

February, 2026

A MESSAGE FROM BCCWC PRESIDENT

February is a time when nature seems to take a pause and let us travel a slower and cozier path through our days. People mindfully increase their awareness of selecting time to sit with a cup of hot chocolate, coffee or tea while reading a good book or gazing out the window at the white blanket covering the ground.



The Chickadee, our bird of the month for February, shows us how he survives and thrives in winter. By exhibiting resilience and championing camaraderie amidst the challenges faced with changing weather, he flits about daily seeking food, shelter, and the joy of being in flight. Soon he is joined by fellow birds engaging in the same wintry activity. The Chickadee reminds us of hope and renewal sustained through the activity of this wintry month.

Looking at the collections taking place in February, I see how we, like the Chickadee, are keeping alive the sentiments of hope and renewal. Our BCCWC "Cheery Notes to Seniors" and "Lovable Misfits" are guaranteed to bring comfort, hope, and positivity into the lives of recipients.



Jeanne Lefebvre, President



MEMBERSHIP

BCCWC membership is at 283 with 3 new members since January 1.
Please welcome *Michele Isaacson, Cheryl Van Nelson, and Pati Wiegand.*

BCCWC is currently accepting applications/dues for 2026-2027. Those interested in joining or renewing will find a form on our website www.bccwc.org or click on the link below:

<https://www.bccwc.org/app/download/769914818/2026-27+Membership+Application.pdf>

Email correspondence is \$35. To receive your newsletter and mailings via US Mail is \$55. Make your check out to BCCWC. *Be sure to use blue or black ink, as that is what our bank requires.*

If you are unable to print a form, send your check, along with your information/interests, to:

Dianne Froelich, 3466 Peppergrass Dr., Green Bay, WI 54311

If you are renewing, please highlight any changes from last year.

Dianne Froelich, Linda Aschenbrenner, Cindy Dimmer, Membership Co-Directors

Refer to the BCCWC Directory for contact information

MEETINGS REMINDER

Two guests and 120 members attended our January meeting. Robin Hayes gave a great presentation on ways to declutter your home that were easy and not overwhelming. She gave several concrete examples of things that could be done in a small amount of time to make things better for the way we live now.

Our next meeting will be **February 18**, at the De Pere Community Center, 600 Grant St., De Pere.

Social - 12Noon

Program - 1PM

Meeting - 1:45PM

This month there will be a required refresher demonstration on how to use the club's defibrillator.

Carol Mau (227-3542) zinniea60@gmail.com, Sue Vyse (562-3273) smvyse@gmail.com,
Susan Byrne (708-860-8878) susan.byrne@cbexchange.com, Program/Social Co-Directors

BROWN COUNTY COMMUNITY AWARDS

BCCWC is proud to announce that it awarded \$53,500 in Community Awards at the end of the fiscal year, providing financial assistance to more than 50 different organizations. All the recipients improve the quality of life in some way for people in Brown County. The list of awards is in the 2025-26 membership directory. Kudos to BCCWC, Inc.

Green Bay Area Crime Stoppers is a BCCWC 2025 Community Award recipient. It is a non-profit organization operated by a volunteer board of directors made up of people from the local community. They encourage the reporting of information or leads which can assist law enforcement with solving crimes.

Their goal is to help in the fight against crime, but they are not part of any police agency. Tipsters remain anonymous and are eligible to receive a cash reward if the information given leads to an arrest.

Crime Stoppers relies on volunteer board members and tax-deductible contributions from the public to operate the administration of the program.

Bonnie LeMense, President-Elect

COMMUNITY SERVICE

CHEERY NOTES TO SENIORS



Valentine's Day will be a happier one for 50 assisted-living residents! Valentines and birthday cards were delivered to residents of Wyndemere Memory Care in Allouez, thanks to BCCWC members. Completed cards for distribution in March and April will be collected at the **February 18** membership meeting. We will continue to have "six packs" available for distribution at each monthly meeting. Contact co-chairs with questions.

Rosie Jonas (366-2509) rjonas@new.rr.com,
Jeanette Krysiak (655-6928) jeanettekrysiak@yahoo.com, Co-Chairs

FORT HOWARD SENIOR LUNCHEON

On **March 23**, residents and staff will enjoy food and fellowship with BCCWC volunteers. Following the lunch, residents play bingo and earn prizes donated by members.



Volunteers are needed to provide the following:

- Serve lunch/assist residents carrying food, visit residents 11:30AM-12:30PM
- Greet residents
- Serve coffee, water, rolls
- Clean up 12:30-1:15PM
- Call Bingo 12:45-1:45PM
- Donate main dishes: casseroles, salads, veggies, rolls, fruit, desserts, paper products (sturdy plates, dessert plates, napkins)
- Make 6 spring centerpieces

The committee requests prizes be brought on the day of the event or given to the chairs at the February/March general meetings. Suggested prizes include nutritious items to supplement their diet and useful comfort items:

- Crackers, powdered creamer
- Cereals, single-serving granola bars (boxed), instant packs of soups, microwaveable popcorn
- Snacks
- Gift certificates to: Blackstone Restaurant, Family Dollar, Glass Nickel Pizza, McDonald's, Subway, White Dog/Black Cat, General Dollar, Save A-Lot

Other items:

- Postage stamps
- Wheelchair cushions and shoulder wraps
- New, lap-size blankets
- Books - especially large print
- Puzzles (puzzle books and jigsaw - 500 pieces)

Based on safety, need, and small living spaces, certain items are NOT recommended:

- candles, knick-knacks, lotions, shampoos, perfumes, makeup, large calendars

Please consider this project to brighten the day of some extremely grateful seniors.

Sherry Campbell (680-0778) sherrysuej@new.rr.com,

Barb Berg (655-8590), Co-Chairs

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

January donations went to the Hope Center Pantry. Collected were 25 beautiful birthday bags and a truckload of groceries. During 2025, 4,897 Brown County residents visited the pantry. These visits represent 16,993 family members served, about 153,000 meals. The pantry is open Monday-Thursday 1-3PM. This all-volunteer-run pantry is very grateful to BCCWC for their continued support.



Lois Mauermann (360-2286) lmauermann@new.rr.com,

Terri Lewis (660-9895) ptlfam10@gmail.com, Co-Chairs



ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES - HOMELESS SHELTERS' MEALS

On **Thursday, February 5**, we serve our next meals at the Men's Shelter on St. John's St. and the Women's Shelter, 700 E. Walnut St. There were wonderful sign-ups after the last meeting with nearly all the food we needed. However, the numbers at the shelters have increased since then, so our need is now greater.

Still needed:

Men's Shelter: 2 large hot vegetable dishes, 1 large salad with dressing on the side

Women's Shelter: 1 party-size lasagna, 2 large hot vegetable dishes, 1 large juice

If you can take any of this food to either of the shelters, contact Mary Kay or Jan. Food can be delivered to the shelters between 5-5:20 PM. Servers should arrive by 5:15 PM. Follow the parking guidelines on the handouts from the meeting or call co-chairs for directions. Our generous members who donate such delicious, large meals to both shelters are appreciated. In this weather, the guests are *especially* grateful also. Questions? Contact:

Mary Kay Paulson (632-7473; cell 301-221-6327) mkpaulson@aol.com,
Jan Clark (265-5744) janetclark71@yahoo.com, Co-Chairs

ST. JOHN'S MINISTRIES - WELLSPRING

Heads up to our BCCWC members regarding the *last collection* for Wellspring guests! It will be held at our **March 18** meeting from 10:30AM-12:30PM in the parking lot at the De Pere Community Center. We will be collecting spring clothing items, such as spring jackets, raingear, and tennis shoes for the ladies at Wellspring. Please refer to the March newsletter for an updated list of items needed.

Kathy DeBroux (660-7921) kmdebroux@gmail.com,
Cathy Green (676-4665) cgreen1171@gmail.com, Co-Chairs

HSHS ST. VINCENT CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL - CHILD LIFE DEPARTMENT

Sincere appreciation for the past and continued support of the children at HSHS St. Vincent Children's Hospital. Your kindness has brought comfort, smiles, and joy to these children and their families. It truly does make a difference.



We are continuing to collect stuffed animals and colorful, latex-free, character band-aids for the children. There is a constant and ongoing need for each of these items.



Kathy Aicher (265-5094) kaicher@new.rr.com, Sue Vyse (562-3273) smvyse@gmail.com,
Carol De Grand (680-5470) cjdeggrand@gmail.com, Co-Chairs

HOUSE OF HOPE



The new year started out with much happiness at House of Hope. Two birthday celebrations were delivered in January by Sue Calabrese and Kay Barlament/Monica Sims. Celebrations for 2 birthday kids, 5 other children and 23 adults.

Dianne Smith & Rose Jensen, Co-Chairs

BUILDING QUILTS FOR HABITAT FOR HUMANITY - It's our 10th Anniversary!

Since February 18, 2016, 66 quilts have been given to new Habitat for Humanity homeowners.

The requirements for a family to acquire a home through Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity:

- Need for Improved Housing: Based on current housing conditions, there must be a demonstrated need to qualify for a Habitat home.
- Ability to Pay: In the Homeownership Program, applicants are applying to purchase a home.

Applicants must fall within 30-80% of Brown County's Area Median Income (AMI), based on family size and have a reliable source of income (employment, SSI, etc.) to pay an affordable, interest-free mortgage.

- Willingness to Partner: Must be willing to complete 250-500 volunteer hours building their home, be a community partner, and represent Habitat for Humanity in a positive manner within the community.

The requirements for a lap-size quilt presented to a new homeowner by BCCWC:

- Lap-size quilt: approximately 53 x 57 inches (like a living room throw).
- Must contain a picture of a house, either imprinted on fabric or from a pattern.
- Complete the quilt top and supply the backing material which should be 4 inches bigger on each side than the top. (No need to supply batting)

Machine Quilting will be done for you: Gina Reinardy, 664-6501, takes the quilt to Lynn Konitzer who, at no cost, machine quilts the Habitat quilts. After machine quilting, Gina returns the quilt to you.

Finishing the quilt: If desired, hand sewing of the binding will be done for you by volunteers.

The goal of Greater Green Bay Habitat for Humanity is to complete 15 homes a year. Thanks to the quilters, we have 13 completed quilts and 7 that are in various stages of completion. Because of that cushion, there is no pressure to finish a quilt. But we must continue making quilts so we don't lose ground.

It's an easy and fun project for anyone who enjoys making quilts.



Meg Deem, Mary Schrickel and Pat Russo display their handsome quilts

Mary Schrickel (609-4651) mary_habitat@hotmail.com,

ONE STITCH AT A TIME



The holidays are over and the days are still short, so click those needles and work those hooks to get a blanket made for those in need. The next collection will be at the spring luncheon in May. Wellspring and House of Hope will be happy with handmade or purchased blankets. Any questions, contact Jean or Pat. Thank you.

Pat Hearnden (217-3824 cell or 432-5871) & Jean Allgeyer (639-2980), Co-Chairs

LOVABLE MISFITS



The collection in February for misfits will be *inside*. If you have fleece to donate or THREAD you no longer have use for, please bring it. Stuffing/fill is also needed. There currently is no need for gallon-size bags.

We currently are contacting groups to distribute 60 misfit/quilts kits. We are working on completing 60 more. Thank you for your continued support!

Mary Anne Froelich maryannefroelich@gmail.com, Chair

SMILE BOUQUET



It's cold and dreary, but by the time April arrives it will be green. Daffodils and tulips will be poking upwards. A Smile Bouquet work day will provide the spring flower mood. *A meeting to put together small bouquets for one of our area nursing homes will take place shortly after Easter.* Next month's newsletter will have the date, time, and meeting location. Enjoy the sunny days when we have them and hope winter goes by fast.

Sue Johnson, Barb LaFrombois & Judy Trimberger, Co-Chairs

FUNDRAISING

SPRING CARD & GAME DAY FUNDRAISER



It may be winter now, but the Card & Game Day committee is saddling up for a Kentucky Derby Day celebration for the April Card & Game Day fundraiser. The celebration will be a festive colorful gathering at the Riverside Ballroom. Registration forms are on the website (under "fundraising") and there is plenty of time to get a group of friends together for an afternoon of bridge, Mah Jongg, dominos, hand and foot - whatever is your game of choice. There will be raffle baskets, "sip & surprise", a 50/50 raffle, the money tree and, of course, the Yum Yum Shoppe. So start "fancying up" your Derby hat for a "win, place or show" kind of day!

- ❖ Date: **Wednesday, April 29**
- ❖ Place: Riverside Ballroom
- ❖ Time: Registration starts at 10AM, lunch at 11AM, cards and games will start close to 12Noon.
- ❖ Cost: \$40/person

Registration forms are on the BCCWC web site under "fundraising". They are due by **April 15**. Limited number available, so get your registration in as soon as possible.

Sue Protzman (217-3014) protz511@new.rr.com, Sue Burich (865-7731) suebee1881@gmail.com,
Nancy Noles (664-4850) nnoles@fastmail.com, Co-Chairs

BOOK & PUZZLE EXCHANGE



We had a great exchange of books and puzzles at the November and January meetings. Keep up the good work! Many said you forgot to bring your books and puzzles in January---well, now is your chance to get rid of that "clutter"! Everyone rushes to the book table at the meetings because they always find some kind of treasure. We will look forward to seeing your contribution.

Leah Dumke (499-2308) leahdumke@gmail.com, Chair

FELLOWSHIP



Lunch on January 15 at Generations Bistro & Marketplace (Allouez) for a nice get-together with great conversation and meeting new friends.

Upcoming Events! Sign up and join in the fun!

*Sign up at the monthly meeting OR with the contact person listed for the event.
(Use your directory for contact phone numbers or email addresses.)*

"Dinner Dames" Coordinated by Sue Sinclair. Meet at 5PM

Date (Last Thursday of Month)	Restaurant	Contact
Feb. 26 (reservations due by 2/22)	Lorelei Inn (Green Bay)	Sue Sinclair
Mar. 26 (reservations due by 3/22)	St Brendan's Inn (Green Bay)	Carol Simpson
Apr. 30 (reservations due by 4/23)	Union Hotel (De Pere)	Marla Lee
May 28 (reservations due by 5/26)	The Drift Inn (Green Bay)	Elaine Gerhold
June 25 (reservations due 6/21)	Chives Restaurant (Suamico)	Elaine Gerhold
July 30 (reservations due 7/26)	El Sarape East (Bellevue)	Terry Jeffers
Aug 27 (reservations due 8/23)	Rustique Pizzeria (Suamico)	Sue Protzman

“Lunch Bunch Ladies” Coordinated by Marla Lee. Meet at 11:30AM

Date (1st Thursday of Month)	Restaurant/Location	Contact
Feb. 5 (reservations due by 2/1)	Café Con Crema (Green Bay)	Rose Jensen
Mar. 5 (reservations due by 2/27)	bleu (Ledgeview)	Karen Coppersmith
Apr. 2 (reservations due by 3/29)	El Sarape East (Bellevue)	Brenda Johnson
May 7 (reservations due by 5/3)	Longhorn Steakhouse (Green Bay)	Mary Jo Piskor
June 4 (reservations due by 5/31)	Cheesesteak Rebellion (Green Bay)	Kathy Eisenschink

Mah Jongg Lessons

Eleven members learned about and practiced playing Mah Jongg in January. It was a fun time to exercise our brains! We are looking at offering another Mah Jongg class. Tentative dates are March 25, April 1 and 8. Stay tuned for details.



Mark Your Calendar:

- **Funeral Home Presentation**, Tuesday, February 10, 1PM,
Proko-Wall Funeral Home
Get your questions answered by the professionals regarding funeral costs and options
 - Lunch at Cranky Pat’s Pizza Parlor at 12Noon
 - **Contact: Mary Rahr**
 - No cost.
- **Line Dancing Lessons**, Wednesday, February 25—**Great North Commons**, 789 Armed Forces Dr. (just off Holmgren Way near Stadium View)
 - 12 members have signed up. There’s room for more to learn from local expert, Jim Huss
 - Lunch at 11:30AM, lesson at 12:45-2PM
 - Cost: \$5 - pay that day
 - **Contact: Mary Jo Piskor**
- **Paintin’ Pottery**, Tuesday, March 3, De Pere, 10AM-1PM
 - Select an item to paint/glaze then pick up your masterpiece later that week
 - Cost varies depending on project.
 - **Contact: Rita Wurzer**
- **Mulva Center Tour**, Friday, March 20 – Learn about one of the latest additions to De Pere
 - Tour 10:30AM, then lunch at Savour, the restaurant within the **Mulva Center**
 - **Contact: Anne Hare**
- **Brewery Bingo at Zambaldi’s**, Thursday, April 9, 6-8PM Free! Bingo & beer!
 - **Contact: Marla Lee**
- **Brown County Medical Examiner’s Office presentation**, Tuesday, April 21

What’s the difference between a Coroner’s Office and a **Medical Examiner’s Office**? **Dr. Elizabeth Douglas** will give a historical and interesting perspective on how these offices have evolved over time and function today. Taken from the Brown County website: *The Medical Examiner’s Office investigates and certifies cases in which the individual dies while not under the care of a physician, or in cases where a physician cannot or will not sign a death certificate. In this, the Medical Examiner’s Office serves as the physician of the public.*

- Lunch at 12Noon, presentation 1-2:45PM
- **Village Grille** in Allouez (please come for lunch to help cover the cost of the room)
- **Contact: Sue Sinclair**

- **Shillcox Shamrock Lines Alpaca Farm Visit**, Tuesday, May 12, 5118 Heritage Rd., De Pere, Free
This working alpaca farm has over 60 Huacaya alpacas which are raised for fleece and breeding.
The farm has been in existence for over 125 years.
 - 10AM-12Noon
 - Free! *But a visit and purchase in the gift shop would be appreciated.*
 - **Contact: Patty Payette**
- **Mini Golf Outing**, Wednesday, May 27, **Duck Creek Golf Center**
Practice putting while having fun with fellow BCCWC members!
 - 10:30AM
 - Cost: \$8
 - **Contact: Mary Jo Piskor**

Sign-up sheets are on the Fellowship table at the monthly meetings or get in touch with the contact for the event. (Contact information is in the BCCWC Directory.)

Standing Activities:

- **Brown County Bunco**, led by Carey Lheureux. Play is on the 2nd Thursday of the month at **Village Grille**.
- **Book Club**, coordinated by Joan Zittlow and Paula Fineout. Meetings are the 1st Monday of the month. Location changes each month so refer to the Book Club section in the newsletter OR contact Paula or Joan.
- **Mah Jongg** is held at the **De Pere Community Center** on the lower level on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 1-3:30PM and at the **Ashwaubenon Community Center** at the same time and days.
- **Egg Cartons**. Please continue to bring your egg cartons to the Fellowship table at the monthly meetings. They will be delivered to Paul's Pantry by a member. Each carton saves them 34 cents. The January meeting brought in 129 egg cartons that were delivered to Bob at Paul's Pantry, saving the pantry \$45! As a clarification, *Bob says they only use the DOZEN carton but do pass on the 18-egg cartons to people who raise chickens.*



Paul's Pantry volunteers: Rita Wurzer, Mary Jo Piskor, Rosie Jonas, Helene Rosner, Dianne Smith

Mary Jo Piskor (217-4343) savoie731@aol.com, Sue Sinclair (737-2461) upnative1979@yahoo.com,
Rita Wurzer (655-8894) jwurzer6@new.rr.com, Fellowship Co-Directors

BOOK CLUB

Join the Monday, **February 2**, Book Club meeting, 1-2:30PM at the Green Bay East Branch Library where *James* by Percival Everett will be reviewed. *James* is a brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

Book Summary:



When Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he runs away until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck has faked his own death to escape his violent father. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

The **March 2** meeting takes place at the Kress Family Branch Library in De Pere, reading *A Fever in the Heartland* by Timothy Egan.

Note: The May book is *Lessons from Lucy* by Dave Berry. There was a minor typo in the original book list.

Send Paula an email if you would like to be on the “official” email list. Members may bring friends, neighbors or family members. You may attend regularly or whenever time permits. Questions? Contact:

Joan Zittlow (857-7749) joanzittlow@gmail.com,
Paula Fineout (360-3144) paulafineout@icloud.com, Co-Chairs

COMMUNICATIONS



Yours in fellowship, fun and community good works,

Kathy Szymanski and Margaret Georgia, Co-Editors
BCCWC Communications Team
Brown County Community Women's Club, Inc. www.bccwc.org