

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

February 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 Kelley, CHs
Way and Means

Cathleen Arciero, CH
ESO Book Club

Cathy Kautz, CH
Hospitality

Joanna Fox, CH
Communications

Hey Ladies,

As February rolls around, we often celebrate St. Valentine's Day and President's Day, honoring the likes of Washington and Lincoln. Have you ever wondered what Valentine, George, and Abraham have in common, besides being notable figures and men?

Most importantly, all three tried their best to make other people's lives better by offering them a hand-up.

Now, what do we have in common? We are all incredible women! More importantly, we also extend a hand-up to others. By embracing the spirit of volunteerism, we touch the hearts of many. Can you feel the love?

Be My Valentine!

Suzanne



FEBRUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

- Feb 5 Luncheon & General Meeting
Registration 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Feb 6 Guided tour of Ethel
- Feb 7 Center Street Kitchen
- Feb 11 MLK Senior Center
- Feb 14 Valentine's Day
- Feb 17 Presidents Day
- Feb 20 Walk n Talk
- Feb 26 Executive Board Meeting

FEBRUARY PROGRAM

Balance in Our Life

Presented by Guest Speaker and Member

Tracy Draper

Hosted by the Health & Wellness Committee

"Show Your Love"

Blingo
BINGO

Thursday * February 13, 2025 * 12-3 PM

The Dog House
201 West Ruby Street
Tavares, FL 32778

\$15.00 at the Door AND bring a gift wrapped old (or new) piece of costume jewelry and join in the fun!

RSVP at gfwcmdwc.com/#blingobingo or by scanning the QR Code

JEWELRY PRIZES FOR EVERY ROUND!!
50/50 DRAWING



Hosted by the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club
With Proceeds Benefiting

The Forward Path Organization
A non-profit organization helping homeless youth and those who age out of foster care.

GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club is a not for profit organization that supports our community. We are a proud member of the GFWC Florida Federation of Women's clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

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

Our next committee meeting will be held on February 13, 2025, at the Dog House following our fundraiser, Blingo Bingo.

The Arts & Crafts Competition was held during our January 8th meeting with Darlin Barry, Managing Artistic Director of The Icehouse Theater, as our speaker and judge. What a great turnout and so many talented artists and crafters – and Darlin did not disappoint with her rendition of Patsy Cline favorites! We had 34 submissions with 20 going on to District on February 8, 2025 in Orlando. All winning entries are featured in this month's newsletter! See pages 5 and 6.

We are planning a fun project we are calling "On the Rocks" in April (and beyond?). Simply put, we will be painting small rocks and "hiding" them around Mount Dora for kids of all ages to find and keep or re-hide. The fun part is that we plan on hosting happy hour painting session(s) and all members, and potential members, are invited to socialize and paint, dates TBA. All supplies provided. We are seeking donations of acrylic paints, paintbrushes, paint palettes, etc. We will collect the art supplies over the next few meetings.

A reminder, the pattern for the March of Dimes Military Moms newborn and child hats is on our website, we will collect them at our May 7, 2025 meeting for donation.

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!



Members of the Arts & Culture Committee who organized the beautiful display of arts and crafts. From the left: Donna Biba, Dee Olive, Gail Mahan, Delores Deen. Guest Speaker and Judge, Darlin Barry.



ENVIRONMENT

Kim Barnes, CH

The Environment Committee meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the W.T. Bland Public Library. Please feel free to join us at our next meeting on February 13, 2025.



Outing February 6th at noon

Ethel, once a whistle-stop hamlet along the Sanford and Lake Eustis Railway, faded into the history books in the late 1900s and today is part of the beautiful Rock Springs Run State Reserve. Please join us for a guided tour of the Lost Town of Ethel led by Don Philpott, the author of The Amazing Story of the Lost Town of Ethel. It will be a 1.5 to 2-hour walking tour at a gentle pace, with frequent stops. Half sun, half shade. The trail is sandy so wear comfortable shoes. A sign-up sheet will be available during the February luncheon.

Directions:

Meet at 11:45 to carpool from the Neighborhood Lakes Scenic Trail & Trailhead at 26656 County Rd 46A, Sorrento, FL 32776. Or meet us in the park between the bathrooms and the horse barn. The entrance to the Rock Springs Run State Reserve is on Wekiva River Road (accessed via SR 46).



REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE

Batteries: 362 batteries were collected at the January luncheon and delivered to Staples for recycling. Since the initial collection was so successful, we will continue collecting at each meeting. Any type of battery is accepted as long as it is smaller than a grapefruit.

Curious about how batteries are recycled? Watch the process in action in [this video](#).



Plastic Bags: Trout Lake is continuing its efforts to receive a bench for every 1000 pounds of plastic bags recycled. Most any type of plastic bag is acceptable as long as it is dry, clean, and free of food residue. We will have a collection bin at every meeting.

Paper: We will collect paper tubes (paper towel, toilet paper, wrapping paper) and donate them to Trout Lake for crafting into binoculars. We will have a collection bin at every meeting.





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

Many sparks are coming from the Fundraising Committee!

In the coming months, there will be plenty of opportunities to SHOW YOUR LOVE and support our community.

Blingo Game Day Rescheduled: Due to the busy holiday season, we've decided to cancel the January Blingo Game Day. But don't worry! It's been rescheduled for Thursday, February 13, 2025, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. at the Dog House. The cost is \$15.00 and a piece of bling. Lunch will be off the menu. Let's come together and show our love for Forward Path.

Mad Hatter Tea Party: Mark your calendars for April 11, 2025! Join us for a "non-traditional" tea party at the Methodist Church on 5th Avenue. Our storyteller, Louise O'Leary, will share delightful tales of etiquette lessons from her aunt, including the art of the little pinky. More details to come. Show your love for the Christian Care Center by attending this unique event.

First Annual Pickle Ball Tournament: We're in the early planning stages for our first annual Pickle Ball Tournament this spring. Stay tuned for more details. This event will benefit Ashley's House and the veterans living there.

Our next meeting is on February 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the W.T. Bland Public Library. We hope to see you there!



EDUCATION & LIBRARIES
Cheryl Higgins, CH

The Education and Library Committee had our second meeting and defined our initial priorities. The next step will be to get the proposed projects approved by the Board. The initial events/projects include providing support for the Environment CSP Rock Springs Run event, March Book Drive, and School Supply Drive for Apple Mart. We are also looking to identify partnerships for education and will be reaching out to Sorrento Elementary School as well as Lynn Gonzalez from W.T. Bland Public Library.

Our committee would like to have two additional members. If you are interested or have questions, please reach out me.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Tax Season is Here.

Free tax service is available through the AARP Tax-Aide Program for tax filers of all ages and income levels. It is the nation's largest free tax preparation program and has served Lake County residents for over 40 years. Volunteers are trained and IRS certified annually.

The Mount Dora Location has appointments available as late as 6:00 p.m. to accommodate more working families. Please share the information with friends and family.

Appointments can be made by calling 352-727-4125.

Judy Streeter



MEMBERSHIP
Therese Haberle, CH

Please welcome Stephanie Gradford, our newest member! Thank you Kathryn Wilgus for bringing her to us!



HOSPITALITY
Cathy Kautz, CH

Our next Hospitality meeting will be on February 11, 2025. We will create centerpieces for the March meeting and begin creating centerpieces for the Mad Hatter Tea Party to be held on April 11, 2025.

I would ask everyone to bring a tea cup and saucer if possible. In addition, a glue gun would be helpful



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



Cathleen Arciero	2/12
Tammy Amirault	2/21
Barbara Phillips	2/21
Karin Pierson	2/26

TO OUR NEWEST MEMBER



Stephanie Gradford



Hi Everyone! Just a friendly reminder about our upcoming February Business Meeting and Luncheon! For our newer members, I wanted to share a quick note about our reservation policy. To join us for lunch, please make your reservations and payments through our website. If you'd prefer to pay by check, that's perfectly fine too—just check out the instructions on the website.

We'd love for you all to join our business meetings, whether or not you're grabbing lunch. These meetings are a great chance for us to connect and discuss important club matters. If we're voting on something, your presence matters, and we want your voice to be heard! Looking forward to seeing you there!

Roseanne Miller
Treasurer
roseannemo51@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed! If you're interested in being featured in our "Spotlight On" newsletter section, please reach out to Laura Gibson at .



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

I would not want to say that our activities regarding support for Ashley's House are on pause, however, through the winter months there is an emphasis on our meeting our obligations for the GFWC State Project, Flight of Honor. While both projects are to honor women veterans, they are separate projects.

Please be assured that your interests in Ashley's House have not been forgotten. As an example, a group met yesterday at Ashley's House to discuss an early Spring open house offering members the opportunity to add their signature and good wishes to yet uncovered wooden studs while enjoying light refreshments!



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 .



The February Walk n Talk will be held on February 20, 2025, at Hickory Point, in Tavares at 10:00 a.m. (paved/boardwalk). We may do a few loops depending on the group's time and energy . Please sign up at the February luncheon or text Kim Barnes at .



Our dedicated volunteers at the MLK Senior Center. Pictured left: Gina Conway, Denise Mulcahy, Delores Deen, Diana Scott, Roseanne Miller, Diane Cole and Flo Fenneman.

Announcements

GFWC Florida Arts and Crafts Competition GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club First Place Winners



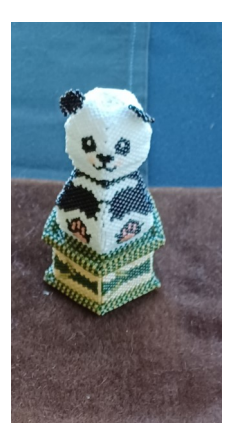
Gail Mahan - Seahorse
Mosaic
Hand built



Dee Olive - Blue Morpho
Necklace - Jewelry
Bead weaving w/ needle



Dee Olive - Wire Weave
Pendant - Jewelry
Metal



Dee Olive - Panda
Trinket Box
Beadwork



Gail Mahan - Beach Cottage
Painting - Wood, Clay, Glass, etc.



Kim Barnes - Train Case
Decoupage



Lynn Kirman Shell Heart Wall
Hanging - Natural Materials



Diane Cole - Summer Wreath with
Shells - Wreaths all Occasions



Maureen Melvold - Sweater Pullover
Knitting Clothes



Maureen Melvold - 5 Pumpkins
Knitting



Announcements

GFWC Florida Arts and Crafts Competition GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club First Place Winners



Diane Cole - Bureau Runner
Hand Embroidery



Lynn Kirman - Child's
Alphabet Sampler
Cross Stitch



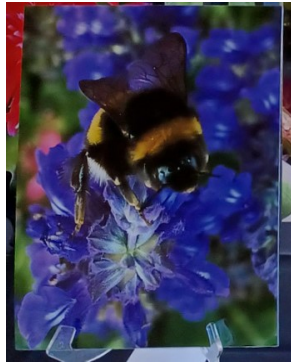
Cristie Kern - Gears
Quilt
Quilting



Uta Pergler - Painting on
Canvas
Painting - Acrylic



Donna Kelly - Four
Seasons
Mixed Media/Collage



Suzanne Gibson
Bumble Bee
Photography Up Close



Karin Pierson - Sunset of Natural
Landscape
Photography Natural Wonders



Delores Deen
Great White Heron
Photography Reflections



Flo Fenneman - Landscape
Photography - Florida unique to
State



Cathy Kautz, Donna Biba, Linda Urry, Donna Kelley, Judith Shepp
GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club Scrapbook
Group Entries Any Craft