



Westport Woman's Club

Supporting Our Community Since 1907

Westport Woman's Club December 2022 Bulletin

**VOLUNTEER**

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Dear Fellow WWC Members,*

*First, I would like to thank our Board Members for everything that you do and for all of your assistance and hard work these past few months.*

*Special thanks to Susan Loselle and our volunteers that helped make the clothing sale our best to date! We are grateful to all of our members that donated clothing, accessories, handbags, shoes, jewelry, and time (470 volunteer hours recorded)! Excess clothing was donated to the Bridgeport Rescue Mission which provides vital services to men, women, and children.*

*Thank you to Leah Scherzer for working with the Director of Human Services at the Town of Westport to ensure Stop & Shop gift cards donated by the WWC were delivered to families in need, ahead of the Thanksgiving holiday. A second round in December will also be donated to individuals in our community needing assistance.*

*Thank you to our Gourmet Group! I can't believe what I've been missing all of these years! Crostini with Brie and fig Blanquette de Veau, Crunchy Pea Salad, Hazelnut Meringue, Vanilla Panna Cotta, Pear Compote...OMG, delicious! If you enjoy cooking and eating delicious food, this fun group is for you.*

*Thank you in advance to our Garden Group as they prepare for and decorate our clubhouse for the holidays. Please be sure to stop by our Club this December and enjoy the beautiful decorations! Also, be certain to register on time for December Club Day as it fills up quickly.*

*Thank you to Ana Hitri for organizing our Sip & Savor and silent auction fundraiser on Nov 19th.*

*Thank you to both Noel Baldwin, Office Manager & Bet Laurinyecz, House Manager, for all that you do for me, our members, and guests throughout the year.*

*As you know, volunteers are essential to us hosting successful fundraisers*

*each year. It's a great way to meet other members and I encourage everyone to get involved. Planning for our signature fundraiser, Yankee Doodle Fair is underway. This event is an all hands on deck affair and is what funds our scholarships and grants for the following year.*

*Volunteer cards are now available at the entrance of the Club. When volunteering, please be sure to let us know by filling out a card and dropping it in the box provided.*

*CT Braille will be leaving us at the end of December. Their operation has changed since the pandemic with most of Micki's work being done from home. We've been honored to support CT Braille since 1966 and we wish Micki McCabe and CT Braille all of the best in their mission.*

*Lastly, as you know, funds raised by our volunteers are used to support educational, charitable, cultural and public health services in our community. Membership support throughout the year helps us to continue our good work and keep our house warm! Please consider the WWC when making your annual giving pledges this year.*

*Wishing you and your family & friends a very Happy Holiday Season and a Peaceful New Year.*

*Thank you for all that you do for the WWC!*

*Robin Clark*

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## **December Dates to Remember!**

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 10-2 Holiday Wreath Workshop	2 10-2 Boutique Workshop 1:30 Bridge	3
4 4-8 Rental	5 11:30 Club Day	6 1:00 Canasta	7 1:00 MahJongg	8 6:00 Member Potluck	9 1:30 Bridge	10
11	12	13 12:30 Ladies Who Lunch 1:00 Canasta	14 10:00 Membership Meeting 1:00 MahJongg	15 1:00 Book Group	16 1:30 Bridge 4:00 BYOB	17
18	19	20 11:30 Gourmet Holiday Potluck 1:00 Canasta 6:00 Holiday Bunco	21 1:00 MahJongg	22	23 1:30 Bridge	24
25	26	27 1:00 Canasta	28 1:00 MahJongg	29	30 1:30 Bridge	31

## Club Day Honored Guests LARRY AYCE & DOREEN MARIE



Larry Ayce and  
Doreen Marie

Larry Ayce has entertained for his entire life. He traveled for a year across the United States performing music from Florida to Las Vegas. He also was back up on lead guitar for several entertainers as they recorded in Nashville studios. Larry and Doreen share their love of music and family and travel across the state and perform together almost every day. They also have a full band that they use to entertain at Dinner Clubs, City Summer Concerts, Fairs, and private events. Their genre consists of country, oldies, and many popular standards.

Doreen Marie lived in Nashville for 25 years and sang for 3 of those years alongside people such as Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn, and Tammy Wynette. She sang harmony for so many other Nashville stars such as Randy Travis.

Together with her husband Larry Ayce they perform at many Assisted Living Facilities and Senior Centers bringing people joy and memories that bring smiles to every audience they perform for.



Please note that our December luncheon is always very well attended, so unfortunately we must limit the number of attendees to WWC members only (no guests allowed that month). If you are a "big sister" or know of

any new members, please remind them about our Club Day luncheon and have them call to reserve. The Garden Department will "Deck the Halls" so wait until you see how lovely the club will look! And we will be having wonderful entertainment with plenty of festive holiday music.

Club Day will be held on **Monday, December 5th**. Please remember that all members (even those women volunteering to help set up, serve, or clean up) must make a lunch reservation. If you are on the permanent lunch list, there is no need to call, unless you need to cancel. **The cut-off date for reservations is Wednesday, November 30th** so that the correct number of lunches can be ordered from the caterer. Be aware that, if you are a no-show, you will still be expected to pay the \$25 for your lunch.

Aux Delices will be preparing a delicious holiday feast for us. There will be Chicken Meatballs with Rigatoni Ala Vodka as the entree. The salad is going to be Bibb, Radicchio, and Arugula greens with Shallot Vinaigrette. There will be sliced bread and butter available. And a yummy dessert of Chocolate Roulade with Vanilla Mascarpone will round out our holiday luncheon.

**Please plan to join us at Club Day on December 5th** . Wine and beverages will be served at 11:30 in the Dining Room and luncheon will begin at noon in Bedford Hall.

Hope to see you all then!

Kim Reichert  
1st VP

## Book Group

The **December 15, 1 pm** meeting of the Book Group will be Charlotte McConaghy's "Migrations." This is the story of Franny Stone, a woman who is able to love but unable to stay. Leaving everything behind but her research gear, she arrives in Greenland to follow the last Arctic terns in what might be their final migration to Antarctica. Franny talks her way onto a fishing boat



and the crew sets sail, traveling even further from shore and safety. But as Franny's history begins to unspool - a passionate love affair, an absent family, a devastating crime - it becomes clear that she is chasing much more than just the birds. When her dark secrets catch up with her, how much is she willing to risk for one more chance at redemption?

Epic and intimate, heartbreaking and galvanizing, "Migration" is a page-turner about the possibility of hope against all odds.

All are welcome to join us on Thursday, December 15 at 1 pm. All you need to do is read the book.

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](mailto:patakita3@gmail.com)  
Barbara Stemmer at [barb.stem@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barb.stem@sbcglobal.net)

## Bunco



"Come all ye faithful...joyful Bunco players"  
"Tis the season...for food, fun, and friends..."

### **Bunco Holiday Party!**

Date: Tuesday, December 20th  
Time: 6:00 P.M. \*note this early time\*  
7:00 P.M. game play begins  
Place: Bedford Hall

Please sign up on the sheet in the foyer and note what you plan on bringing - an appetizer and/or dessert to share. (This helps to guarantee a delicious assortment of goodies!) Also - please bring your drink of choice. All are welcome...No experience necessary!

Let's "Deck the Halls"...with shouts of "BUNCO"!!

Happy Holidays....  
Wendy McKeon  
(203) 246-2496

## BYOB Friday



**Date: Friday, December 16th**

**Time: 4-5:30 pm**

*(New Members encouraged to attend!)*

**Place: WWC Kitchen**

**You're invited!** Please join us on **Dec. 16th** for **BYOB FRIDAY** to shine some light on the December holidays, hear about your favorites from the Club Day country music performance, or guess how many times we'll have to plow this winter!

Come take a break with friends before the approaching winter equinox! Pack a sippable and munchable, and come gather in the WWC Kitchen for December BYOB Friday. After all, this is the very last BYOB Friday of 2022!

**Bring Yourself Over Briefly**, to say hello (or linger longer).

All WWC members always are welcome, so swing by and join the tailgate-style fun with an hors d'oeuvre and beverage of your choosing (crackers, cheese and a water bottle will do!) as we salute the year's shortest days in congenial company. We each bring our own napkins, corkscrew (if needed), glasses and serving implements. Then, voila! At 5:30, refreshed by entertaining conversation, we pack up and disappear, leaving "no crumbs, footprints or fingerprints."

Here's your chance to share your favorite 2022 cellphone photos one more time, along with the stories behind them.

**Sooooo... Please do stop by the WWC Kitchen anytime from 4 to 5:30 on Friday, Dec. 16th!**

Whether you are new to the WWC or a Member since "forever," this is an easy and entertaining way to meet fellow members, enjoy the last days of autumn, or simply pivot to busy days ahead.

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

THANKS!

Looking forward to seeing you!

Dorothy E. Curran 203.246.0543



**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.

If you have been exposed to COVID, please stay home.

Donna Richardson, [donnarichardson4@yahoo.com](mailto:donnarichardson4@yahoo.com), 203-354-8743

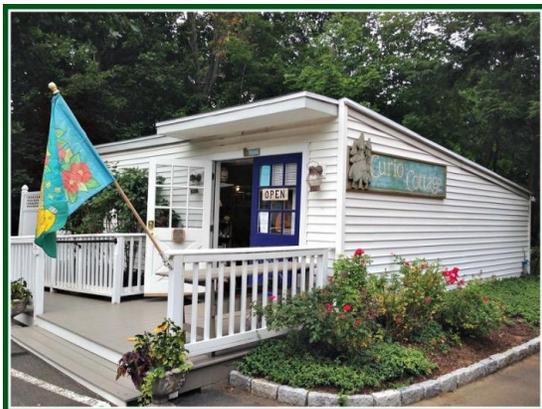
## Community Services

We have begun to review the grant applications. We are meeting on Tuesdays at 10:00 until we finish. Some meetings will be canceled due to the holidays so check with me. If you would like to hear and see what we do, please join us.

The Ruegg Grant will be in early winter or late spring. If you would like to help please let me know. This grant is given to one organization and we can give up to \$10,000.

Donna Richardson, Chair of Community Services  
[donnarichardson4@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:seloselle@gmail.com)  
203-858-5989

Suzan Murphy, Co-Chair  
[murphy05@aol.com](mailto:murphy05@aol.com)

## Food Closet

In the holiday spirit of giving, please bring one or more of the items below to Club Day. You may place them on the table under the clock in Bedford Hall.

We would like to include these in the food requests that we get from Human Services during the winter. Although the WWC Food Closet has been the recipient of several food drives this fall, we are still asking for some special "holiday" items:



- Milk (powdered) and Cookies for Santa
- Hot Chocolate Mix for the elves
- Carrots (canned) for the reindeer

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Wendy McKeon  
Kim Reichert

## Garden Room



The Garden Room members are invited to participate in Holiday Workshops starting **November 30, 2022**. We will decorate the Club House, make holiday wreaths and prepare items for sale at the Holiday Boutique. All hands on deck, Ladies! Your creativity is welcome and highly appreciated during this time of the year.

**Wednesday, November 30, 2022- DECK THE HALLS/HOLIDAY WREATHS WORKSHOP**

**Thursday, December 1, 2022 - HOLIDAY WREATHS WORKSHOP/BOUTIQUE WORKSHOP**

**Friday, December 2, 2022 - BOUTIQUE WORKSHOP**

All workshops will run from **10 AM till 2 PM**. Plan to spend as much time as you want. Light refreshments will be provided. Participating members are encouraged to bring their own lunch.

Mira Auxier and Jeannette Tewey  
The Garden Room/Program Co-Chairwomen

## Gourmet

Before you know it, the Holidays will be upon us, and the Gourmet Group will be holding its annual Holiday Potluck!

Just bring one of your favorite appetizers or desserts -- enough for eight people -- and join the fun!

**DATE: Tuesday, December 20**

**TIME: 11:30 am**

**PLACE: The WWC Kitchen and Bedford Room**

Please let us know by Friday, December 9 if you'll be joining us and what you'll be bringing!

Bobbie -- 203-408-2542 -- [sangazure1@aol.com](mailto:sangazure1@aol.com)

Patty --203-226-3642 -- [pattydoyle235@gmail.com](mailto:pattydoyle235@gmail.com)

## Ladies Who Lunch



**DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 2022**

**TIME: 12:30 pm**

**PLACE: 299 Riverside Avenue, Westport**

It's time for our **FESTIVE HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**, and this year we'll be celebrating at that charming French Bistro on the Saugatuck River.

Like the legendary bistros of Paris, Rive is warm, and convivial, a true bistro populaire. They serve a variety of French-inspired delicacies, including -- Petite Assiettes, Soups, Salades, Sandwiches, and Main Courses.

Their menu can be found at-- <https://rivebistro.com/menu.php>

Please Let me know by Friday, December 9th if you'd like to join us, so I may tell them how many to expect.

Bobbie Herman [sangazure1@aol.com](mailto:sangazure1@aol.com) 203-408-2542

## MAH JONGG



**DAY: WEDNESDAYS**

**TIME: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Place: Living Room**

Please join us for an afternoon of fun and good company. Emails are sent out at the beginning of each week to the members of the Mah Jongg Group.

If you want to be included in these weekly emails, please contact me to put your name on that email list. All players are welcome regardless of skill level and experience. You do not have to own a set, but if you have one, please bring it. You do not have to make a weekly commitment. Come when you are available.

**CURRENTLY TAKING ORDERS & COLLECTING \$\$ FOR THE 2023 MJ CARD. THE DEADLINE TO GET YOUR ORDER IS WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2023. STANDARD CARDS ARE \$14.00, LARGE CARDS ARE \$15.00. PLEASE ASK YOUR FRIENDS TO ORDER FROM WC. BECAUSE WE ARE A 501C ORGANIZATION WE GET A REBATE FOR EACH CARD WE ORDER WHICH GOES DIRECTLY INTO OUR FUNDRAISING FUND. I JUST RECEIVED A CHECK FROM THE LEAGUE FOR \$247.00. ☐☐.**

**BEGINNER LESSONS: THE NEXT GROUP LESSONS WILL START WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023. Lessons are free. You have to be a member to participate and receive lessons. (there is a one-time complimentary play time for non-members).**

**For Lessons contact: Audrey Rabinowitz @ [bxiteb4@aol.com](mailto:bxiteb4@aol.com)**

Masks are optional.

Leah Scherzer, MJ Chair: [leahsart41@gmail.com](mailto:leahsart41@gmail.com). 203-226-3042

## Membership

The Membership and Engagement

Committee invites you to join us for our first annual WWC HOLIDAY GIFT EXCHANGE AND PARTY!!

On THURSDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 8th at 6:00 P.M, we will kick off the Holiday season with a Member POT LUCK DINNER followed by our GIFT EXCHANGE. If your Last Name begins with A-P, you should plan to bring an appetizer to share, and if it begins with Q-Z, please plan to bring a dessert to share.



If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, you should plan to buy a gift that costs no less than \$20 with a cap of around \$25. Please wrap your gift before bringing it to the Club.

Please let me know if you would like to join us for this Holiday event, and what you would like to bring for our potluck dinner.

Looking forward to being together and sharing a little Holiday Cheer!!

\*\*\*\*Please also mark your calendar to join the Membership and Engagement Committee meeting - We meet on the 2nd WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH at 10:00 am. In December we will be meeting on WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14th. At this meeting, we will be discussing how to implement some of the new

activities that were listed on the Membership Survey.\*\*\*\*

Lauri Weiser  
Membership and Engagement Chair

## Sunshine Girl

### ***Sunshine Girl:***

This month's Sunshine Girl is Dorothy Packer  
203-227-7769 -dmpacker@aol.com. Thank you to Josephine Laska for being  
our November Sunshine Girl!

## Ways & Means



A **HUGE THANK YOU** to all WWC members for helping with the Clothing Tag Sale fundraiser! Whether you donated clothes, helped to sort through the many donations, helped with set-up, worked at the sale, or made a purchase, all of your hard work added up to the best clothing sale ever \$20,179!!

**THANK YOU** to the steering committee members Carol Brezovec, Ann Doorly, Donna Richardson & Suzan Murphy. Their support, advice, countless behind the scenes contributions, and presence at the sale contributed to this successful fundraiser.

Thank You & Congratulations To All!  
Susan Loselle

## Yankee Doodle Fair



It's hard to believe but it is time to start thinking about the Fair which is held over Father's Day weekend. It's our largest fundraiser.

Everything is broken down into committees so that everyone can have a hand in this wonderful event. You can volunteer for the activity in which you are interested and the shift time that works best for your schedule.

Look for the monthly calendar in the Bulletin for future dates.

Karen Kleine [kklein3@gmail.com](mailto:kklein3@gmail.com)

Donna Richardson [donnarichardson4@yahoo.com](mailto:donnarichardson4@yahoo.com)

Co-chairs of Yankee Doodle Fair

## ~Member Tips to Avoid Holiday Scams~

### **Missed Package Scams**

Hate missing a package delivery?

Cybercriminals know this. So, they've created a ruse that involves leaving a note on your door claiming to have a package for you that couldn't be delivered. The note will contain a phone number to call to reschedule the delivery. If you call the number, you'll be greeted with questions related to your personal identity that can later be used to commit fraud.

If you receive a missed delivery note, look at it closely for any mistakes or other signs that it could be fraudulent. (It's also a good idea to check your recent orders to see if a delivery was scheduled for that date.) Even if the notice looks legitimate, don't call the number listed on the note. Instead, visit the company's website to find the official customer service number.

### **Social Media Scams**

During the holidays, you might see promotions or contests on social media offering gift cards or vouchers in exchange for simply completing an online survey. Unfortunately, the survey usually isn't legitimate. It's only a means of capturing your personal information to

commit identity fraud or other types of cybercrime. Or you might be offered a prize for just liking or sharing a social media post. But doing either could infect your device with malware. The bottom line? Be extra cautious during the holidays on social media, especially with enticing offers that seem unusually generous.

Stay Safe and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions!

Robin

## 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** - TBD

**Treasurer** -Barbara Stemmer

**Communications** -TBD

**Community Services** -Donna Richardson

**Curio Cottage** -Susan Loselle

**House** - Deb Fratino

**Grounds** - Janette Duchnicki

**Membership** -Lauri Weiser

**Parliamentary Advisor** -Becky Ruthven

**Programs** -Robin Clark

**Rentals** -Sharon Jones

**Yankee Doodle Fair** -Karen Kleine & Donna Richardson

**Past President**-Karen Kleine

### Office Hours:

Noel Baldwin, Office Manager, will be in the office Monday through Friday: 9AM-12PM. and 1PM to 4PM. To access the clubhouse on other days and times, please make arrangements in advance.