



ALMANAC



January 2021

No. 427

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, NJ 08901

President's Message—Jan W. Hanson

Happy New Year! As tempting as it is not to look back on 2020, it is important that you take the time to document your Club's activities and submit your reports by February 1, 2021. You might be amazed at how you progressed from the start of the Pandemic shut-down to the end of December. How much has changed from March to now? In some cases, adaptation became a necessity for survival. As we grappled with new technology and old-fashioned hand washing, we managed to move forward. I realize that there has been a lot of disappointment over the last months, but if you take the time to evaluate what your Club has done, you might be impressed.

My Spring Conference speech talked about the power of many. Submitting reports allows us to show that power. A few stockings turn into 1,648. A few sweatshirts turn into over 800. COVID-19 is still keeping our calendars empty, so please use this extra time to write a report. Even if your Club only did a few things, we would like to hear about them. I guarantee, unlike some reports, these will be read and reread by the Chairman, information gleaned and then sent on to the General Federation of Women's Clubs where they will be read by more people. Your Club even has the opportunity to win \$50 for the most creative project. As an added incentive we now have three membership categories, allowing more Clubs to receive recognition at Convention.

It is time to start thinking about next year's Day of Service. This is one day where Clubs from around the State join together in support of one organization. If you have any suggestions, please contact suggestions@njsfwc.org. Please include the name of the organization, contact information and a brief narrative of what we can do for them. We hope to announce the project and date in the April ALMANAC.

Thank you to everyone who ordered candy from the Gertrude Hawk fundraiser. I hope you all enjoyed your chocolate.

As the Pandemic continues to interrupt our lives we continue to try and find ways to adapt. We will continue to have District Council Zoom meetings. District Performing Arts Festivals, as we know them, have been cancelled. We are trying to come up with something to take its place. At the same time, we are hoping to have Spring Conference and Achievement Days and Convention. In the meantime, the NJSFWC Board of Directors is available to answer any questions you have. Remember, you are not alone, we are all going through this together (yet, 6 feet apart).

In Federation Friendship,

Jan

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Special points of interest:

- State Dates
- Legacy Letter
- T-Shirt Order Form
- Honor Roll Forms
- Order of the Lily Forms
- Women of Achievement
- Three Workshops:
 - 1) ABC's of Leadership
 - 2) Communications
 - 3) Website
- Newsletter, Press Book, Scrapbook Contests



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

As the calendar turns to a New Year, Clubs are compiling their statistics and projects for 2020 year-end Club reports. Yes, we will all be happy to see 2020 go, with the hope of new horizons for 2021!

With so many programs and projects being cancelled for 2020, Club Presidents will be looking for things to report. Often overlooked is the Leadership Report. Many Club Presidents think only of their hours when reporting under Leadership. When writing those year-end reports, don't forget to include ALL Leaders within your Club. Does your Club have a District Chairman? Ask that District Chairman how much time she has spent in her position. She reports at every District Council meeting, it takes time to prepare what she is going to say at that Council meeting. Did she make phone calls or answer emails from Club members requesting information? Did your Club hostess a District meeting? How did you get your Club members to attend?

Do you have a Club member serving on State Board? The same questions apply. State Board members have monthly meetings whether in person or on Zoom. Ask her for her hours. Make sure she includes her time spent preparing.

Did you or other members of your Club take the initiative to attend the Mini Leads in February? Report those hours. Did you or other Club members view the virtual GFWC Leadership Workshop? How many members, this is all Leadership initiative!

Did you and other members of your Club redo/revise your by-laws? This falls under Leadership! Did you hold an orientation meeting for new officers? Be sure to give details - what topics did you cover, how many attended, how much time was spent preparing and at the actual meeting. What was accomplished?

In order to win a GFWC \$50 Creativity Award you have to submit a State Report with narratives about your best programs in the Leadership Program.

Leadership report is due to this Chairman postmarked by February 1, 2021. Report all of the wonderful things you have done as a Leader in your Club!

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**Barbara McCloskey****REPORT WRITING TIME IS HERE!**

February 1, 2021 – All reports must be postmarked by February 1st to be considered for an award! **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Club reports can always be mailed prior to that date and we encourage Clubs to do so. The State Chairman would appreciate receiving your reports as early as possible so they can get started on their GFWC reports.

After all the reports are completed, isn't it exciting to add up the number of projects, volunteer hours and donations to see how much your Club has accomplished over the past year? These are great numbers to share with your members, prospective members and the public in a press release.

Please use the 'Where Should We Report It' guide if you have any questions about what department your project belongs to. The form is available on the NJSFWC website, as are all the report writing instructions.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS (formerly Home Life) and CIVIC ENGAGEMENT And OUTREACH (CEO) (formerly Public Issues) have the biggest changes in realignment. It may look complicated, but when you look at it, it makes sense. For example, if you made or sent food to hospitals or first responders for Covid-19 it will go under Health and Wellness.

Awards will be given at Convention for Best All Around Work in each Community Service Program area and Standing Committees in one of the three membership categories: 4-25, 26-60, 61+. These membership categories are based on the number of Club members you reported on your Blue Sheet in May 2020. This is not the number of members you have in your Club currently.

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (continued)

As you complete the report forms, and review all the projects that are listed, this is also a great time to see if there are any new projects that you can plan for in 2021.

January is also a great time to start keeping records of projects that are being completed now. Do not wait until the end of the year to start going through minutes, newsletters or asking Club members to remember what projects they completed, or how many hours they needed for something they may have knitted, baked or sewn. A sample Project Report is available on the NJSFWC website or create your own.

Thank you for all you do to make a difference in the lives of others.

NJSFWC THIRD VICE PRESIDENT**Susan Chambers****WELCOME, FEDERATION SISTERS, TO A NEW YEAR AND A BRAND-NEW START!**

Even though it's more difficult to recruit new members during the pandemic, it's not impossible! There are many ways in which to get the word out that your Club still knows that "What We Do Matters." Thelma Comparato, membership Chairman of the North Brunswick Woman's Club, told me she talks up her Club wherever she goes – even at the hair salon! And she's found it's easiest to find new members among people she already knows.

So on an individual level, how can each member recruit new members? Wear a Federation pin or two (or more!) wherever you go: hair salon, grocery store, doctor's office. They will garner attention. Start a small talk conversation with whomever you run into – yes, it is possible even through your mask! In fact, that mask and our universal dislike of them can be a conversation starter in itself: "Aren't these masks a pain? But they're so important to keep us all healthy. You know, my woman's Club has done XYZ during the pandemic to help our community. We don't let anything stop US!" And there you go, the conversation has started. Give her your Club's business card. And maybe that person can't join, but she'll remember your conversation and perhaps tell someone SHE knows etc. etc. and word about our work spreads. And who WOULDN'T want to join an organization that does so much to help so many?

Let's give a hearty welcome to NJSFWC's newest members:

North Brunswick Woman's Club:

Bridget Kennedy

Book and Needle Club of Oradell:

Katie Chambers

David Warren

NJSFWC TREASURER**Linda Babeuf**

This Treasurer is always happy to answer questions received from our members. It shows interest, attentiveness and attention to detail.

One question received many times recently is "When is our fiscal date?" Until recently that was a straightforward answer, April 30th. As of 2019, that answer will not be the same for all Clubs. In 2019 NJSFWC changed its' fiscal date from April 30th to June 30th.

At the time of the change Clubs were informed of the change and were asked if they wanted to remain with the old date or change with NJSFWC. It was totally up to your Club. Most Clubs chose to change with the Federation, but some wanted to remain with the original April fiscal date. If you changed your fiscal date you had to make that change in your Bylaws to reflect the new date.

NJSFWC TREASURER (continued)

The new NJSFWC fiscal date is June 30th. As many of you know that change created challenges when filing your Club's 990 information but hopefully, that has all been straightened out since we went through a whole cycle. If you are a new Club President or Treasurer, please be sure you verify what your Club's fiscal date is because it will affect the date you need to file your tax returns.

Your questions are always welcome and if this Treasurer does not know the answer, she will be happy to research it and help you find the answer. Please send your questions to babeuf@njsfwc.org or call 732-687-3443.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Christina Burlew

This Officer looks forward to reading your Fundraising Reports. If your Club has not completed reports in the past, please consider doing so. Sharing your successes may give another Clubs ideas on how they can successfully hold a fundraiser.

Since a narrative tells a story, be sure to include all the details. This pandemic has given us opportunities to think outside the box. How did your Club put a different spin on an annual event to comply with the current situation? What was the inspiration for trying a new fundraiser? Did you get your idea/s from the Zoom Fundraising Workshop?

Need additional forms? Go to our website, njsfwc.org and choose Materials. Click on Annual Report Forms and Instructions. You will find a wealth of information including guidelines for using fillable forms and also a Project Report Form which is an awesome resource for gathering all your info about your event.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Gertrude Hawk Chocolate Fundraiser. This Officer hopes you enjoyed your chocolate treats.

COLLEGE DISTRICT

Mary Lou Bak

District Clubs found time during the Holiday Season to reach out to their communities to donate gift cards and food to families in need and to food banks. Keeping members connected while meeting virtually, was given a special boost for Christmas.

The **Metuchen-Edison Women's Club** held their regular December meeting on Zoom but with food and beverage deliveries made to members, which they shared simultaneously during the meeting.

The **Princeton Area Junior Woman's Club's** Annual Wish Tree project to donate a gift to a child in need in the Trenton area, was reimaged for safety. Members viewed a virtual Wish List, and then dropped off gifts or shipped them to a drop-off location where they were quarantined before distribution.

The **Flemington Woman's Club** worked on their Community Impact Program by donating toys for the Safe Harbor Child Access Center by choosing from the Center's Gift List on Amazon.

Raising funds for Club charitable projects has included several different websites. The **Branchburg Woman's Club's** ongoing partnership with iGive.com arranges for shoppers to visit a large group of merchants who make donations for every purchase to the Club's Philanthropic Fund. The **Franklin Woman's Club** used BiddingOwl.com to setup an online auction for the benefit of its Scholarship Fund.

The **Cedar Wood Woman's Club** decorated the tree at NJSFWC Headquarters in a beautiful Victorian theme in their annual honor of Carl J. Sas, Club member and past NJSFWC Executive Director.

District Clubs also participated in the remembrance of deceased veterans by donating to the annual Wreaths Across America program. Wreaths were laid on veterans' graves on December 19th, in the annual observance which includes 85 locations in New Jersey.

GARDEN DISTRICT**Jill McDonald**

The **Woman's League of Mount Holly** was planning to provide refreshments at the January District Council, but alas, you're on your own. Thanks to two Clubs for offering to pool their resources for a first on-site meeting this New Year.

It has been a pleasure reading so many newsletters and emails detailing the activities of several Clubs. Fundraising has been on everyone's mind and some highly successful events have generated the needed dollars. Mum and Poinsettia sales blossomed into success for **The Haddon Fortnightly EMD** in cooperation with their General Club. They are already collecting donations and preparing for a spring connection with the Bargain Center of Philadelphia.

The **Women's Club of Pitman** hosted a connection with the Bargain Center of Philadelphia. Community folks and a member of another Garden District Club helped swell their profits to nearly \$1,500.

Veterans Haven is again able to accept donations of new items. They now have 4 female residents and that number is growing. **Waterford Township Woman's Club** recently donated 6 dorm size refrigerators and began regular donations to them.

The **Woman's Club of Woodstown** hosted a successful Sub sale. Many Clubs found new ways to celebrate the holidays virtually with special Zoom luncheons, game times, and holiday programs. Some suggestions for future meetings are tours of museums or places you'd like to visit, but from the comfort of your home – no snow dates required.

Develop more virtual publicity that draws attention to your Club and its good deeds. Community members are looking for ways to be part of the solution to ongoing problems and you are anxious to gain caring members. Look for community organizations that will welcome the opportunity to partner with your Club. Together you can make a greater impact.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT**Nancy Levy**

The Highlands Clubs had very busy holidays. **Blair Woman's Club** sent holiday cards to Veterans and nursing home residents.

Woman's Club of the Denville-Rockaway Area held an outdoor yoga fundraiser before it got too cold, and also worked with a local bakery on a pie fundraiser.

Woman's Club of Hackettstown partnered with Centenary University for a community collection of items for Lyons and East Orange Veterans hospitals for the holidays.

Hopatcong Woman's Club sent over 70 cards to the veterans at Lyons Veterans Hospital, and also donated cookies to Head Start families.

Mountain Lakes Woman's Club has had to disband, but placed a display in their library to commemorate the Club, and worked with the Historic Preservation Committee to preserve Club photos and documents.

Woman's Club of Parsippany-Troy Hills worked with a local garden center on a Trees for Troops program. The Club purchased five trees to be sent to military families, which not only helped the families, but also supported a local business.

Roxbury Woman's Club worked with their library to hold a "My Favorite Book" contest for sixth-graders. The Club judged the essays and presented awards at the library.

Sparta Woman's Club worked extensively to produce a booklet to document the Suffragist Movement. Members researched prominent suffragists to report on, and compiled an 89-page booklet with 58 pictures. For the holidays they made lap blankets and walker caddies for hospitalized veterans.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

Thursday Morning Club members were busy making food for their Le Bazaar de Noel. They baked for their La Patisserie, and packaged homemade soups in pints and quarts to sell.

Vernon Township Woman's Club put together crossword puzzles for Veterans. They collected the puzzles and glued them to thin cardboard, with the puzzle on one side and the solution on the other.

LIBERTY DISTRICT**Ellen Lund**

The **Woman's Club of Allwood** will be delivering the Reverse Advent Calendar food to St. Peter's Haven food bank. They are keeping in touch with members.

Arlington EMD though not holding meetings, is supporting the Local Food Pantry Network and has joined with the Kearny Prevention Coalition in a Kearny Kindness Challenge. Community members were supplied blank yard signs and were asked to put a positive message on it, place it in their yard or window and post a picture of the message on Social Media.

In January, the **Montclair Woman's Club** 'Among Friends Series' of Zoom gatherings will return to travel the world. Kelly McDonald will share stories and pictures of her trips to Iceland and answer the question "Why I loved Iceland so much I went back twice." Many of us have had travel postponed and cancelled because of quarantines. So, sit back and travel vicariously with us or find inspiration to start planning for future trips.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** is not meeting on a regular basis. In place of their annual Benefit Luncheon held at the Club, they did a remote box lunch. They sold 55 box lunches and the Montclair Emergency Services for the Homeless received a check for \$1,845. They also donated 25 sweatshirts and 250 cards to Operation Chillout. They also donated \$125 in school supplies to the Human Needs Pantry. All of these projects were accomplished thanks to the generosity of their members.

The **West Essex Woman's Club** will have a Report Writing Workshop in January.

PALISADES DISTRICT**Debbie Cibelli**

Woman's Club of Leonia though unable to meet, they were able to sign and deliver holiday cards to the residents at Bright Side Assisted living in Teaneck.

Woman's Club of Lyndhurst ran a successful Flea Market/Craft Fair featuring their "craft day" Christmas decorations, and "Lyndhurst Strong" masks. The Knights of Columbus graciously donated 15 new children's coats for domestic violence victims.

Woman's Club of North Arlington wrote Christmas cards for troops and residents at an assisted living facility and made paper Christmas trees for them. They delivered "thinking of you" cards to Alaris Assisted Living. They delivered 4 Thanksgiving Baskets to families in need and decorated boxes where residents deposited gift cards that they helped the police department distribute to needy families.

Woman's Club of Paramus donated PPE to their Special Education students/teachers as they began in-person learning. Thanksgiving meal donations were made to their food pantry accompanied by hand painted trays made by members.

Woman's Club of River Edge donated \$200 to two needy families together with wishes for a healthy and joyful holiday season.

Junior Woman's Club of Harrington Park collected toiletries and gently used coats for the Center for Hope and Safety. They created a map/route of local holiday lights and decorations for families to walk/drive around and see. They also received letters to Santa and distributed his response with little treats.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

Cresskill Woman's Club donated 4-\$50 ShopRite gift cards to needy families in Cresskill. They also donated baby items to Birthright in Maywood.

Woman's Club of Norwood Northvale donated personal items to the residents of the Bergen County Health Care Center in Rockleigh. Santa has distributed the gifts for over 25 years.

The **Woman's Club of Englewood** will celebrate their annual Scholarship Reception on Thursday, January 7, 2021, at 6 p.m. Unable to gather, students, their families and guests will be virtual.

Woman's Club of Rutherford held The Incredible Collectibles and Upcycle Christmas Decorations Boutique and provided kits/materials for making cards for shut-ins for the holidays.

RAMAPO DISTRICT**Marie Sullivan**

Congratulations to **Ramapo District** Clubs for helping members and their communities during the Holiday Season. Ramapo District wishes you and your loved ones a Healthy, Happy, and Peaceful New Year full of promise.

Woman's Club of Ramsey was excited to deliver 50 CD Players to the Veterans' home residents. Members held a virtual Holiday Celebration where they gave each other gifts of jokes and were able to enjoy the laughter during a very difficult time.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains granted wishes for 68 children in town. They also did the same for The Fireman's Home in Boonton. Holiday wrapped coffee cans were filled with goodies and delivered to homebound members, Police, First Aid Responders and Fire Houses in town.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club not only donated funds for Operation Chillout and Yellow Ribbon but were able to fill Blizzard Bags. Crocheted hats, scarves, socks and reusable bags were donated to Project Kind in Newark. They planted 500 Daffodil bulbs and are looking forward to them blooming this spring. They were excited to decorate a Christmas tree at Chilton Memorial Hospital along with helping the police collect holiday gifts for local Children.

Woman's Club of Ridgewood had a fabulous virtual book event featuring Author and Teacher Jane Cleland who discussed her writing process. Ticket prices went to the Club's Capital Campaign and attendees received a copy of the book.

Saddle Brook Woman's Club gave out 10 - \$50 ShopRite Gift Cards for the holidays and collected toys games and additional gift cards for the food pantry.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey did a holiday craft fundraiser at Ramsey Market and sponsored the Library Giving Tree.

Allendale Woman's Club wanted to encourage a bright outlook for 2021 so they sold Luminaries for residents to light on New Year's as a sign of hope.

SHORE DISTRICT**Randi Quilici**

The **Woman's Club of Asbury Park** decided to have monthly service projects in lieu of in-person meetings while their Clubhouse is closed through March. This month they are donating backpacks to Operation Chillout.

Howell Woman's Club continues to collect food for the local food bank. They also work with online companies to raise money for charity. Guest speaker Lisa Farley helped members by promoting how to maintain physical and mental wellness through a daily routine of yoga, walks, meditation, and eating three meals a day.

SHORE DISTRICT (continued)

Jersey Shore Woman's Club continues to work on new ideas to raise money during the pandemic. Little Silver Woman's Club is promoting publicity for their Club. Each member is taking a location and publication to submit events. They are also starting a Zoom/conference call twice a month to keep in touch and help those staying home.

Woman's Club of Lacey received a huge donation of new stuffed animals. They are distributing them to Providence House-Ocean County for victims of domestic abuse and their children. They are also donating them to the food bank, nursing homes, and the police.

Woman's Club of Matawan is very busy having the Unwanted Gift and Pound Auction. Anything that weighs a pound is auctioned. They have Blizzard Bags for Meals-On-Wheels and continue to collect food.

Woman's Club of Point Pleasant is holding their Book Club meeting to discuss "The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek". They continue to sell raffle tickets for their scholarship fund. One member is crocheting red, white, and blue hats for placement in winter backpacks for Operation Chillout.

Woman's Club of Spring Lake is having Bingo Night. The January speaker is Cassidy Cooney offering tips on accessorizing and combining clothes in our closets.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**Pamela McNamee**

Our Southern District Clubs continue to work to inform and include members of GFWC and NJSFWC in activities and goals. Many Clubs are Zooming with their members while the Clubs that have facilities to host in person Board meetings continue to do so.

Our Clubs continue to support their communities during the restrictions we are all asked to follow. The **Woman's Club of Absecon** makes an ongoing effort to donate to the Red Cross and take packaged snacks to a local nursing home.

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** continues to support CASA and the Ronald McDonald House. They have been holding community meetings and wait for the go-ahead for the annual Spelling Bee.

The **Woman's Community Club of Cape May** has found a temporary home for their meetings since their usual site is closed for the time being. They have been able to donate to COVID-19 deserving organizations. They are collecting winter gloves and hats for the needy of Caring Kids, The Branches, and Cape Hope.

The Fundraising Committee of the **Millville Woman's Club** has developed a list of fundraising activities that will keep them busy until June 2021. These activities will help with the upkeep of the Clubhouse and help the Club continue supporting community activities. They will start by collecting sneakers and have also planned a soup sale for January. A collection of undergarments will be delivered to the Veterans Home in Vineland for its residents.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** continues to hold a used book sale. A 'non-participating' Game Day looks to bring some much needed funds to help with future needs and activities. Due to COVID-19 restrictions calendars will be donated to the Veterans Home for its residents in place of the cookie/candy activity.

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Lynn Webb**

January is a time to fill out the Arts and Culture Report Form, let this Chairman know what your Club accomplished in 2020.

This Chairman reminds Clubs to apply for the President's Prize from GFWC and the Deadline is March 15, 2021. The theme is "What a Wonderful World". It is a wonderful world when you notice the nature that surrounds you and a chance for one New Jersey Club to win \$100!

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

Clubs are looking for a way to raise money and this Chairman found a free pattern to make for charity. The thirteen-inch Honey Bear was designed and created by Pauline McArthyr from the funky friend's factory. A bear takes one "fat" quarter or 22 inches by 18 inches piece of fabric. Check out your scrap pile for ideas.

In order to download the free pattern, one Club member needs to download the newsletter. There is a YouTube video to follow along on how to sew the bear together. Your Club may choose a charity to donate to or raise money for your Club. Take a picture and share it with this Chairman and the funky friend's website. This pattern cannot be mass produced and is protected under the copyright Protection Services International. There are other funky friend patterns to purchase. Check out the website and happy sewing: <https://www.funkyfriendsfactory.com/sewing-toys-for-charity>.

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Rosemarie Saviello

WINTER DOLDRUMS

During the months of January and February, many people experience the winter doldrums also known as Seasonal Affective Disorder or wintertime blues. With fewer hours of sunlight during the winter months, many people experience a serious mood change. Winter doldrums are real! So, what can we do about them?

There are a few good tips to beat the doldrums, one suggests that listening to "music" will help. That's easy, just turn on your radio, listen on your phone, listen on-line, play CDs (you probably still have them). Listen to any kind of music as long as it's your favorite.

Are you having Zoom Club meetings or meeting in person? Either way, why not have a sing-a-long? Play a music piece and have everyone sing. It doesn't matter if anyone is off key, just sing. If you think it will help, send all attendees the words to the song. Many Clubs have a "Club Chorus." Invite them to sing at your meeting and have them lead the sing-a-long.

UNCOMMON MUSICAL INSTRUMENT

The Vegetable Orchestra: Seriously, it may sound odd but these musicians are serious about playing with their food. The group was founded in 1998 in Vienna Austria. They play a wide range of music on fresh vegetables using everything from bass drum pumpkins to carrot flutes. Some instruments are ready to play as is, others need sculpting. They don't waste anything because they use the remaining pieces of vegetables to make a soup which they serve to their audience after a performance.

REMINDER

The deadline for Creative Writing entries is February 1st. Get your entries in as soon as you can. If you have any questions, please email me, saviello@njsfwc.org.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Gail Kovacs-Felici

Since Civic Engagement and Outreach is a new designation area for projects, there may be some questions on where to report the work your Club has done.

The first place to start, of course, is the Civic Engagement and Outreach Report Worksheet, which was mailed to all Club Presidents. Make a copy to use as a practice sheet. The front of the report form is fairly specific. For example, if your Club had a Proclamation for the 100th anniversary of the passing of the 19th Amendment – this is where that is reported.

The reverse side of the report form lists other projects. An alphabetical list of projects with the corresponding Community Service Program areas was included in the packet of Report Forms. ***As an aside, keep these "Where Should We Report It" pages – they are a great resource for future Club project ideas!* If there are projects you would like to include, but are not listed on the Reporting Form, please add an additional sheet with the information.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

A good rule of thumb is to remember the four focus areas of the Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program: Emergency Preparedness, Safety and Crime Prevention; Celebrate Citizenship and Patriotism; Assist the Impoverished; and Support for Military Personnel. If you are still unsure, ask the question “Does this project benefit the community (locally and/or globally) as a whole or does it benefit just a few?” A project that improves the quality of life for many is reported under Civic Engagement and Outreach.

A narrative is useful for this Chairman as she also sends a report of the work done in the state to the GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman. This Chairman will use the narratives to select the best reporting by a Club in each District and in the State. From these narratives, one Club’s project will be selected as the State’s Club Creativity Award and then forwarded to GFWC. This could be your project that is selected by GFWC to earn your Club fame and fortune! As always, if you have a question, please do not hesitate to contact this Chairman at kovacsfelici@njsfwc.org

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

Brandi-Leigh Miller

REPORT WRITING TIME!

This Chairman finds report writing to be one of the biggest challenges of Club work and suspect that many members feel the same. While 2020 has been a challenging year for communities, our Clubs have continued to do what they do best, members see a need and step forward to meet it. Report writing is a time to let the projects and hard work you have done, big or small, shine!

If you have not already started to do so:

- Jot down all of the Education and Libraries related projects that you can think of and ask others in your Club to do the same;
- Add the number of members involved, number of participants, monies paid out, monies raised, etc.;
- Include any flyers, programs, or other collateral created for the project;
- Write a short narrative describing the project and how it served the community;
- Be sure to highlight any projects related to the GFWC Education and Libraries Challenge Project - STEM projects for special needs students;
- Submit your Reports to this Chairman by February 1, 2021.

Still unsure of how to get started? Check out the NJSFWC website for a recording of NJSFWC Second Vice President Barbara McCloskey’s Webinar briefing about Report Writing.

The Education and Libraries Report Writing form and information is on the NJSFWC website under Materials. Please feel free to reach out for assistance putting together your Report to miller@njsfwc.org.

REMINDER: NJSFWC ESO BOOK DISCUSSION – January 13, 2021

On Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:00 pm, NJSFWC ESO Chairman Pat Trainor will host an online book discussion via Zoom. The second book in our discussion series will be *The Girl in the Letter* by *Emily Gunnis*. Discussions about new books will take place every other month.

To join the ESO Honorary Literary Society or to suggest a book for future NJSFWC book discussions, contact ESO Chairman Pat Trainor by email at pattee217@aol.com.

Reminder! You can now submit your ESO Book Report online: <https://tinyurl.com/ESONJSFWC>

If you are on Facebook, be sure to search for **GFWC 2020 2022 ESO Book Club** and click the “join” button to be added to this private group. Don’t miss out on the exciting and fresh ideas to energize your Club projects!

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Dawn Pogosaew**

There is no time like the present to continue to take steps to reduce your impact on the environment and help save our planet! While we may still be house bound, you can continue to significantly reduce your use of precious resources in your home. Here are a few ideas to help you change your everyday habits into eco-friendly ones that will save millions of gallons of water and positively impact our environment for future generations.

Keep in mind routines we repeat every day that we can change even slightly. Not running the water while brushing your teeth can save about 4 gallons of water every day. That equates to 1,460 gallons of water saved per year per person. Take shorter showers. And don't forget to teach that habit to your children and grandchildren, so they can continue to practice these steps for generations. How many billions of gallons of water can your family save?

Multiply that by only running the dishwasher and washing machine completely full. For handwashing dishes, use a container of soapy water to soak dishes in the sink throughout the day. Hand wash each dish then run the water for rinsing only. Clean vegetables by filling a container with water and use a vegetable brush. Then you can quickly rinse them. If you must run water, instead of dumping clean water down the sink, capture it and use it to water your house plants. Install low-flow faucets throughout your home, and make sure to fix leaky faucets, running toilets and any other leaks you may have in your pipes throughout your home.

When the weather gets warm, don't forget how you can save water outside. First, get rid of the lawn and Xeriscape your yard by using plants that don't require constant watering. Do your research before you plant that new perennial. Whenever possible utilize native plants from our region, they never need watering once established. If you must have that green lawn, install a smart sprinkler system on a timer and only water in the early morning. Make sure it has a sensor that will "know" when it is raining and not turn on. Install a rain barrel and start capturing the runoff from your roof and water ornamental garden plants and containers. Just a note: I would not use this water on plants for consumption. Visit <https://njaes.rutgers.edu/E329/> and learn how to build and install your rain barrel.

Lastly, Watershed Associations throughout the state hold clean ups every year. We can protect our water by keeping it clean too! Locate your local Watershed Association by going to www.thewatershed.org. If we are unable to have a large group cleanup day, you can hold a cleanup month for members to choose their own day! Don't forget to collectively total and submit your efforts for your Reports.

By becoming conscious of the amount of water we actually consume and potentially waste, we can drastically reduce our consumption and preserve that precious resource. What creative ways can your Club come up with to reduce water consumption?

Just a reminder....Don't wait until the last minute to submit your 2020 reports. Mail them today! This Chairman looks forward to learning what your Club has done in spite of hurdles we have faced throughout the year!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Claire Hill**

February is Healthy Heart Month. As 2021 begins, let's all think of February and Red Dress Day. It is the first Friday of February. If you do not have a Red Dress or Red Dress pin, the pin can be ordered from the American Heart Association: shopheart.org/red-dress-lapel-pins-25-pack. Why not order now so everyone can observe Red Dress Day, and then wear them at your February meeting.

You can go online and print red dress clip art to decorate your town for Red Dress day. The Heart Truth Speaker kit is available online to use to educate your members. Plan a Valentine Social, even on Zoom for February and encourage heart healthy refreshments.

The members that knit and crochet can check out Pinterest to see twiddle muffs, fiddle lap robes and fiddle aprons that can be made and donated to Alzheimer's patients. Just sew items on them very securely. These items keep Alzheimer's patients from picking on themselves when they are bored.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM (continued)

Consider purchasing a baby doll and make some clothes and a blanket for an Alzheimer patient to cuddle, or purchase a stuffed puppy or kitten for the men in the facilities to cuddle. Check with your local nursing home or Alzheimer's facility before making items or purchasing anything.

A continuing project is New Eyes for the Needy. If you have or can collect used eyeglasses, they can be sent to New Eyes at 549 Millburn Ave, Short Hills, NJ 07078 or contact your local Lions Club. You can always check the website neweyesfortheneedy.org for more information.

It is also time to brag and calculate all the great projects done for Health and Wellness. Please check the outline and Report Forms as many things have changed. Be sure to include narratives for these projects and postmark the reports before February 1. Looking forward to reading about all the great projects. Of course, any questions contact hill@njsfwc.org.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

Jane Mackesy

Happy 2021! This month's feature program is Ronald McDonald House. NJSFWC Clubwomen have been long time supporters of Ronald McDonald House

Although there have been challenges from COVID-19, the Houses are open and they continue to serve their mission, of providing a home-away-from-home to families of seriously ill and traumatically injured children, who are being treated at nearby hospitals. There are 11 Ronald McDonald Family Rooms within pediatric units of hospitals across the Southern New Jersey region. They are using limited on-site staffing, and COVID-19 related precautions, policies, and restrictions. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, common spaces are closed and volunteers are not allowed in the Houses. Dinners are being made by staff or purchased from local restaurants.

How can we help?

Collect Pop Tabs –They collect, and recycle them, and use the funds to support operating expenses. By November of this year NJSFWC had collected 131 pounds of tabs. Great work ladies! Thanks to Lin Hyrcenko for delivering the tabs.

Charitable gift to the Ronald McDonald House – Please visit www.rmh-cnj.org to make a tax-deductible donation to help keep families close during times of uncertainty and stress.

Gift Card Drive – gift cards to restaurants, grocery stores, COSTCO, and Amazon will help offset some of the additional costs, due to COVID-19.

Toy Drive – A toy collection for families, is a great way to spread some cheer during the holidays, and throughout the year.

COMMUNICATIONS

Carole Speechley

Contests! Contests! Contests!

It's time to select the Newsletter you want to enter in the Newsletter Contest and finish your Scrapbook/History Book and Press Book for those contests.

Why should you enter? Your Club's Minutes may be the best resource to document your Club's history. But your newsletters, scrapbooks/history books, and press books bring that history alive with pictures and personality! So why not enter? Let your contest entry be a voice for your Club of who you are and what you do.

Entry forms for the contests are in this ALMANAC. Be sure to follow the instructions and meet the deadlines. If you have any questions, this Chairman is here to answer them and guide you. She wants you to succeed! This Chairman encourages all Clubs to enter at least one category and let your Club shine!

COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

Communications Workshop

There will be a Communications Workshop on Thursday, February 25th at 10:30 a.m. You have a choice of attending at Headquarters or on Zoom, COVID-19 regulations and weather permitting, otherwise just on Zoom. We'll cover some of the new ways Clubs are using to communicate with their members and their community. The **Registration Form, included in this ALMANAC**, also has a place for you to tell us what you would like covered in the workshop. And there will be a chance to share information with other Clubs. This Chairman hopes to see you at this workshop.

Reports! Reports! Reports!

It's January and, to most of you that means reports. This is your time to brag, so share a description of your projects – the best 10 projects get reported to GFWC and are shared with the Clubs in future ALMANAC articles and Bulletins. This Chairman looks forward to reading YOUR report.

CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION

Cynthia A. Blumenkrantz

On Saturday, January 23, 2021 (snow date January 30, 2021), the CALL TO THE 127th ANNUAL CONVENTION will be prepared for mailing to the Presidents of the General Clubs, Affiliate Clubs, State and EMD Chairmen, State Board Members and Past State Presidents by the Credentials and Registration Committee. Each envelope will include a copy of the "official CALL". The envelope will include the following:

- Advance Registration Form listing all registration fees and meal costs.
- Hotel Reservation Information Sheet and directions to the hotel.
- Checklist to aid the Presidents in completing the proper Club registrations.
- Other necessary information.

More information on the CALL will be in February's ALMANAC!

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

Joyce Fredericks

Sexual Abuse of Children Awareness and Prevention is one of the areas covered by the GFWC Signature Project. In this time of Pandemic and home schooling, our children are online more than usual. It is very important that parents monitor their children's online use. According to an article in the Daily Record, The sexual predators' are not taking a vacation.

The exploitation and abuse of children online is one of the biggest law enforcement challenges in the country, according to experts. But parents, teachers and guardians have a role to play in making sure children stay safe. Here are some tips, warning signs and resources.

Recognize that every child is vulnerable. A popular misconception among parents is that it can't happen to their child. Maybe they think their child is too smart or too innocent or doesn't have the capability to interact with strangers. That's usually wrong.

Lieutenant John Pizzuro, commander of the State Police Internet Crimes Against Children said he thinks digital safety should be a required component of public education, but he and other experts agree that parents should speak early and often with their children about threats online.

"I believe that children should be taught about online safety right about the time their fingers hit a keyboard or a phone," said Alicia Kozak, an internet safety expert who was the first known child to be abducted by an online predator. "Those discussions are not intended to scare children," she said, "but to empower them. It's important to have an open line of communication with the child so they feel comfortable coming to the parent with anything at all, and you won't punish them," Kozak said.

**GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT:
DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION (continued)**

“This isn’t a problem that exists in certain areas. It’s everyone’s problem,” said Lieutenant John Pizzuro. “Any platform that has a chat function and does not verify the user’s age are most problematic. They include apps like Omegle, Skout and Whisper.”

Monitoring kids online is OK

Parents may be hesitant to monitor their children’s internet usage, but experts encourage it. Attorney General Gurbir Grewal, for example, said he randomly checks his child’s phone to ensure there is no inappropriate content or discussions on it. His office suggests that parents regularly check their children’s online settings, profiles and posts and review apps, games and social media before allowing them.

HISTORIAN**Maribeth Hugelmeyer**

If it is January it must be REPORT time! This Chairman is looking forward to receiving your Women’s History Reports and to see all the wonderful and creative things you have done in 2020! No matter how your Club does their reports; either by each Chairman doing her own or the President and Board doing them all... enjoy the time, by remembering the fun times and learning moments at each event. **NOTE:** *There is a typo on the Women’s History Worksheet. The projects are for the Club year of January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020, NOT January 1, 2019!*

Some Clubs meet in January and some do not but here are two thoughts for you to consider for those winter months. Liberty Hall Museum, part of Kean University on Morris Avenue in Union opened a new exhibit in October entitled, "How Long Must We Wait: Suffrage and Ladies of Liberty Hall". This exhibit explores suffrage at Liberty Hall in one of their unique exhibit spaces. Discover the untold story of the Anti-Suffrage movement in New York and meet the women of Liberty Hall who were both challenging the status quo and struggling to understand suffrage as a women’s platform. Admission to "How Long Must We Wait" is included in a regular house tour. Tour times: Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays: 10:00 a.m., 12:00 p.m., and 2:00 p.m. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Even though they are closed in January and February, they can arrange a private tour for six people. Call 908-527-0400 for information.

The museum is now offering virtual programs. There are seven to choose from. Anyone would make an interesting meeting program on Zoom. Explore the full list of *Virtual Adult and Continuing Education Programs* on their website at libertyhall.kean.edu.

HONORS**Marie DiMatties**

The **Women of Achievement** nominations are in! The deadline was November 15th. Now the selection committee has the very difficult task of making the final selections from a number of outstanding women. The honorees that are chosen will be recognized during the NJSFWC Annual Convention in April.

Please consider becoming a Patron of the Woman of Achievement Awards; encourage you Club and fellow Clubwomen to become a Patron as well. The monies collected go toward continuing education scholarships for students at Douglass Residential College. A Patron form can be found in this issue of the ALMANAC as well as on the website

The deadline for submitting nominees for the **CECILIA GAINES HOLLAND AWARD** is February 1, 2021. It’s not too late to get the nomination paperwork to this Chairman at her home address 315 Walnut Street, Haddonfield, NJ 08033. Pertinent information for submitting nominations can be found on the NJSFWC website.

Forms included in this ALMANAC are:

Honor Roll with Honor Roll Tribute Tips, deadline April 1, 2021

Order of the Lily, deadline April 1, 2021.

Women of Achievement Patron Subscription Form, deadline March 20, 2021

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS**Chris Sienkielewski**

In looking through some of NJSFWC's former Resolutions that are still active, there are two that our members can continue to support. The first one appears below and the second one will appear in the February ALMANAC.

In 2017, NJSFWC members passed the Ban on Pesticides that pose a risk to Bees. In January 2018, Governor Chris Christie signed legislation to protect native bees and honeybees from pesticide exposure. The new bill requires people who spray pesticides to notify keepers of honeybees and native bees when they are applying a pesticide within three miles of a registered beehive. This means that beekeepers who register their hives with the state have the opportunity to protect their bees when neonics and other pesticides are sprayed nearby. It will also require the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to establish an educational course on pesticides' effects on bees for pesticide-spraying professionals. The law also expands the existing regulation and notification regulations to native beehives and bee yards.

Native bees include bumblebees, carpenter bees, sweat bees and more. They also pollinate crops and flowers in New Jersey, according to a fact sheet for New Jersey and Pennsylvania farmers from Rutgers University and Bryn Mawr College.

New Jersey's honeybees are not a native species but were imported by early colonists to help with pollination and for honey production. Nationwide, honeybee deaths average 33 percent per year, but in NJ in 2017, 41 percent of bees were lost.

Members can continue to advocate for this Resolution by bringing the aspect of education to the public through letters to the editor in local newspapers and putting together information sheets that can be distributed to local merchants, especially markets that specialize in locally sourced honey.

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT**Patricia Dahl**

This Chairman cannot begin to "Thank" all the members and Clubs for your donations to Operation Chillout. They couldn't thank us enough every time they came to Headquarters to pick up sweatshirts and masks. We hit our goal of a thousand sweatshirts and so much more! The masks were also a huge success!

So many Clubs sent masks that this Chairman lost track. A special thank you to the **Woman's Club of Paramus** and the **Book and Needle Club of Oradell** for their homemade masks with a total of 700 masks donated. That was a lot of sewing. Another special thank you to the **Woman's Club of Paramus'** member **Marie Sullivan**, District Vice President, Ramapo, for connecting Operation Chillout to a veteran who donated 100 boots and is now a new contact for Operation Chillout. This Chairman could go on and on but she will wait until all the Reports come in and brag some more!

ABOUT REPORT WRITING: PLEASE remember to report what your Club did. Brag about your accomplishments for the Special State Project. This Chairman has been bragging about all of you and can't wait to see your Reports with all the details. Remember to give this Chairman every detail, such as how many items you donated, what kind, and what you did to make that donation. If you had a fundraiser for Operation Chillout tell this Chairman what kind, some details, and how much you earned. Don't forget the summer campaign which was the donation of water, shirts and hats. Reading your reports will make this Chairman's day, week, month and year! We all need positive news from 2020.

WEBMASTER**Denise Hosier**

Don't forget about our workshop on using the NJSFWC website, Thursday, January 7 at 7 p.m. Just email webmaster@njsfwc.org to register. This workshop is for Club Presidents, Chairmen, and any Club member who might be seeking information from the NJSFWC.

Website Contest: If you have a website, please enter our Website contest. Entries are sent to the Webmaster in February, with judging to take place at the beginning of March. Watch for all the rules and how to enter in the February issue of the ALMANAC, or find the information in the MATERIALS section of njsfwc.org under WEB COMMUNICATIONS.

WEBMASTER (continued)

If you're sprucing up your site for entry, remember that sites are judged on the following criteria:

1. Meeting the rules (name, president, contact information, NJSFWC of GFWC & District)
2. Presentation
3. Ease of navigation
4. Federation information
5. Useful & pertinent information for Club members

LEGACY**Laura Badger****The Legacy of Clubwomen will live on!**

The definition of Legacy is "a gift by will of money or other personal property". The Federation is developing a Legacy Planned Giving program together with the ability to make a pledge to the NJSFWC. Attached to this ALMANAC is a letter to Clubwomen providing information for providing your Legacy Planned Giving to the NJSFWC in your estate planning. This administration's position is that your plans are private and you should not send copies of wills or declarations to Headquarters or the Legacy Chairman. In other words, we are working on the honor system.

Bequests received will be acknowledged at the NJSFWC Annual Convention following the In Memoriam Service.

Legacy Planned Giving Circle Pledge by a Clubwoman, can be submitted to Headquarters on the form being prepared and will be available in the near future. Clubwomen making a pledge will receive a small token of thanks.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS**Rosemary Seghatoleslami**

Tip One: Unfinished Business, never called "Old Business" should be brought up by the Chair automatically. There are several ways that business fits into this category. If there was business pending (in the process of being considered) when the preceding meeting adjourned, that business would be brought up under Unfinished Business. This would be followed by any business which was on the agenda at the preceding meeting but had not been reached before that meeting adjourned; and it would be presented in the order in which it had been scheduled to come up. Remember, Unfinished Business is not something brought up at the previous meeting and discussed informally without a vote, nor is it something that was decided at a previous meeting that someone still wants to discuss. It is business that was either interrupted or not reached due to adjournment.

Tip Two: If your Club is amending or revising its bylaws, here is a motion recommended by Robert's Rules that allows you to fix spelling, grammar, etc. without having to make further amendments: "I move that the secretary be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross references and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of this club in connection with these bylaws."

New Jersey State Federation of Women's
Clubs of GFWC
55 Labor Center Way
New Brunswick, NJ 08901

(732) 249-5474

njsfwc@njsfwc.org

suggestions@njsfwc.org



Have a safe and happy New Year!
The new NJSFWC Facemasks.
Order from Headquarters, \$6 each
or 2 for \$10.