GFWC
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
MASSACHUSETTS
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WOMEN'S HISTORY AND RESOURCE CENTER
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Talk about easy! GFWC MA Junior Clubwomen can access the **Women's History and Resource Center Advancement Plan** pages in the GFWC Manual by going to http://gfwcma.org/ and then About GFWC on the scroll bar, then What We Do~GFWC Manual and scroll down to Women's History and Resource Center. These pages list the GFWC Committee chairman/members, features projects for ideas, and list of project ideas as well as information about this Advancement Plan.

Because there is so much in GFWC's Manual for you to use, I'm making use of this page to offer some GFWC/WHRC history I hope you will find interesting and I am highlighting the WHRC Unity Project.

On March 3, 1901, under an Act of Congress of the United States, some 43 women and their associates and successors "are hereby created a body corporate and politic, of the District of Columbia, by the name, style and title of the General Federation of Women's clubs, and by that name shall have perpetual succession, for educational, industrial, philanthropic, literary, artistic and scientific cullture, and to bring into communication with one another the various Women's clubs throughout the world, with power in said corporation to make and use a common seal, and to alter the same at pleasure." GFWC maintained temporary offices in DC, adopting a resolution in 1920 to establish a permanent headquarters that would "be commensurate with the dignity, size and influence of the organization." In 1922, GFWC clubwomen purchased 1734 N Street NW, acquiring a mansion with the former owners' colorful stories. Those former owners, the Markleys, had purchased a portion of the adjoining lot to create a grand driveway and admit more light into their home. When they learned the neighbors at 1728 were adding windows to their property that would overlook 1734, the Markley's constructed a wall to protect their privacy. To meet city building regulations, they built an extension from the second floor, creating a space 12.5 feet wide by 65 feet long. This room earned the nickname "the spite room" and was used by other owners of the property to store artifacts and big game trophies.

That narrow room was cleaned up and converted to house GFWC's Women's History and Resource Center which opened May 1, 1984 with GFWC International President Juanita Bryant joined by Vice-President George Bush to cut the ribbon. In 1923, this area of HQ was renovated by replacing the fluorescent light with options that better suit the material stored in the room, the carpeting was removed and replaced with flooring and the walls were painted.

The WHRC welcomes donations from GFWC clubs to help maintain its collections both within the archives room and throughout the buildings. You can choose WHRC Art & Artifacts Fund on the Annual Giving Program Donation Form here: https://www.gfwcma.org/uploads/1/2/9/6/12968947/annual_giving.pdf. Funds were used recently to help clean, stabilize and conserve the Sydney Laurence painting, "Mt. McKinly National Park" donated by Alaska Federation in 1923 and a centerpiece at HQ for over 100 years.

In 2025, GFWC Clubwomen were asked to help Stock the Shelves in the WHRC Reference Library. They have received over 60 books, but there is still a Wishlist of books available if you/your club wants to donate-http://bit.ly/4pBXqcw

Each Advancement Plan and Community Service Program has created a UNITY Project to fit with President Carriker's theme "Unity in Diversity."

WHRC's 2026-2028 Unity Project is: Her Stories Shape Our Future

Observe Women's History Month in March and collaborate with your local library, museum, school, and/or other civic organizations to sponsor an event. Consider one that honors a community leader or club past and/or present members who exhibit outstanding service and exemplify the qualities set forth in Mary Stewart's Collect for clubwomen. Perhaps you could organize one that celebrates several women, such as an education, a community servant (firefighter, librarian), a business leader, and a volunteer. Utilize print and social media throughout the month to promote your project.

Note **Women's History Month** 2027's theme is Financial Literacy, Liberation and Leadership: Women in Business. Get this information out to your clubs and start planning!