

THE BULLETIN



OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

FEBRUARY 2015

WWC FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Club Day	3	4 <i>Ways & Means/ YDF 10:00am Mah Jongg 1:00 pm</i>	5	6	7
8	9 <i>Bridge 10:30 am Pot Luck 5:00 pm Script in Hand</i>	10 <i>Garden 1:30 pm</i>	11 <i>Mah Jongg 1:00 - 4:00 pm</i>	12 <i>Bridge 9:30 am</i>	13	14
15	16 <i>Bridge 10:30 am Board Mtg 10 am</i>	17 <i>Gourmet 12:00</i>	18 <i>Mah Jongg 1:00 - 4:00 pm</i>	19 <i>Bridge 9:30 am Book Review 1:00pm</i>	20 <i>*Foreign Film 2:00 pm B.Y.O.B 4:00-6:00 pm</i>	21
22	23 <i>Bridge 10:30 am</i>	24 <i>Ladies Who Lunch 12:00</i>	25 <i>Mah Jongg 1:00 - 4:00 pm</i>	26 <i>Bridge 9:30 am</i>	27	28

Officers

President *Dorothy E. Curran*, **1st Vice President (Special Interest Groups)** *Dorothy Packer*,
2nd Vice President (Finance) *Arlene Johnson*, **3rd Vice President (Ways & Means)** *Suzan Murphy*,
Secretary *Becky Ruthven*, **Treasurer** *Barbara Szefc*. **Directors: Communications** *Josephine Calcagni*,
Community Service *Nancy Saipe*, **Membership** *Susan Hricik*, **Parliamentary Advisor** *A. Elizabeth Donofrio*,
Grounds *Janette Duchnicki*, **Program** *Rose Jordan*, **Rentals** *Susan Loselle*, **Curio Cottage** *Jerilyn Deveau*,
Yankee Doodle Fair *Dorothy E. Curran and Christina McVaney*, **Past President** *Mary Lee Clayton*

Staff

Office Manager *Colleen Fenton*, **Resident Manager** *Dora Sweet*
Office Phone #203-227-4240
Office Hours M-F 9:00 am-12 Noon and 1:00 pm -4:00pm

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

What a busy January we've had! Our Auditorium/Banquet Room/Meeting Hall has been REBORN for the 21st century! This was a major investment in the power of our real estate to generate rental and fundraising revenue for non-profits we serve. Special thanks to all of the Special Interest Groups who rearranged their activities to accommodate the needs of our all-important Ceiling Renovation. Our architect, Vesna Juresko Herman, and our interior designer, Beverly Ellsley, were invaluable and encouraging resources every step of the way. On Club Day, as our guests, they will deserve your applause (and referrals!). The ceiling's completion marks the end for me of a 7-month period of daily planning, budgeting, product evaluation and selection, contractor research and communications, bid solicitation and negotiation, scheduling vendors and deliveries and then--once demolition and renovation began on Dec. 19--daily oversight, problem-solving and reporting. But--as you will see on Club Day--it's all WORTH IT, and now the FUN and fresh streams of Rental Revenues begin!

Meanwhile, the more we discovered about OUR HALL through this process, the more that we realized that--even after all of the completed work--one thing still is missing. Here's what we learned:

- our WWC is one of only 2 Women's Clubs in Connecticut (Greenwich is the other) that owns its own clubhouse
- our original home at the old Y, 2nd floor, was known as "Bedford House," for E.T. Bedford, who built the Y and customized the second floor for our use (meetings, visiting nurse, vaccinations, dental screenings, art show fundraisers)
- in 1945, with the Y under pressure to open ALL of its space to Westport-Weston's booming population, the Bedfords purchased the 1881 Sidney Watts House on Imperial to facilitate our move from the Y; however, none of the rooms was large enough for meetings of our swelling membership
- in 1950, the Saugatuck Church decided to move its church building down and across the Post Road to its current site and sell its separate 1866-67 Sunday School Meeting House ("Sabbath Hall") to the Westport Woman's Club for \$2,000, so that use still would benefit the community. However, the full cost of our purchase (see foyer photos), to cut the hall in half, move, annex and renovate it, was \$20,000. Once again, the Bedfords helped with \$10,000 (in 1950 dollars) toward the full cost.
- Worth noting: most of our \$1.2K endowment comes from the Bedfords; most of the balance--aside from what represents investment returns--comes from generous bequests by members like Lea Ruegg or their families
- In today's dollars, the market value of our Imperial Ave. land and 2 buildings more than doubles the value of our endowment.

Who knew? Most Westporters and many of our own members have no idea of this proud and colorful history. So what's missing? To honor this history, and to assist in branding our new state-of-the-art auditorium for rental and fundraising revenues, we plan 2 things:

- 1) historical plaques for EACH of our historic buildings (replacement plaque for the 1881 Sidney Watts House)
- 2) a NAME for our "reborn" antique/state-of-the art Hall.

If you have ideas, suggestions or more of the building's history to share, please do send them along to me, Colleen or any Board Member. MANY THANKS! And see you on Club Day! Dorothy Dorothy E. Curran, President, 203-246-0543

CONDOLENCES

We extend our sympathy to Barbara Raffel on the death of her brother, Don Gurda. Our sympathies to Bobbie Herman's husband, Paul Cohen, on the death of his daughter. Paul has been very supportive of WWC fund-raising efforts, often designing our flyers. We extend our sympathy to Joyce and Elliott Netherton on the death of their daughter, Paige. Our sympathies to Past President Winnie Martinek on the death of her husband, Charles. Dorothy Packer, 1st VP, dmpacker@aol.com, 203-227-7769

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Services has been busy reviewing the almost 50 grant applicants; there are so many deserving local organizations. Dee Zaslow, once again, collected and delivered toys for the Holiday Toy Drive. Thank you to all those that donated toys and especially to Dee for coordinating, collecting and delivering.

Leah Scherzer has been busy working with the Town of Westport's Human Services coordinating the delivery of 34 meals to the homebound for New Year's. (A total of 84 meals were delivered to Westport's Homebound for Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's.) The Klinge family has once again put together teams of people to deliver the meals. If you have the opportunity, please thank Cris Negrin from In Good Taste and the folks at Sherwood Diner for providing the meals. A real community effort. The next Community Services Meeting is at 10:30 am on Monday, February 23, 2015. Nancy Saipe, ncsaip@aol.com, 203-454-0033

CLUB DAY

Join us Monday, February 2nd for Club Day, hosted by Tournament Bridge and Social Bridge, both co-chaired by Tommie Ross and Helen Doxtator-Schwindeman. Please make sure you make a reservation by 1 PM Wednesday before Club Day. Lunch is \$20.00. Plan to arrive by 11:30 AM to enjoy Manicotti w/Marinara Sauce; Green Salad with Antipasto Toppings & Balsamic dressing w/Shaved Provolone Picante, Peperoncini, Olives, Parma Ham; Garlic Bread from Baguettes; Fresh Fruit Tartlets. If you have a serious food allergy or are a vegetarian, please let me know. If you need to cancel a reservation, please call the Office 203 227-4240 by 1 PM Wednesday before Club Day to avoid being charged. Dorothy Packer, 1st VP, dmpacker@aol.com, 203-227-7769

PROGRAMS

Our guest speaker this month is local author Nina Sankovitch. Nina has written two books of non-fiction. The first, her memoir of a life of reading, entitled *Tolstoy and the Purple Chair*, not only tells the story of Nina's life of reading but of how books helped her to cope with the death of her oldest sister. This story is for anyone who has ever found refuge or comfort or escape or joy in a book. Nina's second book, *Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Celebrating the Joys of Letter Writing*, came out in April 2014. Rose Jordan, jordport@optonline.net, 203-227-1809

BOOK REVIEW

Our next meeting is February 19th and our book for then is *The End of Your Life Book Club* by Will Schwalbe. Lee Mennitt, leemennitt@gmail.com, 203-523-0904.

BUNCO! Bunco will not meet in February. Wendy McKeon, 222-0038, XWAMX50@aol.com

B.Y.O.B

BYOB Friday returns on Friday, Feb. 20, 4 to 6 PM, in the Kitchen! All are welcome to stop by. Bring something to sip or munch and share as we weigh in on the Ceiling Renovation results, monitor the progress of Fay Farquhar and her little dog, Suzie, in taming the Wild West, begin the countdown to Spring and solve the world's problems as ONLY Members of the Westport Woman's Club can! Dorothy Curran, DorothyECurran@aol.com, 203.246.0543

CURIO COTTAGE

Hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday Season and is ready to lend a helping hand. It is almost Tag Sale time and many workers are needed, all week long. We will start the set-up after the club day luncheon on Monday, Mar. 2nd. Then we will solicit and accept donations Tuesday-Thursday, March 3rd-5th. The Sale will be March Friday March 6th & Saturday March 7th. Come as often as you can, stay as long as you can, and if you have been saving items for the sale, now is the time. We always need a few extra hands on Saturday, for clean-up and if anyone knows of a charity that will pick up, please let me know. We will have food, fun, and, hopefully make a lot of money for the Club. We will send an email reminder, too. Karen Eickhoff, 203-454-3889, kayrog@optonline.net

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Our next WWC Potluck & Script-in-Hand date is Monday, Feb. 9, at 5 pm (Potluck in the Kitchen), followed by what promises to be another sold-out Script-in-Hand reading at 7pm at the Westport Country Playhouse. As promised by WCP Associate Artistic Director, Annie Keefe, the work, *Painting Churches*, is another gem by a woman playwright (Tina Howe). To participate, please buy your ticket (\$20) directly from the WCP (box office or online), then let me know that you plan to join the Potluck so that we can plan another fun menu. <http://www.westportplayhouse.org/specialevents/scriptinhand.aspx> ALSO, mark your calendars: Monday, March 9 is the next Potluck and WCP Script-in-Hand (Play to be announced). Friday, March 20 at 2pm is our first Joint Venture Foreign Film with the Y's Women, using our new projection system. The film will be followed at 4pm by BYOB Friday to welcome our visitors and share discussion of the film. Dorothy E. Curran, Cultural Affairs Chairperson, DorothyECurran@aol.com, 20-.246-0543

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

On Tuesday, February 10th, at 1:30 p.m. the Garden Program will feature Nick Mancini from Westport, a Master Gardener, author, teacher, lecturer, garden consultant and coach with decades of experience. Nick will provide a Power-Point presentation on Container Gardening. All WWC members are invited to attend the February Garden Program. Jerilyn Deveau, 203-372-2920, jerilyndeveau@yahoo.com

GOURMET

Our meeting on Tuesday February 17th will be an outing to *Pane e Bene* Restaurant, 1620 Post Road East, Westport. We will meet at the restaurant at 12 noon and enjoy a delicious Italian Luncheon at which you may select from the specials of the day or the restaurant menu. Members will be billed individually by the restaurant for food and beverages. Guests also are welcome. Please RSVP to Lisa Allison by February 12 to make a reservation. Lisa Allison, 203-227-9563, liallison@optonline.net, Barbara Gladnick, 203-854-0424, bagladnick@optonline.net.

HOUSE

Amazing, but TRUE! The Ceiling Demolition & Renovation that began on Friday, Dec. 19 in our Auditorium will be FINISHED in time for CLUB DAY! Scope included 1 architect (Vesna Juresko Herman), 1 interior designer (Beverly Ellsley) 8 different teams of contractors, myriad suppliers and oversight by the Town Building Department. WOW!!! Imagine all that we now can offer prospective Renters! VERY EXCITING POSSIBILITIES, including for our own Programs/FUNdraisers and those of other non-profits whom we support, as well as for Private Parties, Weddings, Memorial Services, Concerts, Lectures or Corporate Off-Sites. Tell your friends!!! Dorothy E. Curran, Acting House Director

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Because of the unpredictable weather in winter, we'll be staying close to the Post Road. This month's culinary adventure takes us to the Blue Lemon, a favorite of many, and selected by Yelp and Trip Adviser as one of the leading restaurants in Westport. Date: Tuesday, February 24 at noon Location: 15 Myrtle Avenue in Sconset Square. Bobbie Herman, 203-255-1577, sangazure1@aol.com

MAH JONGG

Mah Jongg meets every Wednesday from 1:00 pm-4:00 in the living room. Please call Diana Zaslow if you are interested in playing. Diana Zaslow, 203-227-1346, deezaslow@aol.com

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Our third session began on Monday, January 5th; and Monday, January 12th was cancelled due to weather conditions. We resumed on January 19th and 26th. The Club Day Luncheon on February 2nd is Tournament Bridge's turn to hostess. We will have a signup sheet available at Bridge. Hope you all will help out. Tommie Ross, 203-227-2444, Helen Doxtator, 203-221-7934

WAYS and MEANS

Our next fundraising event will be an Art Show on Friday May 1st, Saturday May 2nd, Sunday May 3rd and Monday May 4th (Club Day). The Garden Department plant sale will run concurrent Friday through Monday for those interested to join the Art Show Committee should contact event chair Jo Luscombe, 203-227-0393. Those interested in assisting with the fall clothing sale and or a wine tasting should contact Dorothy Curran, DorothyECurran@aol.com, 203-246-0453. Suzan Murphy, 3rd VP, Ways- & Means; murphy05@aol.com, 203-222-9117

WWC KNITTERS

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, February 25, at 1:00 pm downstairs in the dining room. Joan Miller, mmiller@optonline.net, 203-226-7036

YANKEE DOODLE FAIR

The Next meeting will be February 4th at 10:00 am in the living room.
2015 CO-CHAIRS Dorothy E. Curran, 203-246-0543, Christina McVaney, 203-293-5190

ZUMBA

Everyone is welcome to join us for Zumba on Thursday mornings from 10:15-11:15. The fee is \$40 for the month whether there are four or five Thursdays. Please make checks payable to Jill Franke. Walk-ins are \$12.00. Due to Banquet Room renovation, Zumba will resume on Thursday, February 5th. For further information please contact me. Leah Scherzer, Chair, Zumba; 203-226-3042, leahsart@aol.com

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