



ALMANAC



THE STATE NEWSLETTER

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC

55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, N J 08901

President's Message— Barbara McCloskey

Greetings!

This President hopes that all your Arts Performing programs were well attended, and we look forward to seeing the winning acts on Tuesday, May 6th, at our State Convention in Atlantic City!

- On that note, we hope that you have reviewed all the information and deadlines from the Convention CALL. All members are invited to attend Convention!

- Convention Chairman, Vivien Finn and Credentials and Registration Chairman, Carole Thompson and their committees have been hard at work to make this Convention fun, informative and memorable.

- There are many workshops to choose from, including Drum2Bfit and a chance to walk on the Boardwalk with this President on Monday morning, 7:30 a.m.

Spring Conferences and Achievement Days are right around the corner, and this President hopes that many of you will be in attendance!

- President-elect Susan Chambers and I are looking forward to being the Keynote speakers, each attending four districts.

- Please check the deadlines for your district to enter your Arts and Culture or Environment projects. As you know, the winning entries will continue on to Convention.

This is the last ALMANAC issue for the season, but information and materials will continue to be available on the NJSFWC website and in the weekly eConnection.

Please make sure if you want to continue with an ALMANAC subscription, you fill out the ALMANAC form that will be found in the Round Table packet. It will also be available on the website and in future editions of the eConnection.

There are a couple of fun events coming up, so please be sure to look through all the ALMANAC flyers! You don't want to miss the Summer Picnic, to be held at Headquarters, June 22nd or the AA baseball game to the Somerset Patriots!. Both are open to families and friends.

A portion of the tickets for the Somerset Patriots game will benefit our Special State Project.

One last reminder: The Yearbook Data and Dues Bill was sent to all club presidents. Please adhere to the May 1st deadline.

In Federation Friendship,

Barbara

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Special points of interest:

- State Dates
- NJSFWC Picnic Info
- Summer Basket Raffle & Luncheon
- Patriots Game Reservation
- Headquarters Wish List
- Friends of GCI
- NEW Blue Sheet
- New 1894 Membership Sheet

Together in Service
United in Friendship



NJSFWC PRESIDENT-ELECT**chambers@njsfwc.org****Susan Chambers**

Thanks to those members who attended the winter Leadership/Membership Workshop led by Second Vice President Patricia Dahl and Treasurer Linda Carbley. This Officer knows you learned lots and hope you have shared this information with your club.

We'll be holding a new Leadership/Membership Workshop on Tuesday, May 6th at the NJSFWC's Annual Convention from 12:30-2:00 p.m. Be sure to sign up to hear this Officer and Patricia Dahl give you new ways to help members become leaders. It's open to new and seasoned members and will be chock full of ideas for you and your club; there will also be time for a question-and-answer period.

At this Workshop you'll get tips on how to "Awaken the Leader in You" as well as "Simple Time Management." You'll find the 100 qualities of a good leader and be able to identify which ones you have, and which ones need strengthening. Find out how to identify potential leaders in your club and the benefits of mentorship. Come to share your tips with members from around the state.

And be sure to share what you learn with members who are not able to attend Convention. (Hint: That's a sign of a good leader!)

Looking forward to seeing many of you at April Conferences; President McCloskey will be the keynote speaker in the Liberty, Palisades, Shore and College Districts while this Officer will be keynote speaker in the Highlands, Ramapo, Garden and Southern Districts.

NJSFWC FIRST VICE PRESIDENT**sienkielewski@njsfwc.org****Chris Sienkielewski**

Happy New CLUB Year! April, May and June in most clubs are months for celebration of the end of one club year and moving into another. Now is the time to evaluate your projects, programs and fundraising and organize for the 2025-2026 club year.

This is also the perfect time to focus on future projects that can re-energize your members. The NJSFWC website lists each Supplement (under the MATERIALS tab) from all the Community Service Programs and Standing Committees. Supplements and District Bulletins are filled with many different projects and resources in all areas of club work. Also, you will find all the ALMANAC articles listed on the MATERIALS page. Each ALMANAC has articles from the District Vice President highlighting club projects in each district, as well as new information from other State Chairmen. One or two ideas can be discussed with members, which can generate new enthusiasm and excitement.

Investing time into discovering fresh ideas in both community projects and club management can re-energize all members – from the President to the new member. Taking the time to explore ideas, choosing something that fits with your community and your members, can help your club thrive in the new club year ahead!

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**dahl@njsfwc.org****Patricia Dahl**

As you promote the benefits of being a member of your club, do you also promote the benefits of being a member of NJSFWC and GFWC?

Every club member has the opportunity to receive free materials, which are available on the NJSFWC website, and are designed to help with membership and the operation of the club.

The ALMANAC is published eight times a year and GFWC CLUBWOMAN magazine six times a year. They are available on the NJSFWC website and GFWC website.

- Included in these publications are information from your state and national officers, parliamentary tips, and updated project information and ideas.

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (continued)

Also available on the NJSFWC website are hundreds of project ideas which are listed in the NJSFWC Supplements. Clubs can also access the GFWC website, gfwc.org, which offers a GFWC Club Manual and many other resources to support and benefit your club.

Another benefit includes the opportunity to become tax-exempt on the Federal level as part of the Federation's tax exemption and the opportunity to get \$2 million worth of liability insurance for a nominal fee as part of the Federation's policy. It is important that you share this information with your members!

Members need to all be aware of the benefits of membership and why belonging to a Federated club, and more importantly, an international organization that has members in all 50 states and 21 countries can make a difference on a greater scale than just an individual club with no affiliations.

So, the next time your club members ask why we pay \$25 for each member as part of your Federation dues, which is determined by the number of members you report on the Yearbook Data Form/Blue Sheet, you can tell them that they are getting a bargain for all the benefits they receive!

NJSFWC TREASURER**carbley@njsfwc.org****Linda Carbley****REMINDER**

Please note the new Bylaw which was passed at the May 2024 Convention:

Federation Dues are now due and payable with the submission of the Yearbook Data Dues Bill form, also known as 'the Blue Sheet' by May 1st, 2025.

With this new Bylaw, some clubs will have to change or update their Bylaws to ensure that the club receives all dues before the May 1st, 2025 deadline.

The Yearbook Data Form can be found on the front page of the Federation Yearbook as well on the NJSFWC website (under Materials and Forms). The form also was in the March 2025 ALMANAC mailing and also can be found on the Website under ALMANAC 2025 March Flyers.

Any questions or concerns, please contact me at 732-522-1314 or carbley@njsfwc.org.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY**cibelli@njsfwc.org****Debbie Cibelli**

Looking for Fundraising ideas? Come join this Officer at Convention, only a few weeks away, to hear how to put the "Fun" back in Fundraising. The workshop is Monday from 9:30 a.m.-10:45 a.m. Not coming to Convention? Look for the Top 10 Fundraising ideas coming out after Convention.

More Fundraising ideas can be found under the District Vice Presidents reports in the ALMANAC Articles as they highlight various projects and events that their clubs are planning.

The ALMANAC can be found on the NJSFWC.org website under Materials.

- You can also get ideas at your District Council meetings where club president's share some of their upcoming activities.
- And lastly, attend your District Spring Conferences coming up this month where all the presidents will be sharing their accomplishments this past year.

Did you buy your Mega 50/50 ticket yet? Have you been able to sell any tickets or do you need more? With one month left until the Convention, we are hoping to sell out. If we do, the winner will receive \$6,000.00!

- Tickets are \$10.00 apiece, and are given out in books of ten. Just contact this Officer, Debbie Cibelli at 201-264-6428 and she will get them to you.

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY (continued)

Remember if you sold tickets, please be sure to get the stubs, and cash/check made payable to NJSFWC to this Officer.

Snail mail is fine; Debbie Cibelli 280 Taft Ct., Paramus, NJ 07652. Or contact me to make arrangements to receive.

COLLEGE DISTRICT**dobalo@njsfwc.org****Laurel Dobalo**

Spring flowers fill the College District with joy and a sense of recommitment to our purpose: Together in Service, United in Friendship. Many clubs will plant Pinwheel Gardens to raise awareness of child abuse.

Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook will have Mike Norris of Armchair Art Tours speak about "Impressionism with a Woman's Touch".

Branchburg Woman's Club will request a Proclamation from their township regarding "Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month". In keeping with that theme, they will also plant a Pinwheel Garden in front of their Municipal Building.

Bridgewater Woman's Club will have their annual Super Garage Sale fundraiser.

Cedar Wood Woman's Club of will be participating in Achievement Day and looks forward to attending Spring Conference.

Woman's Club of Cranbury will have a representative from Women Aware speak on "Moving Beyond Abuse" and will collect gift cards to donate to them. They will also tour the Watershed Institute whose goal is keeping water clean, safe and healthy.

Flemington Woman's Club will have their annual spring fundraiser featuring "The Singing Florist" for their scholarship fund.

Franklin Woman's Club will hold their annual fundraiser with sales of Maddalena's cheesecakes.

Holland Township Woman's Club will hold their annual craft/vendor show fundraiser.

Metuchen Edison Women's Club will hold their annual garage sale fundraiser as well as having a speaker on mental health at their monthly meeting.

North Brunswick Woman's Club will have their annual clothing drive fundraiser this month.

Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will have a program called "Mother of Invention" presented by enactor Carol Simon Levin. She will speak about inventions by women who did not get credit for their work.

The Woman's Club of Tewksbury Township with partner with the Parks Department to have an Easter Egg Hunt.

GARDEN DISTRICT**schneider@njsfwc.org****Mary Schneider**

Gloucester County Women's Club donated chocolate goodies for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation's "Yoga, Wine and Chocolate" fundraiser. Pinwheel Gardens will be set up in various locations for Prevent Child Abuse Month. The club's Annual Adopt-A-Family Raffle is underway. A \$1.00 ticket could win you \$250 in gift cards.

The Haddon Fortnightly had students from five (5) area schools participate in their Annual Spelling Bee. Three (3) winners competed in the District Bee. Members are knitting purple baby caps to donate during April Prevent Child Abuse Month. For the "Let's Get Moving Challenge", they recorded 2,445.6 hours of exercise.

GARDEN DISTRICT (continued)

Woman's Club League of Mount Holly provided pillowcases for Providence House and will now make small cosmetic bags for a local Senior Center and Rehab. Club members made up "Love Bags" filled with a juice box or water and snacks to help Hearts 'n Hands.

Porch Club of Riverton will have their annual Garden Tour on May 16th and 17th. It will feature diverse local private gardens in and around Riverton. They are also having another event inviting authors to talk about their books.

Woman's Club of Merchantville will hold a Basket Auction on April 2nd, and on May 13th, "A Taste of Pennsauken Area" at the Pennsauken Country Club. This event benefits local scholarships and charities. In June, the club members will be enjoying lunch while cruising down the Toms River & Barnegat Bay. This club hosted the District's CEO Day.

Women's Club of Penns Grove/Carney's Point had a successful Soup Sale and will be hosting the Garden District's Arts Performing Day at Salem County College.

Woman's Club of West Deptford's program for April will be Male Breast Cancer Awareness. Barbara McCloskey, NJSFWC President, will be visiting their club in May. Their Spring Project is to collect travel sized toiletries to fill gently used purses to donate. Members will enjoy a fun night doing ceramics at a studio in Pitman, and will enjoy a Phillies Game in June.

Women's Club of Woodstown announced that the "Wash Tub" now has over 80 new books on their shelves. The club is one of the hostesses for the Garden District's Arts Performing Day.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICTjeisi@njsfwc.org**Karen Jeisi**

Woman's Club of Denville-Rockaway Area for Women's History Month, toured Macculloch Hall, one of the sites on the NJ Women's Heritage Trail. Candy will be collected in April from the community to make Easter baskets for the social service children of Denville and Rockaway. The club is looking forward to a presentation by NJ Assemblywoman, Laura Dunn, at the April General Meeting.

Long Valley Woman's Club held its successful 36th Annual Antiques Show in February. In March, its Annual Saint Patrick's Day Luncheon was held, inviting members of the community to attend. The club is continuing to collect quarters for the American Quarters Program, featuring, in the recent newsletter, a quarter honoring Edith Kanoka'ole, a Hawaiian composer, dancer and champion of the preservation of her culture.

Woman's Club of Parsippany Troy Hills: Cathy Haney, District Bee Chairman, organized and ran the Highlands Bee in February; eight clubs participated, six from Highlands, one from Ramapo, and one from Palisades.

Roxbury Woman's Club is selling discounted Hershey Park tickets now through April 15th to fund two Ruth Hill Memorial scholarships as well as other community projects. The club is holding a Community Donation Campaign for JBWS, participating in the Roxbury Township Spring Clean-up, and sponsoring a blood drive in April. They will be hosting Highlands GCI Orientation at Roxbury Senior Center on April 13th.

Sparta Woman's Club is supporting Ginny's House in Newton for the Special State Project, NJ Children's Alliance; a representative from Ginny's House will be speaking at the April General Meeting. The Sparta Woman's Club Circle of Yarns group is knitting/crocheting baby blankets, hats, robes, and scarves for local charities. They donate monthly to Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI).

Thursday Morning Club held a workshop to make no-sew fleece blankets for homeless in Morris and Essex counties as a small gift when they enter temporary or permanent housing. The blankets will be donated to the Mental Health Association of Morris and Essex in support of their "Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)". They hosted the Highlands Performing Arts Day in March; three clubs entertained with fun performances. They are planning for their major spring fundraiser, the Spring Luncheon, to be held April 3rd.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

West Morris Junior Woman's Club (WMJWC) held a Galentine's event in February to recruit new members. Holding a "Spring into Success" event in April to support local women entrepreneurs by providing a platform to showcase their businesses through a sip and shop experience; proceeds benefit the WMJWC scholarships.

LIBERTY DISTRICT chambers @njsfwc.org Susan Chambers -Acting District Vice President

Woman's Club of Allwood held a Chinese New Year celebration/luncheon that featured a Find Your Chinese Zodiac. They created Valentine hearts for moms residing at Hope Through Care facility and held a Galentines luncheon at a local restaurant. They also collected healthy snack bars to be included in emergency kits for the homeless through Power One, whose director is a member of the club. They installed three new members in March.

The Woman's Club of Arlington held a membership social with an ice breaker and trivia. They were featured on the March page of the Kearny town calendar. This month the author Laura Sims will discuss her psychological thriller "How Can I Help You?"

The Woman's Club of Belleville hosted the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place poetry contest winners from fourth to seventh grades when they read their poems. They are holding their Annual Tricky Tray this month.

Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights will celebrate their 70th Anniversary this month. They recognized their 4th and 5th grade Creative Writing Contest participants this winter and are sponsoring a Bakeless Bake Sale to benefit the Berkeley Heights Volunteer Rescue Squad. Michaela Piepoli from Liberty Hall Museum in Union presented "Quilting Over the Centuries" to members. Members enjoyed a Chocolate Lovers Fondue Gala after being led in watercolor painting.

Woman's Club of Caldwell held a Square Dancing/Chili Bake-off event. They made sandwiches for the homeless and held a garden cleanup. They'll be having a tea party fundraiser for the Caldwell Children's Library. Every second Tuesday they enjoy an international lunch and every fourth Tuesday they do a pizza crawl.

Women's Club of Maplewood held a program entitled "Women in Art" and another on how to stay safe led by a member of the police department.

Woman's Club of Little Falls hosted a St. Patrick's Day Fundraiser with a guitarist and Irish dancing. They will hold a Lovin' Spoonful Tea and their Annual Ice Cream Social as well as an annual picnic.

The Woman's Club of Verona, Inc. assembled bags of hard candy with patriotic cards for the East Orange Veteran's Hospital for Valentine's Day. They hosted a Trivia Night Fundraiser and will plant a Pinwheel Garden at the Community Center to recognize National Child Abuse Prevention month. They will also host a doctor who will discuss women's health issues.

Liberty District past Presidents will host a mini-Tricky Tray on April 15th to benefit GCI. All are welcome to attend. Contact president Jane Mackesy at jam5540796@aol.com or call 201-725-4761.

PALISADES DISTRICT**drogo@njsfwc.org****Janet Drogo**

Book & Needle Club of Oradell hosted a "High Tea" at Harmony Tea Room in Westwood.

Woman's Club of Carlstadt's program for their April Meeting will be a Brown Bag Auction.

Cresskill Woman's Club is planning a Military Bridge fundraiser in April.

Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club won the District Arts Performing Festival for the very first time. They will be celebrating their 35th Anniversary in May. Congratulations!

Contemporary Club of Hasbrouck Heights are busy planning their Scholarship Breakfast fundraiser on Saturday May 17th at Fishers Café on the Boulevard in Hasbrouck Heights.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

The Woman's Club of Haworth performed Country Girls Jamboree, a dance and musical number at the District Arts Performing Festival.

Woman's Club of Lyndhurst will be creating a Pinwheel Garden at Town Hall and planning for CBH Cares Mental Health month in May by sponsoring a walk for local Lyndhurst students.

New Milford Woman's Club will welcome The Dancing Divas from the New Milford Senior Center. They will perform three numbers under the direction of Lynn Sullivan, a former Rockette.

Woman's Club of Old Tappan will be holding its annual rummage sale on Saturday, May 10th.

Woman's Club of Paramus will be pulling the winning ticket for their Mega 50/50. If all tickets are sold, the winner will receive \$7,000.00.

Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park is planning a cake sale on May 3rd and 4th at the Saint Francis Church.

Woman's Club of Rutherford will be hosting their Spring Tea Party on April 6th. On May 31st, they will have a team participating in the Relay for Life of Clifton and Rutherford to raise funds for the American Cancer Society.

Woman's Club of Westwood will be celebrating its 105th Anniversary on April 10th.

RAMAPO DISTRICTwitty@njsfwc.org**June Witty**

Woman's Club of Ramsey supports Several Sources Shelters, with a lunch while being entertained by Tap Dancers; Lunch Bunch ladies gather for social lunch at a local restaurant. The club is preparing for their Annual Heirloom Tomato Plant and Vegetable Sale.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Planes: Arts & Culture, plus Environmental are working on entries for Achievement Day. Health & Wellness keeps members moving, logging in steps. The club continues to make fleece scarves with pockets for shut ins. Participated in Grains of Hope, helped to put together 100,000 Mac-N-Cheese packets for Father English and Betsey Green. They installed two new members.

Saddle Brook Woman's Club sponsoring member and author Yvonne Breiner will present her new book; and they are preparing for Memorial Day Parade for Paramus Veterans.

Woman's Club of Ridgewood will distribute proceeds from their Garage Sale to CASA, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, Youth Services and Scholarship Trust. They are working with Girl Scouts to provide gifts to over 30 women and children. They support Veterans with wreaths and are donating to Tunnel to Towers each month.

Pine Lakes Woman's Club, Inc. celebrated Doctor Seuss's birthday with each member reading a page from The Cat in the Hat while wearing the famous striped hat.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey continues to work on their Annual Gala.

Woman's Club of West Milford Township will assist and provide information on WC at the West Milford Annual Health Fair.

Woman's Club of Franklin Lakes, Inc. will provide funding to an underserved community to be able to attend GCI.

Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River continues their monthly Book Club; Arts & Culinary events planned; and are planning for Annual Blood Drive scheduled for May 17th.

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club: will be serving homemade Italian dinner to 125 community residents of a senior complex and non-profit organizations. Also, the club is working on budget planning and programs for 2025-26; there are 3 Executive Board openings; planning for NJSFWC Annual Conference.

RAMAPO DISTRICT (continued)

Allendale Woman's Club is excited to announce they will now be holding their meetings in a brand-new Community Center; their Speaker Series continues; and the 20th Annual Fashion Show plans are underway for April 9th.

Past President's Club Ramapo District: Queens Tea March 16th planned with tickets available. For more information contact babeofblue@yahoo.com. The speaker for March meeting is How to Avoid Fraud. There is no meeting in April.

Montville Twp. Woman's Club: Club trip planned to the Stickley Museum in Morris Plains. In addition, a speaker from the NJ Children's Alliance will address the club in March; In April, the club will be planning their Annual Town-Wide garage sale.

SHORE DISTRICT**osborne@njfwc.org****Karen Osborne**

The Woman's Club of Asbury Park will be holding a Comedy Night, a yard sale, and cornhole tournament.

Belmar Woman's Club will hold a Craft Fair and lunch with the singing florist.

Brick Township Woman's Club will be planting pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Awareness. They have guest speakers at their day and evening meetings on stress and will have a Comedy Show and Dinner at Uncle Vinnie's Comedy Club in Point Pleasant.

Woman's Club of Brielle is having an indoor yard sale and are planning a garden tour. The evening committee will be holding a Leadership Conference.

The Freehold Township Woman's Club is bringing cookies to the Freehold Food Bank.

The Howell Woman's Club is holding their 2nd Annual Spring Tea and their 50/50 raffle is under way to benefit the Scholarship Fund and Local Charities.

The Jersey Coast Women's Club will be celebrating their 1st Anniversary. They have formed an art committee which will be doing projects and collecting supplies for the Green Acres Nursing Home.

The Woman's Club of Lacey – The Performing Arts Department has planned a trip to the SurfFlight Theater for dinner and a show.

The Woman's Club of Little Silver is organizing a workshop for their upcoming fundraiser, "Another Woman's Treasure".

The Woman's Club of Matawan will give 50 cans of food to a local food pantry, 12 Easter baskets to 180 Turning Lives Around and deliver tray favors to an assisted living facility for Easter. They are planning a craft/yard sale.

Woman's Club of Point Pleasant will be decorating various locations in several towns with pinwheels for Child Abuse Prevention Month.

Woman's Club of Spring Lake will have a presentation of Historical Homes of Spring Lake and have a trip planned to see "Beautiful" at the Axelrod Theater. They will hold their annual meeting and Spring lunch to award scholarships.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT**speechley@njswc.org****Carole Speechley**

The Woman's Club of Absecon made upcycle items at their March meeting to enter in the Achievement Day Environment contest. At their April meeting they will hear about CASA's programs for older teens and young '20s. They will be participating in the Memorial Day Parade in Absecon.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT (continued)

Members of the **Women's Community Club of Cape May** are looking forward to their first Pinwheel Garden for Prevent Child Abuse Month. They are planning their annual May Luncheon at the Lobster House and annual June picnic at Cape May Point National Park.

The **Colony Club of Ocean City** will hold their Dinner and Fashion Show fundraiser for their scholarship fund on June 10th at the Greater Bay Country Club. Fashions from two local boutiques will be shown. They will be celebrating their 75th Anniversary in June.

The **Country Shore Woman's Club** will hold a Restaurant Bingo on April 12th at the Upper Township Community Center.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** will hold a pinwheel coloring contest for child abuse prevention, presenting the two winners with toy baskets. They will have a Memorial Day Essay Contest for social studies classes at two local middle schools. The winner will present their essay at the Hammonton Memorial Day Ceremony.

The **Millville Woman's Club** will hold a birthday party for their club with ice cream and cake in April. Their clean out their pocketbook fundraiser, putting the loose change into the collection jar, has been very successful.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** will hold a Designer Bags Bingo and basket raffle to benefit the Cumberland County Women's Shelter on April 26th at the Millville Elks Lodge. They will celebrate their 125th Anniversary on May 31st with a classic High Tea at the Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society.

THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM reddick@njsfwc.org

Kathleen Reddick

April is a month of emergence. Those of us in cooler climates feel like we are **springing** out of hibernation. It's invigorating to shed those bulky coats and sweaters and just dart around with a light raincoat. Don't forget your umbrella.

What are some Arts and Culture ideas that come to mind in April?

Spring Cleaning: When you're pulling out some cooler clothes, are there any warm ones that you can give a second life to by repurposing them? Maybe there's a blouse or skirt that you love, but it's not ready for prime time anymore. Recreate it into a pillow, a headband, tote bag, book cover, or embellish a plain towel with it. Braid some fabrics into rope to make a cloth basket. You can still enjoy the fabric, pattern, or memory without wearing something dated or worn out.

If you live in a small space (like this Chairman) think about stacking vintage suitcases for decorative effect, while hiding lots of clutter. Pick them up at flea markets and thrift stores; and have some fun with paints and decoupage.

Get outside: Run between the raindrops: Keep the paints and Mod Podge handy and decorate some mason jars for your seedlings. Freshen up your clay pots with outdoor house paint. You can purchase small sample bottles at any paint store that will stand up to the weather. There's also a Mod Podge for outdoors to use as a coating.

Why not take your easel, palette, and beret and head to the beach or woods to create a beautiful seascape or landscape? Don't forget your camera to capture that giant wave, buds on a flower opening up, or a Mama bird feeding her young. There's nothing that brings out creativity more than the colors of nature.

Culture: Celebrate our beautiful earth. Lots of community parks will start their outdoor Concerts, Craft Shows and other events. If you are in one of the seasonal communities of the state, such as the Jersey Shore: museums that were closed for the winter open up. The ski areas transform their facilities to feature outdoor festivals of creative activities. Theaters start summer stock shows.

Most important: Attend Your District Achievement Day. Sign up and Get Ready for the State Achievement Day. Maybe you've already won a Grand Prize at your District. You are expected to submit your District Grand Prize entries to the State Achievement Day on May 5th at the Hard Rock Casino Hotel. You will want to come for Achievement Day and stay for the full three days of remarkable programs and meetings at the NJSFWC Convention. Happy Spring.

THE ARTS/PERFORMING COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
brown@njsfwc.org**Ann Ribinsky Brown**

Thank you to the 96 clubs that shared their reports of all the fun and charitable things they did in the area of Arts/Performing. There were also many excellent entries to the NJSFWC Writing Contest and six outstanding District Performances. This Chairman is looking forward to the Arts Performing Presentation on the big stage at the Hard Rock, and hope all at convention will join us.

As summer quickly approaches, consider a Club get together at Plays-in-the-Park, a unique county sponsored outdoor amphitheater presenting three full scale musicals each summer, an indoor children's musical in October, and the annual presentation of Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at the State Theater the last weekend in December. Located just off Route 1 in Edison, Plays-in-the-Park has been in existence since 1963. In fact, this Chairman remembers riding her bike to see Peter Pan during that first season.

For the first 20 years, performances were free. But as costs grew, a nominal fee was charged, especially after a fire destroyed the stage on July 24, 1975. A new, bigger stage was built allowing larger, more complex productions. As an aside, this Chairman saw the last production of Man of La Mancha the night before the theater burned.

The 2025 season includes: Beautiful: The Carole King Musical, June 18-28; Rent, July 9-July 19, and Grease, July 30-August 9. Currently, the cost of admission is \$7. for adults, \$5. for seniors, and children are free. For your enjoyment and to have something to include in next year's report, treat yourself to attend one of these inexpensive yet exceptional theater productions in Central New Jersey this summer.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
pogosaew@njsfwc.org**Dawn Pogosaew**

Clubs throughout New Jersey always find ways to honor and support our military services members in a variety of programs, donations, and volunteer hours. The following programs highlight our dedication to recognizing their invaluable contribution to our lives.

Honor and remember our fallen veterans this year by sponsoring a wreath for \$17.00 through Wreaths Across America. These wreaths are placed annually not only to remember our veterans, but also to teach our children the importance of honoring our heroes. Clubs can also volunteer to participate on National Wreaths Across America Day this year in December or attend local ceremony on December 13, 2025. For more information on sponsoring a wreath, volunteering, or locating a sponsored ceremony, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org and sign up now.

Each year many clubs participate in the Operation Holiday Stocking program. This year along with the usual "stocking stuffers", clubs supplied much needed medical and medicinal items to fill the stockings. Detailed information will be available on the website and through flyers over the summer.

Another great program that was first introduced to us at the 2024 NJSFWC CEO Day is the New Jersey Run for the Fallen. Members from the Women's Community Club of Cape May participated this year by attending the run and showed their support at one of the local stops called, "Hero Markers". Participants run a mile for each fallen service member from New Jersey. They stop at the designated "Hero Markers" where family, friends, and community members gather to remember the fallen service member. This year the run will be held on Wednesday September 24th through Sunday September 28, 2025. For more information, including the 2025 timeline and location of the "Hero Markers" visit njrftf.org.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM**Joan Murdock**
murdock@njsfwc.org

Here we are, into April and looking forward to Achievement Day, Spring Conferences, and Convention. It's hard to believe that we have almost completed one year! This year has been filled with so many ideas for this department. Clubs have been busy with many different projects including book clubs, book donations, and exchanges, library projects, school room assistance, Little Libraries, and so many other interesting ideas.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (continued)

Clubs were asked to send in book reviews for the monthly ALMANAC articles and this Chairman would like to acknowledge the West Deptford and Upper Montclair clubs for providing a review.

ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) added several new members and we introduced an idea for every club who has a book club to join ESO for \$2.

This Chairman would like to thank Patricia Sherwen, State ESO Chairman for coordinating ESO this year. It is not an easy task to keep track of members, their book readings and levels. Pat has done an excellent job in keeping up with that and submitting all necessary information to GFWC.

Thank you also to our Spelling Bee Team, June Adair - State Spelling Bee Chairman, and to the District Chairmen, Cathy Hainey, Marie DiMatties, Lauren Cerullo and Jane Birnbaum.

However, most importantly, the thank you goes to every member of every club in the NJSFWC who spent time, gathering and donating books, for reading to our seniors housed in nursing facilities, the children at our libraries and Pre-K classes. To every club who supported a scholarship for your High School seniors and 8th grade classes, for supporting GCI and ESL classes, we are so appreciative of your work. For the Free Little Libraries, supporting our teachers, the Woman of Achievement, Margaret Yardley, and HOBY, we acknowledge your work. To all the clubs who thought of new ways (and you had so many) to promote this vital department, thank you!

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM chambers2@njsfwc.org

Katie Chambers

Did you know that giving back can significantly improve your mental health by fostering a sense of purpose, fulfillment, and connection? Helping others triggers the release of dopamine and oxytocin, the “feel-good” chemicals in the brain, which reduce stress and enhance mood. Acts of kindness create positive social interactions, which can alleviate feelings of loneliness and isolation.

This is great news for women’s clubs especially! Volunteering or contributing to a cause can boost self-esteem and confidence by providing a sense of accomplishment. Additionally, focusing on others' needs often helps individuals gain perspective on their own challenges, leading to improved emotional resilience and a greater sense of well-being.

April’s exercise tip for Let’s Get Moving: With that in mind, let’s try to combine all three goals in one activity: giving back, exercising, and improving mental health. Now, it’s no secret that this Chairman is a dog lover... and many of you are as well. As the spring weather warms up around us, consider volunteering at an animal shelter. This is not only good for the pups and kitties, but it’s also good for you! Spending time with those cute creatures will boost your mood. And shelters often need kind volunteers to play with, walk, and exercise the dogs. So, you can get your steps in while doing good for animals in the process.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

dimatties@njsfwc.org

Marie DiMatties

April is Prevent Child Abuse Awareness Month. In 2024, forty-one clubs reported planting pinwheel gardens and six clubs promoted Prevent Child Abuse Awareness month with proclamations by their town officials. This Chairman is hopeful that many more clubs will rise to President McCloskey’s 130 Challenge and plant pinwheels in their towns this month.

You can also support **Wear Blue Day** for **PCA-NJ** by wearing blue on Friday April 19th to demonstrate support for children’s well-being. Simply take a photo of yourself, your family, your colleagues, your friends, your volunteer group – or even your puppy – wearing blue and tag PCA-NJ on social media with the message: this Chairman is wearing blue to support happy and healthy childhoods for all children. #WearBlueDay2025.

Spring brings with it proms, dances and weddings. The Woman’s Civic Club of Hammonton reported on their **Closet Prom Project**. Their clubhouse basement is home to 250 prom dresses & gowns as well as bridal gowns, formal wear

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (continued)

accessories and brand-new dress shoes. These items along with tickets, hairdressers, accessories, etc. are provided free of charge to young people regardless of income. The club assisted twelve teens and five weddings this past year; \$3,500 in-kind donations and 50 volunteer hours were tallied. Well, done, ladies!

BYLAWS**fosdick@njsfwc.org****Susan Fosdick**

Amendments to the NJSFWC Bylaws will be presented at the Business Session at our Annual Convention on Monday, May 5th and voted on at that time.

Club Presidents have received a copy of the Proposed Amendments which were enclosed in the CALL to Convention. They should be discussed at a club meeting. A copy of the Amendments should be given to the Delegates in order that they familiarize themselves with them in order to vote.

The Bylaws of any organization are similar to a legal corporate document and are the formally adopted rules of procedure of governance for the organization. They define the organization, its primary characteristics, how it functions, and cannot be changed except “by a two-thirds vote of the voting body present and voting at the Convention.

The Bylaws, in order to remain relevant, should be reviewed each year and changed as necessary. Article XVII of the NJSFWC Bylaws describes the procedure to be followed to amend the Bylaws.

COMMUNICATIONS**rothstein@njsfwc.org****Shelley Rothstein**

As the club year comes to a close, this Chairman hopes that every member has had the opportunity to apply some of the communication tools and strategies that have been shared to promote your club and Federation. No matter how you've sharpened your skills—whether by attending the Canva Workshop, joining the social media Zoom session, or picking up valuable insights from an ALMANAC article—use your new expertise to showcase the incredible work your club is doing in your community.

This Chairman has noticed that the club reports reflect an increase in technology-based communication being used by clubs such as Google Drive, WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and TeamReach. With many local newspapers going to online versions only, this Chairman was thrilled at all the creative ways clubs have been using to promote themselves, NJSFWC and GFWC. The top ten projects will be featured in the September and October ALMANACS!

CONVENTION**finn@njsfwc.org****Vivien Finn**

Last month this Chairman covered the activities for Sunday and Monday of the NJSFWC Convention. As promised, this month we will concentrate on the activities for Tuesday and Wednesday.

Tuesday morning begins with DRUM2BFIT at 8:00 a.m.; sign up required. Also, at 8:00 a.m., Jacqueline Wisner will hold a Legislation/Resolution Workshop, “Stress Free Solutions: A Workshop for Real Impact”.

The Tuesday Business Meeting convenes at 9:30 a.m. when the District Vice Presidents from Palisades, Ramapo, Shore, and Southern will give their reports. The Community Service Chairmen will present awards for Best Reported Work in each category.

At the conclusion of the meeting, you will have time to purchase your lunch in the Food Court and head off to a Workshop of your choice including:

- President Elect Susie Chambers and Second Vice President Patricia Dahl for “All Members are Leaders”; or
- First Vice President, Chris Sienkielewski for “Let’s Take Time to Celebrate Our Successes”; or
- A Book Discussion (The First Ladies, written by Marie Benedict) led by Joyce Dreger; or
- Craft Workshop (Dried Floral Art) led by Marie Sullivan.

CONVENTION (continued)

Following the Lunch and Learn Workshops, it's off to the Sound Waves Theater for a fun and relaxing presentation of the winners of each District Arts Performing Day.

Tuesday night's Banquet, "Celebrating the Past and the Present", honors our Club Presidents who will process into the Hollywood Ball Room led by their District Vice P.

The keynote address will be given by GFWC International President, Suellen Brazil. The winner of the most prestigious award of NJSFWC, the Cecilia Gaines Holland Award will be announced and honored. The remaining awards for Best Reported Work will then be presented.

Wednesday morning's Business Session at 9:30 a.m. begins with a moving tribute, the In Memoriam Ceremony, followed by those women chosen by their clubs to be named to the Honor Roll and Order of the Lily.

Following the singing of "Let There Be Peace on Earth", the gavel will sound as we close our Convention and conclude our "Celebrations".

CREDENTIALS AND REGISTRATION**thompson@njsfwc.org****Carole Thompson**

The 131st NJSFWC Convention will be "Celebrating Good Times". In order to participate in all the celebration activities, you must have your **Registration for Convention** postmarked **on or before April 4th**, to avoid the late fee. If you cannot meet the deadline, you can still pre-register with the late charge and select meals until April 5 to April 12, 2025. The Registration fee would then be **\$55.00**

- **No registration** will be accepted by mail postmarked **after April 12, 2025**.
- On-site registration for members or guests/visitors will be **\$55.00** for the Convention or one day **\$30.00**. **No on-site registration for Delegates and Alternates will be available.**

Credentials must be worn at all meeting, programs, workshops and in the exhibit area. Please come to our registration area as soon after arrival as possible.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact this Chairman. She looks forward to welcoming you to the Convention.

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT:**hill@njsfwc.org****Claire Hill****DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**

As we move into spring and summer consider donating personal care items to your local battered women shelter. Baskets of goodies is always appreciated by the residents. Maybe donate a CD movie for children and add with snacks that will be enjoyed by all.

Think about summer for the kids. Shelters can use summer toys, and maybe a small library, so they have a fun book for the summer. The children could also use new tee shirts and summer clothes. See if your local shelter has a summer program for the children and ask what items are needed. It's always fun to make no sew blankets for the children. There are many patterns in light weight fabric.

Mothers at the shelters could always use a new shirt or shorts. Plan a panty raid to donate new panties or donate bras to the shelter.

Always check with the office of the shelter before donating anything to be sure the items are needed.

GIRLS' CAREER INSTITUTE

lund@njsfwc.org

Ellen Lund

Planning for GCI 2025 is continuing nicely. We are currently in the process of lining up prospective speakers for the girl's two-day workshops. If anyone knows of someone who would like to be a speaker, please let this Director know.

We are looking for donations of magazines and stickers for vision boards for the girls!!! Please drop them off at Headquarters or to your District Vice President to take them for you. It is much appreciated.

All the GCI Orientations will be conducted during the month of April. Here are the following list of dates, places, and times for each Orientation.

College District – Wednesday, April 2nd at Headquarters at 6:00 p.m.
 Southern District – Sunday, April 6th at the Millville Woman's Club at 2:00 p.m.
 Shore District – Monday, April 7th at the Point Pleasant Woman's Club at 6:00 p.m.
 Highlands District – Sunday, April 13th at the Roxbury Senior Center at 1:30 p.m.
 Liberty District – Monday, April 14th at the Upper Montclair Woman's Club at 7:00 p.m.
 Ramapo District – Wednesday, April 23rd at the Senior Center at 6:30 p.m.
 Palisades District – Thursday, April 24th at the Rutherford Woman's Club at 6:00 p.m.
 Garden District – Sunday, April 27th at the Hadden Fortnightly Woman's Club at 1:00 p.m.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact this Director. If you call, please leave a message and your call will be returned ASAP.

HISTORIAN

quilici@njsfwc.org

Randi Quilici

Carol Hancock served as State President from 1998 to 2000. After her passing, her family generously delivered two boxes of memorabilia to Headquarters, representing her remarkable 36-year involvement with the Federation. At the time of her presidency, she was a 17-year member of The Woman's Club of Westfield.

President Hancock's theme for her 1998–2000 administration was **"2000—A New Century of Challenge."** Her Special State Project was the **Early Intervention Program (EIP)**, which focused on supporting children from birth to three years old with developmental disabilities. The program also aimed to educate and empower families to actively participate in their child's learning journey.

To honor this significant initiative, a special **Early Intervention Program (EIP)** pin was designed. At the 1998 Fall Conference in West Orange, the president of the Children's Specialized Hospital served as the keynote speaker, providing valuable insights into the **Early Intervention Program**.

Another noteworthy initiative was the collaboration between Douglass College and the NJSFWC to establish V.O.T.E. (Volunteers of Tomorrow Education), a program designed to equip women for leadership roles in their communities. To celebrate this effort, a reception was held at Cooper Dining Hall at Douglass College in October 1998.

Additionally, the 18th Annual New Jersey Women of Achievement Awards, co-sponsored by Douglass College of Rutgers University and the NJSFWC, took place on March 8, 1999.

During this time the General Federation of Women's Clubs introduced the **"Libraries 2000 Program"** to expand access to books and tutoring materials, fostering a love for reading among young people.

At the NJSFWC 105th Annual Convention in 1999, President Hancock inspired attendees to contribute to the cause by donating books. This initiative resulted in the collection of more than 900 books, with an estimated value of \$9,000, which were gifted to the Camden City Library.

In 1998, the Federation had made an even larger contribution, donating 8,523 books and other tutoring materials, with a total estimated value of \$88,299.

HISTORIAN (continued)

Among the treasures of the two boxes of memorabilia from President Hancock's family, there was a collection of 79 pins, patches, and necklaces accumulated throughout her remarkable 36 years with the Federation.

Since 1894, members have proudly collected NJSFWC and GFWC pins as symbols of their love, dedication, and active involvement in state programs, fundraisers, Special State Projects, and Conventions over the past 130 years.

Today, we proudly celebrate this incredible opportunity to honor our history with the unveiling of the **Pin Collection**. You can view this collection at Headquarters in the meeting room.

If you have a pin that is not yet part of the collection, we would be delighted to include it. Please reach out to this Chairman to contribute and help preserve our history for generations to come.

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

wisner@njsfwc.org

Jacqueline Wisner

Being an **Advocate** may sound intimidating, but we can learn how to effectively champion causes that are supported by GFWC Resolutions. There are strategies and tools to help you support issues that matter to you.

Educate Yourself on the Issue: Effective advocacy requires gaining a thorough understanding of the issue and GFWC has a great tool for that! GFWC's *Legislative Action Center* (LAC) is a powerful tool that alerts users when bipartisan legislative action is proposed that is supported by GFWC's resolutions. With just a few clicks, users can track bills, contact legislative representatives at all levels and take action on the issues that our resolutions support. From August, 2024 to January, 2025, our enrollment in LAC has risen by 25%! That means that many of you have heard the call to join and responded. But we need more of you. These are demanding times and your involvement translates into impact!

Timing Your Advocacy: *When* you advocate is nearly as important as *how* you advocate. The Legislative Action Center aligns your efforts, so they coincide when legislation is debated or budget requests are in progress.

Tell Your Story: Personal stories are powerful tools in advocacy. Legislators are human, too, and they want to know why you care enough to share your time and passion. For example, if your passion is the Alzheimer's Association, you may have firsthand knowledge of the complexities endured by families caring for members with dementia. Your story can inspire others and highlight the human aspect of the issue.

Build Relationships with Your Representatives: Developing a relationship with your representatives is *essential* for sustained advocacy. When you meet with your representative's staff, take the time to talk about your background and interests as well as their own. Understanding one another's can help you tailor your message and find common ground.

Follow Up and Say Thank You: after your advocacy efforts, be sure to follow up with your representatives and their staff. A thank you note or email can reinforce your commitment to the cause and leave a positive impression. By following these strategies and utilizing the tools provided by GFWC, **You can become an effective Advocate.**

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

shoemaker@njsfwc.org

April Shoemaker

This Chairman is pleased to report that our lantern fundraiser has been a huge success as we are sold out. We now need to re-order for those on the waiting list. Unfortunately, we can now only get black lanterns. If you still wish to order a lantern, please fill out the order form, which can be found on the website in the March ALMANAC. The theme of "Light the path for abused children" has resonated with many of our club women.

Another exciting Luncheon and Basket Auction will be held at the very famous "Lobster Shanty" on August 7th to benefit the Special State Project. The flyer and reservation form are in this ALMANAC and can be found on the website. We are also looking for baskets. Please contact this Chairman if you wish to donate a basket. Help make this a memorable day!

Join us at a Somerset Patriots game on Friday, July 11 to support our Special State Project. A flyer is included in this ALMANAC. Please email this Chairman at shoemaker@njsfwc.org so we can keep a record of who is attending.

WEBMASTER**webmaster@njsfwc.org****Denise Hosier****What Are Your Goals for Your Website?**

Whether you're building a website or whether you already have one, you should have specific goals for your site. What do you want your website to do?

- Attract new members
- Help you raise funds
- Publicize your events
- Inform your current members
- Give club information to the general public and/or news outlets
- Something else?

You can choose one or more of the above goals when building a new site. If you already have a site, consider your goals and take a hard look at the site to see if it's doing what you want.

For example, if you want to attract new members, it's important to clearly highlight the value of belonging to your club. Stress the community service you do, the friendships you develop, the fun activities, the people you help. Link your social media pages. Make it easy to contact your membership chairman, and be sure to publicize your meeting information.

If your main goal is to provide information to your members, put your newsletter on the site. Have a page describing all your Community Service Programs and Committees to help members, current or prospective, understand the breadth of the work you do and what each specific area entails. Members-only sections are good for confidential information like address lists, but be warned, some members will constantly have trouble logging in.

If you have more than one goal, and most of us do, make it easy for a visitor to your site to find the information they need by having clear menu choices. For example, MEMBERSHIP, COMMUNITY SERVICE, TRICKY TRAY (or whatever your big fundraiser is), and NEWS/NEWSLETTER. And if you're looking to raise funds, be sure to have that big DONATE button at the top of every page!

With some thought and planning, your website will help your club meet your goals, no matter what they are.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS**dahl@njsfwc.org****Patricia Dahl-Interim****Sitting and Standing While Presiding**

The Presiding officer should be placed in a room so that, even when seated, she can see the entire hall and all present can see her. This is important for bidirectional verbal and non-verbal communication.

The presiding officer should stand to perform several functions. She stands when calling a meeting to order or declaring it adjourned, and while putting a question to vote.\

She should also stand while explaining her reasons for a ruling on a point of order or when speaking during debate on an appeal or a point of order that she has submitted to the judgement of the assembly.

The presiding officer should be seated when a member speaks in debate. If, when seated, the presiding officer is unable to see the members, she may remain standing but should step back slightly while the member is speaking.

The presiding officer can otherwise sit as she finds convenient – provided that even when seated she can see the entire hall and all present can see her. She may stand at any time if needed to preserve order, or for any other presiding role requiring the assembly's full attention.