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.

Officers President Betsy Grannis 1st Vice President Trish Perna 2nd Vice President Brenda Hill Recording Secretary Loretta Mascia Corresponding Secretary Patty Jo Johnson Treasurer Judy Ryan

Inside this issue:

President's Message	1
Meeting Highlights	2
CSP/Comm Reports	3-6
Misc. Reports	7-8
New Members	8
Murder Mystery	9-10
Clubwomen Awards	11-19
Recipes	20
Calendar	21

Club Chatter

Volume 2023, Number 10

From Our President Betsy Grannis

We have had a busy January! Trish is busy putting together our annual award entries and reports. This is the time of year we tally up all the volunteer hours and funds that we have collected and spent on the projects we have completed in the previous year. Trish is also working hard at writing the narratives for our entries and we so appreciate the job she is doing – she makes our club look good! The award entries should all be submitted by the time vou are reading this newsletter; they are due by February 1st.

Just two days after our January club meeting, we hosted our Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser at the clubhouse. It was so much fun and very successful! Our thanks to all of you who contributed to our event - either by donating food, beverages, desserts, decorations, working the event, or attending the event. It is a lot to have the two nights back-to-back, and I thank you for your patience with me - everything went so smoothly. We are so grateful to the Clayton Theatricals students who put great effort into making it so successful. Also, we very much want to thank Ándrew Wade, the Director of Clayton Theatricals for the time he was able to contribute despite having his third child just the week before our event. We are excited to find out how much we made doing

this fundraiser!

Our Arts Festival is coming up soon, too. The committee members have been collecting student art from the various schools and it will be delivered to the Clayton Center and hung on February 1st. If you have any of your clubwoman art or literature to turn in, please contact Susan **Johnson** right away; the clubwomen items will be at the reception, too. The Student Arts reception will be at the Clayton Center on Thursday, February 8th at 6pm. The pieces will all be judged by then and the awards will be given out to the students. Please remember if you are bringing items for the reception to have them there between 4:30 and 5:30pm.

Brenda Hill reported briefly on our Individual Clubwomen Awards. She and her committee have put together a wonderful selection of people as nominees for the Clubwoman with Heart, Citizenship Award, and Clubwoman of the Year. Keep your eves open for the article in this newsletter that introduces you to our nominees for these awards. We will be voting at our February meeting and through our online voting opportunity and will be tallying the votes afterwards. We will be honoring the recipients at our March meeting and



February 2024



the winners will be sent on to GFWC-NC to represent our club.

Our club's next big event is coming up quickly: The Taste of Carolina is going to be on Saturday, March 30th. The event will be held at The Farm at 42 and begins at 6pm that evening. Tickets are avail-able for you to purchase and for all your friends, neighbors, and family to purchase, too. Please contact Judy Ryan to get your tickets. We hope that all of you will do your best to sell as many tickets as you possibly can to make this event a big success. It is everyone's individual efforts that add up to the whole total. Thank you for reaching out and inviting everyone you know to join us for this fun evening!

Here is a quote I would like to share with you about February, this month of love that we are beginning:





February Heart Health Month Black History Month

February 2 Ground Hog Day

February 5 ESO Book Club Home of Donna Steele

> February 8 Art Festival Clayton Center

February 8 Game Day

February 9 Bingo

February 11 Superbowl

February 13 Meeting Set-up

February 13 House of Hope meal

> February 13 Mardi Gras

February 14 General Meeting

February 14 Ash Wednesday

February 14 Valentine's Day

February 15 Night-n-Gals Zoom

February 19 President's Day

February 20 Executive Board

> February 27 Bunco

January Meeting Highlights

Blessing/Devotion - Sandy Nesselrode

President's Welcome – Betsy thanked the CEO CSP for their decorations. She extended a special thank you to **Dianne** for sharing **Marie's** flowers for our meeting. She let us know how grateful we are to have been able to have **Marie** as a member of our club. She then invited **Dianne** to speak to the members. **Dianne** gave a special thank you to everyone for all the cards, texts, support, and for those who attended **Marie's** service. Please keep this family in your prayers.

Program Speaker – HER Haven of Light Thank you to Crystal Fry and Susan Price from HER Haven of Light, for presenting our program today. The website is www.herhavenoflight.com and their phone number is 919-897-8770 if you would like to volunteer. They both shared a bit of their story and why they have a heart for abused and lost women and children. Some of the area's that they work in are community referrals, support groups, pregnancy support, abortion recovery support, rape, domestic violence, eating disorder, homeless assistance, counseling and suicide loss. What a great job these young women are doing! The Woman's Club of Clayton was able to make a \$100.00 donation today and both ladies were so grateful.

Welcome Guests, New Members and Visitors – Brenda Hill

We welcomed one new member, **Emily Stocks**. We also had 6 visitors join us today: welcome Darlene, Lynn, Cherry, Joanna, Chauncey and Mary Beth. We hope to see you again!

Business – Approval of Minutes from December Meeting: minutes were approved

Clubwoman Award Entries – Brenda Hill

If you would like to nominate any ladies for the Individual Clubwoman Awards, please contact **Brenda Hill**. The categories are as follows: Clubwoman with Heart, Citizenship & Patriotism and Clubwoman of the Year.

<u>Murder Mystery Dinner</u> – Nancy Maynard, Margaret Lee

We are excited for this event that is happening this Friday and Saturday night. If you are working any of these nights or making food, please arrive at 5PM. Please make sure the food is in the tray that **Betsy** provided and ensure that it arrives hot. There are a few more tickets left for both nights, please contact **Margaret Lee** if you would like to purchase tickets.

Taste of Carolina Cuisine – Karen Keeslar, Val Taylor, Debra Beal

Tickets are for sale at \$65.00 per person. Judy Ryan has tickets, so please contact her for your tickets to sell. This event is taking place at the Farm at 42 on March 30th. We already have two restaurants that have committed. Committed restaurants thus_far are <u>Manning's and Vincent's</u>. There will be at least 8 more involved. We have already secured two \$1,000 Sponsors! We appreciate the family of **Marie Monsees** for their memorial sponsorship of \$1,000 and **Decks Plus** for their generous sponsorship of \$1000.00.

Lights of Love - Trish Perna

This event will take place on Friday, April 26th, in conjunction with downtown Clayton's Last Friday. It will be held at Clayton Town Square on Main Street. Tickets will go on sale next month and the cost is \$20.00 per luminary. Contact **Trish Perna** if you are interested in volunteering.

Art Festival - Susan Johnson

This art festival is open to all Women's Club members, please see **Susan Johnson** if you have any arts or crafts to enter. **Margaret Lee** will accept any writing entries. Deadline is Tuesday, January 16th. Volunteers are needed for the Student Art Festival on February 8th at the Clayton Center; please contact **Susan Johnson.** For any member that will be volunteering or bringing food that evening, please arrive at 5PM

Student Music Competition – Brenda Gay

This event will be held on Saturday, January 27th at the Clayton School of Music on Main Street. If you know any 9-12th graders that play the piano, sing or play instruments, please contact **Brenda Gay**.

Scholarship Committee – **Betsy** reported that the committee is working to get information out to the schools to get applications for our scholarships. This year we will be awarding the winner of the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship \$2000, the second-place winner will receive \$1000; our Sybil Champion Community College Scholarship winner will receive \$1000.

Officer's Reports

1st Vice President – Trish Perna: Great news, reports are almost done! 2nd Vice President – Brenda Hill: nothing Treasurer – Judy Ryan: Budget report is upcoming, nothing else to report. Recording Secretary and Rental Custodian– Loretta Mascia: nothing to report Corresponding Secretary – Patty Jo Johnson A thank you from Clayton Area Ministries for our continued support. A thank you Christmas card from Hocutt-

Ellington Library for our help throughout the year.

A sympathy card for **Marie Monsees** from Jan Hemby

A sympathy card for **Marie Monsees** from Sarah Baker





Januarv

- 02/02 Patty Jo Johnson 02/11 Val Taylor 02/12 Dianne Carroll 02/22 Jackie Evans 02/23 Donna Steele
- 02/28 Jayne Hafer







January Meeting Highlights (cont.)

A thank you for our contribution on **Marie Monsees** behalf from the Library. A Christmas card with a donation for the Christmas Kids on behalf of Susan Quinn from Sarah Burke.

Clayton Middle School sent a thank you note for the Christmas gifts for their students from our Christmas Kids program.

Special announcement - Betsy shared a text from Rachel Masimore's daughter, Melissa. Please keep **Rachel** in your prayers, as she is in poor health.

CSP and Special Project Report

President's Special Project – please continue to collect plastic bags and plastic wrap and report your totals to Sarah Brooks.

Education and Libraries and ESO - Brenda Gay, Sandy Nesselrode-This CSP is still collecting books for the 1st grade students at Cooper Academy. Please bring them for next month's meeting.

Environment - Christie Latham, Sarah Brooks—Please continue to take your recycled plastic to Food Lion, Public's or Harris Teeter. They are also collecting corks from wine bottles, cleaned mascara brushes and athletic shoes for recycling.

Health & Wellness CSP

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



February is American Heart Month. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. There's a lot you can do to live a 'heart-healthy' life. Even small actions to-

wards a healthier heart can make a difference! Be conscious of the types of food and quantities you consume. A healthy diet that is low in sodium and saturated fat is key to heart disease prevention. Try eating more vegetables, fruits, and whole grains. Eating fish, poultry, beans, nuts, vegetable oils and low-fat dairy products is a great start. Try to limit foods that are high in saturated fat and sodium and limit sugar and other sweeteners. Moving more is also crucial. Get at least 2.5 hours of physical activity each week - that's just 50 minutes a day, 5 days a week. In addition, do muscle strengthening exercises at least 2 days per week. Can't carve out a lot of time in you day? Don't chuck your goal. Start with 5, 10, or 15 minutes a few times a day. Some physical activity is better than none. Need support? Connecting with others can make your efforts even more successful.



House of Thank you to Jean Cornell and Dixie Brady for making a feast for the girls at the House of Hope in January. And a special thanks to Nancy's son Michael for braving the crazy storms to deliver them!

The Town of Clayton sponsored a blood drive with the American Red Cross on January 8th. Thank you, **Judy Ryan**, for notifying the TWCC women and rolling up her sleeve to donate.



The Health and Wellness committee will be meeting on February 15th at the clubhouse to discuss upcoming projects.

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

Please visit our website:

www.twccnc.org

Password is

twccmember

We will be voting for this year's **Clubwomen Awards** at the February meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, make sure you send in your vote to **Brenda Hill** (silver1188@aol.com)

Announcements will be made at the March meeting.



Arts & Culture CSP Co-Chairs: Angela Williams, Faye Brooks, Dianne Carroll



We would like to thank everyone for all of the coloring books, crayons and stickers donated for our kids hospital bags. We have enough items to fill bags for the hospital in Clayton and Smithfield. We will be meeting to put the bags together soon.

Environment Co-Chairs: Sarah Brooks & Christie Latham



Plastic recycling for December was 50.15 pounds and thus far in January, 66.3 pounds for a total of 257.37 pounds since October 1, 2023. We need to collect at least **756 pounds** by September 30, 2024, to qualify for a Trex Bench. Ask neighbors and family members to help with this important project! **PLEASE let Sarah Brooks know the amount of plastic you recycle. You can also bring your plastic to the monthly meetings and CSP members will take them to recycle.**

Thanks to **Joni Koch** who brought 2 large bags of **corks** to the last meeting that will be taken to The Wine Cellar Outlet in Raleigh for recycling by RECORK. Corks will continue to be collected through the May meeting. To date, 43 pairs of **athletic shoes** have been taken to the Nike Store in Smithfield for the Nike Grind Recycling program.

Don't forget to bring your cleaned, used mascara wands to the monthly meetings. The mascara wands will be cleaned and sent to a Wildlife Refuge to clean away oil, larvae, fly eggs, mites, infections, mud, and other contaminants from wildlife.







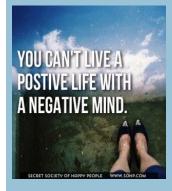




Education & Libraries CSP Co-Chairs: Brenda Gay, Sandy Nesselrode



Page 5





 Happy Valentine's Day from the members of the Education/
Libraries CSP. Our CSP is looking forward to hosting the meeting on February 14th. Won't we all look "pretty" wearing PINK or RED!!

Scholarship Chair, **Donna Steele**, and members of her committee, **Sandy Nesselrode**, and **Robin Sachsenheimer**, are busy interviewing high school applicants for the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship. Applicants must be a senior from a Johnston County high school. The scholarship is awarded based on the candidate's character, scholastic records, evidence of intellectual promise, demonstration of ambition, and leadership ability. The top applicant from The Woman's Club of Clayton will be awarded \$2,000 and will go on to compete with other first place winners from other clubs in NC. At the state level, the first-place winner will be awarded \$3,000 per year, for a possible total of \$12,000. The runner-up will receive the one-time sum of \$1,000, which will be sent to the school of their choice.

Book Bag Project



Don't you think these little stuff dogs are cute? Each first grader at Cooper Elementary Academy will receive one in their book bag. It is called their "reading buddy". We still need books for the Book Bag project, and we could use some help in obtaining more of the cute little stuff dogs. If you can help, they can be purchased at The Dollar Tree for \$1.29 tax included.

<u>The Performing Arts</u> was held on Saturday, January 27th. Students participated for first place in Voice, Piano, and Strings.

Ten (10) student performers competed in piano with top honors going to Katelyn Brabender and 2nd place awarded to Madelyn Stamper. Alyssa Burgette was the lone voice competitor who composed and sang her own song. The single violin competitor was Carolyn Quick. The students' instructors are Ms. Katie Butler, Dr. Christine Rogers, owner of The Neighborhood Academy, and Tom Hutchison, owner of Clayton School of Creative Arts. Special thanks to Mr. Hutchison for hosting the competition at his school. I want to thank all the students for sharing your time and talents with us.



Our judges, Sue Beyer and **Janis Holman** enjoyed the performances while making some tough decisions.

Brenda Gay, Performing Art Chair.



'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.



Janis Holman & Sue Beyer

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

Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP Co-Chairs: Susan Johnson and Sarah Brooks



The new year is set to be a big one for local, state, and federal politics as we approach the 2024 primary and general elections. North Carolina will hold a statewide primary election on March 5. Here are the key deadlines to vote:

- The deadline to register to vote is Feb. 9 for the primary election and Oct. 11 for the general election.
 - Early voting begins Feb. 15. Mail-in ballots are already being sent to voters. During the early voting period, registered voters can cast a ballot at any open location in the county where they live. Locations and times vary, but early voting runs from Thursday, Feb. 15, through Saturday, March 2. People can also register to vote at these locations during the early-voting period.
 - On Primary Election Day (March 5), all registered voters can vote. Polling places will be open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. On Election Day, voters must vote in their assigned polling place, and anyone in line at 7:30 p.m., when polls close, will be allowed to cast their ballot.

Voters may check their registration status, obtain a sample ballot, and find both early voting and regular polling locations by using the <u>Voter Search</u> tool from the North Carolina State Board of Elections.



Night 'N' Gals



The **Night 'N' Gals** will meet via Zoom on February 15th at 7:00pm. This is open to any member who wishes to attend. The Zoom address will be emailed to members on February 14th.



The Education & Libraries CSP will host and provide dessert—

Red Velvet Cake

Art Festival Chair: Susan Johnson

Plans are completed for the Woman's Club of Clayton to present the Clubwomen and Student Art Festival at the Clayton Center Gallery at 6:00 on February 8th. The committee members are gathering the entries and preparing the works for display. Thanks to those who are providing refreshments and volunteered to work the event. Clubwomen entries will be on display the night of the 8th only. All student crafts will be on display that night also. Student visual art will be on display the entire month of February. All club members are invited to attend the show.

ESO Book Club

Chair: Brenda Gay











Val Taylor is now sharing her creative hands with Sarah Brooks in the Webmaster role.





Well, the picture says it all. Our ESO book club played "hooky" in January since our regular meeting date (1st Monday of the month) was New Year's Day. Even though we celebrated the New Year instead of meeting, that did not mean we played hooky from reading. In fact, one of our members, **Angela Williams**, emailed me two book reports she read in January.

"When She Was Good" by Michael Robothan (Genre: International Author)

"Slightly South of Simple" by Kristy Woodson Harvey (Genre: Fiction, General)

Our next ESO meeting will be Monday, February 5th at 10:00 a.m. **Donna Steele** has graciously invited our book club to meet in her home at 204 Parkridge Dr, (Glen Laurel Sub-Division), Clayton, NC 27427, Email: <u>dhsteele249@yahoo.com</u> 919-333-6361. Please let **Donna** know if you <u>can-not</u> be present.

Hope to see you Monday, February 5th at **Donna's** home, stay warm,

Brenda Gay, ESO Chair for The Woman's Club of Clayton

A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness; Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding And leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense And meet each other face to face, Without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgement And always generous. Let us take time for all things; Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, Straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is The little things that create differences, That in the big things of life we are at one. And may we strive to touch and to know The great, common human heart of us all. And, oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind! -Mary Stewart

Page 7



Things to bring to the February meeting:

- Books appropriate for First Graders (English or Spanish) for E&L CSP
- Old sneakers
- Wine corks
- Old eyeglasses
- Empty mascara



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

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 playing Bunco put \$5 in the pot. Winners for January Bunco were: Most Buncos – Loretta Mascia; Most Wins – Tina Zimmerman; Holder of Bunco Dice at End of Play – Rhonda Nielsen; Most Fakes – Rhonda Nielsen; Most Losses – Robin Rose

Upcoming Bunco: February 27, 2024 at 1:00pm



Play Day at the present time includes **Bridge and Mexican Train**. Everyone puts \$1 in a pot to help pay for refreshments. In addition, the Bridge players have a separate pot of \$1 each which is split between high and second high score and lowest score. In January, 12 people played Bridge and 3 members played Mexican Train.

For Bridge, **Sarah Brooks** will be conducting a new **Bridge class** on February 16, 10am-1pm. Right now there are 5 members signed up. Any members interested in learning how to play Bridge can contact **Sarah**. For Mexican Train, it is much easier to learn and can be taught in about 15 minutes.

Upcoming Play Day:

February 8th at 1:00pm



Please welcome

Say hello to our new members

Ginny Kennerly will be sharing her talents with the Education and Libraries CSP.

Also welcome Emily Stocks. Emily will be working with Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP.

And here's Chauncy Douglas, Chauncy will be involved with Education & Libraries.







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

It was a fabulous weekend with our first fundraiser of the year in the middle of January (January 12 & 13). This was our third year of sponsoring a Murder/Mystery Dinner at our club! Our performers were members of Clayton Theatricals and were all high school students from Clayton, Corinth Holder and West Johnston High Schools. They all did a fabulous job. A special thanks goes to Mr. Andrew Wade, who is the Director and owner of

Co-chairs Margaret Lee & Nancy Maynard

Murder Mystery

CLAYTON THEATRICALS.

The Woman's Club of Clayton presented a check to CLAYTON THEATRICALS for \$330 donated by EDUCATION and ART's/CULTURE CSP. Betsy Grannis, Club President presented the check and thanked all those in attendance.

Special thanks to all the ladies who worked tirelessly on Friday and or Saturday evening. Our amazing club women prepared meals for approximately 120 people, while others prepared the individual dinner plates. Tables had to be reset, then tables had to be broken down and put away, along with the chairs on Saturday night, after the final performance. The club had to be setup for a rental event that was taking place the very next morning.

Club members worked tirelessly to return the club to its normal setting.

Other members of our club gave donations for the cast to hold their own cast party with pizza. Others gave donations for whatever needed to be done. Most every member gave of their time to support this enchanting Murder/Mystery event for our surrounding community.

A special thanks to Betsy Grannis for her willingness to work with our menu and food distribution duties in our kitchen. Great job to all members of this great club and a special "thank you" to our Co-chairs Margaret Lee and Nancy Maynard!





Members of CLAYTON THEATRICALS







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

Webmasters Sarah Brooks & Val Taylor

Silent Partner **Brenda Gay**









Saturday Night Hosts



Friday Night Hosts



In accordance with the club bylaws, the Second Vice-President appoints a committee to nominate members for the annual clubwoman awards. The committee this year was **Brenda Hill** (chair), **Donna Steele and Judy Ryan.**

TWCC has so many hardworking and loyal members so this is always a difficult task. Hopefully you will agree that the committee has nominated exceptionally worthy candidates!

Clubwoman of the Year Award

The award is given annually to honor a clubwoman who has given of her time, talents, interest, organizational efforts, and active participation to render outstanding service through the Federation.

SARAH BROOKS

It is certainly an honor for me to be nominated for Clubwoman of the Year. 2023 was a bittersweet year for me. After 9 years as editor of the club newsletter, I decided it was time to devote my club time to other endeavors. The last newsletter I published was May 2023 and then during the summer I learned that our newsletter won First

Prize at the GFWC level. This was such a wonderful honor to go out with! Kudos to Judy Ryan for picking up as Editor and doing a wonderful job.

During 2023 I was involved in other activities as well. At the beginning of the year, I was Co-Chair of the Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP, and we did a variety of projects in the community including honoring our Police and Fire Departments composed of outstanding men and women who protect our community every day and providing snacks to the USO lounge at the airport. During the summer, I was asked to assume the role of Co-Chair for the Environment CSP as one of the current Co-Chairs was having health issues and was moving out of the area. This is a CSP I did not know a lot about but the best way to learn is by taking a lead role. This first year we are focusing on recycling including plastics, wine corks, athletic shoes, and mascara wands. We are always looking at other opportunities and will continue to do so during the next two years. This is a growth experience for everyone involved.

In addition, I served on the Ways and Means Committee and assisted with promoting club fundraisers by developing flyers, tickets, articles, etc. I also loved being involved in club events such as purchasing gifts for Christmas Kids, helping with the Christmas Tree Lighting sale of food, serving during the Murder Mystery Dinners, serving on the clubwoman awards committee, preparing a meal for House of Hope, managing Bunco for club members, assisting with the Taste of Carolina silent auction, JoCo Back to School Youth Explosion, helping with the "All Hands on Deck" Mutual Aid Brigade, and serving on the Executive Board.

Involvement in activities outside of TWCC is also important especially doing work at Clayton First Baptist Church including being a member of the choir, Hospitality Committee, Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and being active in my Sunday School class which read the Bible in its entirety for the last 2 years. What a wonderful journey! Other loves are Golf, Bridge, Canasta and volunteering for town activities including serving on an Advisory Committee looking at traffic concerns and recommendations for traffic-related projects for the next 10-20 years. I can't believe I thought I would be bored after retirement!



Clubwoman of the Year Award (continued)



BETSY GRANNIS

Betsy Grannis has been a member of The Woman's Club of Clayton for 25 years. During that time she has served her club, her district, and GFWC-NC in many positions. Betsy has been a CSP Chair at the club, district and state level. She has served as Vice President of her club and of District 8. Betsy is completing her fourth term as President of The Woman's Club of Clayton. She served as GFWC-NC Treasurer for the 2018-2020 administration and as the GFWC-NC Meetings and Conven-

tion Chair for the past two administrations.

Betsy has been married to her husband Michael for 40 years. They have two daughters and six grandchildren in California, where Betsy and Michael previously lived. A few years ago they sold both of their businesses and are enjoying living in a 55+ community in Clayton.

Betsy loves the Woman's Club of Clayton and serving her community however she can. She contributes her time, talents, and resources to support the club and the goals of the club. Betsy is honored to be a nominee for the Clubwoman of the Year Award.



NANCY MAYNARD

I have been a member of The Woman's Club of Clayton since January 2019, becoming co-chair of Health and Wellness CSP in October 2019. A few short months later, many of our projects, including fundraising were suspended due to the Covid pandemic. I was still able to coordinate monthly meals for the students and staff of House of Hope, which is a christian-based treatment center that provides housing to vulnerable teenage girls, as well as education

and counseling until they get back on their feet. I have also been calling Bingo at the Clayton Center for Aging -----aka Clayton Senior Center each month, as well as having club collections for large-print books, trivia games, chess boards and puzzles for the Center. When TWCC received a grant from the RYE Foundation, I reached out to MyKidsClub in Selma to ascertain their needs to see if they might qualify for part of the grant. As a result, they were awarded a third of the generous grant. Since then, we have established an ongoing relationship with MKC and have managed several collections for snacks to accommodate their afterschool program. I have volunteered as a tutor and helped out during their summer camp last year. I have been co-chair of our very successful Murder Mystery Dinner fundraiser for the past three years. It has been very gratifying to organize an event that brings the community of Clayton and the women of the club together in such a fun way. Some of the parents of the performers had never heard of The Woman's Club and weren't aware of all that we do for the community. A lot of our members weren't aware of the wonderful talent of our high school students. I am an active member of our ESO book club and have just achieved the Century 1 level.

In addition to TWCC I am very active in my church. I am a member of our Ladies' Guild, grace community bible study and our Friday food pantry which serves 50-100 clients every week. I am the Health and Wellness representative for District 8. And I represented District 8 and their LEADS candidate last year.

Annual Clubwomen Awards cont'd

Chair: Brenda Hill, Donna Steele, Judy Ryan

Clubwoman with "Heart" Award

This award is to be given annually to a General Clubwoman who by her efforts provides the "heart" for her club. It is not to be given on the basis of community or club involvement, but rather to the person who best exemplifies the words of the "Collect for Clubwomen".



SUSAN JOHNSON

In 2015, I retired from my job as an RN at Rex Healthcare. Even though I continued to work part time until June of 2019, I desired some type of volunteer work to fill in the time that was then available. First I joined a gym which keeps me moving, then after interactions with several club members at other community events, I realized this club would be the place where I could participate in volunteer service activities. At the invitation of Dianne Carroll, I attended the January 2016 meeting and immediately joined . The opportunities for volunteer service were extended

and now I say the Woman's Club is my part-time job. I have been privileged to collect food for the seniors of Johnston County, worked on the Community Garden Christmas decorations, did Christmas shopping for a seniors and kids, assisted at the Serve the Need Thanksgiving dinner, worked the the Taste of Carolina, served as a do-cent for the CVA Christmas home tours, and have packed for Back Pack Buddies. I am also the resident elf during our annual fundraiser during the Town of Clayton Christmas Tree Lighting.

From 2018-2022, I served as Corresponding Secretary for the club and will resume that role in the 2024-2026 administration. Since 2018, I have been Chairperson of the Student Arts Festival, held each February at the Clayton Center. Both of these positions have allowed me to meet many people in the area and interact with many club members. It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you and it is such a joy when I see you outside of our regular activities and we get to visit a minute.

In 2020, I assumed the role of co-chair of our Civic Engagement and Outreach CSP. This has given me the opportunity to visit within our community as well as our members. Meeting with Town Council, firefighters, law enforcement, and many non-profit community outreaches has been exciting and informative as I learn their roles in our town, and how we can help them.

Our club is a blessing to my life. So much good is done by our members. Let's be thankful for one another and let us continue to exhibit the volunteer spirit.



MARGARET LEE

First, I want to thank The Woman's Club of Clayton for nominating me for CLUBWOMAN WITH "HEART." This nomination will remain dear to MY heart forever.

It is through our woman's club that I have made so many lifelong friends, and acquaintances that have become more like sisters. It literally has broken my heart these past few years to have lost so many ladies who have gone on to meet our maker. Most of our recent deaths have

been women whom I have known for over 20 years or more and I have grieved their loss so much because we shared so much Club and personal history together.

But, alas, I continue meeting new women that have joined us as new members. They remind me of what The Woman's Club of Clayton is about and I am so proud to welcome each one of them when they join. I may not remember their names right away (I have always had this problem, it just continues to worsen with age!), but I will



Clubwoman with "Heart" Award (con't)

always welcome you with a smile. I will always try my best to make our club one of the friendliest places you will ever have visited.

It has been easy to write about The Woman's Club of Clayton because I have so much respect and love for the organization and for everything that we have ever accomplished. Now comes the difficult part, and that is to tell you about myself and my affiliation with this club.

I first have to tell you of my love for children and for public education. My husband and I started our young careers in public education and believed our number one goal as parents was to always find the best schools for our daughters and then find the home which was located in that school district. In all, we moved four times while our children were in public school.

When we became "empty nesters," and the last daughter had gone on to college, my husband convinced me that we needed to become therapeutic foster parents. This meant that we took on children who had been taken away from a parent and would hopefully be adopted, or would end up living in a group home. These children were in our care 24/7 and 365 days a year. The stories I would hear from these children about the abuse and neglect they had experienced in their young lives, I would never have imagined as an educator or a parent. We were therapeutic foster parents for six years to a variety of children with very different behavioral and social issues.

When I could no longer work in college administration due to health reasons, we also retired from the foster care system. I was still quite young and felt I needed to join an organization that cared about children as much as I. It was then that I found The Woman's Club of Clayton. I became the Chair for the Education department within a year of joining, and with the aid of the ladies in that department we started to create new goals for ourselves. There was a gentleman whose daughter was enrolled at Riverwood Middle School where my husband had become its Principal.

This gentleman was a manager for Sprint Cellular. I asked if the company ever awarded grants to non-profit organizations and was told to go for it. I looked up on the internet and studied how to write a grant and I wrote the first grant ever written by a Clayton Club member. This grant was to start a puppet show for Clayton's first graders. We were awarded \$300 and we were able to buy a small stage and many new puppets that still remain in our repertoire.

My ultimate goal was to find students from Clayton High School that we could use as our puppeteers. It just so happened that my husband introduced me to a young administrative aide at CHS that was in charge of a group of young men called "The Men of Distinction."

These high schoolers were kids that needed the assistance of a positive male role model. The school principal thought it was a great idea to use these students as our puppeteers and the students themselves had so much fun doing this project. They were treated as rock stars by the first graders that watched our short plays. We had schools calling us to have these kids perform!

Before we could start performing, we needed to come up with a script to follow. I found a lady over the internet who traveled throughout the midwest with her puppets and charged to give a one woman puppet show on the subject "bullying." She helped us develop our plays and we continue to be friends on Facebook to this very day. Our first audience was to our club members at one of our monthly meetings. The performance was met with rave reviews.

Many member who are ready to resurrect the puppet show don't know that our club started this project many years ago and I am so excited to see these characters coming out of mothballs only to be used by new performers. Long live "Miss Piggy Rae!"

This leads me to 2023. I was visiting with one of our new members at her home one evening and I was introduced to her husband. He proceeded to tell me that he was primarily retired, but his company kept him on retainer because of his ability to create large storage areas for large companies. Never being shy to ask a favor regarding our club, I asked him if he thought he could build a fairly large stage out of PVC pipes that would be easy to transport and set up fairly quickly. He told me he probably could do that in an hour or so if I found him the dimensions that

Annual Clubwomen Awards cont'd

Chair: Brenda Hill, Donna Steele, & Judy Ryan



Clubwoman with "Heart" Award (con't)

were needed. It was back to the internet I went. I found everything that was needed on Pinterest. Someone had drawn out dimensions and descriptions! Of course our Club member's husband made the pipes even simpler to assemble and use by giving each PVC pipe a number, as well as a simple diagram

This gentleman has become such a big proponent for our club and it's only fitting that I have told you about him first because his wife teasingly tells people that I'm crazy about her husband. Actually, I adore both of them! Lou Mancuso is our stage Architect, and our very own club member is wife, Susan Mancuso. Susan made the curtains for the entire new stage, as well as creating a special bag in which all of these items can be carried into a school. You never know who will be willing and knowledgeable to help with a project!

Just for posterity I feel it necessary to share with you the second grant that I applied for and was awarded for The Woman's Club of Clayton. I was once again looking online for potential grants some years ago and found that Arby's was offering a \$5,000 grant to a 501C-3 organization that could feed children for the summer. I applied for this grant not knowing if we would even be considered because school cafeterias were mentioned as potential entrants for the grant. We were awarded the grant and came together as a club to sponsor a Clayton grandmother of five grandchildren that had taken on the hardship of having to raise her grandchildren. We partnered with several other non-profits and made sure these children had summer clothing and swimsuits because each one of them was sent to different local summer camps and we were responsible for preparing and transporting lunch to each of these children on a daily basis. These children had never owned a bathing suit and had never been to a camp, let alone go swimming in a pool. It's a special memory I hold dear in my heart along with the ladies that were volunteers that summer.

The reason I go back to these times of searching for grants, I want to remind you that there are special grants out there for clubs such as ours. You just have to be willing to do your research and remember there are different and new projects out there for us to try. Stay vigilant and after doing your due diligence, don't be afraid to suggest new ideas!

Four years ago at one of our Planning Committee meetings, I suggested that we hold a Murder/Mystery dinner. It was put on the back burner for the first year, but three years ago we began to choreograph and plan for our grand opening. We played with and discussed how to proceed with this new project. I once again wanted to include high school students in this new venture.

We visited Clayton High School and introduced ourselves to the new head of their drama department, Mr. Andrew Wade. He agreed to have his high school students participate in our new event. By year two he had created the Clayton Theatricals, which has brought out students from all of the Johnston County high schools. My vision for this project has been so beneficial to many. It has extended our name and vision throughout Johnston County; allowed students to showcase their talents and especially has allowed parents, grandparents and friends the opportunity to enjoy an evening of dining while watching kids having a grand time of having fun! This past January was our third year for our association with Mr. Andrew wade. Nancy Maynard and I have been Co-chairs of this fun event and with the special assistance of Betsy Grannis, who has owned her own catering business for years, you could say we have this event fine tuned.

I serve on the Nominating Committee to select members to be considered as our new club officers for the upcoming 2024-2026 season. Although, it will be near impossible to replace our current officers, I'm very happy to have served on this committee. It's so satisfying to identify new Executive Board nominees that are willing to serve as new officers for this active club.

Thank you for this heartwarming nomination!



Clubwoman with "Heart" Award (con't)



DEBBIE RAGLAND

My name is Debbie Ragland and I am honored to be one of the nominees for the "Clubwoman With Heart" award. I have been asked to provide a brief biography.

I joined the Woman's Club of Clayton in 1983, and 41 years later I am still having fun! I have met and worked with so many wonderful ladies through the years and have formed many lasting and treasured friendships.

I have served in various capacities over the years. I was Treasurer from 1998-2000, and I completed a term as First Vice-President from 1991-92 when the position was vacated. I was honored to be named "Clubwoman of the Year" in 2000.

I have served as Clubhouse Historian. I contributed to the special club book written on the occasion of our 75th anniversary in 1993 titled "Reaching the Diamond Jubilee." I also served on the committee that updated the club history for our 100th anniversary celebration in 2018.

I have been a Clubhouse Trustee for the past 18 years and currently serve as Chairman, which means I also chair the Clubhouse Committee. My term will end in May 2024. I have worked as Clubhouse Custodian for approximately 24 years, which dovetails perfectly with the role of Trustee.

It has been a joy and a pleasure (and sometimes a headache) to help oversee renovations, repairs, and maintenance of our clubhouse through the years. I think you'll agree that our clubhouse, along with its gazebo and property, is one of the loveliest landmarks and cornerstones in our town. I'm very proud of our club and what we represent in the community.

On a more personal note, I am a native of Clayton, born and raised. I have a very kind and supportive husband, Ronald Crowder, who brings love and laughter to my life every day. I have worked at Hocutt -Ellington Memorial Library for the past 25 years and will retire March 1st. I look forward to participating even more in all the fun activities of our club after I retire. I feel blessed beyond measure.



Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award

The award is to recognize a clubwoman for outstanding contributions in citizenship and patriotism (including community affairs including church, political, other service organizations, civic, board positions, etc.)



BRENDA GAY

Brenda has severed on many activities in The Woman's Club of Clayton for the past several years. She is currently Co-Chair of Education/Libraries CSP. Chair of our ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) book club, under her leadership the book club has won the ESO award from GFWC-NC three years in a row against other clubs. Co-chair of The Book Bag Project for five first grades at Cooper Elementary Academy, with the help of CSP members collecting and providing several books, reading buddy (stuff

animal), other supplies for students to take home at the end of the school year. One of the readers for reading to first graders for The National Reading Day across America. Helps Friends of the Library sort books for sale once a year. Chair of District 8 Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship, mails the student winners from District 8 to GFWC-NC. Chair of Silent Partner where members donate \$25 when called upon if a school counselor calls Brenda for help with a student, etc. She sometime subs in leading the devotion for the Luncheon/Meetings. Chair of The Performing Arts, sponsored by The WC in organizing music students from 9th-12th grades in music competition, (Vocal, Piano, Instrument) selecting judges, and place of performance in the community.

On the committee of The Taste of Carolina, evening of it, Chair of The Beverage Bar w/Co-Chair. Chair of the Wine Bar at The Murder Mystery. Participation in the Art Festival by submitting photography, Literature writing, and acrylic painting. (Have won a few)

Some Church Activities: In choir, sings solos, plays steel drum, tone chimes, attends Bible Cricle once a month and subs as the leader sometimes. Member and on the board of LWML (Lutheran Women Missionary League). Co-Chair of "Mite Boxes" change collected in the boxes, deposited in bank once a month. Funds go toward missions. Mite is from the Bible, Mark 12:42. Chair of March Madness. Brenda wrote a song in tune of "Amazing Grace" for LWML Mite Boxes explaining purpose in detail. Representing Holy Cross Lutheran Church at the Eastern North Carolina Via De Cristo Retreat held at Camp Agape in Fuquay Varina, NC (The focus is to grow in Christian faith, love, and grace.)

Some Community Activities: Painted a large sunflower picture to help beautify the Clayton Community Garden that is behind the "Reading Bench" project that won an award for ESO. Helps with cleaning the garden sometimes in the summer and collects all the notes that are written in the mailbox, that says "Leave Your Thoughts" Also an ESO project. On the board and past President of The Friendship Force Club and surrounding areas, Clayton, Cary, Zebulon, & Wilson. FF is an organization that promotes peace around the world, she has traveled all over the world promoting this. Chair of committee trying to erect an FF Peace Pole at Dix Park. Helped WIN (Women in Networking) with one of their fund-raising projects for past three years by providing "Festival of 4' Christmas Tree decorated for sale.

In fashion show for Junior Woman's Club fund raising. Gives financial support for the "Homeless" and Food bank.



Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award (con't)



Rhonda Nielsen

My name is Rhonda Nielsen and I am a retired Civil Servant who specialized in Contract Negotiation for the Department of Defense Research and Development agency for over 38 years. While working full time I went back to school at night to get my MBA is Business Management. I enjoyed my job and was always open to a new and

interesting challenge. During my career I was able to save the government hundreds of thousands of dollars by negotiating the best deal on contracts for all involved. I also supervised ten people and helped train new interns in my field.

Two of my most rewarding volunteer activities since retirement is with the American Red Cross as both a Blood Donar Ambassador and a Disaster Assistance Specialist (DAS). The Blood Donar Ambassador role offers me the opportunity to share the Red Cross Mission and to promote the constant need for blood throughout the country. In my DAS role I help families who have been affected by a disaster like: Fire, Flood, Hurricane, Tornado, and provide them with resources that can help them with the initial phase of recovery. These roles have been life altering for me in that they show me daily the great human heart of people.

In addition to my Red Cross volunteer activities, I also spend my time at St. Ann Church as part of the By our Hand Ministry (BOHM) which provides handmade blankets to Babies at the Hospital, Veterans, and Hospice. Our group also raises money from the sale of our other wares (hats, scarfs, shrugs, etc.) and provides the money to ministries within our church who need assistance in order to fulfill their mission. Another part of my involvement at church is as a member of the Ladies Guild. This group also raises money to support other ministries by coordinating and running an annual rummage sale, basket raffles, and various bake sales. My final role at church is as one of the team members who plan and implement the annual craft show for the church. All proceeds from the craft fair are funneled back into the church ministries to help with the church's mission.

Another volunteer opportunity that I am part of is working at the Clayton Center as a volunteer usher called the "Scene Stealers". I enjoy meeting new people and sharing the unique theater experience with them.

One of my future ambitions is to once again become a water aerobics instructor which I did for 8 years prior to my retirement.



Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism Award (con't)



Val Taylor

Val was born and raised in Wales, United Kingdom before emigrating to the United States of America in 1982, becoming a US Citizen in 1997. After living in Washington State for many years, and a career in non-profit association management, Val moved to North Carolina in 2019. It was in 2022, when she found herself newly single, that she began to discover all that Clayton, NC has to offer.

Val volunteers at The Clayton Center as an event usher and it was at one of these events that she learned about The Woman's Club of Clayton (TWCC) and Clayton Visual Arts (CVA), a 501(c)3 organization. As an artist and new community member, she joined both. It didn't take long for her to realize where she could be helpful while also staying true to her passions.

After only a few months, Val was elected to the CVA Board of Directors, becoming Vice-President in 2023. Val is focused on growing the organization and building recognition for all the local talent. She has developed liaisons with the Town of Clayton Public Art Advisory Board and the Johnston County Arts Council, as well as local art galleries and studios, with a goal to work collaboratively for the betterment of the art community. The Johnstonian News recently quoted her in an article promoting Clayton as an art center, after she was interviewed by the Town of Clayton. Val has applied for and received three grants on behalf of CVA. With one grant, Val managed a complete rebrand of CVA and personally redesigned its website. Because of Val's efforts, CVA members now have access to vital information and tools to help them on their art journey, and the site provides the public with information about art activities in the local area. Val continues to manage their website, social media, and event promotion, in addition to sharing her time and knowledge tutoring beginner and intermediate adult artists.

Through TWCC, Val has developed many friendships and has participated in fun events that have only strengthened these. Val is happiest in the background just doing what is necessary, without fanfare. She helped when the Arts & Culture CSP held their kid's art booth at the local market, and supported TWCC's efforts, crocheting/knitting squares for the local town yarn bomb project. She submits hand crafted pieces to represent the club at the annual Craft Fair, winning several first-place ribbons at the state level in 2023. Val is on hand at the February Art Reception, where TWCC features local student art, to help wherever needed. She is also an active participant in the ESO Book Club supporting that group's annual project.

As a Co-Chair of TWCC's largest annual fundraising event, the Taste of Carolina, she worked closely with the Chair and other members doing whatever was needed, including recruiting restaurants, purchasing supplies, promotion, and day-of event setup/tear-down. Val was asked to be Co-Chair again this year and has already designed the event poster/tickets and updated the website accordingly.

Val still works part-time as a remote administrative assistant and runs a successful art business. While her spare time is limited, she will continue to prioritize the needs of CVA and TWCC. She will always step up if she sees an opportunity to utilize her skillset to benefit the organization.

Val is humbled and appreciative of this nomination and will continue to do all she can in support of TWCC, CVA and the community.

Recipes Provided

by

Judy Ryan &

Angela Williams

Do you have club mem-

ber news, personal announcements, family news, personal achieve-

> ments 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

Annulli,

Hummin

Each month will feature

recipes by category

February—Superbowl snacks

Send your favorite

recipes to

jaryan612@gmail.com

NEWS

Recipe Corner—Superbowl Party Food



Buffalo Chicken Dip

INGREDIENTS

1pkg (8oz) cream cheese, softened 1 cup chopped cooked chicken breast 1/2 cup Buffalo wing sauce 1/2 cup blue cheese salad dressing 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese French bread baguette slices Celery ribs or tortilla chips or baguette slices

DIRECTIONS



Preheat oven to 350. Spread cream cheese into an ungreased shallow 1-qt baking dish. Layer with chicken, wing sauce and salad dressing. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake uncovered, until cheese is melted (about 20-25 minutes) Serve with baguette slices, celery sticks, and/or tortilla chips

Hot Wings

INGREDIENTS

4 pounds whole chicken wings Oil for deep-fat frying 1/4 cup butter 1/4 cup honey 1/4 cup barbecue sauce 4-6 TBS hot pepper sauce 3 TBSP vinegar 3 TBSP prepared mustard 1/4 tsp garlic salt Celery sticks Carrot sticks Blue cheese or ranch salad dressing



DIRECTIONS

Cut wings into 3 sections, discard wing tip section. In a deep cast-iron or electric skillet, heat oil to 350. Fry chicken wings, a few at a time, about 9 minutes or until golden. Drain on paper towel. Place in a large bowl.

In a small saucepan, combine the next 7 ingredients; cook and stir for 5-10 minutes. Pour over cooked wings; let stand 10 minutes. With a slotted spoon, remove wings from sauce and place them in a single layer on greased baking sheets.

Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Serve hot with vegetable sticks and dressing for dipping.

BACON WRAPPED SMOKIES

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pound Bacon, cut into thirds
- 1 pound Lil' Smokies (small sausages)
- 1 stick Butter
- 2 cups Brown Sugar

DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 375F. Cut the bacon into thirds and wrap each smokie. (small sausage) Place all the wrapped smokies in a single layer in a baking dish. Then melt the stick of butter and then 1 cup of brown sugar and stir until mixed well. Pour the butter and brown sugar mixture on the bacon wrapped sausages.

Then take the other cup of brown sugar and sprinkle evenly over the smokies. Bake them for about 15-20 minutes and then turn the heat up to 400F for about 5 minutes or longer until the bacon becomes crispy.





February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 HEART HEALTH BLACK HISTORY MONTH	2 Weight Patty Jo Johnson	3
4	5 ESO	6	7	8 Art Festival	9 Bingo 127 33 44 73 1 19 45 56 61 3 11 249 69 15 26 41 53 66 2 21 37 46 65	10
11 Wal Taylor	12 Dianne Carroll	13 Meeting Setup House of Hope	14 TWCC Meeting	15 Night n Gals (zoom)	16	17
18	19 President's Day Presidents's * DAY *	20 BOARD	21	22 ﷺ Jackie Ev- ans	23 www. Donna Steele	24
25	26	27 Bunco	28 👑 Jayne Hafer	29		