



ALMANAC



March 2020

No. 421

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

President's Message—Mary E. Wolfe

As we approach the end of the 2018-2020 administration, activities around NJSFWC are kicking into high gear!

First up on the calendar is our annual Spelling Bee. The State Spelling Bee was first held around 1989 as a project of the Junior Membership and has been a favorite of our Women's Clubs since 2015. State Spelling Bee Chairman Brandi-Leigh Miller is coordinating this year's event, held at NJSFWC Headquarters, for the top 4th and 5th grade students who have advanced from their local bees and their respective District Bees. Whatever the outcome on March 7th, all of the participants are winners!

This is the time for club members to dust off their tap shoes, practice their musical performances or select a favorite reading to share with fellow members at the District Performing Arts Days. Performing or not, this Officer hopes you plan to attend and cheer for your fellow clubwomen. Everyone needs an audience!

The theme of NJSFWC Public Issues Day is "Honor Our Heroes". Mark your calendars and plan to attend on Monday, March 30th at the Hotel ML in Mount Laurel. Presenters for the day include representatives from Tunnels to Towers Foundation, Honor Flight Southern New Jersey, Blue Line Brothers and Veteran's Haven South. The deadline to register is March 10th. Public Issues Chairman Lisa Levin and this Officer look forward to seeing you there.

Spring Conferences and Achievement Days are right around the corner! Arts/Creative Chairman Gail Kovacs-Felici and Conservation Chairman Bonnie Dann are looking forward to viewing the crafts, baked goods, photographs, plants and floral arrangements our talented members create.

We hope you're getting excited about attending the NJSFWC Annual Convention - "Celebrating the Stars of a Shining Future". Many hours are put into making this an enjoyable and worthwhile time for attendees. This is your opportunity to vote on the Bylaws and the Resolutions that represent NJSFWC's position on existing laws or potential bills. Make your voice count! There are a number of interesting and fun workshops planned, as well as the return of the District Lunch. GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock will be joining us for the festivities. You won't want to miss it!

If you've called the office at NJSFWC lately, you may have been greeted by an unfamiliar voice. I'm happy to report that 2 part-time employees have been added to our Headquarters staff! Office hours have returned to Monday through Thursday. Your patience has been appreciated while we have been short-staffed. One bonus is that these very capable women are Federated clubwomen. This Officer knows you will make Joanne and Cynthia feel welcome.

Thank you in advance for meeting two important deadlines of April 1st, when your Continuing Funds are due and May 1st, when the Yearbook Data "Blue Sheet" is due, listing your incoming officers and number of members for the 2020-2021 club year.

In Federation Friendship,

Mary

In this issue:

NJSFWC Executive Committee Articles	2
District Vice President Articles	3
Community Service Program Articles	8
Standing Committee Articles	10

Special points of interest:

- State Dates
- Sample Proclamation



NJSFWC PRESIDENT-ELECT**Jan W. Hanson**

You need leadership to make sure everyone in your club is going in the same direction and working towards the same goal. Good leadership:

- Provides a clear vision for the club.
- Provides a strategy for achieving the vision.
- Motivates members to use their talents.
- Challenges the members to be innovative and enhance their skills.
- Monitors progress and directs the club to keep them on track.

When there is a problem, club members need to be respectful of each other and be able to work through conflicts. Bad feelings and bad attitudes are harmful to the people involved and break down the trust and confidence in the club. This slows down progress because everyone's attention is focused on other problems. As a leader you need to set the tone by being positive and not forgetting to be kind. It does not hurt to smile, either.

Resource: The Executive Coaching Handbook (2018)

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**Shirley A. Holly**

What a great feeling to have finished report writing and put them in the mail! Share the finished reports with club members. Not everyone is involved with every project or they may have been busy with family life while the club was running a big project. Hearing about the projects in each department may trigger a thought that hey, I'd like to get involved in that project. Every member should be proud of what the club has accomplished. Think about the difference your club makes in your community and the things that your community would be missing without your club! What we do really does matter!!

When you write reports, you are documenting your club history. In the future when members of your club look back at the projects and programs that were done, thirty, forty or fifty years ago, the hope is that you have documented enough for those new members to resurrect a project that was dropped or was not "fashionable" in keeping with the times. Those members will need details to bring an "old" project back. Have you provided enough details?

Since report writing is fresh on your mind, please send this Officer in charge of reports, any problems or issues you encountered during the report writing process. Did you have a project that you wanted to report but couldn't find anywhere to report it? Did you have problems with figuring out dollar amounts? Any ideas or suggestions to help improve the report writing process, please email your suggestions. We can only improve the report writing process with your input. Let your voice be heard. Email me at holly@njsfwc.org Thank you!

NJSFWC THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**Barbara McCloskey****Membership Matters!**

Membership is extremely important for the future of our clubs and NJSFWC. It is apparent from our overall membership numbers that we need to seriously look at how we are attracting and retaining members.

Membership should be considered as important as any committee you form for an event or fundraiser. Besides a Membership Chairman, there should be a committee who can meet, create a plan and then put that plan into action. All members can be involved, whether it is creating the brochures, asking the library, coffee shop or other location if you can meet there, providing the refreshments or attending the event.

Do not wait until membership becomes a dire situation and you feel it is too daunting. There are people at all levels of our organization and other clubs who are available to help and support you. There are also many resource materials available on the NJSFWC and GFWC websites. If you need help, all you need to do is ask!

NJSFWC THIRD VICE PRESIDENT (continued)

As you make your plans, think about those who may be working or have obligations that may limit volunteer hours. Flexibility is important to all people.

Consider involving prospective members in a club project or invite them to a social event before asking them to join. Recruits may volunteer because of an interest or a passion, but may be reluctant to jump into membership. Introduce them to a project and make sure they have a good time volunteering with the group. A memorable experience might provide the motivation to tempt them to attend a regular club meeting.

As you know, one of the advantages of belonging to our organization is that we do not have a single focus, and members can pick and choose what projects and fundraisers interests them.

Everyone needs to be an Ambassador. By promoting your club and our organization, we can be assured to be around for another 125 years.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Marie E. DiMatties

The Taxpayer First Act, enacted July 1, 2019, requires tax-exempt organizations to **electronically** file information returns and related forms. The new law affects tax-exempt organizations in tax years beginning after July 1, 2019.

The following IRS form is included in that mandate: **Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax.**

Those who previously filed paper forms will receive a letter from the IRS informing them of the change. Filing deadlines vary by form type. The IRS will postpone the required e-filing of Form 990-EZ for one year, while optional e-filing continues to be available.

Form 990

Under the legislation, most e-filings won't be due before Dec. 15, 2020, from charities and other exempt organizations that generally file Form 990 by the 15th day of the 5th month after the tax year-end. In other words, Form 990 with tax years ending **July 31, 2020 and later, MUST be filed electronically.** Forms 990 filings for tax years ended **on or before June 30, 2020, may still be on paper.**

Form 990-EZ Transition Relief

For small exempt organizations, the legislation specifically allowed a postponement ("transitional relief"). For tax years ending on or before July 31, 2020, the IRS will accept either paper or electronic filing of Form 990-EZ, Short Form Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. For tax years ending Aug. 31, 2020 and later, Forms 990-EZ must be filed electronically. Generally, **Form 990-EZ** is for organizations with annual **gross receipts less than \$200,000** and **total assets at tax year-end less than \$500,000.**

Taxpayer First Act

The Taxpayer First Act aims to expand and strengthen taxpayer rights and to reform the IRS into a more taxpayer friendly agency. The legislation requires the agency to develop a comprehensive customer service strategy, modernize its technology and enhance its cyber security. More information on the Taxpayer First Act is available at [IRS.gov](https://www.irs.gov).

COLLEGE DISTRICT

Christina Burlew

Thank you to all the clubs that have completed and submitted their annual reports.

To celebrate Women's History Month, **Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township** is promoting "An Evening with Julia Child" sponsored by the Friends of the Library on Wednesday, March 4. Stage, screen and television actress, Linda Kenyon will portray Julia Child.

The **Woman's Club of Hillsborough** will have a speaker from the Somerville Historical Society.

COLLEGE DISTRICT (continued)

Woman's Club of Cranbury is sponsoring a trip to Taida Orchards in Bridgewater. In 2005, Taida Orchards was established as a branch of Taida Horticultural Co., Ltd., one of the most famous Orchid Growers in Taiwan.

East Brunswick Woman's Club will hold a Tricky Tray at the East Brunswick Firehouse on March 10.

The Ways and Means Committee of **Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook** will have a Covered Dish Luncheon at their General Meeting. Members who bring a dish will pay \$5 and members without a dish \$15.

Franklin Woman's Club will hold its second club service project night where members will dedicate the evening to working on initiatives for community service.

Carol Hontz, will speak about the "Days for Girls" organization at the **Woman's Club of Clinton**.

At their monthly meeting **Metuchen-Edison Woman's Club** will be collecting children's food/diapers, etc. for local food pantry.

Friday Club's program will be on the "Importance of Stretching" presented by Nova Care Rehabilitation.

EVENING MEMBERSHIP**Claire J. Hill**

The March speaker for the **EMD of Arlington Woman's Club** will be Hugh Carola from Hackensack River Keeper with a 2020 update on the West Hudson South Bergen Watershed. They are collecting books for Hudson CASA advocates to bring to their clients and for Alaris Rehab Center.

Woman's Club of Merchantville EMD will hold its annual "Taste of Pennsauken" on March 30th at Pennsauken Country Club. Local Restaurants participate with a sample of their specialty dish for about 120 people with twelve to fifteen local restaurants usually participating. They are working on a book exchange at the local library in May.

The Haddon Fortnightly EMD is working with high school students to make no-sew blankets for various charities.

GARDEN DISTRICT**Patricia J. Dahl**

Woman's Club of Edgewater Park reads books for Read Across America to their local schools as well as their local Head Start children for the entire week. **Woman's Club of Woodstown** and **Woman's Club of Merchantville** also read to their local schools.

Members of **GFWC Woman's Club of Runnemede** are having a fundraiser selling Rada and Tupperware items. While **Woman's Club of Wenonah** held its writing contest associated with GFWC. They are having the winners and parents to their club meeting to award them gift cards from Barnes and Noble and have the students read their entries.

Woman's Club of Merchantville is going to the John Inskeep House, a mid-18th century farmhouse run by their Historical Society, for a tea and tour to benefit CASA of NJ. **The Haddon Fortnightly** will be having an author lecture by Martha Hall Kelly, author of "Lost Roses" and "Lilac Girls". The cost will include the lecture, a signed book, and a reception.

GFWC Woman's League of Mount Holly is having a Designer Bag Bingo and with over 100 Baskets as well as a homemade "Eagles" quilt which will be raffled off. The proceeds will benefit their Scholarships and other charities.

Marlton Woman's Club will hold its Spring Bingo with a unique raffle called Dining Around Town with gift cards from local restaurants, as well as baskets and a 50-50 raffle with lunch included. **Woman's Club of Pitman** will be baking cookies to pack and be delivered to local Homes in their area.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT**Judy Filippini**

March finds the clubs of the Highlands very busy even though the weather may not always be cooperative.

Hopatcong Woman's Club is joining with the Lake Hopatcong Foundation to host a presentation entitled "Jacqueline Kennedy: Preservation and Grace, an American Legacy" on March 19, 2020 at the Lake Hopatcong Foundation Environmental and Cultural Center.

Vernon Township Woman's Club welcomed and installed six new members at their annual installation ceremony.

Long Valley Area Junior Woman's Club is having a busy month hosting two nights of their annual Daddy Daughter Date night on March 4th and 5th. On March 21st they are hosting the STEM Fair at the Long Valley Middle School which is open to all 4th – 8th grade students.

Long Valley Juniores are sponsoring their annual Prom Gown and Party Dress fundraiser. The December sale raised \$340. The next sale will be this month with over 300 dresses available for purchase.

LIBERTY DISTRICT**Jane Mackesy**

The Clubs of the Liberty District are looking forward to Spring, while helping their communities and beyond.

Woman's Club of Arlington, Junior Woman's Club of Arlington and EMD of Arlington Woman's Club are co-hostess for the Salvation Army's Brotherhood Luncheon for the other service organizations in Kearny. The clubs have arranged for Beverly Savage, Executive Director of Hudson County, to be the guest speaker.

Woman's Club of Arlington is working on its Author Tea.

Junior Woman's Club of Arlington is planning a Wine & Dine Bingo.

Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights will fill Easter Eggs to be distributed to the children of St. Joseph's Social Services in Elizabeth. On 3/17 they will host a luncheon for members with the Arts/Performing Committee entertaining with original skits, at Faith Lutheran Church located at 524 South Avenue in New Providence at 12:00 p.m.

The **Women's Club of Caldwell** will host Trish Chamber's program "Amazing Women of the Supreme Court" at the Caldwell Library on 3/11 at 6:30. They are sponsoring the Children's Art Contest Reception at the West Caldwell Library on 3/12. On 3/20, students from Mount St. Dominic's will present their community service experiences, followed by a presentation by Antler Ridge about their animal rehabilitation program.

The **Woman's Club of Little Falls** is having its annual Saint Patrick's Day and International Luncheon fundraisers.

Eighth District Contemporaries will be sending out Easter cards to the Veterans Hospital in March.

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair will have its St. Patrick's Day Luncheon on 3/11 at noon, serving traditional Irish food. On 3/25 their program will be "Ask Granny", presented by Jane Mackesy, NJSFWC Liberty DVP, Past President of the Hudson County Genealogical and Historical Society, amateur genealogist, and retired school counselor. All are invited to attend.

PALISADES DISTRICT**Marie Sullivan**

The Palisades District Arts Creative Day will be held on March 13, 2020. This event always takes lots of helping hands! Many thanks to State Chairman **Gail Kovacs-Felici** and a very special thank you to Palisades District Chairman **Ida Borotto** and her committee. Good Luck to all our participants!

Woman's Club of River Edge has been putting much effort into membership retention and growth. Their Brown Bag Auction was so much fun last time that another one is planned! Another great idea is a fundraiser called "Let's Do Lunch". A member will invite five people to her home and serve lunch, each guest will donate \$20 to the club! Not only is this a nice way to stay close and help the club raise money but it is also a nice way to invite new members into such a close-knit circle without feeling overwhelmed.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

Woman's Club of Leonia thought of a great way to protect its club members: each member has completed a card containing emergency contact information (including a close family member's home, cell and business number) that is then kept on file by their President. If a member misses a meeting, or cannot be reached by phone or email, the emergency contact is called to ensure that she is safe and sound. What a wonderful and kind way to show our members that we care.

As a way of welcoming the new police officers to the town, the members invited them to their meeting and honored them. The members donated planters and placed them outside the police station to brighten up the officers' days. Great Community Project Ladies!

Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights will have its annual Fish and Chips Dinner on March 24. This is always a fun night with delicious food.

Woman's Club of Rutherford invites you to a St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner Celebration Saturday March 14th, 7 – 10 p.m. The Celebration will take place at the historic Woman's Club of Rutherford Carriage House.

Enjoy a Three Course Tea with **Book and Needle Club** of Oradell on March 21, at The Woodcliff Manor. A basket raffle and 50/25/25 Raffle will be held that day as well. The club has had some very interesting programs of late, including a local student beekeeper speak about the importance of bees, another on The Hermitage Museum and this month the club will have Katie Chambers speak on Alice Guy-Blache and her role in early filmmaking!

Woman's Club of Norwood/Northvale participated in New Jersey's Mission of Honor for Cremains of American Veterans. The Mission's goal is a statewide effort to inter orphaned and abandoned Veteran Cremains. The group of veterans assures that all qualified orphaned and abandoned cremains will receive a military burial with respect and honor in Brigadier General Wm. Doyle Veteran Cemetery in Wrightstown, NJ. The woman's club members are very proud to support this program.

The Palisades District Clubs have utilized many tips and ideas that NJSFWC Third Vice President and State Membership Chairman Barbara McCloskey shared during the past two years. Many clubs are reporting several new members and this is very exciting news!

RAMAPO DISTRICT**Barbara A. Cook**

As we enter into March, it is nice to know spring is only 20 days away. Clubs are working on their spring events.

Riverdale Woman's Club will be hosting a program "Mallory's Army" where her mother will be speaking about bullying and the suicide of her daughter. They will also be painting rocks that will be placed around the town in the spring.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey is holding a Trivia Night and will participate in Ramsey Day cleanup in April.

Woman's Club of Ridgewood is presenting a program by Shefali Tsabary on "Conscious Parenting Talk". On April 3rd they will have their Spring Music Festival and a Fashion Show fundraiser.

Allendale Woman's Club will continue with their SHARE program and have a fashion show to benefit Family Promise Camp Lots of Fun.

The March meeting of **Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River** will honor the winners of the 34th Annual Poetry and Essay contest and the winners will receive their awards. They will have a "Meet and Greet" reception in April for prospective members. The club continues to collect birthday bags for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation Kids.

Woman's Club of West Milford Township will be holding workshops preparing for their Victorian Tea in April.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club is having a presentation by Richard Moon. Their culinary department will be bringing everything green to be eaten at a member's home.

Pines Lake Woman's Club will be making cork ornaments that can be entered into Achievement Day. They will also provide refreshments for Performing Arts Day.

Saddle Brook Woman's Club will have a beef steak and tricky tray in April which is their fundraiser.

On March 13th **Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains** will have a tricky tray with the theme "Groovin into the 70's". They are also making "porta cath pillows for patients at a local cancer center and will participate in Grains of Hope, a food packing event. Of course, they will participate in Dr. Seuss programs at local nursery schools and the local library.

SHORE DISTRICT**Gwendolyn M. Lewis**

Lady Diamonds, as we are springing forward in our club activities and our terms are winding down, we remain steadfast in our hearts of serving others.

Woman's Club of Brielle members are baking up cookies for 8 nursing homes and Dottie's House. The Education Committee is busy selecting their scholarship recipients. The ladies are off and packed and running to a Washington DC trip which is planned for March 19th. A tour of GFWC Headquarters is scheduled, tickets for the White House have been obtained and a private tour of the United States Capitol.

Jersey Shore Woman's Club is looking forward to its annual April fundraiser at Jumping Brook Country Club. The ladies are busy making items for Spring Achievement Day.

Woman's Club of Middletown will be celebrating its International Tasting Luncheon for their daytime members and International Tasting Desserts for their evening numbers. These two events benefit CARE and the NJSFWC International Exchange Scholarship.

Woman's Club of Spring Lake had Vincent Dick, author of "The Women Who Saved Spring Lake" as their guest speaker. They had a dinner for members at the Breakers. On March 19th the club is having a fundraiser at Spring Lake Community Theater to see the performance of "Spamalot".

Stafford Township Woman's Club is collecting small suitcases for foster children as most often the children carry their belongings in grocery bags. The ladies had a successful unwanted gift auction. They are collecting rice and beans for the winter months to distribute to two Community Pantries. At the club's March meeting they will have a presentation by Graceanne Taylor, Education and Outreach Coordinator of Save Barnegat Bay. She will be speaking on the vast number of factors that threaten the health of Barnegat Bay and its Ecosystems.

Lady Diamonds you are continuing to be in Constant Bloom, always Refreshed and Embracing all Life's Miracles of serving your communities. Continue to empower each other on your club's journey. This DVP is in support of all you do.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**Mary Ellen Cropper**

Hopefully spring is in the air and the Super Southern District snowbirds are thinking about returning to New Jersey after wintering in Florida. Club members are busy rehearsing their performances for the District Performing Arts Day on the 25th at the Millville Woman's Club Clubhouse. Other members are busy putting the finishing touches on entries for Spring Conference and Achievement Day on April 22nd! March will be a very busy and active month for all of our clubs!

Millville Woman's Club will be collecting and donating books to celebrate Dr. Seuss Day. Books will be donated to the homeless shelter. They are also hosting a Victorian Tea on the 21st at 2 p.m.

Woman's Club of Absecon is planning a luncheon during Restaurant Week. They are working on their annual Arts and Craft show contest for grades K-8. They bake twice a month for residents of their local nursing home so they can enjoy a home baked treat.

Woman's Club of Vineland host a semi-annual Antiques and Collectibles show at their clubhouse. This year it's being held on March 6-7th and it starts both days at 10 a.m. They will have their monthly card party and game day with lunch on the 18th. Their target program this month will again be collecting books for little ones in their "Bundles of Books" program.

Country Shore Woman's Club will present its annual Children's Play starring the children of club members!

Colony Club of Ocean City celebrates new members with a delicious covered dish "New Member Appreciation Dinner". The new members and established members really enjoy this covered dish social filled with club spirit.

Women's Community Club of Cape May is celebrating Women's History month by helping those in need in their community. Members are busy rehearsing for Performing Arts Day.

Ex-President's Club of the Southern District had its semi-annual luncheon at The Tuckahoe Inn in February. Twenty-plus members attended.

THE ARTS/CREATIVE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Gail Kovacs-Felici**

There are many studies regarding the Arts in connection with Education. To encourage students about the diversity of areas in the arts – painting, photography, sculpture, pottery, etc. - plan a program for March. **March is Youth Art Month**. A proclamation for your club to submit to your local mayor and council was enclosed in the December ALMANAC and is on the NJSFWC website.

Co-ordinate with your elementary school or a pre-school to hold a Youth Art Contest or other activity. Approach the local library to host an after-school or week-end program for children of any age and display their endeavors in the community.

Publicize the event with flyers, newspaper articles and on social media. Acknowledge the artistic achievements of the youngsters in town by presenting awards – these can be as simple as certificates for all participants or more involved as establishing a perpetual monetary award. Do not forget that GFWC recognizes one club in the nation for project creativity with a \$50 cash award!

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Debbie Edwards**

Thank you again for all your reports. This chairman is enjoying reading about your projects.

The Porch Club of Riverton, in the Garden District, has a chorus and a pianist that perform for holidays and in the Spring. For their Spring concert they sang songs from different decades starting with 1890 and “A Bicycle Built for Two”. They concluded with “Hey, Good Looking” from 1950. While the chorus was performing, a Power Point slideshow was behind the singers showing the events of the Decades.

The Book and Needle Club of Oradell has a chorus that performs and has sing-a- longs at Nursing Homes and Senior Day Care Centers. They received monetary donations for their performances which were used to give an award for “Music Excellence” to a High School Senior. Use these ideas to get a chorus started in your club.

CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Bonnie Dann****Arboreta in New Jersey**

New Jersey is home to a surprising number of arboreta (or arboretums for those not wedded to the Latin plural). As the word suggests, an arboretum features trees and shrubs, but most have extensive flower plantings as well. The following are among the best, and all are worth a visit.

The Willowwood Arboretum comprises 130 acres of rolling farmland in Chester Township. It is owned by the Morris County Park Commission, which also owns the Frelinghuysen Arboretum in Morris Township, a 127-acre estate with woodlands, meadows, and gardens surrounding a magnificent colonial revival mansion. (Visit willowwoodarboretum.org and arboretumfriends.org.)

The Cora Hartshorn Arboretum and Bird Sanctuary belongs to Millburn Township, in Essex County. It includes more than 40 species of trees with 16 acres of woodland and trails traversing hills and kettle moraines. (Visit hartshornarboretum.org.)

Nearby is the Reeves-Reed Arboretum, located in Summit, Union County, a 13.5-acre public garden in a former country estate. (Visit reeves-reedarboretum.org)

Wayne Township, in Passaic County, has the Laurelwood Arboretum, with its woodland trails and streams. (Visit laurelwoodarboretum.org.)

In Warren Township, Somerset County, the Wagner Farm Arboretum occupies a former dairy farm. (Visit wfafnj.org.)

CONSERVATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

The Thielke Arboretum of Glen Rock is an 11-acre wetland forest in the Bergen County suburbs. (Visit thielkearboretum.org.)

Holmdel Park, in Monmouth County, contains the David C. Shaw Arboretum, with 22 acres of ornamental trees and shrubs. (Visit monmouthcountyparks.com/page.aspx?id=2526.)

Georgian Court University, in Lakewood, Ocean County, is home to the Sister Mary Grace Burns Arboretum. It features woody plants native to the Pine Barrens, along with extensive formal gardens. (Visit georgian.edu/arboretum.)

Other arboreta include the Hunterdon County Arboretum and the Zuck Arboretum at Drew University. Why not plan a club outing to visit one of the above arboreta and have a fun filled day with other plant enthusiasts? Don't forget to report your outing on next years' reports including how many members and hours spent.

EDUCATION COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Ann Ribinsky Brown

Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss! In addition to continuing to collect Dr. Seuss books to address GFWC's Grand Initiatives, it is this Chairman's hope that you have continued to participate in Read Across America, especially during this first week of March. Reading aloud to children promotes language development and early learning skills. Taken from an article on the "Importance of Reading Aloud; Giving young children a foundation for success," other attributes to reading aloud to children are:

- book handling and naming
- understanding how stories work
- recognition of sounds and letters
- knowledge of a wide range of vocabulary
- developing the ability to listen
- building curiosity and memory
- taking children to places and times they have never been
- creating a positive association with books and learning

On another note, two months of local and district spelling bees will culminate on March 7, 2020, at 10 a.m., at Headquarters, with the top three spellers from each District vying for top speller in the NJSFWC 2020 Spelling Bee.

HOME LIFE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Susan A. Chambers

Driving crash rates are the highest for teenage drivers. But crash rates gradually increase after we reach the age of 70. Several age-related factors contribute to this phenomenon. Arthritis can make joints stiff and that can make it harder to turn your neck when checking for other traffic, brake or even make it difficult to grip or turn the steering wheel. Medications can make you dizzy, drowsy or lightheaded. And as we age, our vision and hearing can become impaired and our reflexes and reaction time can slow.

So, what can we do to maintain our ability to drive and keep our mobility independence? Be sure to see your doctor every year to be at the top of your game. Use eyeglasses and hearing aids if necessary. Drive a car equipped with a grip-friendly wheel cover, rearview cameras, blind-spot monitoring systems and audio/visual alerts. Avoid driving in bad weather or on high-speed roads. Take a defensive driving course offered by such organizations as AAA or AARP. (Your insurance company might even lower your bill if you pass the test!) Create a flier and pass along this information to local senior developments with membership information at the bottom.

(Source: Consumer Reports on Health-12/18 and the National Institute on Aging)

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Karen Manneback****Because I Am a Girl**

Because she is a girl, she's more likely to be forced into an early marriage. She's more likely to be subjected to violence, be sold into the sex trade, or become infected with HIV. Because she is a girl, she faces discrimination in her own home. Because she is a girl, she'll have limited access. The Because I Am A Girl campaign is a Plan International USA global effort to directly improve the lives of 4 million girls. They create sustainable projects in developing countries to give girls access to most basic of human rights; clean water, food, health care, education, financial security and protection from violence and exploitation. The following are a few examples of changes:

El Salvador: Champions of Change

Champions of Change, supported by Plan International USA, aims to alleviate gender inequality and violence in El Salvador by helping boys and men examine and change sexist behaviors in their families and communities to support girls and champion their rights.

Indonesia: Better Life Options and Opportunities

BLOOM, a successful 20-year-old program model supported by Plan International, aims to provide life skills, health services, and social networks to young women in Indonesia.

Nepal: Action Against Child Trafficking

Plan International USA's Action Against Child Trafficking project targets high-risk, heavy-transit areas between Nepal and India, aiming to create and strengthen community protection groups, as well as promote government leadership and accountability.

Egypt: Safer Cities for Girls

The Safer Cities for Girls project, supported by Plan International USA and partners, has an overarching goal of building safe, accountable, and inclusive cities with and for adolescent girls.

How can we help: We can send donations on line through Plan USA – girls fund. Their website is: <https://www.planusa.org/the-girls-fund> or if you would prefer to send a check instead of using a credit card, please make payable to Plan International USA and mail to Donor Finance, 155 Plan Way, Warwick, RI 02886.

PUBLIC ISSUES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Lisa Levin**

Please promote Teen Driving Safety. Please educate and distribute information in your local community on Kyleigh's Law. This law was effective on May 1, 2010 in remembrance of the death of Kyleigh D 'Alessio on December 21, 2006. This law requires all drivers under the age of 21 who have a permit or probationary license to display a red decal on their license plates to identify them as a teen driver. These are the guidelines:

- May not drive between the hours of 11:01 pm to 5:00 am.
- Must comply with the specific restrictions on the number and nature of passengers
- Is prohibited from using any electronic device (handheld or hands-free) while driving
- Must make sure all vehicle occupants wear seatbelts

For more information, please visit www.njteendriving.com

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN**Jean Battaglia**

Many organizations, residential and community, have started their outreach for funds to provide summer day camp or residential camp experiences for the youth that they serve. In addition to the monetary cost of camp, those attending need towels, bathing suits, sneakers and more. Camp programs need toys, craft supplies, sunscreen and more. Your club could consider a summer camp theme for one of your meetings. Ask members to wear a hat or shirt they might wear if camping, ask them to share memories of going to camp as a child, and ask them to bring a new towel, pair of sneakers or other appropriate item or a gift card that your club can donate toward a camp program in your community. The Woman's Club of Colts Neck went a step further last year. They approached local businesses to make donations. A restaurant and a real estate office participated, and 385 items were collected and delivered to a local day camp.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (continued)

If members from your club volunteer to read at local schools, consider enhancing the experience for the children as The Haddon Fortnightly EMD did. They brought rolls of paper so children could paint a mural about the story they had heard. You could bring individual pages of paper and crayons and ask each child to create a drawing that you hang on poster board you bring with you. Children enjoy having someone read to them. Adding another activity makes it even more fun and allows the children to express their feelings about what they have heard.

COMMUNICATIONS

Tammy Levinson

And now...the last of our A, B, C's tips to communicate effectively!

Written communication. You will almost always use written communication, as this tool will continue to be the way you record information for reference for your club for years to come. Written newsletters, emails, flyers, etc... Written communication is necessary!

Xerox copies! Sometimes people like to hold the paper still! In this world of electronic communications, be sure to still have some paper copies on hand for people to use/refer to!

YOU are the center of your Club's communication! Be Clear, Correct, Complete, Concrete, Concise, Considerate, & Courteous. As communications chair – YOU – are the root of communicating effectively! YOU can do it!

Zzzzz...you can now rest...as you have exhausted almost all ways to communicate!

Now that you have an alphabet mixture of gentle reminders and ways to communicate effectively – you will be ready to pass this on to your next chairman, or continue to use the tools yourself!

CONVENTION

Ora M. Kokol

Now the BIG Night! Tuesday Banquet "A Starry Night" honoring our Club Presidents. The evening begins with our Processional led by NJSFWC State President Mary Wolfe escorting our GFWC International President Mary Ellen Brock.

After dinner you will have an opportunity to hear Mary Ellen give the key-note speech.

You will learn who has the honor of becoming the 2020 Cecilia Gaines Holland recipient, and what you have been waiting to hear: the total amount of donations that were given from our clubs during this administration to our Special State Project – CASA NJ.

Next you will have an opportunity to give a "Gold Star" thank you to our President Mary Wolfe for all her efforts on the Federation's behalf these past two years.

The installation of the 2020-2022 State Board of Directors will follow, and will be led by the 2020 "Star" Jan Hanson, incoming President. You will hear her acceptance speech, as well as the aims and goals of her administration, and the announcement of our next Special State Project.

Learn what is in store for you on Wednesday in the April ALMANAC, as we continue to "Celebrate the Stars of A Shining Future".

P. S.: A reminder to take time to visit the photographer to find those keepsake pictures that were taken of you and your club members.

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING CONVENTION ROOMS

As stated in the CALL to Convention, in order to receive the discounted rate, all room reservations are to be made directly with Golden Nugget Atlantic City before **April 17, 2020** by calling **1-800-777-8477**. **Select Option 3** and give the group code: **AFWCLB2**

If your club is tax exempt and you're paying with a club check accompanied by an ST-5 form, please make that known when you make your reservation. You may be required to send a check in advance. Please note that Form ST-5 does not exempt the organization from: (1) State occupancy fees; or (2) municipal occupancy tax; or (3) Sales Tax imposed on natural gas or electricity purchases.

CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION**Rosemarie Saviello**

By this time, all Club Presidents, Past State Presidents, NJSFWC Board of Directors etc. should have received the "CALL to Convention" that was mailed on February 8, 2020. Please review the CALL package carefully and return all registration forms as soon as possible. If you have already done so, the Credentials and Registration Committee thanks you.

Just as a reminder, the registration form should be mailed with ONE CLUB CHECK covering the amount due for your club members' registration and meals. The check should be made payable to NJSFWC Convention, earmarked Credentials and Registration and mailed to Rosemarie Saviello, 325 Jacksonville Rd., Lincoln Park, NJ 07035 postmarked no later than March 30, 2020. After that date there is a late fee. No registrations will be accepted after April 8, 2020. Please register as early as you can.

Now is the time to make your hotel reservations. You must call the Golden Nugget Atlantic City directly, not this Chairman. The Golden Nugget can be reached at 800-777-8477, option 3 and give them the code AFWCLB2. You must register before April 17th.

If you have any questions about registering for the conference or meals, please call this Chairman, 973-263-1133.

**GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT:
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION****Jean L. Revis**

Imagine having to leave your home in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes on your back. That's what a lot of Domestic Violence victims must do, many times accompanied by their scared young children.

Clubs can help by assembling "First Night Kits" for their local shelters. Items to include in the kit include a pair of underwear, tissues, paper and pen, deodorant, hair brush, personal products that will help make them feel not so lost and alone. Don't forget the children, bags with child appropriate items can be made for them too.

As victims begin their road to recovery their needs change. Federation members can donate items that will help them take the necessary steps into their future. Clubs can work with organizations, such as Dress for Success (www.DressForSuccess.org), and their local shelters to gather information and items that are needed. The "Allstate Foundation Purple Purse" (www.purplepurse.com) helps domestic violence survivors prepare for the future by helping them better understand and manage their personal finances.

As always, contact your local shelter to determine their specific needs.

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE**M. Jill McDonald**

Registration forms for Girls' Career Institute **DELEGATES** and **ALTERNATES** were due March 1. If there were any issues, PLEASE contact the Director immediately. Most problems can be resolved with good communications. If there is a delay – let's talk or email. Encourage clubs to let the Director know and then use **regular postage** to send the forms.

DELEGATE packets are being prepared now. They will be mailed in 9x12 brown NJSFWC mailing envelopes by April 1 to each Delegate. A neon sticker on the front of the envelope will alert delegates and parents of the contents and the urgency to open and review. **IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE CLUB GCI COORDINATOR STAYS IN TOUCH WITH THEIR DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES WHETHER THE CLUB MADE THE SELECTION OR THE SCHOOL.** Please encourage your GCI Club Coordinators to call the Delegates to ensure they received their packets by April 10. Notify this Director immediately if she has not!

ALTERNATES will not receive packets until when and if they are moved to Delegate positions.

District Vice Presidents will receive a list of every Delegate and Alternate and their contact information at the April 14th NJSFWC Board meeting. They should prepare a Girls' Career Institute District Orientation Reception invitation for every girl and her parents on the list with date, time, place and explicit information and the response deadline (one week before the reception to allow for follow-up).

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE (continued)

Be sure telephone and email response information is correct. Give a copy of the contact list to whomever (District Assistant, spouse, or yourself at Convention) will receive the calls or emails. Number of people attending with the Delegate or Alternate is important so that you plan adequate seating, refreshments, and supplies. All receptions are between May 11 and May 21.

These receptions are vital to helping the girls understand what to expect, get their questions answered and to meet other girls from their area who will be attending. All club Presidents should receive invitations for themselves or the Club GCI Coordinator to attend whether or not their club is sponsoring a Delegate. Attending an Orientation is an excellent way to help non-participating clubs learn about GCI and gain interest in the project.

If a girl cannot attend their District reception, ask why (work, school/family commitment, transportation). Offer the girl an alternative District site and date. Alternates who attend Orientation have the best chance of being moved to a Delegate slot. Follow up with girls who do not respond; this is the first sign of a late withdrawal problem.

It is never too late for a club to donate supplies, water, and snacks to the total GCI effort.

Half day or full day per diem volunteer opportunities are available and encouraged for club members interested in attending GCI June 1-4, 2020 at Douglass Residential College on the Rutgers New Brunswick campus. If you have a club member interested in volunteering be sure they contact Director Jill McDonald at mcdonald@njsfwc.org or 856-234-0253.

HEADQUARTERS**Joanne Mangels****1894 Society April 1, 2019 to March 30, 2020****ARE YOU ON THE 1894 LIST?**

Don't miss out on receiving your certificate at Achievement Day in April.
Make your donation now.

We want you to get your 1894 Certificate at Achievement Day.

We are wrapping up this year's membership and we do not want YOU or YOUR CLUB left off the list.
Contact mangels@njsfwc.org to make sure your name is on our 1894 donor list.

We thank you for your donations to the 1894 Society.

HISTORIAN**Carol A. Niemiec**

The month of March is designated as "Women's History Month". With that thought in mind, we should remember the five million women who fought over seven decades (1848-1920) to win ratification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, the right for all American women to vote. In New Jersey, August 26, 2020 is the centennial anniversary of the certification of the 19th amendment. This date is set for the dedication of the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** in Occoquan Regional Park, Fairfax County, VA, which is part of the historic prison grounds where suffragists aged 19-73 were illegally imprisoned, tortured and brutalized for picketing the White House. For more information about the memorial or if you would like to donate, log on to suffragistmemorial.org

Now, some more interesting information for you about past NJSFWC Presidents:

Geraldine Brown Sentell, 1966-68, was the 30th President nominated by the Woman's Club of Matawan, who was also a member of the Woman's Club of Keyport. She was a teacher and editor of two weekly newspapers, The Matawan Journal and the Keyport Weekly. Mrs. Sentell overlooked the full operation of the newly constructed Federation Headquarters building, and she led the search to find funds for furnishings. Letters were sent to the clubs of all the Past State Presidents and "Friends" of the Federation. A notebook project and sale of tiles and coasters was held to set up a Maintenance Fund. Mrs. Sentell appointed a committee of Past State Presidents to approve furnishings and to request contributions. The Trading Stamp Institute of America gave the Federation 1,000,000 trading stamps which were used to purchase the Sarouk Persian rug in the foyer of Headquarters. By the end of her term of office, the building was completely furnished, debts paid, and a balance of \$10,000 remained in the Headquarters fund. One hundred NJ club women accompanied Mrs. Sentell to a luncheon at the Plaza Hotel in NYC celebrating the issuance of the 75th anniversary GFWC postage stamp.

HISTORIAN (continued)

Dorothy McGlade, the 31st NJSFWC President, 1968-70, was from The Haddon Fortnightly of Haddonfield. Federation was now 75 years old, and her interest continued in being involved in the furnishing of Headquarters. Headquarters continued with the sale of placemats and notepaper as fundraisers, as well as shopping days at Strawbridge and Clothier, and sale of the booklet "Procedure, Policy and Protocol" by Grace Schongar. Federation also sponsored trips to Hawaii and Spain. The profit from these fundraisers helped to purchase modern office equipment, and NJ artist Michael Lenson was commissioned to paint a mural for the back wall of the Board room. The mural was dedicated for the 75th anniversary of the Federation and a Tea was held at Headquarters to honor this occasion. Not one, but three State Fall Conferences were held in 1969 in East Brunswick, Morristown and Smithville to accommodate over 800 NJ clubwomen in attendance.

HONORS

Laura C. Badger

March 20th is the deadline for the Women of Achievement Patron donations. The form was in the January 2020 ALMANAC. These donations fund a one-time scholarship for a non-traditional student continuing her education at Douglass Residential College. A check for the funds generated will be presented to the Dean of Douglass Residential College at the Monday, May 4th Women of Achievement awards ceremony at our annual State Convention. Patrons are listed in the Convention Journal – look to see your name and/or your club! Mail the form with your donation to NJSFWC Headquarters by the deadline!

April 1st is the deadline for submitting enrollments for the Honor Roll and Order of the Lily. Club members will be recognized at the Annual Convention Wednesday, May 6th business session.

Forms for submitting each, along with tribute suggestions and the pin/charm order form were in the January 2020 ALMANAC and are also on the NJSFWC website. The Honor Roll and Order of the Lily forms, along with the appropriate fee, must be submitted to Headquarters by the deadline. One check is acceptable for multiple enrollees. Any submittal received after the April 1st deadline will be filed for the 2021 Convention presentation.

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

Carole B. Speechley

At the GFWC 2019 Annual Convention, President Brock announced two new **Brand Initiatives** to have an Advocacy Day for each of these acts. From the December 19th, 2019, GFWC News & Notes, here is information about the Advocacy days and the results:

"Advocacy days were held in September and October with the goal of having clubwomen make 1,000 contacts to their members of Congress concerning the two pieces of legislation selected at the 2018 GFWC Region Conferences. In true GFWC fashion, clubwomen exceeded the goals for both advocacy days and have continued to contact members of Congress in support of these bills. Clubwomen submitted 2,476 calls and letters in support of the 3D Printed Gun Safety Act and 2,092 in support of Miranda's Law. "

The article went on to thank every member who has taken action, and to tell those who haven't it's not too late! You can still make a difference by visiting GFWC's [Legislative Action Center](#) and supporting these bills!

Sadly, as of this writing, both bills are still in committee. So, **even if you participated in the Advocacy Days**, please go to the GFWC Legislative Action Center and again urge them to get these bills out of committee and passed.

You will receive the **Proposed Resolutions** that will be presented at Convention, in the mail later this month. Please present them to your club so that your delegates will be ready to vote on them.

And, finally, if you haven't joined the GFWC Legislative Action Center, why not? What we do matters.

WEBMASTER**Denise Hosier****A Website Is Your Story**

Thanks to everyone that entered our website contest. The entries were all terrific, and it was a very difficult decision for the judges. Winners will be announced at Convention, so be sure to check them out.

Do you really need a website? The webmaster recently talked with a club that has an active Facebook page and the members felt that was enough.

It's true that social media is the quickest way to reach your members and prospective members. It's a great tool to keep people up with your current happenings. But what if a prospective member wants to know more about your club? What's your purpose? What programs and projects do you have? What are the requirements of membership?

Social media is like a snapshot, a capture of a moment in time. Unless someone follows you for an entire year, they won't get an overall picture of your club. Your website is more like a scrapbook or album. It tells your story, with multiple pages that reflect the bigger picture of who you are and what you do.

So if you think social media is enough, please re-think. And contact the webmaster for help in setting up or revising your website. Get your story out there!

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS**Maureen K. Costello****REQUESTS AND INQUIRIES**

In connection with business in a meeting, members may wish to obtain information or to do or have something done that requires permission of the assembly. Any member can make the following types of inquiry or request: (a.) Parliamentary Inquiry; (b.) For Information; (c.) For Permission for (or Leave to) Withdraw or modify a Motion, (d.) To read papers; and (E) For any other Privilege.

STANDARD DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

With respect to the requests and inquiries growing out of the business of the assembly that are listed above, the following rules apply:

1. All take precedence over any motion with whose purpose they are connected and can also be made at any time when no question is pending. A motion on a request that is pending yields to all privileged motions and to other incidental motions.
 2. All can be applied in reference to any motion or parliamentary situation out of which they arise. No subsidiary motion can be applied to any of them.
 3. All are in order when another has the floor, if they require immediate attention.
 4. A Parliamentary Inquiry and a Request for Information do not require a second. The other requests do not require a second, except when moved formally by the maker of the request. A motion to grant the request of another member does not require a second, since two members already wish the question to come up — The maker of the request and the maker of the motion.
 5. All are not debatable.
 6. All are not amendable.
 7. No vote is taken on a Parliamentary Inquiry and a Request for Information. The other requests require a majority vote in order to be granted, and are frequently settled by unanimous consent. When it is too late for renewal, unanimous consent is required to grant permission to withdraw a motion to Reconsider, or to withdraw previous notice of a proposed motion requiring such notice.
 8. A Parliamentary Inquiry and a Request for Information are not subject to reconsideration. The vote on a request For Permission to Modify a Motion, To Read Papers, and For Any Other Privilege can be reconsidered. On a request For Permission to withdraw a Motion, only a negative vote can be reconsidered.
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