



# NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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May 3, 2024

## The WHRC Celebrates 40 years



The GFWC Women's History & Resource Center (WHRC) celebrated its Ruby Anniversary yesterday at Headquarters. Founded on May 1, 1984, the WHRC was established as an extension of the GFWC with the goal of collecting, preserving, interpreting, and promoting the history of the clubwomen nationwide.

Guest speakers at the event included Natasha Dupee, Director of the Mayor's Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives, representing District of Columbia Mayor Muriel Bowser; Anna Laymon, Executive Director of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation; and Juanita Bryant, GFWC International Past President (1982-1984).

Dupee opened the event by reading a letter of commendation from Mayor Bowser for WHRC's 40th Anniversary and thanking GFWC for its dedication to the community: "I appreciate the hard work of the GFWC, and so admire the amount of dedication to our community demonstrated by each member and volunteer... a great example of the impact we can make when we get involved and work together."

Next, Joanna Church, WHRC Librarian, reflected on the impact of the WHRC over the past forty years, and shared letters of appreciation from former WHRC staff and researchers whose lives and work were influenced by their time here.

Afterward, Laymon of the Women's Suffrage National Monument Foundation gave a moving presentation on the push to build a monument on the National Mall that would recognize the women who advocate for women's right to vote and be counted.

GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and Church concluded the event by presenting Juanita Bryant with a commemorative key to the WHRC in appreciation for her role in bringing it into existence. Bryant thanked everyone for supporting the WHRC and the North Carolina contingency of clubwomen in attendance for traveling to Washington, DC, to celebrate this momentous milestone in GFWC history.

Other special guests in attendance were:

[Madeleine Bordallo](#), former Delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives from Guam and First Lady of Guam; GFWC International Past President Babs Condon (2014-2016); Suellen Brazil, GFWC President-elect; Wendy Carriker, GFWC First Vice President; and Mary Beth Williams, GFWC Secretary.

*Music by Kristen Jepperson, Harpist*



## 2024 GFWC Annual Convention: [Register Now - Closes May 20](#)

### Things you can do in May to prepare for your trip to Chicago.

- Exhibitors/Vendors/Attendees Registration Deadline: May 20
- Donate Raffle Prizes
  - Support the Windy City Raffle by submitting the [Raffle Donation Agreement form](#) by May 15.
- Book Your Hotel Room
- Buy Your Airline Tickets
- Register for the [Chicago Architecture Tour](#)
- Check the Dress Code for various events
- Purchase your [Golden Ticket](#) raffle entries!
- Read the FAQs page to answer all your questions

If you still have questions, reach out to GFWC Events Manager – [Nishu Raina](#)



## It's time for GFWC Junior Jeopardy! Saturday, June 29

Get ready for a night of fun with the GFWC Juniors as you answer trivia and race to win the title of GFWC Junior Jeopardy champion. Proceeds from the event will be donated to an organization chosen by the GFWC Juniors.

## Cares & Concerns

[Carol M. Buch](#), age 91, of Circleville, Ohio, passed away on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Carol was GFWC Ohio Director of Junior Clubs (1972-1974) and GFWC Ohio State President (1994-1996).

## The New GFWC Member Portal



Register now at [memberportal.gfwc.org](https://memberportal.gfwc.org)

Your current account information will be transferred to the new platform. ***All users will need to complete a one-time registration using their existing email on the new portal.***

Please read this [SUPPORT GUIDE](#) for assistance in creating your profile, downloading files from the Digital Library, and updating your profile information.

It can take 2-3 business days for GFWC staff to approve your profile. We thank you for your patience, as we are experiencing a high volume of requests as we make this transition.

\*If you do not see your club listed under your state federation during registration, please email [gfwc@gfwc.org](mailto:gfwc@gfwc.org) with your official club name and state federation so we can add it.

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## Make a Difference. Be a GFWC Mediator.

GFWC is now accepting applications for the GFWC Mediator Cohort of 2024 - 2027. GFWC Mediators will be selected to serve a three-year term. The Mediator application is available on GFWC's website. **The deadline to apply is May 31, 2024.**

GFWC Mediators serve the Federation as a team of consultants available to individual GFWC members, clubs, districts, and states. Mediators are active and committed GFWC members with experience, proven ability, and passion for membership and conflict-resolution issues.

Mediators are GFWC's eyes, ears, hands, and hearts in the field. With their personal experience and expertise as GFWC club members, combined with the specialized training they will receive in conflict resolution, problem-solving, parliamentary procedure, and organization building, mediators will be prepared to advise and work with members at every level of Federation. Mediators may be asked to:

- Resolve a difficult personality conflict within a club.
- Use parliamentary guidance to solve a procedural issue.
- Assist in organizing, promoting, and hosting a recruiting event.

- Help to build new GFWC clubs.

Mediators will be "on call" and available to work with GFWC members for as long as it takes to resolve a situation or achieve a mutually acceptable solution. They will participate in group meetings where they exchange information and problem-solving techniques, as well as support, encourage, and inspire each other.

### **Criteria for Applicants**

Serious consideration will be given to GFWC Mediator applicants who meet most or all of the following criteria:

- Have served as a GFWC club president or have comparable experience in other organizations;
- Actively participated in GFWC membership or leadership, related activities (i.e. served as club, district, state, or national chairman or committee member; organized a recruitment event; initiated positive change, etc.);
- Work or have worked in the fields of law, education, social services, human resources, and parliamentary procedure;
- Possess proficient computer skills with access to email;
- Ability to and willingness to travel (when and if necessary);
- Ability to fulfill a minimum three-year term of service;
- Have strong organizational skills, including patience and persistence;
- Have good listening, verbal, and written communication skills; and
- Are positive and passionate about GFWC.

**If you have questions about serving as a GFWC Mediator, contact Membership Director Melanie Gisler, at 202-347-3172 or [mgisler@gfwc.org](mailto:mgisler@gfwc.org).**

[Download an Application](#)

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## **Connecting Club Work to GFWC**

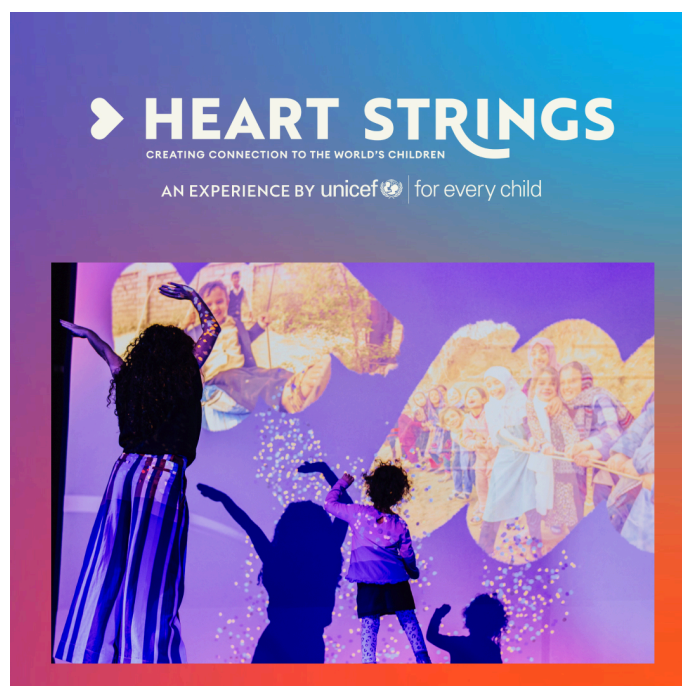
By: Nancy Ames, GFWC Membership Chairman

The General Federation of Women's Clubs offers its membership a sense of purpose, belonging, and guidance. Clubs across the country and the world take part in making a positive impact in their communities. Membership continues to grow, making it important to educate new members and remind existing members about the benefits of belonging to GFWC—to clubs, states, and the world outside their International organization. Consider dedicating one meeting at the beginning of your club year to the "Getting to Know GFWC" meeting.

A great starting point for all club members is to sign up for the newly updated Member Portal on the GFWC.org website. This portal provides easy access to the GFWC Club Manual, a comprehensive guide for all members, not just leaders. The manual covers every aspect of GFWC club work and includes program guides for Special Programs, Community Service Programs, Advancement areas, and contests. It's a one-stop resource for all your club's needs.

Within the Member Portal, you'll find a wealth of resources to support your club's growth and success. These include tools for membership recruitment and retention, leadership training, successful club programs, projects, fundraising, and GFWC templates ready for adoption and adaptation by your clubs. Additional online resources offered to members are the weekly GFWC News & Notes, quarterly GFWC Clubwoman Magazine, GFWC Advancements and Programs Forum on Facebook, Legislative Action Center, and GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.

Remember, this is just a glimpse into the power of connecting a club's work with GFWC. It's an opportunity to tackle leadership challenges, push members beyond their comfort zones, and create projects and programs that align with individual passions. Every member's unique contributions combine to form a force of like-minded volunteers, demonstrating the strength of unity. Together, we can be effective in our communities and make a powerful impact throughout the world.



UNICEF USA is excited to announce the launch of its multi-city, first-of-its-kind experiential event: Heart Strings, and invites its partners at GFWC to join the experience!

Heart Strings is an original experience that invites you to take part in UNICEF's impact by powering a universal song through interactive multimedia, lighting effects, and inspiring music.

During the experience, moving from room to room, guests will travel around the world in just 45 minutes, encountering interactive points along the way. Through various activities and dynamic visuals, visitors will learn about UNICEF's efforts to ensure every child is healthy, educated, protected, and respected.

Promising to forge human connections, Heart Strings is a multisensory journey that shines a light on the world's children, transcending borders, cultures, and languages to create a deeply moving and engaging experience for all ages. Heart Strings will be in Chicago June 15th – June 30th while so many of you are in town for the GFWC Annual Convention.

GFWC has provided critical support to UNICEF programs such as those reflected in Heart Strings, and this is a great opportunity to see the impact. Tickets range from \$18 - \$28, and there are special group rates for groups of 10+. Please contact Marisa Ferguson, [mferguson@unicefusa.org](mailto:mferguson@unicefusa.org), if you are interested in scheduling time for a group or a private tour.

Tickets for Chicago go on sale May 16th and are available at [heartstringsunicef.org](http://heartstringsunicef.org).

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**Volunteers in Action:  
GFWC Woman's Century Club (ID)**





GFWC Woman's Century Club in Nampa, Idaho, recently presented a check and gift cards worth over \$3000 to the Nampa Family Justice Center. Nampa Family Justice Center is comprised of dedicated advocates working with community partners to provide confidential services free of charge to anyone who has experienced domestic abuse/violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, stalking and human trafficking.

We thank GFWC Woman's Century Club (ID) for their work in partnership with the GFWC Signature Program: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Submit photos and a short story (4-8 sentences, who, when, what, where) about the awesome things YOUR club is doing in the community to [PR@gfwc.org](mailto:PR@gfwc.org).



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