

## Honoring Our Heritage

### Nancy Niedziela

#### **Bev Coshun – Joined 1959**

President 1968-1970

When Bev joined in 1959, many of you reading this were not even born or were just toddling around. Bread was 20 cents a loaf, a brand new Cadillac Convertible was \$7,400, Bonanza debuted on TV, Frankie Avalon and Paul Anka were singing their hearts out on the radio, and Mattel introduced Barbie. GFWC began a partnership with the Cooperation for American Relief Everywhere (C.A.R.E.) jointly distributing relief shipments to Korea in support of local families. The Woman's Club of Pewaukee had 82 members and 10 honorary members. Meetings began promptly at 1:30 p.m. and dessert was served. The club had two departments: American Home Department and Fine Arts Department. Each Department met once a month, resulting in two meetings each month on the second and third Thursdays from October to April. Bev served the club as head of the Telephone Tree Committee, the Courtesy-Welfare Committee Chair, Recording Secretary, numerous times on the Board of Directors in the Director position, President, Welcome Committee Chair, Lazy Eye Clinic Committee Chair, Yearbook Chair, International Fair Committee Chair, Bridge Marathon Chair, Community Service Committee Co-Chair, Christmas Tree Lighting Chair, Beach Party Chair, Parliamentarian, Membership Committee, Nominating Committee, Piggly Wiggy Fundraiser, Holiday Silent Auction Co Chair, Parliamentarian, and probably a few were missed. At the district and State Level, Bev served as Second District President, and Waukesha County Wisconsin Federated Women's Clubs President.

#### **Nancy Koepp -- Joined 1961**

President 1970-1972

When Nancy joined in 1961, eggs were 57 cents, a brand new house was \$12,500, John F Kennedy was inaugurated, the Beatles debuted, and the Berlin Wall went up permanently dividing the city of Berlin and East Germany from West. GFWC partnered with the Automatic Safety Foundation in "The "Women's Crusade for Seat Belts" campaign, which resulted in the installation of one million seat belts during this year. In Nancy's first year the membership was a total of eighty-eight with sixteen honorary and seventy two regular members. The club was now only meeting once a month on the first Thursday from October to May. The budget included a \$5 scholarship for nursing students! Nancy served as Luncheon Committee Chair, Vice President, President, Bridge Marathon Committee Chair too many times to count, Ways and Means Co-Chair, Director, Community Service Committee Co-Chair, Treasurer, Poinsettia Sale Committee, Flower Barrel Committee, and these are only the things she has been chair of, not noting how many committees she has worked on. Nancy is known for keeping the club "on track," and reminding us of our commitment to this community and its people.

#### **Susan Hoaglund -- Joined 1968**

Sue joined the Woman's Club of Pewaukee back in 1968 when GFWC members chose to adopt the goal to "Build with Youth for a Better World" as their theme. Also in 1968, a special new membership category named "Juniorettes" for young women between the ages of 14 and 18 debuted. 1968 saw the sad news of the assassinations of Robert F. Kenney and Martin Luther

King Junior. On the bright side, the Big Mac came into being. Over her fifty years of service to the Woman's Club of Pewaukee, Sue served in many roles. She was the recording secretary multiple times. As for committee chairs, Sue was one busy gal. She was Chair of the Conservation Department, several times, served as the Nominating Committee Chair, the Winter Exchange Chair, Luncheon Hostesses Chair, Cultural School Programs Chair, the Day Away Chair, and the Scholarship Chair. Event though her commute is too long for regular membership is too long, Sue faithfully comes to every Razzle Dazzle event.

### **Patricia (Pat) Alters – Joined 1976**

Pat is another member who religiously supports all of our fundraising efforts, but her health keeps us from seeing her today. In 1976 when Pat joined the Woman's Club of Pewaukee, the nation celebrated its centennial, the first Space Shuttle was launched, jellybeans went gourmet, gas was 59 cents a gallon, Paul McCartney was "Singing Silly Love Songs" and Rocky was #1 at the box office. GFWC established a Trust Fund for the Arts in partnership with Affiliate Artists, Inc. This program of the GFWC supports nationwide young artists-in-residence programs. Pewaukee had just finished its big project celebrating the country's bicentennial. As a result of this project, the Pewaukee Area Historical Society was founded in 1977. Pat served as Recording Secretary, on the Nominating Committee and as International Department Chair.

### **Marie Torzewski – Joined 1978**

Even though Marie still supports all of our fundraising events, she is unable to attend most of our meetings. When Marie joined in 1978, weather was big news – the great blizzards of January and February killed 51 in Ohio and 100 in New York City alone; a decision was made to give hurricanes male names as well as female names as had been the tradition, and the character Garfield debuted on comic pages. On July 9, 1978 GFWC and other Feminists Make History With Biggest-Ever March for the Equal Rights Amendment. Marie served Pewaukee as the Hiking and Skiing Chair, Corresponding Secretary, Courtesy-Welfare Committee Chair, Recording Secretary, Mini-Surprise Committee Chair and much more.

### **Nancylee McIntyre – Joined 1981**

President 1989-1990

You thought inflation was bad today! However, in 1981 when Nancylee McIntyre joined the Woman's Club it was at 10% and the rate for a home mortgage was 16.63%. Bread was 59 cents, and everyone was watching Dallas on TV. GFWC was continuing its partnership with Owens-Corning and developed a "Home Energy Check" program to encourage energy conservation. The GFWC was organizing and collecting materials that were to become in 1984 The GFWC Woman's History and Resource Center where anyone can research women's history. Nancylee served as Corresponding Secretary, Newsletter Committee Chair, Director, Bridge Marathon Chair, Historian. Vice President and President. Before her eyesight began to fail, she was always very active in all of our fundraising events in years past

### **Nancy Niedziela – Joined 1983**

President 2008-2010

In 1983 when Nancy Niedziela joined the Woman's Club of Pewaukee, the most famous person in the United States was Michael Jackson, Sally Ride was the first woman in space, moms fought over Cabbage Patch Kids in the toy aisle and people mourned the final episode of M.A.S.H. GFWC was busy sending its presidents to the U.N. International Women's

Conferences. Pewaukee was a member of the Fifth District of the Wisconsin Federation of Woman's Clubs and the Pewaukee club donated \$3,900 to the community. Nancy has served as Treasurer, Publicity Committee Chair, Vice President, President, Yearbook, Painless Fundraiser Chair, Spring Fashion Show Chair, Education Department Chair, Book Club Chair, Director, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Writing Contest Chair, ESO, Parliamentary Advisor, Spring Fundraiser Co Chair and has been an active member of every fundraising event since 1983, specializing in the raffle baskets. During Nancy's term as President, the GFWC Wisconsin redistricted the club districts which were now no longer to have numbers, but names. Parts of the Fifth District now became the Rolling Hills District – extending from Boscobel in the west, to Hillsboro in the northwest central, to Muskego in the southeast. Nancy has also served as Treasurer and Secretary of the Rolling Hills District and is again serving as its secretary. At the State Level, Nancy has been on the Executive Committee twice as both the Recording and Corresponding Secretary. She has served on the GFWC Wisconsin Board of Directors as the Writing Contest Chair, as Meetings and Conventions Advisor, and as the President's Special Assistant to two different presidents and is currently serving as the Health and Wellness Community Service Program Chair. Nancy served as the chairman of the Great Lakes Region Convention when the state of Wisconsin hosted that event in Brookfield. She was the Co-Chair of the 2020 State Convention and will be the Chair of the 2026 State Convention when Rolling Hills District hosts this event. She is currently the Wisconsin Reporter for the Great Lakes Communique.

#### **Helen Stenborg – Joined 1984**

In 1984 when Helen joined our group, the GFWC opened the Women's History and Resource Center, serving a compelling venue for research, interactive workshops, lectures, and events highlighting the historical role of volunteers in the United States. Helen was a constant presence at all of our meetings and events. She actively served at the chair of the Public Affairs Department during her years in the club. She was a joyful and friendly addition to our club.

#### **Doris Adler – Joined 1987**

President 1992-1994

Doris Adler and her husband Jim, currently spend their winters in sunny Mexico and their summers on Pewaukee Lake. When she joined our group, Cheers was the most watched TV program, cell phones were the size and weight of a brick, and Ronald Reagan became an icon for his "Tear Down this Wall" speech. GFWC members renewed their commitment to conservation through special programs and dedication to the protection of endangered species. Doris served as Vice President, President, Newsletter Chair, Director, and Home Life Department Chair.

#### **Ruth Harken – Joined 1987**

President 1996-1998 and 2010-2012

Ruth also came to our club in 1987. Through the efforts of GFWC clubs in 1987, fourteen states had declared March as Women's History Month. In 1987, following years of joint Congressional resolutions proclaiming Women's History Week and the urging of the National Women's History Project, Congress declared March as Women's History Month, thanks to GFWC. The Pewaukee club was 82 members strong and in February held their luncheon at the brand new Retzer Nature Center. Ruth has served as Recording Secretary, Helen Mears Art Contest Chair, Vice President, President, Newsletter Chair, Arts Department Chair, Membership

Committee Chair, and Membership Chair. Ruth served as the Rolling Hills Arts Department Chair for many, many years and is an extremely generous philanthropic donor to the GFWC Woman's Club of Pewaukee. Ruth is the only living member to have served two non-consecutive terms as President of the Pewaukee Woman's Club. During her second term in 2012, the Woman's Club of Pewaukee was named the Non-Profit of the Year in 2012. Ruth's kind and gentle guidance helped revive the Woman's Club when it was suffering from a lack of volunteers to serve in leadership positions, and club membership was dwindling. Only someone as dedicated as Ruth was able to accomplish this feat.

### **Mary Hertel – Joined 1990**

Mary and her husband spend their winter months in Florida.. However, she is a wonderful supporter of our fundraising events. When Mary joined in 1990, people were rocking to the “Macarena”, viewers could not get enough of the O.J. Simpson trial, and the World Wide Web came into existence. In 1990, GFWC was working hard to get the United States Secretary of the Interior to designate GFWC Headquarters a National Historic Landmark. Through the work of countless GFWC women, this was accomplished. Mary served as Vice President and on the Nominating Committee.

### **Elizabeth (Ella) Dzioba – Joined 1990**

President 2017-2019

In 1990, when Ella came on the scene, GFWC was actively supporting the passage of the Violence Against Women Act; the Americans With Disabilities Act; the Family and Medical Leave Act; and legislation supporting handgun control. In addition, GFWC celebrated its centennial anniversary in New York City. Unfortunately, by 1990, our membership had dropped to 59, but we were still going strong, raising over \$3,000 and donating almost all of it. The club supported the Girl Scouts, the Schoolhouse Players, the Pewaukee Fireworks, and planted and paid for the flower boxes in the downtown area. Ella has served as Raffle Chair, Luncheon Raffle Chair, Holiday Silent Auction Co-Chair, Treasurer, High Tea with Mary Todd Lincoln Chair, Director, Vice President, and President. Ella also served as President's Special Assistant to the GFWC Wisconsin President, Abby Lorenz. Dear Ella's smile is everywhere in this club. She innovated so many ideas – and her special event was chairing our “Something's Brewing” fundraising event celebrating her favorite holiday, Halloween. Those costumes that day were spectacular! Unfortunately, Ella's health kept her away from that event, but we celebrated Ella in spirit.

### **Michele Olshanski –Joined 1997**

President 2004-2006

In 1997, GFWC began its six year drive to improve libraries, raising more than \$13.5 million in donations and materials to public libraries and public school libraries by 2002. When Michele joined in 1997, the club was back up to 70 members, sponsoring the Bloodmobile, the Pewaukee Area Historical Society, the Barbara Sanborn Public Library and a new group in town called Positively Pewaukee. In May of 1998, we were honored to have GFWC-Wisconsin Federation of Women's Clubs President Ms. Mary Balicki install our new officers. Michele has served as Director, Vice President, President, Publicity Committee Chair, Yearbook Chair, Newsletter, Holiday Event Chair, and International Affairs Department Chair. Michele has also been a guest speaker for our general membership meetings regarding her charitable work. We

can also count on Michele to bring groups to our fundraising events and donate Edward Jones shopping bags for our guests to carry home their prizes and winnings.

### **Debbie Koepf -- Joined 1998**

Debbie joined her mother-in-law Nancy as a member of the club in 1998. In 1998-99 we held all of our meetings at the Country Inn Hotel (now the Ingleside.) We still heard from one of Pewaukee High School's AFS students as a spring speaker as we had done for many, many years. We raised money through Bridge Marathon and selling Poinsettias in cooperation with Schulte's Florist. Deb served the Pewaukee as Treasurer, Santa Letters Committee Chair, Publicity Committee, Recording Secretary, Cops and Bobbers, fundraising events like the brat stand at the Hartland Piggly Wiggly where she hauled grills around in her truck, and on the Nominating Committee.

### **Abby Lorenz – Joined 2010**

President 2012-2015

In 2010 when Abby joined our group, GFWC was raising funds for the Haiti Disaster Relief Fund and donated more than \$55,000 toward the rebuilding efforts following the devastating earthquake in Haiti. Abby joined our group after she was one of our guest speakers. Abby has served as Arts Department Co Chair, Arts Department Chair, President Elect, President, Razzle Dazzle Chair in all its many variations, Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program Chair, and Dementia Friendly Pewaukee Chair. Abby has served as the Rolling Hills District Second Vice President, First Vice President and President and on the GFWC-Wisconsin Board of Directors in several rolls. Abby has been GFWC Wisconsin Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President. Abby was also the LEADS that stands for Leadership, Education and Development Seminar, Candidate from Wisconsin to the International Convention in 2014. Only one member from each state is honored to attend this event. Abby has also served as Music Chairman for the Great Lakes Region, and as head of the Wisconsin's Own Library Committee. It is hard to keep up with Abby and her charitable organization work. Currently she is serving as full time Nanny to her brand new twin girl granddaughters.

### **Susan Goldstone -- Joined 2011**

President 2015-2017

2011 brought Susan Goldstone to our club from the recently defederated GFWC Waukesha Junior Woman's Club. Sad to lose a Wisconsin club, but what a gain for us. In 2011, GFWC rededicated and refurbished the grave site of Jane Cunningham Croly the founder of the first version of GFWC in 2011. Susan has served as Vice President, President, Financial Review Committee, Historian, Arts Department Chair, Garden party Luncheon Co Chair, Arts and Culture Community Service Program Chair, and Spring Fundraiser Chair. Susan has served as the GFWC Rolling Hills Art Chair and the Rolling Hills financial review chair as well as on the GFWC Wisconsin Board of Directors on the Financial Review Committee for many administrations.

### **Kathleen Novack Joined 2011**

President 2019-2021

Also in 2011, Kathleen Novack joined our midst. In that same year, GFWC created the GFWC Disaster Relief-Library Replacement Fund to restock the collections of public and school

libraries that have been affected by natural and man-made disasters. Kathy has served as Vice President, President, Public Affairs Department Chair, Helen Mears Co- Chair, Bylaws Review Committee, Halloween FunFest chair, Spring Fundraiser Co-Chair, Legislative Committee Chair, and is currently our Facebook Administrator. Kathy has also been responsible for our partnership with Pewaukee Parks and organizing all the volunteers for the Canine Carnival. At the Rolling Hills District Level, Kathy has served as the Second Vice President, the First Vice President and the President. Kathy has served on the GFWC Board of Directors on the Membership Committee and is currently serving on the State Scholarship Committee. Kathy's administration brought a new logo, a revised policy document, and a first-time ever picture album of members that she completed voluntarily all on her own. Kathy's home has also welcomed the Summer Sun and Funraiser for many years, and many members enjoy this wonderful afternoon of fun on Pewaukee Lake. Kathy has also offered and continues to offer her storage area for the use of the club, and much of our "property" lives there for members to pick up, use and return. The club can't thank Kathy enough for all her generosity.

### **Alexandra Lerch Gaggl –Joined 2016**

President 2021-2023

And now we come to Alexandra. Alexandra became a member of our club when members of the Environment Committee trespassed over her land while doing some of their conservation work. Alexandra has served as the International Affairs Department Co Chair, Conservation Department Co Chair, Recording Secretary, Environment Community Service program Chair, Vice President, President, Legislation and Public Policy Co Chair, and the Leadership Chair. Like Abby, Alexandra was selected to represent the state of Wisconsin as a LEADS candidate in 2023. This is a very special honor reserved for only a few, and Pewaukee has had two! Alexandra is currently serving on the Leadership Committee of the GFWC Wisconsin. During Alexandra's term as President, the club experienced its first ever international joint Zoom meeting and connection which resulted, through lots of hard work by Alexandra, in our sister Austrian club becoming an International Affiliate of the GFWC.