

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - December 8, 2016



GFWC Celebrates the Spirit of the Holidays

1734 N Street was alive with the holiday spirit on Wednesday, December 7 as nearly 200 clubwomen, friends, and family gathered for the 2016 GFWC Holiday Open House. It was the first open house hosted by 2016-2018 GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea, and members came from all over to greet her for this special occasion. GFWC Headquarters was completely decked out for the holidays, and the festive décor, delicious food, and lively music made for a fantastic time. GFWC was honored to welcome clubwomen who have made stopping by the Holiday Open House an annual tradition, as well as members who were visiting Headquarters for the first time. In addition to GFWC members, President Shea was honored to greet U.S. Representative Madeleine Bordallo, the National League of American Pen Women, National Women's History Museum, the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association, and GFWC Partners.



GFWC — an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service

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If you haven't yet subscribed to *News & Notes*, the best source for all things GFWC, what are you waiting for? Signing up is easy and gives you access to timely news items from around Headquarters, our partners, and our work on a national and local scale.

The Holiday Open House would not have been a success without the tireless work of the 2016-2018 President's Assistants, known as Sheila's Purple Peeps, who donned their festive aprons and made sure a great time was had by all. Thanks to the assistants and the members of GFWC Massachusetts, who provided the delicious homemade cookies that were bringing attendees back for a second plate. Special thanks also goes out to Emily Smith, who provided beautiful music throughout the event. Stay tuned to the [GFWC Facebook page](#) to view photos from the Holiday Open House.

Pictured in the photo above with President Shea and Director of Junior Clubs Jolie Frankfurth is U.S. Representative Madeleine Bordallo and International Past President Juanita Bryant.

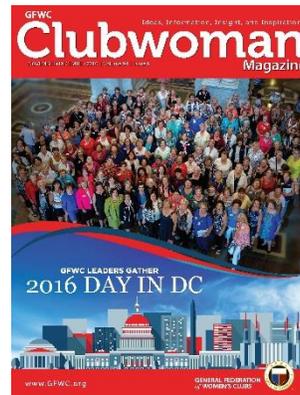
Earlier in the day, President Shea, the GFWC Executive Committee, and members attended a GFWC-sponsored screening of *Sold*, a movie that brings attention to the issue of human trafficking. This movie was a somber reminder of the horrors of sex trafficking. However, as Mansi Mehta of UNICEF USA reminded attendees before the screening, we all can play a part in ending human trafficking by bringing awareness to this issue. Learn more about what you can do by [clicking here](#).



Wild Ideas that Are Making a Difference in Tennessee

Today, we continue our journey of State President's Projects with Linda Hershey of GFWC Tennessee.

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to GFWC Membership Services Manager Kate Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!



It Is Time To Renew Your Club's Subscription To GFWC Clubwoman Magazine

As the New Year approaches, many club subscriptions to *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine* are set to expire. Do not let your club miss out this ultimate resource for members. Each issue is filled with valuable in-depth articles, highlights of club activities, Partner updates, club news, and insights. **If every member of your club subscribes, GFWC will discount the subscripsts by 20 percent!**

Please contact Membership Services Coordinator Jennifer Simpson at jsimpson@gfwc.org to enroll your club.

"It is easier to tame a wild idea than to invigorate a dead one" is one of President Hershey's favorite quotes and the defining concept behind her President's Project. She is taking a half-dozen new and unique ideas and utilizing them to generate media attention for her state. The first idea was to set a Guinness World record by creating the world's largest Christmas tree constructed of books.

The Christmas tree made of 10,300 donated children's books was part of the holiday décor at the Tennessee Residence (Governor's Mansion). Almost every club in the state contributed in some way. Children's author Eric Carle, who wrote the *Hungry Caterpillar*, took notice of the tree as his lead character acts as the tree topper. Mr. Carle was so impressed that he plans to include a picture of the tree in [The Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art](#). Once the holiday season concludes, the books will be donated to Mrs. Haslam's Read 20 program with some to go to Little Lending Libraries, schools, shelters, and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

Another of the six ideas already completed is GFWC of Tennessee's [Public Service Announcement \(PSA\)](#). The PSA concerns Tennessee's crucial role in passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the right to vote. Publicity resulting from the PSA included two television interviews and numerous viewings via social media.

Additional projects scheduled for completion include: drawing attention to GFWC through the "Where in the World is GFWC of Tennessee" campaign; planting monarch butterfly way stations with the help GFWC Partner Nature Generation and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency; creating a traveling art display of quilt blocks made by clubs; and a fundraising dinner for Operation Song scheduled for the fall of 2017 featuring guest speaker Heather Johnsen Wagner, the first woman to guard The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

We cannot wait to see how all of President Hershey's wild ideas progress.

2016-2018 GFWC Club Manual

We hope you have found the 2016-2018 *GFWC Club Manual* to be a great resource as you plan projects for the upcoming year. The *Club Manual* is changed to reflect the most up-to-date information. Documents that have been updated recently include:

- International Outreach Community Service Program with new Partner contact information on pages 4 and 5.
- GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention with new Partner contact information on page 8.

Join GFWC for Wreaths Across America

On Saturday, December 17, GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea, members, and staff will honor those who gave their lives for our country at the annual Wreaths Across America at Arlington National Cemetery. We invite all GFWC clubwomen and their friends and family to join us for this special occasion. Please email gfwc@gfwc.org if you are interested in attending this event with us. We will be meeting at the front door of the Women In Military Service For America Memorial at 9 a.m.

Are you unable to make it to Arlington National Cemetery on December 17 for Wreaths Across America, but still want

Woman's Club of Chevy Chase Recruits 54 New Members

Is your club in need of new members, but trying to figure out the best strategy for attracting prospective clubwomen? The **Woman's Club of Chevy Chase** (Maryland) has found great success in member recruitment by establishing an Evening Section. Since January 2016, the club has recruited 54 new members—bringing their total membership to 233 active members.

"The biggest reason we've had so many new members is the addition of our evening section," said Phyllis Kokus, the club's membership chair.

This section meets on Tuesday nights, allowing women who work during the day to become members of the club. In addition to the new meeting time, Club President Marilyn Sherman's emphasis on community service has attracted members to the club.

Dynamic guest speakers, including authors such as Kate Anderson Bauer, as well as the club's monthly programs, have led to an influx of new members. Phyllis also attributes the club's beautiful clubhouse as a factor, as many women are curious about the organization after driving by the house.

For any clubs looking to replicate this success story in their own communities, Phyllis says it's important to be welcoming and inclusive, and to "invite, invite, invite, and always follow-up." Members are encouraged to invite friends to join the club, which has proven to be a successful strategy for the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase.

Congratulations to the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase for recruiting so many new members. Learn more about GFWC's "It's the Real Deal" Recruitment Campaign by visiting <http://bit.ly/2f8VbkD>.

to help honor our nation's veterans? Consider donating to Wreaths Across America and help ensure that a wreath is placed on every single grave at Arlington. This year, donations for Wreaths Across America are [falling a bit short](#), and the donation deadline has been extended to December 14. For only \$15, you can sponsor a wreath and demonstrate your commitment to remembering our nation's fallen heroes. To learn more, visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

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Partner Spotlight: Operation Smile

This week, over 150 patients will arrive at medical mission sites in Honduras, Brazil, and Colombia to receive free, life-changing surgery by Operation Smile volunteer doctors and nurses. Thanks to the generous hearts of so many GFWC club members, we are able to send medical professionals and supplies, smile dolls to comfort patients before their operation, freshly sewn hospital gowns, "no-no" armbands to keep curious babies from pulling at their stitches, and a big mirror to show each one of our patients their new smile. Together, we've accomplished so much in 2016. Saying thank you could never be enough to express the gratitude of the children and families whose lives you've changed forever, who may never know your face, but will never forget your kindness. Thank you for all that you do, and we look forward to working alongside you in 2017 to provide even more smiles! **To learn more about Operation Smile and start working towards changing a child's life, please get in touch with Vicki Rusu-Ebert at victoria.ebert@operationsmile.org.**



In The News

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (Florida) recently hosted their biggest fundraiser of the year – the 40th annual Christmas Under the Oaks arts and crafts show. "It is a wonderful way to get a head start on holiday shopping and help the community as well," stated the Tampa Day Times. In its 40 year history the event has grown from 17 vendors to over 150 this year. [Click here](#) to read more about this incredible event.



Clubwoman Dr. Lois Wolfe Presents at the Newseum

Dr. Lois Wolfe, a member of the **GFWC Morrow Civic Woman's Club** in Georgia, spoke at the nationally renowned Newseum in Washington, D.C. on December 5. Dr. Wolfe gave a joint presentation with civil rights hero John Stokes. Mr. Stokes and Dr. Wolfe spoke about the book "[Student on Strike: Jim Crow, Civil Rights, Brown and Me](#)," which was written by Stokes and edited by Wolfe. In *Students on Strike*, Mr. Stokes eloquently recounts his experiences as a young African American boy in rural Virginia, and highlights his involvement in leading a strike at his segregated high school in 1951. Mr. Stokes and his fellow student's actions led to NAACP filed lawsuits, which would eventually play a role in 1954's *Brown V. Board of Education*. Mr. Stokes and Dr. Wolfe were joined onstage by Dr. Herman J. Viola, curator emeritus at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, pictured center in the photo above.



In the photo above, President Sheila E. Shea joined members of the **Morrow Civic Woman's Club** (Georgia) at Arlington National Cemetery as they laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on Saturday, December 3.



Marketplace: GFWC License Plate Frame

Show off your volunteer pride while driving around town with a GFWC License Plate Frame! This white frame with the blue GFWC logo and *Living the Volunteer Spirit* tagline fits easily around your car's license plate and is the perfect way to spread awareness of GFWC. [Click here](#) to order yours for \$5 each at the GFWC Marketplace.

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