

The Woman's Club of Clayton

109 Church St
Mailing Address:
PO Box 26
Clayton, NC 27528
twccnc.org

NC General
Federation of
Women's Clubs
www.gfwcnc.org



The Woman's Club of Clayton is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

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Club Chatter



Volume 2023, Number 8

December 2023

From Our President

Betsy Grannis



I know that there have been Christmas displays and ads for Black Friday for months now, but I finally must admit to myself that the holidays are really here! So many projects and fundraisers are going on for our club at this time of year, it feels like we are asking for support from our members every week. Thank you for stepping up and helping wherever you can.

I would like to send out a big thank you to everyone who volunteered for the Serve the Need Thanksgiving meal, whether you baked brownies or helped that day or both. It was a wonderful event and each of your contributions made a big difference.

Our Tree Lighting Food Sale was on November 30th. This event was earlier than it has been in years past, but we were ready to serve food at 4:30pm. This is always a great event and hope you were able to join in the festivities in downtown Clayton!

We are also busy working

on two of our club's favorite service projects. Thank you to all of those who are shopping for a senior in our Golden Wishes program; and those who are shopping for the children of our Christmas Kids program. This is a gentle reminder that all the gifts for our Golden Wishes seniors are to be delivered by Sunday, December 10th. We will be collecting the Christmas Kids gifts around the same time, but will be sending a confirmation email when we have established the collection date – please stay tuned. It means so much to the recipients of these gifts; and thank you for the gift of your time in assisting with these projects.

The Murder Mystery Dinner committee has been finalizing plans for our very fun fundraising event. The dates are Friday, January 12th and Saturday, January 13th and you can find further information here in the newsletter. **Margaret Lee** and **Nancy Maynard** will have more information to share at our December meeting;

volunteer opportunities, tickets to sell, flyers to distribute, and everything!

Finally, I would like to thank you all for the contributions you make, even in this busiest time of the year. Thank you for choosing to make life better for those around us.

I wish all of you a Blessed Holiday Season and a Joyous New Year!



October Meeting Highlights

Monthly Meeting

Page 2



Julia Currin



Darby Amick



December 4
ESO Book Club
Carolina Bleu

December 8
Bingo

December 8
Hanukkah

December 9
Christmas Parade

December 12
Meeting Set-up

December 13
TWCC Meeting

December 12
House of Hope Meal

December 14
Night-N-Gals
Via Zoom 7:00pm

December 23
Bunco

December 25
Christmas Day

December 31
New Year's Eve

President **Betsy Grannis** welcomed **Julia Currin** with **Clayton Junior Woman's Club**. Their First Annual Charity Fashion Show – November 9th @ Twin Oaks Barn. Tickets are still available @ \$65.00.

Susan Johnson introduced today's guest speakers. Lisa Moss & Darby Amick with State Employees Credit Union. Both are Senior Financial Representatives with SECU. Ms. Amick shared ideas to limit identity theft and online scams. **Welcome Guests – Brenda Hill** welcomed 2 guests (Joanne & Brooke) that may become new members. Our new members were also recognized.

Executive Board Report

Deborah Fuller will be our LEADS Representative. She may also be the District 8 representative but that decision is forthcoming. The scholarships for the upcoming fiscal year have been increased. The leading student for the Sallie Southall Cotten award will receive \$3,000; runner up will receive \$1,000; & the Sybil Champion scholarship recipient will receive \$1,000.

Clubhouse Trustees have been working on the clubhouse and grounds. The shrubs and trees have been manicured; the carpet has been cleaned; and the final touches on the kitchen renovation will start after Christmas.

Upcoming Fundraisers Tree Lighting Food – November 30th. Signup sheets on back table. Still need several items. Civitan Club is selling pork butts so please consider buying one and donating to Tree Lighting Event. Desserts also needed. Desserts need to be pre-packaged for sale. Also need members to sign up to help serve.

Murder Mystery Dinner – January 12th & 13th to be held at the clubhouse. Clayton High Theatrics will be performing. The committee will get together to make final plans now that there is a date; signup sheets will be available at next month's meeting.

Taste of Carolina – March 30th. Location is The Farm @ 42. Tickets are \$65.00. Chair of the event is **Karen Keeslar with Val Taylor and Debra Beal** as co-chairs. Next Committee meeting on November 15th at the clubhouse.

Serve the Need Thanksgiving Meal – November 22nd at the Civitan. TWCC provides the cranberry sauce for this event. Needing volunteers to bake brownies for the meal. Signup sheets at the back.

Christmas Kids & Golden Wishes – Golden Wishes volunteers are full. We will be shopping for 80 children this year. Signup sheets are at back table. You will receive a list of wishes from the recipients. You will be reimbursed for up to \$75.00 per child.

CCWC (Corporate Champions for Women & Children) & GFW-NC Fall Conference – CCWC was held on October 27th at the Woman's Club of Raleigh clubhouse. GFW-NC Fall Conference was held on October 28th at the Woman's Club of Raleigh clubhouse. Votes

were held for Nominating CSP's. **Karen Keeslar** was elected as an alternate. Award certificates from GFWC International Convention were distributed: 1st Place Newsletter Award to The Woman's Club of Clayton (**Sarah Brooks**) and ESO Book Club received an Honorable Mention Award (**Brenda Gay**).

Art Festival – Susan Johnson reminded all that February 8th is the date for the Art Festival and all entries are due by the January meeting. Literature entries should be sent to **Margaret Lee**.

Puppet Show – Robin Sachsenheimer is the contact person for the puppet shows. We are in need of puppeteers. We're hoping to have 3 shows at Cooper Academy in January, April, and October. Thanks to **Susan Mancuso** and her husband **Lou** for creating the new stage.

Invitation to Orientation – Nov. 14th at 11:15
Officer Reports

1st Vice President – nothing additional

2nd Vice President – nothing additional

Treasurer – Dues are due by Dec. 1st.

Recording Secretary/Rental Custodian – nothing
Corresponding Secretary – Thank you letter read

CSP & Special Reports

Arts & Culture – they are making special bags for kids at Clayton and Smithfield hospitals. They are needing color books, stickers, and small boxes of crayons..

Civic Engagement – Many coats were collected for Her Haven of Light. They will be delivered today. Also, please consider writing letters to wounded soldiers for Operation Gratitude. Letters/cards being collected by **Judy Ryan**

Education & Libraries – Still collecting 1st grade books for Cooper Academy.

Environment – Corks were delivered to Total Wine and shoes have been delivered to Nike store. Special thanks to **Betsy** for the wonderful meal and **Jean Cornell** for dessert.

Health & Wellness – Next Walking Challenge is November 17th at Clemmons State Park – signup in back. My Kids Club is scheduled to open in January and may have an Open House.

Announcements

Junior Woman's Club Fashion Show – Nov. 9th
Night 'N Gals – November 9th (Virtual)

Executive Board Meeting – November 14th

Member Orientation – November 14th

Civitan Boston Butt Sale – November 17th

Tree Lighting Ceremony – Nov. 30th

TWCC Tree Lighting Food Sale – November 30th

Civitan Reverse Raffle – December 1st

WIN 2023 Festival of Trees – December **Brenda Gay & Sandy Nesselrode** will decorate a 4ft tree. This year's theme is "Musical Instruments" Club meeting – December 13th



Health & Wellness CSP

Co-Chairs: Nancy Maynard, Deborah Fuller, & Judy Ryan



December

12/2 Page Redmon
 12/7 Deborah Fuller
 12/10 MJ Hilliard
 12/12 Edie Brown
 12/14 Cheryl Champion
 12/20 Nancy Maynard
 12/21 Barbara Gartland
 12/28 Ann Kreuzinger
 12/30 Marie Monsees



Tim Johnson, husband of **Susan Johnson** continues his recovery from a stroke in October. Please keep him in your prayers.

Prayers are also needed for **Faye Brooks** as she recovers from a knee-cap injury and a broken finger.

Please keep **Brenda Gay** in your thoughts as she deals with the passing of her sister Peggy Lucas

Marlene Dillon's husband, Mike, is recovering from covid.

Thank you, **Debra Beal**, for making and delivering the meal to the ladies and staff at House of Hope. Your time and talents are greatly appreciated!



What a perfect fall day for our walk at Clemmons Educational State Forest! We even spotted an *araneus marmoreus*! Nature is so good for the mind and soul. If anyone has any suggestions for our next hike, please let us know.

Speaking of walking----The Red Barn Dog Rescue is in desperate need of "dog walkers". If interested, please contact them at volunteer@redbarnrescue.com. Dog walkers need to be at least 15 years old. Thank you, **Mary Ellen**, for the tip.

Members of the Health & Wellness CSP gathered on November 20th to create some warm and cozy "no-sew blankets" for some of the residents at Springbrook Rehabilitation and the residents at the House of Hope. We also wrote Christmas cards for the Springbrook residents. Those attending were **Nancy Maynard, Deborah Fuller, Susan Press, Patti Farmer, Tina Zimmerman, Judy Ryan**, along with 2 guests...Margaret, Nancy's daughter, and Maggie, Susan's friend.



November 16th was Great American Smoke Out day. The inception of the idea stems from a 1970 event in Randolph Massachusetts. High school guidance counselor, Arthur P Mullaney asked people to give up cigarettes for one day and donate the money they saved to the high school scholarship fund. For their own good—please keep trying to get those relatives at your dinner tables to quit smoking.

Let's face it, the holidays can be stressful.

Some of the "triggers" to watch for are:

1. fatigue
2. unrealistic expectations,
3. over commercialization
4. financial stress
5. not being able to be with loved ones.

Some ways to help "fight" holiday stress and depression:

- Set boundaries (it's okay to say no)
- Stay connected with loved ones,
- Volunteer and give,
- Limit social media use,
- Don't be afraid to ask for support and help.

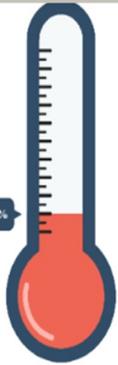
May ya'll have a peaceful and blessed Christmas.

Have you ever considered that God has fallen in love with you?

He sends you flowers every spring. He sends you sunshine every morning. Whenever you want to talk, He listens to you. He can live anywhere in the universe, but He chooses your heart. Amen

Prayer by Lisa Ann Hill

DUES ARE PAST DUE!!!



Plastic Goal 1000 Pounds

We are 13% of the way to reaching the goal of 1000 pounds of plastic so we can get a second bench from Trex. Continue to send the number of pounds you recycle at Food Lion, Harris Teeter or Lowes Foods to Sarah Brooks. Text to 919-601-7959 or email.

Arts & Culture CSP

Co-Chairs: Angela Williams, Faye Brooks, Dianne Carroll



The Arts & Culture CSP will be making gift bags for both the Clayton Hospital and the Smithfield Hospital. We are in need of color books, stickers, and small boxes of crayons. Please bring these to the December meeting.

We extend wishes for a joyous holiday season.

Environment CSP

Co-Chairs: Rachel Masimore, Christie Latham, & Sarah Brooks



We hope everyone who attended the November lunch meeting enjoyed the delicious meal and superb service! A huge thank you to **Betsy Grannis** for the Thanksgiving meal, **Jean Cornell** for the delicious Carrot Cake, and to all the members who helped with set up, decorating, serving and clean-up. ENV CSP members will enjoy a holiday brunch at the home of **Sarah Brooks** on December 12th so CSP projects for the remainder of the year can be determined. Happy Holidays to everyone!!



Pictured above are **Sarah Brooks, Mary Ellen Causby, Cecilia Soporowska, Janis Holman, Marlene Dillon, Jean Cornell and Christie Latham**. Other helpers were **Rhonda Nielsen, Debra Beal, Deborah Fuller, Patti Farmer and Carrole Dayton**.



Two large bags of Corks were taken to The Wine Cellar Outlet in Raleigh. They send corks to RECORK for recycling every week. Thanks to all who contributed and keep them coming!



3 loads of athletic shoes have been taken to the Nike Store in Smithfield for the Nike Grind Recycling program – a total of 31 pairs thus far. At the November meeting, 3 large bags of shoes were donated. Way to go!!!



Ahh...cooler weather is here. We hope you are enjoying all those beautiful leaves you are having to rake! Most of all, we hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with your families, friends or even alone with your pets. This certainly is a time to reflect on thankfulness even though the holidays can sometimes be tough.

Our Education CSP have some busy months coming up with The Murder Mystery set for January 12th and 13th; Scholarship Project sometime in January or February (TBA), and Performing Arts set for January 20th or 27th (TBA). The Silent Partner project has really been active since school has started back. A sign-up sheet will continue to be on the back table in the club house. Please continue to bring books for first graders for our Book Bag project in April.

We want to welcome our newest member, Page Redmon to our Education/Libraries CSP (Community Service Program). Page, we look forward to meeting and getting to know you. Please do not hesitate to call on us for help in any way.

Members, just a kind reminder, the club website is <https://twccnc.org/> to login, the password is twccmember

Stay safe and have a great holiday season,
Brenda Gay & Sandy Nesselrode, Co-chairs

'I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.'

-Maya Angelou



Somewhere hidden in this newsletter is a tiny white star. Find it and be the first to email me (jaryan612@gmail.com) with its location and you'll be rewarded at the next membership meeting.



Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Co-Chairs: Susan Johnson and Sarah Brooks



**Subscribe to
GFWC
News & Notes**
Simply provide your name, mailing address, email, and club name to gfwc@gfwc.org



Meals for House of Hope (2nd Tuesday)
Bingo at Senior Ctr (2nd Friday)
Silent Partners Hospitality
Walking Challenge
Recipe Makeovers

ATTENTION:

The Clubhouse will not be available from December 26—January 8

Menu

Shepherd's Pie
Salad
Irish Soda Bread

Art & Culture will host and provide dessert

Thank you, TWCC members, for your generous support for the CEO's project to collect coats for **HER HAVEN of Light!** There were over 100 gently used coats donated by our club for Her Haven's annual "Coats & Cocoa" event. **HER HAVEN of Light** is a nonprofit organization located in Clayton that provides resources to women dealing with domestic violence, rape, teenage pregnancy, homelessness, abortion recovery, eating disorders and suicide loss. The leaders of HER HAVEN will be the speakers at the January TWCC monthly lunch meeting, and they are excited to share the good work they are doing in our community.



We also appreciate the club members who assisted with **OneCompassion's holiday ministry.** **One Compassion** is a Clayton-based nonprofit organization that sponsors a number of events each year. They champion a holiday ministry to help low-income families celebrate Christmas. Last year, **OneCompassion** raised \$50,000 and used those funds to purchase food, clothing, toys and household items for 137 families that included 433 children. Thank you to **Rhonda Nielsen, Deborah Fuller, Karla Rajca, Edie Brown and Karen Keeslar** for assembling "Happy Birthday, Jesus!" cake kits to go with the food, clothing and Christmas gifts that **OneCompassion** is providing families they are sponsoring. Many thanks also to **Rhonda Nielsen, Judy Ryan, Brenda Hill, Susan Johnson, Dianne Carroll, Tina Zimmerman, and Karen Keeslar** who joined volunteers from other organizations to shop for the items that will be provided to their families.



Deborah Fuller & Edie Brown assembling cake kits



Brenda Hill, Karen Keeslar, & Susan Johnson shopping for kids

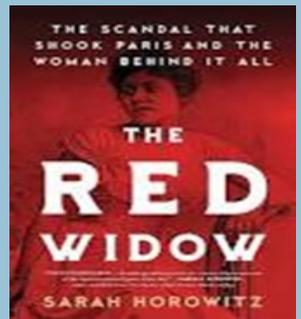
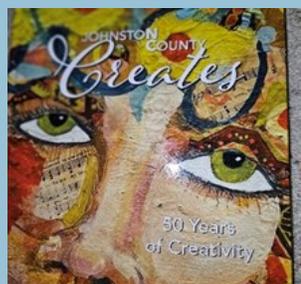
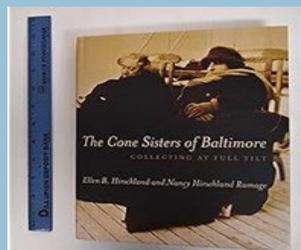
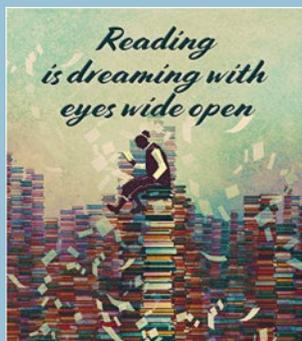


Deborah Fuller, Edie Brown, Rhonda Nielsen, Karla Rajca, Karen Keeslar assembling cake kits

Night 'N' Gals



The **Night 'N' Gals** will meet at the home of President Betsy Grannis on Thursday, December 14th at 7:00pm. An email invitation will go out beforehand; please RSVP directly to Betsy. This is open to any member who wishes to attend that evening.



ESO Book Club

Chair: Brenda Gay



Our Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) book club met on Monday, November 6th with eleven members present. As chair of the book club, I am always impressed with all the great books the members read. They give great book reports on their book and even if other members cannot be present, they send a report of a book they have read over the month.

A list is kept of all our ESO book reports if anyone is interested in obtaining a list. Listed below are three books that were reported on at our November book club:

"The Cone Sisters of Baltimore" by Nancy H. Ramage & Ellen B. Hirschland (Genre: Non-Fiction) Report given by **Carrole Dayton**

"The Red Widow" by Sarah Horowitz (Genre: Biography + Autobiography) report by **Betsy Grannis**

"Johnston County Creates" (50 Years of Creativity) Edited and produced by Evelyn Wool (Genre: "This is a work of nonfiction. Organizations and individuals featured in this book applied or were nominated for inclusion". One of our members, Artist, **Val Taylor** is listed on page 259 of this book. Val was featured in our September ESO article. For information contact Johnston County Art Council, 1115 Outlet Center Drive, Smithfield, NC 27577 (All the books were of interest but this one especially)

There is a monthly magazine titled "Book Page" which has some very interesting books listed in it. The Hocutt-Ellington Library usually have several of these available. Also, other places of business may also have the magazines if you are out and about.

Jan Hemby's new book, "Keepsakes" is out. She will be at LaCocina on Shotwell Road on Tuesday, December 5th at 12:30 for a book signing. She is a past Woman's Club of Clayton member and several of us will be joining her for lunch. All are welcome to attend. Jan was featured in our October ESO article with this book.

Our next ESO book club meeting will be Monday, December 4th 11:00 at Carolina Bleu. This will be a special "Treat" for us to kick off the holiday season. We will have a special guest joining us, our ESO State chair, Lynn Wiss. An email was sent out in detail November 18th and the responses were wonderful. As always, please let me know if you cannot join us.

Silent Partner

Administrator: Brenda Gay



Silent Partner – The Silent Partner Program was established years ago as a partnership between The Woman's Club of Clayton and local schools to help meet some of the special needs of students. In our program, members agree to contribute \$25 when called upon. This is done during the two-year term. It starts over when the administration changes. (you are only called one time during the administration) There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table if you wish to contribute. The schools we help are: Cooper Academy, Riverwood Elementary, Riverwood Middle, West Clayton Elementary, Clayton Middle, Clayton High, East Clayton Elementary, Corinth Holders, & Archer Lodge Middle.



Art Festival Chair: Susan Johnson



Things to bring to the December meeting:

- Books appropriate for First Graders (English or Spanish) for E&L CSP
- Old sneakers
- Wine corks
- Old eyeglasses
- Colorbooks, stickers, & crayons
- Letters to Soldiers

The Clubwomen and Student Art Festival is scheduled for February 8th, 2024 at 6:00 PM at the Clayton Center. The committee is set for the students, and **Angela Williams** is prepared to supervise the Clubwomen entries. Once again the categories will be in photography, visual arts, and crafts. Contact **Susan Johnson** if you have any questions about your category. Bring your entries to the general meeting on January 10th, or to the Executive Board meeting on January 16th. Part of the Festival is a Literature contest. Entries can be submitted in poetry and short story categories. **Margaret Lee** has agreed to chair the Literature portion of the Festival. Get your pens busy and submit your entries to **Margaret** by the January 10th general meeting.

Please see Clubwomen contest rules and descriptions at end of newsletter.

TWCC Bunco/Play Day Organizer: Sarah Brooks



Bunco is an extremely easy game of dice that provides members time to come together for an afternoon of fun and frivolity!! All members are welcome to participate and it is a great way to learn more about members. Prior experience playing Bunco is not needed.

Members played Bunco on November 28 and the winners were: Most Buncos -Tina Zimmerman; Most Wins-Jo Howard; ; Most Losses-Debra Beal; Most Fakes-Joni Koch; Last Bunco-Tina Zimmerman. The Hostess for November Bunco was Jo Howard.

Next Bunco: January 23rd at 1:00pm; No Bunco in December

TWCC Play Day is the second Thursday of each month. At the current time members are playing bridge and Mexican Train. Other games can be added based upon member interest. On November 9th there were 12 members and guests playing bridge and three members playing Mexican Train.



In the event of illness or bereavement, members are encouraged to contact **Patty Jo Johnson** if assistance is needed with meals, errands, etc. Call 919-818-3444 or email johnsonpatty2253@gmail.com



Notify **Patty Jo Johnson**, Corresponding Secretary, if Information about a club member needs to be communicated to the membership (e.g., illness, bereavement)

919-818-3444

Please welcome

Page Redmon

Page will be sharing her talents with the Education and Libraries CSP. Welcome Page!!!





LET YOUR SMILE
CHANGE THE
WORLD
BUT DON'T LET THE
WORLD CHANGE
YOUR SMILE

The Woman's Club of Clayton will once again be presenting a Murder/Mystery Dinner for the third year in a row with students from Clayton High School, and surrounding high schools on Friday, January 12, 2024, and again on Saturday January 13, beginning at 6:00 PM

In order to have performances on these two nights, we need to ask for everyone's participation. The cash bar will be under the supervision of **Brenda Gay** and **Sandy Nesselrode** (see Brenda for assisting). We will also need ladies to help prepare individual bits of the menu, Assistance on working in the kitchen, and additional workers to serve the meals. We will also be accepting gift cards for Domino's Pizza in order for these high schoolers to have an after-event party! We would also appreciate monetary donations in order to buy the delicious chocolate on chocolate cake from Costco that everyone loved last year. Keep your receipts if you are providing monetary assistance, as you can write it off your taxes for 2024! We will have SIGN UP SHEETS available at our December meeting.

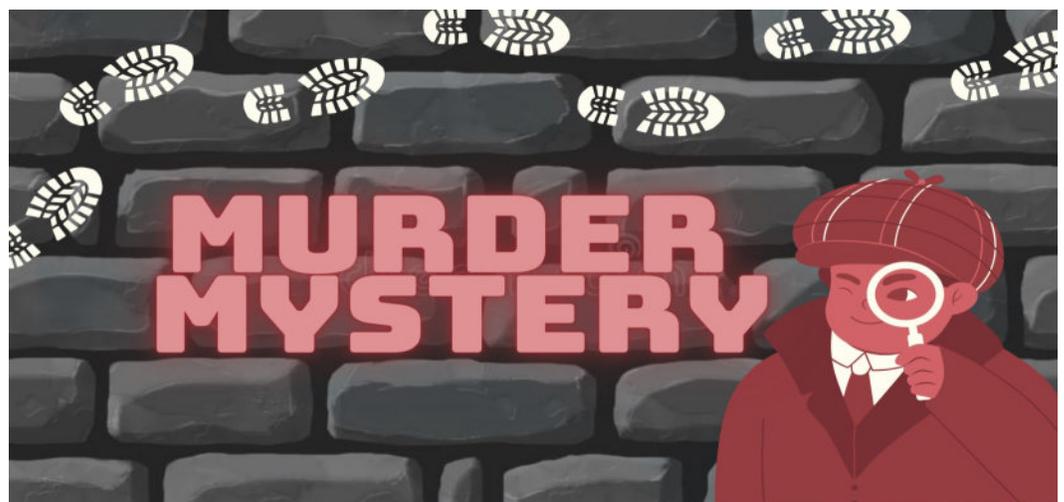
As a reminder, if you're assisting in the kitchen or serving, you will not be charged for admission because you'll be kept busy the entire evening, but please remember to buy a ticket for a performance where we can serve You! If you'd like, you can buy a ticket for a family member of one of these actors (\$35) who simply can't afford the expense of a ticket to watch their child's performance. We always give monetary support to the CHS Drama Department.

Last year we were a total sell-out for each performance (60 guests per evening)! Please bring your **checkbooks and/or cash** to the December meeting for ticket sales and/or cash donations. We will also be accepting reservations for tables of four and six. As always, this will be an age appropriate (12 years and up) show.

There will be sign-up sheets on the back table at the December meeting. Be sure to sign up. Your support is greatly appreciated for this fun event!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Margaret Lee, Nancy Maynard (Co-Chairs), **Betsy Grannis**, our Chef Extraordinaire!





“BEAUTY BEGINS THE MOMENT YOU DECIDE TO BE YOURSELF.”
- COCO CHANEL

Each day, our troops stand on the frontlines, selflessly putting their lives on the line to ensure our safety and protection from harm. One of the simplest yet most impactful ways to support our military is by expressing our gratitude. A heartfelt “thank you for your service” can go a long way in letting them know that their sacrifices do not go unnoticed. That’s why we are eager to help TWCC member **Judy Ryan** with her granddaughter’s project to generate letters to wounded soldiers. Judy’s oldest granddaughter, Liberty Ciraso, is the daughter of a Purple Heart recipient. He was injured on his first tour to Iraq in 2004. He recovered from his injuries and returned for his second tour of duty in 2006. He was killed soon after arriving in Baghdad by an improvised explosive device (IED) that detonated near his military vehicle. Liberty was 10-months old when he died.

Liberty is the DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America) Vice-President at Corinth Holders High School where she and her fellow classmates are participating in “**OPERATION GRATITUDE**”. Corinth Holders High School DECA is writing letters to wounded soldiers for their community service project. Operation Gratitude is a Non-Profit organization. Their goal is to write 1,000 letters to wounded servicemen and women by December 31, 2023.

Our request to TWCC members is to write a few (or many) letters to our wounded soldiers to let them know they are not forgotten. The letters need not be lengthy but should come from the heart. All salutations are to be written to “Dear Soldier” and only your first name need be in the closing with no addresses. Corinth Holders High School will deliver all the letters. If you are willing to help in this endeavor, you may send your letters to **Judy Ryan** (jaryan612@gmail.com) and she will print them, or you may print them and bring them to the November or December TWCC meeting. There are many examples of letters on Google (sample letters to wounded soldiers).



Sometimes the most important thing in a whole day is the rest we take between two deep breaths, or the turning inwards in prayer for five short minutes.
www.prayables.com Ety Hilleson



Serve the Need



Compliment 3 people every day

Forget the Joneses

Pray not for things but for wisdom & courage

Never waste an opportunity to tell someone you love them

Be tough minded & tender-hearted

Never give up on someone...miracles happen.

Who do I Contact?

Member Illness

Patty Jo Johnston

Clubhouse Rental

Loretta Mascia

Newsletter Content

Judy Ryan

Clubhouse Repairs

Angela Williams, Debbie Ragland, or Dianne Carroll

Membership

Brenda Hill

Bylaws

Sarah Brooks

Silent Partner

Brenda Gay



The Woman's Club of Clayton, once again, assisted in serving up a fabulous Thanksgiving dinner at the Civitan Club on November 22nd. We packaged 450 to-go orders while other organizations served hundreds in-house. Thanks to all!!! Those assisting were **Betsy & Michael Grannis, Angela Williams, Sarah & Bill Brooks, Karla & Ed Rajka, Dixie Brady, Deborah Fuller and her granddaughter, Lynn Roman, Susan Johnson, Nancy Maynard, Marlene Dillon, Alease Young, Mike Pratt & Judy Ryan.**

Clayton Tree Lighting Event



Debra Beal, Christi Latham, Brenda Hill, Susan Johnson



Deborah Fuller, Patti Farmer, Betsy Grannis, Dixie Brady

ATTENTION:
The Clubhouse will not be available from December 26—January 8 for renovation.

I will learn to live in the sunshine of your life instead of the dark shadow of your death.
- Unknown -



Top: Sarah Brooks, Donna Steele, Joni Koch
Left: Lance Beal, Susan Mancuso, Lou Mancuso

The 33rd Annual Town of Clayton Christmas Village and Tree Lighting was a spectacular event for young and old. The Woman's Club of Clayton has served bar-b-que sandwiches, hot dogs, desserts, drinks, and cocoa for several years. This year the event raised over \$900.00 that will go to assist the various projects supported by TWCC. Thanks to all who assisted. Those assisting were **Betsy Grannis, Nancy Maynard, Joni Koch, Sarah Brooks, Donna Steele, Deborah Fuller, Brenda Hill, Christie Latham Susan Johnson, Debra & Lance Beal, Susan & Lou Mancuso, Patti Jo Johnson, Alease Young, Judy Ryan.**



Recipes Provided
by
Judy Ryan



Do you have club member news, personal announcements, family news, personal achievements or recipes to share with club members?

Please submit items by the **25th** of the month to the "Club Chatter"
Editor, Judy Ryan
jaryan612@gmail.com



Each month will feature recipes by category

January—Warm Drinks

February—Superbowl snacks

Send your favorite recipes to
jaryan612@gmail.com

Cheese/Herb Potato Fans

INGREDIENTS

8 medium potatoes
1/2 cup butter, melted
2 teaspoons salt
1/2 teaspoon pepper
2/3 cup cheddar cheese, shredded
1/3 cup Parmesan cheese
2 Tablespoons each minced chives, sage, thyme



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 425. Cut each potato crosswise into 1/8 inch slices, leaving slices attached at the bottom; fan potatoes slightly & place in a greased 9x13 baking dish
In a small bowl, mix butter, salt & pepper. Drizzle over potatoes
Bake uncovered 50-55 minutes or till tender. In a small bowl, toss cheeses with herbs, sprinkle over potatoes. Bake 5 minutes longer till cheese melts.

Servings 8

Festive Rice

INGREDIENTS

2 & 1/4 cup water
1/4 cup butter, cubed
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon white vinegar
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
1 cup uncooked jasmine rice
1/4 cup salted pumpkin seeds
2 teaspoons brown sugar
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/4 cup chopped fresh mint
1/4 cup dried cranberries



DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 325. In a small saucepan, bring first 5 ingredients to a boil. Remove from heat. Pour over rice in a greased 8-inch square baking dish. Bake, covered, until all liquid is absorbed (30-35 minutes).
Meanwhile, in a small nonstick skillet over medium-high heat, cook pumpkin seeds, brown sugar and cayenne pepper, stirring constantly until sugar melts and cayenne coats pumpkin seeds (4-5 minutes). Remove from heat; transfer to a plate, spreading out seeds to cool.
Sprinkle cooked rice with feta, mint, cranberries and spiced pumpkin seeds. Season with salt & pepper if needed.
Serve immediately

Servings 6

December 2023

HAVE A VERY MERRY AND JOYOUS HOLIDAY...JANUARY WE GET **B-I-Z-Z-Z-Y**

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|---|--|---|---|------------------------|--|
| | | | | | 1 | 2  Page Redmon |
| 3  First Sunday Advent | 4  ESO | 5 Intern'l Volunteer Day | 6 | 7  Deborah Fuller QDR Acoustic Christmas for Kids Pearl Harbor Day | 8 Hanukkah Bingo | 9 Clayton Christmas Parade |
| 10  MJ Hilliard 2nd Sunday Advent | 11 | 12  Edie Brown House of Hope meal Meeting Set-up | 13  General Membership Meeting | 14  Cheryl Champion Night-n-Gals PlayDay | 15 | 16 Johnston County Chorus—Clayton Center |
| 17  3rd Sunday Advent | 18 | 19 | 20  Nancy Maynard | 21  Barbara Gartland Winter Solstice | 22 | 23 Festivus |
| 24  Christmas Eve 4th Sunday Advent | 25 Christmas Day | 26 Kwanzaa Boxing Day | 27 | 28  Ann Kreuzinger | 29 | 30  Marie Monsees |
| 31 New Year's Eve | | | | | | |

Clubwomen Crafts Contest

Directions/Submission requirements:

1. The Local club will arrange for a contest or display of crafts made by club members to determine winners.
2. Qualified judges should be secured.
3. All entrants are limited to non-professionals as defined in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival Rules and Procedures. Any earnings from craftwork must not exceed \$500 per year.
4. One article per category will be declared the winner at the Local level and then will be entered in the District competition; therefore, if only one article is entered in a category, it shall be declared the winner and will represent the club at the State Arts Festival.
5. Winners will be pre-registered by the Local club with the District Crafts Contest Chairman two (2) weeks prior to the District Arts Festival (Form on Page 8).
6. Entries sent to the District and State in an incorrect category will not be judged. If there are questions about proper placement of an article, contact the District or State Crafts Contest Chairman.
7. First, second, and third place ribbons and certificates will be awarded to clubwomen winners in each category.
8. Only after judging shall the name of the exhibitor be shown. The display of craft entries will be open for viewing only after judging is completed and certificates and ribbons placed on entries.
9. **Label entries correctly. Each article must be labeled with an Entry Label (page 10).** It should be folded in half and the contest information showing. Yarn, ribbon or lightweight string can be used to attach the card to the item or to a safety pin, pinned to the item so it may be flipped. DO NOT tape or pin the label directly to the item.
10. Needlework items may be framed under glass.
11. All entries must have been completed within the prior year of the Festival.

Overall Judging Requirements/Criteria for Contests Categories: Judges shall be qualified. They shall judge workmanship and originality (not personal preference). All judges shall receive a list of categories prior to the day of the Festival.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Workmanship | 50 points |
| Originality | 25 points |
| Design and Appearance | 25 points |

Clubwoman Crafts Categories - Needlework:

- CC1. Basic Embroidery (on stamped canvas or fabric using basic embroidery stitches)
- CC2. Counted Cross Stitch
- CC3. Crochet (small – doilies, placemats, etc.)
- CC4. Crochet (large – bedspreads, afghans, etc.)
- CC5. Crochet (garments – sweaters, etc.)
- CC6. Knitting (accessories, scarves, booties, etc.)
- CC7. Knitting (garments only – sweaters, etc.)
- CC8. Quilting - Machine (small – baby quilts, pillows, wall hangings, etc.)
- CC9. Quilting - Machine (large – full quilts, pieced or appliqué)

Clubwoman Crafts Categories - Crafts:

- CC10. Jewelry (any single medium or combination)
- CC11. Painting on fabric, wood, metal or other surfaces
- CC12. Nature Craft (dried flowers, etc.)
- CC13. Sequin and Bead Craft (flowers, jewel pictures, Indian beading, ornaments, etc.)
- CC14. Paper Craft (quilling, paper sculpture, Papier-mâché, etc.)
- CC15. Scrapbooking (single page submission only)
- CC16. Glass Craft (stained glass, etc.)
- CC17. Fabric Craft (appliqué, felt/burlap work, wall hangings, etc. – not stenciling)
- CC18. Upcycling (creative reuse is the process of transforming unwanted products into new materials or products of better quality)
- CC19. Open Category: If an entry does not fit in any of the preceding categories, the Crafts Contest Chairman may place it in the Open Category.

Clubwoman Literature Contest

District Literature Chairmen: District first place winning entries in each category must be sent to the State Literature Contest Chairman **THREE (3) WEEKS** prior to the State Festival. Entries are judged before the Festival. Entries that arrive late will not be judged. The entries may be emailed to the Literature Chairman with all district information in the body of the email OR US Mail and the district number should be placed on the outside bottom left corner of the mailing envelope. Entries will only be returned via US mail if a pre-paid envelope is included with the submission.

Only winning entries are displayed at the State Arts Festival. The winning entries, certificates, and checks must be picked up at the State Arts Festival.

Directions/Submission Requirements:

1. The Clubwoman Literature Contest is open to all clubwomen and authors must be dues-paying members of an active GFWC club.
2. Clubwomen may submit only one entry per category.
3. Entries may not have been published prior to the competition and must be the original work of the author.
4. Entries must be typed, double-spaced, printed on one side only with minimum margins of 1 inch on all four sides and on 8-1/2 x 11 inch paper. Clubwoman entries must include "Labeling Requirements" as indicated below and must be typed on the top right-hand corner of EACH page.
5. Submissions may be sent electronically or three (3) copies of each entry must be submitted if sent via US mail.
6. Entries must be written during the year preceding the contest year (January 1 – December 31).
7. Authors must not be professional writers; earnings are not to exceed \$500 per year.
8. State first place winners in Category 1 - Short Story and Category 2 – Poetry will be eligible for the GFWC national level contest. The State Arts Festival Literature Contest Chairman will hold on to qualifying entries for the GFWC competition. She will contact the author about forwarding to GFWC. Entries submitted to GFWC will **NOT** be returned. By submitting your entry to GFWC, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes. A signed Creative Arts Waiver must be included with each submission to GFWC. Entries must be submitted to GFWC by April 1. Please see the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form on page 9 or the contest section of the *GFWC Club Manual* in the Membersuite on the GFWC website for complete information about the GFWC National Writing Contest
9. First, second and third place ribbons and certificates will be awarded to clubwomen winners in each category.

CLUBWOMAN LITERATURE CONTEST LABELING REQUIREMENTS Information
below must appear in the top right-hand corner of EACH page.

CLUBWOMAN

Author's Name:

E-mail Address:

Mailing Address:

Phone Number:

Name of Author's GFWC Club and State Federation:

Category:

Title of Work:

Clubwoman Literature Contest Categories:

- CL1 **Short Story** - Limited to 2,000 words, any style. (A SHORT STORY IS DEFINED AS A STORY WITH A FULLY DEVELOPED THEME BUT SIGNIFICANTLY SHORTER AND LESS ELABORATE THAN A NOVEL. IT IS A PIECE OF INVENTED PROSE FICTION THAT TYPICALLY CAN BE READ IN ONE SITTING AND FOCUSES ON A SELF-CONTAINED INCIDENT OR SERIES OF LINKED INCIDENTS, WITH THE INTENT OF EVOKING A "SINGLE EFFECT" OR MOOD. IT DEALS WITH A FEW CHARACTERS AND AIMS AT UNITY OF EFFECT AND OFTEN CONCENTRATES OF MOOD RATHER THAN A PLOT.)
- CL2 **Poetry** – Any style with a minimum length of eight (8) lines and maximum of fifty (50) lines.
- A. Best Lyric or Narrative

Clubwoman Photography Contests

Directions/Submission Requirements: These rules apply to The World in Pictures and GFWC Volunteers in Action photography contests. Information pertaining specifically to each respective contest is listed under each contest.

1. All photographers must be dues paying members of an active GFWC club.
2. Photographs must be taken during the calendar year (January 1-December 31) prior to the Festival.
3. Contestants must be amateur photographers; earnings from may not exceed \$500 annually.
4. Photographs must be the original work of the member submitting the photo.
5. **Label entries correctly. Each article must be labeled with an Entry Label (page 10)** and affixed to the back of each photograph, and place an arrow indicating TOP.
6. Each submission must be an **8 x 10** inch print and mounted on a rigid **8 x 10** inch board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inch. NO mattes, frames or hangers.
7. Photographs may be taken with digital cameras (high resolution copies) or film. They maybe color or black & white. Digital submissions alone will not be considered.
8. Photographs may be vertical/portrait or horizontal/landscape.
9. Club entries must go through the District competition first, and only one winner per category.
10. The same image may be submitted to multiple photo contests (i.e. World in Pictures and GFWC Volunteers in Action contest), but separate photographs must be entered into each contest.
11. State Winners in the World in Pictures and GFWC Volunteers in Action contests will be eligible for the GFWC national level contests. The State Arts Festival Photography Contest Chairman will hold photography entries that qualify for the GFWC Photography competition. She will contact the photographer about forwarding to GFWC. By submitting your entry to GFWC, you are providing GFWC with a royalty-free perpetual license to use, reproduce, post, display, create derivative works, sell, license, or sub-license the work in any media now known or later invented without limitation, for commercial or non-commercial purposes. A signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must accompany each entry. Entries must be received by GFWC on or before May 15th, Please see the GFWC Creative Arts Waiver Form on page 9 or in the GFWC *Club Manual* for details.
12. **Winning photographs submitted to the GFWC contests will not be returned.**

Clubwoman Photography Contest Categories:

1. **The World in Pictures Contest:** These photographs showcase the people, places and things at home and around the world that impact our lives in a meaningful way, as expressed in these three categories:
 - a. **Our World Up Close** — Create a visual that offers a novel viewpoint or a macro image that takes the viewer into a whole new, tiny world.
 - b. **Natural Wonders** — Use wide angles and panoramas, or moody landscape images, to showcase mountains, meadows, sand hills, rivers, waterfalls, oceans, deserts, or any other magnificent vista.
 - c. **Reflections** — Feature a setting, situation, or landmark that brings back poignant memories, or capture a fleeting image reflected in glass, water, or another mirrored surface.
2. **GFWC Volunteers In Action Contest:** These photographs capture the special moments in the lives of GFWC clubwomen as they meet, plan, advocate, volunteer or celebrate, in groups or one-on-one. All Direction/Submission Requirements and Judging Requirements/Criteria above apply.

Clubwoman Visual Arts Contest

Directions/Submission Requirements:

1. Any clubwoman may enter any or all categories.
2. All entries must not have been previously entered in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival on any level.
3. Entries must be no larger than 30 X 40 inches, not including mat. Entries on materials other than canvas must be matted. Only Canvas entries may have a simple frame. OTHERWISE NO GLASS OR FRAMES and will not be accepted.
4. All entrants are limited to non-professionals as defined in the GFWC-NC Arts Festival Rules and Procedures. Earnings from Visual Arts must not exceed \$500 per year.
5. All paintings must be original. The subject matter is the choice of the artist.
6. First, second, and third place ribbons and certificates will be awarded to clubwomen winners in each category.
7. **Label entries correctly. Each article must be labeled with an Entry Label (page 10).**
Affix to back or underside of entry using string or tape with category information facing up.
8. All entries must have been completed within the prior year of the Festival.

Overall Judging Requirements/Criteria for Contests: Judges shall be qualified. They shall judge workmanship and originality (not personal preference). All judges shall receive a list of categories prior to the day of the Festival.

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Workmanship | 50 points |
| Originality | 25 points |
| Design and Appearance | 25 points |

Clubwomen Visual Art Categories:

- CV1 Oil
- CV2 Acrylic
- CV3 Pen and Ink
- CV4 Watercolor
- CV5 Pencil
- CV6 Mixed Media