundraising or if there is anything else that I can do to help you.

Helen Barakauskas
NER Turning Point Chairman

Pinwheels for Prevention

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and the symbol is the *pinwheel!* *Prevent Child Abuse America* introduced the pinwheel as the new national symbol for child abuse prevention. By its very nature, the pinwheel connotes whimsy and childlike notions. The pinwheel has come to serve as a reminder of the great childhoods we want for all children.

There are several ways to bring attention to Child Abuse Prevention in your own communities. Purchase pinwheels as a decoration or resell them as a fundraising activity. Plant "pinwheel gardens" in your communities to continue raising awareness of child abuse prevention. One idea is to have a "pinwheel" at the location of your district convention or in a local park in your community with a sign signifying the event.



Club News

Northern District

Pittsfield GFWC Arts Club

In November the Pittsfield Arts (Always Ready to Serve) Club met at the Pittsfield Public Library. The speaker was Stephanie Johnson who works for SKILLS INC. This organization is involved with helping adults in Maine who are challenged and have special needs. It was very informative showing us just how compassionate the people involved in this organization are and all the help that is needed in our area.

December found club members enjoying our annual Christmas party at Poponover's Restaurant in Pittsfield. Great food and great company. Items were collected and donated to the Women's Shelter in Skowhegan. Earlier in December we held a very successful pancake breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus at the Pittsfield Elks Club. Rae Hersey did an excellent job organizing and chairing this project. This was our first one and will be a yearly event now since it was so well received in the community. Members enjoyed watching the parents and kiddos too. A nice pancake breakfast at a very reasonable price was served complete with bacon and sausage. Approximately 130 had breakfast and the money raised will be put back into the community in many ways. Several members helped decorate a Christmas tree at the library. Friends of the Library group furnished the decorations and we enjoyed the task of creating a lovely tree for the community to see when they visit the Library this month.

The January meeting held at the Pittsfield Public Library, got members up to date on the plans for the upcoming Bicentennial Celebration. June 19, 2019 is the township's 200th Anniversary. Jane Woodruff reported on the many events that are planned for this year. Our club will be holding an Art Show in April. There will be all types of art on display for several days at the Universalist Meeting House here in town. Bev Rollins is organizing the event and Carol Ouellette is co-chairperson.

In February members met and filled Valentine Bags for the Pittsfield Community Care facility. Bags were also delivered to shut-ins who enjoyed being remembered on Valentine's Day. We cooked and served lunch at the Welcome Table at the beginning of the month. This is a weekly meal for local folks to get together and enjoy a delicious lunch. Other organizations and businesses take turns each week. The menu is varied and consists of home cooked food which includes tasty desserts.

Carol Ouellette, President

Winterport Woman's Club GFWC

After a much-needed winter break, the Winterport Woman's Club GFWC members are



looking forward to warmer days, bright skies, and our planned spring community projects.

March and April will find our club members readying for our 6th Annual Perennial Plant Sale, which has become a much-anticipated local event. Under the direction of Co-Chairs Ellen Van Vranken and Cindy Seekins, this sale of healthy, locally grown perennial plants enables us to fund our many community projects and donations. The dates this year are Saturday and Sunday, May 18 and 19. Please visit our Facebook page *Winterport Woman's Club GFWC* for times and location, and plan a road trip if you are interested in obtaining some beautiful, hardy plants for your perennial garden.

In February, our club nominated the Winterport recipient of the 2019 Spirit of America Tribute. The Spirit of America Foundation is a 501(c)(3) public charity established in Augusta, Maine in 1990 to honor volunteerism. Every year the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute is presented in the name of 100+ Maine municipalities to local individuals, organizations and projects for commendable community service. Since being presented with the first tribute from Winterport in 2011, the Winterport Woman's Club has been asked to nominate and award

Winterport's recipient, yearly. We look forward to announcing Winterport's 2019 honoree at our annual meeting dinner in May.



Also, in May, we will fill planters at different municipal buildings around the downtown

village area with annual flowers. With faithful tending and watering by our club members, they bring much enjoyment to town residents as well as those "traveling through" our scenic river town.

Think Spring!

Gloria Aurelio, President

GFWC Newport Woman's Club

The GFWC Newport Woman's Club has been busy the first few months of 2019. We kicked off the New Year with our annual "Lunch Out" this year at "The Farmer's Table" a charming local restaurant. Discussion was held on our MLK Day of Service Project to be held in January. 11 members of the GFWC Newport Woman's Club met at the Newport Cultural Center to work together on a fleece blanket project.



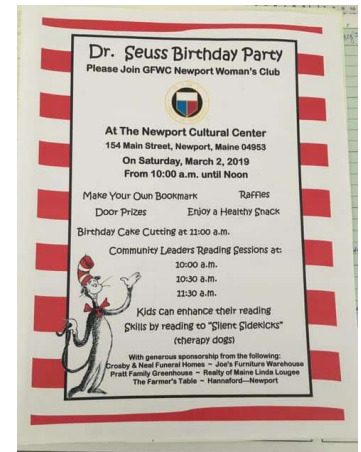
This work project was scheduled for our Martin Luther King Day of Service initiative. The blankets will be donated to Veterans shelters.



February found us back at the Newport Cultural Center for an interesting and informative talk on the newly resurrected Newport Historical Preservation Committee. The Newport Cultural Center is the repository for our annual scrapbooks and the NHPC will be cataloging them for display for our 100th anniversary celebration planned for 2022.

We have been hard at work on the Seven Grand Initiatives and have planned a Dr. Seuss Birthday Party for March 2 which is Dr Seuss actual birthday. We have partnered with the Children's Librarian at the Newport Cultural Center and our local Healthy Maine to put together an awesome celebration for beginning readers.

Jane Briggs, President



Castine Woman's Club

Old Man Winter is on his way out and spring is on her way! The Club can't wait smell the daffodils (CWC's Club Flower)!

The **Castine Woman's Club** does not hold general meetings in January, February, and March. The Club has scaled back its winter activities and did not hold community Dinner-at-Noon events this winter.

The Castine Woman's Club is planning a number of fun activities and meetings for this spring and summer. 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 last official meeting of CWC's 2018-2019 membership year will be held in June at the Wilson Museum which usually entails a Tea and end-of-year reports.

The Castine Woman's Club continues to offer their support to Castine's Adams School Calvineers in their efforts on behalf of the endangered Northern Right Whale. The Calvineers are busy raising funds and accepting contributions to bring their important message to a conference this November

in Barcelona. The Club and our community are so proud of these young science activists!

As in years past, CWC plans to participate in the GFWC Maine District Art Contest, which usually includes participation by five area Hancock County high schools. In June, CWC plans to assist again with the annual Maja Trivia contest for Blue Hill peninsula middle school students held at the Wilson Museum.

Locals and visitors are looking forward to the Club's yummy and ever popular July 4th Pie Sale. Other summer events are still in the planning stage.

The Castine Woman's Club wishes everyone a sunny and successful spring!

Val Taub, President

GFWC Semper Fidelis Club

You have to love the stormy, cold weather we experienced in January which caused the cancellation of our scheduled meetings, not once but twice, and postponed our Martin Luther King Day of service project. Being the Mainers that we are, we got through it and managed to complete our project. And what a project it was.

One of our members approached club with a project she had learned about, Operation Deploy Your Dress. Operation Deploy Your Dress is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of military wives that accepts donations of gently used evening and



cocktail dresses, shoes, purses and jewelry at specific military bases. The donated items are then offered to military personnel and/or their spouses. The ladies can pick out an evening ensemble once each year free of charge. We decided this would be an excellent Martin Luther King Day of service project and set about

collecting items from members, family and friends. We were happy to be able to send 50 dresses, 9 pairs of shoes, 5 wraps, 6 purses and numerous pieces of jewelry! We got together, packed all the items up and shipped them on their way. We know they will be put to good use and are pleased to be able to help those who serve for us.

Members attended the newly renamed and expanded Somerset SnowFest. On a bitterly cold Saturday, three members braved the weather to cook s'mores for the children and adults who participated in the annual Snow Box Derby. A fun time was had by all and standing beside the warm fire roasting marshmallows was a welcome reprieve.

We put a new twist on our Annual Member Auction this year. Everyone brought items which could be "measured" in sealed, brown paper bags. The bags had to have a clue on them as to what the contents were. The bags could have a drawing, a picture, a poem, a riddle, any kind of clue to the contents without telling exactly what it was. Items could be new or used or a combination. We then had a "Luck of the Draw" format where you purchased tickets and took chances on the bag or bags you liked the looks of most or thought you knew what was in them from the clues. A fun time was had by all while adding money to our coffers.

Till next time –

Carol Jarvais, President

GFWC Skowhegan Woman's Club

The Domestic Violence Series organized and sponsored by our club had its first taping on January 7, 2019 at the Channel 11 Studio in Madison. The series has been named, "Behind Closed Doors."

President Deb and four additional members of Skowhegan Woman's Club, Michelle Le Clair, Family Violence: Community Awareness and Prevention Educator, Bill Primmerman, Director of Resilience in Action Improvisational Theater and Sue Mackie Andrews from Maine affiliate for resilience we're all part of the panel.

January program was opening the discussion with the Resilience Improvisational Theatre performing a skit focusing on the aftermath of an assault noticed by Literacy Volunteer Tutor during a work session.

Follow up questions by the audience were answered and then Michelle gave specific resources anyone going through a Domestic Violence conflict could use. The Domestic Violence 24 hour hotline is: 877-890-7788. On February 4th the focus was Teen Dating issues with another panel: Violet Ferland, Skowhegan Woman's Club Vice President was host, Michelle LeClair, Family Violence Project: Community Awareness and Prevention Educator, Mike Pike, Officer for Domestic Violence in Somerset County and Resource officer for schools, Emma Peck, student and Shawna Lund, Prevention Awareness Educator for Northern Kennebec County. These two taping sessions are edited and on you tube. They also will be aired on Channel 11. We will also put these on our Facebook page. March 4th will focus on Sexual Assaults. Utilizing the expertise of Family Violence Educators the public is hearing from the experts in the field sharing prevention, techniques as well as resources.

May's focus will be announced.

Elder Abuse will be the focus in June.

In mid-January seven members of our group met to continue our discussions on ways to improve our club's activities and mission. Since change is inevitable we realize this has to happen in our organization and we must not be so set in our ways that we fail to notice the signs and need for change before it is too late.

What events need a funeral and what ones need to stay but changed to work smarter not harder with the limited number of members.

I cannot reveal the new events we will pursue until we vote on these in May.

A successful monthly meeting was held on January 9th with a Book Discussion and swap lead by Mary Cayford. Each member was asked to be ready to share a current good read, bring this if willing to loan or give someone in exchange for another book. Extra books and magazines were brought and exchanged after the organized book discussion was held. Some children's books were exchanged. Members enjoyed this book exchange and asked to bring more books for next meeting. Aren't we glad this occurred then so as the winter progressed each of us had lots to read during the arctic blasts, we have experienced this winter! A special thanks to Mary for extending our meeting to include the reading material exchange.

May meeting will be held at President Deb's home as we review our year, share highlights of the GFWCME State Convention, book summer planning meetings and vote on summer fundraising events!

Debra Burnham, President

GFWC MIOSAC Club

The holidays are behind; the new year has begun. Instead of having a business meeting on January 1st, club members opted to take a little road trip



to the American Legion Hall to play BINGO on Thursday, January 3rd. It was a fabulous way to support the local veterans. The club presence and

participation were much appreciated by the Legion and loads of fun for the club women! On January 15th, Nancy Seavy, YMCA Finance Director, visited the club and shared about new program opportunities at the Y. After this presentation the business meeting ensued. The club adopted a new project! As a means to support the customers at the area food cupboard,

it was decided to help with products (other than food) that are needed. Chairman/Liaison Rheba Michaud drafted a list of items and a schedule which was presented at the next meeting.

Members clearly embraced the idea, since at the Feb. 18th meeting, 36 bottles of shampoo and conditioner were brought in. The item for the March meetings is deodorant.

Under the direction of Barb Austin, club member and Project Linus Co-Coordinator for Piscataquis County, a work session was the program at one of the meetings – putting kits together for the upcoming Project Linus Make a Blanket Day in April.

For the second year in a row, a Pound Party was the program at the most recent meeting and money was raised to add to funds for the MIOSAC Education Scholarship. A fun time with lots of hilarious gifts that were auctioned off (members bid on beautifully wrapped items.)

Other things in the works:

- Two members of the club are the organizers for the Pine Tree Hospice Trivia fundraiser being held in March. Not only will the members of GFWC MIOSAC Club be providing the refreshments for the event, but a team has been formed to participate in the event!
- plans are being made for the local high school art contest which will be held at The Commons on March 24th

Some of the members are looking forward to the upcoming District Meeting in Brewer and the State Convention in Freeport.

Until next time – peace!

Suzanne Raymond, President

Southern District

Waldoboro Woman's Club

Bad weather forced the cancellation of the January meeting, but the February 12 meeting more than made up for it. Club members observed a moment of silence for Carol Blodgett, member and past vice president of our club. Carol passed away after a valiant battle with lung cancer on December 29, 2018.

Guest speaker for the meeting was Michael Hall, brother of Vice President Carol Hall Perry, who began our session with a presentation on Karl's Kids, an organization that for the past eleven years has served 1500 Lincoln County youngsters to age 18 with sports equipment. The referral program accepts nominations from parents, coaches and mentors. Presently, Karl's Kids is working on the second chapter in their program as they apply for grants to support camping opportunities. Mike described the activities that are a part of the Annual Auction which will take place on Friday and Saturday, March 1 & 2, at Sugar Loaf Mountain. Mike described various sports and creative arts activities that 150 youngsters were involved in and supported last year. Members were so impressed with the work that this group is doing that it was agreed to give \$1,000 for scholarships to the program.

Plans for the annual Whale of a Sale were finalized with strawberry shortcake dessert added to the luncheon menu. Nine members volunteered for committee chairs; a handmade braided rug, a computer, and quarts of Maine blueberries were donated, and Made in Maine baskets were planned. The sale will take place on Saturday, June 29, at the VFW Hall on Mill Street. Plans for the International Luncheon at our April meeting will be led by Barbara Hunt when GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames will be our guest. President Judi Lawrence reminded the ladies of our responsibilities for the May 2 & 3 Convention. She appointed Carol Hall Perry to the Scholarship Committee, and it was reported that \$7,000 in scholarship checks have been written. Members volunteered to act as hostesses at the Old German Church in the summer, and an article in the *Farnsworth Magazine* on last fall's program for elementary students, facilitated by club



members, was shared. Special recognition and “Best Wishes” were given to Past President Dona Williams who will soon move to New York to be closer to family. We will miss Dona’s graciousness and long-standing support of the club’s goals.
Jean Lawrence, Secretary

GFWC Gorham Woman’s Club

GFWC Maine President Nancy Ames was the guest speaker at the November meeting of the Gorham Woman’s Club. Members were impressed with her presentation and inspired by her projects.

In December members and one guest met at Nancy Kenty’s home for a Holiday Potluck sharing food, friendship and joy of the Christmas season. With plenty of food, take home meals were put together for two members unable to attend the luncheon.

January plans are for the ladies to create cards for the Maine Veteran’s Home in Scarborough and others that may need a bright and pleasant note. The staff of the Veteran’s Home has asked for non-holiday cards that can be given to residents anytime someone may need a thoughtful note. Wishing everyone a wonderful 2019!

Wendy Bowler, Vice-President

Westbrook Woman’s Club

Westbrook Woman’s Club welcomed 2019 – a very special year for our Club. We will be celebrating our 100th anniversary. What a milestone!! We are putting together a celebration in October for such a momentous occasion. Each meeting our President, Beth Turner is sharing with us history of our Club. This entire year will be devoted to Westbrook Woman’s Club – why we were organized by a special group of ladies, how we have evolved, and what is our place in our community today. How we can build on our foundation and remain relevant as we step into our next 100 years. We have a new membership pamphlet telling about Westbrook Woman’s Club objectives – what is a Club, what we do, and who is eligible to join and a contact. We list our accomplishments over the years – an impressive list to be proud of. These are to be distributed in our community and

given to ladies when asked about our Club. As part of our membership program we will be having mentors assigned to new members. This will help new members feel more at home as they join into our activities.

A generous gift was given to our Club from the estate of one of our deceased members. We will give this donation as a scholarship in her memory at Westbrook High School’s graduation this June. The National Day of Service was observed by purchasing gift cards for Dunkin Donuts and Mr. Bagel. These were donated to our first responders to use as they are out on their many calls.

A silent auction was held raising a total of \$376.00. This was donated to the Locker project to help provide food to needy students in the schools.

A new member was welcomed at our February 5 meeting. This is exciting!!

The Club decided to participate in the Soles4Souls project. We will start collecting shoes to donate at our future meetings.

We have had the following programs presented: Westbrook Historical Society regarding history of Westbrook in pictures, ECO Maine, and Domestic Violence.

Our District One Co Presidents Pat Currier and Norma Manning updated the members on the change of Districts, the upcoming District Art Show, and information about the Maude MacKenzie scholarship program.

Our members are looking forward to our GFWC State President, Nancy Ames visiting with us at our March 5 meeting, our art show, District Art Show, and the Spring Convention.

As always, our Club has had another busy couple of months.

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

Beth A. Turner, President



GFWC MAINE CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Marian St.Clair GFWC President-elect

A passionate and energetic clubwoman since 1989, Marian currently serves as President-elect. She has been a member of the GFWC Board of Directors in succeeding administrations since her 2002-2004 term as South Carolina State President, serving as Bylaws Committee Member, Conservation Beautification Chairman, Leadership Committee Member, Treasurer, Secretary, Second Vice President, and First Vice President. She has also assisted with LEADS, presenting, "How to Write a Great Speech."

Marian is a Master Gardener and Master Naturalist who works as a freelance garden writer and photographer for *The Greenville News* and *Carolina Gardener Magazine*. She leads garden tours to Europe and other areas of interest, and produces a gardening blog, Hortitopia. As a horticulture expert, Marian has been a guest on Martha Stewart Radio and other media, and a presenter at symposia.

A devoted volunteer who relishes hands-on opportunities, Marian is an active member of many community service and philanthropic organizations, including Greenville Women Giving. She has been honored by the Rape Crisis Network, SC Wildlife Federation, and SC County Agriculture Agents, and was named a GFWC Woman of Achievement.

Born in Virginia to a military family, Marian lived in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and various other locations before studying Liberal Arts at Virginia Tech and moving to South Carolina. Married to Tim St.Clair, the couple has two sons and daughters-in-law, and two adorable grandchildren.



Our Speakers:

Representative from Travis Mills Foundation - The Travis Mills Foundation supports post 9/11 recalibrated veterans and their families through long-term programs that help these heroic men and women overcome physical obstacles, strengthen their families, and provide well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Supporting these veterans through their nationally recognized retreat located in the Belgrade Lakes Region of Maine. Veteran families who have been injured in active duty or as a result of their service to our nation receive an **all-inclusive, all-expenses paid, barrier-free** vacation in Maine where they participate in adaptive activities, bond with other veteran families, and enjoy much-needed rest and relaxation in Maine's outdoors.



Representative from Wreaths Across America - In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated. And that year, December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".



In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as

well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. This was accomplished with help from 2,047 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and

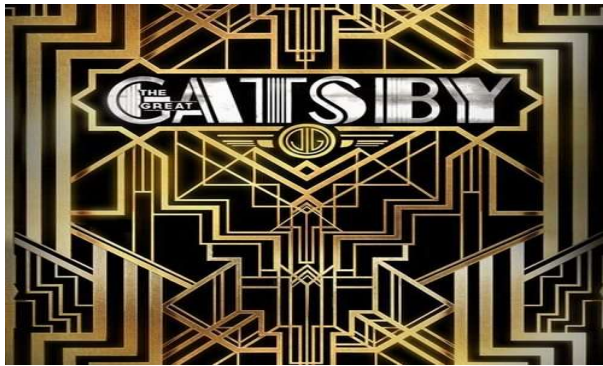
thousands of helping hands. The organization's goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.

The wreath-laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to **remember, honor** and **teach**.



Join your GFWC Maine Executive Committee creating hand tied nap pillows to donate with Dr Seuss Books! Materials will be available.

Consider your favorite book to donate 😊



Thursday evening will be filled with glitter and gold! Gatsby attire is encouraged (but not mandatory) Fine dining and delightful music is sure to bring a night of enjoyment! Flappers welcome!.....

GFWC Maine High School Art Show

AND MORE!

GFWC Maine Fall Conference

Thursday, May 2, 2019 & Friday, May 3, 2019

Hilton Garden Inn Freeport

5 Park Street Freeport, Maine

207-865-1433

(April 2nd deadline for room reservations!)



DON'T MISS OUT!

Dates to remember:

March 30th Northern District Art Show

April 16th Southern District Art Show

April 26th Arbor Day

May 2nd-3rd GFWC Maine Spring
Convention

June 29th-July 1st GFWC International Convention



www.gfwc.org

www.gfwcmaine.org

NOTES: