



GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

STORIES FROM GFWC FAMILIES

Federation membership is a gift that may be passed on from generation to generation. Mothers, daughters, granddaughters, sisters, nieces, aunts, cousins, and in-laws share a passion for community improvement through volunteer service. Being a part of the same club, or another Federated club many miles away, has brought families together by sharing a common bond.

On the following pages, women of all ages and locales share their stories about strengthened familial ties and camaraderie through a common woman's club bond. GFWC is proud to be a part of your family's history.





LEGENDS AND LORE

Suzi Edwards, Virginia

My mother and I both enjoyed being involved in community activities. In 1965, a friend invited me to join the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Newport News (Virginia). The first project I led for my club was a citizenship essay contest for seventh graders, where club members awarded certificates and pins to the winners. Oftentimes, my mother and daughter would accompany me on these school visits. My mother was impressed by the students and the essays. At that time, in our schools, there were many students whose families had recently left Cuba for the U.S. and their stories were touching—family and friends left behind, difficulty with language and culture, and so forth.

As both my mom and I were only children, we hung out together quite a bit and shared friends, church, club work, and activities. My grandmother lived with my mom and dad in the adjacent town, and we were all together frequently. My mother and grandmother were both members of my club. Even though they have passed away my mom's photo is still on the Presidents Wall at the clubhouse. My grandmother had some interesting stories about her club work. For instance, she heard there was a flower show that was an important event at the club. She did not, however, hear the rule about having to grow or arrange the flowers yourself. She went to the premier florist in town, ordered their biggest arrangement, and when "her" entry arrived it was suitable for a Mafia funeral. It swept the show. None of that ikebana stuff for her! The other ladies were miffed, but we thought it was hilarious. I don't have a photo of her entry, but it is the stuff of legend and grows bigger with every telling. My husband's family lived in Newport News, too, and I often drove his mother to the club for meetings and luncheons.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Suzi Edwards

Mary M. Wright (grandmother)

Lucille W. Kates (mother)

Emma Edwards (mother-in-law)



GFWC: A WENGER FAMILY LEGACY

Anita Wenger Pfister, Kansas

Federation events have often been gathering places for the Wenger family. Our mother, Mae Wenger, joined GFWC soon after she and our father, Leon, moved to a farm near Powhattan, Kansas, in 1946. My two sisters, Barbara Wenger Strahm (Oklahoma) and Kathy Wenger Palermo (Missouri), and I are all active in Federated clubs. While growing up, my sisters and I participated in a variety of GFWC Kansas activities, including helping our mother prepare for hosting club meetings and conventions. Our mother served as president of both GFWC Kansas and GFWC Mississippi Valley Region, and was also a member of the GFWC Centennial Committee.

Our entire family, including our father, and brother, Richard, has supported each other's Federation activities. Attending GFWC Conventions became part of family reunions for several years. Sometimes one daughter would accompany our mother or both parents to Convention. In other years, a different daughter or two would attend. Barbara accompanied our mother and father to GFWC Conventions in St. Louis (1980); Bismarck (1982); and Cincinnati (1986). I traveled with our mother to GFWC Conventions in Houston (1985) and Nashville (1996), and joined both parents for the 100th Annual GFWC Convention in Washington, D. C. (1991). Other family conventions were in New Orleans (1998), Tulsa (1989) where Barbara helped with the event, and Kansas City (2002), where I was installed as GFWC Kansas State President and Kathy escorted our mom and dad. At the 2006 Convention in Denver, Kathy and I were there when Barbara received the prestigious Jennie Award from the GFWC South Central Region. Kathy and Richard attended the GFWC Centennial Convention in New York City in 1990, where our mother was installed as GFWC Mississippi Valley Region President. During her two MVR Region conferences, my sisters and I provided music, served as our mother's aides, and helped host. In 1997, we all attended the GFWC Convention in Phoenix, where our mother received the *GFWC Woman of Achievement* award for Kansas.

GFWC membership has been a priority for the Wenger family for as long as I can remember. During our mother's Federation years, she helped charter six new GFWC Kansas clubs. Following in my mother's footsteps, I am a charter member of three Kansas clubs. Barbara continues to present GFWC history and recruit new members. Kathy is a member of four GFWC clubs and helped organize the new GFWC Achieving by Reading Club in Missouri in 2008.

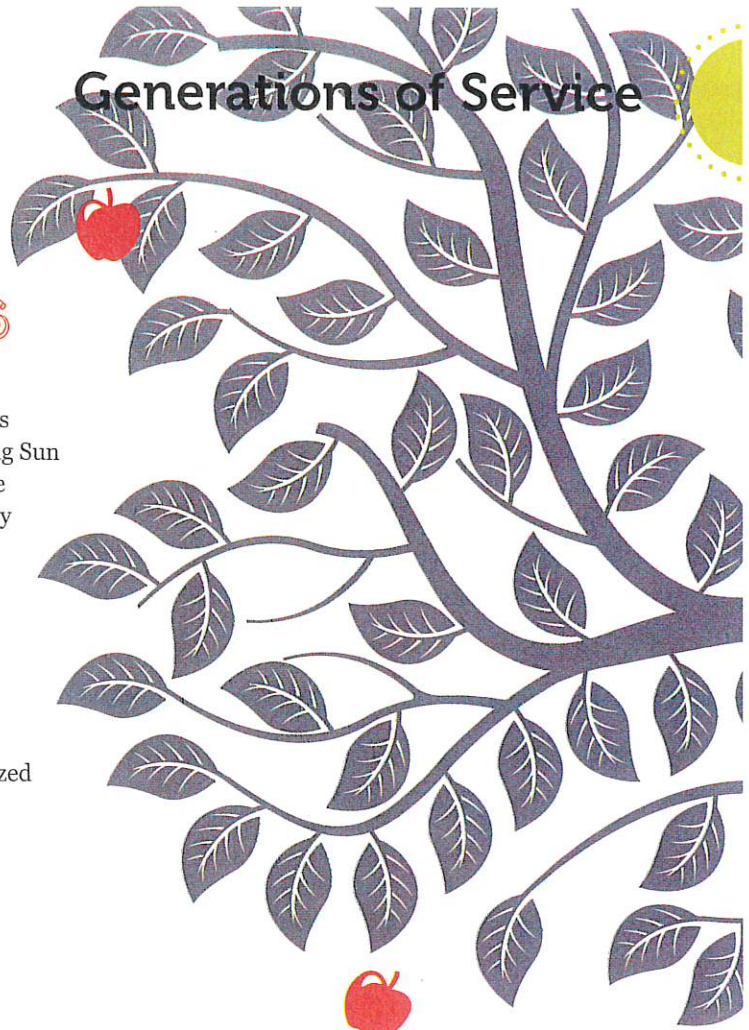
"Federation has truly proved to be a family legacy for the Wenger family from Kansas."

– Anita Wenger Pfister

Barbara, Kathy, and I served as International President Rose Ditto's (2008-2010) Honorary Assistants and President's Assistant, respectively. Our mother's story is documented in the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center archives. Go to www.GFWC.org/WHRC to read her complete narrative.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Mae Wenger (mother)
Barbara Wenger Strahm (sister)
Kathy Wenger Palermo (sister)



INSPIRED BY IN-LAWS

Patricia "Trish" Rodriguez, Delaware

GFWC has been a part of my husband's family for many years. His grandmother, Annie Coursey Conwell, organized the GFWC Rising Sun Community Club, while his great aunt, Lucy Conwell, founded the Avon Club of Felton as a literary club. Annie and Lucy's father (my husband's great grandfather), Charles Samuel Conwell, who was an authority on Shakespeare, suggested the name for the club in honor of the literary great when it joined the Federation.

In 1961, my mother-in-law, Elizabeth Conwell Rodriguez, encouraged me to join the GFWC Rising Sun Community Club. Now, my two daughters, Laura and Virginia, are active members of the GFWC Federation Guild Association, the club that I organized when I served as GFWC Delaware State President.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Elizabeth Conwell Rodriguez (mother-in-law)
- Annie Coursey Conwell (grandmother-in-law)
- Lucy Conwell (great aunt-in-law)
- Laura Rodriguez Burton (daughter)
- Virginia E. Rodriguez (daughter)

LIFE'S BLESSING AND PLEASURE

Diane M. Mitchell, Kentucky

My aunt, Juanita A. McShane, was the first one to show us the love of the GFWC Ossoli Club of Corbin (Kentucky). She joined the club in 1941, and remained active until her death in 1996, serving in each club office, including president.

Janice A. Miller, my mother, became a member 1960, and also served as club president, among other offices. I joined the club in 1980, and have also served as club president and in many other offices. My daughter, Christina M. Bentley, has been a club member for more than five years, and is currently serving as vice-president. Love of club work and community service certainly has been our legacy and I have found it a blessing and pleasure in my life.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Juanita A. McShane (aunt)
- Janice A. Miller (mother)
- Christina M. Bentley (daughter)

PERFECT 10

Sandy Stiltner, Virginia

I am delighted to be a part of a 10-member GFWC family. My mother, Betty Shields, inspired me and my daughters, Nikki and Catherine, to join the GFWC Grundy Woman's Club (Virginia) through all that she was doing for the community. We all work together, making our relationship more like sisters, than spanning three generations. My favorite GFWC memory is when I was installed as club and district president by my mother because I am so proud to follow in her footsteps.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Betty Shields (mother)
- Nikki Stiltner (daughter)
- Catherine Stiltner (daughter)
- Liz Stiltner (sister-in-law)
- Nanny Dotson (grandmother-in-law)
- Zada Davis (great aunt-in-law)
- Kathy Penn (Nanny and Zada's niece)
- Patricia Hogston (Nanny and Zada's niece)
- Liz Stiltner (sister-in-law)



Generations of Service

I LISTENED TO MY GRANDMOTHER

Molly Rau, Louisiana

As a little girl, I always remembered my grandmother, Mrs. M. L. Shearin, talking about her membership in the Raleigh Woman's Club (North Carolina). She talked about her friends in the club and about activities that they enjoyed. She participated in the Women's Suffrage March, even before she was a member. After my grandfather retired and they moved to their farm in Weldon, N.C., Virgie, as she was called, missed Raleigh and her club very much.

My husband, children, and I moved to Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1964, and in 1967, my friend, Polly Williams, decided to form a GFWC federated club and asked me to join. I was interested in meeting new friends, improving our community, and helping those in need. "What in the world is GFWC?" I asked. After getting an explanation, it sounded like a worthwhile organization and I agreed to think about it. I called my grandmother and asked what she thought about my joining this Federated club. I started to explain what I knew about the club and about GFWC. She replied, "Honey, Raleigh Woman's Club is a member of the GFWC Federation, and I would be delighted to see you join in Louisiana. It is so worthwhile and I know you will find great pleasure and benefit from this outstanding organization."

"Listening to my Grandmother, who joined her club in 1922 and served until the middle of the 1930s, was the smartest thing I have ever done."

– Molly Rau, GFWC Lagniappe Woman's Club

I took her advice, and helped found the GFWC Lagniappe Woman's Club in 1968. In April, our 45 members celebrated the club's 44th birthday. It is an honor to be a charter member of such a great club. I have served as club president, district president, State President, and on the GFWC Board of Directors for 13 years.

Listening to my grandmother, who joined her club in 1922, and served until the middle of the 1930s, was the smartest thing I have ever done. I have not only enjoyed Lagniappe, but have had so many opportunities through GFWC that would never have come my way otherwise. My most exciting Federation memory was being installed as GFWC Louisiana State President in New York during a joint GFWC Centennial/Fourth of July celebration. During the installation, all State Presidents lined up against the walls on each side of the room, holding sparklers. What a sight!

I have grown a lot and made many good friends across this land. Through our projects, I have helped to make our community and others better. What a GREAT 44 years!

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Luther Shearin (grandmother)

Polly Williams (close friend)





MEMBER FROM BIRTH

Ann F. Bennett, Florida

My mother, Florence Bumby Fishback, started the GFWC Pine Castle Woman's Club (Florida) in 1940. I was born in 1942, and have heard MANY stories of how my mother ran the meetings with me in a basket beside some member, being watched and fed as needed. I truly have been a part of this club, since before I was born and beyond. She and her friends built the clubhouse in 1946.

This club has meant so much to my whole family. It has been a very important part of our daily activities, planning, working, meeting new friends, all the while, helping to make our community a better place to live and raise our families. The influence that GFWC has held within the club has provided us the opportunity to learn leadership, fellowship, and skills we did not know we shared. We have all cleaned, cooked, led devotions, created crafts, and maintained friendships throughout the years. It has filled the women in my family and helped us keep family ties together. I greatly appreciate all that this club has done for me over the past 73 years!

My grandmother, Ella Bumby, was also a member of our club. As she became more elderly, she was elected our first member emeritus, but stayed active as long as she could. She passed away in 1969.

After my husband graduated from law school and I from graduate school, we returned to Orlando in 1969 to start raising our family. I immediately joined the club. Through the years, I served as club president and in many other offices. My mother and I were active at the same time during those wonderful years and the club thrived with activities. My mother has passed away, and I am still active in the same club after all these years. I am a proud Life Member.

Now, my daughter, Sara Ann Bennett, and daughter-in-law, Kristy Davis Bennett, are both club members. I have the cutest two-year-old granddaughter, and it will be an extreme pleasure to live to see her become active in the GFWC Pine Castle Woman's Club as she grows into the beautiful young lady that I know she will be some day.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Florence Bumby Fishback (mother)
- Ella Bumby (grandmother)
- Sara Ann Bennett (daughter)
- Kristy Davis Bennett (daughter-in-law)

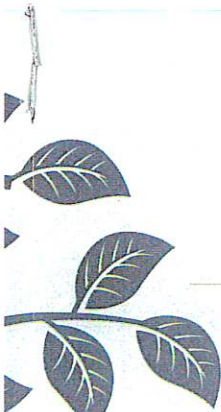
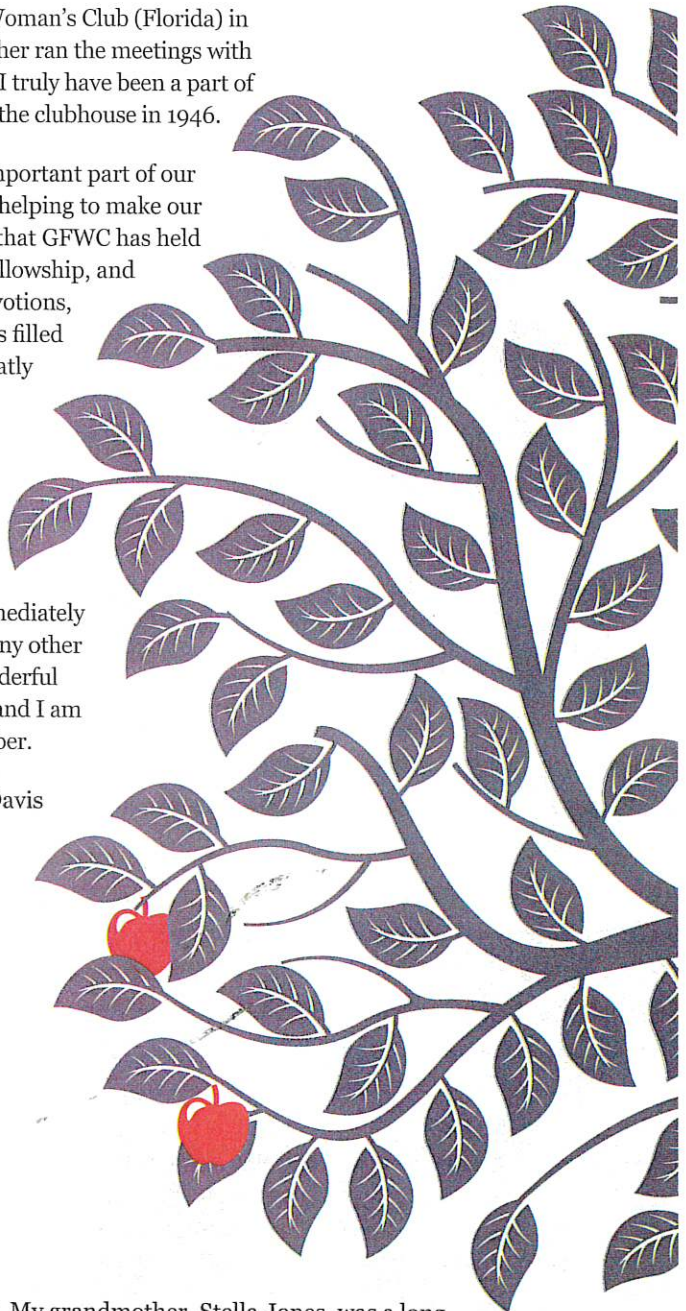
SHARED PASSION

Jeanette Jester, Washington

I am proud to say that I am a third generation clubwoman. My grandmother, Stella Jones, was a long time member of the Washougal Woman's Club (Washington). My mother, Virginia Jester, started her Federation life as a member of Beta Juniors, also in Washington State, and later joined GFWC Gemini. My first GFWC membership was in Beta Juniors and I later joined the GFWC Camas Washougal Woman's Club. When the Gemini club folded, my mother joined the Camas Washougal club. We have both remained active members. My grandmother, my mother, and I have all served as club presidents and we shared a passion for volunteer service.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Stella Jones (grandmother)
- Virginia Jester (mother)



Generations of Service

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Babs J. Condon, Maryland

Our GFWC history begins with my maternal grandmother, Mrs. Frederick (Olive) Cole, who was a member and served as the club president for the Amherst Woman's Club (Massachusetts). Her daughter, (my mother) Mrs. Arthur H. (Barbara) Peck joined the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster (Maryland) in 1950, and then joined the GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster (Maryland) in 1960. Barbara served both clubs as president, and was the State President of GFWC Maryland from 1996-1998.

Following in my mother's footsteps, I joined the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster in 1983, served as club president, and as GFWC Maryland Director of Junior Clubs in 1992-1994. In 2000, I joined the GFWC Woman's Club of Westminster, served as club president and then as GFWC Maryland State President from 2002-2004. Currently I am serving as GFWC First Vice-President. I have been a member of the GFWC Executive Committee since 2004, holding the positions of Treasurer (2004-2006), Recording Secretary (2006-2008), and Second Vice-President (2008-2010).

My daughter-in-law, Jessica Condon, joined the GFWC Junior Woman's Club of Westminster in 2009, and is currently serving as a co-president. My sister—Barbara's youngest daughter—Sue O'Dell, joined GFWC in 2003 and is president of the GFWC Southwest Region Woman's Club in Denver, Colorado. Both of Sue's daughters, Erin and Kelley, and her sister-in-law, Rosie O'Dell, are members of this club. That makes eight family members who are connected through GFWC.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Mrs. Frederick (Olive) Cole (grandmother)	Erin O'Dell (niece)
Mrs. Arthur H. (Barbara) Peck (mother)	Kelley O'Dell (niece)
Jessica Condon (daughter-in-law)	Rose O'Dell (sister's sister-in-law)
Sue O'Dell (sister)	

A MOTHER'S EXAMPLE

Helen Culbreth Schrenker, Florida

My mother, Opal Hendrix Culbreth, set an example of community service for her five daughters by involvement in community activities and organizations. She, as did I and three of my sisters, found an outlet for that spirit of service in the GFWC Woman's Club of Panama City (Florida). My mother joined the club in 1960, and remained an active member until she became homebound with ALS in 1982. However, she maintained her membership until her death in 1986. My sister, Sara Culbreth Cooper, began her membership in 1969. Because of poor health, she is unable to attend meetings, but, she has kept her membership. In addition to other responsibilities, Sara has served as house rentals chairman and scholarship committee chairman.

I joined the club in 1997, and have served as historian and International Outreach service coordinator. My sister, Joan Culbreth Parker, has been a member since 1993, and served as club president for the 2000-2002 term. Prior to that she was a vice-president and Arts coordinator. Sadly, Joan passed away in 2006 from ovarian cancer. My sister, Marynel Culbreth Adams, joined the club in 2005, and presently serves as corresponding secretary. She was recently elected as a vice-president for the coming term. We sisters are all graduates of Florida State University—four of us have earned advanced degrees in education—and have had successful careers as teachers. My eldest sister, Bayne Culbreth Counce, chose to channel her community service through the garden club, but she has always been supportive of our woman's club projects.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Opal Hendrix Culbreth (mother)	Joan Culbreth Parker (sister)
Sara Culbreth Cooper (sister)	Marynel Culbreth Adams (sister)



EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Robert M. Hanson, Maryland

My family has a long history of involvement with the GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, starting with my mother, who became a member in 1939. I remember that she was so pleased to be a part of a group of women who took an active part in the community and accomplished so much in its improvement. She and my dad developed many lasting friendships through the club's social section. After we moved to our farm, before the War, she continued to drive the 12 miles to the club, and never missed a meeting until her passing in 1962. My mother introduced my mother-in-law, Anne Dingwell, as a member in 1956. She and her husband, Captain John Dingwell, USN, enjoyed many aspects of the club and the social section, too. When Anne served as the club's vice president, she disappointedly had to resign before becoming president because her husband was transferred to Europe to write the treaties with our allies for our numerous military bases there. After that tour, she again became active in the club until her passing in the 1980s.

In the mid-1950s, when I was the chairman of the BCC-YMCA, I asked the club for support in building the YMCA's complex. True to the club's high standards of involvement, many members became involved and the project was a tremendous success. Today, that YMCA branch is one of the top branches in the United States, serving thousands annually.

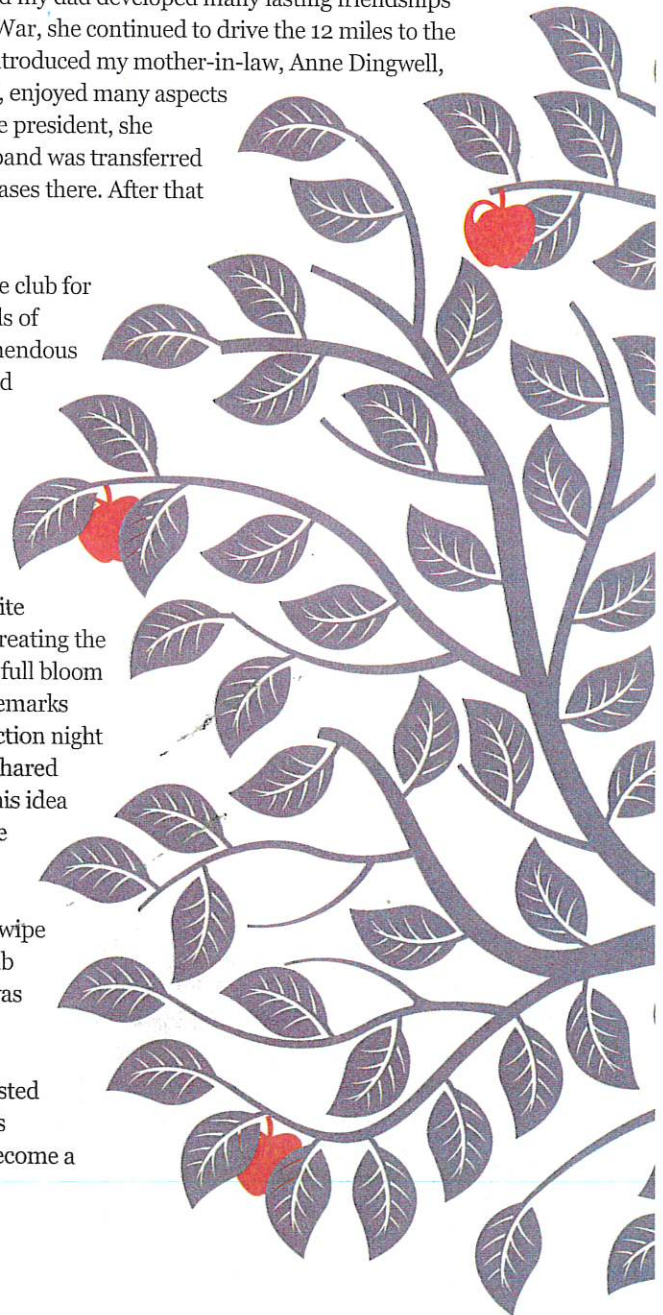
When my wife, JoAnne, became a member in 1963, she and I also enjoyed the social section. In those days, social section members did the work: cooked dinner; set up the room for more than 100 diners; and served and waited on the tables. We enjoyed a program and bridge after dinner. The comradeship in the group was the best. One of my favorite memories was baking pumpkin bread for the more than 100 guests and creating the table decorations. For the head table, I had several of my orchid plants in full bloom and two bowls of swimming fish. Needless to say, the fish created many remarks from the members. Another fond memory is Bea and Floyd Jennings' election night parties where everyone, regardless of political affiliation, celebrated and shared our democratic way of selecting our government officials. We could use this idea today. We also enjoyed taking day trips with the club, to special places like Winterthur in nearby Delaware or other historic places.

Mary Katherine Ambler, a past club president, carefully instructed me to wipe of all of the silver to remove any water spots and to make sure that the club crest on the dinner plates was always at the top of the place setting. She was a detailed specialist and I still appreciate her training from years back.

JoAnne and I developed many lasting friendships through the club. I assisted with and attended many club activities, and was impressed with the club's involvement. When JoAnne passed away in 2010, the club asked me to become a member, which I immediately accepted.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Mina Schafer Hanson (mother)
JoAnne D. Hanson (wife)
Anne C. Dingwell (mother-in-law)





PROUD HERITAGE

Margaret J. Havron, Tennessee

I first learned about a local GFWC club and was invited to join when a member saw me selling candy for my school. She explained that her club was a service organization and thought I would make an ideal member since I was already involved in giving back to the community by volunteering for the school.

While growing up I often heard my grandmother, Minnie Cowan Havron, talk about the clubs she was involved with and she would talk about the projects each was doing. Following her death in 1968, I found yearbooks from the Nashville Woman's Club and Tullahoma Club, both of which listed her as a member.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Minnie Cowan Havron (grandmother)



FEDERATION MADE US FRIENDS

Patricia Siegfroid-Giles, Texas

When I joined the Lancaster Shakespeare Club in May 1997, I had no idea that my little study club of 20 members who met in each other's homes had anything in common with my mother's civic club, The Woman's Club of Roswell (New Mexico), and its 200 plus members who met in their own clubhouse. I soon discovered that Federation was the glue that bound us together.

In 1984, my mother was considering a run for state office and wanted to learn more about GFWC. She asked me to join her at the GFWC Annual Convention in Las Vegas. Frankly, attending a women's club convention in Las Vegas for a week with my mother had little appeal. Then, she said the words dear to every child's heart, "I'll pay your way." Hey, a week in Vegas, women's clubs, Mom... why not? I was going in as a first time club president and didn't know anything. The Convention was an eye-opening experience for both of us. We had no idea. And, that was how our Federation journey began. It warms my heart when I think about assisting GFWC President-elect Phyllis Dudenhoffer install my mother as GFWC New Mexico State President in 1990.

From then on, my mother and I were regulars at GFWC Conventions every June and our Region Conferences every October. My mother's last Convention was in 2000 in Boston, when she was 83. She passed away three years later. Although she was not alive to see me installed as GFWC Texas State President in 2006, she was aware of my goal and was there in 2000 when I was installed as TFWC Second Vice-President.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Evelyn Siegfroid (mother)

TRADITION OF COMMUNITY CARING

Shaina Franson

Our family had three generations of GFWC members at one time—my grandmother, Jane Chidboy, my mother, Shelia Williams, and me. My grandmother joined in 1953, and was a member for 51 years, until she passed away in 2004. My mother will celebrate her 30th year of membership this club year. I have been a member since 2000, making this 12th year of membership. My grandmother was pregnant with my mother at the club's 25th anniversary celebration in June 1961, and my mother was born a few days later. My mother always said she was going to be club president during the club's 50th anniversary celebration since she was "present" (in-vitro) at the club's 25th, and she was. My mother served as club president during the 1986-1987 club year, and again during the 2004-2005 club year. I was club president during the 2006-2007 club year.

Although my grandmother never served as president, she was very active in many committees and fundraisers during her 50-plus years as a member. She rarely missed a meeting. When my mother was president, she was the youngest president to date at age 25. I broke her record when I became club president when I was 23 years old. Today, I am still the youngest member of our club.

We joined the club to help our community, and then it became a family tradition from generation to generation.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Jane Chidboy (grandmother)

Shelia Williams (mother)



GFWC-Charlotte (Michigan) is a club consisting of about 110 members. The 124 year-old club boasts familial relations that are too numerous to list. Two special women—Josephine Johnson and Jeannette Sommer—and their families' stories are included in this compilation. As an extension of GFWC's recognition of legacies, GFWC-Charlotte is constructing a display board to feature all of the club's family ties. Many club members have gone on to serve GFWC in various capacities at the district and state levels, allowing the legacy of GFWC to grow in generations of service. The club hopes the legacy will draw even more new members.

74 OUT OF 100

Josephine "Jo" Johnson, Michigan

Josephine "Jo" Johnson spent 74 of her 100 years on earth—nearly three-quarters of her life—as a GFWC-Charlotte member (Michigan), joining the club in 1932. She served as club president during its 50th anniversary in 1937. She passed away during the club's 120th anniversary in 2007.

Having only sons, she influenced two daughters-in-law, Donna and Marian, to become members. They are both 50-plus year members, serving as president in 1969-1970 and 1972-1973, respectively. Donna and Marian both continue to actively participate in club activities and leadership roles. Marian credits her club involvement with learning important life lessons, "Many women in the club were much older and I learned a lot about social grace and listening to advice from older people."

Marian's daughter, Carolyn, continues the family tradition. She served as president in 1999-2000. What an amazing legacy of three generations providing 79 years of leaders. Jo's influence extended beyond her family ties. For example, the club's three-time president Linda Foster joined to be in the club's Great Decisions Study Group led by Jo, and to whom Jo shared a wealth of knowledge in parliamentary procedure.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Donna W. Johnson (daughter-in-law)
- Marian Johnson (daughter-in-law)
- Carolyn Casler (granddaughter)

LUCKY SEVEN

Jeannette Sommer, Michigan

"All my Federation family members influenced each other to join. It was prestigious to belong to GFWC, and they all learned from hearing views from the different generations."

– Lori Eishen Pray

GFWC has played a role in Jeannette Sommer and Laurel Pray's family for more than 57 years. Laurel, a 50-year plus member, invited her sister, Jeannette, to join. Jeannette, who served as club president in 1993-1994, influenced her daughter, Laurie, and granddaughter-in-law, Jessica, to join. Laurel passed away in 2011. Her daughter-in-law, Lori (1989-1990 club president), Lori's daughter-in-law, Dana, and Lori's mom, Rosalie Eishen, are also members. That's seven members from one extended family!

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

- Laurel Pray (sister)
- Laurie Newland (daughter)
- Jessica Sommer (granddaughter-in-law)
- Lori Eishen Pray (niece-in-law)
- Dana Pray (niece's daughter-in-law)
- Rosalie Eishen (niece-in-law's mother)



Generations of Service

MAKING HER AUNT PROUD

Barbara Mills Lassonde, New Hampshire

When I was first invited by a friend to join the GFWC Concord Junior Women's Club, I had a new baby, and was not ready to leave her to attend meetings. One year later, when I was again invited, I happily accepted. I knew my aunt, Avis Mills Croteau, was an active GFWC New Hampshire member in the northern part of the state, serving as president of the GFWC Berlin Women's Club, and as a North Country district director. I held her and her volunteerism in high esteem. I believed this organization would be good for me as well. GFWC provided my aunt and me with a common topic of conversation and a bond we had not felt before.

While my aunt was busy in northern New Hampshire, I worked my way up to become president of the GFWC Concord Junior Women's Club in the southern part of the state. Years later, I became president of the GFWC Concord Contemporary Club, and have served 18 years as GFWC New Hampshire Historian.

When my daughter, Suzanne Lassonde Carmichael, was young, she worked by my side on many club projects. When she became an adult, I invited her to join the GFWC Concord Contemporary Club, and she accepted. She is now completing her second, two-year term as co-president, was the New Hampshire LEADS candidate, served as state education chairman, and will serve as a district director for the next two years. Unfortunately, my Aunt Avis is no longer here to see the results of the example she set for us many years ago and to see her grand-niece assume the district director position. She would be proud. GFWC has had a wonderful influence on the lives of our family members, led us down the path to volunteerism, and taught us leadership skills.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Avis Mills Croteau (aunt)
Suzanne Lassonde Carmichael (daughter)

I WAS BORN THIS WAY

Catherine Conely, Kentucky

Like Lady Gaga says, "I was born this way!" A GFWC Okolona Woman's Club (Kentucky) member, my grandmother, mother, several aunts, and cousins were all charter members of my club, which was founded in 1955. I can't ever remember a time when I was NOT in the woman's club. As a young child, the Okolona Woman's Club was family to me as I spent many hours at our clubhouse modeling in style shows, putting on scholarship pageants, learning to ballroom and square dance, and giving back to my community. During my sophomore year in high school, the club organized a Junior club, and I became its first president. My mother and aunt were the club chairmen. My dad, who was officially named an Okolona Woman's Club member, was right there with my family supporting the club and maintaining our clubhouse by making repairs and helping any way he could.

I officially became a member in 1964, upon graduating from high school. I have not missed a meeting in 44 years, which is also a legacy passed down from my family. My mother, Vera Conely, went to her grave not ever missing a meeting. My aunt LaVerne, at age 90, has never missed a meeting in the club's 57 years. My daughter, Allison, and 14-year-old granddaughter, Madison, are very active in the club. I have held every office in the club as well as serving two, four-year terms as president. I have served on every committee, and was there when our original clubhouse was sold to Home Depot for more than one million dollars. I have served the Kentucky State Federation as governor, vice governor, and aide to the president. I was named KFWC Vice Governor of the Year, KFWC Governor of the Year, and KFWC Club Woman of the Year in 2008. I have made GFWC, KFWC, and Okolona Woman's Club my life and have made many lasting friendships. You can tell I was truly "Born This Way," and am proud of it.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Molly G. Hall (grandmother)	Madison Deaton (granddaughter)
Vera Hall Conely (mother)	LaVerne Hall (aunt)
Carolyn Conely (sister)	Irene Hall (aunt)
Allison Deaton (daughter)	Betty Lamont (cousin)

MOTHER & DAUGHTER CO-PRESIDENTS

Susan Crupper Edson, Virginia

I come from a line of clubwomen. My great-grandmother, Mrs. Joseph Crupper, then president of the GFWC Falls Church Woman's Club (Virginia), presided over the first meeting of GFWC Virginia's Northern District (then referred to as the 4th District) in November 1919. My mother, Mrs. James S. (Janet) Crupper, is the only remaining charter member of the GFWC Woman's Club of Springfield. At 84 years-young, she still participates in most club activities and serves as our historian, of course. I grew up participating in the club's activities, including working in our club-owned and operated Pink Elephant Thrift Shop, which still thrives today. I joined the GFWC Woman's Club of Springfield in 1996, serving as co-president with my mother from 2003-2005, during its 50th anniversary. I am currently serving in my second consecutive term as club president, having first been elected in 2009, and re-elected in 2011.

MY FEDERATION FAMILY

Mrs. Joseph Crupper (grandmother)
Mrs. James S. (Janet) Crupper (mother)