



General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts

Donna M. Shibley, President



GFWC Advancement Plans: Women's History and Resource Center ~ 2021-2022

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From the Federation's founding in 1890, GFWC members have understood the historic significance of the organization's mission to improve communities through volunteer service. The Women's History and Resource Center (WHRC) of the General Federation of Women's Clubs officially opened at GFWC Headquarters in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 1984. Regardless of the focus of a community service project, it may benefit from an historical perspective. The WHRC strives to educate and inspire GFWC members and potential members, the research community, and the public to explore the rich, historical role of women volunteers through GFWC's expansive collections.

Suggested Activities for WHRC focusing on what your club can do locally:

- Support the Massachusetts GFWC Headquarters Building in Sudbury. Donate. Consider holding a club meeting there.
- Continue to celebrate the passage of the US Constitution 19th amendment which established the right of women to vote 100 years ago on August 26, 2020.
- Connect with, support and participate with your local Historical Society. Find out what resources they have which highlight women's history or a woman leader in your locale.
- Encourage preservation of historic properties.
- Organize a club outing to an historic property. Find out about the role of women in its history.
- Work on your own club's history. Who were the founders and why did they start your club?
- Start a document preserving your ongoing story. Celebrate your leaders, past and present.
- Look through club records and educate current members on the impactful projects of the past.
- Observe Women's History Month in March by presenting a "Woman of Distinction" award to a club member or community member who exhibits outstanding service to their community.
- Check out: Boston Women's Heritage Trail Curriculums and access the Biographies of 21 Notable Women ~ <https://bwht.org/teaching-resources/>
- Become a "Friend of the WHRC" at GFWC International. WHRC preserves GFWC collections, acquires new materials for research on women's history, and provides student field study opportunities. See <https://www.gfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020-22-WHRC-July-1.-2020.pdf> for forms.

For many more ideas check out the *2020-2022 GFWC Club Manual* on the [GFWC MA](#) website by going to the **ABOUT GFWC** tab and click on **What Do We Do~GFWC Manual.**