

# KEY NOTES

Federation Motto: "In great things, Unity; In small things, Liberty; In all things, Charity"

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**President**

**March 2026**

**Joanna Fox**  
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## President's Corner

Hi Ladies:

What comes to mind when you hear the word "March"? For many, it's spring flowers, kites in the sky, or that old saying "comes in like a lion and out as a lamb".

For me, the word brings a whole parade of associations.

"The march of time" has crossed my face 76 times, and some days it leaves me feeling "as mad as a March Hare." After participating in the "Women's March", I had to unwind by watching a little "March Madness". After researching "March is Women's History Month", I realized we have extraordinary women right here in our own club—some of whom have knitted or crocheted nearly 200 infant caps for the March of Dimes.

So this month, I'm inviting you to join me in "Marching to the beat of a different drummer."

Join a new committee. Pitch a wild and exciting idea. Jump into a volunteer opportunity you've never tried before. Suggest something completely new. And above all, dance like no one is watching.

**Spark the fireworks!**

Suzanne



## MARCH PROGRAM

Collection of Books for Children  
in Grades K through 5



Hosted by the Education and Libraries  
Committee

## March Dates to Remember

- Mar 4 Registration 11:30 a.m.  
Lunch at Noon  
General Meeting 1:00 p.m.
- Mar 6 Center Street Kitchen
- Mar 10 MLK Senior Center
- Mar 17 St. Patrick's Day
- Mar 18 ESO
- Mar 24 MLK Senior Center
- Mar 21 Walkie Talkie
- Mar 25 Executive Board Meeting

## Pink Teas



At the turn of the 20th century, Pink Teas (alternately known as "suffrage teas") were held by women who championed women's right to vote. Because women's suffrage was not universally supported, women sometimes needed to meet covertly to discuss the issue and the best strategies to effect change.

By holding tea receptions, they could assemble in plain view and simply turn their conversation quickly to polite discussions about other matters in the event an interloper questioned their gathering. The pink tea "was to appear so innocent and feminine that it could not possibly be about a political issue such as suffrage.

## National Women's History Month

*Whenever women gather together  
failure is impossible.*

*Susan B. Anthony*  
*Women's Right Activist*



# Community Service Programs



## ARTS & CULTURE

Delores Deen and Donna Biba, CO-CHs

We are changing our meeting location! Going forward, we will meet in the Community Room of the W.T. Bland Library. We continue to meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. However, for March only, we will be meeting at 3:00 p.m. Please join in!

Twenty-six of the first-place entries from our Arts & Crafts Competition went on to the GFWC 7th District meeting and competition held on February 21st. The results will be announced at our March 4th meeting.

The date for ushering at the Icehouse Theatre for the March/April showing of Guys and Dolls is April 2nd. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting. Donna Biba is the contact for ushering. Contact her. You can always volunteer on your own by calling the Ice House Theatre box office at (352) 383-4616.

We are coordinating a guided tour of the historic Sydonie Mansion on Saturday, May 16th. The mansion was once said to be the most significant residential structure in all of Florida! It is located a short drive away near Zellwood. Sign-up sheets will be available at meetings leading up to the tour date.

Several social and art events are in the works featuring the infamous rock painting, diamond dots, acrylic pen coloring, and more. No artistic experience required - there will probably be wine! More information to come.



On January 29th members of the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club spent the evening volunteering as ushers at the Ice House Theatre's performance of The Cottage. Pictured left: Linda Hezlep, Lynette Scantlin, Mary Groeller, Gina Conway, Gail Mahan and Donna Biba.



## EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Cheryl Higgins, CH

Education and Libraries had two great volunteer events at Sorrento Elementary. There were five volunteers who participated in the school wide reading event. It was so much fun and each of us read a story to two different classes.

For the school's annual speech contest, it was an honor to volunteer as a judge. It is truly amazing how well some of the students could craft and present their topics. I was the only participant from the Mount Dora Woman's Club. We listened to 12 students give their speeches, scored each one. and then awarded first, second and third place.



March is our annual book drive. Please bring new or slightly used books for elementary age children to the March luncheon.

Our next meeting is March 2nd, 2:00 p.m. at the W.T. Bland Library. Anyone interested is welcome to come.



Judy Streeter received a Certificate of Appreciation for Recognition of Service as a W. T. Bland Library Volunteer.

Pictured from the left are members of the Education and Libraries Committee: Delores Deen, Sue Chelseth, Judy Streeter, Cathy Lunday, Library Director, Cheryl Higgins, Mary Groeller, Diana Scott, and Gail Newton.



**ENVIRONMENT**

Kim Barnes, CH

**Reduce, Reuse, Recycle — In That Order**

The phrase is intentionally prioritized. Most environmental impact happens before an item ever reaches your home — during extraction, manufacturing, packaging, and transportation. That's why reducing consumption comes first, followed by reuse, and recycling last.

Practical ways to reduce:

- Choose durability over trend cycles. Buy fewer but higher-quality items that last longer.
- Avoid single-use products and excessive packaging.
- Choose multi-purpose items instead of specialized tools or gadgets.
- Buy in bulk for frequently used goods. Works best when applied selectively to items you truly use regularly by reducing transportation costs and packaging.

In April's newsletter we will discuss ways to reduce your environmental impact through reuse.



**HEALTH & WELLNESS**

Tracy Draper, CH

The Health and Wellness Committee meeting will be held on March 2nd at Foxtail Coffee, Tavares, at 3:00 p.m.

**Grace's Project Sewing Social**

March 6th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Tracy's house.

If you have a sewing machine, please bring it. If you don't, come on anyway and we will put you to work either cutting the fabric, pinning it or helping in another way. A sign-up sheet will be in the lobby at March 4th meeting.



**Walkie Talkies**

Saturday, March 21th at the Lake Apopka North Shore - 24600 CR-448A Mount Dora, FL 32757 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Just a friendly reminder that we were made to MOVE. Here is an interesting article about sitting. Enjoy! <https://www.npr.org/2026/02/10/g-s1-108985/in-a-world-built-for-sitting-heres-how-to-stay-active-even-when-stuck-inside>

**UPCOMING FUNDRAISING EVENT**

P4Patriots Weekend Extravaganza

Barbara Little, Fundraising Sub-Committee CH

**A Weekend Celebrating Women Veterans**

One weekend. Three high-energy events. One powerful mission. **April 11th and April 12th**

- Paddles for Patriots - Two-day pickleball tournament with 12 brackets and 150 teams (300 players). To register <https://pickleballbrackets.com?FLP4P>.
- Pop-ups for Patriots Vendor Fest - Two days of vibrant shopping with ~20 curated vendors—unique, lively, and well-attended.
- Party for Patriots on the Patio April 12 @ Eden Abbey Brewery - Live band, games, great food, and craft brews—it's a feel-good party with a purpose.

1. Save the date & plan to volunteer.
2. Tell your friends; blast on social media, get the word out.
3. We need point people for various activities. **NO PICKLEBALL EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.** Most of these will take just a few hours over the course of the next two months. If everyone does a little we can accomplish a lot!

Contact Barbara to help at [mdwcpickleball@gmail.com](mailto:mdwcpickleball@gmail.com)



**Correspondence Secretary**

Denise Mulcahy

If you know of anyone who needs a ray of Sunshine, please send me their name and address so I can contact them with a note from MDWC.





**ESO**  
Therese Haberle, CH

Next ESO meeting is March 18th, 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the W.T. Bland Library.

Our "group read" should prove interesting! YOUR PICK! Read two books, one by Jodi Picoult, one by John Grisham. You pick the titles of your choice. We'll have a lively discussion for sure!



**MEMBERSHIP**  
Kim Barnes, CH

There were no new members in February.

"Why Do you Join an Organization?"  
You don't buy a newspaper, you buy news  
You don't buy life insurance, you buy security  
You don't buy glasses, you buy vision  
You don't buy awnings, you buy shade  
You don't buy membership in an organization;  
you buy cooperation of people with whom you can join hands  
and do the things you cannot do alone.

~ Fran McLamb, Palm Coast Woman's Club



**HOSPITALITY**  
Cathy Kautz/Maureen Melvold, CHs

Please register for the March luncheon. The Pink Tea should be so much fun. Wear your fancy hat!

My Committee is responsible for the centerpieces and favors! If you have a good idea for a door prize, please let me know.

We look forward to your book donations. Thank you so much.



**SUNSHINE COMMITTEE**

If you know of a club member going through a rough patch and who could use some TLC, i.e., a ride to the doctor, help with meals, a call, or a visit, please let a Hospitality/Sunshine Committee member know so we may bring some sunshine their way. Contact Cathy Kautz.

**Note From Roseanne Miller, Treasurer**

After all the excitement and fun of the Quarter Auction, our next big task was counting and wrapping the quarters.

A huge thank you to Judy and Steve Streeter, Linda Urry, Jerry Hardwick, Betty Smith, Violet Nagy, and my husband, Frank Miller. Together, in just about three hours, we wrapped over 100 pounds of quarters—what an achievement!



**KEY NOTES—How it got started.** Edited article from the March 2020 newsletter.

In the 90's Club Presidents chose a symbol/theme for their two year term. At the May 1996 installation meeting, the new President chose keys with the theme "Open Hearts and Open Minds Open Doors". A special Board meeting was held, and it was decided the Club needed a newsletter. Judith Shepp agreed to take the job as Editor. The first "Key Notes" newsletter went to press September 1996, and won 1st place at the GFWC State meeting February 1997.

This was also the beginning of THE MASTER KEY AWARD which is a special "thank you" reward for "Outstanding Volunteer Member" during the current two year term.

Original article written by retired member, Judith Nelson

# Announcements



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mary Groeller	3/05
Elizabeth Maglio	3/08
Judith Shepp	3/11
JoAnne Hildebrand	3/13
Diane Capetola	3/17
Colleen Gardner	3/20
Maureen Melvold	3/22
Tracy Draper	3/24
Carol Saady	3/27
Sue Chelseth	3/29

### MLK Senior Center



The volunteers and seniors organized a celebration honoring Gina Conway. Gina founded the Senior Center ten years ago with about 15 attendees, and it has since grown to welcome over 50 seniors. As she prepares to move to Virginia to be closer to her family, everyone will deeply miss her kindness and dedication.

Pictured Above: Flo Fenneman, Mary Groeller, a volunteer, Delores Deen, Gina Conway, Diane Cole, Betty Smith, Diana Scott, Cecilia Santos, Roseanne Miller, and Denise Mulcahy.



## SPOTLIGHT ON



### Missie Jordan

Missie Jordan lived in Indiana before relocating to Tavares, Florida, in 2014. She comes from a large, close-knit family of eight children, and she is the second youngest. Missie is the proud mother of four daughters, stepmother to two daughters, and grandmother to five granddaughters. One of her daughters lives in Mount Dora, while the rest of her family remains in Indiana. Because family is such an important part of her life, she travels back often to spend time with them.

Missie has been involved in singing and acting since childhood and became a professional entertainer during her senior year of high school. She began her studies at Ball State University in Indiana before transferring to the Cincinnati Conservatory to continue pursuing the performing arts.

While living in Indiana, Missie worked in newspaper sales and also wrote a regular column. After moving to Florida, she and her husband launched a marketing business in partnership with Best Version Media, providing local marketing services for small businesses.

Her passion for performing has never faded. Missie continues to entertain audiences. She has created an original production, a one woman show - "I'm Not Done Yet,"\* which blends singing, acting, and comedy.

Missie is deeply committed to serving others. Through her church, she helps feed the homeless in Eustis, leads a Bible study in her home, participates in Care Givers of the Cross, and mentors teenagers. In October 2025, she joined the GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club as another meaningful way to give to her community.





**Delores Deen  
Volunteer of the Year**



The GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club is honored to nominate Delores Deen as our Volunteer of the Year candidate. Delores is a quintessential volunteer who never seeks the spotlight and is ever-present at our club events and functions.

In 2025, she served as our Arts & Culture Chair. She used her time, talent, and energy to resurrect a committee that never met and contributed very little to our club program. Two years ago, member involvement in our Arts & Crafts Show included six entries. In 2025, we had 30 entries. Last month we had 47 entries. Delores is a quiet leader who collaborates with members of her committee to enhance teamwork. She has an uncanny talent for empowering her committee members to take initiative and to work well with other committee members, other club committees, and diverse groups. And then Delores quietly rolls up her sleeves and volunteers.

Our club partners with the Mount Dora Library in a book-scanning project, where volunteers scan donated books for their resale value. The books are purchased by online book sellers. Our club uses the money generated to underwrite educational classes offered at the library. Delores is one of two book-scanning volunteers. In 2025, she volunteered 144 hours as a book-scanner, and she raised \$2500 for the library.

Her other favorite project is volunteering at our club-sponsored Senior Center twice monthly. Delores is the kitchen coordinator. She oversees food preparation, serving, clean-up, and fellow volunteers. She is very kind and gracious with the seniors and quietly manages the few cranky ones. She volunteered 108 hours and prepared and served 1200 meals in 2025.

Delores served on our club's Board of Directors and regularly attends our monthly membership meetings, as well as District 7 meetings.

As a volunteer, Delores is the poster woman for "Living the Volunteer Spirit". She is very involved in our club and community projects as listed below, because she truly cares for the underserved members of our community.

- ◆ Served as Arts & Culture Co-Chair.
- ◆ Coordinated "On the Rocks" rock painting, supported LovExtension with donations of non-perishable food supplies, and then furnished the painted rocks to our Walkie Talkies to distribute during their walks.
- ◆ Collaborated with her committee in organizing our most successful ever Arts & Crafts contest.
- ◆ Coordinated "Painted Bowls" event benefitting Lake Cares Food Pantry, and donated baked goods to the event.
- ◆ Initiated the trip, travel, and meals for members attending Christmas in the Park in Winter Park.
- ◆ Coordinated the scheduling of members to usher at the Ice House Theater.
- ◆ Participated in Wreaths Across America, placing wreaths on veterans' graves.
- ◆ Volunteered at Center Street Kitchen, providing meals for those with food insecurities. She helped set up, prep, and serve 3400 meals in 2025.
- ◆ Walked numerous miles on Walkie Talkie outings, a Health & Wellness project for members.
- ◆ Scanned donated books weekly at the library for resale.
- ◆ Stuffed swag bags for, and volunteered at, our Pickle Ball tournament benefitting Ashley's House.
- ◆ Coordinated the kitchen, wrapped Christmas gifts, and led chair yoga at our club's Senior Center.
- ◆ Volunteered all four days at our Yard Sale benefitting Families in Transition. She was responsible for setting up, selling, and breaking down the Christmas shop section.
- ◆ Volunteered as a hostess for both days of the Holiday Tour of Homes benefitting LovExtension.
- ◆ Donated school supplies for Apple Mart and children's books to Lake Cares Food Pantry.
- ◆ Baked and donated volumes of cookies for the Library Volunteer Appreciation Reception, the Senior Center, the Mad Hatters Tea, the Pickle Ball tournament, the Tour of Homes, and Empty Bowls.
- ◆ Read a plethora of books as a member of our ESO Book Club.

Suzanne Gibson

# Announcements

## Show Your Love Benefit Quarter Auction February 12th



Roseanne Miller and Judy Streeter - Quarter Sales



Cheryl Higgins and Delores Deen - Event Volunteers



Faye Owens solicited auction items and created gift baskets



Steve Urry, MC



Left: Kristen McCann and her daughter from Families in Transition. Right: Brett and Missie Jordan, and two women representing the Haven of Lake and Sumter Counties.



Left: Two women who won free tickets from the radio station. Right: Dana Chester, Maureen and David Melvold, and a woman representing the Elks Children's Charity.



Suzanne Gibson and Jerry Hardwick



Lanette and Bob Scantlin, owners of Mail Express, were both Event Sponsors and Vendors. Lanette is also a Club member.



Linda Urry, Fundraising Chair, Gail Mahan, and Cheryl Higgins. Event Volunteers.



A delicious and unique dessert created by Kathryn Wilgus.

# Announcements

## A Weekend For Patriots

One Weekend ~ Three High-Energy Events ~ One Powerful Mission

April 11 & 12, 2026 ~ 555 S. Highland Street Mount Dora

GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club

★ Pop-Ups for Patriots ★

# Vendor Fest

Two days of vibrant shopping

9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Over 20 curated vendors

Lots of free parking

GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club



## Paddles for Patriots

### Pickleball Tournament

Second Annual

Two-day pickleball tournament

12 brackets and ~130 teams

Register at: <http://pickleballbrackets.com?FLP4P>

GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club



# On The Patio

April 12 4:00 PM @ Eden Abbey Brewery

Live band, games, great food, and craft brews

It's a feel-good party with a purpose



Proceeds to benefit  
Ashley's House  
Transitional Home for Women Veterans



The GFWC Mount Dora Woman's Club  
is a 501(C)(3) organization.