

The BULLETIN



OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

Westport Woman's Club

MARCH 2016

Board of Directors 2015-2016

President, Dorothy Curran; **1st VP Special Interests**, Dorothy Packer;
2nd VP Finance, Barbara Stemmer; **3rd VP Ways & Means**, Suzan Murphy;
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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,

Yes, the days ARE getting longer, at last!
While the actual 2016 date to "Spring Forward" is not until Sunday, March 13, our wise and fun(d)-loving members will be making calendar moves even sooner:

- **Tuesday, March 1st:**
 - **2016 Ruegg Grant proposals due at the WWC Office**
 - **2:30 pm**--hop on board the planning bandwagon (in the living room) for our first Spring Fun(d)raiser, the **150th Birthday Bash for Bedford Hall on Sat. April 16th!**
- **Wed. March 2nd**, last day to reserve (by 12 noon) at the office for March Club Day
- **Fri. March 4th, 1:30pm**, planning meeting for April 30-May 2 Art Show.
- **Mon. March 7 Club Day**, featuring one of the most astonishing Programs we ever have hosted. DO plan to come early to meet Dodie Petit, Broadway star (and widow of Broadway superstar, Kevin Gray) and purchase DVDs to benefit memorial scholarships in Kevin's name for Hartt School of Music and Duke University. What follows at lunch will be something you'll never forget.
- **Wed. March 9th at 10 am, Yankee Doodle Fair meeting**: special focus on YDF experts orienting NEW MEMBERS to the Fair and its opportunities. Contact YDF chair Christina

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Sunshine Girls

March

Sunshine Girl:

Carol Goetz, 502-2663,

McVaney for more info.

- **March 21, last day to buy an AD in the keepsake Commemorative PROGRAM** for the 150th Birthday Bash for Bedford Hall. (\$150, full page; \$75 half page; \$50 quarter page). Also needed: Silent Auction donations. For more info, contact me or Colleen in the office.

Then, looking ahead to April and beyond:

- **April 4, Club Day** and distribution of YDF Raffle Tickets
- **April 16, 150th Birthday Bash for Bedford Hall!** Featuring wine, hors d'oeuvres, birthday cake, commemorative program, unveiling of historic house plaques, silent auction and live auction. Tickets, \$75
- **April 30, Opening Reception (free) of our WWC Art Show**, chaired by Jo Fuchs Luscombe and curated by artist Miggs Burroughs. The show will continue on Sunday, May 1 and Monday (Club Day), May 2.
- **June 13**, set-up day for **Yankee Doodle Fair**.
- **Yankee Doodle Fair: June 16 (eve.), 17 (eve.), 18 (afternoon and eve.) and 19 (afternoon only, followed by rapid take-down).**

Truly, speaking from my own experience, working together to make our fundraisers successful is perhaps the most satisfying part of Westport Woman's Club membership. We learn new skills or apply acquired ones, meet the public, make new friendships or renew old ones. I hope to see you at ALL of the above!

After that, we all can enjoy a lovely, relaxed SUMMER, knowing that, as we enter our 110th year, our funding goals for our FY 2016-17 scholarships and community grants have been met.

Dorothy

Dorothy E. Curran
President

203.246.0543, DorothyECurran@aol.com

Carolgoetz@optonline.net

Thanks to
Leah Scherzer

February 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

MARCH CALENDAR

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| <i>Sunday</i> | <i>Monday</i> | <i>Tuesday</i> | <i>Wednesday</i> | <i>Thursday</i> | <i>Friday</i> | <i>Saturday</i> |
|---------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|--|--|-----------|
| | | 1 1:30 Meeting: Bedford Hall B-Bash | 2 Club Day Reservations Due MahJongg 1:00-4:00pm | 3 Bridge 9:30am | 4 Art Show Meeting 1:30 pm | 5 |
| 6 | 7 Club Day | 8 Garden 9:00 am Bunco 7:00pm | 9 YDF Meeting 10:00 am MahJongg 1:00-4:00pm | 10 Bridge 9:30am | 11 | 12 |
| 13 | 14 Bridge 10:30am | 15 Gourmet 11:30 am | 16 Ways & Means 10:30am Mah Jongg 1:00-4:00pm | 17 Bridge 9:30am Book Review 1:00pm Office Closed | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 Board Meeting 10:00 am Bridge 10:30 | 22 Ladies Who Lunch 12:30 pm | 23 Mah Jongg 1:00-4:00pm | 24 Bridge 9:30 am | 25 | 26 |
| 27 | 28 Bridge 10:30 | 29 | 30 Reservations due for April Club Day | 31 | | |

CLUB DAY

Join us **Monday, March 7th** for Club Day hosted by Garden Department chaired by Jeannette Tewey and Vivian Rosenberg.

Lunch is \$20.00. The Pantry of Fairfield, our caterer, will be serving...
Broccoli, sausage & cheddar quiche. Spinach, broccoli & pepper jack cheese

quiche. Green bean salad with grape tomatoes, black olives & pine nuts.
Pearl tapioca pudding with pineapple/passion fruit compote.

If you have a serious food allergy or are a vegetarian, please let me know. If you need to cancel a reservation, please do so by **1 PM Wednesday March 2nd** to avoid being charged.

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

PROGRAMS



On **Monday, March 7th**, Dodie Pettit, wife of the late Kevin Gray, will present highlights of Kevin's life. Kevin, is a Westport native son, who rose to fame through Broadway, television and movies, but flourished especially on the stage stage, having a career that spanned 25 years and 8,200 performances. He starred in Broadway's longest running show, *Phantom of the Opera*, and other major hits such as *Miss Saigon*, *The King and I*, *The Lion King* and numerous others.

Kevin and Dodie were married for 24 years and met while performing together in *Phantom*. They continued to work in other Tony Award Winning shows such as *Titanic* and *A Chorus Line*. Kevin was a lifelong resident of Westport, except when he was traveling as a performer or, later, as a professor of Musical Theater at Rollins College, Orlando, or The Hartt School in Hartford. Kevin's roots and home remained in Westport, and when his parents retired, he and Dodie bought the home in which he was raised. Dodie continues to reside in Westport.

To raise funds for two Kevin Gray memorial scholarships, Dodie has compiled a tribute CD for Kevin starring over 170 Broadway singers, including 10 from the *Phantom* cast, 3 Tony Award winners, and cast members from *Miss Saigon*, *The King and I*, *Titanic*, *Jekyll and Hyde* and more. Each had a personal connection to Kevin and Dodie. All donated their talent. At March Club Day before and after, Dodie will have copies of this CD available for sale. All proceeds benefit the Kevin Gray scholarships at Hartt School of Music and Duke University. Please join us for a lovely and entertaining luncheon performance on March 7th.

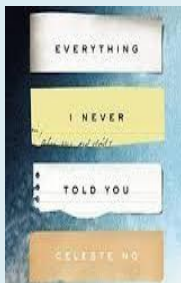
Jerilyn Deveau, jerilyndeveau@yahoo.com 203-372-2920

COMMUNITY SERVICES

All WWC members automatically belong to the Community Services Committee, which oversees distribution of our grants and scholarships. Please join us at our next monthly meeting, **Tuesday, March 22, at 10:30 am.**

Mary Gladden and Carol Mata

BOOK REVIEW



Please join us on **Thursday, March 17th** in the Living Room for our Book Review Discussion.

This month we'll be reading *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng, a moving story of family, secrets, love and longing. Copies of the book will be available at the Library for our group.

pvezendy@gmail.com, (203) 226-9869

BUNCO



SPRING IS AROUND THE CORNER!!!

I know everyone missed our monthly bunco night in February...and we all are looking forward to shouting "bunco" and getting closer to being the next bunco queen!!

*****MARCH BUNCO IS A DATE CHANGE*****

DATE: Tuesday March 8th

TIME: 7:00 P.M. - Chat & Chew 7:30 - Game Begins

COST: \$5.00

SIGN UP: Board in Foyer

HOSTESSES: Jean Simons, Sue Mahar, Ellie Hale & Catherine Smith
(These are the Feb. & March Hostesses combined)

Looking forward to seeing all of you!!!!

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

BYOB FRIDAY



None on March 25th due to Good Friday.

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

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

HAMILTON -- If you haven't picked up your tickets, they are waiting for you in the WWC office. Please get them, as I will NOT be giving them out on the bus, which will be **leaving at 9:30 am on Wednesday, March 16.**

SOMETHING ROTTEN -- I am pleased to announce that we will be attending this hilarious musical comedy on **Wednesday, May 18.** It has received rave reviews, one of which is -- <http://observer.com/2015/04/something-rotten-is-not-to-be-forgotten/> -- as well as ten Tony nominations.

The total cost of the ticket and round-trip bus is **\$120.** Please bring your check to Colleen to reserve your place. It will be first-come, first serve, with a limit of **two tickets per member.** If you wish additional tickets, please put your name on our waiting list, in case some are unsold.

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

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

The Garden Department will not have a program on **March 8, 2016.** There was a rental opportunity for Bedford Hall on that date, and since no program had yet been confirmed for that day, the Garden Department graciously offered the use of Bedford Hall for the rental.

On **April 5, 2016 at 1:00 p.m.** in Bedford Hall, we are looking forward to the combined Garden Club Meeting with the Westport Garden Club and Greens Farms Garden Club. Ruth Loiseau, Master Floral Designer, who served at the White House for over 28 years, will be the honored speaker for this event. All WWC members are welcome to attend. Ruth Loiseau's website is ruthl.com. More information to follow in the April 2016 Bulletin.

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

GOURMET



Gourmet Group will meet on **Tuesday March 15** in the Club House at **11:30am.** Our cooks for March are Dorothy Curran, Mary Lee Clayton, Bobbie Herman, Jo Fuchs Luscombe and Bev McArthur who will be preparing a wonderful Irish menu in recognition of St Patrick's Day. Appetizers will include Irish cheeses, smoked fish and Guinness stout, while the main course will feature traditional Colcannon and soda bread with lamb. Finally we will enjoy a delicious lemon soufflé with tea or coffee. Gourmet group members should RSVP to Lisa Allison by **March 8.**

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

LADIES WHO LUNCH

This month we will dine at the newly-opened **Parker Mansion**.

Date: Tuesday, March 22, at 12:30 PM (note new time)

Location: 541 Riverside Avenue, Westport (the site of the Old Mansion Clam House). Parking is available on site.

They offer a variety of soups, salads, burgers, sandwiches and small plates.

The menu has not been published on the Internet, but reviews on Yelp for their restaurant in Trumbull have been excellent.

As space is limited, they can only accommodate twelve of us, so please get your reservations in early. First come, first served.

Please let me know if you'll be joining us by **Friday, March 18**, 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.

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

MEMBERSHIP

Please extend a "Welcome" to our 2 newest members and include their contact information in your directory.

Dale Fredston: 203-258-5884, dcfredston@gmail.com. Dale's is in your recent directory insert handout.

Linda Eastwood: 203-970-6159, leastwood@gmail.com.

I will be reaching out to all of our new members to join in with me co-hosting at the **April 4th Club Day Luncheon**. We will be co-hosts with the Sunshine Ladies. There are opportunities to help set-up on **Sunday April 3rd and to serve on Monday April 4th**.

It is a good time to visit & share with your fellow new members and the Sunshine Ladies.

Susan Hricik, Membership, 203-226-1372

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Sorry we have missed several sessions due to weather. Hope to see you soon. 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

Please join us at these important upcoming planning meetings:

- **Bedford Hall 150th Birthday Bash , Tuesday March 1st 2:30 pm.**
- **Art Show, Friday March 4th at 1:30 pm.**
- **Yankee Doodle Fair , Wednesday March 9th at 10:00 am.**
- **Ways and Means , Wednesday March 16, 10:30 am.**

Save the dates: April 16, 150th Birthday Bash for Bedford Hall.

April 30, May 1 and May 2, Art Show.

June 13th, YDF set-up. June 16-19, Yankee Doodle Fair.

Suzan Murphy, 3rd VP Ways & Means

WWC KNITTERS



Westport Woman's Club members have been knitting since 1991 for a variety of local organizations. We make hats, scarves, mittens and other items for children in Norwalk and Bridgeport. All levels of knitters are welcome. We are happy to teach beginners. Our next meeting will be

Wednesday, March 23, at 1:00 pm, in the dining room.

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

YANKEE DOODLE FAIR



Only 3 months until WWC's biggest fundraiser of the year! All hands on deck! Please plan on attending the next Yankee Doodle Fair meeting on **Wednesday, March 9th at 10 am** Lots of help still needed. Special focus this meeting on YDF experts (you know who you are !) orienting first timers to opportunities.

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