



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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February 1, 2024

## Join Us for Our Annual Women's History Month Celebration



Each year, GFWC hosts a celebration of Women's History Month. This free, in-person event is an annual favorite - and we'd love you to join us! Click the button below to register.

RSVP

## GFWC Leaders Attend the Alzheimer's Association Community Leaders Summit 2024 in New Orleans

Karyn Charvat, GFWC Protocol and Special Events Chairman for the 2022-2024 Administration, was one of 12 guest speakers elected by the [Alzheimer's Association](#) community to share their personal journey as caregivers and advocates at this year's prestigious event for volunteers.

In addition, Deb Strahanoski was invited to attend as GFWC International President for the national organization's role in helping raise public awareness during the 2023 GFWC Annual Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

During her address, Karyn shared with the audience how she is able to reach and make important connections in her community. She thanked GFWC and her state club for being instrumental in reaching the masses.

GFWC is grateful to Kate Shea, Vice President of Development, and Sheri Klym, Director of Membership and Associations of the Alzheimer's Association, for their continued support.



Participation in the Alzheimer's Association Community Leaders Summit 2024 is an invitation only event that convenes more than 1,500 volunteers and community leaders from across the country to experience and be inspired by a shared vision of a world without Alzheimer's and dementia. It aims to motivate attendees to play an impactful role in their communities in the fight to eradicate the disease.

Left to right: Amy Hammershoy, [Exeter Area GFWC](#) President; Deb Strahanoski, GFWC International President; and Karyn Charvat.

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## Hotel Bookings for the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention are Now Open



[Book Here](#)

For room booking questions, please get in touch with the Hilton Chicago



## 2024 Convention Exhibitor Registration

We are pleased to offer you the opportunity to participate in the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention, June 27 - July 1, 2024, at the Hilton Chicago.

Please click on the button below to register as a GFWC Exhibitor. After completing your information, you will be given the option to select a space and location on the Exhibitor Showcase Map. Space is limited and will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis. GFWC Members receive a discounted booth rate.

We look forward to you sharing your products and services with our members in Chicago.

If you have any questions, please contact Nishu Raina at 202-347-3168 ext.124 or [Nraina@GFWC.org](mailto:Nraina@GFWC.org).

Register as Exhibitor

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## 2024 Learning Gateway Series Webinars

*Discover Why GFWC will be a part of the National Coast Guard Museum on February 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. ET.*

The United States Coast Guard is the only branch of the military that does NOT have a National Museum. But with the help and

enthusiasm of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, we can make this museum a reality. Why the National Coast Guard Museum? Did you know the United States Coast Guard leads the way in placing women in leadership roles? Currently, the highest-ranking officer of the Coast Guard, the Commandant, is a woman. This informational webinar will allow your club members to get up close and personal with bringing this landmark museum to reality.

To register:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IrO5PVfpSBaX5AMorQTNTQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IrO5PVfpSBaX5AMorQTNTQ)

*POP - Projects with Power, February 20, 2024, @ 7 p.m.*

Does your club need some sparkle and POP in the projects area? Join the GFWC Community Service Program Chairmen as they host a live 1-hour webinar to highlight unique projects from last year's award entries with the Community Connection Initiatives, Honorary Chairmen, GFWC Affiliate Organizations, and more. Incoming leaders, this webinar will bring some POP into your club calendars.

To register:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_q84WGzSRQie1MPPPq55YzQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q84WGzSRQie1MPPPq55YzQ)

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## Cares & Concerns

We are saddened to report the recent passing of two GFWC leaders.

[Maureen Miller](#) served as GFWC-Wisconsin Director of Junior Clubs from 1996 to 1998. Our thoughts are with her family.

[Dorothy "Dottie" K. Graham](#) was a past President of the Framingham Woman's Club and of GFWC-Massachusetts, as well as serving as GFWC Parliamentarian in the 1990s. Please send cards of condolences directly to Dorothy's home address: 3 Potter Road, Framingham, MA 01701-3423



## GFWC Virginia Juniors Leading the Way

by: Denise Price, GFWC Virginia Director of Junior Clubs

Advocates for Children is the long-standing Junior Special Program. The program is designed to encourage all clubwomen to support children in need. For this reason, I chose Advocates for Children as the GFWC Virginia Junior State project. The theme for this

administration is “GFWC Virginia Juniors Leading the Way” but it is my hope all GFWC Virginia clubwomen continue to come together to lead and support children’s initiatives. I selected the compass as my symbol, to guide the Advocates for Children projects, at each of our state meetings. Each district has been assigned a direction over the course of this administration to support children’s programs across the Commonwealth.

At the summer conference at the beginning of this administration, we headed “NORTH,” as we supported the Northern and Shenandoah districts by collecting children’s pajamas for the “Care for Kids” program and toiletries for children in need. We headed “EAST” at the convention last April to assist the Southside and Tidewater districts in their support of the King’s Hospital of the King’s Daughter prize closets. We collected over 2,000 items for the prize closet! At the summer conference in August, we moved “SOUTH” to collect period products for the Alice Kyle and Lee districts. I was thrilled to see both districts combined efforts to support the need for personal hygiene products in local schools. The number of products donated was nothing short of amazing. Finally, we will move “WEST” to support Blue Ridge and Southwest districts at the convention in 2024. I look forward to seeing how GFWC Virginia will support both districts in their Advocates for Children projects.

I would like to personally thank the clubwomen of Virginia! Because of your efforts, so many children across Virginia will benefit from your generous contributions.

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## United States Coast Guard Museum

By: Jennifer Hawkins (FL), Contributor



*Rendering of the future National Coast Guard Museum, New London, Connecticut*

### *Did You Know?*

The United States Coast Guard operates every day with little fanfare. But they are there when a floundering boat in Mobile Bay needs them. Just as when our Nation needs them in times of crisis, they are there—Semper Paratus, Always Ready.

On 9/11, with bridges and tunnels to Manhattan closed, the Coast Guard coordinated the evacuation by any vessels available, military, commercial, and private, of nearly half a million people from Manhattan.

Simultaneously, in Washington D.C., the Navy Command Center at the Pentagon took a direct hit from Flight #77, killing 42 of the Command Center watch. Coast Guard Rear Admiral Jeffrey

Hathaway established personal security details for Senior Navy Leadership. Across the country, the Coast Guard, Coast Guard Reservists, and Auxiliarists were mobilized for homeland defense and port security, the largest mobilization since World War II.

On August 29, 2005, at 6:10 a.m., Hurricane Katrina landed east of the Mississippi River. By 2:50 that afternoon, the Coast Guard had made its first of 33,500 rescues by air and water in the aftermath of the country's most devastating hurricane, rescuing people trapped in attics and on rooftops.

Ninety percent of all goods imported through our ports into the United States arrive under the security provided by the U.S. Coast Guard. Not only the goods that come through our nation's seaports but the metal used in your car, truck, or washing machine could have started as taconite from Minnesota and Michigan, shepherded through the Great Lakes by the icebreakers of the Coast Guard. The crab legs, lobster, and fish at dinner resulted from Coast Guard enforcement of fishery laws. The Mississippi and Missouri Rivers move 175 million tons of freight each year, aided by navigation buoys placed by the Coast Guard. These are but a few examples of how the Coast Guard keeps commerce moving day in and day out.

On February 13, 2024, at 7 p.m. ET, the National Coast Guard Museum Association will host the next Learning Gateway Webinar. Learn why GFWC clubwomen should be a part of building a fitting place to recognize the efforts of the only Branch of the military that does not have a museum.

Register with the link below:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IrO5PVfpSBaX5AMorQNTQ](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IrO5PVfpSBaX5AMorQNTQ)

*Note: All registrants will receive the recording to view later if you cannot view live*

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## Identifying Collaborators in Your Community

By: Jennie Hinegardner, Juniorette Chairman

Collaboration is a process in which two or more people or organizations work together to realize shared goals. Working with other nonprofits with a common goal may help deepen the impact of the cause and benefit the community.

How do we find an organization or nonprofit in which to collaborate? First, identify the goals and needs of club projects. Next, determine the projects for which the club might need assistance. Have clear ideas of what you want to accomplish with the project, who will benefit from the project, what roles are needed to fill, and what you can bring to the table. Recognize what skills and resources are needed and what the timeline is to complete the project. Second, find companies/organizations that have similar goals or visions. When searching for a partner, strive for diverse partnerships that represent the community. Find a partner that will allow you to leverage resources. When discussing collaborating, ask how you can help each

other.

So, where do you find collaborators? Check with the local Community Foundation. They have lists of nonprofits in need. Find a few to contact. Inquire about their cause. Would they like to partner with your club on a project that would benefit them? Serve on other nonprofit boards. Learn about their causes and compile ideas from them or other members of the board. Network at Chamber of Commerce events. These events are packed with companies/organizations who can collaborate with your club. Work with other women's clubs as well. We always have a common goal.

GFWC clubs do amazing work in their communities. Collaborating with other organizations can add the extra emphasis needed to grow the GFWC Brand.

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## **Volunteers in Action: GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club (FL)**



The [GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club](#) (Florida) invited interested community members to a Winter Membership Social. Six guests joined the club for a delicious potluck lunch, then worked on a special service project to benefit homeless children in their community. We love to see it!

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



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