



## January 2024 Newsletter

**Dear Sisters,**

As winter holidays are coming to an end, we think about the past year. What would we do differently? Did we accomplish at least some of the goals we set at the beginning of the year? Did we spend time with our loved ones and told them that we loved them? Did we cherish our friends, and do all we could for those that needed us? Were we thankful for our abundance of all of the above? This past year has seen many disturbing events around the world that we have no control of. Let us focus on those things we can change and control and strive to make 2024 more meaningful and find peace, joy and love in our hearts. Not many things give us as much meaning as helping someone in need, and seeing their smiling, grateful faces. I wish ALL OF YOU a very happy, healthy, peaceful and love filled next year and for every year of your life.

I also want to extend these wished from ALL OF US to the REST OF THE WORLD, hoping that the turmoil being experienced by so many, may end as peacefully and quickly as possible.

**Maria Baribeau**  
**Editor**



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Dear Sisters of Salem Area Women's Club GFWC-NH,

As I look back at 2023, I see so much to celebrate! Thanks to YOU sharing your invaluable time, knowledge, and talents, we experienced tremendous growth and accomplishment. We successfully touched hundreds, if not thousands, in need throughout our community, in such a wide variety of ways. I thank you for your volunteer spirit and hope you feel the pride for our organization as deeply as I do.

Together, let us approach the New Year with resolve to find the opportunities hidden within ourselves, as well as our community, paving the way for us to continue to work together and *"be a power of good"*!

I wish for you in 2024,  
May your troubles be less and your blessings be more,  
And nothing but happiness come through your door.

*- an old Irish proverb (which rhymes with 2024—lol)*

Wishing you and yours for 2024 to be your happiest year yet!

With Hugs and Gratitude,

*Patti*



## *Honorary Members*

SAWC is excited to announce the appointment of seven new Honorary Members. Collectively, these incredible women have dedicated 130 years+ to the organization.



Lorraine Amirault, Dolly Falco, Jean Malisos, Sandy Demers and Audrey Mosher. Not pictured are Beverly Johnson and Dot Randall

## *Welcome New Members and Fun Facts*

November: Christina Baroni, Karen Lowe, Lori Perry, Elaine Sincavage, and Peg Pearse Parrott.  
December: Amy Moldoff

As 2023 comes to a close, SAWC GFWC-NH stands 107 Members strong!

Here's some fun facts about our membership:

We've enjoyed 39 new Members joining us in 2023, plus another 22 between Jan. 1 and June 1, 2022, for a total of 67. In looking at longevity of Membership, this means nearly 63% of our Membership is fairly new, 1 1/2 years or less. Ten of our most senior members hold the esteemed "Honorary Member" title for their Loyalty, Leadership, and Longevity. They have all been members longer than 15 years, with Marilyn Suszek having the most seniority at 38 years! 23 ladies have been members for 5 to 12 years, while 19 more have been with us for 1 1/2 to 4 years.

As for the Communities we represent: 73 Members or 68% reside in Salem. 5 Members live in Pelham, 5 from Hampstead, 5 from Derry, 3 from Windham, 2 from Atkinson, and the remaining 14 come from neighboring towns in New Hampshire or Massachusetts.

# Health and Wellness

Linda Molchan  
Co -Chair



## January Health Awareness

As we welcome in this New Year the Health and Wellness Committee is excited to meet all our resolutions to improve the lives of others.

A group of us visited Jeans' Place in November and we are excited to share this information with you at our upcoming meetings and we are adding this wonderful place to our Mental Health support.

Our next Health and Wellness meeting is January 22nd at 1PM at the Kelly Library and I am excited to be bringing all the toilet articles our club has donated and we will fill the toiletry bags. Many hands make less work so if you are interested in joining us please come. At our February meeting we will put all the clothing articles together and the bags will be ready for us to donate to local hospitals for Sexual Assault patients and for some of the Domestic Violence patients.

We are in the depths of flu season, RSV and Covid so please be aware of your health risks and heed the advice of your primary care providers for vaccines.

I wish you all the best in Health, Happiness and Joy. Happy New Year to all!

## Civic Engagement

"On December 6, 2023, the Club participated in the **Southern NH Chamber of Commerce's Festival of Wreaths** annual fundraiser event. The event was attended by many members of the Club and the greater Salem community. The Club's "Snowman & Candy Cane Wreath" was decorated by club member Norma Lapointe and also included a bucket of Candy Canes, compliments of the SAWC for all the attendees of the event to enjoy! Thank you, Norma. The wreath is beautiful as always.



## Civic Engagement Cont.

The Salem Area Women's Club humbly sponsored several **Wreath's Across America** remembrance wreaths this holiday season. As a service organization, we are incredibly grateful for the women in our club who served and all those who continue to serve our nation.

The mission of Wreaths Across America is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach the next generation the value of freedom. On December 16, at 12 pm, wreaths were laid at the Gibson Cemetery at 45 Marsh Rd in Pelham, NH. Volunteers Patti Drelick, SAWC President and Susan Raymond SAWC volunteer, participated in the ceremony and laid wreaths for service members interred at Gibson Cemetery. They both were so moved and impressed with how organized the event was planned and executed with over 550 veterans at Gibson Cemetery. Congratulations to all who helped and made this first-time event in Pelham a success!



Ornament given to the volunteers.



Volunteers Susan Raymond and Patti Drelick



### Comfort with Heat

The Civil Engagement and Outreach Committee of the Salem Area Women's Club agreed that part of our holiday giving will be to comfort households with heat. The Salem Area Women's Club partnered with Palmer Gas and Oil to make two \$250 financial donations towards two households with overdue heating bills. We want to let these families know that their neighbors are thinking about them. The SAWC hopes this gift brings a smile to their faces and gives them peace of mind while warming their hearts and homes this holiday season.



Pictured above are two representatives of Palmer Gas, left and third from left. Maureen Hanlon, Deb Stein, and Laura Andolino, SAWC members presenting the check .



*Now celebrating 90 years!*

## Civic Engagement cont.

### Caregivers Cookie Hugs

The SAWC wanted to show their thanks to caregivers for their selflessness, compassion, and unwavering dedication to caring for others. Their work touches countless lives and significantly impacts the world. We recognize the challenges and sacrifices that come with being a caregiver and appreciation for your service, The SAWC showed their gratitude by giving each caretaker a "Cookie Hug".

Over 20 SAWC members helped bake, bag, and deliver the Cookie Hugs to the caregivers in our communities. It was heartwarming to witness members taking turns working on the "assembly line" to put the final touches on the gift bags stuffed with cookies, candies, and other treats. Helping hands work together to accomplish great things!

With the table overflowing with completed gift bags, it was impossible to count them all, but knowing where they were delivered to, it's clear that we touched at least 200 caregivers in the following communities:

- Pelham Good Neighbor Fund
- Salem Caregivers
- Salemhaven
- Silverthorne
- Meals on Wheels/Rockingham Nutrition'
- Warde Senior Living

Our thanks to Jaimie Baker, Deb Slein, Donna Mason, Maria Baribeau, and Maureen Hanlon who helped put this together during the craziest time of the year. Gift bags were also put together and delivered to SAWC members who needed a little cheering up as well.



Linda with Maria Moscone of Silverthorne



Deb With Andrea Sherwin Administrator of Salemhaven



Maria with Tera Foy, (left) Volunteer of the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund and Kathy Scalia, (right) Treasurer of the Pelham Good Neighbor Fund



Caregivers Cookie Committee Members

## Civic Engagement cont.

On Sunday Nov 26, The Salem Area Women's club-GFWC attended the **Salem NH Holiday Parade** where a refreshment table was set up with hundreds of Free Snacks and drinks, compliments of the Salem Area Women's Club. Laura Andolino and President Patti Drelick welcomed many parade participants as they exited shuttle buses or took a stroll on this sunny, chilly day waiting for the parade to kick off. Shelia Casey buzzed around in her Bee costume passing out refreshments to those in different staging areas. A special thanks to John and Nathan Andolino who helped transport and set up the tent for this fun event!



Sheila Casey in her Bee costume



Laura Andolino and her son Nathan



Patti Drelick, Sheila Casey, Laura Andolino

On December 13th the SAWC donated this elegant winter greenery centerpiece with a \$100 Gift Card to the "Holiday Stroll at Greystone Farms". The auction of this item & the many others donated benefited the Greater Salem Caregivers



**St. Joseph Food Pantry goes green**

This fall the Salem Area Women’s Club (SAWC) reached out to the St. Joseph’s Food Pantry to inquire how SAWC could help them this year. The pantry coordinator Kellie Lavoie mentioned they really need bags to hand out the donated food. They purchased plastic Market Basket bags and then need to reinforce them with paper bags to hold the weight of the food they hand out. Kellie mentioned the reusable cloth bags are much stronger, better for the environment, and could be brought back every week to be reused by their patrons. Due to the cost of the reusable bags, the food pantry could not afford to purchase them. We considered this great idea and made it happen. SAWC partnered with Friends of Rockingham County Aging Adults (FRCAA) and purchased reusable bags with both organizations’ logos on the bags. In total 400 reusable shopping bags were donated to St. Joseph’s Food Pantry that will provide their patrons a stronger environmentally friendly way to transport their food.

Attached are pictures that were taken at the presentation. Names left to right Claudia Maguder, Laura Andolino-SAWC, Kellie Lavoie , Patti Drelick-SAWC President, George “Sonny” Tylus, APP Imprints LLC and Rob Haverty.



*Arts and Culture*



There was a large turn out of SAWC members attended the **Pops - NH Phil.** 24 ladies all festively dressed enjoyed the beautiful sounds of the Holiday Pops



## Arts and Culture cont.

### CREATIVE WRITING CONTEST SALEM AREA WOMEN'S CLUB-GFWC-NH

This year our club is sponsoring a Literary Contest and invites all to participate.

Subjects to write about

1. Family Heritage
2. Person or persons who you consider a hero in your life.
3. Person or persons you would like to have dinner with.
4. Short story of your choice
5. Poetry (minimum of 8 lines and maximum of 50 lines)

Submissions: Typed double spaced on 1 side only on 8.5 x 11 paper, one entry per category. include name, address, e-mail address, and phone number in the right-hand corner, category, title of essay and 500-2,000 words. **Deadline: February 20, 2024**

Prizes will be in the form of gift certificates from local women owned businesses and will be awarded at the March 5, 2024 meeting.

Submissions will be judged by an impartial panel.

One entry per member per category.

Please send entries to Katie Moneiro at [kmonteiro26@gmail.com](mailto:kmonteiro26@gmail.com) or Joanne Cuomo at [centanni@comcast.net](mailto:centanni@comcast.net)

3 winners will be chosen from the entries submitted

1st place wins \$100.00 gift card

2nd place wins \$75.00 gift card

3rd place wins \$50.00 gift card

The 1st place winner will be submitted to the statewide contest.

*Save the Date:*



The Arts and Culture Committee of the SAWC is planning and organizing for a group of SAWC members to attend this event and reserve tickets. Stay tuned: More Info To Come!

## Arts and Culture cont.

### SAWC Photography Contest

This year's theme is "The World in Pictures". These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

1. Our World Up Close: Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that are larger than life. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.
  2. Natural Wonders: Use wide angles and panoramas, or changeable landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.
  3. Reflections: Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.
- Or this: "GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit" Contest: These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate, in groups or one-on-one.

Entries due by 1-26-2024. A project of the Arts & Culture Committee.

For submission details and forms please contact Diane Campbell Payne 978-505-7550

**TELL YOUR STORY WITH PHOTOGRAPHS**

**THE WORLD IN PICTURES CONTEST**

These photographs showcase the people, places, and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:

- 1 OUR WORLD UP CLOSE**  
Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world. Macro photography creates photos of small items that are larger than life. Some common examples are bugs or parts of flowers.
- 2 NATURAL WONDERS**  
Use wide angles and panoramas, or changeable landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sandhills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.
- 3 REFLECTIONS**  
Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.

**GFWC LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT CONTEST**

These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer, or celebrate, in groups or one-on-one.



Entries due by 1-26-2024  
For submission details and forms please contact  
Diane Campbell Payne  
978-505-7550  
(cell)

# Photography Contest



**RULES FOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

- Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photograph.
- All contest photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
- Photographs must be taken between January 1, 2023, and December 31, 2023.
- Contestants must be considered an amateur photographer.

# Holiday Party

The SAWC Holiday party was celebrated at the December General Meeting at the Derry Salem Elks Club.

We wish to express our gratitude to those who contributed to making our party extra special: Mr & Mrs Santa Claus (Dave and Ann Marie Taylor), Buddy the Elf (Nick Distelbrink), the SAWC Board of Directors for the 50+ gifts they donated; Norma Lapointe, Maria Baribeau, Linda Simmons, Linda Molchan, Patti Drelick and Kelly LeBlond for the Centerpieces; Gourmet Bites Catering and our new Hospitality Committee: Peg Pearse-Parrot, Maureen Hanlon, Sandy Carlson, Lori Perry, Marian Vollmer and Laura Andolino. Such a grand time was had by all!! Pictures of Some highlights below! Thank You Diane Campbell Payne for taking these great pictures!



## Book Club Update



December's Book Club meeting was held at Norma's beautiful "Christmas Wonderland" Home. The book we read and discussed was Incredible Bright Creatures by Shelby Van Pelt. Next month's selection, By Deb Slein, (not in photo) is A Girl Called Sampson by Amy Harmon.

The current Book Club is at full capacity with 10 members. SAWC encourages members who love to read and socialize to start Book Club #2. If you have any questions, any member of the current Book Club would be happy to assist you.

Book Club "Selfie". From bottom left then clockwise: Maureen Hanlon, Linda Molchan, Patti Drelick, Jaimie Baker, Norma Lapointe, Sandy Carlson, Ann Reardon, Maria Baribeau and Diane Campbell Payne.

