



# The Space Coast Comet

[gfwcspacecoastwc.org](http://gfwcspacecoastwc.org)



GFWC SPACE COAST WOMAN'S CLUB

February  
Membership Meeting

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 7, 2024  
10:00-12:00  
UF/IFAS EXTENSION OFFICE  
(3695 LAKE DRIVE, COCOA 32926)

Our meeting will focus on civic engagement and outreach with a speaker from Back Brevard Heroes. Our service project will benefit local first responders.

[WWW.GFWCSPACECOASTWC.ORG](http://WWW.GFWCSPACECOASTWC.ORG)

environmentally friendly horticulture. BDG's goal is to provide the local community with an educational venue to show residents "firsthand" how to use sustainable horticultural practices that support a healthy environment. The Discovery Garden is located right next door to the extension office. The tour will last 30-45 minutes. If you would like to attend the tour, **please RSVP to Nancy B. as soon as possible.**

We have invited the President of Back Brevard Heroes, Sherri Centore, to join us to tell us about her organization. Back Brevard Heroes is a non-profit charity with the mission of supporting local first responders and service members.

For our service project, we will be creating a special Valentine Goodie Basket for the men and women at the Cocoa Police Department to thank them for their service to our community. We are asking our members to bring individually wrapped treats and snacks. These will be assembled into a basket and delivered around Valentine's Day.

## Membership Meeting

February's Membership Meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7th at 10:00 am at the UF/IFAS Extension Office (3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa).

Prior to the meeting, beginning at 9:15, our members are welcome to attend a tour of the Discovery Gardens hosted by a master gardener. The Brevard Discovery Garden's (BDG) mission is to promote an increased appreciation of our Central Florida environment. The Garden seeks to inspire, support, and educate the community about

## DONATION SUGGESTIONS

*for our first responders*

- Meat sticks
- Granola bars
- Fruit snacks
- Cracker packs
- Nut/trail mix packs
- Snack-size candy
- Instant coffee singles
- Chapstick
- Car air fresheners
- Protein bars
- Travel-size tissues
- Hand sanitizer
- Gatorade
- Drink packets
- Gum



# President's Message

First, I want to thank our entire leadership team (and especially JoAnne) who worked tirelessly to meet our deadline for GFWC Annual Reports. We have learned so much going through the reporting process and, as with all learning experiences, we found some gaps and issues in reporting that we will be addressing in the near future. Look for upcoming opportunities to help us improve!

Another “gap” that has been brought to my attention recently is that we aren’t educating our new members effectively. We will be bridging that gap beginning this month with our New Member Orientation on February 13th and also in the coming months, with the hope that our newer members will feel more equipped to bring new other new members to our club, take on leadership roles, and feel that they are a valued member of our team. We love our members and the strengths that everyone brings to our club.

I’m so proud of all that we accomplished in 2023 and I can’t wait to see what we can achieve in 2024!

~Sarah Anthony

*“If it doesn’t challenge you, it won’t change you.”*

~Fred DeVito



# 1st Vice-President's Message

A huge thank you to all the CSP Chairmen for submitting the foundation narratives for our reports. With a little help from

ChatGPT I believe we have the most creative reports ever!

A little recap based on this year’s reports:

Our club members compiled **over 4500** volunteer hours, **\$10,000** in in-kind donations, and over **\$15,000** in cash donations.

The send button was hit in mid January to send our reports to GFWC Florida and now we just wait until the GFWC Florida Spring Convention where we will *hopefully* be recognized by the state for all of our awesome work.

Happy Valentine’s day to all!

~JoAnne Post

Things to report this month:

- Did you attend the January Membership Meeting, the Fundraising Committee Meeting, or any other club meeting in January?
- Did you enter any artwork in the Arts & Crafts Show or make a donation to a GFWC affiliate organization?
- Did you attend/join the book club? Did you join ESO? How many hours did you read? Did you purchase this month’s book club book?
- Did you save any corks for the Environment CSP project?
- Did you walk or run for Charity Miles? How much time? How many miles? Did you participate in the Fight Hunger 5K? Did you participate in the Walk & Talk or pack for The Children’s Hunger Project?

Report all volunteer hours (including driving time and miles—except for membership meetings)

Report all dollars and in-kind donations made to the club or to club-sponsored organizations.

Send your monthly report to JoAnne via email.

## From the Treasurer...

News from our Treasurer, Susan Musil!

Well, we have moved into the modern world of moving money around! No more envelopes or stamps, but you can still mail me your checks if you want.

Our checking account now accepts Zelle. To use it please use my **Email Address as printed in the club directory.**

If you have never used Zelle to transfer money, just give me a call and I will show you how. It is easy.

VOLUNTEERING IS A  
WORK OF HEART

♥ THANKS FOR ALL THAT YOU DO! ♥



## Crafters' Cove

Club member, Diane Angus will be leading another craft class in which participants will be making 30 de-coupage heart ornaments that will be donated to Autumn House. This is a very easy project and should be a lot of fun!

**Date: Monday, February 5, 2024**

**Time: 10:00 am -1:00 pm**

**Location: Viera East Residents Clubhouse (1964 Golf Vista Blvd., Viera)**



All supplies and instructions will be provided. If you have a favorite decorative napkin that you would like to use for your heart, please bring it with you.

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

If you have any questions, please contact Diane. Her contact information can be found in the club's directory.

*Let's bring a little Valentine's Day joy to the residents  
at Autumn House!*

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



## Arts & Culture

Chair: Available

## Arts & Crafts Show Winners 2024

Black History Month is observed every February in the United States to celebrate and recognize the contributions, history, and experiences of Black people. Originally, this observation was one week, coinciding with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, two figures who had greatly impacted the African American community. Over time, it has expanded into a full month of celebrations and educational activities. In 1976, the federal government officially recognized February as Black History Month, and today it is observed across the United States with a range of events such as lectures, art exhibits, and music performances.

The Library of Congress and other government agencies join together to pay tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society. Visit [blackhistorymonth.gov](https://www.blackhistorymonth.gov) for all of the learning opportunities.

At our January meeting our club held our 1st Annual Arts and Crafts Show. The first place winners from our club's show will go on to the District 6 Arts and Crafts Competition to compete with first place winners from the other clubs in our district. The first place winners from the District art show will go on the GFWC FL state competition at the Spring Convention in April. Good luck, members!

The first place winners from our club are:

**Miniatures:** Linda Greenstein (small paper box with lid)

**Paper Crafts:** Bonnie Miller (stand up greeting card with pink poppies)

**Wreaths:** Diane Angus (red and white chunky yarn wreath)

**Hand Embroidery:** Sally Kramer (dish towel)

**Fabric Craft:** Tiny Butler (mini yoyo wall hanging)

**Quilting:** Tiny Butler (large blue and white quilt; machine and hand worked)

**Open Category:** Tiny Butler (diamond painting coaster set)

**Forgotten Crafts:** Diane Angus (wheel thrown pottery bowl)

**Painting (acrylic):** Judy Mammay ("Rising Full Moon")

**Painting (watercolor):** Judy Mammay ("Lillies")

**Drawing (pencil):** Judy Mammay ("Swan Reflection")

**Photography (Our World Up Close):** Judy Mammay

**Photography (Natural Wonders):** Judy Mammay

**Photography (Reflections):** Judy Mammay

**Photography (Florida):** Linda Greenstein



# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



## Civic Engagement & Outreach

Chair: Available

### PLEASE NOTE:

Since the Florida Democratic Party only provided one candidate nominee, that candidate will not appear on the March 19th Presidential Preference Primary ballot. Therefore, only registered Republicans have a race to vote on in the March 19th Presidential Preference Primary election. All voters regardless of party registration are eligible to vote for President/Vice President in the November Presidential General Election.



For more information on upcoming elections, to register to vote, to request an absentee ballot, or to volunteer to be an election day poll worker, please visit the [Brevard County Supervisor of Elections website](#).



Our January Membership meeting featured our guests from the Cocoa Police Department, speaking about human trafficking and our 1st arts and crafts contest. It was a fun and educational meeting.



## GFWC Signature Program: Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness & Prevention

Chair: Taylor Malishenko



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month (TDVAM). This month-long event aims to raise awareness about dating violence among young adults and their loved ones. The focus is on advocacy and education to prevent dating abuse before it starts.

Teen dating violence affects millions of youth in the United States every year. In 2019, about 1 in 11 female teens and 1 in 14 male teens reported being victims of physical dating violence, according to teen dating violence statistics from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The theme for TDVAM 2024 is “Love Like That”. The theme highlights the importance of healthy relationships and the need to create a world of positive actions to express and show healthy love in various ways. Watch our Facebook page for more information and ways that you can get involved.

If you or someone you know is experiencing dating violence, you can reach out to the National Domestic Violence Hotline at **1-800-799-SAFE (7233)** or visit their website at [www.thehotline.org](http://www.thehotline.org) for help and support.

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



Education &  
Libraries



Chair: Sally Kramer

While we learn many things when we visit a library through books, magazines, DVDs, CDs, and many of the opportunities our libraries offer, there is another source of education right here at our back doors...museums. All around us there are museums offering us a chance to learn about the state of Florida, the military, and police service history. I would like to have a group adventure to a few of the museums in our area over the year, starting with the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science this month. We may decide as a group to go out to lunch after the museum, as well. I will put out a sign up sheet at the membership meeting this month to see who is interested.

**Where:** Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science (2201 Michigan Avenue, Cocoa)

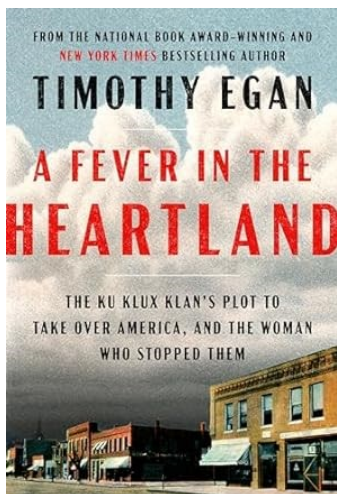
**When:** Thursday, February 29, 2024

**Time:** 10:00 am

**Cost:** Free (unless we decide to go to lunch, then member pays their own bill)

## Book Club

Our book club will be meeting again on Monday, February 19, 2024 at Tina P.'s house (address is in the directory) beginning at 1:00 p.m.



We will be reviewing "A Fever in the Heartland" by Timothy Egan. New members are always welcome to the book club, so let me know if you would like to join us!

## 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.



Shot@Life, a United Nations Foundation's campaign, seeks to educate, connect, and empower Americans to champion vaccines in order to save children in developing countries. Every 20 seconds, a child dies of a vaccine-preventable disease like pneumonia, diarrhea, measles, and polio. You can help save a child's life by encouraging, learning about, advocating for, and donating vaccines.

To learn more, visit the [Shot@Life](#) website or the GFWC website.

## ESO

ESO is an honorary educational society open to all dues paying GFWC Federated clubs. Through ESO, club women are given direction in planned reading for self enrichment and personal growth.

If you are a member of GFWC Space Coast Woman's Club you eligible to join ESO, even if you aren't a member of a book club. Just let me know that you have joined so I can include it in my reports.

Information and applications can be found on the GFWC FL website under Resources. If you have any questions please call me or email me.

Six of our club members have joined ESO.

# Community Service Programs (CSPs)



## Environment

Chair: Nancy Brown



I hope that you will take advantage of our February meeting location and tour the Brevard Discovery Garden. This garden is maintained by The Brevard County Master Gardener program. You will see pollinator gardens, Florida Friendly gardening ideas, fruit trees, etc. Master Gardeners will be there during our tour and will be able to answer any of your gardening questions. The Master Gardeners also have a nursery there and grow Florida native plants that they sell several times a year. I hope you enjoy this opportunity.

Our cork recycling program is off to a good start. By recycling bottle corks and reselling them, we will not only be able to make donations to organizations that help our environment, but we'll be keeping corks out of the landfills. It's a win-win for the environment! We have enough of a supply of corks on hand that we can begin to sell them. I need a few volunteers to help me sort and package the corks on Thursday, February 15th at 1:00 p.m. at my home (address is in the directory). I will have sign up sheet at the February meeting.

## February Environmental Facts:

When we think of hurricanes we think of damage and destruction. But the nature often sees this as opportunity. Hurricanes can have a big and positive impact on bird habitat. Coastal birds are adapted to hurricanes and benefit from overwash events that create new, open sandy habitats. When a storm strips a beach of vegetation or cover vegetation with sand, these newly disturbed areas become nesting sites for plovers, terns and skimmers. Storms also open inlets and create intertidal habitat that is perfect for shorebirds to forage for food further boosting opportunities for successful nesting. After the Hurricane Ian, the Florida Audubon Society noticed a significant increase in successful nesting of shorebirds. A needed boost to the bird populations.



## Health & Wellness

Chair: Linda Greenstein



February is National Cancer Prevention Month. According to an article from the American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), the federal government estimated in 2023 that nearly 2 million Americans would be diagnosed with cancer and 40 percent of these cases and nearly half of the deaths could be attributed to preventable causes – smoking, excess body weight, physical inactivity, and excessive exposure to the sun, among others. By changing or modifying our behaviors, we can reduce our risk for developing certain cancers. The AACR suggests that we stay physically active, limit consumption of red meat and processed foods, maintain a healthy (lean) weight, limit alcohol consumption and protect our skin in the Florida sun.

Our Charity Miles organization for February will be the American Cancer Society. Their mission is to fight to free the world of cancer and provide patients and caregivers with resources on their website. The organization funds and conducts research, shares expert information, supports patients and spreads awareness about prevention. Our goal is to reach 1,200 miles this month. Our Walk and Talk will help us reach that number. Join us at 8:30 am on Monday, February 12th at Don Griffin Trail. This beautiful 2.2 mile trail is located at the north end of Cogswell Street off Barton Rd in Rockledge. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy walking shoes, slather on the sunscreen, bring a hat and don't forget your water. If you have walking buddies, bring them along. The more the merrier. We hope to see you there!

Don't forget to bring your "unnecessary" glasses for the Lions RECYCLE for Sight and your Pop Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Florida to our next general meeting.

# What We've Been Up To...



Four club members, one booster, and one future club member participated in a rainy and chilly End Hunger 5K benefiting The Children's Hunger Project.



With a donation from a club member, our club was able to present a U.S. flag to The Children's Hunger Project for use in their board room. This will facilitate organizations, like ours, who use their meeting spaces to honor the flag.



Our club joined three other D6 clubs to pack weekend food packages for The Children's Hunger Project. It was a fun evening of sisterhood, volunteerism, and community pride.



Our 2024 Winter Membership Social was an event to remember! We had SIX guests who joined us for a potluck salad luncheon, informational meeting, and a special service project to benefit homeless children. A wonderful time was had by all!





# GFWC Advancement Areas

**Membership**  
Chair: Available

*Welcome to our new member!*

- **Terry Rose**

Terry's contact information is available to our members in the club directory.

We look forward to working with you at future club events!

It takes a village and the commitment of each member to make a club run smoothly and at the highest level. The following positions are currently available:

- 2nd Vice-President
- Arts & Culture CSP Chairman
- Civic Engagement & Outreach Chairman
- Membership Chairman
- Legislation & Public Policy Chairman
- Book Club Chairman/ESO Chairman (contact Sally K. for information or to volunteer)
- Socials Committee Chairman
- Website & Social Media Chairman
- Newsletter Publisher
- Meetings Coordinator
- Club Photographer

Please consider stepping out of your comfort zone and volunteering for one of these positions. We're all growing and learning together, so no experience is necessary, just the willingness to learn.

Contact [President Sarah](#) for more information or to volunteer!



All new club members are invited to join us for our next New Member Orientation! Please watch your email for the Zoom invitation, files, and other information. We hope you'll be able to join us!



# GFWC Advancement Areas

## Legislation & Public Policy

Chair: Available

Early in 2023, GFWC offered a remote webinar series, The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series. As part of GFWC's Strategic Plan Public Awareness efforts to raise visibility through program connections, maximize general advocacy efforts, and train the Board of Directors and general membership in civic engagement strategies with government officials, the 2022-2024 Legislation and Public Policy Committee created the advocacy series.

The webinar series includes seven episodes, each consisting of 45 minutes of presentation, followed by 15 minutes of Q&A. Recordings of these webinars are available on the GFWC website: [The Power of You: A GFWC Advocacy Training Series - General Federation of Women's Clubs \(GFWC\)](#)

Club members are encouraged to watch these recordings to learn more about GFWC advocacy efforts, the Legislative Action Committee (LAC), and look forward at how we can use our collective GFWC power at the state level.



## Leadership

Chair: Sarah Anthony

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 **Communicate**. “You have feelings, experiences, opinions, and a voice. All have value. So, share them often. You become an everyday leader by expressing your thoughts and ideas. Even hair-brained, way-out-there input from you is better than silence.” (GFWC Manual)

### 8 Tips for Effective Communication:

- Be clear and concise
- Prepare ahead of time
- Be mindful of nonverbal communication
- Watch your tone
- Practice active listening
- Build your emotional intelligence
- Develop a communication strategy
- Create a positive organizational culture

(forbes.com)

## GFWC FL Webinars:

Be sure to sign up for the next webinar on February 7th at 7:00pm. The topic will be Camp Boggy Creek. This is a good opportunity to learn more about GFWC and GFWC Florida. Registration is on the [GFWC FL website](#) in the member center.



# GFWC History

## Jennie June's Vision and the Founding of GFWC

In the annals of history, certain individuals shine as beacons of change, leaving an indelible mark on society. Among these trailblazers is Jane Cunningham Croly, also known as Jennie June, whose visionary leadership extended beyond journalism to the founding of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).

Born in December 1829 in England, Jane Cunningham Croly immigrated to the United States at a young age. Growing up in a society where opportunities for women were limited, she developed a keen interest in literature and writing. This passion would eventually lead her to challenge societal norms and pave the way for future generations of women. Jennie June's journey into the world of journalism began when she started contributing articles to various publications. However, it was her groundbreaking work as the editor of *Demorest's Illustrated Monthly* in the 1860s that truly set her apart. Under her editorial guidance, the magazine became a platform for discussing important social issues, including women's rights and suffrage. Breaking barriers in the 19th century, she became the first woman to gain entrance to the New York Press Club's annual dinner, a symbolic moment that foreshadowed her groundbreaking role in women's empowerment.

Jennie June's pivotal role in the women's movement took a significant turn with the founding of Sorosis in 1868, the first professional women's club in the United States. Sorosis served as a catalyst for women's intellectual and social advancement; empowering women and fostering a sense of community and setting the stage for the feminist movement that would follow.

Inspired by the success of Sorosis, Jennie June envisioned a broader platform for women's clubs across the nation to unite and amplify their impact. In 1890, this vision came to fruition with the establishment of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Jennie June, along with other influential women leaders, recognized the need

for a centralized organization that could bring together diverse women's clubs to address social issues collectively. GFWC was born with a mission to empower women through community service, education, and advocacy.

Jennie June's founding of GFWC marked a watershed moment in the history of women's organizations. The federation quickly became a powerful force for change, tackling issues such as education, healthcare, and social welfare. GFWC's commitment to civic engagement and community service resonated across the nation, inspiring women to actively contribute to the betterment of society. Today, GFWC stands as one of the oldest and largest women's volunteer organizations globally. With a rich legacy spanning over a century, GFWC continues to be a driving force for positive change, empowering women of all backgrounds to make a lasting impact in their communities.

Jennie June's journey from pioneering journalist to the founder of GFWC exemplifies the transformative power of vision and determination. Her legacy lives on through the countless women who have found a platform for empowerment and service in GFWC. As we celebrate the achievements of GFWC, let us honor the trailblazing spirit of Jennie June, a woman whose vision transcended her time, leaving an enduring legacy of empowerment for generations to come.



## February Events

### February 5:

10:00 am—Crafter's Club  
Viera E. Resident's Clubhouse  
1964 Golf Vista Blvd., Rockledge

### February 7:

10:00 am—Membership Meeting  
UF/IFAS Extension Office  
3695 Lake Drive, Cocoa

### February 12 :

8:30 am—Walk & Talk  
Don Griffin Trail (north end of  
Cogswell St., Rockledge)

### February 13 :

11:30 am—New Member Orientation  
Zoom  
Contact us for an invitation!

### February 15 :

1:00 pm—Cork Recycling Project  
Nancy B.'s house  
(address in directory)

### February 19 :

1:00 pm—Book Club  
Tina P.'s house  
(address in directory)

### February 21:

10:00 am— Board of Directors Meeting  
Zoom

### February 29:

10:00 am— Museum Outing w/Education  
& Libraries CSP  
Brevard Museum of History &  
Natural Science (2201 Michigan  
Avenue, Cocoa) \*Free\*

*We look forward to seeing you  
at one of our many  
activities 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](mailto:gfwspacecoast@gmail.com)

**Phone:** 321-4468941

**Website:** [gfwspacecoastwc.org](http://gfwspacecoastwc.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/gfwspacecoastwc](https://facebook.com/gfwspacecoastwc)

