

**The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.**

**Press Release**

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Westminster, MD January 13, 2015. **Wiseman gives Staccato Moment to start Woman’s Club New Year.**

Clubwoman Martha McClaney Wiseman, retired from a career as a social worker, was the featured speaker at the GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc.’s January 13 business meeting. Her topic was on making the transition from working and managing a household to retirement, and how one then gains the freedom to learn and create. In Wiseman’s case, she returned to her love of sculpture and art. She had taken sculpture classes beginning in her 30’s, but the demands of her career in social work and marriage left little time to pursue her art. However, after moving to Westminster some eleven years ago, and then becoming semi-retired and now fully retired, she began to take classes again, most recently at McDaniel College where she takes both sculpture and various art media classes from Katya Dovgan, her favorite teacher.

A highlight of 2014 for Wiseman was that she and her late husband, Gerry Wiseman, a talented photographer, were two of the artists featured in an exhibit at the Carroll Nonprofit Center sponsored by the Woman’s Club in partnership with the center. Gerald Wiseman passed away in 2014, and Martha finds that creating art is therapeutic in dealing with her loss. She says that as you lose yourself in the creative process “you will forget your troubles and aches and pains.” There is also the camaraderie in working in class with other artists. We are fortunate in Carroll County to have many art classes available at our senior centers, both McDaniel and the Community College, and at Carroll Lutheran Village.

Finally, she stated that you do not have to be a “born” artist, just have the desire to learn technique from classes and books and “practice, practice, practice.”

The Woman’s Club is a strong supporter of the arts. Its Arts Community Service Program in addition to sponsoring four exhibits yearly by local artists at the Nonprofit Center, has donated funds to the Carroll Arts Center’s scholarship fund for young people, encourages its members to enter club exhibits and arranges opportunities for them to take part in other art related projects. The GFWC Woman’s Club of Westminster, Inc. is a proud member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs (GFWC), an international women’s organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service. With more than 100,000 members in affiliated clubs in every state and more than a dozen countries, GFWC members work in their own communities to support the arts, preserve natural resources, advance education, promote healthy lifestyles, encourage civic involvement, and work toward world peace and understanding.

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