

The Woman's Club of Clayton

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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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Club Chatter



Volume 2025 Number 1

January 2025

From Our President

Trish Perna



Happy New Year, Volunteers! As we step into 2025, let's carry forward the spirit of renewal and excitement that a new year brings. January is a time for fresh starts and inspired action. It's also a time to reflect on the hard work we've already accomplished. I'm thrilled to share that our reports and awards submissions have been successfully sent to GFWC-NC, showcasing the incredible projects and achievements from the past year. Looking back on the holiday season, I'm happy to report that the Christmas Kids and Golden Wishes gifts were received by the recipients, who were incredibly grateful. Our school counselors expressed their appreciation and asked that I pass on their admiration and thanks to all the

club members who help make the Giving Projects a success every year. Your generosity and dedication truly make a difference. Looking ahead, our calendar is already filling up with plans for fantastic fundraisers. The Murder Mystery Dinner is just a few weeks away. Can you solve the murder on the high seas? Not unless you attend! Volunteering to help is a great way to attend. The Taste of Carolina is in March. Buy your tickets early because they go fast! Also, our fun TWCC member silent auction is during the May meeting. Always fun! These events promise to be both impactful and enjoyable, allowing us to continue our tradition of giving back to our community in meaningful ways.

Be sure to stay tuned for details and opportunities to get involved—you won't want to miss them! This new year also brings exciting projects. Stay tuned and get ready. Let's make the most of this new year together. Whether by contributing to a favorite project, sharing ideas, or simply supporting each other's efforts, your energy and commitment are what make our organization thrive. Here's to a year of new opportunities, exciting challenges, and meaningful contributions. Thank you for all that you do to make our club such a vital part of our community. Let's make 2025 unforgettable!



JANUARY

January 1st
New Year's Day

January 6
ESO

January 8
General Meeting

January 10
Bingo Senior Center

January 13
Night n Gals

January 14
Exec Board Meeting

January 17
Murder Mystery

January 18
Murder Mystery

January 18
Fool of Illusions
Clayton Center

January 20
Inauguration Day



Congratulations to **Michael Grannis**. He was voted 2024 Clayton **Citizen of the Year** at the Clayton Chamber of Commerce meeting in December.

December Meeting Highlights

Deborah Fuller

Monthly
Meeting

Devotion: given by **Chauncy Douglas**

President's Welcome: Trish Perna welcomed everyone to our December meeting. Thank you to the Environment CSP for hosting, decorating and feeding us. As we embrace the joy of the season, let's celebrate our shared accomplishments and the spirit of giving defines our club. Together we will make this month meaningful and bright. I want to thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm!

Welcome Guests, New Members, & Visitors: Nancy Maynard introduced two visitors, **Rosemary Confrey** and Peg Altieri and new member **Julie Ginsler**

Program/Guest Speaker: Environment treated everyone to a fun holiday bingo game with prizes.

Business:

Minutes Approval:

October minutes were approved
November minutes were approved

Membership Vote - Bylaws changes: The bylaws changes were in the newsletter and presented to the membership at the November meeting. Voting for acceptance by the general membership was conducted. Vote passes.

Christmas Kids Shoppers:

Tomorrow is the drop off day for gifts. 10:00 am – 10:30 am here at the clubhouse. Most members have already been reimbursed by the Treasurer.

Golden Wishes:

As you shop and deliver to your seniors, please provide your receipts with your name written on them to Karen for reimbursement.

Officer Reports:

2nd Vice President:

As we begin the new year, it is time to begin thinking about our club-

woman awards. If there is someone that you would like to nominate for Clubwoman of the Year, Outstanding Citizenship and Patriotism, or Clubwoman with "Heart", please submit the member's name and the reason for your suggestion to me.

Corresponding Secretary:

Susan read cards that had been received since our last meeting.

Treasurer:

The Clayton Civitan Club Silent auction brought in \$1791. The Civitan usually donates half of that back to our club. Our half of the 50/50 Raffle take was over \$600. At their last business meeting, however, the Civitan members voted to give us at least \$2000; even if the auction and 50/50 didn't make that amount. Instead, they are going to give us even more! We will be getting a check for \$2328.00!!

CSP, Committee, Special Project Reports

Taste of Carolina Committee:

Our first committee meeting was in November. The Taste of Carolina event is scheduled for March 22, 2025.

In response to some feedback, we will not have outside seating. The ticket price will be \$75.00 each. A reserved table option will be offered at \$100.00 to reserve plus the ticket price. Each reserved table must be paid in advance.

WIN Festival of Trees Event:

Our patriotic themed tree won the Most Whimsical Award. Thank you to **Brenda Gay** for the beautiful design and thank you to **Karen Keeslar** for assisting **Brenda**.

Murder Mystery Committee:

Tickets will be available by the time you receive the minutes. Please reach out to **Nancy Maynard** to purchase. Volunteers are needed to help with this event. Please sign up with **Betsy Grannis** or **Margaret Lee**.

Health & Wellness CSP

Co Chairs: Tina Zimmerman and Marianne Sapsara



JANUARY

- 1-1 Brenda Gay
- 1-12 Marianne Sapsara
- 1-16 Angela Williams
- 1-17 Robin Sachsenheimer
- 1-22 Joni Koch
- 1-24 Dixie Brady
- 1-31 Margaret Lee

I for one am glad the holidays are over! Everyone is rushed, spending too much money, cleaning those crevasses that no one but you will notice, and eating all the wrong foods. Next year, I am moving a TV and a comfy chair into the kitchen because that's where I seem to live from a week before Thanksgiving until the new year!

Can I see a show of hands for those that have vowed to get in shape in 2025? Well, I am one of them. I joined the YMCA and am hoping that the bank draft isn't the only activity that will be happening. Be sure to check with your Medicare Advantage plan to see what sort of fitness benefits may be available.

The Health and Wellness CSP has been busy with "Holiday" events. One of our newer members, **Debby Smith**, treated the girls and staff at House of Hope to a delicious feast. Thank you, **Debby Smith** and **Debi Beal**, for managing the monthly meals for House of Hope.



The seniors at The Clayton Center for Active Aging were decked out in their finest holiday attire for the December Bingo. **Judy Ryan** had some special Christmas prizes for those lucky winners last month.

Now that we're past the holidays, please take some time for yourself and have a glass of red wine (don't forget to save the cork for the Environment CSP).



Betsy Grannis, Loretta Mascia, Judy Ryan having a festive lunch.



Happy New Year!!!!

A special thanks to **Chauncy Douglas** for stepping in to be the new TWCC Chaplain. We extend best wishes to **Sandy Nesselrode** as she seeks recovery for ongoing sciatic nerve pain and discomfort.



Education & Libraries CSP

Co-Chairs: Margaret Lee & Donna Steele



Leadership is an
action, not a position

Donald McCannon

*'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



**NOTHING IS AS
STRONG AS THE HEART
OF A VOLUNTEER**

JIMMY DOOLITTLE

Thank you again for our volunteer members who volunteered at Wilsons Mills Elementary this month. By volunteering, the teachers get to lunch together before Christmas break.

January is the month for high school seniors to apply for and be interviewed for the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship.

The deadline for the application is January 16th at 10:00 am.

If you know seniors who want to apply, the high school counselors at Corinth Holder, Cleveland, Clayton and Johnston Community College Early College Academy have applications.

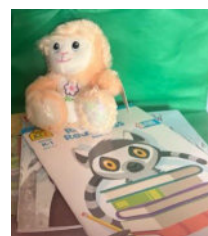
The TWCC also offers the Sybil Champion Community Scholarship for a senior who will be attending a community college. **The deadline for this scholarship is January 16th at 10:00 am at the high schools listed above.**

The scholarship committee is made up of **Sandy Nesselrode, Ginny Kennerly, and Margaret Lee** with **Susan Mancuso** as an observer.

They will interview the applicants at the high schools on January 21st, 22nd or 23rd.

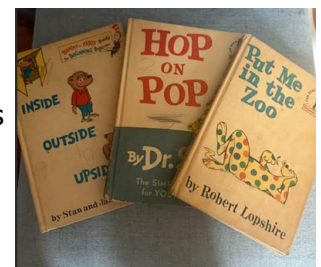
Looking forward to 2025 with these projects: We need volunteers to sign up at the General Meetings

Reading Across America at Cooper and Wilson Mills: **March 3-7** celebrating Dr. Seuss's birthday.



Puppet Show for Cooper and Wilsons Mills: **Date to be determined**

Book Bags with 'Reading Buddies' for students at Cooper and Wilson Mills to encourage children to read during the summer months.



Night 'N' Gals



The **Night 'N' Gals** will meet via Zoom on MONDAY, January 13th 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.

Laurie Partlo had surgery in December. Please remember to say a prayer for her recovery.

Marlene Dillon had a fall a week before Christmas. She has broken the upper part of her left arm. Please include her in your thoughts and prayers.

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

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

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 excited to be hosting the first meeting of the new year. We look forward to seeing everyone. Happy New Year to all.



Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP

Co-Chairs: Susan Johnson and Karen Kessler



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 Kessler** who joined volunteers from other organizations to shop for the items that will be provided to their families.

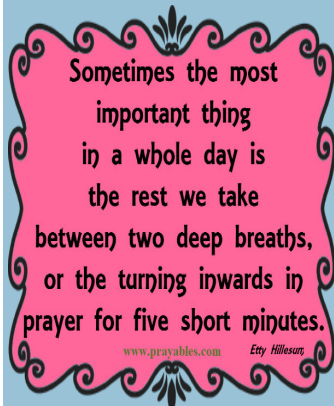
Shoppers:

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



Environment

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



Plastic weights reported by members to date:
October - 42.4 lbs
November - 117.6 lbs
December - 113.70 lbs
Total To Date - 273.7
Goal: 1000 lbs
If you have not reported your weight yet, please send to **Carrole Dayton**

Fairy Garden

The Environmental CSP is creating a Fairy Garden at the downtown Clayton Community Garden.

The members meet in October to decide on a plan for the garden and develop stages for the creation appropriate to the seasons.

Rhonda Nielsen and **Cecilia Soporowska** painted the wood frame box Clayton Women's Club blue.

Next **Carrole** and **Rhonda** shopped for Bonsai plants, Spring bulbs and one anchor plant. The Bonsai's are currently wintering at **Carrole's** until early Spring.



If any club members have miniature figures or objects that might fit in the fairy Garden contact **Rhonda Nielsen** at rhonda.nielsen59@gmail.com

Just waiting for warmer weather to complete the next stages.



Art Festival

Chair: Susan Johnson



Last call for entries in the Art Festival to be held at the Clayton Center on Thursday, February 6th, at 6:00. Bring your work to the General Meeting in January, or to the Executive Board Meeting that month. **Angela Williams** will collect visuals and crafts. **Margaret Lee** will collect Literature. Or you can contact **Susan Johnson** for a scheduled pickup.

Once again, the categories will be photography, visual arts, crafts, and literature. The printed guidelines for each category from GFWC-NC are available upon request to **Susan Johnson**. Bring your entries to the general meeting on January 8th, or to the Executive Board meeting on January 14th.

Our club will provide refreshments during the event. A list will be available during the January 8th meeting at the Clubhouse, or you can contact **Susan Johnson** directly at 919-522-7746 to sign up for donations or to assist with serving. Suggested items are small sandwiches, nuts, small brownies, small cookies, chips in small bags, wrapped candy, juice and/or small water bottles.





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



Lynn Wiss, GFWC-NC
ESO State Chair
wisslynneso@gmail.com



Our Epsilon Sigma Omicron book club met at the Cleveland Draft House on December 2nd for our Lunch/Meeting. Members present were **Marianne Sapsara, Donna Steele, Marlene Dillon, Betty Francies, Ginny Kennerly, Patty Jo Johnson, Margaret DiNubila, Brenda Gay, and Jean Cornell.** We all enjoyed getting in the holiday spirit visiting with one another, enjoying good food, and reporting on our books.

The following are a few book reports from members:

"The Paris Library" by Janet Skeslien (Genre: Historical Fic) report by **Brenda Gay**

"Hillbilly Elegy" by J. D. Vance (Genre: Memoir) report by **Marianne Sapsara**

"The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store" by James McBride (Genre: General Fic) report also by **Marianne Sapsara**

"The Golden Spoon" by Jessa Maxwell (Genres: Mystery, Historical Fic, Christian Fic) report by **Donna Steele**

"The Golden Spoon" by Jessa Maxwell (Genres: Mystery, Historical Fic, Christian Fic) report by **Donna Steele**

December was a busy month with conflicting schedules that prevented some of our members from being with us. We missed you!

Members, we need to come up with an ESO project. Please email your ideas and we can discuss them at our meeting in January. **Mark your calendar for Monday, January 6th at The Woman's Club of Clayton. We usually meet at 10:00 a.m. but come a little earlier to enjoy coffee with refreshments.**

By the time this news article goes out, we will have celebrated the New Year.

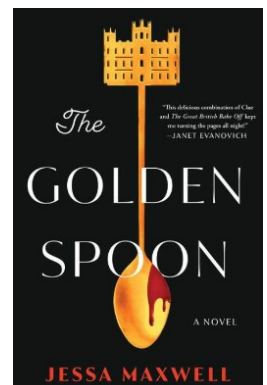
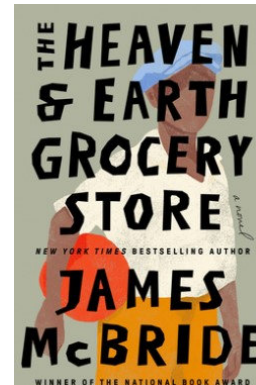
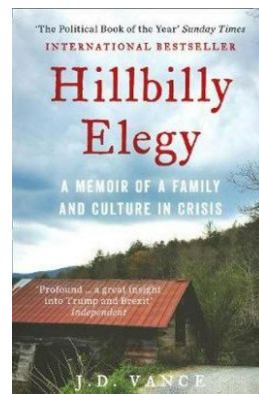
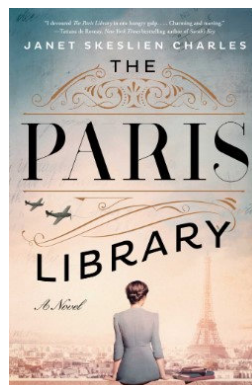
Happy New Year from my house to your houses.



Menu

- Pulled Pork
- Coleslaw
- Mac n Cheese
- Collards

The Art/Culture will host & provide
Fresh Apple Cake





Clubwoman Awards for Jan 1, 2024 – Dec 31, 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.

If you would like to submit a member name for the Awards Nominating Committee to consider, please do so in writing with the name and reason for your suggestion to:

Nancy Maynard
2nd Vice President
mothermaynard@hotmail.com



Christie Latham and Brenda Gay help Santa deliver Golden Wishes to Jack & Francis Barbour



Ho Ho Ho!!
Christmas Kids Packages

WELCOME
NEW MEMBERS



Please welcome **Julie Ginsler**. She will be sharing her talents with Education and Libraries.

Also welcome **Rosemary Confrey** (not pictured). Will be working her magic with Civic Engagement Organization.

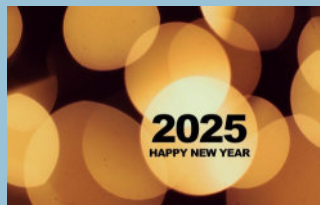
THE BIT BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEARS, WHERE YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS, WHO YOU ARE, OR WHAT YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING...



December Library Window

Murder Mystery Dinner

January 17th & 18th



A Prayer for New Beginnings

Heavenly Father, as we prepare to welcome a new year, I seek Your guidance for new beginnings. Help me to let go of past mistakes and embrace fresh starts with a heart full of hope. Grant me the strength and wisdom to pursue new goals and to make positive changes in my life. May Your hand be upon me as I step into this new chapter, and may Your blessings overflow in every area of my life. Thank You for the promise of new beginnings in You. Amen.



Women In Networking Festival of Trees

The Clayton WIN Festival celebrated its 5th year with over 30 beautifully decorated trees competing for awards. These festive creations were sold in a silent auction, with proceeds benefiting Clayton Women in Networking (WIN) and their mission to empower and support the community. "The Patriotic Tree" was submitted by TWCC and was decorated by **Brenda Gay** and **Karen Keeslar**. Their design symbolized respect for the U.S. Flag,



a deep desire for the country's success, and an enduring love for the nation. The tree earned the "Most Whimsical" Award, a well-deserved honor. Congratulations to **Brenda** and **Karen** for their creative contribution to this year's festival!





Things to bring to the September meeting:

- Old sneakers
- Wine corks
- Old eyeglasses
- Bingo prizes for seniors
- 1st grade books
- Checkbook for Murder Mystery tickets



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



Donation to With Love From Jesus

When we learned that a generous donor was matching contributions for a limited time, we didn't hesitate to act. We quickly made our annual donation to *With Love from Jesus*, ensuring our gift would have twice the impact. Similarly, the Boys & Girls Club of Johnston County (formerly "My Kids Club") received a challenge grant from a donor, with the goal of matching that grant by year's end. Without delay, TWCC responded by contributing our annual donation to help them meet this important goal.

Together, we're making a difference—one matched donation at a time!



GFWC-NC District 8 Board Meeting January 18, 2025

I hereby call all District 8 Club Presidents, District Officers, Community Service Program Chairmen, and Committee Chairmen to the District 8 Board Meeting, January 18, 2025, from 10am – 12pm, at The Walk at East Village Clubhouse, 49 Bladen Place in Clayton. Turn into the development from Front Street; turn right at the second street (Bladen Place); parking lot will be to your left; clubhouse is the big building.

Betsy Grannis, District 8 President

December 23, 2024

Tentative Agenda

- Call to Order
- Thought for the day
- Minutes of Fall Meeting
- Treasurer's Report including proposed 2024-2025 budget
- Discussion of CDs and other District 8 Funds
- LEADS Candidate
- Arts Festival
- Scholarships
- Other Business

Important Reminders

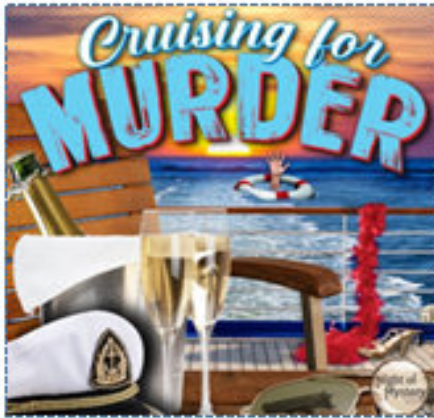
District dues (\$4 per club member, make check payable to GFWC-NC District 8) should be sent to District 8 Treasurer Kismet Matthews, 205 Weaver Drive, Williamston, NC 27892; C: 252-916-7110; matthews,kismet@gmail.com.

The GFWC-NC State Statistical Form (SSF) is a mandatory report and due to GFWC-NC 1st Vice President, Ashley Rain, by February 1; ashley.blake,rain@gmail.com; 919-271-6100.

There are no awards judged on the district level. Submit awards to appropriate GFWC-NC chairmen.

SSCS and Community College Scholarship application packages are due to Brenda Gay, 205 Avenel Lane, Clayton, NC 27527, by February 1st.

Murder Mystery Dinner



The Woman's Club of Clayton invites you to a
Murder Mystery Dinner
enacted by Clayton Theatricals

When: 6:00 pm

Friday, January 17, 2025

Saturday, January 18, 2025

Where: The Woman's Club of Clayton Clubhouse
109 Church Street, Clayton, NC

Cost: \$40/person (Includes dinner and show)
Wine sold by the glass

Join us at your own risk...for dinner and a murder

For Tickets, call or text Nancy at 815-274-4446

Murder Mystery Dinner Volunteers

Happy New Year!!! We are so excited for our upcoming fundraising event, the Murder Mystery Dinner, on January 17th and 18th at our clubhouse! **Margaret Lee** and **Nancy Maynard** are heading up the event and many others are working hard to make this a special experience for all that attend. You will be dazed and amazed at the transformation of our clubhouse!

It takes a village to produce this wonderful fundraiser and we are looking for a few more volunteers to help make this all happen. We had signup sheets available at our December meeting for various food item donations as well as the request for help for both evenings for setup, serving, cleanup, etc. If you were not at the meeting and missed the opportunity to sign up we have attached the signup sheets here so that you can see where we need more help. We will also have them at the January meeting for your convenience.

Some further information for the food items follows so that you may know what you are signing up to bring. For the Salad portions, we are asking each person to bring a large square plastic container of spring mix and a large bag of iceberg garden mix. For the Potatoes, we will order the large (#10) cans of small potatoes and have them available at our meeting for you to take home and prepare for that day (cost is \$7.00/can). You will boil the potatoes and add butter and seasonings and bring them hot to the clubhouse. The Green Bean Almondine recipe requires two pounds of fresh green beans for each portion. The Pig Pickin' Cake is a simple sheet cake recipe using yellow cake mix and mandarin oranges, etc.

You will receive the recipe for each of these items by email or in person at the January meeting. If you have any questions, please just contact **Betsy** at: 919-306-5804. We will also have the aluminum half steam pans that we would like the hot food delivered in available to you at the meeting; this insures that it will fit in the hot box to keep it warm.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this a successful fundraiser for our club!!



**Recipes Provided
by
Judy Ryan**



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

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



Each month will feature recipes by category

February—Winter Soups

Send your favorite recipes to
jaryan612@gmail.com



Vidalia Onion Dip

INGREDIENTS

- 1 Tbsp butter, or as needed
- 1 1/4 cups chopped sweet Vidalia onion
- 2/3 cup mayonnaise
- 2 cups shredded Swiss cheese



DIRECTIONS

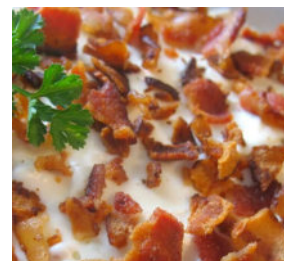
Preheat oven to 350 degrees
Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. Cook and stir sweet onions in hot butter until browned, 5-7 minutes; transfer to a bowl. Add mayonnaise to the onion and stir; pour into a 9x13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle Swiss cheese over the mixture.
Bake in preheated oven until the top is bubbling and lightly golden, about 35 minutes

Yield: 4 cups

WORLDS BEST BACON CHEESE DIP

INGREDIENTS

- 4 slices bacon
- 1 (8oz) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 8 oz Swiss cheese, shredded
- 2 green onions, finely chopped
- 4 buttery round crackers, crushed



DIRECTIONS

Place bacon in a large skillet. Cook over medium-high heat until evenly brown. Drain, crumble, and set aside
In a small bowl, mix the cream cheese with mayonnaise until smooth. Stir in Swiss cheese, onions, and bacon. Place bowl in microwave, and cook 2 minutes. Remove, and stir well. Return to microwave, and cook 2-4 minutes more. Sprinkle crushed crackers on top. Serve warm with crackers.

Yield: 16 servings

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1  Brenda Gay New Year's Day	2	3	4
5	6  ESO Epiphany	7 	8  General Meeting	9	10 	11
12  Marianne Sapsara	13  Night n Gals	14  Exec Board Meeting	15	16  Angela Williams	17  Robin Sachsenheimer 	18 Fool of Illusions Clayton Center 
19	20 Martin Luther King b-day	21	22  Joni Koch 'Taste' meeting	23	24  Dixie Brady	25 Painting Minis in Cold Wax Artmosphere
26	27	28	29 Chinese Lunar New Year	30	31  Margaret Lee	