

The BULLETIN



OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

Westport Woman's Club

DECEMBER 2015

Board of Directors 2015-2016

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Rentals, Lina Mak-Chin; **Curio Cottage**, Susan Loselle; **Grounds**, Janette Duchnicki;
YDF, Christina McVaney; **Past President**, Mary Lee Clayton.

Dear Ladies,

What a GREAT year 2015 has been for the Westport Woman's Club! Bedford Hall--which has a history of its own--now has a name to match. It has an elegant new reflective ceiling, new picture rail moldings, picture hanging system, LED and stage lighting, coffered ceiling tiles, state-of-the-art A/V system, screen wall, paint, wall ovens, coffee makers and serving platters. Arlene Thrope oversaw the partial rebuilding of our Steinway piano. (And early in 2016, we'll have new acoustical panels, too, to balance the sound.) Thanks AGAIN to Beverly Ellsley and Vesna Juresko Herman.

With the departure of long-term tenant, the Westport Young Woman's League, we have a new Fund-Raising Room on the 2nd floor. Repairs have been made to Dora's and 2 other bathrooms in the house. The challenging fire escape/roof/and exit door repair/code upgrade is complete. Janette Duchnicki and Chico have been vigilant in accomplishing innumerable top-to-bottom and inside-out maintenance and punch list repairs, ranging from washing the roof, fixing stairs, windows and gutters, providing LED replacement lights, reorganizing the basement, cleaning the window A/C units, acquiring new street signs and keeping our public areas festooned with seasonal floral displays. (Along with our fabulous refurbished gardens (including 1,000 daffodils for spring) and new walkway from the parking lot which also were "Janette projects.")

In this Issue

[Calendar](#)

[Programs](#)

[Community Services](#)

[Book Review](#)

[Bunco](#)

[BYOB Friday](#)

[Curio Cottage](#)

[Cultural Affairs](#)

[Garden Department](#)

[Gourmet](#)

[Ladies Who Lunch](#)

[Mah Jongg](#)

[Membership](#)

[Tournament Bridge](#)

[WWC Knitters](#)

[Zumba](#)

Sunshine Girls

**December
Sunshine Girl:
Lorraine Feliciano,
203-454-2112,**

Marilyn Killough's a tough act to follow (having run Cultural Affairs for 30 years), but Bobbie "Bring Back Broadway" Herman has taken over and accomplished immediate success with "hot picks" of great shows and orchestra tickets at group discount rates.

Community Services, in partnership with Rentals, has expanded our grant-making capacity by introducing Bedford Hall Grants--a one-time free use per year of our Hall for a non-profit to host a fundraiser, with the hope that they thereby can make more money than we could give them. It's working: One recipient, the Witness Project writes of the success of their "Tea with Ted Kennedy, Jr." event: "...It was well attended and everyone loved the venue...Because of your generosity in providing the space we saved over \$1,000 in space rental fees. You are absolutely right on target with your method to assist non-profits raise funds; we raised close to \$25,000 for our fight against breast cancer." Our Food Closet, Scholarships and Community Grants, subsidized rent to CT Braille and our Ruegg Grant (which went to Earthplace for its revamped system of walking trails) provided upwards of \$125K in value to the community.

How do we do this? YDF prevailed despite rain thanks to Christina McVaney and (Raffle top seller) Elfriede Lafferty. Curio Cottage, the Food Drive, the Clothing Sale, the Shopping Day at Talbots, Nutcracker Tea, In the Mood (our Dinner-Dance-Demo) and Children's Connection Toy Drive all are generating crucial funds and donations. YES, none of this would be possible without our unique real estate assets and our endowment, which (currently) has kept pace with the \$130K annual cost of keeping our facilities open. However, most importantly, NONE of this would happen without a certain remarkable group of women who have stuck together since 1907. I am referring to YOU, our MEMBERS. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU for ALL that you do!!! Warm wishes for a WONDERFUL Holiday Season!

Dorothy

P.S. Hope to see you at the Nutcracker Tea, In the Mood, Club Day (featuring Robin Clark's amazing daughter, Casey, a fabulous singer) or at December's Special Interest Group Gatherings!

Dorothy E. Curran, President
203-246-0543

Lovedave06@aol.com

Thanks to Betty Kogan
November Sunshine Girl.

Dorothy Packer, 1st VP
dmpacker@aol.com,
227-7769

Office Hours

Mon. -Fri.
9:00 am-4:00 pm
12:00-1:00 Lunch

DECEMBER CALENDAR

unday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	11/30 <i>Pre-paid reservations</i> <i>due for In The Mood</i>	1	2 MahJongg 1:00-4:00pm Garden Boutique	3 Bridge 9:30 am Garden Boutique	4 Garden Boutique	5 In The Mood 6:30-10:00 pm <i>pre-pay by 11/3</i>
6	7 CLUB DAY <i>reserve by 12/2</i>	8 Garden 1:30 pm	9 YDF Meeting 10:00 am MahJongg 1:00-4:00pm	10 Bridge 9:30am Zumba 10:30am	11	12
13	14 Bridge 10:30am	15 Gourmet 11:30am Bunco 7:00pm	16 Ways & Means 10:00am Mah Jongg 1:00-4:00pm	17 Bridge 9:30am Zumba 10:30am	18 B.Y.O. B. 4:00-5:30pm	19
20	21 Board Meeting 10:00 am Bridge 10:30	22	23 MahJongg 1:00-4:00pm WWC Knitters 1:00pm	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26
27	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Office Closed	31 Office Closed	1 Office Closed	

CONDOLANCES

We extend our sympathy to new Member Maryann Gambale on the death of her husband, Anthony.

Dorothy Packer, 1st VP, dmpacker@aol.com, 203-227-7769

CLUB DAY

Join us **Monday, December 7th** for Club Day hosted by Gourmet Group chaired by Lisa Allison and Barbara Gladnick. 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 Shepherd's Pie, Caesar salad w/ Parmesan cheese, and Gingerbread cake w/ lemon glaze.

If you have a serious food allergy or are a vegetarian, please let me know immediately. **If you need to cancel a reservation, please call the Office 203 227-4240 by 1 PM Wednesday before Club Day (12/2) to avoid being charged.** Hope to see you there!

Dorothy Packer, 1st VP, dmpacker@aol.com, 203-227-7769

PROGRAMS



Casey Clark is delighted to be performing at the Westport Woman's Club! Casey graduated from Rider University in 2014 where she earned her Bachelor's Degree in Music with a concentration in musical theatre (voice primary). While at Rider, she attended master classes with many wonderful artists including Kelli O'Hara, Billy Porter, Andrew Lippa, Donna McKechnie, Laura Osnes, and Chris Rice. At Rider, she performed in Nine the Musical and as a soloist in Grateful, a John Bucchino Cabaret, where she was accompanied by the wonderful John Bucchino himself! She was the President and Musical Director for Rider Vibes an on-campus a cappella group that performed at a number of charitable events. After graduation Casey moved to Philadelphia to pursue her career. She currently performs at Cibo Ristorante located in Philly's Theatre District and was recently seen in a concert version of Rocky Horror Picture Show playing the role of Janet. She was cast in Pride and Prejudice the Musical at Main Street Musicals New Play Festival in Philadelphia. She also performed at Larry McKenna's New Voices Cabaret at Society Hill Playhouse. Casey teaches voice lessons to students of all ages at Catherine's Music School in Skippack, PA.

Jim Jacoby, a terrific accompanist, will be in the house! Jim serves as a studio pianist to voice teachers and professional performers for recordings, rehearsals and recitals. Some of his professional highlights include: Accompanying Ivan Rutherford (Jean Valjean in Broadway and touring companies of Les Miserables) in recordings, performances and private classes, accompanying Southport Studio Theater students under the direction of Frank Root and playing for Center Stage Theater Company in Westport, helping students with audition prep for Broadway-style show performances

Jerilyn Deveau, Program Chair,
jerilyndeveau@yahoo.com, 203-372-2920

COMMUNITY SERVICES

No meeting in December- next meeting is at 10:30 am on January 26th.

Mary Gladden and Carol Mata

CHILDREN'S CONNECTION

It is time to think of the holidays and those who are not as fortunate as we. There are many little ones and teenagers who are neglected, abused, and are considered "at risk" children. We will have our traditional toy drive for donations of NEW, UNWRAPPED gifts. Please bring your gifts to the Westport Woman's Club on December Club Day.

We will also accept rolls or packages of gift wrap along with ribbons and/or bows. There will be a drop off box outside the office next to the grandfather clock. The last day to drop off toys or checks is on Club Day on **December 7th**. You may bring your items any time you are at the Club.

Cash contributions will also be accepted. Please make your checks payable to the "Children's Connection," note "Westport Woman's Club" on the memo line and deliver them to Colleen in the office. Favorite Requests: infant toys and clothing, Fisher-Price, Playskool and similar sturdy toys, dolls (all sizes), Disney items, all kinds of balls, trucks, remote control cars and batteries, sports equipment, hand-held video games and batteries, walkmans, small radios and batteries. We must not forget the older children. Gift certificates to Kohl's, Target, Bobs and Old Navy are good gifts. Sweatshirts, sweaters, hats, cosmetics, organizers and manicure kits are also appreciated by the older kids. These items must be new. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Audrey Rabinowitz, bxiteb4@aol.com, 203-227-6010

BOOK REVIEW

Book Review will not meet in December. Our next meeting is January 21st. See you in the new year! Lee.

Lee Mennitt, leemennitt@gmail.com, 203-523-0904.

BUNCO



**'TIS THE SEASON...TO YELL BUNCO!!!!!!!
OUR ANNUAL HOLIDAY POTLUCK BUNCO PARTY IS NEAR!
DATE: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
TIME: 6:30 P.M.**

We will celebrate the season with all the "delicious goodies" that you will bring to share.

Please sign up on the board in the foyer-also-Please note what you will be bringing...(this is helpful in the planning and set-up)

We will begin game play at 7:30 pm.

WISHING EVERYONE A HAPPY, HEALTHY, PEACEFUL HOLIDAY!!!

Wendy McKeon, XWAMX50@aol.com, 203-222-0038

BYOB FRIDAY



BYOB Friday Dec. 18, 4-5:30

Time for Auld Lang Syne! Come one, come all to the final BYOB Friday of 2015! (If you wish to bring eggnog or holiday cookies, calories won't count.) Join us in the Kitchen 4 to 5:30 pm to count the snowflakes in Bedford Hall, share memories of 2015 and plans for 2016!

Dorothy E. Curran, DorothyECurran@aol.com, 203-246-0543

CURIO COTTAGE



The Cottage will be closed from **Dec. 23 until Jan 4**. The shop has a great selection of items to help with your Holiday celebrations and also some great gift items. Don't forget that we will be ready to accept your donations of those things that weren't quite right, too.

Wishing and hoping that everyone has a wonderful, safe and joyous holiday and that the New Year will bring new adventures and much happiness.

Curio Cottage Committee

Karen Eickhoff, kayrog@optonline.net, 203-454-3889

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

On **Wednesday, March 16, 2016**, we will be seeing *HAMILTON* at the Richard Rodgers Theatre, 226 West 46th Street. *HAMILTON* has received rave reviews in its pre-production performances and has the highest advance sales of any show in history.

Tickets, including transportation, are \$172. Starting **Tuesday December 1st**, tickets will be given on a first-come, first-serve basis, with your check required to make a reservation. Members may purchase up to 2 tickets. You are welcome to invite significant others, husbands, family and friends. If you wish to sit with a particular person, please indicate that when you bring your check to Colleen, or you may both bring your checks at the same time. Starting **December 15th**, non-members may purchase any remaining tickets.

The bus will be at the Lower Parking Lot and will depart at 9:30 am. Lunch is on your own, but a list of restaurants will be given out with your tickets.

Bobbie Herman, sangazure1@aol.com, 203-255-1577

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

Holiday Boutique workshops will be held on **Wednesday, December 2nd**, Wreaths and Arrangements; **Thursday, December 3rd**, Boxwood Trees; and **Friday December 4th**, decoration of the trees on the stage. Workshops are from **10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** (Bring your lunch; snacks and beverages will be provided). Members are asked to bring cuttings, berries, etc. from their gardens to use in wreaths. Also, please bring clippers and scissors. **Sunday, December 6th, 10:00 a.m.** Boutique Setup. **Monday, December 7th, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Boutique/Club Day Luncheon.

Garden Order Form-

<http://www.westportwomensclub.org/wp-content/uploads/Holiday-Decorations-Application-2015.pdf>

Jerilyn Deveau, jerilyndeveau@yahoo.com, 203-372-2920

GOURMET



Gourmet Group will meet on **Tuesday December 15** in the Club House at **11:30 am** for our traditional Holiday Pot Luck Party. Please RSVP to Lisa Allison and let her know whether you will be bringing Hors d'Oeuvres or Dessert. Gourmet will also be hosting Club Day on December 7. Please let Lisa Allison know if you can help set up on Sunday December 6 or help serve on Monday December 7. All members should volunteer on at least one day.

Lisa Allison, liallison@optonline.net, 203-227-9563
Barbara Gladnick, bagladnick@optonline.net, 203-854-0424

LADIES WHO LUNCH

Because our usual fourth Tuesday falls three days before Christmas, we will hold our Festive Holiday Luncheon on **Tuesday, December 8, at 12:30 pm** (NOTE NEW TIME).

It will be at the popular **Positano** at its new location, 27 Powers Court, next to the Westport Country Playhouse (former home of The Dressing Room).

You may find the menu at --

http://www.positanorestaurantwestport.com/lunch_menu<http://www.tabernarestaurant-ct.com/menus/dinner-menu-br.php>

Please let me know if you'll be joining us by Friday, December 4, so I can let them know how many to expect. And, as always, I ask that you call or email me, as I may not remember if you tell me in person.

Bobbie Herman, sangazure1@aol.com, 203-255-1577

MAH JONGG

Our group meets every Wednesday at 1 pm if there are enough players to have a game. Before coming to the Club, please contact me if you want to play, just to make sure that we have a game on that day. We welcome all players, both those

who are experienced and those who want to learn this fun game. Recently, the Club received a check from the Mah Jongg League for \$111, which represents their charitable contribution based on the group order we placed this year for new cards. So far, over the years, the total amount is approximately \$750.

We now are accepting orders for next year's card. Standard print is \$8; large print is \$9 (payment by cash or checks payable to Audrey Rabinowitz). Cards are mailed directly to you at the beginning of April. You do not need to be a player here at the Club to order a card, so ask your friends and family as well. Not only will you enjoy playing the game, you also will help raise money for the Club.

Audrey Rabinowitz, bxiteb4@aol.com, 203-227-6010

MEMBERSHIP

As we get ready for the Holiday seasons we are pleased to include our new members in our festivities.

The following ladies did join us for our November luncheon.

Harriette Terbell: 203-256-1990, hawt@terbellpartners.com

Retta Dowling: 203-501-0502, retta@optonline.net

Shirley Mellor: 203-227-9688, shirlmea@icloud.com

We also want to extend a warm welcome to:

Miroslava "Mira" Auxier who joined in with the Garden group at Gilbertie's: 203-807-6696, miraauxier@gmail.com

Janet Reynolds who will look forward to "Bridge " with us. 203-227-4870.

Gloria Smithson, 203-226-8503, gsmithson@optonline.net

Laurie Exner, 203-227-7143, Laurie@optonline.net

Susan Hricik, Membership 203-226-137

2

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Tournament Bridge will meet on Monday, December 14th, but we probably will not play bridge on Monday, December 21st or 28th. We will vote on Monday, December 14th whether we play or not on 12/21 or 12/28.

Remember, during the winter months, the Club is closed on snow days when the Westport School System is closed or delayed. Check TV Channel 12 or call Staples High School for information at 341-1766. If you are interested in joining us and/or being on the substitute list, please call us.

Tommie Ross, 203-227-2444

Helen Doxtator, 203-221-7934

WAYS AND MEANS

Yankee Doodle Fair is our signature fundraiser. Learn more about our plans for YDF 2016 at our next meeting **Wednesday, December 9th at 10:00 am.**

Christina McVaney, 203-292-8138, CMCVANEY@yahoo.com

Come celebrate the success of Nutcracker Tea and "In the Mood," our Big Band Dinner Dance-Demo. Plus help plan our spring events. New ideas always welcome!
Suzan Murphy, 203-222-9117, MURPHY05@aol.com

WWC KNITTERS



The WWC Knitters will not meet in December.

Joan Miller, mmiller@optonline.net, 203-226-7036

ZUMBA



Zumba meets every **Thursday at 10:30 am**. It's been ongoing for the last few years. Season starts October 1st. The music is great. It makes you want to get up and dance. Zumba is the easiest and most enjoyable way to exercise. Takes place right here in Bedford Hall with people you know. Jill is a professional Zumba instructor. The cost is \$40 for the month. Please join us. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Leah Scherzer, Chair, Zumba
203-226-3042, leahsart@aol.com

The BULLETIN OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

44 Imperial Ave
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