

**New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC  
Barbara McCloskey, President  
Together is Service  
United in Friendship**

**Advocates for Children Bulletin – September 2024**

**Chairman:** Marie DiMatties  
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**GFWC ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN WEEK**

Sunday, October 20, to Saturday, October 26, 2024

During Advocates for Children Week clubs and members are encouraged to contact their local law enforcement or child protective service agencies to identify their needs for children or families.

In addition to responding to their determined needs, clubs can create “busy bags” that may be filled with items such as books, coloring books, crayons, art supplies, fidget toys, stuffed animals, and so much more. These bags will be immensely helpful in occupying children’s minds during challenging experiences.

Clubs can work with their city, county, or state to have the fourth week in October recognized as GFWC Advocates for Children Week. Send a copy of the proclamation to Juniors’ Special Program Chairman Suzanne Hooser, [suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com](mailto:suzhoosergfwc@gmail.com).

Volunteer to cook a meal at your local shelter or Ronald McDonald House. Check your local Ronald McDonald House or other shelters for specific food preparation guidelines.

**HAT NOT HATE IS NO LONGER COLLECTING HATS**

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Hat Not Hate is an organization whose mission is to rally communities to raise awareness about bullying. While the organization is no longer taking knitted/crocheted hats, their website, [hatnothate.org](http://hatnothate.org), hats, has information on how clubs can facilitate virtual or in-person anti-bullying assemblies presented by the Hat Not Hate organization. Be sure to check their resource page for activity ideas to share with your local schools and community groups.

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Arts and Culture

Kathleen Reddick, Chairman

[kareddick@aol.com](mailto:kareddick@aol.com)

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The Achievement Day Supplement is now on the website. It is brand new with lots of streamlined changes, so read carefully and start getting busy with your artistic and crafty submissions. We listened to your many recommendations and eliminated First Place, moved Upcycle to Environment, and removed the Professional level. All submissions will be either Beginner or Advanced. Arts and Culture District Chairs have also recommended an additional clarification to the Needlework Category of the Supplement, after hearing some input. So, watch for that change when it is approved.

All the Achievement Days are scheduled, starting in March and concluding the last week in April. This Chairman looks forward to attending all Achievement Days and marveling at the many talents of our members throughout the State of New Jersey.

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**Community Impact Program**

Jean Battaglia, Chairman  
battaglia@njsfwc.org

The contest period has already started, and your club may have already started planning a project that would be ideal for an entry and an award.

The program was first introduced in 1949 as a “Build a Better Community Contest,” is GFWC’s longest standing project, and is designed to highlight grassroots efforts that make a difference and improve the community. The size and scope of the project are not the criteria; even the smallest project can make a big impact.

Look at projects your club is doing in any of the Community Service Program areas. Are you partnering with another organization? Did you have to mobilize to overcome an obstacle, will the project have a long-term effect? If it is being done during the contest period of January 1, 2024-December 31, 2025, the project may qualify for a CIP award. **GFWC provides a \$100 award for the state winner and the winning entry will be forwarded to compete for a \$2,500 GFWC national award. Contest rules and the GFWC entry form are available on the NJSFWC website under Materials.**

If you are in your planning period for projects, clubs are encouraged to consider the Community Connection Initiative highlighted in each of the Special Program areas and/or Community Service Programs. For details and suggestions go to the GFWC Club Manual and look at:

- Signature Program: Become a Champion – Be the Voice for Those that Have No Voice
- Juniors’ Special Program: Be a Champion in the Lives of Children
- Arts and Culture: Developing Community Oriented Art
- Civic Engagement and Outreach: Preparation Saves Lives
- Education and Libraries: Support High-Quality Early Learning Programs
- Environment: National and State Parks Engage in Nature
- Health and Wellness: Caregivers’ Circle

Remember, this does not have to be “one more project.” The entry can be a project your club is already doing. But you do want to be tracking contacts, hours, dollars and obstacles overcome to include on your entry form. Go to the website to look for more information on projects, preparing your entry and deadlines.

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**Communications Bulletin – September 2024**

**Shelley Rothstein, Chairman**

[rothstein@njsfwc.org](mailto:rothstein@njsfwc.org)

**201-887-5117**

Communicating with your membership is crucial to the health of your club. The initial step is to understand how your members prefer to receive information. You will likely need to use a mix of both new and familiar types of communication. Determine what combination best meets the needs of your membership.

Your newsletter is likely your most efficient method of informing your members about upcoming projects, programs and events. Be sure to include all relevant information. Incorporate photos, when possible, to add interest and create enthusiasm. Keep in mind that your members are busy people, plan and promote events and programs well in advance to encourage participation.

Each newsletter, flyer and email should be double checked for accurate content, spelling and grammatical errors. A second set of eyes just may catch a mistake that could potentially lead to misinformation or confusion.

Remember that getting information out is just that—getting information out. Nothing more. To truly communicate, you need to know that the information was received and understood. Good communication includes the process of repetition. Send reminders about events, being sure to include all pertinent details and contact information for the person(s) in charge. Some of your members may even appreciate a phone call instead. Consider establishing a telephone chain to reach members who may not be comfortable with modern means of communication. Keeping every one of your members informed and up to date with club goings-on is key to the health, and growth, of your club.

**SAVE THE DATE:**

All Club members are invited to attend a **free Canva Workshop** being offered by NJSFWC on **Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**. What is Canva you ask??? Canva is an easy to use, free graphic design website that provides templates for presentations, posters, social media content, invitations, flyers, newsletters, trifolds and so much more! Your club can use Canva to make beautiful, customizable documents for just about anything! A laptop is necessary to attend the workshop and RSVP is required. See the attached flyer for all the information. It also can be found in your September Almanac. And, YES!!!.... the flyer was made using Canva!

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**Literature and Education Bulletin – September 2024**

**Chairman:** Joan Murdock  
15 Spring Street  
Garfield, New Jersey 07026  
Cell: 973 202- 5793  
Home: 973 772-1999

Calling all Book Clubs in the NJSFWC... It is Your turn to be featured in the Literature and Education ALMANAC Article.

Each month this chairman will feature a book review by one of our Book Clubs.

If you would like to participate, I will be collecting book reviews from any Club Book in the month of **October**. Starting in **November**, and each month after, we will feature a book review sent in from the members of one book group each month.

Instructions are similar to our ESO program.

Name of Person Responsible for Submission  
Name of Club and District.  
The number of members in your Book Group

Name of Book and Author  
(Review should be 50 words minimum, no longer than 75 words)  
Send to: [jnam39@optimum.net](mailto:jnam39@optimum.net)

Please encourage your Book Club members to participate!

If your group is a member of the ESO, they will receive credit for the book they have read and reviewed.

**ESO information:** We have posted a revised 2019 NJSFWC ESO list on the Materials website under Education and Libraries.

**Spelling Bee information:** I am still looking for District Chairmen in Liberty, Ramapo, Shore and Southern Districts. If interested, please contact me.

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**Chairman:** Joan Murdock  
15 Spring Street  
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Cell: 973 202- 5793  
Home: 973 772-1999

ESO Chairman, Pat Sherwin  
psher331@verizon.net

**ESO**

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs Guidelines

According to GFWC Guidelines, those states who compile their own Suggested Book Lists and Award systems should direct their members to first consult their own state book lists and categories. NJSFWC Suggested Book list, last edited in 2019, may be utilized by NJSFWC members. 100 BEST ENGLISH-LANGUAGE NOVELS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

CLASSICS

BIOGRAPHY AND MEMOIRS

FAMILY CIRCLES

FICTION

JUST FOR THE FUN OF IT

MYSTERY

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY ANY BOOK FROM: OPRAH'S BOOK CLUB NEW YORK  
TIMES BEST SELLER LIST YOUR CLUB'S BOOK CLUB SELECTION

NON-FICTION

OTHER PLACES --OTHER TIMES

POETRY

READABLE NEW JERSEY ANY BOOK ON THE HISTORY OF YOUR TOWN

SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY

THE WAY WE WERE

WOMEN AUTHORS OF NOTE

WORLD LITERATURE

POPULAR AND PROLIFIC

THE GFWC BOOK LIST ANY WORK FROM THIS LIST

The PBS "The Great American Read" List ANY WORK FROM THIS LIST

YOU MAY HAVE MISSED

FREE CHOICE ANY WORK NOT ON ANY LIST

NJSFWC will **not** recognize **Reading Books to Children or Chapter Books for Youth as a category**. It is important to note that all other categories can be used in book reports. Please feel free to ask Patricia Sherwen, email [eso@njsfwc.org](mailto:eso@njsfwc.org) if you have any questions. NJSFWC welcomes new titles, and new lists will be added periodically.

Please take note that GFWC no longer has an Awards program. In order to participate in the Awards system, all ESO members must do the following:

- Send your \$2.00 check, payable to NJSFWC, along with a completed Pledge Application. You can download the Pledge Application and Reading List from the MATERIALS page under Education and Libraries.
- Once you submit your Pledge Application, start reading. Then you write a brief report (minimum 50 words) of what you thought about each book.
- The Pledge Form is available as a download or as a fillable PDF. Instructions for each is on the form.
- ESO certificates will be awarded at the May Convention for those members who submit the Pledge Application and return their reports.
- The deadline for all reports is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Books completed after that date can be included in the following year.

The certificates are awarded as follows:

- A PLEDGE has applied for membership and has started to fulfill the reading requirements.
- A MEMBER'S CERTIFICATE is awarded when 20 books are read. From the reading list, a clubwoman must choose five categories. Four books from each category and from different authors are to be selected for reading, making a total of 20 books. After she has completed this, the clubwoman may buy and wear the ESO pin available from GFWC.
- A STAR LEVEL CERIFICATE is given when a member has read and reported on an additional 25 books, making a total of 45. Twenty books are to be from the reading list. They do not have to be from any specified categories as for the Member level. Five books can be from Free Choice.
- A TORCH LEVEL CERTIFICATE is awarded when 30 additional books are read, making a total of 75. As in the Star Level, 20 books must be from the reading list and the additional 10 are Free Choice.
- A CENTURY AWARD will be awarded when 100 books have been read. Of these 25 additional books, 15 are from the reading list and 10 may be Free Choice.
- A DIAMOND AWARD certificate will be awarded when 1,000 books have been read. Additional recognition is accorded to the clubwoman who has read multiples of 100 books. These may be from any source – the reading list or Free Choice.

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**Health & Wellness Bulletin – September 2024**

**Chairman:** Katie Chambers  
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chambers2@njsfwc.org

Just a reminder that clubwomen should start tracking their exercise hours to provide to their club's Health & Wellness Chairman for year-end reporting! Materials are now available on the NJSFWC website under "Materials."

**Let's Get Moving**

Did you know that cardiovascular disease is the world's number one killer? Conditions affecting the heart and blood vessels – such as a heart attack, stroke and heart failure – kill more than 20.5 million people combined each year. 80% of premature deaths from CVD are preventable, by making small changes to our lifestyle: what we eat, drink how much we exercise and how we manage stress. September 29th is World Heart Day. The program has a Global Challenge that asks people to recognize and advertise cardiovascular disease awareness.

NJSFWC challenges its members to get moving to combat heart disease! Clubs are encouraged to sign up for September 29<sup>th</sup> for World Heart Day through the World Heart Federation – the link will be available on the NJSFWC website under "Health & Wellness" in materials. Then, let's get moving! Encourage members to start tracking their walking and exercising hours. Perhaps you could even start holding club-wide walks or attend exercise classes together.

Tally the total combined exercise hours completed by your members on your year-end report under the "Let's Get Moving" challenge. The club to log the most workout hours within their membership category will be recognized at Spring Conference.



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**Historian Bulletin – September 2024**

**Chairman:** Randi Quilici  
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The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) Advancement Guide encourages every club to investigate and document its own history by learning about GFWC's past. Use the guide to explore and share GFWC's amazing history while documenting your own!

The WHRC strives to educate and inspire GFWC members and potential members, the research community, and the public to explore the rich, historical role of women volunteers through GFWC's expansive collections.

A primary goal of the WHRC is to make GFWC's valuable historical records more accessible to members, the scholarly research community, and the public. Improved access will promote greater recognition for the contributions of GFWC clubwomen and inspire members to use the lessons of past successes to build solid membership, strong leadership, and meaningful community service projects. The WHRC online catalogs allow GFWC members to explore a wide range of GFWC collections. For additional guidance, please do not hesitate to email [WHRC@GFWC.org](mailto:WHRC@GFWC.org) or call the WHRC Librarian at 202-683-2028. To access the catalog through the GFWC website: 1. Go to [www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do/WHRC](http://www.GFWC.org/What-We-Do/WHRC) 2. For photographs, objects, and archival material, click the link for the PastPerfect Web Edition Public Access site. For our reference library, including our state federation and local club history collection, click the link for the TinyCat Library catalog.

**SUGGESTED GFWC HISTORY PROJECTS** • Contact the WHRC for tips on using WHRC publications and electronic resources for club program ideas. Use the booklet *Rising by Light to Higher Things: Highlights of GFWC's Collections* to create programs on GFWC's support of American Art; the GFWC Timeline to relate GFWC national service programs to local ones; or GFWC photographs of events, people, or unique publications and memorabilia to illustrate a PowerPoint presentation. • Contact the WHRC to receive a scripted PowerPoint presentation that provides an historical and interior tour of 1734 N Street. • Highlight your club's history to demonstrate the importance of your club to your community. For more information on membership recruitment activities, review the GFWC Membership Advancement Guide in the GFWC Club Manual. • Gain inspiration for fundraising and community outreach by reviewing past GFWC Community Improvement Program Award winners in the WHRC online catalog. GFWC history is relevant to ALL program areas. • Develop a proactive public awareness program by offering GFWC history stories to your local news media for Women's History Month (March), Federation Day (April 24), and Archives Month (October). • Partner with local historical institutions to promote the role of your club in local history. • Work with your local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history; offer to serve as judges for local History Day competitions.

If you have a 50 year plus Federation member, please email this Historian ([quilici@njsfwc.org](mailto:quilici@njsfwc.org)) a few sentences as to why she stayed a member and what she loves about NJSFWC by the end of October. These members will be highlighted on tent cards at the 130<sup>th</sup> NJSFWC Anniversary on November 17.

## SEPTEMBER 2024 COUNCIL BULLETIN

### HONORS

Honors Chairman – Kathleen Hunterton

The Woman of Achievement form in the September ALMANAC did not have the explanation on what to include when nominating your honoree. Included in this Bulletin are the requirements for your nomination:

**Please explain why you believe this nominee should be honored.**

**Organize your responses into the following categories:**

- 1. Current title/occupation**
- 2. Accomplishments**
- 3. Professional experience**
- 4. Professional Associations and Volunteer Organizations**
- 5. Education History**
- 6. Awards**
- 7. Finally write a 300-word summary of the qualifications (as listed above) of the nominee. This summary will serve as a guide for information which will be used to introduce the honoree at the presentation ceremony. This introduction will also be printed in the program booklet for the evening.**

**These responses and additional supportive materials (resume, curriculum vitae, news clippings, etc.) should be attached to the nomination form.**

**Thank you for your nomination.**

The October ALMANAC will have the updated form.

# **NJSFWC President Barbara McCloskey**

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## **September 2024 Council Bulletin**

Parliamentarian Consultant to the Clubs

While we continue to search for a member to take on the position of Parliamentarian Consultant to the clubs, Roberta Dyrsten will be acting as Vice Chairman and will be supporting the clubs by answering any questions they may have, and reviewing and/or editing their bylaws. Roberta's contact information is: [robertadyrsten@gmail.com](mailto:robertadyrsten@gmail.com)

If you know anyone with parliamentarian experience who may be interested in the position, please let us know.

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## GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT

### DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS and PREVENTION

September 2024

Claire Hill, Chairman  
201 Union Place  
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During the 2022-2024 administration, Immediate Past President, Shirley Holly, and the Board created the NJSFWC Second Chance Domestic Violence Survivors Award. The line item for this scholarship appeared on the Continuing Funds Sheet, and clubs and members are invited to send in donations for the scholarship at any time.

As a result, enough donations were made that a \$500 award can be presented to a worthy candidate.

Clubs are encouraged to bring the scholarship application and information to local shelters, which will be included in the October ALMANAC.

Eligibility requirements will be in the October Almanac and are on the website.

It's not too early to think about the holidays. Both Domestic Violence Shelters and Seniors in Nursing homes and in Memory Care Homes are great places to contact and inquire about their resident needs.

- A collection of personal items is always needed and appreciated
- Ask to decorate a room for the holidays
- Host a holiday party for a shelter and donate coloring books, crayons, books, puzzle or new stuffed animals.
- A Nursing Home or Memory Care facility can always use lap blankets for their residents
- Don't forget the caregivers. Purchase some gifts cards for coffee, massages and local restaurants. Bake cookies and take them to the shelter or nursing facility for both residents and caregivers.