Orange Blossom Gazette

GFWC LA VERNE-SAN DIMAS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

January 2026 Issue 99

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Every act of kindness sparkles like a star.
Embrace the power of kindness and shine brightly.




HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2026

	**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
05 – Dinner at Casa de mi Abuela 11 - Coloring Get Together 17 – Hike at Bonelli 22 - Gab at Nambah Cafe	

	**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**
10 - Dinner at Warehouse Pizza 15 - Hike at Bonelli Park 21 - Tea Luncheon at The Enchanted Rose 25 - Gab at Broken Yolk	

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2024 - 2026

President: Marlene Carney
Co-First VP/Dean of Chairmen: Susan Minnihan & Linda Roache
Co-Second VP/Membership: Jody Mentzer & Sonya Whatley
Third VP/Ways & Means: Vacant
Recording Secretary: Barbara Randolph
Treasurer: Cathy Koch
Parliamentarian: Pat Borchard
Corresponding Secretary: Eleonore Burress



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:
Marlene Carney

Happy New Year! I hope you all a had fun holiday season filled with friends and family. I am so grateful for the warmth, generosity, and teamwork you shared throughout the past year. Because of your dedication, our club continues to make a real difference in the communities we serve, and I am proud of all we've accomplished together.

In 2025, we accomplished so much and made a huge positive for so many. A huge thank you to Jennifer Nummelin, Joann Earhart and Nancy Buchanan for organizing a delightful and magical holiday dinner and also providing dessert. An additional thank you is extended to Bianca Battles and Lisa Gomez for also providing dessert. The room was filled with friendship and holiday cheer.

January invites us to reflect as well as to look ahead. Let us carry forward the spirit of kindness, friendship, and community service that defines our club. Whether you volunteer regularly, support our projects quietly in the background, or simply bring your positive presence to our meetings, you are an important part of who we are.

In the coming months, we will continue our commitment to service and fellowship. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, invite a friend to a meeting, share your ideas, and step into new opportunities that inspire you. Together, we can make this year one of meaningful impact and joyful connection.

There will be numerous opportunities to take on some leadership roles in the club. You are all encouraged to step up and either chair a project or join the Executive Committee. Please contact the current chairs and/or members of the Executive Committee if you have some interest in any of those positions. The club cannot exist without its leadership. This might be your time to glow and take us to the next level. Keep in mind that those individuals that are completing their terms at the end of May will be more than glad to guide and assist you as you move into a leadership role.

Thank you for all you do and for the heart you bring to our club. I look forward to a bright and busy year ahead working, laughing, and serving side by side. Warmest wishes for health, peace, and happiness in the New Year! (

I thought I would share a photo of my daughter, 7 grandkids (three with spouses) and 5 great grandkids. The photo was taken at the Huntington. I had one daughter and look what happened.



Carney.marlene@gmail.com
909-996-6021

PRESIDENT'S AIDE/AMENITIES:
Jennifer Nummelin

Happy New Year everyone! I hope you all enjoyed the madhouse that is the holidays. It seemed more hectic this year (maybe age has something to do with it). I know I need a nap! We look forward to the new year, and, as always, hope it is happier and healthier than the last one.

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

CO-FIRST VP/DEAN OF CHAIRMEN:
Susan Minnihan & Linda Roache

Happy New Year, Ladies! We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season, both magical and blessed. It's difficult to believe 2025 has come to a close so rapidly. Time flies while we're having fun participating in projects and social events in our Club! We're looking forward to our last year as your 1st Co-VPs to usher in a new year continuing our Club's wonderful philanthropy and continuing with our "Getting to Know You" with our chairman specifying their roles and project leader needs for the upcoming 2026-28 term.

Thank you to our program chairs for submitting your reports in such a timely manner. Both our chairmen and project leaders did a great job keeping track of projects. We understand bringing together the information can be frustrating at times; but when all's said and done, it's amazing to note all the wonderful community projects and organizations we have supported as reflected in these reports. It's simply incredible to read how many hours, cash and In-Kind donations we have donated to the non-profits we support. Successful fundraising events have assisted us in doing so many times over. Our 2025 totals will be shared with members in January. Our club members are an amazing group of women!

We wish all of you and your families a healthy, prosperous New Year as we look forward to a great year filled with volunteerism, philanthropy, and member camaraderie.

Susan susanminnihan@aol.com
Linda Roache lgroache@hotmail.com

CO-SECOND VP/MEMBERSHIP:
Jody Mentzer & Sonya Whatley

As we welcome 2026, we also welcome the opportunity that a new year brings—fresh energy, renewed purpose, and a shared commitment to making a difference together. January is a natural time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to look ahead with optimism and enthusiasm for what lies before us.

Our Club begins the year grounded in friendship, service, and leadership. Whether you are a long-time member or newly joined, each of you plays an important role in shaping our success. The coming months offer opportunities to reconnect after the holidays, participate in meaningful programs, and support the causes that matter most to our club and our community.

This is also a perfect time to invite others to join us. Please consider reaching out to friends, family members, neighbors, or acquaintances who may enjoy the camaraderie and purpose our club provides. A personal invitation is often the first step in welcoming new members who will bring fresh ideas and perspectives. Tell them about the club and invite them to our next meeting on January 15th and to our other activities.

As we step into 2026 together, let us do so with gratitude for our shared history and excitement for the year ahead. Thank you for your continued dedication, involvement, and support. We look forward to a rewarding and inspiring year with all of you.

"*The new year is not just about a change in the calendar; it's about setting fresh goals, embracing new opportunities, and believing in your own potential*." – Unknown

Sonya srwhatley@yahoo.com
Jody foxyjody@verizon.net

>> Chairmen Chats <<

ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN: Susan Hope

Volunteer Opportunities!
I'm looking for a few wonderful women to chair two of our committees: Fill-a-Cop car/ National Nite Out and Haynes Family Center. These are very easy and only require minimum amount of time.

Susan foster.hope@verizon.net

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH:
Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

One major focus in Civic Engagement projects has to do with food insecurity. There is an ongoing need, and though we have several food collection events each year, if you currently have any extra time or donations, please consider giving to Shepherd's Pantry or Sowing Seeds.

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com
Candy candysnrg@verizon.net

LIBRARIES

**A Fresh Start: Declutter Your Shelves and Make a Difference! **

As we step into the New Year, many of us embrace that timeless adage, "out with the old, in with the new!" With the joy of new Christmas gifts often comes the realization that our homes, and particularly our bookshelves, might be a little more cluttered than we'd like.

This January, as you consider decluttering and making room for your new treasures, I invite you to participate in our ongoing drive for gently used paperback books. Your contributions can make a profound difference.

I will be collecting these books at each of our upcoming General Meetings. Look for my designated "pink rolling cart" positioned conveniently on the backstage—it will be ready and waiting for your generous donations. Please feel free to also reach out to your friends and relatives; they might also be eager to contribute to our cause.

These collected books will be delivered to the Claremont Forum in the Packing House. There, they are meticulously sorted: some are sold in their bookstore, which supports their operations, while a significant portion are carefully selected and shipped to prisons across the United States.

It's a stark reality that resources for incarcerated individuals are incredibly limited, and we've been told time and again how deeply appreciated our donated books are. As Co-Chairman of

the Library and Education committee, I firmly believe in the power of reading. Providing engaging and educational material to individuals with low and poor literacy skills offers them an invaluable opportunity to learn new ideas, explore different perspectives, and develop crucial skills. Our hope is that these books can play a small part in empowering them to become more productive members of society upon their possible re-entry.

As a side note for new members, after reviewing End of the Year Reports in 2025, we were notified that this project was thought to be worthy of recognition and mentioning to all the other clubs throughout the region.

Let's start 2026 by sharing the gift of knowledge and opportunity. Thank you for your support!

Marilyn sun4me91750@yahoo.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Jennifer Nummelin

Upcoming Events Info.:

January
Mon 05th— Dinner at Casa de mi Abuela, 6 p.m. 401 E. Foothill Ave., Pomona. Near Sumner Ave.
Sun 11th— Coloring at Gloria's home, 2 p.m. 1245 W. Cienega Ave., #114, San Dimas. BYO supplies or share ours. Parking is an issue. Consider carpooling.
Sat 17th— Hike at Bonelli Park, 10 a.m. Meet in the pkg lot at Norm's Hangar restaurant. We walk till someone gets tired. Lunch at Norm's Hangar, afterward.
Thurs 22nd— Gab at Nambah Coffee Company, 10 a.m., 2232 D Street, La Verne, near 3rd St.

February
Tues 10th— Dinner at Warehouse Pizza, 6 p.m. 2340 D Street, La Verne. Near Bonita Ave.
Sun 15th— Hike at Bonelli Park, 10 a.m. Lunch afterward.
Sat 21st— Tea Luncheon at The Enchanted Rose, 120 W. Bonita Ave., San Dimas. $25. RSVP AND PAYMENT DUE BY FEBRUARY 07th.
Wed 25th— Gab at Broken Yolk, 10 a.m. 2488 Foothill Blvd. La Verne. Near Towne Center.

Please let me know of any free or low-cost places you'd like to visit!

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

>> On-going Projects <<

Project: Advocates for Children

Just a reminder that we are still donating handmade beanies, scarves, and pillowcases to the many foster children in our area. Please bring any you have made to me at our monthly meeting, and I will get them to our liaison who takes them to McKinley Children's Center.

I may bring more yarn so you can take what you need for this project. (You can bring yarn to donate, too, or a yard of fabric that will be sewn into a pillowcase.) Our donations are appreciated! Please keep track of money & time spent. Thank you!

Project Lead: Cathy Koch granniepurpyl@gmail.com

Project: Fremont Academy Latina Club Boutique

Esther Garza-Maloney will continue to collect clothing for teens, women, men and children. Household items are also appreciated. Members can drop off bags/items on her front porch. Her new address is 409 N. Elwood Ave, Glendora. So, let's continue to purge our homes!!

Project Lead: Esther Garza-Maloney

Project: Civic Engagement & Outreach



I collect gently used coats & jackets - kids & adults' sizes - throughout the year, and I deliver them to Burlington Coat Factory. They clean & repair them, then redistribute to the homeless, college students, Veterans, & shelters in the area. This is an *ongoing project* &

donations may be given to me at any meeting or send me a message & I'll pick them up at your home.

Project Lead: Jennifer Nummelin jennummelin@aol.com

Project: Environment



If any member collects and recycles aluminum cans or plastic bottles, please take them to the recycling center for cash redemption and forward the funds to our club treasurer, Cathy Koch. The funds will be donated to the Bonita High School Band to help purchase equipment and uniforms.

Project Lead: Gayle Garcia



For the Inland Valley Humane Society collections of old towels and blankets are accepted all year long. You can bring them to our monthly meeting or contact Jennifer Nummelin for a drop-off location.

Project Lead: Jennifer Nummelin jennummelin@aol.com



Cups for Corky is our on-going Environment project. Those of you reorganizing can make room on those shelves by donating your gently used cups to Corky's. The Cups for Corky's basket will be on the stage at our monthly meetings.

Everyone can help reduce the waste in our landfill by bringing your own cup to each meeting.

Please remember to record all your time, in-kind donations, and any money donated to any environmental project.

Marina dirt4us4@yahoo.com



Every meeting I collect eyeglasses (broken or not), eyeglass cases, old cell phones, and pop tops from cans of soda, soup, dog & cat food, etc. Bring them and I will collect them. Pop tops go to support the Ronald McDonald House; eyeglasses and cases go to Eye-DAS to support the blind; old cell phones are taken to Best Buy to be wiped of all memory and reprogrammed with 9-1-1 and given to the Battered Women's Shelters.

Thanks to all for the donations.

Project Lead: Shirley Vanderbeck legalrabb@aol.com

Happy Anniversary

One Year

Nancy Buchanan
Althea Bennett
Joann Earhart



Happy Birthday

January

1/7	Jennifer Nummelin
1/17	Cathy Koch
1/19	Veronica Fry
1/22	Marilyn Caldwell

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WEBSITE: lvsd.org
INSTAGRAM: gfwclvsdwomansclub
FACEBOOK: GFWC LVSD

MEMBERS IN ACTION

December 11, 2025 Holiday Dinner/Party



















