General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC)

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February 2018 Issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Love is in the Air, and red is the color for the month - Hello February! Since we were voung school age kids, we've always known February as the month of love and valentines. I know some of you may not be a fan of Valentine's Day and the Hallmark commercial sappiness. But I believe February is truly about love, and I'm not talking about just romantic love, it could be a friendship or selfless type of love or to love yourself by taking care of your health. The bottom line is that love can take many forms.

While we promote sharing peace, love and kindness all year round, why not use February to share love with everyone? Let's change the idea of romantic love, to love for humankind and a love for yourself. Share a cupcake or a glass of wine with a friend. Help someone in need. Offer a smile to a stranger. Listen with open ears and hearts to someone different than you. Praise a co-worker or club member. Squeeze your children or grandchildren a little longer. And most importantly, take your blood pressure and learn how you can love yourself by protecting your health.

As you know, February is American Heart Month—a time to reflect on the sobering fact that heart disease remains the number one killer of both women and men in the United States. The good news is we have the power to protect and improve our heart health.

To protect your heart, the first step is to learn your own personal risk factors for heart disease. Certain risk factors—like getting older or having a family history of heart disease—can't be changed. But you do have control over some important risk factors such as high blood cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, excess weight, diabetes and physical inactivity. Regular physical activity is another

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONT'D

powerful way to reduce your risk of heart-related problems and enjoy a host of other health benefits. To make physical activity a pleasure simply choose activities you enjoy. Take a brisk walk, play ball, dance or garden. Even taking the stairs instead of an elevator can make a difference.

The important message here, is that it's never too late to take steps to protect your heart. It's also never too early. Start today to keep your heart strong. Talk to your doctor about your risk and to create an action plan. Love your heart!

Last month our Home Life Chair, Connie Morris mentioned that February 2nd is National Wear Red Day®. **Why Go Red?** Cardiovascular disease in the U.S. kill approximately one woman every 80 seconds! That's hard to believe, but the good news is that 80 percent of cardiac events may be prevented with education and lifestyle changes. Go Red For Women advocates for more research and swifter action for women's heart health. Go Red For Women is a movement that starts with you. That's why this year we are asking that you wear red on **National Wear Red Day**® and also **wear red** to our next meeting to help increase women's awareness about their cardiovascular health.

Love yourself and love one another ladies! I hope to see you at our February 10th meeting dressed in red as we welcome Larry Peevy, President of Tallulah Falls School.

With much love to all of you, I remain,

Respectfully yours,

Cimi Douglass, President 2016-2018 The Atlanta Woman's Club



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Nominations for AWC Offices Are Being Accepted. Please send your nominations for the AWC offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Recording Secretary, and Board of Trustees (2 positions), as soon as possible to any member of the nominating committee. We have extended the nomination deadline until February 12. The election will be held as part of the March luncheon meeting. Please send your nominations to any of these members of the nominating committee: Rita McGregor rtmcg23@gmail.com, Johanna Bunch johanna.bunch@gmail.com, Connie Morris momconnie@bellsouth.net, or Judy Reece judy.reece@att.net. For questions please contact Rita McGregor, Nominating Chair. Additional information can be found starting on page 5 of the AWC January Newsletter.

Rita McGregor, Nominating Committee

MEMBERSHIP

Tonya S. Watson 1st Vice President, Membership

Email: tonyaswatson@gmail.com

<u>Welcome New Members!</u> AWC welcomed one (1) new member in January. Below please find her bio. As always, it's very important to learn as much as you can about AWC's new members in an effort to get them involved in AWC service projects right away. "Involve, Engage & Connect!"



Grace Miller

Grace Miller was born and raised in Gainesville, Georgia and attended the University of Mississippi. She graduated from Ole Miss in May 2017 with a Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism and a specialization in Public Relations. While in school, Grace was involved with numerous service projects and organizations, including Phi Mu Fraternity. After exploring job opportunities across the country, from Los Angeles to New York City, she decided to move to (Midtown) Atlanta to be close to family and friends. She began working for The Coca-Cola Company in September as a Business Analyst. Grace's hobbies include cooking, playing recreational games (especially volleyball), following the news and exploring her new home of Atlanta!

HOME LIFE

February 12th meeting—Women's Heart Health Month— Please Wear Red Blood pressure screenings will be held in the dining room before and after our meeting. Connie Morris, Home Life CSP Chair

ARTS

How can I get involved?.....Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

Arts CSP will continue our ongoing volunteer project with drawchange on **Monday**, **February 19th from 3-4pm**, which will repeat on every 3rd Monday each month. We will assist children at a local shelter in southwest Atlanta with their art therapy projects. You don't have to be artistic to volunteer, your love and support is all they need. If this project is of interest to you, please contact Billie Harris via email to schedule the month you'd like to volunteer. Only 3 volunteer spaces are available for AWC per month. There will be a sign up sheet at our general meeting.

The AWC Arts CSP will host an "Art of Love" art party at Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hugh's Spalding (35 Jesse Hill Jr. Dr., Atlanta, GA) on **Saturday, February 17th from 10a-12noon**. The children will have a choice of 4 arts and crafts projects, centered around the theme of love. We will also be providing healthy snacks for the kids once they complete their crafts. 5 Volunteers are needed for this project. If you're interested in volunteering for a fun filled day with some very special children, please contact Billie Harris, Arts CSP Chair, via phone at 678-617-8511 or email at hawcinc@live.com.



The AWC Arts CSP donated to and participated in the 2nd Annual Lanta Gras parade on January 27th as the "Krewe of The Atlanta Woman's Club". Lanta Gras is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides a safe, fun, and free afterschool music program for middle and high school students of Atlanta. The volunteer instructors teach brass and percussion lessons to the students. The Krewe of The Atlanta Woman's Club designed and built the float with help from a local contractor. The parade began at Bessie Branham Park and circled the park before making its way to Hosea Williams Dr. and ending in Kirkwood Square, where the event continued with live entertainment from marching bands, local jam bands, and the students of Lanta Gras' music program. A big thank you to Natasha Foreman, Catherine Smith, Jennie Labato, Juanita Bryan, Pat Walsh, Cimi Douglas,

Durrette Ofosu, and Penny Blackford for your contributions to this amazing project.

ARTS CONT'D









Krewe
of
The
Atlanta
Woman's
Club



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