

**PROGRESS IN PRINT**  
**DELMAR PROGRESS CLUB**  
**JANUARY 2016**

Dear Members,

Happy New Year! I hope you all enjoyed our fabulous fall weather and the balmy temps we experienced Christmas week. It certainly was a welcome start to 2016 after the dreadful winter we endured last year. I also hope you enjoyed the many educational and fun activities and events that were available to you over the last four months.

Our October banquet at Albany Country Club was, as always, a lovely evening, thanks to Jeanne Bourque, Donna Green, and Sheryl Riccardelli and to the staff of ACC for the delicious food and wonderful service. A big thank you to Joyce DeMoly for making the arrangements for the delightful entertainment and special kudos to our new co-chairs for Canine Companions, Marie Liddle and Debbie Mazzone, who treated us to a fun and informational skit detailing the importance of CCI. Many thanks to everyone who made a donation to this valuable cause!

The big event in November was our “Dollars for Scholars” Card Party. Thanks to the leadership of Wilma DeLucco and Pat Antonucci, this annual fund raiser was as successful as ever. The card party committee did a fabulous job organizing this event. My sincere thanks to everyone who served on this committee and dedicated many hours in preparation for the silent auction, bake sale, raffle and solicitation of door prizes from area retailers. Nearly \$3,000 was raised for scholarships as a result of your commitment and hard work. Way to go!!!

In December, we celebrated another wonderful Holiday Tea, welcoming six new members to our club. Those in attendance were presented with bouquets of red roses by our membership chairperson, Katy Schmanski. Everyone who attended was so very generous in their gifts of cookies and sandwiches for the tea and their contributions for the Food Pantry. Once again, we filled the hallway of the Reformed Church with donations for those in need. My thanks to everyone who contributed, and to the committee who worked so hard to make this event beautiful and entertaining, and to all the ladies that slaved in the kitchen. No one, apart from those who have previously served on the holiday tea committee has any idea that extent of commitment our ladies make to this event. In the coming months, I hope more of you will volunteer to help. *Any* assistance will be gratefully appreciated!

In the ongoing spirit of giving, it is (once again) appropriate to thank everyone who knitted, crocheted or purchased mittens and hats for the DPC “giving tree” at the Bethlehem Library. The tree looked lovely and demonstrated our ongoing commitment to serve our community. Many thanks to all who contributed or helped with decorating the tree, and to Jan Messina for coordinating this event.

The calendar for 2016 is filled with yet more wonderful activities of the months ahead. I hope you will make room in your lives to participate more fully in these meaningful events during this New Year. “Each day comes bearing its’ own gifts. Untie the ribbons”! (Ruth Ann Schabacker)

Carolyn

## VOLUNTEER HOURS – DONATIONS & IN-KIND DONATIONS

Reminder! We need to report all the wonderful tasks you perform for our community and your charitable donations made to partnership agencies of the Federation of Women's Clubs, such as Canine Companions, Operation Smile, Heifer International, and St. Jude's Hospital. If any donations are made directly to these agencies, we would appreciate hearing about it, so it can be part of our annual report to the Federation.

All in-kind donations you make to people in need in the form of clothing, toiletries, coffee, cards, box tops, afghans, mittens, hats, food pantry items, crayons, coloring books, books and household items are important to the reporting process that the club submits annually to the State. If possible, we would ask that you assign a value to the items you donate to these community organizations or any items you donate to the card party or to club study group activities. Our members are very generous and often the value of these items goes unaccounted for.

Most importantly, please take time to record the volunteer hours that you provide to your church and/or other social agencies. Not everyone attends our monthly club meetings, but *everyone* is volunteering in some capacity in our community. Start *this* club year by making it a habit to write down the hours you spend helping others.

Reports are due in January and then it starts all over again after the first of the year. Please don't stop volunteering and don't stop making note of your hours and your donations. They are all an important part of your contribution to the club and to our community. You will be amazed at all that you do!!!

### WEBSITE INFORMATION

The Delmar Progress Club website at [www.delmarprogressclub.org](http://www.delmarprogressclub.org) has been in existence since 2008 and it is in need of any update. Further, our webmaster, Loretta Darcy, is no longer able to serve in that capacity. Loretta, Barbara Hogan and I have begun an effort to refresh and renew the site. We have identified content additions that we think would be useful, including upcoming events, reminders, information about the club and about GFWC. We have discussed using the website as a communication tool to supplement the communication methods we currently use and we have identified some useful links to other organizations. A very important element of our effort is to make the website a useful reference tool for people who are considering joining our club. A site with current information, graphics, etc. could be very useful in that regard. If you would like to assist in this effort, or contribute ideas, call Wilma DeLucco at 439-6164 or email her at [wilmad228@aol.com](mailto:wilmad228@aol.com). You do not need any computer expertise to participate in this endeavor, just a few ideas, perhaps some artistic ability and a desire to help.

## **HISTORY OF THE COLLECT**

Ever wondered about “The Collect” the Delmar Progress Club recites at the close of each of our banquets? If so, you might be interested in a little background to its inclusion at our club events and at all our Federation meetings.

For many years, women’s clubs in Canada, Britain, the United States and other countries have used a “prayer” at the opening or closing of their meeting and ceremonies. This prayer was written in 1904 by Mary Stewart, the principal of Longmont High School in Colorado and has since been adopted as a club creed by women’s clubs around the world.

Mary Stewart was born in 1876 in Ohio, but spent her childhood growing up in the Rockies. As the principal of Longmont High, she was described as “a little bundle of energy, dignity and charm”. It was during her tenure as principal, she wrote this collect. Mary Stewart worked for women’s suffrage nationally. It was her belief that women working together for large ends had need for a special petition and meditation of their own.

The collect was officially adopted by the National Federation of Business and Professional Women’s Clubs in 1920 and adopted by the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC) a few years later. It was read into the printed records of the Congress of the United States at its closing session 1949.

It is still recited today by women’s clubs all over the world to instill a sense of unity and dedication to club goals and to one another. Something for all of us to keep in mind on the next occasion of its recitation!

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP**

Our club has lost approximately 25 members in the past year. Sadly, some were due to deaths, some were relocations, and some no longer have the time to participate. This topic was raised at a recent Board of Directors meeting. Discussion items included conducting a membership drive and eliminating the need for 2 sponsors which would require a bylaw change. In the short term, the Board encourages all members to consider inviting friends to join. By emphasizing our many social, educational and community service activities, we can bring in new members to bring our numbers back up.

## **ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVATION**

On May 5 at 10:00 join us for a tour and presentation about the Albany Pine Bush. Cost is \$3 per person. We will have lunch at the Colonie Diner following the tour. Car pooling from Town lot next to Applebee’s at 10:00. Contact Lynn Rhodes with questions at 439-7749 or lrhodes001@nycap.rr.com.

**THANK YOU to all who filled Stockings for the Salvation Army! We donated approximately 75 stockings.**

## **MEMBERSHIP**

At our November and January meetings, it was announced that the following ladies resigned: Juanita Coyle, Alice Hamill, Jean Hoagland, Kay Leonard, Janice Manning, Mary Mantaro, Susan Peters, Arlene Stoker and Isabelle Welter.

With sadness, we also announced the death of our member, Jean Kern. The following ladies, Corinne Carlson, Elayne Cross, Susan Kalia and Mary Ryan did not respond to our efforts to contact them regarding the non-payment of dues and were removed from membership.

For membership applications, please contact Membership Chairperson, Kathryn Schimanski at 439-7237. Membership applications are also available at the Bethlehem Public Library and at our general meetings. Applications need the signature of two active members and are to be accompanied by a \$45.00 check made payable to the Delmar Progress Club to cover dues. Please send completed applications to Delmar Progress Club, P.O. Box 423, Delmar, NY 12054.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMITTEE**

The BETHLEHM FOOD BANK has put out a special request this month for canned fruit, mustard and coffee. Macaroni and cheese, cleaning supplies and paper products are always welcome.

The VA HOSPITAL has a wish list in addition to coffee (both regular and decaf) – sweetener and powdered creamer; afghans/lap robes/quilts (4'x4'); winter coats (all sizes), knit hats; heavy wool socks; winter gloves; underwear (M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL); thermal underwear (tops and bottoms—all sizes); playing cards, and gift cards to grocery and superstores for emergency purchases of clothing, toiletries and food items. All clothing/items, afghans, etc must be brand new. Money donations can be for a designated purpose (personal comfort, holiday fund, emergency fund, homeless programs, Stratton Inn (for comfort items for veterans needing overnight accommodations), adaptive sports, recreation and music therapy, returning service members and their families and general purpose). All donations are tax deductible. Contact Nancy Looby 489-4041 or [nancylooby@gmail.com](mailto:nancylooby@gmail.com) with any questions.

There's also a wish list having to do with RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVES—a need for a few more volunteers. Do think about adding your name to the list? It's 2 ½ hours of your time; it's fun; it's needed; it's rewarding. Be in touch with Nancy Looby (as above).

## **HEALTH AND FITNESS**

Exercise to music at Bethlehem Town Hall each Tuesday and Friday at 9:00 a.m. Cost is \$3 per session, on a come as you choose basis. See the Yearbook for other classes available.

## **ANTIQUÉ STUDY GROUP**

On **Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 p.m. at the BPL Board Room, Ann Van Dervort will present "Losing Your Marbles". Come and see Ann's collection of antique marbles. Also members may bring their marbles for show and tell.

On **Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>** at 1:30 in the BPL Board Room, Dr. Judith Mysliborski will speak about her collection of kaleidoscopes.

On **Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>** we will go to Hudson, NY to visit antique shops. Details will follow in the next PIP.

On **Wednesday, May 11**, we will leave the Park and Shop across from Delaware Plaza at 9 a.m. for a bus trip with lunch at the Culinary Institute and in the afternoon we will visit Hyde Park. The CIA is providing the following fixed menu: First Course: house made Sweet Pea Ricotta Crostini; Main Course: Roasted Pork Loin; Dessert: Vanilla Bean Cheese cake; Beverages: Coffee, Decaf, Tea, Iced Tea. ANY ESSENTIAL DIETARY RESTRICTIONS ARE TO BE NOTED WITH YOUR PAYMENT. The cost of the trip is \$85.00 and payment is due by April 22, 2016. Make check out to Delmar Progress Club and mail to Joan Kapral, 44 Dover Drive, Delmar NY 12054.

## **GARDEN GROUP**

**New York in Bloom** - On Thursday, February 18 from 4-7 p.m. please join us at the New York State Museum for a creation of a floral design for the benefit of the after-school student programs.

## **LITERATURE GROUP**

**Literature Group -- Board Room of the Bethlehem Public Library at 1:30 P.M.**

On **February 9, 2016** Rosemary Brown will review *Big Little Lies* by Liane Moriarity.

On **March 8, 2016** Helen Gray will review *Blue Spool of Thread* by Anne Tyler.

On **April 12, 2016** Phyllis Howell will review *Someone* by Alice McDermott.

## **PERFORMING ARTS**

"Give My Regards to Broadway...."

That's what the Performing Arts Group will be doing on Friday, March 4 at 1:30 p.m. in BPL Community Room. Come be a part of their tribute to the Great White Way. Help them as they salute some of the great productions of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Put on your thinking caps and clear your throats; a special sing along is planned.

## **ALERT!**

If you have donated to Heifer International during the 2015 year and have not yet told Mary Richards the amount, please do so ASAP so that it can be included in her total report to President Bennett for her report to GFWC-NY. As you donate at various times during this year, please also notify Mary. That way you won't forget.

## **CREATIVE ARTS**

**Tour of the Methodist Church in Delmar** – Our tour of the First United Methodist Church to be led by Marilyn Peterson on Wednesday, January 27<sup>th</sup> will begin with lunch at 12 noon at Emma Cleary's on New Scotland Road in Slingerlands. Following lunch we will go to the 'church for the tour which will begin at 1:00 p.m. If you are not joining us for lunch you can meet us at the church at 1:00. If we have snow and the schools are closed we will not be meeting. And if there is a funeral at the church that day, we cannot have the tour. You can call Marilyn at 439-8012 to sign up for this or if you have a question. You can also call Marge O'Brien with questions at 439-2086.

**Decorations for the Souper Luncheon** – On Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup> we will meet at the Bethlehem Public Library at 9 a.m. to make decorations for the Souper Luncheon. These decorations will also be used for the lunch we will be doing for the Bethlehem Seniors in April.

**The "Souper" Luncheon** – Always a fun time our luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> at noon at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Elm Avenue. Call Marge O'Brien (439-2086) if you would like to make soup for the luncheon or catch me at the next DPC meeting. Be sure to respond to the caller from the Telephone Committee asking if you are coming and what you are bringing. The choices will be a salad, dessert or \$7 to be used for the paper goods, etc. we need. Call if you have any questions. Remember the snow policy – if the schools are closed because of snow we do not meet, and this includes luncheon.

**Arm Bands for Operation Smile** – Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for this project which was huge success the last time we did it. We will meet at 1:00 p.m. at the Bethlehem Public Library to make the arm bands which are used to prevent the child from getting at the stitches after the cleft lip/palate surgery. I have already cut out 100 pieces of fabric for the arm bands so we have lots of work to do. If you can bring a sewing machine it will be most welcome. Scissors are also helpful but even if you are not a sewer your talents are most welcome.

**GFWC Arts and Crafts Contest** – each year we are pleased to include many of the beautiful arts and crafts projects our members have made in the Arts and Crafts Contest held by the New York State GFWC. We begin with a showing and judging of the projects made by the members of the Delmar Progress Club and the winners here are entered at the District level and then on to the State contest at the Annual Convention. We always do well and bring home many ribbons at each level. Although the local judging is usually done as a part of the "Souper" Luncheon, the District meeting will be earlier than expected so we have changed the date of the local (DPC) contest to Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at the Bethlehem Public Library. Please get going and finish up all those

wonderful projects you would like to enter and bring them to the Library on March 11<sup>th</sup>. Any questions call Marge O'Brien (439-2086) or Carol Jonas (439-3199).

## **TRAVEL GROUP**

Join us in the Community Room at the BPL on **Monday, February 8** at 2 p.m. as Ellen Courtney takes you on a trip to The White Continent – Antarctica.

**On March 14** same time and same location, join Audrey Watson as she speaks about That Great City of Portland, Oregon and on **April 11**, Anne Alden will talk about That Little Known Country-Newfoundland.

## **OPERATION SMILE**

These are items that club members can donate to Operation Smile.

**Child Therapy Toys:** Arts/Crafts supplies, construction paper, child scissors, crayons (8 count), coloring books, small pull-toys, small stuffed animals, puzzles, glue sticks, stickers, rattles for infants, candy land game, liquid bubbles, play dough.

PLEASE, no religious markings or symbols on toys. No war related toys, no candy and the toys should range and appeal to different age groups.

**Medical Record supplies:** pens, pencils (blue/black), paper clips, colored folders, rubber bands, clip boards, hi-lighters, 2 hole punch, large lined legal pads, sticky notes, stapler, staples to fit stapler, file cards, black sharpie markers, colored markers (10-12 count) trash bags (55 gal. size), Ziploc bags (quart/gallon size), plastic flashlights, D cell batteries, scotch tape, and masking tape.

Personal Care Items for Children: toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo in plastic bottles, combs, mirrors, wash cloths, and soap. These should all be child size.

Quilts and Blankets, 45X45 or 54X54 – cotton or fleece

No-No Arm Bands- see Virginia for instruction sheet

Gowns –cotton material – Virginia has patterns

Dolls – white, tan or light brown cotton or muslim – no brown or black material- Virginia has the pattern

Bags – 12 inches wide 14 inches deep- the finished bag size – to fit a coloring book, remember a seam allowance, plus and amount to turnover at the top to run a cord or string through to close the bag

**Voluntary only** – If shopping is not your main interest in Life, we will gladly accept a check in the amount you choose to donate. Make check out to Delmar Progress Club in the memo area – write Operation Smile.

**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A BEAUTIFUL SMILE!** Sincerely, Virginia



**Our donated stockings – recognized by Salvation Army**