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

Historian Bulletin – September 2024

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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 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 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) 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 130th NJSFWC Anniversary on November 17.