



GFWC – Charlotte

CLUB COMMUNICATOR

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Past Presidents



Margie Carter



Linda Foster



December 7 meeting honored past presidents, Ms. Federation, new members, multi-generational memberships, and the chorus entertained us. More information on inside pages.



Past Presidents in attendance: back: Margie Carter, Mary Remenak, Nola Buck, Karen Elsesser, middle: Chris Fleischmann, Mona Ellard, Jeannette Sommer, Sara Biskie, Lee Falik, Linda Foster, front: Donna W. Johnson, Norma Curtis, Carol Monroe, Lori Pray, Joyce Sparks, Shirley Rann, Jo Gager

Ms. Federation – Immediate Past President, Margie Carter

Margie is one of the most dedicated presidents that we have had. She promoted state and national GFWC projects and faithfully attends District and State Meetings. She was also our Club's GAM representative to the GFWC International meeting. She received our Woman of Achievement Award in 2009-10; almost single-handedly did a tree on behalf of GFWC for the SIREN/Eaton Shelter event (and won first place two years in a row)! Currently, she serves on the board, is a member of the Finance Committee, Helping Hands and is the Bay Cliff Representative. At the District level she is the International Outreach Chair. CONGRATULATIONS, MARGIE!

Historical Moment – was given by Linda Foster on – Generations of Service: A Legacy Event

GFWC put out a plea for clubs to submit articles on members who were related and how they were inspired to join. Linda wrote and submitted the article for our club. It was published in the May/June 2012 issue of *Clubwoman*. Featured was the Johnson legacy starting with Josephine who was our 50th president and belonged for 74 years until her death at age 100 and the Club's 120th year. Daughter-in-laws Donna W. and Marian and Marian's daughter, Carolyn all were subsequent club presidents. Also featured were the Laurel Pray- Jeannette Sommer families - seven members in one family over a 57-year time frame. Laurel and Jeannette were sisters. Their family members involved in GFWC – Charlotte include: Lori Pray, Rosalie Eishen, Dana Pray, Laurie Newland, Jessica Sommer. Linda did a genealogical tree to represent our Generations of Service. (Stormi Stuler painted the tree.) Other multi-generational relationships in our club include:

Eva Crandall, Betty Crandall, the late Pat Crandall and Lola Wilson
Barbara Fulton, Christi Dutcher, the late Evelo Fulton and Connie Miller
Alice Hayes, Diane Joppie and the late Eilene Christensen
Mary Remenak, Fran Fuller and Mike Pawli
Linda Foster, Debbie Sunden
Sue Pruden and Sonnie Cody
Sally Jewell and the late Evelyn Stall
Karen Wirt and Kay Harrison
Beth Wildern and the late Dolly Wildern
Joy St. John and Deb Mohre
Katie Dornbos and Penny Dornbos
LeAnn Green and Marguerite Burkhead

Many club members mentored by these people have gone on to serve GFWC at the district and state levels in various capacities allowing the legacy of GFWC to grow in generations of service. We hope the legacy will draw even more new members.

New Members for 2012:

Jane Karlzan, Chris Olson, Ellen Fuller, Suzi Huber, Jeana Rohrs



Not pictured: Wendee Morse, Diane Ruswick

GFWC – CHARLOTTE CHORUS ENTERTAINED US



Carolyn Maier, Director: Marlene Darin, Jan Harms, Jo Vanderstelt, Judy Whitkopf, Peggy Nichols, Patty Greene, Jane Karlzan, Barb Thiel, Lori Pray, Martha Limauro, Carol Rossio, Joan Hasselback, Chris Olson, Joyce Sparks, Pam Rinckey, Linda Foster, Jeannette Sommer, Sally Jewel





Partner Spotlight: Sew Much Comfort

GFWC partner Sew Much Comfort provides adaptive clothing to support the unique needs of our wounded service personnel members, including all branches of the military and National Guard. Unfortunately, standard clothing does not properly fit with fixators, prosthetics, and casts. SMC adapts typical civilian clothing using our custom-designed patterns. Sew Much Comfort is the only organization providing adaptive clothing at no cost to our wounded service members. To find out how you and your club can help wounded servicemen and women, contact Michele Cuppy at Michele@SewMuchComfort.org.



CRAFTY CHRISTMAS WREATHS

On December 4, 2012, GFWC-Charlotte members met at the Congregational Church to make Christmas wreaths. Sandy Maatsch, instructor, had a family emergency and was not able to attend.

Dyna Lehman took over as instructor and helped members make 5 wreaths and instructed us on how to make beautiful bows. Those in attendance were: Dyna Lehman, Ellen Fuller, Brynda Filkins, and Margie Carter. President Sylvia Colles checked in with us and was pleased with our progress.



OPERATION SMILE BAGS

Looking for something to do this winter? Why not sew some Operation Smile Bags. The bags are easy to make and you can choose cotton fabric from your own supply or purchase fabric. The only restriction on fabric is that no prints contain religious symbols or markings or are related to war or violence, such as guns, military action figures, etc. as these may offend the cultural beliefs of international patients. If you are interested and need instructions or have fabric you'd like to donate, call me at 645-2573 or email me at hobie7040@sbcglobal.net and I'll get the instructions to you or make arrangements to pick up your fabric. The project will come to a close at our April meeting so if you're out of state for the winter, return your bags as soon as possible after you return. Thank you for your continued support of this program.



Friendship House's Grandma Jean Bearup has "grandchildren" from many different countries

by Wes Thorp

By Teacher Mary Lou

A halo of white waves and a contagious cheerful smile grace this radiant "Grandma to the World." You'll meet her on the sofa at the Friendship House MSU warmly welcoming students as they arrive for class in the morning.

She's always ready to give warm hugs and cheerful greetings to students from around the world who arrive seeking the warmth of home.

She's there to serve

Every minute counts for Grandma Jean Bearup as she chats with first-time guests or students arriving to hone their English skills. Students are amazed that this "haven away from home" comes equipped with a loving caring Grandma. She is often consulted for advice by students who probe to know more about her fantastic life story.

At 92 years old she has many experiences to share with her new friends, stories of growing up in the mountains of Colorado, serving as a World War II nurse in France and raising a family in Michigan.

She teaches through stories

Her stories add dimension and delight to the ESL classes and the Bible classes at the Friendship House. Part of Grandma Jean's charm is her approachable cheerful personality. Even students who are just beginning to speak English trust her to tutor them and assist them with sentence structure and pronunciation.

Several students have prepared for major university class presentations by practicing with Grandma Jean. She is not only an avid listener but also an alert questioner as she poses possible queries that students may encounter following their presentations. Students feel calm and confident after they have practiced with Grandma Jean!

She helped student memorize

Recently the mother of an MSU student who arrived as a short-term visitor attended Bible studies here. Soon she desired to be baptized and a special celebration was planned. For several weeks following class in the afternoon, Grandma Jean stayed to help her memorize the 23rd Psalm in English.

She was thrilled to recite the complete Psalm at her baptismal ceremony! There is great respect and admiration for Grandma Jean. Students enjoy her friendly quick wit and consult her for advice about everything from health to holidays to travel.

Grandma Jean from Charlotte, MI, considers the opportunity to be at the Friendship House a precious privilege. "It energizes me," she says.

During the past year she has been "Grandma" to students from places such as Iran, China, Korea, France, Syria, Viet Nam, Chile, Peru, Japan, Egypt, Iraq, Russia, Taiwan, Indonesia and Thailand. The love and care she shares brings a unique "family" warmth to students far from their homelands.

We thank God for our very special "Grandma to the World!"



DECEMBER COOKING CLASSES

December found the morning and the evening Cooking Classes learning a delicious Christmas meal. It included beef tenderloin with shallot mustard sauce, Romaine salad, stuffed baked potatoes, brandied carrots, sautéed Brussels sprouts, and black bottom pie. Led by Lori Pray at AL!VE, the ladies participated in preparing the meal, eating, and cleaning up. We hear that we are going to be making hors d'oeuvres for the May anniversary meeting (Hope you can plan to attend and partake of the goodies.)



Tea and Tomes:

Do you enjoy long English novels written in the 1800's? We do, too! Join us for our classic book discussion of *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte this month. We will meet from 12:45 to 2:30 pm at the Charlotte Community Library's Spartan Room on Tuesday, January 22. *Jane Eyre* is a mistreated orphan who learns to survive by relying on her independence and intelligence, which later bring her the admiration of the mysterious Mr. Rochester. But just when it seems she will win the happiness she has long deserved, a dark secret comes to light. It will take all of her strength, courage and determination to enable her to triumph over adversity.



Sneak Peek: *Room* by Emma Donoghue on February 26, 2013.

Bibs for Bay Cliff

On the current Bay Cliff Wish List is a request for home-made towel bibs for the campers. GFWC-Charlotte is collecting towels to fulfill this request. Please bring new sage green bath or hand towels to the General Meetings and place them in the designated box. Towels will be collected until the April 5 meeting. If you are able to sew the binding on the necklines of the bibs, please sign up at the meetings or contact April Brooks.





Board Talk – Sylvia Colles



We are mid way through our Club year and in a new calendar year, 2013. This is the time to make a few resolutions. One that I am making, and one that I hope that you will also make, is to invite a new member to join GFWC-Charlotte. There are so many wonderful things coming our way in the next few months that new members would enjoy. Our February meeting will get us off to a good start with advice on how to improve our balance and avoid falling. We have a wonderful bunch of younger members, but, if you are like me and have gained numerous years of life experience (a polite way of saying I'm not so young anymore), this will be much needed advice. Even if you are young and fleet of foot, there's still a lot that can be learned.

If one of your resolutions was to live healthier this year, keep walking at ALIVE. "Women on the Move" recorded nearly 60 hours walking so far in the short time we have been keeping track. Some members recorded their laps, and that totaled 131 miles. Marlene Darin even kept track of how far she walked while she was in Arkansas. Others reported various kinds of activities like Zumba and chair exercising. Thanks go to Margie Carter for her inspiration in starting this program, and thanks also go to her for keeping up the statistics. Having our members exercise more and being healthier is a goal of State President Marty Groleau. It's a goal we can all achieve. GFWC MI President Marty's January Challenge is available at www.gfwc-charlotte.com

This is a busy month with the 2012 Annual Report due to the State GFWC. When I finally sat down to work on it, I was delighted to see that nearly every Committee/Program/Department Chair had completed their report and returned it to me. My thanks to all who turned in their reports and their time sheets. It is one of my resolutions to send the report in well ahead of the deadline. Your responses help make that possible

Enough for a moment of looking ahead to 2013, and time to take a look back at December 2012. The Holiday Tea was wonderful. So many of our Past Presidents were able to attend. We also had the opportunity to recognize new members. If you agree with me that the choir should sing something at every meeting, let Carolyn Maier and all the singers know. I don't think that is going to happen, but wouldn't it be wonderful. We heard more about our rich GFWC-Charlotte history – thank you Linda Foster. Makes me so proud to be a member. The tables for the tea were beautifully decorated and the cookies were yummy. It was a wonderful meeting.



Happy New Year! See you on February 1. In the meantime, keep walking.

GFWC MI EVENTS:

Our Legislation and Public Policy Chairman, Pat Boes is planning **Legislation Day** in Lansing on May 8, 2013. Please save the date.

Information will be in the February 2013 Spring GFWC MI Newsletter. **One Day of Service** will be April 27, 2013.



Mini Trips Update



Titanic: The Artifact Exhibition – Grand Rapids Public Museum

*Thursday, February 21 cost is \$17 and lunch
am*

carpool @ 9:00

More than 150 legendary artifacts conserved from the Ship's debris field are showcased offering a poignant look at this iconic Ship and its passengers. The Exhibition has been designed with a focus on the legendary RMS *Titanic's* compelling human stories as best told through authentic artifacts and extensive room re-creations. We will also have lunch while in Grand Rapids.

See <http://www.grmuseum.org/http%3A/%252Fgrmuseum.org/titanic> for more information.

Hope's Landing & Sensations tour

TBA Spring no cost

local

We are arranging a weekday afternoon tour of these two senior living communities right here in Charlotte. This is an opportunity not only to see these facilities but also meet staff & learn more about options for family members in our community. If you are interested please contact Jo. We will schedule this tour with the availability of those members interested in going in mind.

All trips will carpool from Alive · All trips can accommodate only a limited number of participants, spaces will be filled first come first serve · Non members are always welcome to join us on our mini trips.

Any ideas for future trips please let me know Jo Vanderstelt, Mini Trips Chairperson, 517-281-1301 or jovanderstelt@yahoo.com

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Carol Monroe was made aware of a need for volunteers at Sensations Memory Care Residence, located at 511 E. Shepherd St., Charlotte, and she is hoping that some of our Club members will be willing to help out. The contact there is Barbara White bwhite.1954@gmail.com . Barbara writes . . .

We are so pleased that your group is considering getting involved in our community. As you know, we are a lock-down residence, specializing in memory care. It takes special people to understand our residents at times, but I'm confident that Carol Monroe would never have suggested I contact you, had she not thought the match would be good.

We have varied volunteer opportunities from which to choose. I've tried to list a few, but please know that we are open to anything your ladies feel they can do that would add quality to our residents' lives.

1. Activities (games, bingo, crafts, cards, reading, music, etc.)
2. Dining Room (assist with feeding, chatting with residents who are distressed)
3. Grooming Center (arranging hair [when stylist is not in house],, painting nails)
4. Gardening (designing additional small gardens, planting our pizza garden, etc.) This is truly an area where we could use some help, be it physical or creative!
5. Answer phone/receptionist for short periods.

Liz Murray, from Homeless to Harvard

KALEIDOSCOPE – Friday, April 26



Keynote Speaker

From homeless to Harvard...it is an unlikely turn of events. Liz Murray's life is a triumph over adversity and a stunning example of the importance of dreaming big. Murray's life as the child of a cocaine-addicted parents in the Bronx was bitterly grim. There was never food in the house, everything was filthy, drugs were everywhere and the welfare checks were spent before they arrived. By age 15, Murray's mom had died and she was homeless-living on the streets, riding the subway all night and eating from dumpsters. Amidst the pain, Murray always imagined her life could be much better than it was. "I started to grasp the value of the lessons learned while living on the streets. I knew, after overcoming those daily obstacles that next to nothing could hold me down." Determined to take charge of her life, Murray finished high school in just two years while camping out in New York City parks and subway stations. Murray's story is exhilarating and her delivery innocently honest, as she takes audiences on a very personal journey where she achieves the improbable. Her story sounds like a Hollywood movie-and it practically is. Lifetime Television produced a movie about Murray's life story entitled *From Homeless to Harvard*, which premiered in April 2003. Murray is the recipient of Oprah Winfrey's first ever Chutzpah Award. Her memoir, *Breaking Night*, was released in September 2010 and within a week landed on The New York Times Best Seller List.

Murray received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology from Harvard University in June 2009.

Opening Session Speaker

Elliot Engel

Professor Elliot Engel will join us again this year as our Opening Session Speaker.

CONTACT LINDA FOSTER TO SIGN UP – 543-3041 ed@fosterdvm.com

Remember to get your articles in by the 15th of each month for *The Club Communicator* to:
Linda Foster, 316 Beech St., Charlotte, MI 48813; 543-3041;
ed@fosterdvm.com



Membership Memos

Remembrances...



Marilyn Monroe Hart- surgery
Nathalie Weseman - broken leg
Sherry Pabst-infant grandchild/meningitis/hospitalized since Thanksgiving
Peggy Nichols – husband, David's passing
Sandy Maatsch -son Jim's - illness
Bev Trumley - illness

Birthdays

Anniversaries

LATE JANUARY

19 Shelby Butler
19 Gloria Wilson
21 Lori King
23 Chris Olson
26 Cheryl Jackson
27 Norma Curtis

20 Martha & Mike Limauro

EARLY FEBRUARY

02 Marian Johnson
03 Eva Crandall
03 Lola Wilson
04 Barb Fulton
05 Carol Idalski
05 Jackie Carr
15 Mona Ellard



07 Bev & Dick Trumley
09 Betty & Jim Crandall

16 Jo & Dan Vanderstelt

GFWC-Charlotte Balance and Fall Risk

The General Federation of Women's Club-Charlotte will hold its monthly **meeting on Friday, February 1,** at the Charlotte Community Library. Cheryl Jackson and Karri Wills, staff from Hayes Green Beach will present a program that will interest all of us now and for the future as we age.

I know several of our members have fallen in the past year (me included) and we want any information that would help us remain on our feet so that we can lead active and independent lives. Balance Screening will be available beginning at 11:30 for any member interested in participating.

The deadline for reservations is 12 noon, Saturday, January 26. Reservations can be made at HGB Hospital Gift Basket. Members may also email their reservations and pay at the door by going to www.imembersdb.com . (If you can't remember your user name and your password, contact Linda Foster.) Click on "Go to Register Me," then "register now." Check off questions on page, hit "register" and then "confirm." (Linda Foster can help you.) If you choose to email your reservation, you are asked to have the exact payment amount at door. "No shows" are committed for payment unless their spot is resold. Cost is \$10.00. Social time and Balance Screening is at 11:30 a.m., followed by a lunch/meeting at 12 noon. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Dianna Rabey at 517-543-3295 or drabey@eatonisd.org .

Coffee Sale Fundraiser a Success

Special thanks to everyone who purchased coffee during 2012. Due to your support \$340.50 in profit was realized to support the club's activities and programs.

Due to the fact that the wholesale cost of the coffee has risen significantly each year, 2012 was the last year for the coffee fundraiser.

If you have an idea or suggestions for a new fundraiser next year, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Marlene Darin and Sharon Kubica

ESO EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON Epsilon ten sautou hoden “Enlighten your own pathway”

ESO is an honorary educational society open to all GFWC members. The purpose of ESO is to promote a commitment to lifelong learning and self-improvement through reading. It is intended to offer a path to self-enrichment and personal growth for all members, not just those who participate in a book discussion club.

GOALS:

- To encourage clubwomen's pursuit of higher education
- To create an additional means to unite women in volunteerism
- To develop a support network for women returning to school
- To improve current and develop new study skills
- To stimulate systematic home reading and study with minimum supervision
- To encourage the establishment of home libraries and greater use of public libraries
- To encourage the formation of reading/study/discussion groups

RESPONSIBILITIES:

ESO members are encouraged to participate in club programs such as

- Reading
- Participating in reading/study/discussion groups
- Working to achieve higher ESO levels
- Continuing to pursue self-improvement through personal study

Reading is, of course, the main responsibility of an ESO member. Members may read from an ESO published reading list (available at GFWC.org/ESO) or they may choose alternate titles. A report form must be maintained by each member and forwarded to the local chairperson, who, in turn, will forward report totals to the state ESO chairperson. Reporting is done in late-December of each year. State ESO chairs will issue certificates and awards based on report forms received. A pledge form must be completed to enroll as an ESO member (download available at gfwc-charlotte.com). Brynda Filkins is the local chairperson; call her with questions at 541-3698. Every GFWC member is encouraged to pledge.
Start the new year by pledging to ESO!

Historical Highlight

From the Secretary's Report - 1917-1918

World War I Years

The club year of 1917-18 is closing and never in club history has there been the conditions that clubs have faced this year. The demand for all kinds of war work has been met nobly by club women everywhere.

At the beginning of the club year, the members deemed it was wise to give one meeting each month (at this time meetings were held weekly) To Red Cross work, and for the past two months nearly every meeting was Red Cross week.

The club has contributed \$25 to Red Cross work and has purchased a \$50 Liberty bond paid for largely by members contributing \$1 they had earned. The 31st year of the club is closing and may the 32nd year bring to us pleasant club associations and the great blessing we are looking forward to, so hopefully "Peace by Victory"



GFWC - CHARLOTTE

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