



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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March 07, 2025

GFWC: A Collective Voice

2025 Women's History Month Celebration



The 2025 GFWC Women's History Month celebration welcomed GFWC members and the public into the almost 150-year-old drawing room of 1734 N Street yesterday. Rebecca Grawl, a speaker from women-owned and operated "A Tour of Her Own", gave the audience a glimpse into the lives of women who walked the streets of Dupont Circle 100 years ago. Women like Alice Roosevelt Longworth, President Theodore Roosevelt's daughter, resided in Dupont Circle and was known as the "People's Princess."

Women's History & Resource Center Librarian Joanna Church shared insightful stories of women who lived on the property before and after GFWC purchased 1734 N ST, the first of three rowhouses in 1922. She shared stories of residents like Dr. Julia Minerva Green, a homeopathic doctor who lived and worked in 1738, one of our three rowhouses, during the 1910s.

The President's Special Assistants provided a delightful array of homemade appetizers and desserts for guests to enjoy. Such dedication is essential to making events like this a special experience for all attendees.

Guests were encouraged to tour GFWC Headquarters and appreciate the newly renovated Women's History and Resource Center Library. The updates to spaces like these help facilitate research and archival processes.

Thank you to all who joined us, we are honored to celebrate the contributions of women past and present.



GFWC Visits Capitol Hill



GFWC International President Suellen Brazil met with U.S. Senator Katie Britt of Alabama who is a member of the Appropriations Committee and the Judiciary Committee. President Brazil emphasized the importance of the GFWC Signature Program, which focuses on raising awareness and preventing domestic and sexual violence. Her comments highlighted the program's critical role in addressing these pressing societal issues.

Senator Britt is in a key position to help secure funding for domestic violence shelters, rape crisis centers, services for survivors, and sexual assault prevention and education. GFWC members are aware that their communities rely on prevention programs, available 24-hour hotlines, shelters, safe housing for survivors and their families, counseling, and trauma-informed training for law enforcement.

GFWC Secretary Dr. Susan Gettys met with U.S. Senator Eric Schmitt from Missouri. They discussed the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention and protecting children online from sexual predators. Dr. Gettys thanked the Senator for his work on the rape kit backlog when he was Attorney General. Now he serves on congressional committees with jurisdiction over issues important to GFWC.



Cares & Concerns

We are sad to report the passing of Massachusetts Past State President 2004-2006, Martha Scarsdale. Cards can be sent to her daughter Kelly Annis at 13 Pullard Rd. #46, Grafton, MA 01519.



June 6-9

**Spinning Vision into
Reality: Join Us for the 2025
GFWC Annual Convention**

[REGISTER NOW](#)



Time's Running Out!

Save by completing your registration early! GFWC Woman's Club and Junior Woman's Club attendees save \$15 by registering by March 15. Remember that only full registration attendees are eligible for voting privileges.

Early bird registration closes
Saturday, March 15, at midnight ET.

Your Name in Print: Donations Recognized in 2025 Convention Program

We want to recognize you for your generosity! Donations given to the GFWC Headquarters Façade Restoration and Beautification Project received before **April 25** will be acknowledged in the 2025 Convention program*.

This restoration project will not only enhance the beauty of our headquarters but also protect the historic interior spaces and collections and secure the buildings' long-term structural integrity. Your donation helps protect a National Historic Landmark.

**Donations made July 1, 2024 – April 25, 2025, to the GFWC Headquarters Façade Restoration and Beautification Project will be recognized in the program.*



Peachtree Raffle Donations

Make this year's Convention extra special with your donation to the Peachtree Raffle! From the useful to the unique, each donation is truly appreciated. Suggestions include jewelry, electronics, handbags, gift cards, experiences, and themed group gifts.

The success of the raffle depends on your generosity, both in purchasing tickets and in donating exciting sought-after prizes.

Please include a completed [Raffle Donation Form](#) with your submission.



Register Now for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service!

GFWC is committed to being a powerful force against domestic and sexual violence. Clubs, districts, states, and regions are called to unite for action on **Saturday, September 27!** Sign up to participate in this historic GFWC International Day of Service (GFWC IDS), as clubs across the globe engage in meaningful actions to end domestic and sexual violence!

Register Now

Leadership Takes Action

By: Ann Landis, GFWC Leadership Chairman

Leadership isn't just about holding a title, it's about taking action. Leadership is about inspiring others and leaving a lasting impact. GFWC recognizes that strong leaders don't just appear overnight. They are nurtured, empowered, educated, and encouraged to lead! Together we can ensure the next wave of GFWC leaders are ready to soar. We should embrace leadership as an exciting opportunity, not just a responsibility.

Let's make leadership an inviting and irresistible adventure by showcasing the perks. Personal growth, networking, learning new skills, and the joy of making a difference are enticing rewards. When leadership is fun and fulfilling, more people will want to join the journey. Along the way, we should seize the opportunity to mentor because it is the secret sauce for success. Great leaders encourage others to take the leap. They spark and ignite confidence and ambition in others. They seek not just to assign, but to also empower by providing tools and resources to inspire others.

Leaders create exciting and engaging training, using interactive games, real-world scenarios, and storytelling to make learning enjoyable. By using recognition as a motivator, create an environment where leaders are celebrated, not overwhelmed. Whether it's a shout-out at a meeting, a spotlight in the newsletter, or a leadership award, celebrating achievements fuels enthusiasm and encourages others to step forward.

As we lead with purpose and inspiration, we radiate enthusiasm and joy! The future of GFWC leadership is BRIGHT, and it starts with YOU!



WHRC: From the Archives

Kick off Women's History Month with a look at some of the earliest GFWC members, the Pioneer Workers, in this month's "WHRC: From the Archives" blog.

[Read Now](#)



Books are Flying onto the Shelves

From the WHRC Reference Library, a huge "Thank You" to everyone who has chosen a book or two (or more) off the GFWC Amazon wish list! We're well on our way to meeting our goal of at least 40 new books for the reference shelves

by the end of our 40th anniversary year on May 31. We look forward to stocking the shelves!



Our Unified Journey in Service: Celebrating GFWC Unity with the Power of RED

by: Trisha Schafer, GFWC Illinois State President

The GFWC Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs is embarking on an inspiring journey under the banner of the State President and Junior Director's combined Theme: "Our Unified Journey in Service." This theme reflects the collaborative spirit of GFWC Woman's Clubs, Junior Clubs, and Junioresettes as they work together to uplift communities, the nation, and the world.

The vibrant color RED and the timeless beauty of the red rose serve as central symbols of this administration's vision. Floral arrangements featuring three roses—a full bloom, a medium bloom, and a rosebud—represent the interconnectedness of the three GFWC membership groups. Clubs are encouraged to embrace the creative challenge of developing acronyms for RED. For example, "Realize Excellence in our Diversity" which highlights the inclusive and dynamic nature of GFWC.



The journey theme is further emphasized with arrows and a compass, symbolizing both personal and collective paths of growth. Along this journey, GFWC Illinois members will focus on key initiatives. The President's emphasis is the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention, while the Director of Junior Clubs prioritizes the GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children.

To document this meaningful administration, members are encouraged to submit their thoughts and quotes from meetings and events. Submissions will be compiled, creating a keepsake booklet at the term's conclusion. Together, we're celebrating "The Power of RED" as we continue Our Unified Journey in Service.



GFWC Photography Contest

By: Tric Heepe, GFWC Photography Contest
Chairman

Hello, and happy Friday! I am willing to bet that you have taken at least five photos already today using your cell phone. Maybe you have captured a celebration or copied a friend's recipe. While many of us still own a true stand-alone camera, I doubt that you use it a fraction of the time you use your phone.

No matter which device you use, I encourage you to continue capturing life's moments in photos. Keep in mind the four contest categories: Living the Volunteer Spirit, Reflections, Natural Beauty, and Our World Up Close. Maybe not when you first take the picture, but when you scroll through your photos, you might flag some, making it easy to locate a few possible winners to submit to your state photography contest.

Photos taken from January through December of the previous year can be entered in the photography contest for your state. **Check with your state for their deadline to submit photos for the state photo contest.** Winners of the State Photo Contest must be submitted to GFWC by May 15. Information about the photography contest can be found in the GFWC Club Manual, located in the GFWC Digital Library. If you have any questions, please contact me at theepe@aol.com. Keep taking those photos!!

Caption: 2024 Photo Contest Winner, Living the Volunteer Spirit, Planting Pots on the Square, Sheila Fry



Have You Placed Your Order for State Conventions?

Make sure you're ready for your State Convention by placing your order early on Marketplace! Purchase gifts for speakers, a new podium banner, updated business cards, folders for leaders, and thank you cards to show your appreciation once the event is over.

[Shop Today](#)



Volunteers in Action:

GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Springfield (PA)

Last week, members of the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Springfield made over 60 mastectomy pillows from start to finish: cutting, pinning, sewing, stuffing, and stitching to be donated to Riddle Hospital. These pillows provide comfort for women recovering from mastectomy surgery. Not only did new members join in, but the club increased their total pillow from last year's project.

Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of News & Notes?

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words describing your club's favorite project to PR@GFWC.org.
Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!



GFWC Headquarters
1734 N ST NW | Washington, DC 20036
www.GFWC.org

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