



# Tidbits

Volume 32 ~ Issue 4

December 2025

**GFWC  
Woman's Club  
of West Deptford**

**Next Meeting**  
Tues. December 9  
6:00 p.m.  
**Seven Star Diner**  
1890 Hurffville Road,  
Sewell

**Refreshments**  
None this month!

### December Birthdays

- 5—Sharon J.
- 6—Carol F.
- 8—Sandy M.
- 13—Isabella C.
- 14—Joann Kf.
- 16—Karen H.
- 19—Anne Cr.
- 29—Clara C.



**GFWC Woman's  
Club of  
West Deptford**

Member of  
General Federation  
of Woman's Clubs  
(GFWC),  
New Jersey State  
Federation of  
Woman's Clubs  
(NJSFWC),  
Garden District  
of NJSFWC.

### President

Janice Morrison  
president@  
wdwomen.org  
**Membership**  
Ann Caswell  
856-534-3077  
membership@  
wdwomen.org

## President's Message

Janice Morrison

### Holiday Cheer and Reflections

As we embark on the festive season, I encourage everyone to spread holiday cheer and share love with those around us. Our much-anticipated fun dinner is just around the corner, and I am eager to see each of you there as we celebrate together. Today marks the day after Thanksgiving, a time that prompts personal reflection. I am filled with gratitude for my family, my extended family—including our “outlaws” and grandchildren—and for all the blessings in my life. My heartfelt wish for each of you is happiness, peace, love, and good health.

### Supporting Our Community Through Food Banks

Many families are facing hardship this season due to recent layoffs and a delay in SNAP benefits. In New Jersey alone, over 821,000 people rely on SNAP assistance.\* I want to extend my appreciation to everyone who brought extra food donations for our local food banks last month. Your generosity truly matters, and it is important to us all that our contributions have a meaningful impact within our community.

Following last month's efforts, I engaged in several conversations with members about which food banks are most in need of our support and where

our collective efforts should be directed. Every viewpoint shared was valued and insightful.

In our local area, there are three primary food programs that I am aware of: St. Paul's Methodist Church, The Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries (GWCM)—of which Colonial Manor is a part and serves as its main food source—and the Dream Center. Like Colonial Manor, St. Paul's is affiliated with a larger cooperative, The Food Bank of South Jersey. These organizations benefit from grants and major sponsors who provide significant quantities of food.

Despite this support, our donations are still vital. The growing number of families in need means that many food bank shelves are depleted by the week's end. After listening to many of you and conducting my own research, my perspective on how best we can support these food banks has evolved, and the Board agrees. It is important for each member to have the choice of which food bank receives their donation. When you bring food to meetings, please clearly indicate on your bag where you would like your donation to go. Nancy Barna collects donations for Colonial Manor, while Pixie O'Hara gathers items for the other programs. You are also



welcome to donate and drop off items directly. If you do so, please inform Cynthia Holmes-Butler of the number of items and the associated volunteer hours so that we can maintain accurate records for our annual reports.

### Committee Chair Reports

This is the season for completing Committee Reports for the NJSFWC. These reports account for your hours, monetary contributions, and in-kind donations from January through December 2025. The project worksheets distributed earlier this year were designed to make compiling your reports straightforward. NJSFWC offered report-writing workshops in October to guide you in what to report and how to document your efforts. These helpful sessions are available on the NJSFWC website under the 'MATERIALS' section, and you can easily navigate through the videos to find relevant information.

**Continued on next page->**

**Our prime purpose in this life is to help others. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them.**

**—Dalai Lama**

**President's Message** — continued from previous page

I distributed all necessary materials in October. Please return your completed reports by January 15th to me either by email at [janice.morrison@verizon.net](mailto:janice.morrison@verizon.net) or by dropping them off at my home. Jody Harris and I will review the reports, make copies, and ensure they are forwarded to the appropriate state chairs.

**Guidelines for Use of the Member List**

I would like to remind everyone

that our club member list is confidential and is intended solely for club business. It should be used to communicate information about club events and to arrange meetings. Please do not use the list for personal matters, such as sending personal invitations, political messages, sales pitches, or promoting events not related to the club. Whenever Sue Nelson distributes an updated list, she reiterates this important guideline. If

you have any questions regarding the appropriate use of the member list, please reach out to me or another board member for clarification. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

In Federation friendship,

*Janice*

\*Source: <https://www.fns.usda.gov/pd/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap>

## Holiday Dinner

**Jody Harris**

**December 9  
Seven Star – 6pm  
1890 Hurffville Road –  
Sewell 856-228-5166**

Your dinner selections will include:

- Soup of the day
- Garden Salad with Italian Dressing
- Bottomless Beverages (soda, ice tea, coffee, tea)
- Alcoholic Beverages may be purchased individually at the bar

**Choices of Entrees**

- Chicken Parmigiana (linguini)
- Roasted Turkey (mashed potatoes, broccoli)
- Roast Beef (mashed potatoes, broccoli)
- Broiled Tilapia (mashed potatoes, broccoli)
- Virginia Ham (mashed potatoes, broccoli)
- Mama's Lasagna

**Dessert**

- Sheet cake (vanilla/chocolate)

You should have made your reservation and paid the \$45 price by now. If you didn't and still wish to go, contact Jody in case there are cancellations.

**Cookie Exchange**

There are seven (7) people who have shown interest in participating in the cooking exchange this year. Cookies should be placed in Ziplock bags, and please include your recipe. Each participant should bring a bag to hold their bagged treats, and an additional container to collect their baggies of cookies. I would like to suggest bags with 4-5 cookies in each, and you will be making six (6) bags to share, as you would be the 7th. **The Cookie Exchange is now CLOSED.**

**Holiday Ornament Exchange**

You will purchase an ornament ranging from \$8-10, and place it on/near the holiday tree/ menorah (must be NEW). Members will pick a number after placing their ornament on the tree/table. When number is called they select an ornament from the tree. No need to let me know ahead of time if you are partaking in this. Let me know the night of the dinner. If you bring an ornament, you will go home with one.

Looking forward to seeing everyone there to ring out the holiday season.

Jody & Social Committee



## First Vice President

Jody Harris

Thank you to everyone who has participated in our fall fundraisers; the hoagie sale, the basket raffle and our poinsettia sale. The only fundraisers left are our La Sicilia nights that are scheduled for December, January and February.

### Poinsettia Sale

When you read this, our sale will have ended. I'm pleased to share with you that we sold 50 poinsettias. Please remember that pick-up will be at my home (4 Crofton Dr) on **Friday, December 12th, 2025 from 4:30-6:30pm.**

### La Sicilia

We have three dates booked for our fundraisers. The first is **December 17, 2025.** The second date is **January 22, 2026,** and our final date is **February 26, 2026.** If you are not familiar with this fundraiser, La Sicilia will give us 20% of the funds collected during the hours of 4 to 8pm. The patrons have to mention the Woman's Club of West Deptford

when ordering. This will be accepted for both takeout and delivery. This was a very productive fundraiser for us last year. Looking forward to your assistance in promoting these evenings. Please ask you family, friends, neighbors, anyone you feel may be able to assist us with this fundraiser.

### Volunteer Hours

I'm ready to collect your November and December hours, as we are now ending the fourth quarter. Thank you to those that have been sending me your hours monthly. You should now be completed with your November hours, as well as wrapping up your December hours. I will need this information so that I can complete my report. Please make sure you are also keeping a record of your hours, as they will be needed for end-of-year reporting if you participated in a committee or a project.

### Guest Speakers/Programs

If you would like to suggest a speaker, please reach out with their name and what they would be speaking about. I also need their contact information, and a brief biography to be used as an introduction. I will send out a confirmation with the month that the speaker has been scheduled, to both the speaker and the member that suggested them. I am currently scheduling into the second half of 2026. Our next speaker will be in February, when we next meet in person. Thank you to those who submitted names of speakers

Thank you for your continued cooperation/support with our fundraising projects, as well as assisting me to locate speakers of interest for us. I'd like to wish you all a beautiful holiday season. May it be filled with the love and happiness of being with family and friends.

—Jody

## 2nd Vice President/Membership

Ann Caswell

### Welcome New Members!

Hello members! We had three prospective members at our November meeting. These ladies decided to join our club. We have 4 new members. Welcome to Tee McCall, Dottie Parriot, Colleen McKeever, and Donna Pinto. Let us give these ladies a warm welcome!

The best way to get involved with the club is to join a committee that suits your interests. Dottie has already joined Helping Hands Happy Hearts. Tee is interested in working on domestic abuse. Thank you, ladies!

The March meeting has been designated by your Board as Club Installation for new members.

We already have a visitor who plans to attend our February meeting. Just a reminder, if you have a friend who is interested in visiting a meeting please let me know in advance so I can make sure they are welcomed.

Happy Holidays to everyone!

—Ann



## Advocates for Children

Karen Hink

### Red Cross Blood Drive

In January, we will partner with Health and Wellness at a blood drive. Advocates for Children will be asking our membership to provide child care to people donating blood. We will need some of your time and some craft supplies and games. More information will follow.

### Crayon Recycling Project

Please collect and bring your used and broken crayons to our meetings for The Crayon Initiative. The crayons are recycled into new crayons and distributed to children in hospitals. This is an ongoing project.

### Ronald McDonald House

Please bring your soda tabs to our meetings. We take them to RMH -South Jersey where they recycle them to support the program.

This month I took 13 lbs. of aluminum tabs to RMH. Thank you to all.

## Family Promise

Jeannette Wood

### Family Promise of Southwest New Jersey

#### Thank you! Thank you!

November was the month to donate for this project and we did a fabulous job.

There was \$180.00 collected for the purchase of 13 duffel bags and 3 members donated 7 more duffel bags.

I delivered a total of 25 duffel bags to the Family Promise office where the executive director, Victoria Osborn, told me that they will use the duffel bags to give out to the kids for the Christmas Program.

Family Promise of Southwest New Jersey is celebrating 20 years of serving families in our community.

What began in 2005 as a small network of local congregations providing meals and overnight shelter for families in crisis has grown into a comprehensive non-profit organization addressing homelessness at every stage.

The Woman's Club of West Deptford is recognized in Family Promise's newsletter as being a Community Partner.

**Thank you for your continued support of this project.**



**The purpose of human life is to serve, and to show compassion and the will to help others.**

**—Albert Schweitzer**

## Environment

Patty Wyzykowski

Debbie H. met a lady on the "buy nothing" site of Facebook who collects the clean, empty, large size flavored creamer bottles. She uses them to place in strategic spots in Camden in hopes that used needles might be placed in them rather than being thrown on the street.



Please save your bottles for this project and either bring them to a meeting OR drop them off to Debbie H., 202 Eighth Street in West Deptford.

This is a project that will literally cost us nothing but could possibly help the environment.

—Thanks, Debbie

# Socially Speaking

Jody Harris

Please read through the list of events and social outings scheduled. Check dates, times, and **RSVP dates where noted**. Thank you.

## **SATURDAY, December 13: Mullica Hill Annual Christmas House Tour**

After further investigation, we decided NOT to do this as a group. Feel free to make arrangements on your own if you are interested.

Tour is open from 2-7pm. Some homes and buildings DO HAVE STEPS. Purchasing a ticket acknowledges this fact and the tour is not responsible for falls. Tickets are non-refundable.

Google Mullica Hill Christmas House Tour. It will take you to the site where you can order your ticket. Ticket price is \$15.00 plus \$1.30 service fee, plus a 3% charge to use a credit card.

## **Sneak Peak into 2026**

### **WEDNESDAY, January 7, 2026: "Zoom" Book Club, 7pm**

*RSVP by January 4th to Jody if you would like to attend.*

We will be discussing Rabbit Moon by Jennifer Haigh.

### **Next Book Club**

is scheduled for: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 . The book selected for discussion will be: Stephen King's 11/22/63

### **WEDNESDAY, January 28, 2026: Trivia Night at Hollywood Café, 7pm**

*RSVP by January 15th to Jody if you would like to attend. A count is needed two weeks in advance, as they have limited space.*

This should be a lot of fun. Thank you to those who have already reached out to me to be placed on our list.

### **TUESDAY, February 10, 2026: Galentine's Day Pollyanna, following our meeting.**

"A day for women to celebrate their friendships with their lady friends."

If you wish to participate, we ask that you bring in a small wrapped gift (\$5-10 Max.). All the gifts will be placed on a designated table and as you put down a gift you pick a number. When we get to the designated time, we will pick our gifts based on the numbers. Everyone who brings a gift will go home with one.

### **WEDNESDAY, February 25: Dessert Night at Seven Star, 7pm**

*RSVP by February 16, 2026 if you would like to attend.*

There is no better way to spend an evening than with friends enjoying a dessert, a hot tea, coffee, cocoa, and conversation. As always, you are responsible for your own evening snack.



LONGWOOD GARDENS: A really fun time was had by those that attended. The beautiful decorations and lights put us in the holiday spirit.

Linda Clark, Robin Evans, Peggy Grady, Cynthia Holmes-Butler, and I would like to wish you the Happiest of Hanukkahs, the Merriest of Christmases, and the best the holiday season has to offer to each of you. We look forward to seeing you and celebrating at our Holiday Dinner.

Your WCWD Social Committee



CERAMICS CLASS: Several of our members went to Fahrheit Studios to make holiday decorations.



## Arts and Culture

Ann Caswell

We had a fun time and met at my home to create centerpieces for the Holiday Dinner on December 9th. Cannot wait for everyone to see!

### Card Making

Reminder, Card Making is scheduled at Denise H.'s home Thursday 12/4 at 3pm. Please bring your scissors and glue stick. We have 16 members so far. This is always a fun event.

Our creations will be donated to the patients at Atlas Healthcare, West Deptford.

We are thinking of having a Spring Craft project for the members. More to follow.



Happy Holidays!



SAMPLE CARDS: Dee has everything we will need to make 6 holiday cards each for patients at Atlas Healthcare.

## Federation News

Cynthia Holmes-Butler

### Operation Holiday Stocking

Holiday Stockings for Soldiers was a huge success. \$7,240 was raised and 2,638 stockings were delivered to Headquarters. This project began in 2009 and over 33,000 stockings have been donated so far.

### NJSFWC Open House

The Headquarters Open House on November 13th was very nice. Refreshments were served, and it was an opportunity to meet members from other districts. Federation items were sold. Cheryl & Jody attended.

### Final Report Writing Workshop - Zoom

12/11 @ 7:30 PM  
Sign up by emailing: [sien-kielewski@njsfwc.org](mailto:sien-kielewski@njsfwc.org)

### Wreaths Across America

12/13 @ Gloucester County Veteran's Cemetery. To sponsor a wreath: <https://givebutter.com/WOR25>

For reporting purposes, please let me know if you donate.

### Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is December 2nd. Donations have been requested for the Headquar-

ters Fund to help the State Federation pay its annual rent of almost \$22,000 per year to Rutgers University.

NJSFWC President Barbara McCloskey will match donations up to \$1894. Donate online or send a check to headquarters.

NJSFWC  
55 Labor Center Way  
New Brunswick, NJ 08901



Help others achieve their dreams and you will achieve yours.

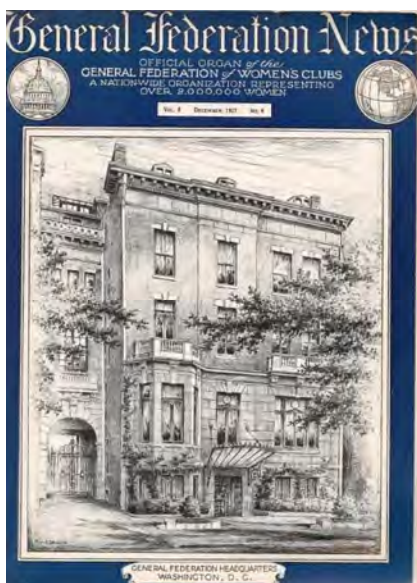
—Les Brown

# History Spotlight

Linda Jones

## GIVING TUESDAY: December, 2025

December is the perfect month to join in helping our General Federation of Women's Clubs meet their goal of reaching \$125,000 to restore the facade and beautify our national HEADQUARTERS in Washington D.C. As we support this endeavor, our GFWC will be steps closer in finalizing the beautification of this historic building. Donations thus far have reached \$118,000 and bring us close to the final goal. "Giving Tuesday" begins on December 2, and continues through the month.



In preserving history, the building will be rejuvenated by stripping away layers of old, deteriorating paint; correcting moisture damage trapped in layers of paint; and concluding with new durable finishes to protect this ageing building. With a lasting finish the building's original character will once again restore and beautify the exterior.

Going back in time to 1922 indicates the need for a permanent Headquarters when GFWC President Alice Ames Winter (1920 - 1924) proposed to convention delegates to buy 1734 N Street in Washington D.C. This house/building was chosen for

its dignity and beauty, having excellent office rooms, a reception hall, assembly room, lounge, library, sixteen bedrooms, six bathrooms, and a studio as well. At that time the purchase price was \$70,000 but President Alice Winter asked the federation to raise \$100,000 which is equivalent to two million dollars today. Donations and pledges from individuals, clubs, and federations made this dream possible. Over the past 103 years our headquarters has been used for meetings, events, office space, and living quarters. The location in the Dupont Circle neighborhood was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1991. This honor is shared with only 77 other sites in the District of Columbia.

With the support of so many donations, a work plan was developed; building drawings were submitted; and all required documentation for approval were submitted. "We are hoping to receive our building permits by December 1, 2025. If all goes well, GFWC's 2025 Holiday decor may include scaffolding!" The work will consist of stripping paint, cleaning and sealing, mortar and stone-work repair, gutter and downspout repair, replacement and repainting.

This project will also restore the iconic flagpoles on the front of the building as the GFWC flag will again wave over Headquarters.

There is just \$7,000 left to raise as the "GIVING TUESDAY" project/contribution beginning December 2nd, will directly support the restoration work, revitalize the facade, preserve our history, and show pride while beautifying this historic space for every clubwoman. (See the link below.) Looking forward to seeing those flags fly once again as over twenty years ago a group of our members and myself had the pleasure of visiting headquarters in D.C.!

To make a donation, visit: <https://memberportal.gfwc.org/fundraising/donation/2>

#GFWC #GFWC\_HQ #GFWCAdvocacy #IAmGFWC  
#LivingTheVolunteerSpirit #GivingTuesday  
#HistoricBuildings #Restoration



## Civic Engagement & Outreach

Cynthia  
Holmes-Butler

I think we forget sometimes how blessed we are to be able to help others and make a difference!

—Gautam Rode

### Food Collections

#### South Jersey Dream Center:

Many thanks to those of you that have already donated. This ongoing club project provides food for needy families in West Deptford and the surrounding area. Your donations of food for the Dream Center may be dropped off at the homes of Cynthia H-B., Peg S., or Pixie. They will see that it gets delivered promptly.

**Colonial Manor:** Nancy B. continues throughout the year to collect unexpired non-perishable food items for the Colonial Manor United Methodist Church Food Pantry

in, West Deptford. They look forward to seeing new volunteers any Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. If you or your child or grandchild needs service hours, they welcome any eighth grade or older student to help. Please have them bring any service letter they need signed off with them.



DREAM CENTER FOOD DROP-OFF took place after our November meeting. Many families received generous Thanksgiving baskets thanks, in part, to our donations.



Peg S. is proud to share the news that her granddaughter, Sofia S., a junior at WDHS, received the Soaring Eagle Award at the November BOE meeting, an award given for outstanding character. Sofia was recognized for her kindness, respectful demeanor, and positive attitude toward

learning along with her exceptional social skills and strong emotional intelligence. Congratulations, Sofia!

Nancy B. was re-elected to the West Deptford Board of Education for her fourth 3-year term. She would like to thank those who supported her.

Nancy and John B.'s son, Tyler, continues his Doctoral Candidate studies in Astrophysics at the University of Minnesota, with graduation in May 2027. His internship with NASA travels has taken him to many places and most recently to Spain. Tyler is working with large collaboration (NMMA) to study kilonovae via gravitational wave detection and electro-

magnetic observation. He is also leading development on a pipeline to automate follow-up observations of potential gravitational wave companions with the Zwicky Transient Facility.

### WARM HEADS + WARM HANDS = WARM HEARTS:

Nancy Barna continues her annual collection of new unused, tagged, hats, gloves, and mittens for clients of the Colonial Manor UMC Food Pantry through March 31, 2026. They can be for any gender, and adult or child sized. All donations can be deposited on Nancy's covered porch in the collection box on Woodlane Drive, or email her and she will gladly pick up your kind donations.



SMILE BAGS: We are sewing 100 smile bags for Operation Smile.

# Health and Wellness

Carol Dechen

## Grief and the Holidays

Grief has no boundaries. It does not discriminate against age or ethnicity. We have all experienced the loss of a loved one, regardless of whether it was a parent, spouse or partner, child, or beloved pet. Grieving will last a lifetime and will change over the years.

The holiday season can be extremely difficult, regardless of whether it is the first year of your loss or many years later. Coping with loss and grief during the Seasons of Celebrations will certainly be overwhelming.

**Prioritize and Planning:** Make a list of what you would like to accomplish, do or not do during the holidays. Sit down with your family and talk about what would be helpful for you and them. Be creative. Perhaps doing something out of the ordinary celebrations and traditions would be helpful.

**Accept your limitations:** Grief totally consumes all your energy, regardless of the season. Holidays put additional demands on emotions. Lower your expectations. Your needs will change daily. Keep your loved ones and family aware of what you are thinking and feeling.

**Find ways to decrease your stress:** Consider changing your surroundings or traditions. Please be honest with family and friends and let them know that this holiday season may be very different and difficult.

**Ask for and accept help:** Accept offers of help, no matter how hard it may be. Let friends and family help you shop, cook, clean, decorate, etc. They may be looking for ways to assist to lessen your pain. Please allow them to support you. You have no energy left. Grieving takes everything out of you.



There is no formula for dealing with grief or loss over the holiday season. You are walking in an unknown territory regardless of the length of time that has passed.

Some things that may be considered this holiday season are what traditions will be different, and which are important to keep. You may want to volunteer somewhere. You might want to have a candle lighting ceremony with family and friends. Plan a night of remembrance. Your grief will always be with you but will change and become a loving part of your life as the years pass. Be kind and patient with yourself, no matter what stage of your grief journey you are on. I wish you peace and understanding during this season. —Kimberly VZC.

## Operation Smile

Thanks to Joann Keefe, Debbie Hinkle, Sandy Mastrangelo, Peg Shirey including myself, we have almost completed our goal of 100 Operation Smile bags. We are doing the final touches with making these bags and will have them packed up ready to go for delivery to Jill McDonald for her Spring delivery to Operation Smile down in Virginia. Also, just as a note as I had some members ask why we were not filling the bags. My request went out to the group at the same time we were heavily involved with our biggest fundraising event, the Basket Raffle, so I thought it was a big ask to send in donations and it was something different to make the bags from material and ribbon we all had sitting around our sewing rooms. I did check with Jill at the state level

## Let's Get Moving

One more month ladies!!!! Yea!!!! We are almost done this state project. Can you believe it?

I am sure glad that calculating and collecting and tallying your monthly activity will be completed (thank you Karen Hink for your help). This month we had 21 participants with 453.5 hours, which is about average for our group. Awesome job everyone!!

We will be at Red Bank Battlefield on December 2nd at 9am to walk our final organized walk. Hope to see you there!!! —Carol D.

and she was thrilled we were making the bags. As she put it, we have plenty of clubs donating supplies for inside the bags but not many clubs that have the talent of sewing the bags so she was quite happy to hear we were planning on making 100 bags. I honestly think we could have made more but for now this is an excellent opportunity to help the mission of Operation Smile. Who knows, maybe we will do this again sometime soon. Again, thank you one and all for the help in getting this project completed from start to finish.

## Blood Drive

Save the Date, Friday, January 30th, 2026. Blood Drive at St. Paul's Methodist Church in West Deptford. Health and Wellness in collaboration with Advocates for Children will be assisting in promoting their Blood Drive as January is Blood Donor month. We hope that our members will participate in both the donation of blood but also help with childcare so as to encourage anyone who would like to donate but is hindered with childcare issues. We can help with that. Stay tuned for more details. —Carol D.

# Domestic Violence Awareness

Linda Marple

Because we have so many new members, I wanted to go over some basic issues about Domestic Violence. DV is about control of a partner. It can take many shapes as shown in the Power and Control wheel. It can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic and more as on the wheel. Whatever form it takes, it is about control of the other partner.

If you want to learn more about DV and SA (sexual assault) and possibly be a volunteer, Gloucester County is hosting another training session from January 13th to February 17th. The first and last sessions are in person, the rest are on zoom.

To get more information and to register call the SERV hotline: 866.295.7378. Also, please tell Linda M. that you are signing up.



**Be kind and help others. Let the ones you love know you love them.**

—Kyle Carpenter

## Communications

Denise Hosier

Take a look at our website! It has been updated with some new photos and much of the information has also been updated.

A million thanks to Joan B. and Peg S. for reading through the site and noting things that needed updating. The site was created in 2018 and some parts haven't been updated since then!

Looking forward to training new social media partners, too! Many thanks to Denise P. and Peg S. for volunteering to help! If you're also interested, see me!



Finally, thanks to everyone that takes photos and submits articles, for Tidbits! There

wouldn't be a newsletter without you! Happy Holidays, friends!

# Special State Project

Denise Pitchford

## New Jersey Children's Alliance

### Thank You

Thank you, Members, for supporting our NJ Children's Alliance this past year! We are busy getting our end-of-year reporting complete and are happy to say that your support has been instrumental in helping our Special State Project. With your generous cash donations, we are gifting \$300 in Lyft, Uber, Target, and Walmart gift cards to our local Child

Advocacy Center right here in Woodbury as our holiday gift to them.

### Operation Duffle Bag

In looking forward to 2026, we will be participating in Operation Duffle Bag, which is an NJSFWC project. Each New Jersey club is asked to collect items to fill up two duffle bags with necessities for children who

leave their home in an emergency. More information will follow in the new year for you all to assist. In the meantime, the Special State Project Committee wishes you all a blessed holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Denise P., Debbie H., Karen H., Pixie O. & Jeannette W.



## Online Safety Tips for Parents

- Regularly check the apps on all technology used by your children. Try out the apps and see how they work. Learn the access, privacy, and messaging policy of each app, and read the fine print.
- Enable parental controls which give you the ability to restrict access and monitor messaging.
- Directly supervise children under 8 in any technology use.
- Make sure that location services are turned off on all devices.
- Ensure that your child uses YOUR name and email, not their own, for all games and apps that ask them to create an ID or give any information.
- Talk to your child regularly, in an age-appropriate way, about potential consequences of interacting with people online, especially sending pictures and messages of a sexual nature.
- Reassure children that they should not be afraid to tell you if they made a mistake (i.e. accepted a request from someone they didn't know, or sent an inappropriate picture) and that you will work it out together.
- Let children know that they should ALWAYS tell you if someone online makes them uncomfortable.
- **Any behavior that looks like an attempt to exploit children, such as asking for naked photos or using sexual language, should be reported to the Cybertip Line, 1-800-The-Lost (1-800-843-5678).**





## GFWC Woman's Club of West Deptford

P.O. Box 381  
West Deptford, NJ 08086

President: Janice Morrison  
president@wdwomen.org

Membership: Ann Caswell  
856-534-3077  
membership@wdwomen.org

*Community Service*  
*Spiced with Friendship and Fun*

**UPCOMING**  
**Dec. 1-5 Holiday Shops at Red Bank & Oakview Schools**  
**Dec. 4: Holiday Card Making**  
**Dec. 6: Wreaths of Remembrance**  
**Dec. 9: Holiday Dinner Seven Star**  
**Dec. 11: NJSFWC Report Writing Zoom**  
**Dec. 12: Poinsettia Pickup**  
**Dec. 13: Mullica Hill House Tour**  
**Dec. 13: Wreaths Across America**  
**Dec. 17: La Sicilia Fundraiser**  
**January 3: Tidbits Deadline**  
**January 7: Zoom Book Club**  
**Jan. 12: NJSFWC Zoom Treasurer's Workshop**  
**Jan. 13: Zoom Club Meeting**

**Website: wdwomen.com**  
**Facebook: womansclubofwestdeptford**  
**Instagram: wcofwestdeptford**

### Committee Collection Schedule

- ◆ **Every month**—Food pantries
- ◆ **Special State Project** — Priority
- ◆ **January:** Advocates for Children, Health & Wellness
- ◆ **February:** Domestic Violence
- ◆ **March:** Advocates for Children; Health and Wellness
- ◆ **April:** Domestic Violence
- ◆ **May:** Education/GCI,
- ◆ **June:** Civic Engagement & Outreach
- ◆ **September:** Advocates for Children
- ◆ **October:** Domestic Violence, Family Promise
- ◆ **November:** Civic Engagement & Outreach, Health & Wellness

## Dear Secret Pal

Dear Secret Pal,  
I just love the fall pillows, which are at home on my family room couch. One of my granddaughters LOVES the acorn pillow. She asked if she could take it home. Of course, we told her it was mom-mom's and she could use it when she's with us. She tried to pack it in her bag, but being five the top of the acorn was showing, so she did not get away with it. LOL. She was also playing with the acorn letters. They are on the TV stand. Thank you so much for thinking of me. I have enjoyed each and every gift you so graciously gave me this year. I can't wait to find out who you are and thank you personally at the Holiday Dinner. In the meantime, wishing you a fabulous holiday celebration with family and friends. —Jody

Dear Secret Pal,  
What a fun surprise you gave me! Thank you for the tote with my initial on the bag and the 31 Grateful pouch.

They are perfect and already in use. Bentley sends his puppy hugs for the Christmas stocking with puppy treats, the puppy paw charm that he is wearing proudly on his collar and the Dog Taxi car coaster that he is kindly letting me use. He also wanted me to tell you that he sat very nicely when I took his picture to put in our Doggy picture frame. I told him that he looked so handsome and he agreed with me. ☺ I so appreciate how you make each month so special. I can't wait to find out who my special friend is at our Holiday dinner. —Warmly, April

Dear Secret Pal,  
Thank you so much for the awesome gift last month. The cookies will be a wonderful addition to our holiday table! You have been so thoughtful and generous with your gift selections, and I am looking forward to the reveal. I am very grateful. —Janice

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