



# KANSAS CLUBWOMAN NEWS

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS OF KANSAS

## Special points of interest:

- State Convention Reports
- National Day of Service 2024
- Kansas Suffragette Mural
- Music, Creative Writing, Citizenship, and Art Contests Results

## Inside this issue:

Officer Reports	2
Convention News	6
Chairman Reports	14
Next Issue	16
Club News	18

GFWCofKansas.org

## From Janine's Chair...



**Janine Eilert**  
GFWC of Kansas President  
2022–2024

Dear GFWC of Kansas Clubwomen, thank you to all the clubwomen who attended the 128<sup>th</sup> Annual State Convention in Goddard. We accomplished a lot during those 2 days together. On Friday afternoon we took a guided tour of the Wichita Art Museum, and many clubwomen were impressed by the diverse types of artworks on display. Many photos were taken and are posted on the GFWC Kansas Facebook page. We all had an opportunity to listen and get to know our International Leadership Chairman, Dr Susan Gettys. On Friday night she talked about “The Many Facets of Leadership” and non-conventional ways of leading a club. Two examples that she highlighted that I thought might work well for some of our clubs was 1/ co-club presidents and 2/team leading (dividing the calendar into 3- or 4-month blocks and having different teams for each block of months – four teams 3 months each).

Other highlights of the convention were that we had five first-time GFWC Kansas clubwomen attendees, five 50+ year GFWC clubwomen, and five past-state presidents all in attendance.

Thank you to the clubwomen from the various 14 clubs in attendance at the state convention for donating 972 items to Simply Hygiene. Megan Kice the director of Simply Hygiene ([www.simplyhygiene.org](http://www.simplyhygiene.org)) spoke at the convention about the great need for basic hygiene products for both students and adults. She mentioned that it is important that people have these essential products to promote their health and hope.

We were also able to listen to two speakers, Marlene Merrill and Cille King talk about the proposed Kansas Suffragist Mural. It would be a permanent me-

morial in the state capital. There is more information about this endeavor in this newsletter.

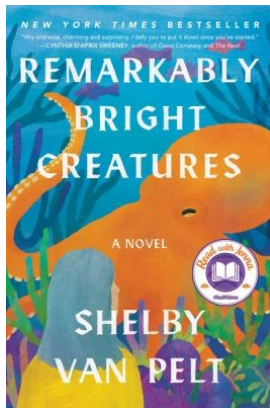
The National Day of Service (NDS) is scheduled for September 28th. The focus is again Food Insecurity. There is more information about this project included in this newsletter. I challenge all clubs in GFWC Kansas to participate in some way to help alleviate Food Insecurity and Hunger in your community. **“Make the Whirl Go ‘Round”** in your community.

This is my last official GFWC Kansas article as your state president. I do not have words to express how thankful I feel for having the honor of leading this incredible organization. It was always a team effort with my incredible and talented executive officers, appointees, and chairman. They all lead with professionalism. Thank you for the large “letter” from the 5 musketeers; Joanna Treas, Carol Hanson, Linda Loyd, Linda Krebs, and Prudence Fager, see photo. They are a creative group!

Have a blessed summer season with your families and friends. Enjoy each other’s company in the great outdoors, even if it is on your back patio.

*Janine Eilert, GFWC Kansas President*  
[kimveilert@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kimveilert@sbcglobal.net) (316) 250-0432





## Remarkably Bright Creatures

### Shelby Van Pelt

Beautiful story about a lonely elderly woman who seeks answers about the passing of her son years ago. She is able to find closure through her connection to an aging octopus at the aquarium where she works. There is so much depth in this story and the relationship between Tovah and the octopus makes the thought that an octopus can relate to a human believable.

## President-Elect

The GFWC of Kansas Annual Convention is in the books. What a great time I had! Congratulations to all the clubs and individuals who walked away with awards and recognitions. It was so good to see so many fantastic ladies and to hear about all of their club's activities.

I had the opportunity to announce the Kansas Membership 2023 State Awards. Here is the summary!

Mae Wenger Club Membership Award - Shakespeare Club of Waterville was awarded this honor for recruiting 8 new members! This was a 35% increase for their club.

Membership Challenge - for clubs who have added 3 or more members:

- Lawrence Classics with 3 new members
- Junction City Ladies Reading with 4 new members
- Waterville Shakespeare with 8 new members

The importance of coming together with your sisterhood of volunteers at least once a year is momentous. Districts used to serve the purpose of giving different clubs the opportunity to meet or see again old friendships, share ideas and projects and to discuss successes and challenges. The convention has replaced this opportunity for all the clubs and members to gain these benefits. Each member who attended this convention for the first time was rewarded with a little gift in appreciation for their presence.

Connie Allnutt - Wamego Study Club, Peggy Chapin - Washington Modern Pioneers, Dr. Susan Gettys - Guest, Springfield, MO, Craig Goodman - Booster Ness City, Mary Pat Patrick - Goddard Woman's Club, Mary Ann Wenner - Hutchinson Questers, and Cynthia Whitney - Ad Astra Wamego.

Leadership encompasses many factors in a person and a club. Recognizing the hard work and dedication of all our members is crucial. Six wonderful ladies especially deserved recognition at this convention. All of these ladies have been members of GFWC 50 years or more. I think about every leadership role they have held, every project they have participated in, every dollar they have donated and every hour they have donated. I am amazed and appreciate everything these women have given to GFWC. A big Thank You is due. Each of these women were presented with a yellow ribbon, a thank you card, a certificate and a multi-pack of mini Hershey bars. Congratulate and tell these women thank you! If you weren't able to attend the convention you will be receiving your package in the mail soon. If I missed anyone please let me know.

Susan Graham - Washington Modern Pioneers, Donna Harper - Sedgwick Amicitie, Anita Pfister - Hutchinson Questers, Jeanne Urban - Goddard Woman's Club, Delva Powers - Rainbow Club and Lee Humphrey - Rainbow Club (unable to attend).

*Joanna Treas*  
GFWC of Kansas President Elect  
[Joannatreas@gmail.com](mailto:Joannatreas@gmail.com)  
(630) 631-1220

## Vice President

Dear Kansas Clubwomen,

It was great to see so many of you at our State Convention in April. It was an excellent meeting and we certainly had fun. During the meeting I thanked our Club Presidents, State Chairmen, and Appointees for their work during the reporting process. They in turn had the opportunity to showcase club and individual achievements and present awards in their categories. Thank you again for your hard work.

I promised that next year the reporting process would be smoother and easier. I'm working on that, I've got some ideas. So we'll see. In the meantime, as you are closing out this club year and making plans for the next, make some notes about what you have accomplished so far. You don't want to forget something that you accomplished during the first part of the year.

Have a great summer. Best wishes for your next club year.

*Linda Loyd*  
GFWC of Kansas Vice President

## Treasurer

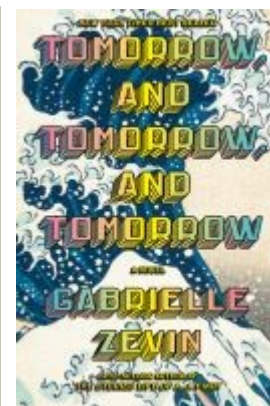
When I gave my Treasurer's Report at State Convention in April, I said, "This is the 28<sup>th</sup> and final version of the Carol Hanson Treasurer's Report." And now . . . this is the 56<sup>th</sup> and final version of the Carol Hanson Treasurer's article for the *Kansas Clubwoman News*.

It's been a wonderful journey, beginning under GFWC of KS President Gladys Shook in 2010, after being coerced to take the job of Treasurer by Gladys, Rose Ditto, and Prudence Fager. I have loved every minute of it! I think (I hope) working with numbers and details and balancing books has kept my aging mind sharp, and the job was a welcome diversion after the deaths of my Mother in February of 2012, my husband Bill in August of 2013, my sister Denise in October of 2013, and my Dad in October of 2016. But as much as I enjoyed the actual work, the absolute best part of any job is the people. The women of GFWC of Kansas are wonderful! I enjoyed getting to meet each and every one of you, and I love you all!

The absolute best part and culmination of 14 years as GFWC of KS Treasurer was the "Special Presentation" (as was listed in the program book) at the 2024 State Convention. My goodness! What an unexpected and thrilling surprise! Jeanne Urban, Shirley Ferley, and Kathy Baker: thank you for the kind words. I absolutely loved working with all of you, along with Gladys Shook, Sabra Clarke, Jan Moore, and Janine Eilert. The donations toward a scholarship in my honor was a humbling and meaningful award. I have decided to use the funds toward a New Member Scholarship for the Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at Baker University.

Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU! I just can't say it enough! I've always thought the two things I am pretty good at are balancing books and making angel food cakes. Now I have a lot more time to devote to those angel food cakes!

*Carol Hanson*  
GFWC of KS Treasurer (for a couple more weeks!)

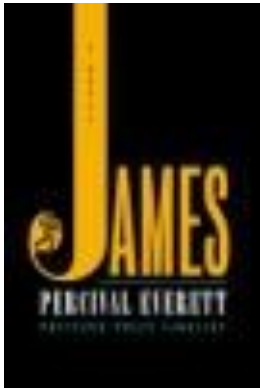


## Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow

**Gabrielle Zevin**

"A modern love story about two childhood friends, Sam, raised by an actress mother in LA's Koreatown, and Sadie, from the wealthy Jewish enclave of Beverly Hills, who reunite as adults to create video games, finding an intimacy in digital worlds that eludes them in their real lives, from the New York Times best-selling author of *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry*"





## James

### Percival Everett

"From Percival Everett—a recipient of the NBCC Lifetime Achievement Award and finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, Booker Prize, and numerous PEN awards—comes *James*, a retelling of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view. "

## Secretary

This will be my last *Kansas Clubwoman* article for the office of Secretary. (With help from Carol Hanson), I will transition into the office of State Treasurer. Carol has done such a fantastic job as State Treasurer, I can only hope that I have learned enough to “fill her shoes” successfully. Thank you, Carol, for all your assistance! It has been a pleasure to work closely with you these last four years.

I would like to thank all the State Officers that I have worked with for the last two administrations – Jan Moore’s and Janine Eilert’s. You have all been helpful, friendly, and great to work with. It has been my privilege to learn from all of you!

Margaret Ohmes is the new State Secretary and I know she will do an excellent job.  
***Welcome, Margaret!***

If you did not have a club representative at GFWC Kansas Convention in April in Goddard, Kansas, your Club Roster has been mailed to your club president. Please update the name, address, telephone number, and email address for each member of your Club, if there have been changes. Add all info for any NEW members. Mark if any member has been dropped from your Roster. Club dues of \$25 per member were due **June 1, 2024**.

The updated Membership Roster and your club check for dues should be mailed to **Margaret Ohmes, State Secretary**. Her address is indicated on your 2024-2025 Club Roster, and an addressed envelope was included for your convenience. Please keep a copy of your Club Roster for your records. Also, please indicate in the far-right column, how each of your members prefer to receive the *Kansas Clubwoman News*. The digital form by email saves printing and postage costs, and when you print it out you have colored photos!

GFWC of Kansas Convention was a remarkable success! As usual, Janine had everything well organized, and her assistants did an excellent job as well. The Convention Marketplace earned \$539 for the General Fund, and the Silent Auction brought in \$620 for the Citizenship Fund! Thank you to all attendees for your generosity! As it is said, “A great time was had by all.”

Sabra Clark, we all missed you, your smile, and energy at the State Convention, when you had to be absent due to recent surgery. (Hopefully, you are feeling better every day!) We are looking forward to working with you for the next two years!

I think we can all be proud of the accomplishments and projects of our individual clubs and GFWC of Kansas. ***We make a positive difference in our communities!***

I have served as Secretary for GFWC of Kansas for four years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to be a State Officer. Thank you to all GFWC members for your support, and for making me proud to be a part of the Executive Committee!

*Linda Krebs*  
*GFWC of Kansas Secretary*  
*2020-2024*

## Kansas Suffragist Memorial Mural

The struggle for women's suffrage and the right to vote across the nation and in Kansas was an important effort for GFWC. Many club women across the United States from Washington, DC to California and Texas to Minnesota, were suffragists. GFWC of Kansas State Presidents Mrs. Mary Tenney Gray, 1881-1883, and Lucy Browne Johnston, 1901-1903, are listed in the National Suffragist Memorial Website.

Women living in Kansas were definitely a part of the suffragist movement. The state of Kansas has an early history of women fighting for the right to vote. Post-statehood in 1867 Kansas was the first state in the nation to battle for full women's suffrage. Many Kansas women along with national suffragists campaigned across the state. This early movement was rejected by male voters and lawmakers.

It wasn't until twenty years later in 1887 that Kansans voted to give women the legal right to vote in municipal elections and not until 1912 when Kansas women won universal suffrage, one of the early states to do so.

The League of Women Voters and American Association of University Women are working to honor those women who fought hard for our voting rights. They too have fought to get the approval from the Capitol Preservation Subcommittee to honor the Suffragist Movement and the Kansas women who had a statewide and national impact in achieving our right to vote.

GFWC of Kansas got involved in this memorial when the Flint Hills club members read an article on the memorial in the Salina newspaper. They felt that Kansas clubwomen should support this effort to get a suffragist memorial inside the Kansas State Capital building in Topeka. The article was sent to Janine Eilert.

On April 20 during the convention Marlene Merrill and Lucille King, Co-Chairs of the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Fund in the Kansas League of Women Voters, attended and spoke to the club members in attendance. They spoke briefly of Kansas suffragist history and the LWV's efforts to honor those women with a memorial in the Kansas statehouse. The Capitol Preservation Committee approved a memorial mural to be placed across from the elevator on the first floor. A Manhattan artist, Phyllis Pease, is painting the mural. The speakers passed out the approved rendition of the mural depicting our very own GFWC of Kansas State President, 1901-1903, Lucy Browne Johnston. They also asked for help raising the remaining cost of the mural which is roughly \$50,000. The funds need to be raised by December 31<sup>st</sup>.

There are six donation levels in the Kansas Suffragist Memorial Fund. President Janine and I ask each club to donate \$100 to GFWC of Kansas in honor of all of the GFWC women in Kansas who fought for our right to vote. Our "long shot" goal is to reach the \$5,000 level named after our very own Lucy B Johnston. This will have to include personal donations as well. Your checks should be made payable to GFWC Kansas and mailed to our State Secretary, Margaret Ohmes. GFWC of Kansas will write the check to the Fund. Please have your check to us by December 10, 2024.

If any of you have questions or would like a copy of the approved Mural let me know, please. I can answer or find the answer and send copies of the mural. You can also google Kansas Suffragist Memorial Fund for more information. You should be able to access the mural as well.

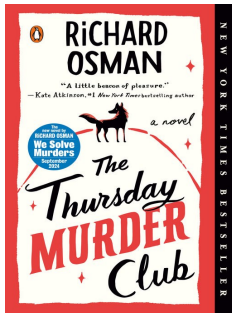
Joanna Treas  
President Elect  
630-631-1220



## The Demon of Unrest

Erik Larson

In this twisty and cinematic account, bestseller Larson (*The Splendid and the Vile*) recreates the five-month period between Abraham Lincoln's 1861 election and the outbreak of the Civil War, focusing on the intensifying showdown over Fort Sumter in Charleston, S.C., where Maj. Robert Anderson, the U.S. Army commander, faced a swelling Confederate force with his outgunned garrison of 75 soldiers.



## The Thursday Murder Club

### Richard Osman

In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

## Executive Officers for the new 2024-2026 Administration



The following GFWC Kansas Clubwomen were sworn in at the April 2024 State Convention as the new Executive Officers to lead GFWC Kansas from 2024-2026. Kathy Baker, Parliamentary Advisor, Linda Krebs Treasurer, Margaret Ohmes, Secretary, Linda Loyd Vice President, Joanna Treas President-Elect and Sabra Clarke President. Congratulations and we wish them much success and all GFWC Kansas clubwomen are welcome to

reach out to them with any questions. A huge thank you to Dr. Susan Gettys, International Leadership Chairman, for conducting a wonderful installation ceremony for these officers.

Left to right:

Kathy Baker, Athena Club of Gardner, Parliamentary Advisor. [bkbakers@gmail.com](mailto:bkbakers@gmail.com)

Linda Krebs, Wamego Study Club, Treasurer. [lindafredkrebs@gmail.com](mailto:lindafredkrebs@gmail.com)

Margaret Ohmes, Athena Club of Gardner, Secretary. [Mohmes1@kc.rr.com](mailto:Mohmes1@kc.rr.com)

Linda Loyd, Athena Club of Gardner, Vice President. [Lindaloyd05@gmail.com](mailto:Lindaloyd05@gmail.com)

Joanna Treas, Flint Hills of Manhattan, President-Elect. [joannatreas@gmail.com](mailto:joannatreas@gmail.com)

Sabra Clarke, Gradatim Club ~ Ness City, President. [Sabrajc4@gmail.com](mailto:Sabrajc4@gmail.com)

Dr Susan Gettys, International Leadership Chairman

Note: Sabra was unable to attend convention so Kelle Goodman, club president of Gradatim was the official stand-in for Sabra and is pictured in the photo.

## Jennie Award Winner – Anita Pfister



At the State Convention we were able to recognize and congratulate Anita Pfister on being the GFWC of Kansas Jennie Award winner. It is with the upmost respect from all GFWC Kansas clubwomen that we thank you for your incredible service to GFWC.

The Jennie Award is named in honor of GFWC's founder, Jane Cunningham Croly, who wrote for national newspapers under the pseudonym "Jennie June". The award is an occasion to highlight extraordinary clubwomen who epitomize her spirit of independence, courage and persistence through their roles as

volunteers within their clubs, representatives of their community, and as members of a family or extended family. Although GFWC has many awards for states and clubs, the GFWC Jennie Award is the only national honor that recognizes individual members for personal excel-

## LEADS Candidate for 2024 International Convention



Congratulations to Gina Rice from Sedgwick Amitee for being selected as the GFWC of Kansas LEADS candidate to represent Kansas at the upcoming International Convention in Chicago, IL. We are all very excited to see where this opportunity guides you in your future with GFWC.

The GFWC Leadership, Education, and Development Seminar (LEADS) can help identify GFWC members at the local level who have the potential and desire to assume leadership positions in their clubs and possibility in their State Federations. Participation in GFWC LEADS can help up-and-coming leaders gain the capabilities, confidence, and commitment necessary

to pursue and achieve higher offices and serve with distinction.

GFWC LEADS is typically held annually on the day prior to the official opening of the GFWC Annual Convention. The program may include the following: • Overview of various leadership skills. • Explanation of GFWC resources, materials, and assistance. • Outline of GFWC policies, parliamentary procedure, and protocol. • Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.

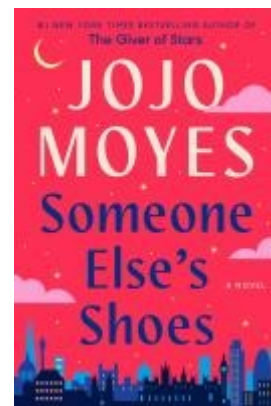
## Hawes Award Winners for 2023 and 2024



The Hawes Award is awarded each year by the current GFWC Kansas President for outstanding participation in federation achievements. The award was from a small legacy given by Clara May Hawes, a past sixth district president and past KFWC president (1943-1945). The award is not always given each year and is solely at the discretion of the GFWC Kansas President. The names of past Hawes Award winners are listed in the state directory.

The 2023 Hawes Award Awardee was Elizabeth Hemberger. She has served as the GFWC Kansas Creative Writing Chairman for over a decade with poise and distinction. She was unable to be at the 2023 state convention, so the award was given as a huge surprise to her at the 2024 state convention. Congratulations.

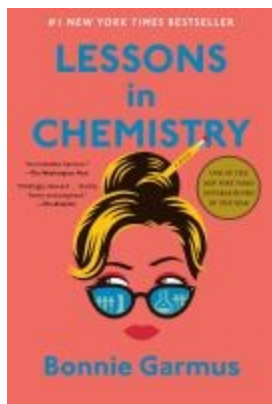
The 2024 Hawes Award Awardee was Linda Loyd. She has served as the GFWC Kansas Vice President, ESO Chairman, Communications and Public Relations Chairman and Newsletter Editor/Webmaster/Social Media guru. Since September of 2018 Linda has revamped the Kansas Clubwoman News and it is the sole way for all GFWC Kansas clubwomen to stay connected to each other. Congratulations.



## Someone Else's Shoes

Jojo Moyes

"A story of mix-ups, mess-ups and making the most of second chances, this is the new novel from #1 New York Times bestselling author Jojo Moyes, author of *Me Before You* and *The Giver of Stars*. Who are you when you are forced to walk in someone else's shoes?"



## Lessons in Chemistry

**Bonnie Garmus**

Set in 1960s California, this blockbuster debut is the hilarious, idiosyncratic and uplifting story of a female scientist whose career is constantly derailed by the idea that a woman's place is in the home, only to find herself starring as the host of America's most beloved TV cooking show.

## Retirement of Carol Hanson

I think I can safely say that about every clubwoman in GFWC Kansas knows our treasurer, Carol Hanson. She has served as our state treasurer since the administration of Gladys Shook in 2010-2012. As Carol has decided to retire from the position of state treasurer, I asked the past state presidents who were present at our recent State Convention and that had Carol as part of their administration to say a few words about Carol and how she impacted their terms of office.



Professional, Amazing, Patient, Remarkable, Strong, Distinguished, Impactful, Kind, Incredible, Knowledgeable, Caring, Steadfast, Trusting, Lifesaver/Rescuer, Funny, and Prompt are just some of the words that Kathy Baker, Shirley Ferley, Jeanne Urban and myself used to describe how Carol supported us during our administrations.

It is sincerely with a heavy heart that we accepted her retirement. Carol has left a huge legacy of amazing service to GFWC Kansas. We all thank you for your decades of service. Love you.

*Janine Eilert*  
GFWC Kansas President 2022-2024

## Creative Writing Results

There were only four entries in the Creative Writing Contest this year, a poem and a short story by a youth and a poem and a short story by a club woman.

### POETRY

Category 3

“An Excuse Poem” Molly Larsen Gardner Hutchinson Questers

Club woman

“The Night of the Fires” Anita Pfister, Hutchinson, Hutchinson Questers

### SHORT STORY

Category 3

“The Friend Feud” Molly Larsen ,Hutchinson ,Hutchinson Questers

Club woman

“Our Amazing Mother” Anita Pfister ,Hutchinson, Hutchinson Questers

Thank you for your entries.

*Elizabeth Hemberger*  
GFWC of Kansas Creative Writing Chairman



## Legislation and Public Policy

### News from the State Convention

Congratulations to Lawrence Classics for being awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for excellence in legislative and public policy service. Club members provided 80 hours of service to the League of Women Voters!



Brenda Rezac and Gail Jamison

A presentation on the impact of “Period Poverty” was introduced. According to the Alliance for Period Poverty: “Two in five people struggle to purchase period supplies due to lack of income. This is called period poverty, and chances are we each know someone who has experienced this need – a neighbor, a co-worker, a friend. No student should have to miss school, no adult should have to miss work, and no person should have to miss out on daily life because they are unable to afford the basic necessities they require to thrive.”

Kansas HB 2727 was introduced during this legislative session to require all public schools and public postsecondary educational institution to make feminine hygiene products available at no cost to students and establishing a state grant program for such purpose. The bill was not granted a hearing and died in committee.

Karaline Scott and Anna Peery, students from Goddard High School explained their work to provide courtesy baskets of hygiene products in restrooms for their fellow students. They explained their advocacy to work with administration to improve access to free hygiene products.

Karaline and Anna are Seniors at Goddard High School who will be graduating in May. Karaline will attend Wichita State University and Anna will attend Kansas State University in the fall. Both plan to pursue degrees in the engineering field.

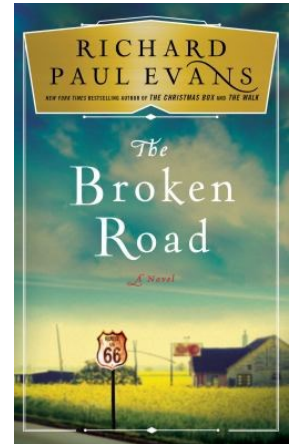
The two young women received the Goddard Woman’s Club 2024 President’s Award for Leadership from Gail Jamison.

*Thank you to the wonderful clubwomen of GFWC for the opportunity to share information at the State Convention on “Period Poverty”, an important “Health and Wellness” topic impacting women across the United States and World. We offer a special note of appreciation to Mr. Scott and Mrs. Janine Eilert for the generous contribution of \$500 donation to help with our advocacy efforts at Goddard High School! This will truly make a positive difference in our efforts to improve access to free menstrual products and improve the lives of our fellow students who are in need.*

Gail, Jamison  
Legislation and Public Policy Chairman

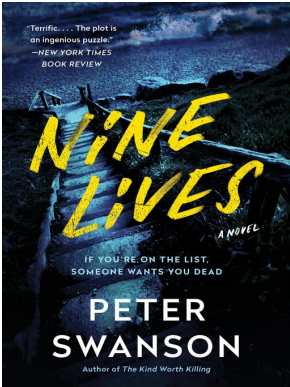


Gail, Karaline, and Anna



### The Broken Road Richard Paul Evans

A broken man. A twist of fate. A second chance. From the #1 bestselling author of The Mistletoe Promise and The Walk comes the first novel in a riveting new trilogy that explores the tantalizing question: What if you could start over?



"[A] smartly entertaining reimagining of Agatha Christie's classic *And Then There Were None*... Swanson cunningly plays with readers' heads as we hope so-and-so gets it next."— Washington Post

If you're on the list, someone wants you dead.

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Eight Perfect Murders* comes the heart-pounding story of nine strangers who receive a cryptic list with their names on it—and then begin to die in highly unusual circumstances.

## Music Audition Results

GFWC Music Auditions for 2024 were held March 2 at the First Baptist Church in Junction City. Five FIVE HUNDRED DOLLAR SCHOLARSHIPS were awarded to:

Kael Nelson of Junction City in Boy's Voice  
Charles Greene of Kansas City in Piano  
Ray Alano of Junction City in Piano  
Jaden Voma of Junction City in Flute  
Meilia Taylor of Junction City in piano.

The talent these young people have is outstanding. I would love to see more students participating in these auditions. Scholarships can be used for college or a music camp. J. Abbie Clark Hogan, member of the Junction City Reading Club was the pillar behind these auditions in 2025. Next year will be the 100th Anniversary! Lets make it a banner year—perhaps a student from every club.

*Florence Whitebread*  
GFWC Kansas Music Chairman

## Citizenship Essay Results

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of several club members, we had 13 Citizenship Essays submitted for judging.

A panel of three judges read the submitted essays and gave each one a numerical score. A second panel reviewed the scores and checked them for accuracy and the winners were determined.

The followed were declared the recipients of the scholarships: \$

500.00 Scholarship - Renatta Ann Heintz, Abilene High School, GFWC Flint Hills Club of Manhattan

\$400.00 Scholarship - Kolby Phipps, Minneapolis High School, Delphos Women's Club of GFWC

\$300.00 Scholarship - Brekyn Mein, Hope High School, GFWC Liberal Women's Club

\$200.00 Scholarship - Scarlett Pfister, Blue Valley High School in Stilwell, KS, GFWC Hutchinson Questers Club

*Charlotte Grelk*  
GFWC KS Citizenship Essay Chairman

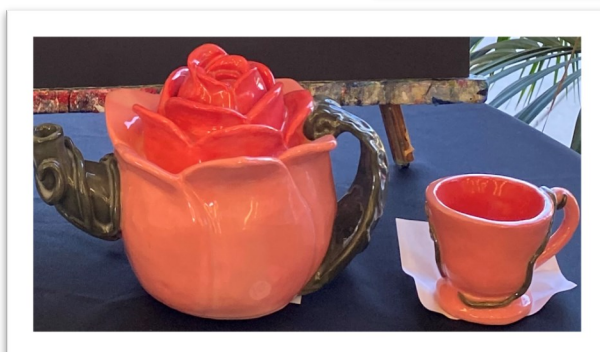
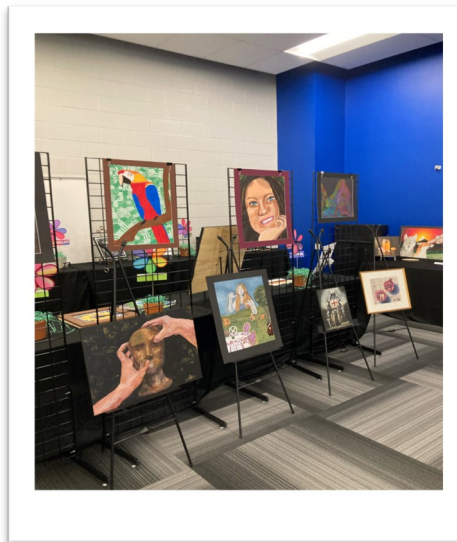
## State Arts and Creative Crafts Results 2024

66 pieces of student and clubwomen art, crafts and photography were brought to our State Convention from 5 different clubs. The pieces were stunning and the creativity that was on exhibit left a lot of clubwomen who were able to spend some time looking at the pieces asking “How did they create that?”. Best of Show was awarded to Marrisa Cavender from Goddard for her “Love at First Sight” ceramic piece. Kennedy Fisher was awarded the People’s Choice Award from Wichita for her “Honey and Oranges” 2D piece. The Senior Scholarship was awarded to Lily Havel who was sponsored by the Washington Modern Pioneers Club.

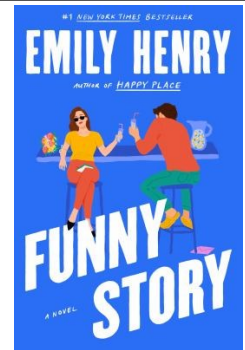
In the clubwoman photography entries 3 photos were awarded blue ribbons in 3 of the 4 possible categories, Our World Up Close-Mindy Thierolf, Natural Wonders-Joanie Doperalski, and Reflections-Mindy Thierolf. Both Mindy and Joanie are from the Ad Astra Club of Wamego. These clubwomen pieces will be submitted to GFWC International, and winners will be announced at the International Convention in Chicago in June. Good Luck ladies.



People’s Choice

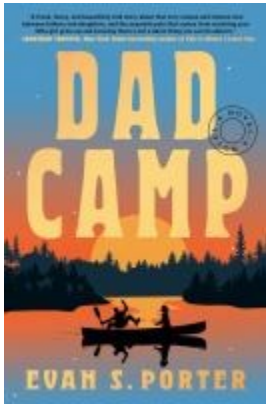


Best of Show



### Funny Story Emily Henry

A shimmering, joyful new novel about a pair of opposites with the wrong thing in common, from #1 New York Times bestselling author Emily Henry, Daphne always loved the way Peter told their story. How they met, fell in love, and moved back to his lakeside hometown to begin their life together. Too bad it turned out to be more of a prequel, a complication to Peter's actual love story, the one that ends with him dumping Daphne before their wedding to begin a relationship with his lifelong best friend, Petra. And so that's how Daphne's story really begins



## **Dad Camp**

**Evan S. Porter**

Desperate to hold on to the remaining years of his daughter's childhood before she transforms fully into an eye-rolling teen, a father enrolls them in a father-daughter camping retreat. At turns both bittersweet and funny, this has all the feels.

## **Civic Engagement and Outreach**

As we are currently in a planning mode, here are some ideas to consider for a new project:

- Send individual peanut packages to your local police, fire or first responders with a note saying "We're NUTS about you!" Be sure to include your club name.
- donate various items to deployed female service members through Ladies of Liberty, part of the Soldiers' Angels organization that provides care packages to women serving overseas.
- check with your local hospital about the possible needs of children (coloring books, etc.) who are patients.
- Work to "Get Out the Vote!" Encourage others to register and vote, provide information about early voting or polling locations and times, and offer transportation if needed.
- Have club members bring women's history and your club history to a meeting. Learn about the impact of your club in the community.
- Prevent crime and make homes and communities safer by providing information on crime prevention strategies.
- Create a play, puppet show, or exhibit to teach young students about "Symbols of the United States," including the US flag, Uncle Sam, the Liberty Bell, the bald eagle, the Statue of Liberty, and others.
- Hold a bicycle safety workshop for children during National Bicycle Safety Month in May.
- Collect socks at a club, district, or state meeting and donate this "number one most requested item" to homeless shelters.
- Collect new and slightly used jewelry and hold a club social for polishing and packaging the jewelry in decorated boxes or bags for distribution at the Veteran Women's Health Clinic.

### *CONGRATULATIONS*

### *CLUB CREATIVITY CONTEST*

*1<sup>st</sup> Place: GFWC Hutchinson Questers*

*RUNNER UP: Lawrence Classics*

## Women's History Resource Center

At the state convention I mentioned that I would be giving the clubs an assignment. I am sending you a list of women who were instrumental in helping women win the right to vote. I don't know if any of them were members of GFWC, but that is what you can do, look into their lives and report to me what you find out about any or all of them. Elizabeth Barr Arthur; Martia L. Davis Barry; Emily J. Briggs; Sarah Elizabeth Lutes; Clarina Irene Howard Nichols and Anna Amelia Churchill Wait. If you find out that there are other women who belonged to GFWC and were in a group with these women, please report that, too! Happy history hunting!!!

*Jeannie Urban*  
GFWC KS WHRC Chairman

## Sharing Message from GFWC By-Laws Committee

IF YOU DID NOT ATTEND 2024 STATE CONVENTION AT GODDARD PLEASE READ.

### You will find changes were made to State standing rules and By-laws.

These changes will be updated in your new 2024-2026 Directory. ALL proposed changes were voted on and approved. Any State change effects you and your clubs by-laws. So you will have to check that and if needed, you will need to update your club by-laws and if it doesn't, you still need to inform members of these changes.

I submitted a report in the report book, of work done in the past administration. If you have any questions about this past work, I would like to hear from you. I wish each and every club member in the state of Kansas, a productive and a year of growth.

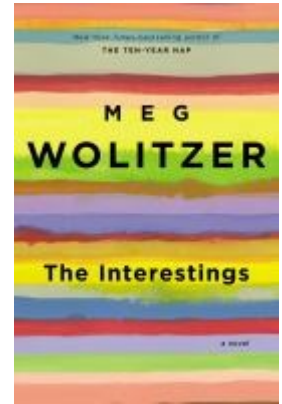
Federation Friendship,  
*Debra Powers*  
GFWC of Kansas  
State By-Laws and Resolutions Appointee

## Clubs Helping Clubs

As we wrap up my 2022-2024 administration, I am immensely proud of the Clubs Helping Clubs initiative. Over the past two years the following clubs have benefited from the help of all GFWC Kansas clubwomen; Athena Club of Gardner (plastic clothes hangers), Wamego Study Club (empty prescription bottles), Goddard Woman's Club (plastic bags), Lawrence Classics (paper egg cartons), and Waterville Shakespeare (eyeglasses and hearing aids).

Those above-mentioned clubs used those items that GFWC Kansas Clubwomen donated to support a local rehabilitation hospital, doctors across borders, create plastic benches, seed starters for O'Connell Children's Shelter, and free eyeglasses who needed them in conjunction with the Lions Club.

If your club is collecting items that would otherwise be thrown away/discarded and would be interested to receiving help from your fellow GFWC Kansas Clubwomen please reach out to the incoming state president, Sabra Clarke, to discuss for the 2024-2026 administration.



## The Interests

### Meg Wolitzer

Forging a powerful bond in the mid-1970s that lasts throughout subsequent decades, six individuals pursue respective challenges into their mid-life years, including an aspiring actress who harbors jealousy toward friends who achieve successful creative careers. the embodiment of a transcendent calm.



## Run Rose Run Dolly Parton and James Patterson

James Patterson has shared authorship with many famous people, especially politicians. In this one, he shares the cover with legendary country artist Dolly Parton. In this thriller, a young singer-songwriter tries to follow her dream in Nashville, but is haunted by what she left behind. Parton wrote 12 companion songs for this novel, as well!

## National Day of Service

The National Day of Service (NDS) is a day (September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024) in which all of GFWC comes together in service to highlight an area of need, take action to address the need, and raise public awareness about its importance. State federations and clubs are encouraged to join in and organize community service programs (CSPs) in their communities as part of the NDS. It's also a great opportunity to invite guests to participate in your NDS activities and introduce them to the benefits of GFWC.

This year's NDS issue of focus is again Food Insecurity and Hunger. To initiate the planning process, GFWC encourages you to contact your local food banks and food pantries — wherever people go for food — to find out how best to be of service. For example, a club can sponsor a food bank, pantry, or food program to organize a volunteer activity with fellow club members, family, and friends. Ask every member of your club to invite a friend who is not presently a member to participate and experience GFWC in action. Use the activity to motivate and inspire your friend to join. The benefits of community service not only make a person feel good, but it helps to build meaningful friendships and bonds that will last a lifetime.

Here are suggestions for NDS activities:

### Volunteer at a Local Food Bank

**Food Drives:** Connect directly with the local food bank to determine how your club can be of service. They will welcome the support and donation of time and food.

**Raise Awareness About Hunger:** Reach out to your local media to introduce NDS and the cause being promoted. Ask the reporter to mention NDS and how people can participate and donate. Also, use social media to discuss food insecurity with members of your community, clubs, schools, church groups, and others.

**Advocate to End Food Insecurity:** Use GFWC's Legislative Action Center (LAC) to interact with your federal and state elected officials to advance a bill or introduce legislation that helps to end hunger by funding programs specific to the issue.

Information and updates about NDS will be in the weekly electronic newsletter *GFWC News & Notes*, Facebook, Instagram, and website, [www.GFWC.org](http://www.GFWC.org). Every week until September 28, GFWC will make announcements, provide project ideas, and discuss food insecurity. Stay tuned for additional resources including a tool kit and a media kit.

### Start planning today!

#### Locate your local food bank and food services at the following links:

Second Harvest - [food near me](http://food.near.me) - [Second Harvest \(2-harvest.org\)](http://SecondHarvest.org)

Feeding America - [Find Your Local Food Bank | Feeding America](http://FindYourLocalFoodBank.com)

Type "food banks (your state)" into your search engine

Find churches with food banks in your state - <https://save.lovetoknow.com/>

[Churches with Food Pantries](http://ChurcheswithFoodPantries.com)

Find information about food insecurity at the following links:

US Department of Agriculture - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/fact-sheet/usda-support-for-food-banks-emergency-food-system>

Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion - <https://health.gov/healthypeople/priority-areas/social-determinants-health/literature-summaries/food-insecurity>

National Public Radio, Food Insecurity in the US By the Numbers - <https://www.npr.org/2020/09/27/912486921/food-insecurity-in-the-u-s-by-the-numbers>

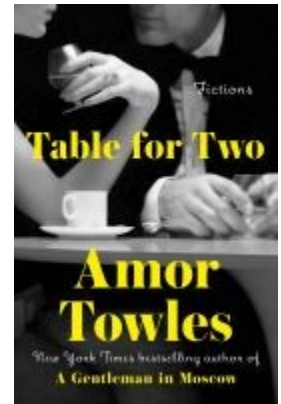
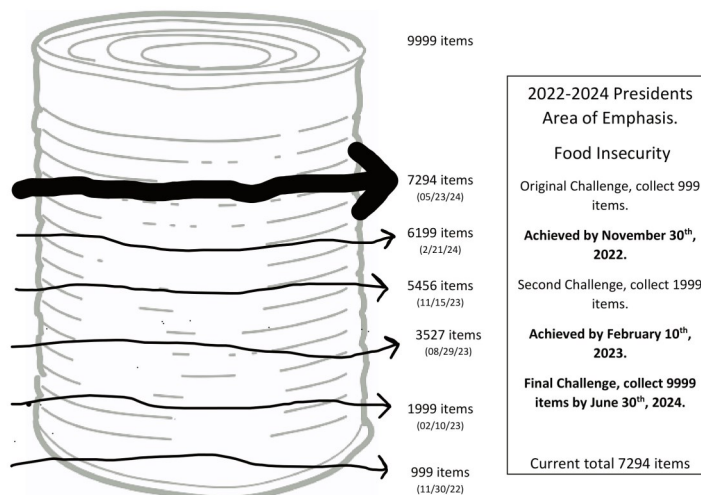
## Leadership

As you are planning your new club year, consider these Leadership Projects:

- Each Executive Board member create a procedure notebook for her successor and then mentor her in the new position.
- Highlight GFWC history and accomplishments.
- Teach parliamentary procedure in a workshop.
- An officer or Past President read a leadership book, and then teach the principles and strategies in meetings, perhaps one chapter a month.
- Give a personality test to club members and discuss the ways personalities work together.
- Incorporate reports on GFWC activities at club meetings to connect members with the Federation and other GFWC clubs.
- Schedule a program on time management techniques.
- Make sure the club is aware of and informed about the club bylaws.
- Discussion of tips and techniques for pursuing personal growth and developing leadership opportunities.
- Teach members about GFWC resources and materials.

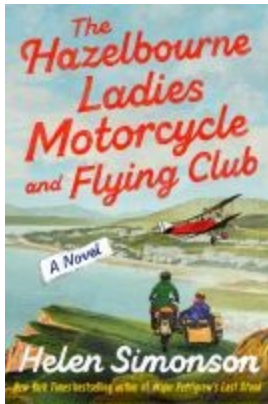
*Kathy Baker*  
*GFWC of Kansas Leadership Chairman*

## 2022-24 Food Insecurity Challenge



## Table for Two Amor Towles

"The millions of readers of Amor Towles are in for a treat as he shares some of his shorter fiction: six stories set in New York City and a novella in Los Angeles. Throughout the stories, two characters often find themselves sitting across a table for two where the direction of their futures may hinge upon what they say to each other next. Written with his signature wit, humor, and sophistication, Table for Two is another glittering addition to Towles's canon of stylish and transporting historical fiction"



## The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club

Helen Simonson

"A timeless comedy of manners— refreshing as a summer breeze and bracing as the British seaside— about a generation of young women facing the seismic changes brought on by war and dreaming of the boundless possibilities of their future."

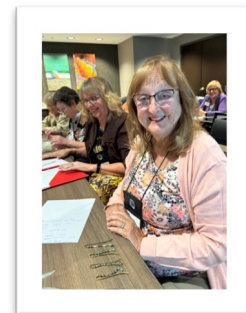
## Epsilon Sigma Omicron—Zeta Chapter of Kansas

We had a good book discussion during our ESO meeting at State Convention. It's always fun to talk about books and get reading suggestions. Award certificates were presented during the meeting on Saturday to the ESO members who had reached new reading levels.

Now we have a whole summer to fill with books and reading. I have a challenge for you. You will find some book suggestions in the margin notes. A few of them I've already read or have read books by the author. I recommend them. So my challenge to you is to read some of them or all of them. We'll discuss them at the Fall Board Meeting. You might try listening to the audio versions if you haven't done that. The audios can be very entertaining.

As always keep track of your reading and send me updates so that you can reach your next reading level. If you have any questions or would like to join ESO, please let me know so that I can send you the guidelines.

Linda Loyd  
GFWC Kansas ESO Chairman  
lindaloyd05@gmail.com



## GFWC of Kansas President's Focus for 2024-2026 Administration

Area of Emphasis: Food Insecurity

Presidents Special Project: Camp Live Well, Camp Discovery (Diabetes Camp for youth in Kansas)

Theme: GFWC: "Fellow the Yellow Brick Road"

Symbol: Heart

Flower: Rose

Colors: Red, Black and White

Song: "Angels Among Us"

Scripture: 1 John 3:18

Save the dates:

2024~2026 GFWC of Kansas

September 6-7<sup>th</sup>, 2024 Fall Board Meeting ~ Salina

April 11-12<sup>th</sup>, 2025 State Convention ~ Salina

September 5-6<sup>th</sup>, Fall Board Meeting ~ Newton

April 24-25<sup>th</sup>, State Convention ~ Hesston

2024~2026 Mississippi Valley Region

September 19<sup>th</sup> ~22<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 ~ Des Moines, IA

September 18<sup>th</sup> ~ 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025 ~ Nebraska

2024~2026 GFWC International

June 29<sup>th</sup> ~ July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024 ~ Chicago, IL

June 7<sup>th</sup> ~ 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 ~ Atlanta, GA

June 27<sup>th</sup> ~ 29, 2026 ~ Scottsdale, AZ



## Environmental/Conservation

### *Six Things to Know About 'Forever Chemicals'*

What are "forever chemicals" you might ask, and the answer is they are chemicals that have a special bond of carbon and fluorine atoms, making them incredibly strong and resistant to heat, water, oil and dirt. For that reason, PFAS are used for everyday items as varied as microwave popcorn bags, water-repellent clothing and stain-resistant carpets. PFAS are also in firefighting foam, cosmetics, shampoos, toys and even dental floss.

#### Where are PFAS?

Everywhere, including drinking water. The indestructible nature that makes PFAS useful in some products also makes them harmful to human health. The chemicals are virtually indestructible and do not fully degrade, accumulating in the environment and the human body. The chemicals are so ubiquitous that they can be found in the blood of almost every person in the country. One recent government study detected PFAS chemicals in nearly half of the nation's tap water. A global study of more than 45,000 water samples around the world found that about 31 percent of tested groundwater samples that weren't near any obvious source of contamination had PFAS levels considered harmful to human health. For the first time, the U.S. government is requiring municipal water systems to detect and remove PFAS from drinking water.

#### What does PFAS do to the body?

According to the E.P.A., exposure to PFAS can cause damage to the liver and immune system and has been linked to low birth weight, birth defects and developmental delays as well as increased risk of some prostate, kidney and testicular cancers. New research published in the past year found links between PFAS exposure and a delay in the onset of puberty in girls, leading to a higher incidence of breast cancer, and thyroid disease; a decrease in bone density in teenagers, potentially leading to osteoporosis; and an increased risk of Type 2 diabetes in women.

#### Why didn't the E.P.A. regulate PFAS in water sooner?

Many environmental advocates argue that PFAS contamination should have been dealt with long ago. "For generations, PFAS chemicals slid off every federal environmental law like a fried egg off a Teflon pan," said Ken Cook, president and co-founder of the Environmental Working Group, a nonprofit advocacy group.

Activists blame chemical companies, which for decades hid evidence of the dangers of PFAS, according to lawsuits and a peer-reviewed study, published in the *Annals of Global Health*,

of previously secret industry documents.

#### What can we do?

If you already own something that contains PFAS, it's safe to use as long as you're using it correctly (for instance: don't overheat your non-stick pans). When they wear out look for another alternative when it's time to replace them. "You can wear your jacket, you can use your pan, but don't buy another one [that was manufactured with PFAS],"

EWG.org has an interactive PFAS contamination map that currently shows public and private water systems known to be contaminated with toxic PFAS at thousands of locations. The true scale of PFAS contamination is expected to be much greater, and EWG will be updating the map with more sites soon.

Call your city water facility and ask if they are meeting the new EPA standards for drinking water. Do not throw old water bottles out near lakes, streams or at the ocean while on vacation. Stay aware of the environmental issues close to you.

This is my last contribution to the GFWC Clubwoman. I decided to take a break as I have been in this position for six years. Blessings to you all

*Juanita Rothaus*  
GFWC KS Environmental Chairman

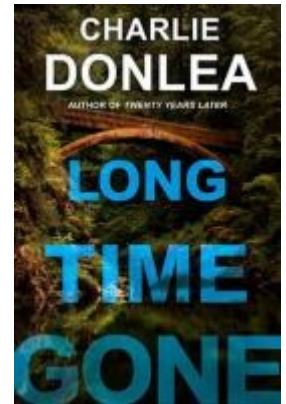
## Kansas Clubwoman Next Issue

News items and articles for the **September, 2024** issue of the Kansas Clubwoman are due **August 20, 2024**. Please feel free to forward your articles to me whenever you have them ready. No need to wait for the due date. I maintain a working copy of the next issue and will insert your article when I receive it. I will always send a reply to confirm that I have received your article. If you don't receive a confirmation, please check with me.

Back issues of the Kansas Clubwoman are archived in our website [gfwcofkansas.org](http://gfwcofkansas.org).

If you would like to have a digital copy of the Clubwoman emailed to you, please let me know.

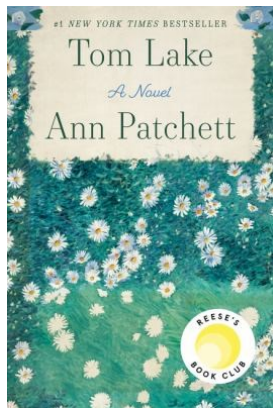
*Linda Loyd, Editor*  
[lindaloyd05@gmail.com](mailto:lindaloyd05@gmail.com)  
913-856-8602



## Long Time Gone

### Charlie Donlea

"When Dr. Sloan Hastings submits her DNA to an online genealogy site for a research assignment, she discovers she's 'Baby Charlotte,' who had mysteriously disappeared in 1995 along with her family."



## Tom Lake Ann Patchett

Recalling the past at her daughters' request, Lara tells the story of a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance, which causes her daughters to examine their own lives and reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

## GFWC Ad Astra

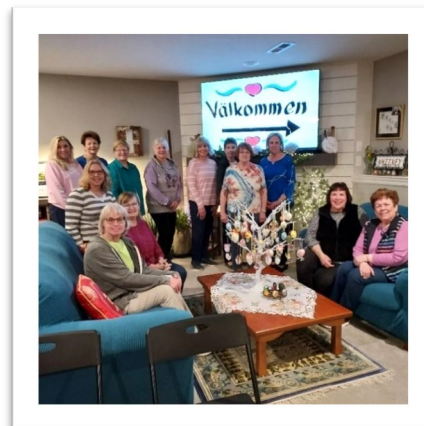
Ad Astra assisted Central Elementary with Read Across America activities to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday by donating and distributing 242 children's books to Central students and their siblings.

Ad Astra and Wamego Study Club continue to fill the Blessing Boxes, alternating months. 1160 food items have been donated thus far from Ad Astra. Both clubs will continue to fill the boxes through the summer.

Our March meeting consisted of Club member, Cynthia Whitney, presenting a very informative program on her International teachings and travels.



Cynthia began teaching for the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in 2000 for 6<sup>th</sup> grade on the Marine Corps Air Station, Iwakuni, Japan. She taught there for 6 years. In 2006, she transferred to Ramstein AFB in Kaiserslautern, Germany where she taught 1<sup>st</sup> grade for 15 years. She retired in 2021 after 21 years teaching the overseas USA military children. Cynthia's home is filled with beautiful relics from her years spent abroad.



2024-2026 officers were installed in April.

President- Joanie Doperalski  
Vice President- Cynthia Whitney  
Secretary- Christi Oakley  
Treasurer- Amy Benz

Ad Astra was represented at the 128th GFWC State Convention in Goddard, Kansas. The tour of the Wichita Art Museum was fantastic. The speakers, The Marketplace, the Basket Raffle, the State Contests, etc. all added up to a great convention. Thanks to Janine Eilert and the Goddard Woman's Club for hosting a FANTASTIC Convention.

State Contest results:

Cynthia Whitney was recognized as a first time Convention attendee.

Donna Goehring-1<sup>st</sup> in the Clubwomen quilting division.

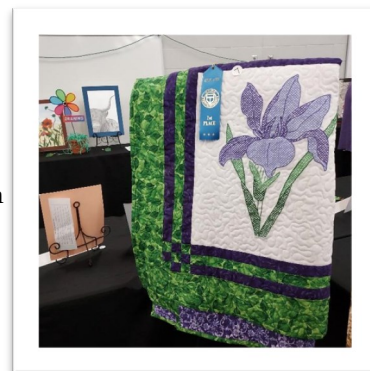
Mindy Thierolf-1<sup>st</sup> in Clubwomen Photography Reflections division

Mindy Thierolf-1<sup>st</sup> in Clubwomen Photography, Our World Up Close division

Mindy Thierolf 3<sup>rd</sup> in Clubwoman Photography, Natural Wonders division

Joanie Doperalski 1<sup>st</sup> in Clubwoman Photography, Natural Wonders division Roxie Peterson, Christi Oakley, Cynthia Whitney, Amy Benz, and Joanie Doperalski all received Certificates of Recognition for participating in ESO.

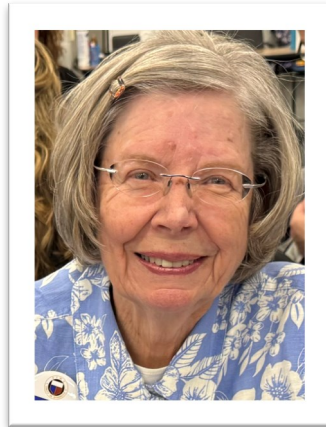
A summer day trip is planned in June to Abilene to see Hello Dolly and eat at Amanda's Bakery and Bistro.



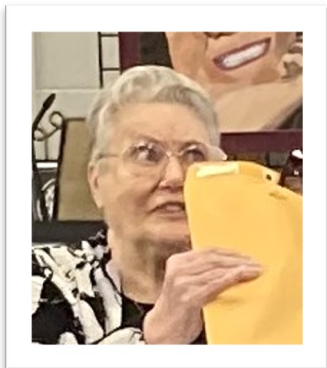
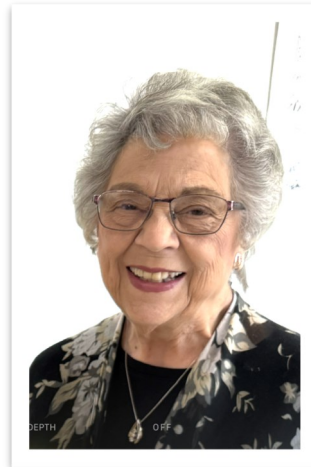
### More Memories from State Convention 2024



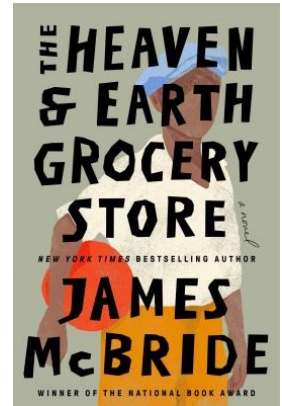
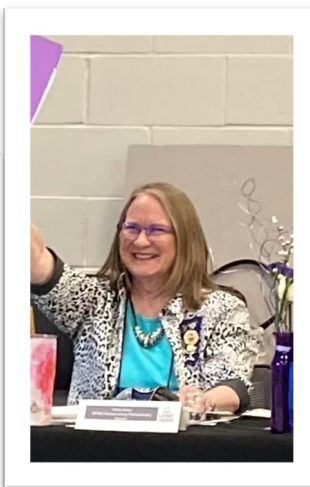
Our guest, Dr. Susan Gettys



Our 50 Year members Anita Pfister, Donna Harper, Delva Powers, Jeanne Urban and Susan Graham.



And we played the Paddle game.



### The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store

**James McBride**

"In 1972, when workers in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, were digging the foundations for a new development, the last thing they expected to find was a skeleton at the bottom of a well. Who the skeleton was and how it got there were two of the long-held secrets kept by the residents of Chicken Hill, the dilapidated neighborhood where immigrant Jews and African Americans lived side by side and shared ambitions and sorrows. "



**GFWC KANSAS CLUBWOMAN NEWS**

Official Publication of the  
General Federation of  
Women's Clubs of Kansas

Editor-in-Chief .....Janine Eilert  
GFWC of Kansas President 2022 - 2024  
1502 S Auburn Hills Ct  
Wichita KS 67235-3437  
Phone: 316-250-0432  
kiweilert@sbcglobal.net

Editor.....Linda Loyd  
381 Birch St  
Gardner, KS 66030-1724  
913-856-8602  
lindaloyd05@gmail.com

[www.gfwcofkansas.org](http://www.gfwcofkansas.org)

The GFWC Kansas Clubwoman News is printed  
four times per club year by Direct Mail Printers  
for the General Federation of Women's Clubs of  
Kansas.

**RETURN TO:**

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S  
CLUBS OF KANSAS  
JANINE EILERT  
1502 S AUBURN HILLS CT  
WICHITA, KS 67235

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 923  
Wichita, Kansas