

JUNIORS IN ACTION

GFWC Greater Taunton Woman’s Club
MEMBER OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN’S CLUBS



MIDWINTER CONFERENCE

Dates to Remember

February 5

Feb Business Meeting
Silver Platter, 7 p.m.

*Hospitality: Mary Barrett
& Nancy Clark*

February 25

Board Meeting
Joan’s House, 4 p.m.

March 4

March Business Meeting
Silver Platter, 7 p.m.

*Hospitality: Edie Edlund
& Grace Doel*

February Meeting News You Can Use

Wear **RED** in honor of Heart
Health Month

We will make blessing bags
for the needy, hear a talk
about health, nominate
members for state awards
and install a new member!



Eight members of the Greater Taunton Woman’s Club attended the Midwinter Conference in January 2023! This event, hosted by the GFWC General and Junior Clubs, is a fun annual tradition with speakers, networking opportunities, nominations for next year’s state boards and lots of updates.

Conference Highlights include:

- Speeches by New England Region President Libby Weirs and National Alliance on Mental Health Central MA President Robin Casey.
- A highly competitive soup contest! Two members of ours placed highly – **Diane Huling’s** Beef Tortellini Soup won 3rd place, and **Linda Brosseau’s** Corn Chowder won 2nd place, and everyone enjoyed all the delicious soups.
- Our club’s basket, with a Snowman theme, won the vote and took home the Winter Wonderland Certificate. As a bonus, Linda won the basket!
- Two of our Clubwomen joined the GFWC MA Juniors State Board! **Diane Huling** will chair Art & Culture and **Sarah Brink** will chair Advocates for Children.
- A mixer, music making, a Valentine’s Day craft, and lots of chances to chat with other amazing women who make GFWC a part of their lives

GREATER TAUNTON WOMAN'S CLUB NEWS

Community Champion

This February, Taunton Diversity Network will recognize **Cindy Brogan** as a **Community Champion**, in honor of her dedication and passion about bringing positive change to our community. Cindy will be recognized at the 2nd Annual Sneaker Ball on Saturday, February 17 at the Venus de Milo. Several clubwomen plan to attend this event; if you'd like to join, tickets are available until Sunday on Eventbrite, or get in touch with Cindy. This event "will pay homage to leaders in Black History and celebrate local leaders who are truly inspirational in our community. This gala is a charity event. Come dressed to impress in cocktail attire with your best pair of sneakers. You will be ready to dance the night away in comfort and style. Included in your ticket price: dinner, live entertainment, DJ, and a photo booth to capture all the fun and glamour!" Congratulations Cindy!



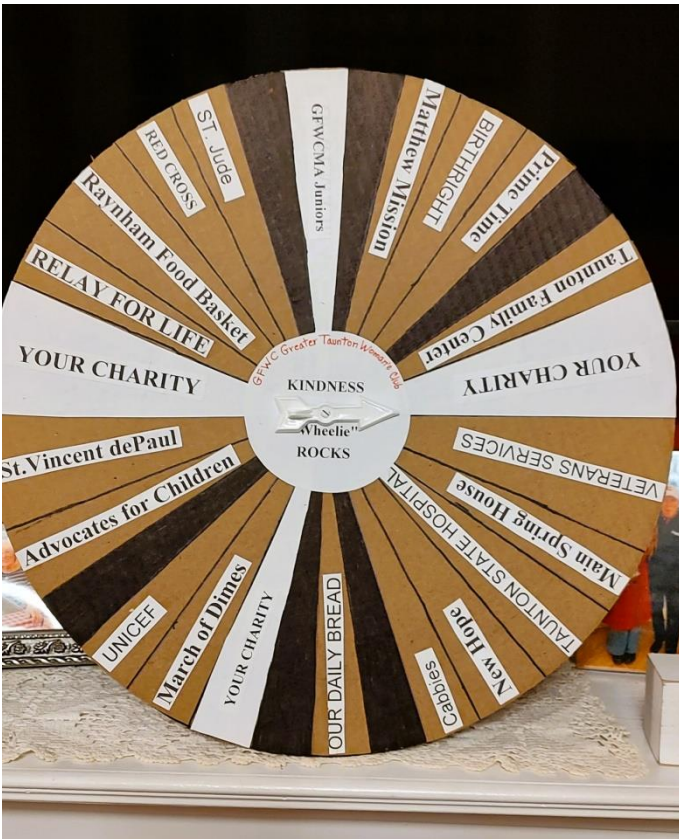
Kindness Rocks Kitty

From **Nancy Brown**:

We are retiring our **Rent Relief** fund for something NEW: the **Kindness Rocks Kitty!**

At each month's meeting, members may contribute to the *Kindness Rocks Kitty* to be entered in the drawing to take place that night. The lucky winner will get to the opportunity to **Spin the wheel of kindness**. This wheel will contain a number of charities. Whichever charity the spinner lands on will receive a donation in the amount collected on behalf of the winner! The name of the picked Charity will then be removed from the wheel and a new charity will be added.

Let's have some fun while being kind to others. There is a minimum \$1 to join in, but no maximum. Get ready for February when our hearts should be filled with kindness, love, and generosity!





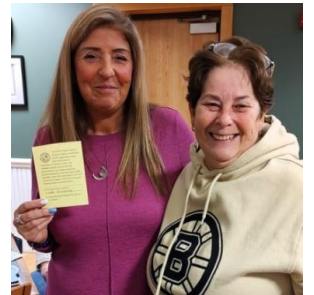
Joyce Clark made 15 baby hats! She donated them in the name of the club to Sturdy Hospital.

Club President **Robin Gendron** dropped off our donation at Homes for Our Troops in person this month.

Edie Edlund won this beautiful handmade quilt at a GFWC fundraiser! The quilt, called "Butterfly Garden," was made by a member of the Woman's Club of Newton Highlands.

January Leadership Award

Congratulations to **Linda Brosseau** for earning the Leadership Award for her outstanding contribution! In December Linda, who joined the club in 2022, chaired both our first-ever Holiday Pancake Breakfast with Mrs. Claus and our annual Holiday Party. Linda also created a gift basket for our Brack's Fundraiser that raised money for St. Jude, and volunteered to chair the Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Awareness Committee. Great job Linda!



Book-A-Baby in Action!



Grace Doel with her daughter Stephanie Simeon, her son-in-law Kervin Simeon & her grandson Jayden C. Simeon with their Book-A-Baby selection, Grasshopper and the Ants by Margaret Wise Brown.



Thank you

Special thanks to **Nancy Clark** and **Nancy Martin**, with support of club chairs, who put together our GFWC annual reports! It takes many hours of work to sum up all the work that our volunteers do.

Time for Nominees..... in our February meeting will ask you to nominate Clubwomen for state awards: the **Marilyn Perry Leadership Award** and the **Martha Michalewicz Clubwoman of the Year Award** Think about who you might want to nominate! Details about these awards and our list of past winners appear in your Club Yearbook.

2024 PROGRAM PREVIEW

Program Committee Chair **Nancy Brown** has put together a wonderful slate of programs to enrich our meetings! Here are *some* of the guest speakers we will welcome in the year to come:

March: Lynne Stader, GFWC

“Women in the Military: Then and Now”

Lynne’s presentation “Women in the Military: Then and Now” will pay tribute to the contributions of women in service to our nation’s military, from the Revolutionary War to present. Entertaining and informative, Lynne’s program highlighting changes in opportunities for women will honor Women’s History Month 2024, recognizing women who lead change. Lynne Stader has been a GFWC Woman’s Club member for over 35 years and, among other contributions, served as State President at General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Massachusetts 2017-2020.



September: Representative Carol Doherty

“How Bills are Written and Introduced”

Carol Doherty has lived in Taunton since 1965. She has been a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives from the 3rd Bristol District since 2020. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Downtown Taunton Foundation, which supports small business owners in the city's central business district, and TRIUMPH, Inc., the community's Headstart early childhood initiative. She is a member of the Taunton Area Kiwanis Club, Taunton Lodge of Elks, Prince Henry Society, and the Board of the Taunton Area Community Table.



October: Cathy Potter, Member of the 13th Continental

“Stories from Colonial Times”

The 13th Continental participates in many parades, school programs, encampments, and battle re-enactments for various communities. The group accurately recreate the lifestyles, clothing, equipment, battle scenarios, and encampments of the men, women and children of the Colonial era. The regiment is an educational resource which furthers the public understanding of the American War of Independence.



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Advocates for Children - Robin Gendron No report

Arts - Edie Edlund The Trescott Street Gallery is offering a Black History Month Exhibit, *The Soul of the Matter* from February 3 – 24. It is currently seeking entries for its March exhibit, *Finding Joy*.

Civic Engagement and Outreach - Cindy Brogan This month we will ask Clubwomen to vote to renew our sponsorship of the East Taunton Little League.

We will also making blessing bags to be distributed at Our Daily Bread at St. Thomas Episcopal Church. Our Daily Bread offers free hot meals every Monday – Friday from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

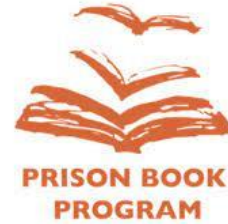
JOIN IN! The Taunton Diversity Network’s 2nd Annual Sneaker Ball is Feb 17, 6pm at the Venus de Milo. Several members are attending, we welcome more to join our table to support this great cause. Get in touch with Cindy Brogan if you’d like to attend.

Communication and Public Relations - Nancy Clark Please 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 - No Report

Fundraising and Development - Diane Huling Save the Date, our Tea this year will be Sunday, May 19! Ideas for fundraisers in March or April are welcome.

Education and Libraries - Nancy Martin Scholarship letters are being editing by the committee and will be distributed soon.



JOIN IN! Five Clubwomen are attending the Prison Book Program in Quincy on Saturday, March 9 from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Connect with Emily if you’d like to come as well. The mission of Prison Book Program is to support people in prison by sending them free books and reading materials that meet their specific needs and interests.

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

- Newspaper
- Cereal Boxes
- Shoe Boxes

Health and Wellness – Fran Perry February is heart health month! Wear

Leadership – Nancy Martin No report

Legislation and Public Policy – Emily Weiland No report

Membership - Joyce Clark Let’s celebrate our members who have February birthdays: Sarah Brink, Jane Pacheco, Elizabeth Pepoli and Emily Weiland

Women’s History and Resource Center - Nancy Brown In our Meeting Nancy will talk about an inspiring woman: college athlete Riley Gaine.