



GFWC

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**GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS**

CONNECTICUT

FEBRUARY 2026-

February is a month of love – love for our fellow sisters, love for our wonderful Federation, and love for a world enriched by cultural diversity.

February is also Black History Month, a time to honor and celebrate the many influential Black women who have made profound contributions to our culture and to the ongoing pursuit of equity and inclusion – throughout history and into the present day.

Civil Rights & Social Justice

Harriet Tubman

A conductor on the Underground Railroad who led enslaved people to freedom and later served as a Union spy and nurse.

Rosa Parks

Her refusal to give up her bus seat sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and helped ignite the modern civil rights movement.

Fannie Lou Hamer

A powerful advocate for voting rights and co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

Shirley Chisholm

First Black woman elected to the U.S. Congress and first Black woman to seek a major party's presidential nomination.

Angela Davis

Scholar and activist focused on prison abolition, racial justice, and feminism.

Literature & Thought Leadership

Toni Morrison

Nobel Prize-winning author who explored Black identity, trauma, and resilience in works like *Beloved*.

Maya Angelou

Author of *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, centering voice, trauma, and dignity.

Bell Hooks

Explored love, feminism, race, and education in deeply accessible language.

Audre Lorde

Wrote powerfully about intersectionality, anger, and identity before the term was widely used.

Mental Health & Psychology

Joy DeGruy

Author of *Post Traumatic Slave Syndrome*, examining generational trauma in Black communities.

Beverly Daniel Tatum

Author of *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria?* exploring racial identity development.

Mamie Phipps Clark

Co-conducted the “doll studies” that contributed to *Brown v. Board of Education*.

STEM & Medicine

Katherine Johnson

NASA mathematician whose calculations were critical to U.S. space missions.

Mae Jemison

First Black woman to travel in space.

Henrietta Leavitt

An astronomer whose work on Cepheid variables helped measure cosmic distances. *(Note: not Black, included only if expanding beyond Black History Month.)*

Arts, Music & Culture

Nina Simone

Used music to address racial injustice and civil rights.

Aretha Franklin

The “Queen of Soul,” whose music became an anthem for empowerment.

Alvin Ailey

Founder of the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater, elevating Black dance traditions.

Politics & Contemporary Leadership

Kamala Harris

First Black and first woman Vice President of the United States.

Stacey Abrams

Voting rights advocate and political organizer.

Michelle Obama

Attorney and author who focused on education, health, and empowerment initiatives.



GFWC CT QUILT DESIGN CONTEST

In honor of the 250th anniversary of the United States, GFWC will be creating a quilt to be displayed at headquarters. Each state will submit a square to represent our federation. Knowing that we have so many talented quilters, CT will be holding a design contest to decide what pattern we will use and who will piece the square for our submission. Squares will need to have a 9 x 9" finished space with a ½" border all around. Later, Connecticut will be added to the square via embroidery, so keep that in mind.

Send your design submissions to Wendy Clery by March 31 at wendyGFWClady@gmail.com. A winner will be chosen at the May Convention. The winner will then have until July 25, 2026 to complete the square. We can't wait to see what you create!



At the February meeting, we began handing out forms for clubs to update their contact information along with a few questions about your general club information, club needs, and basic club processes. If you were unable to attend the meeting, additional forms have been mailed to you. Please try to return to President Elect Wendy Clery at your district day events or mail to her directly if you prefer. Thank you for helping us stay in touch and support you in all you do.



There are more than 180 unofficial literary “holidays” for readers, writers, poets, and authors. March is National Literacy Month, and you can participate in Grammar Day, Write Your Story Day, and Pencil Day. April is National Poetry Month. Be sure to encourage a Young Writer on April 10. May is National Short Story Month. The list of literary “holidays” goes on... Every day is a day to celebrate writing.

Celebrate club members and students who are poets and short story writers, and submit their entries to your state Writing Contest Chairman. *GFWC CT Chairman is Sara Newell, sdn0114@gmail.com.* All entries must be submitted to her no later than March 10, 2026.

Contest Details:

- ~ Entries must be: Typed, double-spaced, and one-inch minimum margins on the top, bottom, and both
- ~ Sides and printed on white 8.5 x 11-inch paper, one side only. OR Microsoft Word file and emailed.
- ~ Entries must be written during the contest year (January 1-December 31).
- ~ Entries must include the following information on the top right-hand corner of each page:
 - ~ Author’s name, email address, mailing address, and phone number, Name of author’s GFWC club and State -Federation, Category, Title of work, Page number.
 - ~ Authors must be amateurs. Earnings from writing may not exceed \$500 annually.
 - ~ Entries may not have been published prior to the competition.
- Entries must be original work created solely by the author without the use of AI or similar tools.
- ~ A completed, signed GFWC Creative Arts Waiver must be included with each submission.
- ~ Short stories are limited to 2,000 words. Word count must be included at the end of the story.
- ~ Poetry entries can be any style with a minimum length of eight lines and a maximum of 50 lines.

Entries are limited to one per member per category. Please see the GFWC Club Manual for student writing and poetry contest requirements.

Protocol, Deadlines, Cancellations and Quorum

Protocol transcends rules — it is the embodiment of good manners, friendliness, and kindness, ensuring that every officer, member, and guest is given proper recognition and respect. When we, as GFWC clubwomen, put our best foot forward by adhering to protocol, we can build lasting impressions, foster respect, and uphold our values on the international stage.

Deadlines are a form of Protocol. The Call to Meeting for our events carries a deadline for reservation which is tied to the payment which will be made to the facility where we meet. Our Standing Rules have a provision for wait lists after that date. Late reservations and changes after the deadline create a difficult situation for the Meeting Chairman. While sometimes she can add to reservations, we cannot reduce that guaranteed number.

At the February Board of Directors meeting, we had very bad weather. Many people cancelled their reservations, many people just did not come to the event. Surplus food was donated to the Public Works Department who made sure our parking lot and side walks were cleared. We thank the attendees who did send cancellations – so actions could be taken to reach a quorum. We applaud those who were able to attend.

PINNING!

GFWC Suburban Woman's Club of Greater New Britain recently had a ceremony "pinning". Their members with GFWC Membership pins. I am so glad I was able to be

there.



GFWC CT Club Development

There are 8 clubs in CT that are over 100 years old. There are 4 clubs which were federated in this century. That changed February 7. Our Bylaws require that clubs asking to become part of the Federation submit a letter of intent, present their bylaws, submit a roster of a minimum of 5 members and pay their dues. Our February Board of Directors meeting included a vote to include two new clubs in GFWC CT. Those two clubs were both changes for our Federation. GFWC Killingworth Women's Organization Juniores and the GFWC 1897 Club of CT were both inducted into our state federation. The KWO Juniores started with 7 members. The 1897 Club, which is a virtual club, started with 6 members.





Mark Your Calendar for April 7 Webinar: "Dancing With Your Brain!"

Dancing With Your Brain with Amy Peele is a webinar designed to help you partner with your brain to create sweeter sleep, calmer days, and more energized living. Register now for **Tuesday, April 7, @ 7 PM ET: *Dancing with your Brain***.

GFWC Clubwoman Magazine - Winter 2026



Inside this issue:

- * GFWC Learning Academy: Our New Online Learning Platform
- * 2026-2028 GFWC Candidates for Office
- * Articles by GFWC Honorary Chairmen
- * Community Service Programs' Chairmen Tips & Projects
- * The 2026 GFWC Annual Convention, June 26-30, in Scottsdale, AZ
- * 2026 GFWC Women's History Month Celebration:
Historic Heroines

To download your copy: <https://www.gfwc.org/clubwoman-magazine/>

GFWC CT CALENDAR – updated 2026

- April 1 Memorial Scholarship Applications Due to Sponsor Club
- March-April GFWC CT District Meetings: North Central 3/28, Southeast 4/11, Southwest 4/14, Northwest 4/25
- April 19-25 GFWC Volunteers in Action Week
- April 24 GFWC Federation Day
- May 15-16 GFWC CT May Convention Hilton Garden Inn – Windsor, CT.
Hotel Registration Link:
<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/bdlwhgi-90g-ecf9bf32-4205-4b4c-af1d-06a811811155/>
- June 26–29 GFWC 2026 Annual Convention
Westin Kierland Resort & Spa, Scottsdale, Arizona
Hotel Registration Link:
https://book.passkey.com/event/51125855/owner/8712/home?utm_source=brev&utm_campaign=News%20%20Notes%20-%20January%2015%202026&utm_medium=email

Living the Volunteer Spirit Photos: All those great photos of Club Women at our events, working on projects and enjoying their club - I hope to see 27-29 entries in this category at the District Days.

GFWC CT 2024-2026 Administration Focus: Access and Inclusion for All - What Did Your Club Do?

As the final reports for GFWC CT are being written to record the history of the 2024-2026 administration, we want to include all you have done to support this focus. Send me a few sentences and a photo and we will see them at the May Convention.

GFWC Newington Wethersfield Women's Club had a speaker from PATH, Inc. recently. Please share their information with your community.



<https://pathct.org/>

Finally – SAVE THE DATE – MAY CONVENTION

May Convention will be May 16 at the Hilton Garden Inn, Windsor. Our guest will be Dr. Susan Gettys, GFWC Secretary. She is from Missouri and will be a keynote speaker.

Hotel registration link:

<https://www.hilton.com/en/attend-my-event/bdlwhgi-90q-ecf9bf32-4205-4b4c-af1d-06a811811155/>

Kind Hearts, Brave Minds, Fierce Spirits! Our members make a difference.

Yours in Federation,

Kathy Barnes

2024-2026 President General Federation of Women's Clubs of Connecticut