

Braintree Women's Club



December 2023 Newsletter



December Meeting: Thursday, December 7, 2023, 7:00 P.M. – This meeting will be a Christmas Party! We will have Christmas music, goodies and a Yankee Swap. If you are interested in joining in the Yankee Swap, please bring a wrapped gift. The cost of the gift should be around \$15.00. It should be a fun meeting to just enjoy each other's company as we head into the holiday season!

Program Chairman: Maureen Crowley
Greeter: Maureen Crowley
Hostesses: Ann Toland and Alice Welch
Invocation: Michaela Reilly

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

President's Message - I want to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday Season!

I am grateful for so many things but especially for your continued support of our various projects at this point in our club year. Whether it be Day of Service, Thanksgiving food donations, Holiday Family donations, Holbrook Ave. House program, our Town Ornament Fundraiser and of course our hospitality bakers, we could not do it without you. You are a true example of the volunteer spirit. Thank you.

Please consider purchasing a Braintree Town Ornament which will be available at our meeting. And please tell your family and **friends we will be at the Gardener's Guild Holiday Boutique on Sunday, December 3, from 10:00 – 3:00 at Town Hall. We could use one or two volunteers at our table. So, if you are available to spend an hour or so to help at the fair, please let me or Vera Parker know.**

Thank you to Vera Parker, Lauren Durgin and Marilyn Cioffi for their assistance at the Farmer's Market last Saturday. Despite the weather, we had a successful day selling about 30 ornaments.

Marilyn Cioffi and I attended the GFWC of MA Fall Meeting in Sturbridge. It is always great to meet other women from clubs around the state. We also came home with items we won at their raffle!

I was pleased to accept a Club Participation Award for our club's volunteer service to our community for our National Day of Service Project - Brown Bag Lunches for Fr. Bill's and Mainspring.

It is that time of year to submit your volunteer hours. Please look back and count any time spent attending meetings, purchasing or delivering items, assembling, communicating, researching or any other form of volunteer hours that contributed to service to the BWC and/or GFWC. Forms to assist you will be on each table at the meeting. Please send your information to me by email or mail by December 30.

I look forward to our December program where we can come together to enjoy a Yankee Swap. It's a fun way to celebrate the season.

BWC Items in storage A former member, Yvonne Colligan, has items that belong to the club. We are trying to find a home for them or a person who might be interested in purchasing them.

We have a silver tea set and a keyboard. If you know of anyone who might be interested in these items, please let me know as soon as possible. A young beginner music student might be able to use the keyboard. I do not know all the details of each but can find out. Thank you.

May you have a Christmas filled with joy, peace and happy moments.

Rosemarie Doherty, President

Arts and Literature – December's book is The President's Wife by Tracy Enerson Wood. It is the story of Woodrow Wilson's Wife, depicting her romance with the President and her influence in his decisions during World War I. We will get together to discuss the book on December 13 at Devon Wood Clubhouse at 7:00 P.M. All are welcome, we love new members! Have a wonderful Holiday.

Terry Rouvalis, Chairman

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Fellowship and Remembrance – A donation was sent to Sacred Heart School in memory of Christine Sheehan's husband Joseph. A sympathy card was sent to Maryellen McDermott in memory of Joseph.

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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Hospitality - The following members are requested to either bake or purchase a dessert for the December 7th, 2023 Meeting: Michaela Reilly, Mary Rochon and Terry Rouvalis.

The following members are requested to assist with preparing the hall for the meeting: Kathy Psaros, Linda Poulin, Vera Parker and Nancy Eggers. You assist with the tablecloths and help clean the tables at the end of the evening. Arrival time is 6:30pm. Thank you in advance. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Nancy Eggers, Chairman

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Scholarship - I want to remind everyone that if you know someone who is interested in a scholarship, please log into GFWCMA. Once there you will see Scholarships listed. The due date for all applications is March 1, 2024. Any questions, please give me a call.

Maureen Crowley, Chairman

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Federation - Have you done any surveys yet? For each one done GFWCMA receives \$1.60 and all your favorite stores and businesses are listed. You also have the ability to write in a favorite if you don't see it listed and receive credit for it. Whether you do one, the maximum 75 or anything between the state receives money for it and everyone counts. The goal is to earn \$15,000 this year, and we are already halfway there. So, encourage your husbands, grown children, friends, and neighbors to join in. We have until December 4th to accomplish our goal. In case you missed the ink it is as follows:

People can get to the sign-up page in these two ways + the QR code (make sure they select the correct organization on the sign up page):

1. Text "GIVE" to 90412 (note: any reference to our Code--on any website, or in any other written material--must be [SMS Compliant](#)).
 2. LINK: <https://hundredx.com/givewithoutspending>
- Save the date of January 20, 2024 for the GFWCMA winter Meeting at the Wrentham Senior Center. I will be getting at least a carload of members together to attend. Lots of fun things are planned plus the announcement of the nominations for the GFWCMA Officers. More Details to come.

*Terry Rouvalis, Federation Secretary,
GFWC MA 2nd V.P.*

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Membership - Thank you to Maureen Dangelo for stepping in as November's Greeter and doing a great job welcoming everyone and keeping attendance.

Our November meeting highlighted changes and opportunities in the military for women. 22 members attended the meeting and enjoyed the presentation by Lynne Stader, Past President of GFWC Massachusetts. The presentation showed that over a long period of time women have won hard earned recognition and eventually gained rights in the military.

Upon further reflecting, from membership in the Military to membership in *any* club, what is a key ingredient of a *good member*? One of the qualities highlighted is: **ready to give a hand and to reach out to other members.** As we approach the New Year let us strive to give a hand in making club events successful *by our participation* and by reaching out not only to each other but to others in the community. Invite potential new Club members to join us in *striving to make a difference in the Community.*

The Membership Committee wishes each and every one of you a very happy Holiday Season!

Gerry McCarthy and Mary O'Donnell, Chairmen



Community Service – Community Service is again joining Braintree High School Student Council with **THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS GIVING**. This is a project which gives our members an opportunity to help those who struggle to provide their families with the everyday necessities of daily living. We can help them have a joyous Christmas Day opening gifts. You will have helped bring a smile to a deserving child. By working with the Student Council, we are also setting an example of **"The Spirit of Giving"** to these young people. **THE CHRISTMAS FAMILY ENVELOPE** will be passed around during our December meeting. If you didn't have the opportunity to contribute, please consider it now as every little bit helps.

A huge **THANK YOU** to all members who filled a Happy New Year's bag for our Holbrook House friends. They are so appreciative of all we do for them, it is a very fulfilling gesture on your part to help others who are in need. Please bring your bag to our December meeting and we will deliver it just before the New Year to wish them well as they strive to meet their goals for the coming year.

Note from Ann Toland at the Crispin Center: We will be distributing Christmas gifts on December 13 and 14 on Pond Street. Set-up will be Monday, December 11 and Tuesday, December 12. Hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving!

A small body of determined spirits fired by an unquenchable faith in their mission can alter the course of history,

Lucille Barton and Jean Donohue, Chairmen

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Ways and Means - We will sell the ornaments at the December meeting. The price remains the same as last year; \$15.00 members and \$18.00 non-members. The ornaments will also be sold at the Gardener's Guild Boutique on Sunday, December 3rd. We accept cash, check, or Venmo.

Our Musical Bingo event will take place, hopefully, in mid to late January.

Rebecca Adams and Vera Parker, Chairmen

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Dates to Remember:

January 20, 2024
GFWC Midwinter Meeting
Wrentham Senior Center
Wrentham, MA

There is no Executive Board Meeting in December.



Jane Gillis
Corresponding Secretary