

NORWICH WOMEN'S CLUB

Community Service Since 1907

October 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This newsletter catches me right between the return from a 10-day vacation and a trip to visit my son at college – so my message will be short this time!

I'd like to encourage everyone to attend the **Fall Welcome Meeting** on Tuesday, October 8th, from 5 to 7pm at the home of Alison May at 1 Hazen Street, just across from the library. Please encourage your new neighbors, or perhaps an old friend who's not a member, to join us. It's a great opportunity to catch up with friends after the summer and hear about opportunities to contribute to the great work of the Club. Over seventy people have already RSVP'd "yes"!

The Nearly New Sale is coming up later this month – October 16-20 in Tracy Hall. If you haven't yet volunteered for a shift and can help out, please email NearlyNewSale@norwichwomensclub.org or call Debbie Carter at 649-1216.

And just another reminder to keep your eye on our website for up-to-date info on Club activities: www.norwichwomensclub.org And like us on Facebook!

Debby Hall

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MONTPELIER

When the League of Women Voters asked us to co-sponsor a Legislators' Report, I didn't know what to expect. We had to change the venue at the last minute to the Montshire. And we hoped that people would read our listserv postings about the event - and the change in venue.

Well, 46 people attended Monday evening's event. There were old faces and new. There were many diligently taking notes. Some were there with general curiosity, and some to grill the legislators on particular issues.

Ellen Blumberg deftly moderated the discussion, reining in both the legislators and the attendees from monopolizing the conversation. Many topics were covered in the hour and a half: gun control, green energy, healthcare reform, privacy, education, property taxes, and others.

I came away from the event impressed by all four legislators who spoke to us: Senator Richard McCormack, and Representatives Margaret Cheney, Jim Masland, and Kevin "Coach" Christie. It was a great opportunity to hear from legislators about how government works, and how progress is made on issues, not how campaigns are won or lost. Maybe Washington needs to look to our small state for advice?

Janet Saint Germain, Voter Information

NWC Calendar

Coffee at the Norwich Inn

Monday November 4th, 10-11 am
(we won't meet in October as the Annual Meeting is the next day)

Fall Welcome Meeting

At the home of Alison May
1 Hazen Street, Norwich
Tuesday October 8th, 5-7 pm

Nearly New Sale

Tracy Hall
October 16-20

NWC Board Meeting Schedule

Norwich Public Library
Monday 6:30 pm
October 14 (also Columbus Day)
November 4
no meeting in December
January 13
February 10
March 10
April 7
May 12 (Board Dinner)

MEMBERSHIP

We welcome warmly our newest members: Marisa Devlin, Renie MacArthur, Jo Petty, Cynthia Stadler.

Do you know anyone who is interested in becoming a member? She will find more information on our website – www.norwichwomensclub.org.

Sophia Crawford
Membership Coordinator

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Welcome to the NWC FALL MEETING!

The Club will hold its annual social Fall Meeting on Tuesday, October 8th, 5 - 7pm, at the home of Alison May, 1 Hazen Street (the yellow house on the corner of Main Street opposite the Norwich Public Library).

Open to all, whether or not members. If you are a Club member you've already been sent your invite. If you're not, and would like to join us at the event, please email your acceptance to info@norwichwomensclub.org. We look forward to seeing you there!



PROGRAMMING

The Programming Committee (Dana Ireland, Debbie Carter and Holly Sateia) needs your input. Fifteen members signed up for our Fall trip to Hildene last month. But we needed thirty to cover all expenses. If you were unable to join us, let us know why. Was it timing? Cost of the program? Interest? Other???. Drop a quick email to Holly at holly.f.sateia@dartmouth.edu or call her at 802-649-1932 to share your thoughts. We'd love to hear from you as we plan future NWC programs.

Next on the agenda is a "close-to-home" offering:

Hood Museum of Art docent-led tour of the exhibit
"Cubism and Its Legacy"
Wednesday, November 6th

We'll meet at 9:30am at King Arthur in Norwich. Carpool to the Hood, have a private tour at 10am, then explore on our own a bit. We'll return to King Arthur for lunch. We will eat as a group, purchasing lunch on your own. Admission to the Hood is free. Hope you can join us.

RSVP by November 1st to Holly at: holly.f.sateia@dartmouth.edu

And mark your calendars for our popular Author/Book luncheon at the Norwich Inn on Monday February 10th, 2014. Maryanne O'Hara, author of *Cascade*, is our featured speaker. More details to follow. Hope to see you at one of our events.

Holly, Dana and Debbie

WINE TASTING (AND FUND RAISING TOO)

With many thanks to Dan & Whit's, the Norwich Inn, and Farrells, the wine distributor, seventy of us had a great evening tasting wine, and raised **\$813** for our **Scholarship and Community Project Funds**. Thanks also to My Brigadeiro and King Arthur Flour for their delicious samples.

THEN & NOW

If you haven't been to the Norwich Public Library recently, do stop in and enjoy a most remarkable and delightful visual history of the NWC's Nearly New Sale, focusing on 1963 in one showcase and 2013 in the other; most impressive, indeed.

Many thanks to Karen Ward, showcase designer *extraordinaire*, and April Andrews, graphics wiz, for creating the visual story of the bi-annual Nearly New fall and spring sales and the growth of the scholarship awards over the past half century
Elaine Waterman
Nearly New Sale Chair



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NNS History & Memories

It all began in 1963 with the idea of consigning used clothing to support the Marion Cross Scholarship Fund while providing good, used clothing at affordable prices for Upper Valley residents. The first recipient of the NWC Marion Cross Scholarship Fund was a young lady who went to Castleton State College to become a teacher. The scholarship was awarded in the amount of \$100 - a most helpful sum "back in the day."

For many years the sale was held in the hall at St Francis of Assisi Church on Beaver Meadow Road. Over time the sale outgrew that venue and moved to Tracy Hall where it continues the tradition of a twice-yearly clothing sale.

The first sale used older sale racks from the R. H. Ham Co. in NC, driven in a truck by a member of the sale committee all the way up from Greensboro, NC! Over time new racks have replaced some of the old racks.

Signs for the first 40 plus years were rudimentary at best. The indoor signage comprised of large, 5-lb coffee cans filled with sand providing the stability for a paint stick and various cardboard signs. At the end of every sale the sand was poured into 2 large buckets for storage; boxes for storing the coffee cans and an old suitcase for storing the signs is one of my early memories being on the clean-up shift. Now metal and plastic holders with hot pink with black lettered signs alert shoppers to the various sections of retail space.

The hands-down most annoying part of setting up and packing up each sale was the *nightmare of the hangers*. Boxes from Dan & Whit's of all sizes and shapes were used; the many various sizes and types of hangers from thin wire hangers to chunky wooden type were thrown, not packed, into a box until it was full. Yes, it got the job done, but just imagine the "fun" for the volunteers at the next sale who were "lucky" enough to have to untangle the mess with each garment to be hung. Since boxes collect moisture in storage, rust became a problem on metal clips. Now the hangers are stacked properly and enclosed in large, clear plastic bags, and continue to be stored in Fran Nye's barn for all these many years

The Norwich Women's Club has much to be proud of - the Nearly New Sale and scholarship awards have come a long way thanks to the suggestions and hard work of so many volunteers who have continued over 50 years to carry on the tradition of a great idea that was born in 1963.

Elaine Waterman, Nearly New Sale Chair



Clean large shopping bags with handles are needed for the coming Nearly New Sale. You can drop them off during your pre-sale shift or any time during Wednesday October 16th or Thursday October 17th in the vault in the Tracy Hall Conference Room.

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Profile of our President

All the stars must have been aligned when Deb Hall was born. She was the right woman at the right time, growing up in the liberal activist community of New Haven, CT, near Yale.

She chose to enroll in Mt. Holyoke College, having been influenced by a cool Latin teacher who had just graduated from there. It was 1970: the height of the anti-war, anti-establishment movements. *The Feminine Mystique*, published in 1963, had awakened many women. Yale went co-ed in 1970, followed by most of the Ivies (Dartmouth in 1972). Deb said "I came out of an all-women's school sure I could do it all". She went on to get an MBA at the University of Virginia. "They were desperate for women at the B-school." There was one female faculty member for the 150 students, only 15 of whom were women.

Deb began her career at Chase Manhattan in corporate banking. Once again, she was the right gender at the right time: Chase was hiring women in response to a successful class action suit. She lived on the Upper East Side of Manhattan for six years. When she moved to Boston to work for Prudential doing private placement investments, she was the first woman hired at her level and the first woman to present a financial transaction to the Board. As an aside, she noted that Paul Volcker was on that committee. She later moved to New Jersey with Prudential, staying there until 1998.

When I asked her if she was ever had doubts about her ability to succeed as she rose up the corporate ladder, she said "of course!" Stating the truism that "all women have a sense they will become bag ladies," she called that fear the "impostor syndrome"!

Deb and her husband Mike Woods met when they both worked at Prudential. They married in 1990, and gave birth to Cam, their pride and joy, in 1994. She was a Managing Director when she became pregnant. Her advice to women in the workforce is "wait until you're 42 to become pregnant and you can call the shots". Never mind the "lean-in" theory. In 1998 Mike took early retirement, Deb got a good severance package, and they moved to Norwich.

Since then, Deb and Mike have used their financial skills as volunteers to the benefit of Norwich. Deb was on the Norwich Finance Committee for five years, was treasurer of the Norwich Women's Club (before she became our technology guru), was treasurer of the PTO, and still is treasurer of the Choral Arts Foundation of the Upper Valley, and St. Barnabas Church. Between Deb and Mike, she figures that they have been treasurer of almost everything in Norwich.

Deb and Mike love to travel, especially to see their son Cam in Annapolis where he is a midshipman. Deb has obviously been a big influence in Cam's life. He has trained to become a sexual harassment peer educator at the naval academy, running training sessions for his peers. We all certainly wish him great success!

Here is looking forward to a wonderful two years for the Women's Club with Deb leading the way!

Arline Rotman