



Westport Woman's Club

Supporting Our Community Since 1907

## Westport Woman's Club February 2023 Bulletin

***The time is always right to do what is right.  
-Martin Luther King, Jr.***

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*Dear Fellow WWC Members,*

**HELPING ONE PERSON MIGHT NOT CHANGE THE WORLD, BUT IT  
COULD CHANGE THE WORLD FOR ONE PERSON.**

I agree with that sentiment and I'm continually reminded when at the WWC of our volunteers that go above and beyond to do just that, change the world not for one but for hundreds! Our volunteers are among the finest and you should be so proud to be part of an organization where constant acts of kindness and giving take place, with members always there, to help neighbors without faces or names, and without recognition. As we swing into action for our upcoming fundraisers, please be sure to get involved, sign up, attend, and volunteer!

In December, we received a new beautiful vacuum that was donated by Stanton Miles located on Post Road. Stanton Miles provides top-of-the-line vacuum and window treatments including repairs. Remember to shop local and call Dave if you are in the market for a vacuum or blinds!

Rolleri & Sheppard CPA's completed our two-year audit and prepared financials are now available for review in the office by members.

Lastly, please be sure to join us on Club Day as we have a wonderful program planned!

Fondly,

*Robin Clark*

## **February Dates to Remember!**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 1:00 Mah Jongg	2	3 1:30 Bridge	4
5	6 11:30 Club Day	7 1:00 Canasta	8 9:00 Grants Breakfast 11:00 Membership Committee Meeting 1:00 Mah Jongg	9 10:00 YFD Meeting	10 1:30 Bridge	11
12	13	14 10:00 Garden Room Workshop 1:00 Canasta	15 1:00 Mah Jongg	16 1:00 Book Group	17 1:30 Bridge 4:00-5 BYOB	18
19	20 10:00 Board Meeting	21 12:30 Gourmet 1:00 Canasta 6:30 Bunco	22 1:00 Mah Jongg	23	24 1:30 Bridge	25
26	27	28 1:00 Canasta				

## Club Day Honored Guest



### CHRISTOPHER CHARLES MURRAY

Originally from Westport, CT a graduate of Staple H.S. and a theatre major at Rollings College, FL, my professional career began in New York where I acted in more than 40 productions in theater, film, and television.

A role in the spy film Covert Action with David Janssen, moved my base to Athens, Greece. There I directed several plays and musicals. Eventually, I became the American filmmaker in Greece for 20 years making biblical films, lives of saints, commercials, and documentaries for the Greek National Tourist Organization. I wrote and directed St. Theodora, The Bells Toll for Thee, The Drama of a Nightingale, and The Prodigal Son, along with writing several screenplays: Song of Electra, A Beautiful Relationship, for Poseidon Productions, London.

I was then searching for an international story that would incorporate my music background, along with my Greek and American experience. Then it struck me. Maria Callas! The famous opera singer. Greek/American. Several documentaries have been made about Maria Callas, but never telling the incredible journey of how she became a great artist and her struggle to find self-esteem. I then moved back to the U.S. and wrote CALLAS, a 6-part limited series biopic for TV, and opened a film company, One More Time Films LLC. After finding and marrying my high school girlfriend, I now reside back in Westport, CT.

*\*With Special Guests - Jennifer Cisco, soprano, and Rodney Loren, pianist*



## Club Day Lunch

It will be so nice to get together again at our **next Club Day luncheon on Monday, February 6th**. Please plan to join us.

Aux Delices is planning a wonderful meal for us: the entree will be Chicken and Biscuits, with the veggie option of Vegetarian Chili and Biscuits. A Baby Arugula Salad with Manchego Cheese, Honey Almonds, and Dried Cranberries will be served. Dessert is going to be Chocolate Raspberry Cake. YUM!

Don't forget to **call Noel in the WWC office by Wednesday, February 1st to make your reservation**. We need to give the caterer our final count by then so everyone will get their delicious lunch. Please let Noel know if you want the chicken or the veggie chili. If you are on the permanent lunch list, no need to call unless you have to cancel. Remember that if you have a reservation and do not show up, you will be asked to pay a \$25 fee.

The New Member Group is hosting February Club Day with Lauri Weiser organizing the volunteers. **Even if you are helping to set up the day before or serving lunch on February 6th, you still need to reserve your lunch spot.**

Wine and other beverages will be served in the Dining Room starting at 11:30 and luncheon begins at 12:00 in Bedford Hall.

Although most of our shelves in the WWC Food Closet are fully stocked, we are short on the following items:

- Hamburger Helper
- Tuna Helper

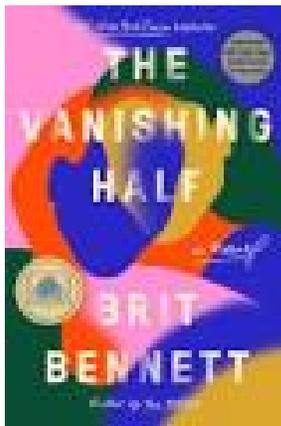
- Boxed potatoes (Scalloped, Au Gratin, etc.)
- Cake mix
- Tubs of frosting
- Boxed Jello
- Boxed pudding

Please bring your donations to Club Day and place them on the table under the clock in Bedford Hall. Thank you for your contributions.

Looking forward to getting together with you on February 6th!

Kim Reichert  
1st VP

## Book Group



The book for the February 16, 1 pm meeting will be Brit Bennett's **The Vanishing Half**. This is the story of twin sisters growing up in a small southern black community who run away at age sixteen. Many years later one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other passes for white, and her husband and daughter know nothing of her past. Even after being separated by so many miles, the fate of the sisters remains intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' storylines intersect?

This story is a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. The Vanishing Half considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations. This book is the winner of the 2020 Goodreads Choice Award for Best Historical Fiction. Just read the book and come - 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.

## Bunco



### February is for Lovers! Bunco Lovers, that is!

DATE: Tuesday, February 21st  
TIME: 6:30 "chat & chew" ( bring an app/snack/sweet to share ) and drink of choice.

7:00 "gameplay"

COST: \$5

PLACE: Bedford Hall/kitchen

Sign up sheet in foyer...

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



Wendy McKeon

## BYOB Friday



**Date: Friday, February 17th**

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

*(New Members welcome!)*

**Place: WWC Kitchen**

**You're invited!** Please join us to welcome 2023 in the WWC Kitchen on **Feb. 17th** for **BYOB FRIDAY!**

It's the Year of the Rabbit, so why not hippety-hop over and bring your carrot juice? **Bring Yourselves Over Briefly**, to say hello (or linger longer).

All WWC members are welcome to join our informal, tailgate-style cheer with an hors d'oeuvre and beverage of your choosing. Help us keep it simple by bringing your own napkins, corkscrew (if needed), glasses, and serving implements. Plus, you can use the handy microwave or stove top to heat your beverage or warm your munchies.

Then, at 5:30, quick as a bunny, we pack up and hippety-hop home, leaving "no crumbs, footprints or fingerprints."

**Sooooo... Come on over! You'll find us in the WWC Kitchen anytime from 4 to 5:30 on Friday, February 17th!**

Whether you are new to the WWC or a Member since "forever," this is a fun way to meet fellow members, kick off Presidents' Day Weekend, or look ahead

to Spring.

"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

## 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](mailto:donnarichardson4@yahoo.com), 203-354-8743

## Community Services

We are giving 27 grants and 2 free rentals to area nonprofits for a total of **\$41,000**. A continental breakfast will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:00. If you are interested in attending, please let Noel know in the office. We don't want to run out of food!

The applications for the Ruegg Grant will be due March 28<sup>th</sup>. Our first meeting will be on April 1<sup>st</sup>. This grant is for a nonprofit in Westport and can be up to \$10,000. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

Donna Richardson, Chair of Community Services  
[donnarichardson4@yahoo.com](mailto:donnarichardson4@yahoo.com)

## 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.

[seloselle@gmail.com](mailto:seloselle@gmail.com)

203-858-5989

Suzan Murphy, Co-Chair

[murphy05@aol.com](mailto:murphy05@aol.com)

203-247-7726

## Food Closet



Although most of our shelves in the WWC Food Closet are fully stocked, we are short on the following items:

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- Tuna Helper
- Boxed potatoes (Scalloped, Au Gratin, etc.)
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Wendy McKeon

Kim Reichert

## Garden Room



The members of the Garden Room are invited to a Valentine's Day workshop. We will prepare flower arrangements for friends that are homebound and need a little cheering up! Materials and containers will be provided by the Garden Room. We will also be exchanging gardening books. Bring a book and take a new one home!

Day: Tuesday, February 14, 2023

Time: 10 A.M.

Place: The Westport Woman's Club

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by Friday, February 10 to [miraauxier@gmail.com](mailto:miraauxier@gmail.com).

Mira Auxier and Jeannette Tewey

## Gourmet

This month, we treat ourselves by taking a break from preparing meals. We'll be dining at Hudson Malone, a very popular local restaurant.

They serve a variety of sandwiches, burgers, small plates, large plates, and raw bar items. You'll find their menu at --

<https://www.hudsonmalone.com/menus-hudson-malone-westport>

DATE: Tuesday, February 21, 2023

TIME: 12:30 pm

WHERE: Hudson Malone, 323 Main Street, Westport

Please let Bobbie or Patty know if you're joining us, so e can tell them how many to expect.

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

Dear, Dear Ladies --

The very first Ladies Who Lunch was held on March 27, 2012 at the Bombay Restaurant, which is now closed.

Through the years, we have visited almost 100 restaurants in Westport, Fairfield, and Norwalk. We have had lovely and interesting gatherings, and I know I have made many new friends.

Unfortunately, it is now time to end our monthly Dining Adventures.

For the past two weeks, I have searched for new places to dine. What I have learned is that very few restaurants now serve lunch. And the few that do will not give us separate checks.

Much of this is due to Covid-19. Help is scarce, and attendance has fallen considerably

I am terribly sorry; I had hoped to continue.

Peace and Love,  
Bobbie

## 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 GROUP LESSONS HAVE STARTED. 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

We hope you can join us at the Club Coffee on January 27th at 10:00 a.m.! This has become quite a successful (mini) event and we plan to hold it again in the future.

Unfortunately, our committee has not been able to meet for the past few months. HOWEVER, we are still expecting to hold an event in February...With Nancy Fritz's efforts, we were able to tally up interest in the activities presented in our Survey. Many expressed interest in some daytime activities at the Club - like BINGO. Stay tuned for future events.

Our next Committee meeting is on WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8th at 11:00 (please note the change of time - it will just be for this month). All are welcome - and encouraged to join, us to plan/come up with upcoming events for us!

Lauri Weiser  
[Lauri@optonline.net](mailto:Lauri@optonline.net)  
Membership and Engagement Chair

## Sunshine Girl

## **Sunshine Girl:**

This month's Sunshine Girl is Leah Scherzer 203-226-3042  
leahsart1@gmail.com. Thank you to Christina McVaney for being our January  
Sunshine Girl!

## **Ways & Means**

The 2023 Art Show Fundraiser will be Fri, Sat, Sun (May 5, 6, 7th).  
Once again, I am looking forward to working with Curator, Miggs  
Burroughs. This year we will have a Friday evening reception.

And, the best news, I'm excited to announce, the Board has approved  
member artists may participate with the same criteria as other invitees.  
Please contact me with any questions. Stay tuned for more information  
as we go forward.

I am looking forward to another successful Art Show Fundraiser, the  
support of my past committee, and welcoming all new members. Thank  
you for your support.

Jo Luscombe & Leah Scherzer  
Art Show Co-Chairs

## **Yankee Doodle Fair**



### **Come One, Come All !**

The next YDF meeting is on Thursday, February 9th at 10:00 am.  
We need you!!

Karen Kleine [kkleine3@gmail.com](mailto:kkleine3@gmail.com)

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

Co-chairs of Yankee Doodle Fair

## **~Member Tips ~**

**KEEPING OUR MEMBERS and GUESTS SAFE IS A TOP PRIORITY!**

In an emergency the WWC has an **Automated External Defibrillator (AED)** device that can restart the heart during cardiac arrest.

The machine will give step-by-step instructions on how to use it. If you know the signs of sudden cardiac arrest and how to use an AED, you can save someone's life.

The AED is located across from the office, on the right wall just past the coatroom as you enter the building.

Additionally, located in the kitchen in the first cabinet on your left is a **Lifevac** which is a non-powered, non-invasive, airway clearance device developed for resuscitating a victim with an airway obstruction when choking.

A **First Aid Kit** will also be located in the same cabinet.

Any use of the AED or Lifevac should be reported to the office along with any items needing to be replenished in the First Aid Kit.

Please let me know 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.