



October 2026 Newsletter

The Laurel News and Notes

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

October 2026



The next Women's Club of Madison meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at the Madison Senior Center. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 6:30 p.m.

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 Melody Wirgau**. Melody's email address is mwirgau6@gmail.com.

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



MESSAGE FROM

PRESIDENT MELODY

WIRGAU

October is here and autumn is in the air. Shorter days, cooler mornings and evenings. Where did summer go? We have a busy October planned for the Women's Club. It is

- Domestic Violence Awareness month and Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Please be an advocate for both of these causes.
- For our International Day of Service we have started our annual coat drive. Watch for the boxes at Stop and Shop.
- We also have members that are working on a scarecrow for downtown to be displayed during the month.
- Trunk or Treat is fast approaching. If you would like to donate candy please bring a bag to the October meeting.
- The knitting group will meet on October 7th at 1:00 pm at the Library in the East River Reading Room.
- The Art Committee will meet on October 24th at 1:00 pm in the North Conference Room to create Halloween/Fall cards for Meal on Wheels.

There are always many activities to get involved with. Please jump in to help. Please remember to bring any CIP ideas to the October meeting.

Martha Rice has taken on Fundraising. Please sign up to support her fundraising ideas.

The next Women's Club of Madison meeting is Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at the Madison Senior Center. Social time starts at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting will be called to order at 6:30 p.m. We will have a speaker to discuss domestic violence concerns.

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, Melody Wirgau**. Melody's email address is [**mwirgau6@gmail.com**](mailto:mwirgau6@gmail.com)..



GFWC International Day of Service was September 26, 2026. The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The GFWC International Day of Service brings together clubs from around the world to stand united against domestic and sexual violence.



October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The GFWC signature program is Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness. The GFWC website notes: “GFWC **creates** and **leads** education, public awareness, and service projects for club members and local citizens at the community level; **collaborates** with national domestic violence networks and organizations; **supports** existing activities and established programs; **advocates** for victims and survivors; and **provides** educational opportunities to survivors. GFWC aims to be a powerful voice for victims and survivors.”



In addition to it being Domestic Violence Awareness Month, October is also **Breast Cancer Awareness Month.**

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

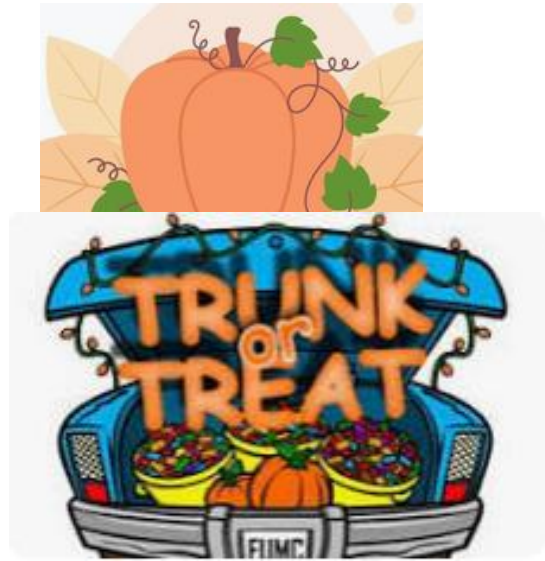
Hailee Rodriguez from Ronald McDonald House will be speaking at our Tuesday, November 10th meeting of The Womens Club of Madison.

Our project for Ronald McDonald House, Chaired by Donna Farrell and Kathy DeBurra will be Santa stockings and other items. The stockings have already been purchased and Donna has them. Ronald McDonald House also is requesting items for the parents. Go to the following link to review the wish-list items.

<https://www.ronaldmcdonaldhousectma.org/ways-to-give/wish-list-drives/>

If you can, please bring an item from their wish-list. It would be greatly appreciated. Donna will have a cute box all set up to receive them....or she can pick them up at your home. We will be looking for the usual children's gifts such as crayons, drawing pads, etc. Ages toddlers -14 yrs

We will also be working with Donna's daughter, Caitlin, who is a head nurse with surgeons in the pediatric/adult oncology department at Yale. They see several children in their office. While the child's parent is speaking with the doctor, Caitlin takes them to her "Gift basket" to pick out a special item to take home. She was very happy when told that the WCM may be able to donate some items to her basket.



TRUNK OR TREAT

On Saturday, October 31st, The Women's Club of Madison will participate in the Trunk or Treat on the Madison Green. Our theme is "Patriotic" – Red, White, and Blue. I hear George and Martha Washington will be there.

Signup sheet will be at our October meeting. This is a great chance to volunteer for a really fun event.....time commitment is short!

CANDY is needed....there will be lots of little ghosts and goblins. Please bring candy to the meeting on Tuesday, October 13th. (or if you're unable to shop, Gail will collect money to buy candy!)

Also, candy can be dropped off at Gail's house - 17 Carmel Court, Madison or call her and she will pick up.

Thank you ladies for your anticipated help to make this event successful!

The Halloween Committee
Gail Lennox and Donna Farrell



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 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.



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!**



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.



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!**



Food Pantry

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, please contact **Josephine Mokriski**, at josephinemokriski@hotmail.com or at **203-245-0706**. The Group meets the third Wednesday of every other month at 3:00 p.m. in the Life-Long Learning Room at the library. The November Book is **Time of the Child** by **Niall Williams**



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.

Facebook - If you are on Facebook, don't forget to visit and follow our Women's Club page. You'll find reminders about meetings and upcoming events, as well as photos and news. You can then share our posts with your other Facebook friends. Visit the page at <https://www.facebook.com/womensclubmadisonct>. Thank you **Barbara Cervoni**!



Attention All Walkers – Happy Fall! Time to take a walk and enjoy the cool crisp air and foliage. 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.



Throughout the month of October, we will be collecting gently used coats for men, women and children. Coats will be donated to [BHcare](#), a nonprofit organization serving communities along the shoreline and Greater New Haven areas. They will distribute the coats to those in need, including those experiencing domestic violence, homelessness and those in need of services for mental health and/or addiction. Last year, we collected more than 200 coats to donate.

Coats can be dropped off in our collection box at Stop and Shop in Madison. We are grateful to the managers at Stop and Shop for their ongoing support.

The donation box has been placed at Stop and Shop. So clean out those closets and donate those gently loved coats. **Thank you!**



The month of October, in addition to being Breast Cancer Awareness and Domestic Violence Awareness Month, is also National Disability Employment Awareness Month.

Authority: *Executive Order 13187*

Congress, to help disabled veterans, designated the first week of October as National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week in 1945. Seventeen years later, the word "physically" was removed from the phrase to recognize the needs and contributions of individuals with all types of disabilities. In the 1970s, a shift in disability public policy led to further amendments. For the first time, it was viewed as discriminatory to exclude or segregate people because of a disability, and activists were fighting strongly for legal revisions. As a result, the U.S. saw changes such as the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and the designation, by presidential proclamation, of a full month to increase public

awareness of those with disabilities and appreciate the capabilities of the 30 million people in the U.S. of working-age who are disabled. Various programs throughout the month headed by The Office of Disability Employment Policy emphasize specific employment barriers that still need to be addressed and eliminated.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

10/13/2026 – WCM General

Membership Meeting

10/19/2026 – WCM Board Meeting

10/24/2026 – Art Committee – Library North Conference Room

10/31/2026 – Trunk or Treat



HAPPY OCTOBER BIRTHDAY!

Happy birthday to Angela Carroll, Liz Early, Margaret Leucke, and Jessica Tonini!

