

# *Braintree Women's Club*



## *November 2023 Newsletter*

*Give Thanks!*



**November Meeting: Thursday, November 2, 2023, 7:00 P.M.** – Lynne Stader, Past President of GFWC Massachusetts, will speak about why more women are choosing to enroll in the U.S. Military. What role are they fulfilling in the service of our country? Lynne will answer that question and more.

Program Chairmen: Terry Rouvalis and Lauren Durgin  
Greeter: Linda Poulin  
Hostesses: Jane Fogg and Charlene Long  
Invocation: Helen Casey

WEBSITE: <https://braintreewomensclub.weebly.com>  
GFWC Website: [gfwcma.org](http://gfwcma.org)

President's Message - As November approaches, we all anticipate the holidays and all the activities that go along with it.

What better way to support our club and give a little piece of Braintree to our friends and family for the holidays than to purchase our special ornament this season. They will be available at our November meeting, and you can always contact me. I will be happy to get them to you. This year's image was sketched by BHS student, Ziyang Zou.

As mentioned at our October meeting, we sponsored a National Day of Service by preparing Brown Bag lunches for Fr. Bill's in conjunction with the GFWC's first annual event on September 30. I want to take the opportunity to thank all those who participated and let them know how much I appreciated their participation in providing for those in need in our community: Charlene Long, Jean Donohue, Sue Cullen, Mary Rochon, Pat Marag, Lauren Durgin, Jane Gillis, Carolyn Mahoney, Michaela Riley, Maryellen McDermott, Helen Casey, Lucille Barton, Jane Fogg, Cathy Psaros, Terry Rouvalis and Maureen Crowley.



Publicity for our ornament fundraiser at the First Congregational Church Fair and our Chateau fundraiser was placed on the BWC website and Facebook page as well as several group Facebook pages around town. The Braintree Patch and Wicked Local (Forum) sites were also used to publicize these events. We will also publicize our participation at the November 19 Holiday Farmers' Market at Town Hall and the Gardener's Guild Holiday Boutique at Town Hall on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. **Be on the lookout and let your friends know!! Anyone interested in assisting with publicity for our club events, please let me know. This is a crucial part of our club's fundraising endeavors. Please consider volunteering.**

We will have many fun activities and ways to give back coming up in the next couple of months so please keep an eye out for our newsletter to keep informed and check out our Facebook page.

**Warm wishes to you all for a Happy Thanksgiving!!**

*Rosemarie Doherty, President*

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Arts and Literature – The book for November is *The Council of Dolls* by Susan Mona Powers. From the midcentury metropolis of Chicago to the windswept lands of the Dakota people to the brutal Indian Boarding Schools, this is the tale of three extraordinary women as told partly through the stories of the dolls they carried.

The meeting is Wednesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. at the Devon Wood Clubhouse. Discussion will be led by Gerry McCarthy and refreshments will be provided by Helen Casey. New members are always welcome!

*Terry Rouvalis, Chairman*

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Fellowship and Remembrance – Cards were sent to Margarete Cropley, Jean Donohue, and Jane Gillis.

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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Membership - The BWC Calendar Year began with its annual **Opening Dinner and Meeting**. This year the theme was *Harvest Bounty Wishes*. It was very apparent that among the many blessings cherished by our members is **the gift of each other**. There is always a palpable joy when we gather as a group, particularly after our summer hiatus, to catch up with each other and prepare to achieve the new year's goals.

How appropriate that the meeting began with President Rosemarie Doherty presenting Tommie Roy with a pin for her 25 years of service. Tommie chaired the BWC Book Club for many years and has been an active participant in many other events. She personifies the spirit of a BWC member!

Thirty-four people attended the dinner – thirty members and four guests. Anthony Columbus Catering provided a delicious buffet. Many members took advantage of the “to go” containers he provided. The Columbus waitstaff were attentive and pleasant. How fitting that one of the gals was the granddaughter of past President, Barbara Swain. Members enjoyed the floral centerpieces and their individual “Harvest Bounty” present. Did anyone scratch it lucky? It was fun to visit with a former member, Christine Gaffney, who attended the dinner along with her friend Angela Carey. Our Mass Star scholarship recipient, Alexis Galvin and her mother, Crystal, also came to the dinner. We were impressed with the thank you note Alexis wrote the Club; we were equally impressed with her composure and thank you words. The quality of scholarship winners such as Alexis provides tangible impetus to our fund-raising endeavors. Each of us as members of our well-established club founded in 1955 plays a vital role in its success. We are the Club. We make the difference in what we achieve! Thank you, members, for your participation, your commitment, your contributions and your determination to make a difference in our community and beyond. Here's to a vibrant year!

*Gerry McCarthy and Mary O'Donnell, Chairmen*

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Hospitality - The following members are requested to either bake or purchase a dessert for the meeting on November 2, 2023: Rebecca Adams, Gina Agnitti and Lucille Barton.

The following members are requested to assist with preparing the hall for the meeting: Helen Casey, Marilyn Cioffi, Margarete Cropley, and Nancy Eggers. You will only put tablecloths on the tables and assist with cleanup of the tables at the conclusion of the meeting – arrival time is 6:30.

Thank you in advance. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

*Nancy Eggers, Chairman*

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Community Service – An important function of the Community Service Committee is to aid the residents of Braintree who are in need. The holidays are approaching-this is the time we can reach out to some of our neighbors who would be grateful for some help. In November, the Crispin Center will be distributing turkeys and all the fixings for a Thanksgiving meal. The Center can use your help in assembling these items on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of November. Another way you can help- donations of any items for this dinner will be most appreciated our November meeting. Ann Toland will happily accept them. Suggested items include stuffing, cranberry sauce, turkey gravy and canned vegetables.

Once again, we will participate with the Braintree High School Student Council and adopt a family for Christmas. THE **CHRISTMAS FAMILY ENVELOPE** will be passed around at the November meeting. If you are unable to contribute at that time, you will have another opportunity in December. Please try to donate something as every little bit helps.

We have not forgotten our neighbors at the Holbrook House. This past year we filled Valentine Bags with winter goodies. We are going to try something else this year. We will usher the New Year in with wishes that their New Year goals be reached and their journey for success will be met. There are 19 residents living at this home. Nineteen personalized bags (just their first names for privacy) will be available at the November meeting for those of you who might want to reach out with your wishes for their journey. The names will give you a clue as to their gender. The dollar amount should be no more than \$25.00. As you shop knowing who your gift is for, you might see a small item that would be perfect. If possible, in the short time we have, Caritas will forward some ideas from their wish list. The bags will be collected at the December meeting,

A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to Shaw's Market for Partnering with the Braintree Women's Club for the monthly donations of Birthday Cakes. This is a considerable contribution and would be impossible for us to do this on our own. So far, we have delivered 12 birthday cakes, and the manager assured us that they will continue to support our project. Please support Shaw's when you shop and if you stop at the Bakery Counter, thank Brian, the bakery manager!!!

*No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.* Charles Dickens

*Lucille Barton and Jean Donohue, Chairmen*

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Ways and Means - We will sell the ornaments at the following BWC meetings: November, and December. The price remains the same as last year; \$15.00 members and \$18.00 non-members. We will sell the ornaments at the following craft fairs: Thanksgiving Holiday Farmer's Market on Saturday, November 18, and the Gardener's Guild (date TBD). We accept cash, check, or Venmo.

*Rebecca Adams and Vera Parker, Chairmen*

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Federation - Now that we are coming into November, be on the lookout for the instructions to take part in the GFWCMA 100X campaign. This can be done from the comfort of your easy chair and has the potential to bring in a generous amount of money which will go towards the upkeep of the GFWCMA Clubhouse.

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

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### **Dates to Remember:**

#### November Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, November 16, 2023

Thayer Public Library



*Jane Gillis  
Corresponding Secretary*