

NEWS & NOTES

LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT THROUGH GFWC

News & Notes - July 27, 2017



GFWC Georgia Clubwomen Work to Raise Awareness of Ovarian Cancer

In 2017, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that there will be 22,440 new cases of ovarian cancer and an estimated 14,000 women will succumb to the disease. One of the primary challenges of ovarian cancer is that initial symptoms are generally mild and the disease often goes undetected. Ovarian cancer has earned the title, “the cancer that whispers,” because the signs are easily dismissed until it is often too late for successful treatment.

Sandy Ahearn, GFWC Georgia Director of Junior Clubs, is encouraging clubwomen to “Listen to the Whisper” and to discuss possible symptoms with their physicians during yearly physicals. Sandy was motivated to select Ovarian Cancer Awareness as her Junior Clubs Special Project after losing her mother to the disease. When Sandy learned her mother’s symptoms had gone unreported for months, she was inspired to make a difference in the lives of women in her state.

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

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The assistance of GFWC Georgia Junior clubwomen is highly beneficial to promoting ovarian cancer awareness. Clubwomen have made monetary donations to the Georgia Ovarian Cancer Alliance, and the Bremen Junior Women's Club raised \$240 for ovarian cancer research by sponsoring a BUNCO night. Junior clubwomen will celebrate Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month in September by wearing teal ribbons, turning their community fountains teal, and encouraging members to hold fundraisers.

At the GFWC Georgia Institute, GFWC Junior Women's Clubs hosted two guest speakers: Dr. Ranjana Bhargava from Georgia Cancer Specialist and Debbie Mills, founder of Gail's Anatomy. Formed in 2007 to honor the memory of Gail Mills, Debbie's daughter and only child, Gail's Anatomy is a South Carolina nonprofit dedicated to sharing the signs and symptoms of the ovarian cancer. Over 100 Georgia clubwomen attended the event and were moved by Gail's story.

GFWC clubwomen like Sandy Ahearn excel at identifying women's health issues and addressing them through Special Projects and advocacy. Their effort to provide awareness, knowledge, and action, exemplifies how our organization has improved American public health and continues to fight for progress.

PICTURED: Debbie Mills, Founder of Gail's Anatomy, GFWC Georgia State President Ida Dorvee, and GFWC Georgia Director of Junior Clubs Sandy Ahearn

Garlick at kgarlick@gfwc.org and you're all set!

Cares & Concerns

With a heavy heart we announce the passing of Past GFWC North Dakota President (1988 - 1990) **Maralyn Loudon**. Services for Maralyn were held in Ashley, ND on July 7. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Leslie Stugelmayer, at N2309 Willow Way West, LaCrosse, WI 54601.

Please keep GFWC New Hampshire Past Director of Junior Clubs Chris Iller in your thoughts and prayers. Chris' husband of 45 years, Bill, recently passed away following a long illness. Bill was an honorary New Hampshire Junior and wholeheartedly supported the clubwomen and their many projects.

Urge Senators Not to Risk the Health of Women and Children!

Congress makes critical decisions in determining access and affordability for health care services for each and every family. It is time for Congress to work in a bipartisan manner to improve the Affordable Care Act to ensure quality and affordability of medical and mental health care services, prohibit discrimination for pre-existing conditions, prohibit gender discrimination in



Savers: Benefiting Charities and the Environment

Fundraising and Development Chairman Mary Ann Pierce is always looking for new, collaborative ways to raise funds to support GFWC. When Mary Ann heard about Savers – a global thrift retailer dedicated to offering quality, gently used items – she knew she had to get involved and recommended the project to GFWC Massachusetts.

For over 60 years, Savers has been purchasing used clothing and household goods from charitable organizations and then reselling the highest quality items at one of their more than 330 stores. Items deemed ineligible for resale are recycled. In 2016, Savers kept over 700 million pounds of reusable or recyclable goods from entering landfills.

Participating in the program is easy. Visit [Savers' website](#) and follow the three steps outlined. Step one: create a FUNDrive event where you decide on your goal, provide information about your club, and register your event. Step two: use the marketing tools provided by Savers to start advertising. Finally, organize the exchange of donated items with the nearest Savers store.

GFWC Massachusetts' fundraiser collected almost 4,000 lbs. of goods and earned more than \$650. With the help of generous clubwomen and their families, GFWC Massachusetts was not only able to exceed their fundraising goal, but forged a valuable relationship with an organization in the process. Mary Ann found working with Savers to be an easy and cost-effective volunteer opportunity.

insurance rating and medical research, and prohibit lifetime caps.

[Click here](#) to utilize the GFWC Legislative Action Center to contact your Senators today!



Set Sail with GFWC and Princess Cruises

MARCH 21-31, 2018

You're invited to join GFWC International President Sheila E. Shea and your fellow clubwomen for a once-in-a-lifetime experience – sailing the Panama Canal.

While explorers began dreaming of a route between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans over 400 years ago, carving of the 51-mile canal was not completed until 1914. Travel through this man-made wonder of the modern world with Princess, the number one cruise line in the region. Go beyond the locks to explore the wildlife-filled rainforest of Central America. While on the voyage you will dine on fresh, local cuisine, visit colorful towns, and unwind on sun-kissed beaches.

Ports of call will include: Fort Lauderdale, Aruba, Cartagena, Colon, Costa Rica, and Jamaica. Fares for the 10-day tour,

If your club is interested in participating in the program, visit the [company's website](#) and review their helpful [FAQ page](#).



Volunteers in Action

It is no accident that **Sue Ellen Lexier** is the second place winner in the 2017 GFWC Volunteers in Action Photography Contest. Sue Ellen's interest in photography began thirty years ago when she recorded the faces of students attending her kindergarten and preschool classes. Today, she continues to focus her lens on delightful children's faces -- only now it is her grandchildren's smiles that draw her attention. "We live in a beautiful world, and that beauty makes me want to attempt to capture the everyday moments I see around me," states Sue Ellen.

Of course, Sue Ellen also uses her talent to record the many activities of her fellow **Skowhegan Woman's Club** (Maine) members. Her award-winning photograph, *Cookie Ladies*, shows the club's participation in the annual Downtown Holiday Stroll in Skowhegan. The two-day festival includes a parade, horse drawn wagon rides, a visit from Santa Claus, a tree decorating contest, and community sponsored activities for children. Sue Ellen's club participated by providing cookies for children to decorate at one of the craft stations located along the town's Main Street.

Thanks to Sue Ellen's wonderful image, the dedication and charitable activities of the Skowhegan Woman's Club was brought to the attention of all GFWC clubwomen. We hope

departing and returning to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, start at \$1,499 plus additional taxes of \$370 per person. A deposit of 20 percent per person is required by September 1 with final payment due by December 20, 2017. To reserve your cabin contact Avoya Travel Representative Linda Stone at 866-617-2470.

***A special discount is being offered to GFWC clubwomen through July 31. If you register before the offer expires, the required deposit will be reduced to \$100 per person.**



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other gifted clubwomen will follow her example in 2018 and show us how their clubs are *living the volunteer spirit*.



Marketplace: Convention T-Shirt

Forget to buy a Convention T-Shirt in California? Worry no more -- as it is now available at the GFWC Marketplace! The GFWC Convention T-Shirt is a short sleeve V-neck, made from 5.4 oz, 100%

preshrunk cotton. The preshrunk fabric ensures that it will stay the same size, even after being washed. Shoulder-to-shoulder taping drapes over your body effortlessly, making this shirt a comfy fit, and is side seamed with a contoured body for a flattering, feminine silhouette. Features the 2017 GFWC Annual Convention logo and Operation Smile logo. Available in sizes S-2XL for \$10 at the [GFWC Marketplace](#).

In the News

GFWC Ruskin Woman's Club (Florida) hosted a baking class to raise money for their annual scholarship fund. Clubwomen contacted A Simpler Place Farm & Market, who brought their baking supplies and expertise to one of the club's summer events. Participants learned to make sourdough bread and fresh buttermilk biscuits, and they even got to take home fresh dough to bake later.

[Click here](#) to read the full article featuring the Ruskin Club and learn about two additional upcoming fundraisers.

Our Contact Information

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