

# *Braintree Women's Club*



## *February 2024 Newsletter*



**February Meeting: Thursday, February 1, 2024 -AUTHOR:** Hard boiled crime mysteries are always popular, especially when the crime takes place in your own neighborhood. Come and discover why Braintree's Tom MacDonald chose to center his award-winning Dermot Sparhawk crime mystery series in Charlestown. Tom will have copies of his books to purchase and sign.

Program Chairman: Terry Rouvalis

Greeter: Pat Marag

Hostesses: Linda Poulin, Charlene Long

Invocation: Christine Sheehan

WEBSITE: <https://braintreewomensclub.weebly.com>

GFWC Website: [gfwcma.org](http://gfwcma.org)

President's Message - Hello Everyone!

It is amazing to me how quickly the months pass. We are gearing up for the remainder of the club year with some fundraisers and projects on the horizon.

We will be asking our members to volunteer their service and help us keep our club vital and active in outreach to our community. There will be opportunities over the next few months for **ALL** to assist in reaching these goals. Thank you in advance for your willingness to be the "helping hands" for the BWC.

Ways and Means is organizing a date for a Musical Bingo fundraiser in March.

- We will have a sign-up sheet at the February meeting for gift baskets to be donated for a raffle to be coordinated as part of this event. Please consider putting one together with a friend or two. Select a theme and let us know so we will not have any duplicates.
- Another opportunity to help would be a gift card of \$25 or more to a restaurant or shop to be part of our fundraiser raffle. **Please sign-up or contact Vera Parker or me.**
- Also, we are asking members to donate a scratch ticket or two and we will collect them at our February meeting. A lottery tree could be created to raffle off as well!!

Thank you to Lucille for providing pictures of the delivery of the special New Year gift bags to our neighbors at the Caritas Holbrook Ave. House. The pictures and write-up were posted on a few Facebook sites, and we had many affirmations 👍 and comments on our good works from members in our community!! Thanks to all who participated.

Bring your friends to our February meeting to hear our local author speak about his books. Information will be posted on Facebook to create interest in our club and possibly recruit new members.

If anyone has heard of new ideas for community service programs, fundraisers, or speakers of interest, please contact me. We're always open to hearing about them.

Thank you all for your commitment and service.

*Rosemarie Doherty, President*

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Fellowship and Remembrance – A card was sent to Tommy Roy who is at CareOne in Weymouth for rehab. A donation was sent to St. Vincent De Paul Society in memory of Lorraine Letteney.

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.

*Helen Casey, Chairman*

Arts and Literature – January's book club discussion was an analysis of "The Last Rose of Shanghai" which tells of the Japanese occupation of Shanghai during World War II. This historical novel shed light on another aspect of the war that was not told in our history books. A very interesting and enjoyable read! Next month's book is "Crow Mary" by Kathleen Grissom. Based on a true story, this novel is about an indigenous woman, Crow Mary, who in the 1870's marries a white fur trader. Conflict ensues. Due to the timing of Ash Wednesday, this meeting will take place a week earlier than usual, on February 7, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Devon Wood Clubhouse. Charlene Long will lead the discussion and Ginny Kime will provide the hospitality. Newcomers are always welcome!

*Terry Rouvalis, Chairman*

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Hospitality - The following members are requested to assist with setting the tables for the February meeting: Lauren Frame, Mary Gardner, Ginny Kime and Nancy Eggers. You will put tables clothes on tables and assist with a quick cleanup at the conclusion of the meeting.

The following 3 members are requested to bring dessert to the meeting.

Christine Sheehan, Jane Gillis, and  
Rosemarie Doherty.

Please either bake or purchase the dessert, whichever is more convenient for you.

Thank you in advance,

*Nancy Eggers, Chairman*

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Veteran's - We have a couple of volunteer opportunities coming up. Braintree Veterans Services will need volunteers to place Memorial Day flags at veteran's graves. Also, Braintree and Quincy Veterans Services are sponsoring The Wall that Heals. It will be in Quincy July 11th through 14th and will consist of a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and an Education Center. There will be volunteer opportunities at food booths and at the Education Center. Let me know if you are interested in volunteering for either of these events. More details to follow.

*Lauren Durgin, Chairman*

Federation - The GFWCMA Midwinter Meeting was nice and cozy with hot chocolate, homemade soups, the awarding of Mental Health Grants and a message given by a member of NAMI on what we can do to reduce the stigma surrounding a diagnosis of mental illness. Our own Carolyn Mahoney was thrilled to have won the 50/50 Opportunity raffle. Half of the proceeds went to the winner and the other half to the winner's designate charity. Carolyn chose the Alzheimer's Association.

The Health and Wellness Chairman announced a new initiative for Mental Health. She is compiling an online book on strategies for better Mental health and is requesting members tips on how they unwind and relieve stress in their lives. Maybe you had a special vacation, or mini break moment you can share. Send your tips to me and I will forward them to the chairman.

GFWCMA also is offering scholarships for undergraduates and postgraduates as well as the annual writing and photography contests available for members and students. All the pertinent information is on the [GFWCMA.org](http://GFWCMA.org) website

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

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Membership - Can you believe we are already approaching our February BWC Meeting. This is the time of year when your Membership Chairs need to remind you of the mandatory 3 Meetings Minimum for club members. We have four meetings remaining for the 2023-2024 calendar year. Varied and interesting topics and events continue to fill out the remainder of the year. We look forward to seeing you at the meetings.

If extraordinary circumstances prevent you from fulfilling this requirement, please communicate with your Membership Chairs or an Executive Board Member. Thank you.

Attendance Update: Dec. 7, 2023 30 members  
Jan. 7, 2024 17 members, 1 guest

*Gerry McCarthy and Mary O'Donnell, Chairmen*

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Community Service – After much thought and search for the right project, we have decided to put our efforts into helping women who have met with personal tragedies in their lives and need support from those of us who are able to reach out to give them some help. Some have been mentally or sexually abused, become addicted to drugs or alcohol, lost their jobs and homes-----many, many more reasons for their present state. Father Bill's has a Woman's Shelter with eight residents who arrived with little or no possessions, we can offer some help and kindness to those who feel defeated and lost.

Plans are to fill a bag for each resident (just as we did for Holbrook House). There will be a sign-up sheet at the February meeting. Plans are to make eight groups with Community Service providing the basic needs to get started. We are going to focus on the women's personal needs. Further explanation will come at the February meeting with the goal to distribute them in March. Hopefully, this will be full membership participation. If you are not at Club, please call me (Lucille Barton 781-848-0626) to offer your help.

The New Year's bags were delivered to Holbrook House Christmas week. They were placed at each resident's door and received with much appreciation and delight. Perhaps it might have been the only present they received, maybe in a very long time. Thank you to Cathy Psaros who delivered a huge basket of goodies, she really added the "frosting"!

**Our Goal must be DECENCY AND RESPECT for every Human we encounter.**

*Oprah Winfrey*

*Lucille Barton and Jean Donohue, Chairmen*



**Dates to Remember:**

February Executive Board Meeting  
Thursday, February 15, 2024  
Thayer Public Library – first floor Reading Room



*Jane Gillis*  
*Corresponding Secretary*