

GFWC MOUNT DORA WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.



KEY NOTES

Federation Motto: "In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity"

Suzanne Gibson
President

January 2025

Joanna Fox
Editor

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Open
Civic Engagement & Outreach

Kim Barnes
Environment

Cheryl Higgins
Education & Libraries

Open
Health & Wellness

Linda Urry/ Donna Kelly, CHs
Way and Means

Cathleen Arciero, CH
ESO Book Club

Cathy Kautz, CH
Hospitality

Joanna Fox, CH
Communications

Dear Members,

I raise my glass to you!

Here's to you for all you have accomplished this past year to make others' lives better.

Cheers!

Suzanne



JANUARY PROGRAM

ANNUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS CONTEST

Guest Speaker and Judge:

Darlin Barry
Managing Artistic Director
Sonntag Theatre
at the Icehouse

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Jan 1 New Year's Day
- Jan 3 Center Street Kitchen
- Jan 8 Luncheon & General Meeting
Registration 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Jan 14 MLK Senior Center
- Jan 15 ESO
- Jan 16 Walk n Talk
- Jan 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- Jan 29 Executive Board Meeting
- Jan 31 Center Street Kitchen



Our Purpose

We advocate because there is a need; we volunteer because we are needed.

GFWC club members are the heart of not only the Federation, but the communities in which they live and work. By *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, GFWC members transform lives each day, not simply with monetary donations, but with hands-on tangible projects that provide immediate impact. With a grassroots approach that often thinks locally but impacts globally, GFWC, its clubs and members remain committed to serving as a force for global good, as it has done since its formation.

With more than 60,000 members in affiliated clubs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, and encourage civic involvement.

Source: GFWC Headquarters Website

The General Federation of Women's Clubs is a nonprofit organization that brings together local women's clubs in a collective effort to strengthen communities and enhance the lives of others through volunteer service.



Community Service Programs



ARTS & CULTURE

Delores Deen and Donna Biba, CO-CHS

The committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month at Foxtail Coffee in Tavares (next to the Library). Our next meeting is January 9, 2025. Please join in!

The Arts & Crafts Competition is organized for our January meeting, January 8, 2025, with Darlin Barry from Icehouse Theater as our speaker and judge. Thank you to all the participants. We have 27 members, some with multiple entries, competing in 26 categories! What a great turnout!

The pattern for the March of Dimes Military Moms newborn and child hats is on our website, but you can be creative with your design - knitting or crocheting. We will collect them at our May 7, 2025 meeting for donation! It's a great way to use up all your odds and ends yarn and a great cause!

Signup sheets are available at every meeting for ushering on select Ice House Theater dates. It's a great opportunity to help this wonderful organization AND see a wonderful theater production!

Submitted by Dee Olive



EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Cheryl Higgins, CH

The committee had our first meeting and conducted brainstorming to identify projects and activities that we should consider for 2025.

The GFWC focus areas are Adopt a School and Support High-Quality Early Learning. The activities in partnership with the Mount Dora Library will continue with the team focusing on the March book drive as the next project.

For Education, the following opportunities were identified:

- class volunteers
- school supply drive in January
- supply drive for Apple Mart
- funding for teachers to prep classrooms
- scholarships for underprivileged kids field trips or summer camp
- funds for underprivileged students to participate in school book fair
- establish partnerships with an elementary school.

During our January meeting, the specific activities will be identified and planned to move forward.



ENVIRONMENT

Kim Barnes, CH

The January Environment CSP meeting will be held on Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. The location to be announced.

The Hidden Cost of Convenience: The Environmental Toll of Paper Towels

In the U.S. alone, it is estimated that around 13 billion pounds of paper towels are used each year, which requires the harvesting of about 100 million trees. The production process consumes substantial natural resources, including over 2.5 billion gallons of water and millions of kilowatt-hours of energy.

Kim's Story: My household has cut our paper towel usage in half by utilizing Swedish washcloths which can be washed in the dishwasher or washing machine. Each cloth can replace up to 15 rolls of paper towels. I bought 12 for under \$8.00 at Costco.

BRING YOUR USED BATTERIES TO THE JANUARY MEETING



All batteries smaller than a grapefruit are acceptable (single-use, rechargeable, phone, button batteries, etc.).

The Environment CSP will collect and ensure they are recycled or disposed of properly.



The site of our January Walk n Talk will be Hidden Waters Preserve. The 90-acre site, formerly known as the Eichelberger Sink was acquired by the Lake County Water Authority to protect a sinkhole lake at the center (Lake Alfred) which drains slowly into the aquifer. The outer edges of the preserve are sandhill restoration areas with long-leaf pines and abundant gopher tortoises.

We will meet on Thursday, January 16, 2025, starting at 9:30 a.m., at 1600 Country Club Road, Eustis (gravel parking lot across from the intersection with Country Club Drive).

High socks and closed-toe shoes are recommended since the path is sandy. No restrooms and unfortunately no dogs.



WAYS & MEANS /FUNDRAISING
Donna Kelley and Linda Urry, CO-CHS

There are many exciting opportunities on the horizon with Ways and Means for 2025! We are looking forward to the New Year with game day in late January or early February. The details to follow, but be thinking of BLINGO!

The Mad Hatter Tea Party is still scheduled for April 11, 2025, the venue to be determined. Start working on your Hats!

Late April or early May we are working on the first annual Pickle Ball Tournament!

Our next meeting will be January 22, 2025, at the library.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

Donna & Linda



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Volunteers Needed

AARP TaxAide provides free tax preparation and services. Anyone can use the service regardless of age or income. Tax return preparers as well as non-technical positions are available. No prior tax knowledge is necessary. There is a formal process for registering to volunteer, training and certification. Training for new volunteers starts in January. To register go to <https://www.aarp.org/volunteer/programs/tax-aide/> and answer the personal questions. You will then be contacted by a local representative.

Contact Judy Streeter at [redacted] for more information.



MEMBERSHIP
Therese Haberle, CH

Welcome New Members! Diana Johnson and Cristie Kern! And thank you Judith Shepp and Cathy Kautz for bringing them to us!

And, Rumors to the contrary, I am NOT clairvoyant. If you move, change your phone, number or your email, please send me a note so I can start the updating process with the Directory.



ESO
Cathleen Arciero, CH

Happy New Year!!

Our next ESO book club meeting will be on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. at the library.

We had a fun read over the holidays so come and share your favorite authors.

Cheers,

Cathleen



HOSPITALITY
Cathy Kautz, CH

Thank you to those who made it to the festive hospitality meeting at the library. We all brought something to share — yummy! We also did an easy gift gingerbread craft bag.

As we talked about memories and traditions, we all had memories to share with the dish we brought. Thank you to Cindy Bennett for sharing her grandmother's zucchini bread recipe (see page 4). Memories that we pass on are so important.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

If you know of a club member going through a rough patch and could use some TLC, i.e., a ride, to the doctor, help with meals, a call, or a visit, please let a Hospitality/Sunshine Committee member know so we may bring some sunshine their way. Contact Cathy Kautz at [redacted].



Correspondence Secretary
Gina Conway

If you know of anyone who needs a ray of Sunshine, please send me their name and address so I can contact them with a note from MDWC.



Announcements



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Uta Pergler	1/05
Wilma Weidman	1/12
Barbara Shaffer	1/13
Cecilia Santos	1/13
Judy Knizner	1/19

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Diana Johnson
Cristie Kern



ASHLEY'S HOUSE PROJECT 2024-2025
Jerry Hardwick, District 7 Point Person

Happy New Year Everyone!

Fundraising will continue for Ashley's House through 2025 and until May 2026, and hopefully, there will be participation from other GFWC Florida - District 7 Clubs. It would be wonderful to see each club join together and work as hard and have the great experience that occurred at Mount Dora Woman's Club in 2024.

In the meantime, as this is a 2-year commitment we will press on with new ideas to come. Please submit any ideas you have either to the Ways and Means team or directly to me.

Grandma Pepicelli's Zucchini Bread Recipe Submitted by Cindy Bennett

3 eggs beaten with 1 cup of oil. Mix well with spoon.

Add:

2 cups sugar
2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Stir in:

2 cups shredded zucchini
1 8 ounce can crushed pineapple, drained

Add:

3 cups flour
2 teaspoons baking soda

Mix and add:

1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon cinnamon
3/4 teaspoon nutmeg

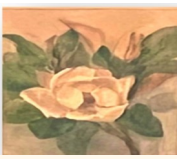
Add:

1 cup raisins
1 cup nuts (pecans or walnuts)

Grease 2 loaf pans, add ingredients and bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour. Cool bread for 10 minutes before releasing the loaves.




The time you spend
VOLUNTEERING
is a gift of love
that will always
be remembered



Announcements

December 2024 Meeting Festivities



Chorus Line

Pictured from left: Gail Mahan, Violet Nagy, Lori Steuter, Marisha Ramsay, Dee Olive, Irene Rosenberg, Kim Barnes, Betty Smith, Delores Deen, Flo Fenneman, and Cathy Kautz



Reindeers

Pictured from left: Dana Rogers, Tracy Draper, Donna Kelly, Linda Urry, Jerry Hardwick, Stephanie Gradford, Kathryn Wilgus, and Cathleen Arciero.
Not shown: Barbara Little



Sugar Plum Fairies

Pictured from left: Alison Horvath, Diane Cole, Diane Scott, Joanna Fox, Cecelia Santos, Maureen Melvold, and Gina Conway



Angel Tree Donations for Foster Children through Guardian ad Litem

Pictured from left: Denise Mulcahy, Roseanne Miller and Connie McMaster from Guardian ad Litem



Christmas Tree

Pictured in front row: from left: Stephanie Haimes, Sharron Semento, and Judith Shepp. Second row from left: Diana Johnson, Karin Pierson, Barbara Phillips, Cheryl Higgins, Diane Capetola, Gail Newton and Kathleen Drotar.