



What's Hot

General Federation of Women's Clubs of Rhode Island

January 2009

We Have Some "E"xciting News!

This issue of "What's Hot" is our first issue that will be sent electronically, via member's email addresses. This will allow our state to follow in the footsteps of many other State Federations who are already distributing their newsletters electronically. By making this change, we not only save time and money, but also do our part in helping to conserve paper. So, if you are receiving this newsletter in hard copy form and have an email address, please contact Joan Cronin at jicronin426@cox.net.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JUDY MARAK

783-4776

To all GFWC of RI members—

By the time this issue of *What's Hot* is in your hands, the holidays will be a pleasant memory and we will all be launched into a new year of activities. Of course, an important item on your GFWC of RI to do list is our annual reporting which I prefer to consider our opportunity to get the credit we deserve for the good things we accomplish. Your President elect and Dean of Presidents and Chairmen, Debra Capuano, is your contact for reporting which has been made so much easier than it used to be that we have no reason to dread it. I have long wanted to see examples from GFWC of just what constitutes an award winning report and what report is passed over. Janice Adler brought this up at the GFWC board meeting reporting workshop and the idea was received with interest; however, it doesn't appear that we will have such an example this year. Nonetheless, Deb will walk you through it on January 24 at the Reporting Workshop—see you there.

Act in Oct—Four more would be great in '08 was a huge success. New memberships totaled 2890, 210 more than in 2007 and GFWC is delighted. Rhode Island fared very well—so well that I received a phone call from International President Rose Ditto congratulating Rhode Island on bringing in fifteen new members! How about highlighting your new members on your club's web page; just get the information to Janice Adler and she will take it from there. If you have pictures, even better.

Is your club thinking about a LEADS applicant? The Leadership Education and Development Seminar has proved to be a very valuable tool in encouraging women to realize their own leadership possibilities and to be comfortable with elements of club work such as public speaking, protocols, parliamentary procedure, conflict resolution etc. The six Rhode Island LEADS graduates are still enthused about their experience; let's add a seventh candidate for '08.

Kudos to our loyal and hardworking members, Donna Gibb and Ethel Dellasandro. These remarkable women, without batting their collective eyelashes, agreed to be co-chairmen for the 2010 New England Region Conference to be held here in Rhode Island. As we speak, they are searching locations for the affair, which must be approved by GFWC; after that, we begin to roll. Knowing how creative our members are, as well as hard working, I promised Donna and Ethel that we would *all* fall in line and come up with ideas to at least equal the last Rhode Island conference which is still being talked about. So please don't leave me with egg on my face; think about what areas you would like to see developed and let them know. They are open to your suggestions. Let's see if we can outdo ourselves.

Best Federation wishes,

Judy

PRESIDENT- ELECT

DEB CAPUANO

885-0077

REPORTING January 2008 through December 2008

Reporting is important to highlight all the great activities we have been engaged in during this past year.

All GFWC of Rhode Island clubs should report on the activities within the six mainstay areas, which include: Arts, Conservation, Education, Home Life, International Affairs and Public Affairs.

A strongly recommended reporting workshop will be held for all State Department Chairmen and Club Presidents from 9 – noon on Saturday, January 24, 2009 at The Elizabeth Buffum Chace Center. This workshop will highlight all aspects of reporting.

A suggested first step in the process would be for each club department chairman to look back over the last year at all the activities your club was engaged in, gather all your necessary materials and complete a report which you will submit to the Club President, prior to the January 24th meeting.

Each Club President should then bring the department reports, club minutes, GFWC Club Manual for 2008 - 2010 and any other necessary materials to be used in completing the reports to the meeting. Our goal should be 100% reporting, because once all reporting has been submitted an Annual Report describing the activities that we clubwomen have been engaged in is prepared, and at the Annual International Convention awards are given for a variety of projects. Please R.S.V.P. on or before January 21st at 885-0077 or dacapitano@cox.net. I look forward to seeing you on January 24, 2009.

CONSERVATION

SUSAN PORTH

737-2651

Hope you all had a happy holiday. We are coming to mid –winter and time to start thinking about spring. Gardening is wonderful, start planning your garden. It doesn't matter if you enjoy a flower or a vegetable garden; both have great benefits physically, emotionally and nutritionally. If you are interested in starting a new garden or need help with an existing garden, contact me and we will try to get garden helpers to assist. April has several national conservation dates.

Earth Day, April 22, signup to assist in a clean up or if you rather, organize your own clean up. There are many areas in need of TLC.

Arbor Day, April 25, find the right place to plant a tree.

In Memoriam

Barbara Machlin, sister of Janice Adler,
GFWC Bristol County Women's Club

Peg (Margaret) Mongeon, GFWC Pawtucket
Woman's Club

Ann Roth, Past President of GFWC South
County Women's Club

Louise Smith, Charter Member and Past
President of GFWC Women's Club of South
County

EDUCATION

SANDRA PANNONE

245-1694

It's not too early to start planning!

National Library Week - April 12-19, 2009

National Library Week is an annual celebration of the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate. National Library Week 2009 will be celebrated with the theme, "Worlds connect @ your library."

First sponsored in 1958, National Library Week is a national observance sponsored by the American Library Association (ALA) and libraries across the country each April. It is a time to celebrate the contributions of our nation's libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support. All types of libraries - school, public, academic and special - participate.

Free tools to help libraries promote National Library Week 2009 are now available. Tips for organizing and promoting National Library Week are posted on The Campaign for America's Libraries' Web site at www.ala.org/@yourlibrary.

To receive a free ALA Graphics Catalog with National Library Week posters and other promotional materials, call 800-545-2433, ext. 5046.

Adopt-a-Library guidelines are available through the GFWC website.

Awards – A \$50 award is given to one club in the nation to recognize creativity in implementing an effective Education in the Community Program. The award is based on narrative reports.

MEETINGS

ETHEL DELLASANDRO

942-6683

DONNA GIBB

647-0259

Looking forward to seeing everyone at our Mid-Winter Meeting, which will be held at Nicole's Tuscany Grille in Cranston, RI on February 7 at 8am. We will have a speaker from Plan USA and donations will be collected for the RI Community Food Bank. See page 7 of this newsletter for details on donations. Feel free to check out Nicole's website at www.nicolestuscanygrille.com.

MEMBERSHIP

MADELINE PERREAULT

294-8570

Congratulations to those Clubs who have added new members: GFWC Bristol County Women's Club (two), GFWC Warwick Women's Club (four) and GFWC Women's Club of South County (four)! Their work during *Act in Oct* has led to great success. But remember, membership recruitment is an on-going activity. And the membership trophy is not awarded until May of 2010. Continued membership efforts will only add to your Club's success. Remember that "many hands make light work"!

As a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs you have access to a variety of Club materials to help you recruit and keep members. Check out the www.gfwc.org web site for membership activities and grant opportunities. The site includes the Fiesta Business Plan. This strategic tool includes suggestions to guide your membership efforts. These include (1) Update your Club profile – it gives prospective members an idea of who you are (2) Create a membership committee – one person can not do it all (3) Set a goal of at least two members over last year – but if your Club lost two members, you need to recruit four to make a net gain of two. Additionally, select an issue or program topic that would be of interest to new members – this might stimulate renewed interest and encourage former or sustainer members to become active again.

Attention Club Presidents and Membership chairmen: the state federation is working to create a new Club in Rhode Island. We are looking for potential members in areas that are not served by existing clubs. I am looking to visit each member

Club this winter and spring to solicit the names of women in other parts of Rhode Island. Remember, I am a resource for your Club. I can attend Club meetings, help you organize membership activities and provide membership information. Call or email to set a date.

Share the Experience!

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

SANDRA PANNONE

245-1694

Study of elder abuse of R.I. women reveals surprising discoveries

By Tracy Breton

Journal Staff Writer – Nov 30, 2008

Rhode Island women in their 50s are more likely than older females to be abused by spouses or other intimate partners. Women over 60 are most often victimized by their grown children and grandchildren. Here are their findings:

- Most of the older women who file domestic-abuse reports with the police in Rhode Island are 50 to 59 years old.
- A little over half of the reported abuse on women over 50 was committed by current or former spouses, live-in partners or former partners; about 46 percent involved other family members, most often grown sons.
- Almost half of alleged abusers had prior criminal records in Rhode Island, nearly one-third of them records for domestic violence.
- Women who are 60 or older were more likely to be victimized by grown children and grandchildren than by spouses, boyfriends or former intimate partners.
- Older women who remain married to their abusers are at a higher risk of continued abuse than those who separate or divorce.
- Reporting abuse did not act as a deterrent. More than 22 percent of the older women who reported domestic abuse in 2002 were subjected to repeat abuse; one-third of them were revictimized two to five times between 2002-2004, most within the same year as the

original incident. Most of the new incidents involved the same subject.

- Women who had gotten restraining orders against their abusers were much more likely to be subjected to recurrent abuse than those who had not.
- Most abuse of older women is not physical or sexual assault and does not require emergency medical attention; 44 percent of the reported abuse involved physical or sexual assaults and 9 percent involved weapons. More than half of the complaints involved threats of bodily injury or incidents of property damage or stolen property.
- **Only 10 percent of the reported offenses were charged by the police as felonies.**
- Prosecutors dismissed charges against nearly one-third of the defendants charged by the police with crimes involving domestic abuse of women over 50; less than 10 percent served any prison time.
- There is little collaboration between the police and the Department of Elderly Affairs, the state agency that provides social services for victims of abuse and neglect. During 2002, the DEA referred just three domestic abuse cases that it received to the police and the police got the DEA involved in just 35 cases.

DAY OF SERVICE ROBERTA BIANCO

783-2791

I hope that all clubs have decided on what their particular service to their community will be. This year GFWC of RI will try to make the service fit the particular community's need. Clubs can continue to support DV in their efforts or can do a community clean-up or planting; the choice is up to you. Each club should let me know as soon as possible so that I can make use of appropriate free opportunities in newspapers.

I hope to have as much publicity as possible about the event itself and to also list specific things that each club will be doing. This day should serve as an opportunity to get the public involved. Each club will be responsible for local publicity through newspapers and flyers.

I would like all club presidents to share their ideas for the day of service with one another. The best way to inspire ideas is to hear what others are doing. This can spark something that a club might not have even thought about. Remember that this day of service is not a competition, but a way for all clubs to make their communities better and at the same time get the name of GFWC out to the public.

If you send your comments and ideas to me, I will share them with all club presidents. I would also like to have a meeting of anyone interested in discussing the Day of Service and how we can make it a success. Once the holidays are over, we should all have a bit more "free" time to meet. Contact me at robertabianco@cox.net or call 738-2791 with ideas and suggestions.

GFWC BRISTOL COUNTY WOMEN'S CLUB SANDY PANNONE

245-1694

Several of our club projects/programs are geared toward domestic violence awareness and one of the highlights of the calendar year was the dedication of the Memory Garden at the Women's Resource Center in Warren. The garden is dedicated to all women who have lost their lives to domestic violence. Many of the guests were from the Resource Center itself. They had just come from touring the new 'safe house'. Also on hand was Senator David Bates who presented the club with proclamation LC03281, declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in RI. During the month of October itself our meeting was held at the Barrington Safety Complex where members of the police force addressed the issue of domestic violence in Barrington; a crime that they take seriously and are proactive when it comes to this matter. Club members also donated groceries and grocery store gift cards for the 'safe house'. A display along with domestic violence awareness materials is now available at the Barrington Library. Once again



homemade scarves were donated to the East Bay Community Action Program and the Bank Newport is playing host to the BCWC *WISH TREE*. We joined together to celebrate Holiday cheer of which the highlight was a good old-fashioned Yankee swap. My best wishes to all of you in 2009.

**GFWC CRANSTON COMMUNITY
WOMEN'S CLUB
ETHEL DELLASANDRO 942-6683**

Our members have been very busy. We had a wonderful speaker at our September Meeting, she was a Reg. Nurse and she brought a scanner to register how much skin damage each of our members received from sun exposure along with all kinds of preventative measures we could practice. It was really an eye opener. In October we had a member of the Cranston Police Department who heads up the Domestic Violence Division as our guest speaker and she was excellent. Our Club conducted a drive at the local library to collect teddy bears and we were able to present the Police Department with 65 beautiful, cuddly teddy bears the night of her visit; which they will give to the children that are involved in their investigations and when they must remove them from their homes and take them to a strange place, etc for their safety. We have since collected over 100 bears to date, which we also donated. In November we presented two families in the community with beautiful food baskets to enjoy; and our Speaker at our November meeting was from Hospice of RI... another very informative speaker. Needless to say our members have not skipped a beat with all of our projects. We did take time to enjoy a great Christmas Party, at which we brought gifts for a two month old infant who's family needed assistance and hopefully they will be able to enjoy this happy time of year, knowing that others care. Enjoy this wonderful time of year with your families and good friends, with good health and happiness!

**GFWC EAST BAY
WOMAN'S CLUB
ALYCE "BILLIE" ARDEN 434-4904**

The GFWC East Bay Women's Club will hold a Valentine's Tea on Saturday, February 14, 2009, at the historic Newman Congregational Church (established 1643, current [fourth] meeting house built in 1810) in Rumford, RI.

Federation members and friends are invited to reserve the date to attend the Tea. Further information regarding the affair is forthcoming.

President "Billie" Arden appointed Jeanne Sadler chairman of the event, proceeds of which will benefit Hospice Care.

**GFWC PAWTUCKET WOMAN'S CLUB
RUTH BENNET 724-7732**

ACT in OCT

"FOUR More Would be GREAT in October '08"
We had 8 visitors at our October meeting, and we were excited that four of them have joined our club.

Volunteer Hours

Also in October we started collecting our members' volunteer hours, which for the summer were 578 hours and for October and November were 352 hours.

Volunteer Work

The Club members are again working in the Intergenerational Program with the Pawtucket Child Development Center and the Oakhill Nursing and Rehab Center. We also started volunteering at the Blackstone Valley Advocacy Center once a month. It was also nice to be able to help out with the Thanksgiving mailings at the Dr. Daycare Office in Pawtucket. At our January members meeting Lynn Foster, Volunteer Coordinator of Memorial Hospital of RI, will speak to us of the different opportunities to volunteer at the hospital. Also several of our members volunteer at the Blackstone Valley Arc.

Members Donations

In October the Club collected cleaning and paper products for the BV Advocacy Center. In November we collected hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves for the Neighborhood Coat Exchange in Pawtucket. Our Treasurer, Monique Renaud, delivered the scarves, etc. to the Visitor's Center where she also distributed children's book to any child who came for a coat.

In December we collected personal items, such as bath products, makeup and nail products, scarves, hats, gloves, sweaters to pamper the women at the BV Advocacy Center.

Upcoming Events

At our February meeting the members will be making cards for the Bristol Veterans Home and also for some of our members.

Our annual Bridge and Luncheon fundraiser for charity will be held on Wednesday, April 15th at the Pawtucket Country Club. Our theme this year is "Our Roots in the Community Run Deep" The Luncheon will begin at 12:00 noon, followed by bridge and other games. Chances on Gift baskets will be sold, and Door Prizes will be drawn on the luncheon tickets.

GFWC RUMFORD WOMEN'S CLUB
CINDY THRANA 438-2545

The GFWC Rumford Women's Club is designing a calendar called "The Faces That Shape East Providence" due out in April 2009 . We plan to pre sell it at our Secret Boutique in April and through the fall season. It is a 2010 calendar. This will create a fundraiser to help us in the fall with revenue. Our professional photographer is Alix Cross Maloney , along with Anne Marie Lloyd, who is a published author who will write the text. We welcomed both of these creative ladies into our club!

In October we held a membership Ladies Night out at Adiele's Day Spa on Waterman Ave.,E.P. Members brought appetizers and Town Wine organized wine for a tasting. Adiele's gave free facials, Blow-dry styles and gift bags and coupons. It was a great event and we plan to repeat it. Give this a try!

Secondly, our annual holiday dinner at the Grist Mill in Seekonk will also feature a silly swap and a gift collection for the Welfare office of E.Prov. The club will be drawing names that evening to have a Secret Valentine to be revealed at our February 9th meeting. During the month of January through February 9th members can send each other messages, cards, and tokens of friendship. Heartfelt, of course! This is all a part of getting to know members and retaining them! Our social

structure is a key piece to our charitable success and our plan to attract more members.

GFWC OF RI WEB SITE
JANICE ADLER 245-7329

Have you checked out your club's web page on the GFWC of RI website? Does the page have information about your club that attracts new members? Or is it just a blank page?

This is a reminder to all clubs that the Internet is an important membership tool. Each club has a page on the GFWC of RI website, but it is up to you to make sure that I get the information I need to update it. Submissions and pictures can be e-mailed to me at JLAdler@aol.com. Just make sure to put GFWCRI website in the subject line.

Board of Directors
Meeting
January 15, 2009
7-9pm
State Headquarters
Independence Square
Pawtucket, RI



**GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
OF
RHODE ISLAND**

**MID WINTER MEETING
FEBRUARY 7, 2009
NICOLE'S TUSCANY GRILLE
CRANSTON, RI**

Program

8:30 am Registration
Continental Breakfast
*Coffee, Tea, Orange Juice,
Assorted Muffins, Danish, Bagels
and Cream Cheese*

9:30 am Business Meeting

Guest Speaker, Plan USA

Lunch

Adjournment

Host Club

GFWC Cranston Community Women's Club

Featured Department

International Affairs

Meal Choices

#1 Chicken Stefano
Boneless Chicken with artichoke
hearts and roasted peppers topped
with a light lemon butter

#2 Pork Tenderloin stuffed with
spinach, roasted peppers and
mozzarella cheese

#3 Stuffed Filet of Sole rolled with
crabmeat dressing

All meal choices served with potato
and vegetable and an ice cream
roll for dessert with coffee.

	Cost
Breakfast & Lunch	\$23.00
<u>Registration</u>	<u>\$ 2.00</u>
Total	\$25.00

Requested Donations to Benefit RI Community Food Bank

Non-Perishable Food Items

- Protein: Canned Soup, Tuna, Meat, Peanut Butter, Nuts
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables including Juices and Dried Fruit and Tomato Sauce
- Carbohydrates: Nutritious Breakfast Cereals, Whole Wheat Pasta, Brown Rice, Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- Crackers, Granola Bars, Cheese & Cracker Packages
- Extra Virgin Olive Oil and Canned or Dried Beans
- Be aware of expiration dates.

Directions to Nicole's Tuscany Grille

Take the I-95 S exit toward US-6 W/Boston.
Merge onto I-95 N/US-6 W.
Take exit 22A-B-C for State Hwy 10 W/US-6 W.
Merge onto US-6 W.
Take the RI-5/Atwood Ave exit.
Turn left at Atwood Ave/RI-5. Nicole's will be on the left

Registration

Name: _____

Club: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

State Officer/State Chairman Club President Club Member Guest

Please indicate your meal choice below:

#1 Chicken Stefano

#2 Pork Tenderloin

#3 Stuffed Filet of Sole

Amount enclosed @ \$25 per person _____ (Make checks payable to GFWC of RI.)

Send this form to: Joan Cronin, GFWC of RI Administrative Assistant, 26 Mayfair Drive, Rumford,
RI 02916 (p): 401-434-0514 or email: jcronin426@cox.net

Reservations and Payment Must Be Received By January 21, 2009.

