



Westport Woman's Club January 2023 Bulletin

One never notices what has been done; one can only see what remains to be done. _Marie Curie

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fellow WWC Members,

Wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy 2023!

December was a busy month as we wrapped up our two year audit. Thank you to all that helped and responded to requests for information. Special thanks to Barbara Stemmer and Julina Ogilvie for getting us across the finish line. As we move into 2023 we will be working to formalize procedures for all of our operations.

In addition, we will begin working on our basement which is packed with Curio Closet and Food Closet donations. The space formerly occupied by CT Braille needs an overhaul which will also begin.

Thank you to Donna Richardson and the Community Services Committee for working on grant requests throughout the month.

Thank you again to Mira Auxier and Jeanette Tewey along with our Garden Group volunteers who decorated the halls so beautifully for the holidays and thank you to all that helped organize our holiday boutique for Club Day.

Special thanks to all of our Committee Chairs and volunteers that helped organize many fun events throughout the month of December for our members!

I'm so pleased to report that in November & December we received over \$16,000 in donations. The kindness and support from members and our community reflects such positive affection for the Westport Woman's Club. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Over Christmas, I was reminded by my six year old grandson, William, that being with family and friends and enjoying each others' company was important and it wasn't only about the gifts. **He said** to me that we should disconnect from electronic devices like phones and iPads and spend time enjoying each other's company. William said that just being with family was the best way to spend the holidays. I hope everyone had time to disconnect this holiday and took some time to soak in and enjoy the special moments.

Robin Clark

January Dates to Remember!



January 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 1:00 Canasta	4 1:00 Mahjongg	5 1:00 YDF Meeting	6 1:30 Bridge	7
8	9 10:00 Board Meeting 11:00 Plant Swap Party	10 1:00 Canasta	11 10:00 Membership Meeting 1:00 Mahjongg	12	13 1:30 Bridge	14
15	16	17 1:00 Canasta 6:00 Bunco	18 1:00 Mahjongg	19 1:00 Book Group	20 1:30 Bridge 4:30 BYOB	21
22	23	24 12:30 Ladies Who Lunch 1:00 Canasta	25 1:00 Mahjongg	26	27 10:00 Membership Coffee 1:30 Bridge	28
29	30	31 1:00 Canasta				

Club Day Lunch

What a lovely celebration we had at the December Club Day luncheon! So many members offered up compliments about the festive decor, the delicious food (some of the best ever, right?), and the lively entertainment.

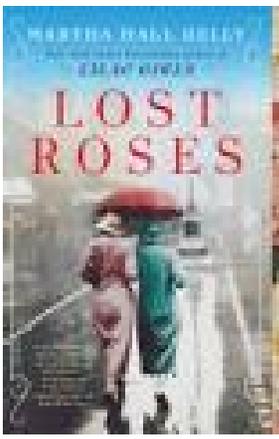
As most of you may already know, **we do NOT have a Club Day luncheon in January**, due to the possibility of inclement weather.

The February Bulletin (which will be sent out around the middle of January or so) will give you the details of our **next Club Day which will be on Monday, February 6th**.

Wishing you and your families a healthy and happy new year!

Kim Reichert
1st VP

Book Group



The selection for January is Martha Hall Kelly's "Lost Roses", a story inspired by true events just before World War 1 and the Russian revolution. Eliza is thrilled to be traveling to St. Petersburg with her friend, Sonya Streshnayva, a cousin of the Romanovs. But when Austria declares war on Serbia, and Russia's imperial dynasty begins to fall, Eliza escapes back to America, while Sonya and her family flee to their country estate. In need of domestic help, they hire the local fortuneteller's daughter, Varinka, unknowingly bringing intense danger to their household.

From the turbulent streets of St. Peterburg to the avenues of Paris and the fallen Russian emigres who live there, the lives of Eliza, Sonya and Varinka will intersect in profound ways, taking readers on a breathtaking ride through a momentous time in history.

Please join us on **THURSDAY JANUARY 19 at 1 PM** for a lively discussion of this fast-paced book set in a fascinating era. All are welcome, just read the book and come!

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

Bunco

Happy New Year! Hope you all had a wonderful holiday season... Now...onto 2023...Let's get ready to yell "Bunco"!!
Often, in the past, we have not played Bunco either in January and/or February, due to the winter weather.



As of now...we are leaving the January Bunco date open.."TBD"... An email blast will be sent out when the date is decided... (January 17th would be the normal date) Thank you!!

Wendy McKeon

BYOB Friday



Date: Friday, January 20th

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 **Jan. 20th** for **BYOB FRIDAY!**

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

Let's kick off the new year, share tales of holiday adventures, hear about your upcoming travel plans, or just toast the news that Spring is 60 days away!

All WWC members always are welcome, so why not swing by and join our tailgate-style cheer with an hors d'oeuvre and beverage of your choosing (crackers, cheese, and a water thermos will do!)? Plus, to keep it simple, we each bring our own napkins, corkscrew (if needed), glasses, and serving implements.

What if it's cold outside? You can use the microwave or stovetop to heat your beverage or warm your munchies.

Then, at 5:30, we "23-Skidoo!" Refreshed by lively conversation, we pack up and disappear, 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, January 20th!

Whether you are new to the WWC or a Member since "forever," this is a fun way to meet fellow members, warm up the cold days of Winter, 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.

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

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

Community Services

Hopefully, by the time you read this article, we will be finished with the grants. We will plan a breakfast for the recipients after the clubhouse opens again. I would love to thank the committee members – Barbara Raffel, Barbara Ryan, Jeannette Tewey, Robin Clark, Susan Loselle, Ana Hitri, Ellen Hooker, Barbara Stemmer, Suzan Murphy, and Susan Hricik.

Donna Richardson, Chair of Community Services
donnarichardson4@yahoo.com. 203-354-8743

Curio Cottage



The Curio Cottage will close on December 29, 2022, and reopen on January 19, 2023.

**MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE
FILLED WITH JOY!**

seloselle@gmail.com
203-858-5989

Suzan Murphy, Co-Chair
murphy05@aol.com
203-247-7726

Food Closet

The WWC Food Closet has been very fortunate

lately to be the recipient of several food drives. However, these areas of our shelves are still running low:

- powdered milk
- boxed cake mix
- tubs of frosting
- boxed brownie mix
- boxed jello
- boxed pudding
- muffin mix



We already have many of the standard staples to distribute, but we always like to include a little something extra for the families to enjoy.

You may drop off your donations at the WWC in the hamper outside the office. Thank you for your generosity.

Wishing you and yours a happy and healthy 2023!

Wendy McKeon
Kim Reichert

Garden Room



Let's begin the new year with some light work and fun! Members of the Garden Room are invited to the annual **PLANT SWAP PARTY**, a gardening enthusiast's spin on traditional White Elephant/Yankee Swap type of fun. The participants will be asked to help with "undecking" the halls at this time. As the old saying goes: "many hands make light work". Lunch will be provided.

Date: MONDAY, January 9, 2023

Time: 11 AM

If you plan to attend, please RSVP by January 4, 2023, to miraauxier@gmail.com

Mira Auxier and Jeannette Tewey
The Garden Room Co-Chairs

Gourmet

No Gourmet Club in January, but we will be going to a restaurant in February, so stay tuned.

Bobbie -- 203-408-2542 -- sangazure1@aol.com

Patty --203-226-3642 -- pattydoyle235@gmail.com

Ladies Who Lunch



LADIES WHO LUNCH

Join us on our next Dining Adventure as we partake of the delicious comestibles offered by The Spotted Horse, one of the area's favorite restaurants. Located in a restored Antique Colonial, it serves a variety of offerings. You can find their menu at

- <https://spottedhorsect.com/westport/menus.php>

Date: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

Place: 24 Church Lane, Westport

Time: 12:30 pm

Please let me know if you'd like to join us by Friday, January 20, so I can tell them how many to expect.

Bobbie Herman
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

Masks are optional.

Leah Scherzer, MJ Chair: leahsart41@gmail.com. 203-226-3042

Membership

2022 was a very good year - we increased our membership by 45 members! We held new events at the Club to encourage all members to get involved. We had a very successful New Member Pizza Party, a Club Coffee, and a Holiday Pot Luck and Gift Exchange. We produced a survey to gauge membership interest in different activities and hope to be implementing many of these ideas as we head into the New Year.

Our survey showed there are a lot of members interested in a Movie Club. January looks to be a good time to organize this event. Please watch for E-blasts from the Club for more information about a Tuesday afternoon at the movies!

As always, the Membership Committee will meet on the second Wednesday of the month at 10 am. In January, we will be meeting on WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11th. All are welcome!!

On Friday January 27th at 10:00 a.m. we will hold our second Membership Coffee &...so please be sure to stop in and visit. It's a perfect time to learn about our upcoming Spring events and socialize with other members.

Wishing you and your families a very Happy and Healthy New Year!

Lauri Weiser

Lauri@optonline.net

Membership and Engagement Chair

Sunshine Girl

Sunshine Girl:

This month's Sunshine Girl is Christina McVaney
203-293-5190 -cmcvaney@yahoo.com. Thank you to Dorothy Packer for being our December 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



The next meeting for the fair will be on January 5th at 1 pm. If you are new and don't know how you can help please come. If you want to help again or help for the first time come to the meeting. It's a fun event!

Karen Kleine kkleine3@gmail.com

Donna Richardson donnarichardson4@yahoo.com

Co-chairs of Yankee Doodle Fair

~Member Tips ~

Check fraud is on the rise with many recent check-washing cases reported in Westport.

There are steps you can take in preventing check washing.

Start by utilizing online banking and electronic forms of Bill Pay which is a more secure way to pay. Write checks using a black gel pen. The gel seeps into the fibers of a check and will ruin an attempt of washing. Valuable mail should be taken directly inside a USPS Postal Office and handed to an employee.

Using stand-alone USPS receptacle boxes should be avoided, as scammers can "fish" for mail by dropping a string with a sticky substance on the end of the string into the receptacle in order to pull envelopes back out. Do not place valuable mail in your mailbox. Never raise the red flag on the box, as this is an invitation and draws criminal attention to take your mail over other boxes where the flag is down.

Remember to inspect checks that clear your account to make sure the amount and/or payee name were not changed. Make sure you recognize the payee's name.

If you receive a late fee notice for a bill you know you paid, contact your bank and place a stop payment on the item. Be sure to monitor your checking account often for suspicious activity.

As always, 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.