



GFWC Civic Club Of Oakland Newsletter

Spring/Summer 2015

The Presidents' Corner

Spring is always the time of new beginnings and that is true for the Civic Club of Oakland as well. We have started the new club year with enthusiasm and excitement!

We began this year hearing presentations from 22 non-profit organizations. We voted on their requests (12 members who were not able to attend emailed their ballots in!) and in April we donated over \$12,000.00 to these organizations. Read more about this effort in this newsletter.

In April, the Civic Club of Oakland also voted to become a Pillar of the Garrett County Memorial Hospital with the promise of a donation annually for the next 10 years. We are very proud of our 48 years of support for the hospital. We are especially pleased that an ICU room will be dedicated to the Civic Club of Oakland.

On May 13, we hosted the Western District Annual Meeting at Ace's Run restaurant. Twenty-one ladies from down state joined 15 members of our Civic Club for a wonderful time of business and friendship. Local Civic Club members hosted seven of these ladies overnight. We enjoyed a pre-meeting dinner at Dutch's which gave us the opportunity to get to know each other better. The results of the award presentations from Western District are included in an article inside.

The rest of the summer will be fun and busy. Craft Club continues to meet, and Book Club is very active with selections planned through July. More details about those activities are inside. The July picnic will again be held at the Yacht Club on Turkey Neck. Maybe we won't have to wear ski hats and fuzzy mittens this year!

Plans are coming right along for the Antique Show. A big thank you to Barbara Frantz for taking the lead on this in 2015. Jackie Johnson did an excellent job on the Antique Show for more than 20 years and she will be sorely missed!

Look for some new additions and changes in the kitchen and on the front lawn of the Armory!

Ellen Fritz has resigned as the Publicity Chair due to family health concerns. She did a wonderful job for many years and we thank her for all her hard work. We are pleased to announce that Pat Weiler has accepted that position for the rest of this term. She has even offered to bring her husband, Paul, along as photographer! That is a great deal!

Judi Schiff initiated an International Student night at our evening meeting in April. Civic Club members sponsored two students from Garrett College for dinner and the evening presentation. This was a great beginning to what may become a tradition! See the article inside for more information.

Edna Forsyth and Kris Yusko continue to brainstorm new ways to raise funds for us to give away! Some of their efforts are detailed inside. Please purchase raffle tickets, sell entertainment (support) cards, and participate in every way you can. It takes all of us to support these efforts.

Thanks and Love to all of the members who work so hard for the people in our community.
This is truly **Love in Action!**

Sandy Hill
2014-2016 President
sandy_hill@comcast.net

Love in Action



GFWC Civic Club of Oakland, MD is an affiliate of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

EVENT HELD IN GARRETT COUNTY

WESTERN DISTRICT ANNUAL MEETING

May 13, 2015

Hosted by GFWC Civic Club of Oakland

The Western District Annual meeting was held at Ace's Run Restaurant on the lower level. Total GFWC members in attendance were 34. Our club had 15 members attend. The morning started with a beautiful continental breakfast of fruit, muffins, pastries, cookies, coffee, tea, and water. Our club was responsible for selecting the breakfast, and luncheon meal, providing table arrangements and center pieces based on a "bee theme" which is from the Western District President, Susan Kritchen. Jeannie Bailey, Jean Tumbarello, and Sandy Hill made **bee inspired arrangements**. The arrangements were a huge hit! We sold 9 or 10 arrangements making over \$100.00 for our club.



For lunch we had seasoned chicken with salad, and strawberry shortcake with whipped cream for dessert. Just the right amount! Ace's Run did a superior job of setting up, making good food, and serving us on time. They even did theme related table linen. Brenda and her staff were awesome.



There was a **silent auction**, and a 50/50 raffle to raise money for Western District. This money will be used for the Annual MD State Conventions.

Each club President must report on what their club has been doing in the past year. So to spice up the delivery of giving the reports some Presidents use props, funny wording anything to make it fun for everyone. **Sandy Hill, President** created a script and **Suzanne Harle, 1st Vice President** helped



with the delivery. We had two old time phones, one was a princess wall phone, the other a desk phone with buttons. Suzanne would start by saying Ring! Ring! (each time a different type of Ring!), Sandy would answer, Suzanne would ask a question about the club and Sandy would provide an answer telling about what we do. We did practice but not with the equipment! It was very funny trying to hold the phones and pass the microphone back and forth and read the script. We got a lot of acclamations and laughter!

The Western District President, **Susan Kritchen**, dressed up as a bee to deliver her report. She also wrote a script with a "Bee" theme for the **Western District Board**



members who held up bee face masks to cover their faces. They repeated certain parts of the script in unison. **Barbara Frantz (far left)** even did a bee waggle!

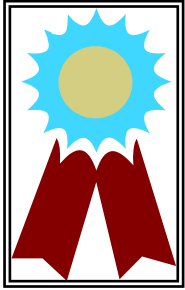
1st and 2nd place awards for Community Service Projects were given to the clubs winning in the various program areas.

The Civic Club of Oakland had several First Place awards. **Edna Forsyth (right)** helped our club win the 1st place award for our Fundraising program. Oakland competes in a category of clubs which has several very large clubs in the Western District.



The meeting adjourned at 2pm after a great day of GFWC information and sharing.

AWARDS



CONGRATULATIONS!

GFWC Civic Club of Oakland

2014-Western District Awards

GFWC Signature Project

2nd Place: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AWARENESS & PREVENTION

COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS

1st Place: ARTS
1st Place: COMMUNICATION & PUBLIC
RELATIONS
1st Place: FUNDRAISING
1st Place: MEMBERSHIP
2nd Place: EDUCATION
2nd Place: PUBLIC ISSUES PROGRAM

Recognition: BETTIE M. SIPPLE MEMORIAL
ENDOWMENT FUND

Art Photography MD State Award Category

1st Place: *Volunteer's In Action*
Contest Winner: Jo Gallagher

Winning photo:
"Fun(d) Raising at the Antique Show"

This photo will go onto Nat'l Convention in June for judging



Left: Sandy Curey Smith, and Edna Forsyth
Selling Raffle Tickets!

RECOGNITION & OUTREACH

Garrett County Lighthouse



Photo left to right:
Betty Ellington Board President,
Donna Gregory Executive Director,
Jo Gallagher, Recipient

The Garrett County Lighthouse Board of Directors recently recognized Jo Gallagher for her outstanding support of the client-centered Treasure Chest, a gift shop sponsored by the GFWC Civic Club of Oakland, MD, Inc. and located on-site at The Lighthouse. The Treasure Chest serves those enrolled in the mental health program at The Lighthouse. Jo's advocacy has introduced many community members, particularly the generous residents of Alpine Lake, in Terra Alta, WV to the gift shop. Because of Jo's extraordinary community outreach, donors to the Treasure Chest increased significantly. Jo was presented a framed Letter of Appreciation and a bouquet of flowers.

International Students Outreach April Club Meeting

We were honored to have two International students from Garrett College join us for The Holocaust - Never Forget program. **Bethany Dalton, from Great Britain and Jana Ajdukovic, from Croatia.** Rachelle Davis, faculty advisor attended as well and provided transportation for them. Each student had a club member sponsor who paid for the meal and sat with them. Pat Mullinix sponsored Bethany. Ginny Grove and Edna Forsyth co-sponsored Jana. A big thank you to the sponsors and **Judi Schiff, International Chair** who coordinated!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Tiffany Blackden is a homeschooling mom to two adorable and brilliant young children, wife to a fantastic hubby, owner of a business, volunteer and activist. She always tries to find the bright side of any situation, especially when it's hard to find the silver lining, and strives to leave her corner of the world better than the

way she found it. She follows nudges, prays a lot and she has been made acutely aware of the fact that God has a VERY interesting sense of humor. In her 'discretionary time' she reads natural health material to help her kids stay healthy, in spite of their many chemical sensitivities, and practices some yoga to keep her head on straight.

Barbara McClosky and her husband, Robert, have owned a home in Garrett County since 1978. They moved here permanently in August 2012. They have 2 children and 7 grandchildren. Barbara was a teacher and counselor for 33 years in Montgomery County, MD. She also worked as an adjunct professor at McDaniel College for 10 years. Barbara has always been involved in service work and knows that the Civic Club does wonderful things in GC. Barbara said she is looking forward to joining this group of productive women.



Susan McQuaid is a retired middle school math teacher. Susan has two sons and is now working on the grandparent part of her life. Susan's retirement jobs include teaching yoga, knitting, and reading, quilting and

hiking. She has been coming to Garrett County for over 50 years and considers it the best place on earth.

Michelle Umlauf was born in Frederick, MD, and has a BS in psychology from UMBC. Michelle is a volunteer for HART for Animals and President of the MD Chapter of the American Sewing Guild. She and her husband, Chris, moved here recently because of Chris' job. Michelle enjoys sewing, animals, homesteading and a little cooking. Michelle is looking forward to meeting Club members and being active in the community.



BRING A GUEST

The competition for the member who brings the most guests to our monthly meetings is going on!

The winning member will receive complimentary membership for 2016-2017. Your guest must sign the guest log sheet located at the luncheon meeting registration table. The winner will be announced at our holiday luncheon in December.

The more guests we have increases the potential for new members! Thanks to everyone who participated last year!

SPECIAL PROJECTS



Hear Ye, Here Ye!

Since 2008 Civic Club has been participating in Court Watch Monitoring on behalf of the Dove Center clients and other domestic abuse victims. Court Watch requires each monitor to attend 5 hours of proceedings per court session. There is

no reimbursement and monitors must complete a questionnaire on each case for the Dove Center.

The Court Watch Program's significant achievement is the show of interest in the courtroom that is demonstrated by our volunteer presence. It shows the legal system that the public is aware and does care that victims are treated with proper seriousness and respect, and the abusers are learning that the legal system disapproves of abusive behavior and it will be punished.

In 2014 five of our members put in 39 hours. However, in the same year three Civic Club mates put in 171 hours. We can be proud of our Club members and Club mates because this important program could not succeed without them.

Thanks to our volunteers, our local legal system has much improved since the founding of this program in 2008.

Sherry Bradshaw, Volunteer Coordinator

THE TREASURE CHEST



Greetings All,

Your Civic Club volunteers at the Treasure Chest have been very busy and we are excited to share the initiatives that have been accomplished since our last report to the membership. The gift shop continues to be as popular as ever with the clients at the Lighthouse. This, of course, is primarily due to the wonderful support of the Civic Club members

and the general community through in-kind donations. Recently, we discovered that over the past 12 years the accrued proceeds are sufficient to help supplement client related programs such as the food pantry, field trips, class projects, goal oriented rewards and other activities that are not included in the operating budget. How gratifying it is to think that your donations of gently used or no longer needed articles will enrich lives in so many different ways.

Last year a rewards program was launched whereby clients could increase their purchasing power by redeeming coupons at the Treasure Chest. The coupons are earned by accomplishing set goals or attending educational classes, including courses presented by Melissa Rank on Foot Care and Managing Poor Circulation to encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Often, special events are made possible because of extraordinary items donors provide us. A while back three happy clients won great prizes at a free "Tax Day Raffle." At Easter time 40 attractively wrapped packets of soaps, lotions, shampoos and other personal care items were distributed as favors. All were donated by members and made festive by Sandy Curey Smith.

SPECIAL PROJECTS & EVENT



We are grateful for all the support throughout the years. Keep the donations coming! Any items you would like to donate can be dropped off at the Lighthouse, or at any Civic Club meeting. Some suggestions include CDs, DVDs, jewelry, kitchen gadgets, beauty aids, decorative home accessories, as well as seasonal decorations. **For any questions, please contact Melissa Rank or Loretta Bailie.**



WARM THE CHILDREN

Warm the Children is a program sponsored by the *Republican News Paper* and the Civic Club. It is a program to provide warm winter clothing to needy school children in Garrett County. Last year we shopped for 359 children in 159 families. In support of Warm the Children Garrett County residents and community visitors donated \$48,878.

Each year we will need shoppers and thank you card writers. Starting in November 2015 sign-up sheets will go around please consider volunteering it is a very rewarding opportunity you don't want to miss. **For more information contact Betty Ellington.**

MD STATE CONVENTION

116th Annual GFWC Maryland Federation Convention with theme - "Soaring the Heights of Volunteerism" was held at Sheraton Annapolis Hotel, Annapolis on April 25-26, 2015. Six members from Civic Club of Oakland attended. On Saturday, April 25th at 2:00pm a Discover Annapolis Trolley Tour took place for those attendees who signed up. Two from Civic Club of Oakland went on the tour. It was an hour tour with a knowledgeable historic conductor. It's a tour worth taking.

Saturday evening was "Let's Fly Together" banquet with dinner music provided by Bill Edwards Trio. Speaker Alison Prost, Esq., from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation spoke, followed by a meeting of Committee Reports and Awards. Following the meeting there was a Night Owl BINGO, lots of fun and prizes.

Art and Photography Exhibits and Youth Art Exhibits along with Fund Raising Raffle items and various vendors for shopping are available anytime there are no meetings.

Sunday afternoon "Leaders of the Flock" luncheon was held honoring the 2014 Outstanding Maryland Clubwomen and Honorary Presidents of The Maryland Federation. Speaker, Babs Condon, GFWC International President reported on all things International. A second speaker, Carol Moore, MS,RNC, from Peninsula Regional Medical Center presented "Humor Helps" we all LOL and she provided lots of tips on how to be a good leader.

Sunday evening "We're All a Twitter" banquet acknowledged Club Anniversaries & 50 Year Members. Reports were given by District Presidents. GFWC Districts of Maryland are Western, Eastern Shore, Baltimore, Southern, and Montgomery County. Door prizes from convention exhibitors and raffles winners were drawn wrapping up the meeting. A District President's Reception immediately following the banquet was attended by all.

Fund Raising Autumn Glory 2015

ANTIQUUE, VINTAGE & COLLECTIBLES SHOW

The Antique Show has new leadership for 2015. We have "spiffed" up the name to read Antique, Vintage & Collectibles Show, being held October 9, 10, and 11. In March, a survey was sent to all vendors by President Sandy Hill. There was a 37% return response. In great detail, our antique dealers shared with us their thoughts about retaining the \$3.00 entrance fee for the 3 day event, and strongly requesting "their" former booth location in the Oakland Community Center remain the same. We await approval of some neat new ideas and participants in the Show, so stay tuned.

The contracts/deposits for the 2015 Antique Show are being returned at an excellent rate. Postcards have been sent thanking the early birds, and others have been sent a "reminder" card. It looks like only one vendor is not returning due to their health/age. Tables have been reserved for the show; fliers have been printed and will be distributed throughout the area and in the Western District of Maryland. As requested, we will double the advertising in the PA area and in counties south of us.

Do we need help? You bet we do! We always need help cleaning up the Center and setting up tables and chairs on Wednesday before the dealers prepare their areas on Thursday for the show opening on Friday.

Judi Merriman and Suzanne Harle have volunteered to take charge of the Kitchen this year. Bakers are needed the Wednesday before the Antique Show to make loaves of zucchini and quick breads to serve to the dealers with their coffee upon arrival – a traditional gesture by the Civic Club and very much appreciated by the Vendors.

Volunteers will be needed at the Door, in the Kitchen during the October event serving soup, making sandwiches and a Cashier position. The Bake Sale is an important facet of our Fundraising weekend, with volunteers baking cookies, brownies, cakes for sale to the public. Our successful Raffle Table will welcome our visitors.

Soup preparation takes place a week before the Antique Show at St. Paul's Methodist Certified Kitchen. Our food always receives 100% approval by Ms. Buckel of the Health Department, so be prepared to wear your gloves, hats and smiles.

Mark your calendars October 9, 10, 11, 2015. Signup sheets will be available in upcoming general membership meetings. This Show is our biggest fundraiser of the year, and all net profits go toward our Donations to Non Profit Organizations.

Thanks to Jackie Johnson for her guidance and help to me as a mentor and friend.

Barbara Frantz, Antique Show Chair

RAFFLE AT ANTIQUE SHOW

Our annual raffle will begin in July. The winner will be awarded on the last day of the Antique show. The winner this year will receive \$1,000 cash prize. We hope we can out do last year's very successful raffle. We will be selling tickets every Wednesday and Saturday at the Farmers Market in Oakland along with other places so look for the sign-up sheets coming soon. The more money we raise the more we can give back to the community. Every minute of your time spent selling you know your helping someone in need. There are always two people working together when selling. Great way to make new friends or better yet sign-up with a friend!

So please sign-up and be a "Volunteers in Action!"

Edna Forsyth and Kris Yusko

Other Fund Raising 2015

Support/Entertainment Cards 2015

New Support/Entertainment cards will be coming soon. This year we have many of our supporters returning and we are very excited about the new supporters. Remember these cards can be used for a year and make great Holiday gifts. Buy one for someone you wish to thank for a favor. Or if you have a friend who is a Real Estate Agent ask if they would like to buy some cards for their customers as gifts.

Don't forget I-GIVE for those who shop on-line. The total funds raised so far is \$221.32, total sent from I-GIVE to us \$130.88. All this from just doing your shopping on-line. Such an easy and safe way to give to the Civic Club of Oakland. Please contact Kris Yusko or Suzanne Harle for instructions on how to sign-up for I-GIVE. Don't miss out!

2014 Fund Distributions



At our March 31 general meeting, GFWC Civic Club of Oakland members heard representatives from 20 non-profit organizations deliver 2-minute speeches requesting funds and describing how they planned to be used. Members voted their own individual preference: 3 =High; 2=Medium; 1=Low; 0=Funds should not be given. Several members of the Executive Board determine the amount of funding each organization should receive based on members' rankings. Members ratified the amounts to be donated at the April 28 general meeting and checks were mailed to the non-profit organizations on May 7th. The Executive Board later voted that for Garrett County Memorial Hospital Foundation in lieu of a donation through our annual nonprofit distribution procedure, the club pledge \$1,000 annually for a total of ten years to the hospital's Foundation. In return we get an ICU room named after us.

AAUW	\$490
The Dove Center	\$770
Garrett Choral Society	\$510
Garrett Community Concert Band	\$460
Garrett County Arts Council	\$520
Garrett County Community Action: Area Agency on Aging	\$700
Garrett County Habitat for Humanity	\$700
Garrett County Historical Society	\$430
Garrett County Humane Society	\$540
Garrett County Lighthouse	\$720
GLAF	\$620
Garrett Mentors	\$600
Garrett Organization for the Handicapped	\$620
HART	\$550
Hospice of Garrett County	\$810
House of Hope	\$730
Landon's Library	\$570
Mountain Top Crisis Pregnancy Center	\$620
Our Town Theatre	\$440
Southern Garrett Rescue Squad	\$590
Total Distribution	\$11,990

CLUB ACTIVITES

BOOK CLUB



April's read "All The Light We Cannot See" achieved the top rating of 5 -- the only one so far this year. It also received the Pulitzer for fiction while we were reading it, we are in good company. Nearly all our selected reading generates very active participation in discussions. We love to share ideas to broaden our understanding of the world we live in, past or present or future--and address all of the many human frailties and strengths in "ordinary" lives in extraordinary times or "normal" times.

Those new people who join us soon discover we are encouraged to openly and comfortably share ideas without self-consciousness among friendly book-lovers. Loving books gives us a common bond. We are looking forward to several new members this year and guests too!

We meet every third Friday of the month at Dutch's at NOON. \$15 with our special lunch menu provides choice of entrée and non-alcoholic drink and tip (no tax). A reminder is sent out every month for members to RSVP, which is necessary for reservations at Dutch's in the private side room. You need to let Sherry know if you are bringing a guest. Sherry pays one tab for all, so please bring \$15 cash or check made out to Sherry Bradshaw.

Sherry Bradshaw, Chair
301 746 8117 sherbrad@verizon.net

CRAFT CLUB

Happy Spring Everyone! Your Craft Club is very happy spring is here with especially good weather! We were able to complete our Valentine project on time, but getting the Easter project completed proved challenging with the winter weather and an earlier than usual date for Easter. We called it "Welcome Spring" and distributed the beautiful tulips to our six facilities in early May.



Our Fourth of July project is a printout of "God Bless America" surrounded by a wood frame with red, white, and blue sticker stars covering it! For Halloween we're making pumpkins made

with wide orange sticks and cutouts from black felt for spooky eyes and a mouth! Thanksgiving we're using our in-house inventory to make turkeys! Christmas has us making little angels with halos. All our projects are simple and easy. You don't need to be creative to make any of our items, just willing to cut, paste, glue and have fun!

One month between Halloween, Thanksgiving, our donation to the Festival of Trees (Dove Center annual fundraiser), and Christmas, doesn't leave us much time to finish for these holidays. Our theme for the tree for Festival of Trees this year is entitled "It Just Felt Like Christmas." We plan to make hand-made felt ornaments and we're hoping you will help us with this project. As club members we consider you as part of our team and we appreciate your support!

We're a fun group and we sure need your help! We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. in Oakland at the Boals Bldg and, optional lunch at Denny's afterwards. We are only closed if schools are delayed two hours or are closed all day. We're really good company, carry on great conversations, and have lots of fun while we work on our projects. Come join us!

Jeannie Bailey and Judy Schiff, Co-Chairs

JULY 2015 PICNIC PROGRAM

The Summer Picnic program at the Deep Creek Yacht Club, Turkey Neck, in Swanton is very popular with members and their guests. The picnic is scheduled for July 28th and we are planning on beautiful weather. The pavilion is covered and there are tables and chairs for your comfort. There will be no business meeting - this is a time to enjoy the lake and our friendships. Please bring a family member or friend! The picnic will start at 11:30 am. The luncheon will be catered by Don Champion and his excellent staff. The price will remain at \$15.00 per person. While the menu is still being finalized at this time fried chicken is always a must! Non-Alcoholic drinks and dessert are included. Reservations are required. You will be called as usual by the calling team so you can RSVP. We hope to see you all there rain or shine!

2015 DATES TO REMEMBER

June 30 - CC General Luncheon Meeting
How Many Ways Can you Tie a Scarf?,
Interactive Fashion Styling, Dutch's

July 28 - Picnic -Members & Guests - Deep
Creek Yacht Club, Turkey Neck, Swanton

August 25 - CC General Luncheon Meeting
Growing up as a Girl in Rural China, Dutch's

September 29 - CC General Luncheon Meeting - Tentative Full scope of Garrett Memorial Hospitals addition, renovation and expansion, Dutch's

October 27- CC General Evening Meeting
Tentative What a Licensed Forensic Nurse Examiner Does!, Dutch's

November 24 - CC General Luncheon Meeting
Crafts and You, Dutch's

December 8 - Christmas Party Luncheon for
members and guests at Dutch's - Menu TBD

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you to the following individuals who contributed articles and photos for this publication:

Loretta Bailie	Jo Gallagher
Jeannie Bailey	Suzanne Harle
Sherry Bradshaw	Sandy Hill
Betty Ellington	Judi Merriman
Barbara Frantz	Melissa Rank
Edna Forsyth	Judy Schiff

Suzanne Harle, Newsletter Editor

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