



# Juniors in Action

GFWC of Taunton and Raynham Juniors

A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

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[wwwGFWCTauntonRaynhamJuniors.org](http://wwwGFWCTauntonRaynhamJuniors.org)

September / October 2021

## Our Board Members

President – Robin Gendron, Vice President – Cindy Brogan, Recording Secretary - Joyce Clark, Corresponding Secretary - Judy Ackerman, Treasurer - Nancy Clark, Auditor - Nancy Martin, Director – Edith Edlund

### What has our club been doing the last two months?

At the October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting Joyce Clark was awarded her 40 year pin by President Robin Gendron. **Grace** Doel was installed by Joyce Clark Membership Chairman as a new member even though Grace has been involved with the club for months.



The General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts celebrated Federation Day in May at their headquarters in the Memorial Forest in Sudbury. Members from The GFWC Taunton and Raynham Jr. Woman's Club attended and received our silver bowl award for



programs and activities, in person, from GFWCMA Junior Director Katie Robey. **Joyce Clark** was also presented her GFWCMA Clubwomen of the Year from MaryAnn Pierce, president of



the GFWC Century Women's club. The Program for October was author James Vought. He has written children's books that test and teach children

cognitive empathy and dealing with their emotions. His background as an intensive care coordinator is what has driven his accomplishments as an author. His talk was very enlightening. Members were able to pose questions and get answers about their concerns about children emotions. He sold copies of his books to those that wanted them.



**October 16<sup>th</sup>** the Raynham Historical Society had a Liberty and Union Event. President Robin Gendron brought a donation of a fall basket to the fall event. Colleen Simmons Executive Director of Downtown Taunton Foundation & Taunton Business Improvement along with Phillip Duarte board member accepted the basket.



**October 9<sup>th</sup>** for our Savers Fundraiser our club collected 1808 lbs. of soft and household goods, earning a grand total of \$332.44. Our President Robin Gendron donated the



cost of the truck to deliver the items. Thank-you Robin!

**During** the October meeting 15 pumpkins were made by members present at the meeting in an assembly line and delivered to Linda Perry: Director of



Wedgemere Nursing Home.

**Thank-you** for your support of our Rent Relief raffles. September's winner was Darlene Brown, \$49.00 was collected. The October winner was Judy Floor, \$24 was collected. To participate in our RR raffle this month you can donate at the meeting or if you can't make the meeting on Monday night you can drop your donation in the mail to Nancy Brown. The drawing will take place on Sunday, Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>. Nancy didn't receive any donations in the mail last month, but they are always appreciated; especially if you cannot attend a meeting. Please feel free to send in your contribution at any time. It will be applied to the November Rent Relief. Our storage fees are \$60 a month and your generosity has really been a huge help to relieve the burden of taking it from our treasury fund.

#### **Donations from Wallace Skilling:**

Georgia Hamlin Skilling was a Friend to some of you and as you know she always supported our club fundraising efforts. Sadly she passed away in July of a terminal illness. Her husband "Wally" contacted Joyce Clark stating that he wanted to donate her things to the club. As some of you may recall Joyce brought Earring and Placemat sets (put together by Joan Curran) to our September meeting. Joyce sold some of the jewelry and placemats for the benefit of the club. Edie had a friend that needed some of the greeting cards for which the club received a \$25.00 donation. Since that meeting Joyce Clark, Denise Wheeler and Edie Edlund have volunteered their time to help with sorting and cleaning out her many items and working over 100 volunteer hours so far for this cleanout. Joyce worked on the clothing and with

everything found approximately 43 boxes and bags which were donated to our Savers Project. Edie concentrated on her extensive craft room. Sorting through the room, many boxes were packed and Denise took most to be distributed to the local schools; Edie took 7 boxes of arts and crafts to donate to a local elementary school in Brockton. We also donated 2 boxes of games and art & crafts to New Hope through the River House Restaurant fundraiser. Riverhouse Restaurant posted the donation on Facebook and Cindy Brogan has also been sharing that post on Facebook. The balance of craft materials that were boxed are at Edie's house. She will be listing them on Ebay to raise funds for the club. (Once listed she'll let the President know) Also found was a large volume of beautiful fabrics. There are 3 large totes packed and ready for distribution or sale. Along with the many types of crafts were boxed picture frames and silk flowers. Denise and Joyce tackled the Christmas Closet and filled a car with the florals and decorations. Denise has people in mind that are in need of some Christmas items so she will be handling that aspect. But if you need something call her. All of these donations are being made in the clubs name. "Wally" is thrilled with the results and where his wife's belongings are being distributed. Much work still needs to get done. Glassware and cookbooks still need to be sorted and boxed, but we are confident that with the work accomplished. We will get this job done and in the process help Wally to let go of his grief and cherish her memories. Some of these items will be sold to benefit our club at the Bristol Plymouth Fair on November 20<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 3pm and the American Legion on December 4<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 3pm. Joyce is looking for members to help work the tables since the money collected will all go to the club so the membership is paying for the table entries. Please let Joyce know if you can help. **Our** membership sign was placed on Winthrop Street for the month of October which was

Membership Month by Joyce Clark. Did you see it? Let Joyce Clark know if you did!

**The** \$50 Membership Grant money we received from the state paid for the backpacks we made for the local schools that were made at the Meet and Greet Meeting welcoming new members.



**Seven** of our members attended the New England Regional Conference NERC:



Nancy Martin, Nancy Brown, Robin Gendron, Grace Doel, Joyce Clark, Edie Edlund, Nancy Clark and



Cindy Brogan. It was a three day conference. Some attended all three days, some only two days and some only one. We donated these scripture candies. Three boxes of 42 pieces. The conference had many great speakers and fun events including a DJ and dancing. Robin Gendron will be making a report about the event at the November meeting.



**Six** of our members attended the Combined Fall Meeting on October 16<sup>th</sup>: Nancy Martin, Edie Edlund, Grace Doel, Joyce Clark, Vel Bleau and Robin Gendron. Our



club donated four bears for the contest, Nancy Brown's bear winning a prize; seven fleece blankets, three knitted blue and



yellow items for the Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention Raffle and one basket for the Tisket-A-Tasket raffle which we won a prize with. There were good speakers and activities. We cut and bagged stars and helped to make fleece blankets for women veterans. Robin



will be giving an overview of the conference at the November meeting.

**Joyce** Clark has sent our clubs' contribution of member made articles to the March of Dimes which include 40 hats and 10 blankets meant for Veteran Families. The mailing was very costly and she we will be asking for money to defray the cost. It will be voted on during the November meeting and for the future contributions we are making this month as well. The cost of mailing articles has become very costly and we can't expect our members to pay out of their pockets.

### Attention Members!

**We** have a lot of activities coming up in the next few weeks. We will be collecting items for thanksgiving baskets, can openers for Matthew Missions food pantry, decorating small Xmas trees for local organizations and assembling personal care kits. Please bring items for the baskets for the Family access Center to the meeting. Everyone's time and talent is greatly appreciated during this holiday season.



**Calling** all elves for Storytime with Mrs. Claus on December 4<sup>th</sup>! We will be giving out candy canes and Santa letters at the Downtown Taunton Christmas Event. Please let Nancy Brown who is organizing our part of this community event if you can help.



**Joyce** Clark once again made a contribution of five more suitcases to the JRI Foster Care and Adoption Agency. They are located on South Main Street in Berkley. We have decided at the Executive Board Meeting to make contributions to support this program that are in need of new clothes items this Christmas instead of Citizens for Citizens. We are asking club members to bring to the December meeting and Christmas Party new clothes for children size newborn to size 14. They are in real need of new items!





## COMMITTEES:

**ADVOCATES OF CHILDREN**—Robin Broberg – Clothes for children to donate to the JRI Foster Care and Adoption Agency.

**ARTS AND CULTURE**— Kathy Sampson – We will be painting ornaments for 6 small trees the club has purchased to be donated to nursing homes in the area.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH** –Emily Weiland - Remember to vote on November 2nd. Taunton residents can meet their candidates in the Taunton Gazette. Through December 15, 2021 everyone in Massachusetts can opt to vote by mail if they wish. You can get an application to vote by mail at the MA Secretary of State Website. Applications can be submitted by mail, email, or fax. If you are emailing your application, you may either scan or take a photo of your signed application and email it to your local election office. Sign it with your mouse or finger or a stylus; typed signatures are not acceptable. Send in your request at least 4 days before the election. Ballots can be mailed or put in a drop box at the clerk's office on Election Day. Ballots must reach your local election office by the close of polls on Election Day in order to be counted.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS**— Judy Floor – Judy has recently taken over this chairmanship and is doing a really good job. Keep up the good work. Let her know if you see any club articles.

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT – AWARENESS AND PREVENTION:** - Amanda Fata Nothing at this time.

**EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES** – Nancy Martin- Looking for club members to help with the scholarship committee revamping the application and criteria. Will meet on Monday and/or Thursday nights.

**ENVIROMENT** – Denise Wheeler – New items sweatshirts, sweatpants, shoe boxes. Martin Middle School teachers are looking for books and CD's for teachers to swap. Our club is collecting

Sweatshirts, sweatpants, coats, hats gloves and empty shoe boxes. Still 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. GFWC of Massachusetts Junior Board is looking for someone to chair this committee on the state level contact Katie Robey if interested.

**FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT** – Cindy Brogan – This fall we will be having a lottery ticket raffle again and members will be asked sell tickets. You can bring the stubs and money to the November meeting or the Christmas Party.

The winners will be chosen at the Party in December.

**HEALTH AND WELLNESS** - Nancy Brown- A message from Brenda Geary, Chairman

"The human body, mind and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our wellbeing, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This community service program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas." Nancy Brown's personal health tip: Build your immunity! Eat more fruits and vegetables; limit sugar infused products (that's a tough one, but baby steps will get you there) drink more water, take Vitamin C,D and Zinc. And of course good hygiene will keep the germs away! All common sense habits to help you stay healthy and well.

☺You can continue to save tissues, crackers and cookies, small hand sanitizers. Also looking for 300-500 piece puzzles, crossword puzzle books or any kind of puzzle books. No peanut butter crackers.

**LEADERSHIP** – Paula Gasparoni and Joan Curran – Think about running for a club officer position; Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and



Auditor are available. Nominations will take place at the November Meeting.

**LEGISLATION/ PUBLIC POLICY** – Nancy Clark – New members if you need help becoming a member of GFWC Call for Action please let Nancy know. There are some that need your attentiveness now!

**MEMBERSHIP** – Joyce Clark – Club dues are due now. You can pay this month, at the December meeting or the Christmas Party. The membership fee is \$30.

**WOMENS HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER**– Nancy Brown- The Women's History and Resource Center will be closed through 2021, as the GFWC Executive Committee and Board of Directors evaluate the pathway to reopening the WHRC.

Meanwhile, the WHRC online catalog provides access to a body of pre-existing information and images related to GFWC.s history, including archival material, photographs, publications, art, and artifacts. Tips for searching are available by clicking the HELP button on the search screen, to avoid too many hits. Leave out GFWC when searching for names of clubs and State Federation. Additions and updates to the online catalog are on hold until the WHRC reopens. At our club level we raised \$68.30 for WHRC which will be added to our yearly donation report. Thank you for participating in our August Calendar Project for WHRC.

## Publicity

Reported November 1<sup>st</sup>:

The GFWC Taunton and Raynham Junior Woman's Club gathered in person at the Silver Platter Restaurant at Bristol Plymouth High School for their first fall meeting on Monday the 13th.



The women were happy to reconnect and enjoyed a talk from guest speaker James Vought, M.A, author of Puppy Tales and Puppy Tales II. These books use stories to test and teach children cognitive empathy and dealing with their emotions. Jim is an Intensive Care Coordinator for Community Counselling of Bristol County in Taunton.

Members also participated in a club Calendar fundraiser during the month of August with funds going to the GFWC Women's History

GFWC New England Regional GFWC Massachusetts, and is Westborough. The General is also having a combined Fall Saturday October 16th at the members are invited to attend, Contact Nancy Clark 508-274-9946 to register.



and Resource Center in Washington DC Several of the women are preparing to attend the Conference this year, which is being hosted by being held at the Doubletree Hilton in Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts Meeting of the general and Junior clubs on Holiday Inn in Marlborough, MA. All club and the registration deadline is October 4th.

The GFWC Taunton and Raynham Junior Woman's Club will hold its next regular meeting on Monday October 4th at 7:00 pm at BP and women 18 years or older may contact Joyce Clark 508-823-4482 or Robin 774-281-0120 if interested in attending.

