



Westport Woman's Club
Supporting Our Community Since 1907

April 2023 Bulletin

HAPPY SPRING!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow WWC Members,

Spring cleaning has been underway at the Club. I can't thank Nancye Fritz enough for her work on so many different house projects.

Congratulations to Jo Fuchs Luscombe who was featured in an interview on Channel 12 celebrating International Women's Day. As I was reading the Bulletins from 2004 I found a message that Jo wrote as President. I thought it was lovely and the message perfect as we approach both Passover & Easter Holidays.

"Now sit back, relax, smile often, think freely, practice patience. Savor special moments, make new friends, cherish old ones. Tell those that you love that you do, forget trouble, forgive a slight. Hope, grow, be a little crazy, count your blessings, give, trust. Make miracles happen, pick some flowers, share them. Gaze at stars, look for rainbows, work hard, be wise. Take time for others, make time for yourself, laugh heartily. Spread joy, reach out, take a chance, try something new. Believe in yourself, see a sunrise, listen to rain, reminisce, cry if you need to, trust, have faith, enjoy wonder. Have good ideas, don't be afraid of mistakes, learn. Count your blessings, celebrate life, see beauty everywhere. Love and know that you are loved". Jo Fuchs Luscombe.

The wisdom of this beautiful lady knows no bounds. Thank you Jo for all you have done over the years for women and especially for the WWC.

The WWC Board, at its March meeting, approved the Nominating Committee's proposed 2023-2024 Board Slate. Thank you to the nominating committee Dorothy Curran (Chair), Christina McVaney, Colleen Grant, Karen Kleine, and Susan Loselle.

Our existing Board continues to do an outstanding job and I'm so thankful for all of their hard work throughout the year. Our Members will vote to approve nominees at May Club Day's General Meeting. Then, at June Club Day, newly elected Officers and Directors will be installed, and terms begin July 1.

**Westport Woman's Club
2023-24 Board
Officers & Directors**

Officers

President:	Robin Clark
1st Vice President, Special Interests:	Vivian Hsu
2nd Vice President, Finance:	Julina Ogilvie
3rd Vice President, Ways & Means:	Ana Hitri
Treasurer:	Nancy Austin
Secretary:	

Directors

Communications:	Amy Bennett
Community Services:	Hallie Preskill
Curio Cottage:	Suzan Murphy
Grounds:	
House:	Nancye Fritz
Membership:	Kelly Finn
Parliamentary Advisor:	Becky Ruthven
Program:	Margaret LeBedis
Rentals:	Rebecca Solano
Yankee Doodle Fair:	Donna Richardson
Past President:	Karen Kleine

Nominating Committee:

Dorothy Curran, Chair
Christina McVaney, Colleen Grant, Karen Kleine, Susan Loselle

The Board voted to fill two current vacancies by accepting offers from Kelly Finn (Membership) and Amy Bennett (Communications) to begin work immediately. Recruiting new members and improving communications to promote our events and fundraisers will be vitally important. Please help them in every way that you can.

I would also like to recognize Lauri Weiser who has served on our Board in various roles over the years, most recently as Membership Chair. Lauri's hard work helped to bring in over fifty new members while serving on the Board. Lauri implemented new events that were enjoyed by all. Thank you Lauri from all of us at the WWC.

Looking forward to seeing you at Club Day & wishing you in advance a Happy Passover and Happy Easter!

Fondly,

Robin Clark

April Dates to Remember

April 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 11:30 Club Day	4 1:00 Canasta	5 1:00 Mah Jongg	6 10:00 YDF Meeting	7 1:30 Bridge	8
9	10	11 1:00 Canasta	12 1:00 Mah Jongg	13	14 1:30 Bridge	15
16	17 10:00 Board Meeting	18 11:30 Gourmet 1:00 Canasta 5:30 Member Mix 6:30 Bunco	19 10:00 Ways & Means 1:00 Mah Jongg	20 1:00 Book Club 1:00 Garden Room	21 1:30 Bridge 4:00 BYOB	22
23	24	25 1:00 Canasta	26 1:00 Mah Jongg	27	28 9-2 Mother's Day Shopping Event 1:30 Bridge	29
30						

SAVE THE DATE! WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB IS CO-SPONSORING A MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING EVENT WITH WESTPORT MOMS ON April 28TH. BE SURE TO STOP BY, CURIO COTTAGE WILL BE STOCKED AND WE WILL BE PROMOTING THE WWC THROUGHOUT THE DAY.



Club Day Honored Guest Sylvie Fortin

Sylvie Fortin is an extraordinary woman with a true entrepreneurial spirit. As the owner and operator of BE Chocolat, she has created a business that is not just about chocolate but



about connecting people through this beloved treat. Sylvie's love for entrepreneurship began at a young age. Originally from Quebec, Sylvie studied business and marketing at Université Laval before leaving Canada at the age of 21 to pursue her first work experience in Brussels, Belgium. She met her husband, Benoit Racquet, who graduated as a Belgian Master Chocolatier as a side project for the love of good food. Sylvie spent 17 years in Europe before moving to Fairfield with her husband and their two children who are real foodies. It was there that Sylvie founded BE Chocolat in 2017, operating out of her basement!

In January 2021, BE Chocolat moved out of the basement to open a brick and mortar Atelier where all of the Belgian chocolate is handcrafted. The new location in Greenfield Hill in Fairfield was an obvious choice to extend the production and do events in an area that hosts a Farmers Market in the summer and has a beautiful outdoor setting. This move allowed Sylvie to continue to grow her business, hire a talented team, and connect with even more people. She loves to create and challenge her team for new chocolate creations for customers' requests, and to expand the offering. That's how waffles were added from the first day, and ice cream delights customers since summer 2022. Next to the Atelier production and retail in Fairfield, BE Chocolat is present in stores in CT and NY and ships hundreds of boxes locally, nationally, and internationally.

While Sylvie is not a chocolatier herself, she is a skilled businesswoman with a passion for bringing together local businesses, friends, and associations. Sylvie's relentless energy and passion extend beyond the realm of chocolate. She is an active member of her community, involved in the National Charity League, Women for Women, FELO (Fairfield Emerging Leaders Org), and Belgian associations, to name a few. She loves to spend time outdoors, running, paddleboarding on Long Island Sound, trail biking, and skiing.

If you're looking to connect with a warm and engaging person who truly loves bringing people together, Sylvie Fortin is the person to meet. Whether you're seeking out her delicious chocolates or just a friendly conversation, you're sure to be charmed by her dynamic spirit and kind heart. So why not stop by BE Chocolat and say hello? You might just leave with a new friend and a sweet treat to enjoy.

BE Chocolat will have some delicious samples to enjoy on the day of our April Meeting and you can use the occasion to order/buy some chocolates for the coming celebrations (Easter, Mother's Day, Graduation,..)!



Club Day

Are you looking forward to another delicious offering from Aux Delices? I sure am! The luncheon menu for **Club Day on Monday, April 3rd** is Salisbury Steak with Heirloom Bean Salad. The vegetarian option is a Housemade Veggie Burger with red pepper aioli and a Chopped Greek Salad. There will be assorted rolls and butter available. Dessert is Lemon Coconut Cake. YUM!

Please **call Noel by Wednesday, March 29th to secure your reservation.** You must let Noel know if you are ordering the meat option or the veggie choice. If you are on the permanent lunch list, no need to call unless you are going to cancel. If you have a reservation but are a no show, you are expected to pay the \$25 fee.

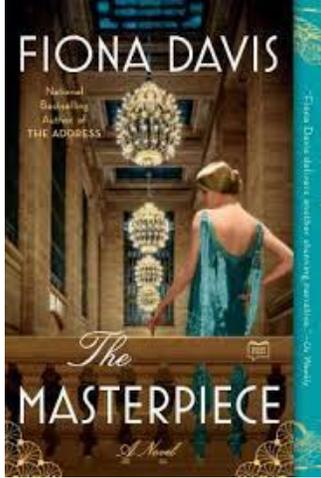
Remember that if you are volunteering for set-up on Sunday or serving or cleaning-up on Monday, you still need to reserve your spot for lunch. Wine and beverages are served in the Dining Room at 11:30 and lunch will be in Bedford Hall at 12:00.

I'm so glad that our numbers at Club Day are growing. Looking forward to seeing you on April 3rd!

Best,
Kim Reichert
1st VP

Book Club

For millions of New Yorkers, Grand Central Terminal is a treasure and a masterpiece of design. For Clara Darden and Virginia Clay, it represents something quite different. In 1928, 25-year-old Clara Darden is teaching at the prestigious Grand Central School of Art. She is very talented and ambitious, dreaming of creating cover art for Vogue, even while juggling the affections of two men. Her dreams of artistic success are thwarted by the disdain for "women artists," and by the Great Depression. Even poverty and hunger will do little to prepare Clara for



the greater tragedy yet to come.

Nearly 50 years later, in 1974, the terminal has declined almost as sharply as Virginia. Full of crime and danger, from the smoke-blackened ceiling to the pickpockets and drug dealers who roam the floor, Grand Central is at the center of a fierce lawsuit. Is the once grand building a landmark to be preserved or just another old building to be demolished? For Virginia, it is her last resort. Recently divorced, she has just accepted a job in the Information booth to support herself and her daughter, Ruby. But when Virginia stumbles on an abandoned art school within

the terminal and discovers a striking watercolor hidden under the dust, her eyes are opened to the elegance beneath the decay. She begins a search to find the artist of the unknown masterpiece that draws her not only to the battle to save Grand Central but deep into the mystery of Clara Darden, the famed 1920s illustrator who disappeared from history in 1931.

Read the book and join us for a discussion of *The Masterpiece* on Thursday, April 20 at 1 pm. All are welcome.

Barbara Raffel (203) 226 3954
Heike Martin (203) 227 2448

Bridge



FRIDAYS: 1:30 PM

Our Bridge group plays at the Club on Fridays starting at 1:30 pm when there are enough players. We welcome all levels of bridge players. Those who can regularly play weekly or as an occasional sub are asked to contact Pattie or Barbara to join our list of players. Emails are sent weekly to members who are interested in playing to see if we have a minimum of 4 players. Ideally, we would like to have two tables playing bridge. Come enjoy the social company of our members while improving your game.

Pattie Takita at patakita3@gmail.com
Barbara Stemmer at barb.stem@sbcglobal.net

Member Mix + Bunco



DATE: TUESDAY, APRIL 18 TH

TIME: 5:30 PM

CALLING NEW MEMBERS AND GROUP CHAIRS!

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR A NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBER
SOCIAL PRIOR TO BUNCO**

**LEARN MORE ABOUT THE WWC, MEET NEW MEMBERS,
BRING A FRIEND. REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED!**

&

**BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE TO PLAY BUNCO at
7:00 PM.**

**Be an April Fool...Just follow the “rule”
of rolling the dice...winning cash is so nice!!
Refreshments will be provided!**

All welcome! No experience is necessary.
(experience doesn't help you win...just LUCK!)



Wendy McKeon 246-2496

BYOB Friday



Date: Friday, April 21st
Time: 4-5:30 pm
(New Members welcome!)
Place: WWC Kitchen

You're invited, Rain or shine! (After all, April showers bring May flowers!)

Come and check out April B.Y.O.B. Friday in the WWC Kitchen. Let's share our Springtime adventures as we offer cheers for daffodils, forsythia, irises, budding trees and lengthening eves!

All WWC members are welcome to join our casual tailgate-style gathering with your hors d'oeuvre and beverage of choice. Whether you **Bring Yourself Over Briefly**, just to say hello--or linger longer--we look forward to your company.

Please come equipped by packing your kit with napkins, small bites, a glass or two, your choice of beverage, a corkscrew (as needed), and an umbrella perhaps?

Rain or shine, we finish at 5:30, well before sunset, leaving "no crumbs, footprints or fingerprints."

SO... Please DO swing by! You'll find us in the WWC Kitchen anytime from 4 to 5:30 on Friday, April 21st!

Whether you're new to the WWC or a Member since "forever," this is a fun way to meet fellow members, show off your garden photos, compare notes on YDF Raffle ticket sales, or look ahead to the WWC Art Show, the Kentucky Derby, our fabulous May Club Day, the Postal Food Drive, or Mother's Day.

"Bring something to sip and nibbles to share, It won't be the same if you're not there!"

THANKS!

Looking forward, as always, to your congenial company!

Dorothy E. Curran 203.246.0543

Canasta



Date: Tuesdays
Time: 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Place: Living Room

We play on Tuesdays from 1:00 - 4:00 pm - if there is a minimum of four players. Emails are sent out at the beginning of each weekend to members who are interested in playing. If you want to be included in these weekly emails, please contact me to put your name on that list. All players are welcome, regardless of skill level and experience. You do not need to have your own Canasta cards and tray but, if you do, please bring them.

Donna Richardson, donnarichardson4@yahoo.com, 203-354-8743

Curio Cottage



The Curio Cottage is OPEN on Thursday and Friday from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm.

We are also accepting donations during these times.

Thank You.

Susan Loselle, Co-Chair

seloselle@gmail.com

203-858-5989

Suzan Murphy, Co-Chair

murphy05@aol.com

203-247-7726

Food Closet



Great news! The **U.S.P.S. Food Drive will be held on Saturday, May 13th in the afternoon.**

Please mark your calendars right now. We need as many helpers as possible (members as well as strong volunteers: husbands/partners, teenaged children or grandchildren, neighbors, etc.).

There are various jobs, such as unpacking bags, sorting, dating cans and boxes, folding shopping bags, and pushing carts of food down to the basement. Some tasks are "sitting" jobs and others are more active (involving walking or pushing shopping carts). The Food Drive usually lasts all afternoon, but we appreciate any hours you can give us! Remember the saying, "Many hands make light work." More specific details will follow in the May Bulletin.

If you have any Trader Joe's shopping bags please bring them to the club. They are very useful as we double bag heavy grocery orders that are delivered to Human Services. You can put them under the Food Closet table near the clock in Bedford Hall on Club Day or deposit them anytime in the hamper near the office door.

And if you happen to be grocery shopping, the WWC Food Closet can use the following items:

- canned fruits (peaches, pears, Mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail)
- maple syrup
- boxed mashed potatoes
- canned corned beef hash
- canned Sloppy Joe mix
- canned beef stew
- canned 1 lb. hams (available at CVS or Rite Aid)

You can put your donations under the clock in Bedford Hall on Club Day or leave them in the hamper outside the office anytime.

We are grateful for any contributions that you can make to our Food Closet.

Wendy McKeon
Kim Reichert

Gourmet



The next Gourmet Luncheon is on April 18th at 11:30 for wine and hors d'oeuvres in the kitchen followed by luncheon at 12:00. If you are interested in joining the April team please contact Bobbie Herman. Bon Appetite!

Patty Doyle 203-226-3642 pattydoyle235@gmail.com
Bobbie Herman 203-408-2542 sangazure1@aol.com

Garden Room



How are your seedlings doing?
What's next?
Join us Thursday, April 20th at 1:00 pm
To learn, plant and have some fun...and of course dessert!
Details to follow.....
Mira Auxier and Jeannette Tewey

Mah Jongg



WEDNESDAYS
1:00-4:00
LIVING ROOM & BEDFORD HALL

Please join us every Wednesday from 1:00-4:00. Everyone is welcome at all levels.

I send out an email early each week as a reminder to sign up.

If you are a beginner or want to learn how to play, please contact Audrey Rabinowitz at 203-505-8083.

Thank you.

Leah Scherzer, MJ Chair
leahsart41@gmail.com
203-856-6189

Sunshine Girl



Sunshine Girl:

This month's Sunshine Girl is Carol Burgess 203-226-5593 bamacb8@gmail.com. Thank you to Jean Anderson for being our March Sunshine Girl!

Ways & Means

The annual Art Show Fundraiser is May 5th, 6th, 7th. (Friday 5-7, Sat/Sun 2-5pm).

Everyone is Welcome. This year we are having a Friday evening reception. Please join us and help if you can. We still need Docents, Meeters & Greeters, and Set-Up help.

Thank you,

Leah Scherzer

Yankee Doodle Fair



Please join us for our next YDF meeting on April 6 at 10 am. Help us plan our biggest fundraiser! Everyone is welcome.

Karen Kleine 203-858-4010

Donna Richardson 541-977-4912

House News

As many of you are aware we are off to a great start with a major clean up of the Club. We started on the main floor and a thank you to Kim Reichert and Wendy McKeon for helping to clean out all the buffets. We have now moved on to the second floor storage rooms. A major part of this is to organize our record retention and Robin will be heading up a group to help get this done. In the meantime, all Club event supplies are being moved to the basement. They are clearly marked and are available to anyone organizing any events in the future. We only ask they be returned in the same organized container after use.

Thanks to Ann Doorly and Donna Richardson for your help. Going forward each event or Club Group will have a designated spot to keep any supplies or records they need. If you currently have or will need a space to store things please see me to get a designated spot. It would be helpful if you let me know before we move on to the basement so I can make sure that everyone can be accommodated.

Anyone interested in helping with this project please reach out to me or Robin. You do not need to be able to lift anything heavy, a lot of help is needed to sort and organize documents.

Thank you,
Nancye Fritz

Board of Directors 2022-2023

President- Robin Clark
1st VP Special Interests -Kim Reichert
2nd VP Finance- Julina Ogilvie
3rd VP Ways & Means -Ana Hitri
Secretary - Robin Clark (Acting)
Treasurer -Barbara Stemmer
Communications - Amy Bennett
Community Services -Donna Richardson
Curio Cottage -Susan Loselle
House - Nancye Fritz
Grounds - Janette Duchnicki
Membership - Kelly Finn
Parliamentary Advisor -Becky Ruthven
Programs -Robin Clark
Rentals -Sharon Jones
Yankee Doodle Fair -Karen Kleine & Donna Richardson
Past President-Karen Kleine

Office Hours: Monday through Friday 9AM-12PM AND 1PM-4PM
Noel Baldwin, Office Manager - 203-227-4240

To access the clubhouse on other days and times, please make arrangements in advance.

Westport Woman's Club | 44 Imperial Avenue, Westport, CT 06880

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