



The Laurel News and Notes

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

September 2025



Hell-o September and start of a new and very, very busy Club year. The next meeting of the Women's Club of Madison will be held on Tuesday, September 9, 2025.

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.

If you have information for the newsletter, please email me at patriciathal@aim.com.

As you know, **Carol Musante**, A Women's Club of Madison member since 2015, passed away August 18, 2025. I have included a copy of her obituary at the end of this newsletter. **Carol** was a dedicated member of WCM, actively participating in many committees and most recently serving as Recording Secretary. She kept us up-to-date on environmental issues and was a regular at the Madison Green Up Clean Up – no matter the weather. She will certainly be missed.

Our condolences also go out to **Donna Dougherty**, whose grandson recently passed away. Our thoughts are with **Donna** and her family at this difficult time.



The GFWC/CT Fall Conference will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025, at the Fairview Farm Golf Club in Harwinton, CT. Guest Speaker is Tina Smith, President of GFWC New England Region. The Call and relevant information is attached to this newsletter.

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.”

The GFWC New England Region 116th Conference will be held October 31 – November 2, 2025 at the Mills Falls At The Lake in Meredith NH. This year’s conference theme is “This is How We Roll”. Lynne Sarro recently sent out the Call, along with important information regarding the Conference.

WOMEN’S CLUB OF MADISON TO CELEBRATE 125TH ANNIVERSARY



The Women’s Club of Madison is celebrating is **125 Anniversary** this year. Our Club supports a variety of organizations, not just in our community, but nationally and internationally. Doctor’s 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 **125th 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**.

The Women's Club of Madison will have a special exhibit at the E.C. Scranton Library with a special opening on October 7, 2025, from 4:00p.m. to 7:00 p.m.



PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Donna Farrell

Ladies,

This time of year, as you clean out your closets, getting rid of all of the items you are tired of, please donate your former pocketbooks, purses and tote bags to me. I am looking for gently used items....no rips or tears...cleaned out (you can leave money in...haha).

I will be collecting these and they will be at the various meetings, general and state and be sold for a nominal price. This was successful in the past so I am doing this again. Money brought in will go into the club treasury to be decided later. Get cleaning. You can contact me to pick up or bring to meetings.

Donna Farrell

FALL INTO FASHION
Thursday, October 16, 2025



Laurie Storino, Vivianne Mascia, and Marlene Curtis, along with their Fashion Show Committee have been hard at work preparing for the big event. There is a list of raffle baskets on Perfect Party. All raffle items are due no later than September 15, 2025. Tickets are going fast – Don't wait. Order yours now.

Volunteers will be needed the day of the Fashion Show. Sign-up list to be passed around at September meeting.

If you know of a business that might like to Sponsor our event, there are three levels of Sponsorship.



Thank you Laurie, Vivianne, and Marlene for chairing this committee. Please reach out to Laurie, Vivianne, or Marlene with any questions.



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. The Group meets at the Scranton Memorial Library. The September book is **A Calamity of Souls** by David Baldacci. The Group will be meeting on September 16, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. **Mary Davis** is facilitating the discussion this month.



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.



Attention All Walkers – Fall is on its way. Time to take a walk and enjoy the foliage. 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 need – 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!**





Each October, the **WCM** does a coat drive. A box is placed at Stop & Shop and members of the community drop off gently loved or new coats to be donated to various organizations. **Sara Welch** has chaired this program for the past few years and has done a fantastic job. More information will be forthcoming regarding the Coat Drive. So start cleaning out those closets! Thank you **Sara** for all your hard work.



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:

09/09/2025 – General Membership Meeting
09/15/2025 – Board Meeting
09/15/2025 – All items for Raffle are due
09/20/2025 – GFWC/CT Fall Conference
09/27/2025 - GFWC International Day of Service
10/16/2025 – Fall Into Fashion Show

The month of September is also National Suicide Prevention Month, National Childhood Obesity Awareness Month, Read a New Book Month, World Alzheimer's Month, Friendship Month, National Piano Month, National Honey Month, and National Courtesy Month, among others.

Monday, September 22, 2025 Fall Begins!



CALL TO GFWC/CT FALL CONFERENCE

Saturday September 20, 2025

Kathy Barnes, President



Kind Hearts, Brave Minds, Fierce Spirits – Our members make a difference!

Fairview Farm Golf Club

300 Hill Road

Harwinton, CT 06791

All GFWC CT members are invited and encouraged to attend! Enjoy the company of other members during this information filled meeting. Relax with the wonderful fall scenery at this beautiful venue.



9:30am

Check In opens

10:00am

Call To Order

Guest Speaker: Tina Smith, President of GFWC New England Region will share information about St. Jude's, an Affiliate of GFWC and how clubs in New England have joined together supporting St. Jude's



New England Region Conference Update

2026 LEADS Kick Off – Lynne Sarro, GFWC CT 2025 LEADS Graduate

Wreaths Across America – Remember*Honor*Teach– Keep Moving Forward - Maddie Marzullo, Veterans Chairman

International Day of Service – GFWC CT plans and the Success for Survivors Scholarships

Nominating Committee Report: Kathy DeBurra, Chairman

12:00 noon

Recess – Networking, Fundraising and Social Time

12:30noon

Buffet Lunch

PM Session

GFWC CT Strategic Plan



Workshops – Tools to Help Your Club Thrive

Community Impact Program: Wendy Clery, GFWC CT President elect – Recognizing on your current projects and some suggestions for more to enhance your club's impact

Chairman-ing: Facilitated by Nicole Karalli, GFWC CT 2nd VP. Hear how State Chairs approach the job. Tools for Club Chairmen to use. How you can help recruit chairmen for your Club.

Membership – Facilitated by Sara Newell, GFWC CT 3rd VP – it all starts with members. Sharing information from the GFWC Membership Task Force.

Recording Secretary Tools and Tips – Facilitators: Joann Hohensee, GFWC CT Recording Secretary and Sue Michaud, President, The Woman's Club of Enfield. Recording Secretaries help author the story of GFWC. Some extra help to help Clubs recruit to fill the position.

Announcements / Fundraising Adjournment

The Fall Conference is open to all members of GFWC CT. All registrants will be emailed a copy of the Strategic Plan prior to the meeting.

Any members will business to be added to the agenda, please contact Kathy Barnes, GFWC CT President at gwfc.kathybarnes@gmail.com no later than September 13,2025

Registration Form is attached.

GFWC/CT Reservation Form - Meal & Meeting

September 20, 2025

Fairview Farm Golf Club

300 Hill Road

Harwinton, CT 06791

Buffet menu*: Pot Roast, Chicken Picatta, Penne a la Vodka with lobster bisque sauce, mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, individually served garden salad, rolls. Coffee will be served.

The Chefs will work with us to accommodate food lifestyles and dietary restrictions.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: September 9, 2025

Meal Fee: \$40.00 Meeting Fee: \$10.00 Total \$50.00

(NOTE: THIS IS A FIRM DEADLINE. NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER September 9)

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Club: _____ District: _____

Any Dietary Restrictions: _____

GFWC/CT Board of Directors Position: _____

Email

Are you a 2024-2026 Club President? Yes No

Are you a member of the 2024-2026 GFWC CT Board of Directors? Yes No

Mail Registrations to:

Pam Lerner, 20 Brenton Terrace, Hamden, CT 06518

Contact Info: Phone: 203-281-3090 or pamlern41044@aol.com

Checks made out to: GFWC/CT

IN MEMORIAM CAROL MUSANTE

Carol Anne Musante, 81, of Madison, CT, passed away peacefully on August 18, 2025 surrounded by family.

Born May 23, 1944, in Utica, NY, to Joseph and Mary Miller, Carol dedicated her life to family, teaching, and community. A beloved elementary school teacher for 40 years, she nurtured countless children with patience, warmth, and creativity.

On November 25, 1967, she married Louis Musante, with whom she shared a joyful and devoted partnership. Together they raised their daughter, Marnie, who was a constant source of pride and joy. Carol's greatest happiness came from her family, especially her grandson, Liam, with whom she shared a deep and loving bond.

She is also survived by her sisters, Patricia Derajtys and Mary Louise Miller.

Carol was active in the Madison Women's Club, where she organized coat drives and fundraisers for various community organizations. She volunteered at High Hopes, a horseback riding camp for children with disabilities and was a proud member of the Elm City Cloggers, performing at schools and nursing homes. Her passions included tennis, kayaking, travel, and sharing laughter with family and friends.

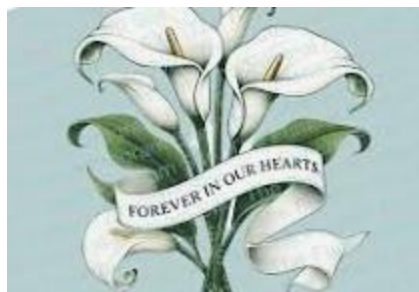
It wasn't uncommon for Carol—or her family—to be stopped in the community by people expressing gratitude for the encouragement, guidance, or support she had given. These moments were a living testament to her quiet but profound impact.

She often said she strove to make the best use of the gifts God gave her every day, and she lived that calling with purpose and joy.

She will be remembered for her compassion, resilience, and unwavering positivity.

Calling hours for Carol will be held on Thursday September 25th from 4-7 PM at the Swan Funeral Home, 825 Boston Post Rd Madison, CT. A Mass of Christian Burial will occur on Friday September 26th at 11:00 AM in St. Margaret Church, 24 Academy St. Madison, CT. Burial will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders.



CAROL MUSANTE
1944 - 2025

