

GREATER MUSKEGON WOMAN'S CLUB

continuing the legacy



The President's Pen

President, **Gavonnie Williams**

Happy February!

What a wild winter so far. As I write to you, the freezing temperatures that welcomed in our New Year are such a contrast to today, with sunny blue skies! Unfortunately those extreme freezing temperatures have impacted all of us who love our Greater Muskegon Women's Club. In early January my husband and I went to the club to prepare for an upcoming rental event and smelled a strong odor of natural gas. We exited the building and called the fire department. They found that our furnace had stopped working and was leaking natural gas into the building. They turned off the gas, however damage from those freezing temperatures had been done. Our inside building temperature had dropped to 23 degrees. From here I will keep a very long series of events short. We know at this point we have at least one broken water pipe under our building, the faucet in the downstairs kitchen is cracked and must be replaced and a seal on the boiler is leaking. We are waiting on an assessment to determine if our pipes are asbestos-covered before work can begin. In anticipation of this being a lengthy process the board has suspended activities at the clubhouse until April 1st. This includes all scheduled events as listed in your Yearbook as well as our February and March membership tea and luncheon. If things are resolved faster and we can enter the club sooner than April 1st we will let you know. We will also keep you informed of the new dates for cancelled activities.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to ask each of you next time you have the chance, to say thank you to all who serve with me on this board for their dedication. I understand it is easy to forget what it takes to have our club run smoothly and for it to be

maintained, decorated and a warm and welcoming environment when you join us for membership meetings and special events. However, at a time like this, with all the details that need attention outside of normal business, we should all be grateful for each and every one who volunteers their time and works together in the best interest of this Greater Muskegon Women's Club.

Your President,

Gavonnie



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Club Calendar

February

1	Book Talk	7:00pm
7	No Tea due to club house repairs	
21	Board of Directors	12N
23	Newsletter Articles due	5:00pm

March

1	Book Talk	7:00pm
21	Board of Directors	12N
23	Newsletter Articles Due	5:00pm

2017/2018 Board of Directors

Gavonnie Williams, President
Laurel Sass, Vice President
Nancy Bierenga, President-Elect
Paula Martin, Treasurer
Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary
Sharon Beck, Corresponding Secretary
Pam Caris, Member at Large
Ruth Lofton, Activities Chair
Nancy Bierenga, Communications Chair
Katherine Gietzen, House and Grounds Chair
Dolores Brondyke, Parliamentarian
Karin Carlson, Membership Chair

Getting to Know You

Dolores Brondyke

Our featured member this month is, no doubt, familiar to all of you, as she has been involved in so many club activities for so many years. Though born in Ludington, Dolores has spent most of her life in Muskegon, except for brief periods in South Carolina, Virginia, and Florida when her husband, Wayne, was in the Navy.

Dolores comes from a family of six, consisting of four brothers and one sister, all of whom are now deceased. Her parents, Paul and Lucille Buris, left an amazing legacy as founders of U.S. 31 BBQ in 1939. Little did they know that their family restaurant would become an enduring part of local history. Today it is located a few blocks from the clubhouse and is owned and operated by Dolores's niece, Kristi. Married for 65 years, Wayne and Dolores have two sons and are the proud grandparents of three granddaughters and six great-grandchildren.

Her lifelong nursing career began when she received her R.N. degree from Hackley School of Nursing. At age 40, she was one of six nurses chosen to attend the University of Michigan's first Nurse Practitioner School and was the first Nurse Practitioner at Muskegon County Health Department where she supervised the children's program.

Her commitment and dedication extend to the community as well, as she has volunteered in many organizations and capacities through the years and continues to do so now. A longtime member of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dolores has served as both vice-president and president of the church council. As a longtime member of the Woman's Club, she has served three terms as president from 2002-2004 and again from 2006-2007 and has been involved in many activities and committees. She is very well known for her wonderful green eggs!

For many years she was involved with the Mercy Health Development Council and is currently part of its Home and Heart Committee. Up until two years ago, she was an active Red Cross volunteer. She was also a member of Zonta until it disbanded. Currently she serves on the Board of Directors of Phoenix Continuum and is a member of Shoreline Victorian Society. For her long years of dedication and commitment, Dolores received the Woman of Accomplishment award in 2001 and continues to support the program.

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, knitting, crocheting, spending quality time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and volunteering at her church.

What an amazing lady!

If you have moved or changed your email or phone number from what is in the yearbook, please contact Nancy Bierenga so we can print new labels for our next meeting!

**February Club Hours
unavailable**

Philanthropy

Hannah Olechnowicz

The Quarterly Drive will be:

December-March: Birthday Kits (cake mix, icing, candles, sprinkles, single roll streamers)

April-June: Diapers (all sizes including Pull-ups and overnight weights)

Your items to be donated may be brought with you to any meeting in that quarter or you may make a cash or check donation at the meeting. Please make checks payable to GMWC and someone from the club will shop for items for the donation. If there is no March luncheon, we will have the March collection extend to the April meeting. 

In Days Gone By

Karin Carlson, Historian

As readers of this column, you hopefully have a better understanding of modern club history, as previous columns have focused on the club and its work from the 1950's through the 1970's instead of on its earliest years. This time frame was chosen in order to continue the story of the club covered in the history book. However, the story of the club is long, rich, and incredibly interesting, and there is so much to share. My goal, as your historian, is to share that story with you, so that you may have a deeper appreciation of all that the club has done, is doing, and will continue to do in order to carry on our legacy for future generations.

And so, beginning next month we will return to our roots and our beginning, to a very different time and unfamiliar setting. Hopefully, you will enjoy the journey as much as I enjoy sharing it with you.

Recipes are added here when there's room. The last several months were from an Edwardian cookbook. I've exhausted the recipes there I think may be of interest (no oysters, head cheese, etc.). The recipe below and for the next while are taken from a century cookbook, When known I'll add how old the recipe is.

Brandied Fruit

Recipe is well over 100 years old

Every two weeks add 1 C fruit and 1 C sugar to a decorative glass container which may be kept on the countertop in all but the warmest room. For the fruit, alternate:

- 1C maraschino cherries 1 C pineapple tidbits 1 C chopped sliced peaches

Do not add oftener than every 2 weeks. Stir occasionally. When the amount gets too large you may either use some or give some to a friend, but don't let the total get below 1 1/2 C. To use, spoon over ice cream, pound cake, angel food cake, or use in a recipe like the one below.

Friendship Cake

- 1 box lemon supreme cake mix 1 box instant lemon pudding
- 2/3 C oil 4 eggs
- 1 1/2 C prepared fruit 1 C chopped walnuts

Mix the first four ingredients (it will be very thick). Fold in nuts and fruit, blend well. Pour into a well-greased bundt pan. Bake for 40-60 minutes at 350°. The cake freezes well, or keep covered unrefrigerated to eat in the next week.



Finding the Hidden Object

Zabrina Lindsay found the bell first in January! Also in the drawing will be Carol Thompson, Elaine Skinner, Pam Caris, Connie Bull, and Dianne Buck.

Thanks for reading. A heart is hidden this month.

LIFESTYLES

Nancy Bierenga, chair

Our next Dine-Out is rescheduled for Wednesday, January 31 at 6PM at the new restaurant, Gouleese 1635 Beidler St. How many different kinds of goulash do you suppose we'll try amongst us? The question remains as Gouleese isn't open on Mondays so we changed the day. Details in March.

Our February Dine-Out will be on Monday, February 19 at Pints and Quarts (BOGO Burgers on Monday—you can even take the second one home instead of sharing).

During the first few months of 2018 we plan to participate in a flower-arranging class at Wasserman's Floral (Feb. or March) and another glass class with Jilly (April 12 or 19) - hopefully at the club.

Community Engagement Event Plans Continue

On May 17 Roger Rapaport, area film maker and writer, will preview his new film, *Coming Up for Air* with us at the club. We will have several experts, including DJ Hilson, some mental health professionals and family members with experiences lead a discussion about the topic of the film, family impact and involvement with mental illness, and how we can be a supportive community to those who suffer either personally or as a family member.

Please put this date on your calendar now so you can attend this event. Invite your family and friends so they can also learn about this important subject.

Arts and Entertainment

Pat Camp, 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: Hennessey's (purchase dinner, snack, dessert, and/or beverage).

Meeting Time: 7PM

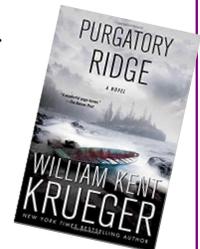
Book Review: *The Orphan Keeper* gets five stars—we all loved the book! *Skipping Christmas* was also a great read and we give it five stars as well.

Next meeting: Feb. 1 *Purgatory Ridge* by William Kent Krueger

In addition to discussing the book, we will be choosing an April and May book.

March 1 *The Necklace* by Cheryl Jarvis

Hope you can join us.



Are you thinking about Reviewing Your Estate Donations?

Do you know how easy it is to make a lasting impact on our community?

Since you've loved the Woman's Club during your life, you can continue to love the club after your life here is over. You can also make gifts to the club using this link. If you don't use the internet, simply call the foundation at 231.332.4139 and ask for Emma. She will help you be sure your donation goes to the GMWC fund.

If everyone leaves 5% of their estate to a Foundation fund, over \$680 million will be invested in Muskegon County by 2055! Love your community. Leave 5%.

The link for donors to give directly to our Greater Muskegon Woman's Club endowment fund is:

<https://cffmc.org/give/give-now/?fundname=Greater%20Muskegon%20Woman%E2%80%99s%20Club>.

There is a possibility that we will establish a Raise The Roof fund at the Community Foundation after the first of January. Those funds could then be used 100% to replace the roof and accomplish other needed improvements like a licensed kitchen and air conditioning, depending on the amount donated.



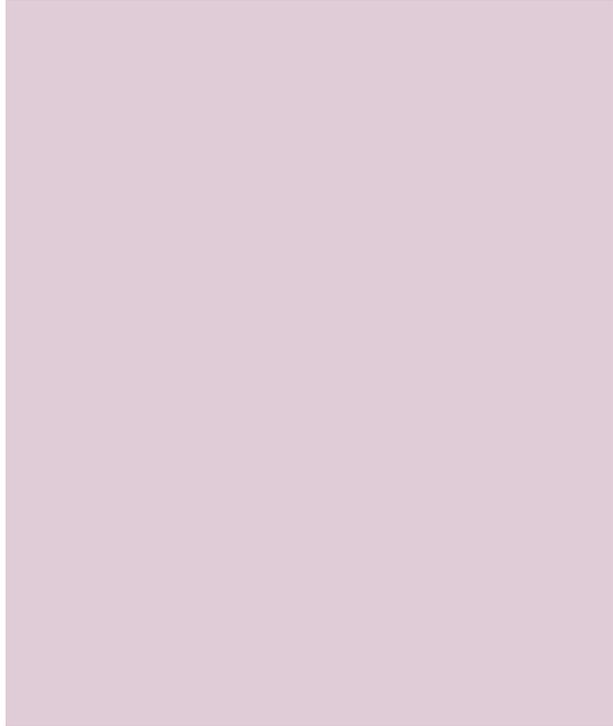
Board Notes

- Activities Chair reviewed all event requests
 - House and Grounds: Very busy—see Gavonnie's President's Pen for details
 - Membership—three new members so far this fiscal year
 - Discussed and approved a new PayPal account that we'll be able to use for dues, donations, registering for events, etc. Loribeth will manage the account with President-Elect
 - Discussed and approved investigating use of Square to enable us to accept credit cards also for dues, events, donations, etc. Nancy and Loribeth will investigate and report at the Feb. meeting.
 - Arts Scholarships—Chair, Barbara Scott made a motion and it was approved that we partner with the Art Museum for one \$100 scholarship award and with MAISD and their *Showcase!* scholarship program for the remaining \$400. This will give GMWC greatly increased exposure, increase the number and variety of applicants, and decrease our need to do the judging.
 - Voted to ask all chairs who were planning an event for February or March to reschedule for later in the year due to the heat/water problems at our club house.
- ⇒ Women of Accomplishment is rescheduled to April 28.
- ⇒ Junk to Jewels is rescheduled tentatively for April 13 & 14



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
- Scholarships

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



Birthdays

- 9 Karen Peters
- 11 Laurel Sass
- 13 Dianne Buck
- 26 Kay Ostrom

