

# GREATER MUSKEGON WOMAN'S CLUB

*continuing the legacy*



## The President's Pen

President, **Gavonnie Williams**

Dear Club Members,

Well, this is my last President's Pen. What a year this has been! I thank all of you for this opportunity. It has been my privilege to serve. I am so grateful for the support of both my board and this membership. This was a commitment I willingly made, although the journey it would take me on was unknown. This year took us to unexpected places. Our frozen pipes this winter was one that was financially challenging for us, however we balanced that by saving the club nearly \$1000.00 annually by making adjustments on a couple of our utilities. One of which opened a long overdue relationship with our neighbors, The Muskegon Museum of Art, when we partnered with them for trash and recycling. We also partnered our Arts Scholarship program with them, which in turn gives us a greater presence in our community. Our membership increased more this year than in the recent past. The number of members participating in club activities has risen and we have opened our club to more community outreach programs. We have had a fire lit under us, thanks to Pat Camp with the creation of a Fundraising Committee, which has given life to the "Raise The Roof" campaign. We gratefully accepted the willingness from club member, Attorney Doug Hughes, to step in and become the custodian of records for all the annual filings this club has to do, many of which were very challenging to navigate. This will not only create an unburdening to the board, it will bring cohesiveness to very important club records.

It was heartwarming as I showed the club to perspective renters and heard stories of weddings, graduations and dances that people remember from days gone by. It was a reminder that we are not just the caretakers of a building, but also of memories.

There is a feeling of change in a positive direction. I know this will continue with the incoming board and I asked that you extend to them the same support and encouragement I was afforded. I look forward to continuing on the board and supporting them as we continue to care for and enjoy this Greater Muskegon Woman's Club.

I leave you with one of the many words of inspiration I reflected on to help guide me this past year...

***If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.*** John Quincy Adams

Gratefully,  
*Gavonnie*



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## Club Calendar

### June

6	Installation Tea	1:00 PM
7	Book Talk	7:00PM
25	Board of Directors Planning Retreat	
27	Newsletter Articles Due	5:00PM

### July

4	No Meeting	
18	BOD Meeting	12:00 N
20	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**

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Karin Carlson, Chair

*Audrey Link*

Meet our very active and talented new member, Audrey Link. Prior to becoming a member in April, Audrey attended club events at the invitation of Nancy Bierenga and also is the creator of our beautiful new signs in the front of the clubhouse.

She and her husband, Mike, reside in Norton Shores. She is the mother of two and is very excited about the birth of her first grandchild in August.

Audrey's love of arts and crafts led her to a career in graphic design and further to open her own design business, *Max Graphics*, which, I am happy to say, is keeping her incredibly busy these days.

She loves being active and schedules time for the other things she enjoys including biking, swimming, weight lifting, horseback riding and gardening. She is also a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Lakeshore, Ride-to-Rescue, and the Lakeshore Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome Audrey!

*Membership Committee*

If, by chance, you were unable to attend our Member Recognition Program in May, several of our new and long-standing members were recognized and highlighted. Each received a certificate and a long-stemmed red rose, our club flower. The membership committee, Sharon Beck, Karin Carlson, Holly Nolan, and Barbara Scott made the presentations.

New members for this year included Helen Alberts, Karen Bednarek, Angela Cole, Jenny Hammond, Zabrina Lindsay, Audrey Link, Marian Michalski, Michelle Peterson, Julie Smith, Julie Sullivan, and Alecia Tyson.

Membership of five years in the club includes Hannah Olechnowicz, Kay Ostrom, Peggy Peckham, Brenda Rogers, and Barbara Scott.

Ten-year members include Sharon Beck, Nancy Bierenga, Connie Bull, Linda Griffith, Nancy Kinziger, Debbe Matrone, Jennie Naffie, Lindy Olechnowicz, Jean Pataky, Karen Peters, and Roberta Tetzlaff.

We honored our 15-year member, Dorothy Brink, last year and again this year due to a glitch in the membership chair's mind, but, at least, we didn't overlook her!

Last, but not least, and well on their way to becoming Honorary Members, Dolores Brondyke and Dianne Buck were honored for 20 years of membership and service to the club.

We thank each and every one of these members as well as all of you for your dedication, service, and support of Greater Muskegon Woman's Club. Without you, the clubhouse would be an empty shell – you give it life and vibrancy and serve our community as well. Thank you so much for *Continuing the Legacy*.

If you did not attend the May luncheon, we will have your certificate available at our June luncheon.

Yearbook changes: No labels will be created for these additions/change as new yearbooks are in process  
Angela Cole's email is now [angela\\_cole37@yahoo.com](mailto:angela_cole37@yahoo.com)

Additions:

Audrey Link 2258 Warren Ave 49441 231.206.7249 [Audrey@maxgraphics.net](mailto:Audrey@maxgraphics.net)

Kay Olthoff 1499 Middle Brook Dr 49441 231.288.6339 [kayolth@aol.com](mailto:kayolth@aol.com)

Christine Robere 2291 Norcrest Ave 49441 231.740.7414 [Christine@unitedwaylakeshore.org](mailto:Christine@unitedwaylakeshore.org)

**June Club Hours**

**7 12PM-2PM**

From Spark to Wildfire

As noted last month, our story began in the year, 1890 over afternoon tea. However, the genesis of ladies societies dates back further still, the result of a most serendipitous happenstance. The proliferation of ladies societies and women’s clubs in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, while breathtaking in scope, owe their existence to one forward-thinking lady, Mrs. Jane Cunningham Croley. Self-taught and lacking any formal education, Mrs. Croley became not only a popular, published author and journalist, but also a newspaper editor at a time when glass ceilings had never been reached, much less broken. The new ideas and inventions of the Industrial Revolution were radically altering the fabric of society and the role of women in the newly emerging society.

The times, they were a-changing, and the time was right when Mrs. Croley and a group of her friends made plans to attend a lecture in NYC by their favorite author, Charles Dickens. Imagine their chagrin to discover that women were not allowed to purchase tickets; tickets would have to be purchased by their husbands, fathers, etc. To say that this did not sit well with the ladies would be a gross understatement, of course, and the ladies did not submit meekly or demurely as was expected of them.

This watershed moment spurred them to action leading to countless gatherings of women to study, learn and discuss the role of women on the rapidly changing world stage which ultimately led to the formation of the first organized woman’s club by Mrs. Croley and her friends in 1888. This first of its kind organization deserved a name worthy of respect and was christened *Sorosis* or ‘centre of unity’ for the collective elevation and advancement of women. Like wildfire, similar organizations sprang up across the country, and in no time, the spark reached Muskegon,

Jane Cunningham Croley, truly a renaissance woman and the Mother of Woman’s Clubs!



June 6, 2018

1:00 PM

*Please join us for Tea!*

Please join us for our Installation Tea. This is our opportunity to celebrate with our new Board of Directors and look toward the new club year.

Host: Philanthropy and Advisory (Past Presidents) Committees

If you'd like to help bring food, contact Dianne Buck

There is no cost for our teas so it is the perfect time to bring a friend!  
Please do let us know if you will be bringing a friend so we will have place settings for all.

Please bring a box of disposable diapers (any size, weight, or brand)  
or a check payable GMWC for our  
Fill the Truck philanthropy effort this quarter.

RSVP to Karin Carlson at karinc1146@yahoo.com by Monday, June 4, at  
5:00 pm.



**Finding the Hidden Object**

Thanks for reading. A black and white neck tie is hidden this month.

**LIFESTYLES**

Nancy Bierenga, chair

Ten of us had a great time at dinner at Hobo's in North Muskegon in May. Our next Dine-Out will be on June 28 at Seasons Gastropub at 6PM. Thank you to Ann Caris for taking charge of this fun group/activity for the coming year. Everyone is invited to join us. RSVP to Ann at [ann.caris@yahoo.com](mailto:ann.caris@yahoo.com) or leave a message at 231.740.5764 by noon that day.

On Friday, June 1 a group of club members will take a car trip to the Grand Rapids Market. We will leave the club promptly at 10:30. No need to RSVP—be at the club—we'll decide how many cars to take based on who is ready to go by 10:20.

**Community Engagement Event—Coming Up for Air**

There was a very nice-sized crowd to see the preview of the film by Roger Rapaport, area film maker and writer, *Coming Up for Air*, and to begin the community conversation about mental health and family support. DJ Hilson (presenting the legal aspect) and a mental health professional from Health West led 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 with a family member. They also talked about the many unique and important agencies and programs available in Muskegon County. We look forward to continued conversation as the film nears release in early 2019.

**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: We enjoyed a nice evening at Hennessey's for our May book club meeting. Our book discussion was *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult. We gave a big 5 stars to this book. While it was not "enjoyable" reading, it did point out very graphically the institutional racism that has been so prevalent in our society and the Small Things we can do in Great ways to help change the system.

Next meeting: June 7—no book discussion as the book was withdrawn by its nominator. We will discuss summer meetings.

Advance notice for the rest of 2018:

- July *The Charm Bracelet* by Viola Shipman
- August *Allie and Bea* by Catherine Ryan Hyde
- Sept. 6 *The Rumor* by Elin Hildbrand
- Oct. 4 *The Stranger in the Woods* by Michael Finkel
- Nov. 1 *The Alice Network* by Kati Quinn
- Dec. 6 *The Christmas Wish* by Nora Roberts



Please join us the first Thursday of the month You will have a good time with this group!!!



The Junk to Jewels Committee, Sharon Beck, Dianne Buck, Pam Caris, Sandy Wellington and Barbara Wagenmaker, put in a lot of time and effort to do Junk to Jewels this year, despite a couple of bad weather days, everything turned out fine like always.

We would like to thank everyone who donated items. We sincerely want to thank our volunteers, Angela Cole, Julie Smith, Dolores Brondyke, Barbara Scott, Shanna Buck, Ruth Hillman, Karin Carlson, Dorothy Brink, Paula Martin, Ann Caris, Nancy Bierenga, David Wellington, Dan Cole, and Marcus Cole.

Special thank you to Katherine Gietzen for donating the storage unit, and Elaine Skinner for a monetary donation.

Special thank you to The Station Grill, The Cheese Lady, Hobo's Tavern, and The Bird House for our door prize donations.

The total raised this year was \$1,293.40. At the recommendation/request of the committee, some of this money will be used to purchase items needed for the club. The board approved the purchase of a new lighter weight vacuum cleaner and six banquet tables to replace our old tables that are falling apart. Several board members stepped up to purchase additional tables at a cost of under \$100 each. If you would be interested in helping with the purchase (we would like to replace all of the old tables as they are very heavy and hard to move up from the basement) please mail a check to the club or contact Sharon Beck for the correct detailed purchase price.



The total proceeds from this year's event were \$1,648.48. As decided by the BOD after the 2017 event, the total was divided four ways with \$400 being sent to charities chosen by each honoree and the balance kept by the club.



This year's chosen charities were:  
Dolly Parton Imagination Library—Muskegon Heights branch chosen by Kimberly Sims  
WM Symphony Orchestra Education Programs chosen by Kay Olthoff  
Coalition for Community Development and James Jackson Museum of African American History chosen by Mildred Johnson (\$200 each).



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

We're on the Web!  
[www.MuskegonWomansClub.org](http://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.

*Board of Director News and Notes*

- ◆ Reviewed the policy to have the Vice President give a report to membership at the next meeting and reiterated that the board meetings are open meetings and any member is invited to attend without a vote and given voice by the board on a specific subject basis.
- ◆ The next BOD meeting will be the new board at a full day retreat at Nancy Bierenga's house on June 25.

June

**Birthdays**

- 1 Sharon Beck
- 2 Barbara Wagenmaker
- 4 Jean Pataky
- 9 Roberta Tetzlaff
- 23 Katherine Gietzen



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