



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

May 11, 2023



## 2023 GFWC Annual Convention

[Register for  
Convention](#)

[Book Your  
Room](#)



**Registration closes on Monday, May 15, at  
11:59 pm ET**

[REGISTER NOW](#)



**Paint the World Purple**

TWashington, DC, May 11, 2023 --- The General Federation of

Women's Clubs (GFWC) is pleased to announce the Alzheimer's Association as sponsor of the "The Gift of Communicating Gala Banquet," on Monday, June 12, from 7 - 10:30 pm.

"Alzheimer's is a disease without a cure," said, Debra Strahanoski, International President. "Many of us have experienced the effects of the disease on loved ones, friends, and neighbors. GFWC is delighted to partner with the Alzheimer's Association to raise awareness about this life altering disease."

During the finale event of the Convention, GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and Director of Junior Club's Katie Moydell will deliver State of the Federation Addresses; and a representative from the Alzheimer's Association will be a featured speaker. In recognition of Alzheimer's, the accent color for the evening is purple.

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## Cares & Concerns

We are deeply saddened to share the passing of two former GFWC State Presidents.

Marion Graham Arnao, GFWC New Jersey Past State President (1990 - 1992)

Betty Weathers, GFWC North Carolina Past State President (1984 - 1986)

*In lieu of flowers, donations in Betty's name can be made to Transitions LifeCare, 250 Hospice Circle, Raleigh, NC 27607, or Youngsville Baptist Church, 315 East Main St, Youngsville, NC 27596.*

We offer our sincere condolences as we remember these women and their commitment to living the volunteer spirit.

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## National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

Living the Volunteer Spirit

| [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org)

| #GFWC23NDS

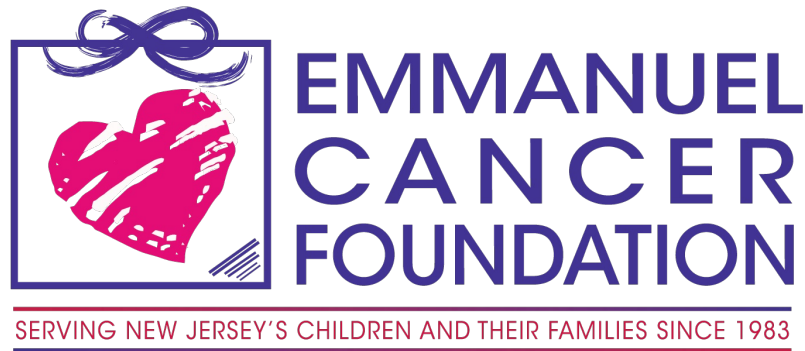
## Registration Across the Nation

Clubs from forty states and the District of Columbia have registered for the first GFWC National Day of Service. New states added this week are Connecticut, Kentucky, Maryland, New Hampshire, Nevada, and South Dakota. GFWC Florida leads the pack with 14 clubs, GFWC Tennessee with 11 clubs, and GFWC Illinois with 10 clubs.

GFWC is calling for clubs to represent! Encourage your GFWC sisters across the country to register their clubs so we have participation from every state.

Register now. Your club does not have to have a project in place yet, just the intention to participate on September 30, 2023.

To participate in the inaugural NDS, please email Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, [mgisler@gfwc.org](mailto:mgisler@gfwc.org) and cc Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President, [dstrahanoski@gfwc.org](mailto:dstrahanoski@gfwc.org)



## **New Jersey State President's Project**

### **The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation**

By: Shirley Holly, GFWC New Jersey State President

The Emmanuel Cancer Foundation helps families dealing with a diagnosis of pediatric cancer in many ways. For example, they give financial support, provide material items, and give emotional support through trained in-home counselors/case workers. What makes ECF unique is that they support the whole family. They feel cancer doesn't just affect the sick child, it affects the entire family. Every child in the family receives a birthday gift and a Christmas/holiday gift; this is where New Jersey clubwomen were able to jump right in to help.

New Jersey clubwomen have whole heartedly embraced ECF. Last August, we held a basket raffle luncheon fundraiser with over 200 gift baskets being donated. The event was sold out, with 225 in attendance and a wait list. We raised nearly \$10,000. For school opening in September, ECF asked if we could supply 550 backpacks filled with school supplies. Not only did we donate 550 backpacks, we more than doubled that by donating 1,300 filled backpacks! Every child in every family received a backpack filled with supplies needed to start the school year.

With ECF food pantries always low just before the holidays, at our annual Fall Conference in October, clubwomen brought food donations for the ECF pantries valued at more than \$2,000. In November, members provided turkeys for families in need valued at more than \$1,000.

Clubs and individual clubwomen adopted over 150 ECF families, providing gifts and joy during the holidays. When ECF couldn't find a space for their holiday party, one of our clubwomen reached out to a contact she knew and was able to secure a venue. The venue owner kindly donated their services when told the event was in support of

pediatric cancer, as they had lost a child to cancer. Clubwomen worked at the four holiday party locations providing the crafts and face painting supplies.

Our clubwomen have helped in the regional ECF offices by hand writing over 300 thank you notes to cash sponsors. Registration forms have been sent from clubs to school districts spreading the word about ECF services, and three new families, who didn't know where to turn, have been identified. Those new families are now receiving the support ECF has to offer. We look forward to another year of activities to benefit ECF!

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## The Little Black Dress of Leadership

By: Deb Brossard, Leadership Committee Member

*Originally billed as a News & Notes article titled the "Little Black Dress of Leadership," this article is a lesson on perception and how we might apply some of the science behind this optical illusion to how we deal with Conflict Resolution.*

In February 2015, an image of a dress appeared on the internet and nearly drove thousands of people to blows with one another. At the center of the debate was whether the dress' color was Black and Blue or White and Gold or some variation. People sitting side by side viewing the same photo reported seeing different colors. How could this be?

The differences in color that people perceived were all because of certain lighting conditions and the age and condition of the perceiver's eyesight and brain's processing abilities.

Take this one step further, as Shawn Brock did on LinkedIn, and study this illusion's phenomenon on alternate perceptions and what that can teach us about Conflict Resolution. He says, "That's the pivot point The Dress taught us. No matter how strong your perception, someone else may have an equally valid and possibly more accurate perception." His challenge to us: "Next time you have a fundamental disagreement with someone, rather than trying to explain to them why they are wrong, refocus your approach and ask, 'I wonder why I don't see it the same way? Can I change the lighting?'"



## **Canine Companion Graduation: Sims III**

Canine Companions and GFWC are proud to announce that Puppy Sims, named in honor of GFWC International Past President Marian Simmons-St.Clair, will be graduating as a service dog.

Sims was matched with Ben (pictured above), who served 22 years in the United States Air Force as a Lt. Colonel and retired in 2001. Ben currently lives in Maryland, has two adult children, obtained a master's degree in criminal justice, and enjoys spending time on the beach boardwalk. After having over 30 surgeries in the past 22 years, Sims will assist Ben with opening doors and drawers, pushing elevator buttons, and retrieving items.

Canine Companions graduation is a special and heartwarming celebration when our clients with disabilities receive their service dogs to begin new journeys. This event marks the start of their lifelong human-canine partnerships – so they can live their lives to the fullest.

The graduation is on Friday, May 12, at 12:30 pm at The Genesis Center, 28A Industrial Blvd., Medford, NY. The public is invited to attend with no RSVP needed.

The link to watch the graduation is  
[https://youtube.com/live/crxBqamf\\_P4?](https://youtube.com/live/crxBqamf_P4?)

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## **Volunteers in Action: GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas**

The Evening Chapter of the GFWC Mesquite Club of Las Vegas (NV) gathered household items for the U.S. Vets Betterment Community Housing Project. As a result, 20 Housewarming Baskets were provided to assist with the transition of Veterans from temporary to permanent apartment living. The baskets contained various items, including paper goods, cleaning supplies, coffee pots, blankets, kitchen tools, and the club's cookbook. The efforts of the membership provided \$1,045.50 worth of items.

Submit a story about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

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