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*Mission Statement for Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education HCE offers opportunities for:*

- *Learning in a social setting,*
- *Sharing what we learn, and*
- *Caring to make a difference in our homes, communities, and the world.*



*May your blessings outnumber  
The shamrocks that grow,  
And may trouble avoid you  
Wherever you go.*

*Irish Blessing*

**DISPATCH ARTICLES DUE DATE**

Dispatch articles are **due the 15th** of the month. When emailing your articles, please send them as an attachment.

Please mail or email them to:

Cheryl Shockley,  
UW-Extension Editor  
1313 Belknap St., Room 107  
Superior, WI 54880  
715-395-1363 or  
cheryl.shockley@ces.uwex.edu

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**MEMO FROM THE BOARD,**

Hello! The Month of March in lore “comes in like a lion and out like a lamb” and “beware the ides of March”. Does the younger set know of these sayings? I hope so. With these past two months’ cold, ice, and snow it’s time to THINK SPRING.

The Craft Sale planning meeting is Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Library. Please plan to attend, we need everyone to help. See more info on this inside this Dispatch.

The Quilt-a-thon is Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Mariner Business Center. This is a huge community outreach project from which we donate over one hundred quilts each year to a long list of deserving organizations helping others. Plan to come to cut, stitch, assemble and have fun together. Our hats go off to the Hilltoppers for all their dedication and time to this project throughout these years. We couldn’t do it without you. We also send our thanks to the people and businesses who donate fabrics and supplies to this deserving cause.

Check your HCE calendar for all events and dates for this year.

Linda Williams, Treasurer



## CUBA -- INTERNATIONAL STUDY 2019-2020

We all know the country of Cuba is south of the United States and has had a very large history of its own, the United States and the world. Many of us remember the "Bay of Pigs", Guantanamo Bay, Fidel Castro, and so on. But what do we really know about this island country itself? Who and what was there before modern times, even before being discovered and conquered in 1492 by Christopher Columbus? We will learn that and so much more of Cuba over the next two years. Let's begin at the beginning as explained on the <https://www.britannica.com/place/Cuba> web site.

CUBA an island of the West Indies, the largest single island of the archipelago (a chain of islands), is just 90 miles south of the southernmost point of the United States, Key West, Florida. This island is south of the Tropic of Cancer, located at the intersection of the Atlantic Ocean to the north and east, the Gulf of Mexico to the west and the Caribbean Sea to the south. Other islands in this archipelago are Haiti, Jamaica and the Bahamas. It is the largest of about 1600 islands in this chain of islands arcing south.

The island of Cuba is 77.7 miles long, 119 miles across at its widest point and 19 miles at its narrowest point.



Mountains and hills cover about one-fourth of the country along the southeast coast. The highest peak being of 6,476 feet. In the central area are vegetation-covered hillocks called mogotes. Two-thirds of the main island are plains which are used to raise livestock,

sugarcane and tobacco. Its coastline is irregular and picturesque consisting of about 3,570 miles of bays, beaches, mangrove swamps, coral reef and cliffs. Surrounding the island is a submerged platform covering about 30,000 square miles. Ringing the main island are many cays (low islands of sand or coral) archipelagos.

Being in the tropics, the median temperature of Cuba is 79 degrees, January being the coolest at 73 degrees and August at 82 degrees. Rainfall averages 54 inches per year. Their dry season runs from November to April and the rainy months are May to October. The hurricane season is June to November and often brings wide damage to the landscape and buildings and bring suffering to the population.

About 4000 BC the Guanahataby and Ciboney people

inhabited the island and were mainly hunters and gatherers. Later, around 500 BC the Taino (Arawakan Indians) arrived and developed basic crude agriculture and pottery. Their villages were scattered mainly in the west side of the island. By the time of the Spanish Conquest, the Taino people were nine-tenths of Cuba's inhabitants which at the beginning of the 16<sup>th</sup> century (1500's) it is estimated the population was likely 75,000 though some estimates were as high as 600,000 inhabitants. Following the Spanish Conquest by Christopher Columbus in 1492 claiming the island for Spain, the native population in the 1550's was only 3,000 having been wiped out by European diseases, severe treatment, unhealthy conditions (working especially in the Spanish gold mines), starvation due to poor agriculture production, and suicides. Descendants of these early people may be only a few families living in the easternmost area of Cuba.

Since that time, diverse ethnic groups have settled on the island including Spanish, Africans, small groups of Chinese, Jewish and Yucatean Indians (from Mexico). One quarter of Cubans are mulattoe, a mix of European and African lineage, while two-thirds are descendants of Europeans, mainly Spanish. Whites have dominated ethnic groups for centuries monopolizing the economy, access to education and government services.

We will cover many of these topics in future reports. Enjoy the journey.

Submitted by Linda Williams and Christa Williams-Clements

This year's Cultural Arts Contest will be held on Saturday, April 27th at Mission Covenant Church on Hwy P, Poplar, WI. Please have your articles in between 8:45 and 9:30. Judging will begin at 10:00 a.m. The category list is in this Dispatch. All work must be done by entrant and completed after last year's contest. All items must be clean or laundered or will be disqualified by the judge. Kits and patterns may be used as long as entrant does all the work. We can submit 12 entries for state competition, so please be sure that your item, if it qualifies for state, is not removed before you sign a registration form. I hope we have many entries this year. Get busy and finish them up.

### Condolences

Our sympathy goes out to Cheryl MCuskey who lost her mother in January at Middle River Health Facility.

Submitted by,  
Mary Ann Gronquist

## CRAFT SALE PLANNING MEETING

Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 12:30 p.m. Public Library

The Merry Mates Club is this year's sale chair in rotation. Our club membership is small and some members are unable to assist in any way due to health issues. We will need all hands on deck to plan and implement this year's sale. Some streamlining of duties will be necessary. This will be worked on at the March meeting and as we go forward. Club representatives, bring your suggestions, ideas, and energy to this meeting. Thank you and see you at the meeting  
Linda Williams, Merry Mates

### ATTENTION: CLUB TREASURERS

Please complete and return the 2018 annual finance report to me a.s.a.p. They were included in the packet for treasurers, sent to you in August 2018. These reports are kept locally, as required by the state WAHCE. Thank you

Linda Williams, Treasurer

### FROM THE DESK of SUE HENDRICKSON

Just a couple notes this month:

There are more raffle tickets available for the beautiful queen-sized "Wild Life" quilt to be given away at Craft Day 2019--call 715-398-7213 for more tickets. Thanks to all who have turned in their money already! We WILL have materials for Quiltathon 2019 this month!

Please remember to contact the treasurer before you purchase anything and get the tax exempt number. Club members should not have to pay sales tax!

Elsewhere in this Dispatch you will find a poster with information on the Quiltathon. Please post it in a place with good foot traffic. We are going to need lots of hands as usual for this our premier community support event. Tops and bottoms have been joined by the Hilltoppers, but we will need folks to turn the quilts, press, stitch them closed, top stitch then tie. Plan to spend a few hours at the mall on Thursday, March 28, between 10am and 3pm...and bring a friend!

Marge Keho, Hilltoppers, has created a quilt to be donated to North Country Independent Living for them to raffle. In return HCE will be given a table to sell raffle tickets for our quilt and share club membership info in July. Watch for more details.

### Wisconsin Bookworms



The twelve-member Wisconsin Bookworm selection team has read, reviewed, analyzed and recommended 8 early reading books for the 2019-2020 term using many concepts:

- demonstrating diversity in text and pictures
  - teaching new information, ideas and specific skills
  - containing some non-fiction text
  - illustrating characters making positive decisions
  - writing by various authors; this year, a Wisconsin-authored book!
- including fun, sing-a-long and or rhyming...lots to take into consideration!

We will get information on the new books in April and discuss the ordering and payment process on a Wisline scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2019, 4-5pm. Shelley Tidemann, our Extension liaison in Madison, and Lynn Marcks, State Wisconsin Bookworm Chair, will facilitate the Wisline. There will be new bookplates because branding has changed in Madison and Extension again becomes part of UW-Madison. AND the state HCE will be picking up the cost of the bookplates this year—good news! Lots goes into sustaining a great program!

### SOME TIPS FOR WISCONSIN BOOKWORM READERS (or anyone reading to youngsters)

Promote conversation and dialogues as you share books with early readers. Changing and using your voice in 4 different ways make a story come to life: singing, speaking, calling and whispering. Try it...it's fun!

### DID YOU KNOW?

The Green Bay Packer Foundation awarded over \$800,000 to 230 civic and charitable groups this year in Wisconsin and Wisconsin Association for Home and Community Education (WAHCE) was the recipient of a \$4000 grant to support our early reading program. Betty Anne Tubbin, WAHCE Early Readers Literacy Chair, and Lynn Marcks, WAHCE Wisconsin Bookworms Chair, accepted the award at a recent lunch and ceremony at Lambeau Field Atrium. Congratulations to us!

**March**

March 7	12:30	Craft Sale Meeting	Library	MM
	1:30	Board Meeting	Library	President
March 28	10:00-3:00	Quilt-a-thon	Mariner Business Center	Hilltoppers

**APRIL**

April 4	12:30	Program Planning Ideas	Library	VP
April 4	1:30	Board Meeting	Library	President
April 27	9:30 - 3:00	Craft Day	Mission Covenant Church Poplar, WI	T & C

March 2019						
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31						



April 2019						
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28	29	30				

We're on the web! Be sure to visit the Douglas County Family Living website at: <http://douglas.uwex.edu/flp/> and click on Douglas County Home and Community Education (HCE), then click on the Dispatch Newsletter link.

Douglas County UWEX  
 1313 Belknap Street  
 Courthouse Room 107  
 Superior, WI 54880