



# GFWC

## Ossoli Circle Newsletter

### March 2016



**Nancy Carmon**

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Dear GFWC Ossoli Circle Members,

Spring is on the way—thank goodness. Enough of this ice and snow. Brrr! We were lucky to have good weather for the Ossoli in Action event on February 8. Minga and her crew did an outstanding job, sold lots of tickets, fed everyone deliciously, and made lots of money for the Everly Park project and the Family Crisis Center. Members donated gifts valued at over \$900 for the families of the Shelter. March will find us writing cards of encouragement and

hope to the residents during NOMORE! Week, a public awareness campaign supported by GFWC to end domestic violence and sexual assault.

The White Linen Luncheon's "The Power of the Purse" promises to be an event to remember. Janie Bitner and her Ways and Means Committee have been hard at work on the planning. Put Monday, March 21 on your calendar, ladies!

Also ahead, a Smoky Mountain District meeting in Chattanooga on March 12 and the GFWC TN State Convention in Chattanooga April 15-17. Turn in your \$20 registration fee to our treasurer by March 9<sup>th</sup> and plan to ride with us to the district meeting. The State Convention details will be available soon. Plan to go to both of these events, meet friends from other GFWC clubs, and enjoy Chattanooga. Lots to see and do!

The GFWC International Convention is in Baltimore this year June 25-29. Our own Ann Durall will be recognized as a Jennie Nominee from the Southeast Region. Our fingers are crossed that she will be selected as an International winner. What a wonderful opportunity to visit historic Baltimore, site of the Star Spangled Banner inspiration for Francis Scott Key.

We still have lots of wonderful programs ahead: a vicarious trip to the Frick Museum, lots of history, life and sex in Jane Austen's day, conservation, legislation, education, the GFWC Ossoli History Challenge, our Memorial Service, and finally Installation Day. It looks to be a great Spring at GFWC

Ossoli Circle. Invite a friend to join us and see what an amazing organization we are.

Remember "Continue the legacy...Be a Lizzie!"

"Be courageous, inspiring, determined, focused, a visionary, compelling, persuasive, devoted, a teacher, enthusiastic, tireless, encouraging, a friend, positive, energetic, caring, passionate, committed, a leader, creative, funny!"

Yours in GFWC,  
Nancy

### PRESIDENTS' DAY

On December 14, 2015, Ossoli members and guests enjoyed a delightful Presidents' Day, a day to honor our current president and all previous presidents. Sixteen former presidents joined Nancy Carmon as honorees.

After an inspiring talk by Nancy, everyone was treated to an entertaining musical program presented by Diane Salesky and her string quartet. Then they proceeded to the dining room for special refreshments beautifully presented by Peggy Sood and her capable committee.

### SOME FETE DAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS AT WORK



L-R: Linda Scothorn, Janet Oakes, Peggy Sood, Betty McKeehan

### PRESIDENTS' DAY HONOREES



L-R Front row: Jo Webb, Carolyn Nelson, Ann Durall, Mary Carmichael, Janet Oakes; Second row: Nancy Carmon, Marion Bloomer, Bett Greene; Third row: Lee Patton, Susie Kelley, Peggy Sood, Charlotte Miller; Fourth row: Roberta Pedigo; Back row: Barbara Horton, Faye Julian, Lexa Hooten, Janice Hixson.

### ESCORTS ON PRESIDENTS' DAY



L-R: Jim Carmon, Peter Lloyd, Robert Hightower

### DID YOU KNOW....

that you can earn a point for Ossoli Circle with every book you read, no matter the type of book? GFWC supports a program called Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO) to facilitate lifelong learning. For more information, see page 107 of the Ossoli Yearbook.

It is really easy. When you read a book, list it on the ESO form (paper copies available in the library, digital copies found on the Ossoli website on the member side under "Forms"). Then Ossoli's ESO Chair, Valerie Biberdorf, will collect these sheets to send to GFWC-TN at the end of the calendar year. Ossoli receives credit of one point for each book reported towards our club ranking among large clubs in Tennessee. And you receive certificates acknowledging your reading efforts!

Ossoli's amazing reader is Carol Proaps. Ask her how many books she has read.

### **FANTASY OF TREES**

Ossoli members Connie Graham and Lexa Hooten (and their spouses) spent countless hours of behind-the-scenes volunteer work necessary to produce the Fantasy of Trees.



Lexa Hooten, Connie Graham and others at work



At the Fantasy of Trees, L-R: Don Graham, Connie Graham, Lexa Hooten, Ron Hooten

### **NEW OSSOLI CIRCLE WEBPAGE**

A new page, Projects, has been added to the Ossoli Circle website on the members-only side. For each project that is listed in the yearbook, the new webpage includes the person or committee in charge of the project, the time frame for this project, and the activity. The unique features of this page are the links to the home pages for each of the project organizations (i.e. Smoky Mountain Service Dogs); the links to the responsible Ossoli person or committee, and for Operation Smile, links to the list of items to collect along with instructions for making the smile dolls and drawstring bags.

### **OSSOLI IN ACTION FUNDRAISER**

On February 8 Ossoli in Action hosted their annual Benefit Party. Members and guests were invited to enjoy games such as bridge, mah jong, etc. while others just came to visit, shop the jewelry show presented by Cheryl Smith and her daughter, and shop the "pass it along" sale managed by Janice Hixson. Of course everyone was treated to a delicious lunch.

As we have been awarded a matching grant from Knoxville Parks and Recreation, some of the proceeds went to benefit development of the Everly Park. Most of the proceeds went to our President's Project, the Helen Ross McNabb Family Crisis Center. Ossoli members were asked to donate items that the center has requested, including pajamas for women and children, calendars and day planners, and hygiene items. Donations worth over \$900 were given for this purpose.

## OSSOLI IN ACTION BENEFIT PARTY



A display of items donated to the Helen Ross McNabb Family Crisis Center

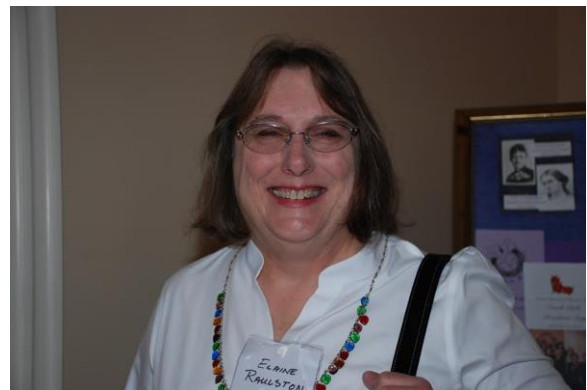


Ossoli in Action Chair Minga Barnes with committee member Phyllis Eldridge

## OUR NEW MEMBERS



Susie Kelley, Glenda Jessee, Caroline Rowe



**Elaine Ralston**



At the table, L-R: Kathy Butcher, Jeanette Cox, Wanda Taylor, Lorna Matheny. Observing: Robin Goddard and Janie Bitner

Elaine was born in Birmingham, Alabama, and grew up in Uniontown, a small town located between Demopolis and Selma. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in biology and physical sciences from Mississippi University for Women in Columbus, Mississippi. She came to the University of Tennessee for her Master of Arts in College Teaching degree in biology. Her career was in cytogenetics at the Genetic Center at UT Medical Center and Genetic Associates in Nashville, Tennessee.

Currently, Elaine is involved in volunteering with the homeless and the working poor through the Soup Kitchen at Church Street

UMC, the Sharing Shops at Church Street UMC and Vestal UMC, and Family Promise of Knoxville. Her other passion is spending time with her family, especially her grandson. She loves reading and movies.

“I love to learn new things and to help others. I read about Ossoli in a novel set in Knoxville and asked Nancy Carmon about it. She invited me to attend a meeting. Discovering that Ossoli had two speakers each Monday and supported social causes, I knew that Ossoli was a match for me!”



**Susan Calabrese**

Susan was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, but grew up in the American Midwest. She graduated from high school in Indianapolis and soon afterward moved to Knoxville where she attend the University of Tennessee, studying to be an elementary school teacher. During this time she met

her husband, Dan, and decided to move to his hometown of Homestead, Florida.

Susan completed her degree at Barry University in Miami while also studying to be a Montessori teacher. She taught pre-school through middle school levels of Montessori for 21 years. She also loved her role as a teacher trainer, traveling throughout the southeast. Eleven years ago Susan became a realtor and enjoys this career very much.

Susan and Dan have been married for 28 years and have two adult daughters, Lily and Samantha. Dan is a home builder and also a gold miner in Alaska. This new adventure has allowed Susan and Dan the opportunity to travel across the United States and Canada. Susan enjoys baking, volunteer work and travel. She is a member of the Knoxville Board of Realtors Community Outreach Committee.

**DATES TO REMEMBER**

Smoky Mt. District Meeting	March 12
White Linen Luncheon	March 21
NO MEETING	March 28
Board Meeting	March 30
GFWC TN Convention	April 15-17
Memorial Service	April 25
Joint Board Meeting	April 27
Installation Day	May 9
GFWC International Convention	June 25-29

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**

If any of your personal information in the current yearbook has changed or needs to be corrected, please contact Printing Chair Sharon White without delay. Phone number: 691-2413; email: scootertsmom1@att.net.