

GREATER MUSKEGON WOMAN'S CLUB

continuing the legacy



The President's Pen

President, Laurel Sass

Greetings everyone!

I can't believe it has been a year already since acquiring my position of President of the Greater Muskegon Woman's Club! It has been an honor serving as your president. When I joined the club six years ago, I would have never thought in a million years I would hold the position of president. But I thank you for allowing me to be your leader.

When you step into the position as president, your mind races and says: "I am going to do this, and I am going to do that!" And then a year goes by! And then you feel like you have not accomplished anything! I only wish I could have done a lot more. I considered taking on a second term as president but felt my career and two small children need my time. Gavonnie will be a great president and I am excited to see what she accomplishes!

This year we continued to improve our philanthropy program. The club helped three great organizations this year and learned a lot about each one. Mission for Area People, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Lakeshore, and The ARC of Muskegon are very deserving of our philanthropy program. We even had a group of ladies help wrap Christmas presents for Mission for Area People. Luncheons became "fun" again! The activities at our last two luncheons became ice breakers and made the group smile and laugh! I enjoyed them very much.

Activities were plentiful this year and raised funds for the operation of our clubhouse. Gingerbread, Holiday Evening by Candlelight, Green Eggs & Ham, Women of Accomplishment and Junk to Jewels were all highly successful this year. To those that lent a helping hand at each event, Kudos to you!

Lastly, your Board of Directors is a phenomenal group of individuals. They are the true operation of this club. I learned so much the past two years serving on the board. But I also got to know them and all of their great qualities. I would like to thank each one for coming on board with me this year: Sharon Beck, Karin Carlson, Dorothy Brink, Dolores Brondyke, Kitty Geitzen, Karen Andrie, Paula Martin, Gavonnie Williams, Pam Caris, Dianne Buck, Carolyn Bowen, and Barbara Scott. And also to Nancy Bierenga, who had to remind me every month to write my President's letter!

I look forward to seeing what the next year brings! I hope you all have a splendid summer and I will see you in the fall!

Laurel



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Club Calendar

June

7	Membership Tea	1PM
8	Book Talk	7PM
21	BOD Meeting	12N
23	Newsletter/Website Articles Due	5PM

July

Summer Break—No meeting		
1	Book Talk	7PM
19	BOD Meeting	12N
21	Newsletter/Website Articles Due	5PM

2016/2017 Board of Directors

Laurel Sass, President
Gavonnie Williams, President-Elect
, Vice President
Paula Martin, Treasurer
Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary
Katherine Gietzen, Corresponding Secretary
Pam Caris, Member at Large
Sharon Beck, Activities Chair
Sarah Sass, Communications Chair
Karen Andrie, Finance Chair
Dorothy Brink, House and Grounds Chair
Carolyn Bowen, Parliamentarian
Dolores Brondyke, Membership Chair
Melissa Slorf, Immediate Past President

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Dolores Brondyke, Chair

Getting to Know You
Judy Kell

Introduced to GMWC through Women of Accomplishment recipient, Margaret Greenwood, Judy became a member of the Club this past March. Since growing up in Muskegon Heights, she has made her home in several other beautiful cities including Lansing, Kalamazoo, and Midland, Michigan as well as Champaign, Illinois, Baltimore, Maryland, and Miraflores, Peru. She and her family, husband Philip, daughter Elizabeth, and son Joshua, returned to the area in the 1970's. Since then, she has "witnessed many changes and believes our community is best served by people who actively participate in making it a better place and being a good neighbor."

Judy earned her Masters Degree in Public Administration and now works with Muskegon Community Health Project. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, photography, and watching movies. Her passion, advocating for children with disabilities (and others), is most evident in the organizations she devotes her time to – Muskegon Montessori Academy, Boys and Girls Club of the Muskegon Lakeshore board member, Senior Activities Committee for Muskegon County, and Muskegon County Homeless Continuum of Care network coordinator.

Unfortunately, Judy was unable to attend our Salad Luncheon in May as she had broken her foot. We are looking forward to meeting you next month, Judy!



Philanthropy
 Hannah Rogers and Melissa Slorf

Third Quarter—The ARC of Muskegon

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

June	7	11AM-3PM
	21	12N-1PM

1966

Looking backward in time, 1966 appears to be a very busy year at the clubhouse, as the 435 members were not only busily involved in club activities but also in the community as well as both the State and General federations. The year was marked by 'firsts' ~ the first President's Newsletter, the first ever Advisory Board (made up of past presidents), and the first club-sponsored European Holiday Tour, but it was also a year marked by problems as you shall see.

1966 was a banner year in Federation history as it marked the Diamond Jubilee of the General Federation (1891-1966). And so it was that the ladies of the Club, in union with club sisters throughout the world, were busily involved in learning the General Federation's newly composed theme song, 'Unity in Diversity' and celebrating the momentous occasion at their March meeting with a special address, 'The Story of Unity in Diversity' as well as honoring one of their own, Mrs. Lui Dratz, on her 50 years of club membership.

As mentioned in previous columns, April's highlight was the Annual White Breakfast; however, this was the first time that it was held at the clubhouse (instead of at local churches). In recognition of the occasion, the tables were arranged in the shape of a beautiful cross.

In May, the Club took part in Muskegon's 'Downtowner Days' highlighting downtown activities, organizations, and shopping. For five days, the clubhouse was open to the public, and visitors were warmly welcomed by the ladies of the Club.

At that time, the Club was actively involved in the life of the community, working with other organizations and allowing them the use of the clubhouse *gratis* for their activities. The newly organized *Hackley Heritage Association* held its monthly meetings in the clubhouse throughout the year. Every September the *Annual Girl Scout Bazaar* was held there, followed in November by the *Muskegon County Medical Society's 'Milestones in Medicine'* display.

Despite declining membership, the Juniors continued on with their many delightful activities including the Junior Bazaar, Frills and Daffodils Fashion Show, Hayseed Hawker Auction, and Fashion Plums Fashion Show at the *Black Angus Restaurant*. This annual fundraiser for *Girlstown* netted \$150.00.

Tax problems persisted; for reasons unknown, property taxes more than doubled, from \$974.24 in 1965 to \$2,093.33 in 1966, while most other downtown property taxes were reduced.

Another unexpected problem was outlined in the first 'President's Newsletter'. Mrs. Sally Meier poignantly wrote, "The Club is at a standstill – not one new member! Membership is one-half of that of ten years ago. Currently we are under investigation (by the MSFWC) as to whether we should be listed as a social club."

On a brighter note, the Permanent Planning Committee re-decorated the parlor "in shades of soft green with white accents, martini colored carpet, and new curtains" while the restrooms and cloakroom were "redone in pinks and whites".

Miss Manners' Guide to Excruciatingly Correct Behavior by Judith Martin

On Modesty

Modern modesty is difficult to define, even for Miss Manners, who does that sort of thing so well. Is it, for example, immodest to wear a bathing suit on a nude beach, thus calling attention to one's body?

Worse than immodesty of dress or undress, in Miss Manner's opinion, is the current immodest fashion of dressing up one's experience so that one appears to be more than one really is. The ideal of the well-bred person should be, as the German proverb has it, "To be more than you appear." This proverb antedates the invention of the Mercedes-Benz, paid for on installments. The concept of appearing to be less than one is survives now only in the tattered blue jeans worn by the rich. Everyone else is busy trying to appear more sexy, rich, sophisticated, or youthful than he or she really is.

Miss Manners questions whether image inflating leads to happiness. When the cottage turns out to be a palace, the Ms or Mr turns out to have a PhD, the gray-haired person whose face looks younger than that of a blonde of the same vintage, the struggling worker turns out to have a trust fund—it is when these discoveries are made that the true joys of modesty are experienced.

It is getting so that Miss Manners' heart skips a beat if her dinner partner declares that he knows nothing whatever about vintages of wine.

LIFESTYLES

Nancy Bierenga, chair

Our next Dine Out is Monday, June 19, at The Deck at 6pm.

Dear Member

It's that time of year again. The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club dues of \$100.00 for the fiscal year of 2017-18 are payable now. You may pay the dues any time beginning with the May meeting. As we did last year your payments will be banked the 1st of July; so that they fall in the appropriate membership year.

All dues must be paid by August 1, 2017 for you to be considered a member in good standing and to be included in the 2017-18 year book.

If you have any questions, please call or email me.

Dolores Brondyke Phone 231-744-5775 email dwbron2@gmail.com
Membership Chair

Arts and Entertainment

Connie Bull, 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. Meeting place—Note the Change—we'll be meeting at Hennessey's—no need to bring snacks. We tried this in May because there were only three of us and we didn't have a key to the club. It was great, so we're going to try this location for the time being.

- Next meeting: June 1: *The First Phone Call From Heaven* by Mitch Albom
- July 6: *The Nightingale* by Kristen Hannah
- August 3: *The Zookeeper's Wife* by Diane Ackerman

Future meetings: Meetings will be monthly on the first Thursday.
Hope you can join us.





Rummage Sale

We had a very prosperous event this year. A lot of hours, some stress, lots of good company, for excitement we even had a fire drill.

We would like to thank everyone who donated items, and attended.

We sincerely want to thank our volunteers for all of their dedicated help. Pam Caris, Sandy Wellington,, Dolores Brondyke, Barb Boucher, Sandy Garrett, Pam Harris, Ruth Hillman, Barb Wagenmaker, and Pat Camp for initiating the furniture donation.

We want to thank all of those who helped with moving furniture Pat Camp, Gavonnie Williams, Dianne Buck, Sharon Beck, James Squire, Ryan Buck, Shanna Buck, Tom Serio, Thomas Serio, and Jeff Cave.

We sincerely thank Nancy Bierenga who donated our brochures, and all the reminders in the newsletter, Karin Carlson and Paula Martin and Ann Caris who helped with advertising.

For donations we thank Erick Erickson, Meijer Stores, Pam Caris, Gavonnie Williams (for her delicious food for the cocktail party), Wayne's Deli, Seven Sisters Antiques, Flowers by Ray and Sharon, Hobos Tavern, The Station Grill, The Cheese Lady, Kickin' Kitchen, Pizza Ranch, and Barry's.

Our Profit for the event is \$3422.77.

Sincerely, chairs Sharon Beck, Kitty Gietzen, Dianne Buck

P

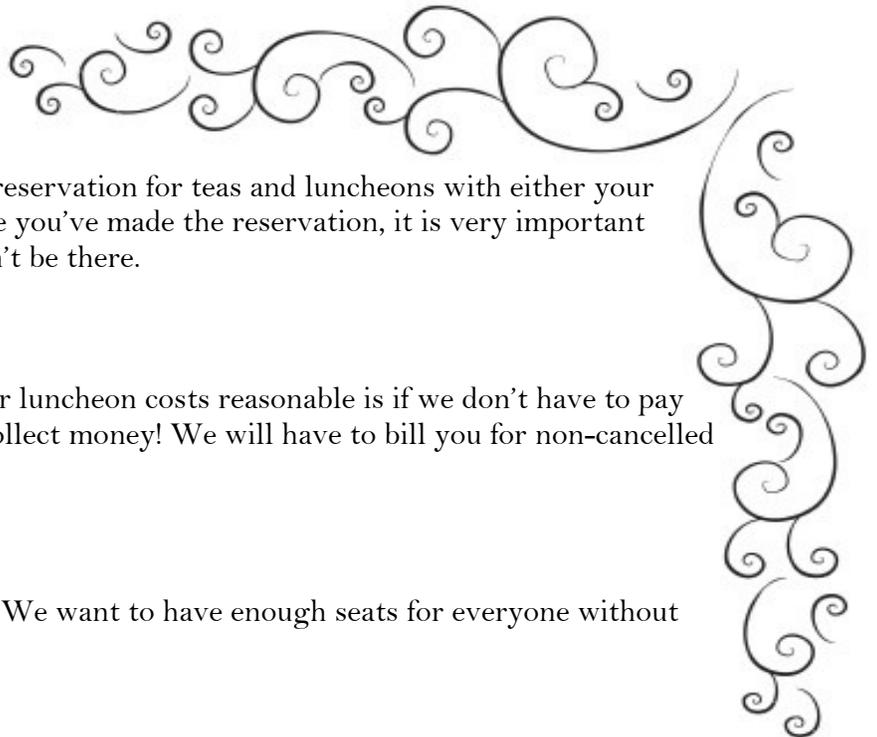
lease be sure to make your reservation for teas and luncheons with either your caller or with Karen McMahan. Once you've made the reservation, it is very important that you let someone know if you can't be there.

T

he only way we can keep our luncheon costs reasonable is if we don't have to pay for more people than for whom we collect money! We will have to bill you for non-cancelled reservations!

T

his is an on-going problem. We want to have enough seats for everyone without adding at the last minute.





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

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



Follow us on Facebook!
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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
- Scholarships

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

June Birthdays

- 1 Sharon Beck
- 2 Barbara Wagenmaker
- 4 Jean Patak
- 5 Zabrina Lindsay
- 9 Roberta Tetzlaff
- 23 Katherine Gietzen



Reminder to members:

Please honor the reservation deadline for luncheons and teas – this is extremely important for adequate table settings, food preparation, and also County Health Department regulations.

If you are unable to honor your luncheon/tea reservation, please notify your contact person 24 hours prior to the luncheon to avoid being billed for it.