



Come Join Us!

BARRINGTON JUNIOR WOMEN'S CLUB INVITES NEW MEMBERS

For 106 years, Barrington area women have gathered to do good, learn, and contribute to (and define) the civic needs of their community. Barrington Women's Club was formed in 1914 by 17 women who were "civic-minded ladies motivated by a desire to establish a cultural organization". The Club established a clean-up day, promoted protection of bird life, founded and equipped an emergency hospital, and started a kindergarten. Many of those services are standard today.

In 1936, the erstwhile Barrington Women's Club sponsored a sister organization—Barrington Junior Women's Club—which is a mainstay presence in member's lives and in the community. And while women's lives have seen great change over a century, the associations, friendships, and motivation to improve their community's quality of life remains strong. We caught up with Gina Koertner, the new BJWC president, to learn more.

QB: *Tell us about you and what you hope to bring to your role as president.*

GK: My husband and I moved to Barrington about 10 years ago for the schools, green grass, and community. We have two girls ages 9 and 11. I am active in their schools and am an avid participant in Ironman Triathlons. I hope to balance the strength of the organization's past and provide innovation to BJWC, as it evolves into a new era.

QB: *What is the focus for BJWC?*

GK: This year we intend to redirect our focus from fundraising and get back to our community service roots. Now more than ever, our community needs our services. However, BJWC hopes to keep

fundraising at a level to adequately meet the needs of our grant and scholarship programs.

QB: *Have the Club's activities, or perceived community needs, changed after the pandemic?*

GK: Yes. The executive board agrees recent global and U.S. events create an organizational opportunity to position BJWC to best meet the needs of a changing Barrington. We plan to assess all services provided and want to set the stage for future boards' success.

QB: *BJWC's Fall Fashion Show is a huge hit. Will you have one this year?*

GK: Yes, we are scheduled to host the Fall Fashion Show in November. Even before the pandemic,

the fashion show was opening a new, exciting chapter at Avanti Banquets, and focusing on supporting local businesses. However, our current climate might not allow for a large gathering. We are cognizant that businesses have been hit hard over the last few months. BJWC prefers to focus on promoting locally owned businesses through the shopping portion of the event and lessen any burden on silent auction donations.

QB: *What are you most proud of as a member of BJWC?*

GK: I am proud of the dedication BJWC ladies give to a variety of community organizations. However, Barrington Giving Day is the event I am most proud of. This year, over 60 of the BJWC ladies volunteered their time on Giving Day to support 855 Barrington area children. BJWC distributed 2,200 toys for children for the holidays. It is immensely heartwarming to attend this event. But it's important to remember during the weeks leading up to Giving Day the BJWC volunteers are cleaning and sorting donated toys, as well as and buying new toys for the event. This year over 3,000 items were wrapped so that they could be presented to the families. It is true labor of love for the volunteers.

QB: *Are you accepting new members right now?*

GK: All women are invited to join! We have women of all backgrounds at BJWC, which is what makes us such a dynamic group. The best way to join is to come to one of the first general meetings of the year. The first meeting is exciting, because it sets the tone for the year. However, BJWC welcomes new members throughout the year. In a year where many families are moving to the area or hoping to give back to the community, we are happily accepting new members at any time. Our New Member Committee works hard to provide numerous day and evening opportunities for new members to form a bond with other BJWC members.

QB: *How can they get in touch to inquire about membership?*

GK: Prospective new members can email the co-chairs at: bjwcmembership80@gmail.com. There is also information about events on our Instagram page (@barringtonjuniorwomensclub), Facebook, or our home page at www.bjwc.org. 