

# 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

November 2024

**Joanna Fox**  
Editor

## Board Of Directors

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Arts & Culture

**Open**  
Civic Engagement & Outreach

**Open**  
Environment

**Open**  
Education & Libraries

**Kim Barnes, CH**  
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,

This past month, we have braved storms, personal and family illnesses, and personal tragedies. Despite these burdens, we have continued to invest our time, talent, and treasure in volunteering, serving, and participating.

As we welcome November, I want to say, "Thank you for your giving".

You are truly the best!

Suzanne

## NOVEMBER PROGRAM

**Ashley's House**  
A Transitional Resident Dedicated To Empower  
Female Veterans



Guest Speakers:

**Marie Bogendorf**  
Founder, Villagers for Veterans

**Kathryn Wilgus**, Vice President

Hosted by **Jerry Hardwick**  
District 7 Point Person

## Fall Orientation

- Can you name the 5 "CSPs"
- Who is June Jane Croly?

If you are not sure of the answers, please plan to attend the Fall Orientation, Tuesday, November 12th, 10:30 a.m. to noon in the Community Room at the W.T. Bland Library. Please RSVP to Therese to save your seat. Thanks.

## NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 6 Luncheon & General Meeting  
Registration 11:30 a.m.  
Lunch at Noon  
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Nov 1 Center Street Kitchen
- Nov 11 Veterans Day
- Nov 12 Fall Orientation
- Nov 14 Trivia Night
- Nov 18 Walk n Talk
- Nov 21 Festival of Trees
- Nov 27 Executive Board Meeting
- Nov 29 Center Street Kitchen

The GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club invites you to:

## Trivia Night

A Benefit for the GFWC Florida Flight to Honor

Join the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club for an Exciting Game of

Military and American History Trivia:

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Doors Open at 6:00 pm \* Trivia Starts at 7:00 pm



**Whiskey Kitchen**  
315 N. Highland Street  
Mount Dora, FL 32757



\$20.00 Donation per person

For more information and to purchase tickets visit our website at [gfwcmw.com](http://gfwcmw.com)

**Cash Bar and Food Available For Purchase**

Get ready to test your knowledge and have a blast with fellow history enthusiasts! Whether you're a trivia buff or just looking for a fun way to spend an evening, this event promises to be both educational and entertaining.

Bring your friends, family, and competitive spirit for a night of fascinating facts, friendly competition, and fantastic prizes. Let's celebrate our rich history together and support a great cause! Mark your calendars and join us for a memorable trivia night.

Established in January 2015, Flight to Honor Polk honors United States military Veterans by transporting them to Washington, DC, to visit the war memorials erected to honor their service. Based in Polk County, Florida, the mission is a one-day event departing from Lakeland Linder International Airport early in the morning and returning in the evening.

GFWC 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. GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club is a 501(c)(3) organization.

November is the time to be thankful, a time to remember, and to embrace those who enrich our lives.



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# Community Service Programs



## ARTS & CULTURE

Delores Deen and Donna Biba, CO-CHS

The "Small Art with a Big Heart" canvases supporting breast cancer awareness in Lake County were auctioned at Artisans Mt. Dora on October 11, 2024. We proudly had 13 entries from our club and look forward to even greater participation next year in this worthy cause.

To get you in the Christmas spirit, we are organizing a trip to the 38th annual Festival of Trees Tour on November 21. Sign-up sheets will be available at our November meeting. We plan to depart around 11:00 a.m. Please let us know if you need or can provide a carpool. Admission is \$12 for seniors and \$20 for adults, which includes entry to the Orlando Museum of Art! Lunch will be on your own. For more information, contact Maureen Melvold.

Our Arts & Crafts Competition is scheduled for our January meeting on January 8, 2025. Darlin Barry from Ice House Theater will be our speaker and judge. We have already received several project commitments following our October meeting and are looking for more! For more details, contact Dee Olive.

We have a fun idea to delight children of all ages by painting and hiding pebbles with inspirational images and messages around Mount Dora. More information will follow.

At our last meeting, Maureen Melvold discussed our participation in the March of Dimes Military Moms newborn and child hats donation. Patterns will be available on our website, but you are encouraged to knit or crochet whatever your heart desires! Hats will be collected at our May 7, 2025 meeting, so start now – it's a great way to use up all your leftover yarn!

In the spring of 2025, we will participate in the Empty Bowls charity event to benefit Lake Cares Food Pantry. We will make soup bowls at Yada Yada Pottery to donate and then attend the event!

As usual, we have sign-up sheets at each meeting for ushering on select Ice House Theater dates. This is a wonderful opportunity to support this great organization and enjoy a fantastic theater production!

Submitted by Dee Olive



## HEALTH & WELLNESS

Kim Barnes, CH

The first official meeting of the Health & Wellness committee will be held on Thursday, November 14th from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the W. T. Bland Public Library, and on the second Thursday of the month thereafter.

I would ask committee members to bring their ideas to the meeting regarding disease awareness and prevention, nutrition, and physical and emotional care. We will also talk about a spring field trip.

I would like to spotlight something relevant to Health & Wellness available in the community, "Elevate Your Health: The Health Empowerment Expo" to be held at Lake Square Mall, 10401 US 441, Leesburg on November 30th. This free community event will include panel discussions about improving overall health, fitness classes, local vendors, prizes, and giveaways.

November 3rd is Zero Tasking Day. This is celebrated on the first Sunday in November. Zero Tasking Day encourages us to dedicate the extra hours from setting our clocks back to ourselves, enjoying peace and quiet, and appreciating our environment and life.

November 21st is the Great American Smokeout, a day earmarked to encourage people to quit smoking. This special day is not just a calendar event; it is a beacon of hope for many, shining light on the possibility of a healthier future.

November is recognized for several health awareness campaigns:

- National COPD Awareness Month
- National Men's Health Awareness Month
- American Diabetes Month
- National Family Caregivers Month
- National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month



## 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.





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

Our Ashley's House Yard Sale was a great success, raising approximately \$5,400, for a transitional residence dedicated to empowering female veterans, which is currently under construction. Thank you to all members who donated items, made Christmas wreaths and baked goods for sale as well as to all volunteers who helped with setup, sales and cleanup. Additionally, thank you to Suzanne and Terry for allowing us to have the yard sale on their property.

With the yard sale successfully behind us, the Ways & Means/Fundraising Committee is excited to announce our next event--Trivia Night. On November 14th we will be hosting "Military and American History Trivia" at Whiskey Kitchen, located at 315 N. Highland Ave, Mount Dora. The tickets are \$20.00 per person. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and Trivia will start at 7:00 p.m.

While waiting for the Trivia to start, enjoy delicious food and drinks available for purchase from Whiskey Kitchen. This fun-filled evening will benefit the GFWC Florida Flight to Honor. Bring your family, neighbors, and friends. There is plenty of room for everyone! Reserve your table now on our website.

After this event, we will be planning some entertaining games leading up to our "Mad Hatter Tea Party" in April. We welcome your suggestions for fun activities. Linda and Donna are eager to hear your ideas for a fun afternoon or more.

Donna Kelley, Co-Chair



**ESO**  
Cathleen Arciero, CH

The next ESO Book Club Meeting will be on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, at 1:30 p.m. at the Mount Dora Library Archives room. Our group reads are "Ashley's War" by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon and "The Chosen" by Chaim Potok. If you have not read the books, no problem. Come and have fun and share your favorite author!! See you soon. Cheers.

Cathleen

**Did You Know?**

Our Federation song is "Suwanee River"



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

How fortunate we are to work together in fulfilling our commitment to raising significant funds through our annual October Yard Sale in support of Ashley's House. The dedication and effort from so many of you have been truly remarkable, and we've had such a wonderful time in the process!

A special thanks to the members of Ways and Means (Fund Raising) for their exceptional organization of this event. This year, we have several exciting additions, including:

- Expanding the yard sale to two days
- Enhanced marketing efforts targeting local merchants, including veteran and women business owners
- Eye-catching flyers, notices, and signage
- Handcrafted Christmas decor items made by our Club members
- A special surprise for all attendees, courtesy of Villagers for Veterans

Thank you to everyone for your hard work and enthusiasm. I am confident this will be a fantastic event in support of Ashley's House. A heartfelt thank you to Suzanne and Terry for graciously hosting the event once again.



Eustis Roofing is under contract to complete the roof.



**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

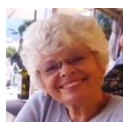
If you know of a club member going through a rough patch and could use some TLC, i.e., a ride, to the doctor, help with meals, a call, or a visit, please let a Hospitality/Sunshine Committee member know so we may bring some sunshine their way. Contact Cathy Kautz.



# Announcements



Judy Streeter  
Lori Steuter



Maureen Melvold

Maureen is a vibrant and dedicated member of our club who joined us in 2022. She has actively contributed her skills to the Education, Arts & Culture, and Hospitality committees. She also volunteers for a Prayer Shawl group, serves as President of her HOA, and is a member of the Country Club of Mount Dora Woman's Club.

Maureen is a 5th generation California native who moved to Florida in December 2020. Professionally, she spent 30 years in elementary education as a teacher and principal.

She has been married for 61 years to her high school sweetheart, Dave. Together, they have two children and two grandchildren.

In her free time, Maureen loves to cook, sew, knit and is learning to crochet. She also enjoys the theatre and music. Above all else, Maureen loves to travel and has visited over 90 countries with France being her favorite.

She has explored all 50 states in her first 50 years of marriage - a testament to her adventurous spirit and love for exploration.



**A Note from**  
Roseanne Miller, Treasurer

Dear Club Members,

We are excited to announce that our club is again participating in the Guardian ad Litem Angel Tree program this year.

This program helps provide Christmas gifts for children who are under the care of Guardian ad Litem, a court-appointed advocate for children in legal proceedings. These children have experienced abuse, neglect, or abandonment, and often face uncertainty and hardship in their lives. They need our support and compassion, especially during the holiday season.

That is why we are asking you to join us in this wonderful opportunity to make a difference in their lives. At our luncheon this month, you will find an angel tree decorated with paper angels. Each angel has a wish list from a child.

We invite you to take an angel from the tree and purchase the gift that the child requested. Please **DO NOT WRAP** the gift but be sure to attach the angel to it. Then bring it back to the **December 4th** Luncheon. We will deliver the gifts to the Guardian ad Litem office, who will distribute them to the children.

By taking an angel from the tree, you are not only giving a gift, but also giving hope, joy, and love to a child who needs it. You are showing them that they are not forgotten, and that someone cares about them.

We hope you will join us in this meaningful and rewarding project. Together, we can make this Christmas a special one for these children.

Thank you for your generosity and kindness.

**WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS**



Susan Moore  
Violet Nagy



Trimble Park will be the site of the November 18th Walk n Talk. The day change to Monday is due to a conflict with the Festival of Trees.

We will meet at 9:30 a.m. at the first parking lot next to the main office on the road to the right of the main gate directly after you enter the park. For more information and directions to the park search Trimble Park, Trimble Park Road, Mount Dora.

# Announcements



“Flaming Bingo” . A Fundraiser benefiting LovExtension. This was a GFWC National Day of Service project.



Members of the Way & Means and Hospitality committees gathered at a Christmas wreath crafting event hosted by Jerry Hardwick to create wreaths for the Ashley's House Yard Sale Fundraiser. All participants crafted beautiful wreaths, with special recognition given to Betty Smith and Nancy Kennedy for their exquisite bows.

## GFWC FLORIDA—The GFWC Structure



At the heart of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) lies a vast network of dedicated members spanning across all 50 states and 14 countries. GFWC Florida proudly stands as a pillar within this global community, with 189 Clubs and 14 Districts contributing to our Federation's worldwide presence.

The GFWC Southern Region, one of eight regions within the Federation, plays a pivotal role in advancing our shared mission of community improvement through volunteer service. Encompassing Clubs in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, South Carolina, Aruba, and Belize, the Southern Region boasts over 10,000 member dedicated to making a difference.