



# Juniors in Action

## GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs  
Representing: Taunton, Dighton, Assonet, Raynham,  
Norton, Berkley, Brockton, Freetown, Middleboro and  
Rehoboth



From your President Nancy L. Martin

My theme is daisies because they are associated with cheerfulness, warmth, joy, optimism and hope which is what I hope our club membership has reflected this year. My goal continues to be trying to do more for our members' communities. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas.

### What has our club done through the year?

**Communications & Public Relations:** Ways our club has tried to bring awareness to our communities about our club with no chairperson.

Club members were taught how to do hashtags and were encouraged to use it on Facebook for Wear Red Day for Heart Month.

Club Webmaster Nancy Clark continues to update our Facebook Page, Yearbook and Webpage with upcoming events and additional members' information.

Our club now has an email address thanks to Jen Rego and Linda Brosseau.:  
gfwc.taunton@gmail.com

Nancy Brown is keeping an email list of people that our club members have been in contact in to send out notification of upcoming club events.

Nancy Clark has helped to Zoom meetings for those members unable to attend a meeting.

The club, Cindy Brogan and Robin Gendron donated a total of \$100 to support the city hanging baskets.

Our club supported Domestic Violence with our purple outfitted scarecrow and purple pinwheels downtown thanks to Jen Rego, Denise Wheeler and Nancy Martin.

**Fundraising and Development:** Our club membership under the leadership of Chairman Diane Huling has been busy raising money to give back to those who could benefit from our donations.

Robin Gendron & Linda Brosseau organized a meat raffle at the Elks.

Linda Brosseau and her committee held a raffle at Bracks Restaurant to benefit veteran programs raising \$800 donated to: Bristol County Veterans, Veteran Entrepreneurial Training and Resource Network Inc., Home for Our Troops, American Legions in Berkley





and Norton, DAV in Taunton, stars and cards for local veterans and Canine Companios. They also raised money for the club through 20% of restaurants attendees bills who requested a contribution.

Cindy Brogan has been encouraging members to sell raffle tickets to raise money for scholarships. The winner will be picked at the club Christmas Party, so sell, sell, sell!

Joyce Clark, Diane Huling and committee members put on a Soup, Sandwich and Pie that was well attended with homemade soups and pies that were delicious and a huge success!! We had a record breaking 13 varieties of homemade soups, 4 kinds of delicious sandwiches, and an assortment of at least 8 different kinds of mouthwatering pies were enjoyed by approximately 80 people. Our attendees also enjoyed trying their luck to win one of our delightful raffle baskets and/or gift cards to local restaurants. We made \$1,260 in ticket sales and another \$1,060.00 in raffle ticket sales. We even had a guessing game of "How many candies are in the jar?" which took in another \$100, which we are sending as a donation to UNICEF. After paying all expenses, our club raised \$2,188.68 to put toward scholarships. A huge thank you goes out to all of you who cooked, lent a hand, and invited family and friends.

Sold club items at the combined conference organized by Joyce Clark and Nancy Martin, with a basket by Linda Brosseau that raised money for Canine Companions.

Denise Wheeler and Robin Gendron, decorated two Christmas trees with items they gathered and club member donations that is being raffled off at Araujo's Farm that we will receive a percentage of the income..

Cindy Brogan, Nancy Martin and committee members organized a Bingo with raffles at the PACC that raised over #3000.

**Membership: chaired by Joyce Clark** has had a busy year.

Nancy Martin chaired a committee that put on our 75<sup>th</sup> club anniversary celebration at the Elks. It was a great evening that recognized all our club past and present members' volunteerism.

Joyce continues to send postcards to members who haven't been to a meeting in a while bringing back a few familiar faces.

Membership voted not to have a January Business meeting and to add a June Business meeting!

President Nancy Martin conducted a survey of the membership and shared the results during the February Business meeting.

Small group of members attended the Day at the Forest in Sudbury where past member Cheryl Carlos was honored.

Corresponding Secretary Judy Floor continues to send get well, sympathy and thinking of you cards to our members.



Executive Board members have introduced stretching games and bingo and other games into breaks during our Business meetings.

Our club purchased a Brick in Sudbury in dedication of our deceased member Cheryl Carlos.

Joyce Clark continues to honor members birthdays at meetings with singing, cards and thoughtful gifts. She goes out of her way to deliver those not present at the meeting.

We had a great June Social gathering at Cindy Brogan's House, with everyone bringing food and enjoying the wonderful day outside on the deck.

Several members attended a volunteer Business meeting in June to help with planning upcoming club activities.

A few club members attended a Bay State Club Tea.

Nancy Martin received the Martha Michaelewich Clubwoman Award this year for all the work she has done for our club.

She continues to encourage members to wear their pins to meetings and conferences and GFWC when you are out and about.

### **Legislation and Public Policy chaired by Nancy Clark**

Chairman Nancy Clark assists members with registering for Call for Action and keeps members up to date on alerts. The newest alert is "Internet Safety for Kids".

President Nancy Martin has officially updated our club name with the state. Updated our club with the city taxes on raffles and applied and received a one day license for Bingo.

### **Leadership chaired by Robin Gendron**

Our club made contributions to the Mass Star program.

Have made suggestions for club by-laws updates with a meeting chaired by Diane Huling to meet in January.

Our club received an award for last year's report of our leadership project. Under the direction of Nancy Clark and Nancy Martin yearly reports were written for all thirteen chairmanships and emailed on time to the state for which received multiple awards and the small bowl

### **WHRC chairman Cindy Brogan**

This year's focus has been on woman in sports who raised awareness for woman rights as leaders in their fields.

Some of the women brought to our members' attention were Billy Jean King a great tennis star, Simone Biles a gymnast and Mia Hamm a soccer player.

Club members were also given backgrounds on women in politics that have left their footprint in our society: Carol Doherty and Frances Perkins.

### **Arts and Culture recently chaired by Nancy Brown**

Our club received the Club Creativity Award with \$50 from GFWC.

Members are decorating our angels for our December meeting.

Fran Perry has been a club social advisor. She sold Dine Out books to the membership and encouraged members to use them to attend a Newport Playhouse play and buffet. She organized two 60'd band night one at the VFW in Taunton and in the outside tent of Lorenzo's in Middleboro.

### **Education and Libraries chaired by Nancy Martin**

Nancy Brown conducted a group writing activity with the resulting short story to be submitted for the GFWC writing contest after the first of the year.

Nancy Martin conducted a change wars project with club members in groups of three or four who chose a group name like "Worker Bees" and contributed their change each month for the year in a collection jar brought to club meetings with their group name attached. A bar chart was displayed at monthly and standings of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> places were announced to encourage donations. About \$300 was collected with the first place team of Diane Huling, Gail Knowles and Sarah Brink winning a gift certificate to Profile Tavern. The money raised was used to purchase tools for teachers consisting of materials including things such as: beginner reading books, pencils, stickers, clips and folders. They were grouped together with ribbon and a bag of toys teachers could utilize as prizes and delivered to 12 elementary school teachers by members to their community schools for Teacher Appreciation Week.

Nancy Brown has continued with our Book-A-Baby Project again this year with books donated to local libraries in the name of two members' Linda Brosseau and Diane Huling grandchildren.

Our club once again formed a committee to update our scholarship letter and application and scoring rubric. They were sent out to public high schools within communities of which our membership live. We received just over 30 applications. Five scholarships of \$700 each were awarded to the recipients at our May Business meeting. Most of the recipients have sent thank-you notes. We are once again in the process of doing this all over again this year.

Joyce Clark has continued keeping our club involved with the "Prison Book " program with members attending the meetings in Brockton and helping conduct the program activities and contribution of books.

Nancy Brown continues to collect books from our membership for her Little Book Library she sustains on her property.

### **Health and Wellness chaired by Fran Perry**

Fran has continued to keep our membership abreast of ways to keep ourselves healthy and well. She has conducted talks at Business meetings on healthy topics. This years' list include "cellphone and your health", "best and worst





cookware for life”, “poisonous plants”, “dangers and benefits of sunglasses” and “how to get stains out”. If you missed one of the talks and would like the info contact Fran and she will email them to you.

**Civic Engagement chaired by Cindy Brogan** is where our club puts a lot of our energy.

Several members represent our club at functions they purchase their own tickets to attend. Some of these events include Taunton Diversity Network Sneaker Ball and Wine Bar fundraisers plus many more.

Members donated food for St. Thomas Church and Matthew Mission throughout the year and an extra donation this year for National Day of Service and a turkey at Thanksgiving.

Denise Wheeler and Robin Gendron collect items throughout the year from members along with their own donations to make baskets that have been donated to raffles that include veterans and community fundraisers.

Edith Edlund purchased backpacks and along with members’ donations and some money from the club, but mostly on her own filled backpacks and distributed them to the homeless in the Brockton area.

Nancy Martin and Cindy Brogan attended a veterans’ talk on “SHeroes” with a speaker from Boston talking about what is being done on the state level for female veterans. This talk was sponsored by the Bristol County Veteran Association. Nancy then followed this up by requesting to the local representative Kim Wagner to come and speak at one of our Business meetings where we donated them \$100.

Several members under the leadership of Joyce Clark and Diane Huling contributed to and helped to conduct three teas this year at two nursing homes and one COA with one during the week for National Nursing Home Week. We have already been asked to do two more next year.

Denise Wheeler collected many things that got donated to Girls Inc. and other local community programs that are in need with items such as cups, school supplies, winter coats, hats, and gloves.

**GFWC Special Project: Advocates for Children chaired by Sarah Brink**

Several members and the club purchased material to make children blankets. During a meeting and an additional meeting at the Elks members made 13 blankets. The blankets were delivered to JRI during Advocates for Children Week.

**Domestic Violence and Awareness chaired by Linda Brosseau**

Linda organized a Day of Service Project in conjunction with New Hope in Attleboro. Several members helped to fill bags for young ladies with items New Hope had made and collected. They also help to prepare ducks for a



fundraiser. The New Hope speaker Isabel the Education Specialist spoke at our club meeting on issues young women are dealing with today and how we could help with the distribution of resources and guidance to help women in trouble. Members were made aware of what is available in our area and she shared her presentation with our club which our president shared through an email. She has made a promise to return next year to talk about human trafficking and how it is happening right under our noses.

Joyce Clark made teal ribbons and shared them with members to wear for Sexual Assault Awareness Month. (SAAM)

Linda Brosseau shared information on Denim Day.

Three club members made donations to the Red, White and Blue raffle fundraiser to benefit Domestic Violence grants. Linda has offered to meet with New Hope in Attleboro to assist in writing the application for one of those grants.

### **Environment chaired by Denise Wheeler**

Our club members continue to donate items to Denise to create STEM projects within her classroom, well over 300! Our club members were introduced to a STEM project ourselves at a Business meeting this year. It was a lot of fun.

Our club has helped to purchase paint, flowers and bulbs to maintain three large flower boxes at the Elks throughout the seasons with continued up keep on them being conducted by Denise herself.

Our club had a speaker Veronica Paladino McCaffrey from Spring Farm a local farm who talked about how to grow fresh fruits and vegetables. She talked about her background and environmental effects on agriculture.

The fleece material leftover from the JRI blankets were sewed and made into small pains bags and distributed to 7 community COAs by the membership organized by Nancy Brown.

**Now that you have read all we have accomplished as a club I hope it makes you feel proud to be a part of the GFWC Greater Woman's Club and will continue to volunteer and share our enthusiasm with others to join our club.**

***Club President & Newsletter Editor***

***Nancy L. Martin***

