

# GFWC GREATER WEST PALM BEACH WOMEN'S CLUB

a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

**"WE PUT LOVE IN ACTION THROUGH SERVICE".**

January 2019

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE-**

**Mary Evelyn Mitchell**

Dear Members,

We are off and running for a new year. Cathy and Suzan did a great job and provided us with a wonderful way to start.

The theme for the year is "WE PUT LOVE IN ACTION THROUGH SERVICE". I hope everyone likes this idea.

We had a successful Martin L. King work day with a very interesting tour and we also provided many useful items for the animals.

The Arts department had a special start with the Valentine's Day card making. Sharon was so organized and provided us with so many wonderful options that we left with many beautiful cards. Be sure to check out the next Arts event. Tickets can be purchased now for the program on February 6.

Membership has planned a trip to view the Downton Abbey exhibit on February 2 and there are a lot of other events: Women's Day Valentine Tea, Bunco, Backyard Bird Count, Cookie Delivery, VA Mommy Bags (preparing and delivering), and the Lake Worth Street Painting, among others.

Our Board is hard at work and our Department Chairs are really special. Our planning meeting suggested so many projects for this year that there should be something for everyone.

The District 10 Arts and Crafts Meeting will be March 3 at the Stuart's Woman's Club. This is a good District meeting to attend because Stuart is nearby and the Arts and Crafts exhibit is fun to see. We have several entries and if you would still like to enter please contact Sharon by February 10. You can register for the meeting until February 20.

Special thanks to Jeff Anne, Linda and Kathy Stackhouse for report writing. The reports have been sent and we will know at Convention if we have any winners. (We know we have winners but we hope the judges see it that way, too.)

Please let me know if you have questions or need information. I hope to see you at many of our events this month.

In Federation Love,  
Mary Evelyn

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**CORRESPONDING SECRETARY -  
Fran Green and Sheila Zile-Pecoraro**

We had a lot of Thank You notes from the last two months of club donations. The girls from Home

Safe were very grateful and sent lovely notes of appreciation for being remembered at Christmas.

**Our speaker** for the February 25 meeting is Debbie Phillips from the PBSO Human Trafficking unit. She will speak on how to identify possible human trafficking, and how we as citizens can work to help this problem.

## **MEMBERSHIP - Meg America and Linda Ferris**



**Ladies Day Out:** January 15 had 9 members and 1 guest at California Pizza. Six members then saw the RBG movie "In the Name of Sex." Linda took 2 of these pictures so she's only pictured in one photo. Thanks to everyone for joining us in January, and we hope to see you at our February events.



Linda and I are thrilled that so many members and guests attended the January meeting and we are looking forward to another successful year. If you have any ideas for Membership outings, please let us know.

If you would like to serve as a greeter at one of our meetings please email us. Then you may be eligible for the **(you nailed it)** award!

At our February 25 club meeting, **Donna Cohen will be initiated**, Janet Carlson is her sponsor.



**FUNDRAISING - JeffAnne Pike**

## **IT'S BUNCO TIME!!**

**Friday, February 15, 2019 at 6 pm**

Please invite your friends, family and neighbors to come with you to our favorite fundraiser. The cost is \$10 per person to play. We will be collecting travel size toothpaste for Forgotten Soldiers Outreach. (These are not necessary to play)

The food theme will be Heart Healthy foods in honor of Heart Health Month. So any kind of food you would consider healthy such as salads, grilled chicken or fish, and lots of fruits & vegetables. Of course, you can always bring anything you want. Please wear red if you can think of it. Just e-mail me what you are bringing and how many people you are bringing so we have enough tables and chairs. I can't wait to see everyone!!!

These are directions to Suzan & Kenny Close's home are as follows. If you are South of Okeechobee You can take I-95 or the Turnpike to Okeechobee Blvd. Andros is the 4<sup>th</sup> light on the right after getting off the turnpike exit on Okeechobee Blvd. If you get off on Jog Rd. exit or if you travel North on Jog Turn left on Okeechobee & it will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> light on the right. Our address is 6303 N. San Andros. After stopping at the guardhouse, go to the stop sign & turn left on Victoria Point. Turn right on San Andros & go at least a half mile. It is a mile from turning off Okeechobee. I'll put out a heart balloon. Please call our home 561-798-6383 or cell 329-8874 if you have trouble finding us. We are looking forward to seeing you.

Thank you for your participation. Let Suzan know by February 14 if you are coming. We need a list to turn in at the gate. Suzan Close - home 561-798-6383 or cell 561-329-8874.



Fashion Show Update - Our Fashion Show "Sand, Shells and Ocean Breezes" will be held on Saturday May 11 at the Atlantis Country Club. Chico's of Manalapan will be doing the fashions for our show.

Tickets will be distributed at our February meeting. We are limited in seating to 150. Each member will be given 5 tickets to sell unless more are requested. Thanks to Pike Taxes for covering the cost of buying the blank tickets and the printing of the tickets.

I will email everyone a donation request letter that you can add your name and information to make it as personal as needed.

I am asking for everyone's help in securing donations for our silent auction items and raffle items. Your hairdresser, nail tech, favorite mom & pop restaurant are good places to ask. All donations are listed in our program so the business gets the recognition they deserve. **NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL!**

A flyer is being made and will be sent to each of you via email. It will also be placed on our FB page and we will bring it to our district meeting with us along with tickets.

Thanks in advance for everyone's support. With all of us working together we will make this another **SUCCESSFUL** event!



### **ARTS - Sharon Bounds**

Arts Chair, Sharon Bounds, hosted a "Make and Take" card party January 30 in which 9 members and 4 guests got to create Valentine's Day cards using a variety of materials and supplies. Sharon was kind enough to provide all items needed to make these cards. Under her guidance all the cards came out better than anything store bought!







On February 6 from 1-3:30 pm there is a show at the Finland House, 301 Central Blvd, Lantana, FL. You may have been to these presentations thru the Library. This is called "JOHNSON & JOHNSON" a presentation of Andrew Johnson and Lyndon Johnson and their wives. It is a WOUNDED WARRIOR RELIEF FUND program so the cost is \$25 per person. You can purchase your ticket at [www.presidentsproject.org](http://www.presidentsproject.org) or mail a check to Presidents Project, Inc, 1853 Linden Rd, Winter Park, FL 32792. The program fills up fast, so go ahead and get your ticket if interested and we can meet early for lunch prior to the show!



**CONSERVATION - Donna Cohen**

Twelve members and two guests (myself and Kathy Stackhouse's granddaughter, Madison) delivered miscellaneous donation items to Peggy

Adams Animal Rescue. We were also escorted on a tour of their facility that was very informative and eye opening. In its over 90 years of operation they have facilitated a decrease of approximately 40% of stray, homeless and unwanted dogs and cats in our area. Their vet staff performs up to 70 spade/neutered a day, all at low or no cost. Their TNR (trap, neuter, release) program is working to reduce the breeding of the neighborhood and feral cat population. Once neutered, the cats ear is clipped, so as to be identified when returned to its original location.



Each animal has a description flyer telling all about them.



#### **FUTURE PROJECTS:**

Plant A Tree -Hispanic Human Resources - Class 106 @ Lucian Matrinez Center, May 1 Ceiba Tree Arbor Day 4/26/19 Wednesday

**Backyard Bird Count 2/15-2/1** - Spend a minimum of 15 minutes bird watching. Count and identify (if possible) the birds. 3 times minimum. Visit <http://gbbc.birdcount.org> for more information.

**PB Zoo and Conservation Society** - Collect empty paper towel and toilet tissue rolls for use as enrichment items for the animals. Meeting scheduled for 2/26/19 @ 2 pm to discuss other possible activities/ contributions.

**Wands for Wildlife** - Appalachian Wildlife Refuge - Skyland NC: Collect old mascara wands to be recycled for use in the care/treatment of injured or orphaned wildlife.



**Shoes 4 Souls** – We will continue collecting all types of shoes.

The **Oleander Garden Club** has extended an invitation to us to join them for their annual luncheon on Thursday, February 21. JeffAnne, Cathy Hopkins, Mary Evelyn, Suzan, Karen Leach and 2 guests have already signed up. It is not too late to join us. Please contact Pat Welch 561-271-0709 and tell them you are with the GFWC Greater West Palm Beach WC group. Hope some of you can join us!



Thanks again for the many donations of used books to support our library system. We gathered 32 hardback and 50 paperback books to donate to the Palm Beach County Friends of the Library Used Book Sale which took place the last weekend in January. Education chair and husband took these books, valued at \$317 to the Hagen Branch Library on January 7, 2019.



## EDUCATION - Kathy Stackhouse

Linda Ferris shared that one benefit of writing year end reports is the feedback you receive in reviewing all that was accomplished in 2018. The Education Department had 31 projects, totaled 240 volunteer hours, donated \$1852 of scholarships, awards, books and instructional materials, and amassed \$1445 in-kind donations. So this nearly \$3300 of donations put 179 new books and 420 used books into the hands of readers in Palm Beach County. A very good year!



On January 7, 2019, GFWC National Membership Coordinator Emily West informed us by email that we were awarded a **\$200 Literacy grant** for our upcoming projects. I re-submitted the August 20, 2018 application on December 29 after reading the grant deadlines in the GFWC News and Notes.

The **Friends of the Palm Beach County Library System** continued their sponsorship of their outstanding dramatic presentations of Presidents and Their First Ladies. This month William and Nellie Taft was the couple revealed in the entertaining and informative event. The Wellington presentation was one of nineteen performances in the county libraries and three members and one guest attended. Another member and two guests attended the Boynton Beach Library performance. Though free, donations were accepted.

We are **donating 22 copies** of *The Little Elephant Who Wants to Fall Asleep* to the February Women Veteran's Baby Shower. Though we only had to pay shipping costs for this title from First Book in 2018, the retail value of these books is \$286.

**It's a party!** March 2 is the Dr. Seuss' birthday and is celebrated nationwide in Read Across America events. On Monday, March 4, we will celebrate with our adopted 4-year old class at the Hispanic Resource Center. One of the national initiatives is getting Dr. Seuss books to Kids and we will be giving one to each of the 20 students in our class. Time and details to follow.

We sent **scholarship applications** to Forest Hill H.S. and Cameron, the HOBY student who spoke at our July meeting. The deadline is March 15, 2019.



## HOME LIFE - Suzan Close

I am happy to be serving as your Home Life Chairperson. I am looking for a few committee members to help me plan and carry out the goals for the next two years. Thank you to Jean Allen for volunteering to help.

My plans are to continue our support of **Quantum House dinners & pillowcases** for the children. I plan to check with the Gardens club to see if they would like to partner with us on this project. If we partner, we could do the project 4 times instead of one or two a year.

We will continue the **adult shirt protectors** a few times a year or as needed. We will help make the dresses with Linda Walker's International project. We will also assist with Operation Smile bags & other sewing projects.

I will try to address a health or finance topic under Home Life each Month. **Friday, February 1 is National Wear Red Day to raise awareness about Heart disease and encourage others to do the same.** We will include Heart Healthy Food & recipes at our Potluck dinner before Bunco on February 15. If you go to our state club manual you can see 8 pages about Home Life. If you see any ideas you would like us to participate in, please let me know.

**Our only GFWC formal partner this year is Canine Companions for Independence.**

**January was National Glaucoma and Eye Health Awareness month.** Please take this as a reminder to get your eyes examined each year to check not only the status of your sight, but also the presence of any eye problems or diseases. Please consider signing a donation of your eyes upon death. My sister had 2 corneas transplants and I had a newer version of cornea transplant one year ago. Without donations many people would be blind. Many of us are at the age of dealing with cataracts which also cause vision difficulty. Another reason to get that checkup soon!



**INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH -  
Linda Walker**

Thank you for your positive feedback to my projected International Outreach projects for 2019. I wanted to recap some of what I spoke about at our meeting, and give some websites so that you can get a better understanding of each of these projects and how we are really making a difference in the lives of others.

Relative to International Outreach, GFWC partners with Operation Smile (this information will be listed under President's Project), Heifer International, Shot@ Life and UNICEF.

**Heifer International** - was started in the 1930's by Dan West, a Midwestern farmer who ladled out cups of milk to hungry children on both sides of the civil war, when he realized what these families needed was "not a cup, but a cow." The idea of giving families a source of food and education rather than short-term relief caught on and has continued over 70 years. Our donation of \$50 will gift a Hope Basket which includes rabbits and a starter flock of chickens. This provides eggs and protein for nourishment and boosts income through sales of extra eggs and offspring. These animals reproduce often, so families will soon be able to Pass on the Gift to neighbors making our gift even greater. If you want to learn more, go to [www.Heifer.org](http://www.Heifer.org)

**Shot@Life** - is a global immunization program which aims to ensure that children around the world have access to lifesaving vaccines. Through public education, grassroots advocacy, and fundraising, United Nations Foundation strives to decrease vaccine-preventable childhood deaths and give every child a shot at a healthy life no matter where they live. We will donate \$50 to UN Foundation **Shot@Life** Campaign. Individually we can go to [www.shotatlife.org](http://www.shotatlife.org) to customize a pre-drafted letter asking members of congress to maintain FY19 Funding for Foreign Assistance that Saves Lives & Serve U.S. Interests. I think you will find [www.shotatlife.org](http://www.shotatlife.org) very informative, and you can also check out their Facebook page. Please let me know if you emailed the letter to your Congressman.

**UNICEF** will be discussed at a later date.

**TUBFRIM** will be discussed at a later date.



**Christmas At Sea** - (Seamen's Church Institute (SCI) promotes the safety, dignity and improved working environment for the men and women serving in North American and International maritime workplaces. We have sent many knitted and crochet hats and scarves in the past, and I would like to continue with this project. If anyone would like to participate, please let me know, and I will send you all the specific details. You can also get patterns and details at [www.seamenschurch.org](http://www.seamenschurch.org) and/or [www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea](http://www.seamenschurch.org/christmas-at-sea).

They ask that we mail these items in early fall so they can begin sending them where needed. Therefore, I will mail them in early September.

**Live Hope Learn** - is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization with a mission to improve the quality of life for the Haitian people, particularly children, through education, nutrition and shelter. Since 2013 we have made pillow-case dresses, t-shirt dresses, sent boys shorts, flip-flops and sent money to help the children at this orphanage. I should be receiving a list of names, ages and sizes of the children shortly, and will then schedule a date to begin making more dresses. We are even on their Facebook page showing our dresses and other donations. Check it out at [www.livehopelearn.org](http://www.livehopelearn.org) or the Facebook page Live Hope Learn.

**Operation Christmas Child** - can be viewed at [samaritanspurse.org](http://samaritanspurse.org). I will be collecting items all year for the shoe boxes and will plan a box stuffing event to take place in early November. Please begin collecting items you might see on sale, etc. that would fit in a shoe box and be appropriate for Operation Christmas Child/Samaritan's Purse.

Ideas are: toy cars, jump ropes, yo-yo's, socks, hats, sunglasses, hair clips, small stuffed animals, pens, pencils, and sharpeners, crayons, markers, notebooks and paper, coloring and picture books, washcloths, toothbrushes, washcloths, combs, bar soap, flip flops, shoes, t-shirts, shorts, skirts. Should you prefer to fill your own box on your own, that would be great as well. I will deliver all of them at the same time. Please bring items to each meeting and I will be prepared to collect and store them.

**International Dinner** - will be on March 14 at 6 pm at Paddy Mac's Restaurant, a lively neighborhood pub known for its classic Irish cooking and draft beers, in honor of St. Patty's Day. Paddy Mac's is located in Palm Beach Gardens, just North of PGA on Military Trail. 10971 North Military Trail. Please let me know by March 10 if you plan to come so I can reserve the "back room"! The food is great and it should be a good time.



## **PUBLIC ISSUES - Cathy Hopkins**

Thank you to all that brought items for the Mommy Bags and also for the drink mixes which go to the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach.

Cathy and JeffAnne made a delivery of donated drink mixes to the Forgotten Soldiers Outreach.



Cathy pictured with FSO Volunteer Manager Gina Abbananto.



**Random Acts of Cookies** - We will bag and take cookies to the Florida Highway Patrol Substation on the turnpike, Fire Station 93 and the Domestic Violence Department at the PB Sheriff's Office on **Tuesday February 12**. Please meet with your cookies at JeffAnne's at 11 am. We will bag, deliver and go to lunch afterwards. If you would like to bake or buy cookies for this but can't make it to pack and deliver just let JeffAnne know and you can bring them to her house early or she will meet with you to get the cookies. This is a fun project because they Firemen and Police love the cookies and it is encouraging to them to know that someone appreciates them.

The Veterans will be keeping us busy this month with our "**National Salute to Veterans Week**" which coincides with Valentine's Day. We will be hosting a "Tea/Appreciation Day" on Valentine's Day for the women Veterans. We will be bringing goodies to the women who come into the VA during the morning. There will be about 40-50 women coming in at that time. We will be serving fruit, donut holes, pastries, cup cakes, cookies and candies from 9 am to 12 pm. We would appreciate any volunteers who would like to participate in this project by donating their time on that day to make this a success. I figure about an 1½ hours for 2 people on each shift. If you would like to help please contact me, (Cathy Hopkins) and we will work up a schedule.

Our other ongoing project for the Women Vets is the **Mommy Bags**, which we donate for the Women Veteran's Baby shower. The shower is February 23 and we will be stuffing the Mommy Bags on Saturday, February 16 at 10 am at Cathy Hopkins House, 922 Belmont Drive, West Palm Beach. We will then deliver the bags on February 19. We will go to breakfast that day and then deliver the bags.

We donated a case of **Girl Scout Cookies to the Military**, which we do every year. Please let Cathy know if you donated any cookies to the military so we can include those numbers in our reports.

This month for Valentine's Day the club will be giving our adopted girls at **Home Safe** a pizza party. They are so excited to be getting the party and enjoying the pizzas!



JeffAnne will be mailing the rest of our club's generous gifts to the **Coast Guard**. We had so many donations that they could not all be sent at the same time. Way to go, Club!!! Each of you has written in a Valentine's Day Card for the men during the meeting that will be included, along with a bag of Valentine chocolates, in the mailing. I hope that many of you will come to these projects for fun and fellowship and knowing that you are helping to make this a better club. Thanks!



**PUBLIC RELATIONS - Linda Ferris**



**Pat on the Back** - We are off to an outstanding start with spreading our club's identity in the community this year, as two members earned the "Pat on the Back," at the January meeting. Phyllis posted info about our club and meeting date several times in early January when women are thinking about new ideas for the new year. Linda Walker posted info about our club sponsorship of International projects, including Heifer International and Operation Smile. Congrats to both members!!

**Facebook** - Please continue to post our club events on your own FB page, and send to Phyllis and JeffAnne to post on our "official club Facebook page."



**Membership Monday** - I was happy to see our club's MLK project at Peggy Adams in Membership Monday, January 28. I also sent the same pictures and info to GFWC News and Notes since they had asked for submissions and was excited to see that we were published in their MLK Blog. This email comes from national headquarters on Thursdays.



## **GFWC PRESIDENT'S PROJECT - OPERATION SMILE - Linda Walker**

**Operation Smile** is an international children's medical charity that performs safe cleft lip and cleft palate surgery and delivers post-operative and ongoing medical care to children in low-income countries. Operation Smile is the GFWC President's Project again this year, and it is my hope that we can sponsor two smiles again this year. (A donation of \$480). After receiving surgery, each child receives a Smile Bag, the perfect gift to cheer up a healing child. These bags are filled with small personal care items as well as toys, stickers and a mirror to see their new smile. We will be making some Smile Bags (date to be announced), and will be collecting the following items to put into the bags:

Small shampoo (screw top only); Small comb; Bar of soap (small hotel size); New wash cloth; Travel-sized toothpaste; Child sized toothbrush; Small stuffed animal; 8-pack box of non-toxic crayons; Thin 8.5" x 11" coloring book; and Small square mirror (approx. size 3inch by 3 inch).

Please pick up a few of these items each month and bring them to our meeting. (There will be a small box in the back of the room for this collection. Please check out Operation Smile's website at [www.operationsmile.org](http://www.operationsmile.org) and [www.operationsmile.org/content/smile-bags](http://www.operationsmile.org/content/smile-bags)



## **GFWC SPECIAL PROJECT - Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention- Linda Ferris**

**Birthday bags** - I hope you are excited about our Birthday bag project for the children in Harmony House, our local domestic assault shelter. I showed you what items goes into the bags to show you how easy it is to participate Beginning with the February 25 meeting, I will collect items for the birthday bags, and continue through the March meeting. Each bag has birthday plates, birthday napkins, birthday cups, party favors of various kinds, a new book, which I already have, new toy or game, with everything going into a jumbo birthday bag with wide bottom. I then label each bag with our club name, boy or girl or either, top with tissue paper, and tie the bag closed with a ribbon.

**Project ideas for 2019** - We plan to continue the projects we did in 2018, including Harmony House support and donations, Birthday Bags for children, Purses with a Purpose, Grandma's Place, Hacienda, Aid to Victims of Domestic Assault, known as AVDA, where we donated clothing, shoes, and hygiene items. I would love to have some members join me on this committee.

## **LEADERSHIP - Mary Evelyn Mitchell**

President, Mary Evelyn Mitchell presented last year's co-presidents Cathy Hopkins and Suzan Close with their past president's pins and a plant as thanks for their two years leading our club.



## DISTRICT 10 NEWS

The District 10 Arts and Crafts Meeting will be Saturday March 2 in Stuart. Please let Sharon Bounds know if you have an art/craft entry by February 10. Last day to register for the meeting is February 20, please let Mary Evelyn know by then if you wish to attend.

## PERSONALS

It was a great experience being your co-president for the last two years! Thank you so much for the kind & encouraging words in my card. I couldn't have done my part without Cathy Hopkins doing her part. We had a lot of guidance to help us succeed. I will wear the past president pin with pride for being a part of the great group of women in GFWC Greater West Palm Beach Women's Club. As many of you know I love orchids of any kind. I will treasure thinking of you when I enjoy it. Thanks, Suzan Close

Deb Durand's Mom passed away January 27. In case you want to send a card, here is her address. Meg and Linda sent one on behalf of the club.

Deb Durand and Bill Hobson  
2436 Circle Dr.  
West Palm Beach, FL 33406

## DATES TO REMEMBER:

- February 2 - Downton Abby Exhibit
- February 5 - Orientation for New Members
- February 6 - Presidential Literary Event
- February 10 - Last Day to register Art entry
- February 12 - Random Acts of Cookies
- February 14 - VA Women's Valentine's Tea
- February 14 - Pizza Party for Home Safe
- February 15 - BUNCO
- February 15 - 18 Backyard Bird Count
- February 16 - Pack Mommy Bags
- February 18 - Board Meeting
- February 19 - Deliver Mommy Bags
- February 20 - Last Day to register for District Meeting
- February 23 - Lake Worth Street Painting
- February 25 - Business Meeting
- February 28 - Newsletter Deadline

## **GFWC Greater West Palm Beach**

**Women's Club**

**PO Box 16311**

**West Palm Beach, FL 33416**

**For more information Contact:**

**JeffAnne Pike**

**561-329-1289**

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West Palm Beach Women's Club**

**Visit our webpage:**

**[gfwc-wpbwomensclub.org](http://gfwc-wpbwomensclub.org)**