

# NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - March 2, 2017



## Remembering Mary Elizabeth Preston

It is with very heavy hearts we must announce the passing of Mary Elizabeth Preston, GFWC International Past President from 1978-1980, on Saturday, February 25, 2017.

Born and raised in eastern Kentucky, Mary Elizabeth was orphaned by age 16 and took the responsibility of caring for her brother and four sisters. Mary Elizabeth joined the Pikesville Women's Club after marrying and went on to live a life of volunteer service as a member of GFWC for over 75 years. She served as president of the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs from 1968-1970 before leading GFWC as International President from 1978-1980. During her administration, Mary Elizabeth promoted family unity and free enterprise, helped to establish the Korean Federation of Women's Clubs, and partnered with the Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership program (HOBY). After her term as GFWC International President, Mary Elizabeth worked in the White House, where she served as President Ronald Reagan's liaison to national social service and volunteer groups.



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.

Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to

Please visit [GFWC.org](http://GFWC.org) to read more about Mary Elizabeth Preston. The website will be updated to reflect memorial information when available.

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## 2017 Shot@Life Champion Summit

Being a member of GFWC connects you with opportunities on the national stage. This week was just one example of that as nine GFWC clubwomen traveled to Washington, D.C. to take part in the annual Shot@Life Champion Summit. Now in its seventh year, the Shot@Life Champion Summit gives attendees the skills needed to become effective advocates for global immunizations in their communities. This year, GFWC was proud to have four first-time attendees and five returning attendees take part in the summit. Congratulations to Elena Coates, Karen Hill-Davis, Diane Glasgow, Dori Kelsey, Bridget Murphy, Desiree Reedus, Stephanie Rouse, Sara Ruppel, and Susan Tyler on completing a successful summit and becoming even stronger advocates for childhood immunizations. These clubwomen joined hundreds of other attendees for three days full of inspiring speakers, meetings with representatives on Capitol Hill, and informative workshops. President Sheila E. Shea was proud to join these clubwomen on Monday, February 27 at the Shot@Life Champion Summit Dinner, where she met Dr. Richard Besser, ABC News Chief Health and Media Editor. After a day spent meeting with legislators on Capitol Hill on Tuesday, clubwomen visited GFWC Headquarters for a reception held in their honor. All were ecstatic from the day's activities and couldn't speak highly enough of their experience. These women are excited to return

GFWC Membership Services Manager  
Kate Garlick at [kgarlick@gfwc.org](mailto:kgarlick@gfwc.org) and  
you're all set!

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## Cares and Concerns

Barbara Peck, GFWC Maryland President 1996-1998 and mother of International Past President Babs J. Condon (2014-2016), passed peacefully on Saturday, February 25. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 18. Details are available at [prittsfuneralhome.com](http://prittsfuneralhome.com). Condolences may be sent to Barbara's daughters at their homes:

Linda Peck Bloedau  
1114 Haymeadow Road  
Hays, NC 28635

Babs J. Condon  
1224 Martin Drive  
Westminster, MD 21157

Sue Peck O'Dell  
(past president's assistant)  
1355 Snowberry Drive  
Golden, CO 80401

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Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the family and friends of GFWC Mississippi Past President (1992-1994) and Southern Region Past President (2006-2008) [Rowena Drinkwater](#). Mrs. Drinkwater passed away on February 18. Please send your condolences to Helen Hogue at 9595 Eden Midway Road, Yazoo City, MS 39194.

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home to their communities and share what they learned with fellow club members. Please visit the [GFWC Facebook page](#) to view photos from the summit. Next year, it could be you visiting D.C. to become a Shot@Life Champion! To learn more, visit <http://shotatlife.org/become-a-champion/>.

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## A Beacon of Hope

GFWC Massachusetts President Elfriede K. Parker has asked clubwomen in her state to support Boston Randolph Higashi School. The school's mission is to help children and young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) reach their full potential. Through Higashi's signature Daily Life Therapy approach, students take on challenges, overcome obstacles, and gain confidence from achievements. Emphasis is placed on developing a love for learning through academics and courses in art, music, technology, physical education, and social skills development.

President Parker's connection to the school and children with autism is very personal. Two of her grandsons are autistic. Unfortunately, the diagnosis received by President Parker's grandsons is not uncommon. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, about 1 in 68 children has been identified with autism spectrum disorder. ASD is almost 4.5 times more common in boys (1 in 42) than among girls (1 in 189). In Massachusetts alone, 17,493 children age 3 to 21 received special education services due to ASD during the 2014-2015 school year.\*

Massachusetts clubwomen will be aiding the Higashi School and autistic children by providing items needed for educational activities such as construction paper, colored pencils, and crayons. A donation of \$500 has already been given to the school and an additional contribution is being collected through a statewide quilt raffle and various fundraisers. As President Parker says, "the Boston Randolph Higashi School is a beacon of hope for children and families living with autism and deserving of GFWC Massachusetts' full support."

GFWC International Past President Marijo Shide is doing well and recovering from some recent health challenges. She continues to keep up with GFWC friends and news as best she can. Cards would be appreciated and are encouraged. Send warm wishes to:

749 South 30th Street, Apt. 239  
Grand Forks, ND 58201-4079

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## You're Invited

**GFWC will host our annual Women's History Month Reception at Headquarters on March 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.** Page Harrington, Executive Director of the National Women's Party, will speak about the illustrious history of the organization, and its current endeavors to educate the public on the women's rights movement. The event is open to all clubwomen as well as the public. Light refreshments will be served. Join us for what is sure to be a truly historic and enlightening event! Please RSVP to WHRC Manager Alyssa Constad at [aconstad@gfwc.org](mailto:aconstad@gfwc.org).

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\*Source: <http://www.easterseals.com/explore-resources/living-with-autism/profiles-massachusetts.html>

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## Picture of the Week

GFWC Louisiana President Denise Cannatella recently distributed flood assistance donations amassed from women's clubs in ten different states. A portion of the funds was given to Cecil Picard Elementary and Kaplan Elementary schools to help replace items lost as a result of the flooding. Contributions of gift cards and checks were also presented to five Woman's Club of Abbeville members who were temporarily displaced from their homes.

PHOTO CAPTION: Seated (l-r) GFWC State Treasurer Angela Cutrera, GFWC Louisiana Director of Junior Clubs Becky Akins, GFWC State President Denise Cannatella, and Woman's Club of Abbeville Member Marleen Thompson. Standing (l-r) Woman's Club of Abbeville President Catherine Primeaux, Vermilion Parish School Board Supervisor of Special Education Larry Gage, Cecil Picard Elementary Principal Paulette Gaspard, School Board Superintendent Jerome Puyau, Kaplan Elementary Principal Andrea Ford, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Ellen Arceneaux, and Assistant Superintendent of Personnel Paul Hebert.

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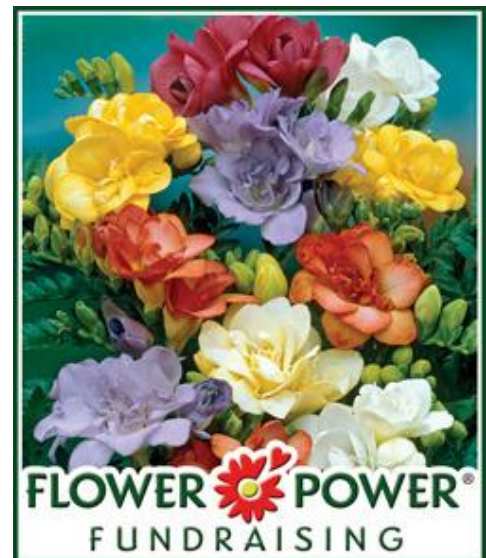
## Partner Spotlight: UNICEF USA

Thousands of trafficking victims are right here in the United States. Human trafficking has been reported in all 50 states in the U.S., with a particularly high incidence of trafficking in California, Florida, New York, Ohio, and Texas.



The Township of Pequannock, New Jersey issued a proclamation to the Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains declaring February as Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month. As NJSFWC Chairman of Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, Club President Rosemarie Saviello was thrilled to see her club take action on this important matter.

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## Be The Hero

With Flower Power by your side you will raise fantastic profits, all the while beautifying your community and rejuvenating Mother Earth.

The reality is any child can fall victim to this horrific human rights violation, but it's the world's most vulnerable and marginalized children who are at the highest risk of exploitation and trafficking.

To help the child victims of trafficking, we must become aware of the problem and educate our friends and family members about how to prevent and end it. Stand with the U.S. Fund for UNICEF to end trafficking, exploitation, violence, and abuse. Sign the pledge to end trafficking

at [www.unicefusa.org/pledgetoendtrafficking](http://www.unicefusa.org/pledgetoendtrafficking) and mobilize your club to raise funds to prevent trafficking through support of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF's End Trafficking Project. Every member must take on responsibility to put children first. For resources and further information please contact Mansi Mehta at [mmehta@unicefusa.org](mailto:mmehta@unicefusa.org).

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## It's Our Time to SHINE: 2017 GFWC Annual Convention at JW Marriott Desert Springs Resort and Spa from June 23-26

GFWC Clubwomen have shined throughout the year! We invite you to join us at the pristine JW Marriott in Palm Desert, California to celebrate those accomplishments, learn about new initiatives, and participate in the advancement of the organization.

The GFWC Room Block at the JW Marriott is now open. The best way to reserve a room is online at <https://aws.passkey.com/e/15882702>. You may also call for reservations at 760-341-2211 (press 1 for Room Reservations). Rooms are \$145 with a \$1 resort fee (lowest allowable by law). If you want to ensure a scenic view, room upgrades are available starting at \$30 more per night.

Online registration is now officially open! You can access registration using this link <http://www.cvent.com/d/2vqg5g/4W> or by visiting [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org) and following the instructions to register for Convention and all events. GFWC's user-friendly online registration system is quick, secure, and easy. Paper registration is available upon request. Registration closes on

Earn 50% profit and the bulbs get delivered directly to your supporters. They are 100% guaranteed, with no minimum order and no upfront cost required! Order your free sales supplies to start your door to door fundraiser or build your online campaign today!

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[www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC](http://www.FlowerPowerFundraising.com/GFWC) or call 1-888-833-1486.

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## Apply for the Croly Award

The **Jane Cunningham Croly Award for Excellence in Journalism Covering Issues of Concern to Women**, or simply the Croly Award, recognizes journalists who best capture the courage, vision, and spirit of Jane Cunningham Croly. The Croly Award winner will demonstrate concern for the rights and advancement of women in our society; an awareness of women's strength and bravery; and/or an attempt to counteract existing sexism.

We encourage all clubs, clubwomen, and partners to spread the word to any print, broadcast, or digital publication that may be interested in submitting an entry for this prestigious award. [Click here](#) to download the entry form and guidelines for the 2017 Croly Award.

All applications must be received by March 15, 2017.

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June 1. For assistance, contact GFWC Headquarters at 1-800-443-GFWC (4392) or call Derek Tennant ([DTennant@GFWC.org](mailto:DTennant@GFWC.org)) directly at 202-347-2938 or Jennifer Simpson ([JSimpson@GFWC.org](mailto:JSimpson@GFWC.org)) directly at 202-628-2478.

**Adding Guests** – During your online Convention registration, you will have the opportunity to add a guest. GFWC Clubwomen cannot be “guests.” If you are registering on behalf of another Clubwoman, please do not add them as your guest even if you are paying. Instead, complete your own registration then log back in to start a separate registration for your GFWC friend. If your guest is a GFWC Booster or a Non-Member, you can select the Guest button during your registration and complete everything at once.

The Call to Convention will be in the March+April Issue of *GFWC Clubwoman Magazine*, which is scheduled for distribution the second week of March. It will contain detailed information regarding travel/accommodations, agenda, tours, projects, awards, and more.

We are very excited about the venue, the activities, and the speakers we have in store. We hope you make plans to attend!

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## Women’s History Month Spotlight: GFWC Arizona Women of the Past

By Debbie Grieder, GFWC WHRC Committee Member

Nellie T. Bush (1888-1963) was only five years old when her parents moved to Arizona from Cedar County, Missouri. She received her teaching degree from the Tempe Normal School, later renamed Arizona State University, and taught in Glendale, Arizona until her marriage in 1912 to Joe Bush.

Nellie and Joe relocated to Parker, Arizona in 1915 when he purchased the ferry business on the Colorado River. Not willing to stay at home, Nellie received a riverboat pilot’s license from San Pedro, California. For 17 years she was the first and only woman in Arizona to be a real “Tugboat Annie,” taking her son with her while she ferried people, produce, and livestock across the Colorado River between Arizona and California.



## GFWC Southern Region Treasurer Visits Aruba Woman's Club

Joyce Johnson, GFWC Southern Region Treasurer, took advantage of her vacation time and visited with the Women's Club of Aruba while on the island. Joyce had a great time meeting with Club President Marva Solagnier, Treasurer Milagros Posner, and Past President Mily Henriquez. "If you are traveling to a country where you know there is a Federated club, it is good idea to reach out ahead of time! It was a great experience," Joyce said.

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## 2016-2018 Club Manual Access

For current information about all things GFWC, please refer to the **2016-2018 Club Manual**. You can access this through the home page of [the website](#) in one of two ways: by clicking on it in the rotating carousel or by clicking on the designated box located at the lower right hand corner of the home page. This will give you access to current information about programs, projects, awards entries, and more. As always, please make sure you are using current 2016-2018 information.

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Almost as soon as Nellie arrived in Parker in 1915, she organized the Parker Woman's Club. This club, renamed the Parker Civic Woman's Club, became a part of the Arizona Federation of Women's Clubs in 1935. In 1954, Nellie became the 27th GFWC Arizona State President.

In 1920, Nellie was elected to the Arizona State Legislature, where she served for 14 years as a representative and two years as a senator. She spent six years getting a law degree after an incident in a bank where she thought the banker had cheated her. When her 16-year old son became interested in flying in 1931, she got her pilot's license and flew herself back and forth to the state capitol and across the state to meet with her clients. Her plane was the first in Parker, so the Bush family built the town's first airport. Nellie was a true statesman who was active in the state debate over water rights, serving as a member of the Arizona Colorado River Water Commission and the Colorado River Basin Committee. In 1936 she ran for Congress but was defeated and later said, "I haven't always won...but I always bounce back." Nellie Bush was inducted into the Arizona Women's Hall of Fame in 1982.



### Marketplace: GFWC Folder

A great folder to organize all your essential information about GFWC! The beautifully crafted foil stamped letter size, two-pocket folder features a portrait orientation, GFWC emblem foil stamped on

the front cover, rounded corners, standard business card slot in right pocket and two 4 1/4" v-split pockets. GFWC's Facebook, Twitter, and website addresses are featured on the back cover to help members find GFWC online. Available in classic red or navy for \$2 each at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

## ESO

Please note ESO is in under the Education Community Service Program this administration, so all entry forms should be sent by the State ESO/Education Chairman to GFWC Education Community Service Program Chairman Chris Sienkielewski according to the guidelines in the Education Community Service Program section of the 2016-2018 *Club Manual* and on the 2016-2018 Award Entry Cover Sheets.

## Heifer Hope Award

Heifer International will be presenting the **Heifer Hope Award** at the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention in Palm Springs, California. Last year, Dr. Tina Daniel-Reasey (GFWC Georgia) received the award for her unwavering dedication to empowering her community and club members in supporting Heifer's mission.

The Heifer Hope Award is named after Linda Dennis who was a member of many clubs during her almost thirty years in GFWC. While President of Florida Federation from 2008-2010, Linda led the women in her state to gift an enormous amount of "hope" to families in need through Heifer International.

Please send a one-page nomination letter that includes your name and contact information, as well as the name and contact information for your nominee, by May 15th to the attention of Asmi Patel at [gfwc@heifer.org](mailto:gfwc@heifer.org) or 1

World Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas  
72202.

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## In The News

The **GFWC Women's Club of Safford** (Arizona) hosted its annual Valentine's Day Dance for individuals with special needs. You can read an article about the event published in the Eastern Arizona Courier and view a photo gallery by [clicking here](#).

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### Our Contact Information

General Federation of Women's Clubs  
1734 N. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036  
202-347-3168

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