

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

Trish Perna

1st Vice President

Christie Latham

2nd Vice President

Nancy Maynard

Recording

Secretary

Deborah Fuller

Corresponding

Secretary

Susan Johnson

Treasurer

Karen Keeslar

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Volume 2025 Number 2

February 2025

From Our President *Trish Perna*



As we step into February, the month often associated with love and appreciation, it's fitting to reflect on the importance of gratitude in all that we do. At The Woman's Club of Clayton, our work thrives on collaboration, generosity, and the shared commitment of so many dedicated individuals. This month, let's make a conscious effort to embrace the power of saying "Thank you."

Janine Eilert, a member of the GFWC Communications and Public Relations Committee, beautifully outlines the transformative impact of expressing gratitude in her article, *The Importance of "Thank You"* which was featured in the January 16th GFWC News & Notes email. She reminds us that a simple "Thank you" can build confidence, foster camaraderie, and strengthen relationships. In our club, this small gesture carries immense weight.

She ended the article with a Maya Angelou quote, "Always say Thank You; It's the greatest gift you can give someone."

Let's remember to thank our fellow members for their dedication and leadership. Whether someone has spearheaded a project, helped organize an event, or quietly contributed behind the scenes, their efforts deserve recognition. Consider handwritten notes, thoughtful tokens, or even a heartfelt mention during meetings to express appreciation.

Guests at our meetings also deserve our gratitude. A handwritten thank-you card or follow up email letting them know that you enjoyed meeting them ensures they feel valued and remember our club's warmth, passion and professionalism. Wearing TWCC and GFWC apparel is an excellent way to reinforce our identity and leave a lasting impression. Don't forget the power of social media to highlight sponsors, contributors, and speakers, sharing their contributions with a broader audience.

Gratitude extends beyond our club's walls. Let's also

take a moment to recognize and thank the local businesses and supporters within our community. Their generosity and partnership allow us to achieve so much. Whether they've provided donations, sponsored events, or offered their services, these contributions are invaluable. Sending personalized thank-you cards, featuring them on our social media, or giving them a shout-out during meetings are wonderful ways to show our appreciation and strengthen these relationships.

Let's carry this sentiment forward in all we do this month and beyond.

In addition to fostering gratitude, February brings exciting opportunities for our club. Please also mark your calendars for upcoming events and projects – your participation makes all the difference.

Thank you!
Trish Perna, President



FEBRUARY

- February 1**
Yaya Amateur Night
Clayton Center
- February 2**
Ground Hog Day
- February 3**
ESO Book Club
- February 7**
CLUE
Clayton Center
- February 8**
Father/Daughter Dance
Clayton Center
- February 12**
General Meeting
- February 14**
Bingo—Senior Center
- February 14**
Valentine's Day
- February 17**
Night n Gals
- February 17**
President's Day
- February 18**
Exec Board Meeting
- February 22**
British Invaders
Clayton Center
- February 27**
USAF Heritage of
America Band
Clayton Center



January Meeting Highlights

Deborah Fuller



Devotion: given by **Chauncy Douglas**

President's Welcome: Trish Perna

Welcomed everyone. 2025 has upcoming exciting events. Thanks to all for your energy and dedication during 2024 projects and events. Your efforts make a real difference in our community.

Welcome Guests, New Members, and Visitors: Nancy Maynard

Nancy welcomed our new member **Rosemary Confrey** and guests Merle Payne, a retired Asst. Principal and Mel Poole the Hocutt-Ellington Library Manager.

Program: Val Taylor, Vice President of Clayton Visual Arts

Val shared several of her paintings and pencil drawings. She gave an overview of how each one was created.

Val told us about the Clayton Visual Arts and invited everyone to visit. Their mission is to engage in and promote the visual arts; to educate and promote local artists; and support all art interests within our community.

Val teaches monthly classes using colored pencils. The January class will be a bunny. **Val** has a newsletter that she invited everyone to sign up for.



Business:

Minutes Approval: **Trish Perna**
December minutes were approved.

Arts & Culture: **Trish Perna**
The Executive Board approved **Faye Brooks** as an Honorary Lifetime Member. We want to thank **Faye** for all her years as a chair and all the support she still gives our club.

We wish to congratulate **Patty Jo Johnson** as the new co-chair of the Arts & Culture CSP.

Officer's Reports:

Second Vice President: **Nancy Maynard**
This is the time of year we nominate and vote on Club Woman Awards. The Awards Nominating Committee met and is proud to present the following candidates for your consideration. These ladies will create a bio to be placed in the January newsletter and voting will take place at our February meeting.

Club Woman of the Year: Sarah Brooks, Trish Perna

Outstanding Citizen & Patriotism:
Debra Beal, Deborah Fuller

Club Woman with "Heart": Christie Latham, Margaret Lee

Corresponding Secretary: Trish Perna for Susan Johnson

Trish read thank you cards from The Johnston County Community Back to School Youth Explosion, Clayton Middle School, **Marlene Dillon**, and **Jayne Hafer** that had been received since our last meeting.

CSP, Committee, Special Project Reports

Arts Festival Update: **Brenda Hill** for **Susan Johnson**

There is a volunteer signup sheet on the back table for food and refreshment table attendants.

Please reach out to **Susan Johnson** if you can help in any way.

Entries are due now and the last entry will be taken on Tuesday, January 14th.

Artwork should go to **Angela Williams** and Literature should go to **Margaret Lee**.

Taste of Carolina Committee: **Karen Keeslar & Val Taylor**

Karen and **Val** shared the new poster for the Taste and explained this is a club event and all hands are needed to make it successful. Tickets are available, please let **Karen** know how many you need. Going forward **Judy Ryan** will be set up at the library to provide you with tickets. There will be a limited number of tickets to ensure everyone has a seat.

WIN Festival of Trees Event: **Trish Perna**
Trish presented the Win Festival of Trees 2024 "Most Whimsical Award" to **Brenda Gay** and **Karen Keeslar** for the patriotic-themed tree they created. The award will be displayed at the clubhouse.



Murder Mystery Committee: **Margaret Lee, Nancy Maynard, Betsy Grannis**

This is one of three fundraisers we have this year, and everyone's help is needed.

There are a few tickets left for Friday and Saturday. Please reach out to Nancy to purchase yours.

Please sign up to help with bringing food, serving, setup and cleanup.

An email is going out requesting help with decorating and other things.

Health & Wellness CSP

Co Chairs: Tina Zimmerman and Marianne Sapsara



FEBRUARY

- 2/2 Patty Jo Johnson
- 2/11 Val Taylor
- 2/12 Dianne Carroll
- 2/13 Kim Lofton
- 2/22 Jackie Evans
- 2/23 Donna Steele
- 2/28 Jayne Hafer

DON'T FORGET TO WEAR RED TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING IN RECOGNITION OF HEART HEALTH MONTH!!!



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



The month of February is **Heart Health Month**. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. The Health & Wellness team would like to encourage you to, (1) eat a balanced diet, (2) exercise regularly, (3) maintain a healthy weight, (4) manage stress and (5) if you

smoke, quit! Heart Health Month also encourages people to get screened for heart disease and to learn about their risk factors. By taking steps to improve your heart health, you can reduce the chances of developing heart disease and other cardiovascular conditions. Statistics show that if you begin a regimen and make it a habit then you're more likely to continue into March and maybe April. Buddy up with someone who can encourage you when you'd rather watch the Today Show. Then, who knows! The toughest part of a workout is getting out the front door!!!

H&W is hosting the February meeting and we'd like everyone to show their support for Heart Awareness by wearing **RED**! If red is not your color, maybe a red rose or paint your nails a crimson color!

We are also collecting needed items for Springbrook Nursing & Rehab Center in Clayton. Items needed are (sample or full size) shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes & lap blankets. The men could use some hoodies &/or sweatpants (XL - 3X) and the ladies could use robes, nightgowns and long sleeve shirts (L-2X). Please bring your donations to the meeting and we'll get them delivered.



We are also continuing our support to the House of Hope by providing a delicious meal each month. Sign-up sheets will be on the back table at each meeting. **Debi**

Beal can answer any questions you may have. And **Judy Ryan** continues to brighten the day of the seniors with Bingo at the Clayton Center on Aging.



Please mark your calendars for May 17th from 2:30-5:30 at The Walk. **Marianne Sapsara** has organized the 2nd annual Blood Drive/Fundraiser. TWCC will receive \$10.00 from the Blood Connection for each member who donates.



Environment

Co-Chairs: Carole Dayton, Rhonda Nielsen, Cecelia Soporowska



Soft Plastic Collection: Members have reported the collection of 382 pounds of soft plastic since October. If we continue at this pace, we should be able to reach the goal of 1000 pounds of plastic collected in one year thus making us eligible for another Trex bench. This bench will be placed on the TWCC clubhouse grounds. Soft plastic includes such things as grocery bags, bread bags, bubble wrap, newspaper sleeves, ice bags, plastic shipping envelopes, Ziploc and other food storage bags, drink case overwrap, produce bags, bags from yard products such as mulch, etc. Weigh the plastic and report the weight to **Sarah Brooks** (sbrooks@twccnc.org or text to 984-323-2625). Deposit the bags in Food Lion, Harris Teeter or Lowes Food recycle bins. Another



option is to bring the bags to the monthly meetings.

Collect old **athletic shoes** (any brand such as Nike, Reebok) and bring them to the monthly meetings. ENV CSP members will take the shoes to the Nike store in Smithfield and they will be recycled as part of the Nike Grind program.

Collect **musical instruments** to be recycled. The Environment CSP and Arts and Culture CSP are working collaboratively on this project. The Environment CSP will collect the instruments and the Arts and Culture CSP will take the instruments to Archer Lodge Middle School where they have adopted the Middle School Band Class. We are asking members to reach out to neighbors, friends and family to ascertain if they have any musical instruments that are no longer being used and they would like to donate. Instruments can be brought to the monthly meetings or notify Sarah Brooks (984-323-2625) and she will pick them up.

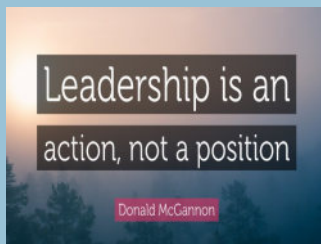
The Environment CSP will continue to collect **corks** for recycling by RECORK. Please bring donations to the monthly meetings.



Fairy Garden: This spring, the Environment CSP will install plants and Fairy Garden figurines in the TWCC planter box at the Main Street Community Garden. Pictured at left is an example of a Fairy Garden. If you have any figurines you want to donate, please bring them to the February meeting.

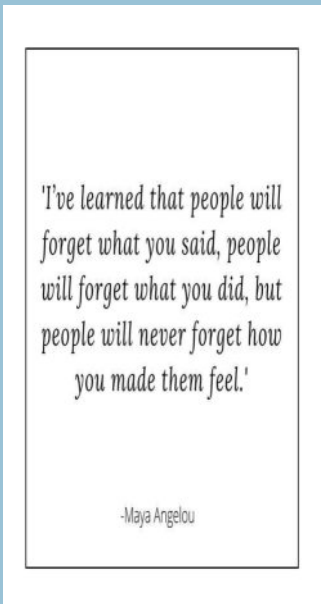
Education & Libraries CSP

Co-Chairs: Margaret Lee & Donna Steele, Susan Mancuso



The interviews for the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship and the Sybil Champion Community College Scholarship will be held on January 28 & 29. We hope to be able to declare a winner for each scholarship and a runner up for the scholarships by the end of January so that applications may be submitted for State consideration.

We are still collecting new and gently used books appropriate for 1st graders from Cooper Academy and Wilson’s Mills schools. These will accompany a backpack and a ‘reading buddy’ at the end of the school year. We also need more “reading buddies” for these children too. “Reading Buddies” are small stuffed animals that these children can read to. Reach out to your neighborhood for donations. Your help will be greatly appreciated. For additional information about ‘reading buddies’ or acceptable books for donation please contact Donna Steele at 919-333-6361. You may also drop off donations with Donna at 204 Parkridge or bring them to the meetings.



Isaac Newton had it right – an object at rest tends to stay at rest. I get it, you’ve worked for 40+ years putting all your efforts into making someone else’s business a success. You’ve raised the children, done the volunteer work, and have cleaned every crevice in way too many houses; but what about you? The thought of sitting back and relaxing sounds more like a well-earned reward.

However, as we age, our metabolism changes. Your body needs less energy to get around. Your body’s other systems and organs change too. Changes to your hormones also spur the body to decrease muscle mass and devote more resources to storing body fat. Your body’s other systems and organs are changing as well. Your heart starts to lose efficiency as you age, needing to work more for the same payoff. Other organs like your lungs and kidneys also lose some of their oomph too.

The key to getting fit after 50 is to start with the activity and pace that feels right for you. By starting slow and ramping up to a regular routine, you can start feeling some tremendously positive effects.

There are many programs that cater to seniors. The Town of Clayton Park & Recreation has classes that are reasonably priced. If you live in town you pay a little less than out of town. Visit claytonparks.org/ register. There are also health plans through Medicare part C. You can also register to join a gym for free via **Silver & Fit** and **Silver Sneakers**. Seniors also get a discount at the YMCA.



Night ‘N’ Gals



The **Night ‘N’ Gals** will meet via Zoom on MONDAY, February 17th at 7:00pm. This is open to any member who wishes to attend. The Zoom address will be emailed to members prior to the meeting.



Please keep honorary member **Peggy Earp** in your thoughts and prayers. She has always been a huge part of TWCC.

Marianne Sapsara will be having hip surgery in January. She may need a helping hand.

Jean Cornell had surgery in January and is dealing with some pain. Please remember her in your prayers.

Carrole Dayton has been struggling with pneumonia. She needs a good thought or two.

Arts & Culture CSP

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



On Dec 3, five members went to River Dell Elementary School to help our special needs class decorate felt Christmas trees. Thank you to **Dianne Carroll, MJ Hilliard, Becky Stewart, Susan Johnson, and Karen Kessler** for bring joy to these special kids.

We are also collecting coloring books, crayons, stickers, etc. to make bags for hospitalized children. Please bring items to the next meeting.



Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Co-Chairs: Susan Johnson and Karen Keeslar



We appreciate the club members who assisted with CEO's project to support **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. This year, **OneCompassion** will provide clothing, gifts and groceries to 160 families in the Johnston County area. Many thanks to **Karla Rajca, Gracie Chamblee, Debby Smith, Pam Ballard, Susan Johnson, and Karen Keeslar** who joined volunteers from other organizations to shop for the items that will be provided to their families.

Shoppers:

Karla Rajca, Karen Keeslar, Susan Johnson, Pamela, Ballard, Gracie Chamblee, & Debby Smith



Who do I Contact?

Member Illness
Susan Johnson

Clubhouse Rental
Loretta Mascia

Newsletter Content
Judy Ryan

Clubhouse Repairs
Angela Williams, Betsy Grannis, or Dianne Carroll

Membership
Nancy Maynard

Bylaws
Sarah Brooks

Webmasters
Sarah Brooks & Val Taylor

Silent Partner
Brenda Gay

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 Hillesary



Brenda Gay
Performing Arts Chair



Art Festival

Chair: Susan Johnson



Our annual art festival is scheduled for Thursday, February 6th, at 6:00 PM. Thanks to the committee members, member artists, and clubwomen volunteers who have made this possible. We have exceptional entries from local students and our club members. Town Councilman Porter Casey will be present to pass out certificates to the first and second-place student winners. Looking forward to another exciting event. All club members are invited to attend.

Performing Arts

Chair: Brenda Gay



The Performing Art competition was held on Saturday, January 25th at the Neighborhood Academy of Music, 112 Butternut Lane, Clayton, NC. Several students performed in Voice, Violin, and Piano, however, due to illness, some were unable to attend. The students' instructors are Dr. Christine Rogers (who is the owner of the Music Academy), Ms. Katie Butler, (Instructor at the Academy) and Mr. Shearm Miller, Choral Director at Cleveland High School.

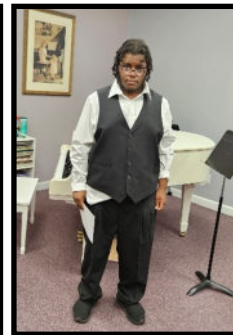
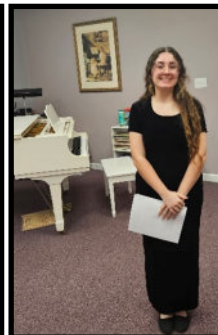
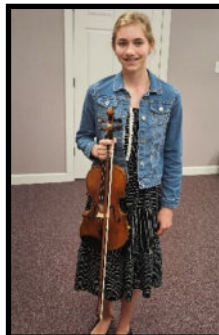
The students performed well and it was a great learning experience for them. Our judges were (left) **Ms. Tracy Finch**, Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance, with a concentration in Pedagogy from East Carolina University. She also teaches Voice and Guitar. Ms. Finch teaches choral classes at Riverwood Middle School. Her choirs have consistently earned Superior and Excellent Ratings in competitions. She serves as Chorus coordinator for several schools. And (right) **Ms. Carmen Steward** is a former music educator and private piano/voice instructor. Teaching in both Johnston and Wake County, she coordinated the North Carolina Middle School Adjudication Festivals for the Eastern #1 division. Carmen is a Product Orchestrator and Software Engineer for a Systems Analytics Company. She performs with choirs at Hayes Barton United Methodist Church and North Carolina Master Chorale.



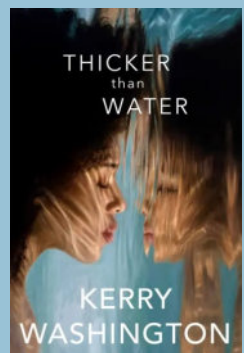
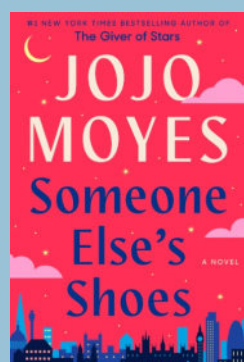
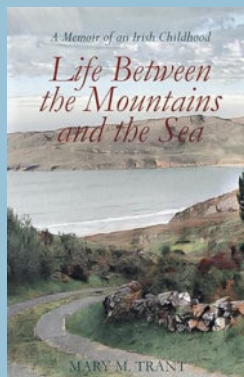
Tracy Finch / Carmen Steward



Performers (l-r)
Jonah Riggsbee, Isabella Gonzales, Victori Adams, Brenda Gay (chair), Abdul Stewart, & Clarity Butler



Clarity Butler—1st Place Violin & 2nd Place Piano
Isabella Gonzales—1st Place Piano
Abdul Stewart—1st Place Voice



The ESO book club (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) met on January 6th and started off the New Year with refreshments and enjoying conversational news after the holidays before we started our meeting at 10:00.

During our meeting, one of the main conversations were the number of hours each member has spent reading books from Jan – Dec, 2024. Our ESO GFWC-NC State chair, **Lynn Wiss** reported to us that we were to count each book we read over 300 pages as 6 hours and each book under 300 pages 5 hrs. After 19 of our members turned in the number of books they have read, the total hours of all the books read from Jan – Dec came to 5,316 over 300 pages and 2,405 under 300 pages. In addition to the book hours, our ESO book club has also spent more hours which entails, our meetings, volunteering to help with book sales for Friends of the Library, the chair writing news articles each month for the Newsletter, and writing up a list of all the monthly book reports. There may be a few not mentioned but the total hours for this comes to about 70 hours for Jan – Dec.

As you can tell, our members certainly “fit” the definition of Epsilon Sigma Omicron which is a structured book club with the purpose of providing educational pursuits and stimulate a desire for reading and self-improvement. ESO is open to any member who wishes to become a member.

The following are book reports read by a few of our members at our January meeting:

“Life Between the Mountains and the Sea” by Mary Trant (Genre: Memoir) report by **Nancy Maynard**

“Someone Else’s Shoes” by JoJo Moyes (Genre: F/Mystery) report by **Ginny Kennerly**

“Thicker than Water” by Kerry Washington (Genre: Memior/Autobioghry) report by **Margaret DiNubila**

From September—December 2024, we have been collecting coloring books and crayons for the children of Western Carolina Hurricane Victims. We want to thank EVERYONE who helped us with this project. Our goal was to send 500 and at the last count it was 526 coloring books and 387 boxes of crayons which can be shared because some boxes have a large number of crayons in them.

We will report again after the children receive the items which should be by the next newsletter. We’re proud to have met our goal in mid December. Items should be delivered sometime in January.

Our next ESO bookclub meeting will be Monday, February 3rd , 10:00 at the club house.



Menu

**Heart Healthy
Turkey Chili
Salad
Cornbread**

**The Health/Wellness
will host & provide
angle food cake with
fruit**



Criteria for Clubwoman Awards for 2024

Clubwoman of the Year

This award is given annually to honor a member who has given of her time talents, interests, organizational efforts, and active participation to render outstanding service through the Federation

Outstanding Citizenship & Patriotism

This award is given annually to recognize a member for outstanding work in citizenship and patriotism (including community affairs with church, political, other service organizations, civic, board membership, etc.)

Clubwoman with "Heart"

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

Nominees for Clubwoman of the Year



Candidate for Clubwoman of the Year

Trish Perna

Trish Perna has demonstrated outstanding leadership and service throughout her time with The Woman’s Club of Clayton. Since joining in 2020, she has served as the Environment CSP co-chair, District Environment Chair, and contributed to the Finance and Ways & Means Committees. As the current President of the club, she provides thoughtful leadership while working collaboratively to establish protocols that support members stepping into new roles.

Known for her excellent communication skills, organization, and encouraging nature, Trish is deeply committed to improving lives in the community, especially for children. Through Ways & Means, she has helped identify and support key fundraisers such as Lights of Love, the Murder Mystery Dinner, and the Taste of Carolina. She actively volunteers for numerous projects and programs across all CSPs, demonstrating her dedication to the Federation’s mission.

Beyond her club-level contributions, she has represented the Federation by attending at least one convention and summer meeting annually for the past three years. Members often praise her for her supportive leadership and her ability to bring the club together to celebrate achievements and create meaningful change.

Nominees for Clubwoman of the Year



Candidate for
Clubwoman of the
Year

Sarah Brooks

It is an honor to be nominated for Clubwoman of the Year for 2024. This organization is so special to me, and it is always an honor to serve any way I can. Activities during 2024 were as follows:

Served as Co-Chair for the Environment CSP which focused on recycling. I made several trips to Raleigh to drop off wine corks (which many members swore they did not drink) and to Smithfield to drop off athletic shoes and kept track of all those pounds of plastic members collected.

Served on the Executive Board.

Served as Club Parliamentarian to ensure Robert's Rules of Order are followed at club meetings and Executive Board meetings.

Chaired the Bylaws Committee and maintained the club's bylaws.

For about 9 years, I have maintained the club's membership roster and club Yearbook which require updates when new members join, current members leave, addresses or phone numbers change, etc. In addition, I maintain the club's email groups (TWCC Members and Executive Board).

Served as webmaster for the club website. I did this solo for several years but now I do it with the very talented Val Taylor who has beautifully updated the website. Primarily, I update Member Resources (e.g., member rosters, Yearbook, Bylaws, etc.) whenever revisions are made.

Served on the Ways and Means Committee and assisted with promoting club fundraisers by developing flyers, tickets, articles, etc.

Worked with Brenda Hill on the Taste of Carolina silent auction including keeping track of all items and descriptions, developing the information sheets for display and the bid sheets for each item and completing the spreadsheet with the winners and amount for each sold item.

Annually I purchase gifts for 4-5 Christmas Kids.

Provided food for the Murder Mystery Dinners.

Prepared a meal for House of Hope.

Managed Bunco and Play Day for club members (unfortunately these ended in 2024 due to poor participation). Also taught classes in Bridge for interested members.

Served as District 8 Chair, Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP.

Involvement in activities outside of TWCC is also important especially doing work at Clayton First Baptist Church including being a member of the Chancel Choir; Hospitality Committee Chair; Team Leader for Celebration Ministry Team; member of Communication Team who has assumed responsibility for rolling out the church software, Realm, to congregants; and being one of the leaders of my Sunday School class which read the Bible in its entirety for the last 2 years and is now concentrating on each book of the New Testament. 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!

Nominees for Clubwoman With Heart



Candidate for
Clubwoman with
Heart

Christie Latham

Thank you Woman's Club of Clayton Club for nominating me for "Clubwoman with Heart" I am honored and deeply touched by the nomination. I joined The Woman's club in 2022 after attending a monthly meeting with my friend, Donna Steele. I was won over by the delicious lunch so graciously served by the members and the warmth and welcome that I found at my table with 5 ladies I had never met as they discussed the many club activities for which they had volunteered. I decided that day that I would join The Woman's Club of Clayton without a second thought. I volunteered for the Environment CSP which long-time member Rachel Massimore chaired. Rachel very quickly put me to work as Co-Chair of ENV CSP with the commitment of a woman determined to teach, guide, and share her experience. In 2024, I found myself accepting an invitation to serve as 1st Vice President. In my short time with TWCC, I have been fortunate to work with others volunteering for Lights of Love, Christmas Kids, the Clayton Christmas Tree Lighting, One Compassion Homecoming Meal & Trunk or Treat, Clayton Civitans Thanksgiving community meal, and just recently Golden Wishes for a local senior. OH! And I did spend some quality time with our President, Trish Perna exploring and cleaning the basement of our beloved clubhouse. You will also find me in the kitchen at every monthly meeting helping each CSP serve lunch. I was so impressed at MY first luncheon, I want to be a part of recreating that experience for every member and visitor that attends our meetings.

Giving back to my community is a new experience for me. I am presently a full time Branch Manager of a local mortgage company. I began my career in the Real Estate/Mortgage Industry over 25 years ago and found very little time to be a part of anything outside of work, mother and wife. Joining The Woman's Club of Clayton has allowed me to finally be a part of my community in a way that gives me great joy. That joy is only made possible by the incredible women of The Woman's Club of Clayton that welcomed me on my first day and make me feel like I'm a part of something special every DAY.

Nominees for Clubwoman With Heart



Candidate for
Clubwoman With
Heart

Margaret Lee

It is such an honor to be nominated as this year's club woman with "Heart."

The Woman's Club of Clayton has a special place in my heart. This club has become part of my family. I can truly tell you that I look forward to seeing each and every one of you every time we meet because I know that we all share that giving and loving spirit. We have become more than a club. We are a special sisterhood in Clayton. Here are my main areas of focus and responsibility for The Woman's Club of Clayton:

- Served on the Nominating Committee to identify dedicated individuals for club leadership
- Also serve on the Bylaws Committee to ensure sound policies and procedures are in place to address club needs and priorities.
- Co-chair of Education and Libraries CSP
- Chair for Sallie Southall Cotten and Cybil Champion Community College Scholarships.
- Epsilon Sigma Omicron Club (TWCC club book club.)
- Co-chair of The Woman's Club of Clayton Murder/Mystery Dinner.
- Taste of Carolina Committee

Outside of The Woman's Club, and very dear to my heart:

- Represent The Charcot Marie Tooth (hereditary/neuropathy) District.
 - Serve as a Stephen Minister at my church.
-

Nominees for Clubwoman With Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism



Candidate for Clubwoman With Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism

Debi Beal

It is an honor to be one of the nominations for Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism.

I am a retired NY State Mental Health Training Specialist, with over 30 yrs of service to the Office of Mental Health. Since I was a teenager I remember my parents not making it a choice to "give back". So I've been volunteering all of my life in some form.

When my husband (Lance) and I moved to NC 3 yrs ago, we had never been out of NY. I didn't know what I would do to fulfill my purpose. I was also leaving my Native American tribal family in NY. I danced in competition as a women's traditional dancer for many years for the Ramapough Lenape Nation in NY/NJ.

I once did a podcast speaking on my heritage and I remember being so nervous, I thought I'd surely be asked something I couldn't answer. When we got to the end of the interview I was asked the last question..."Debra, what inspires you?" I was dumbfounded and silent. I had never been asked that question before. I gave it some "quick" thought and answered "helping others".

When I joined the Woman's Club it connected me to everything I've done ever since. I've volunteered as a teacher's aide in the school for the House of Hope in Clayton, for a yr and a half. Now I am the coordinator for our monthly meals provided to the young women at the House of Hope, by our members.

I was introduced to With Love From Jesus, in Clayton, because the Woman's Club had them as a monthly speaker. Now my husband and I have been serving as volunteers and provide consistent monthly donations.

Thanks to our club members I've also had the opportunity to share my Native American Heritage by presenting to some of our schools. Most of them have been to children and young adults but I've also been asked to accommodate a more mature audience. I've been honored to dance in a few Pow Wows since living here. Some in Raleigh and some in Lumberton NC.

I serve in many ways for our church HopeFront in Clayton, although I prefer "behind the scenes" serving, such as making the Pastor's breakfast early morning Sundays. I shine brightest when I'm serving the Lord.

Nominees for Clubwoman With Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism



Candidate for
Clubwoman With
Outstanding Citizen-
ship and Patriotism

Deborah Fuller

It is humbling to be nominated for this award. I joined The Woman's Club in 2022 and have been a member of Health and Wellness CSP since then. It has been an honor to be a part of a group of women who support each other and the community. From 2023 to May 2024 I was a Health and Wellness co-chair. In the fall of 2023 I was nominated/selected to represent our Club and District 8 as the LEADS candidate in 2024. Attending LEADS was an amazing learning experience.

While Health and Wellness co-chair we volunteered at Springbrook Nursing and Rehabilitation. We helped residents with various activities such as making Valentine cards, did chair yoga. We took baked goods for the staff as a thank you for all they do.

I have enjoyed actively participating in projects such as the Arts Festival, collecting plastic bags, Murder Mystery, Lights of Love and Golden Wishes. I am on the Taste of Carolina committee co-leading the 50/50 team as well as asking businesses in Clayton to post our promotion posters. On the day of the event I participate in selling 50/50 tickets, set-up and clean up.

I am currently serving as recording secretary and co-historian of the club. As recording secretary, I am responsible to take accurate minutes, distribute them to the appropriate groups and archive them for future use. As co-historian I worked with the Johnston County Heritage Center to agree to store our older artifacts which included minutes books, scrapbooks, documents from Mrs. Hocutt and other miscellaneous documents. Doing this allows the artifacts to be maintained in a safe environment and allows members to visit the Heritage Center to view our old documents.

Outside of TWCC I enjoy volunteering at my grandchildren's school as a lunch parent. This allows teachers to have lunch outside of the classroom. In honor of my relatives who served their country, I am a member of the Rands Mill DAR Chapter and also serve as their historian. I am also a member of the Captain Samuel A. Ashe UDC Chapter and have held various positions over the years.

Murder Mystery Fundraiser

co-chairs: Betsy Grannis, Susan Johnson, Margaret Lee, & Nancy Maynard



Things to bring to the September meeting:

- Old sneakers
- Wine corks
- Old eyeglasses
- Bingo prizes for seniors
- 1st grade books
- "Reading Pals"
- Items for Springbrook Nursing—[see page 3](#)
- Coloring books
- Crayons
- stickers



In the event of illness or bereavement, members are encouraged to contact Susan Johnson if assistance is needed with meals, errands, etc. Call/Text 919-522-7746 or email gr8100rn@aol.com

VOLUNTEER



The Woman's Club of Clayton clubhouse was transformed into a 1920s traveling ship on January 17 and 18th of 2025. From the minute you spotted the clubhouse, you knew you were in for an adventure!

The steps were roped off with yellow tape, letting you know that a murder had taken place onboard the ship and that you were to enter by the gangplank, the way most people enter onto a ship for a trip.

The outside of our facility was spectacularly transformed to look like a floating ship. Great thanks goes to **MJ Hilliard** and **Jim Quinn** for this beautiful transformation. **Karen Kessler** crafted a wonderful sign welcoming everyone on board.

The inside of the ship was just breathtaking. Each table was adorned with beautiful navy blue anchors that were made by **Karen Kessler**. The mantle was decorated with antique nautical relics on loan to us from **MJ**.

Our bar was absolutely glowing from the top of the room to the bottom with ship rope that was intertwined with beautiful lights. Our barkeepers, **Brenda Gay** and **Brenda Hill**, did a marvelous job of keeping everyone entertained throughout the evening.

Never let it be said that this Woman's Club doesn't have people that don't offer to help make food. Be as servers, bottle washers, or dishwashers. We had over 38 people offer their services during our two nights of entertainment! This also included some husbands that were absolutely fabulous. Thanks, **Lance Beal** and **Lou Mancuso**!

Now for the theatrical part: We have enlisted the talents of Mr. Andrew Wade and his Clayton Theatricals for the past four years and I can say that their performances far exceeded their past performances. These young adults were thanking us for allowing them to perform at the Woman's Club but it is us that are so very thankful for all their work! We had no idea that they enjoy coming as much as we enjoy them performing.

The food at this year's dinner was exceptional. Tons of thanks to all the excellent chefs: **Tina Zimmerman, Patty Jo Johnson, Sarah Brooks, Trish Perna, Marianne Sapsara, Nancy Maynard, Susan Johnson, Julie Ginsler, Jean Cornell, Debi Beal, Nancy Berquist, Jayne Hafer, Patti Farmer, Ginny Kennerly, Deborah Fuller, Barbara Bar- at, Susan Mancuso, Joni Koch, Margaret Lee, Donna Steele, Betsy Grannis, Betty Francies, & Judy Ryan**. Additional thanks to Costco for the Chocolate Cake. We received rave reviews for the food!

Hats off to all those who served...pics of those awesome ladies (and men) on the next several pages!

Many thanks to all that contributed to this year's Murder Mystery dinner! We came close to having complete sell out for both evenings!

GREAT JOB LADIES (and men)!!

WOMEN (& Men) AT WORK!!!!!!



Murder Mystery Dinner



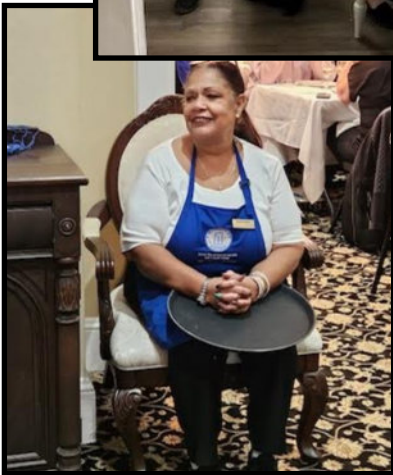
WOMEN (& Men) AT WORK!!!!!!



WOMEN (& Men) AT WORK!!!!!!



Murder
Mystery
Dinner



Recipes Provided
by
Jean Cornell



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

March— Soups

Send your favorite recipes to
jaryan612@gmail.com



Recipe Corner—Superbowl Dips



Many of you enjoyed **Jean Cornell's** Cranberry Orange Cookies and have requested the recipe. These are seriously good!!! So enjoy!

Cranberry Orange Cookies

INGREDIENTS

Cookies:

- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup white sugar
- ½ cup brown sugar, packed
- 1 lg egg
- 2 Tbsp orange juice
- 1 tsp grated orange zest
- 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- ½ tsp baking soda
- ½ tsp salt
- 2 cups chopped cranberries
- ½ cup chopped walnuts (optinal)



Glaze:



- 1 ½ cups confectioners sugar
- 3 Tbsp orange juice
- ½ tsp grated orange zest

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 375 degrees F
- Cream butter, white sugar, brown sugar, until smooth. Beat in egg until well blended. Mix in orange juice and zest.
- Wisk together flour, baking soda, and salt in separate bowl. Stir flour mixture into the butter mixture until combined.
- Mix in cranberries and walnuts until evenly distributed.
- Drop dough by rounded tablespoonfuls 2 inches apart onto ungreased cookie sheet.
- Bake until golden brown (about 12-14 minutes. Transfer cookies to wire rack to cool completely.
- Mix together confectioners sugar, orange juice, and zest in small bowl till smooth.
- Spread glaze over the tops of cooled cookies, let stand until set.

Yield 48 cookies...better make it a double!

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2  Patty Jo Johnson Ground Hog Day 	3  ESO Book Club	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11  Val Taylor	12  Dianne Carroll General Meeting 	13  Kim Loftin	14  Valentine's Day Bingo Senior Center	15
16	17  Night n Gals President's Day	18  Exec Board Meeting	19	20	21	22  Jackie Evans
23  Donna Steele	24	25	26	27	28  Jayne Hafer	