



The President's Pen

President, **Melissa Slorf**

Dear Ladies of the Club,

Spring is here and that means new life. I love to hear the birds sing after a quiet winter. I love to see new growth outside as tulips and daffodils wake from their sleepy slumber. The club is experiencing new life as well. We have a new philanthropy program we are going to unveil at the next member meeting as well as some exciting new opportunities for the club. Please be at the April luncheon as we discuss this and the slate of officers for the new year. I am so excited for the future of our club! We will have a short program on the history of the Junior Department as well. Our philanthropy is Step Up, please read about this amazing organization that is new to Muskegon in this newsletter.

Spring also means spring cleaning! If you are able, we are having a club pride day on April 13th. After all of our events in March our club needs some attention.

I want to say a special thank you to all of you who helped in any way with Women of Accomplishment, Green Eggs and Ham, and Junk to Jewels. It has been our own version of "March Madness" around the club and everyone has just done an outstanding job. Thank you for all of the service to our community and representing our club in such a positive way. I am so proud to be working alongside all of you.

Now, take some time to enjoy the newsletter. I hope you are reading it while you can hear the birds sing and feel the sun shining on you!

"Continuing the Legacy",

Melissa

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April

6	Club Luncheon Meeting	12N
13	Club Pride Day	12 N
20	BOD	12N
21	Glass Class with Jilly	6PM
22	Newsletter Articles Due	5PM
25	Book Club	7PM

May

4	Salad Luncheon	12N
18	BOD	12N
20	Newsletter Articles Due	5PM
21	President's Brunch	11AM
25	Book Club	9:30AM

2015/2016 Board of Directors

Melissa Slorf, President
Loribeth Clark, Immediate Past President
Barbara Scott, Vice President
Laurel Sass, President-Elect
Ashley Schnotala, Treasurer
Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary
Katherine Gietzen, Corresp. Secretary
Sandra Sain, Member at Large
Sharon Beck, Activities Chair
Loribeth Clark, Communications Chair
Karen Andrie, Finance Chair
Dorothy Brink, House and Grounds Chair
Tatiana Schultz, Parliamentarian
Dolores Brondyke, Membership Chair

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**Dolores Brondyke, Chair**

Please make these changes to your Yearbook:

Stacy Hollenbeck—new work info—Huntington Bank at Meijers on Harvey
email: slhollen45@gmail.com

Tresha Kidder: New address 310 Bay Lane, North Muskegon 49445

Welcome our three new members:

Pam Harris, Joan Grillo, and Nicole Bradford

Mary Jane Wiegink

Mary Jane is a Muskegon native and an alumnus of Muskegon High School. Following graduation, she enlisted in the *Cadet Nurse Corp* receiving her RN degree from the University of Michigan four years later. During World War II, the Public Health Service appropriated money from Congress to train nurses for the war effort; however the war had already ended when Mary Jane received her degree. Instead of serving in the military, she continued her education at Central Michigan University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology and went on to teach for Hackley School of Nursing and then Muskegon Community College from 1970 until her retirement in 1987.

She continues her busy, active life today as a volunteer for *Kids' Food Basket* and reading to children at Moon School as well as volunteering at her church, Forest Park Covenant. Past volunteer efforts include M.A.P., Love, Inc., and at the Frauenthal Center for Performing Arts.

Mary Jane has four adult children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grand child. Fortunately for us, member, Kitty Gietzen, invited Mary Jane to one of our luncheons, and she decided to join our membership.

If you have not yet picked up your 2015-2016 yearbook, please call Dolores Brondyke at 744.5775 by the end of the week. If you do not need yours, it will be used for new members joining the club.

April Office Hours You will be able to access the club during the following times:

April	6	10AM-2PM	13	12N-3PM	20	12N-2PM
	26	7-8:30PM				

Thank You**Sharon Beck**

- ◇ The Junk to Jewels Cocktail Party was a casual fun evening. I would like to thank Ruth Hillman, Pam Caris, Diane Buck, Dolores Brondyke, and Dorothy Brink for helping. Our profit was \$592.90, a nice sum to add to the rummage sale.
- ◇ Our tables have been scrubbed, they look like new. I would like to thank Karen Andrie and Kitty Gietzen for helping.

Philanthropy**Hannah Rogers and Melissa Slorf**

Step Up will receive our philanthropic donation for April. The purpose of this non-profit organization is to assist young people who “age-out” (turn 18) of the foster care system.

From the Step Up Facebook page, “In Muskegon County alone there are around 450 foster kids at any given time. A percentage of them 'age out' every year and from that group, we have the fastest growing homeless population in Michigan. Thank you for your prayers for these kids and this ministry!” Step Up provides counseling and is working to provide a group home, first for girls, and eventually, with community support, also for boys who are no longer eligible for foster care and have no where else to go.

Philanthropy donations this year will go to:

April—Step Up May—Webster House June—Every Women’s Place



Days Gone By

Karin Carlson

As many of you were unable to attend our March luncheon, I would like to share a wee bit of club history with you (as the Irish would say) as presented at our meeting in honor of our Sesquicentennial Year.

From Whence We Come – Club Crusaders

Because the civic work of club members reflected the society in which they lived, it is helpful to have a better understanding of that time and place, so please travel back in time to those long ago days.

While lumbering built the village of Muskegon, by 1890 all of the majestic white pine was gone, and the lumberjacks and lumber barons soon followed leaving Muskegon a shell of its former self ~ piles of sawdust, silent shuttered mills, and derelict, boarded-up buildings whose only tenants were squatters.

Fortunately for Muskegon, a few hardy souls remained ~ men who rebuilt the dying city with mortar, brick, and stone. Many of our streets today are named in their honor. Fortunately for us, their dedicated, determined wives also set to work and in so doing, gave this newly emerging city a heart and a soul as well as beginning a legacy that we carry on today and into the future.

It is against this backdrop that the *Ladies Literary Society of Muskegon* took form and shape in 1890 ~ the first organization of its kind in the city dedicated to the betterment of women. During that first decade, the club focused inward on its members, their edification and education. And so they learned, and so they grew, and Muskegon would never, ever be the same.

Looking back through the lens of time, their work mirrored society thus giving us an awareness of the problems and issues of that time: delinquency, unsanitary conditions, and tuberculosis to name a few.

Since school attendance was not mandatory then and because Muskegon had a proliferation of bowling alleys, billiard halls, and saloons, delinquency was an ever-present problem. Recognizing that strength lay in numbers, the ladies of the club became extremely proficient in passing resolutions and petitioning the Common Council of the city to do their bidding. In so doing, they become a powerful influence for good in the community.

One of their first efforts came about in 1905 when they petitioned the Council to finally begin enforcing a law prohibiting minors from the unsavory atmosphere of bowling alleys, billiard halls, and the like. Another petition in 1909 urged the council to pass a curfew law in order to keep young people off the streets at night and out of harm's way. Finally in 1910 they took a more hands-on approach when they volunteered to serve as probation officers for delinquents. (What an amazing picture ~ diminutive ladies and delinquents!)

Another very serious problem then, not only in Muskegon but across the country was tuberculosis. Very early on the ladies became active in the anti-tuberculosis movement by selling anti-tuberculosis stamps to raise money for combating the dread disease. In 1911 alone, they sold 10,000 Easter Seals at five cents per stamp raising \$500 ~ a tidy sum then.

To be continued . . .

Karin

Creamy Rhubarb Custard Pie

1 prepared pie shell 1 1/4 c sugar 3/4 tsp cinnamon 1/4 tsp salt 2 eggs
 3 C tender rhubarb, cut in 1/2 inch pieces 1 tsp. vanilla 3 T flour

Sprinkle unbaked pie shell with cinnamon. In a small bowl, beat together eggs and vanilla. In another bowl, mix flour, sugar, and salt. Mix eggs and vanilla into dry mixture. Then stir in rhubarb. Pour into pie shell. Bake in preheated oven at 425° for 10 min. Reduce heat to 325° and continue to bake for 45-50 minutes, or until knife inserted in the center of the pie comes out clean.

Optional: Spread meringue on top and bake to brown the tips.

LIFESTYLES**Nancy Bierenga, chair**

Our next Dine Out is April 25. We're meeting at The Hearthstone at 5:30 PM. Following dinner we have been invited by Jean Pataky to view the movie *Ladies in Lavender* at her home. If you would like to join us and have not been at the previous dine outs, please contact Nancy by Friday, the 22nd. A reservation has been made for all "usual" attendees.

Wine Divas Uncorked is June 10. Tickets will go on sale on April 11, so I will order them that day. The cost for tickets is \$38pp, due by April 6. Same limo company at about the same price (\$50pp), due June 1. Same motel at approximately the same price (\$177/room that sleeps 4) due when you check in. More details next month. It's not too early to get on the list. Pay non-refundable deposit (transferable) of \$38 at the April luncheon.

Back by popular demand—Glass Class with member, Jilly Barnes. Make a spring sun catcher or a piece of jewelry with your friends. April 21. Call Nancy (231.730.0887) to get on the list! Limited class size, so call soon.

Arts and Entertainment**Ruth Lofton, chair****Book Talk ~Let's Get Together!!!!**

Please feel free to join us at any meeting if you're interested in that book, whether or not you've had time to read the book. All meetings are at the club in the tearoom unless otherwise announced. Evening meeting attendees are asked to bring a snack and/or beverage to share. AM meetings, coffecake and coffee are provided.

Next meeting: April 26 **7PM** *Zeroville*, by Steve Erickson

NOTE—Date and time have changed. Alternate months the meetings will be in the morning!

Future meetings: May 25 9:30 AM

***Zeroville* by Steve Erickson**

"Erickson is as unique and pure a voice as American fiction has produced." -Jonathan Lethem.
A film-obsessed ex-seminarian with images of Elizabeth Taylor and Montgomery Clift tattooed on his head arrives on Hollywood Boulevard in 1969, Vikar Jerome enters the vortex of a cultural transformation: rock and roll, sex, drugs, and—most important to him—the decline.

**High School Scholarship Information**

Information about the \$500 high school arts scholarship is available on the club website. Information and applications have been sent to all area high school principals and guidance counselors. If you know a high school student who could use money to advance their education or experience in any of the performance or visual arts, please have them contact their counselor at school or check the club website www.MuskegonWomansClub.org for information.

Day Trippin'**Ruth Lofton, Chair**

The day trip outing will be on Wednesday, April 20. We will visit the "Butterflies are Blooming" exhibit at Meijer Gardens and go out to lunch. Please contact Ruth Lofton if you are interested.

Green Eggs and Ham Wrap-Up

Deb Roest, chair

Thank you to everyone who helped with the Dr. Seuss Birthday Breakfast again this year. The event was a huge success, serving 155 adults and children that morning. The clubhouse looked so festive with all the decorations on every table and around the club. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped including Loribeth, Peggy and her grandson Connor and his girlfriend Sara, Marlene, Karen, Hannah, Char, Ruth and friend of the club- Kaitlynn Sutton. A big thank you goes out to Karen Andrie who helped secure a very generous sponsor for the event- Gil Selgovia from Northern Trust Bank. Thank you to Doug Hughes our GMWC member and monetary sponsor as well and thanks to the MADL for donating 20 tickets to the public and for 30 Dr. Seuss books.

The North Muskegon 5-6 graders from the drama and theater group did some wonderful skits and sing-along with audience participation that the entire group loved. The children really loved the Dr. Seuss characters and especially the autograph signing and picture taking. Thank you so much, Toni Seyferth our own GMWC member, for your direction and help making this event so fun for the children and adults too. Thank you to the North Muskegon Interact group who had 4 of the most wonderful students to help us serve at the event. Thanks to the Girl Scouts under the direction of Melissa for helping with clean-up. There sure were a lot of dishes to wash!

Once again every child received a Dr. Seuss book to take home. We had a very fun event and how proud we should be to help in the effort to support Reading month in our community.

Many community businesses donated food items such as Plumbs all the ham, Sam's Club for the mini cinnamon rolls, Meijers- supplies, Aldi- supplies and hash browns, Wesco- doughnut holes, Mercy Health- juice, and Sunrise Acres for all 30 dozen Eggs!!! We are truly blessed to have these sponsors. Without them we would not be able to have the most profitable Green Eggs and Ham Breakfast that we have had in the history of this event and made over \$2,000 for our club.

I can not thank Barbara and Nancy enough for all their help with all the flyers, picking up donations, publicity, taking reservations, and helping with anything I asked. As for the cooks- Dolores (the master egg maker), Pam and Ann and Dorothy and Sandy, we could not have done it without you. We make a great team and I always appreciate your help. A sincere thanks to all that helped make this happen. And last, but certainly not least, a huge thank you to my husband, Dale for all his help during the week.





Greater Muskegon Woman's Club
280 West Webster Avenue
Muskegon, MI 49440

We're on the Web!
www.MuskegonWomansClub.org



Follow us on Facebook!
<https://www.facebook.com/GreaterMuskegonWomansClub>

Our Mission Statement:

To promote a high quality of life in the greater Muskegon community.

Our Vision Statement:

The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club serves the community through:

- Education
- The Arts
- Service
- Community Activities
- Scholarship

These aspects are accomplished through a combination of social and philanthropic efforts and by providing an historic meeting place.



Birthdays

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1 Pam Caris | 12 Florence Stahl |
| 4 Rochelle Anderson | 15 Sandra Sain |
| 5 Elaine Skinner | 25 Jane Diederichsen |
| 6 Cheryl Kraley | Connie Bull |
| 10 Jeanine Ober | 29 Nancy Bierenga |

March BOD Notes and Motions:

Motions carried:

1. That Finance Chair, Karen Andrie, may present Endowment Fund information to membership and publish the information in the April newsletter [not received]
2. That Recording Secretary, Karin Carlson, be allowed to serve another term as her two-year term has expired.
3. To accept the 2016-2017 Slate of Candidates presented by nominations.
4. To grant permission for the purchase of ten additional panels of ballroom curtains
5. To allow Lakeshore Museum Center the use of five pedestal plates and five rose bowls for their Victorian Tea May 6-7