



Juniors in Action



GFWC of Taunton and Raynham Juniors
A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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www.GFWCTauntonRaynhamJuniors.org

May 2020

Our Board Members

A past President – Nancy Brown, Joyce Clark - Recording Secretary,
Judy Ackerman - Corresponding Secretary, Nancy Clark – Treasurer,
Nancy Martin - Auditor, Edith Edlund – Director

Membership Chairman Joyce Clark has been attempting to call our membership checking up on their health and to let them know they are being thought about. Thank-you Joyce for taking the time to reach out to our membership. The **Executive Board** held a zoom meeting on Monday April 27th and decided to have our Business Meeting with zoom on Monday May 4th at 7:00pm. Hope you will zoom in! We have **rescheduled** the **Suffragettes Tea** to Sunday October 11th, same location. The **Fashion Show** is canceled. The committee will try to reschedule for November, but “The Little Black Dress” may be ending their business and we may need to find a new clothes company. **For many months** the Turning Point Association has been planning a momentous, day-long celebration on August 26, 2020 in Virginia, to formally dedicate the memorial and mark the 100th anniversary of the **19th Amendment**. Due to far-reaching effects of the pandemic, the event has been indefinitely postponed. The memorial is under construction. A major portion will be completed by August 2020 using funds on hand. Donations are still needed and naming opportunities for significant, memorial components are still available. Donations can be made electronically via the website or by check made payable to TPSMA or mailed to Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. Members who wish to make a personal contribution to the dedication can

do so by June 30th. The General Federation of Women's Clubs has been dynamic in its support of this landmark. Remember our Taunton Club has already contributed by purchasing a \$1000 brick. The Executive Board voted **not to send** the money budgeted for the Boys Club and Girls Club this year, since the money usually pays for programs they offer and they are both presently closed. We thought some of the money could be used to purchase something for first responders in the community. This will be voted on at the zoom Business meeting on Monday May 4th. As for future **meetings** the August 31, 2020 Executive Board Meeting may be canceled, or be replaced with a zoom meeting and the September 14 Business Meeting is yet to be determined; we will see what the future brings.

What have club members been up to?

I emailed a questionnaire to our membership and only half dozen or so members responded. Those that responded were either retired or working from home. Some are homeschooling their children or grandchildren with online learning supplemented with life skills, enrichment, as well as, teaching sewing and crocheting.. Local restaurants our members have been supporting through take out orders and recommend supporting are: Weir House of Pizza, Mediterranean Kitchen and Pizzeria, LaFamilia, Mark's Bay Street Take Out: Food Truck, Wendy's, D'Angelo's in Taunton, Tomato Basil in East

Taunton, King Philip Grill in Rehoboth, C&N Pizza, Alice's and 1712 in Dighton, Pot au Feu in Providence, Thai Taste in Swansea, and Chipotle and 99 in Raynham, Young's Catering in Seekonk, Richardi's in South Braintree; Barrowsville Station in Norton. Members over the last month have supported the following with monetary or in kind donations: the Dominican Sisters of the Presentation in Honduras in Dighton and several continue to support their local parishes weekly. Some members are sending "Thinking of You" or "Get Well Cards". Many members are facetimeing, skypeing and zooming with family, friends, church or activity groups. Several members mentioning attending Mass on TV and going to Adoration at one of the churches set up for social distancing. Several members have been making masks giving them to family members and friends; while others who do not sew are donating material and elastic, supplies to others who are making masks. One member has been donating to Star Kids in New Bedford, which is a program that supports high-risk kids in the foster system. Members have been using their extra free time to learn to play piano, make 1000 piece puzzles, knitting and crocheting, for the March of Dimes a few members made baby hats and blankets. Using recycled scrap yarn fifty unique one of a kind baby hats and blankets were made for the cause. One member has made well over 100 masks using quilting material, hair wraps, and elastic from unusual sources. The lesson is reuse, create and make productive use of one's time. Members are looking for things that are great stress reliefs and beneficial to others. Members continue to work on church and Democratic Party committees, and making contributions to Wild Hearts Horses for Heroes Therapeutic Equestrian Program to help with vet fees, and Mark that runs the Homeless Program contributions for a new bed (for Cindy Brogans



birthday request), also the World Wildlife League, Audubon Society, and Lorenzo's Wednesday contribution to first responders fund raiser by purchasing dinners for first responders. Other members have shown support with signs to doctors, nurses, police/fire departments and EMT's on their front lawns.

Who's Who (WHRC):

This month Nancy Brown is highlighting Dr. Deborah Bix, since she is so prominently in the news concerning the COVID 19, and as a woman, her rise in the medical field should inspire all women, but she decided to stay closer to home. Most of us are familiar with Taunton's first female to make a difference, Elizabeth Pole. However, since Elizabeth purchased land and founded this city in 1639, we have had 49 mayors governing the people here in Taunton. All men! At our March meeting we welcomed Shauna O'Connell, the 50th, and first, female elected to that office. Nothing was ever handed to Shauna, and at a young age her parents divorced and her family ended up on housing assistance to make ends meet. Later she left high school and then worked two jobs to earn enough money to put her through college. After graduation she became self-employed and freelanced as a court recorder. Fast forward; Shaunna ran for Massachusetts House of Representatives and beat the 18 year incumbent. Since then she has distinguished herself as a hardworking and determined leader and fiscal watchdog for the people she represents. She has been the leader in fighting welfare reform, became an advocate for veterans; passing legislation helping to honor their memory, and has established S.A.F.E Kids Fun Day Program to teach parents and children about public safety. She also mentors at risk high school girls. As a lifelong resident of Taunton she has put in long hours to help the district. Her accomplishments are long. Her public service includes Small Business



Caucus Chairwoman, Taunton Area Vietnam Veterans Association- Associate Member, TACC,



Taunton Area School to Career Mentor Program to name a few and has received several awards and recognitions. QRCC Woman of the Year, West Church Women of the Year, Exceptional Legislator- the

Boston Broadside, Readers' Choice Favorite Politician- Taunton Daily Gazette two years in a row. These are only a few accolades bestowed upon this determined, compassionate, God fearing woman who is a model for all women. In this difficult time of pandemic Shaunna has shown true leadership in calming the people she serves, and thanking those who heroically put themselves in harm's way doing the job they were trained to do. I believe ladies that we will all get through this COVID 19 by staying positive and full of hope. Hats off to Shaunna O'Connell our Woman of the Month!

The GFWC Massachusetts Photography contests have NOT been cancelled. Before the quarantine went into effect, Lynne had all the photographs judged by five independent judges: Some of our members are winners!

Nancy Brown - World in Pictures - Living Things - Color 1st Place – “Cinderella’s Pony – Nancy Brown
2nd Place – “Ok Who Is Next?” – Denise Wheeler -
3rd Place – “Spring Is Blooming” – “Take My Breath Away” – Denise Wheeler - 2nd Place – “God’s Reflection” – Denise Wheeler - 3rd Place – “Snowy White & Blue” - Nancy Brown - 3rd Place – “You Better Watch Out” - Denise Wheeler - GFWC Volunteers in Action 1st Place – “This is How You Do It” - Nancy Brown - 2nd Place

Click here to view winning photos!

<https://www.gfwcma.org/2020-annual-meeting.html>

From Massachusetts State President Lynne Stayder :

For a time when all around us is most unusual, your state federation has been rather busy moving forward the business that will take our clubs and clubwomen

into the next chapter. Contests have been judged, scholarship recipients chosen, elections planned and executed, and bylaws were passed to define updated procedures. Unusual methods have been used- Facetime interviews, email voting, but the mission has stayed the same. Meanwhile our clubwomen turned from meetings to masks, helping to arm family, friends and medical workers on the front line of today’s healthcare crisis. It’s what our members’ do- we see a need and respond. We are just days away from turning the page to begin the 2020-2022 administration- on May 3rd. I have been truly humbled by the efforts of our clubwomen across the state supporting the passions and initiatives of this president during the past three years. MassSTAR, Turning Point Suffragist Memorial and the Centennial, club grants in response to domestic abuse, and the way you mobilized in support of More Than Words- over 35,000 books! My heartfelt thanks!



The board of GFWC Massachusetts Juniors met on Zoom and decided all the awards will be announced on the Junior Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/GFWCofMassachusettsJuniorMembership/>, starting on Monday May 4th. They will be announcing different awards each day next week but didn't tell us which days we would see specific awards. So, starting on Monday, May 4th, check out the Junior Facebook page and we will talk about which awards we may or may not have received on Monday at our meeting on Zoom that night at 7:00pm.

The results of The GFWC Massachusetts Junior membership voting:

Katie Robey as Director of Junior Clubs, Assistant Director, Marisa Jablanski, Recording Secretary, Beth McKeon, Corresponding Secretary, Kathleen Goneau Nominating Committee Member, Bridget Breyfogle and Nominating Committee Member, Joyce Clark.

JEN NOWAK, Director of Junior Clubs, states that our Junior Membership has many strong and dedicated clubwomen who are constantly reaching out in their communities to make a difference. In this past year club members across the state volunteered 48,652 hours to complete 1,036 projects which touched the lives of young children, senior citizens, veterans, first responders, students,



and many more. One club decided to adopt a soldier from their hometown and send monthly care packages while the soldier was deployed, many times sending extras for them to share with their troop. Another celebrated their milestone club anniversary by using the years of services to do that many good deeds or donations all year long. Yet another club knew getting members to come to meetings was challenging, so they adapted to include a hands-on project every time they met, something they knew their club members enjoyed doing.

Prison Book Program has had to shut down operations. They have some key volunteers who are opening the mail, sending out Legal Primers, and sending a handful of special request books from their wish lists, but the backlog is building. We hope to begin helping again when this epidemic is over.

Giving Tuesday Now! On May 5th **Free the Girls** is participating in Giving Tuesday Now, a global day of gathering together and participating in generosity. Their women are currently unable to sell bras because of quarantines. Donating a bra and a buck (or more!) to them, or get involved in anti-trafficking work in your local communities, the site is: info@freethegirls.org

Clubwomen throughout the Federation are celebrating April 24, 2020, the 130th anniversary of GFWC's founding. After being rejected by their male literary peers, women writers of New York



City joined forces to create their own club called Sorosis — where men weren't allowed. The 19th-century America, women were expected to be mothers and

homemakers — nothing more. Those who pursued professional careers often faced relentless challenges in their field, stemming from deeply ingrained gender discrimination. But after the women's suffrage movement began in earnest in

1848, women began staking their ground. Many of them created women-only clubs, gathering where professional and non-professional women alike could network, socialize, and educate themselves. The first among them was Sorosis.

Committees:

Advocates for Children —Robin Broberg — Hundreds of thousands of vulnerable U.S. children could face a heightened risk of abuse and neglect as coronavirus-related school closures keep them at home and away from the nation's biggest group of hotline tipsters: educators. Teachers, administrators, school counselors and other educational professionals report one in every five child-mistreatment claims in the nation, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Other major sources include law enforcement and social workers. Those reports could plummet, experts predict, as children's social circles contract to just family members, which collectively represent just 12% of hotline calls. Even kids in otherwise functional families could face peril as parents unaccustomed to providing round-the-clock care and stressed by the collapsing economy are pushed to the edge. Calls to the group's National Parent Helpline for families in crisis have spiked 30% in the past week, Pion-Berlin said. They're coming from mothers and fathers stressed about child care, food insecurity and other fears arising from the coronavirus crisis. The Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline also has seen a 10% surge this week in calls and texts. Rather than reporting abuse, however, some of the callers are anxious parents seeking help with child care and frightened children stuck at home with their abusers. Stress is a factor in coronavirus pandemic. Of children who are sexually abused, 90% know the perpetrator. Staying home could make those children more vulnerable. If you know of any child or family that fits this profile try to phone or video chat with them. But children who have not yet come to social workers' attention remain at higher risk. Take an active role in monitoring child safety in your community. Everyone needs to have a more watchful eye on children if you suspect anything is wrong.

ARTS — Kathy Sampson — Drawing and painting for children and adults is a nice activity during self-

distancing. Sending homemade cards to veterans is a great idea.

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLIC RELATIONS –Nancy Brown – Please save newspaper clippings. We were published in the Brockton Enterprise Wicked Local and Gazette along with the Rehoboth Reporter. Go online to the BUZZ Raynham for the full coverage. The group photo with the Mayor, our installations and March of Dimes Toss were included with the article. I hope you all got to see them.

CONSERVATION – Denise Wheeler – Collecting newspapers, puzzles, board games, empty ink cartridges, fabric, yarn, old cell phones, eye and reading glasses, small jewelry boxes, coffee cans, old batteries, embroidery floss, used eye glasses with cases, metal and plastic coat hangers, holiday cards, soda tabs and old bras.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: - Amanda Fata- no update at this time. Same as Advocates for Children applies to adults.

EDUCATION – Nancy Martin/Joyce Clark–Read to your children and grandchildren during this time using zoom or skype.



FUNDRAISING – Cindy Brogan –
CENTENNIAL SUFFRAGE TEA: The next item is the postponement of our Centennial Suffrage Tea to October 11th.

HOME LIFE – Nancy Brown- No Prime Time, so sad. BUT.....I'm doing a lot of SNAIL MAIL lately, and I'm finding that my own mailbox is full of cards and letters and less junk. I like the idea of taking time to sit and write a personal note to friends or family and find it very relaxing and more intimate than a text, even if it is slower. Surprise a friend or neighbor with a card saying that you're thinking of them. It will bring a smile to their face and lift their spirits. The mailbox can become something one looks forward to emptying knowing someone may have written to them personally, and not just another bill or solicitation. Reach out if you haven't already. It'll make you feel good and bring cheer. Reach out to elderly or those in nursing homes. These are very difficult and scary times. Everyone needs to be uplifted. Stay safe and well. (You may want to consider sending some postage stamps to the elderly so that they may reach out themselves to friends and loved ones but don't have access to get stamps for themselves.). You can continue to

save tissues, crackers and cookies, small hand sanitizers, 100-300 piece puzzles, novelty key chains, etc. to be used as Bingo prizes at Prime Time when we get back to normal.

Try to keep track of letters and cards that you send or receive. When we return to our meeting routine it will be interesting to know how many people were uplifted by you, or how many times you were uplifted receiving cheerful messages to renew your spirits.

HOSPITALITY –Cindy Brogan– None this month.

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH –Emily Wyland- I'd like to mention First Parish Church in Taunton is hosting a mask giveaway on Friday, May 8 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.. Masks will be free, limited to 2 per person. If anyone wishes to donate masks, I will happily pick up to deliver.

LEADERSHIP: - Paula Gasparoni and Joan Curran – No report at this time.

MEMBERSHIP —Joyce Clark – Joyce has been trying to keep in contact with members by phone during this time. Keep in touch!

NEWSLETTER – Nancy Martin – If you do something representing our club during any given month, please forward information about it along with pictures to MRMartin947@aol.com.

PRESIDENTS SPECIAL PROJECT: Edie Edlund- No update at this time.

PROGRAMS-Judy Ackerman– September is Sampson; October is on Child Abuse; November is Paul Clifford on Suffrage Movement

PUBLIC ISSUES –Cindy Brogan – TNo report at this time.

PUBLIC POLICY & LEGISLATION – Nancy Clark – No update at this time.

WEBMASTER – Nancy Clark – If you haven't gone on the site, use your free time to browse through our clubs' Facebook and Website.

WHRC – Nancy Brown- WHO's WHO? We may not be able to be together in body but we can still connect via email, text or phone. I hope that you all tried to match up members with their facts on the WHO's WHO quiz. As promised I will reward anyone who has matched at least half (there are 33 so let's say 16), and am counting on the honor system. Attached to this email you will find the Facts and answer sheets. Have fun getting to know us all and please try to fill in your answers before

you look them up. If you match at least half let me know. [Nancy still hasn't heard from anyone.](#)

YEARBOOK – Edith Edlund – Everyone should have received their yearbook. If not please contact Edith.

GFWC of Massachusetts has canceled several events:
MassSTAR Youth Leadership Conference May 29-31
Day at the Forest- HQ June 4, 2020
Celebration/ Awards June 6, 2020
GFWC Convention Atlanta- June 27-30

Happy Birthday to Members: 

Judy Riley

Cindy Brogan

Laure Founds

Kathleen Sampson

Nora Orfanello



Stays healthy wear your masks!

Happy

Spring 