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Celebrate the 60th Anniversary by donating \$60 and receive the limited-edition S&H Green Stamp pin. All donations help defray the cost of land rental.



ALMANAC

State Newsletter

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC



October Greetings...

As you may know, this President loves to hear about all your upcoming projects and fundraisers, so please remember to share your newsletters with me! Thank you again for all you do for your community and for the support of NJSFWC.

I hope many of you attended your September councils, as District councils are just one way that NJSFWC provides opportunities for clubs to interact and hear from other clubs in your districts.

We will again be participating in Operation Holiday Stockings, and all the information for filling the stockings and the drop off dates were in the September ALMANAC. Thank you to all the clubs that continue to participate in this valuable and worthy cause to support our US military personnel. Operation Jersey Cares will be picking up all donations.

- ❖ Registration for the 60th Anniversary Headquarters Open House is underway! Space is limited, so please be sure to sign up for one of the two dates, Thursday, November 13th and Saturday, November 15th.
- ❖ As you may know, we own the Headquarters building but we pay Rutgers \$21,000 a year to lease the land that the building is situated on. To help pay the yearly fee, the 1894 Society was created. This year for a minimum donation of \$60.00 you may receive a specially designed S&H green stamp pin. An 1894 Society form is included in this issue of the ALMANAC. Clubs and all club members are eligible and encouraged to join.

The week of November 9th through the 15th is also NJSFWC Membership week. It is not too early to start planning a special event or activity with your club members.

- ❖ Communication between our clubs and members continues to be a goal for this administration. Please continue to share all materials and forms with your members. Consider purchasing a NJSFWC Yearbook, they are still available.

- ❖ In addition, sign your members up for the eConnection, and encourage them to visit the NJSFWC website, where they can see for themselves, the monthly ALMANAC and all the other materials that are available as a benefit of membership.

Personal visits by any Board of Director members, including your DVPs, the Executive Committee or this President are encouraged and welcomed.

- ❖ **Thank you to all the clubs that participated in the GFWC International Day of Service.** This President knows that many clubs support domestic violence shelters and awareness on an ongoing basis and being able to combine efforts with all GFWC clubs across the country really shows how we can make a huge difference, together!

Please feel free to contact me with any comments, questions or ideas!

In Federation Friendship,

Barbara

Together in Service, United in Friendship

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

The Special State Project 2026-2028 Investigating Committee met in August at Headquarters to start looking at potential partnerships in the next administration. 13 members, representing all 8 Districts, led by Chairman Marie Sullivan (who was Special State Project Chairman 2022-2024) will review 18 projects suggested by members from across the state.

How does this process work? Each committee member will make initial contact with at least one of the suggested organizations (that must be a designated charitable organization) to request detailed information about what they do, how they fundraise, how they spend their donations, what their needs are beyond fundraising, and where are their services offered, among other criteria. The information they gather will then be reviewed by the entire committee via zoom in October.

From this review, six organizations will be selected by the committee to make in-person presentations to the committee at Headquarters in January. The committee will then select three of the six to be presented to all clubs for a vote in late winter/early spring. A detailed summary of each organization will be sent to all clubs so that members have a clear understanding of what they're voting for. Presidents, be sure to share this info; members be sure to ask your Presidents for this info.

The organization that receives the most membership votes will then enter a legal contract with NJSFWC. The in-kind donations that we procure will be distributed throughout the two-year project as needed; the monetary donations are distributed in two separate payments, one at the end of the first year and the final and larger amount at the conclusion of the second year.

The organization that will be selected for the 2026-2028 administration will be announced at the May 2026 Convention in Atlantic City.

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

After reading this ALMANAC article, this Officer asks that you take a little walk outdoors and breathe in the fresh air of fall. Clear your mind and be observant to the changes of nature happening all around. Soon it will be a little colder and time outdoors will be limited due to the coming of darkness earlier.

So now you can begin the first stage of report writing – organizing your projects from January 2025 – December 2025. Start by reviewing your minutes and project reports. By now your club president has received the Report Writing packet and hopefully began distributing the Report Writing Worksheet to the chairmen in the club. You don't even need to wait for her – the complete packet can be found on the NJSFWC website. Under Materials, you will find everything you need. Hopefully many club members who write the reports have participated in the three Workshops offered in September. If not, don't worry. Every NJSFWC State Chairman is available to answer any question you may have. Or send this Officer a question and she will be happy to answer.

Just think...by starting this now, you will have a much easier time to tell our Chairmen about the wonderful work you do in your communities. Every story you tell us warms our hearts!

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**dahl@njsfwc.org****Patricia Dahl****The Three "C"s of Federation - What's the Difference?**

You've heard the terms "Convention", "Conference" and "Council" mentioned at meetings and in club publications, and you are probably confused about what they are.

Let's try to clarify... A "Council" is a District meeting, attended by representatives of the clubs that comprise a particular District. There are eight Districts in the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs structure. Councils are usually held three times a year - in September, January and June. At Councils the clubs share information about projects and fundraisers they have planned and get new ideas from what other clubs are doing. They also receive information from Federation representatives about what is going on state-wide.

NJSFWC SECOND VICE PRESIDENT (continued)

A "Conference" is a larger, more formal event. There are typically two Conferences each year. Fall Conference is a State event, attended by members of all of the clubs in the state. There is a fee to attend this all-day event, held in October at a centralized location. There are speakers of interest, reports from the state officers, interesting vendors and lunch. It's a great way to get a bigger picture of what the state Federation can offer clubs. Spring Conference, held in April is a District event. This, too, is an all-day event, with your fee including breakfast and lunch. At Spring Conference, the Club Presidents report on their club's accomplishments in the past year. Clubs are recognized for their work, and members are recognized for long service.

"Convention" is held once a year - for three days in May - in Atlantic City. Business sessions include reports on the Federation's accomplishments in the past year and awards to clubs whose work has been outstanding. Changes are made to the bylaws, and resolutions for action are voted upon. There are interesting and inspiring speakers, a variety of workshops and discussion groups, a display of winning arts and crafts projects, multiple vendors, and performances from winning clubs in the district performing arts contests.

I hope this clarifies the "C"s for you, and you'll take the opportunity to participate in some of them in the future.

(Compliments of the Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club updated by the Second Vice President)

NJSFWC FINANCIAL SECRETARY

cibelli@njsfwc.org

Debbie Cibelli

Legacy Planned Giving Program

Have you heard about the **Legacy Planned Giving** program? This program initiated by Past President Jan Hanson, encourages clubwomen, families and friends of the Federation to consider making bequests to the NJSFWC when planning their estates.

LEGACY as defined by Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary is a gift by will of money or other personal property.

Federated Clubwomen may allocate funds through their estate planning to establish a Legacy by Planned Giving. These contributions can be directed to the Headquarters Foundation, 1894 Society, Girls Career Institute, the Special State Project, items within the Continuing Funds, or as a Fellowship in a chosen area of interest.

Consider the impact of sustaining the work of the NJSFWC of GFWC, by "providing opportunities for education, leadership, training, and community service through participation in local clubs, enabling members to make a difference in the lives of others one project at a time", just like our dear Federation sister Gail Kovacs-Felici did.

In 2024, we lost Gail Kovacs-Felici, a dedicated clubwoman of over 34 years. She was a member of the GFWC Woman's Club of Emerson, the GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club, the Past Presidents' Club of the Palisades District, and the NJSFWC EX Club. Having been placed on the Honor Roll, she was later inducted into the Order of the Lilies.

Her dedication reached far beyond that of the club levels. She went on to become part of the NJSFWC Board of Directors family, where she began as Education ESO Vice Chairman, Arts Performing Literature Division Chairman and as the Margaret Yardley Fellowship Fund Chairman. She later became Palisades District Vice President, Financial Secretary, served two terms as Arts & Culture Chairman, Civic Engagement and Outreach Chairman, Legislation/Resolutions Chairman and lastly was the Parliamentary Consultant to Clubs. Because of this program, **Legacy Planned Giving**, her Federation Legacy will live on as she left the NJSFWC Federation \$5000.00

Although it may not always be immediately apparent, we encourage you to consider the **Legacy Planned Giving** program as part of your estate planning, following the example set by Gail and many others.

COLLEGE DISTRICT

dobalo@njsfwc.org

Laurel Dobalo

Operation Holiday Stockings will be the focus of many of the clubs in the College District during October to support our active-duty troops.

Woman's Literary Club of Bound Brook will be celebrating their 140th Anniversary with a party in October. **Congratulations!**

Branchburg Woman's Club October meeting will feature Maresa Callocchia of Maresa Made Baking providing a Cookie Decorating Demonstration.

Bridgewater Woman's Club will be learning all about Olive Oil, volunteer at Moms Helping Moms and have a table at the Bridgewater National Night Out.

Cedar Wood Woman's Club will hold their Reunion Pot Lunch luncheon with past and present members.

Woman's Club of Clinton will have their first meeting of the year to plan their year and make stockings for the troops.

Woman's Club of Cranbury will have a speaker from the Military Support Group of NJ and will host a Candidates Night for residents to meet those running for Township Committee.

East Brunswick Woman's Club will have their annual Cover Dish Luncheon to raise funds for REPLENISH, Middlesex County's Food Bank.

Flemington Woman's Club will learn about about the Monarch Butterfly and hold their annual Luncheon/Bingo fundraiser party.

Franklin Woman's Club will have "Broadway, Blooms and Baskets" featuring the singing florist on November 16 to benefit scholarships and GCI.

Friday Club-Hightstown will host a fundraising auction at Ely House, the historical society's home in Hightstown.

Hightstown Woman's Club will have Lisa Thibault of the Children's Home Society to speak about their organization.

Holland Township Woman's Club will take part in the Boscov's fundraiser and plan their fall craft show.

Kalmia Club sponsored a Blood Drive in partnership with their local Elks Club.

Metuchen Edison Women's Club will raise funds through the Boscov's fundraiser and their annual Comedy Night.

Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield will have their annual covered dish supper including a 50/50 fundraiser and clothing drive.

Women's Club of Tewksbury Township will have their "Bag Lady" tricky tray fundraiser.

GARDEN DISTRICT

schneider@njsfwc.org

Mary Schneider

Gloucester County Women's Club members donated themed "Birthday Bags" to a local Girl Scout Troop to help with their project. Members also donated "Birthday Cake Pans" to local food pantries. The pans include a 9 x13" pan with lid, cake mix, icing, can of Sprite soda along with candles and sprinkles.

The Haddon Fortnightly is preparing for their annual Gift Card Raffle with a prize of \$500 worth of gift cards.

The Haddon Fortnightly EMD is holding their "Annual Flea Market Treasures" fundraiser on October 18th.

Marlton Woman's Club members will dress in costumes to hand out treats at the Evesham Township Trunk or Treat. Their Fall Bingo and Basket fundraiser is sold out. Stockings for the Troops will be delivered this month.

GARDEN DISTRICT (continued)

The **Woman's Club of Merchantville** will hold a Card and Games Party on October 8th with proceeds going to their Education and Libraries Community Service Program. The club is collecting handbags filled with items a woman typically needs and will donate them to organizations that assist women in need.

Monroe Township Women's Club targeted the age group of 12-18 and members donated \$4,957.00 worth of new clothing items to help children still waiting to have a permanent home. These items were delivered to Gloucester County Family Services.

Woman's Club of Mullica Hill is sponsoring a Fall Craft and Vendor Show on October 11th to benefit local causes and charities.

Porch Club of Riverton is getting "*All Shook Up!*" with Mark Reno's Tribute to the King – Elvis Presley Fundraiser at their club house on November 14th.

Woman's Club of Penns Grove-Carneys Point held another successful Mum Sale and will be holding their annual Sub Sale.

Woman's Club of West Deptford will hold their annual Basket Raffle on October 26th. Members continue to help out as aides four (4) half day sessions per month at their local elementary school.

The **Woman's Club of Westville** is hosting a Designer Bag Bingo on October 17th.

The **Woman's Club of Woodstown** members are busy packing "Blizzard Bags" for their county's "Meals on Wheels" program and starting to write Christmas cards to take to the Veterans' Home in Vineland.

Contemporary Club of the Garden District will hold their bi-annual meeting on October 29th. All former Juniors who currently belong to a Garden District Woman's Club are welcome to attend. Email Mary Schneider, VP/Membership at maryeschneider@comcast.net

Ex-Presidents' Club of the Garden District will hold their bi-annual meeting on October 2nd. All past/present club Presidents are welcome to attend as long as they have served a full year as President and belong to a Federated Woman's Club in the Garden District. Email Carol Ward, VP/Membership at cw4811.cw@gmail.com for info.

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

Woman's Club of Belvidere held its successful 95 anniversary celebration on September 20th.

Long Valley Woman's Club hosted and provided refreshments for the September 10th Highlands District Council.

Hopatcong Woman's Club: In September, tickets for the 50/50 Fall into Money raffle were available for \$10 each; proceeds to fund high school scholarships; drawing in November. Collected school supplies for the two elementary schools in Hopatcong. For GFWC's Sept 27 Day of Service, they provided bracelets and a photo backdrop for DASI to use when visiting schools to educate students.

Long Valley Woman's Club is collecting plastic for a TREX bench for the community. For their September General Meeting, they had a program on Human Trafficking co-sponsored with the Washington Twp Library.

Woman's Club of Newton: In October, they will be gathering food for Thanksgiving meals for needy families. They will be preparing for their Annual Red Stocking luncheon to be held in December; proceeds to be donated to two Sussex County food banks.

Woman's Club of Denville Rockaway Area completed the Federation President's 130 Book Collection Challenge, collecting 270 books and donating them to Dierdre's House (Children's Alliance organization), JBWS, and Nourish, NJ. Club members are working in the Nourish, NJ kitchen, preparing food for the needy as well as donating nonperishable items.

HIGHLANDS DISTRICT (continued)

Roxbury Woman's Club participated in Succasunny Day in September to gain more members. They are hosting a Puppy Yoga fundraiser in October and walking as a team in the October 19th Alzheimer's Walk.

Sparta Woman's Club: In September, they kicked off the Operation Holiday Stocking project. They are holding their Annual Game Day to be held on October 15th; tickets now available.

Thursday Morning Club raised \$183 in a Panera fundraiser. They are holding workshops to make items for the Member's Craft Table for their major fundraiser, Le Bazar de Noel, to be held November 14th and 15th. The Bazaar will feature over 20 vendors plus gift baskets, with gift cards and restaurant gift certificates.

Washington Woman's Club: In September, held its Annual tricky tray event, their major fundraiser. Collecting nearly new pocketbooks filled with essentials for woman in the Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Crisis Center. Preparing for their 100th Anniversary celebration, an Afternoon Tea Party, with entertainment by The Singing Florist, October 12, at 1:00 p.m.

LIBERTY DISTRICT

The **Woman's Club of Allwood** 12 members held a Denim Day which resulted in a \$100 donation to Start Up Fresh Intervention Advocates. This summer they held a Potluck Summer Picnic in August with a luau theme.

The **Woman's Club of Arlington** will continue their baby shower for the Salvation Army and a collection of household items for the Roots and Wings supply closet. In August they held a summer social at a local restaurant. The EMD held a backpack collection for Kearny students and will collect hats/gloves for the winter.

The **Woman's Club of Belleville** held a clothing drive the end of September. They also held a book drive for local schools and collected school supplies.

The **Woman's Club of Berkeley Heights** stenciled and painted plain bags to contain door prizes for their October fundraiser.

The **Women's Club of Caldwell** helped children make dragonfly magnets at their booth on National Night Out in August to foster relations between police and the public.

The **Montclair Women's Club** took a NYC civil rights Walking Tour of Greenwich Village followed by lunch at North Square Restaurant. This past spring, they kindly hosted the Liberty District June Council In 100-degree heat!

The **Roseland Junior Woman's Club** held a Food Drive at the West Caldwell Shop-Rite that collected non-perishable food, personal products and cleaning supplies for the Roseland Food Pantry. They also have ongoing monthly collections of clothes and household goods that are donated to local shelters and safe houses.

The **Woman's Club of Upper Montclair** will celebrate its 125th Anniversary on October 4. A celebration is planned for October 1st. They'll be hosting a Blood Drive on October 2nd and a Benefit Luncheon for the Human Needs Food Pantry/Montclair Emergency Services for Hope on October 22nd.

The **Woman's Club of Verona, Inc.** will hold its garage sale this month.

PALISADES DISTRICT

drogo@njsfwc.org

Janet Drogo

Book and Needle Club of Oradell will hold an evening meeting as a Meet and Greet for the community to learn more about their club.

Woman's Club of Carlstadt is having a "Mrs. Roper Night" on Saturday, October 18th with light refreshments and a DJ.

PALISADES DISTRICT (continued)

Cresskill Woman's Club held a successful fundraiser at the Tri-Valley Restaurant benefitting the NJCA.

Woman's Club of Dumont will hold a fundraiser every Tuesday in October at the Tri-Valley Restaurant in Dumont

Woman's Club of Englewood hosted a "Bar-B-Que" Potluck with a variety of food provided by members.

Woman's Club of Haworth will take part in Hawthorne day with a table providing info about their club.

Woman's Club of Lyndhurst, the founder of CBH Cares, will receive the 2025 Spirit of Caring award in recognition of their enduring support and generosity over the years.

Woman's Club of Maywood is having a craft/vendor fair on October 25th.

Woman's Club of New Milford will support the Dumont Public Library fundraiser by donating a gift basket for kids with toys, books, games, and puzzles.

North Arlington Woman's Club will host their breast cancer gathering for survivors and thrivers and hold a food drive to the local pantry.

Norwood/Northvale Woman's Club will celebrate 50 Years of Giving with Grace on October 1 with a light dinner and NJSFWC Friendship.

Woman's Club of Old Tappan will sponsor the town ragamuffin parade on October 25 at Oakes Park.

Woman's Club of Paramus will have an Antique Roadshow and Paint and Sip fundraisers.

Woman's Club of Ridgefield Park we hold a cake sale on October 11-12 at Saint Francis Church.

Woman's Club of Rutherford will hold their Annual Pumpkins in the Park.

Woman's Club of Westwood took part in the GFWC International Day of Service.

RAMAPO DISTRICT

witty@njsfwc.org

June Witty

Pompton Lakes Woman's Club: Will hold a Potluck Dinner in which each member brings a dish enough for 5-6 people and everyone shares. They will be reviewing bylaws and familiarizing new members with them and distributing their Yearbook.

Woman's Club of Ramsey will host a podiatrist to talk about our foundation, our feet and the toll we place on them.

Junior Woman's Club of Ramsey will host Touch a Truck at the Town's Halloween Family Market and plan a Progressive Dinner for Club members.

Suburban Woman's Club of Pompton Plains plans on having a booth at their Town's annual Hoe-Down. The Club will hand out Save a Life cards and have cards for the public to decorate to send to our soldiers and residents of the Fireman's Home. In addition, they have hand made a quilt that will be raffled as a fundraiser.

Montville Township Woman's Club will be holding Fish-n-Chips and preparing items needed for stockings for Veterans and collecting items for Operation Smile. This Club will also have a booth at Montville Day, a town event, and participate in Trunk or Treat.

Saddle Brook Woman's Club will be preparing for their Tricky-Tray including gift card framing and basket assembling. They will also be participating in Trunk or Treat and collecting items for Veteran's stockings.

Pines Lake Woman's Club will have a speaker on Emergency Preparedness to discuss emergency evacuation and natural disasters.

SHORE DISTRICT

osborne@njsfwc.org

Karen Osborne

The **Belmar Woman's Club** will be delivering Christmas stockings to Headquarters for Operation Holiday Stocking. They will be having an Anniversary Luncheon to celebrate their 111th year.

The **Woman's Club of Brick Township** is taking part in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends, participating in the Brick Craft Fair, and having a Murder Mystery Fundraiser at the Grenville Inn.

The **Woman's Club of Brielle** will be holding a Luncheon Basket Raffle at the Lobster Shanty. They are looking forward to an active, productive fun year with day, evening, and Juniorette clubs.

The **Woman's Club of Colts Neck** will have an indoor yard sale and will be busy preparing for their annual Veteran's Day Luncheon.

The **Woman's Club of Little Silver** will be teaming up with the Veteran's Watchmaker Initiative in Delaware who provides Watchmaking training support and employment referrals to disabled veterans. The club has donated 21 watches to this Initiative. They continue to collect sneakers to keep them out of landfills.

The **Woman's Club of Matawan** is preparing for their Farm to Table Harvest Dinner with a 50/50 Raffle and Basket Auction on Sunday, November 9th. Tickets are \$30. Monthly Games Luncheons are continuing the third Wednesday of the month from 11-2 p.m. Items for the Veterans at Menlo Park are being collected.

The **Woman's Club of Point Pleasant** will be holding a sit-down dinner fundraiser to benefit their Cuddly Comfort Dolls for Alzheimer patients. They are also having a two-day Flea Market fundraiser.

The **Woman's Club of Spring Lake** will be in costume distributing candy on their main avenue for Halloween. They will partner with the VFW and Spring Lake Borough for their Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony and Luncheon, with women veterans from SoldierOn. Members will take part in the County Beach Sweep. Their Scholarship Luncheon will feature the Singing Florist, a basket raffle, Super Raffle with prizes over \$300 and a 50/50 with winnings up to \$4,000. All are welcome.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

speechley@njswc.org

Carole Speechley

The **Woman's Club of Absecon** began the club year with their annual appetizer and dessert festival. Two Holiday Stockings were filled for our military. Members participated in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends with a table there to sell tickets and advertise their club.

The **Women's Community Club of Cape May** created another scarecrow, which is proudly displayed at the Physick Estate's Scarecrow Alley for the entire month of October. Members supported the Fallen and their families at a stop on NJ's Run for the Fallen. Their October program is Healthy Bones Chair Yoga.

Members of the **Colony Club of Ocean City** participated in their town's beach clean-up. One of their annual fundraisers is this month at Randazzo's Pizzeria. They participated in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. You will find them at OC's Welcome Night later this month.

The **Woman's Civic Club of Hammonton** participated in the GFWC Day of Service collecting toiletries and nightgowns for a woman's shelter and supplying information about teen dating safety to local guidance offices. At their October meeting they'll discuss breast cancer symptoms, treatment and supporting women after diagnosis.

The **Millville Woman's Club's** International Luncheon will have a speaker from the NJ Children's Alliance. Their popular Meatball Sandwich Sale is this month, as is a Game Day and Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. Early Voting for Cumberland County residents will be held at their clubhouse.

The **Woman's Club of Vineland** partnered with Rowan College to hold a Project Clothesline on their campus for GFWC Day of Service. The club provided t-shirts, fabric paint, etc. Students helped that day and also collected toiletries for the County Safe House. They're holding their 3rd Meet the Author Night, spotlighting local authors and holding a winter clothing drive for Code Blue and a homeless shelter.

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

As the leaves turn and the air becomes crisp, October breathes new life into our creative spirits. No other season greets us with more colors than autumn, making it a perfect season for arts and crafts. Here are some things to try and places to go.

Autumn Leaf Mandalas: Remember taking an autumn walk in grammar school, collecting your favorite colorful leaves, and pressing them in wax paper? A grown-up version is a Mandala, which is a circular design that can be very intricate. Get out in the crisp air and gather dried autumn leaves. Arrange the leaves in circular patterns and use markers to draw added details. Feel free to use the waxed paper, but you can also press your creation in a glass frame.

Craft Your Own Cozy Scarves: Autumn is a great time to meet up in a knitting or crocheting circle. Bring your yarn, needles, and a warm drink and craft cozy scarves to keep warm during the chilly months. Teach some new members. Think about charities that can use your warm handmade items!

Spooky Wreath Workshop: Can you teach new crafters how to create a wreath for Halloween? Storm the Dollar Store for supplies and hold a workshop to make your members' front doors inviting to little goblins, witches, princesses, and superheroes.

Artsy Autumn Things to Do in New Jersey**Grounds for Sculpture, Hamilton**

Sign up a group to visit this captivating outdoor sculpture park. Witness art in nature and enjoy a guided tour that will spark ideas for future projects. Make reservations for a lovely lunch. Hurry! They fill up fast.

<https://www.groundsforsculpture.org/>

Food, Music, and Art Festival, Sussex County Fair Grounds - October 19th

Come in costume. Boo-tiful vendors, crafters, Beer Garden, Live music, and Kid's Zone. It's a fantastic way to support local talent and find inspiration for your own projects. Have fun.

<https://www.scribblegardencafe.com/sussex-haunted-harvest.html>

Harvest Festival at the Farm, Johnson's Locust Hall Farm, Jobstown NJ

Join a community celebration featuring hayrides, apple picking, and craft activities for families. Bring your children or grandchildren along for an unforgettable day in the beautiful autumn countryside.

<https://www.johnsonsloucthallfarm.com/fall-harvest-season/>

October is not just about crafting and creating; it's about community, connection, and collaboration. Let's take this opportunity to enjoy the beauty around us and share our talents with one another. As always, be sure to share your ideas and experiences at your meetings. Happy crafting!

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

October is National Arts and Humanities Month - a great opportunity to celebrate creativity and cultural expression. Started by the National Endowment for the Arts and Americans for the Arts, this celebration evolved from National Arts Week in 1985, to National Arts and Humanities Month in 1993. It has become a time to celebrate the importance of arts and culture in American society and encourage participation in creative activities.

Here are some specific ideas for celebrating National Arts and Humanities Month both in our clubs and within our community.

- A club can request a proclamation from local government to officially recognize National Arts and Humanities Month
- Work with local media to promote events and activities happening in your local area.
- Share information about NAHM and club celebrations on social media using #NAHM;

ARTS/PERFORMING (continued)

- Use a guide to thoroughly and intentionally engage across cultures in your community.

Last year the Arts Performing Committee of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair sponsored a Celebration of Italian Heritage featuring Marylou Romano, artistic director of Coro D'Italia and founder of D'Italia Programs, a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and celebrating Italian American Culture. Marylou told folk stories specializing in Italian traditions of song, dance and costuming. She demonstrated her knowledge of Italian drumming and dance and encouraged audience members to participate in singing and dancing. To end the program, Italian pastries and cannoli cake were served.

Lastly, clubs can partner with other organizations to host events or promote each other's activities. Some possible Arts and Humanities focused ideas include attending performances such as concerts, or a play; taking a class; supporting nonprofits; organizing a fundraiser to support a local arts program or learning a new art form or cultural tradition.

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

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week will take place between November 16th-22nd this year. It is a national event that helps to bring awareness and combat issues regarding food and housing insecurity. Their website offers a daily suggestion of events under the Resources tab (although it is geared toward students, it contains ideas for programs, fundraising, and volunteer opportunities). Colleges and Universities across the nation create programs and hold events each year to help raise awareness, educate, and advocate with students and community members to address this issue each day through the week. Please check with your local schools to see what programs they are holding and how you can participate with them. Create your own event that week by sponsoring food or clothing drives with your local school, create backpacks for the homeless packed with socks, hats, gloves, a blanket, toiletries, and food and snacks to be donated to homeless shelters or another homeless organization. Several other organizations in New Jersey participate with events and need help with donations of items and volunteers at various locations. You can go to these websites for more information on local events:

Hunger & Homelessness Awareness Week: hhweek.org

Community Foodbank of New Jersey: cfbnj.org

Center for Food Action: cfanj.org

Office of Homelessness Prevention: <https://www.nj.gov/dca/dhcr/offices/dhcrohp.shtml>

Information on organizations in your county is available under the Homelessness Prevention Program tab.

Don't forget:

- Tuesday November 4th is Election Day so get out and vote!
- Veterans Day Tuesday November 11th!
- Operation Holiday Stocking drop off days: Tuesday October 28th, Saturday November 1st, Tuesday November 4th, and Tuesday November 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 12 Noon.

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM
murdock@njsfwc.org
Joan Murdock
BETWEEN THE PAGES BOOK CLUB!

This new program is open to any individual club member and/or your club's book club. You can choose any book from any genre!!! YES, any genre!!!! AND you will receive a Between The Pages Book Club certificate at your District Spring Council when you complete reading books in one of these categories...

Category 1: 1-10 books read; Category 2: 11-20 books read; Category 3: 21 and over books read

You must Submit a small review of the book you have read. (See the Education and Libraries website for report form and more details.)

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES (continued)

All you need to do is register with this Chairman at murdock@njsfwc.org.

Creative Projects;

This Chairman would like to share another one of this year's top ten projects in Education and Libraries.

The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River Book Club decided to continue their book club through the summer months. To make it interesting the hostesses paired the book discussion with décor and snacks appropriate to the theme/settings of the books. Every month they had a cuisine linked to the book they were reading. For example, members prepared Chinese food for ***Lady Tan's Circle of Women***, Indian Food for the ***The Widows of Malabar Hill***, Seafood for ***Remarkably Bright Creatures*** and a watermelon carved like an elephant for ***The Lioness***.

After reading ***The Midwife of Auschwitz*** they toured the Holocaust Museum in Rockland County and toured Edgar Allen Poe's Cottage in the Bronx after reading ***The Tell-Tale Heart***. Each December they end their meeting with a holiday book swap.

Reminder about Spelling Bee's. A decision was made by the State Executive Committee not to sponsor any District and State Spelling Bees. Any individual clubs who would like to continue to hold a club bee can do so. Information on holding a club bee is located on the NJSFWC website, under Education and Libraries, Materials, Spelling Bee. *If you have any questions, please email this Chairman.*

ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

bernice@njsfwc.org

Dorothy Bernice

There have been many questions about dried flowers being used in arrangements for Achievement Days 2026, since we are no longer using plastic flowers. If there are dried flower entries, the District Chairman may add that to any of the existing flower categories. Many have asked about how to preserve the arrangements. Many utilize hairspray or a more expensive dried flower spray. There is really no difference between the two, but you should use one.

There cannot be enough said about trying to limit how much each of us personally use plastic. A 2024 study published in Nature Magazine examined brain tissue from autopsies and made the discovery: The average middle-aged adult has a plastic spoon's worth of microplastics dispersed throughout their brain. In fact, the brain has more microplastics than any other organ! This was a 50% increase from the amounts found in brains examined in 2016. Research links the effects of microplastics to inflammation, insulin resistance, reproductive issues, cancer, stroke and dementia. These little specs absorb heavy metals like mercury, lead, and arsenic, then bring them deep into our tissues and organs.

Scientists around the world are trying to combat this problem. China researchers have created robotic fish that can collect particles in polluted oceans. Other scientists are working on natural detoxifiers to bind plastics in your gut and escort them out of your body through normal digestive processes. These will take time so we have to help by reducing the use of plastic.

Try cutting back on using plastic containers, cooking utensils, and cutting boards. Never heat food in plastic. Choose natural fabrics for clothes and décor. Try getting a water cooler so you don't need all those water bottles. Eat fiber to detox pathways.

We are not helpless in the fight against plastics; every choice you make to use less plastic is a choice to keep your family microplastic free. Scientists will keep working toward a solution and we will carefully keep our choices away from plastic. It is one thing that the global community is committed to work together to combat so take a step to work with them.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

chambers2@njsfwc.org

Katie Chambers

Another way NJSFWC clubs can support a wider GFWC initiative is through Operation Smile, a non-profit medical organization that provides free cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries to children and adults in low and middle-income

HEALTH AND WELLNESS (continued)

countries. They also offer comprehensive care related to cleft conditions, including nutrition, dentistry, speech therapy, and psychosocial support.

After receiving surgery, each child receives a Smile Bag, the perfect gift to cheer up a healing child. Smile Bags are filled with small personal care items as well as toys, stickers and a mirror to see their new smile. Community volunteers can collect personal care items and sew cloth Smile Bags. Find a list of needed items and instructions to sew the bags on the NJFWC website under Materials → Health & Wellness.

And for a little more inspiration, here are two more of Top 10 Most Creative Projects to inspire your own club's activities:

West Deptford Women's Club (Garden District)'s annual Spring project is their pocketbook collection, during which they collect gently used pocketbooks and fill them with personal supplies like shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, hairbands, gum, tissues, pens, and notepads. This year, 44 bags were put together and donated to a local clothing closet to be handed out on an as-needed basis.

Gloucester Women's Club (Garden District) partnered with Mothers Matter, part of the Lauren Rose Albert Foundation. This all-volunteer charitable organization provides single mothers or mothers who are struggling with a challenge (like serious illness) by giving them beautiful bags of toiletries, notebooks, puzzles, and special items to brighten their day. Members spent a few evenings assembling 75 bags.

October's exercise tip for Let's Get Moving: Remember, we count more than just traditional "workouts" toward your Let's Get Moving hours. Certain acts of service can count too! Putting together meal prep kits is a simple, hands-on way to help those in need while also getting yourself moving. Choose nonperishable items like canned vegetables, pasta, rice, beans, and shelf-stable protein to create balanced, ready-to-cook meal packages. The process of walking the grocery store aisles, lifting bags, and loading your cart can add up to a light workout, making your shopping trip good for both body and soul. Once assembled, deliver your kits to a local food pantry or community center to make an immediate impact.

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN

dimatties@njsfwc.org

Marie DiMatties

Among other things, **October is Cyber Awareness Month.**

While at the GFWC Convention this summer, this Chairman attended a Junior Special Program Advocates for Children Workshop. The presenter, David Coffey, is the Regional Manager of the [Safe Surfin Foundation](#).

[Safe Surfin' Foundation](#) is a 501c3 whose goal is to inform, educate, and equip everyone with safe technology practices. It partners with numerous organizations including GFWC.

Since 1998, they have gathered many **valuable resources** to help equip school administrators, law enforcement, parents, student peers, and others in the community—fighting against the bad influences that can be hidden within digital platforms.

The Foundation provides numerous resources such as an *Internet Safety Handbook for Parents* and *Think Before You Send*.

Since October is Cyber Awareness Month; this Chairman encourages you to search their website (safesurfin.org) to familiarize yourself and others about the many tools offered by this organization to help stop cybercrime in our communities.

COMMUNICATIONS

rothstein@njsfwc.org

Shelley Rothstein

Thanks again to all the clubs that submitted reports on their 2024 Communications activities! Last month this Chairman shared half of the ten most interesting communications initiatives from 2024 so you can find ideas and inspiration for your next project. Here are the rest!

COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

1. **Women's Community Club of Cape May (Southern District)** invites the photographer from the local news magazine, Exit 0, to their December and May luncheons to take photos which are then published in the next issue of the magazine.
2. **Bridgewater Woman's Club (College District)** Using skills acquired after attending the NJSFWC Canva workshop, a member designed an attractive, basic meeting agenda handout to give to guests who are attending a club meeting for the first time. The Collect is included so guests can follow along during the reading, so they feel welcomed and included.
3. **Women's Club of Caldwell (Liberty District)** uses a free non-profit Google account, which allows them to have designated emails for all board member and committee Chairman. They no longer need to give out their personal email for club communication. The Google drive is used to store club documents such as reports, newsletters, membership information and meeting minutes. This documentation is helpful when a new Chairman assumes a position as they have access to all prior documents and information needed for the position.
4. **Woman's Club of Boonton (Highlands District)** purchased business cards containing pertinent club information. Members distribute the cards when interacting in the community.
5. **The Haddon Fortnightly EMD (Garden District)** purchased ad space on two Big Belly Trash Cans located in their downtown area. Events such as their Snowflake Run, Lego Contest and Casino Night have been advertised. This prominent display has helped generate interest in the club's programs.

GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT: DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION

hill@njsfwc.org

Claire Hill

As the weather gets colder and the holidays approach, think of those in battered shelters. Here are some ideas:

- Check your shelters to see if the children need warm clothes. Ask for sizes for coats/jackets. Or have a mitten and scarf drive.
- Does the shelter need some decorating for the holiday season? Remember October, November and December have many holidays and decorations can help bring a cheerful atmosphere.
- Put together a large 'care package' to help bring comfort for the shelter residents. Tea, coffee, hot cocoa, Vaseline, electric candles, pretty napkins, soup packets, chap stick, Vicks, packages of cookies or baked goods, throat lozenges and other small items that can be shared is always welcome.
- Cozy pajamas for moms and kids and maybe a bedtime book are also ways to give families some needed cozy time.

HISTORIAN

quilici@njsfwc.org

Randi Quilici

Marijane Singer served as NJSFWC President from 1978 to 1980. A member of The Valley Contemporary Woman's Club in Park Ridge, she brought a focus on action and achievement to her administration, guided by the theme: *"The Future Is Today."*

Recognizing the Federation's long-standing commitment to children and its historic connection to Douglass College, President Singer chose the **Douglass Developmental Disability Center** as the **Special State Project**. The center provided specialized education for autistic children and offered valuable hands-on experience to more than 100 Douglass College undergraduates each year.

At the time, the school operated out of a trailer, with plans underway for a new building on campus. Construction, furnishings and educational materials were urgently needed. Affectionately known as **"The Teddy Bear Project,"** this initiative was launched with a heartfelt commitment to making a meaningful impact. Club women from across the state enthusiastically joined the effort, working together to raise the necessary funds. More than 7,000 proud members wore Teddy Bear stick pins in support of the cause. The campaign was a remarkable success, raising over \$126,000. Today, the Teddy Bear pin from this inspiring project is proudly displayed in our **Pin Collection at Headquarters**.

HISTORIAN (continued)

Support and promotion of Federation Headquarters was a top priority for President Marijane Singer. It is the only State Headquarters built on a university campus symbolizing the strength of the Federation. The artistic rendition of Headquarters became a part of all stationary, note paper, calendar, date books, and the cover of the New Jersey Club Women magazine.

The Federation's long-standing ties to Douglass College and Rutgers University were honored and further strengthened on **June 20, 1979**, when the **Rutgers University Board of Trustees elected Mrs. Singer as their Chairman**. She became the first woman in the 213-year history of the university to hold this prestigious position.

Additionally, to commemorate the Federation's 85th Anniversary, President Singer introduced a special publication titled ***From the Beginning – A Page of History***, a paper-bound book celebrating the organization's journey. Every Woman's Club was invited to contribute its history for inclusion, and more than 300 clubs responded. The result was a rich and diverse collection of stories, creating a meaningful record of the Federation's enduring legacy.

The Top Ten Projects for 2024 are full of exciting ideas. Here are three that could inspire your club.

1. The Pines Lake Woman's Club, consisting of 17 members, enjoys listening to podcasts, particularly those by Heather Cox Richardson, a history professor at Boston College. They also appreciate her daily email series, "Letters from an American."
2. The History Committee of the Marlton Woman's Club, which has 35 members, takes turns presenting reports at monthly meetings. Each presentation highlights a woman of the presenter's choosing, sharing her story with the club members.
3. The Long Valley Women's Club reached out to family, friends, and social media to gather the names of local women who have served or are currently serving in the military. After compiling their names and branches of service, the club featured this information in their newsletter and on their Facebook page to recognize these valiant women.

HONORS CHAIRMAN

fairchild@njsfwc.org

Cheryl Fairchild

Clubwomen are busy with many activities during the fall, which makes it a good time to start thinking about recognizing members for their outstanding contributions by nominating them for Honor Roll or Order of the Lily.

- This year's Honor Roll and Order of the Lily recipients will be honored in April at their District's Spring Conferences instead of at the NJSFWC Convention in May.
- It is our hope that more members will attend their spring conferences to honor their clubwomen.

The deadline for the form and the check to be sent to the NJSFWC Headquarters is March 1, 2026. Questions can be directed to Cheryl Fairchild at fairchild@njsfwc.org.

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS

wisner@njsfwc.org

Jacqueline Wisner

Congress has shown active support for several of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) signature legislative priorities in recent sessions, especially around domestic violence prevention, online child safety, and justice for survivors.

The latest updates on VAWA (Violence Against Women Act) funding reveal a concerning shift: proposed budget cuts for fiscal year 2026 that could significantly impact survivor support programs.

At a June 2025 Senate Appropriations Committee hearing, Senator Susan Collins pressed Attorney General Pam Bondi about a proposed 30% reduction in funding for the Office on Violence Against Women—from \$713 million in FY 2025 to \$505 million in FY 2026. These cuts would affect several critical programs such as Transitional Housing Assistance, Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP), Rural Victims Program, and STOP Grants (which fund coordinated responses among law enforcement, prosecutors, and victim services)

LEGISLATION/RESOLUTIONS (continued)

Attorney General Bondi acknowledged the importance of these programs and expressed personal concern, noting her background in prosecuting domestic violence cases. However, she indicated that the proposed cuts may have been driven by broader budget constraints imposed by the Office of Management and Budget.

If you haven't already, now is the perfect time to sign up for the **Legislative Action Center** on the GFWC.org website. It's so easy to show your support for the GFWC initiatives, effortlessly contact your local and federal representatives and add your voice to the thousands who are standing up for the benefit of all!

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**hrycenko@njsfwc.org****Linda Hrycenko**

It's October and your club is working on exciting activities after a rejuvenating summer and busy September. Now is the time for your club to begin to think about nominating capable women to assume positions on the NJSFWC Board of Directors. Many board women will be needed to continue the work of the Federation for the 2026-2028 administration.

- Club presidents will soon be receiving important information in the mail about the elections in May. Please check your mail for the forms. Remember that the bylaw regarding the deadline for nomination submissions was changed to January 6th at the Convention.

Information about the nomination process will be available on the NJSFWC website under Materials, "Nominations/Elections", in the November addition of the ALMANAC, and in the yearbook. This Chairman wishes all clubs the best as they begin the nomination process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact this Chairman at hrycenko@njsfwc.com.

SPECIAL STATE PROJECT**shoemaker@njsfwc.org****April Shoemaker**

This Chairman is so proud and appreciative for all the support for The Special State Project Luncheon at the Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant on August 7th. The luncheon was a very successful fundraiser, and there was such a sense of sisterhood that is so much a part of this Federation.

This Chairman has been working with the New Jersey Children's Alliance for another project to benefit the children they serve. Further information will be coming in the next few months.

Just a reminder, we still have SSP pins at Headquarters for sale, \$5.00 each. There will be some at Council meetings as well at the State Fall Conference.

WEBMASTER**webmaster@njsfwc.org****Denise Hosier****Thirteen Tips for an Awesome Website**

Whether you have a club website or are thinking of creating one, here are some tips for a useful and attractive website:

1. Begin with clear navigation so people can easily find what they need. Make sure your navigation bar is at the top of every page, and you might want a "Quick Links" in the footer, as well.
2. Use standard conversational English. Be clear and concise, and watch out for those NJSFWC acronyms!
3. Stress the benefits of your club, but no hard sales pitch!
4. Your Home Page should contain the most important information, including meeting information, any upcoming events, and latest news. While your club history might be interesting to you, others are more interested in what's new.
5. Create unique pages for specific topics, like About Us, News, Events, Projects, Contact Us.
6. Keep your website up to date. If you can't update a News page at least monthly, don't include one. Remove Events that have passed, or turn them into news articles about your successes.

WEBMASTER (continued)

7. Let pictures help tell your story. That “million words” thing is so true!
8. Be sure to link your social media pages like Facebook, Instagram, and X.
9. The best layout is a main column with one or two sidebars. Very wide blocks of text are harder to read, and many even columns look too busy, making it hard to know what to look at first.
10. Don't use fancy fonts. They are difficult to read. Stick with clean, clear, basic fonts.
11. Make it easy for visitors to contact you. Be sure you have a phone number and email address in an obvious place.
12. Be sure to proofread. Typos and grammar errors are annoying and push some people away.
13. Check out other sites, find one you like, and emulate it in layout and style.

Don't forget, the Webmaster will be happy to help you set up a free website on Wix or a page on njsfwc.org. Just email webmaster@njsfwc.org.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSULTANT TO CLUBS dyrsten@njsfwc.org

Roberta Dyrsten

QUORUM: The key to transacting club business

A quorum is the minimum number of members who must be present at a meeting to validly transact business.

Robert's Rules of Order Newly revised, 12th Edition (RONR) specifies using a “**set number**” or a “**majority of the entire membership**” for a quorum. The requirement of a quorum is stated in the bylaws and serves as a protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the club by an unduly small number of members.

Using a set number is recommended, as it is the simplest, most efficient way to determine if a quorum is present. For example:

Majority of the entire membership - If the club has lost or gained members, and wants to start a meeting, it may be confusing or time consuming to try to figure out if you have a quorum present before you begin. You would need to determine the total number of your entire membership on that day (not just those in the room), divide by two, add one, and then count the number of members in attendance.

Set number - If you use a set number (*such as 20*) all you need to do is count the number of members in attendance.

Your club bylaws should define what constitutes a quorum for your club (usually in the Article pertaining to Meetings). Every club is different. A rule of thumb when deciding on the correct number for a quorum is to figure out the number of members you usually have at a meeting, (except in bad weather). Then subtract a few and that can be the quorum. Aim for a reasonable number that you are certain can be attained.