

NORWICH WOMEN'S CLUB

Community Service Since 1907

MARCH 2013

President's Message

Have you heard the buzz around town lauding the great choice for the 2013 Norwich Citizen of the Year for community service? Do you have a favorite story about one or all of the Frasers of Dan & Whit's that you would like to share? Have you bought your tickets to the Spring Gala to be certain that you will be in Tracy Hall on March 15 to celebrate the Frasers, Norwich, the Norwich Women's Club and especially the club members who have worked so hard to make this event a smashing success?

Wait until you see the well over 100 auction items waiting to tempt you to open your checkbook, and put in one or more winning bids. The auction catalog is now up on our website and, I promise you, it will be hard to choose those items you can't live without. Does someone have a special birthday coming up? Do you need a great place for a family reunion? Do you want an intimate dinner out with special friends? Do you want to decorate your house with something new or perhaps adorn yourself with a new piece of jewelry? Whatever your inclination, I would suggest that you print out the catalog so that you can mark your choices at your leisure before the big night.

The Spring Gala committee is awesome. I wish that each one of you could have been a fly on the wall at our last committee meeting. The Historical Society graciously provided us with meeting space, where we squeezed around the kitchen table. The competence of each and every committee member is exceeded only by the amount of laughter continually erupting. This group is living proof of what might become our new motto—"If it isn't fun, we don't do it."

The committee members are:

Sue Piltiger, chair

Geneviève Verlaak-Graham, auction chair, ably assisted by Sophia Crawford,

Isabel McCarthy, operations director

Karen Ward, decorator-in-chief

PJ Stanwood, food and drink coordinator, with the help of Rita LaJoie

Cheryl Herrmann, chair, citizen of the year committee

Joanne Kent, Chancellor of the Exchequer

Carol Loveland, as past chair she kept us all on our toes

Deb Hall, computer guru working with Geneviève and Sophia on all things technological

Janet Saint Germain, publicity (Did you see the beautiful spread in [Here in Hanover?](#))

Jaye Johnson, volunteer coordinator

Please say thank you to all these women when you see them.

Thanks are also in order to Ledyard Bank for underwriting the cost of the caterer and to all the generous people who donated to the auction. A list of donors will be in the catalog.

Arline Rotman, ex-officio committee member and President

NWC CALENDAR

NWC Annual Gala

Friday 03/15/13

Tracy Hall

"Is Prison the Answer?"

Thursday 03/21/13

Norwich Public Library

7:00 pm

Coffee at the Norwich Inn

Monday 04/01/13 10-11am

Nearly New Sale

Tracy Hall

Friday-Sunday 05/03-05/05/13

NWC Board Meeting Schedule

Norwich Public Library

Monday 6:30 pm

03/11/13

04/08/13

05/13/13

Town-wide Directory

The new edition of the Norwich Women's Club town-wide telephone directory is hot off the press! Be sure to buy your copy at town meeting, Monday, March 4, 7pm. Beautiful red cover, price is still only \$5.00. Buy a couple, keep one in your car! The directory will also be for sale at Dan & Whit's and at the Town Clerk's office beginning March 5. Alison May



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THE SPRING GALA IS HERE!

There are a lot of reasons to come to the Spring Gala on Friday, March 15.

It's fun. It's short – 6 – 9 pm. You get a complimentary glass of wine. You can buy more for only \$5 a drink! The food will rock – The Barefoot Gourmet from Thetford is catering. We won't make you sell raffle tickets or guard doorways like we had to with Floribunda. But you will have a chance to bid on absolutely original Silent Auction prizes.

And you'll be honoring The Fraser Family of Dan & Whit's, who will be fêted as the 2013 Citizens of the Year for Community Service. Quite simply, the Frasers run a business that exemplifies Norwich values and is integral to our town. What's more, for decades they've been quietly doing this for us, not just with their business but with many, many acts of personal kindness and caring that strengthen community ties. Be there to personally congratulate George, Susie, Dan, Mat, Jack, Jean, and Cheri. Be there to cheer as they accept the \$500 Ledyard Community Grant, funded by Ledyard National Bank, which they will use for the charity of their choice.

It's easy to buy your tickets! You've already received your Punchbowl invitation via e-mail. And just in case you can't find it in that long list of things to attend to, we sent it again, just over this past weekend! It's so easy to click on that invite and make your decision to join the fun and support the cause. If you still can't find it, you can let us know at info@norwichwomensclub.org.

What's the cause? Our Community Projects Fund. Because we've had enormous support from our own Ledyard National Bank in underwriting the costs of the event, we can assure you that every penny in profit will go to this fund. That fund is awarded by June 1 to support individuals and organizations in Norwich who provide us all with innovative, necessary, and exemplary projects that enhance our wonderful small town. Last year we awarded a record \$22,000 in grants. Needless to say, we are very grateful to Ledyard National Bank for their involvement in the Gala.

So what are you waiting for? The Gala, and the NWC, need your support! Join us!

NWC GALA We need volunteers for

NIGHT OF THE GALA:

2 Greeters at the door
Two shifts: 5:45 - 7:30
7:15 - 8:45

3 to check in reservations

Two shifts: 5:45-7:30
7:15 -8:45

CLEAN UP

Help with take-down and clean-up
Saturday, March 16,
9 am to completion
(many hands make light work!)

Please respond to this ASAP or call
Jaye at 802-649-3663.

THANK YOU!!

Jaye Pershing Johnson
80 Blood Hill Road
P.O. Box 266
Norwich, VT 05055
phone: (802) 649-3663
jpj1957@yahoo.com



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Coffee and Conversation

Do join us at the Norwich Inn on Monday, April 1st, 10 to 11am. All women of the Upper Valley are welcome; you don't have to be a member to be there, so bring an old friend or a new neighbor.

Any questions or RSVP to Sophia Crawford at sophiajcrowford@gmail.com

Membership

A warm welcome to new member Barbara Sydney.

Your membership not only gives you invitations to some great social gatherings and opportunities for volunteering to help our community, it also gives you discounts on the Spring Gala and on Museum Trips and other events organized by the Programs Committee.

Details are on our website - www.norwichwomensclub.org
<<http://www.norwichwomensclub.org>> - or you can call me - 802-649-2662.

Sophia Crawford, Membership Chair

Nearly New Sale Needs Bags

Since the major activity in March is the Gala honoring the Fraser Family, I'll just remind you all that the NNS will need CLEAN PAPER AND PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS for the Spring Nearly New Sale, so start collecting them if you haven't already. We ran out of bags during the Fall Sale, not for lack of them, but the rain required our protecting the buyers' goods. And who knows what the heavens will bring come May.

Upcoming Forum- March 21, 2013 "Is Prison the Answer?"

The Norwich Women's Club is co-sponsoring a public forum with the League of Women Voters of the Upper Valley on Alternative Sentencing. The event will be held at the Norwich Library on Thursday March 21, at 7:00 PM.

The program promises to be informative as the speakers consider whether or not alternative sentencing programs for non-violent offenders makes sense in terms of effectiveness and cost.

Robert Sand, the State Attorney for Windsor County will speak for the Vermont programs. He is also an adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at Vermont Law School.

Lara Saffo, the Grafton County Attorney will speak for the New Hampshire programs. She is a member of the Grafton County Alternative Sentencing Program for non-violent offenders and a Violence Against Women Act prosecutor for Grafton County.

Be informed. Put this event on your calendar and bring a friend.



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Book/Author Luncheon

The Book and Author Luncheon at the Norwich Inn on Monday, February 25th was well attended and full of the usual camaraderie and hilarity that exists when forty-two people get together in the middle of the long cold winter. New friends, old friends, conversations that lasted into the early afternoon. We learned about our state's hidden history from our guest author, Cynthia Bittinger, who took us through our Vermont past, some of it honorable, some not, but all of it illustrative and enlightening. Her book, *Vermont Women, Native Americans & African Americans: Out of the Shadows of History*, is available at the Norwich Bookstore, and there might be a few signed copies left. And there will be a signed copy in the Spring Gala Silent Auction! It is also at the Norwich Public Library. Thanks to the Norwich Inn for their welcoming spirit, Ben Trussell who helped to set up our microphone, and the Norwich Bookstore for their willingness to sell Cyndy's books on site.

