



## **Dunwoody Woman's Club**

### **October 2019 Newsletter**

#### **President's Message: Maria Barnhart**

It's October and it is the month for our **47<sup>th</sup> Annual Home Tour**. By the time the newsletter is sent out the home tour will be in the history books. Be sure to thank Diane Norris, Home Tour Chairman and the committee for their hard work and dedication.

We appreciate every member's contribution to this very important project. Thank you for helping make this day a special day for our guests.

Thank you to presenters and participants at the DWC Leadership Workshop that was held on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Everyone said they benefited from the program. We plan to have additional workshops in the future.

In the September 19<sup>th</sup> general meeting I mentioned we may be moving our DWC general meetings to a new location. We just received confirmation that we can use the meeting room. Please note: The general meeting on Thursday, October 17<sup>th</sup> will be held at the North Shallowford Annex Building located at 4470 N. Shallowford Road, Dunwoody. Please make a note of this important change.

Thank you for your continued support of club programs and activities.

Maria

#### **IMPORTANT – LOCATION CHANGE FOR GENERAL MEETING**

##### **Thursday – October 17**

**North Shallowford Annex Building**

**4470 N. Shallowford Road, Dunwoody**

#### **Important Announcement**

As stated by DWC policy it is time for DWC membership to approve the next Community Improvement Program (CIP) project for 2020 - 2022. This will be included in the agenda at the October 17<sup>th</sup> general meeting. Please consider Hightower Elementary School for our 2020-2022 CIP project. In addition to the projects we are working on at Hightower, our main focus for the next two years will be the 2-1/2 acre undeveloped field for students to use at recess. Submitted by Diane Norris, Chairman and Kathy Hanna, Conservation CSP Chairman.

## Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event Sponsor</u>	<u>Meeting Place/Carpool Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
Oct 9	Arts	Oktoberfest at Dunwoody Adult Day	10:00 to Noon
Oct 9	Home Life	DowWagers Investment Club Dunwoody Country Club	12:30
Oct 11	Home Life	Golden Olympics at Brook Run Park Barn	10:00
Oct 15	Education	Tour Margaret Mitchell House Carpool from St. Luke's	9:30
<b>Oct 17</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>	<b>North Shallowford Annex Building</b> <b>4470 N. Shallowford Road</b>	<b>-Social 9:30</b> <b>-Meeting 10:00</b>
Oct 23	Home Life	Cognitive Coaching Home of Suzanne Bentz, 1431 Vernon Ridge Close	10:00
Oct 24	Conservation	Driving Tour of "Adopt-A-Bench " and Dunwoody Parks Meet at Dunwoody Library to carpool	9:00
Nov 5	Book Club	St. Luke's Parlor	1:15
Nov 6	Arts	Behind scenes tour of theatre – Stage Door Players & Spruill Center	10:00
Nov 21	Conservation	Host DWC General Meeting with Larry Winslett	
Dec 3	Conservation	"For the Birds" workshop at DNC	

### Ways and Means – Home Tour: Diane Norris

[dianenorris@bellsouth.net](mailto:dianenorris@bellsouth.net)

As I write this article for the Club newsletter the Home Tour will be history but feel certain that it will be a tremendous success. It takes a village to have a successful home tour and we want to thank everyone for serving on the Home Tour Committee, working the tour and selling your tickets. Another success is due to the wonderful committee that we worked with.

We are especially grateful for the generosity and gracious hospitality of our homeowners: Lauren and Jeff Black, Sheila and Arif Jiwani, Caron and Steve Morgan, and Mary and Bob Love. Members helping select the homes were Maria Barnhart, Suzanne Bentz, Martha Blondheim, Chris Cox, Marilyn Dalrymple, Jill Jordan, Bernice McGuire, and Barbara Robinson.

Our Head Hostess Coordinators, Martha Blondheim and Jill Jordan, spent many hours scheduling our members to work and assisting the Head Hostesses at each home. Thanks to Faye Cashwell, JoAnne Kostkan, and Karen Turner (Black Home); Susan Crawford, Carolyn Anderson, and Lee Dees Giesecke (Jiwani Home); Noreen Rabin, Debra Love, and Beverly Clark (Morgan Home); and Kim Reuning, Pam King, and Donna Knowlton (Love Home).

Suzanne Bentz worked very diligently in writing the commentary of our homes and we appreciate the help of Maria Barnhart, Debra Love, and Bernice McGuire for outstanding publicity. This was evident by the wonderful articles that appeared in the Crier, AJC and various community websites.

Our sponsors that were listed in the August newsletter supported us with \$28,660 and you will have the opportunity to see a full-page thank you in the Crier listing them. When you are out in the community be sure to thank them. The Sponsorship Committee did a fantastic job headed by Su Ellis and Sheila Willibey

### **Ways and Means: Continued**

We are always impressed with the beautiful paintings presented to our homeowners by Pat Fiorella. Special thanks to David Dalrymple for the beautiful crafted artistic bowl that he created for our raffle. We are grateful to Terry Kemp for getting the \$500 shopping spree from Lauderhills Fine Jewelry.

It is always a pleasure to work with Mount Vernon Printing for the ticket layout and printing. The following members helped with ticket distribution: Marilyn Dalrymple and Joyce Niemann supplied tickets to our ticket vendors: Blooms of Dunwoody, Camelot Jewelers, Consigning Women, Face Haven, Lauderhills Fine Jewelry,

Southern Comforts Consignment, and Under the Pecan Tree. Donna Fullilove and Faye Cashwell coordinated the ticket distribution with our members.

Last but not least and we are truly thankful for our sign and traffic volunteers. Ladies, please share this with your husbands. Michael Schaaf and Tom Fullilove coordinated signage and the following people helped with traffic control: Herb Blondheim, Dohrm Crawford, Dennis DuBois, Stacey Harris, Joseph Kane, Allen Kemp, Tom Lambert, Terry Nall, Ric Pritchett, Jay Pryor, Mark Rabin, Denny Shortal, and Sammy Turner.

Please be sure that all Home Tour ticket money is turned in no later than the October General Meeting. Call Diane Norris (678-772-0109) to arrange for delivery/pick up. Thanks for your cooperation!!

To all of those listed above and to all of our members for working the day of the tour, we thank you for a “job well done”!!!

### **Membership: Debra Love: [debra1926@comcast.net](mailto:debra1926@comcast.net)**

Please welcome our newest member, Jane Boney. She was at the September meeting. Be sure and get your “What’s My Line” into me. Call or email me and I will send you a form. I think these are a lot of fun and everyone has a story to tell. Let’s not run out of them!

### **Collectors’ Corner**

- International Outreach is collecting Christmas gifts for refugee students – small items such as crayons, coloring books, pencils, small games, hot wheels, socks and gloves.
- Rain jackets, hats and gloves for the Mothers and their children in the Friends of Refugees Mommie and Me Family Literacy program.
- Pill bottles without labels, blankets, pet toys, animal treats, paper towels, cash for shelters
- Pill bottles with labels, magazines to recycle
- Items for holiday basket for Audubon Auction. Can be napkins, note pads or anything for picnic with the birds.
- Large pinecones for bird feeder workshop at Dunwoody Nature Center
- Costume jewelry for Lutheran Towers holiday bags.
- School supplies for Hightower Elementary School
- Books for Little Libraries – adult and children’s books
- Public Issues is collecting paper products and cleaning supplies. Suggested items are toilet paper, paper towels, wipes, comet, furniture polish and window cleaner.
- Halloween candy for “**Trunk-or-Treat**” event sponsored by the Dunwoody Police Department

## **IMPORTANT – LOCATION CHANGE FOR GENERAL MEETING**

**Thursday – October 17**

**North Shallowford Annex Building  
4470 N. Shallowford Road, Dunwoody**

### **COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAMS**

<b>Arts: Pam King</b>	<b><a href="mailto:pking9188@gmail.com">pking9188@gmail.com</a></b>	<b>404-664-7370</b>
<b>Jan Slater</b>	<b><a href="mailto:janetslater13@aol.com">janetslater13@aol.com</a></b>	<b>678-629-3446</b>

#### **October 9, Wednesday**

On Wed., Oct. 9, from 10 am to noon, Suzanne Bentz will be presenting an Oktoberfest/Kurbisfest program for the clients at Adult Day of Dunwoody (1 Dunwoody Park, #123). It will involve pumpkin decorating, interactive activities and songs. Lunch afterward (to be determined). Let us know if you can join us.

#### **November 6, Wednesday**

On Wed., Nov. 6, starting at 10 am, we will be hosted by Robert Egizio, Producing Artistic Director of the Stage Door Players, for a special “behind the scenes” tour of the theater. Afterwards, we will head over to see the Spruill Gallery (from the outside) and then to lunch nearby. It should be a very interesting event!

#### **Other Arts events in the area:**

**October is Dunwoody Arts and Culture Month! For a list of events, visit [dunwoodyacm.com](http://dunwoodyacm.com).**

Here are some highlights:

1. Spruill Arts Calendar (details on their website):
  - Oct. 4-6, Ceramic Bowl Sale at the Education Center
  - Sept. 20-Oct. 26, Instashow (a look at how social media is changing our art experience)
  - Open House, Oct. 25, 5-8 pm
2. Dunwoody Nature Center’s Art in the Park on Oct. 5, 10-11 am. Pumpkin Carving Class on Oct. 24, 6-8 pm
3. Chattahoochee Handweaver’s Guild Open House at the North Dekalb Cultural Arts Center on Oct. 4, 5-9 pm. Also, a Presentation Event on Oct. 20, 10 am
4. Pat Fiorello’s 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Open House, Oct. 5-6 (she is the artist who painted the Home Tour portraits; see her website for more details)
5. Rock Art Installation (City of Dunwoody) at Brook Run Park on Oct. 12, 9-12
6. Chastain Fall Arts Festival, Nov. 2-3

**Conservation: Kathy Hanna, [kak1941@aol.com](mailto:kak1941@aol.com), Becky Schaaf 770-457-7126 & Gang**

#### **Collections for September General Meeting:**

**For the Shelters;** pill bottles without labels; blankets any size; dog or cat toys; animal treats, paper towels, food and monetary donations- Please note the Pumpkin with the Fall Leaves, and take one for October's collection. Linda will collect for Fur Kids this month.

**For recycling:** Pill bottles with labels, magazines for **Roswell Recycling**... A great place to take old paint, electronics & your old TV's is to **CHARM** there is a small cost, Lyn, Karen & Kay report.

## Conservation: Continued

**For Audubon:** Donations are needed for a "holiday basket" of **items for the Audubon Auction**.. They can be napkins, note pads, or anything for a picnic with the birds.. JoAnn and Kay will take items to Audubon and introduce JoAnn to the Audubon staff. **Large Pine cones** are needed for the **Dec. 3rd Bird Feeder Workshop** to be held at Dunwoody Nature Center.

**Our October Program will be Meredy leading the tour of our Adopt-A-Bench Member Benches in Dunwoody Parks.** Join us at 9:00 on a beautiful fall day, **Thursday, Oct 24** for a driving tour of special Adopt-A-Bench locations in our Dunwoody parks. We will meet at the **Dunwoody Library parking lot at 9 a.m.** and organize a caravan of carpools. Special updates and a visit to the Brook Run "Great Lawn" outdoor venue will be offered. A delicious "taste of Mexico lunch" will follow at the LaBotana Mexican Restaurant located at the corner of Savoy Drive and Shallowford Rd. Separate checks will allow you to order any of your favorites off the menu. Hope you can join us! If you have placed a bench please let Kathy know which park.

**September 26th.** A special Thank You to those who attended the Marsh Creek Water Gardens tour, and the Driving Tour of the outdoor art at City Springs.

**Dunwoody Nature Center:** Pat reports: Dunwoody Nature Center's Executive Director has asked the three available founders to be a part of the commitment made by each of the proposed Eagle Scouts. Marilyn, Kathy and Pat have started the interview process by telling each Scout of the founding of the nature center and hearing plans and reasons for needing funding from DWC. Look for Will's project starting this week as he clears and marks a new trail near the Pavilion.

Are you needing a site tucked into the woods for your holiday event? This awesome and versatile venue is available! Come for a tour of the new North Woods Pavilion and get information at **dunwoodynature.org**. Or see the site for event details about Art in the Park, **October 5** and it's Free. Friday Night Hike, Free First Saturday and Fall Break Camp all happen in October. See You there! Contact the Center for any information at **www.dunwoodynature.org/2019** or call 770-394-3322

**Lost Corner:** Diana reports **October 12th** is volunteer Saturday, bring gloves and garden tools. Please contact Diana Wood at **dianawood480@mac.com** for more information on what's happening now. Fall is the perfect time to walk the trails of this treasure of a park in Sandy Spring

**Pebble Tossers:** Cora reports that they worked on the Atlanta Beltline Gardens this summer and we supported them with \$100 for supplies, we are requesting funds from DWC to add a feature to that project. You will love getting to know more about this group of children and adults improving our community.

**Master Gardeners at Brook Run:** Nancy reports that on **Oct 12th (second Sat) from 11-12** there is a lecture at the Greenhouse Barn (by the Skate Park), the lecture will be on **BEES** with Cindy Hodges-Beekeeping in GA. All are welcome and there are plants for sale that are helpful to our pollinators and wildlife.

**Tips: Please plant trees** this fall... Trees Atlanta is offering to plant **Neighbortrees** in your yard or parks, or contact Arbor Day Foundation for 10 seedlings to plant at the Lost Corner Preserve. If you do plant trees please let Kathy know, our NW District is counting. **Riverkeeper** will host a youth summit on Oct 13-14 at the GA Aquarium, open to all who love the river and are high school or college students. Fall is the season to plant, please consider native plants and plants that help our pollinators. Don't know what to do with odd recyclables? CHARM does, see what they will take at [livethrive.org/charm](http://livethrive.org/charm).

**Education: Dottie D'Angelo**  
**DottieAtlanta/@gmail.com** 770/310-7575

**Tuesday October 15th** we are planning a tour of the Margaret Mitchell House followed with lunch at Mary Mac's Tea House. We will meet at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church at 9:30. There is an admission fee of \$13.00 for adults or \$10.00 (adults over 65) for the Margaret Mitchell House.

**Wednesday November 20<sup>th</sup>** we will be going to the Wildcat Café at Dunwoody High School. The Wildcat Café is staffed with students from the Exceptional Education Department at Dunwoody High School. Please meet at 9:00 at St. Luke's Presbyterian Church to car pool or walk to the school.

**Dekalb County Public Library card** -Our speaker at the September meeting, Teresa Totten, Programming and Services Coordinator for the Dekalb County Public Library, informed us that library cards are now \$35.00 for non-residents that want access to Dekalb County Libraries.

**Cleaning?** Please bring books that you are ready to part with to the October General Meeting for the Little Libraries. Our Little Library locations are The Dunwoody Nature Center and Georgetown Park.

**Home Life Community Service: Beverly Clark**  
(770) 833-0724 [BeverlyRClark@hotmail.com](mailto:BeverlyRClark@hotmail.com)

We will collect costume jewelry for our Lutheran Towers holiday bags at our October general meeting.

**Friday, October 11 at 10:00 a.m.** Golden Olympics at Brook Run Park Barn This year's annual Golden Olympics will again be on a FRIDAY and is a fund raiser to benefit Special Olympics. Athletic events include Hula Hoop, Bubble Blowing, Jacks, Yo-Yo's, Bean Bag Toss, and Golf Putting. \$5 will cover your attendance/participation fee for this great cause. In order to give this worthwhile group a generous check, please consider asking family and friends to sponsor you. They would just need to write a tax-deductible check to DWC and write Golden Olympics on the memo line. This is always a fun morning so please plan to attend!

**Wednesday, October 23** Cognitive Coaching - Use It or Lose It 10:00 a.m. - noon Use it or lose it applies not only to the body, but also the mind. Learn from a professional cognitive coach the activities we need to undertake as we grow older in order to keep our brains supple and our minds sharp. We'll learn the basic elements of good memory care, play some memory games, and enjoy some brain appropriate refreshments. Where: At the home of Suzanne Bentz, 1431 Vernon Ridge Close, Dunwoody 30338.

**Thursday, November 14** Aging in Place 10:00 a.m. - noon Saint Luke's Presbyterian Church (Session Room) Studies have shown that as they age, most people would like to stay in their homes for as long as possible. Is that you? What would a "Universal Designed" home look like? How would you go about preparing your home for "Aging in Place"? How could the answers to these questions benefit a pregnant mom or a husband that had knee replacement surgery? Answers to these questions and many more will be discussed during this presentation. Please join us. Our presenter, Sandra McGowen, is a Registered Interior Designer in Georgia, was an Adjunct Professor at Brenau University for 20 years. She was the past President of the American Society of Interior Designers, Georgia Chapter, and has been an advocate and speaker on accessibility since the early 90's.

**International Outreach: Linda Mote 678-429-0570**  
**Immote@mindspring.com**

Please join us at the Oct. General meeting as we welcome Marinella Taoushiani, Development Director for the International Community School. She will tell us about this hidden gem in the DeKalb school system, which is the International Community School (ICS) a public charter school. They serve students in grades K-5. ICS was strategically designed in 2002 to bring together refugee, immigrant and local children in an academically challenging and nurturing environment. Today, the school serves more than 400 students annually representing more than 30 nationalities and speaking 25 languages.

We will be giving Marinella all of the small gift items for their Christmas boxes that we have been collecting. We also have over 35 boxes already filled so the children who do not normally receive gifts at home will have a gift from us.

Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> International Day of Older Persons-Almost 700 million people are now over the age of 60. By 2050, 2 billion people, over 20 per cent of the world's population, will be 60 or older. The increase in the number of older people will be the greatest and the most rapid in the developing world, with Asia as the region with the largest number of older persons, and Africa facing the largest proportionate growth. With this in mind, enhanced attention to the particular needs and challenges faced by many older people is clearly required. Just as important, however, is the essential contribution the majority of older men and women can continue to make to the functioning of society if adequate guarantees are in place. Human rights lie at the core of all efforts in this regard.

Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> is World Food Day-"Food diversity is reducing, which means that the food supply is more vulnerable to climate change, and environmental damage from farming animals for meat and dairy is increasing. For World Food Day 2019, the FAO is calling on everyone to eat a healthy and sustainable diet. Consider the environmental impact of the foods we eat, for example, some foods require more natural resources such as water to produce them. Try also to avoid buying foods that have excessive amounts of packaging.

**Everyone can play their part**-Countries, decision makers and private businesses can also take action to promote healthy diets and achieve #ZeroHunger."

**Public Issues – Noreen Rabin [snrabin@icloud.com](mailto:snrabin@icloud.com)**  
**Donna Knowlton [dfknowlton@comcast.net](mailto:dfknowlton@comcast.net)**

**Dates to Remember**

**October 2019**

Crime Prevention Month

Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month

October 7-13<sup>th</sup> – Fire Prevention Week

**Historic Dates of Note**

2<sup>nd</sup> – 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of NOAA being formed (1970)

13<sup>th</sup> – Congress establishes U.S. Army (1775)

13<sup>th</sup> – The cornerstone of the White House was laid by George Washington (1792)

28<sup>th</sup> – Grover Cleveland dedicates the Statue of Liberty (1886)

## **Public Issues: Continued**

### **Upcoming Programs**

Because **October is Domestic Violence Awareness and Prevention Month**, I called Barbara Gibson at the Safe House to see if there was anything special we could help with this month. There is a need for paper products and cleaning supplies. Public Issues will make a delivery this week. If you would like to help with this project, please bring donated items to the October General Meeting and we will make another trip the end of the month. Suggested items are toilet paper, paper towels, wipes, comet, furniture polish and window cleaner.

**Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 5 – 8pm at Brook Run Park – Third Annual “Trunk-or-Treat”** Event sponsored by the Dunwoody Police Department. Live music from 6-9 pm. Public Issues will again donate Halloween candy and decorations this year. If you would like to add to our donations for this event, please bring your items to the October General Meeting.

**Tuesday, November 5<sup>th</sup> – Election Day - Don't forget to Vote!**

### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

#### **Book Club: Jean Kammerer**

The DWC Book club group will meet on November 5, 2019 at 1:15 PM in the parlor of St. Luke's church. Our book is the Alice Network by Kate Quinn, and led by Joan Rush.

"Solve for X." That's the phrase invoked repeatedly by Charlotte "Charlie" St. Clair, the brainy college student at the center of Kate Quinn's exciting new novel, *The Alice Network*. In the aftermath of World War II, Charlie is thrown together with a veteran female spy from the previous war in a high-stakes journey to locate disappeared figures from the past.

It should be a good read, with plenty to discuss. All are welcome.

#### **Legislation: Linda Mote**

[lmote@mindspring.com](mailto:lmote@mindspring.com)

Representatives in support of Miranda's Law (S. 1787 and H.R. 2793). Keep promoting the importance of this legislation among your family, friends, and community members as part of one of the three GFWC Brand Initiatives. Even with 1,000 attempted contacts to members of Congress, there's still much work to do so that parents feel safer about who's behind the wheel of school buses.

Last year, a New Jersey student and teacher were killed in a school bus accident. The bus driver's license had been suspended fourteen times already. Miranda's Law, named in honor of 10-year old Miranda Vargas who died in the crash that day, will ensure that schools receive those kind of records. Miranda's Law will provide real-time notifications to schools and bus companies when one of their bus drivers receives a moving violation, allowing them to immediately take that driver off of the road.

### **Sign in Red**

Keep calling, emailing, and writing your U.S. Senators and Representatives every week and ask a friend to do so as well! Be sure to sign your support in red and mention GFWC. Visit the [Legislative Action Center](#) to find your elected officials. Together, we can help get this legislation passed!



## Leadership – Donna Knowlton and Bernice McGuire

### ***Great Leaders...***

Awaken minds, **B**ring people together, **C**ommunicate effectively, **D**are to take calculated risks, **E**nlighten and empower, **F**oster collaboration, **G**ive you tools to succeed, **H**elp you do for yourself, **I**nvite and encourage questions, **J**oyfully embrace diversity, **K**ee an open mind, **L**ead by example, **M**otivate with respect, **N**ever give up on you, **O**pen doors to new worlds, **P**ut first things first, **Q**uest to make learning fun, **R**ecognize problems early, **S**hare roles and responsibilities, **T**ake time to explain things, **U**nwrap talents and abilities, **V**alue everyone's input, **W**elcome mistakes as part of learning, **e**Xceed expectations, **Y**earn to connect, not correct.....and **Z**est to make a difference.

*Meiji Stewart*

***“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other” – John F. Kennedy, former U.S. President***

**Tallulah Falls School: Linda Mote, Diane Norris**

**[lmote@mindspring.com](mailto:lmote@mindspring.com) 678-429-0570**

**[dianenorris@bellsouth.net](mailto:dianenorris@bellsouth.net) 678-772-0109**

The trip to TFS has been cancelled due to numerous conflicts. We will try again in the Spring.

I will be dropping off goodies for the dorm students and gifts for our five adopted students later in October, closer to Halloween.

### **Do you know anyone who is a bike rider, then you might like to give them the following info October 26 the Twin Rivers Challenge**

About this event

The fifth annual Twin Rivers Challenge, a cycling event to benefit student scholarships at Tallulah Falls School, returns October 26, 2019. The Twin Rivers Challenge is an autumn ride through some of Northeast Georgia's most spectacular scenery and follows routes carefully planned by an avid local cyclist.

Route options of 72 miles [113K], 45 miles [72K] and 33 miles [53K] will take riders along some of Northeast Georgia's most scenic roadways during peak leaf season including the Tallulah River and Soque River watersheds which explores a portion of the Lake Burton shoreline.

All rides begin and end on the Tallulah Falls School upper school campus. No matter which route you choose you will be challenged by the final climb to the finish line.

Event details and schedule

All rides will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, October 26, 2019. Walk-up registration opens at 7:30 a.m.

Parking is located directly in front of the Tallulah Falls School upper school classroom building.

Registration on the day of the event will be in the TFS upper school classroom lobby.

Early registration is \$35 with ride shirts guaranteed to all participants who register by October 15. After October 15, registration is \$45, with shirts available while supplies last. Registration includes: Ride shirt, SAG stops with snacks and drinks, SAG vehicle support, post-ride meal and live music compliments of the Tallulah Falls Opry.

The Twin Rivers Challenge is operated by the trustees, faculty, staff and students of Tallulah Falls School. Proceeds from the ride provide student scholarships at TFS.

For more information, visit [tallulahfalls.org](http://tallulahfalls.org) or find the event on Facebook.

## Women in History: Suzanne Bentz

### October 2019 — Mary Phelps Jacob

Since retirement, my wardrobe has consisted pretty much of sneakers, yoga pants, tights and easily washed tops that I wear during exercise classes at the Dunwoody Baptist Fitness Center. But thanks to Mary Phelps Jacob, an enterprising New York socialite, what goes under those comfy togs allows the freedom we ladies all crave — a comfortable brassiere.

Invention of the corset, precursor to the modern brassiere, is attributed to Catherine de Medicis, wife of King Henry II of France. She enforced a ban on thick waists at court attendances during the 1500's and started over 350 years of whalebones, steel rods, and midriff torture. Those garments held the body in an unnatural and agonizing position and caused all sorts of medical issues. And I dare say, a dolphin yoga pose could not be accomplished in those torture devices.

Along came Mary Phelps Jacob. According to Famous Women Inventors, she needed to attend an event in 1913 that required a winsome and trendy evening gown. She opted for a plunging neckline and fine fabric, but she did not want to strap on one of those antiquated corsets. So she “took two silk handkerchiefs and, with help from her maid, sewed them together using pink ribbon and cord.” Mary’s new undergarment complimented her gown, and friends and family noticed. They wanted one of her creations, too. Mary obliged and subsequently took out a US patent for her “Backless Brassiere” on November 3, 1914, to meet the demand for her corset alternative. Her product was lightweight, soft, and fitted the body naturally.

Caress Crosby was the name Mary used for her production line, but she soon sold her patent to Warner Brothers Corset Company in Bridgeport, Connecticut for \$1,500. Warner Brothers (now defunct) made over fifteen million dollars from Mary’s bra patent over the next thirty years, and gave employment to many folks in the Bridgeport area. In fact, my mom did a stint after school painting roses on a line of brassieres at Warners.

So, today, when I somewhat effortlessly execute a yoga pose or two, I think of Mary Phelps Jacob and my mom with kindness and gratitude for setting women “free” and in comfy style.



GFWC Dunwoody Woman's Club    Serving the Community since 1971  
P.O. Box 88664    Dunwoody, GA 30356