



The BULLETIN

OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

SEPTEMBER 2011

WWC SEPTEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Mah Jong 1-4pm	1 Social Bridge 10:00 am Zumba 11:30 am	2	3
4	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 Bridal Show Mtg 10:00am Garden Board 1:30pm	7 Mah Jong 1-4pm GNO - Compo	8 Social Bridge 10:00 am Zumba 11:30am	9	10
11	12 Club Day	13 Garden 10:00am Pepsico Gardens	14 Mah Jong 1-4pm	15 Social Bridge 10:00 am Zumba 11:30am	16	17
18	19 Bridge 10:30	20 Gourmet 11:30 Necessities Pillow Workshop 1:00pm Bunco 7:00pm	21 Cultural Affairs 9:30am Antiques 10:00am Mah Jong 1-4pm	22 Social Bridge 10:00 am Zumba 11:30am Book Review 1:00pm	23	24 Blues Views & BBQ Festival
25 Blues Views & BBQ Festival	26 Comm. Service 9:30am Bridge 10:30	27	28 RSVP 1:00pm Mah Jong 1-4pm	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	

Officers President Mary Lee Clayton; 1st Vice President (Special Interests) Leah Scherzer; 2nd Vice President (Finance) Wynne Abrams; 3rd Vice President (Ways & Means) Martha Eidman; Secretary Susan Fox; Treasurer Barbara Szefc **Directors** Communications TBA; Community Service Jo Fuchs Luscombe; Grounds Brenda Sciarra; House Clare Clark; Membership Bobbie Herman; Parliamentary Advisor Arlene Wolfe; Program Kathy Groener, Mitzi Lyman; Rentals Shirlee Gordon Curio Cottage Ruthann Caroll, Yankee Doodle Fair TBA
Staff Office Manager Colleen Fenton; Resident Manager Dora Sweet

Office Hours M-F 9:00am-4:00pm 12:00-1:00 Closed for Lunch

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Letter.....2	GNO.....3	RSVP.....4
Club Luncheon.....2	Antiques.....4	Zumba.....4
Food Closet.....2	Book Review.....4	BBQ.....5
Programs.....2	Bunco.....4	Membership.....5
Comm. Serv.....3	Garden.....4	YDF.....5
Cultural Affairs.....3	Gourmet.....4	
Curio Cottage.....3	Mah Jongg.....4	

SUNSHINE GIRLS

September: Zita Casey,
croxie30@aol.com eane
203-454-3517.

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members,

WELCOME BACK!

The "new year" starts with a new maple floor in the Auditorium. Not only were there holes in the original sub-floor but some of the actual floor boards were tissue paper thin; an increasingly alarming situation. The stage has also been replaced with wood so it is both handsome and easily maintainable. Also, by popular demand, the stair treads have been widened.

Thanks to Conchita Cassell who oversaw the floor installation and her able seconds, Clare Clark and Ruth Ann Carroll. You did well, ladies!

And, its budget time again... (Did I just hear a collective "oh no"). The Finance Committee has done its best to cut expenses to the bone while at the same time giving Community Services, Scholarship Committee and Food Closet as generous a budget as possible.

Our business as a Club is philanthropy, so although our Ways and Means committee is working hard to develop fund raisers which will attract community participation – thus taking the burden off you - we will still ask you for your help either through volunteering or through contributing or both

You can always say no. No one can do everything; no one can contribute to everything.

Whatever you can do; whatever you can give is always MUCH APPRECIATED!

I do encourage you to attend at least one Community Services meeting this year; it is a worth while and eye-opening experience. Community Services meets the fourth Monday at 9:30am.

All the interest groups are back and all would love to have you as a member! Join up; get involved, and enjoy our social opportunities!

Here is to a great Year!

Mary Lee Clayton
President

CLUB DAY

Welcome back. I hope everyone had a healthy and happy summer. Our first Club Day is Monday, September 12th. Wine and punch is served at 11:30. Lunch is served at 12:00. Our first Club Day lunch will be co-hosted by Bunco (Wendy McKeon) and Mah Jongg (Diana Zaslow).

We are starting the year with a perennial favorite: Chicken Salad with grapes and almonds on a bed of baby greens and Mississippi Mud Cake for dessert. All lunches will include rolls and butter.

Please call the office to put yourself on the Permanent Club Day lunch list. Each year you must re-new your status. If you are not on the Permanent list, you must call the office by the Wednesday prior to Club Day, before 1:00pm, to make a reservation. If you make a reservation and cannot attend, you must cancel your reservation before 1:00pm on the Wednesday prior to Club Day. Since we pay the caterer for the number of people attending, a reservation is a commitment to the WWC. Any member who abuses the cancellation policy two or more times will have to prepay at the time of their reservation. Lunches are \$15.00. A check or exact amount is appreciated. Thank you.

NEW THIS YEAR: "Club Day Participation List," Since not every member belongs to a Special Interest Group, they miss the opportunity to help host Club Day. Many of our members who participate find fun and camaraderie working side by side with their fellow members. There are many slots where you can help which could easily fit into your time schedule. Please call me for details and let me know what YOU would like to do. Thank you.

IN THE FUTURE, PLEASE REFER TO THIS INFORMATION IN THE DIRECTORY AND ON OUR WEBSITE.
Leah Scherzer, 1st VP
leahsart@aol.com

PROGRAMS

We are very happy to have David Brant the Executive Director of the Aspetuck Land Trust as our guest speaker for September. David will talk to us about the history of the Land Trust and its preservation efforts and new initiatives, including the recently opened 38 acre Newman Poses Nature preserve in Westport honoring Paul Newman and Lillian Poses, the new Natural Playground for Children, invasive plant removal campaign, guided hikes for adults and their new hike series for kids, "Short Hikes for Short People."

David will give us plenty of ideas of where we can go on a beautiful Fall day without leaving Westport.

Kathy Groener, 255-1892

FOOD CLOSET

This summer has been a busy one for the Food Closet. We responded to many requests for food, reorganized the Food Closet and purchased new wire shelving, as more space was needed for our food items.

If you have never visited our Food Closet, or are interested in helping out, please let us know -- we are always happy to have new volunteers.

Wendy McKeon
Karen Center

CONDOLENCES

Our Condolences to Elfriede Laffety on the death of her husband John.

Deepest Sympathies to the family of Lois Lenfest, a lifetime member.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

There will be an organizational meeting of The Community Service committee on Monday, September 26th at 9:30 a.m., in the Clubhouse livingroom. I will arrange for a guest speaker. Grant application letters will be in the mail prior to the meeting.

I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable Summer and feels ready to tackle the Committee's important work.

All WWC members are invited.

Jo Fuchs Luscombe, Director
Community Service Committee

Necessities Bag Project

For the second consecutive year, in support of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we will be assembling Necessities Bags in October. These bags are distributed, at no charge, to breast cancer surgery patients through their doctors. This year we are asking for donations of emery boards, lip balm (not mentholated), and pocket pack of tissues, which are just some of the things that go into the tote bags. Please leave these items in the box located outside the office.

Leah Scherzer is again coordinating the sewing of the pillows (two go into each Necessities bag). If you would like to participate, a workshop is planned for Tuesday, September 20 at 1pm in the Boardroom. Please bring sharp scissors, a yardstick and a 12" ruler, a marking pen and/or dressmaker chalk. Contact Leah (226-3042) if you have any questions.

The pre-assembly of the bags will be Wednesday night, Oct. 19, at 7pm; the actual assembly will be Thursday, Oct. 20 at 9:30am – both in the ballroom. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board, or contact Audrey Rabinowitz.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

"Follies"
Wednesday, September 21st
New York City

The Cultural Affairs bus to New York City to see the revival of the Stephen Sondheim musical "Follies" on Wednesday, Sept. 21st will leave the lower level parking lot at 9:30am.

This musical played at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in May and June of this year and received an excellent review from Ben Brantly of the New York Times. It is now in previews at the Marquis Theater with the same cast: Bernadette Peters, Jan Maxwell, Danny Burstein, Ron Raines and Elaine Paige. Cost of this trip is \$117.00 per person
"Relatively Speaking"
Wednesday, October 19th
New York City

"Relatively Speaking" is a collection of comedies being presented at the Brooks Atkinson Theater. This Broadway show is a triple bill of three one act comedies written by Ethan Coen, Elaine May and Woody Allen and directed by John Turturro. The cast will include, Julie Kavner, a star of "The Simpsons" and several of Mr. Allen's' first films, including "Radio Days" and "Hannah and her Sisters"; Steve Guttenberg, whose films include "Cocoon" and "Three Men and a Baby" and who appeared on Broadway in "Prelude to a Kiss"; Marlo Thomas, "That Girl" star and whose Broadway credits include "The Shadow Box" and "Social Security."
This Theatre trip id \$110 per person

"Anything Goes"
Wednesday, December 7th

Because of your positive response to the last Bulletin we have signed a contract for the Tony Award winning musical "Anything Goes." Therefore, if you did sign-up as being interested in seeing this Broadway show on Wednesday, December 7th, it is now time to drop off a check to the Woman's Club office in the amount of \$140.00 per person

Marilyn Killough

CURIO COTTAGE

The Cottage has had a great summer. Maybe the economy has more people realizing the joy and fun of thrift store shopping, maybe it is the continuous great donations that we get, or maybe it is the fantastic group of workers that we have at the Curio Cottage. All have made for a successful season.

For fall, there will be a really fun, new adventure for us, along with all members. We will be having our own version of Antiques Road Show, on Oct. 29. More details will follow and many volunteers will be needed. Deb Fratino has secured the services of local appraisers, dealers and even an auctioneer. Excitement is starting to grow and everyone hopes this will be a wonderful new adventure and great money maker for the club.

We have been receiving many things from our former member, Kathy Kincaid and we are so glad that her family thought of us as they are cleaning out her home. Her friendship and loyalty to the club continues. Please stop by and buy!

Karen Eickhoff and Cottage Committee

GIRLS NIGHT OUT, GNO

Calling all girls for a new season of GNO! We will plan one a month, the dates may change based on the WWC rental calendar but get ready for some laughs while getting to know each other. Looking for a few of you to take turns hosting...please get in touch with us to sign up! Cost is \$10.00 and reservations needed by the Monday before. Next GNO September 7 –Compo Beach Again (BYO everything...and a beach chair!)

Clare Clark,clarec@optonline.net
Betty Brower,eab@bertralaw.com

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

Board Meeting: September 6, 2011

On September 13 the Garden Department will tour the Sculpture Gardens at Pepsico, 700 Anderson Hill Rd., Purchase, NY. We will depart from the WWC **PROMPTLY** at 10 a.m.(we will carpool). Please bring your lunch and we will picnic on the grounds of the garden. Please RSVP to MaryLee Clayton, 878-1486, claytonmary@att.net

Garden Department dues (\$10.00) are due this month. Payment may be made by either cash or check (made payable to the Garden Room); mailed to Catherine Smith, 23 Compo Road, Westport, CT 06880, or left in the Garden Dept. mail slot in the office.

ZUMBA

We will be back in the banquet room August 18th, 11:30-12:30. Everyone is welcome. Join us for fun, and dance to a healthier you.

Leah Scherzer, 1st VP

RSVP KNITTERS

This is a project that started in 1991 and it is still going strong! It is run by the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, RSVP, in Norwalk. The group knits scarves, hats and blankets for a wide range of children and adults in Norwalk, including Neon Childcare and children who attend Head Start, among others. We also knit healing shawls for the Cancer Society, which are given to women undergoing treatment for cancer. All levels of knitters are welcome and we are happy to teach beginners. The next meeting is Wednesday, September 28, at 1 PM in the Conference Room. For questions, please contact Joan Miller mmiller@optonline.net.

GOURMET

Our first Gourmet luncheon will be Tuesday, September 20 at 11:30 in the auditorium. Our theme is going to be sampling from the CIA. If you would like to cook with this group, let Betty or me know. Thanks.

For those members of the group who haven't already paid their \$45, please send a check to Cheryl Stoebe, 14 Prospect Road, Westport. For anyone who would like to join our group, you can also send a \$45 check to Cheryl Stoebe.

Anne Hunt, rahuntclu@sbcglobal.net
Betty Kaye, bak24@aol.com

ANTIQUES GROUP

Our September meeting will be held on the 3rd Wednesday, the 21st, not the usual fourth Wednesday of the month. Our speaker is Barbara Neiman, a jewelry historian who has been traveling, collecting, and studying jewelry for over 35 years. She is a member of the American Society of Jewelry Historians as well as the British Society of Jewelry Historians. She earned her certificate of appraisal from NYU and has taught the various periods of jewelry from Georgian to modern times.

Ms. Neiman will give a presentation, including slides, about the Duchess of Windsor's jewels, including the historical romance of the Duke and Duchess, his gifts and the culmination of the collection – the dramatic auction at Sotheby's.

Refreshments will be served at 10am, followed by a short business meeting and our speaker's presentation. The annual fee of \$7 will be collected. See you on Sept. 21.

Audrey Rabinowitz
Antiques Chairperson
bxiteb4@aol.com

MAH JONGG

We play every Wednesday (unless otherwise noted on the calendar) from 1:00- 4:00PM. Both beginner and experienced players are welcome. Please call Diana Zaslów, 227-1346 if you are interested.

BOOK REVIEW

The book group will meet the fourth Thursday of the month, September 22, at 1pm in the living room. We will start the year with a discussion of Andrea Levy's "The Long Song," a story of slavery in colonial Jamaica.

Vi Takahashi will lead us in this interesting tale. All are welcome to attend - just read the book, which will be available at the library, and show up!

Barbara Raffel
(203)226-3954

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Monday September 19th. If you are interested in playing or being a sub please contact Mary Jane Cross

SOCIAL BRIDGE

Thursday, September 1. Please call Tommie Ross if you are interested.

BUNCO

Bunco Queen??? You will find out in the next bulletin who won the "coveted crown."

To all – Plan on starting the new club year off by playing "Bunco"...It is fun!!!

We play on the 3rd Tuesday night of each month (unless otherwise noted)

Date: Tuesday, September 20th
Time: 7:00 p.m. "chat & chew" – 7:30 p.m. game begins
Cost: \$5.00
Hosts: Elayne Prince & TBD (need a "seasoned volunteer"!)

A reminder – If you are a regular player, you must sign up to co-host once during the year.

Wendy McKeon

4th ANNUAL BLUES, VIEWS & BBQ FESTIVAL

The BBQ Festival will be held from Friday through Sunday, Sept. 23-25 on the grounds of the Levitt Pavilion and the Westport Library. Hours are Saturday, 11am – 8:30pm, and Sunday, 11am – 6pm. In addition to food, there will be entertainment, children's activities, cooking demonstrations and more.

The Club has received generous donations from the Downtown Merchants Association, the event's organizer, over the last 3 years. We are very fortunate that our Food Closet has been chosen for the second consecutive year as the charity recipient of the funds raised from the "Cookin for a Cause" portion of the Festival.

Please sign up to work a shift, or two, on Sept. 24th & 25th. There will be assigned shifts. A sign up sheet is on the bulletin board, or contact Audrey Rabinowitz.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Wine and Cheese

A Wine and Cheese Social will be held on Thursday, October 13 at 7:00 p.m. to introduce prospective members to the Club and tell them about our Philanthropic and Social activities. All members are welcome.

If you have any friends whom you think might be interested in joining, please give their names and addresses to Colleen or me, so we may send them an invitation. You are also encouraged to join them at the Social. All Department Chairs are requested to attend.

Membership Dues

If you haven't paid your membership dues, please pay them immediately, so we can include you in the Membership Directory.

Bobbie Herman
Membership Chair

CANAL PARK

The Community Service Department once again sponsored the annual spring luncheon for residents of the Canal Park Housing complex.

We had (8) ladies who each donated a part of the lovely luncheon that we served. Included were marvelous sandwiches, salads and desserts. We also served hot chicken parmesan, a beautiful fruit tray and Jello with whipped cream. Three of us also served as hostesses. The luncheon took place on May 6, 2011.

The members who participated are: Jo Fuchs Luscombe; *Sue Mahar; *Gerry Munce; Barbara Raffel; Nancy Saipe; *Patria Swann; Vi Takahashi; Pat Wet-tach * Hostesses

We served 18 residents a lovely lunch and by all accounts they had a wonderful time. Two residents were late arrivals (for a total of 20), but they joined in the fun as well. As usual, any food left over was packed for the residents to take home. We had our usual fun raffle for the beautiful plants and balloons.

We again enjoyed using the wonderful sign that Howard Munce always updates for us.

Thank you to everyone who participated. You always help to make the day very special.

Patria Swann
Chair, Canal Park Luncheon

YANKEE DOODLE FAIR

A very large THANK YOU and GROUP HUG to all the volunteers, sponsors, fair-goers and raffle ticket buyers who made the Westport Woman's Club 2011 Yankee Doodle Fair another popular—and financial—success! Once again, the smiling WWC ladies in blue aprons delivered Westport's favorite old-fashioned Fair (and last remaining Carnival) with great rides from Stewart Amusements, charming games, delicious baked goods, friendly service and a clean, classic venue.

Except for Friday night's rain, 3 of our 4 Fair days (June 16-19) had favorable weather. And, as you all know, pre-Fair revenues from our Sponsors, from the Garden Department's May Plant Sale, and from our Raffle—with all of those tickets that you wonderful Club members bought and sold in advance of the Fair—proved again to be a crucial hedge against lost revenue due to rain. The numbers are still being finalized, but our YDF 11 net revenue looks like it will approach \$50,000, which is less than YDF 10's all-time high, but still a very strong showing. For the 104th straight year, all of our net fundraising revenues return to our community, as need-based WWC college scholarship grants for Staples H.S. students and grants to local non-profit service organizations.

A full list of thank you's for YDF would require its own newsletter but, again,

THANK YOU TO ALL.

Finally, remember that YDF 2012 still needs new overall Chair(s)! If you'd like to explore this wonderfully FUN and satisfying opportunity, please contact one of us! Meanwhile, thanks for another year of wonderful YDF memories...

Your RETIRED! YDF 2011 Co-Chairs, Dorothy Curran & Mary Lee Clayton

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