



**GFWC Massachusetts Awards  
Presented at the GFWC Massachusetts  
Annual Convention  
April 27, 2025**



**SPECIAL PROGRAM, COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM AND ADVANCEMENT PLAN AWARDS:**

**GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention  
Junior Membership**

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club** ~ This club applied for the GFWC MA Mental Health Grant naming the project, YOU are Worthy. They were looking to assist a local Domestic Violence facility, Western MA YWCA, with a cash donation. The YWCA provides for every woman's basic needs such as food, clothing, bedding, toiletries, etc. So, they are constantly seeking community partnerships to receive in-kind or monetary donations to defray their costs.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club** ~ On the night before Halloween, this club held a fundraiser at Brack's Restaurant in their town. Three members made up a large raffle basket from purchased products. Members spoke to those who entered the establishment, letting them know that we were fundraising for Domestic and Sexual Abuse Awareness and Prevention. The support was overwhelming. The Chairperson of the committee investigated local places that serve the community the club represents and chose New Hope as the recipient of the funds.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors** ~ October is Domestic Violence Month. In support of this issue, this club partnered with their Police Department and the Plymouth County DA's office in support of their 5th annual toiletry drive for domestic violence survivors. Survivors who may have had to leave a bad relationship in a hurry, not having the resources to purchase the needed items. The club members obtained a list of needed items and circulated this to club members. 155 items were collected. The items were delivered to the Police Department to be given to the Plymouth County DA's office for distribution through family and advocate centers.

**Women's Clubs**

- **Overall Award: Bay State Contemporary Club** ~ The club used the GFWC MA Mental Health grant to support RIA, a nonprofit organization that stands with and supports people that have experienced trafficking, prostitution and exploitation.

**GFWC Juniors' Special Program: Advocates for Children  
Junior Membership**

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club** ~ This club held a first-of-its-kind day with Santa at a popular local brewery. Beer with Deer & Seltzers with Santa had 80+ adults and 70+ kids attending a fun-filled afternoon. While parents enjoyed socializing and adult beverages, kids enjoyed holiday movies and organized arts and crafts led by several MJWC members. Members dressed as elves and frolicked about enjoying the festivities with the kids and parents. While the event was meant for the kids, our members took the opportunity to network with parents, recruit potential new members, and promote the great work of GFWC.
- **Special Recognition: Junior Woman's Club of Walpole** ~ One club's attention was brought to their city's Council on Aging help of about 15 different local families where (for a host of different reasons) grandparents were raising their grandchildren. Many of these grandparents

were in their 70's and even 80's and were looking for connection and understanding from others in a similar position. The Council on Aging wanted to host a get-together for these families to meet and our Club offered to fund the event. A donation of \$1000 to the Council on Aging was made for a pool & pizza party for the families over the summer. The families were so thrilled to be with people who understood their unique circumstances.

- **Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club** ~ In July 2023, thirty families arrived at an emergency shelter in this club's town. As the families settled in and adjusted to life, students began participating in sports, band, chorus, and a variety of extracurricular activities. Transportation proved to be a critical need for many families. This club's members stepped up by volunteering to provide rides for various purposes, including doctor's appointments, parent-teacher conferences, school activities, and events. Members played a pivotal role in easing the transition for families at the shelter.

## Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bourne Women's Club** ~ Club members generously donated funds to be used for the "Teens Love Christmas" program. Twenty \$25 gift certificates for any CVS store were delivered to the Salvation Army for the teen program on Cape Cod.
- **Special Recognition: Holly Club of Wrentham** ~ In partnership with the Wrentham Food Pantry fifteen families were selected to receive warm pajamas during the holiday season. The children's sizes and genders were matched so club members could buy pajamas that were perfect for each child. In all, 31 children received pajamas in gift bags.
- **Overall Award: Woman's Club of Newton Highlands** ~ In preparation for the project with MassSTAR, members collected about 100 books. On the Service Day event two members, along with 85 conference delegates, made bookmarks with donated art supplies. The books and bookmarks were placed in book bags decorated by the delegates. The books were distributed to Reader to Reader, at local schools and free libraries.

## Arts and Culture

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Women's Club** ~ This club's Arts and Culture Committee hosted the February general meeting with a music and romance theme. Table decorations were LP album covers of six singers associated with romantic ballads. The names of those six singers were written on pieces of paper. As members arrived for the meeting, they chose a piece of paper with one singer's name, and they sat at the appropriate table. This enabled the committee to mix the seating a bit. The main entertainment was a local female cappella group called "Women of Note". A \$50 donation was presented to them. The committee provided refreshments and had a love song quiz competition.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club** ~ Seeing as the resurrected Student Art Contest held in conjunction with the 20th Duck Race last year was such a success, this club decided to sponsor the contest once again. Students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade were encouraged to participate by creating and submitting a drawing of anything about the Duck Race or Memorial Day. In all, there were over 750 drawings submitted this year, a contest record!! The winning drawings were put on display during the Duck Race at the Public Library, and the winning artists were announced there.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club** ~ This club held their annual Tea/Luncheon with a theme of "Alice in Wonderland". The Arts Committee made lovely centerpieces for the table resembling the rose bushes in the Queen's Garden. The tables were decorated with red and black coloring and checkered tablecloths. Around the room were wall hangings of the queen's soldiers made from cards, crazy-looking clocks, and mirrors. A display of three-foot, free-standing soldiers was made along with flamingos playing croquet on a lawn.

They even had someone dressed as the Rabbit holding his watch, checking the time, and going around the room saying, “I am late, I am late for a very important date”.

## Women’s Clubs

- **Special Recognition: Woman’s Club of Newton Highlands** ~ The club had the City Hall Strummers, a community ukulele ensemble perform at one of their club meetings. The ukulele group is composed of talented musicians of all ages. One of our own club members is also a member of the City Hall Strummers. Handmade greeting cards were presented to each musician in appreciation for the performance.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bourne Women’s Club** ~ The club featured a local author, Barbara Eppich Struna, who shared how she combined life experiences with local legend to create her novels. She explained that she expanded and researched a small detail that sparked her curiosity in real life and integrated it with a historical fact. Her talk was inspiring and intriguing to their members.
- **Overall Award: Ousamequin Club** ~ The club hosted “Christmas in the City with Dolley Madison”. A solo presentation by actress Judith Kalaora of History At Play presented the life of Dolley Madison in the 1816 era. This was a shared program with the Bridgewater Senior Center and open to the public. The club applied for and received a partial grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Bridgewater Cultural Council.

## Civic Engagement and Outreach

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Juniors Woman’s Club** ~ This club participated in a project that benefited not 1 but 2 community groups! At the Ocean State Job Lot, they honor veterans and military families through their Buy-Give-Get Coats program. When a customer buys a warm winter coat, they receive a Crazy Deal Gift Card in exchange for the price of the item so it’s a win-win for everyone involved! The club spent up to \$400 to purchase 10 coats for Veterans Jackets resulting in \$400.00 worth of gift cards to be used to buy items for Dignity Matters. With the gift cards, the club was able to purchase 51 underwear, 15 bras, 216 tampons, and 400 pads.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman’s Club** ~ On a very frigid night in January, members of this club traveled to downtown Worcester to deliver winter items to various parts of the city, including the Worcester Common and ice-skating rink, the train station, the Worcester Public Library, and St. John’s Church. Members left three hundred sixty-four items on fences, benches, and other spots such as: hats, gloves, adult mittens, scarves, headbands and earmuffs, hat/mitten sets, socks, and children’s items. Seven children’s hats were donated to Project CASA. Other children’s items were put aside for the Domestic Violence shelter. Tags with encouraging messages were placed on each item.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman’s Club** ~ The Wreaths Across America initiative was led by one current member and one former member, with the club taking the helm in partnership with Boros Cares 4 Troops, American Legion Post 234 in town, and the town’s Veterans Agent. A total of 875 wreaths were needed to honor the veterans buried at the Cemetery. The event was posted on the town website, in the Community Advocate, and on the club’s social media platforms. The day before the event, Wreaths Across America delivered the wreaths to the town’s Department of Public Works. The club members and community volunteers arrived early to unbox the wreaths, fluff the bows, and carefully place the wreaths in various areas around the cemetery. After a heartfelt ceremony honoring the veterans, people who attended the ceremony placed the wreaths on the graves of the veterans.

## Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: Braintree Women's Club** ~ Using the GFWC MA Mental Health grant the club helped a small group of women who had met with personal tragedy in their lives and needed support. Some had been mentally or sexually abused, become addicted to drugs or alcohol, lost their jobs or homes~~ many more reasons for their present state. Funds were used to purchase a set of towels and a throw blanket for each resident. Club members added personal hygiene items.
- **Special Recognition: The Holly Club of Wrentham, Inc.** ~ The club hosted a special evening honoring First Responders, including Firefighters, Policemen and Veterans. They were joined by Wrentham's Resource Dog, Cruiser and his Officer owner. All the attendees were treated to a delicious meal with grilled steak, chicken and accompanied side dishes and dessert. It was a great opportunity to gather and celebrate all that they do for their community.
- **Overall Award: Ousamequin Club** ~ The club won a grant from GFWC MA for a mental health project. The Senior Center Outreach Coordinator sent out 25 notifications/letters to the seniors who would really benefit from the club's Christmas In July program. Recipients were given items from slippers to blenders, dresses to an ironing board.

## Education and Libraries

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club** ~ Throughout the year, this club's members collected new and second-hand dictionaries, thesauruses, puzzle books, and all types of readable books. Sixty-seven books were donated this year to the Prison Book Program. Seven club members also volunteered their time to the program for jobs of either picking, invoicing, or packing. Pickers read a prisoner's handwritten request and found appropriate books from the bookshelves that best fit their request. Those invoicing make sure the chosen books are appropriate and do not contain any forbidden items.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club** ~ Members of this club banded together to support the projects of the GFWC Massachusetts Director of Junior Clubs. Members collected school supplies for Planting the Seed's Stuff the Bus program, to help children whose parents cannot afford school supplies. The club collected 531 items to donate as in-kind donations! Subsequently, for the GFWC MA Fall Meeting, this club passed a motion to spend \$200 for Planting the Seed's Holiday Toy Drive.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Agawam Junior Woman's Club** ~ Members of this club have been busy bees as the Annual Town-Wide Spelling Bee was back again. Children from grades 4-6 took part in spelling bees in their classrooms, with one student from each homeroom moving on to the town competition to represent their grade level, taking turns at spelling words of varying complexity. One member served as pronouncer for this event. While each student was awarded a certificate and pencil commemorating the event, the 1st and 2nd place winners received cash prizes and learning games; this year's game was Scrabble.

## Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bourne Women's Club** ~ The club supported the Friends of the Bourne Library "Season of Giving". The club created two gift baskets to be auctioned off. The first basket featured games, puzzles, hot chocolate and snacks for a "Game Night at Home". The second basket focused on "Holiday Baking" and included rolling pins, measuring cups, cookie mixes, sprinkles, cookie trays and more.
- **Special Recognition: Hopkinton Women's Club** ~ The club supported a student to attend the Enjoy Life Academy. Enjoy Life Academy is a transformative summer program. Combining a high energy team-building model with a social emotional learning-based curriculum, this life-changing experience teaches teens the art of living with high self-worth, maintaining a positive attitude, and achieving perpetual success in all they do now and into their future.

- **Overall Award: Lunenburg Woman's Club** ~ The club, in support of local high schools, gathered 500 graduation cards, which were coordinated and mailed out to seniors graduating from two local high schools. The cards were sent out to sync with the graduations. Club members wrote notes to the students in each of the cards. Feedback from principals of each school said that the notes generated much positivity to their students, giving each student a connection and support system generating a feeling of pride for their huge graduation accomplishment.

## Environment

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** ~ This club not only participated in their town clean-up but also coordinated and executed the clean-up for a second year by working with the DPW, the police department, and other local organizations. The club is also a great hostess who provided breakfast and lunch items for the 150 volunteers. This project yielded 8,020 pounds of material and filled a 40 cubic yard dumpster
- **Special Recognition: Club ~ GFWC Westford Women's Club** ~ This club hosted not 1 but 2 very educational meetings for members, specifically hosting the owner of a local mushroom business who spoke about the health values, how to prepare them, and where to find them in the wild. The club was so pleased with the presentation that they paid it forward and arranged for the presentation to be given at the Senior Center.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club** ~ Community constituents asked, and this club answered the call to address yard waste debris that was being dumped near a popular town trailhead. The club obtained permits, contacted the town DPW, and reached out to another community group to enhance their project. The committee not only prepared an educational handout, but they also distributed it to 50 homes in the area, provided it for the community group's walk and talk on clean-up day, which included clubs like the Boy Scouts, neighbors, and friends. The reach of this project went far and wide.

### Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club** ~ Clubmembers cleaned out their soft goods and clothing items from their homes and donated to the club's Savers collection. Household goods were accepted this year. This effort led to the recycling of items, a purged home and the benefit of monies in club coffers.
- **Overall Award: Ousamequin Club** ~ How many people drink wine? What do you do with the corks? Do you have a jar filled with corks or corks floating in a drawer? A request was put out to the members of the Ousamequin Club and to members of the community to recycle wine bottle corks. Ten pounds of wine corks were collected and delivered to a liquor store for recycling by the members of the club.

## Health and Wellness

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** ~ Since 1996, this club has been making comfort pillows to provide to their local hospital's Breast Cancer facility. This year, they decided to open up this event to the local community. The club advertised in the Times, a local newspaper, on their website and Facebook page. There was a great turnout; 19 volunteers showed up to help sew, stuff, and package 231 pillows that night. The event was well-received, and many people expressed interest in attending again when the club held another project night.
- **Special Recognition: ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club** ~ In honor of the GFWC National Day of Service, this club held a community Food Drive to benefit Why Me & Sherry's House. With the support of a local supermarket, club members handed out a list of items

requested by Why Me & Sherry's House. The drive ran from 8 AM to 1 PM that day, and club members were excited to watch the number of filled grocery carts lined up outside the store grow as the morning progressed. By 1 PM, over 7 carts were full of much-needed items. Seeing the expressions of gratitude on the faces of the Why Me volunteers and employees when 3 members pulled up with an SUV packed to the roof with food was amazing.

- **Creativity Award: GFWC Hanover Woman's Club, Juniors** ~ The March meeting of this club was held at the local Food Pantry to introduce members who had minimal knowledge of the workings of the pantry. The President of the pantry and a board member, both of whom are club members, told those attending the history of the pantry, which opened in 1991. Following the talk, 4 members of the club gave those attending a tour of the pantry. Donations of snacks, canned goods, toiletries, and personal items were brought by members to supplement the pantry's stock.

## Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: Hopkinton Women's Club** ~ The club donated 30 Care Bags to the Compassion New England Crisis Center located in Mendon, MA. The bags were filled with 20 different toiletry items and chocolates. In addition, this year the club found out that there was a great need for diapers and wipes. The club responded with an SUV filled with diapers and wipes arriving at the Crisis Center.
- **Overall Award: Millbury Women's Club** ~ The club teamed up with the Pancreatic Cancer Alliance since 2003 in Worcester, MA by supporting them with the sale of pansies and donating 100% of funds raised. Every year with minimal advertising, club is able to offer the best quality plants and club members work hard to ensure that the customers who order receive their special requests. A local bank uses the Pansy Sale to reward their customers with a gift of a small plant, which of course is very welcome.

## Communications and Public Relations

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** ~ One member of this club has done an outstanding job on upgrading the club's website to bring the club into compliance with the newest technology to be able to run their events more smoothly. The website is updated monthly to show the various events that they have held, with pictures of write-ups of each of those events. Also included were meeting times and upcoming volunteering opportunities. Through Facebook postings in the local town forums, more traffic has been flowing to the website, which gives so many members in the community an opportunity to learn all there is to know about the club.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club** ~ This year, the Communication Chairman of this club prepared a calendar of Facebook posts so that all of the club had insight into what was being posted. This helped to make sure posts were spread out to keep engagement high. The club page increased followers to 1,400+ and had reach across the MetroWest area. Having the calendar also helped the club with focused campaign-type messaging. This also helped increase member engagement, which continues to help expand the club's reach and impact by building awareness. It even helped get a few new members through this focused approach.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Woman's Club** ~ This club takes great pride in its monthly newsletter, *Juniors Journal*, which serves as a vital communication tool for its members. Distributed monthly via email and posted on the members-only section of their website from September through May, along with a detailed Treasurer's report and Board and General meeting minutes from the previous month, the newsletter is a comprehensive resource for staying informed about club activities and updates. Officers and committee chairmen provide updates on ongoing projects, activities, motions, and upcoming events, ensuring that members are always in

the loop. While primarily designed for internal communication, *Juniors Journal* also plays an essential role in recruitment. Prospective members receive copies during meetings, offering a detailed glimpse into NJWC's structure and activities.

### Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: Hopkinton Women's Club** ~ Each year the Boston Marathon starts in Hopkinton. The club purchased a banner to hang on telephone poles along the Hopkinton portion of the route. With over 30,000 runners and thousands of spectators in Hopkinton there are a lot of eyes on the banners.
- **Overall Award: Woman's Club of Newton Highlands** ~ The club revamped the club website, used the new GFWC logo on new informational flyers and on Facebook, and spread the word about the club at the local bank, where the club was offered an opportunity to display a poster in the bank lobby. The poster along with applications for membership and rentals of the WCNH club house, gave GFWC and WCNH even greater community exposure.

### Fundraising

#### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club** ~ Building on the success of their 2022 and 2023 membership recruitment and fundraiser event, this club planned a third Designer Bag Bingo! The club utilized several forms of advertising and blasted social media at preset intervals to get the word out about the event. The club sold tickets online to make it easy for folks to purchase, gathered raffle prizes, and obtained all of the Bingo supplies. New this year was a spinning wheel, where attendees could get a spin at the wheel to earn more raffle tickets if they bought \$20 of raffle tickets. The club had a membership information table, and attendees were given club brochures to let them know about the club and encourage folks to ask questions about membership. 100 more tickets were sold this year over the previous year's event. Everyone was happy, and the winners were crowned with handmade bejeweled crowns, and several ladies asked about membership.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Norwood Junior Woman's Club** ~ Members of this club held a Left Right Center tournament at the local Elks. Spots to play in the tournament were \$20, and it was suggested that attendees could reserve a table of 10, which encouraged people to invite their friends. Advertising was done mainly through Facebook. The club collected numerous raffles and local businesses were solicited for donations to the raffle, leading the club to offer around 50 raffle prizes. There were over 200 attendees, who enjoyed a cash bar, snacks brought from home, and music for dancing. There were three rounds of play, with the winner taking home \$500. The event raised \$5,851 for future club projects.
- **Creativity Award: Junior Woman's Club of Walpole** ~ This year, this club held a "Let's Go Barbie" themed Fashion Show at the Four Points Sheraton in Norwood. The event brought close to 300 women out for an exciting evening of fashion at a beautifully appointed event space and a delicious dinner. Ten members of the club served as their gorgeous models, who strutted down the huge runway that was set up in the middle of the function hall! The club also had a fabulous DJ, and the night ended with many staying and getting out on the dance floor! The event requires a significant amount of planning to pull together - from obtaining a location and sponsors to raffle items, coordinating clothing vendors and models, and advertising the event. A true team success.

### Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bourne Women's Club** ~ Club continues the tradition of having a "No Bake Bake Sale" in lieu of the January meeting. Letters and a whimsical poem were mailed out by the assistant treasurer to each member. Last year, this effort raised enough

money to pay the club's yearly expenses (rent, postage, etc.) and an extra \$300 to be distributed to collectively agreed upon charities.

- **Special Recognition: The Holly Club of Wrentham, Inc.** ~ A year-round fundraiser for the club involves the sale of local landmark Christmas Ornaments, Afghans and Wine glasses. Tables are set up at the local Post Office prior to Christmas and at the local museum. An additional opportunity to sell them in September is at "Wrentham Day", where the club members engage with town residents and share our mission. This year the club introduced an ornament featuring the Wrentham Resource dog, Cruiser. The picture was sketched by one of their high school art students.
- **Overall Award: Millbury Women's Club, Inc.** ~ Fundraising is mostly done on a month-to-month basis at club meetings with one exception. One exception is the annual "Ladies Night Out". The event, held at the local VFW hall, featured comedians Zito and Marino. The Planning Committee divided duties from registration, ticket sales, decor, food, raffle acquisition, venue and entertainment. A great evening to the guests made for a successful evening.

## Leadership

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club** ~ This club launched the "Membership Moments" initiative during its meetings with the goal to emphasize the importance of each member and demonstrate how the club connects to a larger, impactful network of organizations. The initiative began with the creation of a simple yet comprehensive calendar. This tool ensured that all members had easy access to club activities. In January, the club kicked off the year with a presentation titled "What's in Store for 2024." This session highlighted how the club is part of a larger organizational framework. This exploration helped members understand the interconnectedness of Women's Clubs, Juniors, and Juniores. Through initiatives like Membership Moments, the club leaders not only strengthened internal bonds but also underscored the club's vital role within a larger network of empowered women.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club** ~ This club partnered with other local nonprofit organizations and city departments to organize the second annual Family Fun Festival in May. This free fun-filled day included many family activities, entertainment, and fun. The club had a membership table with basket raffles, and members shared information about their club. Collaborating with other non-profit organizations was the reason for another successful event and the growth we saw in the size of the event this year. The side benefit of the event was the ability to build relationships across organizations for future partnerships and further collaboration.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club** ~ This club continued their club year with "Monthly Leadership Awards" selected from the membership who have gone above their duties as a member and taken the initiative to coordinate a project or event. The recipients were recognized at a business meeting with a commendation read by the Leadership Chairman, a card with their name, and a \$50 check donated to their favorite charity. A picture of the recipient receiving the award was taken and placed in the club's monthly newsletter "Juniors in Action". The goal of the Leadership Award was to encourage members to come forward and put their leadership abilities to work.

### Women's Clubs

- **Overall Award: GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club** ~ All members of the club serve or have served in various leadership positions, some within our state, our region and on the GFWC National level. Many of this club's members serve on the Massachusetts state board in various capacities and as state officers. This leadership club helps our state as needed or requested at Massachusetts state meetings.

## Legislation/Public Policy

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors** ~ This club's Legislation/Public Policy chairman promotes GFWC Legislation/Public Policy priorities by placing on the club website's homepage a banner that says, "Take Action on Legislative Matters That Matter to You," and linking to the GFWC Legislative Action Center. Alerts for recent legislative action is included in the club's newsletter and mentioned at monthly club business meetings. The club newsletter was a resource for information, with links to GFWC LAC for more information. Members who respond to GFWC's legislative alerts are asked to forward replies from legislators. This year, the chairman and three members replied to the legislative alerts.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club Woman's Club** ~ October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and this club's Domestic Violence chairman requested a proclamation from both MA Governor Maura Healey and the city's Mayor. The proclamations acknowledged the club's advocacy and its efforts to keep this important topic at the forefront of discussions and conversations. The proclamations were read and shared with members at the October business meeting. The club also received the Certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from US Congresswoman Lori Trahan, who represents MA Third Congressional District. The recognition was for the club's efforts in raising awareness of domestic violence prevention and our continued dedication to addressing the issues.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors** ~ The Legislation/Public Policy chairman for this club had been trying all year to get Carol Doherty, the MA State Representative for much of the town, to speak to the club about the process used to write, introduce, and make bills into law in the state legislature. Representative Doherty was finally scheduled to speak at the September club meeting, but due to illness, had to cancel. She asked Norman Orrall, serving in the MA House of Representatives representing neighboring towns in the 12th Bristol District, to take her place. Representative Orrall emphasized that we have access to the workings of the Massachusetts legislature and strongly encouraged us to observe the proceedings at the State House. He suggested observing both House and Senate Sessions and Committee Hearings, by using [www.MALegislature.gov](http://www.MALegislature.gov) to find information.

### Women's Clubs

- No entries

## Membership

### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Westford Women's Club** ~ This was the second year this club participated in the town's Rotary Festival of Trees event. Five members worked together to create a wreath with the theme "Happy Holidays from our Club," featuring a plaque from the Dollar Store with a cardinal motif in the center space. The wreath was enhanced with cardinals and poinsettias and even had a string of cardinal lights on it. The Wreath project was a great opportunity for club outreach, and photos of it provided seasonal Facebook posts on the club's Facebook page, and happily, the club's wreath received the First Place citation!
- **Special recognition: GFWC Taunton and Raynham Juniors** ~ During the November Business Meeting of this club, the Membership Chairman began passing out paddles. Members wondered what was in store for them. When it was time for the Membership Chairman's report, she told the members they were going to play a "Get to Know You" game. She read fifty questions, one at a time, and if the response was a yes, you raised your paddle and did nothing for a negative response. Paddles were held for one minute so members could witness how others responded. Some example questions were: Are you an only child? Have you been married more than once? These prompted discussions amongst the members, like: I didn't know you were

married before. Everyone felt they learned something new about at least one member and expressed their desire to play similar games sometime in the future.

- **Creativity Award: GFWC Auburn Junior Women's Club** ~ Four members of this club attended the 2024 GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago, Illinois. Day 1 brought the LEADS program for one member, a rainy River Boat Architectural Tour for another member, as well as a first-time attendees welcome for these two members and business meetings for the two seasoned members who attended. Day 2 was chock-full of meetings and the awe-inspiring Opening Ceremony and Procession of Flags, with a gathering of nearly 1000 women representing their home states. Day 3 gave attendees elections (don't lose your election card!), an Affiliate Luncheon, and workshops full of so much useful information! The evening was another opportunity to glam it up with the Purple Gala and Massachusetts' own Jennie Award winner, Jen Nowak. The club women, along with their Massachusetts colleagues, returned home fulfilled (but tired).

### Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: Holly Club of Wrentham** ~ The club celebrated members at the first meeting of the club year. The club honored a member who has been with the club for 50 years and her daughter, also a club member, was present to help celebrate. The member was presented with a 50-year pin and flowers. The club also celebrated a member who has been with the club for 40 years. A third member, who has been with the club for 10 years, was given flowers.
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club** ~ The club is honored to nominate a member for the Clubwoman of the Year Contest each year. The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary Massachusetts clubwomen who are standouts in their club.
- **Overall Award: Braintree Women's Club** ~ The club held an Open House at the club's meeting place for new members. A notice was designed and placed on the club Facebook page as well as other social media sites. The mission of the Braintree Women's Club was presented, as well as the club's history in the town of Braintree. There were application forms available for anyone wanting to join. Thirteen new members applied for membership, were approved by the Executive Board and subsequently inducted in the Braintree Women's Club.

### Women's History and Resource Center

#### Junior Membership

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Westford Women's Club** ~ Following her retirement a former leader and a long-time member of this club, created a slide presentation entitled "Women in the Military: Then and Now" which she has presented as a guest speaker at various locations around the state including women's clubs, senior centers, for DAR meetings and military veterans organizations events. In lieu of a speaker fee or honorarium, she asks groups to give a donation to a veterans group. The club's Steering Committee wanted to sponsor a public event inviting their club woman to give her presentation in their town as a free event open to the public, with publicity to hopefully interest outsiders to attend
- **Special Recognition: GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club** ~ To celebrate Women's History Month, this club engaged all members during the March business meeting by playing "Who Am I?" Each member had an image of a famous woman in history taped to their back. They had to engage with other members to ask Yes or No questions to gain clues about the woman on their backs so they could guess who she was. Members represented women from across the globe and across history. This activity provided a great backdrop to reflect on the impact of these amazing women in history and remind members how MJWC and its members can have an impact on their communities through the thoughtful and meaningful projects they engage in each year.
- **Creativity Award: GFWC Northboro Junior Women's Club** ~ In October 2024, the Senior Center in a small central Mass town buzzed with excitement as this club brought the vibrant history of suffragettes to life. The club members were driven by a mission: to highlight the

invaluable privilege of the right to vote—an essential aspect of our democracy for all, especially women. As guests entered the Senior Center, they were greeted by a room brimming with suffragette history. Four club members and a community volunteer brought historical figures to life, portraying legendary suffragettes: Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Alice Paul, and Ida B. Wells, as well as Harry Burn, who made history by casting the decisive vote that passed the 19th Amendment, inspired by a letter from his mother, exemplifying the enduring influence of maternal wisdom. Participants left with newfound knowledge, as nearly everyone reported learning something new about these remarkable suffragettes and the significance of the 19th Amendment. It was a celebration of history, resilience, and the ongoing importance of exercising our right to vote.

### Women's Clubs

- **Special Recognition: GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club** ~ The club sent a donation to the Women's Suffrage National Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Women's Suffrage National Monument is a planned memorial sculpture that will honor suffragists who organized and demonstrated for the women's right to vote in the United States.
- **Overall Award: Woman's Club of Newton Highlands** ~ The club hosted a local author, Janis Robinson Daly, who spoke about discovering her family history using genealogy tools. She shared her discovery that her great-great-grandfather was a true supporter of women's education and one of the founders of the first women's medical college in Philadelphia, PA. Her research led to the writing of two books about her genealogy and the medical school.

### CONTESTS:

#### Photography Contest

**Our World Up Close** ~ Diane Murphy, GFWC Past Junior State Officers Club ~ Mom Is That You (Red Tale Hawk Chick)

**Natural Wonders** ~ Yvonne Breitenfeld, GFWC Marlborough Junior Woman's Club ~ Godafoss Waterfall

**Reflections** ~ Georgina Chamberlain, GFWC Marlborough Junior Women's Club ~ Reflections Central Park, NYC

**Living the Volunteer Spirit** ~ Jean Guarino, Ousamequin Club ~ Planting yellow tulips at Ironworks Park, Bridgewater, MA

#### Writing Contest ~ Clubwomen

**Poetry** ~ Penny Olson, The GFWC Holly Club of Wrentham ~ "Threads of Time"

**Short Story** ~ Shannon Butler, GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club ~ "Delicate"

### STATE INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

#### Marilyn Perry Leadership Award

The winner is: Martha Michalewich, GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club

#### Martha Michalewich Clubwoman of the Year Award

The winner is: Nancy Martin ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

#### GFWC Massachusetts Clubwoman of the Year

This award is based on a Nomination essay submitted by a club.

The winner is: Donna Shibley, GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club

#### Sheila E. Shea Junior Club President Award

The winner is: Michelle Butler, GFWC Auburn Junior Women's Club

**STATE OVERALL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

**Barbara S. Baker Tray** ~ GFWC Wilbraham Junior Women's Club

**Division II (6-30 members) ~ Small Bowl** ~ GFWC Auburn Junior Woman's Club

**Division I (31+ members) ~ Small Bowl** ~ GFWC Greater Taunton Woman's Club

**P & A ~ Large Bowl** ~ GFWC Northboro Junior Woman's Club

**Club Performance Award Bowls**

- GFWC Bay State Contemporary Club
- GFWC Braintree Women's Club
- Ousamequin Club



**Congratulations to ALL the Winners!**