

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

**District Bulletin – January 2025  
Advocates for Children**

Marie DiMatties, Chairman  
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It's never too soon to start planning for the national observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April. That is when Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey (PCA-NJ) launches its Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign. They ask organizations like NJSFWC to "plant" one or more pinwheel gardens. The pinwheel is joyful and evokes childlike notions, symbolizing our desire for all children to have happy and healthy childhoods.

President McCloskey has challenged clubs to plant 130 pinwheel gardens to honor the 130th Anniversary of NJSFWC. Let's try to achieve if not exceed President McCloskey's challenge!

Pinwheels can be obtained through the PCA-NJ website:  
**<https://www.preventchildabuseNJ.org/>**

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**District Bulletin – January 2025  
Communications Bulletin**

**Shelley Rothstein, Chairman**  
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Clubs are encouraged to send in their end of year reports to the NJSFWC Communications Chairman, Shelley Rothstein as well as entering the Newsletter, Press Book and Scrapbook contests. All forms can be found at [www.njsfwc.org](http://www.njsfwc.org) under the Materials section.

A Social Media Workshop led by Shelley Rothstein and Dee Hosier, the NJSFWC Webmaster will be held over Zoom on Monday evening February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. All members interested in learning how to better promote their club using Facebook and Instagram or setting up and/or improving their club website are encouraged to sign up. A copy of the flyer for this workshop is attached to this bulletin.

An editable "Letter to the Editor" has also been attached. Clubs can personalize this Word document using details unique to their club to promote our end of year accomplishments.

## Letter to the Editor:

As 2024 comes to a close, the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs would like to take a moment to think about what clubwomen from across the state have accomplished.

Approximately 6,000 clubwomen in individual clubs have made a huge difference in their communities, volunteering in a variety of projects, fundraising for those in need and making many in kind and monetary donations.

Clubwomen across the state filled 2,700 holiday stockings for distribution by Operation Jersey Cares to our military and veterans. This project began in 2009 and over 29,000 stockings have been filled and donated.

NJSFWC held another successful Girls Career Institute (GCI). Clubs continue to support this wonderful program for junior high school girls, which began in 1947 and continues to grow, giving these young ladies the opportunity to participate in a mini-college experience on the Douglass residential campus, learning about potential careers choices and attending lectures and workshops. All delegates are funded by local clubs.

In January of 2024, we continued our yearly Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. This statewide event began in 2007, and clubs have supported a variety of non-profit organizations over the years, such as Domestic Violence Shelters, Veterans and Embrella, to name a few. In January of 2025, clubs across the state will be supporting the Center for Family Services

These projects and so many more do not happen without people and places to plan, organize, to educate, to coach and to inspire.

We are proud to have a Headquarters building, on the Douglass Residential campus at Rutgers University, where members can meet, and work with an office staff to make it all happen.

As we close the curtain on our 130th year, our federation looks back at the commitment and investment our foremothers have made to our federation, and thank our members, in 175 clubs across the state of New Jersey for what they have accomplished for our local communities, non-profits and families in need.

With our rich and powerful history, may we continue to experience power in numbers and know what can be accomplished in an organization of determined and dedicated women.

We are together in Service, United in Friendship!

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**January Council Bulletin**

**Community Impact Program**

Jean Battaglia, Chairman  
battaglia@njsfwc.org

Your 2024 year-end reports are nearly finished and submitted. As you compile them, are you thinking about a project that was especially successful in its impact on the community or one that you hope to expand and continue in 2025? This might fit a submission for the Community Impact Program? It's not too late. The contest period is from January 1, 2024-December 31, 2025.

Using hints from a recent communication from GFWC Community Impact Program Award Chairman Katie Moydell, the project should be an original or updated version of a current project that is solving a community need. Note the word "current." This is not "one more project," but one the club has and is working on and that might be expanded if you involved others in the community. In sharing your work, you have an opportunity to grow club membership, build relationships and create awareness of the impact your club has on the community.

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.

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, deadlines and the GFWC entry form are available on the NJSFWC website under Materials.

Remember, the size and scope of the project are not the criteria, even the smallest project can make a big impact.

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**Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention  
January Council Bulletin**

**Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention**

Claire Hill, Chairman  
hill@njsfwc.org

The **Second Chance Domestic Violence Survivors Award** information and application is now on the NJSFWC Website and was included with the NJSFW January ALMANAC. This Award will help survivors of intimate partner violence obtain a post-secondary education that will offer a chance to reshape their future in gaining personal independence. Candidates must be enrolled or planning to enroll at an accredited public or private post-secondary school, including community colleges, technical schools, and four-year universities.

Please share the information with your local Domestic Violence Shelter. There may be someone there eligible to receive help in furthering her/his education. The application that is on the website is fillable. Please save to your computer before filling it out and distributing it.

There is also a **GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship**. This national scholarship was created to help domestic violence survivors to pursue a higher education. For more information and an application form, please go to [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) under the Program banner.

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**District Bulletin – January 2025**  
**Education and Libraries**

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**District Spelling Bee's**

The NJSFWC Spelling Bees began as a Junior Membership Event. For the past 5 administrations, the Spelling Bees (club, district and state) became a NJSFWC Event. As the years passed, some Woman's Clubs picked up the 'bees' and made them an important part of their clubs. Please consider a spelling bee for your club and community in 2026!

Now clubs are preparing for their 2025 Spelling Bees. Those winners will be heading to our **District Bee's**.

Here is a list of when and where our **District Spelling Bee's** will "bee" taking place.

**Highlands:** 2/22/25 1 PM Rockaway Assembly of God, 113 East Main, Rockaway  
**Garden:** 2/23/25, 1 PM The Haddon Fortnightly, 301 Kings Highway East, Haddonfield  
**Palisades:** 3/2/255, 1 PM – Oradell Public School, 35 Prospect Ave., Oradell

If you can assist your District Chairman with their spelling bee's please contact them.

Garden: Marie DiMatties 865-261-6911 [medimatties@gmail.com](mailto:medimatties@gmail.com)  
Highlands: Cathy Haney 973-335-9769 [tandchaney@gmail.com](mailto:tandchaney@gmail.com)  
Palisades: Lauren Cerullo: 201-741-6935 [cerullo23@gmail.com](mailto:cerullo23@gmail.com)

**Margaret Yardley Fellowship Scholarship** information has been sent out to all NJ Colleges/Universities. You learn more about this scholarship by going on the NJSFWC website, under Materials, Education and Libraries.

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JANUARY 2025 DISTRICT COUNCILS  
ENVIRONMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Please remember that one of President's McCloskey's Grand Initiative's is for our clubs to plant a total of 130 Arbor Day or complete Earth Day projects. The winter months are a great time to plan for it. This year Earth Day is celebrated on April 22. [EARTHDAY.ORG](http://EARTHDAY.ORG) is the world's largest recruiter to the environmental movement. The website has many resources, such as quizzes, fact sheets, and other articles to help to help you get started. This information will also be in the February ALMANAC.

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**Historian District Bulletin – January 2025**

Historian  
Randi Quilici, Chairman  
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**Women's History Month (March 1–30)** is an annual celebration honoring the vital contributions of women throughout history and in contemporary society. Observed in March since its official designation by the U.S. Congress in 1987, this special month highlights the achievements of women in shaping our world. The National Women's History Alliance (NWHHA), a leading educational organization, promotes awareness of women's history and accomplishments, while Women's History Month provides a dedicated time to recognize these invaluable contributions.

Throughout March, your club can organize events, celebrations, and speeches to reflect on the profound contributions women have made and continue to make globally. Each year, Women's History Month adopts a unique theme. For 2025, the NWHHA has selected **“Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations.”** This theme honors the transformative influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship, and leadership.

**Celebrating Women's History Month** with your members can be an enriching and inspiring experience. Here are some ideas to get started:

- **Explore the Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC):** Visit WHRC online at [gfwc.org](http://gfwc.org) to access a scripted PowerPoint presentation featuring the history and interior tour of 1734 N Street.
- **Discover Women's Stories:** Dive into the lives of iconic figures like Amelia Earhart and Emily Dickinson.
- **Watch Documentaries:** Learn about remarkable women through films like *End of Sentence* (Netflix), *The Janes* (HBO), *A Secret Love* (Netflix), or *He Named Me Malala* (Amazon Prime).
- **Share Inspiring Quotes:** Include a monthly quote by a notable woman in your club's newsletter.
- **Recognize Members:** Honor members with special awards for their contributions.
- **Raise Awareness:** Partner with local historical institutions to highlight your club's role in history and share GFWC stories with local news outlets.
- **Engage in Educational Media:** Listen to podcasts or watch YouTube videos about influential women, such as Cleopatra or Queen Elizabeth I.

Women's History Month offers countless opportunities to educate, inspire, and celebrate the achievements of women. Together, let's honor their legacy and empower future generations.



## JANUARY 2025 DISTRICT COUNCILS

### Special State Project

In your district bulletins and in the January ALMANAC, you will find an order form for the Special State Project, "Shining a Light to a Better Future" Lantern Fundraiser. The lanterns cost \$20.00 each and you must pre-order the lanterns as there is a limited amount of lanterns ordered. All funds will go to the New Jersey Children's Alliance. Please make sure the order form accompanies your check to Headquarters. Further information about the pickup of the lanterns will be sent to all who order.

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**Web Communications Bulletin – January 2025**

**Chairman:** Dee Hosier  
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### **Website Contest Coming Up!**

Entries to the website contest will be accepted during the month of February, so make sure your website is up to date and ready! To enter, you just need to email (Feb. 1-28) [webmaster@njsfwc.org](mailto:webmaster@njsfwc.org) with “**NJSFWC Club Website Contest**” in the subject line. Be sure to include **your club name, contact person, the ‘link’ to the website, and whether it is a free or paid site.**

### **What We Judge**

If you're not sure what we're looking for in your website, there are five criteria for judging, and you must meet all five in order to have a chance of winning. Here they are:

1. Requirements
  - **Club name, NJSFWC of GFWC** must appear on home page.
  - **District, Club President, and contact information** must appear in a clearly defined site menu choice. (ex: About Us, Home, Footer of every page)
  - You may keep updating website after entry.
2. Presentation (includes design, layout, arrangement of information)
3. Ease in Navigating through the site (includes menus and links)
4. Federation Information (see below)
5. Useful and Pertinent Information for Club Members (like newsletters!)

Note that Federation Information is one category we judge. If all you have is a bare mention of the fact that you're a member of the NJSFWC & GFWC, this will not help your score. It helps to have links & background information on the NJSFWC and GFWC, and also info on the Special State Project (and be sure to say **NJSFWC SSP**). Note also that any words on the NJSFWC website are available for you to use without worry about copyright infringement. Not photos, though. Many of those are copyrighted.

So get that site spiffed up and ready for the NJSFWC Website Contest and don't forget to send your entry to the webmaster during the month of February!

### **NOTICE ABOUT FACEBOOK POSTS**

Be sure to send your club photos and news to [facebook@njsfwc.org](mailto:facebook@njsfwc.org), NOT to Headquarters! Headquarters might not forward your email to us for posting. There are two of us (Shelley & Dee) doing the Facebook posting, so the facebook email address will get to both of us! **ALSO**, please try to limit your posts to no more than two per week so that every club has a chance to get posted. Thanks!