



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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March 7, 2024

## Ceremonial Wreath Laying at Arlington National Cemetery



International President Deb Strahanoksi & Director of Junior Clubs Katie Moydell placing the GFWC wreath in front of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.



On Friday, March 1, GFWC Executive Committee members had the honor of placing a memorial wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Representing GFWC during this solemn ceremony were International President Deb Strahanoski, President-elect Suellen Brazil, First Vice President Wendy Carriker, and Director of Junior Clubs Katie Moydell.



## 2024 GFWC Women's History Month Celebration!

On Wednesday, March 6, 2024, GFWC welcomed clubwomen and public guests to headquarters for a celebration of Women's History Month. Guests enjoyed a musical performance by Jude Maboné, Miss District of Columbia 2023. She inspired attendees when she spoke about her community service initiative, Heart Health, and her personal experience with heart disease.

The keynote speaker at this year's event was our very own Women's History & Resource Center Librarian, Joanna Church. She gave guests a look at some rarely-seen artifacts from our collection. If you were not able to attend in person there is a live feed of the event available on GFWC's Facebook page.

Special GFWC history exhibits are now on display. "Federation Fashion" features gowns worn by GFWC International Past Presidents and highlights how fashion is tied to historic moments.

[View Photo Album](#)



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**Extra – Extra – Read All About It!**



## **2024 GFWC Annual Convention Registration Opens Next Week!**

Registration opens **Monday, March 11** on the [Convention Website](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=21480)  
([https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event\\_id=21480](https://www.eventsquid.com/event.cfm?preview&event_id=21480))

The Call to Convention will be released via email and available on GFWC.org.

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## **💎 PUT THE SHINE ON YOUR DIAMONDS! 💎**

By: Lisa McCoy Hedrick, Membership Committee

Everyone likes to feel valued and wanted. There are countless ways to recognize members for their commitment and dedication. Shining a light on an individual's contribution will help members feel their efforts have value.

Appreciation celebrations can be held anytime during the year to praise members for their years of service. Using a theme for monthly praise – animals, candy bars, flowers, or colors can be fun and creative. Our theme this year was "A Worker Bee like you...Makes Life Sweeter!" Some chocolate, a bee hand

towel, soap, and honey were all used to shine the light on a great member. Let club members nominate someone. This is a beautiful way to learn who participates in committee work. Where did a project idea originate? Who picked up or delivered the donations or knitted 50 baby caps? Thanking members publicly and personally helps to build confidence. Being valued for contributions increases the sense of belonging.

The exchange of a Friendship Ball is a tradition symbolizing a deep friendship between two people. A poem goes with the ball, and simple items to exchange are hidden inside – beauty soap, chocolate, seeds from the garden, lip gloss, jewelry, whatever fits inside. You can use this in your club by pulling a name from the membership list and presenting it to that person. She then chooses a name and presents it at the next meeting. If you don't use the ball, use a box or anything that holds small ways to say thank you and give members the feeling of connection with the group.

Build a positive and supportive culture while giving to the community. Regularly celebrating, big or small, can breathe life into the club and benefit the member's experience. And lastly – put it on social media. Let everyone know how much you appreciate your members.

March 1 starts the "Diamond - Shine Bright" Membership Recruitment Campaign focusing on recognition. You can find the Membership Recruitment Campaign Form to record your new members from the last campaign on the Member Portal, Folder "M"

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# ▶ HEART STRINGS

CREATING CONNECTION TO THE WORLD'S CHILDREN

AN EXPERIENCE BY  for every child



UNICEF USA is excited to announce the launch of its multi-city, first-of-its-kind, experiential event: Heart Strings.

Heart Strings is an original experience that invites you to take part in UNICEF's impact by powering a universal song through interactive multimedia, lighting effects, and inspiring music.

During the experience, moving from room to room, guests will travel around the world in just 45 minutes, encountering interactive points along the way. Through various activities and dynamic visuals, visitors will learn about UNICEF's efforts to ensure every child is healthy, educated, protected, and respected.

Promising to forge human connections, Heart Strings is a multisensory journey that shines a light on the world's children, transcending borders, cultures, and languages to create a deeply moving and engaging experience for all ages. Heart Strings will visit four locations across America this Spring: Houston, Atlanta, Boston and Chicago, with more dates and cities coming in 2025. Current tour dates are as follows:

Houston: March 22nd – April 7th

Atlanta: April 19th – May 5th

Boston: May 17th – June 2nd

**Chicago: June 15th – June 30th (stop in when you attend the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention)**

Tickets for the Houston dates are available now at [heartstringsunicef.org/houston](https://heartstringsunicef.org/houston). Ticket pages for the other cities and dates to come.

UNICEF USA invites its partners at GFWC to join the experience. Organize a visit with your club in place of a club meeting or bring your family and friends to showcase the great work your club is supporting!

GFWC has provided critical support to UNICEF programs such as those reflected in Heart Strings and has continuously supported UNICEF USA's mission of relentlessly pursuing a better world for every child.

For more information on Heart Strings, tour dates, and how to be a part of the experience, visit [heartstringsunicef.org](https://heartstringsunicef.org).

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## Special Hotel Room Rate for WHRC Anniversary Celebration, May 1, 2024

Book your room at the Courtyard by Marriott, directly across the street from GFWC Headquarters.

Rates are available Tuesday, April 30 – Friday, May 3. Bookings close Tuesday, April 16.

Please join us at a special reception to celebrate the Ruby Anniversary of the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC). This event will feature tours of our historic Headquarters (including the WHRC Archives and Library), as well as exhibits highlighting favorites from the WHRC collection.

[Book Group Rate Room](#)

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## Volunteers in Action: GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club (FL)



The members of GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club created journals for the parents of NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) babies to help them keep notes and track the progress of their babies. This helps nursing staff provide the best care and is a form of therapy for the parents.

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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