



NEWS & NOTES

Service, Strength, and Sisterhood

President's Corner

Rosemary Boettke

At the April 6 GFWC VA Northern District Annual Meeting, Dominion Woman's Club was honored with numerous awards for our efforts last year! They are as follows: Honorable Mention for reinstating our Gainesville Health and Rehabilitation Center Bunco through our Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee; Best Overall Program for our Education and Libraries Committee; Honorable Mention for the overall work of our Environment Committee; Best Overall Project awarded for the club's advancement of the GFWC Health and Wellness Community Service Program to improve well-being through the numerous efforts of our Health and Wellness Committee; a tie for Best Overall Project for the various activities of our Communications and Public Relations Committee; and Honorable Mention for Leadership awarded for our commitment to leadership at the district and state levels, maintaining a high profile in our community as a dedicated volunteer organization, and for the club's president being highlighted in a local magazine that detailed the ways DWC serves and supports the community. We also had four members who took first place in their categories in the Northern District Art Contest! Congratulations to Amy Scala, Robin Clukey, Barb Garland, and Judy Umland. Their entries will be moving on for consideration in the GFWC Virginia State Art Contest. Finally, Carol Blythe was recognized by name and photo in a lovely memorial slide show for Northern District club members who have passed away since last April. It was a lovely tribute.

GFWC Women’s History Month Celebration:



On March 6, I and three other members had the opportunity to attend the annual GFWC Women’s History Month Event held at GFWC Headquarters in Washington D.C. We enjoyed a self-guided tour of this historic building including a display of past international presidents’ inaugural gowns, a fascinating presentation of GFWC artifacts by WHRC Librarian Joanna Church, and an interesting talk by guest speaker Jude Mabone, Miss District of Columbia 2023, in which she shared her personal experience with heart disease from a young age and her efforts to promote heart health awareness for women. We also had the opportunity to meet current GFWC International President Deb Strahanoski and President Elect Suellen Brazil and enjoy delicious refreshments served in the Headquarters beautiful dining room.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming Spring Garden Tea on April 14! If by chance you have not purchased a ticket and would still like to attend, I believe we can still take last-minute requests until Friday, April 12.



Arts and Culture Committee
Chair: Elizabeth Laverty

Dear DWC Sisters,

I trust this message finds you all in good spirits.



A few of us had the pleasure of attending the March Matinee Idyll by the Alma Ensemble at The Hylton Performing Arts Center on the 19th. It was a delightful experience, and we took the opportunity to present our annual donation to the Hylton representatives, reaffirming DWC’s commitment to our community’s enrichment.

Exciting news for the art enthusiasts among us - the Dominion Woman's Club has secured a spot to showcase our art in the Bull Run Library lobby throughout May. We can set up our display starting May 1st during library hours. Please plan accordingly to ensure your artwork is ready before the library closes.

For those interested in participating, kindly inform Barbara Murray or me, so we can facilitate the arrangements. A special thanks to Barbara for making this possible!

Together, we continue to make a difference and create beauty in our community!



Civic Engagement and Outreach
Chair: Mary Ellen Murphy
Co-Chair: Susie Collat

Pinwheels For Prevention:



“April showers bring May flowers;” so, the saying goes...at the rate we are going, May should be a veritable bower! Rainy weather did not deter the intrepid ladies of the CE&O Committee from planting our annual “Pinwheels For Prevention” Garden in downtown Haymarket to call attention to the issue of child abuse. The cheerful display of pinwheels spinning in the wind is a reminder to those driving on the main street of the town that every child deserves a safe environment and a commitment from all of us to protect them. The Haymarket Town Council joined with us in emphasizing this need to care for our children and issued a proclamation at their monthly meeting declaring April to be “Child Abuse Awareness Month.” Committee members in attendance were presented with a copy of the official proclamation; we presented the council members with lapel pins inscribed with “A Happy Childhood

Lasts a Lifetime,” which were gratefully received. All DWC members were given “Stand Up For Children” bracelets with a card detailing the physical and behavioral signs of abuse at our March monthly meeting.

We have some really good news to share about our “Dollars For Doggies” outreach! After learning at the March DWC meeting that we were seriously behind in collecting donations for our puppy sponsorship for “Canine Companions For Independence,” you, our good-hearted members, donated \$93! That left us with only \$61 more dollars to collect; then our resourceful community liaison Deb Jewell reached out to local business “A Pup’s Valley” in Haymarket who generously donated \$200! We are so grateful for this added support... we can now sponsor the training of TWO puppies as companion dogs! Thank you so much for making this happen. We will also be seeking community support at our lovely Spring Garden Tea.

Also at the March meeting, Susie Collat distributed sets of ten spring themed cards for members to write encouraging messages to the residents at the Gainesville Health & Rehabilitation Center; Susie will collect these and deliver them to the center later this month. Sharayu Tulpule shared the good news that we will be playing bunco with residents again starting in the fall; more information will come after we meet with the new activity’s director in May.

We continue to work on crocheting and purchasing octopi for premature babies and children at the cardiac unit at Inova Hospital and we plan to work on our “Caring on the Go” outreach to homebound seniors and veterans later this month. Please contact Mary Ellen (megwayne@comcast.net) or **Susie** (collatsusie@gmail.com) if you are interested in more information about these outreaches. Thank you for all that you do, friends...keep in mind that we welcome everyone to join our efforts to make our community a wonderful place to live...membership on the committee is not necessary.



Health and Wellness Committee
Chairs: Barbara Murray and Sue Mork

We wanted to share our experience from the March 12th Boxes of Basics tour. Six members attended and were very impressed with the mission and organized process at Boxes of Basics. We are certain that these children will have increased confidence and really thrive knowing that these boxes of seasonal wardrobes were lovingly wrapped.



It is very easy to sign up individually to volunteer at www.boxesofbasics.org to either pack or deliver the boxes. The calendar fills in quickly and they are closed during the summer. We were hoping to go as a group April 19th, but the spots filled with only four of us on the list. Grab a friend or two, coordinate your schedules and have a fulfilling hour of giving back to the local community. Come fall, we are planning a ‘**Pajama-rama**’ collection of new pj’s for these kids...more to come!

Another vital volunteer opportunity is to pack or deliver food at Crossroads Connection. Please visit crossroads-connection.org to sign up with your DWC friends to keep our local children fed over the weekends. The food donation list is on their web site, and we are happy to pick up any food and deliver it for you or you may bring it to a club meeting. They are now serving almost four hundred vetted children with food insecurity.

At the March DWC club meeting, Rosemary Boettke kicked off her **President’s Project to support Alzheimer’s** research and those in our local community living with the disease and their caregivers. Rosemary has asked us to get the word out and plans to volunteer at the ‘Memory Cafe’ at local libraries being sponsored by Comfort Keepers. We will again support the Alzheimer’s walk fundraiser in October.

Dr. Stan Jones, CEO of **ACTS**, is excited to speak to our whole club this coming year. **ACTION** in Community Through Service became our Woman’s Health Project for Prince William County. Their services include those for domestic violence, rapid re-housing, emergency shelter, utility assistance and Senior Link. In addition to our donation, would it not be fulfilling to be a volunteer for their Senior Link?!!! This free call reassurance program provides scheduled phone calls to senior citizens who might be feeling isolated.

We have sent a ‘**File of Life**’ sample and hope to distribute these to our members. These are filled with medical information that is critical to First Responders in improving emergency medical care. Look for more on this in September.

We will not be having a formal meeting in April or May as we really hope all of you will take that time to be our ‘**Volunteers in Action.**’ Please let Barb Garland know if you can volunteer at hole eighteen to support the **Swing for Life** golf tournament on May 23rd. Barb Garland has requested volunteers for two shifts of three people each shift. The times are 8:45-11 and 11-1. We will be donating \$250 to support Ovarian Cancer Research.

The Care and Concern sub-committee is ongoing, and members are asked to reach out to Barbara Murray and/or Sue Mork themselves when needing extra support. Examples of how we have helped our DWC sisters in the past have included cards, meal trains, and baskets of cheer after illness, surgery or deaths in the immediate family.

If you have any questions, ideas for additional projects, or would like to join the Health and Wellness Committee, contact Barbara Murray [Mike Murray2013@comcast.net](mailto:Mike_Murray2013@comcast.net) or Sue Mork s.mork@comcast.net



Education and Libraries Committee
Chair: Martha Feeney
Co-Chair: Irmen Horne

Spring Break is behind us, and we are moving quickly to the end of the school year! How did that happen?!?

Remember that April 7-13 is National Library Week. Plan to visit your local library and enjoy being surrounded by books and book lovers!

“National Library Week is an annual celebration highlighting the valuable role libraries, librarians, and library workers play in transforming lives and strengthening our communities.”

American Library Association

In March, Irmen and Martha met with the new 2024-2025 Education and Libraries co-chairs – Sharayu and Laura – and discussed current and future activities of this committee. Exciting times ahead!

The PACE West staff and students wish to show their appreciation for all volunteers who work at the school by hosting a breakfast. Please let Martha – mlfeeney@comcast.net – know by April 10 if you will be able to attend the breakfast on April 25 at 10:00. The students also have a talent show planned for our entertainment.

We are excited to note that we have twenty applicants for the 2024 DWC Service Scholarship! This \$2,000 scholarship is given to a female senior attending Battlefield High School who has demonstrated excellence in service and leadership in her high school career. Sharayu is coordinating the DWC members who have volunteered to be readers of the applications. If you would be interested in participating in this process, please contact Sharayu as soon as possible so that she can add your name to the rotation of readers. sharayug@comcast.net

This month's DWC Book Group meeting will be on Wednesday, April 24 at 7:00, hosted by Sharayu Tulpule. We will be discussing It Ends with Us by Colleen Hoover. We use an organizer website called "Bookclubs" accessed from a desktop computer or app. Please contact Elizabeth Laverty

(lavertyeliza@gmail.com) or Rosemary Boettke (rboettke@gmail.com) with questions or to receive a link to join the group through "Bookclubs."

Our May committee meeting will be on May 6, 2024, at 7:00, hosted by Irmen.

Please contact us - Martha Feeney mlfeeney@comcast.net and Irmen Horne irmenhome@aol.com - if you have any questions about this committee and/or its activities.



Environment Committee
Chair: Amy Scala

Spring is in the air.



Thank you, Sarah, and Robin, for attending and presenting our donation to Bull Run Mountains Conservancy at their 2024 Annual Fundraising Party & Lecture on March 12th held at Grace Episcopal Church in The Plains. Celebrating their 30th year as guardians of the Bull Run Mountains Region.

Environment Committee's March 13th visit to Meadowlark Botanical Garden:



We had a lovely visit to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens in Vienna on March 13th. The weather was beautiful, early flowers were blooming, turtles were in abundance basking in the sun. We strolled along the gardens, watched the large Koi swimming in the pond and enjoyed an informative and enthusiastic presentation at the Korean Bell Garden. Becky Strode was on hand to share the art, fabrication, science, and history of bells and details of their own 6,000-pound Korean bell. To finish we had a picnic lunch and great conversation.

April 20th. Leopold's Preserve "Earth Day Tree Planting" on Saturday, volunteer for afternoon shift 1-3. Leads Barbara M. And Sue M. Please let Barbara Murray know and register on Leopold's website leopoldspreserve.com

Additional opportunity for residents of DVCC, Dominion Valley Country Club clean up Saturday, April 20th 9-12.

May 8th - Our combined Environment Committee and Art & Culture Committee's visit to Hillwood Estate, Museums & Gardens in DC will be an enjoyable combination of art, culture, and beautiful gardens. Car-pooling needed. Sarah lead

Please contact Amy Scala, EC Chair, for more information or if you would like to join us.
amyscala@ix.netcom.com



Events Committee
Co-Chairs: Claire Szanyi and Nora Peterson

The Spring Garden Tea is quickly approaching, and we hope to see all of you there! We would like to thank all the members who have donated items for the raffle baskets, wine, prizes, candy, favors, farewell bags, and their time in helping us prepare for this fun event. We could not do this without the help of all of you dedicated ladies!

As many of you know, we will be stepping down as Events Committee Chairs at the end of the club year to join the DWC board. We have enjoyed heading up the committee and really appreciate the enthusiasm all of you have shown in supporting us. In moving into our new roles at the start of the new club year, we are happy to announce that the Events Committee will be co-chaired by Connie Loggans and Barb Garland. Thanks to both Connie and Barb for leading this important committee next year!

With all the Spring Tea planning we have not had time to arrange many informal social events, but we hope to schedule a few more outings before the end of the club year. As always, we welcome any assistance from the members in planning these gatherings.

Upcoming Calendar of Events

- TBD April - Trivia at Great Mane Brewery
- Sunday, April 14, 2024 - Spring Fundraising Event at the Stonewall Golf Club 2-4 PM
- TBD May - Farm Brewery at Broad Run

- TBD June – End of Year Club Gathering

Please contact Claire Szanyi clairecszanyi@gmail.com or Nora Peterson nora.peterson@hotmail.com if you have questions/suggestions, if you would like to help coordinate one or more of our social events or if you would like to join the committee or be added to the Events Committee distribution list.



The Dominion Juniors Club Chair: Yubo Zhang



On March 15, the Juniors engaged in volunteer work for the "Prom Wishes" event, held at Rust Library in Leesburg from 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM. During our time there, we contributed by assisting in the organization of dresses, jewelry, and various accessories essential for a memorable prom night. It was heartening to know that individuals who may face financial constraints were provided with an opportunity to select these items free of charge on the subsequent day. Our gratitude extends to the generous donors whose contributions made it possible for those in need to take part in the joy of a special evening.

Submitted by: Angela Goh (Vice President Dominion Juniors Club)

Club Essentials

GFWC Dominion Woman's Club 2023 – 2024 Board

President – Rosemary Boettke

1st Vice President – Barbara Garland

2nd Vice President – Gale Goodwin

Corresponding Secretary – Sue Mork

Recording Secretary – Connie Loggans

Treasurer – Sharayu Tulpule

Parliamentarian – Elizabeth Laverty

GFWC Dominion Woman's Club

P.O. Box 1053

Haymarket, VA 20168

Dominion Woman's Club Website www.dominionwomansclub.org

Dominion Woman's Club email address dominionwomans11@gmail.com

Facebook Page: GFWC DOMINION WOMAN'S CLUB

Non-Profit Member: Prince William Chamber of Commerce www.pwchamber.org

Non-Profit Member: Haymarket Gainesville Business Association www.HGBA.org

Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) www.gfwc.org

GFWC Virginia www.gfwcvirginia.org

GFWC Northern District www.ndgfwcva.org

Calendar of Events

APRIL 2024

- 12 – DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) Day
- 14 – Spring Fundraiser at Brass Cannon
- 16 – National Librarian Day
- 17 – DWC Monthly Meeting at Brass Cannon Restaurant, Stonewall Golf Club, Gainesville – The social time will begin at 6:30 PM and the meeting will begin at 7:00 PM
- 20 – Environment Committee Meeting – Earth Day volunteer opportunity
- 24 – Arts and Culture Committee – Hylton Performance – 12:30 PM
- 24 – Book Club, 7 PM, (<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/5964273/meetings>)

MAY 2024

- 6 – Education and Libraries Committee meeting, 7 PM
 - 8 – Arts and Culture and Environment Committees – Hillwood Gardens
 - 7 – Teacher Appreciation Day
 - 15 – DWC Dinner Meeting at Brass Cannon Restaurant, Stonewall Golf Club
 - 29 – Book Club, 7 PM, (<https://bookclubs.com/clubs/5964273/meetings>)
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Collections

- Used children's books – Rosemary Boettke
- Used batteries – Sharayu Tulpule
- Aluminum pop-tops – Connie Loggans
- Haymarket Food Pantry – Mary Ellen Murphy
- Canceled postage stamps - Vanna Ruffner
- Comfort Cases – Sue Mork, Barbara Murray
- Crossroads Connections – Sue Mork, Barbara Murray
- Dollar for Doggies (Previously Pennies for Puppies) – Mary Ellen Murphy

Ujwala Joshi, Editor