



The Laurel News and Notes

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

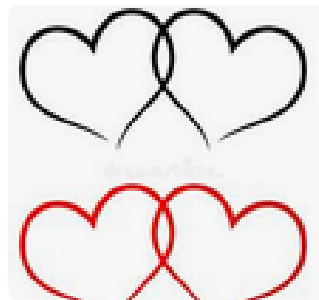
February 2026



The next Women's Club of Madison meeting is Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. at the Senior Center. We will be doing a Book Exchange. Please bring a book – or more - that you have read to swap at the meeting. Include a brief overview of the book.

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.





Check out the **GFWC/CT Newsletter**. It's filled with great information about the **GFWC/CT** and the state Clubs.

Also, if you have not already done so, subscribe to **GFWC News and Notes**. The **GFWC Learning Gateway Services**. Below is an except from the most recent **GFWC News and Notes**. GFWC is hosting two informative webinars for you. Register to take part in the live sessions. If you can't attend at the scheduled times, simply register, and you'll receive a link to the recorded sessions.

A flyer for the GFWC Learning Gateway Series. The title 'THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES' is in a gold banner at the top. The text below is on a light beige background with a decorative black wrought-iron railing on the right side. The flyer invites GFWC members to register for the final gateway webinar, presented by the 2024-2026 GFWC Honorary Chairmen and Guests. It lists two webinars: one on February 10, 2026, about heart health with Dr. Benjamin Citrin, and another on April 7, 2026, about brain health with Amy S. Peele and Dr. Dove Wilson. Both webinars include registration links. The GFWC logo is at the bottom left.

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES


GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE FINAL GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR, PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN and GUESTS.

February 10, 2026 @ 7 P.M. ET – Heart Health Month with Dr. Benjamin Citrin, president and founder of Citrin Cardiology, P.C.

Dr. Citrin, Special Guest Speaker at the "A Red Affair: Pulse of a Woman Gala" at the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta, will present an educational seminar on women's cardiac health. He is board certified in clinical, interventional, and nuclear cardiology as well as internal medicine. This webinar will unveil tips to achieving cardiac health goals." bit.ly/gfwcgateway021026

April 7, 2026 @ 7 P.M. ET – Dancing with your Brain, with Amy S. Peele RN, GFWC ESO and Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman and co-presenter Dr. Dove Wilson, psychotherapist, executive coach, sleep specialist, and bestselling author of Brain Dance and Gratitude: Journaling the Good - 3 Minutes a Day for Your Brain & Life.

Modern life has turned many of us into dancers trying to tango on a tilted stage. The good news? With a little understanding of brain chemistry, some heart-centered awareness, and a few well-timed habits, you can help your brain find its rhythm again. Welcome to "Dancing With Your Brain," a webinar designed to help you partner with your most powerful organ to create sweeter sleep, calmer days, and more energized living. bit.ly/gfwcgateway040726

 **GFWC**
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GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

Saturday, February 7, 2026 is the State Meeting at the American Legion Hall in Madison. Registration deadline has passed. However, members who attend will bring back some great information to the WCM members at the next meeting.

Reminder: District Day will be held on April 11, 2026 at the Westbrook Elks Club. Watch for the Call.



PURSES WITH A PURPOSE

Donna Farrell is collecting gently used purses and tote bags. They will be available to purchase at various meetings, general and state, for a nominal price. As you clean out your closets, please consider donating the items as the money brought in will go into the Club treasury. **Thank you Donna!**



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 Virtual Fund Raiser is on! **Liz** recently sent an email to the membership, outlining how to donate. Please forward the email to friends and family. You may donate online at: <https://womensclubmadisonct.com/cash-only-food-drive>.

You may also send a check to:

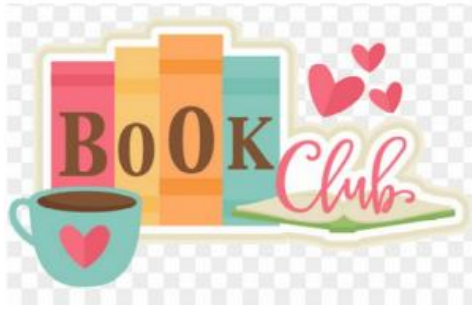
The Women's Club of Madison
PO Box 691
Madison, CT 06443

The Food Pantry serves approximately 110 families each month.

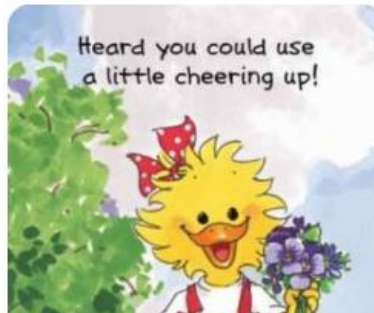
Both **Donna Dougherty** and **Phyllis Denton** volunteer at the Food Pantry every Wednesday. You may bring your donations of peanut butter and jelly to the General Membership Meetings or drop off your donations at Phyllis' house, 8 Runnymede Lane.

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. If you would like more information and a list of books for the year, please contact Josephine.



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 – Our Walking Group meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 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. Contact Barbara DeRosa at 203-215-2684 for more information.



Knitting Group – 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 – Lessons 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.





Social Outing: Dee Mulqueen is organizing a social outing to see **Wuthering Heights** on February 16 at 3:10 p.m. Pizza afterwards. If interested, please contact Dee at 203-530-4608.



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!**



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!**



COMMUNITY IMPACT PROJECT

The following is from the WCM President, Liz Early.

As many of you know, we had a presentation by Donna about her idea for a CIP project, the rainbow bridge. Some members were concerned about the timing of the presentation and asked me to check to see if it needed to wait until the next executive board is installed. I spoke with Kathy Barnes, our State President. She said the timing for the project goes from January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2027, so we can begin working on this now. The timing of the project does not align with the term dates of the board.

I have looked up the description of a CIP project on the GFWC website and here is the information:

Club members meet to discuss the needs of their local community by looking for grassroots projects that will require community partnerships, additional funds, and planning implementation.

After brainstorming possible projects, ask club members to narrow the discussion to a couple of possible focus areas.

OUTLINE THE PROJECT TO CREATE A PLAN OF ACTION

The club creates a project plan that may include:

- Project goal statement describing a clear picture view of what is to be accomplished by the
- project and what benefits will be gained when the project is completed.
- Community connections for collaboration.
- Funding needed and possible sources.
- Media outlets and plan to promote the project in the news, online, and social media.
- Timeline for the project.

I would like to ask if a member has an idea for a CIP project, that she present the project idea at our February meeting on Feb 10, 2026. We will then vote on a project and can begin to assign committees, etc for the project. I would like to have the vote at the March meeting.

Please contact me if you have any questions. If you have an idea for a project and are unable to attend the Feb meeting, please email me your proposal and I can bring it up. Please make it as detailed as possible, outlining different ways the members will be able to assist, expected cost, timeline, etc.

Thank you!
Sincerely,
Liz

Past Community Impact Projects included:

- 1974 - Uniforms and warm-up suits for the GAA (Girls' sports team at the high school)
- 1976 – Cable installation for Madison Town and Education Channels
- 1980 – Jaws of Life for Madison Fire Department
- 1982 - Contributed money for uniforms for the Daniel High Band Members
- 1990 – “Safety in Numbers” Recommendation that all homes and buildings be numbers (later became a town ordinance)
- 1996 – Framing of historical prints of Madison for display in Memorial Town Hall
- Thermal Imaging Camera for Fire Department Madison Hose Co. #1
- 2002 – Defibrillators for Madison Police Department plus beach wheelchairs for Madison Town Beaches
- 2004 – Heating system for Meigs Point Nature Center
- 2006 – Golf cart for Daniel Hand High School for transporting injured students
- 2008 – Established a computer/study center at the Madison Arts Barn
- 2010 – Furnished a library room for the new Madison Senior Center (\$5,000)
- 2012 – Furnished a room at the new Madison Ambulance Center (\$5,000)
- 2014 – Donated \$5,015.00 to Madison Conservation Trust for building walkways on the Shoreline Trail. Donated \$1,300.00 to Shoreline Greenway Trail

- 2018 – Donated \$7,781.61 for new benches, grills, and bocce court resurfacing at the Surf Club.



Kindness Week is taking place from **February 7 to February 14, 2026**. It starts on Saturday, February 7 at the First Congregational Church in Madison. There will be a Madison Chocolate Festival and Kindness Cafe from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Hubley Hall at the Church, featuring a bake sale, raffle, and live music. Other events include:

- Discussion, Monday, February 10 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Dr. Mira Svatovic and Dr. Keri Marcovici will lead a talk on kindness and compassion. The discussion will take place in Hubley Hall.
- Madison Public Schools will participate in various activities, including a “Kindness Poster Challenge”

Dates to remember:

02/01/2026 – Virtual Food Pantry Fundraiser begins

02/02/2026 – Groundhog Day

02/03/2026 – Knitting Group at the Library

02/07/2026 – GFWC/CT State Meeting – Madison American Legion Hall

02/07/2026 – Kindness Week Begins

02/10/2026 – WCM General Membership Meeting – Book Swap, CIP ideas

02/14/2026 – Valentine’s Day

02/16/2026 – Movie Social Event and Pizza

02/16/2026 – Board Meeting via Zoom

