Orange Blossom Gazette

GFWC LA VERNE-SAN DIMAS WOMAN'S CLUB NEWSLETTER

December 2025 Issue 98

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





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

04 - Gab at French Press
06 - Hike at Bonelli
11 - Holiday Dinner Party
17 - Gab at Butter Cafe



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

05 – Dinner at Casa de mi Abuela
11 - Coloring Get Together
17 – Hike at Bonelli

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

As we gather to celebrate this joyful season, I am filled with gratitude for each of you and for the spirit of friendship, service, and dedication that defines our beloved La Verne–San Dimas Woman's Club. This past year, we have worked side by side to uplift our community, support meaningful causes, and continue the proud traditions that make our club such a special place.

The holidays invite us to pause, reflect, and appreciate the gifts we share—not only our accomplishments, but the kindness, generosity, and strength that each member brings. Whether through volunteer projects, fundraising efforts, or the simple act of encouraging one another, you have made a difference. Our club thrives because of your heart and hands.

I want to extend a huge thank you to our Executive Committee, the project chairs and all our members who participated and volunteered during the year. You made a positive difference in the communities we serve and those who are in need.

I look forward to our Holiday Dinner on December 11 at the Glendora Country Club. It will be a full house as we celebrate the holidays and a successful year. Thank you to Jennifer Nummelin, Jo Ann Earhart and Nancy Buchanan for helping to organize the event. Thank you to those members who are providing dessert. At the dinner we recognize our "Kindness Angel." This is a member who demonstrated a significant act of kindness during 2025. In addition to the great meal and camaraderie we will lean the identify of our "Secret Sister". This is always a fun project that we will continue in 2026, and we encourage all our members to participate. Thank you to Tami Miller for coordinating this project.

As we end this year, always remember that time and love are the greatest gifts we can give and receive. During the holiday season, let's sparkle like the stars and show kindness, give of ourselves, call a friend, engage with family, spend some time with someone that may be going through a tough time, celebrate, and breathe in the season so that the joy of the season stays with you throughout 2026. Thank you for being such a loving and giving club.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire; it is the time for home." – Edith Sitwell

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

PRESIDENT'S AIDE/AMENITIES:
Jennifer Nummelin

December is here! Let the craziness begin! Remember, during this madhouse of a month, to take care of yourselves. Sometimes we forget, as we are doing everything for everyone else, that it really is ok if the house looks disheveled, if dinner is served at 8 p.m., if the car doesn't get washed, etc., We are supposed to be ENJOYING the holidays. Schedule some 'down time' for yourselves.

Jennifer jennummelin@aol.com

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

We hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends. A time to reflect on all our blessings and being grateful for all we have. At the top of the gratitude list are our club members who have made substantial differences in our communities in so many ways. The positive impact we've made on our various non-profits is heartwarming.

December…. the colder weather, comfy-cozy sweaters (yes, even ugly Christmas ones), shopping, the aroma of freshly baked anything wafting through the house, wrapping gifts, holiday parties, nibbling that yummy See's candy and….the excitement of accumulating everything for report writing. Wait, how did that get in the list?

Even though there might be a little slow down with projects in which to participate, your chairmen are busy accumulating the hours of time, in-kind donations, and monetary donations for each of their projects under their Program. We hope that members have been able to record hours and donations you have given over this year so that this can be done as accurately as possible.

For our newer members, every year our chairmen write a year-end report which is turned in to us for review. Each report is then turned into our District. In turn, our District sends them to the State. It's reviewed and recorded and perhaps might even be recognized with an award. It is a way for us to be validated as a 501(3)C non-profit organization. It is also a way for us to keep track of what we do as well as to provide a history of our Club.

We look forward to the wonderful holiday party on December 11th to have fun and enjoy each other's company in a beautiful holiday setting. We look forward to seeing you all there where we can celebrate together this special time of year.

Happy Holidays!

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

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

As we enter this festive season, our club takes a moment to reflect on the year's accomplishments and the meaningful connections we've built together. December reminds us of the power of community—how much we can achieve when we combine our talents, our passions, and our commitment to service. This month, we continue our tradition of giving back through holiday service projects, outreach programs, and support for local families. Your participation—large or small—helps strengthen our mission and ensures our club remains a positive force in our community. Thank you for your dedication, energy, and generosity.

We're also looking ahead to the new year, when we will begin identifying future leaders and nurturing the skills that keep our organization thriving. If you're interested in getting more involved or exploring a leadership role, please let us know—your unique strengths are always welcome.

NEWEST MEMBER – Please join us in welcoming our newest member, Natalie Fordyce. She is a data analyst and enjoys working out, volunteering, shopping, and hiking. Natalie is married and has one child.

Finally, as you attend gatherings and events throughout the holiday season, we encourage you to invite friends, family members, neighbors, and acquaintances to join us at a meeting. A personal invitation is the best way to grow our membership and introduce others to the joy of belonging to a supportive and inspiring group of women.

Wishing each of you a warm, peaceful, and joyful December. May your holidays be filled with kindness, connection, and the spirit of giving.

"Winter is the time for comfort, for good food and warmth, for the touch of a friendly hand and for a talk beside the fire: it is time for home." —Edith Sitwel

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

>> Chairmen Chats <<

ARTS AND CULTURE: Tami Miller

Creative Writing – It's that time again for express your creative in writing and photography. Entries must have been created between January 1 and December 31, 2025.

Expression in writing is not limited to members only. It is also open to family members – Grade Levels – Grades K 1 & 2, Grades 3,4, &5, Grades 6, 7 & 8, Grades 10, 11 & 12. Minor waivers are required. Short stories are limited to 2,000 words; Poetry entries should be minimum length of eight lines and maximum 50 lines.

Photography Categories – Our Words Up Close, Nature Wonders. Reflections and Living the Volunteer Spirit, such as Club Activities groups and meetings. Photographs can be vertical/portrait or Horizonal/landscape. Digital submissions are recommended. Prints 8X10 inches high resolution print. Mounted to rigid 8X10 board and overall thickness may not exceed 3/8 inches. No Mattes, frames or hangers are allowed. These entries are not limited to members only. Family members Grade K1 through Grades 12. Minor waivers are required.

Deadlines: Creative Writing and Photography entries are due to our District Chairman by Monday February 2nd. Therefore, plan on getting them to me by January 1, 2026.

Tami club1270deventer@yahoo.com

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH:
Jennifer Nummelin & Candy Miller

I hope you are all proud of the volunteer work we accomplished over the year.
We signed 535 Christmas cards, and they were delivered to several Board and Care and Convalescent facilities in the area. These greeting cards make a world of difference for isolated people. Thank you to all who donated, signed, and delivered them!

We collected 69 coats/jackets, and delivered them to Burlington Coat Factory, who then repairs and cleans the jackets and distributes them back out into the community to schools, shelters, etc. Many people need warm coats; and realistically, some of us have way too many (unused) coats in our closets, why not put them to good use, and get them into the hands of someone in need?

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

LEGISLATION & PUBLIC POLICY: Barbara Randolph

Have you scanned News & Notes or Quick Bytes this year? Have you noticed and "clicked on" an Assembly bill (either pro or con) to express your opinion? Have you shared that opinion with your representatives in the House or Senate, so they know your voting preferences?

Even if you have no dates/paperwork, please let me know you are paying attention to Legislative Action Center focus areas (like Violence Against Women, Online Safety, Child Abuse Prevention, Pay Equity, Education & Libraries, Health & Wellness, and funding for global health advocacy including vaccinations). I will add a conservative amount of your time spent to my report (just as I am adding the time you listened to my report at our September 18 meeting and read our newsletter submissions).

Please text me TODAY if you have time spent that I can include.

Barbara roddyrandolph@yahoo.com

Nominating Committee Chairman: Linda Koontz

Ladies, even though we are approaching the Holiday season, please be thinking about getting involved in our Dynamic Club! There are several members who would be more than happy to mentor you. All I ask is that you read the Bylaw that pertains to the office you are thinking about and understand what your responsibilities are.

Remember…the Incoming President will appoint her Parliamentarian and Corresponding Secretary. Your other officers will be elected at our March meeting. Those members who have their dues paid will be allowed to vote.

I will be meeting with our committee members right after the New year and plans are that our proposed slate will be printed in the February or March newsletter.

Also, keep in mind that Chairmanships will be open as well and if there is a chairmanship you're interested in, don't hesitate to ask that Chairman what is involved. With so many members in our club and we keep adding at every meeting, there is something for everyone! Make sure to ask either Susan Minnihan or Linda Roache what your responsibilities would be if you took on a chairmanship.

Wishing all of you a wonderful and safe Holiday season with your family and friends.

Hugs,
Linda luv2collect1@gmail.com

SOCIAL COMMITTEE: Jennifer Nummelin

Upcoming Events Info.:

December—
Th 04th— Gab at French Press, 10 a.m. 3836 Emerald Ave., in L.V.
Sat 06th— Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m. * meet in pkg lot at the Hangar restaurant, at the airport.
Th 11th— Holiday dinner, 6:30 p.m. (rsvp and payment was due at the LAST meeting)
Wed 17th—Gab at Butter Cafe, 10 a.m. 671 E. Bonita St., in S. D.

January—
Mon 05th—Dinner at Casa de mi Abuela, 6:00 p.m. 401 E. Foothill Blvd, Pomona
Sun 11th— Coloring get together, 2:00 p.m. *NEED A HOSTESS*
Sat 17th— Hike at Bonelli, 10 a.m. *meet in pkg lot at the Hangar restaurant, at the airport.
Th 22nd— Gab at Nambah Cafe, 10 a.m. 2232 'D' St, in L.V.

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

None





Happy Birthday

DECEMBER

12/18 Wendy Paloni-Clark
12/10 Yolanda Gallizzi
12/25 Senator Susan Rubio
12/28 Marina Salcido

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

MEMBERS IN ACTION



November 4, 2025 - Dinner at La Paloma



November 18, 2025 - Dinner at Pizza Barn