

You'll Want to Know...



Greater Michigan Woman's Club
CONTINUING THE LEGACY - BUILDING THE FUTURE

The President's Pen

President, Nancy Bierenga

Dear Club Members,

As I write this it's Easter Monday, the sky is glorious spring blue, and the flowers are finally peeking out from their winter hiding place. And yet I am unprepared for this to be the Memorial Day issue of the newsletter! This year, as seems to be happening ever more readily each year, is flying by like I'm a spectator at an air show! I'm really enjoying being president of our club and am happy to spread that out for another year, if that's how you vote at the May meeting.

Raise the Roof committee members are busy preparing for a presentation to the Historic Committee so we can get permission to use the metal roofing material that looks like the clay tiles we now have but will significantly reduce the weight and cost of using clay tiles again. Once we get that approval, we will be able to make another presentation to another city committee from which we hope to get a large part of the money we still need to complete the project. It looks now like we may be able to get to the actual work sometime this summer. We also have an estimate to replace the carpet on the stairs. That is on our wish list on page 5

We weren't able to have the spring Club Pride Day because of a rental that evening with set-up happening early that day. Since rental money makes up a large part of our budget, the rental trumped the cleaning. We do want to thank and celebrate our wonderful site managers for their obvious love of and pride in our building. They have begun to wash the ballroom floor after rentals they manage! If you happen to see Lonnie or Dee at the Art Museum where they have real jobs, be sure to let them know how much we appreciate them!

The meeting on May 1 is our annual Salad Luncheon. It's my favorite meeting of the year because I love salads! Please consider bringing the recipe so I can print it in future newsletters. I'm planning to use a recipe from our cookbook for the salad I bring.

News about our club seems to have finally reached the public. We have a good number of new rentals, many who attended another function here, we have requests for Tea With Friends and we have people inquiring about memberships. It's a great time to be a member of this club!

And finally, Congratulations to Julie Smith who won the free membership for 2019/2020 thanks to her many hours of service to the club! For the rest of us, it's time to renew membership. Invoices will be distributed at the May luncheon and the June Installation Dessert Evening Tea. I hope to see most of you at one or the other or better yet both of those meetings.

Nancy



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Club Calendar

May

- 1 Salad Luncheon 12:00N
- 2 Book Talk 6:00PM
- 10-11 Junk to Jewels Donations accepted beginning May 4—details at the lunch
- 21 Glass Class with Jilly 6:30PM
- 22 BOD Meeting 1:00PM

June

- 5 Installation Dessert Evening 7PM
- 6 Book Talk 6PM
- 10 Cruise Ship Open Club 1PM
- 13 Cruise Ship Open Club 1PM
- 17 BOD Retreat 9-3

2018/2019 Board of Directors

- Nancy Bierenga, President
- Hannah Olechnowicz, President-Elect
- Pam Caris, Vice President
- Gavonnie Williams, Imm. Past President
- Paula Martin, Treasurer
- Karin Carlson, Recording Secretary
- Sharon Beck, Corresponding Secretary
- Julie Smith, Member at Large
- BOD, Activities Chair
- Nancy Bierenga, Communications Chair
- Dorothy Brink, House and Grounds Chair
- Dolores Brondyke, Parliamentarian
- Karin Carlson, Membership Chair

MEMBER Relations COMMITTEE

Karin Carlson, Chair

Member Relations News and Notes

Congratulations to Julie Smith who won the free membership for next year thanks to her many hours of service to our club over the past year. The new service year began at our April luncheon. For next year the volunteer free membership drawing will be held at our May Salad Luncheon to coincide with our membership celebration.

May 1, 2019 12:00 noon



Please join us for our annual Salad Luncheon. Our Member Relations committee will host. There is no charge for this meeting as you are asked to bring a salad to share. If you'd like to bring a copy of the recipe, we will publish them in future copies of the newsletter.

We will be honoring long-time members and also voting on members of the board of directors for next year.

Remember your donation of baby products or \$ for our Philanthropy this quarter.

RSVP to Karin at karinc1146@yahoo.com or call Karin at 231.788.3050 before 5PM on Monday, April 29. There will be a prize drawing from those who RSVP.

**PHILANTHROPY**

Hannah Olechnowicz, Chair

Looking Ahead:

April through June will be Baby Products of all kinds. We are planning to do a Community Baby Shower in partnership with the United Way. It will be an all-day Baby Shower on June 21 for the community to bring items for the Baby Pantries in Muskegon County. Baby Product donations may be brought to the May luncheon or to the Evening Meeting in June, or directly to the club on the Baby Shower Day. Or you are welcome to do all of the above. The Baby Pantries in our area do much to provide for the many families that fall below the average income required to raise children. Please consider helping the United Way to help them!

A Most Unusual Gift
1897-1898



The new club year found the ladies still meeting in the Guild Hall of St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Mrs. Frederick Nims was beginning the first of her two terms as president, and a new element had been added to the weekly meetings. After Roll Call and Parliamentary Drill, members engaged in a discussion of Current Events as a means of furthering their learning and awareness. India was the topic of study, and seventy-eight papers were presented on its life and culture. There seemed to be an ongoing problem of ladies not showing up on their assigned day making it difficult to plan and fill weekly programs and prompting a new bylaws that read: "Any member being unavoidably prevented from filling her place in the program must provide a suitable substitute satisfactory to the leader in charge." Allowances were made, however, in the event of illness, death, out of town trips, or no servant.

It was a time when the bicycling craze was sweeping the nation, and so it was that that a group of members organized the Fair Weather Bicycle Club. Meeting each Wednesday afternoon, the ladies pedaled their way to Lake Michigan, Lake Harbor, or even Grand Haven over less than desirable roads of sand. Obviously the club was not for the faint of heart. After a long, dusty trip, they then enjoyed a hearty meal before pedaling their way to their homes.

An incredibly unique gift was bestowed upon the club that year when former Lieutenant Governor and local historian, Henry Holt, bequeathed his 'Holt Museum' to the Woman's Club. Included in the gift were a library of 2,000 books and a collection of curios as well as the Holt property on the corner of Clay and Third. Mr. Holt further bequeathed the amount of \$3,000 "to make the buildings on the property suitable for club use". Unfortunately, the property could not be deeded to the club because it was not yet a legal entity. Incorporation would not occur until 1905. Just imagine if the club had inherited the property, we would now be meeting one block over and one block down on the corner of Clay and Third!

From the Nominating Committee of The Greater Muskegon Woman's Club

2019-2020 Election Slate of Candidates

This year there were no nominations for or interested members in the position of President Elect. The Board of Directors took up this issue at their April board meeting and a decision was made for the current president to serve in this office for a second term. During the board's discussion of this matter board members learned that, in the past, the office of President had been considered a 2 year commitment so an earlier precedent had been set. The board's decision is in accordance with the club bylaws. Therefore, Nancy Bierenga will remain President for the year 2019-2020.

The GMWC 2019-2020 Slate of Candidates

President-Elect.....Hannah Olechnowicz

Vice President.....Pam Caris

Secretary.....Karin Carlsen

Treasurer.....Paula Martin

Member at Large..Lorie Hawkins

Nominating.....Holly Nolan

The slate was approved by the Board at the APRIL BOD meeting and presented to the membership at the April regular member meeting. No nominations were made from the floor. Voting will take place on Wednesday May 1, 2019 at the May regular member meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Scott

Kay Ostrom

Nominating Committee 2018-2019

LIFESTYLES

Thank you to Ann Caris for coordinating our Dine Outs for the past year. Lorie Hawkins has agreed to take over that responsibility.

Our next Dine Out will be on Monday, May 13 at the new 4 Corners Café in North Muskegon. Past club member Tresha Kidder opened the café in the past couple months to rave reviews. She has offered to open just for us on that evening! Contact Lorie by May 8 if you'd like to join us. If you'd like to be added to the notification email list, Lorie's email is loriehawkins@gmail.com or you may call her at 989.426.7380.

We've scheduled a Dichroic Glass class with member, Jilly Barnes teaching. That will be held at the club on Tuesday, May 21, at 6:30 PM. You may bring friends. It is a fun time to explore your creative side. You may make a piece of jewelry—plain fused glass with a bale begins at \$25, wire wrapping (done by Jilly) is extra. You could also make a little dish, a night light, a sun catcher, etc. You will have time to make two items if you'd like. Jilly will bring them to her studio to be fired and then they will be available at the club by the June Dessert Evening. Or you may go to Pentwater to pick up your piece yourself. Contact Nancy Bierenga to be added to the class list.



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: The Lake House— (purchase dinner, snack, dessert, and/or beverage).

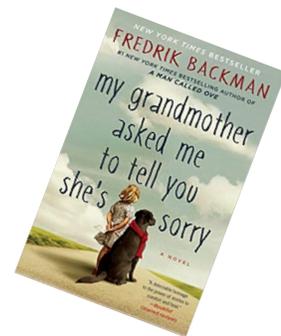
Meeting Time: 6PM

Book Review: We gave our April book, *My Dear Hamilton*, 4.5 stars. We learned a lot about the history of our country, marveled at the wisdom of our founding fathers, ★★★★★ and were dismayed at how much our current political atmosphere is repeating from the past!

Next meeting: May 2 *My Grandmother Asked me to tell you She's Sorry* by Fredrik Backman

Schedule for 2019:

- June 6 *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult
- July TBD *They May Not Mean to but They Do* by Cathleen Schine
- August 1 *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* by Betty Smith
- September 5 *Britt Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman
- October 3 *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Morarity
- November 7 *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Armo Towles
- December 5 *The Adults* by Caroline Hulse



Please join us the first Thursday of each month at The Lake House. You will have a good time with this group!!! Notice our time change to 6:00 PM!

And Another Thing...

Wish List

We secured a quote on new carpet for the stairs, though it could go up a little with choice of a different carpet. The quote is from Lots of Carpet where we also got the flooring in the kitchen and cloak/bathroom. The quote was just about \$500. If you would like to help us re-carpet the stairs, you may send a check for that amount or any amount up to that total to the club marked Stair Carpet. If we receive extra money, we will begin an account to put ceramic tile in the entryway—staying with a vintage appearance.

Best Wishes

Please join the board in sending greetings and wishes for a speedy and complete recovery to Lindy Olechnowicz's husband, Bruno, who had knee replacement surgery just before Easter. Lindy and Bruno are responsible for most of the work that we've managed to accomplish this past year.

Another Member to Thank

Thank you also to Doug Hughes for all the work his staff does to be sure we remain compliant with government forms! It is a relief for our board and especially the president to know that is all being taken care of. Doug is also very available for advice via email when we're wondering about the legality of this or that.

Tea with Friends



Since we started the Tea With Friends we have entertained at least 50 people at the club. Early in April we entertained a Senior Resources group from Orchard View.

On May 15 we will have a group from First Presbyterian Church who will stop by for a tea at noon hosted by Kay Ostrom.

In addition to enjoying tea and tea foods, they also hear about the history of the club from Karin Carlson, the current work of the club from Nancy Bierenga, and get a tour.

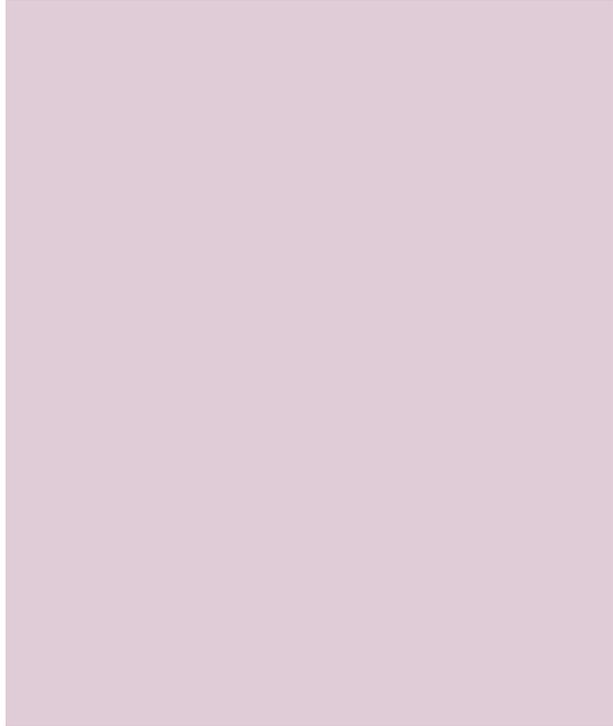
These teas have been extremely well-received and enjoyed by both the members of the club and our visitors. If you know of any other groups who we may invite for tea, please contact Karin Carlson.

We also usually try to have a picture of the group taken under Minnie Smith's portrait in the parlor. I really think I can see Minnie's eyes sparkle as she sees how much our club is being used!



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 provide a community touchstone through the arts, education, and philanthropy

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

- 5 Carol Parker
- 6 Angela Cole
- 9 Susan Holkeboer
- 22 Pam Babbitt
- 24 Dolores Brondyke
Bob Scolnik
- 25 Zaneta Adams
- 29 Dorothy Brink

