



GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club Inc.

November 2023
Volume 1, Issue 6

The Space Coast Comet

gfwcspacecoastwc.org



Veterans Day

Veterans Day, observed on November 11th each year. It is a day dedicated to honoring and expressing gratitude to all military veterans, both living and deceased, for their service and sacrifice in defense of their countries.

The history of Veterans Day is closely tied to the end of World War I. On November 11, 1918, an armistice was signed between the Allied Powers and Germany, effectively ending the hostilities on the Western Front of World War I.

This armistice went into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. In the years that followed, this date became known as Armistice Day and was observed to commemorate the end of the war and honor the veterans who served in it.

In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, the U.S. Congress officially changed Armistice Day to Veterans Day to recognize and honor all American veterans, not just those from World War I. The holiday's purpose expanded to include veterans of all wars and military conflicts.



Giving Tuesday

GivingTuesday is an opportunity for people around the world to use their individual power of generosity to support their communities. On [GivingTuesday](#)—November 28, 2023—the whole world comes together to give back in many different ways: through acts of kindness, gifts of voice, time, talent, or treasure.

How will you participate? Discover a local fundraiser, give to your favorite cause, share kindness with neighbors (check on those who are alone or need help with errands), volunteer virtually (through [VolunteerMatch](#)), share a skill with others, encourage kindness, match others' gifts to nonprofits...the list is endless. Be sure to report your participation to JoAnne.





President's Message

Dear members,

I want to thank you all for everything that you do for our club, our community, and each other. You continuously amaze me with your willingness to jump in and make things happen. Our club may be small in numbers, but we are enormous in heart!

As we enter the busy holiday season, I hope you will continue to look around and find those in need. Try to make them feel like they matter and make their lives a little easier. If you see a need larger than you can manage, check in me. Maybe we can lighten the load by reaching out to our club members, sister clubs, or seek a solution through a community partner. This season sometimes can make us feel like we can't do enough for all of those in need, but when we work together, it's remarkable how much we can accomplish.

Like many of you at this time of year, I reflect on what I am thankful for. Always at the top of my list are good health, my family and friends, and you, my fellow clubwomen. I'm grateful for all of you and for all that you do. I wish you and your loved ones a very happy Thanksgiving.

~Sarah Anthony

"It's not what we have in life but who we have in our life that matters."

~M. Lawrence



1st Vice-President's Message

November is the start of the busy holiday season – For me, it's our anniversary and daughter's birthday and of course one of my favorite holidays – Thanksgiving. We do have so much to be thankful for.

It is also the season for Report Writing. Everyone is doing a good job of reporting their volunteer hours and their donations. To date I have 314 rows on a spreadsheet – not bad for a club that just formed in April. Your volunteer hours and dollars donated help each CSP with writing their report. I encourage everyone to think if you missed sending something to me, if your not sure, send it again and the spreadsheet will find duplicates.

Happy Thanksgiving!!!

~JoAnne Post

You may ask yourself - Why we Report

- Reports are a “diary” of the club’s activities during the year, providing a picture of achievements of the group and the accomplishments of individual members.
- Reports are the heart and soul of a club’s history, reflecting the concerns and interests of club members at a particular point in time and over time.
- Reports are the basis of a publicity campaign, illustrating what the group is doing at a given time.
- Reports help future members plan activities, knowing what was done in the past and what was or was not successful.
- Reports are useful for membership recruitment efforts, allowing potential members to gain a realistic picture of the club’s purpose.
- Reports are necessary to compete for recognition and awards on the district, state, and international levels of GFWC.
- Reports provide critical statistical information to help GFWC represent the membership to national policy makers and to receive grants and partnerships with national organizations.
- Reports document the club’s non-profit organization status



2nd Vice-President's Message

We finished our first fundraiser (How Many Doors Do You Have) on October 4th. Everyone brought their forms with the number of doors they have in their

home and the money they paid at 10 cents per door. We raised \$216! We will decide how to use this money in the coming months. Great job to all who participated, and thank you to those who helped me with this project.

The fundraising committee is looking at a couple of fundraisers for the future, which will likely take place after the first of the year. Remember, if you have any ideas for a fundraiser or would like to help in any please let me know.

~Judy Bissel



Craft Class

Club member, Diane Angus will be leading a craft class in which participants will be making a Chunky Yarn Wreath.

Date: November 8th

Time: Noon-2:00

Location: Viera East Resident's Clubhouse
1964 Golf Vista Blvd

Cost: \$0, however participants must supply their own materials using the supply list.

SUPPLIES:

Chunky yarn – color & size are your preference

Crochet hook – size Q

Foam Wreath – green wreath, 15-inch

Embellishments—examples include Christmas ornaments, ribbon, silk flowers, seasonal decorations

Scissors

OPTIONAL SUPPLIES:

- Floral wire (if using silk flowers)
- Twine (used for creating a hanger if not using the yarn and/or attaching ornaments to wreath as additional décor)

Please contact Diane if you have any questions.



This event is open to club members and their guests, as well as any potential members.

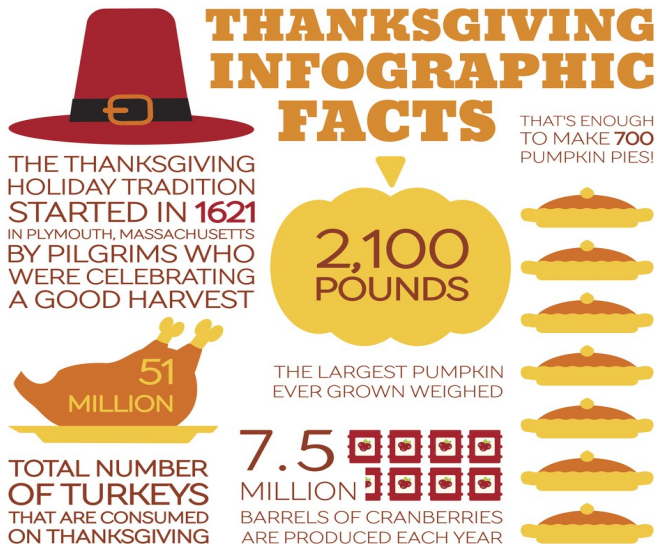
Community Service Programs (CSPs)

Arts & Culture CSP

Chair: Available

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Chair: Available



Election Day is Tuesday, November 7th. In Brevard County, polls will be open from 7:00am-7:00pm. This year will be a municipal and special district election so some precincts will not vote.

To find out more about voter registration, check your registration status, read a sample ballot, or to learn more about the issues and candidates in YOUR area, these websites may be helpful:

- [Brevard County Supervisor of Elections](http://votebrevard.gov) (votebrevard.gov)
- [League of Women Voters](http://lww.org) (lww.org)
- VOTE411



GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Chair: Taylor Malishenko

Serene Harbor's annual Purses with a Purpose fundraiser was a grand success. With over 250 attending, including 5 members from Space Coast Women's Club, there was active bidding during the auction. Club members donated two designer purses for the auction. The purses were grouped with a couple of other items and were sold with a winning bid of \$700.

The 20 small bags of Halloween treats that we assembled at the October club meeting for the children of Serene Harbor were delivered in time for a Halloween celebration. In addition, we delivered the Affirmation Jars for Serene Harbor moms. The jars were assembled at a club event organized by Health and Wellness CSP.

If you, or someone you know needs help, please call or text Serene Harbor's 24/7 confidential hotline: 321-726-8282(TTY)

November is National Runaway Prevention Month. National Runaway Prevention Month (NRPM) is a public awareness campaign designed to 'shine a light' on the challenges faced by runaway and homeless youth. Every November, organizations across the nation band together to share information, spotlight resources, and show young people in crisis that they are not alone.

To learn more about the campaign, to find resources for you or your family, or to find out how you can become a volunteer, please visit the [National Runaway Safeline](http://NationalRunawaySafeLine.org).

To show your support and to help raise awareness, please wear **GREEN** on November 16th. Be sure to send your green-wearing selfies to President Sarah for our Facebook post.

Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Education & Libraries CSP

Chair: Sally Kramer

Today, in the United States, more than 30 million adults cannot read or write above a third grade level. Studies have shown that books in the hands of children have a meaningful impact on improving literacy. The more books in or near a home, the more likely a child will learn and love to read. But two out of three children living in poverty have no books to call their own.

Little Free Library book sharing boxes play an essential role by providing 24/7 access to books in areas where books are scarce. This encourages a love of reading. At the Little Free Library nonprofit, they are working to fill book deserts and grant libraries to underserved communities through their programs and initiatives.

Through Little Free Library book exchanges, millions of books are traded each year, greatly increasing access to books for readers of all ages and backgrounds. Ninety-two percent of people say their neighborhoods feel like a friendlier place because of the Little Free Library.

Anyone can have a Little Free Library in the corner of their yard. If you live in a community that is governed by an HOA, you would have to check those rules first. You could also support a library in a different area. As a club we could build, paint, maintain, and supply a Little Free Library in our community, once we have the funds to support the project. A little Free Library costs about \$300—\$450 plus the stand to put it on, which costs \$120 - \$150. Let me know if you are interested in this adventure and I'll put a committee together to work on it.

In the meantime, our members can help support the Little Free Library in front of the GFWC Community Woman's Club of Cocoa's clubhouse. Stop by to leave or trade a book!

GFWC Affiliate Focus

GFWC is proud to work side-by-side with a number of dynamic and impactful organizations. Together, we work to improve our communities and better our world.



Founded in 2008 in the United Kingdom, Hope for Justice works from more than 30 locations across 5 continents to bring an end to modern day slavery and human trafficking by preventing exploitation, rescuing victims, restoring lives, and reforming society. Hope for Justice focuses on rescuing victims, empowering people to protect themselves and their families, working with survivors to rebuild their lives, and reforming society by training professionals to spot the signs of trafficking.

To learn more, visit the [Hope for Justice](#) website.



Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Environment CSP

Chair: Nancy Brown

On Saturday, November 4th, we will be participating in [The Sea Turtle Preservation Society Beach](#) clean up at [Coconut Point Beach](#), Melbourne Beach, Florida. Clean up starts at 9:00 a.m. Six members have already signed up to participate. If you are interested in joining us, you can sign up at the November meeting. Supplies to help, such as trash bags, gloves, and grabbers are available. Be sure to dress for the weather, wear sunscreen, and bring water for drinking.



November Environmental Tips:

Milkweed is the favorite plant of Monarch butterfly caterpillars. But, not all milkweed is the same. Sally Scalera, University of Florida Extension Agent published an article in Florida Today on October 15th which provides very useful information about Monarch butterflies and native and non-native milkweed. I will have copies of the article at the November meeting.



Health & Wellness CSP

Chair:
Linda Greenstein

Our GFWC Space Coast-COMETs are working hard each month to add miles for Charity Miles. On November 1st, we will change our charity to [Purple Heart Homes](#), an organization that is “Improving Veteran’s Lives One Home At A Time.” I challenge our team to accumulate 1,400 miles during November. WE CAN DO THIS !!!

Don’t forget that the Fight Child Hunger 5k is coming up in just 10 weeks. (Saturday, January 13, 2024) If you have never waked a 5k, I have a training schedule (starting on November 20th) that will get you over the finish line with a smile on your face. Contact me if you are interested. We need at least 5 members (friends or Boosters included) to make a team. Right now we have 4. The proceeds from the race will be split between the Sharing Center of Central Brevard and the Children’s Hunger Project. It is a fun event with lots of sponsors handing out information and fun freebies. Everyone gets a medal as they cross the finish line and there is a pancake breakfast immediately after your race. Awards are given to the top three in each age group. Won’t you join the fun?



[CLICK HERE](#) to register.
Join our team: GFWC Space Coast-COMETs

Our next Walk and Talk will be on Monday, November 6th . We’ll meet at Suseda Park at 8:30 am. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, use sunscreen and perhaps bring a hat. Don’t forget your water. Hope to see many of you there!

We will have a “Healthy Start Volunteer Opportunity” on Wednesday, November 29th. I will have a sign-in sheet at our November 1st meeting. The location will depend on how many sign up to volunteer.

What We've Been Up To...

October's Walk & Talk was breezy and chilly but the sunny skies and smiles made the miles go by quickly!

It's wonderful to see our members staying active.

(Tiny B., Linda G., Tina P., Sally K.)



Club members made "Affirmation Jars" for the women at Serene Harbor. These jars were decorated by our members and then filled with slips of paper with positive thoughts and messages to spread kindness and encouragement.

(Judy B., Kathy S., Nancy B., Linda G., Susan M.)



Several club members attended the District 6 Annual Fall Tour meeting held on October 21st in Satellite Beach. Pictured are: Taylor M., Tiny B., D6 Director (and club member) Sally Kramer, Judy B., GFWC FL President Linda O'Toole, Susan M., Nancy B., Bonnie M., Linda G., and JoAnne P.

GFWC Advancement Areas

Membership
Chair: Available

Leadership
Chair: Sarah Anthony

Welcome to our new Booster Members!

- **Rich Brown**
- **Barry Watkins**

Our booster members have been instrumental in helping with scarecrow building and National Day of Service setup and cleanup. Thank you boosters!!!

The club's December meeting will be our Holiday luncheon party on **Wednesday, December 6th**. Watch for your invitation in your email.

If you would like to volunteer with us or if you would like more information on how to join our club, please visit our [website](#).

In the September newsletter, we outlined the seven acts of “everyday” leaders: commit, listen, communicate, be humble, innovate, learn, and SMILE!

This month we will focus on **COMMIT**. This is defined as 1—entrust for safekeeping, 2—perpetrate, 3—pledge or bind to a certain course, 4—morally dedicated.

Many times through our club work, we are asked to commit to a cause, a goal, or the task that we are assigned to (or that we have volunteered for). Often our commitment to our club and our work turns into a passion.

“Passion is a strong desire that can get you to do amazing things. Passion is an emotion to be acted upon. Without action, passion yields no worthwhile results. Passion is the fuel for the fire of action. When you have passion for something, you love it even when you hate it.” (GFWC Manual)

What are you passionate about? Gardening, exercising, helping animals, teaching, reading, writing, politicking, volunteering, shopping, organizing, art? How will you bring your passion into your club work? Will you take the LEAD and share your passion?

GFWC FL Webinars:

Be sure to sign up for the next webinar on Thursday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00pm. The topic will be fundraising. Even if you aren't working with our fundraising committee, this is a good opportunity to learn more about GFWC and GFWC Florida. Registration is on the [GFWC FL website](#) in the member center.

**Happy
Birthday, Taylor!**

We wish you all the best!





GFWC History

Many of our clubwomen have proudly served or are currently serving our country through military service. Many clubs focus their volunteer projects on veterans and service to those who have sacrificed

so much for the freedoms we sometimes take for granted. Our Civic Engagement Community Service Program (CSP) promotes service to our military members, veterans, and their families through a variety of projects such as placing flags on military cemeteries, care packages to service members overseas, lap blankets for VA hospitals, summer-camp sponsorships for military children, and countless other projects that have been supported by clubs across the country.

Service to our country's heroes didn't start in the current generation. GFWC has a long history of support for our service men and women dating back to World War I. In 1919, under the direction of the YMCA, GFWC created the Overseas Service Unit and sent 100 young women to Europe to assist wounded soldiers in the aftermath of the first World War.

But perhaps the most impactful contribution that GFWC has made to our military was during World War II. The war broke out in 1939 when Nazi Germany invaded Poland, however it wasn't until Japan attacked American territories in 1941 that the United States entered the war. As our troops were sent around the globe, here at home support grew and more people supported as many war efforts as possible to help the US win the war.

One such campaign was the GFWC "Buy A Bomber" Campaign that was announced in June 1943. Here is the news report on the campaign announcement as printed in several newspapers:

WASHINGTON, June 21—A powerful bomber fleet, capable of blasting a pathway to victory in conquered Europe in the invasion clean-up, is the goal of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in its "Buy a Bomber" campaign, which has been launched by its president, Mrs. John L. Whitehurst, from Federation headquarters, here.

Fifty huge, four-motored battleships of the skies, costing \$15,000,000 will be the nucleus for the Federation's "Fleet of Bombers" to be bought by the 2,000,000 club women and their friends in the District of Columbia through purchases of war bonds, and 48 State Federation, Alaska, and turned over to the United States Air Force.

The name of the individual "State Federation, G. F. W. C." will be painted on the nose of the bomber, as soon as the State Federation has raised its quota of \$300,000.

This is the first women's organization to undertake such a gigantic war project.

Mrs. John D. Robinson, of Wallace, North Carolina, chairman of the U.S. Bond and Stamp Committee, and Mrs. Gustav Ketterer, of Philadelphia, chairman of the War Service Department, are assisting in the campaign.

Mrs. Whitehurst said: "When this initial fleet of 50 bombers has been launched and named, individual clubs or groups of clubs within a city or county should set themselves bomber goals. These bombers may bear the names of the individual club which has sold enough bonds to finance their purchase, or where several clubs have worked together, they may name their bomber for the city or county in which the group of cooperating clubs is located.

"All friends and relatives of club women will be urged to buy bonds in this campaign. Arrangements must be made with each State War Finance chairman, who will set a time limit and explain how certifications of bonds sold for this campaign may be obtained from banks, post offices, or other issuing agencies. The sooner the campaign is under way, the nearer we will be to victory."

How many bombers did GFWC purchase? GFWC club members and clubs raised over \$300 million, purchasing an estimated 430 aircraft!

In addition to the Buy A Bomber campaign, State federations provided \$234,834 in scholarships and \$46,601 in loans to train nurses. The Federation recruited over 6,000 young women for the Cadet Nurse Corps. Over 4,500 Juniors enlisted in the various services established for women.

General Federation of Women's Clubs. A B-17F purchased and named for GFWC.



November Events

November 1:

9:00 am—General Membership Meeting
Brevard Zoo

November 4:

9:00 am—Beach Clean-Up
Coconut Point Beach,
Melbourne Beach

November 6:

8:30 am—Walk & Talk
Suseda Park, Viera East

November 8:

12:00 pm—Wreath-making Class
Viera E. Resident's Clubhouse

November 15:

10:00 am— Board of Directors Meeting
Zoom

November 16:

Wear **GREEN** for National Runaway
Awareness Month

November 20 :

1:00 pm—Book Club
Tiny's House (Check directory)

November 23:

Happy Thanksgiving!

November 28:

Giving Tuesday!

November 29:

9:00 am—Healthy Start Packet Party
Location TBD

*We look forward to seeing
you at one of our many activi-
ties this month!*

What We're Collecting

This is a list of on-going collections for items that will be donated to various organizations in our area.

- **Pull-tabs** (soda & soup can tabs) - will be donated to Ronald McDonald House charities. (Health & Wellness)
- **Eyeglasses** - will be donated to the Lions Club. (Health & Wellness)
- **Bottle corks** (wine & champagne) — for an upcoming fundraiser.

More items will be added as projects are developed. To donate, please **contact our club.**

Contact Us!

Email: gfwspacecoast@gmail.com

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Website: gfwspacecoastwc.org

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