



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut, Inc.

**OFFICIAL CALL TO 127<sup>th</sup> GFWC/CT**  
**ANNUAL CONVENTION**

**May 17 & 18, 2024**

**Katherine DeBurra; GFWC/CT State President 2022-2024**

*Individually we are one wave, together we are an ocean!*

Guest House Retreat & Convention Center  
318 West Main Street Chester CT 06412

The Guest House Retreat & Convention Center, formerly the historic Chester Inn, boasts a rich historical interior and quaint New England feel that you are sure to enjoy.

“The Mission of the Guest House is to support opportunities for transformational work and provide a nurturing environment for those seeking to develop human potential and enrich the world!”

**The General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut is honored to have as our guest for this Convention, Suellen Brazil; GFWC International President-elect.**

Suellen truly wants to promote Leadership, so let's show her some of our limitless potential and thank her for her commitment to join us at our May Convention!

**Friday May 17, 2024**



**3:00 -4:30 PM** Convention Registration

**4:30 -5:30 PM** *Paint & Sip-Wine Tasting Event* w/DEE Mulqueen; Wine Connoisseur, often called an Aficionado or Oenophile. The term Oenophile comes from the Greek originated word of oenophilia, which means a love of wine. Her background includes wine education in New York City and we can share and enjoy her expertise to understand some interesting facts about wine. How to serve it, unique characteristics and what compliments an educated palate pairing wine together. We will first design our own wine glass with unique paint pens to commemorate this Convention and enjoy some fun sampling.

**Cost is \$5.00 and pre-registration is required.**

**5:30-6:00 PM** Social Time

The Guest House does not have a liquor license and will not be obtaining a liquor permit for this event.

You may bring refreshments of your liking if you are so inclined.



**6:00-7:00 PM** Dinner

**7:00 PM** Processional Formation - "The White Barn"

*President-elect Kathleen Barnes requests that you wear a color of the GFWC emblem to celebrate her Installation and GFWC!*



Greetings from Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President-elect

Words from Past State Presidents

Election of GFWC/CT 2024-2026 Administration Officers

Installation of the 2024-2026 GFWC/CT Officers

**8:00 PM** Entertainment – Music at the Grand Piano in the sitting room!



**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

**8:45 -9:30 AM** Convention Registration, Photography Contest Display, Fundraising and Exhibits open.

**9:30 AM** Convention Reconvenes w/Call to Order of the 127<sup>th</sup> GFWC Connecticut Annual Convention, Opening Ceremonies, Preliminary Reports, Credentials Report, and Presentation of Convention Rules.

Memorial Service: Maddy Marzullo

Greetings from Guest Speaker: Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President-elect

Reports of GFWC/CT Officers

Advancement Area Awards

Special Awards

**11:30 AM** Recess for Friendship time, Fundraising and Exhibits



**12:30 -1:30** Lunch



President's Pick of a Service Project by Kathleen Barnes; President-elect.

**Please bring an adult fiction book or books to donate to Syd's Shack!**

They may be gently used or new. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**1:30 PM Afternoon Session Special Guest – Syd’s Book Shack.**

Presentation of Service Project! Donation of adult fiction books to Syd’s Book Shack!

**Syd’s Mission:**

“Donations help us provide access to communication devices to assist nonverbal people find their voice as well as run day to day operations. Syd's Book Shack & Boutique is a non-profit business created from our experience with our funny, smart and kind daughter, Sydney, who happens to be on the Autism Spectrum and is non-verbal. Sydney has been using her talker (iPad device with a speech program) to communicate since second grade. The talker is Syd's connection and voice to her world around her. We want to give others the communication opportunity Sydney has and raise awareness and funds towards supplying talkers to those who do not have access. Everyone should have a voice! Syd's Book Shack also helps people with all abilities learn job skills for their future. Your donations help us achieve the goal of helping these amazing people live more independent and fulfilling lives. Syd thanks you for your consideration!”

*Read about this amazing family who created this non-profit to help provide access to communication devices to assist nonverbal people find their voice!*

[www.sydsbookshack.com](http://www.sydsbookshack.com)

**Thank you in advance for your generosity GFWC/CT Members!**  
**You are appreciated!**

Remaining Club & Special Awards

Memorial Scholarships – Bev Regan; Scholarship Chairman

Other Business- Announcements & Raffles

**3:00 PM Adjournment**

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**Memorial Service** – Club Presidents are asked to submit the names of members who have passed away between May 20, 2023 thru May 2024 to Maddy Marzullo at maddymarz2@gmail.com or 860-689-4395. Please submit Club Name, Club sister’s name, her passing date and if known - the year she joined the club and/or how many years in the club. A short blurb about her may be read by the Club President or representative.

**Rooms** are available for the Friday Evening stay and include breakfast from 8:00-9:00 AM.

**Breakfast is only available to rooming guests:** Breakfast buffet sample menu: Is a large spread and good mix of proteins, fruits, grains and dairy products. Eggs (some form every day) - home fries - bacon - vegetarian sausage - fresh fruit - yogurt - oatmeal - assorted cereal and assorted breads. French toast, waffles, scones or muffins. Every breakfast is served with sliced or whole fresh fruit, orange and cranberry juice, cottage cheese, plain & Greek yogurt, and assortments of breads with gluten free options as requested. Spreads include peanut butter and jams. Homemade granola and cereal with whole milk, soy milk, almond milk and lactose milk is also available.

**\*\*\*\*\*Please note - Pam Lerner will be taking room reservations**

for this overnight stay and May Convention\*\*\*\*\*

Reservations are due no later than MONDAY-April 29, 2024!

Thank you for your attention to this deadline!

**GFWC/CT Convention Reservation Form - 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention**

Registration deadline is Monday; April 29, 2024

Registration: One day or part of a day **\$10.00** Two Days - **\$15.00**

**Dinner – Friday , May 17, 2024 - \$40.00 Buffet:**

Dinner includes a meat or fish entrée, two side dishes and a garden salad, breads. Vegetarian options and dessert. Gluten free options as requested.

**Lunch- Saturday, May 18, 2024 - \$35.00 Buffet:**

Lunch may include a variety of items with one or two entrees with sides, soup, vegetable, garden salad and breads. Vegetarian and gluten free options as requested. Dessert.

*All meals on the menus are prepared with fresh whole foods and made from scratch!*

*For sample menus please check out [guesthousecenter.org/explore/meals/](http://guesthousecenter.org/explore/meals/)*

**\*\*The Guest House has offered a refreshment center for coffee, tea, water and a lemonade or juice for all attendees throughout the entire event. Please bring a COVERED travel mug/cup to enjoy this generous offer from the Director at no charge to our Members!!\*\***

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please note any dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_

CLUB NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (Circle 1) NC NW SE SW

GFWC/CT Executive Board Position: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a 2022-2024 Club President? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday, May 17, 2024**

Wine-tasting **\$5.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Room\*- **Single room-\$199. Double Room-\$149.** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate name - \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner **\$40.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday, May 18, 2024**

Lunch **\$35.00** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Registration **\$10/\$15** # Days \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# Display Table Reservation Form: 127<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention May 17 & 18, 2024

*No table charge to CSP Chairman or Committee Chairman, however, registration is required by deadline above please.*

**Half Table \$5.00 - Full Table \$10.00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Club \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Tables available for Clubs to sell items or promote events.

There is no charge to CSP Chairman or Committee Chairman, but registration is required.

## **Mail Meeting and Table Registrations to:**

**Pam Lerner, 20 Brenton Terrace, Hamden, CT 06518**

**Contact Info: Phone: 203-281-3090 or pamlern41044@aol.com**

**Checks made out to: GFWC/CT**

As is written in our GFWC/CT by-laws attached to this Call is a list of the Candidates for office for the 2024-2026 Administration:

Section D. A Nominating Committee of five members shall be announced at each State Convention preceding the biennial election. It shall consist of two members and one alternate named by the Executive Committee, and three members and one alternate named by the Executive Board. No more than two members shall serve from the same District.

1. The Nominating Committee shall meet during this odd year Convention to elect a chairman and select their first meeting date.
2. All candidates for office shall be endorsed by their club.
  - a. Names of candidates endorsed by their clubs shall be sent to the Nominating Committee by November 1 of odd numbered years.
  - b. The Nominating Committee shall seek club endorsement for additional candidates considered by the Nominating Committee.
  - c. All endorsed candidates shall be considered by the Nominating Committee.
3. No later than ten weeks before the State Convention of an elective year, it shall submit a written slate of candidates for each office to the President, who shall cause it to be appended to the Call of said meeting.
4. The Corresponding Secretary shall be the choice of the President-Elect. The name of the person selected by the President-Elect shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate.
5. The President shall call for nominations from the floor following the report of the Nominating Committee at the State Convention of an elective year.
6. Election shall be by plurality vote of the duly accredited delegates present and voting.

## Slate of Officers for the 2024-2026 Administration:

The following candidates have completed the required paperwork and obtained endorsements as set forth in the by-laws and the Nominating Committee has presented this slate of officers:



### Office of President: Kathleen Barnes

At the State Convention of the odd number year, the First Vice President is automatically the President-Elect of the State Federation. She shall appoint community service program chairmen, standing committee members and a parliamentary advisor for her administration. She will assume the duties of the President at the close of the next annual convention unless a president filling an unexpired term is elected to a two-year term in that office.



### Office of the First Vice President: Wendy Clery

Wendy Clery is a LEADS Graduate (2016) and has held many leadership positions in GFWC/CT. She was Club President of the GFWC Woman's Club of Greater New Milford in 2013-2020. She held many successful positions on committees in those years. She has served on the GFWC/CT Board as a Presidents Aide and in Membership, Publicity, Fundraising, Finance and Leadership committees. She has held Chairman positions including Communications 2014-2016, Fundraising 2018-2020, Arts & Culture 2020-2022 and Membership 2022-2023. Her Office positions include Corresponding Secretary 2014-2016, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President 2022-23 and currently Second Vice President 2022-present. She is a talented artist and owns her own business. She is endorsed by the entire Membership in her current Club, GFWC Club Danbury/New Fairfield Woman's Club, with a beautiful letter written by President Kathy Krieger.



### Office of the Second Vice President: Nicole Karalli

Nicole Karalli is a LEADS Graduate (2023) and has held many leadership positions in GFWC/CT. She is a Veteran and served 31 years, 24 years of active duty. She was a logistics officer and responsible for providing equipment, ammunition, life support and transportation to commanders in support of their mission. Her years of service included being deployed to Germany in 1984 and Iraq in 2004. In the Army she served and held many Leadership positions to include Platoon Leader, Company Commander and Battalion Executive Officer. Her last assignment was a senior logistics Management Officer of the Connecticut Army National Guard. She was Club President of the GFWC Terryville Woman's Club in 2018-2020. She held many successful positions on committees in the Club. She has served on the GFWC/CT Board as a Member at Large 2018-2020. She was Assistant District President (NW District) in 2020-2022 and District President in 2022-2023 before being appointed to the Executive Committee in her current position of 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. She is endorsed by the entire Membership in her current Club, Terryville Woman's Club, with a beautiful letter written by President; Jeanne Waseleski.





### **Office of the Third Vice President: Sara Newell**

Sara Newell has held many leadership positions in GFWC/CT. She was Club President of the GFWC Club Danbury/New Fairfield Woman's Club in 2014-2016 and is now mentoring the Milford Women's Club as President 2023-present. She held many successful positions on committees in those years. She was District President of the SW District 2018-2020. She has served on the GFWC/CT Board as CIP Chairman 2016-2018, Environmental Chairman 2020-2022 and currently the Fundraising Co-Chairman 2022-2024. She also volunteered to replace a beloved friend; Sheila Macauley upon her passing in the position of Health & Wellness Chairman 2023-2024. She has career years that span 40 plus years as a Teacher, Administrator and Adjunct Professor at a local college in NY. Her passions include volunteering in hospice care, career support and community organizations. She is endorsed by the entire Membership in her current Club, GFWC Club Danbury/New Fairfield Woman's Club, with a beautiful letter written by President Kathy Krieger.



### **Office of the Treasurer: Jean Kehoe**

Jean Kehoe has held many leadership positions in GFWC/CT. She joined GFWC/CT in 2006. In her dedication to the East Hartford Woman's Club, she worked on Finance areas of committees from Audit to Treasurer and then onto President in the Club; 2021-2023. She has a BS in Accounting and worked for 42 years in various accounting positions including Controller for the US Branch of a Lloyds Broker Controller of Aspen US Insurance Companies and Senior Account Manager at Cigna. She was the Treasurer of the East Hartford Democratic Women's Club as well as President of the organization. She was also Treasurer of the CT Federation of Democratic Women. She is endorsed by the entire Membership in her Club; The East Hartford Woman's Club-GFWC/CT with a beautiful letter written by Presidents; Linda Chamberlain and Cynthia Messikian.



### **Office of the Assistant Treasurer: Pamela Lerner**

Pam Lerner has held many leadership positions in GFWC/CT. She has enjoyed her position of Assistant Treasurer in the 2022-2024 Administration and seeks to be elected to another term. Pam is the current President of the North Haven Club and holds credit for instituting and developing it when GFWC/CT sought to develop new Clubs. She has been re-elected to the position of President for 4 terms. She has created and led the Club in many projects to assist the North Haven residents and surrounding communities. She is a retired Teacher and taught adult education @ Platt Tech from 1993-2011. She was the Administrative Medical Assisting Treasurer for the SCSU Women's Association since 1990. She is endorsed by the entire Membership in her Club, The GFWC Women's Club of North Haven, with a beautiful letter written in endorsement from the entire Club.

### **Office of the Recording Secretary: VACANT**

**Office of the Corresponding Secretary:** per the by-laws; The Corresponding Secretary shall be the choice of the President-Elect. The name of the person selected by the President-Elect shall be presented to the Nominating Committee for inclusion on the slate.

**The Nominating Committee will give an update report at May Convention. If there is any interest in the vacancies - please contact Helen Barakauskas; Chairman of the Nominating Committee ASAP @ 860-626-3564 or barkyhd@aol.com !**

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