

# You'll Want to Know...



*Greater Madison Woman's Club*  
CONTINUING THE LEGACY - BUILDING THE FUTURE

## The President's Pen

President, Nancy Bierenga

Dear Club Members,

We're nearing the end of that very hot week as I write this— hopefully you'll know exactly which week I mean because it won't be this hot for more than this one week! I was at the club a couple times this week. It is hot, but it is also fun and exciting to see the little bathroom look so pretty. There is a new toilet and sink that Lindy donated that will still be installed and then I can do the finishing touches. It looks so much bigger and brighter - like a whole new room instead of a smelly, falling apart closet turned into telephone booth turned into bathroom. I'm excited for you to see it in September. We also have a new back door, thanks to a donation from our new member Cathy Drust. And then this week we received money from our wish list for a computer projector!

Over the course of this year we're planning to take pictures of our members so we can put pictures in the Yearbook beginning in 2020-2021. Please help us out by catching Hannah or me to take a picture of you when you're at the club. Speaking of pictures, I think we've finally traced down the ability to print copies of the picture Rae Jean Erickson took of our club members several years ago. If you'd like a print of that picture, please see page 3 for information on ordering. We're hoping to get a new picture by Rae Jean sometime this year, and hopefully we'll know far enough in advance to get you at least a month's notice so we can get as many of our members there as possible.

The board was thrilled to welcome nine new members at our July meeting! We also have only six who are not renewing membership and only thirteen who have indicated that they are renewing but we have not yet received checks. According to our Member Care committee, we will be very close to 100 members as the year begins for the first time in many decades! Yay! At our retreat the BOD decided to do the free member drawing from among those who bring in someone who joins the club during this fiscal year. The monthly drawings will be among those who invite friends to attend the luncheons. The important thing to remember is that, though not everyone is able to attend or assist with every event, we want to have something for everyone. Those who can't or choose not to attend meetings are still able to support the club financially and that is also vital to the health of the club. Getting everyone situated early means we can actually have the Yearbook ready for the picnic. If you can't be there, be sure to pick it up in September.

We are still holding the club open when there's a cruise ship in town, so if you'd like a sneak peak of the updates, you are welcome to stop in on any of those days from 1-3PM.

I hope we have comfortable weather for the rest of the summer (of course that means something different to each of us...) and I hope to see you at the picnic!

*Nancy*



## Club Calendar

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### August

7	Membership Potluck Picnic	6:30PM
15	Cruise Ship Open	1PM
18	Cruise Ship Open	1PM
21	BOD Meeting	1:00PM
23	Newsletter Deadline	5PM
29	Cruise Ship Open	1PM

### September

4	Membership Luncheon	12 N
5	Book Talk	6:00PM
15	Board of Directors Meeting	1:00PM
20	Newsletter/Website Articles Due	
28	Potential Applebees Fundraiser	TBA

### 2019/2020 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  
 Lorie Hawkins, 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

**Meet our Newest Members!****by Holly Nolan**

*We've had a bit of a backlog, so Holly and Karin have decided to do three new members per month to catch up.*

This month we are privileged to have THREE new members to welcome! What a treat!

Cindi Stefl lives in Norton Shores with her husband Bill. They have two children, who live in Washington, DC, and Phoenix, Arizona at the moment, but are hoping to see a move from Arizona to Chicago. They do not yet have grandchildren. She heard about our club from Paula Martin some time ago.

Cindi enjoys reading, Broadway musicals, Lake Michigan beaches, walking, University of Michigan football and basketball (Go Blue!). She and Bill spend a lot of time visiting their children, as well as many weekends in Ann Arbor in the fall cheering for the Maize and Blue, being a U of M alumnus and all.

Cindi looks forward to meeting new friends, attending our events and contribution her time and energy to philanthropic activities. Welcome Cindi!

309 Boulder Drive, Norton Shores 49444 248-719-0975  
[steflmom2156@gmail.com](mailto:steflmom2156@gmail.com) – birthday June 23

Mary Rop lives in Muskegon with her husband Ronald, and has three children and eight grandchildren. She belongs to the Friends of Norton Library, is a tutor for Read Muskegon, and enjoys gardening, reading, biking, and hiking.

She has done numerous types of volunteering in many areas, was an LPN for many years, and an art docent for six years. She enjoys being with people, being helpful, and new experiences. Please welcome Mary!

1151 Edinborough 49441 798-7096  
 Birthday July 16

Cindy Falkowski lives near North Muskegon and has two daughters and grandchildren. She works at Mercy Health Physicians Partners in the Central Billing office.

She sold her home in May of 2014 and moved to a condo so now she has more time for community events. She had been invited to our Christmas dinner twice, she attended the Dr. Seuss breakfast with her granddaughter, and has been to other events and thought "what a great group. I'd like to be part of this." We're glad you chose to do so, Cindy!

1295 Whitehall Road 49445 231-288-0057 [fallkowsc@yahoo.com](mailto:fallkowsc@yahoo.com)  
 Birthday Dec. 1

**Member Group Pictures**

Prints of the group picture taken several years ago by Rae Jean Erickson have been located. You may order prints of different sizes.

4X6 (faces won't be very visible) \$.33

5X7 \$1.49

8X10 \$2.99

We plan to frame an 8X10 and put it on the wall in the parlor.

Gavonnie will be at the picnic where you can see the picture and place your order there with her. Please have change available for the size you want.

**PHILANTHROPY****BOD, Chair**

On the Annual Day of Caring, the first Friday of September, (9/6) The United Way of the Lakeshore will again do their Fill the Truck sorting at the club. If you'd like to donate school supplies or money for this, you may bring them to the picnic or to the September luncheon or to the club on the 6th.

Our philanthropy for this fiscal year will be money or children's books that we'll donate to Read Early, Read Often. This is an effort, through the ISD, to promote early childhood reading. Books are placed in various sites through the county and from there distributed especially to at-risk children to prepare for educational success. Bring cash or gently used books to any meeting this year.

## 1898-1899

According to the recording secretary, “In the year 1898-1899, *Muskegon Woman’s Club* has not been backward in performing the work for which it was organized; its influence socially as well as in a literary way is not only recognized but also strongly felt by the community.” Obviously, these formerly timid wives and mothers were hitting their stride and moving forward, so much so, that they were garnering recognition in the community for their activities and accomplishments.



A trip back in time reveals interesting highlights of the club year including an invitation from the street car company to the ladies of the club to act as conductors on the Lake Michigan line for the evening run. In return, the streetcar company generously donated the evening proceeds to the club.

Always dreaming of their future clubhouse, a special board meeting was held to discuss the possibility of finally purchasing a lot for the clubhouse, which, of course, did not happen for some years. However, they never stopped dreaming or working toward their longed-for goal.

Busy committees continued planning much anticipated plays for the enjoyment of the community. And so it was that in celebration of Music Day in 1898, the Music Committee presented *The Spinster’s Club* in the Guild Hall of St. Paul, followed by the Drama Committee’s spring play, *A Russian Honeymoon* at the Opera House.

In May of 1899, Muskegon Woman’s Club was incorporated for the first time under an act of the state legislature that was passed in March of 1879.

The course of study for the club year was the Netherlands. Unfortunately, “the severity of the winter and an unusual prevalence of illness conspired to defeat many of our cherished plans” when 31 of the 93 active members failed to present their assigned papers.

Other highlights of the year include the very first Honorary Member in club history when Mrs. Charles (Julia) Hackley was conferred the honor in April of 1899. Julia died six years later in August of 1905, six months after the death of her husband in January of the same year.

Last but not least, the ladies were the beneficiaries of a very special gift from Mrs. A.C. Woude of Boston, a sister of member, Mary Temple – a gavel carved from a Mt. Vernon tree. Many years later another gavel carved from the Washington Elm was also gifted to the club.

It was also the year that each of the thirty charter members donated a cup, saucer, and plate from their personal china. Sadly, only one cup and saucer remain from Mrs. Martha Keating. Inscribed with her initials, it graces the curio cabinet in the tearoom yet today.

*Please Join Us for a Picnic!*

August 7, 2019 at 6:30 pm is our Summer Picnic in the pavilion at Krause Park (south at the end of Sherman St.)

Please bring a dish (salad, dessert, or main dish) to pass and your own table service.

Beverages (lemonade and water) will be provided.

Please be sure to RSVP to Karin (231.788.3050 or karinc1146@yahoo.com) by 5 PM on Monday, August 5 so we can be sure to save you a seat! You may bring a friend, but do let Karin know.

If you need transportation, please let Karin know that as well.

We will have time to visit, hear from committee chairs about their plans and needs for the year, have an opportunity to sign up for ways to serve, and receive the new year books.

Philanthropy—offering for Read Early, Ready Often. You may also bring school supplies for Day of Caring.

Hope to see you on the 7th!



**LIFESTYLES**

**Lorie Hawkins, chair**

Fifteen of us visited The Deck for huge amounts of very tasty food and great conversation! The next Dine Out is August 27 at Dockers at 6:00 PM. Contact Lorie by August 25 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](mailto:loriehawkins@gmail.com) or you may call her at 989.426.7380.

We canceled the July painting class due to the hotness in the club. We're hoping to reschedule in the fall.

If there are other classes you'd like us to hold at the club, please get hold of Nancy! It would be fun to do a class at least every couple months.



**We'd Like to Make a Change**

Over the past couple years several of our board members have found themselves tasked each month with doing the dishes after our membership meetings. While that isn't a problem occasionally, it gets to be a burden after a few months in a row. Thanks in part to our great caterer who charges us very conservatively, we currently have enough money to pay to have the dishes washed. We are however asking for your help to bus the tables. If you are physically able, please take turns at your table to pick up the dishes and move them to the table in the back of the room. Empty the trash and the cups/water glasses in the provided containers and remove soiled linen. If getting volunteers doesn't work, we may have to pick numbers for who will do it each meeting. Anyone over 85 y.o. is exempt from the draft but may volunteer.

Meanwhile those who would like to continue to visit are encouraged to go into the parlor to finish your coffee or tea and chat with your friends. You may stay there as long as you like!

Let's give this a try and see if it works out and doesn't cost us too much.

**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 Woman's Club

Meeting Time: 6PM

Next meeting: September 5 Discuss *They May Not Mean to but They Do*, *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn*, and *Britt Marie Was Here*

Schedule for the rest of 2019:

September 5 *Britt Marie Was Here* by Fredrik Backman

October 3 *Nine Perfect Strangers* by Liane Moriarty

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 club. You will have a good time with this group!!!

## And Another Thing...

### Wish List

There are three areas that need new flooring. The parlor, the stairs, and the foyer. We have a notation item in the budget for New Flooring. We would like to put ceramic tile in the entryway—staying with a vintage appearance. We would like to refloor the parlor (using the same material as in the kitchen) and stairway. This is also on the Community Foundation wish list for this quarter. All together we would need about \$3,000. We have about \$1,000. Priority will be parlor before stairway. Foyer will be done as labor and material is available.

Thanks to Cathy Drust for her donation to purchase the new ramp door. Bruno and Lindy bought one at Restoration Hardware and Bruno is getting it painted before he installs it. I suspect it is going to look very much better than the last very beat up one!

### Community Foundation Wish List

Another generous gift from our Wish List at the Foundation! We received money to purchase a computer projector. This will enable us to project any computer file on to the wall or the screen if we can use a smaller projection. We will try to have a loop to run during cruise ship open houses and something during our September luncheon. If you attend an activity at the club, please use your cell phone to take a picture and email it to Nancy—or if that is beyond your tech skills, ask your grand child to help. Even the youngest children seem able to use a mouse and computer these days!

### Coming Events

We're planning a few new happenings or resurrecting some old ones at the club this year. Here's a partial list of things after the calendar on the front of the newsletter so you can get them on your calendar and make plans now to attend:

#### *October*

13 Vendor Market with home-based businesses Sunday afternoon 1-4PM

#### *December*

2 Set up for Tables of Elegance

6 Christmas at the Club (We will be inviting our downtown neighbors and business to visit the Elegant Tables, have tea with us, and tour the club)

9 Evening of Elegance

#### *February*

24 Club Pride Day

#### *March*

7 Brunch Meeting

#### *May*

6 Princess Tea and Brunch (a Mother Daughter Dress-Up Tea and Brunch)

#### *June*

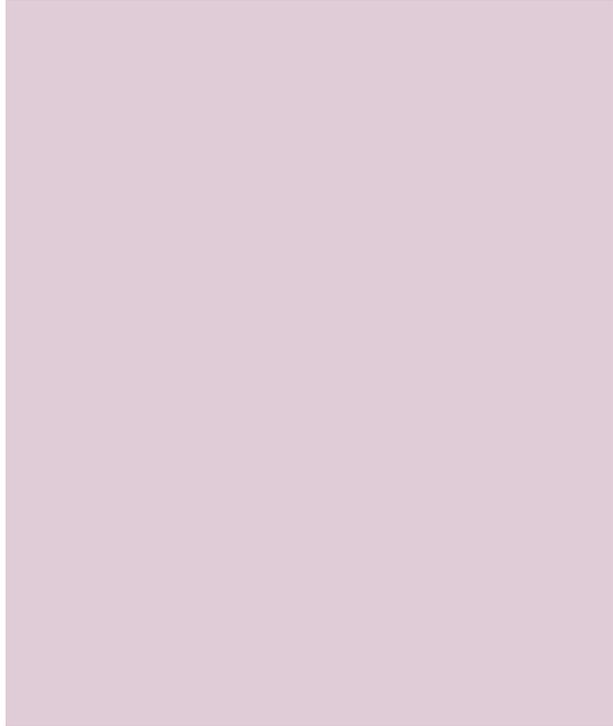
3 Installation Dessert Evening

In between there will be all our usual meetings and events.



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 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.

- 2 Karen Panozzo
- 2 Barbara Boucher
- 5 Jilly Barnes
- 5 Gavonnie Williams
- 9 Helen Alberts
- 9 Toni Seyferth
- 11 Audrey Link
- 12 Pat Greene
- 16 Barbara Scott
- 16 Julie Sullivan
- 25 Sandy Garrett
- 26 Karen Bednarek
- 26 Cathy Drust
- 27 Kendra Andrie
- 30 Doug Hughes

**AUGUST**

