



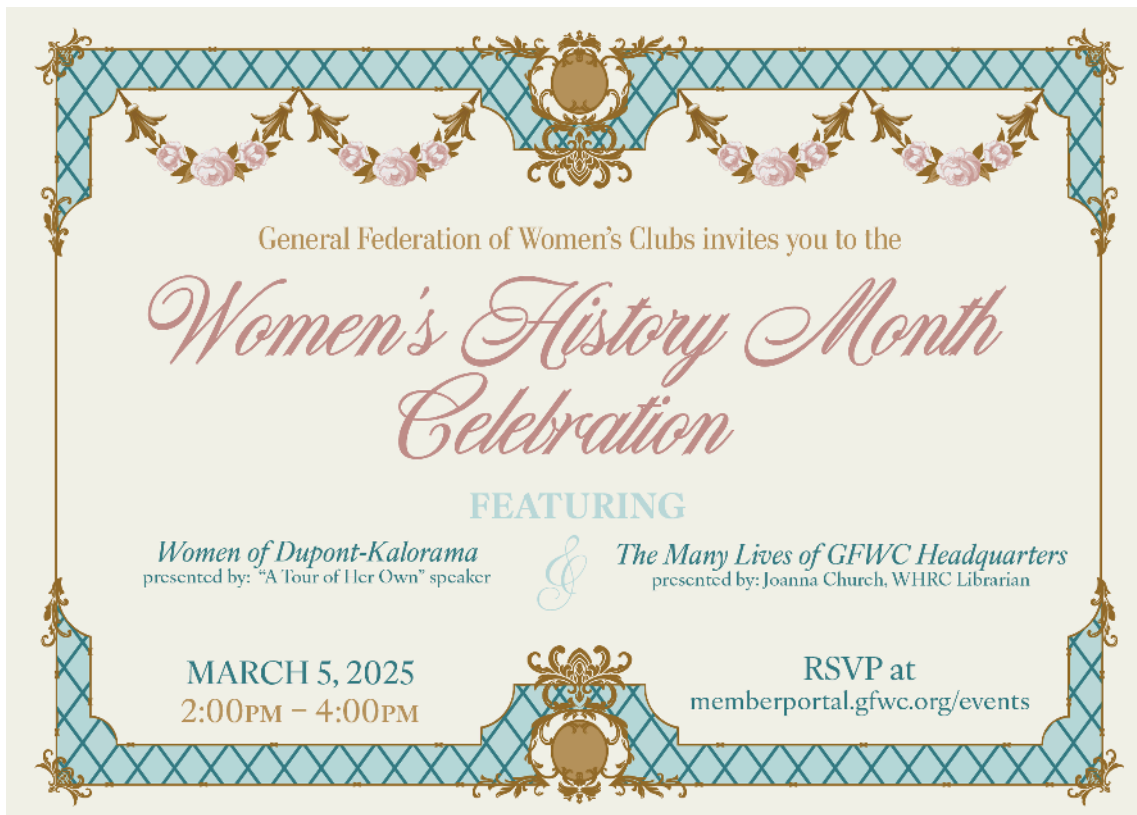
NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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January 30, 2025

GFWC: Legislative Opportunities



Join us for our annual GFWC Women's History Month Celebration featuring a presentation from "A Tour of Her Own" of women's stories from the Dupont-Kalorama neighborhood. Learn more about the women who shaped this influential area of Washington, DC, from local experts while enjoying the splendor of the almost 150-year-old GFWC Headquarters building.



2025 Annual Convention Registration Opens Next Week

By: Kim Sekulow, GFWC Convention and Meetings Chairman

Georgia is excited and ready to greet you with a warm southern welcome when you attend the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta. Our meeting will be held June 6th–9th in the beautiful Omni Atlanta at Centennial Park hotel, nestled in a vibrant walkable downtown area filled with exciting attractions, great dining and fitness opportunities. Located 10 miles north of Hartsfield Jackson International Airport, the Omni is an easy trip by car or rail (MARTA). The Omni MARTA station is conveniently located adjacent to the hotel. Taxi services and rideshare transportation are easily accessible from the airport. Valet parking is available at the hotel for those choosing to drive.

Registration for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention will open the first week of February through Eventsquid. The Official *Call to Convention* will be online only, and members will receive information to register through an email blast. Be certain to check the “allow notifications” button as you register to stay current on all important information regarding the Convention. As a reminder, updates will be delivered by text to your cell phone. In addition, be sure to take advantage of the discounted meal package that will be offered.

Spend a day like an Atlanta native by joining the tour, “Experience Atlanta.” The tour is offered on Thursday, June 5th, and Friday, June 6th. From the hotel we will travel to the Carter Presidential Library and Museum where we have the opportunity to experience a “Day in the Life of the President.” Following our

visit, we will be transported to the Swan Coach House. In this historic Buckhead location, we will enjoy a truly southern ladies' lunch in addition to touring the Atlanta History Center. Just a heads up.... there is a fabulous gift shop in the Swan Coach House!

Your hotel reservations should be made using the [GFWC room block](#). This block will close on May 12th at midnight. Remember, our block sells quickly so, as a courtesy to others, please help us provide the best experience for all members by not holding multiple reservations under one name.

We can't wait for you to join us in "Hotlanta" June 6th-9th. Come celebrate the accomplishments of our organization in this administration led by our International President Suellen Brazil. Together, we will *Educate, Engage, Empower*, and enjoy our time together, "*Spinning Vision into Reality*." As they say in the South, "Y'all Come"!

Show Your Support: 2025 Convention Program Ads Now Available



[Download Form](#)

Would you like to highlight someone special or recognize your club's hard work this year? Do so by placing an ad in the Convention Program.

Orders and payments for Convention Program ads must be received by April 1, 2025, to guarantee space. Return completed forms and ad files to Design & Publications Manager Candice Gill, CGill@GFWC.org.



Forget Me Not—Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness

by: Jan Conant, GFWC Delaware State President

The GFWC Delaware President's Special Project is *Forget Me Not – Alzheimer's and Dementia Awareness*. Our theme is *Volunteerism – The Art of Giving*.

In addition to supporting the Alzheimer's Association, a pilot program has been established with Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore Adult Day Care Program. Easterseals serves children and adults, and GFWC Delaware is the first volunteer organization in the state to offer assistance to their Adult Memory Day Care needs. Forget-me-nots were grown from seed, pressed, and made into resin necklaces and sold to fund the creation of our fidget/activity blankets to be distributed statewide. Used on tables, laps, or wheelchairs, the blankets with attached tactile objects help calm individuals and give caregivers some respite. Kick-off sewing workshops were conducted in October, and 14 finished blankets have been delivered. We've distributed Easterseals memory care brochures to our members and the public to raise awareness of the available services.



The Alzheimer's Association serves nearly 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer's and their 11 million caregivers. Alzheimer's Association Delaware Valley Chapter luminaries were recently distributed for display on Winter Solstice night, December 21, 2024, and will be repeated during Summer Solstice on June 20, 2025, in honor of loved ones impacted by Alzheimer's. These lights are beacons of hope, a reminder to those who need it that they are not alone and

that the day will come when we have additional treatments and a cure.
Research is key!



Find more information and register for upcoming webinars at [GFWC.org/events](https://www.gfwc.org/events)

February 5, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET - Heart Health Awareness Month
Jude Mabone, GFWC Health and Wellness Honorary Chairman
<https://bit.ly/48Epc7g>

February 11, 2025, at 7 p.m. ET - The Role Storytelling Plays in Advancing a Brand and Building Membership
Leslie Capps, GFWC Communications Honorary Chairman
Purchase "[Turn Your Story Into Business Gold](#)" by Leslie Capps
<https://bit.ly/3UI3Srs>



Legislative Corner

To encourage participation in the democratic process, this monthly column aims to inform members about current legislation and programs that are germane to the GFWC Resolutions. It also highlights important actions of Congress and the White House, and provides follow-up information about GFWC Legislative Action Alerts.

2024 GFWC Legislative Successes: A summary of 2024 GFWC legislative priorities can be found at www.gfwc.org/priorities and in the Digital Library. The 2025 legislative priorities, based upon GFWC resolutions, will be available soon.

GFWC Legislative Action Center: Sign up for the [GFWC Legislative Action Center](#) (LAC)! 2025 is going to be a busy year. Our united voices matter!

The 119th Congress (2025-2026): Congress convened on January 3 and enacted its first bill, the Laken Riley Act named after the Georgia nursing student who was killed by a Venezuelan migrant who was arrested for shoplifting. The bill requires the detention of migrants without legal status, including those seeking asylum, if they have been accused of theft, burglary, or shoplifting. Senators added two amendments: the assault of a law enforcement officer to the list of offenses that would lead to detainment, and another from Senator Joni Ernst (IA) that would expand the bill to include crimes causing death or serious bodily injury. The measure has bipartisan support and will be signed by President Trump.

FY 2025 Federal Appropriations: GFWC has advocated for funding for programs and services for survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and international vaccine programs. The current FY 2025 Continuing Resolution expires March 14, 2025.

Equal Rights Amendment (ERA): It will take new action by Congress or the Courts to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Although President Biden issued an “opinion” on January 16 that the Equal Rights Amendment is ratified and is the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the opinion does not have the force of law. On December 17, 2024, the Archivist of the United States released a statement that she cannot certify and publish the ERA because the ratification deadline of 1979 established in the preamble of the legislation and extended to 1982 by Congress is valid and enforceable. Also complicating the matter is that five states have voted to rescind their previous votes of ratification, although such power does not appear in Article V of the Constitution.

Reminder: The 2024-2026 Action Plan for clubs (the Legislative Ladder) may be found in the [GFWC Digital Library](#) and is due via email to Chairman Mary Pat Marcello no later than March 15, 2025. This entry is for clubs only; all activities at a state level should be reported in the state award entry form.

Your Ultimate Spring Break Itinerary

Create memories with deals on epic escapes and adventures.

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Ready to Escape the Cold? Plan Your Spring Break for Less!

Create your ultimate spring break itinerary with discounts from Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, Legoland, Broadway, and Nickelodeon Universe. GFWC members receive exclusive discounts on Tickets At Work hotels, rental cars, movie tickets, and theme parks. [Get started planning today!](#)

Gold Pins

Celebrating 50 years of GFWC Membership

Maureen Blandino
GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club
(New Jersey)

Anne Redlus
GFWC Woman's League of the Lowcountry
(South Carolina)

Barbara Fimia
GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club
(New Jersey)

Diane L. Uher
GFWC Clarkson Woman's Club
(Nebraska)

Celene Post
GFWC Las Noches Woman's Club
(Arizona)

Jubilee Pins

Celebrating 75 years of GFWC Membership

Emalene Wilcox
GFWC Herrin Woman's Club (Illinois)

Club Anniversaries

25
GFWC Legacy (Alabama)

125
GFWC Woman's Century Club (Idaho)

130
GFWC The Woman's Club of Beaumont (Texas)
GFWC Maquoketa Woman's Club (Iowa)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Park City Athenaeum Club (UT)



The GFWC Park City Athenaeum Club, in Park City Utah, collected new and gently used shoes to support the non-profit Soles4Souls. Soles4Souls accepts donated shoes and clothing, distributing the donated items to those in need around the U.S. and the world.

The Park City community rallied around the GFWC Park City Athenaeum Club effort, resulting in 39 boxes, containing 425 pairs of shoes being collected, and 1187.5 pounds of shoes being diverted from local landfills.

**Want your club project to be featured in an upcoming issue of
News & Notes?**

Simply send your full club name, State Federation, and 100 words describing your club's favorite project to PR@GFWC.org.

Make sure to add a great action shot or two that brings your project to life!



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