



General Federation of Women's Clubs - Gun Lake Area

November 2025

www.gfwcgunlake.org

For news and details of statewide
GFWC activities, visit
www.gfwcml.org/members

OUR MISSION

*The General Federation of Women's Clubs Michigan is dedicated to enhancing the communities, the lives of its members and others through volunteer service.
"Living the Volunteer Spirit"*



President: Raeanne Renner

We strive for...

Achieve-MINT
Encourage-MINT
Enjoy-MINT
Involve-MINT



Paws for a Cause – November 12th Meeting Preview

At the State Convention, we met the president of the GFWC Menominee Woman's Club. When she learned how close we were to her daughter's workplace—Wayland's Paws with a Cause—she encouraged us to reach out for a tour or meeting. That connection has come full circle: her daughter Michelle will host our November membership meeting.

Joan and I recently toured the facility and were impressed. The Wayland facility, home to the organization's national headquarters, offers a behind-the-scenes look at the service dog training process—from puppy to placement. We'll be visiting as a club on Wednesday, November 12th. Carpool departs promptly at 8:50 AM from the Catholic Church parking lot. Don't miss this chance to see life-changing work in action—it will be an adventure.
(Our meeting will follow at the Paws with a Cause venue.)



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Co-Chairs Shelly Heijerman & Marcia Heroux



It's Thanksgiving Basket time!! Please see the sign-up sheets at the November meeting. We suggest taking a photo of what you signed up using the sign-up sheet. Why? Should you be shopping, you will have a photo of what you signed up to donate.....it helps believe me.

Please deliver the perishable items 2 days before our packing date which is 11/21 and delivering them on 11/24. There are sign ups for packing and delivery as well. If you aren't able to shop for our needs, we will be happy to take monetary donations and shop for you.

Bring items to our meetings or directly to Marcia Heroux's house @1785 Edwin Dr Wayland, MI 49348. Phone 269-509-2537. If you have any questions, please ask Shelly or Marcia.

Thank you!!



The above photos show our Shelly and Marcia making deliveries of sweatpants and underwear to 6 area elementary schools. They also stopped at **The Shack** and **Orangeville Baby Pantry** with specific donations. A special Thank you to all our club sisters who made these donations' possible....you are the best ever!

Dates and Times for **hand2hand**

Packing dates – They are all on Tuesday's at 6 PM. Meet in the hand2hand room at Gun Lake Community Church! Join in on one or all dates listed. November 4, December 2, January 6, February 3, March 3, April 7, and May 5th.
Call Nancy Molt with any questions!

Scan Me!





ARTS & CULTURE

Chair: Patricia Velie

Allegan County:

Who: Stand Up Comedy Tour

What: Alastair Watt, a small-town city boy will do stand-up comedy

When: November 14, 8 pm

Where: Griswold Auditorium, 401 Hubbard St., Allegan

Get your tickets online at griswoldauditorium.ludus.com or at Allegan City Hall

Remember Bay Point has live music every Wednesday from 5-9:00 PM. Call for more information and to make reservations.

Jason Carter, Violinist

Thursday, Nov 13, 2025

[The Park Theater](#) (for

tickets: https://parktheatreholland.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200496083)

248 S. River Ave

[Holland, MI 49422](#)

God Did It Tour with Micah Tyler ft. Jordan St. Cyr & Emerson Day - Holland, MI (Concert)

Barry County

Billy to Elton

Hastings Performance Arts Center, 520 W South Street, Hastings, MI

Tickets:

<https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php>

November 8, 7 pm

Christmas with John Berry

Hastings Performance Arts Center, 520 W South Street, Hastings, MI

Tickets:

<https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php>

December 5, 7 pm

Grand Rapids Symphony: Home for the Holidays

Hastings Performance Arts Center, 520 W South Street, Hastings, MI

Tickets:

<https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php>

December 10, 7 pm

Kings Brass

Hastings Performance Arts Center, 520 W South Street, Hastings, MI

Tickets:

<https://hastings.ludus.com/index.php>

December 19, 7 pm



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Chair: Rosy Chatterton



On November 5th, 2025, we will be heading to Eaton Rapids, MI for a tour of the **VFW National Home** for Military families, Veteran families, & VFW or VFW Auxiliary Members. We will meet at the Gun Lake Community Church at **9:30am** to carpool. **Bring a sack lunch!** We will have a presentation in the Welcome Center at 11:00am while we are eating our sack lunches. We will then board trams or vans to tour the campus. We will be presenting them with a check for \$200 that was collected at a meeting in the spring in the Jingle Jar. We have also collected **13 books** from a list of books centering on **Patriotism Through Literacy**. We have 17 members signed up to attend this outing. I will send out a reminder email to those members as it gets closer to the date. If you have not signed up and would like to go, please call me (Rosy Chatterton- 630-436-0136) and I will add you to the list.

Our 2025 Patriotism Through Literacy list includes several Picture books and novel's that center on children with a military parent, including children of currently deployed service member's, retired veterans and those missing or killed in action, include the following;

- Hero Hom by Melinda Hardin
- Hero Dad by Melinda Hardin
- Missing Mommas by Winsome Bingham
- Boyogi: How a Wounded Family Learned to Heal by David Barclay Moore
- My Red Balloon by Eve Bunting
- At the Mountain's Base by Traci Sorell
- Mama Played Baseball by David Adler
- Talking About Deployment: A Sesame Street Resource by Charlotte Reed
- The True History of Lyndie B. Hawkins by Gait Shepherd
- Planet Earth is blue by Nicole Panteleakos
- Heroes by Alan Gratz
- Meet Claudie by Brit Bennett
- A Spy on the Homefront by Atison Hart

You are encouraged to purchase one of the above books and give it to Rosy so they can be taken to the National Veteran's Home.

Yankee Springs Township Veterans Ceremony

November 8, 2025 at 11:00am

Come and enjoy this wonderful event honoring our Veterans! Our GFWC Gun Lake Area Women's Club will have a festive table featuring cookies made by some of our club members and the Curley Conewill have Hot Dogs and Fries. More details on the ceremony will be posted on Facebook and on flyers. Please try to attend it is very heart warming and appreciated by our Veterans.



CHRISTMAS

B • A • Z • A • A • R

Could the following people, who have signed up to bring a table for the craft fair, please have them to the church on Friday at, no later than, 2:30. We can't set up anything until the tables arrive. Ardie Clark, Denise Peiffer, Jan Kuhtic (2 tables) and Karen McCarter..

Please price all crafts and pies for the bake sale. Be sure and mark if bake goods contain nuts or are gluten free items. Crafts and Bake goods should be brought to the church Friday between 3-5pm or 8-9am on Saturday. All other bake goods will be by donation. For those of you who signed up to set up our booths, the **set-up time is between 3-5pm**.

If you haven't signed up to bring a craft, please bring some. We are short on crafts. Thank you ahead of time for making this event a huge success. Anything left over after the sale will, 1. be taken home, or 2. will be donated to the silent auction that is a tradition for our December meeting. Any leftover baked goods will be frozen until the December meeting/



On October 2nd approximately 4pm we were enjoyed the presence of 8 National Honor Society polite and courteous students from Wayland High School. They came to help prepare the beds for the upcoming winter season. They brought rakes and gloves.

Club members were Dot, Marcia and myself. Mina brought a wheel barrel, cutters and more equipment than I would have thought of. We all worked several hours along side of the students. The leader of the students was Evan Barnaby, and the students were Cole Hendricks, Marsell Azzarella, Colin Harris, Hannah Bogema, Megan Brogger and Lauren Bultsma.

The second group of students were to come on October 19th but due to heavy rain, they are coming on October 26th with some adults to work on the berms. As far as I can tell, we only have two berms to work on and that will be the end of the berms maintenance until April 24th, 2026 when Middleville Schools is sending 30 students to do the Spring clean up. Three of the four school systems have offered to help. Club members be sure and give me your hours so we can record them. I would say we are ready for winter, Ugh!

Thanks everyone who came to help. Linda Rough, Chair



MEMBERSHIP
Chair: Katie Ambrose



Jackie Chandler: Spouse-Pat
jacqueline.chandler@yahoo.com
DOB 04/23 Sponsor Sue Carlson



Peggy Bost: Spouse-Chuck
Peggy.Bost60@gmail.com,
DOB 05/23 Sponsor Wendy Potyraj



THE JINGLE JAR

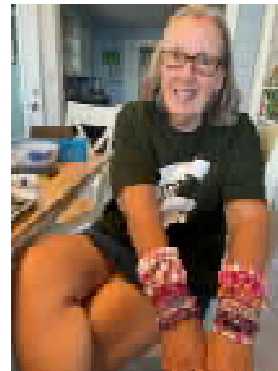


Thanks to all who donate to the Jingle Jar!! Donations received this November will help fund the **Martin Library**. You can also donate money by sending your check to: **GFWC-GLA P.O. Box 286, Shelbyville, MI 49344.**

Make checks out to GFWC/GLA.
Thank you for your continued support.

You are encouraged to purchase gift cards via Raise Right. Katie Ambrose takes orders at every general meeting and if you have any questions regarding using or purchasing them....don't hesitate to call her at 517-861-6897

Raise Right raised for the month of October: \$82.03.
Thank you all who purchase our Raise Right gift cards.



Breast Cancer Awareness

On September 29, we had an all-day Arts and Crafts. We took a pizza or lunch break but from 10 am to 4 pm we worked on making bracelets. We made pink ones for Breast Cancer Awareness and purple for all cancers. We also made different ones for the Christmas Bazaar. In total we made 37 bracelets that day. Beads were donated by Audrey Bartlett and by DJ Madden. They also instructed the ladies in bracelet making. At the October General Meeting we had the bracelets for sale. Single strand bracelets were \$5.00 and double or more strand bracelets were \$8.00. So far, we have sold \$87.00 worth of bracelets. The pink bracelets that were left after the meeting were taken to our free lending library and put out for sale. We also had pink breast cancer pins that we gave out at the meeting and at the library for free.



NOVEMBER CRAFT in the AFTERNOON

Come join us for another "Craft in the Afternoon". We will be making Reindeer faces on small, wooden cutting boards. The board measures 3 1/2' by 7", about the size of a cell phone. A cute addition for your Kitchen Christmas decorating. Cost to you is \$5 for each deer you want to make. We're meeting at Rosy Chatterton's, at 1:00, on Thursday, November 20th. You are welcome to bring your own embellishments. There will be a sign-up sheet at the meeting. If you can't make the meeting, please call Rosy and she will add you to the list.





Environment
Co-Chairs Ruth Perino & Joan Wire



NOVEMBER REMINDERS FOR HEALTHY INDOOR AIR

Colder November weather means more time inside. In sure your indoor air quality stays healthy. Poor indoor air quality is tied to headaches, fatigue, trouble concentrating and irritation of eyes, nose, throat and lungs. Mostly we know we should follow these reminders as winter approaches. Still, reminders are helpful. Keep your family and yourself safe.

1. Increase ventilation by opening windows for cross ventilation a few minutes each day.
2. Use houseplants to absorb toxins. Best are spider plants, Peace Lily, English Ivy and snake plants.
3. Use natural cleaning methods. So many commercial products include toxins. Water, soap, vinegar baking soda and peroxide should be choices.
4. Removing shoes upon entering house prevents tracking in outdoor pollutants.
5. Change furnace filters frequently especially if you have pets. Use your air-conditioning system on recycle mode to filter air if outdoor air quality is poor. This setting will also filter your indoor air. You can use furnace setting to control humidity level in your home. Keep it between 30% to 40% to reduce window condensation and mold risks. Have your furnace checked out before the winter season. Augment air circulation by using ceiling fans. They should rotate clockwise in the winter.
6. Vacuum high traffic areas frequently. Vacuum upholstered furniture regularly in frequently used rooms.
7. Eliminate candle use or use only beeswax candles. Likewise, limit wood burning in your fireplace to special occasions unless you have a wood burning stove designed for heating home.
8. Keep pets groomed and clean.
9. Check basement or crawl space water pipes for mold from condensation. Clean pipes with appropriate mold eliminators. Bleach is not recommended as it puts harsh chemicals in the air. If you must use it, use one cup bleach per gallon of water and spray pipes. A better alternative is to use vinegar and scrub them. Insulate pipes with foam tubes to help prevent this condensation which leads to most mold in home.
10. Use carbon monoxide and radon detectors. These gases are colorless and odorless but deadly. You can purchase monitors or have detection done professionally.

Ruth Perino and Joan Wire, Environment Co-Chairs



Book Club: Meets November 17th at Rosy Chatterton's home. Chris Boysen will lead discussion of *THE BORROWED LIFE OF FREDRICK FIFE* by Anna Johnson.

Next: December 15 – *MY FRIENDS* by Fredrick Backman
January 19 – *ORDINARY GRACE* by Kent Kruenger
February 16 – *THE ALL-GIRL FILING STATION* by Fannie Flag
March 16 – *THE LION WOMEN OF TEHRAN* by Marjan Kamali
April 20 – *THE RADIUM GIRLS* by Kate Moore

New members are always welcome to join us at our monthly book club. We always meet on the 3rd Monday of the month at 9:30 a.m.
Text Ruth Perino with questions at 269-569-1869.

Who am I?

I am one of 5 children raised in Battle Creek Michigan. I am a MSU grad and followed family to the West Coast. My unknown is that "I had a nose job". I am widowed and have two grandchildren. I enjoy crafting biking and travel. I worked 30 years at the LVCVA Center. Had the pleasure of traveling several times to Europe and various areas of the US. My role model is my Mom who raised 5 children alone on very little money. I am involved in church, family and in my subdivision. At this point of my life, I "go with my gut feeling" and enjoy life as I want, doing what I feel like doing. My involvement with GFWC/GL was by an international referral.

Who am I?



The South Western District of GFWC donated this quilt to Guiding Harbors' silent auction fundraiser. Our Marte was the lead on this project working with 7 others from four clubs in the SW District. What a great collaboration...Well done ladies!

Of Note: October 25th 9 club sisters attended the SW District 110th Annual Meeting held at New Hope Church in Richland. This meeting was hosted by the Kalamzoo Club. As always, we learned about other clubs' projects, made new friends, enjoyed laughs and giggles and left the day with a renewed spirit.

Second Annual Cookie Monster Christmas Exchange

Following the December business meeting we will enjoy a catered lunch and then engage in our second annual "Cookie Monster Christmas Exchange". You are invited bring a homemade food item or craft to share. More information will be shared at the November meeting.

Last year's table was a feast, but I'm still dreaming of the no-bake cookies and canned tomatoes that never showed up.

Let's make this year's exchange even more fun and delicious!





SPOOKY CRAFTS in the AFTERNOON

On October 13th, eight club members met at the home of Diane Conley for a recycling craft event. We turned wood scraps into Pumpkins and plastic bottles into Ghosts. Each member paid \$5 to cover the cost of supplies. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon. We worked in the garage and enjoyed light snacks and lots of talking. It is amazing how each member had a different vision for their Ghosts and Pumpkins. Hope to see more of you at the next Craft in the Afternoon event, yet to be determined. Contact Rosy Chatterton with any ideas you might have for a craft gathering.

Caps & medicine bottles were delivered to Quincy Middle School 5th Grade Science class on October 3rd. Dot Zoppa & Mina VanElderen made the trip with a pick-up truck loaded with several bags! This was about a year's worth of collecting from the members of the club. We were welcomed by Principal Brandon, teacher Tracy & several students to help unload - they were *very excited* to receive these caps & medicine bottles as they are just starting to collect for a bench to be made for the school grounds. In the past we have helped the Delton Scouts with what we collect - they were overwhelmed at this time, and it was understood that Quincy Middle School was collecting them. Thank you to members of the club that collect these *clean* caps & medicine bottles!



11- 01 Kathy Watson
11-17 Mina VanElderen
11-18 Sherry Hummel
11-19 Terri Starr
11-23 Donna Podbevsek
11-24 Wendy Opatik
11-25 Onawa Terburg



CARDS & GAMES

Cards and Games **are hosted on the third Wednesday of each month** at 1:00 PM. We will meet at the home of Lori Beebe. There will be a sign-up sheet at the November meeting.

Come and spend some fun time while enjoying the socialization this group provides.



Education & Libraries
Marte Roach



Digital Literacy at HPL

October, November and December 2025 Classes

November 5, 2025 (Wednesday), 2pm

Video Conference Apps: Zoom, Teams, FaceTime

- Need to use Zoom or Teams for work, but aren't sure what to do?
- Are Friends and family asking you to FaceTime but you don't know how?
- Learn the basics, and some of the differences between these three common apps.
- [REGISTER](#) - registration not required but please do so we know how many are coming.

December 3, 2025 (Wednesday), 2pm

Library Apps: Libby and LLC

Did you know the HPL has a library app?

Did you know it has a digital copy of your card in it, lets you search the catalog, place holds, and more?

Are you using Libby to its full potential?

Did you know there are 13 different electronic collections available?

Let us show you some tips and tricks for using Libby for eBooks, audiobooks, and magazines.

[REGISTER](#) - registration not required but please do so we know how many are coming.

Festival of Trees 2025 GFWC-GLA Support

GFWC-GLA supports the Festival of Trees Fundraiser for the J. C. Wheeler Library in Martin. This has become a tradition and is now our eleventh year. This library supports all people in our community who use Delton or Martin as their school district as well as those with a Wayland address on Gun Lake without a library. J. C. Wheeler is our smallest library and privy to the least funding. The library serves as a town center and is an integral part of our extended community. It offers both Overdrive e-loans and Met Cat interstate loans for library members. Many in GFWC-GLA Book Club depend on this library for book loans.

This year our theme is GFWC Bookworms. Our tree will be ready for display at the November GFWC-GLA meeting. Our hope is to have an outpouring of response in the form of cash and checks. The library will put the community trees on display on December 1. Our group donation is always so appreciated but it would not be fair to use it to win repeatedly so aside from our Jingle Jar donation, if you wish to support our tree to win, you must go and look at the trees and put your loose coinage in the appropriate container. These coins work as the voting system. The donations are used for reading programs for children and library supplies. If you cannot be at the meeting, please know that donations can be mailed to GFWC-GLA, Box 286, Shelbyville, MI 49344 or dropped off at Ruth Perino's home at 10766 Wildwood Road, Shelbyville, MI 49344.

Checks should be made out to GFWC-GLA with "Festival of Trees" marked at the lower left. Mina and Ruth will collect them, total, and get them to the library.



The General meeting of October 8th brought us Jennie Sykes of PORCELEAIN CLASSICS. Jennie spoke to us of Restoration and Repairs to Porcelain, specifically to dolls. She has her business in Hastings and offers classes. What began as a hobby turned into her “dream job”.



Our October “Road Trip” found the “Terrific Three” wandering the pathways of Meijer Gardens. The gardens were fully decorated with mums of every size, shape and color. The sculptures throughout the park speak for themselves.

Truly a sight to behold. Sorry you missed it but make time on your own to visit!

Of Note: there is no planned excursion in December, January or February. If something occurs, we will send out an email. Have a Blessed and Happy Holiday season.



Mark your calendar-- December 12th for annual cookie exchange at home of Nancy Molt from 9-12 A.M. More information at the November meeting.



“Be the Voice” for the Signature Program!

By: Kim Fulcher, GFWC North Carolina State President

- Our GFWC Signature program promotes awareness, prevention, and education opportunities for eight focus areas. These focus areas are highlighted throughout the year using color to promote awareness of issues. As GFWC members, we can “be the voice for those who have no voice.” What does this mean? We can “be the voice” by advocating for survivors, providing education to the public, and utilizing GFWC resources.

- November**-Native American Heritage Month-**Red**, Veterans Day (Military Sexual Assault)-Nov 11.

OFFICERS, CSP CHAIRS & COORDINATORS

2024-2026

Raeanne Renner: President
DJ Madden: Vice President
Mina VanElderen: Treasurer
Virginia Norton: Recording Secretary
Ruth Perino: Corresponding Secretary
Pat Velie: Arts & Culture
Joan Wire & Ruth Perino: Environment
Shelly Heijerman & Marcia Heroux
Health and Wellness
Rose Visscher & Mina VanElderen:
Sunshine Committee
Rosy Chatterton: Civic Engagement
Katie Ambrose: Membership
Marte Roache: Education & Libraries
Marcia Heroux: Public Relations
Sandra Marcukaitis: Newsletter
Erin Rives: Webmaster
Donna Podbevsek: Memory Book/Historian

Margaret Sykes, SWD President

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Email: Merohm@gmail.com

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Raeanne Renner, GFWC/GLA President

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517-677-6974

Email: raeannegfwc@gmail.com

BE SURE AND KEEP COLLECTING

Aluminum can tabs
Old eyeglasses
Used batteries
Plastic bottle caps
Empty pill bottles
Ink cartridges

Dates to Remember

11-02 Daylight Savings Time Ends
11-05 Outing to Veterans home
11-08 Yankee Springs
Veteran's Day Service
11-12 General Membership Meeting
11-17 Book Club
11-18 Blood Drive (SS Cyril & Methodius)
11-19 Cards n Games
11-20 Sewing/Quilting
11-26 Board Meeting
11-27 Happy & Blessed Thanksgiving
12-25 Craft Bazaar at GLCC



Be sure and take the time out of your busy schedule to send someone a card to let them know you are thinking of them, especially those who may be alone, are ill or have suffered a loss. *This is truly a time when prayers and support are needed.*

Prayers for the spouse of Ruth Garrett

Prayers for Sandie Wells

All news articles for "Keeping Us Connected" must be submitted to Sandy @ SMarcukaitis@gmail.com by the last Monday of this month.



DONATE BLOOD

Tuesday
November
18

2:00PM - 6:30PM

Helpful tip:

**Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.**



**For eligibility questions
please call
866-642-5663**

Saints Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church Community Blood Drive

**159 131st Ave.
Wayland, MI 49348**



**Come enjoy fresh baked cookies sponsored by:
General Federation of Women's Club of Gun lake**

**Blood donations often decline during the busy winter
months, but the need for blood never takes a holiday.
Take a moment this November to make a lasting
difference — one donation can save up to three lives.**

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

**-Call 866-642-5663
-Or scan the QR code**



 **versiti**
Blood Center of Michigan



PLEASE JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THOSE
VETERANS WHO GAVE THEIR LIFE FOR OUR
FREEDOM!

A VETERAN'S MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON
Saturday-November 8, 2025 @ 11:00 am.

LOCATION: **THE FIRE STATION AT**
1425 South Payne Lake Road, Wayland, MI

