



# FOCUS



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

Volume 38, Edition 13

Spring 2012

[www.gfwcct.org](http://www.gfwcct.org)

## President JoAnn Calnen



Dear Members,

We are approaching the end of the 2010-2012 administration and it is hard to believe the time has gone by. It has been an honor to serve as the GFWC/CT President and a pleasure to work with all of you in the past two years.

Each club has done an amazing job in their community once again. Your support of the State Project, the New England Region Conference, the Policy Training Day, and the CT Coalition Against Domestic Violence informational meetings are just a few examples of your dedication to our organization.

In this issue is the Call to our State Convention. Please encourage all your members to attend one or both days of the convention. It is an opportunity to share successes and give your voice to the future.

On behalf of GFWC/CT as your President, I will be attending the International Convention in Charlotte, as will Alison Young of the GFWC Northford Woman's Club as the CT LEADS candidate. Please wish her well and extend our gratitude to her for her willingness to assume more leadership within our organization. Please know we would love to have your company at the Convention and hope many CT members will join us.

Thank you for all the kindnesses, the energy and enthusiasm, and the friendships that you shared with me. You have given me something to talk about for many years.

Warm wishes and with sincere gratitude,  
JoAnn

## President Elect Nancy Kalyan

Hi Everyone!

Well, I can't believe this year has passed so quickly and soon I will be assuming a new roll. It was my to pleasure serve as your 1st Vice President and President-Elect.

I want to "thank" all of the presidents who came to our meeting on that snowy day in January and gave their Club's "most proudest moment" reports. You did a great job! I hope that some clubs might take some of the ideas that were shared that day and perhaps apply them in their club.

A reminder - tickets for the performance of "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Bushnell on Sunday April 15<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. are still available for the front balcony seats at \$26.00. Please call David Rodriguez at 860-987-6096 to place your order.

To all the club presidents who served during this past administration, I think that you are an outstanding and amazing group. I hope that I will be as blessed in my administration to have such wonderful talent leading our clubs. But of course, we are the GFWC of CT, and we do have great talent in our organization. We need to have these individuals step forward and use their wonderful capabilities to keep our organization moving forward. I know that they will!

Yours in Federation,  
Nancy

*Life is a gift - unwrap it!*

**Recording Secretary  
Pat Kearney**

It has truly been my pleasure to serve as recording secretary during this administration. It has afforded me the opportunity to get to know so many of you.

I have one final task left in this position and that is recording the events of our upcoming State Convention and then delivering all the minutes from the past two years to Maddy Marzullo to be placed in the state archives. We have a window of time that we must work in, so it is extremely important that every CSP and Committee Chairman provide me with a copy of the report they deliver at convention. This assures the accurate documentation of the information presented and a timely completion of the minutes.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**Corresponding Secretary  
Maddy Marzullo**

My position as GFWC/CT Corresponding Secretary has been an amazing ride. As we come to the end of this administration, I want to thank each and every one of you for your sisterhood. Working with you has been my pleasure. I have elder parents, a handicapped brother and a great husband to take care of - they are now my priorities.

I don't have all the precise words to thank JoAnn Calnen for this wonderful opportunity that she has given me. I know you all join me in saying JoAnn is one outstanding lady, and I am so thankful to have worked with her.

Thank you all, you have truly touched my heart.

"I get by with a little help from my friends."  
John Lennon

**Assistant Treasurer  
Georgeann Kishner**

I thoroughly enjoyed being your Assistant Treasurer this year. I wish to thank all the club presidents and treasurers for making my job so easy by providing timely responses to the GFWC/CT dues notices and my request for updated club rosters.

Don't forget to send in the information and dues for your new members. You don't have to wait until next September when you will receive your club roster and dues invoice.

I look forward to continuing to serve this wonderful organization.

**Women's History & Resource  
Jan Cressey, Chairman**

In the December/January 2012 issue of the WHRC Newsletter, our GFWC International President, Carlene Garner, reports that the Herschede clock in the Music Room on the second floor of GFWC Headquarters should be fully restored and back in place for the holiday party. The clock has stood in the Headquarters since the Connecticut Federation of Women's Clubs gifted it to GFWC in 1923, shortly after the building was purchased.

Carlene sends a "thank you" to the friends of the WHRC for the generous donations that made this much needed restoration possible.

As I checked the long list of our donations to WHRC over the years, I noticed in 1988 we gifted \$550.00 for repair of the grandfather clock.

**2012 Federation Calendar**

April 24..... Federation Day  
May 18-19 ..... 115<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT Annual Convention  
Crowne Plaza, Cromwell, CT  
Sept 14-16 ..... 103<sup>rd</sup> GFWC New England Region  
Portland, Maine



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

**OFFICIAL CALL TO 115th GFWC/CT  
STATE CONVENTION**

*JoAnn Calnen, President*



*"So Proud! We gave them something to talk about!!"*



**MAY 18 & 19, 2012**

**CROWNE PLAZA, CROMWELL – 100 Berlin Road, Cromwell, CT 06416**

**Preliminary Agenda**

**Thursday, May 17, 2012**

- 3:30PM GFWC/CT Executive Committee Meeting/State President's Suite
- 5:30PM Convention Committee Meeting/State President's Suite

**Friday, May 18, 2012**

- 8:00AM Registration and Coffee – Nutmeg Foyer (8-9:30AM)
- 8:30AM Fundraising and Exhibits open
- 9:30AM **CALL TO ORDER** of the 115<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT Annual Convention
  - Opening ceremonies, preliminary report and credentials
  - Presentation of Convention rules
  - Presentation of Convention program
  - Reports of GFWC/CT Officers
  - Community Service Program awards and reports
    - International Outreach Collaboration
    - International Outreach Partnership
    - Communications and Identity
    - Fundraising
- 11:30AM Recess – Social, Cash Bar
- 11:30AM Registration desk open (11:30-12 Noon)
- 12:00PM Lunch

**Friday, May 18, 2012 (continued)**

- 1:15PM Guest Speaker: Katherine Wiltshire,  
CT Women's Hall of Fame  
Report of the GFWC/CT Nominating Committee  
Election of 2012-2014 GFWC/CT Officers
- 2:30PM Community Service Program awards and reports  
Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention  
Conservation Collaboration  
Conservation Partnership  
WHRC  
Public Issues Collaboration  
Public Issues Partnership  
Veterans Hospitals
- 3:30PM Recess

**Friday Evening, May 18, 2012**

- 6:00PM Social Hour
- 6:45PM Processional Formation
- 7:00PM Banquet
  - Greetings from Past State Presidents
  - Installation off GFWC/CT 2012-2014 Officers by  
GFWC International President Carlene Garner
  - Recognition of 2012-2014 GFWC/CT District Directors  
and Assistant District Directors
  - Entertainment by Top Shelf Entertainment
- 10:00PM Reception for 2012-2014 Officers/State Presidents Suite



Saturday, May 19, 2012

8:00AM Registration and Coffee (8-9:00AM)  
 7:00AM Arts & Crafts Registration – Crown Room Foyer (7-9:00AM)  
 9:00AM Business Meeting Reconvenes  
 Memorial Service  
 Interim Credentials  
 Report of the Bylaws Committee  
 Community Service Program awards and reports  
 Education Collaboration  
 Education Partnership  
 ESO  
 Memorial Scholarships  
 Laurel Girls State  
 Home Life Collaboration  
 Home Life Partnership  
 Final report of the State Project: CT Foodbank/Foodshare  
 Report of the Resolution Committee  
 Membership  
 11:30AM Recess- Social, Cash Bar  
 12:00PM Lunch

1:15PM Guest Speaker: Carlene Garner,  
 GFWC International President  
 State Project Proposals  
 Election of GFWC/CT 2012-2014 State Project  
 Arthritis Links – Sue Nesci, Vice President, Public  
 Policy Advocacy & Arthritis Foundation  
 Community Service Program awards and reports  
 Arts Collaboration  
 Arts Partnership  
 Senior High School Arts Festival  
 Recognition of short story, poetry  
 and photo contest  
 Advocates for Children  
 Leadership  
 Community Improvement Contest  
 Arts & Crafts – Best in Show  
 3:00PM Raffles and Door Prizes  
 Adjournment of 115<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT Annual Convention

All chairmen are reminded to bring a written copy of their report to submit to the GFWC/CT Recording Secretary

Voting Delegates: GFWC/CT Bylaws currently state delegates for the convention are based on dues paid as of April 15 – refer to Article IV, Section E of the Bylaws.

Memorial Service: Club presidents are asked to submit the names of members that have passed away since May 2011 to June Zeiner, 57 Dorothy Drive, Torrington, CT 06790 – 860 489-7258 – [jzeiner@att.net](mailto:jzeiner@att.net) . Please forward the names of members, the name of the club, club president name and contact information to June by May 16, 2012.

Arthritis Links: Clubs are asked to bring their Arthritis Links to the registration desk. The Links must be looped and connected before dropping them off.

Door Prizes: Board members and clubs are requested to bring a Door Prize with club or individual name attached. Additional door prizes will be appreciated from clubs with a large number of attendees.

### Proposed GFWC/CT Bylaw Amendments

#### Article IV; Section D, 1a

Current: Fall Conference voting delegate will be based on dues paid as of October 15. GFWC/CT Convention delegates will be based on dues paid as of April 15.

Proposed amendment: strike the current language for 1a and insert: 1a. The number of voting delegates for GFWC/CT Fall Conference and the Annual Convention will be based on dues paid to GFWC/CT 10 business days prior to the meeting. If a club's dues have not been paid by said deadlines, voting members for the club are limited to one club president, and past state presidents and executive board members, if any.

Rationale: To clarify, to give latitude to clubs for payment of dues, and allow flexibility in scheduling meeting.

#### Article XI Parliamentary Authority

Current: The Parliamentary authority of the State Federation shall be *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised 10<sup>th</sup> edition*, except where they conflict with the Bylaws.

Proposed amendment: Strike the words "newly revised, 10<sup>th</sup> edition" and insert "the latest published edition"

To read: The Parliamentary authority of the State Federation shall be *Robert's Rules of Order, the latest published edition*, except where they conflict with the Bylaws.

*Rooms are available* at the Crowne Plaza, Cromwell at a GFWC/CT rate of \$104/night plus appropriate fees and taxes for single/double occupancy if booked by May 3, 2012 – group rate not in effect after that. Call 860-635-2000 and ask for House Reservations and mention GFWC/CT for the group rate.

Directions to Crowne Plaza, Cromwell ~ 860-635-2000  
Take I-91 N or S to EXIT 21. Turn Left off the Exit. Hotel is on the Left.



## State Project ~ Connecticut Food Bank / Foodshare

For the May State Convention, as part of the State Project, we will build a Tree of Bounty. At the base, we will build a strong trunk and roots made of canned food, and from the branches we will hang gift cards purchased from area grocery stores. Please bring with you to the convention some canned food and at least one gift card from a major supermarket in your area. All donations will go to the CT Food Bank and Foodshare.

### GFWC/CT Proposed Slate of Officers for 2012 - 2014

**President – Nancy Kalyan, member of GFWC Woman’s Club of Enfield**

According to GFWC/CT bylaws, Article V, Section C, 2a the President-elect assumes the duties of President at the close of the next annual state convention

**First Vice President – Joan Duffy, member GFWC Woman’s Club of North Haven**

GFWC/CT positions held: Convention Assistant 2005 - 2006 \* Second Vice President Ridgefield Woman’s Club 2005 – 2007 \* Resolutions Committee Member 2006 – 2008 \* Legislative Day Assistant 2007 – 2008 \* NER Assistant to GFWC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 2008 \* First Vice President Ridgefield Woman’s Club 2007 – 2009 \* Resolutions Committee Chairman 2008 – 2010 \* Leads Candidate 2009 \* Corresponding Secretary 2008 – 2010 \* 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Dean of CSP and Reporting 2010 – 2012 \* GFWC Women’s Club of North Haven Parliamentary 2011 – 2012.

**Second Vice President – Helen Barakauskas, member GFWC Farmington Valley Woman’s Club**

GFWC/CT positions held: Resolutions Committee Chairman 2010 – present \* Nominating Committee Chairman 2011 - 2012 \* Resolutions Committee Member 2009 \* Farmington Valley Woman’s Club ~ positions held: President 2010 – present - 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 2008 – 2010 - Treasurer 2004 – 2008 - Ways & Means Co-Chairman 2008 – present - Programs Chairman 2008 – 2010 \* Community Leadership positions held: President, O’Meara Farm Association 2005 – 2006.

**Third Vice President – Sheila Vetter, member GFWC Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield**

GFWC/CT positions held: Nominating Committee Member 2011 -2012 \* District 1 Director 2008 – 2010 \* Resolutions Committee Member 2008 – 2010 \* Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield positions held: President 2006 – 2008 - Board Member 1991 – present - Newsletter Chairman 1991 – present \* Community Leadership positions held: Coordinator for Rotary Club of Danbury’s AMBER Alert Kids ID Program 2004 – present - Garden Club of Brookfield, President, Vice President and Secretary 1982 – 1988 - Republican Woman’s Club of Bethlehem, President 1966 – 1967 - Bethlehem PTO Vice President 1966 – 1967.

**Recording Secretary – Joyce Almstedt, member GFWC Torrington Woman’s Club**

Torrington Woman’s Club positions held: President 2009 – present \* Home Life Chairman 2008 – 2009

**Corresponding Secretary – Debbie Fiore, member GFWC Woman’s Club of Enfield**

GFWC/CT positions held: Public Relations Committee Member 2011 - present \* Woman’s Club of Enfield positions held: President 2010 – present – Vice President 2008 - 2010 - Co-Vice President 2007 – 2008 - Membership and Greeting Chairman 2007 – 2010 - Co-Chairman of the Evening Committee 2008 – 2010 - Co-Vice Chairman of the Evening Committee 2004 – 2007 \* Community Leadership positions held: Enfield Library Board of Trustees Chairman 2000 – present - Enfield Democratic Committee Secretary 2001 – present - 25 Year Planning Committee for the Network Against Domestic Abuse – Planning Committee for “Purple Event” for the Network Against Domestic Abuse - Treasurer for Candidate for various state wide elections.

**Treasurer – Georgeann Kishner, member GFWC Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield**

GFWC/CT positions held: Assistant Treasurer 2011 – present \* Alternate Member Nominating Committee 2010 \* Woman’s Club of Danbury/New Fairfield positions held: President 2008 – 2010 - Awards Chairman 2010 – 2011 - Computer Club Chairman 2009 – present - Website Chairman 2005 – present - 2<sup>nd</sup> Treasurer 2006 – 2008 - Yearbook Editor 2006 – 2008 - Poinsettia Fundraiser Chairman 2006 – 2008 - Public Relations Chairman 2005 – 2008.

**Assistant Treasurer – Pat Kearney, member GFWC Ridgefield Woman’s Club**

GFWC/CT positions held: Recording Secretary 2010 – 2012 \* District 1 Director 2002 -2004 \* Assistant District 1 Director 2000 – 2002 \* Memorial Scholarship Chairman 2004 – 2010 \* Ridgefield Woman’s Club positions held: President 1997 – 2000 - Finance Committee Chairman 2000 – 2003 and 2005 – 2009 - Advisor to President 2000 – 2003 and 2005 – 2009 - Community Improvement Chairman 2000 – 2002 - Treasurer 1992 – 1994 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Membership Chairman 1990 – 1992 \* Community Leadership positions held: Co-Treasurer, Finance Committee Member and Board Member Ridgefield Historical Society – present.



## REGISTRATION AND MEAL FORM 115<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT STATE CONVENTION

May 18 & 19, 2012

**\*\* REGISTRATION DEADLINE Tuesday, May 1, 2012 ONE FORM PER PERSON – Photocopies accepted \*\***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB \_\_\_\_\_ Guest \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_

GFWC/CT Board Position \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a 2011-2012 Club President ( ) Yes ( ) No

REGISTRATION: \$5 for part of / or One Day \$10 for Two Days of Conference \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### MEAL CHOICES:

**Friday Lunch (plated) – May 18<sup>th</sup> 12 Noon \$23.50 Please mark your selection \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad - creamy Caesar dressing, roll & butter \_\_\_\_\_
  - French Connection – rare roast beef, Brie cheese, caramelized onions, sourdough baguette served with pasta salad \_\_\_\_\_
  - Hummus Wrap w/fresh veggies on honey wheat tortilla, served with pasta salad \_\_\_\_\_
- Dessert: Strawberry layer cake served with Coffee and Tea*

**Friday Night Banquet – May 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00PM \$ 37.00 Please mark your selection \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- Stuffed Chicken – breast stuffed with brie and sun-dried berries, roasted potatoes \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grilled Salmon – fillet in lemon caper glaze, couscous \_\_\_\_\_
  - Beef Perfection – grilled iron steak, garlic mashed potatoes \_\_\_\_\_
- All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, assorted rolls & butter  
*Dessert: Tuxedo Truffle Mousse Cake served with Coffee and Tea*

**Saturday Lunch (plated) – May 19<sup>th</sup> 12:30PM \$28.00 Please mark your selection \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

- Fresh Seasonal Fruit Cup \_\_\_\_\_
- Italian Herb Chicken served w/Sherry Tomato Cream Sauce & roasted red potatoes \_\_\_\_\_
  - Tilapia w/fresh mango chutney, rice pilaf \_\_\_\_\_
  - Grilled Hanger Steak in Pinot Noir reduction, whipped potatoes & gorgonzola butter \_\_\_\_\_
- All include Chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, assorted rolls & butter  
*Dessert: Deep Dish Carmel Apple Pie served with Coffee and Tea*

Please note Vegetarian or any dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

It would be appreciated if Clubs send all reservations at one time  
Make check out for TOTAL payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:  
Kathy Tobin, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, PO Box 548, Northford, CT 06472

DISPLAY TABLE RESERVATION FORM  
(Photocopies accepted)  
Full Table \$15.00 - Half Table \$7.50

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

Please have tables ready by 8:30AM  
Make checks payable to GFWC/CT and mail with this form to:  
Kathy Tobin, GFWC/CT Convention Chairman, PO Box 548, Northford, CT 06472

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

## CLUB NEWS

### Hamden Woman's Club, Inc. GFWC



The Hamden Woman's Club, as it has done for many, many years, brought their Christmas/Holiday Concert to local senior nursing homes and day centers. This is an event enjoyed as much by the members as the audience and their families.

Last year, Jean Winch, who has chaired this event all these years, passed away and we thought the group would also be lost. However, one of our members, Gloria Corso, with our pianist, Marily Hauck, stepped in to see that we will continue. Because this is such a wonderful event, we are now looking into the possibility of adding a Spring Concert to the agenda. This is something that members of all ages and interests can enjoy.

### WARM COAT DRIVE

The Hamden Woman's Club conducted a Warm Coat Drive during the months of October and November. Club members, Jeanette Murdock and Shirley Vanacore, took responsibility for this job and worked hard. Thanks also to Yale New Haven Hospital, the Barn Sale and Rainbow Cleaners and fellow club members, Florence Krukowski, Florence Lewis and Florence Bergamini for their contributions and support. Master's Mama of Wallingford and Domestic Violence Services of Greater New Haven received over 440 items of coats and warm clothing. In addition, VNA of Wallingford received 17 new hand knit infant hats and/or children's hats and mittens plus three larger sets for teens. The Warm Coat Drive was a huge success.



### The Newtown Woman's Club

#### "Clear The Clutter - A Tailgate Tag Sale"

On **Saturday, May 5, 2012**, **Newtown Middle School** on Queen Street will be the site for this event presented by the Newtown Woman's Club, GFWC Inc.

This tag sale has been improved and expanded to make use of the entire school property. Publicity will include "paid classified ads" in area newspapers along with cable announcements, flyers and new "day of" signage.

With early bird reservations by April 7, 2012, \$30.00 will reserve one parking space. Participants will be responsible for bringing and setting up a table, behind their parked vehicle. They will also be responsible for taking all unsold items back at the end of the day - nothing can be left on the school premises.

Start clearing out your closets, attics and garages and get ready for this town event. All proceeds will allow the Newtown Woman's Club GFWC, Inc. to continue to support scholarships, police and fire, food pantries and other service agencies that give assistance to town residents.

Send your check payable to the Newtown Woman's Club GFWC, Inc. to P.O. Box 101, Newtown, CT 06470 to reserve your spot. Please be sure to include your telephone number, make of vehicle and license plate number. Your cancelled check will be your confirmation. Event is a "first come" "first serve" basis. Call 203-426-1035 or 203-445-1599 for more info.

### North Branford Women's Club

The North Branford Women's Club recently celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. In attendance were many state and local dignitaries who presented the club with several awards and certificates.



Pictured are past and present officers of the club standing l to r: Marilyn Jane-way; Barbara LaFrance; Mary Griffin; Maggie Delaney, president; Maureen Grenier; Roberta Ahlberg; Jeanne Bright Panczak; Joan Pirtel; Carol Bellucci, vice president; seated l to r: Rita McGuire; Tina Rava; June Strawson

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## 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 Kishner  
107 Logging Trail Road  
Danbury, CT 06811  
Phone: 203 748-5445  
E-mail: [gkishner@comcast.net](mailto:gkishner@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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