

## Links Letter – March 2024

#### Happy 2024!

Winter is feeling short this year as the snow is disappearing fast here in Vermont, my winter get-a-way. The CWGA member golf clubs are counting the days until their courses are officially open. Now is the time for the Spring tune up and scheduling your golf games. If you haven't checked out the 2024 tournament schedule do so now as most are open for registration. Remember to <a href="renew">renew</a> your membership prior to signing up for a tournament. If you can't remember if you renewed, you can check for your name in the <a href="CWGA 2024 Directory">CWGA 2024 Directory</a>. (If your name is there, then you have already renewed). Registering

Karen Kiely

early has its benefits! If you need to cancel out of a tournament, you'll only lose \$5, if done prior to registration closing. Please note we do not refund any money if you cancel *after* registration closes.



We continue to streamline the comprehensive CWGA <u>website</u>. Kudos to **Karen Kiely** (Blackhawk), who rolled up her sleeves to make navigation easier. We are open to feedback for continuous improvement. Don't be shy; good ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

New and experienced members may wish to review some tips and tricks we've learned over the years. Check out the Member Notes that summarize

helpful information to make your membership and participation in CWGA a positive experience. These important details are for new members but truly valuable for everyone. You can find the information on the website under Membership Information.

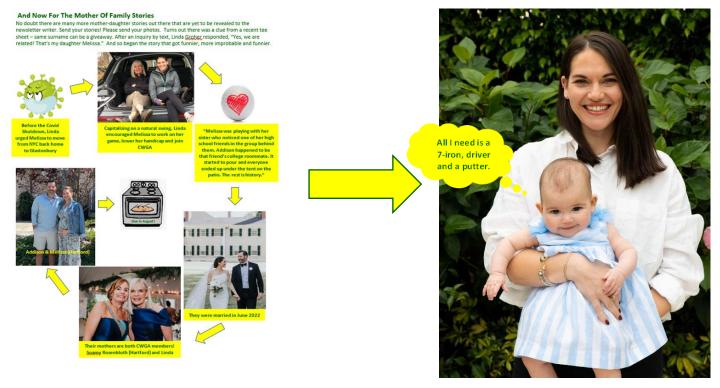
Highlights for the season include the annual PME/CWGA Scholarship fundraising event. We will build on the success of last year's events that occurred at individual clubs. This year, we would like more clubs to participate to support our Junior Girls. We encourage you to create an event that works best for you and your club — member-member challenge, competition against another club, 50-50 raffle. Keep us posted so we may share your success with the broader membership. We will share further details with your Club Rep at the annual Club Reps' Meeting. In addition, and to keep supporting the Marion Hyde Scholarship, we will hold special contests at the one-day tournament on Monday, May 20th, at CC of Farmington, Marion's home course.



I look forward to seeing you on Opening Day or soon thereafter.

### **Really Wonderful Updates**

Do you remember the wonderful tale of love and marriage in the time of Covid (below left)? **Melissa Groher** (Hartford) and Addison Rosenbluth are the proud parents of future CWGA member **Maisie June Rosenbluth**, born 13 August 2023 (below right). CWGA grandmothers **Linda Groher** (Glastonbury Hills) and **Soamy Rosenbluth** (Hartford) are over the moon and report she is perfect and wonderful.



## **Really Interesting News**

Big cheers to Massachusetts Endicott Cup captain **Mary Gale**. The golf universe was all aflutter in January when she carded two holes-in-one in the same round. As reported in the *Worcester Telegram & Gazette*, Mary was playing the par-64 Poinciana Golf Club in Lake Worth, Florida. The article noted 30-handicapper Margery Hadar made two holes-in-one in the same round at Granada Golf Club in Coral Gables in 2016. In 2022 16-year-old Drew Rudolf had two at Butte des Morts Country Club. Three players have carded two holes-in-one at PGA events including amateur Bill Whedon who played at Farmington and is still a member at Madison. He did it while trying to qualify for the 1955 Insurance City Open (now The Travelers



Jane Rackliffe surrounded by her Connecticut teammates at the 1999 Endicott Cup in Rhode Island.

Championship). Alas, he did not make the cut but if he still has a car, the license plate reads THOI.



STOP THE PRESSES!!! The newsletter writing staff has learned that CWGA has its own odds beater.

Jane Rackliffe (Shuttle Meadow) scored two holesin-one in a round in The Bahamas at the Lyford Cay Club Invitational in 1992 or '93. Additional details are not available at this time, but the search is on.

One with too much time to fill then asks, "Are there other twos on the golf course?" The answer is yes! Read two more *two* stories on the next page....

# 23 Restaurant Workers Say They Share Lotto

By M. DION THOMPSON and CONSTANCE NEYER Courant Staff Writers

Twenty-three employees of the Shuttle Meadow Country Club in New Britain have laid claim to a winning ticket in the record \$12.6 winning ficket in the record \$12.0
million lotto drawing Friday.
A Shuttle Meadow chef who would A Bruttle Meadow chet who world only identify himself as quick-pick said Friday night that one quick-pick of the 230 tickets the country club of the 230 tickets the 230 tickets the country club of the 230 tickets the country club of the 230 tickets t

J. Blaine Lewis Jr., chief of the J. Biaine Lewis Jr., ciner of the state's lottery division, said the total purse was \$12,640,517 and provided "the most exciting week for the lot-

tery."
He said 7,136,839 Lotto tickets
He said for the week, with
were sold for the sold Friday alone.
3,516,880 tickets sold Friday alone. 3,510,000 tickets so, he said.
Both were records, he said.
"Goldie," who said he has won

"Goldie," who said he has "Goldie," who said he has "Goldie," about \$4,000 in daily number drawabout \$4,000 in uaily number orawings, said he convinced his fellow waitresses, bartenders, cooks and

buy 230 tickets. The group

split a record \$12,640, 517 jackpot with each receiving about \$7,300 a year for 20 years. (This was the days before lump-sum payouts.) A mere 16 months later and after a few personnel changes, a group of 26 and comprising many of the same people as before divided \$1,052,591.95 with \$1,600 after-tax payments for 20 years.

#### Shuttle Meadow's Two Lottery Wins Recognized by the

Connecticut State Golf Association for its 100-year-plus commitment to golf excellence, Shuttle Meadow was awarded the 2023 Walter 'Bud' Smith Distinguished Club of The Year award. In 1985 the club was noted for its lottery-winning staff. At the urging of the chef who only identified himself in The Hartford Courant as Goldie, his colleagues

each chipped in \$10 to



huttle Meadow Country Club employees, who were winners in Friday's Lotto game, cele

#### Wethersfield's Two Plane Crashes A fine

way to distract a trivia-obsessed opponent during a Cup Match is to point out the location of an outlandish tale from long ago. Then watch as said opponent spends the rest of the round AND lunch looking up old articles about the incident on her phone only to discover there were two! (The opponent lost the match but gained oh so much, uh, knowledge....). The first crash occurred in April 1937 in a three-seater open-cockpit biplane. The engine sputtered and the plane crashed hard into the 6<sup>th</sup> fairway (treacherously long par five,

Two Hurt in Plane Accident Waiting To Be Taken To Hospital

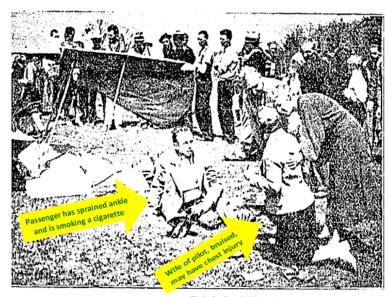


Photo by Joseph W. Beastry, Jr., Mt. Vernan, N. V.

His ankle injured by the force of the impact, Harold G. Holcombe, Jr., of 79 Spring Street, Hartford one of
the passengers in the plane which crashed on the golf course of the Wethersfield Country Club Sunday mon, is
seen in this picture, sitting in foreground, snoking a claractic while Mrs. Mildred Hartman, wife of injured
pliot, Howard Hartman, of 810 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, is shown, back to camera, talking with
spectators anxious to help her. Mr. Hartman had been removed to a walking car when picture was taken.

number one handicap hole). The injuries were not considered life threatening, "though, pending X-rays," according to *The Hartford Courant*, "Mrs. [Mildred] Hartman may have a chest injury, and Mr. [Howard] Hartman [the pilot] an injury of the neck," in addition to her visible bruises and his obvious facial lacerations. The third passenger Harold Goodwin Holcombe, Jr. sprained his ankle and lit up a cigarette after the crash (see photo caption). Holcombe's family were in insurance and among the founders of the city of Hartford. He valiantly served in WWII as a military intelligence officer and retired from the US Army Active Reserves as a coronel in 1969. In 1914, the year before he was born, Holcombe's father Harold, Sr. fell off his horse sustaining many cuts and bruises and remained unconscious for several hours. The next day, Senior's father John reported that he was doing better and after a few

days at home his son would again be able to attend to business. Back in the saddle, if you will.

Some decades later, the Hartmans would divorce. Mildred Hartman became a successful realtor in West Hartford. Howard continued his career at what is now United Technologies, with a brief stint at Chandler-Evans. He remarried at some point. A few years before his death, he retired from Inflight Motion Pictures, Corp. The company developed in-flight movie devices that have evolved into what we enjoy on planes today. All three folks were members of Hartford Golf Club.

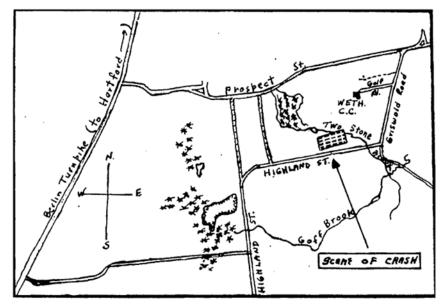
Sadly, the second crash in March 1948 resulted in the death of an Army pilot on a solo nighttime training run. The P-51 fighter plane exploded after going across the fairway and ploughing into trees. Landing gear was later found on the green. The impact was so great and deep that neither the pilot's body nor engine was ever recovered. The Army abandoned the search

## Fighter Plane Crashes, Burns In Wethersfield

after four days and filled the hole. The

Army coronel who was interviewed by *The Hartford Courant* said "the Army would continue to investigate the crash through eye-witness accounts, surveys of records of the plane and [the pilot]." Given "the mysterious circumstances surrounding the crash, a finding of 'crash cause unknown' will probably be filed."

#### Shaded Area Shows Where Crash Occurred



A fighter plane crashed in Wethersfield early Sunday morning at the spot shown by a shaded area on this map of the Country Club lands. Most of plane wreckage was in a swampy, wooded section of the club grounds while other parts were scattered over the sixth fairway. Various hasty reports of the crash location immediately after it occurred led to some confusion among emergency vehicles called to the scene, including at least two ambulances which found the area only after some trouble (Courant Map).

### Recap 2023

## **CWGA Championship – President, VP Clean Up at Stonington**

First vice president **Lisa Fern-Boros** spent the summer hoisting trophies. The CWGA trophy, the most beautiful in Connecticut, was the first and most difficult to earn.



She survived extra holes in her each of three matches against Myra Macmillan (19 holes), Mercedese Large (21 holes) and Jean Sennett (19 holes) in the final round. Once finished at Stonington, LFB won the stroke-play Southern New England Women' Golf Association (SNEWGA) championship and senior championship at Hunter Memorial Golf Course in Meriden and Simsbury Farms, respectively. Lisa's exemplary performance

put her in fourthplace in the Connecticut State Golf Association (CSGA)

Player of the Year rankings. This is the second time LFB has won the CWGA Championship.

President Michelle Murphy won on the 18<sup>th</sup> hole to take the Founder's Cup against New Haven's Christine Bishop. While Michelle did have the home-course advantage, she loaded on extra responsibilities as the unofficial player coordinator finding guest quarters for those who requested them. The full Championship results can be found here.





#### The Tournament of Champions



Tournament of Champions

Darlene Tranquilli was visibly stunned and moved to win the Tournament of Champions at Hartford Golf Club. Her steady play in the 70-player field was the real deal. After an early double bogie, she righted the ship with a birdie and only four bogies for a 76. Though finishing second with a 77, Mumbi Masamvu from Stanley faltered down the stretch finishing her round bogie, double, bogie.

Having fallen by the wayside a few years ago, a committee of CWGA and SNEWGA golfers, along with support from CSGA, joined together to breathe life back into the popular event. Having secured title sponsor Golf Tec and a three-year commitment from Hartford Golf Club, the TOC boasts a full and competitive field of golfers who have won a Connecticut course championship at any time in their careers.



Just as her victory is the real deal, Darlene's credentials as a club champion are solid. She's won at Orange Hill GC (8), Race Brook CC (2), Great River (1). She is currently in Florida and reports playing her best golf ever, with extra-strength Tylenol as her caddie.

Hilary Barhydt of Litchfield CC, who won on

matching cards on the net side, bookended the CWGA TOC sweep. Attention Club

GROSS				NET		
1	Darlene Tranquilli The Villages Florida	+5	76	Hilary Barhydt <i>Litchfield</i>	-3	68
2	Rumbidzai Masamvu <i>Stanley</i>	+6	77	Soamy Rosenbluth <i>Hartford</i>	-3	68
3	Jen Holland <i>Lyman Orchards</i>	+7	78	Carol Galbraith Hartford/Simsbury Farms	-2	69
4	Gia Watkins <i>Brooklawn</i>	+8	79	Anne O'Dell <i>Watertown</i>	Е	71
5	Lisa Fern-Boros Highland/Fairchild Wheeler	+8	79	Judy Staknis <i>Blackledge</i>	+1	72
6	Nicole Elliott <i>Pequabuck</i>	+8	79	Lisa Sencen <i>Black Hall</i>	+1	72
7	Lynn Scully <i>Waterbury</i>	+8	79	Kristin Regan <i>Wheeler Park</i>	+1	72
8	Whitney Lancaster Bull's Bridge/Wee Hurn	+9	80	Tori Langen <i>Black Hall</i>	+1	72
9	Jean Sennett <i>Wampanoag</i>	+12	83	Hollis Barry <i>Old Lyme</i>	+2	73
10	Mercedese Large <i>Wampanoag/Rockledge</i>	+12	83	Diane Rothwell <i>Ellington Ridge</i>	+2	73
11	Carole Oat <i>Stanley</i>	+12	83	Deborah Owens <i>Blackledge</i>	+2	73
12	Mary Beth Curtis Blackledge Country Club	+12	83	Pamela Zanetto <i>Torrington CC</i>	+2	73

Champions: click here to sign up for this year's tournament.

## **President's Cup**



#### The Medallion



#### **Solheim Cup**

For the first time in the brief history of the tournament, it seems that everyone *finally* read the memo and wore their proper team color. That in itself was a victory. But in the end, TEAM BLUE went to the pro shop with the chits. Do sign up here for this event. Given its incredible popularity, there is probably already a waitlist. Sign up anyway. Having started five or so years ago, Highfield continues to host this unique 3x9-hole event. Member **Mel Larkin** singlehandedly dazzles at the helm with imaginative table settings and delicious menu options. The clubhouse and

course are a meandering path of delight for the insatiable trivia hound.

Founded in 1953, the Highfield Club was originally built as a private home for Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Chamberlain of New York City. He was a Colombia professor, a noted authority on international law. Construction was well underway in October 1913. A mere two years later, the

The Pink Team

architect of the home Theodate Pope (later Pope-Riddle) was thought dead when pulled from the chilly waters after England-bound ship The Lusitania was torpedoed. A fellow passenger aboard the rescue ship noticed her eyes flutter and urged crew members to try to revive her. Described in a 1981 New York Times article as both "homely and headstrong," Pope-Riddle was the second licensed female architect in the U.S. She designed Hill-Stead, now a museum in Farmington, for her father steel magnate Alfred Pope and her mother Ada to house their magnificent art collection. In addition to designing nearby Westover School and Hop Brook School in Naugatuck, her crowning achievement is Avon Old Farms which she founded in honor of her father.

What makes Highfield so special is the many vestiges of the residential home that remain to this day. The rear garden is meant to be an extension of the home – an outdoor living room. Look closely at the corners of the building and you'll see the newly restored faces of Mr. & Mrs. Chamberlain. Mrss Poppe Transport of the building and you'll see the newly restored faces of Mr. & Mrs. Chamberlain.



#### Seniors, Legends, Juniors at Watertown

The winners are featured below but the true praises absolutely must go to **Brenda Basson** CWGA Major Tournaments Chair (Ellington Ridge) who calmly goes about her business turning water to wine. When players arrive, all they have to do is show up and play. For behind the scenes, everything is ready from email updates to score cards to rules officials to lunch to wrangling trophies. But we all know that the golf gods can show no mercy: when Brenda finally decided to play in a CWGA tournament, she slipped and broke her ankle. By now she is healed, but we nonetheless pass along our good wishes and heartfelt gratitude.



And If herding cats were a super power, the cape would belong to Cindy Ahern

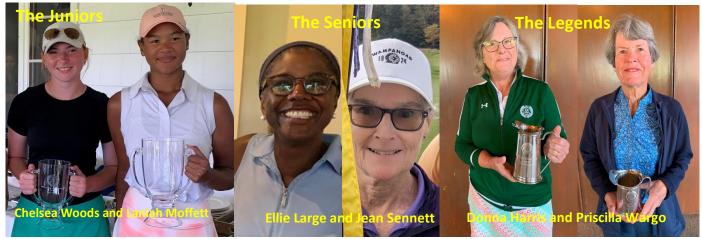
(Wampanoag) who as Junior Chair easily put every girl under her spell. (Even some of the grownups wanted



Mrs. Ahern to tell them what to do and where to go.) Still an educator when not in school, Cindy managed to get all of the girls out to their faraway holes for the shotgun start. ("Girls with driver's licenses over here. Girls who need a ride, stand here.") She complimented the thoroughness of their scorecards and recognized the girls for good sportsmanship and courtesy. Even their parents adored her.







#### The 2023 Endicott Cup

This version of the beloved seasonending, tri-state tournament found the intrepid Connecticut entrants at Wanumetonomy Golf & Country Club in Middletown, RI, just five miles down the road from Newport. The classic linksstyle course on the east side of Narragansett Bay by famed architect Seth Raynor (also Yale) showed its teeth and provided a fitting challenge for the 60+ players. Abutted by a vast U.S. Navy base that included the clearly marked *Undersea Naval Warfare* building, many "U.S. Government – No Trespassing" perimeter signs were further incentive to keep the ball inbounds. Given our proximity, we and the intended Naval recipients were roused by "Reveille" each morning and serenaded by "Taps" at sunset. (Try saying Wanumetonomy three times. No, try saying it once.)





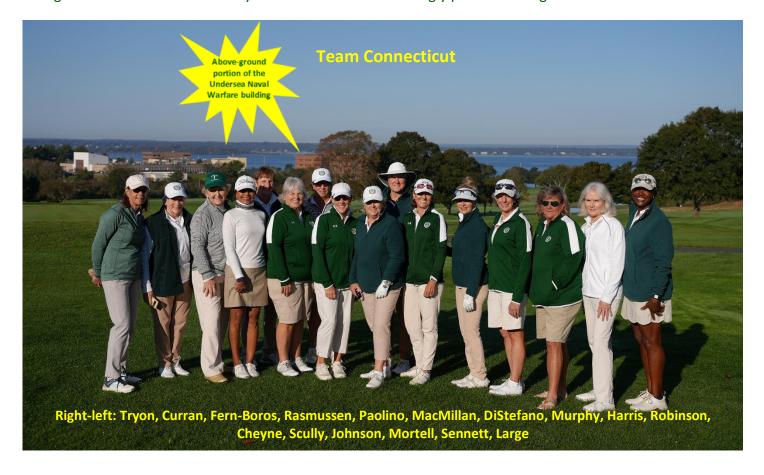
From right to left: Jill Tryon Hartford Golf Club, Jo Rasmussen Great River Golf Club, Lisa Fern-Boros Highland Golf Club, Joyce Curran Silo Point Country Club, Jane Robinson Wethersfield CC, Jean Sennett Wampanoag Country Club, Cissy Cui TPC River Highlands, Patti Cheyne Hartford Golf Club, Jennifer Fritts Ellington Ridge Country Club, Lynn Scully Country Club of Waterbury, Debbie Johnson Blackhawk Country Club, Mercedese Large Wampanoag Country Club, Donna Harris Farmington Woods Golf Club, Jenny Mortell TPC River Highlands, Liz Distefano Ellington Ridge Country Club, Deborah Cerrato Ellington Ridge Country Club, Michelle Murphy Stonington CC, Julie Paolino Ellington Ridge Country Club, Missing from photo: Hollis Barry Old Lyme Country Club, Myra Macmillan Blackhawk Country Club

#### And The Endicott Cup winner is...

...not from Connecticut. Christine Gagner's name was engraved for a third time with a one-shot, to -the-end victory over fellow Massachusetts player Kristen Henderson. Check complete results here.



But even if one doesn't win The Endicott Cup, players still aspire to compete on the third day for their respective states. Captains select their top 14 players plus two alternates to populate teams for the Tri-State (gross) and Eaton Cup (net) matches. Massachusetts won the Tri-State matches, but Rhode Island thwarted their bid for a clean sweep by winning the Eaton Cup. We don't begrudge their successes (nor the Mass team's incredibly well coordinated team outfits). We comported ourselves well and were excellent guests. But Connecticut *WILL* fervently compete at Woods Hole Golf Club, October 8-10, to wrest the trophies away and bring them back home where they will be cherished and lovingly polished at regular intervals.



#### And Furthermore....

One of the nicest things about The Endicott Cup tournament is that it feels like the perfect way to end the golf season. It's a little like summer camp – state players have a chance to bond with each other over two or, hopefully, three days. Once all the players are together, it feels like old home week where connections from years past are rekindled and strengthened. Really, please, sign up for this tournament. It's a blast. And Connecticut Captains Joyce Curran and Donna Harris always pick snazzy swag.









#### What's in Store for 2024

Click here to sign up for these thrilling events. Also check out **Upcoming Events** on the CWGA website for information about invitationals at member courses and much more!

2024 CWGA Tournament	Site	Date(s)	
Opening Day	Great River	Mon, 4/29/2024	
Shamble	Waterbury	Tues, 5/7/2024	
Club Reps' Outing and Meeting, by invitation only	Pine Orchard	Tues, 5/14/2024	
Summer Special	Farmington	Mon, 5/20/2024	
CT vs RI Matches	Fox Hopyard	Thurs, 5/30/2024	
Solheim Cup	Highfield	Mon, 6/10/2024	
President's Cup	Tumble Brook	Tues, 6/18/2024	
Two-Player Scramble	Redding	Wed, 7/10/2024	
Ringer Tournament	Litchfield	Mon, 7/22/2024	
Tournament of Champions	Hartford	Tues, 7/23/2024	
Senior, Junior & Legends Championship	Shuttle Meadow	Tues-Wed, 7/30-31/2024	
CWGA vs SNEWGA	SNEWGA	TBD	
Medallion	Race Brook	Tues, 8/6/2024	
Better Ball of Twosome	Innis Arden	Thurs, 8/22/2024	
105 <sup>th</sup> CWGA Championship	The Farms	Tues-Thurs, 8/27-29/2024	
Closing Day Scramble & Awards	Highland	Thurs, 10/3/2024	
Endicott Cup & Tri-State Matches	Woods Hole CC, MA	Tues-Thurs, 10/8-10/2024	

## **Just One More Thing**

Okay, let's try this again. Some of the brightest minds in

CWGA came together to help deliver the full

story on Jane Rackliffe's two holes-in-one. Phone calls, emails, text messages have been going back and forth. Many had parts

#### No putter needed

■ Ever wondered what it feels like to make a hole-in-one on your first swing of the day? Or make two holes-in-one in the same round?

Just ask Jane Rackliffe of Shuttle Meadow Country Club in Berlin.

Playing in the Ladies Inter-national Four-Ball Invitational at the Lyford Cay Club in Nassau, Bahamas, Rackliffe holed a 7-wood shot on the 149-yard eighth hole — her first hole.

Rackliffe used an 8-iron on the 117-yard 17th hole for the

second hole-in-one.
"The first one was a shock, and when the second one went

n, the screams got a little louder," said Rackliffe, who will turn 70 May 29. "Then I got back to my normal game. My legs were shaking so badly I had a whiff and hit two balls into the water.

**Bruce Berlet** 

of the story. Jane's feat was never in doubt, but no one seemed to be able to put it all together. The email to Jane might be sitting in her spam folder. There was a time when The Courant was truly a local and robust newspaper that chronicled all things big and small. Somehow the CWGA research team forgot to check newspaper's vast archives for this story. The article was sitting right there. A few key words and voilà. Yes, it was the Lyford Cay Club. The year was 1994. Two holes-in-one indeed. Most wonderful of all, Jane will turn 100 on May 29. We wish her well.

STOP THE PRESSES!!!



here. Carol Galbraith has been making these masterpieces since 2011.

CWGA Membership: Any woman who is an active golf member of a CWGA member club who is eligible to participate in golfing activities at her club without payment of additional greens fees and has a USGA index of 25.0 or lower may apply for membership in CWGA up to October 1. Those who join after July 1 will miss the deadline for participation in the Past Presidents' Cup matches, but may participate in any other CWGA events. Complete the on-line form; it will be electronically sent to your pro for approval and then forwarded to CWGA Membership. Please encourage your club members who meet the requirements to join.