

GFWC

ideas, information, insight, and inspiration

# CLUBWOMAN

MAGAZINE

GFWC Discovers the  
Best of Northern Italy

NEW GFWC Rebrand  
in Sight

GFWC's Iconic Marquees  
& Iron Doors Restored



**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

fall 2023 | volume 101 | issue 4





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The magazine of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, whose members are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

## 2022-2024 GFWC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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## FROM THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow Members,

As I write this, I'm reminded of how quickly time passes. It seems like just yesterday, we were enjoying the lazy, hazy days of summer, and today, we are watching the leaves change colors and enjoying beautiful fall weather. Here in DC, the foliage is simply gorgeous, and I look forward to taking all the colors in once the leaves are in full season. It is also the time of year when clubs gather once again, fresh from the summer break and eager to get back to their GFWC activities!

We have been busy at Headquarters! I have been preparing for and attending the GFWC Region Conferences and planning for the Holiday Open House on December 6. And together with staff, I have been working on the update to our GFWC Emblem.

I want to say THANK YOU to the GFWC Board of Directors for approving the rebranding. Doing so is a step in the right direction to increase name recognition for our organization. Look for more information and all the details on how to use the updated emblem on November 13. I'm so excited for everyone to see it and to start incorporating it into your activities!

I also want to thank everyone for supporting the inaugural GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) on September 30! What we did collectively to impact food insecurity and hunger in our communities nationwide is impressive. I loved all the club posts about your activities, and for the inaugural NDS, approximately 1,000 pledges of service were received! The Executive Committee and I are incredibly proud of your hard work and efforts across the country. Even staff participated by preparing food at DC Central Kitchen in Washington, DC.

Another thank you goes out to the Region Officers and host states for organizing outstanding conferences! I've enjoyed meeting with everyone and learning more about the community service activities and initiatives that are underway in your regions of the country.

Last, I want to thank you, the members, for your commitment and dedication to GFWC. It is your volunteer spirit that inspires all of us here at Headquarters each and every day. We work to ensure you all have the information and resources necessary to keep your clubs, states, and regions running efficiently and successfully. Together, we are making a difference!

Wishing you and your families all the blessings of the season,

**DEBRA A. STRAHANOSKI**  
GFWC International President

## FROM THE DIRECTOR OF JUNIOR CLUBS



Dear Federation Family,

When I think of fall, my mind is filled with images of chunky cable knit sweaters, autumnal colored leaves, and cider by the campfire. Then, I look around and remember those are all YOUR pictures on social media, I still live in South Carolina. While the temperatures may not feel like fall, club activities are helping me keep the season alive!

Fall is one of my favorite seasons as we continue to honor the Junior Special Program with Advocates for Children Week in late October. From state proclamations to planned activities and events, I love hearing what clubs are doing to benefit youth in their communities. As always, the Junior membership appreciates the support in these efforts from so many GFWC Woman's/Women's Clubs!

The Junior Leadership Certification Program is under way, and I'm extremely excited about this opportunity. Almost 20 percent of our Junior clubs submitted their letter of intent to me by the October 1 deadline. With Junior members working to grow their professional self, I see this as an opportunity to develop women at both a club and personal level. By advancing the growth of our members IN GFWC, we should see more people taking on club, district, and state roles and maintaining their GFWC membership for years to come.

I have decided that Merriam-Webster needs to add GFWC to its dictionary beside the word "sparkle." This decision is not because we throw light into our community, or that we're animated and lively, or even that we shine so brightly. No, this recommendation is because when defined as verb, sparkle can mean to perform brilliantly. GFWC sure did SPARKLE on their first annual National Day of Service! A simple search of #GFWC23NDS results in hundreds of posts from clubs across the country, working together to make a difference. To everyone who participated—thank you for the warm heart and thumb cramp your hard work gave me.

Keep the fall pictures coming! I enjoy them immensely as I glisten in the South Carolina heat.

In Junior Love,

**KATIE MOYDELL**  
Director of Junior Clubs





**JUNE 28**

LEADS

Board of Directors Meeting

Host State Night

**June 29**

Opening Ceremony

**June 30**

Gala Night

**July 1**

Installation

**HILTON CHICAGO**

**\$229 + TAXES & FEES**





# RETENTION: "PEARLS-STRENGTHENING RELATIONSHIPS"

REPORTING PERIOD: JUNE - AUGUST 2023

## 38 CLUBS WITH THREE RECRUITS OR MORE!

### **GFWC Viera Woman's Club, Inc. - 14**

Rockledge, FL

### **GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club - 12**

Safety Harbor, FL

### **GFWC Blue Hen Chicks Club - 20**

Felton, DE

### **GFWC Cedar Key Woman's Club - 13**

Cedar Key, FL

### **GFWC Murray Woman's Club - 12**

Murray, KY

### **GFWC Covina Woman's - 11**

Covina, CA

### **GFWC Salem Area Women's Club - 10**

Salem, NH

### **GFWC Village Improvement Association of Rehobeth Beach - 10**

Rehobeth Beach, DE

### **GFWC Madison Valley Woman's Club - 7**

Ennis, MT

### **GFWC Chapin Junior Women's Club - 6**

Chapin, SC

### **GFWC Community Woman's Club - 6**

Cocoa, FL

### **GFWC Coral Gables Woman's Club - 6**

Coral Gables, FL

### **GFWC Hollis Woman's Club - 6**

Hollis, NH

### **GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club - 6**

Safety Harbor, FL

### **GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club - 6**

Viera, FL

### **GFWC Women's Club of Odessa - 6**

Odessa, DE

### **GFWC Ohio Austintown Junior Women's League - 5**

Austintown, OH

### **GFWC Round Table Club of Wyoming-Camden - 5**

Wyoming-Camden, DE

### **GFWC Stone Mountain Woman's Club - 5**

Stone Mountain, GA

### **GFWC Women's Club of Palatka - 5**

Palatka, FL

### **GFWC Acorn Club of Seaford - 4**

Seaford, DE

### **GFWC Lombard Junior Women's Club - 4**

Lombard, IL

### **GFWC Menominee Woman's Club - 4**

Menominee, MI

### **GFWC Radcliff Woman's Club - 4**

Radcliff, KY

### **GFWC St. Andrews Woman's Club - 4**

Columbia, SC

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh - 4**

Raleigh, NC

### **GFWC Women's Club of Milton - 4**

Milton, DE

### **GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club - 3**

Atlanta, GA

### **GFWC Clermont Woman's Club - 3**

Clermont, FL

### **GFWC Dover Century Club - 3**

Dover, DE

### **GFWC Glendale Woman's Club - 3**

Glendale, AZ

### **GFWC Junior Women's Club of Lake Murray - 3**

Ballentine, SC

### **GFWC Lilburn Women's Club - 3**

Lilburn, GA

### **GFWC Sylvania Junior Woman's Club - 3**

Sylvania, GA

### **GFWC Townsend Women's Club - 3**

Townsend, DE

### **GFWC Fort Walton Beach Women's Club - 3**

Fort Walton Beach, FL

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach - 3**

Deerfield Beach, FL

### **GFWC Woman's Club of Somersworth - 3**

Somersworth, NH





# National Day of Service

® SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

## GFWC CLUB MEMBERS TAKE THE NATION BY STORM

### INAUGURAL GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE A SUCCESS

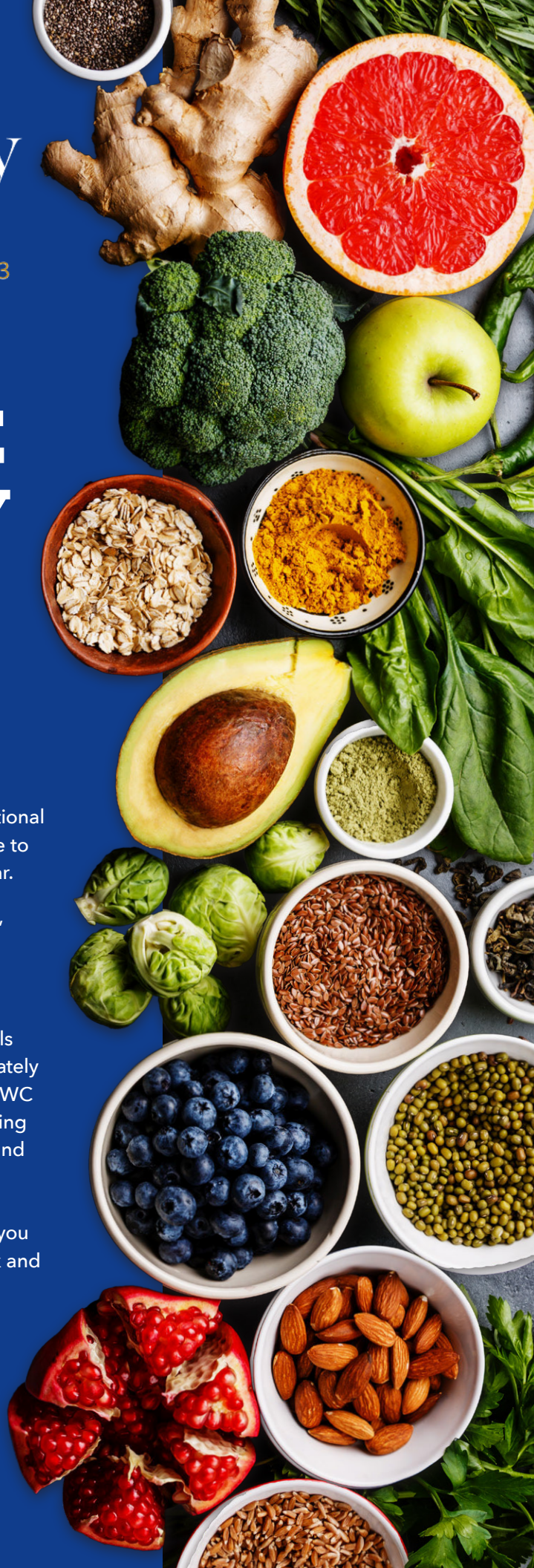
A year ago, the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) National Day of Service, September 30, was an idea. Ten months later, it came to pass with participation across the country nothing short of spectacular.

In fact, preliminary results recorded from the "NDS Impact Reports" submitted by clubs indicate that an estimated 194,333 pounds of nonperishable food items were collected and distributed to local food banks, pantries, churches, schools, daycare centers, colleges, and many more organizations to feed families and individuals suffering from food insecurity and hunger. GFWC received approximately 1,000 pledges, with participation estimated at more than 25,000 GFWC members and community leaders across the 50 states volunteering to raise public awareness about food insecurity and collecting and distributing food to those in need.

To witness the impact of GFWC clubs in their local communities, all you had to do was look at social media. There were numerous Facebook and Instagram posts shared. The photos and activity summaries were inspiring and illustrated GFWC at its absolute best - volunteering and making a powerful difference in their communities.

GFWC Headquarters staff spent the morning volunteering at DC Central Kitchen (DCCK) in the southwest quadrant of Washington, DC. DCCK is a unique nonprofit working to

*Continued on the next page*





combat food insecurity and hunger by way of job training, specifically in the culinary arts. Program candidates graduate with culinary skills needed to obtain a living wage job while learning to prepare nutritious food for those most in need.

Chef Charles Walker of DCCK assigned volunteers to various food prep stations, i.e., cleaning, sorting, cooking, preparing/packaging meal containers, and labeling boxes for distribution. He never missed a beat; he kept the process flowing like a well-oiled machine. Volunteers included college students, business professionals, and members of the community. GFWC staff helped in the preparation of food for community centers, churches, afterschool programs, and low-income community shelters.

Over the course of a year, DCCK and its army of graduates and volunteers prepare 2.7 million meals for schools, shelters, and nonprofits, totaling 1,000,089 pounds of food recovered from grocery stores, farms, and other



Chef Charles Walker of DC Central Kitchen



GFWC Staff and Friends



Joanna Church, WHRC Librarian, prepares sandwiches.

sources for the 5,000 meals prepared each day. DCCK alumni comprise 50 percent of its workforce and operate three cafes in DC open to the public.

This is an example of one activity that took place multiple times across the country on September 30. Think of the thousands of meals prepared, hundreds of thousands of people fed, and the millions of pounds of food collected, donated, and distributed throughout the nation in local communities.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans in need were fed because of your selfless dedication to serving your community. More importantly, you raised public awareness about food insecurity and hunger in your area to effect change. To all those clubs and members that were able to participate in NDS—THANK YOU for *Living the Volunteer Spirit!*



Melanie Gisler, Membership Director and Cheri Meyer, Chief of Operations





# National Day of Service

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2023

A SMALL SAMPLING OF OVER 1,000 GROUPS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST GFWC NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

## VIEW THE COMPLETE 2023 NDS PHOTO ALBUM

<https://www.smugmug.com/app/organize/2023-GFWC-National-Day-of-Service>



### GFWC WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE OF CHEYENNE

Clubwomen from five clubs in southeast Wyoming collaborated to package 10,652 meals through a Meals of Hope meal packing event. Twenty-seven club members prepared these meal in less than two hours, with 1,560 donated to the Laramie Food Bank. The remainder was distributed to six food banks in Cheyenne. All of which was made possible with financial support from the Edington Enrichment fund.

### GFWC RHODE ISLAND

Members of the clubs in Rhode Island held a month-long food drive to support the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and pantries across the state. A total of 810 pounds of food and \$500 were collected and presented to the Rhode Island Community Food Bank at the Rhode Island Fall State Meeting. Also, GFWC Rhode Island received a citation from the governor for its work to address food insecurity and hunger.





## GFWC SAUK CENTRE GRATIM CLUB

These clubwomen held a food shelf drive at the local Coborn's Grocery Store. Members greeted shoppers and asked for food or monetary donations. Coborn's filled bags with food for shoppers to buy and donate. In total, the club donated 12 bags and \$224 to their community food shelf.



## GFWC WOMEN'S CIVIC LEAGUE

In partnership with Western AgCredit, GFWC Women's Civic League, Inc., participated in the Farmers Feeding Families Food Drive. Members collected nonperishable goods and donations to benefit the Tremonton Food Pantry. Through volunteering, members learned about the pantry, the people it serves, and its role in the community. In total, clubwomen collected \$500 as a club, with several members donating food and money. The entire project netted an amazing total of 19,421 pounds of nonperishable food items.



## GFWC BALDWIN WOMAN'S CLUB

These clubwomen used technology, social media, and word of mouth to promote the "Baldwin Area Woman's Club Food Drive." They advertised the event on Facebook and local television stations and created posters. Also, a call-in number was available for the community to make donations. Members would personally drive to pick-up nonperishable goods. Some of the food items collected were prepackaged breakfast bars and nutritious snack items for school nurses and guidance counselors. School administrators in turn distributed snacks to children experiencing food insecurity.







## GFWC JUNIOR CIVIC LEAGUE OF FORT SMITH



The GFWC Junior Civic League of Fort Smith donated two grocery carts filled to the brim with nonperishable goods to the Community Clearinghouse. Donations benefit cancer patients, elderly residents, and low-income families. They also visited Hope Campus, an organization that provides lodging, meals, and education to homeless clients. Clubwomen baked and delivered 14 cakes for residents to enjoy.



## GFWC LAGNIAPPE WOMAN'S CLUB OF BATON ROUGE

These clubwomen sponsored a NDS event to benefit St. Vincent de Paul, an organization that feeds the homeless lunch every day, and sends each individual home with "snack bags" for an evening meal. Members filled 59 gallon-size Ziplocs with 4-5 items, such as cheese crackers, fruit snacks, and granola bars. The snack bags were delivered and distributed to those in need on September 30.





## GFWC KALMIA CLUB

GFWC Kalmia Club of New Jersey assembled 40 boxed lunches for the Hibernia Apartment residents in Lambertville. Hibernia is a low-income apartment complex for seniors. Each lunch box consisted of turkey sandwiches, chips, fruit, homemade cookies, brownies, and chocolates. As a finishing touch, handwritten notes to let recipients know they are cared for were included.



## GFWC SOUTHWEST REGION WOMAN'S CLUB

The GFWC Southwest Region Woman's Club of Colorado worked at Benefits in Action, a food warehouse, to pack 220 boxes of groceries. At the day's conclusion, clubwomen packed more than 4,000 pounds of food. Boxes were delivered to 220 households consisting of low-income families, seniors, medically fragile, and those without transportation and the ability to access local food banks.





## GFWC GODDARD WOMAN'S CLUB

GFWC Goddard Woman's Club of Kansas volunteered their time at the Kansas Food Bank in Wichita. Clubwomen prepared Food 4 Kids weekend packets of food for children who are food insecure. The packets contain kid-friendly, easy-to-eat foods. More than 6,000 packets are distributed each week.



The GFWC Kenosha Junior Women's Club dedicated the entire month of September to combatting food insecurity and hunger, collecting 205 pounds of nonperishable goods. The day of NDS, clubwomen delivered the goods collected to the Shalom Center in Kenosha, Wisconsin, and lent 24 sets of volunteer hands to help staff sort and organize supplies.

## GFWC KENOSHA JUNIOR WOMAN'S CLUB







## GFWC WOMAN'S CLUB OF MANASSAS

GFWC Woman's Club of Manassas got creative by hosting a community wide "ExtravaCanza." Seven community teams, comprised of local businesses, girl scout troops, and school administrators, competed in the sculpture contest, with the mayor selecting winners. At the conclusion of the day, more than 2,109 pounds of nonperishable food items were donated to the Northern Virginia Food Bank.



## POULTNEY WOMAN'S CLUB

The Poultney Woman's Club with the help of Shaw's, a grocery store chain, and Poultney High School students collected 170 pounds of nonperishable food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies. The food shelf services the needs of anyone in need in the towns of Poultney, Middletown Springs, Vermont, and Hampton, New York. They also provide resources for homelessness, heating, and more.







## GFWC WOMEN'S CLUB OF ARUBA

NDS went international with the Women's Club of Aruba collecting nonperishable goods for the official food bank of Aruba, Fundacion Pa Nos Comunidad (FPNC). Members donated essential goods and assisted in preparing food baskets for low-income families.



shot  
@life

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FOUNDATION

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\$25 protects one child against measles, polio, diarrheal disease, and pneumonia for life.

To donate, visit:

[shotatlife.org/gfwcdonate](https://shotatlife.org/gfwcdonate)



## ROLLOUT SET FOR NOVEMBER 13

**The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is pleased to announce a new GFWC rebrand for the Federation. During the Board of Directors Meeting, September 7-10, in Colorado, the Executive Committee announced its approval of a newly updated rebrand for implementation.**



Come November 13, GFWC members will have access to the rebrand via the "Digital Library" at [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org). Please note: The shield is a time-honored tradition and remains the same.

One of the key components of the GFWC Strategic Plan for the 2022-2024 Administration is to increase our profile at the local, state, and federal levels. In so doing, part of that endeavor involves the rebranding of GFWC to increase name recognition.

Clubwomen know what the acronym GFWC stands for. However, there are those outside that do not. For that reason, the Federation has a new rebrand with a fresh, distinctive design that reflects its past, present, and future.

In keeping with tradition, the Emblem's colors—red, blue, and gold—are updated to be more complementary. The red lighter, blue a truer shade, and gold made legible at a distance on any background.

Another new element is the use of both serif and sans serif fonts for GFWC and full name spelled out, respectively. By combining the two font types, the rebrand has a timeless elegance, which is formal and balanced in presentation.

Also, you'll notice the date of GFWC's founding is included. Not many organizations still exist with a 100-year legacy. We want to emphasize the Federation's longevity as a distinction.

All of which is to enhance GFWC's brand and ensure that people outside our community know who we are and what we stand for. The rebrand will be available in a full range of formats, designed specifically for different production requirements, from high quality offset color printing, black and white screen printing, and digital applications.

GFWC is 60,000 members strong, and delighted to be able to count on all of you to implement the new rebrand within your states and clubs.

For questions about the rebrand and its use, please contact the communications department at [PR@GFWC.org](mailto:PR@GFWC.org).

### What You Can Expect on November 13

1) Digital files will be uploaded to the GFWC Digital Library.

2) Brand Identity Brochure to guide graphic designers and printers with the correct application of the rebrand when used.

*It will be officially released through News & Notes, our social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn), and announced on the GFWC homepage in the News section.*



# KEEPING UP WITH...WHRC

by JOANNA CHURCH, WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER LIBRARIAN

*The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) often highlights the amazing women who served as GFWC International President, but the archives are filled with information about many other leaders at the club, state, region, and board levels. Part of our work in cataloging and processing the materials involves doing additional research on the many women who have made an impact. Here are a few of those women from across the decades and the nation. If you have other trailblazers to share, I'd love to add it to the WHRC files! Drop an email to WHRC@GFWC.org.*

**May Rogers (1851-1922)** put her career as a journalist, author, and public speaker to good use for her club, the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association (later the Dubuque Woman's Club). She served as its president, and as the first Iowa representative to the General Federation—indeed, it was her motion that led the



**MAY RODGERS**  
of Dubuque, Iowa, 1893

newly formed Iowa State Federation to join GFWC in 1893. (Iowa was the second state federation to form, after Maine, but they were the first to join the General Federation... followed shortly by Maine. The Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association already belonged to GFWC, having federated in 1890.) Rogers also belonged to the Colonial Dames, the Daughters of the

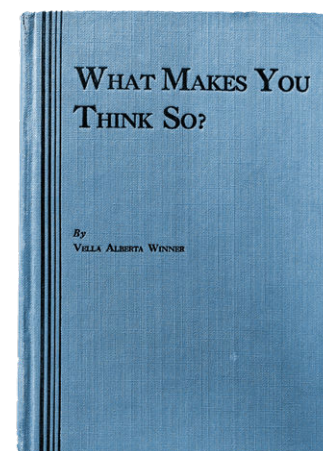
American Revolution (DAR), and the U.S. Daughters of 1812.

Rogers was a popular speaker at venues around the country, covering topics national and local, historical, and contemporary. During the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago, she spoke at the Women's Building on "The Novel as an Educator of

the Imagination." The following year at GFWC's Second Biennial Convention in Philadelphia she spoke about "the subjective conditions of women in the past, and the broader life and new opportunities opening up" in a talk called "The New Social Force."

**Vella Alberta Winner (1877-1960)**, a journalist, came up through the ranks of various California papers before joining the staff of the Portland Journal, covering club activities. Through her work she became involved in the Oregon Federation of Women's Clubs. In 1926 she moved to Washington, DC, and after volunteering her services to the publicity department at GFWC Headquarters, she was appointed editor of "Clubwoman" magazine and Director of Publicity (newly created positions). Over the next 15 years, she worked to streamline and polish our public relations activities at all levels. She also made sure that GFWC received accolades and press coverage needed. In 1938, she published "What Makes You Think So?," a textbook for club publicity chairs. Also, she is the catalyst behind "GFWC Clubwoman Magazine."

Upon retiring, Winner dedicated her efforts to the American Red Cross and Children's National Hospital, formerly DC Children's Hospital. In her volunteer capacity, Winner organized an annual "bazaar," selling crafts and baked goods and preserves. Her activities were often covered by the local papers, which enabled her to raise money to endow a \$10,000 hospital room in 1958.



**Zaio Woodford Schroeder (1901-1970)** of Michigan, an attorney specializing in international and corporate law, brought her expertise to several terms as GFWC Chairman of International Affairs in the 1950s and 1960s. Earlier in her clubwoman career she served as President of the Federation of Women's Clubs of Metropolitan Detroit and of the Southeastern District, Michigan

*Continued on the next page*





**ZAIO WOODFORD SCHROEDER**  
*of the Michigan Federation*

State Federation. She also led the board of Michigan's Girlstown, moderated international conferences, and served as one of GFWC's representatives on the "Coffee Expedition" to Brazil in 1954 and the "Mission to the Middle East" in 1957. Throughout her life she received honors as varied as the Royal Greek Cross—Order of Beneficence in 1957, and the Detroit "Top Ten Women Who Work" prize in 1963.



### THE COFFEE EXPEDITION

Zaio Woodford Schroeder, 1966; Mrs. Schroeder (far left) and three other GFWC leaders embarking on the "Coffee Expedition" to Brazil, 1954

Despite these qualifications, she lost her bids to serve on the GFWC Executive Committee as Secretary in 1962 and Second Vice President in 1966. After the second loss, she served as Chairman of International Affairs for the 1966-1968 administration. Regrettably, she passed away in 1970 at the age of 69.

**Helen Workman Brown (1916-2003)** of Vermont spent several years teaching both elementary school and at the Castleton Normal School before marrying Harold M. Brown in 1940. Like many clubwomen, she lent her time and energy to numerous local and state organizations, often serving as president or chairman, which included the Board of Directors for Castleton Library, Vermont State Board of Education, Vermont chapters of AAUW and AAA, Green Mountain Theater Associates, the Colonial Dames, the Red Cross, the Children's Aid Society, and various health-related funds. An avid birder, Brown was founding president of the Rutland County Audubon Society and a leader in the Vermont Audubon Council. She was involved in her local historical society, including reviving the Castleton Colonial Days celebration in 1947. As an active GFWC clubwoman, she held many leadership roles, such as serving as president of the Mission Club, the Castleton Woman's Club, the



**HELEN WORKMAN BROWN**  
*President of the Vermont Federation, 1959*

Vermont Federation of Women's Clubs (1959-1961), and the New England Region Conference. When she passed in 2003, Brown's obituary astonished readers with the breadth and depth of her civic involvement. At least astonishing to anyone unfamiliar with the energy of a clubwoman, that is.

I hope you've enjoyed this look at some of the research going on behind the scenes at WHRC. For more, be sure to follow GFWC on [Facebook](#), and the WHRC on [Instagram](#).

## Save the Dates

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

**MARCH 6, 2024**

WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER'S  
40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

**MAY 1, 2024**

Both events are in-person and will take place at GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street NW, Washington, DC 20036.  
Look for more information on GFWC social media platforms and in the weekly News & Notes leading up to events.



# RESTORATION OF GFWC'S ICONIC MARQUEES & IRON GATES NEARLY FINISHED



## IRON GATES RESTORED

Did you know the glass panels on these iron gates hinge away from the ironwork for easy cleaning?

It's an exciting time at GFWC Headquarters with the restoration of the marquees and ironworks that grace the front entryways. Thanks to the donations received from the GFWC Annual Giving Program, the Marquee & Ironworks Project is nearing completion. At the time of this writing, the final touches are being completed and the marquees and doors rehung.

In May 26 of this year, the meticulous refurbishment of the marquees commenced. During the process, GFWC learned that the side arms holding the awnings up were permanently attached to the front façade making their detachment improbable without causing damage. As a result, restoration needed to be done on-site.

For weeks the crew worked to remove the previous finish to get the iron back to its base finish. Once stripped, the iron was coated in waterproof sealer to prevent future atmospheric



erosion. Then the surfaces are painted satin black to complete its look.

Now, four months later the marquees are being carefully reinstalled. Restoring the front entryway that clubwomen

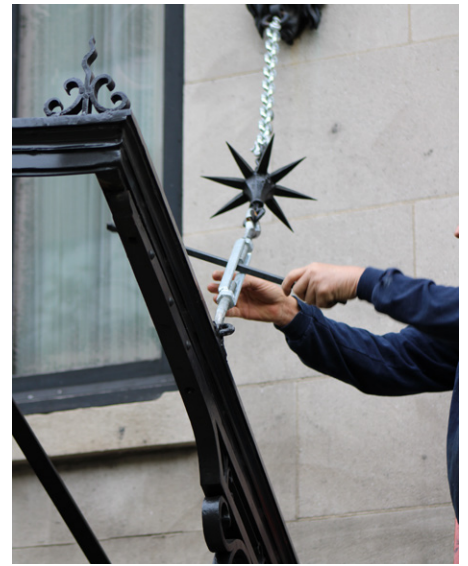
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across the world recognize has been a source of pride. With the clamshell frames welded back into place and the decorative lions once again stationed in their century-long decorative post, the reinforced glass will soon be installed. Thus, completing the refurbishment of GFWC's iconic entryways.

Please join us on December 6 for the annual GFWC Holiday Open House to see your beautiful club home in all its glory. It's a special experience for every clubwoman that visits.



### **FUN FACT**

Denby & Nute Architects of New York City originally designed the iron marquee on 1734 for Mrs. John Jay White Jr. around 1909. GFWC added the two additional marquees after purchasing the properties.



### **NOT JUST A PRETTY FASCAD**

The marquees are more than just decoration on the front of our buildings. They provide shelter from the elements and each is equipped with it's own drainage system.





# THE FUTURE NATIONAL COAST GUARD MUSEUM

NEW LONDON, CONNECTICUT



"America's Tall Ship" USCGC EAGLE, a training vessel for future U.S. Coast Guard officers will be docked at the future museum.

Currently, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is the only armed services branch without a national museum.

Since its inception in 1790, the USCG answered the call to duty, saving lives, enforcing maritime law, combating terrorism, facilitating commerce, and protecting the environment. These responsibilities are carried out by highly trained men and women who perform their duties with honor, respect, and devotion.

The USCG Museum will showcase its tactical operations with a focus on safety, security, and stewardship.

GFWC clubwomen are invited to take part in building the museum by making a donation or purchasing a walkway paver.

## Ways to Honor USCG Service Members:

- GFWC Link: [coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc](https://coastguardmuseum.org/gfwc)
- Purchase a Walkway Paver: [cgmuseumpavers.com/#/about](https://cgmuseumpavers.com/#/about)

Donations also can be made via check at the address below. Be sure to note "GFWC" on the memo line.

## National Coast Guard Museum Association

78 Howard Street, Suite A  
New London, CT 06320



## LIFESAVERS – KATRINA IMMERSIVE EXHIBIT

Interactive galleries will bring to life the stories and missions of the U.S. Coast Guard and its remarkable history.



# WOOF, WOOF FOR DEB II

In late October, International President Deb Strahanoski received word from Canine Companions, a GFWC Affiliate Organization, that there is a new service puppy named in her honor—Deb II.

It is a tradition of Canine Companions to honor the International President for each administration by naming a new puppy selected for the Service Dog Training program after her. Canine Companions provides service dogs and ongoing support, entirely free of charge to clients. These service dogs help

individuals with a physical handicap live independently.

Deb II hails from West Chicago in Illinois and arrived on August 25, 2023—making her a mere eight weeks old. She graduates from her training program in February 2025. After graduating from the program Deb II will be assigned to a client as a certified service dog.

GFWC looks forward to sharing Deb II's milestones with you. Thank you, Canine Companions, for honoring Madame President with this gorgeous Retriever pup!



*In appreciation of the  
General Federation of Women's  
Clubs' commitment to Canine  
Companions*

## INTRODUCING **Deb II**

**SEX**  
Female

**DATE OF BIRTH**  
August 25, 2023

**PROJECTED MATRICULATION**  
February 2025

**BREED**  
Lab/Golden Retriever Cross





# GFWC APPLAUDS ROSIE HIDALGO

## ROSIE HIDALGO SWORN IN AS DIRECTOR FOR THE OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and Rosie Hidalgo, formerly Special Assistant to the President, at the GFWC Board of Directors' Meeting in Washington, DC, August 2022

In November 2022, GFWC wrote to the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Rosie Hidalgo's nomination. GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski stated, "Ms. Hidalgo is eminently qualified to lead the Office on Violence Against Women, is beloved by the advocacy community, and known for her leadership and vision."

Ms. Hidalgo is an attorney with more than 25 years of experience in legislative policy development and implementation, advocacy, and grant and program management. She is experienced in developing broad-based coalitions to develop and implement innovative strategies and programming. The first Senate-confirmed OVW Director since 2010 and the first Latina in the role, Ms. Hidalgo will lead implementation of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) and advance OVW's critical mission.

GFWC began supporting local domestic violence shelters and rape crisis centers long before the first Violence Against Women Act was first passed by Congress in 1994. Today, we continue to assist survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking with our advocacy, local community

financial support, scholarships, donations of time and material resources, and commitment to prevention and education.

Volunteers can provide community support and leadership, but basic federal programs must be expanded and strengthened to respond to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The Office on Violence Against Women at the Department of Justice has a critical role in ensuring the nation's response supports our local communities in addressing and preventing gender-based violence. This office also provides essential leadership across the federal government to prioritize prevention, program services for victims and their families, legal services, and training to improve trauma-informed law enforcement response.

Ms. Hidalgo first visited GFWC Headquarters during the 2016-2018 Administration to brief the Executive Committee on policy initiatives when she was Senior Director of Policy at Casa de Esperanza, now called Esperanza United. GFWC leadership met with her at the White House Gender Policy Council. Rosie keynoted our national leadership conference for the GFWC Board of Directors in August 2022 when serving as the Senior Advisor on Gender-Based Violence and Special Assistant to the President. At the White House, Ms. Hidalgo has helped lead the development and launch of the first-ever U.S. National Plan to End Gender-Based Violence.



### SWORN INTO FEDERAL LEADERSHIP

Attorney General Merrick B. Garland (Left) swearing in Rosie Hidalgo (Right) on July 18, 2023.





# GFWC MEDIATORS

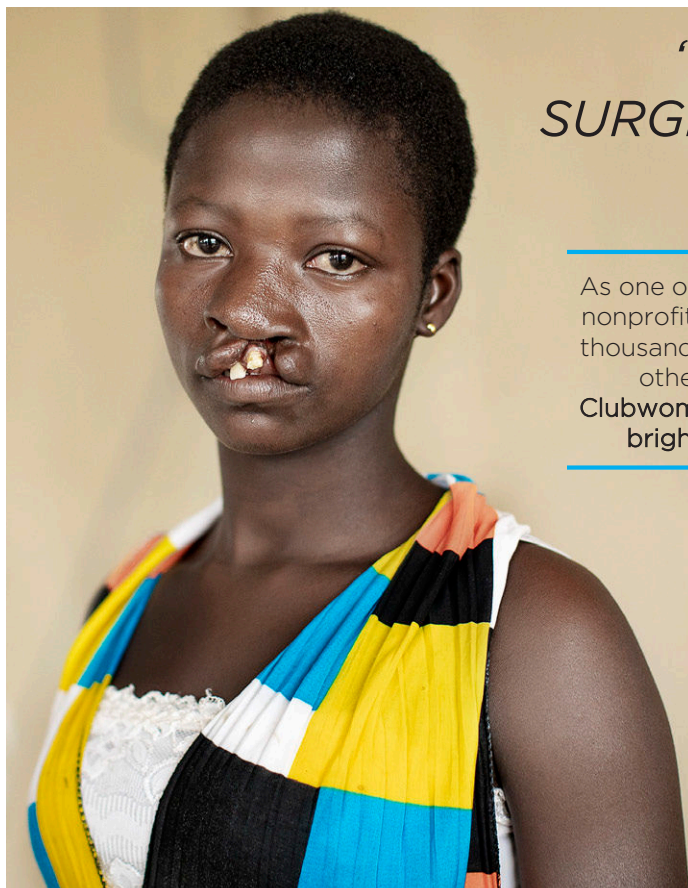
## THOUGHTFUL CONFLICT RESOLUTION

GFWC encourages members to take advantage of the many resources provided for building and sustaining strong, healthy clubs. The valuable experience of national and state officers and committee chairman plus informative publications, the GFWC Club Manual, GFWC *Clubwoman Magazine*, and GFWC's weekly newsletter *News & Notes*, are available to all members. However, sometimes issues arise within clubs and among members that require a more thoughtful approach. For these situations, GFWC Mediators can serve as impartial listeners, provide objective feedback, and assist in developing a resolution strategy. All interaction with a GFWC Mediator is confidential.

It is important to note that GFWC Mediators are not able to provide legal advice and cannot legally negotiate between

parties, nor is any participant bound by the recommendations of a GFWC Mediator.

To request assistance from a GFWC Mediator, contact Melanie Gisler, Membership Director, at 202-347-3172 or [MGisler@GFWC.org](mailto:MGisler@GFWC.org). Please note you will need to provide a brief description of the issue for which assistance is requested. A GFWC Mediator will be assigned to contact the requestor. At the conclusion of mediation between parties, requestors are asked to solicit participant feedback. Information received, keeping identities anonymous, will be reported to GFWC Headquarters for program assessment.



*"I KNOW THAT IF I HAVE THE SURGERY, I WILL MAKE FRIENDS."*

- FAUSTINA, 17

As one of the world's largest volunteer-based international medical nonprofit organizations, **Operation Smile** has provided hundreds of thousands of surgeries for those born with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial conditions. As it has over the past **35 years**, GFWC Clubwomen's volunteer spirit continues to **bring hope, healing and brighter futures** to children in places of need around the world.

Operation  Smile

[www.operationsmile.org](http://www.operationsmile.org)

Melanie Hittinger

[melanie.hittinger@operationsmile.org](mailto:melanie.hittinger@operationsmile.org)

(813) 990-7041



# GFWC DISCOVERS THE BEST OF NORTHERN ITALY

by, **MARIAN ST.CLAIR**, GFWC INTERNATIONAL PAST PRESIDENT (2020-2022)



It's no secret that life shouldn't be all work and no play, but GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and 28 clubwomen took fun to a new level last July when they traveled abroad to enjoy the best that Northern Italy has to offer.

Early days were spent on Lakes Maggiore and Como, tucked just beneath the Alps and the Swiss border. Both are famous as the home of celebrities, such as George Clooney and Donatella Versace, and it's no wonder—there couldn't be a more beautiful or exciting place. The deep glacial lakes are ringed by towering snowcapped mountains, historic villas, and some of the best food and wine to be found.

Mid-trip we stayed in the lovely town of Montecatini Terme, taking day excursions to Florence and Lucca, where we explored winding streets filled with shops and villas. Along the way, we visited world-class museums such as the Uffizi Gallery where we admired the works of Botticelli and Caravaggio, and then looked for a few treasures in the shopping districts.

We spent our last few days in Milan, a bustling metropolis where we viewed Leonardo's Last Supper in the church Santa Maria della

Grazie, shopped for final gifts, and enjoyed a fabulous dinner in the rooftop restaurant of our hotel.

While every day was special, there are a few that stand out, especially our day on Lake Maggiore when we visited Isola Bella (Beautiful Island) to see the House of Borromeo. Filled with priceless antiques and art, the Palace is accented with an elaborate formal garden that rises in tiers like a wedding cake and provides



Group photo taken on Isola Bella



tremendous views of the surrounding islands and lakeside villas. In addition to clipped evergreens and vibrant flowers, the grandeur of the garden is enhanced with Romanesque statues and white peacocks.

Our day continued to Isola Pescatori (Fisherman's Island), where lunch tables dressed in crisp, white tablecloths awaited, along with a surprising first course of grilled octopus. Some of us were more adventurous than others, but we all had a good laugh while encouraging one another to try it. Our final stop was at Isola Madre (Mother Island), where we toured another Borromeo residence and the Giardini Botanici dell'Isola Madre, an English-style botanical garden.



Jacopo Cicogna Mozzoni relates the story behind the frescoes at his family's villa

A few days later, we had an equally memorable day at Villa Cicogna Mozzoni. Built before 1440 as a hunting lodge of the Mozzoni family, the villa was later greatly expanded and embellished. In short, the family's fortunes improved when Agostino Mozzoni saved his guest, the very important (and wealthy) Duke of Milan, from a bear attack.

Our time at the villa was especially memorable because our hosts were family members who shared personal stories and memories, such as luring childhood friends into a grotto that suddenly sprang to life with jets of water in every direction. Unlike other historic sites, we were also able to move freely with our guide throughout the home and garden and relished one of our best meals in their dining room, which included a mantelpiece displaying group photos with King Charles III of England and other European royalty.



The Italianate Garden of Isola Bella



Views from the Garden of Isola Bella

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Dueling chefs at Fattoria il Poggio



Bolognese was one dish demonstrated at Fattoria il Poggio

The day that lives largest in my memory, however, happened by pure happenstance when our boat tour of the Cinque Terre was cancelled due to high winds. Luckily, our guide, Sara Cereda-Kort, knew a nearby cooking school and was able to book a class and meal for our group. What an inspiring choice! There are not enough superlatives to describe the fun we had at Fattoria il Poggio, but I think you will have an idea from the photos.

An established and well-known wine and olive oil producer, the farm now includes agritourism as part of its enterprise. Our adventure began with a lesson in pasta making, followed by a quick tour of the vineyard and then a leisurely lunch in an open pavilion, with a different wine served at each course.

Best of all was the comradery among friends and the special moments we shared, not only on these three special days, but every day. From early morning chats on the bus while traveling to a new destination to long evenings spent laughing together under the stars, it was an unforgettable adventure.



## WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN

When your club supports Heifer International, you support women around the world, giving them the resources, education and opportunity needed to thrive.

**LEARN MORE AT [HEIFER.ORG/GFWC](https://www.heifer.org/gfwc) OR CALL 888.548.6437.**





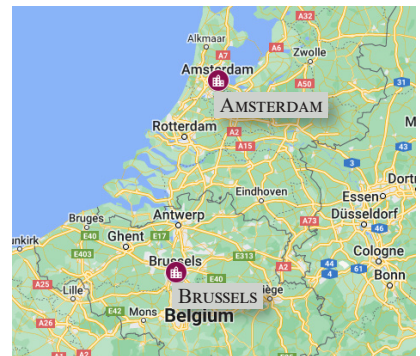


# The Best of Flanders

The GFWC and Discover Europe have partnered again to craft an itinerary that highlights the best of Holland and Belgium.

The pace is never frantic, yet the days are pleasantly full and there are bound to be some unexpected diversions and adventures along the way. Your tour guide will provide background history, anecdotes, and an insight into Dutch life as you travel around.

Join us on an unforgettable journey through a country that is bursting with art and culture that are enjoyable year-round!



July 22–August 1, 2024

## We are March of Dimes. And so are you.

Your donation supports March of Dimes' mission to advocate for accessible healthcare, provide education, and foster innovation to safeguard the health of all moms and babies.

**Help millions of generations live healthy lives just like me.**

Donate today at [marchofdimes.org](https://marchofdimes.org)



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**Emma Lee Greenley**, mom who went into early preterm labor that risked both her and her baby's life, but thanks to March of Dimes NICU Family Support® program, Lois grew stronger.







**GFWC**  
est. 1890  
**GENERAL FEDERATION  
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

*Tis the season to  
Sparkle & Shine*

## **HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE**

**Wednesday, December 6, 2023  
11:00 AM–1:00 PM & 1:30 PM–3:30 PM**

**GFWC Headquarters  
1734 N ST NW, Washington, DC 20036**

**RSVP to [Events@GFWC.org](mailto:Events@GFWC.org) by November 20**

**Register online at [www.eventsquid.com/event/20992](https://www.eventsquid.com/event/20992)**