

The BULLETIN



OF THE WESTPORT WOMAN'S CLUB

Westport Woman's Club

JANUARY 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;
Secretary, Wynne Abrams; **Treasurer**, Robin Clark;
Community Services, Mary Gladden and Carol Mata; **Membership**, Susan Hricik;
Parliamentary Advisor, Susan Fox; **Programs**, Jerilyn Deveau;
Rentals, Lina Mak-Chin; **Curio Cottage**, Susan Loselle; **Grounds**, Janette Duchnicki;
YDF, Christina McVaney; **Past President**, Mary Lee Clayton.

Dear Ladies,

Greetings of the season, warm wishes for VERY FESTIVE, HAPPY HOLIDAYS, and THANK YOU ALL for a FABULOUS START to our 2015-16 Club Year! As you'll see, **in 2016, the BEST is yet to come, but first, let's look back** at the first 4 months of our fiscal year:

- Four wonderful, tasty, well-decorated and well-attended Club Days and Programs
- Our Special Interest Groups have been bustling, busy and attracting new members
- So has Community Services, which received 59 community service grant applications and--for Thanksgiving and Christmas--disbursed through our Food Closet and Westport Human Services nearly \$12,000 in food gift certificates
- Our Community Services and Ways & Means fundraising initiatives are surging. Here are some quick "round" revenue numbers--for the FY period from Sept. 1 to the present--in which you can take pride:

Blues, Views & BBQ volunteers, \$1700 from **Westport DMA** for the Food Closet; **Curio Cottage**, \$7500 toward our CS grants and scholarships; **Rentals**, over \$12,000; **ENCORE! Clothing Sale**, \$4509 in revenues and \$3500 in donations of leftover clothing & jewelry; **Talbots** shopping fundraiser, \$418 (including \$95 for the hostess drawing); **Mah Jongg**, \$111 in card order rebates; **Garden Dept.** \$187 from

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Sunshine Girls

JANUARY Sunshine Girl:
Jo Luscombe, 203-227-0393,
jpluscom@att.net

Thanks to Lorraine Feliciano, December Sunshine Girl.

Club Day Drawing to the Food Closet, plus Holiday Plants for shut-ins (funded by their December Sale); **Nutcracker Tea**, \$1500 for Waltersville Elementary; **Children's Connection Toy Drive**, \$1100 in toys, checks and gift certificates; **In the Mood Dinner Dance**, \$1680 toward acoustical panels for Bedford Hall.

Annual Giving is still in progress! SPECIAL THANKS to those who have sent donations to Annual Giving or made decisions about bequests or commitments to our planned **Silent Auction fundraiser in Spring, 2016. NOTE: there's still time to add your gift or pledge!** The need is real. As you know, our major capital improvements over the past year:

- **Bedford Hall ceiling renovation** (new tiles, LED lights, Electrical, AV System, HVAC and paint, **along with attractive new acoustical panels, to be installed in January**, which will absorb 85% of mid-to-high frequency sound and eliminate echoes and reverberations) and
- **bringing our fire escape, 3rd floor roof, deck and exit doors up to fire and building codes**

have cost substantial funds from our endowment, so we now are working to replenish that capital and/or offset those costs.

- **Proceeds from 2015 Annual Giving** (unrestricted gifts), **In the Mood** and **our planned 150th Birthday Bash for Bedford Hall all will go to that purpose.**

Speaking of 2016! Please add these important dates to your calendars: **CLUB DAYS** (reservations due the Wed. before) on 2/1, 3/7, 4/4, 5/2 and 6/6. YDF Planning Meetings are the Wed. after Club Day. **Ways & Means** meets monthly on the 3rd Wed. morning. **Community Services**--which decides how much and to whom we give our grants and scholarships--meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday.

Upcoming special events: Installation of our **new Acoustical Panels** in Bedford Hall (January); **Valentine's Day Dinner-Dance on Sat. Feb. 13;** **Bedford Hall 150th Birthday Bash/Fundraiser** (mid-April?); **Art Show**, April 30-May 2; **Yankee Doodle Fair** set-up, June 13 and Fair, June 16-19.

Finally, a closing thought as we take pride in

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

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

2015, the middle of our 108th year, and look ahead to 2016...

The 3rd best-selling poet of all time (according to Wikipedia) is a Lebanese-American, Kahlil Gibran. Needless to say, he is known to have visited Westport, CT (the home of Kewpie doll artist, Rose O'Neill, who lived just off of Imperial Ave., on the Saugatuck). It is not known whether Gibran reported the following after a good night's sleep in Westport, or perhaps after visiting an early Woman's Club Fair, but it's possible. Meanwhile, Kahlil Gibran's spirit and vision is one that each of us, as WWC members can share:

"I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy."

My wish for each of you, as members of the Westport Woman's Club in 2016, is **abundant JOY!**

Dorothy

Dorothy E. Curran
President

203.246.0543, Dorothyecurran@aol.com

JANUARY CALENDAR

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
					1 <i>Office Closed</i>	2
3	4 <i>Bridge</i> 10:30am	5 <i>Garden</i> 1:30 pm	6 <i>YDF Meeting</i> 11:00 am <i>MahJongg</i> 1:00-4:00pm	7 <i>Bridge</i> 9:30am <i>Zumba</i> 10:30am	8	9
10	11 <i>Bridge</i> 10:30am	12	13 <i>Ways & Means</i> 11:00am <i>Mah Jongg</i> 1:00-4:00pm	14 <i>Bridge</i> 9:30am <i>Zumba</i> 10:30am	15	16

17	18 <i>Office Closed</i> <i>Board Meeting 10:00am</i> <i>Bridge 10:30</i>	19 <i>Gourmet 11:30am</i> <i>Bunco 7:00pm</i>	20 <i>Mah Jongg 1:00-4:00pm</i>	21 <i>Bridge 9:30am</i> <i>Zumba 10:30am</i> <i>Book Review 1:00pm</i>	22 <i>B.Y.O.B 4:00-5:30pm</i>	23
24/31	25	26 <i>Comm. Services 10:30 am</i> <i>Ladies Who Lunch 12:00</i>	27 <i>Reservations due for Feb.1st Club Day</i>	28 <i>Bridge 9:30am</i> <i>Zumba 10:30am</i>	29	30

CLUB DAY

There will be no Club Day in January Our next Club Day will be **Monday, February 1st**. See you then Thank you.

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

COMMUNITY SERVICES

A big thank you to **Leah Scherzer**, the **Garden Dept.** and **Audrey Rabinowitz!** Leah and her team, working with Westport Human Services and using funds from the WWC Food Closet account to buy gift cards at a 5% discount, provided Thanksgiving meals and \$5970 in Stop & Shop gift cards to Westporters in need. The \$5970 in gift cards was repeated to the same families for Christmas. In addition, for December Club Day, the Garden Dept. donated the gift basket Drawing prize, and directed all of the proceeds to the Food Closet fund. Garden also provided plants for delivery to the homebound at Christmas. Did you know? Another \$1700 of the Food Closet funding came from the Westport Downtown Merchants Assn. in appreciation for the volunteer service of Audrey and her WWC volunteers at reception for the Blues, Views and BBQ Festival. Audrey also spearheaded our Strides for Breast Cancer Team, which just received a certificate of appreciation (posted on the easel in the foyer) and our recently completed Children's Connection Toy Drive which provided \$1190 in holiday toys, gift cards and checks. **The January CS meeting will be at 10:30 A.M. on January 26. Mary Gladden and Carol Mata**

BOOK REVIEW

Our book for January is the Westport Reads book, *Miracle at Saint Anna* by James McBride. We will meet in the living room on **January 21st at 1:00 pm**.

Enjoy Lee

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

BUNCO



HAPPY NEW YEAR! Hope you all have a healthy, happy 2016!

Thank you to all the wonderful "Bunco Babes" that made our annual holiday party sooooo....delicious!!
It was a "food-filled, fun-filled, gift-filled" evening...

Our next bunco night is planned for January -
This will be a "check-the-weather-is-it-snowing-will-it-snow?"
date...Here are the details as of right now...

DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

TIME: 7:00 P.M. (Our usual meeting time) - for "chat & chew"

7:30 P.M. - game play begins

FYI - Normal play ends at approximately **9:30 p.m.**

COST: \$5.00

HOSTESSES: TBD

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

BYOB FRIDAY



Join us in the Kitchen on **Friday, January 26, 4 to 5:30 pm**
to CHEER the NEW YEAR and thereby test the new Acoustical
Panels in Bedford Hall (should be installed by then) to see how
well they work! Bring something to sip, nibble and share, along
with stories of your favorite holiday adventures and any new
year's resolutions that actually are WORKING! Drop-ins and
cameo appearances welcome!

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

CURIO COTTAGE

Wishing everyone a wonderful holiday season. The Cottage will be closed from Dec. 23 until Jan. 4. And as always, we would love donations of those things that you no longer need, want or like. A great New Year's resolution would be to work at least 1 shift, or more, each month at the Cottage. It truly is fun, easy and a



great way to help the WWC.

Curio Cottage Committee

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

CULTURAL AFFAIRS

Our Broadway Bus trip to see *An American in Paris* was a success! The show was beautiful, and everyone seemed to enjoy it.

Our next show -- *Hamilton*-- is a sellout! We are taking names for a waiting list, in case of cancellations.

I am looking for hit shows for the future. Watch this space.

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

GARDEN DEPARTMENT

While there will be no official Garden Department meeting/program in January, we will meet to "undecorate" the Club on January 5th at 10:00 am. Remember many hands make light work. On Friday, February 26th, we will visit the New York Botanical Gardens to see the Orchid Show, which includes a lecture in caring for orchids. All WWC members are invited to join us at the NYBG. February's *Bulletin* will have more information about the cost of the ticket, time of departure, etc.

Reservations are required. Please contact Jerilyn Deveau, 203-372-2920,

Jerilyndeveau@yahoo.com

GOURMET



Gourmet Group will not meet in January. Happy New Year to all our members!

Lisa Allison, liallison@optonline.net, 203-227-9563

**Barbara Gladnick, bagladnick@optonline.net,
203-854-0424**

LADIES WHO LUNCH

This month we'll be visiting **Rio Bravo Restaurant**, which has just opened in Westport after many successful years in Fairfield.

Date: Tuesday, January 26, at 12:30 PM (note new time)

Location: 1460 Post Road East, Westport (the former location of V),

They offer a variety of Mexican food (tacos, enchiladas, burrito, etc.) as well as soups and salads.

You may find the menu at -- <http://riobrivotacosandtequila.com/menu/>
Please note that this is for their Fairfield restaurant, and there may be slight changes for Westport. Reviews on Yelp have been excellent.

Please let me know if you'll be joining us by Friday, January 22, 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

what a festive December Holiday Luncheon for us at WWC! So many happy faces, pleasant friendships and terrific entertainment.

Three of our newest members also joined in the cheer.

We welcomed:

Mindy Wolkstein, 203-216-1287, mewolkstein@sbcglobal.net

Ana Hitri, 203-349-5732, anahi3@aol.com

Mira Auxier, 203-807-6696, miraauxier@gmail.com

Other ladies that have joined us this December are:

Betty Greenberg, 203-557-6168

Pam Kesselman, 203-221-1132, mrskess@aol.com

Joan Beer, 203-216-7733, jbpromobiz@gmail.com

Happy New Year to all. See you all at 44 Imperial Avenue soon.

Susan Hricik, Membership, 203-226-137 2

TOURNAMENT BRIDGE

Tournament Bridge will resume play on **Monday, January 4th.**

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

Thanks to all of you who volunteered our attended our December fundraisers--the **Nutcracker Tea** and our "**In the Mood**" **Big Band BYOB Sadie Hawkins-style Dinner-Dance-Demo!** The Nutcracker Tea raised \$1500 for the Arts program at Bridgeport's Waltersville Elementary School. **In the Mood** netted \$1680 which will be directed toward the cost of installing amazing and attractive acoustical panels in Bedford Hall this January.

In February, the success and enthusiasm generated by December's **In the Mood**--both among those attending and those who were disappointed that they could not--have inspired a call for a **Valentine's Day/Sweethearts Dinner Dance.** Again, it will be BYOB and Sadie Hawkins, but no dance demonstration this time by Ballroom Elegance. (The dances and costumes were a BIG HIT, but we'll save the next demo for a later date.) Instead we'll feature favorite dance music/love songs from across the years. Nominations welcome! **If you would like to be on the Planning Committee for this Sat. Feb. 13 evening event, please contact Dorothy Curran or Mitzi Lyman. Note that this event will be our first fundraiser in Bedford Hall after the new Acoustical Panels are installed!**

Yankee Doodle Fair is our signature fundraiser. Learn more about our plans for YDF 2016 at our next meeting

Wednesday, January 6th at 11:00 am.

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

WWC KNITTERS



The knitting group will not meet in January.

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

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