

# LARAMIE WOMAN'S CLUB

VOLUME 12 ISSUE 4

Karen Bard, LWC Editor 2022-23

December, 2022



**GENERAL FEDERATION of WOMEN'S CLUBS**

*Living the Volunteer Spirit*

[www.gfwc.org](http://www.gfwc.org)

## December

It is the end of the year already and it is the time of year that we usually find ourselves in the company of the ones we love the most. If anything, I wish that for each of you. Regardless if it is family or friends or both. I wish that you have someone to share this time of year with. And may you enjoy your holiday traditions, pass them on to new family members and make new wonderful memories.

I am looking forward to this Christmas as my middle son and his fiancée are coming over from Australia and spending close to a month with us. She will get to meet extended family and it is her first visit to the US. We are also taking her to West Yellowstone while she is here. The two of them will also be visiting New York City.

With all of that however, that means that I will be having lots of family from both side coming to the house so that they can meet Jacinta.

As we go through this final month of the year and look forward to the New Year to come, let's all be considerate to say Happy Holidays to those you may not know as well. When saying Happy Holidays, we are not doing it to be politically correct, but out of respect. From the 20<sup>th</sup> of November to January 24<sup>th</sup> there are at least 14 different religious holidays.

*When we remember a special Christmas, it is not the presents that made it special, but the laughter, the feeling of love, and the togetherness of friends and family that made that Christmas special*

*Catherine Pulsifer*

I wish everyone the best during this time.

*Karen Bard*

## Board Activity

December Board meeting was held. Final preparations for our December lunch were made. We decided to provide baked ham, have the board members do the side and have our members provide the desserts. We decided to devise a way to judge the desserts and present a prize. The high school choir will be there to sing for us and after that we have bingo planned with door prizes. Please RSVP to [kcbard@charter.net](mailto:kcbard@charter.net) as we need to know how big of a ham to cook.

Planning is underway for the Holiday Bazaar that we do every year in conjunction with the Ivinson Mansion Open House. It will be the second weekend in December (10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>). Please see the events section on the details. Assistance is needed for this event. There are details on in this newsletter as well.



March and May events were discussed as well. In March we are looking at doing something new. A Celebrate 307 Day. We have reserved the AHSC for the evening and are hoping to start something new. Something brought back from Alaska where they celebrate 907 Day. So pencil in March 7<sup>th</sup> (307) on your calendar and we will keep you informed.

As voted on at the last business meeting, the board is still taking on ideas for local community needs that we can assist through our "Operation Smile" jars. The board plans on bringing three ideas to the membership at the January meeting. If you have any suggestions for us to consider, please bring them to our attention as soon as possible.

### November Program

We had two guest speakers celebrating Veteran's Day. We heard two wonderful talks one from Chief Martinez and one from Sergeant Vincent. Mr. Martinez talked about his transition from military life to civilian life. His talk gave a very interesting perspective on what that transition meant and what it took to do it successfully. Sergeant Vincent talked about what it took to be an Honor Guard. He went into the details and what it meant to him. He also talked about his earlier life, how he got to be in the military and what he is doing now in Casper as a recruitment officer.

We raised almost \$600 on our silent auction for the club. Some of the left over items were donated to Lisa Theiss for her 'family shopping-Christmas-store' for the kids at risk.

Two different donations were made to Mr. Martinez for his veteran's program. The goal of the fund is to assist the veteran students when they need it for unexpected expenses. In total \$750 was donated to the program.

Sergeant Vincent brought a flag that had been flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier last Veteran's day on the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the internment. It sold for \$550 which will go to the Olivia Caldwell Foundation for pediatric cancer research. In addition, we donated another \$200 from the gas card raffle to the

same charity in his name as a thank you for him coming to give us his talk.

If you attended this meeting, the board would like your feedback on how you thought it went. Basically we are asking ourselves the question as to whether we should/want to do it again next year and if so, what improvements need to be made. The board did discuss this at the recent board meeting. This meeting was our fundraiser for Wreaths Across America. We raised enough money to purchase 82 wreaths and we will receive \$410 to fund community projects. We think it was a success and a good start.

### December Meeting

Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup>

Noon Lunch

1:00 Program – High School Choir singing Carols

1:30 – Holiday Bingo with Prizes

**No Business Meeting**

**Baked Ham with Holiday Sides supplied by the Board.**

**Members to bring dessert if they wish. We will be having a prize for the best dessert that will go with bragging rights. \$10 donation from members if you don't bring anything for the dessert bar.**

Extra hostesses will be needed, if you can assist please contact **Sue McDonald**.



### Christmas Bazaar

The Mansion Open House and Christmas Bazaar is open December 10 from 3 – 6 pm, and December 11 from 1 – 4. Annie Nelson has

graciously agreed to be the focus point for this event. She has the following needs:

**Item 1:** Please come share your holiday cheer and help us set up for the Ivinson Christmas Open House Sale at the Alice Hardie Stevens Center, Saturday, December 10 and/or Sunday December 11, 2022!

We need holiday helpers of all kinds: set-up, decorators, cashiers, sale hostesses, and on Sunday, end-of-sale helpers.

Proceeds benefit Laramie Plains Museum, Cathedral Home/Crisis Center.

Sign-up sheets at our December meeting or contact Irene Peach, Ina Buckner or Annie Nelson with how you'd like to help:

If you have any boxes from shipments you have received we would appreciate you bringing those in. We will use them for people to take their purchases home in.

**Saturday, Dec 10:** 8-9am: Move boxes from the mansion basement to Alice Hardie Stevens Center. 9am-noon: Set out items on tables for sale; decorate the bar; make centerpieces from our donated items for the round tables and price them.

Sale begins at 3pm, ends 6pm; Cashiers and table hostesses (answer customer questions, fill in gaps with surplus items from underneath the tables), needed

**Sunday, Dec.11:** 1-4pm: Cashiers and table hostesses needed 3:30pm Helpers needed to box up unsold items for Cathedral Home pick up at 4:15pm. (Some select items could be stored for a future sale.)

Even 1 hour of your time would be appreciated! Thank-you.

**Item 2:** - Interfaith is looking for small baby food style jars, small jam jars (3-6 inches), clean and dry pill bottles; plastic grocery bags,

paper grocery bags (all sizes). Please bring them to our meetings and we'll deliver them to Interfaith.

**Item 3:** - Homeless Students: Lisa Theis, Liaison, at the Middle School, is accepting knit mittens/gloves; gently worn outerwear; new underwear, any size/any color for girls and boys; regular size shampoo/conditioner bottles; travel size deodorants for females or males; donated home decor and kitchen items for the 'family-shopping-Christmas-store' Lisa will set up in her classroom. Bring your items to our meeting.

Please remember that your donations and your time are appreciated but only do what you can do, there is no pressure to donate, only opportunities. Take care of you during this busy season as your health and happiness are important as well!

*Annie Nelson*

### Things to Remember

- Spices for Interfaith (They have seen a 30% increase in people utilizing their services.)
- Turn in your reading to Bernie Horst for ESO.
- Dimes for the March of Dimes
- Donation Jar – for new members it is our custom that you make a donation the month of your birthday, but anyone can contribute to this jar at any time.
- Donations for the school kids Christmas Store that is run for children at risk to be able to select Christmas Gifts for their family members. See last newsletter for suggestions.
- Donations for the Christmas Bazaar.



### Interesting Factoids for the Month

Hannukah, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Oh My! So many things there are that are celebrated in

December. In addition, there are crazing festivals like Krampusnacht in Austria. This is where Santa's evil twin, Krampus, chases naughty children through the streets. Or there is the Burning Clock Festival in Brighton England where paper lanterns are burned in an enormous bonfire on the 21<sup>st</sup> to mark the shortest day of the year.



This is the darkest month on the calendar for the northern hemisphere. Think Alaska, Siberia and the Canadian

Territories, to name just a few. In those places the sun never rises during this month.

On the other hand the darkness shows off the millions of twinkling lights that people put up. Then there are the lights on the Christmas Trees. Rockefeller Center in New York City. Or the nine candles that are lit during Hanukkah.

We all get to look forward to the new movie releases. December is the last month to release movies for consideration of the Academy awards next year. Some of the biggest have been Titanic (1997), Avatar (2009) and all three Lord of the Rings (2001, 2002, 2003).

On a more somber note, December 7<sup>th</sup> was the attack on Pearl Harbor. But then we also took flight for the first time on December 17, 1903 at Kill Devil Hills in Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. But it also is the birth of the bill of rights on December 15<sup>th</sup> 1791.

December also contains the unluckiest day of the year. Forget the Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> superstition. December 28<sup>th</sup> has that dubious honor, known as The Feast of the Holy Innocents or Childermass. Up until the 17<sup>th</sup> century people believed they could repel some of that bad luck by beating children with sticks on this day.

If you were born in December you get to pick your birthstone. Tanzanite, turquoise and zircon al represent December. Luckily each is blue, although different in shade.

Karen Bard

## What happened In Wyoming

1949, the year that Wyoming plunged into an arctic freeze. Wyoming is no stranger to cold and wind and some snow thrown in. 1949 started mildly but then an unexpected storm swept the state with 65 mph winds that buried cars on their way home. Motorists were stuck in their cars for days and the snow didn't melt completely until July. Even a train got stuck stranding 8,000 passengers. Rescuers had to use flame throwers to thaw the train.

The US military was even called in to assist with dropping supplies to towns that were completely cut off from the rest of the state and much needed supplies. For 45 days storms rolled in and temperatures didn't climb above zero until mid-February.

Needless to say the livestock were suffering gravely and the air force launched 'Operation Haylift' to take thousands of tons of hay to starving cattle. The storms finally started to abate in March.

If you would like to watch a 1 hour PBS special on this use the link below.

[Storm of the Century - the Blizzard of '49 - YouTube](#)

## A Piece in History

The trailblazing American journalist Nellie Bly began her record-breaking 72-day journey



around the world November 18<sup>th</sup> 1889 -- a trip which made her the first person to ever complete the fictional journey depicted in Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days"! A minimalist traveler, the 24-year-old Pittsburgh native brought with her only the dress she was wearing, a

sturdy overcoat, a wool cap, a few changes of underwear, and a small handbag with her toiletries and writing supplies. She started the 24,899-mile journey from a port near New York City and traveled by steamship to England. From there, she traveled by train across Europe and Asia, by ocean liner across the Pacific Ocean, and by train from San Francisco back to New York. In total, her journey lasted 72 days, six hours, eleven minutes, and fourteen seconds, setting a new world record for fastest circumnavigation.

Bly, one of the earliest muckraking journalists, was also famous for her undercover investigative reports on corruption and social injustices. The year before her famous journey, Bly took an undercover assignment for the New York World where she feigned insanity to get herself committed to the New York City Lunatic Asylum on Blackwell's Island. Her work pioneered the realm of undercover journalism after she wrote an exposé on the horrific conditions and mistreatment of patients she found there. Bly's series of articles led to a grand jury investigation and, subsequently, to improved care for the patients and increased funding for the care of people with mental illness.

She was born Elizabeth Jane Cochran

### Club Needs

The club is in need of the following positions to be filled.



Department Chair – Environment and Health & Wellness  
Publicity

Also Lynda Hidalgo will be stepping down as 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President in charge of Fundraising at the end of the year. We need someone to fill this position until May. Lynda is happy to mentor/assist whoever is willing to take this on. We need your assistance.

### What's Your Flower?

According to the Old Farmer's Almanac, carnations mean "alas for my poor heart," but The Flower Expert notes that carnations symbolize different things based on their color. Red carnations represent love, pride, and admiration, for example, while pink carnations symbolize the love of a woman or mother.

Purple carnations represent capriciousness, yellow carnations mean disdain or rejection, white carnations symbolize innocence and pure love, and striped carnations represent refusal.

If this is your favorite flower then your best quality is that no matter what, you remain down-to-earth. You have many moods, but regardless of how you feel, your style remains the same: simple but stunning.

### Volunteerism

We didn't report our volunteer hours for October so please come prepared to report it at our December meeting.

### Committee Reports

#### Environment

Carbon Capture, simple yes? Projects are happening across the country to sequester carbon. There is a project being in preliminary stages now run by the University of Wyoming in Gillette. But how does it work really? Here is the process simplified and numbers from a generic plant showing the potential of these types of projects.

A coal mining operation could allow as much as 10,000 metric tons of methane to escape into the atmosphere. Approximately 3 million tons of coal is required per year to fire a coal powered electricity plant.

The electricity plant then emits about 5.7 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. Carbon capture has the potential to capture as much as 95% of it. The electricity plant also emits about 1.2 million pounds of other toxic chemicals such as chromium, cobalt and nickel. It also

emits about 500 pounds of mercury.  
(Reminder that all these numbers are dependent on the size of the plant!)

To generate electricity, coal is burned to produce steam to turn turbines that generate the electricity. To do that about 3.9 billion gallons of water is consumed annually.

The carbon capture process basically captures the emissions and redirect it. Instead of going up the smoke stacks it is captured and processed. In some processes it is absorbed into a solvent derived from natural gas. The carbon is then removed in the form of carbon dioxide which is then pressurized for transmission. The carbon dioxide can either be stored underground or it can be used by oil companies for enhanced oil recovery by re-injecting it to stimulate wells with heavier oil. This is known as enhanced oil recovery.

The estimated cost to retrofit an electricity generating plant is \$1.6 billion. The process would also use about 30% of the electricity generated in order to capture the carbon dioxide. The average increase in the monthly rate payers' electric bill will be about \$100. This is the cost for storing carbon dioxide generated from coal fired electricity generation plants.

In addition the water consumption of the electricity generation plant will go up by about 35 – 50%. So this is another environmental impact for storing it.

The financial benefit for retrofitting a power plant from the government is a federal tax credit of \$85 for each ton of carbon dioxide that is captured and geologically sequestered. There is also a federal tax credit of \$60 for each ton of carbon dioxide that is used in enhanced oil processes.

So there it is in its probably most simplistic form. Explaining the pros and cons and the costs and the financial benefit for implementing. Research continues on more effective ways to both capture and sequester and some of that is being done right here in Wyoming.

If you would like to have a presentation on this next year, let us know and we can approach the University to ask for a presentation.

*Karen Bard*

### Education & Libraries

We continue to work on a new project at the elementary level and keeping an eye on the needs of the mobile library.

In January we will be announcing that applications for our new Mary Godat Bellamy Scholarship will be open. Candidates will need to be non-traditional (i.e. not going directly from highschool to college or vocational school). If you are interested in being on the selection committee please contact me.

*Janice Pelton*

### Health & Wellness

*Advice from a Singer Sewing Machine –  
Manual 1949*

*Prepare yourself mentally for sewing. Think about what you are going to do. Never approach sewing with a sigh or lackadaisically. Good results are difficult when indifference dominates. Never try to sew with a sink full of dishes or beds unmade.*

*When there are urgent housekeeping chores, do these first so your mind is free to enjoy your sewing. When you sew, make yourself as attractive as possible. Put on a clean dress. Keep a little bag of French chalk near your sewing machine to dust your fingers at intervals. Have your hair in order, powder and lipstick on. If you are constantly fearful that a visitor might drop in, or your husband will come home, and you will not look neatly put together you will not enjoy your sewing.*

### ESO

The Worst Hard Times by Timothy Egan. My father-in-law survived the dust bowl, barely. He is 96 years old and still has the little lamp the doctors sent his mother home with. They told her to tent him in newspaper and burn

mentholated rub in the lamp. There is nothing more we can do for him. He survived as well as his brother who had to have surgery to remove the sand in his lungs.

He talks about his memories of the dustbowl now. Living in a one room shack. He had bought this book and read it and enjoyed it. He plans on giving copies to each of his children. But I asked to borrow his copy and read it and found it to be very well written and informative.

I didn't study this period of history in school so I learned so much. The descriptions in the book not only describe the changes in the land and the hardships of the people, but it also goes into the immigrants that had homesteaded in the dust bowl, where they came from and why.

My father-in-law was a young boy during the dust bowl era having been born in 1926. This book gave me a startling look into his childhood and the way he was raised. I highly recommend it.

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please report your reading! We know you are reading; your books, magazines, newspapers all summer long. Make sure you are ready to report it all at the meeting.

I am developing book marks that you will be able to pick up and use while reading your books. This way you can fill them out when you complete your book and use a new one when you pick up your next book. But please send the information in so that we can track our clubs reading! Thank you.

*Bernie Horst*

#### Correspondence and Birthdays

Happy Birthday to: Sharon Hand (17), Claire Angele (30) Kathy Mead (11), Cheryl Fleener(12), Helen Wolfe(21), Shelley

Bissel(28), Ina Buckner(16), and Malea Brown (22).

Card was received from Mary Alice Bruce

*Dear lovely friends,*

*Much appreciation to you all for your kind texts, cards, calls and understanding during this time of John's heroic, brief battle with colon cancer. Your on going support has been invaluable for me. I am blessed to have such wonderful friends.*

*Fondly,*

*Mary Alice Bruce*

Cards were sent out to Bonnie Chavez, Karen Polis and Antoinette Denison as well as Mary Alice Bruce.

*Linda Cavalli*

#### Future Events

Christmas House First weekend in December – Cheyenne. Look for further details

Iverson Mansion Open House and Christmas Bazaar – December 10<sup>th</sup> 3 – 6 pm and December 11<sup>th</sup> 1 – 4 pm. Volunteers needed, set up, clean up, cashiers day of etc.

December 17<sup>th</sup> – 11 am Wreaths Across America at the Greenhill Cemetery

Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – 10:30 am. All welcome to have a lesson in hostessing lunches. Lynda Hidalgo will take you through everything.

Spring State Conference – April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, Torrington

International Convention – June 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2023– Louisville, Kentucky

Western States Regional Meeting – August 26-27, 2023 - Oregon

**Karen C. Bard, President**

**307.343.6919**

**[kcbard@charter.net](mailto:kcbard@charter.net)**