



GFWC MIDDLE ATLANTIC REGION

PRESIDENT MARY PAT MARCELLO

*Joy In Service, Pride in Achievement
United in Friendship*



SPOTLIGHT ON MAR'S JENNIE AWARD WINNER



Congratulations to Jill McDonald, 2022 Jennie Award Winner

Jill McDonald grew up in Red Creek, NY, with a population of 632, where she volunteered at the town library, was a girl scout, newspaper editor, played soccer and was a Sunday school teacher.

She married a military officer a week before nursing school graduation and began the life of a military spouse. During her husband's first deployment she worked as a nurse at her Alma Mater, mentoring and tutoring students.

At home she was involved in church activities, especially those for infants and preschool children and their mothers. She led the way in expanding the babysitting service for preschoolers to a twice weekly six-hour service where children could play and be cared for while affording respite for the mothers. She became active in PTA, volunteered at school and became a soccer mom.

In 1978, her husband rotated to Seoul, Korea. Jill was appalled that military families there had no on base childcare options. She met with commanders and gained approval to investigate the problem. She sought space and funding, developed operating and hiring procedures and sought equipment sources. Near the end of her 3rd year in the country, Jill had established two full-time day-care centers, enlarged a part time preschool and a third center was under construction.

In 1981, when Jill was employed as a part time Registered Nurse, her family was named a "Great American Family" primarily based on their efforts in Korea. Seeking to validate this honor locally, Jill answered an ad for a supervisor of the 50+ volunteers at Army Community Service (ACS). She became acutely aware that a major problem facing the relocating spouses was employment. Jill envisioned a program to assist the spouses in gaining local employment. Program Development Implementation Funds were awarded to ACS Fort Monmouth based on the already established volunteer program. Over the years, Jill expanded the program offering workshops, training, Job Fairs and became the Subject Matter Expert for the Department of the Army. She mentored new managers from other bases and shared her materials, teamed with other military services to write desk guides, and saw the program become available to spouses around the world as a Congressionally mandated core program with the Department of Defense, now known as Employment Readiness Program. She is especially proud of the Summer Youth Volunteer Program that she created and operated for 16 years to prepare teens for the "World of Work" through volunteer service.

In 2014 she was recipient of the NJSFWC Cecelia Gaines Holland Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a New Jersey clubwoman for outstanding civic work.

Since she retired Jill has focused her energy on assisting elderly neighbors and friends, improving the quality of life for soldiers, veterans, their families and the children and alumni at Girard College.

Jill is called the Cookie Lady, not just for the cookies she makes for friends, but she bakes, packages and provides 100 cookies twice a week for a lunch program for the needy and provides cookies for a variety of community and charity events.



MEET YOUR MAR PRESIDENT

Mary Pat Marcello

A Rhode Island native, Mary Pat joined the Matawan Junior Woman's Club (NJ) in 1978 when her husband was transferred to New York City. She served as GFWC NJ Director of Junior Clubs 1994-1996 and as State President 2006-2008. During her term as State President, her special project was support for NJ's 21 Domestic Violence Shelters, during which monetary and in-kind donations totaled \$607,433.15.

She has served on the GFWC Board of Directors on the Bylaws Committee (two administrations, one as Chairman); the Resolutions Committee, Membership Committee, Communications Committee and as the Meetings and Convention Chairman.

In addition to Federation obligations, she is serving a two-year term as Secretary for her Florida community's HOA and as a consultant to the Architectural Review Committee, which she previously chaired for five years. She worked for 11 years for Central Jersey Blood Center, first as Donor Recruitment Manager, then as Special Projects Manager.

A widow, Mary Pat has a son in TX and a daughter in suburban DC, two grandsons and four granddaughters. She divides her time between her home on Hutchinson Island, Florida, and an apartment in New Jersey. When not working on Federation business, she loves to travel, recently visiting England, Scotland, Norway and 12 days in Iceland, and in October will cruise from Boston to Canada. She hopes to be in Rio de Janeiro on New Year's Eve 2022 prior to a 14-day cruise around South America and in October 2023 will visit South Africa.

MAR Vice President

Marcia L. Wilson

Active GFWC member since 1967, Marcia served the Junior membership including Pennsylvania Junior Director 1982-1984. She then moved through the ranks of general membership, culminating as president of GFWC Pennsylvania 2000-2002. Her service on the GFWC Board of Directors included two terms as Resolutions Chairman and one as Bylaws Chairman. For more than five years, she was a Facilitator assisting clubs and members to resolve problems.



She holds the professional insurance certification of Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter, taking her final exam during the GFWC Convention in Nashville, TN. She worked 18 years with Aetna Life & Casualty, ending as supervisor of the administration and technology departments. She worked for 17 years at a non-profit older worker program as communications manager for a three-state region, managing the regional office. When that job ended because of federal budget cuts, Marcia became a tour guide for a small house museum in Gettysburg and now serves as the training coordinator.

She is currently president, GFWC Littlestown; treasurer, Friends of Littlestown Library; secretary, Pennsylvania Citizens for Better Libraries; secretary, Gettysburg Area Retail Merchants Association; Chair of her county political party and serves on the state party.

Marcia and Charles have been married 56 years, have a historic stone home, and have three married children and three granddaughters in Pennsylvania and Florida.

MAR Secretary

Kathy Canzano



A 43-year member of GFWC, Kathy joined her first GFWC club in 1979 in Marlton NJ. After moving to New York in 1993 she joined the Women's Club of Pittsford and was Club President in 2000. Kathy went on to serve at the NY State Board as NY State President 2006-2008. GFWC International President Jackie Pierce asked Kathy to represent GFWC serving on the Planning Committee with the National Domestic Violence Hotline for the Vital Links Awards Banquet held in New York City and was one of first to sign the Million Voices Against Domestic Violence Campaign at the GFWC Convention. Kathy has served on the GFWC Board as Home Life Chairman Focus on Financial Issues, Membership Committee, Resolutions Committee, Leadership Committee, WHRC Chairman, Community Improvement Program Chairman, Communications and PR Committee and currently serves on the Strategic Planning Committee.

A stay-at-home mom with 4 children 2 boys and 2 girls, Kathy was very active in the Pittsford Central Schools as PTSA President, served on the High School's Building Planning Team and represented Pittsford Central Schools on the regional PTSA Board.

Married to her husband Dan for 46 years, they enjoy retirement with a home in Florida for the winter. She joined GFWC Naples Women's Club. Kathy loves trips to Disney with her 7 grandchildren, traveling and making cards

MAR Treasurer

Carolyn Forbes

Carolyn was born in a small coal-mining town on her grandmother's bed. Aunts and Uncles waited in anticipation in the next room. This is how she started her life; surrounded by family and love. Her father was a military man. Growing up, home was a mobile idea that shifted every four years. She was blessed with two sisters and a brother. Being the oldest means that she had more independence and freedom and that she had all the big sister moments.

She met her husband Dennis in a restaurant. They have been independent restaurant owners for 44 years and presently own and operate two restaurants. They believe that the restaurant industry is the cornerstone of every community. Food isn't just the nourishment of our body, it's an opportunity to gather together and share a meal and ourselves with those we care about.

She has been involved in all aspects of GFWC projects. She has been a member of the GFWC DSFWC Dover Century Club for 20 years, serving two terms as president and in several other capacities. She was also a 2012 GFWC LEADS graduate and elected DSFWC President 2016 -2018, the highest state honor.



Did you wonder exactly what the GFWC Middle Atlantic Region Conference is all about??

Mary Pat Marcello, President Middle Atlantic Region

I would like to invite you, on behalf of our hosts GFWC NY, to the 2022 GFWC Middle Atlantic Region Annual Conference, an opportunity to meet your GFWC Officers, learn about new GFWC initiatives and make new friends from the states of New York, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

To start our weekend in Albany, there's history for you "Hamilton" fans! Did you know that Elizabeth Schuyler, who became Alexander Hamilton's wife, grew up in Albany? The Schuyler family was well known for their hospitality, and the mansion hosted many guests whose fame lives on as Revolutionary War heroes, which may be how Elizabeth met Alexander Hamilton while he was secretary to George Washington. (OK, enough American Revolution history!)

We will visit the Schuyler Mansion, a state historic site since 1917 and travel to the Hill Street Café, located in the Mansion Neighborhood of Albany, for lunch.



The remainder of Friday's afternoon agenda is reserved for committee meetings and the MAR Board meeting, followed by the welcome banquet spotlighting GFWC NY. That evening, test your luck at the "MPM Casino Night".... Hmm, who would that be?? Remember you have to be in it to win it!

Saturday will be filled with MAR and GFWC Business, along with a presentation from NAMI NY, the GFWC NY State President's special project. Following lunch during which Albany Area Food Bank will collect donations from our members, the business session will feature presentations from the 2022-2024 GFWC Board members, highlighting the initiatives of this new administration. A "letter writing" campaign will take place in support of Eliminating Abusive and Rampant Neglect of Interactive Technologies Act (EARN IT Act, S. 3538, H.R. 6544). At the close of the business session, members will be asked to participate in the "hands on" workshop to create greeting cards for NAMI NY clients, thanks to our "resident" card maker Kathy Canzano who will teach us some of her skills.

Of course, no Region Conference would be quite the same without the opportunity to learn from the addresses of our GFWC President and President-elect! Each will be highlighted during the Saturday luncheon and banquet.

Following Sunday breakfast, the reports of the 4 MAR state presidents and NY Director of Junior Clubs will feature their respective answers to the question: Communication tools to "spread the news" either "tried and true" methods or initiatives that will be implemented this administration. New Jersey members will give the invitation to the 2023 MAR Annual Conference and following the 20+ year old tradition of singing together "Let there be Peace on Earth", the 2022 MAR Annual Conference will close.

Please consider joining me for some or all of this important opportunity. If you can join us for just part of the weekend, may I suggest arriving Friday evening and leaving Saturday late afternoon? Your State President has all the information needed to register. The deadline to register is September 15.

I hope to see many MAR Friends in the "old Dutch colony" of Albany!

From New Jersey Shirley Holly, President

Operation Cuddly Comfort Dolls - Woman's Club of Pt. Pleasant As told by Mary Kay Tokar

Our project began approximately four years ago, after reading about a similar project online. We envisioned it becoming a sort of signature project for our club. Several members had family members with Alzheimer's and Dementia.

We called the project Operation Cuddly Comfort. The club voted for a starting fund for the project, and since then, the rest has been raised through donations. The club fundraises for this separately because some members feared it would detract from our scholarship and other charitable project funds.

The dolls are free to Alzheimer and dementia patients throughout Ocean County.

Members researched dolls and desired characteristics for the doll, even buying and returning several. It had to look lifelike, be a good size, not too heavy, soft, and most of all - open and close eyes. Research suggested that dolls whose eyes stayed open, patients often thought they were dead.

After a doll was settled on, we initially bought them full price from Amazon. Eventually, we contacted the company and arranged to purchase them wholesale, approximately for half price. In the beginning, all the dolls were white, however, now we purchase black dolls, and are waiting for the Hispanic style to be available. Dolls are purchased by the case.

Since the dolls all come dressed alike, we purchase doll clothes and redress them, so they look unique. Each doll also gets a blanket, sometimes crocheted by members, and sometimes made from purchased fleece. The dolls are dressed, swaddled in the blanket and tied with a ribbon. Some are dressed as girls, some as boys. We hold dressing day, and members get together to dress and swaddle the dolls.



When the project first began, pre-covid, members would deliver the dolls in person. We would contact a facility, determine how many dolls they could use, and arrange a delivery date. When the patients were presented with the dolls, members spent time asking for a name, etc. Each patient received a birth certificate for the doll, with the name they chose. The certificates stated the dolls were a gift from the Woman's Club of Pt Pleasant. One facility even arranged a Delivery Day party with balloons and cake.



What a joy to present the dolls, and see their reactions. Patients often treated the dolls as real. Talking to them, singing to them, rocking them, hugging them and sometimes crying. Many of us had tears in our eyes as well. Since Covid, we no longer can do in person delivery. Club members contact the facility for the number of dolls needed, and arrange to drop off the dolls in the parking lot. Not quite the same, but it still works.

Funds are raised in a variety of ways. Some members have asked family for a donation in lieu of birthday or Christmas gifts. One member did a Facebook donation collection for her birthday. After the death of a members' Aunt, who had Alzheimer's, and had one of our dolls, some members of the family chose to donate to the project in lieu of flowers. At fairs, donations are collected in a jar. A member holds a doll, and when passers-by do a double take, and say they thought it was real; it provides an opening to talk about the project saying the Alzheimer patients thought they were real as well.

When the member first gave a doll to her aunt, her uncle was very skeptical and said just one more thing for him to pick up, etc. Later he reached out and contacted her, and said he was wrong, the doll was an important thing to her aunt and comforted her tremendously. Members of the club, are grateful for the recognition they have received for this project, and hope will be able to continue for many years to come, bringing some joy to those suffering from this disease.

From New York Kathy Meyers, President

The **Aurora Women's Club** fundraiser returned after Covid left our area. It had been successful for several years before, and was successful again this year!

\$1,478.16 was raised after expenses of only \$39.34!

Thanks to Kathleen McLuckie's wise use of rebates, and asking the right questions, the expenses were almost nothing!!

All the Freezies she bought had rebates.

All the popcorn was donated by the Aurora Theater.

Members baked the cookies at home.

They say that A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...

So here are 4,000 words, in photos, of the July 3rd event held at Hamlin Park



From Pennsylvania Heide Marie Cebrick, President

GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women’s Club, sponsored an outreach project that focuses on young children with developmental needs. The project: “START SMALL” – An Early Intervention Project, Instruction for Children with Development Needs from Age Birth to Three Years, was sponsored by their Education and Libraries CSP. Fifty toys and books were purchased and donated to the North Star Support Office where the Early Intervention service providers taught parents and care givers how to use the items to enhance development.

Two clubwomen delivered 50 items valued at \$300 for this early intervention. The toys and books were dispersed to children ages birth to 3 years who receive developmental support. The club's gifts will allow for these items to remain in homes when the instructor is not there. Without this gift, the children would have limited access to these types of developmental, interactive books and toys. This project will have a profound impact on the children and their families.



All the toys and books were labeled to identify that the gift was provided by the club and included their Facebook and website information. Included with each gift was a flyer explaining the developmental aspects of the toy/book, and the club's mission. The agency for Early Intervention in their county handled the distribution of the instructional materials.

The flyer accompanying each book and toy included the following message: *GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club Education Committee supports education at all times in life. We hope this gift will help build skills in your baby and a relationship with you as you play together! The mission of the GFWC Hollidaysburg Area Women's Club is to develop the educational, civic, and social interests of its members, to advance the welfare of the community, and to promote the progress and work of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.*

Descriptions for each developmental area accompanied each toy:

Fine Motor- All that block-grasping and put & take play helps strengthen your baby's hand-eye coordination and dexterity.

Problem Solving- Babies will exercise their problem-solving skills as they figure out how to sort & drop the blocks in the correct spots.

Curiosity & Wonder- All the bright colors and fun shapes help to engage your baby's natural sense of curiosity during playtime.

A flyer accompanying the books encouraged and stressed the importance of reading and interacting with their children at an early age. The special time spent reading together promotes bonding, builds relationships, develops an appreciation for art and writing, and aids in language development. It was also emphasized that a child's brain develops fastest up to age 5.

Club Members: 13

Volunteer Hours: 8

Dollars Spent: \$300

In Kind Donation: \$41

From Delaware

Trish Rodriguez, President

The **Laurel New Century Club** has invited the Delaware Department of Justice Director of Human State Trafficking to a meeting to include:
club members and guests,
the Mayor of the City of Laurel,
the Delaware Representative and Senator
representing the Laurel community!

The Laurel New Century Club is taking action
on the President's Special Project
Human Trafficking Awareness in Delaware
which is being Chaired by Mitzi Perdue author, advocate!

