As we start to say ‘SO LONG WINTER’ I for one really look forward to Spring and the promise of warmer days and more time spent outdoors.

The time seems to be flying by as it always seems to do for me and probably for most of you. As I write this I’m pumped from the very enjoyable afternoon many of us spent at Spaulding Clinical. Who knew we had such an interesting and important research facility right under our noses here in West Bend? Thank you to Judy Spaeth for organizing the tour. That is an example of some of the ideas we are looking for as we are already planning our Special Interest topics for 2019. We are always thinking ahead and looking for new and interesting things to do. I hope our Explore Wisconsin gave everyone some inspiration to find your own special adventure.

We are also looking forward to a successful fundraising year. HCE is poised for another good year for funding our scholarships and Wisconsin Bookworms™+ books thanks to the hard work of all our members. It’s wonderful to see what we can accomplish with teamwork as we all work together to accomplish our goals.

Let us all enjoy our upcoming activities and make them a success. We need everyone to sell many many tickets for our new HCE CASH RAFFLE. For all of you who are expert bakers our PLANT & BAKE SALE in May will give you a chance to show off your talents and raise some serious cash. Thank you Ruth Knetzger for again growing the plants to sell for scholarship. Also don’t forget Marma’s Challenge Match for Wisconsin Bookworms tm.

I hope we have many entries for the Cultural Arts bonus entry ‘SPRING INTO ACTION’ for State Conference.

Another BIG THANK YOU GOES to all those HCE members who donate anonymously to our various projects. You know who you are! As we move forward we also remember our wonderful Dolly—we will think of you often and all the enjoyment you gave us.

See all of you soon at all our upcoming fun activities! As always feel free to contact me with any ideas, concerns or to just chat.

Ginny Ramstack  WCHCE President  Phone: 262-628-2100, email: ginnyramstack@gmail.com
Members on the Move!

It has been wonderful to see HCE members out and about in the community during these wintery months! At the grand opening of Karl’s Place in West Bend, I ran into Judy Spaeth and Pat McIntee who were on hand to see the new homeless shelter facility for single adults. I couldn’t quite see her with the crowd of people who attended the opening, but Michelle Hansen also stopped by to gather information from Family Promise staff for potential club projects.

The special interest tour of Spaulding Clinical in February was also well attended for a day meeting! It was great to see HCE members who invited a friend or spouse to the discussion on medical research and building tour! This event was so popular that a few red hatters asked to join us! As Rick Spaulding shared the history and operations of Spaulding Clinical, HCE members enriched the experience with thoughtful and curious questions that benefited all who attended! Read more about it in the newsletter!

Hope to keep seeing HCE members at more community events!

Is your club looking for a community project? Here are some ideas shared at the February board meeting from the Volunteer Center crafters! If you are interested in finding out more, contact Carol Bralich or Christine Larson.

MISSION STATEMENT

HCE offers opportunities for:
- Learning in a social setting
- Sharing what we learn
- Caring to make a difference in our Homes, Communities and the World.
Calendar of Events

March/April/May Schedule of Events

- **Thursday, March 1** – Special Interest Meeting, Exploring Places of Interest in Wisconsin
  7:00 P.M., PAC, West Bend, Room 1113 A&B
  Details in the Roots & Branches Newsletter.

- **Thursday, March 15**
  Scholarship Applications Due in UW-Extension Office

- **Tuesday, April 3** – HCE Board of Directors Meeting,
  6:30 P.M., PAC, West Bend, Room 3005

- **Saturday, April 14** – Special Interest Meeting: Cuba,
  12:00 NOON, PAC, West Bend, Room 1113 A&B

- **Wednesday, April 24** – Southeast District Spring
  Meeting, Brookfield Public Library

- **Thursday, May 3** – Spring Fling
  Chandelier Ballroom, Hartford
  Details in the Roots & Branches and Presidents Letter

- **May 17-19** – Annual HCE Bake Sale - Jackson

- **Monday, May 28**
  Memorial Day UW-Extension Office Closed
YOU are the new editor of the HCE Roots and Branches Newsletter!!

With a bit of help from everyone, we are looking forward to creating your best newsletters yet. HCE members are all so talented and resourceful. We ask that you just drop us a short line whenever those creative juices are flowing and share with the rest of the membership. It may be a project you do as a club, or an outing that you took. Many clubs have “pet projects” exclusive to them…please share those ideas and interests with all of us. Sharing is learning. Here are a few easy steps we ask you to please take when submitting your article for the R&B newsletter.

First, if you are submitting your thoughts by email, please send to Judy and Pat as well as the office. Those emails are: Jenny Amenda, jenny.Amenda@co.washington.wi.us; Judy Spaeth jurispaeth@charter.net; Pat McIntee patriciam@nconnect.net. One of us will be sure to respond to your email to confirm that is was received. If you do not receive a response within two days, please call or try to resubmit. Second, if you are submitting pictures, please be sure and identify who is in the picture. We want to be sure we have everyone’s name spelled correctly.

Everyone loves pictures and the more we get to see our fellow HCE members, the easier it will be to recognize them at the next countywide get together. Please know that if multiple photos are submitted for the same event, we may need to select only a few due to space in the newsletter. We ask that you try to use a variety of photos of different members or club events over the course of the year. Extra photos that are of good quality will be saved for archiving purposes and shared at county HCE events. (i.e., spring fling) So don’t hesitate to submit pictures. If they are not used immediately, they may be saved digitally.

Lastly, just a quick reminder that we cannot print a recipe that is not original. We can however print the website address, or mention the magazine that has the recipe you want to share. Again, sharing is learning.

Thanks in advance for all your help and involvement. We are looking forward to continuing to have our Roots and Branches be the thread that connects us all.

Judy, Pat and Jenny
As a former employee of St. Joe's, it's good to see the old hospital building put to good use after being vacant for 3 years. The Spaulding Clinical is located in the old St. Joseph's Hospital building on the corner of Oak & Silverbrook. Randy Spaulding opened the business in 2008. It now has an operational capacity of over 200 beds for use in safe clinical studies. The Spaulding Clinical Research integrates the most advanced technology--monitoring, recording & reporting and it specializes in CARDIAC SAFETY testing of new drugs in development. They want to ensure the health & safety of their "subjects" (clients). The studies include an extremely regimented atmosphere which includes a specific diet & even control of activity--everyone eats the same & get the same procedures, medications, etc. because in the end you have to be sure that the drug being tested is effective & SAFE.

Studies have been conducted for Pharmaceutical Companies in other countries--like Switzerland or Japan. (Look at that country's flag displayed outside the building). Some of the tests are from 3 days to a month and the "subjects" have to stay right in the building and have to be continually monitored.

Safety testing for a new drug have 3 different scenarios-1/3 might be on a placebo, 1/3 on plain Tylenol or some similar med, and 1/3 on the actual drug being tested.-then they are switched (only the pharmacist knows for sure which "look-a-like pill they're on)

The "subjects are each getting an unmarked pill for a specific time & are closely monitored--heart, lab tests, etc. The "locked" pharmacy has high end security.

Each procedure has to be timed to the minute including meals, medication, lab tests, etc. That's why there's synchronized clocks in all the hallways. The "subjects" all get the same food and have to eat everything on their plate. The participants are usually young people and have to be healthy and on no meds. They do get paid for doing the testing and can sign up on line. They have to be
Make Mittens For Many
Saturday, March 10th
(2nd Saturday of the month)
West Bend Library

This generous group welcomes anyone interested in helping or learning to knit and crochet warm items for our county residents. They meet in the Board Room on the North side of the library. Stop in for an hour, or several, to join the creativity and socialization. Hours are from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Your extra and left-over yarn is gratefully accepted. See Marge Kufahl (Twisted Sisters) for more information.

Submitted by: Bev Taylor

2018
HCE Plant/Bake Sale
May 17th, 18th and 19th
Address: N170W19820 Willow Ridge Dr., Jackson

We would like each member that is able to make homemade baked items or snack bags. We would like to have cookies, bars, muffins, breads, cakes & pies. Any snacks should be in sandwich bags. We will price the items at the sale.

Last year we made over $300 on the baked items and snack bags. We would like to have a big sale in Jackson. We need all the Clubs to participate. More information and a signup sheet will be at the Cuba dinner and Spring Fling.

Ruth Knetzger will have a limited amount of plants at the sale. She always has nice plants.

Any questions call – Bev Buckmann at 262-338-8418 or Claudie Calenzo’s cell 414-630-2119.
ARE YOU GETTING EXCITED ABOUT STATE CONFERENCE? I AM!

Since Conference is in our own backyard this year hopefully we’ll have a record number of Washington county members attend. If you have never attended State before this is a great opportunity to try it out. Since it is within easy driving distance staying overnight is just an option. It is possible to sign up for just one day or all three.

As a county we will be asking our members to help out as Bus Tour Guides-to check in members, take count etc.( to make sure no one gets left behind). Room Hostesses are needed to take tickets at the door keep water supplied and introduce the session speaker.

There will also be an opportunity to sign up as Hostesses to help guide everyone to the correct rooms for meals, sessions and exhibits etc.. All the SE counties will be doing these duties so it won’t fall just on us.

We will also be responsible for some kind of candy favor for all the tables-about 350 members total for one of the meals. We have decided to eliminate dessert and felt something sweet at lunch and dinner would be welcome. If you have any creative ideas about type of candy or sweet let me know. We should know more details after the SE District meeting in April.

WAHCE STATE CONFERENCE
COUNTRY SPRINGS HOTEL (soon to be renamed INGELSIDE)
Pewaukee, WI (JUST OFF OF I-94)
SEPTEMBER 17-19 2018

Room Rate is $99 (1-2 occupants) $10 each additional occupant. If you have any questions, contact Donna Zarovy, Conference Chair – 262-857-7502 or Chris Werner, Conference Co-Chair – 262-857-3458.

Registration forms will be available from the UPDATE magazine, on the WAHCE website: www.wahceinc.org or we will have some copies available at the extension office.

Any questions just email or call me.

Ginny Ramstack
ginnyramstack@gmail.com or 262-628-2100
NEW FOR THIS YEAR-HCE CASH RAFFLE 2018!!!!

As many of you may have already heard, we are giving away $500.00 as the first place prize instead of our usual Amish Quilt. After some discussion we decided to try this for 2018. We often get comments about the quilt that while it is always very beautiful, not everyone can use a quilt. It may be the wrong colors or "they have so many quilts", etc. We think it might be harder to decline buying a ticket for a chance to win cash or gift certificates that most everyone can use.

For display purposes we will have a LARGE check hanging in our booth to hopefully attract much attention and excitement!

We also have decided to sell the tickets for $2.00 each or 3 for $5.00. We will eliminate the need to staple them together in 'books' as we have done in the past and not print as many tickets to increase the odds of winning.

We are encouraging everyone to sell as many tickets as possible for our Wisconsin Bookworms tm fundraiser! IF EVERYONE COULD TAKE 10 TICKETS TO SELL IT WOULD BE A GREAT START TO ACHIEVING OUR GOAL OF SELLING ALL THE TICKETS TO PROVIDE BOOKS FOR THE CHILDREN.

We will be selling tickets as in the past at Breakfast on the Farm on June 9 and at the Washington County Fair on July 24-29 and maybe we'll even be able to sell a few at our Plant and Bake Sale in Jackson on May 17-19 (replacing the Annual Rummage Sale).

THANK YOU ALL FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT SUCCESSFUL!

YOUR FUND RAISING COMMITTEE,

Bev Buckmann, Claudie Calenzo & Ginny Ramstack
20th ANNUAL NVON CONFERENCE – Donna Zarovy, Chair
Learning, Leading, Serving, Enhance Leadership Skills
July 16-18, 2018

Country Springs Hotel and Convention Center
2810 Golf Road
Pewaukee, WI 53072

Circle the date. We invite you to join us in Pewaukee, on the edge of Milwaukee for the 2018 National Volunteer Outreach Network Conference.

We are planning wonderful tours and enlightening workshops to enhance the joy of being with our fellow NVON members from Wisconsin. You can fly into Milwaukee’s General Mitchell Field and catch a taxi from there.

Make your reservations for the Country Springs Hotel by calling (262)547-0201. Just mention the group, NVON, or the dates July 15-18, 2018. We have reserved several rooms for Sunday night, July 15, plus Monday thru Wednesday nights.

See you in Pewaukee!
There is a pool, sauna, and whirlpool, so bring your swim suit!
Waterpark tickets are extra.
Room Rate: $99 (1-2 occupants) $10 each additional occupant.

Donna Zarovy, Conference Chair 262-857-7502
Yvonne Belonga, Co-Chair 920-897-3134
Way back when I retired, 2001, I went to a day time HCE Board Meeting and met Dolly Tannehill. We immediately started working together organizing day trips for our members. Shortly thereafter, she says, “I have an idea- let’s go to the NVON Conference! It’s in Janesville.”

Sure. I just retired. I have time. I have no idea what NVON is but I had heard of Janesville once or twice. We got in her car began many years of eye opening adventures.

Listed below are all the states which are currently NVON members and I’ve attended conferences in all but South Carolina; there was a heat wave and it was July and there was no one to drag me along. Next Time.

I’ve had wonderful experiences traveling around to new places and visiting with what are now Old Friends. There are classes, raffles, trade shows, exhibits, speakers, and my favorite - day trips to local places of interest. What’s surely best and most meaningful to all of us, is learning what we all have in common and more ways to be helpful. "Projects in Common" are listed below.

We all know that traveling helps us realize a bigger world picture and being with all these good people helps us find our place in it. This summer, we will be hosting NVON and have the opportunity to share our beautiful state with people who can’t wait to meet us. Please try to be there. Information will be coming from our Conference Chair, District Director, County President, and UPDATE. Meanwhile, mark your calendars and talk it up. And Thanks, Dolly, for dragging me along. We did have good times.

**Member States**: Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, South Carolina, West Virginia, Wisconsin

**Purpose**
The National Volunteer Outreach Network, Inc. brings together organizations who are members of or are willing To work with the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) To promote friendship and understanding in the world
- To promote sharing between member states
- To promote well-being of individuals and families
- To bring about a better understanding of the relationship of home, community, state, nation and the world
- To speak for and further interests of member organizations engaged in service to families and communities
- To coordinate activities and disseminate information relevant to the Associated Country Women of the World (ACWW) and Country Women’s Council USA (CWC)
- To distribute Land Grant College and University research-based educational information

**Projects In Common** are projects that the NVON states have adopted to work on together.

- Eat Healthy, Eat Local, 2016-2018
- Water Around the World, 2013-2018
- Let’s Take Off, 2010-2012
- MAD, 2008-2009
- Stitches For Survival, 2006-2007
- DARE to be Healthy, 2004-2005
- Clothe a Child, 2002-2003
- Threads For Hope, 2000-2002
SOUTH CENTER REPORT

Slinger H.N.O.
All 3 members were present and discussed the future dates for the special events. Sue and Lil will be attending the February interest meeting. They collected $1.00 each for Pennies for Friendship. Memory of their past member Dolly Tannehill will be missed.

Sugar N Spice
January meeting was called to order by new president, Dorothy Bayard. Members decided to donate two $25 gift certificates to the HCE Cash Raffle. One from Kohls and the other a BP gas card. Debbie brought in some more of her glass pieces she shared with us last fall when she was at a glass class in Corning, NY. She explained in detail how each piece was made. Beautifully done. Several members will be touring the Spaulding Clinic for the special interest on February 8th.

The group plans to attend the Patio Players Production of Diary of Anne Frank on February 2. Husbands are invited and dinner out before the play. Ginny presented the activity of the evening. A quick and easy project of decorative boxes for the members to assemble. All made at least 2-3 boxes to take home. A yummy cherry dessert was brought by Jan Jilling for all to enjoy.

Coney River
Did not meet the month of January.

Hubertus Honeys
They had no report for the month of January.

Submitted by
Janice Oestreich and Dorothy Bayard

OUR 2018 INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY - THE REPUBLIC OF CUBA

CUBA IS THE LARGEST ISLAND IN THE CARIBBEAN WITH OVER 11 MILLION PEOPLE. THE ISLAND IS SHAPED LIKE AN ALLIGATOR WHICH HAS TRIED TO BITE US. HAVANA IS THE CAPITAL AND THE LARGEST CITY. THE GOVERNMENT IS UNITARY MARXIST WITH PRESIDENT AND PRIME MINISTER RAUL CASTRO. COME AND LEARN ABOUT ITS INTERESTING HISTORY, FOOD AND PEOPLE.

CUBA WILL BE A VERY DIFFERENT PRESENTATION ON SATURDAY, APRIL 14 AT NOON. WE WILL ALL BE TOGETHER FOR ONE PRESENTATION AND LUNCH. IN 2017, SANDY BRANDT AND DOROTHY BAYARD WERE ABLE TO VISIT CUBA ON AN EDUCATIONAL TOUR WITH THEIR HUSBANDS. THEY HAVE OFFERED TO SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES WITH US. IT IS A SHAME DOLLY COULD NOT BE WITH US FOR SHE VISITED IN THE 1950S. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE?

COME JOIN US AND STEP BACK IN TIME AND LEARN HOW CUBA HAS SURVIVED WHEN: SATURDAY, APRIL 14TH AT NOON WHERE: PUBLIC AGENCY CENTER, ROOM 1113 A&B
North Center Report – Judy Etta
January, 2018

January was a “Do It Yourself” month, one of our clubs took the opportunity to do something special. We all look forward to our February, Spaulding Research Clinic tour, and thank Judy Spaeth for organizing it.

EVER READY members met on January 16, 2018 at Panera, at noon, with twelve members attending. President, Bev Buckmann, opened the meeting. Nine members will be participating in the Spaulding Research Clinic tour. They discussed the upcoming March special interest meeting, and the $500 Raffle to replace the Quilt Raffle. The club decided to give a gas card and grocery card for $25.00 each. They talked about Scholarship Applications, and addressed the passing of Dolly Tannehill.

WAYNE WILLING WEAVERS gathered early January 26th to enjoy a tour of Hankersons Country Oven Bakery. The tour was most enjoyable, and it was refreshing for them to see things made from scratch. Members were amazed at the large dough hooks, fresh eggs used, flour in bins, nuts ground, homemade custard filling, cookie dough, bread dough, and much more, all done and made on site. A delicious breakfast followed. The meeting followed with the previous months minutes read and approved. A thank you card was received from the Samaritan, for the Christmas donation. A thank was also received from Ventures In People, for providing a family in Haiti with water filter system. The HCE $500 Raffle that replaces the Quilt Raffle was discussed.

The Club decided to donate a $20.00 Kohls Gift Card for an HCE Raffle prize. HCE Scholarships were discussed. One application was needed by a grandmother. All members will be taking part in the Spaulding Clinic Tour. The door prize winner was Marilyn Martin, which was provided by Judy Etta.

PRESSURE COOKERS met at Jane Jansen’s home on February 1, 2018. President Pat McIntee called the meeting to order. The Homemakers Creed was said, and the minutes were read and approved. Judy Spaeth and Pat McIntee have taken over the newsletter. HCE business cards and scholarship forms were handed out. Sign-up sheets for the Exploring Wisconsin and the Cuba presentations were also circulated. It was decided that each member of the Club will donate a gift card of their choice for this year’s cash raffle. They discussed their annual year end donation, and are considering various options. They would like to keep their donation local. They are considering holding their meetings on a Saturday during the day during the winter months. Members are going to come to their next meeting with ideas for their spring outing. The meeting ended with the Prayer Creed.
Judy Etta

Our New North Center Chairperson

Judy is a member of the Wayne Willing Weavers, and is your North Center Chairperson. Judy (Oelhafen) Etta was born, and raised on a dairy farm near Kohlsville, the daughter of Harry and Lillian Oelhafen, (deceased HCE member). Judy still lives near Kohlsville. Judy married Ethan Etta. Both Judy and Ethan were involved in 4-H during their youth, and continued on as adult 4-H leaders. Ethan passed away in 2004. Judy has been a 4-H leader for over 40 years. Judy currently co-chairs the Washington County 4-H Achievement and Recognition Committee, and is Chairman of the Washington County 4-H Trust Fund Board of Directors. Fourteen years ago, Judy was instrumental in establishing the 4-H American Spirit Experience, a trip for 8th – 10th grade 4-H members to visit and study historic sites in the Eastern United States, and has been involved with it ever since.

Judy is active in other areas outside of 4-H. She is a life member of Kewaskum FFA Alumni, a member of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, is her Church Ladies Aid Treasurer, a social member of the Kohlsville Fire Department; a member of the Washington County Historical Society, is active in West Bend Germanfest, and a past Board member of the West Bend Downtown Association.

Judy began her career in banking while still in high school and continued her education while working. She has been in banking for over 50 years, and currently is a bank Vice President and provides consulting and audit services to Banks throughout Wisconsin.

In her spare time Judy enjoys the outdoors, gardening, quilting, egg art, and antiques. Judy has two children, Jon (Julie) Etta and Jill (Bob) Nieskes, and three grandchildren, Katherine, Kevin and Rachel Etta.

Scholarship Deadline is March 15th 2018
Spring Fling

For: All Club Members, Interested Guests
Host: North Center
When: Thursday, May 3, 2018
Where: Chandelier Ballroom: 150 Jefferson Ave., Hartford

Cost: $20.00

Buffet Style Dinner

Mixed Greens with Carrot, Tomatoes and sliced Cucumber topped with Crunchy Croutons served with Ranch and French Dressings, Beef Tips with Brown Gravy, Roasted Chicken with a Mushroom Marsala Sauce, Roasted Vegetable, Fettuccini noodles, Parmesan Alfredo Sauce, Dessert, Coffee, Milk & Water

Put it on your calendar and watch for more information. The official invitation will be in the March Presidents Letter.
Cultural & Textile Arts

As your Cultural Arts Chairperson, I just wanted to remind you to keep working hard on your arts, crafts, poems etc. Spring Fling this year is Thursday, May 3rd and we'd like to see as many beautiful entries as we have seen in previous years!!

This year the bonus category is "Spring into Action". Create the display of your choice by using any media. Size restrictions are that the base can be no larger than 10" x 10" with a maximum height of 20". Take these instructions to your meetings and have fun being creative! I can't wait to see the finished products.

Jan Jilling
Tribute to Dolly Tannehill (and the other women in this story) – Among the pages of the Slinger HNO scrapbook that were scanned for our archiving project we found this story written by Judy Garty for the Wisconsin Women magazine. We asked permission to reprint it for all to enjoy and to remember Dolly and those no longer with us.

Dolly Tannehill finishes her morning coffee, smiling as she admires the latest photo of her first grandchild. An advertising assistant in Milwaukee, she leaves home early to beat the commuter rush. Pat Hafermann has been up since dawn. With stool lunches now packed, she gathers her crossing guard gear. Part-time instructor Barb Beyer plans her lessons for an upcoming quilters’ retreat, and Isabelle Held sits down to write a letter to her state representative before preparing a family breakfast. Living worlds apart in the same Washington County, each of these women will spend one day or night this month learning something new and celebrating what they share in common.

Part of what they share is a commitment to home and family. They are themselves a family — cheering one another’s successes, supporting one another in their losses, and contributing their initiative to the community. They are part of the 365-member organization known as the Washington County Extension Homemakers, which marks its fiftieth year anniversary this month.

Neighborhood clusters of women, aged 20 to 80, meet monthly in member homes to learn about topics that range from stress management to the study of a foreign country, wildflower gardening to estate planning, health insurance to raising teenagers. Club members rotate leadership, teaching, and hostess responsibilities.

The names of the thirty-six clubs in Washington County reflect the imagination of their members: Rural Rascals, Eager Beavers, Pressure Cookers, and Mean Mamas. "I joined as soon as I moved to Wisconsin," said Tannehill, an extension homemaker for seventeen years, whose Slinger H.N.O. (Homemaker’s Night Out) club name suggests one reason for joining. "My initial purpose was to get acquainted in a new community. One neighbor who was a member asked me to go, and once I got into it I enjoyed it. I found the programs so diversified, it was absorbing," she continued, describing information she has often shared with co-workers. "I think we’re friendly, warm, and open to people and new ideas and each other," said Tannehill, whose club has drawn together for births, graduations, marriages, funerals of young and old, illness, job loss, career moves, and contest wins. "I appreciate the fact we can be honest with each other. I feel our group is a very welcoming group. I feel very attached to them all. We’re like family — we don’t see each other very often, so when we get together we pick up the pieces and go on from there."

"We have the same headaches — kids, school, homework, our husbands’ jobs, our own jobs — and the same fun and foolishness, too," said Hafermann, 32-year-old Executive Board President of the county-wide group. "We have a common bond," she said. "I might see (a homemaker from my club) eight times a year, but if I needed someone in a pinch, I’d have no problem calling on her and feeling good about it."

Among their strengths, extension home-makers are fun-loving, thrifty, and modest. It is the kind of group that can get up in the middle of a dinner meeting and do a chicken dance or make a tablecloth out of hand-embroidered feedbags, hold a treasure hunt in a public restaurant or a costumed Halloween meeting by candlelight. They can spend hours on hand-drawn name tags or donated raffle items with little thought of individual recognition.

Continued…
The extension homemaker has progressed from the days of glass milk bottles, the $3.98 dress, and Shirley Temple movies to the time of microwaves, by-pass surgery, laser technology, and the boom box. Along the way came nylon stockings, automatic transmissions, fluoridation, penicillin, shopping malls, and seat belts. She has demanded programs to make her comfortable in that changing world — from making face cream during wartime to understanding the computers her children use in school.

As the media expanded the homemaker's world, the homemaker extended her contributions to the community. Extension Homemakers began childhood immunizations in Washington County, sent packages to servicemen, gave free rides and child care to voters, originated recipes for the government surplus program, sent stuffed toys and self-help kits to Haiti, and planted trees. They fingerprint children, run an annual blood bank, and collect refund coupons for disability centers like Central Colony. On a regular basis, they offer three $200 scholarships to college-bound members or their offspring; remember one another year-round through a Secret Pal system; sponsor a Chuck Wagon Dinner at the county fair; and collect Pennies for Friendship to help support Associated Country Women of the World (A.C.W.W.)— their international counterparts.

"I think when you do something for someone else, it makes you feel good about yourself," said Beyer, who sparked a twelve-quilt donation from her Forget-Me-Not Club to the West Bend Domestic Abuse Shelter. Club interest in the project developed from an eye-opening speech. The only quilter of the ten club members, Beyer taught an Evening Star pattern to an eager group. "We're kind of like peacocks," said Beyer. "We sit around and then we start to talk and the feathers just start to ruffle. It's been just wonderful!"

"I don't think I would have ever had time to go and visit each one of my neighbors separately without Homemakers. All through these years I have been in contact with my neighbors, and that to me is really valuable," said fifty-year charter member Held, who has nine children, thirty-two grandchildren, and a continuing interest in the family dairy farm now run by two of her sons. "The whole neighborhood has changed hands up and down the road. We had some people move away, which you take, and some die, which is harder to take, but new members are welcome any time.

"We usually have a pretty good gabfest," laughed Held, describing the end of a typical meeting. "We usually don't get home till midnight. Everybody loves to sit and visit a little and catch up on the news."

Groundwork for an organization of homemakers began in 1862 when President Lincoln legislated land-grant colleges in every state. In 1914 the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) joined the colleges in offering home economic and agricultural demonstrations to nonstudents. Home economic specialists organized classes to bring educational material to women. The classes led to clubs and in 1936 home demonstrators began servicing a national network of homemakers. Home demonstrators became home agents and finally home economists, whose role today is to coordinate the training of club members who teach their own clubs.

An annual fee of five dollars per member supports the organization along with supplementary backing from the UW-Extension and the federal and county governments. Individual clubs are joined geographically into centers that are directed by an executive board of elected members and advised by a UW-Extension home economist. Extension Homemakers have state, national, and international ties, and the National Extension Homemakers Council (N.E.H.C.) is represented in the nongovernmental organizations' section at United Nations headquarters.

Speaking to a county-wide meeting of members, home economist Joyce Albrecht compared the organization to a garden.

Continued…
“Imagine any flower you know and we have a homemaker like that flower -- the tall, stately rose, a sturdy zinnia, a hearty petunia, a fragile orchid, a lone daisy,” she said. "Like a bed of tulips, we blossom the first year and the garden is beautiful. The second year, the garden loses its beauty and finally fails to bloom at all unless each bulb is cleaned and revitalized and some new ones added. Then the garden blooms anew. Like tulips, we need to keep reaching forward, trying new things and updating in order to stay alive and bloom."
"I think I'll always remember how down-to-earth and wholesome (Homemakers) are," said Myra Peters, home agent for Washington County from 1953 to 1960. "They have different educational backgrounds and careers and lifestyles, but when they come to a meeting they all meld into one friendly group."

And what do Extension Homemakers think will be the world's most creative job in the year 2000? Lois Thull, Young Extension Homemaker representative, posed the question recently to a semiannual gathering of countywide homemakers. Reading a message from the Wall Street Journal, Thull said, "It involves taste, fashion, decorating, recreation, education, transportation, psychology, romance, cuisine, designing, literature, medicine, handicraft, art, horticulture, economics, government, community relations, pediatrics, geriatrics, entertainment, maintenance, purchasing, direct mail, law, accounting, religion, energy, and management. Anyone who can handle all those has to be somebody special. She is. She's a homemaker."

*Judy Garty is a free-lance writer from Slinger.*

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Diane (Dee Dee) Roskopf who was a former member of Pressure Cookers, passed away this winter. She was well known & loved in the community and a great deal of fun.

Dorothy Hoelz who was a member of the Rockfield Homemakers also passed away on February 13th.

May both these ladies rest in peace.

At last, we are celebrating our 80th anniversary in the West Bend Community Library. Showcasing many of the old projects and pictures from over the years.
Reminder: Wisconsin Bookworms™ Match Challenge:

For this year I challenge members to make a donation of $15 or more for the 2018 Wisconsin Bookworms™ fundraising year.

I will match every donation from individual members (not a club donation) up to a total of $500 for the program.

Send your Wisconsin Bookworms™ donation to me with the BOOKWORMS CHALLENGE FORM.

Your deadline for this challenge is May 15th.

GO HCE GO!!!