



NEWS & NOTES

YOUR WEEKLY UPDATE ON GFWC NEWS

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February 20, 2025

GFWC: Access to Affiliate Partnerships

GFWC Stronger Together Cruise



February 6-10, 2025 — 4-night cruise on Carnival Freedom from Cape Canaveral to Nassau and Bimini, Bahamas

Seventy-five GFWC members and boosters set sail from Port Canaveral, Florida, on Thursday, February 6, for the GFWC Stronger Together Cruise sponsored by Shannon Bailey, GFWC Director of Junior Clubs, and the Junior Organization. Cruisers gathered from 13 State Federations to share the work of

GFWC and the Junior Organization with fellow passengers and form new connections.

The cruise intersected with Wear Red Day, an initiative to raise awareness of heart disease in women. The group wore red during the day and during dinner in solidarity. Members participated in events such as the Casino Slot Pull, which raised \$1,503 to be donated to the GFWC Success for Survivors Scholarship Fund.

The highlight of the cruise for many was a visit to S.T.R.A.W., a non-profit organization in Nassau, Bahamas, which seeks to Strengthen, Transform, Restore, and Affirm young Women through education and leadership training. Before the cruise, members purchased and donated over \$2,500 worth of toiletries, menstruation supplies, and educational materials to support the needs of the girls and women they serve. Under the leadership of S.T.R.A.W. Director Terri Cunningham, the team welcomed 18 members of the GFWC delegation with a reception attended by Bahamian First Lady Ann Marie Davis and other government and NGO representatives. International President Suellen Brazil extended greetings on behalf of GFWC, and both she and Director Bailey gave interviews to a reporter from the Bahamian government TV news station. The establishment of a GFWC relationship with S.T.R.A.W. was an exciting benefit of this cruise, and we look forward to collaboration between our two organizations, which are so aligned in mission.



June 6-9

**Spinning Vision into
Reality: Join Us for the 2025
GFWC Annual Convention**

[REGISTER NOW](#)

2025 Workshop Descriptions Now Available!

Make sure to add two educational, inspiring workshops to your Convention agenda. Brought to you by 2024-2026 GFWC Chairmen and committees, these workshops cover important program areas and knowledge for you to bring home to your club.

[View Workshops](#)

GFWC Comes to the Hollywood of the South

By Lisa M. Hedrick, Credentials Chairman

Are you ready for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention this June 6-9? I, along with Credentials Committee Members Patty Cato, Kathy DeBurra, Jan Greer, Mary Kaye Ernest, Susan Martin, and Carla Pyle anxiously await your arrival at the registration desks in Atlanta. Come see our smiling faces, and we will get you started with some Southern hospitality.

Before you ever arrive, the committee members will verify the levels of all attendees so, if questions come up, we might be calling you. Voting privileges are granted only to those registered for the entire Convention. Attendees paying daily registration do not receive voting privileges, therefore, please look at the registration form very carefully. Unsure if you can vote? Check out the Voting and Credentials on page 25 of the [Call to Convention](#). All levels are explained to guide you through the identification status.

When scheduling your arrival, remember, if you plan to join us for the Georgia State Night Hollywood of the South banquet, you will need to pick up your banquet ticket at registration.

Registration hours are found on page 26 of the Call to Convention. On Friday, registration check-in will wrap up promptly at 5:30 pm. Visit registration first! The Early Bird registration deadline for Convention is March 15, and all registrations close April 30.

Come travel to Atlanta and register for the 2025 GFWC Annual Convention today!

Cares & Concerns

With great sadness, we share the passing of Ann Nickerson, GFWC Connecticut State President (2000-2002). Ann's obituary is available [here](#).

We are also saddened to share the passing of Grace Matyskiela, GFWC Connecticut State President (2008-2010). Share a memory with Grace's family [here](#).



Hand-in-Hand, Together We Can...Engage, Educate, Empower

Cathy Jones, GFWC Georgia State President



The GFWC Georgia President's theme for 2024-2026 is "Hand-in-hand, together we can...engage, educate, empower," using a circle of hands to symbolize the importance of combining our volunteer efforts to serve our communities.

The administration's special project focuses on literacy and is entitled "Books for Little Hands." Being surrounded by lots of books helps build a child's vocabulary, increases awareness and comprehension, and expands horizons. GFWC Georgia members collect and distribute books to our communities' children. At our Summer Institute, members collected over 550 books, which were donated to the Lily Pad Child Advocacy Center in Albany.

The President's Hands-On Challenges promote the use of hands in all areas of work. For example, "Crafted by Hand" encourages members to host a craft booth at a community event. Other challenges include "Lend A Hand" to a veteran, "Get Your Hands Dirty" by picking up trash, support "Healing Hands" at hospitals, endorse the "Business At Hand" by voting, or help the "Hands That Rock the Cradle" by supporting a child advocacy center. Members are excited by these and other challenges for all the CSPs, Advancement Areas, and Special Programs.

As members, our two hands can do a whole lot of good. But together, if we multiply that one pair of hands by five or twenty or fifty times, we can achieve so much more! GFWC Georgia members are some of the hardest working individuals that I know. When we put our minds together, nothing can stop us!



Practical Points for Delivering a Powerful Presentation

By: Suzanne Simons, Leadership Committee Member

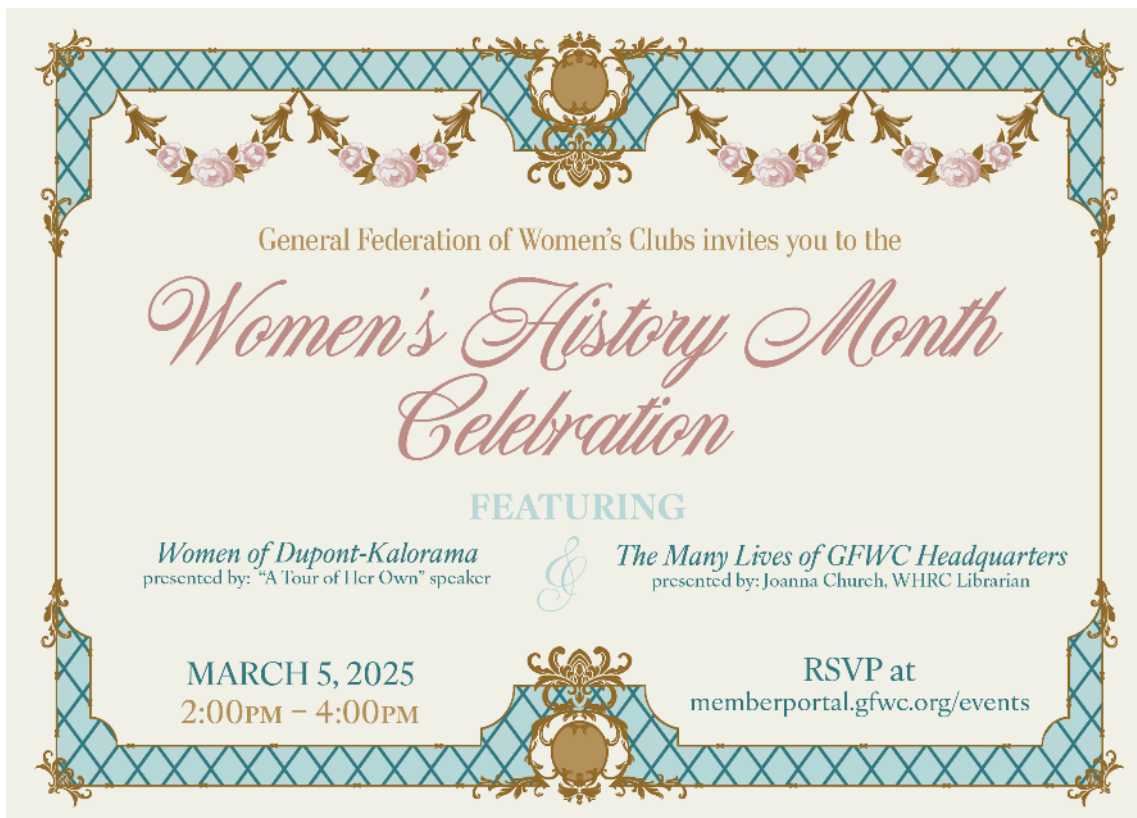
Delivering a powerful presentation requires preparation, confidence, and audience engagement. Begin with a strong opening to grab attention, such as a compelling story, statistic, or question. Clearly define the purpose of your presentation and outline your key points early to provide a roadmap for your audience.

Preparation is crucial. Research your topic thoroughly and rehearse to ensure your delivery is smooth and confident. Use simple, clear language, and focus on the key message you want your audience to remember. Organize your presentation into a logical flow—an introduction, body, and conclusion—and use transitions to guide your audience between ideas.

Engage your audience with eye contact, body language, and vocal variety. Speak with enthusiasm and conviction, and tailor your delivery to the needs and interests of your listeners. Incorporate visual aids, such as slides or props, to reinforce your message and maintain interest, but don't let them overshadow your presence.

Anticipate questions and be ready to address them with clarity. Practice active listening to show respect for your audience's input. Conclude with a strong closing statement that ties back to your main message and leaves a lasting impression.

Remember, authenticity and passion are key. When you believe in your message, your audience is more likely to believe in it too.



You are invited to GFWC Headquarters on March 5 as we celebrate Women's History Month with a presentation 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 and network with local club members and professionals.

RSVP

Reserve a room at the Courtyard Marriott using a discounted GFWC rate [here](#).

GFWC International Affiliate Update

By: Dianne Foerster, GFWC International Liaisons Committee Member

GFWC currently has 21 International Affiliate Clubs in fifteen countries, with over 3,200 members. The first international club originated in Bombay, India, around 1891, and a club in England began about the same time. Many of the clubs were started by women who were American citizens, whose families were relocated due to work or who wintered in these countries and held dual citizenship.

Did you know that a country roughly the size of Massachusetts is home to five GFWC clubs? Belize boasts three Women's Clubs and two Juniorette Clubs. The Belize City Women's Club, the Belmopan Women's Club, and our newest affiliate, the Sugar City Sistaz, proudly support the General Federation of Women's Clubs' mission in their part of the world. Additionally, we are fortunate to have two active Juniorette Clubs, Belize City Junioresettes and Suga City Junioresettes, where leadership skills are not only encouraged but actively demonstrated.

During the holidays, the Belize City Women's Club collected gifts for neighborhood children to ensure a joyous Christmas. They organized a party with Santa as a special guest. Leadership development is strongly emphasized and working. The club's president, Emily Carrillo, is a former Juniorette.

In March 2025, a group of GFWC members will visit Belize. The group will partner with the GFWC Belize clubs to deliver programs on mental health and healthy eating in schools, participate in service projects with the Junioresettes, and conduct an all-day workshop entitled "Celebration of Women" designed to uplift, encourage, and empower marginalized women in an impoverished community.



NEW ADDITION

MARCH 19, 2025 @ 7 p.m. ET - When Passion and Purpose Collide

Ann Lauer, Quilt Pattern and Fabric Designer and GFWC Arts & Culture Honorary Chairman.

During this webinar, you will hear how traveling in Bwindi, Uganda, to see mountain gorillas brought Ann Lauer's passion for fabric art full circle as she was introduced to Ride 4 Woman. This non-profit organization supports local women struggling with domestic violence, poverty, and homelessness. Ride 4 Woman teaches these women to sew and quilt to earn a living. Register and listen to this intriguing story.

<https://bit.ly/4hJccQO>



GFWC Marketplace

GFWC Embroidered Button Ups

Available in Red and Blue, S-4XL
\$40 each

Have that sharp GFWC volunteer look when going out to work on projects! Wear one of our emblematic three-quarter length button up shirts featuring a gold embroidered logo. They present a polished way to stand out at your next community event.

[SHOP NOW](#)

Volunteers in Action: GFWC Southwest Region Woman's Club (CO)



Members of the GFWC Southwest Region Woman's Club (CO) joined forces to assemble backpacks for Packs of Hope, a non-profit "dedicated to providing dignity and hope to children transitioning into foster care by supplying a backpack filled with essential clothing and personal items." Their work will help ensure that children of all ages in the Denver area will have the supplies and support they need.

**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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