



## *The Laurel News and Notes*

*Newsletter of The Women's Club of Madison Member of General Federation of Women's Club of Connecticut, Inc*

*May 2025*



**The next meeting of the Women's Club of Madison will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025 6:00 p.m.,** at the Madison Senior Center. Board Meetings will continue to be held via Zoom on the third Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. Remember to send any agenda items or committee information for both the Membership and Board Meetings to **President Liz Early**. Liz's email address is [ack.girl@hotmail.com](mailto:ack.girl@hotmail.com).

The June Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at Cafe Allegre. The reservation form is attached to this newsletter. Reservations are due no later than May 31, 2025. Thank you **Laurie Storino, Jessica Tonini, and Beth Slattery** for planning this.

If you have information for the newsletter, please email me at [patriciathal@aim.com](mailto:patriciathal@aim.com).



**During May we celebrate Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month.** The observance began in 1979 as Asian Heritage Week, established by congressional proclamation. On October 23, 1992, President George Bush signed legislation designating May of every year Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The month of May was chosen to commemorate two significant events in history: the immigration of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869 (Golden Spike Day).

The month of **May** also observes **Teacher Appreciation Week (May 5-9), National Nurses Week (May 6-12), National Women's Health Week (May 11-17), and National EMS Week (May 18-24).**

**May** also is designated as **Jewish American Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Women's Health Month, National Blood Pressure Month, and ALS Awareness Month.**



**The GFWC Annual Convention** will be held Thursday, June 5, 2025 to Tuesday, June 10, 2025 at the Omni Atlanta Convention Center. The Theme this year is **“Spinning Vision Into Reality”**.

**The GFWC International Day of Service: Help End Domestic and Sexual Violence** will be held on September 27, 2025. The GFWC website notes, “according to the World Health Organization, it is estimated that between 736 million to 862 million women, aged 15 years and older, have experienced domestic and/or sexual violence. Within the United States, based on research conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 16 million people are affected each year.”

### **GFWC/LEADS PROGRAM**

"LEADS" The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar identifies GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their State Federations and/or GFWC on the national level.

Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary to pursue and achieve higher offices and serve with distinction. GFWC LEADS is typically held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following:

- Overview of public speaking, time management, vision casting, and conflict resolution.
- Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance.
- Outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol.
- Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

Congratulations to **Lynne Sarro -VP of The Women's Club of Madison** who will attend the LEADS Seminar in June at the Convention in Atlanta. GFWC/CT partially funds the tuition of the seminar to encourage Leadership!

Katherine DeBurra  
Past State President  
GFWC/CT 2022-2024

## WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADISON TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY



The Women's Club of Madison is celebrating its **125 Anniversary** this year. The Club is building a float to be in the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade. Our Club supports a variety of organizations, not just in our community, but nationally and internationally. Doctors without Borders, Homes for the Brave, Madison Police Department, the Ronald McDonald House, St. Jude Fund, and the Food Pantry of Madison Community Services are just a few that we support. The Club also provides a scholarship to one or more graduating students at Daniel Hand High School. Annual gifts are given to the Polson Middle School Music

and Arts Departments. Through annual grants and disbursements we lend support to local organizations. As part of the **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** we would like to hi-light the various accomplishments of the Club. If you have any history information or photos that you would like to see as part of our celebration, please contact **Sheila** at **skinscherf@comcast.net**.



On Thursday, May 1, **J McLaughlin** hosted a **Sip and Shop** from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Marlene Curtis** chaired the event, which resulted in a **\$780** donation to the **WCM** from **J McLaughlin**. In her report about the event, **Marlene** thanked **Laurie Storino**, the WCM volunteers and shoppers, along with members of the Madison community who came out to support the event. She noted that “Highlights of the evening included an impressive and delicious spread of food and wine provided by J McLaughlin, and an opportunity to meet other community-minded women from Madison.” Attached are some photos of the evening.

**Thank you Marlene!**

**Sheila Kinscherf and the Fundraising Committee** have been meeting and brainstorming ideas to raise funds for CIP and various other projects. **Laurie Storino** has completed a tri-fold brochure, focusing on the **WCM** and its many contributions to our community.

**Thank you Sheila, the Committee, and Laurie!**





**Lenny and Joe's Carousel Event** is **July 7, 2025**. **Dee Mulqueen** is chairing the event, which will be held from 12:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers are needed to sit for two hour periods, providing information about our Club. Dee will bring a sign-up sheet to the May meeting. The **Fish Tail** offers the WCM a day each year, to spread the word about the Club. Money from the Carousel is donated to the WCM for that day.

**Thank you Dee for chairing the event.**



The **Women's Club of Madison** is the "special feature" in the October 2025 issue of **MADISON Neighbors Magazine**, which will be in mailboxes at the end of September. We will be taking a group photo at the June Dinner Meeting. If you would like to be included in the photo, please plan on arriving before 6:00 p.m. so that we are all available and ready for the photograph to be taken at 6:00 p.m. In addition, the editor of the MADISON Neighbors Magazine would also like some quotes from Members to possibly include in the article. The editor cannot guarantee how many of these quotes may be included in the article.

The focus of these quotes should be on:

- What the Women's Club of Madison has done to support and positively impact our community;

- Memories of special or specific contributions the Club has made to our community over the years.

Please send Catherine any quotes you think would:

- PROMOTE our organizations
- HIGHLIGHT the value it has provided to the community
- INSPIRE other women to join

**Catherine's email is: CPutnam03@gmail.com.**



**Dues are \$50 and are due by June 1, 2025. We will be collecting dues at the May meeting.** Please make checks payable to **The Women's Club of Madison.**

**You may mail your check to:**

The Women's Club of Madison  
P.O. Box 691  
Madison, CT 06443  
Attn: Dues

**In addition, please provided the following information:**

Name  
Address  
Preferred Phone Number  
Email Address



Spouse's Name

Three Committees for which you would like to volunteer.

**New this year** you may pay your dues ONLINE with a credit card. use this link for really easy payment: <https://www.zeffy.com/ticketing/womens-club-of-madison-membership-renewal>

**NOTE: There is an “optional” tip that is automatically generated by our online partner, Zeffy. Please enter \$0 or other amount so you don’t incur any additional charges in addition to the \$50 membership cost.**



## **DISBURSEMENTS**

**President Liz Early** recently sent out an email regarding Disbursements for this year. The Club has \$5000 available for Disbursements this year. All members are requested to vote on the five organizations to which they would like to support. All votes must be received by midnight, May 13, 2025. The following organizations have requested funds:

\_\_\_Rocking chairs for the Surf Club - 4 chairs - \$1,230.00

These were approved by Austin (Rec Dept). They are very sturdy and will be placed on the porch at the Surf Club building for all to use. There will be plaques mounted on each saying donated by WCM.

\_\_\_\_\_Defibrillator for the American Legion - \$1,000.00

It costs more than this, but we are only able to give \$1,000.00. The Legion will receive money from other organizations for the balance. This will benefit anyone who attends events/meetings there.

\_\_\_\_\_ Madison Food Pantry - \$500.00

More and more people are experiencing food insecurity, and this will help the most vulnerable in our town.

\_\_\_\_\_ Appalachia Youth Group Service Project - \$1,000.00

Community youth going on a trip to travel to an area devastated by Hurricane Helene and assist with home repairs. 16% of the households in the area experience poverty.

\_\_\_\_\_ Scranton Library - \$875.00

Block party support. The library staff requested donations for an event that will be held for the community.

\_\_\_\_\_ Vista Life Innovations - \$500.00

Donation will be designated towards a student discretionary fund which enables some of the clients to be able to attend extracurricular events that they would not have been able to afford.

\_\_\_\_\_ ABC House - \$500.00

Program support for the men's house in Madison

\_\_\_\_\_ Ronald McDonald House - \$250.00

This will cover daily necessities, groceries and dinner for families staying at the house.

Please indicate your top five votes **in order of** importance. Please don't just check them off. List numbers 1-5).

**Please put your name on the ballot so we know who has voted.**



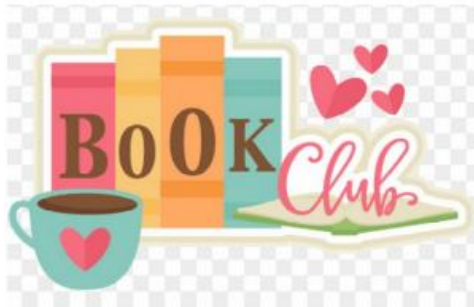
**St. Jude Fund - Josephine Mokriski** continues to collect money for the St. Jude Fund. She will be collecting at the meetings. If you would like to make a contribution, and are unable to attend the meeting, please contact Josephine at either 203-245-0706 or email her at **josephinemokriski@hotmail.com** . **Thank you Josephine!**



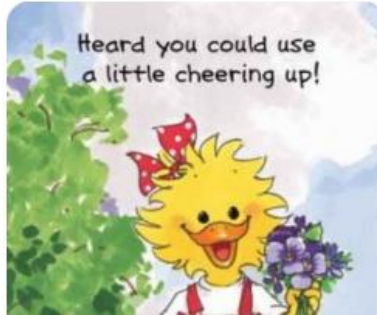


**Food Pantry** – Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. You may bring your donations of peanut butter and jelly to the General Membership Meetings or drop off your donations at Phyllis' house, 8 Runnymead Lane.

**Thank you to Donna and Phyllis for bringing in the donations and thank you to all members who have donated!**



**Book Group** - If you are interested in joining the Book Group or have any suggestions for future books, please contact **Josephine Mokriski**. She may be contacted at either **josephinemokriski@hotmail.com** or at **203-245-0706**. Meetings take place on the Third Wednesday of every other month starting in September. This year the Group will be meeting at the Scranton Memorial Library in the Life Long Learning Room at 3:00 p.m. The Hostess will bring cups, napkins, etc. and organizing three members to bring snacks and one to bring ice. Everyone should bring her own drink. The next meeting is May 21<sup>st</sup>.



If you know of a member who is ill, in need of a bit of cheer, or is celebrating a special event, please contact **Sue Hermonat, Corresponding Secretary**. She will send a card from the Club, letting our member know that we are all thinking about her. Sue's email address is [shermo1981@att.net](mailto:shermo1981@att.net).



**Attention All Walkers** – The days are getting warmer. Time to get out there and take a walk. Our Walking Group meets Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 9:00 a.m. at East Wharf and Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. at Hammonasset Park. Enjoy some time with your Women's Club of Madison friends.



**Knitting Group Club** – The Women's Club of Madison Knitting Group meets the first Tuesday of every month from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Scranton Memorial Library. No experience needed – Lesson are provided! This is the group that makes the beautiful

afghans which are donated to the Madison Police Department, Ronald McDonald House, and other organizations.



**Website** – Check out our website at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com>. Here you will find loads of information about the Club, supporting our community, activities, events, photos., and membership information. Thank you **Barbara Cervoni!**

## **TAG SALE**



The **Tag Sale** will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2025, on the Green. Start cleaning out those closets, attics, and cellars looking for those hidden gems that no longer bring you joy. Remember – one woman's trash is another woman's treasure. This year's Chairperson is **Dawn Tiscia**.

Please consider donating your gently used items for the sale. Some items to consider: housewares, furniture, garden tools, vintage items, toys, jewelry, glassware, dishes, books, games, bikes, sports equipment. We are looking for anything you think may sell!

Volunteers are needed for. Please contact Dawn. Thank you **Dawn** for again chairing this event.



**Gail Lennox** is collecting empty plastic prescription bottles for Doctor's Without Borders. Please remove the labels from the bottle prior to giving them to **Gail**. Bottles may be brought to the meetings or contact **Gail** for drop off information. These containers are not recyclable so here is a way to put them to good use. **Thank you Gail!**



**Pat Sangster** is collecting tabs from soda and beer cans – just the tab, not the whole can or top. Please start collecting them. They will be donated to the Ronald McDonald House in New Haven. Please bring the tabs to a meeting or contact **Pat Sangster**. Ronald McDonald house will receive all of the recycling money. **Thank you Pat!**



The **Madison Senior Center** has a collection box for eyeglasses. If you have any you would like to donate, stop by the Center.

## **WCM DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**05/13/2025 – WCM General Membership Meeting**  
**05/13/2025 – Disbursement Voting Due by Midnight**  
**05/19/2025 – WCM Board Meeting**  
**05/26/2025 – Memorial Day Parade – WCM Marching**  
**05/31/2025 – Annual Dues are Due**  
**05/31/2025 – Annual Dinner Reservations Due**

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**05/05/2025 – Cinco de Mayo**  
**05/11/2025 – Mother's Day**  
**05/12/2025 – National Women's Checkup Day**  
**05/16/2025 – Do Something Good for Your Neighbor Day**  
**05/26/2025 – Memorial Day**  
**05/31/2025 – National Smile Day**





# June Dinner Meeting

SPONSORED BY THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF MADISON  
CELEBRATING 125 YEARS

## Cafe Allegre

**TUESDAY, JUNE 10TH AT 6:00PM**

725 BOSTON POST ROAD, MADISON

**DINNER COST: \$50 PER PERSON**

RETURN YOUR DINNER CHOICE WITH YOUR \$50 CHECK  
MADE OUT TO WCM, P.O. BOX 691, MADISON, CT 06443  
BY **MAY 31, 2025**

**QUESTIONS:**

JESSICA TONINI 671-272-0433  
BETH SLATTERY 402-212-1217  
LAURIE STORINO 203-258-6075

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**PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR PAYMENT**

**DINNER MENU (PLEASE SELECT YOUR DINNER CHOICE)**

- ☐ CHICKEN MARSALA  
☐ SOLE FLORENTINE  
☐ VEAL PARMIGIANA  
☐ PASTA PRIMAVERA (VEGETARIAN)

SALAD, DESSERT, COFFEE & TEA INCLUDED; CASH BAR

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_



**WCM Fundraiser  
J McLaughlin  
May 1, 2025**

