

# 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 sit at my desk (having just finished my family Christmas letter a day after Christmas) and look out at the sunshine and 50+ degree temperature, it is hard to believe that Christmas 2019 is history.

For those who made it to the December luncheon and/or the Tables of Elegance event, it was so beautiful at the club. It was such a great way to get December rolling—thanks to Hannah Olechnowicz for her blessing us with her skills as an event organizer!

At our December board meeting, the board decided to move ahead with plans to put the new roof on in 2020. We feel that waiting until every needed penny is raised could be foolish in the long-run as we don't know what damage is happening to the structure by waiting. We also discussed and decided to move forward to get an estimate on putting "splitters" in the ballroom that would allow air heat and cooling in that room. We turn down several rentals each summer to an amount that would pay for the heating and cooling units within a couple years at the most. We will keep you posted on what we find out there and it would require a membership vote to move ahead on the purchase—hopefully that will happen at our March meeting.

We have no meetings scheduled during January and February this year. After trying out a February meeting for the last four years, we too often ended up canceling it due to icy roads. So we decided to just not even try this year. Book Talk and Dine Out will happen as usual. Check for the dates inside,

Since we don't have a lot going on at the club this month, I'm planning to make this a shorter version of the newsletter than usual. I think the end of the month snuck up on our historian and the membership committee also, so we'll be without their articles anyway.

Stay warm and safe during the winter and I'll hope to see you at the March membership meeting if not before!

*Nancy*



## Club Calendar

### January

Winter Break—no club meeting  
2 Book Talk 6 PM  
15 BOD Meeting 12 noon  
24 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM

### February

Winter Break—no club meeting  
6 Book Talk 6PM  
19 BOD Meeting 12 noon  
21 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM  
24 Club Pride Day 9AM—?

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### 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 Newer Members!****by Holly Nolan**

This article will return in February

**Learning a New Craft**

At our December meeting the board decided that at least during the two months we don't have regular meetings we will present the opportunity for members to learn a new craft or at least make a craft. Karin and Pam are hoping to have extra items to sell at the Artisan Market at the club table in November. If you aren't interested in learning a new craft, you are encouraged to knit or crochet or sew—what ever you do to fill your time—and make an item or two to donate. That way the financial support of our club building won't be the responsibility of someone else—we'll all share responsibility.

Our first class will be held on Wednesday, January 8 at 2PM at the club. Nancy will help us paint a block snowman. All materials will be provided.

If you're not interested in painting a snowman but would like to join us for a couple hours of conversation and fun, bring what ever craft you would like to work on and keep us company. On the 15th we will make a dowel snowman.

**ADVANCE NOTICE**

Reminder that Club Pride Day is scheduled for February 26. We'd love to have enough people show up that we could clean both floors of the club!

Our Christmas décor will transition to winter décor on Monday, January 20. Our first two January rentals would like to have the Christmas décor up, so we'll wait until after the 19th to get that changed over. We'd love help with this adventure, too!

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

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.

Thank you to Bob Nolan from the Nolan Insurance Agency who donated \$300 so the MAISD could supply enough books that we are able to have Santa give a free book to every child who attends the Gingerbread Event!

**LIFESTYLES****Lorie Hawkins, chair**

On Thursday, Dec. 19 we held our Dine Out at Se4sons Gastropub, at the Muskegon Country Club. We had such a great time and big group we forgot to take a picture!

On January 16 we'll have dinner at 6PM at Teddy Spaghetti's (3032 Heights Ravenna Road) in Cloverville. If you'd like to join us, be sure to get hold of Lorie by January 13. (NOTE that date and be sure to RSVP if you'd like to join us!)

**To Make a Financial Gift...**

We have received financial support for our Raise the Roof fund from 27 of our club members. They should all have a gold star on their name tag. If you notice the star, please be sure to thank these people for their support!

As noted in the President's Pen, the board has determined to go ahead with the replacement of the roof as soon as weather allows in the spring. We will have the roof over the ballroom replaced first, and if money allows we will follow that with replacement of the roof over the two-story part of the building. Soffits and fascia and eave troughs will be replaced at the same time so we don't have to order scaffolding in more than once.

The board members feel that it is important to get this work done as soon as possible, even if it means borrowing money to accomplish the work. If there is extra money, it will be used first to repair the foundation by the front steps, to repair the back steps, and to repair the walls and ceiling inside that have been water damaged.

Whether or not you have made a past gift, we are asking you to consider a further donation so we don't have to borrow money. Checks may be sent to the club, marked Raise the Roof. If you have questions contact Nancy or Lindy.

**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

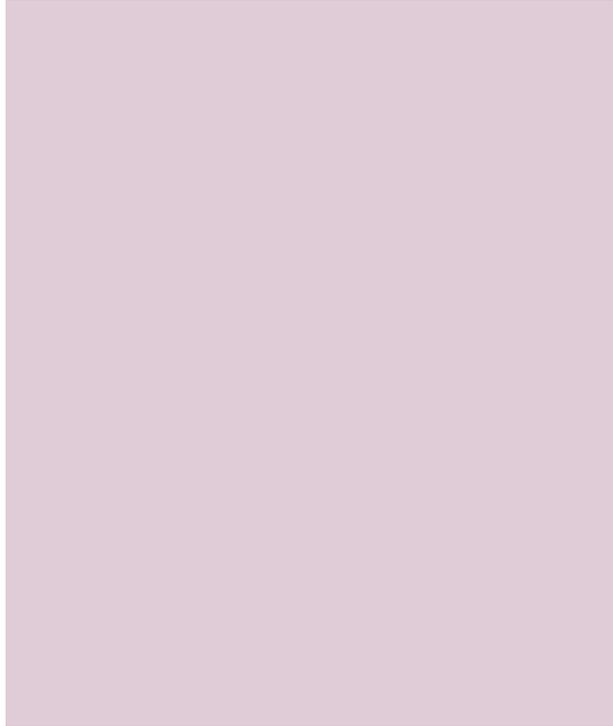
Next meeting: January 2      *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Armo Towles and  
*The Adults* by Caroline Hulse

In addition to discussing these two books, we will pick out books for 2020. Please join us!



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

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



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**Our Mission Statement:**

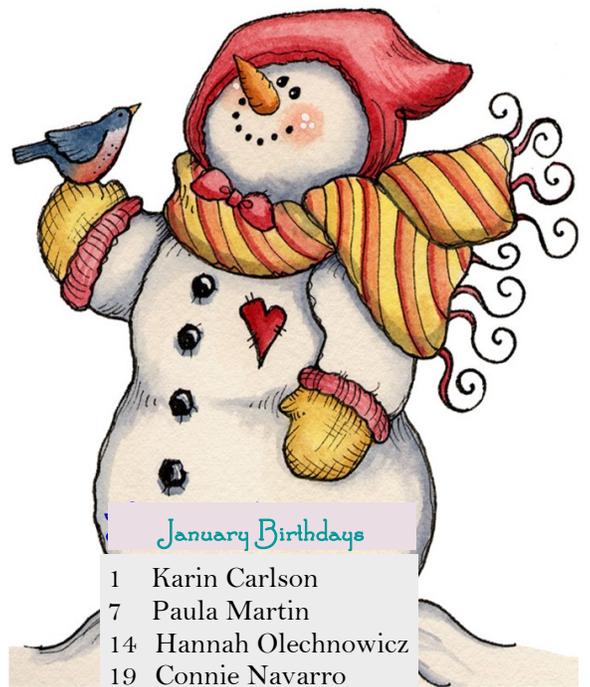
*To provide a community touchstone through the arts, education, and philanthropy*

**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.



*January Birthdays*

- 1 Karin Carlson
- 7 Paula Martin
- 14 Hannah Olechnowicz
- 19 Connie Navarro
- 24 Holly Nolan
- 26 Brenda Rogers
- 29 Karen Andrie