

Phoenix Newsletter

A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs International



Recent Successes:

Two members attended the Northwinds Christmas Concert.

Four members helped 55 Girl Scouts make Christmas Ornaments at their Festival of Trees.

Two members attended the Lanier Chamber Singer's Christmas Concert.

Phoenix donated \$200 for prize money to students that won the TFS Christmas Door Decorating Contest.

Four members attended the TFS Christmas Open House.

Fourteen members attended the Phoenix Christmas Party.

Games and mom gifts were collected for the Gateway Christmas Party

Seven members helped with the Gateway Christmas Party manning the shopping and game areas

The GFWC Gainesville Phoenix
Woman's Club

P. O. Box 108

Gainesville, GA 30508

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770-540-6445 cell

From the President's Desk...

Dear members,

Welcome to the new year and the new 2024-2026 Administration of our club.

Our hands will serve us well in the new year as we tackle the needs of the Gainesville community. Our Retreat is Saturday, January 6, 2024, at the Hall County Library, Gainesville location, in the meeting room, located on the 2nd floor. We will start gathering at 9:30am and set up tables and chairs. The meeting will start at 10am. Please bring your lovely self, your own beverages, a snack or two (just in case), a dish to share for lunch, your 2024 calendar, pens/pencils, and planner for club activities.

CSP chairs, please bring your plan of work with project ideas and an idea of how you will spend your allocated funds. All members are welcome to attend the retreat and bring their ideas, too. New members are highly encouraged to attend. The Retreat is our planning/brainstorming session to organize activities and projects. Let's continue to make an impact on the Gainesville community! Looking forward to seeing everyone at the retreat!!

In federation friendship,
Debbie



Time Sheets! Time Sheets! Time Sheets!

Please catch up your time sheets either by using the paper ones provided, Track It Forward, or just writing information on a sheet of paper! We need this information to finalize reports in January! ***Thanks!***



Happy New Year

ART & CULTURE CSP



Art CSPs: 2024-2026

Photography: The categories are World in Pictures (nature) and Living the Volunteer Spirit (membership). Pictures must have been taken during the 2023 calendar year and may be oriented either horizontally or vertically. They must be printed an 8x10 size, mounted on stiff cardboard (or foam board) and have your name, address, email, phone number, and club affiliation on the back. Also required is an arrow on the back indicating the top of the picture. These need to be sent to the GFWC State ART Chairman BY **January 25th!**

Short Story: Entries for short story are limited to 2,000 words and can be any genre. It must be typed, double spaced, and printed on one side only. Entries must have the following on the top right hand corner of each page: Author's name, email address, mailing address, phone number, Name of GFWC club, and State Federation submitting author's work. Due to State ART Chairman BY **January 25th!**

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES CSP



Education CSPs: 2024-2026
Peggy, Jean, and Caroline

The 100th Day of School is a symbolic celebration for both students and teachers. It's a time to reflect on everything they've achieved during the school year so far.

The 100th day of school is almost here and its time to celebrate how far the students have come! There is fun to be had and a ton of educational value during the 100th day of school activities and parties. The goal of celebrating 100 days of school is to reinforce reading, writing, and, most importantly, math skills they have learned. Kids expect to count to 100 many times on the 100th day of school. Instead of being boring and repeating the same daily routines, engage kids with lots of different activities and ways to count to 100. Make math fun as they count out 100 pieces of food into groups of 10 to make snacks to eat, count 100 beads to make a necklace, or form a human number line. Go beyond math skills and practice reading and writing skills. Try writing prompts for both the individual child or the whole class. Use poems, predict what life might be like 100 years from now, and practice other ways to use language arts skills in your celebration.

Hands-on and fun activities are what make learning so memorable. Get kids excited to celebrate the 100th day of school by planning hands-on activities and games.





Environments CSPs:
2024-2026
Renette



ENVIRONMENTS CSP

According to the National Christmas Tree Association, there are up to 30 million real Christmas trees sold annually in the US each year. When recycling trees, please remove all tinsel, lights, decoration, plastic bags and tree stands. Some municipalities will collect your tree to recycle. In some areas, stores such as Home Depot will collect your tree and transform it into compost and mulch. Other ways to reuse your tree is to cut it down for firewood, make your own mulch, place in a corner of your yard for creatures to make into their own sanctuary, donate or place in a pond for a reserve for fish, burn for ash for your garden, insulate your garden with branches, or be crafty and make into wooden coasters.

Hall County is participating in the "Bring One for the Chipper" event again this year. "We are accepting undecorated Christmas trees and wreaths and will recycle them for free," said Bobby Purdum, Hall County Resource Recovery supervisor. The event, which lasts until Jan. 7, is part of the statewide Christmas "tree-cycling" program. Purdum said Hall County's 12 compactor sites and the Hall County Recycling Center on Chestnut Street are participating. The trees will be mulched, keeping them out of the Hall County Landfill.

City of Gainesville residents can leave their trees curbside for pick-up, and Oakwood residents can drop their trees at the corner of Allen and Railroad streets. Mulch from the trees is offered at the Hall County Landfill free of charge Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., weather permitting.

Officials ask that all trees be undecorated before drop off. Artificial trees will not be accepted.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH CSP

Project Menorah is a grassroots movement encouraging non-Jewish people to place menorahs in their windows along with other decorations. The goal is to show solidarity with those of the Jewish faith who are facing heightened antisemitism correlated to the Israel-Hamas war.

"It becomes a symbol of empowerment for the Jewish community, a community that has faced the darkness of antisemitic hate. We have the chance to make a difference, to be the change we wish to see in the world. Antisemitism is higher now than it's been any time since the Holocaust, and Jewish people are feeling nervous and aren't sure where a safe space is. The goal of Project Menorah is to offer non-Jewish allies a simple way to show their solidarity."

People from 97 countries have visited the [Menorah Project](#) website. It has participants from almost all 50 states and 10 or 12 other countries now.

Let our shared glow symbolize unity, inspire others to stand alongside and embrace diversity with compassion and understanding.



Civic Engagement CSPs:
2024-2026
Cindy





HEALTH & WELLNESS CSP

Health vs. Wellness – what is the difference?

Sydney Lange, MS, RDN, said, “The primary difference between health and wellness is that health is the goal and wellness is the **ACTIVE** process of achieving it. We cannot always choose the state of our health, but we do have conscious choices to make active decisions toward wellness.” So, for 2024, let’s Get Fit Within our Communities (GFWC) in mind, in spirit, and in body. We should be informed on disease prevention, our nutrition, and our physical and emotional health. Please watch for health and wellness activities in 2024

January is Neonatal Intensive Care Awareness Month. There are NICUs at Northeast Georgia Medical Center with Board Certified neonatologists, experienced nurses and nurse practitioners, respiratory therapists, clinical pharmacists, physical therapists, and case managers. Many services are available for high-risk pregnancy care, also. If you have ever been connected to someone needing neonatal services, you already know the life-saving skills that the care takers possess.

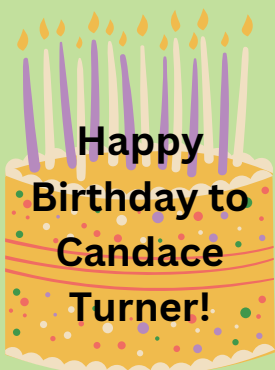


Officer Reports:

Vice President, Jill Bagley: At the January Meeting we will have a review of GFWC and what involvement The Gainesville Phoenix Woman’s Club has with the international organization. We will also present our budget for 2024. Please try to attend in January! Lots of information will be given at the meeting.

Secretary, Susan Miscally: No minutes attached. December was the Christmas Party.

Treasurer, Renette Todd: It’s a new year and a new administration. Dues are due! Active member dues are **\$70.00** annually (that can be paid in two installments), and Patrons dues are **\$45.00**. All members, past and present, will be receiving a letter regarding their membership status. What will be your active roll in 2024?



Membership Moment

What is RETREAT?

This is a planning meeting, that includes a wrap up of Mary Bob’s exciting administrative and introduction to Debbie’s new administration. See you there for food, fellowship and maybe a little frolicking to get us started off in 2024.

Where Our Money Goes

Each month we will highlight a group or organization that we support either financially or with our time and energy. This month we will learn about RING.

RING, 924 Athens St, Gainesville, GA

Rehabilitation Industries of Northeast Georgia (RING) is a 501c3 non-profit organization that was originally founded in 1969 by the Gainesville Jaycees. Early work by the Jaycees and the ongoing efforts of their patient and friendly staff have helped to establish RING as an award winning organization recognized by local and state governments and businesses.

Since its beginning, over 50 years ago, RING has served over 10,000 individuals with disabilities across seven counties by providing training and job skills leading to successful employment in Northeast Georgia. Their mission is to provide work and vocational services to individuals with disabilities to reach independence and self-sufficiency.

RING was founded to provide vocational services to individuals with disabilities to reach independence and self-sufficiency through training, support and advocacy. They receive referrals from Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA) to provide employment support services to individuals with disabilities, who are never required to pay a fee for their services. They also fill contract employment positions with local businesses such as Ethicon, PPG, and Caterpillar.

Since March 2020, several clients at RING have been diligently working on COVID test kits that are used at NEGA Medical Center (both locations), Longstreet Clinic, and Riverside Military Academy. They assembled 1000 test kits PER DAY. During the summer of 2020, NGHS was using 3000 test kits per week. At the peak of the pandemic, the hospitals used 5000 test kits per week. Besides giving disabled adults a means of employment, they prove to be an asset to our community.

Rehabilitation Industries of North GA
924 Athens St. Gainesville, GA 30501
Phone: (770) 535-7464



Members Celebrated Music during the holidays!



Northwinds

Laner Chamber Singers





GIRL SCOUTS FESTIVAL OF TREES

Art CSP Project in December



Ho! Ho! Ho!

Ho! Ho! Ho!



Debbie Brown
President
2024-2026

Meet your President!

Debbie Brown is a 24-year GFWC Georgia member. She first joined the GFWC Lawrenceville Woman's Club in January 2010. She held officer positions as President, Third Vice President of Fundraising and Treasurer. She held many chair positions. In April 2018, she led her club in a project that challenged the Lawrenceville community to "Fill the Trolley" for Domestic Violence Awareness. It was an all member project that included a media blitz that resulted in an article in the newspaper, radio spot, and our event was listed on several media calendars. The Mayor of Lawrenceville pronounced April 28, 2018 as a GFWC day of service. The event collected over \$12 thousand in donations for the local domestic violence shelter. This project received GFWC recognition in 2019 as one of the top ten projects for Special Project – Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention.

Debbie is a 2012 and 2018 GFWC GA Leads Graduate. At the District level, Debbie served as Central East District President 2020-2022, CED First Vice President 2018-2020, CED Corresponding Secretary 2016-2018 and the GA GFWC Newsletter Chairperson 2016-2018.

Debbie was a thirty plus year member of St. Lawrence Catholic Church in Lawrenceville, GA. Debbie is currently a member of Good Shepard Catholic Church in Cumming and is involved with the Welcome program and Walking with Purpose.

Debbie worked as a volunteer at SaltLife Center, Family Promise's emergency shelter and made meals for families and spent time with them. She served on the Partnership Against Domestic Violence's Gwinnett Fund Development Committee which supports PADV's Gwinnett Shelter.

Besides being a member of the Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club, Debbie is a member of the Gainesville Newcomers Club, previous member of the Gainesville Woman's Commerce Club and active in the Stephens Point community.

Debbie is a native Atlantan, happily married to Mario and proud single mom of two grown sons. Matt, her oldest, and daughter of the heart, Kimi, live in Bethlehem, GA with Maverick, and Kaden her two grandsons. Kyle, the youngest, resides in Ft. Lauderdale, FL with his wife Jessica and her son Max. She has worked in advertising, public relations, at broadcast stations, law firms and medical recruiting as an Office Manager, Sr Accountant, Assistant Controller, and Controller. In her spare time, she designs and makes jewelry, enjoys water aerobics, playing Mah Jongg, playing Hand and Foot, trips to the beach and hanging at home with hubby and their fur babies Missy and Tito!



Jill Bagley
Vice President
2022-2024

Meet your Vice President!

Jill was born and raised in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She graduated from University of South Carolina, married Joel Bagley and moved to Georgia. Her volunteer roots had been planted early by a grandmother who was active in the Home Demonstration Club, a pre-requisite to GFWC NC. Her mother was an active volunteer and served as President of the Business and Professional Women's Club, as well as head of Women's Missionary Union at First Baptist, and active in a circle at an ARP church near their home. All this volunteering happened while Jill's mother was working fulltime teaching high school.

In 1981, Jill joined Stone Mountain Woman's Club. She served in several chairmen and officer positions. In 1996-1998, she was President of the club with then 110 members. Jill also served in several offices on Fourth District level, as well as serving at state level chairmen. From 2000-2003 she worked for the American Cancer Society, and was in charge of Relay for Life in 3 counties, each year doubling the amount of donations raised from previous years.

In 2015, missing volunteer work and her GFWC friends, she joined Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club and has served as chairmen, officer positions, including President in 2018-2020. Jill has also served as North East District President from 2020-2022. During that administration, officers were dubbed the Pandemic Presidents! It was a hard administration to navigate. Jill now serves as GFWC GA Corresponding Secretary and her term will conclude in April.

"I look forward to working with each of you in the club doing projects, attending events, and promoting our club in the community and beyond!"

Meet your Treasurer!

Renette Todd was born and raised in the north Atlanta area. She graduated from UGA and worked until raising a family. Mother of two, step-mom to two, her life was busy! Lori was diagnosed as autistic at 4 years old and continues to live with Renette. She works at RING. Christopher passed away in 2000. Courtney, mother of two, is divorced and lives in Villa Rica. And, the youngest, Andrew lives in Bogart and works for UGA (Go Dawgs!). All but Lori attended or graduated from West GA University. Married to Carroll for 33 years, they have lived in both TN and GA.



Renette Todd
Treasurer
2022-2024

Renette has been a member of The Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club for over 20 years, serving in every office several times, including twice as President. At the district level, Renette has held several chairmanship positions, many officer positions, and is currently the Environment CSP chairman (2022-2024). As past NE District President (2016-2018), she now serves at the GFWC state level on the Lipscomb Society Committee and also as co-chair for fundraising. In the 2024-2026 administration, she will serve the NE district as financial officer for the 2026 GFWC GA Convention Committee. She will also serve on the Lipscomb Society Committee for the state.

Members of Frist Presbyterian Church, the Todd's have both served on many committees. Renette has served on the Fine Art's Committee since it's inception, and is active with the Flower Guild.

Renette became a Master Gardener in the early 2000s and since has served on the Board of the Redbud Project as Treasurer (conservation organization), and currently serves as their financial advisor to the Treasurer.

Professionally, Renette has been a teacher (in TN), a specially assigned parapro for disabled children (in GA), and a secretary at an insurance office (GA). When her husband opened the garden business, upon retirement, Renette continued to work part-time at the pine straw office doing bookwork and sales. She totally retired in 2023 after contracting Legionnaire's Pneumonia earlier this year at the GFWC GA Convention.

In her spare time, Renette enjoys crafting, table setting, traveling, cooking, anything art related, and puttering in her garden.



Susan Miscally
Secretary
2024-2026

Meet your Secretary!

Susan Miscally was born in Miami, Florida and has lived back and forth between Florida and Georgia. She graduated from ABAC, Georgia State and Valdosta State with three different degrees, all centered on her love for clerical work—performing her skills and teaching her skills to students!

Susan retired from the Fulton County Board of Education after 32 years of work in three different high schools: North Springs 25 years, Centennial 3 years, and Johns Creek 4 years. During those years, she coached both drill team and spirit and competition cheerleading. Upon retiring at the end of December 2012, she moved to Venice, Florida to be near family and her love of water. Getting bored quickly, she went back to work with the Sarasota County Board of Education.

In 2017 to continue her love of children and to give back to others, Susan became a State of Florida, Department of Children and Families, Licensed Foster Care Provider fostering two infants and doing some respite care on the weekends. Susan still stays in touch with one of her foster children and her parents.

Upon the death of her mother, Susan decided to make the move back to Georgia to be closer to friends who she calls family and many of whom were her cheerleaders. Susan said she was fortunate enough to find a wonderful home in a 55+ community on Lake Lanier!

Did you know?

GFWC has approved a new emblem! Going forward, clubs are encouraged to use our new emblem as a common face to our organization. The General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) is an international organization dedicated to improving local communities through volunteer service. Members embody *Living the Volunteer Spirit*.



GFWC International
President
Deb Strahanoski
2022-2024



On November 11, GFWC International President-elect Suellen Brazil's husband, Willis Langley "Billy" Brazil III, passed peacefully at home in Daphne, Alabama. GFWC extends its deepest condolences to Suellen and her family and friends on their loss of a great man. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his name to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Donations may also be made by phone at 901-216-1148 or by mail to 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis TN 38105. Please use Willis Langley Brazil III memorial ID Number 23694816. Suellen will be installed as international president at the GFWC Convention in Chicago, Ill in 2024.

Thank you for all your hard work and dedication to serving your communities, your state, and the world and making GFWC what it is today. Thank you for your generosity and willingness to go above and beyond and make a difference in the lives of others. GFWC would not be the best volunteer service organization without you. *Deb*



GFWC GA News

Happy New Year!
January 25, 2024 11.59 p.m.
REPORTS ARE DUE!!!!

Photos and Short Stories are also due!

**Club President's Reports
due February 15th**



Kim Sekulow, GFWC
GA President
2022-2024

Happy New Year!

Many clubs are changing officers this month. We will be changing district officers and chairmen in March. What would you like your roll or contribution to be? If you are interested in serving at the district level, please contact Renette Todd! Thanks!



Dream Higher than the Sky and Deeper than the Ocean



BARBARA BROOKS, NE
DISTRICT PRESIDENT
2022-2024



Cindy did our devotion that night by lighting the Hanukkah candle, saying the prayer in both English and Hebrew, and spoke on the sadness that is happening in Israel.



Kim Sekulow, GFWC GA President, installed new officers and did the initiation of our new members



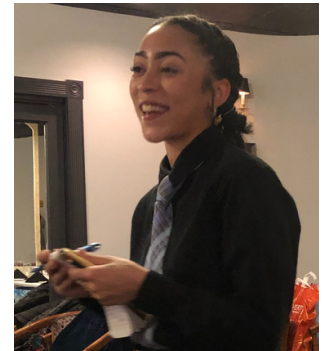
Suzette and Susan

Caroline stood in for Debbie, Jill, Susan, Renette, and Kitty

PUTTING A FACE TO A PROJECT...



Meet Makenzie! She was our server at our 2023 Christmas Party at Lunas in December. When we arrived she told us the story of being a child in the DEFACs program and that she knew who the "Phoenix Ladies" were. She had been a recipient of one of the book bags we put together many years ago. She told us how much of an impact that had on her and how much she appreciated everything we had done for our community. She had benefited from one of our projects. So, if you ever think that buying this, or that, to bring to a meeting is a waste of time or money, remember Makenzie, who benefited from our generosity and kindness! She is now a waitress at Lunas and studying optometry.



We filled MANY book bags!



Karen Snow-Holms
Chairman

GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence

This past month has been spent exploring what's happening in the area of domestic violence. It is all encompassing not only domestic violence, but sexual abuse, sex/teen trafficking, and childhood sexual abuse. The first two months of the year are identified by color:

- January is Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Purple is the identifying color. There is no planned club activity for January except for the request that we wear something purple at our meeting.
 - Wednesday, January 10th, 9AM - 3PM - Virtual Event featuring "Standards of Quality for Family Strengthening",
 - Tuesday January 23rd 10AM - 11:30AM - Virtual Event - Motherhood Behind Bars
 - Wednesday, January 24th 1-2:30PM - Virtual Event - Mandated Reporters Training

These programs are sponsored by Georgia State University

- February's color is orange for Teen Violence. Programs available:
 - February 7th, 9AM - 3:30 - Virtual Event - Standards of Quality for Family Strength
 - February 15th, 10AM - 12PM - Effective Approach to Supporting Families

We will continue to explore other offerings to help the community at large.



Wellspring Living

GFWC Georgia Signature Project 2022-2024

A Moment of Inspiration

"This is a new year.
A new beginning.
And things will change."

Taylor Swift

“Each new year, we have before us a brand new book containing 365 blank pages. Let us fill them with all the forgotten things from last year—the words we forgot to say, the love we forgot to show, and the charity we forgot to offer.”

PEGGY TONEY HORTON

women's day

A Collect for Club Women

Keep us, oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment,
And always generous.

Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses,
Straight forward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little
Things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.

And, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

Mary Stewart, April, 1904

PLEASE BE ADVISED!

We have had issues finding a meeting location for our upcoming monthly meetings! The United Way room we normally meet in will be under construction until April. Please watch for emails to let you know where we will meet in January, February, and April. March is our Awards Banquet and Peggy will be giving us that information in the next few months.

RETREAT

The Gainesville Phoenix Woman's Club Retreat will be held January 6, 2024 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Hall County Library, downtown Gainesville location. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting which is the planning session for the upcoming year. All Officers and all CSP members are required to attend. Please bring your beautiful self, planning documents, pen, paper and your calendar. CSPs should present at least three ideas to act on next year!