



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts
Elfriede Parker, President



Women's History and Resource Center 2016-2018

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The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) welcomes inquiries from GFWC members on a variety of topics, including the preservation of historic records, buildings, and artifacts; the organization and publication of club history; and creative ways to use GFWC's history for community outreach.

Your **club's history** is valuable to your community and to GFWC. The WHRC can help you preserve your club's archives, record the oral history of longtime members, and write an engaging historical narrative. The WHRC has prepared two free guidelines to help you with these projects:

- ***A Guide for Recording Oral History***
- ***A Guide for Preserving and Writing Club History***

Call 1-800-443-4392 (GFWC) or email WHRC@GFWC.org for copies of these publications.

Does your club have a WHRC chairman, to help get the word out?

Does your club report WHRC programs and projects?

DO support historic societies in your community with monetary or material donations.

DO encourage club/members to join **Friends of WHRC** supporting GFWC preservation at Headquarters in Washington, DC. \$30+ sponsors receive **WHRC News** and a **Friends of the WHRC pin**.

DO support the **Julia Ward Howe 1898 Society**, with a donation through GFWC of MA.

- Individual membership is **\$18.98**. Mail your contribution to:
GFWC of Massachusetts Headquarters, P.O. Box 679, Sudbury, MA 01776-0679
Please make note on your check that this is for the Julia Ward Howe 1898 Society.
- A full Club membership is **\$118.98**, but any donation amount is appreciated. Look for the line on the **GFWC of MA Contribution Form**.

DO update your club's history of contributions in your town. Use this information at club anniversaries and membership events. Create a display of this information in a public place.

DO have speakers or activities at club meetings on topics of women's history/historic preservation.

DO keep WHRC in your club's vocabulary.

DO check out GFWC's collections, on-line catalog and exhibits at www.GFWC.org/WHRC.

The GFWC Women's History and Resource Center manages the organizational archives of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, related special collections, and a complementary research library. Our Archives document GFWC's historical development from 1890 to the present, including the role of GFWC clubwomen in promoting education, leadership, and social and political advocacy in the broad programmatic areas of art and literature, conservation, personal and public education, public and international affairs, and home and community life.

GFWC programs have included advocacy for women's suffrage, child labor and juvenile court laws, community and family health reform, the establishment of national parks, the preservation of Native American culture, peacetime uses of technology, libraries and literacy, wartime service, the Equal Rights Amendment, and international humanitarian efforts.

GFWC members number some of the most prominent women of their respective eras, including Julia Ward Howe, Jane Addams, Julia Lathrop, Alice Lakey, Mary Belle King Sherman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Margaret Chase Smith. Special Collections held by the WHRC include State Federation and club histories, oral histories, photographs, and art and artifacts.

GFWC's most significant "artifact" is its Washington, D.C. Headquarters, which was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1991.

Need more ideas?

- Order WHRC brochures online from Headquarters to pass out at meetings.
- Preserve/inventory/improve the storage condition your own club's records and memorabilia.
- Record the oral history of your members.
- Educate your members to the resources and information about WHRC.
- When planning and publicizing a membership recruitment program, highlight your club's history to demonstrate the importance of your club to your community.
- Develop a proactive public affairs program by offering GFWC history stories to your local news media for Women's History Month (March), Federation Day (April 24), and Archives Month (October).
- Take a leadership role in your community by partnering with local historical institutions to promote the role of your club in local history.
- Work with your local public schools to assist students with National History Day projects on women's history; offer to serve as judges for local History Day competitions.

Use the 2016-2018 GFWC Club Manual Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Guide available on the GFWC website for more information - <http://www.gfwc.org/>.