

# 125 FACTS

## 125 Milestones and Intriguing Facts About GFWC

As the General Federation of Women's Clubs celebrates 125 years of *Living the Volunteer Spirit*, it's important to reflect on the accomplishments that have made GFWC an organization of global change. These names, places, facts, and figures are a testament to the incredible work of GFWC clubwomen in responding to the needs of the local, national, and international community. The lessons learned and experienced gained through this action give credence to the value of organized volunteer service. Taken as a whole, they weave a story of international volunteerism and members dedicated to strengthening their communities and enhancing the lives of others. Together, they are the story of GFWC.

1868

Professional journalist **JANE CUNNINGHAM CROLY WAS DENIED ENTRANCE** to an all-male press club event and responds by organizing a woman's club. Jennie June, as she was known, names the club Sorosis, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."



1889

The Sorosis Club of New York City convenes 61 women's clubs from around the country to organize a federation. Sorosis President Ella Dietz Clymer closed her address at the March conference with the words, "**WE LOOK FOR UNITY, BUT UNITY IN DIVERSITY.**" The original GFWC pin was designed and commissioned by the Committee on the Federation Badge Pin featuring this quote in 1892.

1890

On April 24, at the Scottish Rite Hall in New York City, 63 delegates from 17 states **RATIFY THE CONSTITUTION** of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Clubwoman Julia Ward Howe, poet and social activist who wrote the lyrics of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," was one of the constitution's authors.



Although the term "**GLOBAL SOCIETY**" was not part of the vocabulary of the day, the forwardthinking founders of GFWC chose General Federation instead of National Federation with the intention of including women from **ALL** over the world.

1891

The first GFWC council meets in West Orange, New Jersey. After a luncheon hosted by his wife Mina, inventor **THOMAS A. EDISON INVITES GFWC DELEGATES** to his lab for a demonstration of the kintoscope, an early motion picture projector.



1893

**THE FIRST PUBLIC EXHIBIT OF CLUB MATERIALS** including yearbooks, guides, work plans, and photographs of clubhouses was at the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago within the Woman's Building.

1898

GFWC publishes the first History of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. It was written by Jane Cunningham Croly and titled **THE HISTORY OF THE WOMAN'S MOVEMENT IN AMERICA**. Charlotte Emerson Brown, first President of GFWC, was originally asked by the Board of Directors to compile the history but died abruptly in 1895.



1900

**A PROGRAM OF TRAVELING LIBRARIES BEGAN** with small rotating collections sent to rural communities.



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1900

The Indiana Federation of Clubs was the only state organization that made an obvious **ALLOWANCE FOR MALE MEMBERS** by omitting "Women's" from their name.

1901

Chicago clubwoman and social reformer Jane Addams headed **GFWC'S CHILD LABOR COMMITTEE** to advocate for legislation restricting child labor.



The 56th Congress of the United States of America granted the General Federation of Women's Clubs a **FEDERAL CHARTER**.



1904

Clubwoman Alice Lahey (New Jersey) initiated a letter-writing drive to **ADVOCATE FOR PURE FOOD LEGISLATION**. Taking up Lahey's passion, GFWC promoted a nationwide awareness campaign that led to the passage of the Pure Food and Drug Act in 1906.



GFWC established a **BUREAU OF INFORMATION IN PORTSMOUTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE**, to benefit GFWC members by preserving the organization's historic archives, distributing valuable program resources, and building a positive working relationship between GFWC members and staff.

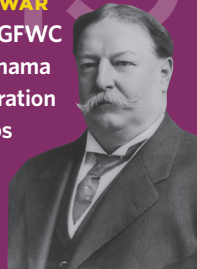
1906

GFWC's Art Committee assembled its **FIRST TRAVELING ART GALLERY** of original works by American artists. Loaned to GFWC clubs nationwide for only the cost of postage, the exhibits expanded the appreciation and collection of American art.



1907

At the **REQUEST OF U.S. SECRETARY OF WAR WILLIAM TAFT**, GFWC organizes the Panama Canal Zone Federation of Women's Clubs to improve the civic life of the community.



1908

GFWC International President Sarah Chase Platt-Decker was invited by President Roosevelt to attend the Conference of Governors at the White House. Invitations had gone to all Governors, members of Congress, Cabinet, Supreme Court, and national organizations. **MRS. DECKER WAS THE ONLY WOMAN INVITED.**

1909

U.S. President William H. Taft **SENT GFWC INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT EVA PERRY MOORE** (1908-1912) to the **PANAMA CANAL ZONE** to organize a woman's club to improve the quality of life for workers and their families.

1910s

GFWC supported legislation for the **EIGHT-HOUR WORKDAY**, workplace safety and inspection, workmen's compensation, and prison reform.



1912

**GFWC CREATED A PEACE COMMITTEE** within the Federation's Education Department. Under the leadership of California clubwoman Lone Cowles, GFWC emphasized the need to support community peace initiatives and provide resources for club peace programs.

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1912

20

President Taft appointed Chicago clubwoman **JULIA LATHROP AS CHIEF OF THE CHILDREN'S BUREAU**. GFWC worked with the bureau to promote public healthcare for mothers and infants.



1915

In the fall of 1915, the Children's Bureau partners with GFWC to promote **NATIONAL BABY WEEK, MARCH 4-11, 1916**.



1916

At the time of GFWC's Biennial Convention, when Lone Cowles is elected GFWC International President, most State Federations had active peace committees. **GFWC CONTINUED TO PROMOTE PEACE** until America is drawn into world conflict in February 1917.

1917

Immediately after President Wilson's announcement that diplomatic relations with Germany had been severed, **GFWC RESPONDED WITH A TELEGRAM OF SUPPORT**: "The General Federation of Women's Clubs stands loyally behind the government. It is our desire to serve the nation to the best of our ability."

**GFWC ESTABLISHED THE WAR SERVICE OFFICE** at 415-416 Maryland Building, 1410 H Street, Washington, D.C., noting, "this Service Office had been created to be the actuary between the Departments of the General Federation and the Departments of Washington."

The Council of National Defense appointed GFWC International President Lone Cowles (1916-1920) to the newly created Woman's Committee. Collaborating with the YMCA, **GFWC CREATED THE OVERSEAS SERVICE UNIT** of about 100 young women to assist with the war effort.

1921

Recognizing that Native Americans were denied citizenship rights, **GFWC CREATED AN INDIAN WELFARE COMMITTEE** at their 1921 Salt Lake City, Utah, Council Meeting, the precursor of a GFWC Board Meeting.



Through the efforts of Chicago clubwoman Julia Lathrop, the **SHEPPARD-TOWNER ACT OF 1921**, also known as the **MATERNITY ACT, WAS PASSED**.

1922

**THE FEDERATION PURCHASED 1734 N STREET NW** in Washington, D.C., for its Headquarters.



A **JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE WAS ESTABLISHED** at the 1922 Biennial in Chautauqua, New York.

29

1925

**GFWC MEMBERS ORGANIZED A NATIONWIDE SURVEY** on household technology in American homes and produced a five-part Home Equipment Primer to educate families on utilizing available utilities to maximize laborsaving. As a result of this campaign, "homemaker" was included as an identified occupation for the first time in the 1930 United States census.



1927

**THE PAINTING TITLED "THE WOMAN'S CLUB" BY DAVID ROBINSON** was published in *McCall* magazine to accompany Dorothy Canfield's article "3,000,000 Women." It was later exhibited in Nebraska and presented to GFWC in honor of the first GFWC International President from Nebraska, Flavia Camp Canfield, the writer's mother.

1930

The American Library Association credited GFWC with establishing **75% OF AMERICA'S PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**



On January 8, 1930, U.S. President Herbert Hoover greeted the GFWC Board of Directors on the Navy Steps of the State, War, and Navy Building, now called the Eisenhower Executive Building. During the meeting, **PRESIDENT HOOVER ASKED CLUBWOMEN TO PROMOTE THE UPCOMING LONDON NAVAL CONFERENCE** (January 22-April 22, 1930). The London Naval Conference brought together the United States, Great Britain, France, Italy, and Japan to discuss limiting naval armaments.

**GFWC ADOPTS THE PENNY ART FUND,**

originated by Clubwoman Nellie Wright Allen (New Jersey). State Federations collected one cent per member, and used the funds to purchase works by state artists, mount traveling exhibits, recognize clubs that best promoted art with awards, and provide art scholarships.



35

At the GFWC Convention held in Denver, Colorado, **THE JUNIOR PLEDGE**, authored by Mrs. Helen Cheney Kimberly of California, was introduced.

**THE FIRST PAN-AMERICAN FELLOWSHIPS WERE AWARDED**

to qualified students from Latin-American countries, enabling them to pursue graduate work in the United States.

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1932

The first national meeting of the honorary educational society, **EPSILON SIGMA OMICRON**, is held at the GFWC Convention in Seattle, Washington. Founded in 1928 by the Indiana Federation of Clubs, ESO promotes self-improvement through a planned reading program.

**THE JUNIOR DEPARTMENT WAS ESTABLISHED**

in response to an increasing number of younger women participating in volunteer community service.



1934

GFWC's Division on Public Health created the Women's Field Army in partnership with the American Society for the Control of Cancer, now the **AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY.** Hugely successful, the initiative raised public awareness and funding to promote cancer prevention and early detection.



40

GFWC began a 10-year study to review the proposed **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.**



1936

**GFWC PUBLISHES HOMESPUN,** an anthology of poetry "to encourage and foster talent, whether new or latent, in the creative hearts of those clubwomen who seek poetic expression."

1940

GFWC formally **ADOPTED THE RED ROSE** as the Federation's official flower.



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1941

During Golden Jubilee Celebrations, **GFWC RECOGNIZED MEMBERS AS PIONEER CLUBWOMEN.**

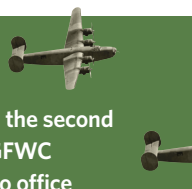
Women were chosen on the club, state, and GFWC levels. The purpose was to encourage more clubwomen to become familiar with “the great struggles of their predecessors in their efforts to develop women and women’s activities...and to make our women cognizant of the necessity of working to preserve that status.”



GFWC established a new Department of National Defense, and in January 1942, holds a series of **NATIONAL DEFENSE FORUMS** in Washington, D.C., as part of its Board of Directors Meeting. More than 1,000 women attended sessions led by national leaders in all areas related to the committees within the new department.

1942

GFWC converted the second floor of historic GFWC Headquarters into office space for the newly named **WAR SERVICE DEPARTMENT.** The department developed a lending library and provided valuable information in support of the war effort.



1943

GFWC’s **“BUY A BOMBER” CAMPAIGN** generates funds to purchase 431 planes for war service.



GFWC members, including First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, **DONATE WEDDING GOWNS TO BRITISH SERVICE WOMEN.**



1944

GFWC adopted a resolution in support of the **EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT.**



1945

The Scholarship and Fellowship Committee **INTRODUCED A SEAL** to generate public awareness and raise funds for clubwomen establishing and maintaining scholarships and fellowships.



GFWC was invited by U.S. Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius **TO PARTICIPATE AS A CONSULTANT TO THE U.S. DELEGATION AT THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION**, one of only five women’s organizations so honored. GFWC representatives witnessed the signing of the U.N. Charter in San Francisco, California, on June 26, 1945.

1947

GFWC International President **DOROTHEA BUCK (1947-1950)** WAS APPOINTED TO THE **CITIZENS FOOD COMMITTEE BY PRESIDENT TRUMAN.** The Committee planned a national voluntary food conservation program to provide food to the hungry overseas.

1948

GFWC International President Dorothea Buck flew to Japan and Korea to meet with local women. While in Japan, she met with General Douglas MacArthur to discuss how women’s organizations in the **U.S. MIGHT HELP JAPANESE WOMEN DEVELOP THEIR OWN ORGANIZATIONS** on a democratic basis.

1950

GFWC began a **PARTNERSHIP WITH THE COOPERATIVE FOR AMERICAN RELIEF EVERYWHERE (CARE)**, jointly distributing relief shipments to Korea in support of local families.



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GFWC International President Dorothy Houghton (1950-1952), and GFWC's CARE-for-Korea Chairman and Past GFWC International President (1941-1944), Sarah Whitehurst (Maryland), were **DECORATED BY THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT FOR THE SUCCESSFUL AID PROGRAM.**



1953

GFWC clubwomen undertook a **FUNDRAISING AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO PROMOTE AMERICAN HISTORY**, culminating with the donation of more than \$200,000 to the National Park Service for the restoration of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1954.

1954

GFWC International President Helen Chapman (1954-1956) was the first GFWC International President who **BEGAN HER CLUB WORK AS A JUNIOR MEMBER.**



1954-55

The **FIRST REGION CONFERENCES** were held to bring GFWC closer to individual clubs. The following spring, GFWC Chairmen and Officers were sent to State Conventions.

1955

GFWC established the **COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM**, later called the Community Improvement Contest, which encouraged and rewarded clubs for completing improvement projects that met the unique needs of their communities.



**GFWC HELD A TRUE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION, IN TWO PARTS.** The first portion was held in Philadelphia and the second in Geneva, Switzerland. Three-hundred and fifty members made the trip from Philadelphia to Geneva where representatives from seventeen countries joined them.



1956

ABC radio hosted a 20 week, half-hour long dramatization of GFWC community projects titled, **HIGH MOMENTS**, which was carried by more than 200 stations.



1957

On ABC TV each Monday morning, a **NEWS BULLETIN PRESENTED BY GFWC WAS READ ON THE HOME SHOW** and once a month a full length feature covering an important aspect of GFWC's work was featured.

1960

**"BRIGHTEN THE NIGHT,"** a nationwide GFWC campaign for street lighting to prevent crime and accidents, was initiated.



GFWC International President Chloe Gifford (1958-1960) **APPEARED WITH EDWARD R. MURROW ON PERSON TO PERSON.** They toured GFWC Headquarters while President Gifford described the work of the Federation.

**THE FIRST GFWC BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OUTSIDE OF THE UNITED STATES** was held in Montreal, Canada. The meeting was followed by a conference of the National Council of Women in Canada.



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1961



GFWC partnered with the Automotive Safety Foundation in the **"WOMEN'S CRUSADE FOR SEAT BELTS" CAMPAIGN**, which resulted in the installation of one million seat belts during that year.

1962



GFWC Juniors were the first national group to support the work of Project Hope. **MEMBERS RAISED FUNDS AND PROVIDED SUPPLIES FOR THE PEACETIME HOSPITAL SHIP S.S. HOPE**, which provided medical assistance and training to developing nations.

1965

**"OPERATION LITTLE BELLS,"** a CARE special project, was adopted by GFWC's Junior membership during the 1964-1966 administration. GFWC Juniors raised more than \$40,000 and built five schools in rural Mexico. Money for the school in El Ocote was raised by the GFWC Junior members of GFWC Illinois.

1966



The United States Post Office **AWARDS GFWC A STAMP** in honor of the Federation's 75th anniversary.

GFWC creates a special membership category for young women in high school, **JUNIORETTES**, as part of its "Build with Youth for a Better World" program.

1967



A group of 114 clubwomen including GFWC International President Carolyn Pearce (1966-1968) embarked on a **THREE-WEEK TOUR OF ASIA** and attended a conference in Manila, Philippines, where President Ferdinand Marcos spoke.

1968




A thousand GFWC clubs were recognized with citations for **100% OF THEIR MEMBERS VOTING** in the November 1968 election.

GFWC became the **FIRST WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION TO UNDERTAKE A RELIEF PROGRAM IN FOOD-DEFICIENT REGIONS** of the world. This program was part of the "Signs of Crisis" program GFWC led with CARE as a partner.

1969

GFWC International President Jessie June Magee (1968-1970) attended a reception at the White House as a member of the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped. As a result, GFWC initiated a program, **"FASHION DESIGNS FOR THE HANDICAPPED,"** in partnership with Singer Sewing Machines, McCall's Pattern Company, and Coats and Clark, Inc.


1970s



GFWC responded to a startling rise in crime with a citizen-based grassroots program **"HANDS UP,"** which was applauded as a "valuable public service" by President Gerald R. Ford.

The practice of printing pocket-size profiles for information and public relations purposes was initiated and the use of **V FOR VOLUNTEER** became popular in the following years.

1971



GFWC International President Louise Brown (1970-1972) was featured in **LADIES HOME JOURNAL** as one of America's 75 "most important women."

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1972

General Federation **BOOSTERS**, composed of husbands or other family members of federated clubwomen, was organized.

1975

**GFWC RECEIVED A MAJOR GRANT** from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration of the U.S. Department of Justice to activate "Hands Up," a national program to promote awareness of the citizen's role in preventing and combating crime.



1976

Bicentennial Plates were presented to First Lady Betty Ford by GFWC International President Mary Katharine Miller (1974-1976). The china plates were made in honor of the United States **BICENTENNIAL YEAR**.

**GFWC ESTABLISHED A TRUST FUND FOR THE ARTS** in partnership with Affiliate Artists, Inc. The program supported young artists-in-residence programs nationwide.



1977

GFWC members participated in **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR PROGRAMS**, including meetings on women's issues and the National Council on Women, in Houston, Texas.

1978

In partnership with Owens-Corning, GFWC developed the nationwide "**HOME ENERGY CHECK**" program to encourage energy conservation.



1980

Under the direction of GFWC International President Marijo Shide (1980-1982), all **CLUBS WERE ASKED TO PUT GFWC BEFORE THEIR NAME** in an effort to provide nationwide recognition.



1981

**GFWC DISTINGUISHED VOLUNTEER AWARDS** were debuted and presented by First Lady Nancy Reagan at a White House ceremony.



Six hundred GFWC clubs participated in **AMERICAN ENERGY WEEK**, including the signing of the Declaration of Energy Independence. At a ceremony, after a speech by GFWC International President Shide, Vice President George H.W. Bush signed the GFWC document.



1984

**THE GFWC WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER** opened to serve as a valuable venue for research, interactive workshops, lectures, and events highlighting the role of volunteers in the history of the United States and the importance of GFWC members in women's history.

1985

GFWC International President Jeri Winger (1984-1986) was an **OFFICIAL DELEGATE FOR THE UNITED STATES** to the U.N. Decade for Women Conference in Nairobi, Kenya.

1986

**GOOD HOUSEKEEPING MAGAZINE** donated an archive of related collections to the GFWC Women's History and Resource Center.





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1986

GFWC members renewed their **COMMITMENT TO CONSERVATION** through special programs to preserve and protect endangered species.

1988



**FIRST LADY BARBARA BUSH** served as honorary chairman of the GFWC Literacy Program.

1990s

GFWC actively supported the passage of the **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT**, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Family and Medical Leave Act.

1990

**GFWC CENTENNIAL CELEBRATIONS** included a memorial ceremony at the gravesite of the Federation's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly.

1991



The United States Secretary of the Interior designated **GFWC HEADQUARTERS** as a National Historic Landmark.

1994

Jane Cunningham Croly, also known as Jennie June, was inducted into the **NATIONAL WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME** in Seneca Falls, New York. Jennie June is noted for her pioneering work as a woman journalist and for mobilizing the "previously untapped and unorganized sisterhood of capable American women that would reshape American society."

1995

In September, GFWC International President Jeannine Faubion led a group of 11 **GFWC DELEGATES TO ATTEND THE U. N. FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN** held in Beijing, China.

1997-2002

GFWC International President Faye Dissinger attended the **GOVERNOR'S SUMMIT, PLEDGING OVER \$12 MILLION ON BEHALF OF GFWC TO AMERICAN'S PROMISE FOR LIBRARIES**. GFWC exceeded the promise, donating \$13.5 million by 2000.



2000

The GFWC Outreach for Children Program raised \$204,000 for an **OPERATION SMILE MISSION** to the Philippines.

GFWC was included in **A GUIDE TO WOMEN'S HISTORY SITES** written by the Presidents' Commission on the Celebration of Women in American History.

2001

The **FIRST ANNUAL GFWC DAY OF SERVICE** was held at the opening of the 110th Annual GFWC International Convention in St. Paul, Minnesota. Clubwomen assisted in building homes for the needy in partnership with the Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity.



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2002

GFWC Clubwomen contribute thousands of dollars to the **NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL FUND** which opened two years later.



2003

GFWC initiated its **FIRST NATIONWIDE MEMBERSHIP RECRUITING CAMPAIGN, ACT** in OCT, encouraging all GFWC clubs to organize recruiting ACTivities to help attract diverse, energetic, and dedicated new members.



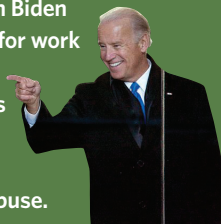
2004

**GFWC MEMBERS CONTRIBUTED \$180,000 TO PURCHASE A FULLY EQUIPPED AMBULANCE** for the New York City Fire Department, replacing equipment lost during the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.



2006

**GFWC WAS RECOGNIZED ON THE FLOOR OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE** as "a gem among our midst" by Senator Joseph Biden (D-Delaware) for work in bringing hope to victims and survivors of domestic violence and abuse.



2008

GFWC Board of Director members participated in a **DAY ON THE HILL TO ADVOCATE FOR THE BIPARTISAN PAY EQUALITY BILL** based on the discrimination case of clubwoman Lilly Ledbetter (Alabama). President Barack Obama signed The Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in January 2009.



2009

Delegates to GFWC Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, **SELECTED DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AS THE GFWC SIGNATURE PROJECT.**



2009

GFWC celebrated the **25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER**. New exhibits and an online catalog showcased GFWC Collections. Dr. Helen Bannan presented a living history interpretation of GFWC Department of International Relations Chairman, Jessie Jack Hooper, 1928-1932.

2010

As part of the GFWC Signature Project: Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention, GFWC established the **SUCCESS FOR SURVIVORS SCHOLARSHIP** to award education scholarships to survivors of domestic violence, giving them hope for a better tomorrow.



2011

GFWC established the **GFWC DISASTER RELIEF—LIBRARY REPLENISHMENT FUND** to assist GFWC clubs in rebuilding libraries in their communities destroyed by manmade or natural disasters. (Should be a dash, not a hyphen, between Relief and Library.)



2012

After a spirited contest, **LIVING THE VOLUNTEER SPIRIT**, was selected as the new GFWC tagline.



2013

The **GFWC LEGISLATIVE ACTION CENTER**, was initiated as a valuable and powerful tool for member advocacy efforts on national issues.



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2013

After extensive renovations, **THE HISTORIC IRON GATE RESTAURANT**, located in the former stables of GFWC Headquarters, reopened under new management as one of the premiere Washington, D.C., restaurants.



2014

GFWC prepares for the **125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** at the 2015 Annual Convention to be held in Memphis, Tennessee.



## Did you know these Notable Women were members of GFWC

**Jane Cunningham Croly (New York)** - A pioneering journalist who, under the pen name Jennie June, contributed articles to newspapers such as The New York Tribune and The New York Sunday Times. She was one of the first women to write a syndicated column and the first to teach a college journalism course. She founded the Sorosis club for women in 1868 and the Women's Press Club of New York City in 1889. She is known as the founder of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, established in 1890.



**Julia Ward Howe (Massachusetts)** - First GFWC Massachusetts President, was best known for writing the lyrics to "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". She was a prolific writer and became the first woman inducted to the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

**Ellen Curtis Demorest (New York)** - A founding member of the Sorosis club, helped revolutionize the fashion industry in the 1860s with the invention and mass-production of her paper dressmaking patterns.

**Frances Willard (Illinois)** - An active leader in the temperance movement of the late 1800s and served as president of the Women's Christian Temperance Union for twenty years.

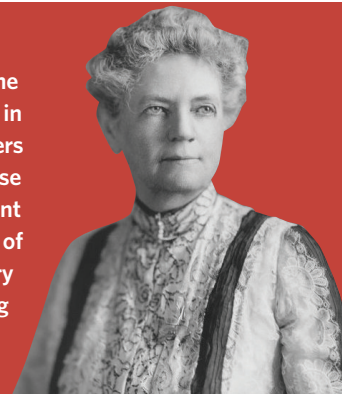


**Jane Addams (Illinois)** - Founded Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, which served as a model for the social reform movement of the Progressive Era. She was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1931.



**Julia Lathrop (Illinois)** - Was the first person appointed to head the federal Children's Bureau, which was created in 1912. President Taft chose Lathrop because of her impressive accomplishments in social work.

**Eva Perry Moore (Missouri)** - Moore became President of the National Council of Women in 1916, represented the Board of Lady Managers on the Superior Jury of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, earned a presidential appointment to the eleven-member Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense, and was very active in the League of Women Voters during the suffragist movement.



**Mary Belle King Sherman (Colorado)** - Known as the "National Park Lady" because of her dedication to the preservation of America's scenic beauty, Sherman aided in the creation of the National Park Service in 1916. She later served as GFWC President 1924-1928, and encouraged clubwomen to pursue conservation efforts, resulting in the establishment of six national parks.

**Nellie Tayloe Ross (Wyoming)** - Became the first female governor when she was inaugurated in Wyoming in 1924 and was the first woman to be appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to be Director of the United States Mint.



**Eleanor Roosevelt (New York)** - First Lady of the United States, Roosevelt also served on the first U.S. delegation to the United Nations (UN) and drafted the Declaration of Human Rights while chairing the Human Rights Commission for the UN.



**Bertha Ethel Knight Landes (Washington)** - President of the Woman's Century Club from 1918-1920 and a member of the Women's University Club of Seattle, Landes was elected mayor of Seattle, becoming the first woman to be elected mayor of a major city.

**Ellen S. Woodward (Mississippi)** - Appointed to several federal positions during the Roosevelt Administration, Woodward first served as assistant to Harry Hopkins in the Federal Emergency Relief Administrations (FERA) and was later appointed Administrator of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in 1935. Three years later, Woodward was appointed to the three-member Social Security Board by President Roosevelt and served until its abolishment in 1946. She was also a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration after World War II.



**Margaret Chase Smith (Maine)** - Served as State Representative and later became a U.S. Senator. Smith was the first woman to ever be elected to both Houses of Congress, and in 1964, she became the first woman to campaign for the presidential nomination of a major political party.



**GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS**