



The BULLETIN

OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

DECEMBER 2010

WWC DECEMBER CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 <i>Mah Jong 1-4pm Garden 10:00am RSVP 1:00pm</i>	2 <i>Bridge 10:00 am Book Review 1:00pm Garden 10:00am</i>	3 <i>Garden 10:00am Deck the Halls</i>	4
5	6 <i>Club Day</i>	7 <i>Holiday Gift Card Mailing 9:30am</i>	8 <i>Cultural Affairs 9:30 am</i>	9 <i>Social Bridge 10:00 am</i>	10	11
12	13 <i>Bridge 10:30am</i>	14 <i>Gourmet 11:30am</i>	15 <i>Antiques Noon Mah Jong 1-4pm</i>	16 <i>Social Bridge 10:00am</i>	17	18
19	20 <i>Bridge 10:30am Board Meeting 9:30am-12:00n</i>	21 <i>Bunco 6:30pm</i>	22 <i>Mah Jong 1-4pm</i>	23 <i>Social Bridge 10:00am</i>	24 <i>Christmas Eve Office Closed</i>	
26	27 <i>Office Closed</i>	28 <i>Office Closed</i>	29 <i>Office Closed</i>	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 <i>New Years Eve Office Closed</i>	

Officers President Mary Vickery; 1st Vice President (Special Interests) Leah Scherzer; 2nd Vice President (Finance) Wynne Abrams; 3rd Vice President (Ways & Means) Susan Cugliari; Secretary Pat Voris; Treasurer Anne Hunt **Directors** Communications Denise Kuendig; Community Service Jo Fuchs Luscombe; Grounds Brenda Sciarra; House Ruthann Carroll/Conchita Cassell; Membership Clare Clark; Parliamentary Advisor Joyce Netherton; Program Kathy Groener, Mitzi Lyman, Barbara Levy; Rentals Rose Jordan Curio Cottage Carol Goetz, Yankee Doodle Fair Dorothy Curran

Staff Office Manager Colleen Fenton; Resident Manager Dora Sweet

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Office Hours M-F 9:00am-4:00pm
12:00-1:00 Closed for Lunch
Office Phone 203-227-4240

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Fellow Members,

'Tis the Season...At this time of year I am always struck by the generosity of our members and others in the community. Recently in addition to a \$1,000 check from the Monker Grotto Association, the Club has received other very generous contributions to the Food Closet and Holiday Meals programs from John and Marianne Farrell, Isabel and Russell Blair and from our own Club Past President Barbara Culp. We truly appreciate the ongoing support of the Masons and these other very generous individuals.

As has been done in the past, all cash proceeds from the December Club Day door prize drawing will be directed to the WWC's Holiday Gift Card and Holiday Catered Meal programs. This year the Garden Department, in addition to hosting the luncheon and Holiday boutique, is providing three very special gift baskets as prizes for the drawing. Even if you can't attend Club Day, you can still participate in the drawing; tickets are for sale starting now in the office. Ticket prices are \$10 for one ticket or \$20 for 3, and you don't have to be at the luncheon to win. We hope everyone will support these worthy programs and buy at least one ticket.

I also want to thank Club member Nancy Saipe and her committee members for coordinating the Holiday Meal Gift Card mailings and the Holiday Catered Meal programs in conjunction with the Town's Department of Human Services. Over 490 Westporters will benefit this year from these important Club programs.

Finally, by now you all should have received an annual appeal letter from me on behalf of the Club. This appeal was first recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee and has since been endorsed by the Ways & Means and Finance Committees, as well as the Board. In order to cover Club operating costs and ensure our being able to continue giving to the community at current levels, we need to increase our sources of administrative income. If you have already responded to the appeal, thank you very much for your support. If you are still considering a gift, please keep in mind that no amount is too small and any form of support is welcome—checks, pledges, corporate matching, appreciated securities or planned giving. Our securities administrator would be more than happy to work with you to facilitate non-cash gifts and/or planned giving programs. Please call the office, if we can be of any assistance.

On behalf of the Board, I wish you all a very healthy and happy holiday season.

Mary Vickery, President

CLUB DAY

Many thanks to Jo Fuchs Luscomb and Community Service who helped to make another successful Club Day. Also, special thanks to Carol Goetz who once again topped our tables with beautiful centerpieces filled with food she donated to the Food Closet. Our next Club Day, December 6th, will be hosted by Anne Hunt and Gourmet.

Please check your new directory and handbook for all the important information regarding lunch and Club Day.

Thank you,

Leah Scherzer, 1st Vice President

PROGRAMS

The program for the December Luncheon will be the Sedgewick Family Singers who will be singing songs of the season.

This talented musical family performs throughout Fairfield County. Last December they braved the cold on Main Street in Westport, entertaining shoppers with holiday carols.

Program Directors

Kathy Groener

Barbara Levy

Mitzi Lyman

SUNSHINE GIRLS



December: Carol Burgess

COMMUNITY SERVICES

We will continue to entertain speakers as available, and will begin the review of grant requests at our next meeting and all future meetings of Community Service.

Thank you to all who participated in hosting the November Club Day. Special kudos to the clean up crew: Sue Mahar, Rosalie Puglia and Tammy Pincavage.

Kitchen duty can be fun when there are many helping hands. Pat Jensen did a fine job of lining up volunteers and overseeing the kitchen.

Thank you, also, to Nancy Saipe and her team of workers for getting out the Thanksgiving mailing and gift cards in record time, thus ensuring that those in need will not go hungry on Thanksgiving Day.

Our next meeting will be January 24th 9:30am.

May your own Thanksgiving be happy and bountiful.

Jo Fuchs Luscombe, Director
Community Service

Thanks to all of those who stuffed envelopes with Thanksgiving greetings and Stop and Shop gift cards. The gift cards will arrive at the homes of the 192 Westport families (496 individuals) in time for Thanksgiving.

Please mark your calendars for Tuesday, December 7th at 9:30am in the Board Room to assist with the December Holiday gift card mailing.

Nancy Saipe

NECESSITIES BAGS

Thank you to all the members who were involved in the Necessities Bags project in October by donating shirts and wipes, contributing money to purchase those items, sewing pillows, filling 100 tote bags with useful items and delivering them to surgeons and breast cancer health centers, for distribution to mastectomy patients. Everyone was enthusiastic about participating in this project again next year.

Your support of this project is greatly appreciated.

WARM-UP FUND MAILING

Mark your calendars for the Warm-Up Fund mailing, which will be held in the Club's banquet room on Wednesday, January 19th at 9:30am (snowdate is Wednesday, January 26th). The WWC has participated in this annual project for many years, in conjunction with the United Way and Westport's Dept of Human Services. Letters are mailed out to Westport residents requesting financial contributions to the Warm-up Fund to help our neighbors needing assistance to pay their fuel bills during the cold winter. Our members affix labels, stuff letters, and seal envelopes. Please join us; there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside the office.

Clare Clark and Audrey Rabinowitz
Co-chairs

CURIO COTTAGE

Hi, just wanted to remind everyone that we will be closed from Dec. 20 until Jan 3, 2011. Don't forget to shop at the Cottage for great gifts and decorations....and to donate unneeded gifts, too.

NEW SIGN. For the ladies who work at the cottage, the new sign is installed and all you have to do is "hang" it on the installed metal holder. It will be much easier, much lighter and much more attractive. Thanks to Sign Smarts in Norwalk for working so hard to make this for us and for giving us such a great price!

Hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving, and many blessing to count.

Karen Eickhoff and Curio Cottage

SHALL WE DANCE



YES! We will have two Zumba groups. I have hired a Zumba instructor, Fran O'Neill. Please check the board outside the office or ask Colleen to print the letter with all the information regarding Zumba. Everyone is welcome. Join us for fun, and dance to a healthier you. Any questions? Please contact Leah Scherzer, 1st V.P.

BOOK CLUB

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Book Club will meet one week later, Thursday December 2 at 1:00pm in the Boardroom. Vi Takahashi will lead us in a discussion of "Small Island" by Andrea Levy. Books will be available in the Westport library. All are invited to attend - just read the book and come!

Barbara Raffel

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE AND DECK THE HALLS

The holidays are here! We need all your help to create the wreaths, swags and boxwood trees that our members have ordered, to decorate the house for Christmas and to set up the Annual Christmas Boutique. Here is the schedule:

Wednesday, December 1st: 10:00am–
Boxwood trees

Thursday, December 2nd: 10:00am
– Make wreaths, swags and centerpieces

Friday, December 3rd: 10:00am –
“Deck The Halls”, ie decorate the Clubhouse, finish centerpieces and other Boutique items

Sunday, December 5th: 2:00pm –
Set-up for the Boutique

Monday, December 6th 10:00 am–
Boutique and Club Lunch* at Noon.

(And, mark your calendars now for Tuesday, January 4th, 10:00am when we take down the Club Christmas Decorations.)

Please plan to join us for any or all of these days. Drinks and desserts are provided. Bring a sandwich, clippers and gloves. Stay the entire time or just an hour or two; any help is appreciated and needed. The proceeds from our Boutique pay for speakers, plants for the Club Grounds and, when appropriate, allow us to contribute to civic projects.

Call or email me if you have questions.

Mary Lee Clayton
Chair

RSVP KNITTING

The next meeting is Wednesday, December 1 at 1 PM in the Conference Room. Usually this group meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month, but this date was changed because of the holidays.

All levels of knitters are welcome and we are happy to teach beginners. For questions, please contact Joan Miller,

Joan Miller

WAYS & MEANS

Thanks to Wendy McKeon and Linda Amos and their team for coordinating the November 15 Bingo fundraiser, which netted over \$1,100 and was a most enjoyable afternoon for workers and players alike. If you weren't able to be part of this event, there is still plenty of time to help. We have a number of other fun events in the works and need every members' help in order to reach our annual fundraising goal. So, call your friends, and come join one of the following teams.:

- Valentine's Weekend Concerts – Mary Vickery
- Spring Fashion Show - April 13 – Jo Fuchs Luscombe
- Bridal Show – Date to be determined – Leah Scherzer

Call the captains to find out specific times and places for future meetings. Remember the more hands, the lighter the load and the greater the fun for everyone involved.

ANTIQUES

The Antiques group will not be having a meeting with a speaker in December. As we have done in the past, we will celebrate the holiday season by going to a restaurant for lunch. We will be dining at the Brasserie (formerly St. Tropez) Restaurant in Fairfield on Wednesday, Dec. 15 at noon. Check out their website (www.thebrasseriect.com) for their reasonably priced menu. Please contact me by Dec. 13th if you plan to attend, as the restaurant needs to have the final count.

Happy Holidays!

Audrey Rabinowitz
Antiques Chair, 227-6010

BUNCO

Happy Holidays!!!

Our December Bunco Night is our “Holiday Potluck”...

Date: Tuesday, December 21
Time: 6:30 p.m. **** A little earlier than usual so we can have lots of time for “Holiday Cheer”...

Please sign-up to bring a delicious “edible” ... Next to your name, write what you are planning to bring...

YANKEE DOODLE FAIR MEETING

Hi All,

There is no meeting in December, so we will see you all at the January meeting: Wednesday, January 5th, 10:00am.

HAVE GREAT HOLIDAYS!

Mary Lee Clayton
Dorothy E Curran
Yankee Doodle Fair Co-Chairs

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

On the October and November theatre trips, I distributed approximately 45 hand-outs entitled "Broadway shows scheduled for spring, 2011" for your consideration. I requested that you let me know what show or shows you would like me to book for the coming season. So far 14 of the surveys have been returned, not nearly enough to reach any conclusive decision.

I have spoken to our ticket provider and some of these shows are already sold out until June.

Taking a survey does not appear to have been a very good idea. Our Cultural Affairs dates were published in the Membership Directory; however, we will not be having any kind of Cultural Affairs event in April, as Ways and Means has scheduled a Fashion Show on the 13th and we all want to support that.

As to whether or not we can fill the remaining dates we shall see. It looks like we are too late for the March and May dates for some Broadway shows.

PLAY READING GROUP ANYONE?

Anyone interested in a play reading group? Anyone ever been in one? Anyone know how it's done? I don't. Let me know if you are interested in starting a group. The 4th Tuesday looks like the best day for the availability of the Woman's Club, either morning or afternoon, I don't care. I would like to start in January.

Marilyn Killough

MEMBERSHIP

Wishing all members a Happy Holiday Season and reminding you that each one of you is the best advertisement for new members! Invite a friend to a Club Day or a Cultural Arts Outing or Bunco or Zumba in the New Year! I would love to have a "girls night out" at the WWC one of these winter nights... anyone want to join me in planning something? Have you all accessed the Members Only Link on the website? Any suggestions on other information you would like to have available there?

New members please be assured that you won't ever sit alone at a Club Day, I will have a seat for you and introduce you to other members with similar interests. Everyone, please welcome these new members and add their info to your Directory (we will be able to also add the new members info to the website in the near future):

Carol Chambliss
5 Wakeman Place
Westport

Daisy Fischtrom
1 Blind Brook Road South
Westport

Sylvia Hirshout
51 Crescent Road
Westport

Judy Wetzel
18 Saugatuck River Road
Weston, CT 06883

See you at the WWC!
Clare Clark, Membership

GOURMET

Once again members of Gourmet will be hosting the largest luncheon of the year, the Westport Woman's Club Holiday Luncheon, on December 6. All Gourmet members are encouraged to help out and to be at their station on time. Do enjoy the fun and the inspiring Holiday Program, on this day, which is such a treat to our WWC members every year.

On December 14 we will be enjoying our traditional Champagne, Hors D'oeuvres and Dessert Christmas Party. All of the hors d'oeuvres and desserts are home cooked by our members. The party begins at 11:00 AM and will end around 1:30 PM. Guests are welcomed.

Bon Appétit and keep on cooking!

Elfriede Lafferty

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Tournament Bridge is a competitive bridge game. You and your partner play 6 games against each of 5 other teams each week (30 games each day). We meet every Monday (except on Club Days), from 10:30am to 2:00pm. We play 5-week sessions, from September through May, with prizes handed out at the end of each session.

We always need substitutes. If you are interested in joining us and/or being on the substitute list, please call Mary-Jane Cross

SOCIAL BRIDGE

Social Bridge meets regularly on Thursday mornings from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the living and dining rooms. Please call me if you are interested in signing up to "SUB".

Tommie Ross

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