



# The Montana Woman

*Let Your Light Shine*  
*2020-2022*

“Each one of us can make a difference.  
Together we make change.”  
Barbara Mikulski

During the past two years our clubs have been providing each of us with information to become more aware of suicidal characteristics and how to be helpful. The new three-digit dialing code, 988, that will route callers to the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline will become active nation-wide July 16, 2022. Montana already has 988 working in many areas.

Now it is your opportunity to continue your suicide prevention education. How?

- \* Use your internet, search, “Suicide Prevention, TED talks” and you will be amazed at the many short videos full of information.
- \* Find out what is happening in your local school and how you can help.
- \* Attend a QPR training, Question, Persuade, Refer
- \* Be aware of local suicide prevention groups with upcoming events and then sign up and participate.
  - NIMH - National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention
  - Dog - Tag Buddies, helping veterans
  - AFSP - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
  - NAMI -National Alliance of Mental Illness

Mental illness needs our help! Thank you each for your support in making suicide an open topic to be discussed like any other illness. The most recent report shows Montana ranking third in the nation with 26.2 deaths per 100,000. Our close neighbor, Wyoming, has a 29.6 rate. Tragically, placing them first.

It may never be known if our efforts were effective but when needed that one person will know.

We, GFWC Montana Members, made a difference!

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## Greetings Fellow GFWC MT Club Members



Dear Sisters in GFWC of Montana Federation,

Walt Disney said, "It's kind of FUN to do the Impossible!" And here we are at the end of the 2020-2022 GFWC Montana Administration. You and I... GFWC Montana members have had much success.

We virtually conducted our District Conventions with guest speakers, GFWC of MT 2020 Fall Board Meeting was a 2-day format with nearly 50 attending.

Forty + members enjoyed a Christmas tour of GFWC Headquarters in 2020 without buying a plane ticket or staying in a hotel. Using a virtual format, costs for meetings have plummeted while costs for all else have skyrocketed. I suspect this virtual format will be with us for many years.

Our GFWC of MT was represented in Atlanta at the GFWC International Convention with nine attendees and TWO LEADS candidates, now graduates. Numerous GFWC MT members attended WSR in Colorado Springs in 2021.

Have the words "suicide prevention" become easier to say and talk about with family and friends? My ears and I hope yours are more finetuned to hear of and participate in suicide prevention activities. Do we recognize when someone is thinking of taking their own life? Oh, I hope, we have grown and realize the tragedy of this wide spread problem in our Montana.

We were so ready to Shine our Montana Lights that our fundraising efforts at the Fall Board meeting in 2021 of "Letting Our Light Shine," sharing our talents, did not cover one table, did not cover two tables, did not cover three table but instead 4 or five tables. GFWC of MT members are a talented group!

Thank you each for supporting our efforts, learning a new format, and even wearing a mask without complaining so we could be together.

Thank you for serving as club officers, thank you for serving as District officers. Thank you for accepting chairmanships, Thank you for doing club reports and for submitting our state REPORTS, Thank you for accepting the opportunity to serve in GFWC of Montana. Thank you for being risk takers, for stepping out of your comfort zone and thank you for your support of GFWC of Montana.

"We have had FUN and achieved the impossible!"

President Lynn Foreman is ready and excited to guide us through the next two years. I know you will continue to step forward and allow GFWC Montana to be strong.

Shining Montana Lights!  
Florence Diede

### The Montana Woman

*The Montana Woman is published quarterly in August, November, February, and May. The deadline for news is the first of the month preceding the publication date. We encourage GFWC of Montana clubs to share their news in The Montana Woman.*

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### CALENDAR OF 2022 FEDERATION DATES

<b>JUNE 24-28</b>	<b>GFWC Convention, Riverside Hilton, New Orleans, LA</b>
<b>JULY 1</b>	<b>GFWC of MT dues with 3 copies of membership list to Kim Montag (later payments to Lorrie Hardy)</b>
<b>AUGUST 26-28</b>	<b>WSR Conference, Anchorage Hilton, AK Registration Info will be emailed to clubs in July</b>
<b>Sept 30– Oct 1</b>	<b>GFWC MT Fall Meeting, Great Falls</b>



# Fun at Biennial Convention!

Many More pictures are posted on [GFWCMontana.org](http://GFWCMontana.org)



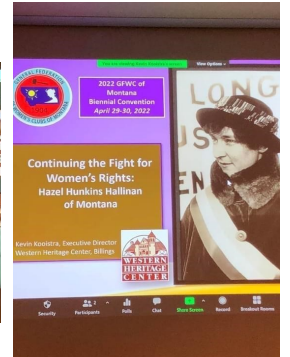
Back of the quilt won by Bitterroot Woman's Club



Memorial Service Stars in Progress -- we lost 22 of our "Stars" since the 2018 service.



Kevin Kooistra, of Western Heritage Museum, presented the story of Billings Suffragist, Hazel Hunkins Hallinan.



This cute young lady offered chances on gift boxes that might have a number for a prize.



Dawn Conklin, Madison Valley WC member, presenting her memories of Kyiv, Ukraine.



A garden wagon filled with supplies, seeds, plants, and Best Wishes was presented to Florence Diede. Thank you for your love and dedication serving as GFWC of Montana President 2020-2022!



So good to spend time with our special guest Suellen Brazil. GFWC International 1st Vice-President 2020-2022.



The newly installed Executive Committee stands ready to serve GFWC of Montana 2022-2024.

## President's Special Project Raffle Winners

- Five Nights at the Marriott of Your Choice—Nancy Hanford, Fort Benton Woman's Club
- Five Nights Paws & Claws Hotel & Spa—Terri Halko, Fort Benton Woman's Club
- Quilt by Joyce DeCunzo—Bitterroot Woman's Club

## 52 Cards Raffle Winner

Marsha Price, Billings Junior Woman's Club



# Youth Writing Contest Winners 2021

## Marsha Baumeister, Chairman

The winning entries for the 2021 Youth Writing Contest were announced late April/early May, with certificates and awards being presented in person this year! A shout out to GFWC Thompson Falls for submitting a student entry and a thank you to Helena and Fort Benton clubs for rounding up their students' entries.

An independent team of judges determined the following winners:

### FORT BENTON SCHOOLS

#### Poetry:

Nami Vaughn, 1st place, Grade 2  
Kelton Vielleux, 1st place, Grade 6  
Parker Simpson, 2nd place, Grade 2  
Lucille Bedford, 3rd place, Grade 1  
Elton Good, 3rd place, Grade 5  
Ameya Smith, 3rd place, Grade 9

#### Short Story:

Charlie Winkler, 1st place, Grade 5  
Grace Hereford, 1st place, Grade 6  
Emerson Giese, 1st place, Grade 11  
Wyatt Cline, 2nd place, Grade 6  
Everett Bowers, 3rd place, Grade 5  
Emilia Whitehead, 3rd place, Grade 6  
Brooklyn Sieler, 3rd place, Grade 12  
Katie Bavpnks, 3rd place, Grade 2

### HELENA AND MISSOURI CITY

#### Poetry:

Calvin Mogstad, 1st place, Grade 4  
Icelynn, Frandsen, 1st place, Grade 9  
Lilly Knaup, 2nd place, Grade 4  
Julia Krings, 2nd place, Grade 9

#### Short Story:

Mira Burkholder, 1st place, Grade 2  
Etta Jenkins: 2nd place, Grade 2  
James Genger, 2nd place, Grade 4  
Julia Krings, 2nd place, Grade 9

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS AND ALL THE STUDENTS WHO LET THEIR CREATIVE TALENTS SHINE!**

## Photography Contest Winners 2021

### Jo Campbell, Chairman

Thank you to those who participated in this year's photography contest.

#### REFLECTIONS



*Summer Mourned*

I am happy to announce that the winner of the category "Reflections " is Karen Gustavsen of the GFWC Thompson Falls Woman's Club!

#### NATURAL WONDERS



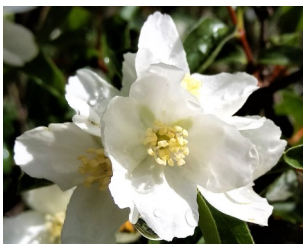
*Thompson Falls Dam*

The winner of the category "Natural Wonders" is also Karen Gustavsen!!

The winner of the category "Our World Up Close" is ... (drum roll) .....KAREN GUSTAVSEN!!

Karen is very detailed oriented, which shows in her photography, so I hope that she continues to participate in the contest. Her three photographs have been submitted to National for consideration. Best of luck Karen!

#### OUR WORLD UP CLOSE



*Unknown White Blossom*

I'm excited for the possibility that there will be more entered for photos taken in 2022. We have many talented ladies in Montana! Thank you for your support during my time as Photography Chairman and Photographer, and for attending the photography workshops. As an amateur photographer like you, it was fun to share some of the tips I've learned over the years. I plan on taking photos for next year's contest, and hope you will join me!



## Reflections of Ukraine

### Dawn Conklin, Education and Libraries Chairman

*Following is a summary of the reflections shared in Boseman at our Biennial Convention. Dawn's husband Brian served as a diplomat in Ukraine and their family lived there for two years from 2002-2004.*



We all have watched the devastating scenes of the war that has erupted in Ukraine. We experienced a people and country filled with music, dance, architecture, literature, chess, ballet, and sports. Our tears fall for our colleagues in the US embassy, the music and arts teachers that came into our home each week, our household staff including our Nanny, Helen and our friends from the Kyiv International Church, the International Woman's Club and teachers from the Pechersck International School. We are saddened by the loss of lives and unimaginable hardships that have been thrust upon our Ukrainian friends who graciously invited us into their homes and shared their traditional dishes and history with us. Please journey with me into my stories of a place that we were privileged to call home.

The glow of sunrise paints the horizon. As the sun begins its movement upward the glint of rays illuminates the golden domes of the Lavre. The Lavre occupies 20 hectares in the heart of the city of Kyiv and serves as the home of the Ukrainian Orthodox church. It was established in the 11th century. Pilgrims visit this sacred space to pay homage to the saints that lived monastic lives in the caves under the churches. Ukrainian culture and traditions date back centuries.

Kyiv is known as the city of golden domes and we held the little hands of our three children and dragged their little legs through most of the cathedrals: St. Sophia's with mosaics from the floor up to the domed ceiling; St. Michael's has beautiful icon paintings that make you long to know the stories of each of the saints; St. Andrews sits high on a hill with its teal domes and golden embellishments that make it look like a music box. Legend has it that this is the place that the apostle Andrew placed a cross and prophesied the foundation of a great Christian city. God is ever present in this land.

We found the country to be a blending of architecture - art nouveau, palaces and churches in Baroque style and Soviet modernism; boulevards that were 8 lanes wide with massive statues right in the middle; old men playing chess in the park seemingly oblivious to the snow falling down upon them; and of course the sound of Jha and the Kha of the Russian language echoing in the wind that was foreign at first but soon would become our means of communication.

One of the most inspirational moments of my 2 years in Ukraine was a land titling ceremony. The collective farms of communism had been broken into plots of land for private ownership. In a musty old government building old men sat on the right and women sat on the left. Each woman was called up by name and handed a land title. The hardened exteriors were just that, exteriors, for their hearts were so full and they smiled, and they cried as they took ownership of the land that they had tilled and toiled over for most of their lives. In that moment we witnessed social justice to the oppressed.

I put many miles on my double stroller pushing my two little girls over cobblestones and up and down hills in the city. Oftentimes we would head into the metro station and our senses were heightened by the smell and vibrance of fresh flowers all year round. There were numerous vendors set-up along the indoor walkway working to provide for their families. We would get on the escalator - the longest one I have ever seen and head down into what seemed like the bowels of the earth. Today I find comfort in photos of Ukrainians taking shelter in the metro stations.

Today I see a people resilient and proud. Ukrainians have their own language, culture, and customs. They are Ukrainian not Russian. Fighting for democracy and independence which has been theirs since 1991. We see the migration of families moving to border countries to find safety. We see the heroism of grandfathers, fathers and young men that are under martial law fighting for freedom. We see mothers comforting their children as they move forward into uncertainty.

This is all juxtaposed to the backdrop of the Kyiv that I knew. Along the boulevards where families once strolled on Sunday afternoons eating ice cream cones and laughing as they watched the street performers. Along the Dniپر River where families gather on beaches to cool off on hot summer days. In the neighborhoods where children attend schools and neighbors care for pensioners. And in the churches where I found God's peace. During these past weeks of my heartache and helplessness, I turn to what I know and invite you to offer up with me a prayer for wisdom to the peacemakers seeking an equitable and less violent way to end this war, courage in this crisis to the people of Ukraine, healing to broken hearts, and comfort to all who mourn.



## Eastern District Happenings at Convention Debbie Willis, President



Jennifer Flategraff is presented with a \$750 GFWC of MT Eastern District Scholarship by Nancy Bruce, Secretary for GFWC Montana Eastern District. Jennifer will use the funds towards completing her teaching credential at MSU Dillon.

GFWC of MT Eastern District Officers were installed by GFWC International First Vice President, Suellen Brazil: Judy Senteney, President, Gayle Carter, Vice President and Nancy Bruce, Secretary. Karin Green, Treasurer, was unable to attend.

Billings Junior Woman's Club, Billings Woman's Club, and Big Timber Woman's Club attended the Eastern District meeting. The business meeting was held and the scholarship winner, Jennifer Flategraff, from Big Timber was announced.

The three clubs then held an emergency meeting to make necessary changes to their by-laws in order to conduct Eastern District business. Watch for this update on the GFWC of Montana Eastern District site at <https://gfwcmontana.org/eastern-district/>.

Marsha Price, Corresponding Secretary, Marsha Hotchkiss, Vice President, and Florence Diede, President, were invited to attend GFWC Forsyth Woman's Club May meeting and dinner. Materials and ideas on ways to sustain a club with few members were presented. Forsyth Woman's Club, established in 1904, has been struggling with a small number of members. Clubs experiencing dwindling activity and aging members face some very difficult decisions.

## Peer to Peer Canton Valley Woman's Club

GFWC Canton Valley Woman's Club is pleased to share one of the ways they were able to support our President's Special Project of Suicide Prevention through Education. They coordinated with Peer to Peer, a local mental health support group, and decorated a local store window for all passing by to view.

The Cotter Foundation has generously supported the charity work of the GFWC Canton Valley Woman's Club for many years through a \$1500 annual donation distributed through the Townsend Rotary Club.

The club has used the funds to aid families in their community experiencing difficulties. This year they also made a donation to NAMI as part of their work within the President's Special Project.



The Creative Closet fabric store window displays the uplifting message.

To honor Tom Cotter's memory, a bench marker has been placed by the Woman's Club in Veteran's Park.



Although he left the area, Tom never forgot his time in Townsend. The Cotter Foundation has continued to support organizations serving the community.



## What Inquiring Minds Have Learned!



*Here is a step-by-step summary of research and discovery into our seal.*

**Step 1** Going back through past issues of *The Montana Woman* in the Memory Project, it was discovered that the seal with “GFWC of Montana” around the edge first appeared on the cover in the Fall 1996 issue.

**Step 2** Continuing back, in 1984 the seal minus the gavel and “1904” appears on *The Montana Woman’s* cover celebrating the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of GFWC/MFVC.

**Step 3** Poking around on our website, it was discovered on the History tab a write up saying the seal was adopted in the 1962-64 administration with the official colors of copper and green, official bird the meadowlark, and official flower the bitterroot. OK, these are the state bird and flower so understandable.

**Step 4** Returning back to the Memory Project and *The Montana Woman’s* issues of 1962-1964, there was no mention of a contest or commission to design a seal. The state president at the time was Vione Bell of Kalispell, so a dead end there. The incoming president was Alice Thomas of Billings. Neither the Billings Juniors nor Billings Woman’s Club had records to help in the search. The file cabinet housing Minutes for the state BOD does not go back that far.

**Step 5** It was discovered in the October 1964 issue of *The Montana Woman* an advertisement placed by the Ravalli County Federation of Women’s Clubs using the new Montana Federation of Women’s Clubs seal. This is the first and only use of the original seal printed in *The Montana Woman*. The Bitterroot Woman’s Club could find no answers about the seal in their files.

**Step 6** During a member orientation for the Thompson Falls Woman’s Club, District President Adina Fox showed members a notecard with the original seal on the front and an in-depth explanation of the design features and colors on the back.

**Step 7** At the 2022 Biennial Convention a few more pieces fell into place. When Bright of America, the company who printed the notecards, is searched on the web, their history states they were formed in 1963 when the Bright brothers sold scenic notecards to the West Virginia Federation of Women’s Clubs and business took off. Probably at the 1994 International Convention, the bylaws were changed requiring states to add “GFWC” to their official name. In 1996, Bobbie Bjork gave boxes of the notecards with the original seal to her Board of Directors. In 2006, the seal was digitized with “General Federation of Women’s Clubs of Montana” which is the seal used today.

**Step 8** After our 2022 Biennial Convention, a telephone conversation with Jim Ullum of Bright of America confirmed it was possible that their design team may have helped create the seal. Their company was growing quickly and working with several State Federations and Woman’s Clubs on fundraising projects. Bright of America has been sold three times, so their historical files also have blank spots.

***Do you have any answers? Contact President Florence Diede at  
fdiede2020@gmail.com.***

