# ★ GFWC OF MINNESOTA NEWS ★ SPRING EDITION ★ ★ MARCH - JUNE 2020 ★



### GFWC SUPPORTS OUR STARS!





Great Memories...

I will keep them in my heart forever.

A Message from Jean Walker, Upcoming GFWC-MN Past President: I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of my officers, chairs, and appointees for the last two years as your president. I know that 2020 has been a very uncertain time with the terrible pandemic, and we didn't get to finish my term with a

State Convention, but we got it done — our new officers are elected! As I read the accomplishments of our clubs this last year, you made GFWC of Minnesota very proud! You all did an awesome job promoting our programs and honoring our Veterans, which you all know is near and dear to my heart. Sadly, the Honor Flights for 2020 have been canceled to keep our Veterans healthy and safety is always a top priority. My plan is to meet with the H. F. group to give them our donation check to use for future 2021 Honor Flights. Thank you again for all you have done for your communities and for GFWC! I am looking forward to seeing everyone once the COVID-19 Virus is under control and we can once again meet as a group. I would like to wish President Jennell Jorgenson-Johnson and her officers all the best for 2020-2022, I know they will do an awesome job. Everyone please stay safe!. . .

Yours in Federation.

Jean Walker, GFWC-MN 2018-2020 President





To our 2020-2022 GFWC Year!

A message from Jannell Jorgenson-Johnson: I am looking forward to serving as your new President (effective July 1st). My focus during my term will be on the Arts & Culture. I will be introducing my logo and new front page GFWC-

MN Newsletter banner in the upcoming Summer Edition (July thru August). Along with the quarterly newsletter, I am going to work hard to also issue to everyone a Monthly Update Letter from me. I have almost completed getting all the new GFWC-MN 'Community Service Program' Chairs and appointee personnel together. With this new administration, you are going to see a few positive changes – for one, none of the GFWC Programs have gone awa, but to keep up with the times, they have been refined and some have had a slight name change. Look for my announcement of the new GFWC-MN chairs and appointees in the next newsletter. I am sure that there will be questions about our changes, please remember that my door is always open. If you ever have a question, just email me at <code>jcjj3jjj@hotmail.com</code> I will get you an answer or direct you to someone who can help you. Every club, every member and every question is important! Have a healthy and Happy 4th of July!...

Yours in Federation,

Jannell Jorgenson-Johnson, 2020-2022 GFWC-MN President

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



April 24th – FEDERATION DAY Celebrate the founding of GFWC

GFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION June 25 – 30, 2020, Atlanta, GA CANCELLED

#### **GFWC MVR CONFERENCE**

September 17 – 20, 2020, SD (PENDING) September 23 – 26, 2021, MN

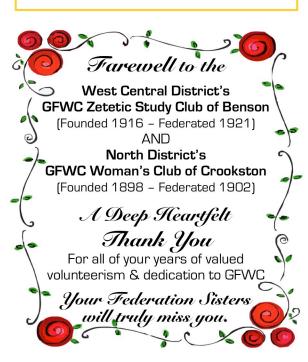
### GFWC-MN STATE CONVENTION → July 25, 2020 – VIRTUAL ON ZOOM

Very soon, an invitation and detailed information will be sent to every MN member via email. KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR IT AND JOIN THE FUN!

April 30 – May 1, 2021, Morton, MN

#### **GFWC-MN FALL WORKSHOP**

July 26 – 27, 2020 in Little Falls, MN CANCELLED (A NEW DATE IS PENDING)
July 23 – 24, 2021 in Little Falls, MN



#### **★ MEET THE 2020 – 2022 GFWC OF MINNESOTA OFFICERS ★**

Courtesy of Diane Mangseth, here are the GFWC of Minnesota SPECIAL ELECTION Minutes dated June 2, 2020 – Pursuant to the pandemic of 2020, and the cancellation of the GFWC of Minnesota State Convention, scheduled for May 1 – 3, in Morton, Minnesota, a special election has been held. The Election Committee, comprised of Jean Walker, Jennell Jorgenson-Johnson, Lilah Crowe and Yvonne Schilplin, has filed the GFWC of Minnesota Slate of Officers. Voting from the membership of the seven districts, which include the Northeast, Northwest, Central, Southeast, Southwest, East Central, and West Central and the Medallion Club has been completed as of May 1, 2020. The official slate of officers commencing July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2022 are as follows:



Linda Blue Pres. Elect



Diane Hannah 1st V.P.



Karla Mayhew 2nd V.P.



DeAnn Fiecke Secretary



Samantha Johnson-Purdie Treasurer

The GFWC Sleepy Eye Woman's Club November Meeting was an evening of honoring their member's years of service to GFWC. Members were presented with a red rose and received their membership pins.

Club President, Paulette Grausam states, "As President it was very exciting for me to be able to applaud these women's dedicated contributions to the Sleepy Eye Woman's Club and their community! We also focused on recognizing those who had served before us and how grateful we are for their hard work and commitment to the Sleepy Eye Woman's Club through all these years!"

The January newspaper article is courtesy of the Sleepy Eye Herald Dispatch.

### Woman's Club members have served the community for many years

Submitted

The General Federation of Woman's Club (GFWC) Sleepy Eye Woman's Club celebrated its members years of service following their Nov. 19 meeting. The 17 members have provided 501 years of service to the community and beyond, reaching out to support many different causes. Members years of service vary from 4 to 70.

Five members have contributed 266 years alone. They are June Haug, 70 years; Bev Bartz, 55 years; Alda Rydin, 52 years; Renee Osmonson, 45 years; and Rita Hauser, 44 years.

The GFWC Sleepy Eye Woman's Cub was founded in 1888 and became federated in 1895. The Sleepy Eye club is the oldest federated club in Minnesota.

The members of the GFWC Woman's Club are very proud of the volunteerism they have provided the community and beyond the past 124 years. Civic progress, education, and fighting for equal rights for all have been the driving forces of the club through the years.



Submitted Photo/Sleepy Eye Herald-Dispatch

THE SLEEPY EYE Woman's Club celebrated several members' years of service at a recent meeting.—front, from left: Beverly Bartz, June Haug, and Alda Rydin. Back: Mardy Vosbeck, Jacque Novotny, Kathy Oglesby, Rita Hauser, Renee Osmonson, Kris Eckstein, Rosie Schwartz, Bev Petersen, and Paulette Grausam.

We may be apart right now, but of the pandemic cannot shatter our hope. It cannot destroy our friendships. It cannot conquer our volunteer spirit! We are all in this together!

## An Important Message to all the GFWC-MN Club Presidents and Historians From Lilah Crowe . . .

As you know, every club has a historian who has the very important job and is dedicated to compiling your club's achievements, accomplishments, meetings etc. Her compilations are put in a book and stored as the permanent history of your club for many future

generations. During this historic COVID-19 Pandemic clubs have had to cancel their activities, projects, and meetings, and it has completely altered the way we have had to communicate and conduct business.

Please do not forget to document in your history book this medical crisis and the remarkable legacy of what your club or individual members creatively did to keep your club together in spirit and safely continued helping others.

Here's an idea – Ask your club members to send you a brief story of COVID-19 to share with your club and keep in your history books. What is:

- ✓ The WORST thing that happened to you during this pandemic?
- ✓ The BEST thing that has happened to you during this pandemic?
- ✓Your biggest FEAR during this time?
- ✓ Tell about your first ZOOM meeting!

June 8th, the GFWC Litchfield Women's Study Club's members took precautions and met at a 'safe distance' to put together "birthday bags" containing items such as cake mix and favors for a child's birthday party. The bags were then donated to the local food shelf. (Pictured L to R) Rose Minton, Sue Lemmer, Marian Johnson, Danielle Rodgers & Laurie Koehn.



The GFWC Nevis Women's Club members rallied together through the inspiration of an awesome member, Ginny Benson, to become the 'Nevis Mask Makers'. Ginny contacted health facilities and received requests from all over the country. When this article was posted on the gfwcofmn.org website over 1500 masks (pictured below) had been made with the help of several club members and their friends. I bet that number just keeps growing! Ginny is mailing bundles of masks daily to nursing homes and health care facilities. If someone does not sew, they cut fabric and/or donate to the postage fund.



The GFWC Potpourri Glenwood Club's volunteerism continues despite being apart! Members got busy sewing masks (pictured left) for family and the community. Members also made protective gowns for their community's brave medical frontline workers. The club's food shelf volunteers have been busy too!



#### THINGS LEARNED DURING QUARRANTINE -



✓All my life I have tried to stay away from negative people. Now I have to stay away from positive people! ✓The world has turned upside down. Seniors are sneaking out of the house and their kids are yelling at them to stay indoors! ✓This virus has done what no woman had been able to do...cancel all sports, shut down all bars, and keep men at home! ✓Do not call the police on suspicious people in your neighborhood! Those are your neighbors getting their mail without makeup and reeeeallly bad hair! ✓Since we can't eat out, now's the perfect time to eat better, get fit, and stay healthy. Who are we trying to impress? We have snacks, we have sweatpants – I say we use them!! ✓Day 7 at home, my dog was looking at me like, "See? This is why I chew the furniture!" ✓ never thought the comment "I wouldn't touch that with a 6 foot pole" would become a National

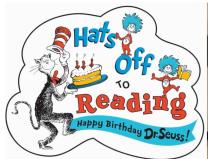
**Linda Strong, the GFWC-MN Website Editor** is pretty darn sure many clubs in MN have taken on the challenge of helping combat this terrible pandemic in some inspiring way. **Linda would love to hear from all of you!** – please share your club members' stories with everyone by emailing them to Linda at **strong.linda1@gmail.com** and she will post them on our website.





The Winthrop GFWC Club held their 15th annual Arts and Craft Show on March 14th in the Winthrop City Hall. The Art Show welcomed entries from members, the public, and the schools. Barbara Dietl, GFWC of MN Arts Community Service Chair, organized the event. Earlier in the week, the COVID-19 Pandemic was making the news, but it had not reached MN or Winthrop's County. "The Governor had not announced any mandates or quarantines yet." reported Barbara, "So it was decided to go forward

With the show." Barbara challenged her club members to embrace the new '2020 GFWC of MN Arts and Craft Categories List'. Streamlining and combining the categories was well received by the entrants and judges alike. Category #2: Fiber/Textiles had the most entries. The Art Show featured ceramics artist Kylie Rieke of Fairfax, MN who brought her potter's wheel and demonstrated for everyone. Her incredible skill kept the audience's attention for 45 minutes! Earlier in the year, Kylie had been on exhibit for six weeks at the Southwest MN Arts Council Gallery in Marshall, MN and she currently works at the Clay Coyote Pottery Studio north of Hutchinson, MN.





On March 2nd as part of a GFWC Grand Initiative The GFWC Starbuck Club donated lots of Dr. Seuss books to the Glacial Hills Pre-School. Everyone also had fun celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday and "Read Across America Day". Pictured with the students are (far left) Club Secretary, Deb Thompson and (far right) Club President, Mona Gregersen



Congratulations to the GFWC Starbuck Club! At the annual Starbuck Area Chamber of Commerce Membership Dinner, the GFWC Starbuck club was honored with the annual "Community Service Award". Pictured (seated L. to R.) Deb Kuusisto, Lorie Billehus, Nancy Bakewell, and Kathryn Kyvig (standing L. to R.) Deb Thompson, Lois Brecht, Sharon ValAlstine, Mary Lehtola, Bonnie Haugen, Barb Wilson, and Mona Gregersen



The Ladies Tourist Club GFWC of Henderson gifted fifteen Dr. Seuss books to Jayashri Reinitz-Albers. Jayashri was born in Udaipur, Tripura, India. Her adoptive parents, Tiffany Reinitz and Mark Elbers and big sister Veda were notified they were the proud parents of a sweet baby girl, but it would be over a year before they could actually take custody of Jaya. Jaya was born with a cleft pallet and cleft lip and needed surgery. Her lip was repaired in India and her pallet was repaired in the Twin Cities. It must be noted too – that the Tourist Club has donated to Operation Smile for many years and they were so happy to meet Jaya. (Pictured L. to R.) are Judy Loewe, Arlene Busse, (Mom) Tiffany Reinitz, (always smiling) Jaya, and Beth Cornish.

" Unless someone

LIKE YOU

cares a whole awful lot,
nothing is going to get
better.

IT'S NOT."

~ Dr. Seuss



The Ladies Tourist Club GFWC held their January Meeting at Doris Wigand's residence at Oak Terrace Assisted Living in Le Sueur, MN. Doris is a 57-year member and has earned many volunteer recognitions for her dedicated service to her family, community and the GFWC Club. (Pictured seated L. to R.) Doris Wigand and Judy Loewe (Standing L. to R.) Arlene Busse, Susan Felmlee and Beth Cornish.





Through lots of hard work, by the Nevis Women's Club, their 'Nevis Pollinator Garden' is blooming with new spring growth! With grants, donations and craft sales for two years, their garden is a true enhancement to downtown Nevis. It will be an educational and visual summer treat for residents and hundreds of tourists alike. Club member and master gardener, Sue Gray designed and organized the garden project with bulbs being planted last fall, and perennials being added this spring. The busy club gardeners have great hope that their pollinator garden will be the beginning and inspiration for more beautiful wild flower highways for nature's wonderful bees and butterflies.



The GFWC Gradatim Club of Sauk Centre got busy with their annual spring project by helping plant flowers around the fountain at their local park. There were eleven members on hand making the work go quickly. One member took care of planting and placing two large flower pots by the park's flag and another club member has volunteered to weed the flowers weekly during the summer.





Cheryl Thueson 1957 – 2020

Cheryl Thueson, age 63 of Grand Rapids, passed away on May 14, 2020. She was a member of GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club for five years and was currently serving as the Club Treasurer. Cheryl grew up in Stillwater and was a graduate of Bemidji State College. She taught math in the Northome School District and then came to Grand Rapids and taught at the Christian School. In her later years she worked at Target and volunteered at the Itasca County Historical Society. Cheryl enjoyed making the floral centerpieces for the club's monthly meetings and her expertise with the cricut machine was the envy of all the club members. She is preceded in death by her father and survived by her mother Audrey, two brothers, one sister and special friend, Lilah Crowe.



Edell T. Swanson 1926 – 2020

Edell Teresa Swanson, age 93 of Morris, MN, passed away on March 7, 2020. She grew up on the family farm in Swan Lake Township, Stevens County and attended the District 40 School through the eighth grade. Edell then went on to St. Mary's School in Morris and graduated from Morris High School in 1944. She received a degree from Moorhead State Teachers College and taught at the Stevens County District 33 and 70 schools and St. Mary's School in Morris. Edell was married to Douglas M. Swanson in 1947 and the couple farmed until Douglas's death and in 2005, she moved to Morris. In 2004 Edell joined the GFWC Morris Women's Club and served as Club Vice President from 2008 to 2010. She also served on the Program Committee and was head of the club's 'Operation Smile Project'. Edell was an active club member and was always willing to help out wherever she was needed. She will be greatly missed. Edell was also a volunteer in the Assumption Church, VFW Auxiliary, St. Michael's Mission Circle, MCCL, and the 4-H. She enjoyed reading, crocheting, gardening, feeding the birds, and a cup of coffee with her friends. Edell is survived by 8 children, 27 grandchildren, 46 great grandchildren, and 10 godchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband and one grandson.



Jeanne G. Hansen 1926 – 2020

Jeanne Gordon Hansen, age 94, passed away on February 12, 2020. Jeanne was the last charter member of the GFWC Bloomington Federated Woman's Club. She joined the club in 1962 when it was organized and federated on November 9th. Jeanne was an enthusiastic member of the club's Book Group. She was also a 'club caller' that called a group of members every month and took their reservations for the club lunch and meeting. The Bloomington club will miss Jeanne enormously and are grateful for her 57-year membership and dedication. Jeanne was preceded in death by her husband Albert and infant daughter Barbara. She is survived by two sons, one daughter, two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.



Rosemary M. Patterson 1919 –2019

Rosemary Matilda Patterson, age 100, of Grand Rapids, MN passed away June 5, 2019 at Grand Village Nursing Home. Rosemary was born in Grand Rapids in 1919 one of ten siblings. She was a graduate of Grand Rapids High School. Rosemary married Leslie "Sag" Patterson after he served in the Navy during WWII. They moved to Fairbanks, Alaska where she worked at the Big Delta Air Force Base. They relocated to Anchorage where Rosemary was employed by the FAA. She moved up through the ranks and became a FAA Realty Specialist traveling to small communities with flight service that were building stations throughout Alaska. Rosemary ended her career in Denver, CO in the FAA Administrative Services Division. After retiring, Sag and Rosemary moved back to Grand Rapids and she became very active in the community. Rosemary was a member of GFWC Grand Rapids North Star Women's Club for 33 years, serving as Club President and participating in many volunteer and fundraising activities. She served as Secretary in the Dog Mushers' Association and loved raising huskies. She also

delivered meals-on-wheels and volunteered at the Itasca delivered meals-on-wheels and volunteered at the Itasca County Historical Society. Rosemary especially enjoyed her 100th birthday party celebration in 2019 and she will be remembered fondly by everyone who knew her. She is preceded in death by her husband Sag and is survived by many nieces and nephews, as well as many great and great grand nieces and nephews.



Kent Harrel 1928 – 2020

Kent Harrel, age 92, of Edina, died peacefully at home on February 17, 2020. Kent was a long-time GFWC Edina Federated Women' Club member and joined the club in 1983. While she did not aspire to higher office, during her 37 years in the club, Kent served as Recording Secretary and Club Historian. She also chaired on the Way and Means, Hospitality, and Service Project committees. Kent especially enjoyed the book club and bridge group. Club members who knew her well speak of Kent as a supportive member, a great friend, a good cook – and a true Southern Lady. She will be deeply missed. Kent hailed from Kentucky, but she and her husband made their way to Minnesota, and we are better for it. She is preceded in death by her husband, Michael and survived by daughter Ann and two granddaughters.



Bernice M. Kittock 1932 – 2019

Bernice (Bernie) Kittock, age 87, of Delano passed away on Christmas Day of 2019. She graduated from Delano High School in 1951 and loved attending all her high school class reunions. Bernice retired from the Prudential Insurance Group after a career of 35½ years. Bernice joined the GFWC of Delano club in 2002 and was an active member for 18 years. Although she did not serve as an officer or chair she was a dedicated liaison between the club and her community. Her volunteer spirit touched many organizations: Delano American Legion Auxiliary serving as 10<sup>th</sup> District President; Relay for Life; Volunteer Driver for seniors; Ridgeview Medical Center giving tours to school children; the Delano Queen Coronation Committee; St. Maximillian Parish; and was a Bowling League Coordinator. She was honored to receive the 2015 Outstanding Senior Citizen Award from Wright County and the MN State Fair. Bernice was an avid sports fan and loved the Gophers, Twins and Vikings. Although Bernice never married, she was blessed with a huge circle of cousins, their families, and many friends. Bernie will be deeply missed by the GFWC of Delano Club and they are honored to call her a member and friend.



Marcia A. Weisbrich 1949 – 2020

Marcia A. Weisbrich, age 70 of Sauk Centre, passed away unexpectedly on May 6, 2020 at the St. Cloud Hospital In St. Cloud, MN. Marcia was born in Pipestone, MN, graduated from Pipestone High School in 1967 and attended Mankato State University for two years. Marcia married Charles "Chuck" Weisbrich in 1983 at the First United Presbyterian Church in Farmington. She had a lengthy career in retail sales and enjoyed yoga, walking, and attending her grandchildren's sporting events. Marcia joined the GFWC Gradatim Club in Sauk Centre in 2014. She was a regular helper at the club's 'Late Start Club' for elementary students, was active on the fundraising committee, and had just accepted the job of Treasurer for the West Central District. She was also an active member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Sauk Centre and the Sauk Centre Historical Society. Marcia is survived by two daughters, two stepchildren, four grandchildren, and one great-grandaughter. She was preceded by her husband, Chuck.

1934 - 2020

Joan M. Dartt Joan May Dartt, age 86, of Nevis, MN passed away on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at the New Perspective Senior Living in Waconia, MN. She was born in Duluth, MN and graduated from Duluth Denfield High School in 1953. In 1956, at age 21, Joan moved to Minneapolis and found employment with Donaldson's at the Southdale Mall.

In 1963, she married Denis Dartt and with their adoption of Michael and Lisa, Joan turned her focus to motherhood. She eventually went back to work in retail, and after several years she started successfully selling furniture and helping her customers design their rooms. Joan retired after 30 years, and in 1998 moved with Denis to Nevis, MN to spend time at their lake home. Joan was a member of the GFWC West Suburban Women's Club for 32 years from 1974 to 2006 (even after moving to Nevis). She was the 1983-84 Club President and served on many club committees. Joan joined the GFWC-MN Medallion club in the East Central District and was a member until her death. Joan was very adventurous. She took every opportunity to travel, whether with the family, friends, or striking out on her own. As a young woman, Joan went to Austria to ski. She was a very good skier, both downhill and cross country. Joan enjoyed the theater and for many years, was a season ticket owner at the Minneapolis Guthrie Theater. Joan spent her free time pursuing art and loved making her own jewelry, pottery, folk art and water color paintings. Joan is survived by her two children, two grandchildren, and one great grandson. She is preceded in death by her husband, Denis.



Bernice M. Kittock 1932 - 2019

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Harriet A. Betzold 1925 - 2020

Harriet "Toby" Annette Betzold, age 95, died on May 15, 2020. She was born and raised on a farm in Hutchinson, MN, and was a longtime resident of Golden Valley. Harriet was a longtime active member of the GFWC Golden Valley Federated Women's Club and was the 1993-94 Club President. One of her favorite annual club fundraiser projects for years was having club volunteers decorating Christmas trees in her home. Harriet's "can do" spirit was also illustrated as a volunteer with the Civil Air Patrol during WWII, the Boy and Girl Scouts, and as a longtime board member and Past President of the Eloise Butler Wildflower Garden. She also was behind the camera at the cable TV station for 'Seniors on Screen', which was hosted by Nina Cook, another longtime GVFWC club member and Harriet's great friend. As an avid golfer, Harriet was instrumental in the growth of Golden Valley's Brookview Women's Golf Association and the expansion of the golf course. Harriet's

love of nature was depicted in her lifelong joy in painting flora and fauna. She also loved to travel the world that included a painting retreat in Italy. Harriet was preceded in death by her husband of 74 years, Ed Betzold who passed just 11 days before her on April 4th. she is survived by daughter Linda, son Victor, and three grandchildren. Harriet will be remembered for her generous and friendly spirit, her a warm smile and a willingness to make things happen.

### ★ An Important Message ★ To Club Presidents From Karla Mayhew. Newsletter Editor



Lucy Larson, GFWC-MN Chaplain has decided to retire from collecting your club's obituaries for the State Conventions. She has kindly asked me and I have accepted the task of receiving your club's obituaries and keeping a record for the next convention memorial. Lucy has mailed me her files (from December 2018 thru February 2020).

Please 'paper mail' or email your obituaries (with a photo if possible) to Karla Mayhew at: 5243 Minnetoga Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55343 952-935-9181 karlamayhew@comcast.net

Lucy, I know everyone joins me in saying, "Our sincerest 'Thank You' for your dedication on collecting our obituaries and helping us to remember our Federation sisters with your touching memorials." I am happy to write that Lucy has not completely retired as our chaplain, she will still try to be on hand at the conventions and workshops to lead us in song, give a table grace or a devotional until the end of the current presidential term.

Do you have club news you would like published in this newsletter? Just paper mail or email your Articles and photos to the Editor:

Karla Mayhew, 5243 Minnetoga Terrace, Minnetonka, MN 55343 or karlamayhew@comcast.net The deadline for the next newsletter is

**AUGUST 26, 2020** 



### GOT FACEBOOK?

Be a friend on "GFWC of Minnesota"!! Share your success stories and photos! Acknowledge someone for a job well done!