

WOMEN'S HISTORY SUPPLEMENT 2018-2020
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Women's History and Resource Center
Documenting Your Club's History

The GFWC Women's History and Research Center (WHRC), founded in 1984, consists of an archival collection containing the records of GFWC since 1890, and a library that documents the historic social contributions of women volunteers. WHRC collections cover a broad range of subjects and support historical research on many topics. Located in GFWC Headquarters, the WHRC provides access to materials for researchers including GFWC members and staff, scholars and students. See http://www.gfwc.org/gfwc/Womens_History_and_Resource_Center.asp for more information

- Send publications about women's history and/or volunteers to WHRC.
- Write your club history, the history of your community's library founded by your club, and/or the history of your clubhouse built specifically for club members. "WHRC Guidelines for Writing Club Histories" is available from the GFWC Materials Center.
- Create a club oral history. Consult the GFWC website (www.gfwc.org) under WHRC, and download the Guidelines for an Oral History Book Project.
- Identify and preserve the history of your club by collecting your archival records, finding a local repository and allowing your records to be made available for research. Your local library might be an ideal location.
- Document and record your club's present day activities through articles, interviews and photographs.
- Become a patron of the NJSFWC Headquarters Library. Clubs or club members may send the purchase price of a book from the NJSFWC Headquarters Library Wish List to Federation Headquarters. Copies of the list are available from the Historian
- Purchase a copy of the latest edition of NJSFWC Club Histories, **From the Beginning: A Page of History, Volume II**. Donate a copy to your local library and have a reference copy for your club. Cost is \$30.00 and can be obtained through NJSFWC Headquarters or at NJSFWC State and District Events. (Women's History and Resource Center)
- Let your Districts shine. Under the leadership of the District Vice Presidents, each District could form a joint club committee to research the lives and contributions of notable women from throughout New Jersey's rich cultural history using the geographical area covered by that District. More than one county would be included in each District's research. Each District would host a special event program open to club members, community members and invited dignitaries. The program would feature the presentation of material about the women being honored. In addition to adequate publicity complete with an attention-grabbing program title, planning strategies could include props, music, impersonators, time for questions from the audience, refreshments, etc. Some Districts may even choose to combine their efforts if they have a large enough venue for the event.
- Share your stories of NJSFWC family legacy, of strengthened familial ties and camaraderie through a common woman's club bond. Send your stories to the NJSFWC Historian for inclusion in future AMANAC articles. See "Generations of Service", featured in May/June 2014 issue of GFWC Clubwoman Magazine. Federation family legacy: What is your story? Federation membership is a gift that may be passed on from generation to generation. Mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces, aunts, cousins and in-laws. Sharing a passion for community improvement through volunteer services,

Women Have a Story to Tell/National Women's Hall of Fame

- Nominate prominent clubwomen to the National Women's Hall of Fame. For \$100, an extraordinary woman can be honored in the National Women's Hall of Fame **Book of Lives and Legacies**. Each woman honored is given a page in the book. A one-page letter is submitted citing each individual's accomplishments. This will be a permanent, enduring record for all to view. A commemorative plaque will be sent to you or the recipient, as well as a gift of one year's membership in the National Hall of Fame. Application procedures are available online at www.greatwomen.org or contact National Women's Hall of Fame, PO Box 335, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Telephone 315-568-6060.
- Interview individual club members and former club members, to record oral histories of club/community work in the past. Examples might include interviewing a woman who has been a club member for the longest time, a member who was particularly active in certain projects benefiting the community or a member who was a pioneer (i.e., started local Historical Society, spearheaded an environmental effort, established a Domestic Violence shelter, first woman on Board of Education, town mayor, and/or Borough Council member.) A copy of "Guidelines for Recording Oral Histories" is available from the Historian. Send oral history tapes or CD's to WHRC.
- Research the lives and accomplishments of local community or state women of the past. An example would be to learn more about "Mabel Smith Douglass", and the work of the NJSFWC in founding the New Jersey College for Women, later to be renamed Douglass College. Hold a public ceremony honoring the researched women and their achievements.
- Acquaint your club with the accomplishments and Federation endeavors of Past NJSFWC President 2000-2002, Mary Ellen Brock serving as GFWC President, 2018-2020.

Women's History Month/National Women's History Project

- Celebrate National Women's History Month (March) in your club. Contact the National Women's History Project for project ideas and materials at 3343 Industrial Drive, Suite 4, Santa Rosa, CA 95403. Telephone: 707-636-2888, [online www.nwhp.org](http://online.nwhp.org)

Preservation and Awareness of Women's History Landmarks

- Visit GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. a National Historic Landmark. Every member is welcome to visit "our home" and tour our Historic Headquarters. Call 202-347-3168 for more information.
- Visit NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick, NJ, our federation home built in 1965. Each club is encouraged to hold a meeting at Headquarters once a year. Contact the NJSFWC Executive Director at 732-249-5474 to arrange a date.
- Become a member of the NJSFWC 1894 Society. Annual donations of \$18.94, \$189.40, \$1894.00 or any amount greater than \$18.94 are used to augment funding for the annual land rent paid to Rutgers University. Contact NJSFWC Headquarters Chairman for more information.
- Become a member of the GFWC 1734 Society, which maintains the GFWC Headquarters, a National Historic Landmark. Annual donations of \$17.34, \$173.40, \$1734.00 or any amount greater than \$17.34 are used for the upkeep, maintenance and preservation of the building and entitle the donor to specific levels of membership. Send to: 1734 Society, GFWC Headquarters, 1734 N Street NW Washington, D.C. 20036-2990.
- Investigate the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a non-profit volunteer-led organization committed to raising funds to build a national memorial to honor the suffragists who fought for and won women's right to vote. Other goals include establishing the Turning Point Institute for Middle and High School students and developing a Constitution Trail with national historical sites.

Review the 2018-2020 GFWC Club Manual Women's History and Resource Center section for additional project ideas and resources.