

*THE
ORIENTAL
WOMAN'S CLUB*

*2024
YEARBOOK*



LOGO ON FRONT COVER

The logo was adopted in 2000. The Theme which was changed to Vision in 2018 of Women Together Making a Difference was the inspiration of club member Virginia Mays. The logo design was provided by Kathy Bogue, and Mindy Schmitz adapted it to the computer. The original hangs in the clubhouse.

MOTTO, COLORS AND EMBLEM ON TITLE PAGE

The motto “Be What You Seem” was adopted by the Club in 1917 as were the colors purple and white and emblem of violets. At some unknown point along the way the colors became violet and white.

Photograph of cover of History of OWC, 1914-1987 by Katherine Spruill. The cover of violets was painted by her sister Martha Spruill.



ORIENTAL WOMAN'S CLUB

1007 Gilgo Road, PO Box 515
Oriental, NC 28571
www.orientalwomansclub.org
Organized 1914
110 Years of Community Service

2024 YEARBOOK

Officers

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------|
| President | Ellen Blackmon |
| Vice President | Olga Herman |
| Secretary | Jody Riddle & Marguerite Garrett |
| Treasurer | Elizabeth Tooley |

Motto: Be What You Seem

Colors: Violet and White

Emblem: Violets

Vision: Women Together – Making a Difference

President's 2024 Focus: Education & Community Commitment

DEDICATION

The 2024 yearbook is dedicated to the unselfish efforts of all club members, past and present, whose support and enthusiasm have stimulated educational, civic, social, and cultural benefits during the Club's 110 year history of accomplishments.



In memory of:

Terrell Scott
Marge Winter

We are blessed by their friendship
and grateful for their many contributions.

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APPENDICES

(Available on OWC Website: www.orientalwomansclub.org)

- Bylaws
- Standing Rules including Job Descriptions
 - Articles of Organization

2024 OFFICERS PICTURE

Left to Right: President: Ellen Blackmon, Vice President: Olga Herman, Secretary: Jody Riddle & Marguerite Garrett (not pictured), Treasurer: Elizabeth Tooley (not pictured)



ABOUT THE YEARBOOK

The OWC operates on a calendar year basis and the Yearbook is produced annually in late January or early February. The Yearbook and Roster are emailed to members with email and a hard copy made available to those without email. The annual Yearbook, excluding the Roster, is also available on the OWC website at www.orientalwomansclub.org. The Roster is available to members only from the Membership Manager. The Yearbook and Roster are updated periodically during the Club year.

OWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. To join or find out more about the organization contact the OWC Membership Chairman, Sharon Morgan at scmorgan49@gmail.com.

2024 FOCUS

Focus OWC activities toward Education and Community
Commitment to the needs of Pamlico County.

OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of the Oriental Woman's Club is to make a positive difference in Pamlico County by supporting the arts, education, conservation, beautification, underserved individuals, healthy lifestyles, and community outreach activities.

The Club encourages relationships, fellowship, growth, and leadership. It is open to all without discrimination.

ORDER OF GENERAL MEETINGS

Social (1:00 pm)
Call to Order (1:30 pm)
Inspirational Reading
Pledge to US Flag
Program
Business
Adjourn (about 3 pm)

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MEMBERS

Membership in any organization carries with it obligations and responsibilities. It is assumed that a member of the Oriental Woman's Club learned about its purpose before she applied for membership and that she has, therefore, chosen to support its programs and projects. New members should attend an orientation shortly after joining the Club and become familiar with its history, bylaws, standing rules and job descriptions for they serve as a contract between her and the organization.

Members are expected to:

- Attend meetings with reasonable regularity, be on time and remain at the meeting until it is adjourned, give courteous attention during meetings, stand and address the chair when recognized to speak, and use parliamentary procedures.

- Be aware of financial obligations to the OWC and be prompt in paying them.
- Contribute by serving on committees and by active participation in the OWC's work, and perform assigned duties faithfully (if that proves impractical, ask to be excused promptly so that a replacement can be appointed), keep careful records for future reference, and give concise reports.
- Keep informed, participate, vote intelligently, share responsibilities, and support Club decisions.
- Promote the aims of the OWC, refrain from criticism, avoid discussion of OWC business outside of meetings, and set a good example in the community.

OFFICERS

- ❖ Voting members of the Executive Committee (Bylaws, V)
(see Roster for address, telephone, email)
- ❖ **President** Ellen Blackmon
- ❖ **Vice President** Olga Herman
- ❖ **Co-Secretaries** Jody Riddle & Marguerite Garrett
- ❖ **Treasurer** Elizabeth Tooley

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

- ❖ Voting Members of the Executive Committee (Bylaws, VII)
(see Roster for address, telephone, email)
- ❖ **Arts** Maryellen Bickel
- ❖ **Education** Carol Young
- ❖ **Garden Club** TBD
- ❖ **Home Life** Gay Webster
- ❖ **Ladies of the Neuse** Marguerite Garrett

ACTIVITY MANAGERS/LEADERS

- ❖ Voting Members of the Executive Committee (Bylaws, VIII)
(see Roster for address, telephone, email)
- Asst. Treasurer of OWC** Jean Chastang
- Asst. Treasurer of Cemetery** Linda Caroon
- Audit Committee Chairman** Sharon Morgan
- ❖ **Building Maintenance Manager** Sally Farrell
- ❖ **Bylaws/Parliamentarian** Sharon Morgan
- ❖ **Cemetery Managers** Jennifer Walsh & Linda Caroon
- ❖ **Fundraising Manager** TBD
- ❖ **Hostess Manager** Gay Webster
- ❖ **Inspirational Reader** Marguerite Garrett
- ❖ **Membership Manager** Sharon Morgan
- ❖ **Newsletter Editor** Jean Chastang
- Nominating Committee** TBA
- ❖ **Past President** Ellen Blackmon & Julie Wiegand
- Property Rental Manager** Sharon Morgan,
Tidewater Real Estate
- ❖ **Publicity Manager** TBD
- Scrapbook Manager** TBD
- Scholarship Manager** Susan Van Meter
- Sunshine Note Writer** Elaine Wolfinger
- Website Co-Managers** Anne Parker & Jean Chastang
- ❖ **Yearbook Editor** Jean Chastang
- Yoga Leader** Lee Duer

MEETINGS

General

General meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month, September through June with refreshments at 1:00 pm and program/business at 1:30 pm at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance. The June and December meetings are luncheons beginning at 11:30 am. General meetings are open to all OWC members, visitors and guests.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee meets on the last Tuesday of the month, August through May at 10:30 am at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance. Executive Committee meetings are open to all OWC members, but only members holding most EC positions may vote on business at the meetings.

New Member Orientation

An orientation for new members will be held as needed. Date, time and place of the orientation meeting(s) to be announced.

Programs

OWC members are encouraged to join one or more of the programs listed below and participate in their meetings and other activities.

Arts: The Arts Program meets on the third Thursday of the month, September through June at 10:30 am at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance.

Education: The Education Program meets on the third Thursday of the month, September through June at 10:30 am at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance.

Garden Club: The Garden Club meets on the third Tuesday of the month, September through June, at 10:30 am at the clubhouse. Field trips are scheduled in advance.

Home Life: Meeting dates to be announced.

Ladies of the Neuse: The LON meets as needed September through June at 6:30 pm at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance.

Other Groups

Yoga: Exercise is offered to clubwomen and members of the community on Monday and Wednesday, September through May at 8:30 am at the clubhouse unless otherwise scheduled in advance.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Arts

The Arts Program promotes participation, appreciation and education in the community in the areas of the visual, written and performing arts through student, club member and community art, writing and performing arts shows, workshops, projects and field trips. Members of the Arts Program are identified in the Roster with an “A”.



Education



The Education Program promotes education for children and adults in Pamlico County through informing the community of volunteer opportunities, awarding scholarships, holding workshops and lectures and collecting school supplies. Members of the Education Program are identified in the Roster with an “E”.

Garden Club

The Garden Club encourages an appreciation of the natural beauty of Pamlico County, learning about gardening in eastern NC and promoting good conservation practices. The club awards a Yard of the Month for outstanding front yards in the County, holds fun and informative field trips and presentations, and participates in the NCDOT Adopt-a-Highway program. Members of the Garden Club are identified in the Roster with a “G”.



Home Life

The Home Life Program recognizes and meets needs of families and children in Pamlico County including delivering Meals on Wheels in the Oriental area, sponsoring community Yoga classes, providing Christmas gifts for a family in need, collecting toiletry for Heartworks and preparing Easter baskets for children in need. Members of the Home Life Program are identified in the Roster with an “H”.



Ladies of the Neuse



LON provides an opportunity for members to meet in the evening and undertake activities that assist or complement other OWC activities including making trophies and judging the Croaker Festival parade, organizing a Luminary Launch, a Fall fundraiser and making and selling Oriental name tags. Members focus on the wellbeing and enrichment of youth in the county through donations to worthy projects such as mini grants to teachers. Members of LON are identified in the Roster with an “L”.



CALENDAR, 2024

Over the course of the year some of these dates and activities may change. See the OWC monthly Newsletter for the most up to date information.

Monthly Meetings at the Clubhouse:

Yoga – Monday & Wednesday, 8:30 AM

Arts Program meets third Thursday at 10:30 AM

Education Program meets third Thursday at 10:30 AM

Home Life Program meetings as scheduled in advance

Garden Club meets third Tuesday at 10:30 AM

LON meets as needed

January

9 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse, Arts Festival

28 Arts Festival, Noon to 3pm

30 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse

Appoint Audit Committee Chairman

February

6 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse – American Red Cross

27 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse

March

- 5 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at the clubhouse
Program: Boating Safety with Jim Holley
- 16 Annual Chowder Cook-off – 11am to 1pm at Oriental Marina Inn
- 26 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:30 am at clubhouse
- 31 Easter

April

- 2 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse
Program: Andrea Bruce, Photojournalist
- 30 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:30 am at clubhouse

May

- 7 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse
Program: Allison O’Shea – Openly Aging
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:30 am at clubhouse
Approve Audit Report
Approve Donations

June

- 1 Luminary Launch
- 4 Scholarship Pot Luck Luncheon – 11:30 am at clubhouse
Recognize Scholarship Winners
- 28-30 Croaker Festival – OWC judges parade



August

- 24 Golf Tournament Minnesott Golf & Country Club
- 27 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse
Appoint and Elect Nominating Committee Chairman

September

- 3 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse
Garden Club program
Elect 2 other Nominating Committee members
- 24 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse

October

- 1 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse
 - Membership program
 - Announce slate of officers to members
- 29 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse
 - Approve 2025 annual budget

November

- 5 Annual Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse
 - LON program
 - Election of 2025 Officers
 - Present Annual Budget in Newsletter
- 9 Fine Arts & Crafts Show
- 26 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse

December

- 3 Christmas Luncheon – 11:30 am at clubhouse
 - Installation of Officers
- 17 Executive Committee – 10:30 am at clubhouse
 - Joint 2024 & 2025 officers, program chairs & activity managers

ACTIVITIES

Adopt-a-Highway

OWC maintains a 2-mile stretch of NC Highway 55 through Oriental picking up litter four times a year.

Arts Festivals

Competitions and/or exhibits are held for students and open to youth and adults with disabilities.

Clubhouse Use

The clubhouse is available for rent, by reservation, to members and non-members for gatherings of up to 180 standing and 120 seated. See Standing Rules for additional information.

Fundraising

Projects are conducted throughout the year primarily to fund scholarships, charitable projects and some clubhouse expenses.

Hostesses

Members share the responsibility for serving refreshments for general meetings. Assignments are posted in advance. If a member cannot be available for her assignment, she must arrange for a replacement and notify the Hostess Chairman of the change.

Meals on Wheels

In cooperation with Pamlico County Senior Services, the OWC members and non-members deliver noontime meals to homebound residents of Oriental. Meals are provided five days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Oriental Cemetery

The OWC manages the lawn maintenance of the Oriental Cemetery (also referred to as the Tranquil Cemetery of Oriental or Blackwell Point Cemetery).

Scholarships

The OWC supports two annual one-year scholarships for Pamlico County graduating seniors: the Inez S. Hargrove and the Frank and Violet Cathers scholarships. OWC also supports annually one Girls on the Run alumni scholarship.

Yard of the Month (YOM)

Members of the Garden Club identify the most beautiful front yard in Pamlico County monthly except January and February and sometimes August. The December award is best Christmas decorations and is organized by the Town of Oriental. Garden Club assists in the judging.

Yoga

Exercise classes are offered twice a week for clubwomen and members of the community as an outreach project of the Home Life Program.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In keeping with its aim of encouraging opportunities for young people in Pamlico County, the OWC established in 1987 an annual award to a graduating senior entering an accredited school of higher education. Later in that same year the award was named in honor of Inez S. Hargrove whose primary interest during her long membership in the Club had been opportunities for advanced education for County youth. Over the years, because of rising costs of higher education, the Club has increased the amount of this scholarship from \$500 to \$1,500 in 1997 and to \$2,000 in 2001. Hargrove was raised again in January, 2022 to \$3,000.

In 1989, the Cathers family endowed an award fund of \$5,000 in memory of Frank and Violet Cathers, with the OWC as the fund's administrator. From this fund an award was given each year to a graduating senior entering an accredited school of higher education to prepare for a career in the Arts. When the original fund was depleted, the Club elected to continue to support the scholarship award. The initial \$500 award was raised to \$1,000 in 2001 and in 2021 was raised to \$2,000 and in 2022 was raised to \$3,000.

The scholarships are supported through fundraising efforts annually and contributions, particularly honorariums or memorials. It is the custom of the OWC to make such a contribution to the Scholarship Fund as its memorial to a deceased former member.

Prior to becoming an independent club OWC supported several GFWC-NC scholarships through selection of candidates and supporting them through higher levels of competition. These scholarships include the Sallie Southall Cotten, Greeson-Johnson Teaching, and Whitener Piano scholarships. Early records are missing or incomplete on candidates for the Sallie Southall Cotten Scholarship. We do know that prior to 1987 we had two District winners and one was first runner up at the State level. OWC never had a candidate for the Whitener Piano Scholarship or the Greeson-Johnson Teaching Scholarship. The Club provided the SSC Scholarship candidate with \$500 to help with the cost of participating at higher levels.

Special requests for financial assistance have been met by the Club to fund special worthwhile extra-curricular education activities. In the

past, this has included funding for HOBY (Hugh O'Brien Youth) leadership conferences and 4H conferences.

Oriental Woman's Club Award

| | | |
|------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1985 | Mary Elizabeth McKnight | Oriental |
|------|-------------------------|----------|

Inez S. Hargrove Award

| | | |
|------|-----------------------|------------|
| 1987 | Melissa Anne Fodrey | Alliance |
| 1988 | Jamie D. Gibbs | Bayboro |
| 1989 | Tracie Monk | Stonewell |
| 1990 | Alicia M. Allen | Bayboro |
| 1991 | Michelle D. Banks | Arapahoe |
| 1992 | Jeff Broughton | Oriental |
| 1993 | Tracey Bennett | Arapahoe |
| 1994 | Kevin Kirkland | Grantsboro |
| 1995 | Dianna C. Connor | Oriental |
| 1996 | Brenda Renee Hardison | Arapahoe |
| 1997 | Joanna Piland | Oriental |
| 1998 | Gisele Monique Armond | Vandemere |
| 1999 | Charlese Gibbs | Bayboro |
| 2001 | Michael K. Jones | Bayboro |
| 2002 | Courtney Blount | Merritt |
| 2003 | Megan Ireland | Merritt |
| 2004 | Jessica Greer | New Bern |
| 2005 | Dillon Hamm | Aurora |
| 2006 | Rebecca Baber | Oriental |
| 2007 | Lucas Dunbar | Oriental |
| 2008 | Jenna Mercer | Grantsboro |
| 2009 | Shawn Lyon | Oriental |
| 2010 | Scott Spencer | Bayboro |
| 2011 | Avery Williamson | |
| 2012 | John Price | Stonewall |
| 2013 | Samantha New | |
| 2014 | Robin Croom | Reelsboro |
| 2015 | Samantha Hoff | Oriental |
| 2016 | Treasure Banks | Grantsboro |
| 2017 | Haley Salmon | Olympia |
| 2018 | Meg Anderson | |

| | | |
|------|----------------------------------|------------|
| 2019 | Cheyenne Lupton | |
| 2020 | Covid 19 prevented participation | |
| 2021 | Isabella Rodriguez | |
| 2022 | Tobey Rice | |
| 2023 | Taylor Diane Buck | Grantsboro |

Violet and Frank Cathers Award

| | | |
|--|-----------------------|------------|
| 1989 | Preston Jones | Stonewall |
| 1990 | Angela Jane Harris | Bayboro |
| 1991 | Kenneth Humphries | Bayboro |
| 1992 | Jason Roper | Grantsboro |
| 1993 | Christopher Geddings | Grantsboro |
| 1994 | Rebecca Howerin | Hobucken |
| 1995 | Lisa M. Ireland | Lowland |
| 1996 | Crystal Anne Wheeler | Grantsboro |
| 1997 | Kane Bess | Oriental |
| 1998 | Eric Ryan Slade | Bayboro |
| 1999 | Frank Richards | Aurora |
| 2000 | Stephanie Edwards | Reelsboro |
| 2001 | Kristen Prescott | Grantsboro |
| 2002 | Holli Williamson | Aurora |
| 2003 | Jillian Hardison | Bayboro |
| 2004 | Shawna Cooper | Reelsboro |
| 2005 | Abigail Brown | Oriental |
| 2006 | Patrick Bliss | Oriental |
| 2007 | Elizabeth Hope Sadler | Alliance |
| 2008 | Elizabeth Skinner | Arapahoe |
| 2009 | Sara Brinson | Grantsboro |
| 2010 | Savannah Ellenberg | Stonewall |
| 2011 | Diamonique Gibbs | |
| 2012 | Anthony Yeates | Bayboro |
| 2013 | Mary Anna Askew | Oriental |
| 2014 | Ashley Hollowell | Bayboro |
| 2015 | Macy Watt | |
| 2016 | Ahanna Garrison | Bayboro |
| Violet & Frank Cathers Award (cont'd) | | |
| 2017 | Mikayla Sanders | Bayboro |

| | | |
|------|--------------------------|------------|
| 2018 | Sallie Elizabeth Winfrey | |
| 2019 | Gerald Price III | Stonewall |
| 2020 | Covid 19 prevented award | |
| 2021 | Hayden Connor | |
| 2022 | Jakobi Backmon-Boston | |
| 2023 | Conor Glen Daniels | Grantsboro |

Girls on the Run (donation of \$500 made toward GOTR scholarship)

| | |
|------|--------------------------------|
| 2020 | Jenna Bustamante |
| 2021 | Jenna Jones |
| 2022 | Jaden Ernst & Marissa Hinshaw |
| 2023 | Taylor Buck & Cheyenne Sanders |



BUDGET, 2024

REVENUE

| | |
|---|-----------|
| Building Fund | 1,500.00 |
| Building Income (Rentals) | 5,000.00 |
| Contributions: Scholarships & Memorials | 6,500.00 |
| Member Dues | 3,480.00 |
| Special Events (Fundraisers) | 12,454.00 |
| Miscellaneous Revenue | 1,000.00 |

TOTAL **29,934.00**

EXPENSES

| | |
|---|----------|
| Building Utilities | 5,790.00 |
| Building Insurance (wind & hail) | 3,400.00 |
| Building Maintenance (repairs & supplies) | 1,900.00 |
| Building Maintenance (Furniture & Fixtures) | 2,000.00 |
| Building Professional Fees & Lawn Enhancement | 1,500.00 |
| Directors & Officers Liability Insurance | 2,394.00 |
| Grants, Scholarships & Donations | 7,500.00 |
| Office, Administration & Advertising | 1,750.00 |
| Special Events: Fundraisers | 4,600.00 |
| ABC License | 400.00 |

TOTAL **29,934.00**



HISTORY

(For a more complete history of the Club, see Katherine Spruill's history, 1914 through 1986, Marion Marsh's history from 1987 through 2001, and Suzanne Jantzen's history from 2002 through 2015 available at the clubhouse)

There are no records of how the Woman's Club of Oriental got its start; however, women who were associated with the Club in its beginning have related in the Spruill history that 8 local women, meeting in the home of Mrs. L.F. McCabe in 1914, organized the "Ladies' Embroidery Club". By 1916, there were 20 members and the name had been changed to the "Women's Improvement League". Once again, in 1917, the name was changed to "The Woman's Club" and membership had increased to 27. Miss Love Ritch began the actions that took the Club to membership in the state and national Federations. Official records show that The Woman's Club of Oriental, North Carolina, became a member of the North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs in 1916-1917, assigned to District 8, where it remained until 1925-1926 when redistricting assigned it to District 12. Redistricting in May 2000 assigned the Club to a new District 8. In 2017 the Club voted to leave the Federation and become an independent club beginning in 2018.

Meetings were held on alternate Tuesdays until 1936-1937 when the practice of meeting on the first Tuesday, September through June, became effective. An experiment in 2014 had meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in February, April, June, September, November, and December. In 2015, the January and October meetings were restored. In 2016, meetings were held in January, March, April, June, September, October, November and December. In 2018, general meetings returned to September through June. EC meetings were changed in 2018 from the last Tuesday in the month to the second Tuesday and changed again in 2020 to the last Tuesday of the month.

Until 1919, meetings were held in the homes of the members. In March 1919, Mr. W.J. Smith, Sr. gave the Club the use of a room on the second floor of the W.J. Smith & Sons Dry Goods Store where the Club met for almost 6 years. Early in 1923, as a joint effort of the Club and the Mount Vernon Lodge No. 359 A.F. & A.M. of Oriental (Masonic

Order) plans began for a club building. Dr. and Mrs. J.J. Purdy gave the land (on Broad Street opposite the present Mariner Realty, Inc. building) and a two-story building was designed and constructed. The entire citizenry of Oriental contributed toward the purchase of the solid concrete blocks at ten cents a block, and members of both organizations worked on construction. By 1924-1925, though the building was still being finished, the Woman's Club held its meetings on the first floor and the Masonic Order on the second. Through the years, as funds were available, the building was improved with plumbing, a kitchen, carpeting, etc. The Woman's Club was most generous in making its meeting room available, at little or no cost, to civic organizations, churches, schools, and to individuals for a meeting or other function.

In 1979, with the Broad Street building in need of repair, the Club sold it, divided the proceeds with the Masonic Order, and began the major project of building its own new and larger clubhouse on Gilgo Road on land donated by The Dolphin Company of Oriental. The building foundation was poured in the spring of 1980 and a Club bazaar was held in the shell of the building in November. By April 1982, Club meetings were held there. As the years continued, the interior of the clubhouse was furnished, decorated, maintained, and refurbished. In 1989, a storage building was added to the property to house furnishings and equipment. This has been a pay-as-you-go project and it is gratifying that there is no debt. Major renovation of the building, begun in 1998-99 was completed in 2001. A new sound system was installed. Other work included new ceiling, windows, kitchen flooring, light fixtures in the meeting room, heating/air conditioning unit, two refrigerators and a freezer. In 2004, a large commercial gas stove was installed and in 2008 two dishwashers were replaced. In 2013, the kitchen was gutted. New stoves, cabinets, and countertops installed, and the building caulked. The commercial gas stove that was placed on consignment was sold in 2015. A new roof was authorized at the end of 2015 for installation in 2016.

The Oriental Woman's clubhouse is the only building in the area with appropriate facilities, furnishings, serve only liquor license and off-street parking that can accommodate up to 180 people standing or 120 seated for meetings and special events. The clubhouse is made

available at a reasonable fee to other organizations for their special events and to members of the community for private events.

In a program held May 3, 1987, with Rev. Gray Southern, pastor of the United Methodist Church officiating, the Gilgo Road building was dedicated. The Dolphin Company, the building's designers, the Club's building committee, the Club's Past Presidents, and the Junior Woman's Club were appropriately honored.

From its beginning, the Club's aim has been to be an asset to the community and to work for its betterment in every way. Priorities have always been youth and education, health and welfare, community improvement and beautification. The Garden Club, described on another page, grew from this last objective. Contributions to local educational institutions have included electric light wiring for the school building in 1918 and arrangements for a traveling library to serve Oriental and Pamlico County. The Club lobbied State representatives to support numerous projects such as appropriations for the State public library and, in County schools, numerous projects such as "Better English Week", nursery school facilities, vocational training, and a mandatory eighteen credits for High School graduation. Monetary support to local students for continuing education has been a major emphasis of the Club. These, too, are discussed on another page.

Early Club minutes tell of the Club's work with the Oriental Town Board toward community health and welfare. Trash receptacles at street corners, the hiring of a sanitation inspector, and the clearing of the harbor branch marshy area for mosquito control are just a few accomplishments. With the aid of a very successful fundraising project in 1985, the Club was able to offer financial support to other groups including the Oriental Fire Department, Hospice, Life Line, Rescue Squad, Human Needs Task Force, and 4H Campers. This support and aid to other community service groups continues.

A writing group, **Oriental Expressions** was formed in the early 1980's and shared literary productions with Club members until about 1990 when it disbanded as a formal group. About the same time, a music group, **Orientalaires**, formed and provided vocal entertainment for Club events. Although this disbanded as a formal group, its

members continue to sing for the entire County through membership in the larger Pamlico Chorale, that was formed in 1989.

The care of the **Oriental Cemetery** (also known as the Tranquil Cemetery of Oriental or the Blackwell Point Cemetery) is the longest on-going community service project of the OWC. It began as a special project in October 1922, and in 1923, the Cemetery Committee became a standing committee of the Club. Relying on the public for donations to cover costs, the committee had its difficulties until, in 1935, a plan was devised whereby cemetery plot owners paid the Club for the upkeep of their plots. This plan proved very successful and continues today. A Perpetual Care Plan was established in 1980 whereby participants may contribute to an investment fund, the interest on which covers the cost of the upkeep. When it was created many years ago, the Oriental Cemetery served the needs of a community whose population lived secure in the belief that succeeding generations would live here and care for the graves. In recent times, life and careers have taken younger members of some of the families miles from their Eastern Carolina home, and they rely on the Oriental Woman's Club to care for the cemetery they left behind. The Club values the expressions of affection and thanks it receives from grateful relatives for the loving care it takes of family plots and family history.

In May of 1982, it was suggested that special interest groups within the Club might be formed, and the **Garden Club** was the first of these to organize. The Garden Club has assumed responsibility for the landscaping and light maintenance of the grounds of the clubhouse. Further; these ladies, through special projects, have funded much of the equipment needed for the work. Projects in the community have included trees planted on Arbor Day, landscaping and care for the County and Town welcome signs, and the decoration of Christmas trees for the Town Hall and the Post Office. For several years, the Garden Club decorated the clubhouse with poinsettias in early December that were sold to members as a successful fund-raising project. For many years the Garden Club has held a plant exchange and sale, and in 2014 it assumed responsibility for clean-up of a two-mile stretch of HY 55 through Oriental four-times a year under the NCDOT Adopt-a-Highway program. Monthly programs take advantage

of the wealth of horticultural knowledge in the area. County Agriculture Extension Agents, professional horticulturists, and many Club members have shared their expertise. Members have enjoyed visits to many private gardens in the area and to public gardens within easy travel of Oriental. Garden Club members are identified as (G) in the Roster of Members.

The **Ladies of the Neuse** are members of the Club whose home and career responsibilities keep them from taking an active part in the Club's daytime activities. The unit began as a Junior Woman's Club in 1975, but in 1986, after the members passed the age limits set by GFWC for Junior membership, they continued to operate as a separate unit of the Club calling themselves the Ladies of the Neuse. In 1980, the Junior Woman's Club organized and sponsored the first Fourth of July Croaker Festival in Oriental. As the size and scope of the festival has changed over the years so has LON's involvement. They continue to this day to make whimsical parade trophies, judge the entries, and help both financially and in other ways. Their support of the NC Caswell Developmental Center in Kinston was very active until about 2015. Caswell participated in our Arts Festivals until 2021. This very active group of women have funded a great variety of local programs with money realized from successful fundraising projects including tennis tournaments, golf tournaments, elegant or fun lunches or dinners, a Candlelight Christmas House Tour, and recently a biannual Fall Bazaar and Spooktacular adult Halloween party. Ladies of the Neuse are identified as (L) in the Roster of Members.

In 2017-18, the Club revamped its programs, eliminating Conservation, International Outreach, and Public Issues, changing their names and how they function. The remaining programs became **Arts, Education, Garden Club, Home Life and Ladies of the Neuse**. Members were asked to join one or more of these programs with the programs meeting on a regular basis.

In 2000, a Logo was designed and a Theme adopted to capture the emphasis of the new millennium: "Women Together, Making a Difference". The Theme was changed to Vision in 2018. The motto, "Be What You Seem", was retained to honor the past. Also in recognition of the new century a time capsule containing memorabilia of the Club and the community was sealed in a handsome box made

by clubwoman Betty Callahan's husband, Don, and fastened to the clubhouse wall to be opened in December 2020.

With the decision to leave the Federation beginning in 2018, an effort began to restructure OWC to make it more relevant to the community and appealing to members. Some of the actions taken so far include: a) creating 5 program groups (Arts, Education, Garden Club, Home Life, and Ladies of the Neuse) with members joining one or more of these groups; b) eliminating additional dues to join the Garden Club; c) encouraging program groups to meet independently of general meetings; d) consolidating fundraising activities; e) making general meetings less formal; f) directing all charitable giving to local community groups; and, g) restructuring and renaming many of the committees necessary in management of the club.

A **Song** was written for the Club by former member, Mrs. W.J. Morgan, in 1920 as follows:

O beautiful Oriental, we love thy Praise to tell
thy balmy breezes, flowerets sweet and friends we
love so well.

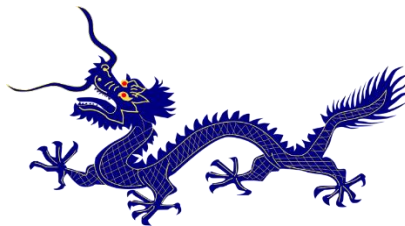
Oriental, Oriental, God grant we will ever be
the noblest type of womanhood and ever true to thee.

O beautiful Oriental, we love thy joy to sing
the broad and flowing river Neuse round which
sweet memories cling.

Oriental, Oriental, God grant thou wilt ever be
the home of men who are good and great
and true and brave and free.

The following **Club Commandments** were found in the 1940-1942 Yearbook.

1. Thou shalt not be late.
2. Thou shalt come prepared to give thy opinion.
3. Thou shalt pay thy dues promptly.
4. Thou shalt not take offense at thy fellow members.
5. Thou shalt bear this statement well in mind: A substitute you must find, if you cannot do the work assigned.



PAST PRESIDENTS

*Deceased

| | | |
|------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| *1914-1916 | | Mrs. A. W. Cole |
| *1916-1917 | Jenny Aldridge | Mrs. E.Y. Aldridge |
| *1917-1918 | Mary Love Ritch | |
| *1918-1920 | Carrie Badham | Mrs. L.M. Badham |
| *1920-1922 | Annie B. Morgan | Mrs. W.J. Morgan |
| *1922-1925 | Mary Purdy | Mrs. J.J. Purdy |
| * | Octavia Haskins | Mrs. A.W. Haskins |
| * | Carrie Smith | Mrs. W.J. Smith, Sr. |
| *1926-1927 | Beatrice McCleese | |
| *1927-1928 | Lucy Midyette | Mrs. G.W. Midyette |
| *1928-1929 | Jessie Daniels | Mrs. O.C. Daniels |
| *1929-1930 | Jenny Aldridge | Mrs. E.Y. Aldridge |
| *1930-1931 | Bessie Harris | Mrs. R.M. Harris |
| *1931-1933 | Mary Purdy | Mrs. J.J. Purdy |
| *1933-1935 | Mattie McCabe | Mrs. L.F. McCabe |
| *1935-1937 | Irma Midyette | Mrs. G.P. Midyette |
| *1937-1940 | Mary Purdy | Mrs. J.J. Purdy |
| *1940-1942 | Mildred Sawyer | Mrs. Hugh Sawyer |
| *1942-1944 | Minnie Goodwin | Mrs. E.R. Goodwin |
| *1946-1948 | Serina Swindell | Mrs. Dan Swindell |
| *1948-1950 | Norma Smith | Mrs. H.H. Smith |
| *1950-1951 | | Mrs. H.C. Suggett |
| *1951-1952 | | Mrs. J.O. Lindley |
| *1952-1954 | Irma Midyette | Mrs. G.P. Midyette |
| *1954-1956 | | Mrs. J.O. Lindley |
| *1956-1958 | Irma Midyette | Mrs. G.P. Midyette |
| *1958-1959 | Dot (Stowe) | Mrs. Ken Davis |
| *1959-1961 | Irma Midyette | Mrs. G.P. Midyette |
| *1961-1966 | Marie Swindell | Mrs. Sam Swindell |
| *1966-1970 | Mary Neuerburg | Mrs. Carl Neuerburg |
| *1972-1974 | Clara Bailey | Mrs. H.H. Bailey |
| *1974-1978 | Inez S. Hargrove | Mrs. W. Hargrove |
| *1978-1980 | Anne Ronai | Mrs. Leslie Ronai |
| *1980-1982 | Jean Dexter | Mrs. Paul Dexter |
| *1982-1984 | Fran Saunders | Mrs. Robert Saunders |

| | | |
|------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| *1984 | Katherine Spruill | |
| *1985 | Fran Deaton Bennett | Dr. Bennett |
| 1985-1986 | Fay Bond | Mrs. John Bond |
| 1986-1988 | Melba Golightly | Mrs. Wm. Golightly |
| 1988-1990 | Edna Whorton | Mrs. Ray Whorton |
| *1990-1992 | Valene Hickok | Mrs. Robert Hickok |
| 1992-1993 | Marj Winter | Mrs. J.W. Winter |
| *1994 | Dolores Sullivan | Mrs. Robert Sullivan |
| 1995 | Ginger Howe | Mrs. Weldon Howe |
| 1996 | Betty Jane Bonapartian | Mrs. E. Bonapartian |
| 1997 | Elise Tierney | Mrs. Arthur Tierney |
| *1998 | Beverley Fiske | Mrs. William Fiske |
| *1999 | Dottie Osmun | Mrs. Richard Osmun |
| 2000 | Suzanne Jantzen | Mrs. Robert Jantzen |
| 2001 | Suzanne Jantzen | Mrs. Robert Jantzen |
| 2002 | Virginia Mays | Mrs. Edward Mays |
| 2003 | Carol McAdoo | Mrs. R. McAdoo |
| 2004 | Carol Herman | Mrs. Jack Herman |
| *2005 | Beverley Fiske | Mrs. William Fiske |
| 2006 | Carol McAdoo | Mrs. R. McAdoo |
| 2007 | Connie Wilkinson | Mrs. G. Wilkinson |
| 2008 | Elizabeth MacDonald | Mrs. B. MacDonald |
| 2009 | Linda Parker | Mrs. Bob Parker |
| 2010 | Jean Chastang | |
| 2011 | Sharon Morgan | Mrs. Jerry Morgan |
| 2012 | Donna Rubinstein | Mrs. Dan Rubinstein |
| 2013 | Sally Belangia | Mrs. Ken Belangia |
| 2014 | Myra Blue and | Mrs. Herb Blue |
| 2014 | Paula James | Mrs. Alan James |
| 2015 | Carol McAdoo | Mrs. Richard McAdoo |
| 2016 | Fay Bond and | |
| 2016 | Carol McAdoo | Mrs. Richard McAdoo |
| 2017 | Debbie Montgomery | Mrs. Dale Montgomery |
| 2018 | Elizabeth MacDonald | Mrs. B. MacDonald |
| 2019 | Gwen Rhodes | Mrs. Edmund Rhodes |
| 2020 | Gwen Rhodes (moved to PA in May) | |
| 2020 | Deborah Powers | Mrs. Roger Powers |

| | | |
|------|----------------|-------------------|
| 2021 | Deborah Powers | Mrs. Roger Powers |
| 2022 | Deborah Powers | Mrs. Roger Powers |
| 2023 | Julie Wiegand | Mrs. Bob Wiegand |
| 2023 | Ellen Blackmon | |
| 2024 | Ellen Blackmon | |

HONORS AND AWARDS

OWC Honorary Members

(date) Denotes Honorary Membership Date

(Conferring Honorary Membership eliminated in 2019)

Betty Jane Bonapartian (2001) *membership date 1987*

2701 Amhurst Blvd., Villa 9C, New Bern, NC 28562

252-635-1752

Fay Bond (2003) *membership date 1974*

PO Box 39, Oriental, NC 28571

252-249-1326

Melba Golightly (2002) *membership date 1981*

116 Northbook Dr. Apt. 102, Raleigh, NC 27609

919-881-2444

Mabel Rowell (1999) *membership date 1985*

1607 Hallford Ct., Apt. 101, Midlothian, VA 23112

OWC Deceased Honorary Members

(date) Denotes Honorary Membership Date

Clara Bailey (1993)

Fran Saunders (1994)

Bea Flanagan (1980)

Marti Schmidt (1996)

Inez Hargrove (1971)

Norma Smith (2000)

Ethel Harris (1941)

Katherine Spruill (1993)

Mary Harris (1975)

Martha Spruill (1993)

Calvene Jones (1972)

Sara Veal (1994)

Marjorie Neal Kemp (2004)

Norma Smith (2018)

Martha Lamm (2000)

Dot Luck (2002)

Mary Neuerberg (1959)

Josephine Martin (1974)



Pen and ink drawing by former member Dixie Bridges.
The original hangs in the clubhouse.