

Continuation of the History Synopsis -June 2020

History Synopsis

Updated - May 2014

Prepared By BJ Young

2012-2014 Club Historian

2014-2014 President JoAnne Koehler

Homeless veterans, both male and female, abused and neglected children and women, and education were identified to be supported.

An ongoing initiative of the clubwomen was to make monthly donations to the area FOOD BANK.

All meeting speakers were chosen because of their linkage to goals of the club

The Phone Book committee published the biannual Lewes Phone Book which is the club's Community Advancement Project

Monthly historian reports were published and submitted to the Lewes Historical Society

The Clubhouse Committee began a new partnership with Autism Delaware for clubhouse cleaning.

The education efforts were enhanced by adopting a classroom at Shields Elementary School and providing complete sets of literature books for the teacher and students to be used in direct instruction in addition to a monetary contribution

The education goal was also supported by increased HOBY involvement with a club member on the executive board
Conservation was highlighted through Club Open Houses

A collaborative effort with the Nassau Grove community to collect three van loads of shirts, sweaters, coats, shoes, boots, blankets and raingear for homeless men in Sussex county. Gortex of Wilmington, DE participated by donating tents and waterproof clothes for the men.

There was a revamping of the Annual Christmas Open House to a Christmas Boutique where specialties made by our members and friends netted a \$1500 profit that was donated to Home of the Brave for Men and the new Home of the Brave for Women, as well as to our adopted class at Shields, scholarships, and victims of abuse.

A Tulip Festival Boutique featuring handcrafted spring items and lemon flavored foods were sold with profits going to our charities and scholarships.

\$3000 was donated to area students for college/nursing school scholarships.

Fundraising netted \$10,500.00 for 2012-2014.

59th Phone Book profits \$1,339.84

Coats for Veterans

2014-2016 President Maggie Bauducco

Our biggest challenge that is looming is the fate of our wonderful little Clubhouse. The repairs and upkeep of the house have become a great drain on our resources so we are in the process of talking with the Historical Society of Lewes to cede the house to them. We are only in a preliminary process at this time so the result of this matter will be in my report next year!!

May 26th-"The handover of our Clubhouse to the Historical Society of

Lewes will take place at the Clubhouse on June 3rd at 11.00 am"

June 3 2015-Zwaanendael Club House located on Savannah and Third Street

was sold to the Lewes Historical Society for \$1.00.

August 31, 2015 Balance as of -\$2,587.18

Sept 29th Bob Evans fundraiser, Sept. 29th will be from morning to evening. The restaurant will donate 15% of all sales if the Bob Evans flyer

Mayor Ted Becker coming to speak to us at our meeting.

Antiques Appraisal and it proved to be enormously successful, so we plan to repeat the event this year.

We added a raffle and Chinese Auction to our Christmas Boutique which was enormously successful thanks to the outstanding generosity of many businesses in Lewes who contributed prizes to us.

Another change we made to our previous fundraisers was to expand our Teas.

We have always been identified by our Teas and they have always been a successful fundraiser for the Club. Our ticket sales were always sold out well before demand.

We moved the teas out of the Clubhouse and seek a larger venue. We were fortunate to be able to use the second floor of Lewes Library and our first Tea there was our Valentine's Tea in February. We were able to accommodate over eighty people, more than double the number in the Clubhouse. Also with the larger venue we were able to present a Fashion Show as entertainment. We sold all our tickets and the event was enormously well received and gave our coffers a great boost.

Our second tea is to be presented on May 12th, our Victorian Tea and we have entertainment booked for that event, a presentation of "Close to the Vest and Under the Skirt". (As an aside there are a few tickets still available!!).

At the Annual Lewes Tulip Festival we expanded an ongoing fundraiser and sold geraniums which proved to be a great success with over 200 plants being sold.

We donated \$400 worth of books to Shields Elementary School which they used to buy books to supplement their science and Social Studies program.

Since the printing of the Phone Book was cancelled last year due to the increased expense in producing it and the decreased interest in it, we were challenged this year to find a new Community Improvement Program.

We ended up with deciding to work with the Cape Henlopen School District to help High School Students who are currently homeless or living below the poverty level, of which there are many. To this end we have conducted a food drive to supplement their food bank and also a clothing drive. Many of these students only have one set of clothes so being able to have a clean change of clothes is vitally important to them. This program has been very well received and we hope to be able to expand it going forward.

We continued our support of People's Place this year with our collection of socks and slippers and were able to make two deliveries of these donations to them. They are very grateful for all our donations which they assure us are vitally needed for the many women and children who unfortunately have to seek refuge there.

We have expanded our collections now to flip flops, the first donation of which we delivered to them this month. We also hope to be able to help at their Girls Home with donations and also by organizing some events for the girls.

We continue to support the Beebe Nursing School with a scholarship and also one to a Cape Henlopen High School student. We are also actively supporting our Inside Knowledge Initiative by handing out information to all the ladies that come to our fundraisers. Also we will be sporting Team Zwaanendael at the 5K Teal run in Wilmington on May 2nd.

We have had some fun this year too! A group of our ladies attended the Helping Hand Fundraiser at Harrington Raceway last fall where we had a great time with a fashion show and entertainment. Some of our ladies went to Washington the 'Mother House' at Christmas which was another fun day and wonderful opportunity to see DC and the beautiful home of the GFWC. We also supported the Federation Day celebrations at Harrington with many of our ladies taking part and also donating to the auctions both with items to sell and buying items.

Silpada Jewelry fundraiser

Victorian Tea, May 4th, Karen Jesse will present Bustles to Bras. Both of these will be held at Lewes Presbyterian Church

Stockings for Soldiers, Pat Zisa will be collecting donations at her house at 33755 Reservoir Drive, Lewes

Annual DSFWC Convention will be held May 11-13, 2016 at the Hyatt in Dewey

The Fall Fling at Stockley Center is October 16, 2015. We will supply 3 doz. cookies made by Wendy and Maggie and 3 doz. brownies made by Sue Olkowski

A vote was passed and second to continue collecting prescription pill bottles for the Malawi Project

We will continue to collect slippers and socks for People's Place for women and children only for their domestic violence cause.

A membership luncheon will be held on March 16, 2016 at the Rehoboth Country Club, Judith Kirkey is the chair.

Sue Olkowski reported that this will be the second year of the President's Project the Ovarian Cancer Walk, last year \$1380 was earned for this fundraiser.

Sue Olkowski introduced Dawn Hughes as guest speaker for the HOST program at Shields Elementary School. HOST stands for Help One Student to Succeed. This is a mentoring program with one on one to work with K-1st grade students.

2016-Mrs Muriel Pfeiffer acquiesced due to illness August 15,2016

2015-October 2017 Mrs. Cindy Winkler Vice President completed the term.

2017-2019 Mrs. Cindy Winkler (October 16, 2017 installed at President)

2016-2018-President Cindy Winkler

Increase in membership during this term. January, 2016 our club had 25 members.

In January, 2017 we had 34 members and by January, 2018 our club had 53 active members! . Two Reciprocity. Part of the Tea includes a speech from the president of the club describing our accomplishments, which gives potential new members a very good idea of our mission and projects.

Our Signature Project is our Community Improvement Program that helps our local in-need high school students with food, clothing and baskets of dorm room supplies for some who are going on to college and will be living in a dorm. Over the last two years we have provided 3,103 pounds of food; collected, sorted and made available to the in-need students 3,647 articles of clothing valued at \$10,927.00 (according to the values found on the Goodwill website) and donated 22 baskets of dorm room supplies to in-need high school seniors. These baskets include all bedding, towels, trash can, fan, USB drive, laundry basket with detergent, shower shoes, mattress pad and topper and toiletry items.

We continued with the GFWC Signature Program which is Domestic Violence. We worked very closely with People's Place

In 2017 we partnered with both the Lewes Library and our local AAUW chapter (American Association of University Women), in a collection of supplies for First Night Kits for the women and children who suffer from domestic violence and go to People's Place for shelter and help.

People's Place also manages a Girls Group Home for girls between 13 and 18 who are in the foster care system. During this term, we have had members go to the home and play games with the girls, helped them make bracelets and taught them cooking skills. While cooking with the girls, it came to our attention that the stove they were using was not functioning properly. We therefore purchased and installed a brand- new stove for their use. We have also provided extra clothing for them and made a \$500 donation specifically for the needs at this group home.

2016-2018 term, our club continued to support our local elementary school by having members work in the HOSTS (Helping One Student to Succeed) program, annually sponsoring a classroom for \$200 and purchasing at least \$300 worth of books annually for the reading specialists to use to supplement their reading programs.

For the first time, our club participated in Read Across America in March this year and it was enjoyed by both the students and our club members. .

We have also provided two scholarships per year for higher education. One recipient is a high school senior who will be furthering their education and the other recipient is a second semester nursing student at the Margaret H. Rollins School of Nursing in Lewes, DE. Historically, both scholarships have been \$500 each, but in 2016 the amount was raised to \$750 each and in 2017 they were raised to \$1,000 each. Our goal is to keep both scholarships at \$1,000 going forward.

Our club has continued to support HOBY during this term both financially and with members volunteering on the HOBY Board and the planning of the seminar. Over the two- year period, we have sponsored 4 students to attend the HOBY weekend.

In 2017 we started a new literacy program. We collected 400 children's book which were taken to The Baby Pantry in Rehoboth Beach which serves WIC families by supplying diapers and wipes. By providing the books, these families are now able to start a home library for their children. Additionally, our club has donated \$900 to the Lewes Library during this term.

While our Community Improvement Program is a large percentage of our Home Life work, we do additional tasks under this category. We supplied baked goods to Stockley Center each fall for their Fall Fling, we have provided 116 gifts worth \$1,380 over two years to Harbor Health Care for elderly residents at Christmas time and in 2017 added Little Grace's Closet from Georgetown as an official Zwaanendael Women's Club program to support. We have done a Paint with a Purpose fundraiser for Little Grace's Closet resulting in an \$800 donation and have formed a committee to further help this organization with volunteer time and collecting baby items for them. We have also added pl-yarn making as a hands-on activity. We had a speaker from the VFW come and show us how to make "yarn" out of plastic grocery bags which is then crocheted into sleeping mats as a moisture barrier for the homeless. After making the bags into pl-yarn we have a member bring it to the VFW for the crocheting part. In 2016 we started a new program with the high school to provide 13 Thanksgiving dinners to in-need students and families. We partnered with a local retailer who provided the cooked turkeys and we collected the canned goods to make Thanksgiving Dinner baskets. We then expanded this program to include Easter dinners and were able to provide 25 hams in 2017 with all the side dishes. We provided 23 Thanksgiving turkey dinner baskets in 2017 while partnering with Lloyd's Market, Giant and The Harry K Foundation. Our club has also started a meal program for the local code purple shelter in 2017. By the end of this term, our club will have provided 4 ham dinners to the shelter. Our monetary donations for the Home Life category have included: \$1,000 to the Food Bank of DE, \$500 to The Food Bank Culinary School and \$500 to Habitat for Humanity.

Under Public Issues, we continued to collect items for the Stockings for Soldiers program and have donated over \$1,000 worth of items to send to our soldiers working over- seas during this term. We have also invited our local Elks Lodge to come in for a Folding of the Flag Ceremony and have made a \$1,000 donation to Home of the Brave for Women and a \$500 donation to Fisher House. Recently we partnered with the Lewes Library to bring a Human Trafficking program to the public. It was attended by 70 people and we provided the speaker from Zoe Ministries and refreshments and the library provided the room for the program. Our club also gave Zoe Ministries a donation of \$50.

Communications and Public Relations have been a priority during this term. Our goal was to get our name out to our community and make them aware of the work we do for those in-need in our community. We used the local newspaper, were featured on the local news and have put more of an emphasis on social media using a Facebook page

and an interactive website. In 2017, with our increase in membership, we were able to form a Communications and Public Relations Committee. They have been diligent in promoting our events with press releases to 7 area papers, 3 Facebook pages, 7 online calendars, 2 print calendars and the club website. We have recently obtained an email address for the club which is monitored by the Communications Chair. The committee has also designed a club logo for us featuring our namesake, a swan! Our major fundraisers continue to be Teas and our Christmas Bazaar. In addition, we have also held Antique and Jewelry Appraisals and have taken orders for Geraniums from Jeff's Greenhouse to be delivered prior to Mother's Day. We have had new members chair events and bring fresh ideas to our club and have been able to increase our revenue in 2016 from \$8, 213 to \$12,627 in 2017.

In an effort to get new members involved, the president designed a survey so that all members could express which GFWC Community Service Programs and GFWC Advancement Areas interested them the most.

Arts and Conservation Programs which were areas we were not currently covering. We were able to form committees based on the members input and place each member into a group. We were able to start an Arts Committee and revive the Conservation Committee with fresh ideas from new members! The Arts Committee arranged for our members and spouses to go see "A Chorus Line" at a local theater and found an opportunity for our club to participate in the Nation's First History Book Festival. The Conservation Committee started their work by arranging for our club to participate in two Trail Clean-up Days in 2017.

We also designed a questionnaire to find out more about our members regarding previous jobs and volunteer activities. The results were used during a segment of our meetings called "Mystery Member" where the president would read portions of the questionnaire and the group had to guess who was being described. This tool was used in two ways. One, to help the members get to know each other better and two, the Nominating Team used it to make educated decisions as to whom would be best to fill the positions on the board for the upcoming term.

We also had a member suggest and execute a "Lunch Bunch" program which was started in March of 2017. This has been a great way for our members to get to know one another better and be more willing to work together on club projects and programs.

2018-2020 President Terry Yates

The membership saw an increase of 50%, from 53 members in January 2018 to 78 members in March 2020. The members volunteered 12,283 hours.

A new website was launched in September 2018 with club information, up-coming events and a password protected members' area with important member information. A monthly newsletter was published by our communications director, Kathy Cochran.

During this two year period fourteen fundraising events were accomplished, raising \$45,657. One of these events was a Lunch with a Purpose which was held in December 2018 at the Rehoboth Country Club. Comfort Cases was the organization chosen to be the beneficiary. The money raised bought and filled backpacks for foster children. These backpacks contained essential and comforting items for the children in Sussex County.

In March 2019, the club hosted a Victorian Tea at the First Presbyterian Church in Lewes. The committee members baked fancy sandwiches, scones and desserts along with serving teas.

In 2018 the club began a new Community Improvement Program benefiting What's Your Voice. This organization founded by Jackie Sterbach provides support to survivors of domestic violence by a holistic approach.

The club supported People's Place, a SAFE program and group home for girls, aged thirteen to eighteen. Club members tutored, donated 125 First Night kits and delivered 70 pounds of new and gently used clothing, books and toys.

The club hosted several theatre trips to local theatres. The club had a Budding Arts Exhibit at the Lewes Library. The children and their families came to view the event on May 2.

In the Homelife category, the members continued to support the following organizations, Little Gracie's Closet, Harbor Healthcare and Harry K. Pantry. A clothing closet at the Cape Henlopen High school continued to be supplied and distributed to needy students.

The club supported Lighthouse for Broken Wings, a transitional program for homeless adults and children. Club members wrote grants, supplied lunches and held a bingo fundraiser for the organization.

A nursing scholarship to a student nurse at the Margaret Rollins School of Nursing continues to be awarded yearly.

March 2020, a Pandemic corona virus 19 hit the country and closed down almost all of the club's activities. The club continued to stay connected to our members through emails and up-dates on the websites. The meetings were held through a zoom website.

Updated by Nancy H. Phillips, Historian
5/22/2021