

# JUNIORS IN ACTION

## GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

MEMBER OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS



### May Meeting Highlights

Mad Hatter Tea Prep  
Scholarship Awards  
Guest Heidi Chiavaroli

### Dates to Remember

May 6

April Business Meeting  
Silver Platter, 7 p.m.

*Hospitality: Cheryl Carlos, Nancy Martin and Rosalie Conti-Stebenne*

May 19

Mad Hatter Tea Party  
St. Nicholas of Myra  
1p.m. – 3p.m.

*Prep Sessions:  
May 16 & May 18*

May 29

Brack's Fundraiser  
2097 Bay Street

June 10

Summer Social  
Details coming soon!



## 2024 GFWC Annual Convention

In May, nine clubwomen attended the 2024 GFWC Massachusetts Annual Conference, a 2 day event full of laughs, celebration, great ideas and friendship. We enjoyed time with clubwoman from across the state and were inspired by their creative ideas and initiatives. **Robin Gendron won the Sheila Shea Junior Club President Award, and Ericka Gendron won the Ricky Gomes scholarship!** We were also pleased to learn that our club earned project awards, a Raffle Basket Award, the Youth Poetry Contest, and once again, the "Big Bowl". We have a lot to celebrate.



*Robin Gendron was awarded the Sheila E. Shea Junior Club President Award*

**Lord of the Deep**

Poem by Graham Baker, age 12  
(Emily Weiland's son)

The diver dove down down down  
beneath the waves  
Through the inky black darkness  
Not a single shadow was cast  
The slimy squid slurped and squeezed  
through the rocks  
The diver readied his camera  
And clicked on the light  
A beam of light so bright it banished  
every creature it saw  
This diver was after the pink purplish  
peaceful Lord of the Deep  
An empty clam shell  
His quarry was near  
He switched off his camera light, and  
put his goggles on night sight  
Five minutes later, he saw something  
pink, squirming  
between two rocks  
His camera above it  
But there was nothing but a large,  
barnacled, oddly shaped rock  
He readied his harpoon  
And kicked the rock  
holding the pink thing aside  
It was just a weird eel.  
"Well," he thought, "At least I got a  
picture of that squirmy, slimy squid."  
He turned around to head back  
Harpoon in one hand  
The weird rock was gone  
Little did he know that this whole time,  
his quarry had been flitting and flinching  
Just out of his sight.  
As he headed up, he saw something  
that made his heart stop.  
A giant black cloud, larger than a horse,  
oozed through the shadow.  
Camera at the ready, he aimed, clicked  
on the spot, and pulled the trigger.  
A pink, purple, passive-looking,  
barnacle-headed  
Probably 500 pound  
Giant pacific octopus  
His mission done  
He returned to the surface

**Community Service Program & Advancement Plan Awards**

Best Overall: Environment  
*"Impacting Local Legislation"*  
for **Nancy Clark and friends'** efforts in Clean Air Taunton

Best Overall: Leadership  
*"Leadership Awards with Donations to Charity"*  
for **Nancy Martin's** monthly Leadership Award initiative

Best Overall: Environment  
*"Collecting Reusable Items for a Local STEM Teacher"*  
for our collections for **Denise Wheeler's** classroom

Special Recognition: Health and Wellness  
*"Benefits of a Nurse Member"*  
for **Ana Kearnan's** monthly Health & Wellness updates

Special Recognition: Advocates for Children  
*"Bringing the Christmas Spirit to Children"*  
for the Holiday Pancake Breakfast



**Erica Gendron** was awarded the Rickey Gomes Scholarship  
**Jennifer Rego** won 4 baskets in the raffle, and **Cindy Brogan** won our club's basket.



**Cindy Brogan** received a Quilt of Valor from the Freedom Quilters of Milbury MA.

## April Meeting Highlights!



**Jennifer Rego** won the Kindness Rocks Kitty! \$57 was donated to Forever Paws Animal Shelter.

**Joyce Clark** won our April Leadership Award for all that she does as Membership Chair.

**Cindy Brogan** showed off her Community Champion Award from Taunton Diversity Network, saying it reflects the work we all do as a club.

**Judy Floor** graciously stepped up to be our new Corresponding Secretary!

**Mary Barrett** began her *Stars for our Troops* initiative, which will be ongoing.

**Nancy Brown** collected diapers and baby/toddler clothing for Birthright.

**Fran Perry** spoke about the many benefits of Emu Oil.

Clubwomen also voted to continue our sponsorship of Taunton East Little League.



## GREATER TAUNTON WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Learn all about the **seven** amazing, accomplished local students who will win the **GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club Scholarship Awards** during the award presentation at our May Business Meeting! Education chair Nancy Martin will present the awards.

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## Mad Hatter Tea Party is May 19!



Excitement is growing for our fast-approaching Mad Hatter Tea on May 19, at the St. Nicholas of Myra Parish Center in North Dighton! We had our first work session on Thursday, April 18. Seven members of our club helped to prepare materials needed for the tea bags (yes, pun intended) and we assembled table decorations. We have another work session scheduled for Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 at the Parish Center. The night before the tea, we have club members coming to set up the tables, decorate the hall, and start preparing the food for the next day. If you were not at our April meeting to sign up for these work sessions, it's not too late. We will welcome any help we can get. Just let Linda, Mary, or Diane know that you would like to join us. Hopefully you are planning on attending the tea and bringing a friend or two along with you! - by *Diane Huling*



Don't forget about our second Brack fundraiser on Wednesday, May 29. Forget about "What should I make for dinner today?" and join us any time from 11:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Brack's Grille & Tap on 2097 Bay Street, in Taunton. Our club receives 20% of our total meal and drink purchases. We will also have a basket to raffle.

We earned \$228.93 at our first event there. We also held a basket raffle and was able to send St. Jude Hospital \$750.00 from the tickets purchased by patrons who ate at Brack's that day!! You deserve a relaxing and delicious meal away from home with friends and family. Why not make that day be May 29 at Bracks! - *by Diane Huling*

## May Meeting Club Speaker: Heidi Chiavaroli



The GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club's May Meeting speaker will be Heidi Chiavaroli. Heidi wrote her first story in third grade, titled I'd Cross the Desert for Milk. It wasn't until years later that she revisited writing, using her two small boys' nap times to pursue what she thought at the time was a foolish dream. Despite a long road to publication, she hasn't stopped writing since! Heidi writes women's fiction, combining her love of history and literature to write both split time stories and contemporary fiction. Her debut novel, Freedom's Ring, was a Carol Award winner and a Christy Award finalist, a Romantic Times Top Pick and a Booklist Top Ten Romance Debut. Her second Carol Award-winning novel, The Orchard House, is inspired by the lesser-known events in Louisa May Alcott's life and led her to write The Orchard House Bed and Breakfast series, a contemporary twist on Little Women. Heidi makes her home in Massachusetts with her husband, two sons, and Wyatt, her standard poodle. Visit her online at [heidichiavaroli.com](http://heidichiavaroli.com).

- *by Nancy Clark*

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Advocates for Children - Robin Gendron

### Arts - Edie Edlund

**Civic Engagement and Outreach - Cindy Brogan** Taunton East Little League is looking for help selling concessions on Saturdays 9a-12pm or Tuesdays 530-7p.m. The season runs from 4/27 - 6/15. Get in touch with Cindy if you would like to volunteer.

**Communication and Public Relations - Nancy Clark** Send any news articles or flyers about the club that you would like to share to Nancy.

### Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness - Linda Brosseau

**Fundraising and Development - Diane Huling** - For the *Mad Hatter Tea Party*, please bring any raffle baskets or raffle items to our May Meeting, plus your ticket sales!

Brack's Grille & Tap is hosting a fundraiser to benefit our club on May 29. From 11 a.m. – 10:30 p.m., bringing the coupon from Brack's Facebook page, and 20% of your purchase (dine-in, take-out or gift certificates) will be donated to our club. We will also have a basket to raffle to benefit our club scholarships! Address: 2097 Bay Street

**Education and Libraries - Nancy Martin:** Scholarships will be awarded at our May Meeting!

**Environment - Denise Wheeler** Please bring these items to the March meeting to be re-used / re-purposed:

Newspapers, egg cartons, clear bottle caps, cereal boxes, shoe boxes, and hangers (black or clear plastic).

### Health and Wellness – Fran Perry Salts Are Not All Equal!

Salt, also known as Sodium Chloride, does not only season our food, but salt is also essential to our health and well being. These two minerals, Sodium and Chloride, together with Calcium, Zinc, Iron, Iodine, Magnesium and many more, keep our body fluids in balance, send electrical impulses and contract and relax our muscles.

Come to our May meeting to learn all about the different types of salt and some salt fun facts!

Be Well My Friends!

### Leadership – Nancy Martin

**Legislation and Public Policy – Emily Weiland** New alert! Zero national monuments are dedicated to the Women's Suffrage movement. Congress has approved building such a monument; now, they must act to locate the monument celebrating the 19th Amendment on the National Mall. It will be a physical reminder of the steadfast courage and dedication of the suffragists to achieve the right to vote for all Americans.

In 2020, Congress approved the establishment of a Women's Suffrage National Monument but must take action now to guarantee its location on the National Mall. The House of Representatives passed the Women's Suffrage National Monument Location Act (HR 1318) in November 2023. It is time for the Senate to enact this measure.

[Click here to send a message to our state senators:](#)

Please let Emily know if you participate.

**Membership - Joyce Clark** Let's celebrate our members who have May birthdays: Judy Riley and Cindy Brogan!

**Women's History and Resource Center - Nancy Brown** - This month's focus is on Julia Ward Howe, who was a northern political activist in 1861. She is the author of the 'Battle Hymn of the Republic', and was born on May 27, 1819.