



KEY NOTES



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

Suzanne Gibson
President

December 2024

Joanna Fox
Editor

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Delores Deen/Donna Biba, CHs
Arts & Culture

Open
Civic Engagement & Outreach

Open
Environment

Cheryl Higgins
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 Sisters:

Wishing you the gifts of joy, peace, and love for this holiday season. Accept them graciously and hold them close to your heart.

Love you all,

Susanne



DECEMBER PROGRAM

Guardian Ad Litem
Guest: **Connie McMaster**




DECEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

Dec 4 Luncheon & General Meeting
Registration 11:30 a.m.
Lunch at Noon
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.

Dec 6 Center Street Kitchen

Dec 10 MLK Senior Center

Dec 14 Wreaths Across America

Dec 18 Walk n Talk

Dec 23 Executive Board Meeting

Dec 25 Christmas

Dec 25 Hanukkah


Please remember to bring your Angel Tree gift to our December meeting. Please do not wrap the gift, simply place it in a bag with the Angel Tree tag securely attached.

Our Angel Tree program focuses on providing gifts for children in foster care. These children often face challenging circumstances, and your generosity helps bring joy and a sense of normalcy to their lives during the holiday season. By participating, you are making a meaningful difference and showing these children that they are cared for and remembered.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this holiday season special for those in need. Your generosity is truly appreciated!

Merry Christmas,

Roseanne Miller and Denise Mulcahy





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 will be on December 12th. Please join in!

To get you in the Christmas spirit, we coordinated a trip to the 38th annual Festival of Trees Tour on November 21st in Orlando.

The Arts & Crafts Competition is will be held on January 8, 2025, with Darlin Barry from Icehouse Theater as our speaker and judge. We are looking for more participation, so if you haven't signed up yet, please contact Dee Olive. Signup sheets will again be available at our December meeting. Categories are posted on our website.

The pattern for the March of Dimes Military Moms newborn and child hats is now 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! Get started now - it's a great way to use up all your odds and ends yarn!

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



HOSPITALITY

Cathy Kautz, CH

Thank you to all who baked, volunteered and brought their talents to the Yard Sale .

We had many requests for the pumpkin chocolate chip cookies baked by Maureen Melvold; therefore, I have submitted the recipe for your baking pleasure. See page 4 for the recipe.

I want to thank the following committee members for creating the centerpieces and favors for our December meeting: Joanna Fox, Mary Groeller, Donna Kelley, Maureen Melvold and Faye Owens. You are the best!

The Hospitality meeting on December 10th at the Library will be a holiday brunch from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Please bring a small goodie to share. I hope to see my team there.



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Kim Barnes, CH

The December H&W Committee Meeting has been cancelled.

More hands are always welcome at Center Street Kitchen (1st and 5th Fridays). The next date is Friday December 6th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Karin Pierson leads our efforts at First Presbyterian Church, 117 South Center Street, Eustis.

Join Gina Conway on Tuesday December 10th from noon to 3:00 p.m. at the Senior Center (MLK Center) 803 Florida Avenue, Mount Dora, on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month.

AARP has a virtual community center with FREE interactive online events. The sessions include exercise classes, a healthy living series, and programs targeted for caregivers. <https://local.aarp.org/virtual-community-center/exercise-wellness/>

December 3rd is International Disability Day, or the International Day of People with Disability. The aim of International Disability Day is to encourage a better understanding of people affected by disabilities and to help make people more aware of their rights, dignity, and welfare.

December 11th marks the founding of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in 1946. The organization has gone on to do amazing humanitarian work, providing children around the world with essential things like clean water, medicine, and education.



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.



Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah

May your holidays be happy days, filled with love and laughter.

And may each day bring joy your way in the year that follows after!



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

Thank you for all your hard work. Linda and Donna truly appreciate each one of you.

Following our wonderfully successful "Yard Sale", we had a very successful Trivia Night at the Whiskey Kitchen on November 14th. The subject was "Military and American History." This fundraiser supports "GFWC Flight to Honor." Through this fundraiser we received donations totaling \$2,000, doubling our goal of \$1,000. We are very thankful for the support of both our community and our members who helped us achieve this goal.

Please let Linda or Donna know if you have any ideas for smaller fundraising activities before our "Mad Hatter Tea Party" in April. Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 18th at the Library at 10:00 a.m.

Linda Urry and Donna Kelley, Co-Chairs



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


Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the tremendous support for V4V - Ashley's House during the recent Annual Yard Sale.

Special thanks to Suzanne and Terry for hosting the event at their home, which was the perfect venue.

A heartfelt thank you to Linda, Donna, and the members of Ways and Means for their meticulous planning. I also want to express my gratitude to both our current and new Club members who generously volunteered their time to set up, take down, assist purchasers, price merchandise, and more.

Additionally, a well-deserved thank you to Kathryn Wilgus, now a GFWC-MDWC member, for the use of her 1st Lt. Ashley White wrapped red, white, and blue car and her invaluable consultation throughout the event.

We can be very proud that Ashley's House will forever be stamped with our name and generous donation.



Downtown Mount Dora will be the site of the December Walk n Talk on Thursday December 19th. We will stroll on Tremain and Donnelly to view the holiday decorations.

New starting point, Mount Dora Public Parking Lot, 225 N. Tremain Street.

We will start at 9:30 a.m.. If we have the time and the desire we can continue on down to Palm Island Park.

MEMBERSHIP MEMBERSHIP
Therese Haberle, CH

We are delighted to welcome 4 new members! Tracy Draper, Tara Machen, Kathryn Wilgus, and Charlotte Wilson have joined us this month! They bring our number to 70!

We had a very good turnout for the Fall Orientation (thank you attendees), and if you missed it, we will probably do another in March 2025. Our growth is best by "referral", so keep telling your friends and family about us.

As a PS, I just want to add how VERY grateful I am for all the cards, prayers, texts, emails, visits, and particularly, my "GFWC MDWC Sunshine Soup" over the last 7 months.



Check presentation to Villagers for Veterans representing funds raised through the yard sale for Ashley's House. Pictured are Charlotte "Sarge" Wilson, Marie Bogdonoff, Founder of V4V, Jerry Harwick, Kathryn Wilgus, Linda Urry, Carla Connelly, District Director, and Donna Kelley.

 **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



Maggie Ventura	12/21
Charlotte "Sarge" Wilson	12/21
Claire Holland	12/30



Dee Olive

Dee moved to Mount Dora in 2019 and joined the Mount Dora Woman's Club in 2023. She has served on the Environmental Committee and currently plays a vital role on the Arts and Culture Committee, where she is organizing this year's craft competition.

Dee's commitment to the community also has her serving as the Treasurer for the Lakes of Mount Dora Women's Club and she will soon begin volunteering, with her dog, Bella, who was recently accepted into the PAWS Therapy Program.

Dee is originally from New Jersey and enjoyed a career in Human Resources as a Compensation Advisor at FedEx and an HR Information Systems Manager at Miami Jewish Health Systems. She enjoys golfing, trivia, travel, and off-loom bead weaving. Dee also loves spending quality time with her cat Paul and her American Eskimo dog, Bella.

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Tracey Draper
 Tara Machen
 Vivian McGuire
 Dana Rogers
 Kathryn Wilgus
 Charlotte "Sarge" Wilson

Maureen Melvold's Pumpkin Chocolate Chip Cookies

- 1/2 cup butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp nutmeg
- 1 cup pumpkin
- 2 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 bag chocolate chips



Cream together butter and sugar. Add egg, cinnamon, nutmeg, and stir.

Add pumpkin next, then add flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt.

Stir in chocolate chips.

Bake at 350 degrees for 12 to 15 minutes.

2024 GFWC National Day of Service Breaks Records

The 2024 GFWC National Day of Service (NDS) tallied record-breaking results! Thank you to the 1,076 groups worldwide who contributed to our collective success. GFWC is pleased to report the following outcomes, which doubled from last year:

- GFWC members collected 221,142 pounds of nonperishable food
- Collected \$242,731 in monetary donations for food pantries and school feeding programs.
- Prepared 69,660 meals

Source: GFWC Headquarters News & Notes

Announcements



Club Members packed 200 groceries bags for seniors and disabled adults at LovExtension on Halloween. Pictured: Barbara Phillips, Linda Urry, Donna Kelley and Cathleen Arciero.



MLK Senior Center volunteers. Front Row: Flo Fenneman, Roseanne Miller, Mary Groeller. Back Row: Delores Deen, Denise Mulcahy, Betty Smith, Cecilia Santos, Kathy Honeycutt, and Gina Conway

Ashley's House Yard Sale Fundraiser



Pictured: Faye Owen, Cathy Kautz, and Cathleen Arciero



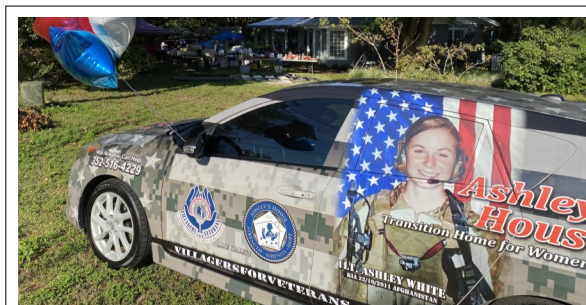
Jerry Hardwick



Betty Smith



Judy Streeter



Orientation Attendees. Pictured from left: Cheryl Higgins, Dana Rogers, Tara Macken, Gail Newton, Susan Moore, and Violet Nagy. Not visible: Susanne Matthews and Kim Barnes. Instructors not shown: Therese Haberle, Suzanne Gibson, and Roseanne Miller

Announcements

Trivia Night Fundraiser at Whiskey Kitchen



Seated at the front table from left: Denise Mulcahy, Roseanne Miller, and Delores Deen.



Co-Chairs of W & M: Donna Kelley and Linda Urry.



Seated at the front of the table on the left: Kathryn Wilgus. On the right : Charlotte "Sarge" Wilson.



Participants in Walk n Talk at Trimble Park: Alison Horvath, Kim Barnes, Uta Pergler, Suzanne Gibson, and Diane Scott



Festival of Light attendees: Suzanne Gibson, Delores Deen, Donna Biba, Dee Olive, Maureen Melvold, and Cathy Kautz.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

