

Braintree Women's Club



November 2022 Newsletter



November Meeting: Thursday, November 3, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. – Vincent Fountaine, the Veterans Agent for the Town of Braintree, will present the program at our meeting. He will tell us about the different veterans organizations in town and what their roles are. He will also inform us about the benefits available to Braintree veterans through his office.

Program Chairman: Lauren Durgin
Greeters: Phyllis Kerr and Dotty Murray
Hostesses: Helen Casey and Marilyn Cioffi

Invocation: Mary Gardner

WEBSITE: <https://braintreewomensclub.weebly.com>
GFWC Website: gfwcma.org

President's Message - I hope everyone enjoyed our opening dinner meeting. It was wonderful to see everyone.

Thank you to all those who purchased a Braintree Christmas Ornament. Your support and generosity are always so heartwarming. I will have some at our meeting for anyone who is interested in purchasing.

Time seems to slip by, and we are approaching the Holidays! As in the past, we will support those in need in our community so they can enjoy the blessings of the season. Committee Chairs are working diligently with members to accomplish all of our charitable programs.

I am excited for our upcoming meeting programs and fundraising events planned and am sure you will be too!

Please feel free to contact me with any suggestions as we move ahead. Remember guests are always welcome at our meetings so bring a friend along!

As we gather together on the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends, remember to count your blessings. Enjoy and stay safe,

Rosemarie Doherty, President

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Arts and Literature – October's book, *Killers of a Certain Age*, provided a lively discussion as well as a lighthearted way to start the season. It was a fun read as well as an easy read. If you are looking for something different this is the book for you. The group highly recommends it! Next month the book is *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo* by Taylor Jenkins Reid. This was listed on the Best Seller list for most of the summer and is a fictional story in the 50's and 60's loosely based on the life of Liz Taylor. Carolyn Mahoney will lead the discussion and Helen Casey will provide hospitality. The meeting is November 9th at 7:00 PM at the Devon Wood Clubhouse. New members are welcome.

Terry Rouvalis, Chairman

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Community Service – Please read the separate page describing **CARITAS**. It is an organization that this committee will have a commitment to serve here in Braintree in the coming year. More information will be forthcoming, but we have exciting news that must be shared with you. Co-partnership has been established with Shaw's Supermarket. Shaw's is happy to have this

connection with a neighborhood within its community. The initial project is that a Birthday Cake will be delivered at the beginning of each month to celebrate resident's birthdays....some might never have had a birthday cake or had someone remember their special day!

Once again Braintree Women's Club will join with the Braintree High School Student Council and share Christmas gifting with some needy families. This has become a tradition for our club. So many families face hardship and struggle to give their children some of the joys of Christmas and it has been a pleasure to work with BHS students to help these families. The **CHRISTMAS FAMILY ENVELOPE** will be passed around at the November meeting and if you are unable to contribute at that time, you will have another chance in December. Please try to donate something as every little bit helps!

Jean Donohue and Marilyn Cioffi will have Volunteer sign-up sheets for the **Dr. Ruth McLain Hospice Home** available for those who can volunteer. The Hospice marked its 2nd anniversary this past year here in Braintree and welcomes your compassionate help. Examples: answer the door, phone, or call bells, check in w/patients, assist w/meal prep, bring magazines, books, and read to patients if they would like, bring plants to patient's room or just bring a treat around the holidays. Speak to Jean or Marilyn if you have an interest and they will happily share their enthusiasm with you.

Ann Toland and her staff at the Marge Crispin Center are preparing for the Thanksgiving and Christmas outreach programs as they do each year for needy families here in Braintree. The following is a note from Ann:

On Monday, November 21, we will be distributing our Thanksgiving food baskets and turkeys to all Braintree residents who have signed up for our program. Distribution will be at 74 Pond Street. We are asking for the following items for Thanksgiving: cranberry sauce, turkey gravy, stuffing mix, any canned fruits and vegetables. Our Christmas distribution will be held on Monday, December 19th, Tuesday, December 20 and Wednesday, December 21. Distribution will also be at 74 Pond Street.

As always, we appreciate all the help that the Braintree Women's Club and all the individual members give to the Center. Thank you,

Lucille Barton and Jean Donohue, Chairmen

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Membership - Members' Feedback: "our Opening Fall Dinner Meeting was a *huge success.*" We gathered, we enjoyed and *we did energize* each other! Twenty-eight BWC members and one guest were able to attend the dinner and no one went home hungry! The food was delicious. Conversation flowed and laughter resounded from table to table. Broad strokes for the upcoming year were provided by our President and committee chairs. Our ornament fund raiser launch was off to a successful start!

Thank you to Linda Poulin and Maureen Dangelo for their gracious and efficient "member greeting" and for their diligence in making sure members received their new membership book. A special thanks to Phyllis Kerr and Jane Fogg for arriving *very* early and arranging the hall decorations so artfully. Thanks to so many others for ensuring the event went smoothly. Mary O'Donnell did a great job in facilitating the door prize drawing. Michaela Reilly was the enthusiastic winner. Flower arrangements were taken home by five lucky members.

The Membership Greeters for the November meeting will be Phyllis Kerr and Dotty Murray.

Reminder - do not hesitate to invite someone you think would be a good fit for our Club to attend a meeting or to join the Club. **People enjoy being recognized by someone as nice as you!**

Looking forward to seeing you all November 3rd!

Remember to bring/wear your name tag.

Gerry McCarthy and Mary O'Donnell, Chairmen

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Remembrance – If you know of a club member who is sick or hospitalized or the passing of a family member, please call Helen Casey at 781-849-0119.

The Sunshine Fund jar will be at the Executive Board table if you are able to help.

Helen Casey, Chairman

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Way and Means – The Christmas ornaments will be available at the meeting - \$15 for members. So far, 55 ornaments have been sold and they will be on sale at several more community functions.

Rebecca Adams, Chairman

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Hospitality - The following members are requested to assist with Hospitality at the November 3, 2022 meeting: Gina Agnitti, Margarete Cropley, Maureen Dangelo, Lauren Frame, Angela Geso and Nancy Eggers. Please plan to arrive 6:15pm. We will dress the tables, arrange the desserts on the serving table and assist with a very quick cleanup at the conclusion of the meeting.

Thank you in advance. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Eggers, Chairman

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Veterans Committee – Thank you for your generosity at our last meeting. I have several gift cards and will be purchasing a few more. They will be provided to the spouses of the members of Charlie Company 182nd Infantry, based out of the Union Street Armory, who are deployed in the Middle East until March. The gift cards will be presented at a gathering on November 6th which will be held in their honor by the Braintree Veterans organizations.

There will be a basket at the Executive Board table again for those who care to help and were not able to donate last month.

Lauren Durgin, Chairman

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CARITAS

Caritas is an organization which I hope Braintree Women's Club members will embrace and support as it has a place here in Braintree and we could serve and meet some of their needs. Caritas serves those who live here, most probably work here and serve us here. These are some statistics you should be aware of:

Over 70% of Caritas residents have experienced homelessness

Over 50% arrive straight from homelessness

Over 60% earn under \$20,000 a year

20% have nobody they can rely on for help or connection

Caritas serves those who would otherwise not be able to afford housing. It enables working men and women on minimum wage, veterans experiencing post- service challenges and low-income elderly and disabled citizens to live in a clean, safe home that they can afford.

It provides housing to working people who earn significantly less than this area's median income, who are often living paycheck to paycheck. The median income is \$20,700 which means that they cannot afford market rent. The average weekly rents ranges from \$135-155.

Each Caritas resident has a key to their own room where they feel safe and less alone. It is a Single Room Occupancy housing (one person per room) for individual adults. When filing for an application, all current financial information is required. Also, a first month's rent and security deposit at lease signing are required in order to move-in.

Each residence has a property and site manager responsible for the well-being of residents and the upkeep of the property. The commitment is to keep residents in their homes even if they fall on hard times and have fallen behind on rent due to an unexpected expense, illness or change in employment. Help is provided through job-training connection and rent support.

In our December newsletter the Community Service Committee will explain more fully how we plan to reach out to the local residence. We just want to share our excitement now as we begin an immediate connection. Braintree Women's Club is Partnering with Shaw's Market to provide a Birthday Cake each month for this residence. Perhaps some have never celebrated a birthday...now someone has remembered them! Someone cares!

Lucille Barton

Dates to Remember:

Executive Board Meeting
Thursday, November 17, 2022

Jane Gillis
Corresponding Secretary

