



## May Activities:

5/7 ~ Executive Board Meeting

5/14 ~ May Meeting (see page 2)

5/16 ~ Villages of Hope event (see page 7)

Visit our website [WWW.GFVCVIA.com](http://WWW.GFVCVIA.com) for the current calendar. Our club email:

[viagfvc@gmail.com](mailto:viagfvc@gmail.com)

Follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/VIAGreenCoveSprings>

**VIA Meetings** are on the 2nd Thursday of each month at our clubhouse ~ 17 N. Palmetto Avenue, Green Cove Springs.

The women of the VIA focus on service to the community. We strive to impact lives through our actions, both large and small, and build lasting friendships along the way.

VIA is a member of the **General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFVC)** and **GFVC Florida**.



## President's Message

Wasn't our April meeting fabulous! I am always so happy when our clubhouse is filled with special guests as well as visitors and new friends. Anytime we have visitors in our building, we have the chance to show them more about our mission and involvement in the community. That is how we expand our impact and draw new members into our fold. Thanks so much to each of you for being so kind and welcoming! The meeting was not only informative, but it was also uplifting and fun! All our guests shared that they felt very included and that their presence was appreciated. I loved watching how you all "networked" and worked together to make sure the meeting ran smoothly, and every person was warmly greeted.

Sweet ladies, I was so honored and humbled to receive the award at our last District 4 Meeting! I cannot tell you enough how huge a part each of you played in that recognition. One of my goals when I first became President was to get us more involved with the District 4. There were a few times during my first year that I went alone, but for the last three years, I have never worried about having a strong presence at those meetings. I am so grateful and proud to have such fine ladies accompany me, and many of you have taken on leadership roles there when I was unable to attend. Thank you for doing so and thank you for your dependability.

Also, the "strength of our club" and the "power of our service" is all about YOU! You are the "wind beneath my wings" and I could not accomplish anything without your support and hard work. Everything we have accomplished has been a group effort, and your support and encouragement have meant everything to me! I continue to be amazed at your talent, and your ability to "trouble shoot" and refine any idea or suggestion.

I am so grateful for each of you!  
Working alongside you awesome ladies is one of my life's greatest blessings.

**Larriane**  
[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com)



## May 14<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2026

May 14 is our last general meeting before our summer break! We will be using this time to recognize the recipient of our **annual scholarship** to a **Clay High School** student. We look forward to meeting her in person, and welcoming her family as our guests. We will also celebrate our awards from the 2025 reporting year!

**Maria Prybylski**, Executive Director of the AMI program in Green Cove Springs will be our special guest! It is the AMI boys that arrange and rearrange our tables and chairs for meetings, rentals, and events. Maria will tell us more about this program, and what needs they may have that we could help meet.

Bring your favorite party foods and be prepared to celebrate!

## Quigley House donations



The Quigley House accepted these items from the VIA totaling \$300. Continue to contact Janey with donations of clothing and household items in good condition.



## GFWC did you know?

The history of "**A Collect for Clubwomen**". Mary Stewart, a Colorado school principal, wrote the words to the Collect in 1904 as a personal daily prayer. Mary titled her poem "A Collect for Club Women" when it was first published because she felt it might have special appeal to clubwomen. According to Mary, "The first women's organization to hear or use the Collect or to print it in its year books and biennial reports was the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

### A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;

Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,

Without self-pity and without prejudice.

May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.

Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,

That in the big things of life we are at one.

And may we strive to touch and to know the great, common human

Heart of us all, and oh Lord God, let us forget not to be kind!

## April 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting 2026



The April 9<sup>th</sup> meeting was presented by the VIA **GFWC Signature Program: Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention** Committee.

The focus was on April as **Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)** which marks the 25th Anniversary of the campaign with the theme "25 Years Stronger: Looking Back, Moving Forward". SAAM is an annual campaign that unites survivors, advocates, and communities to raise awareness about sexual assault, abuse, and harassment, and to promote prevention and support for survivors.



Special guest attendees from Quigley House included:

- Megan Ball, Sexual Assault Services Coordinator
- Michael Howle, Community Relations Coordinator
- Aniyah Eason, Sexual Assault Services Advocate
- Christina Kelley, Housing and Outreach Advocate

Other special guests included:

- Tara Green, Clay County Clerk of Court and Comptroller
- Jim Demarie, GCJH Principal
- Jen Halter, CHS Principal
- Josh Miller, GCS Police Department
- Ryan Ellis, GCS Detective



Thank you all who donated local business gift cards as well as gas cards for Quigley House clients



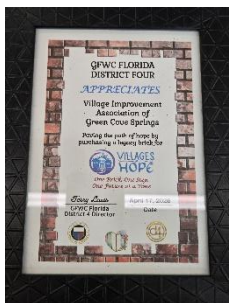
More meeting pictures are on page 4.

## District 4 Meeting and Recognition



Six VIA members attended the **GFWC Florida District 4 Meeting** led by **Terry Laws, D4 Director** on Friday, April 17th held at the **GFWC Lake Shore Woman's Club**. With her starfish theme evident throughout the day, Terry praised club attendees in D4 for their support and dedication throughout her term.

**Villages of Hope** was further recognized as the District 4 President's Project. Carla Sweeney, Co-Founder and Director of Operations & Staff Villages of Hope was on hand and recounted that 14 tiny homes have been build, decorated, and landscaped and praised District 4 who generously donated over \$10,000 to the organization through club and individual fundraisers and purchases of bricks for the Legacy Walkway during the 2024-2026 administration.



More pictures are on the website ~  
Events, Event Photos



## And **LÔÔK** who was Recognized at the District 4 Meeting!!

GFWC Florida District 4 Director Terry Laws recognized VIA President Larianne Stutts with the **Outstanding Club President Award** at the recent GFWC Florida D4 Meeting. Quite an honor for our very own Larianne.

"In recognition of outstanding leadership as Club President and for exceptional dedication to promoting the mission and values of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Your vision, commitment and tireless service have strengthened your club and advanced the spirit of General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). Your leadership stands as an inspiration to others and a testament to the power of service."



Congratulations Larianne ♥ Well deserved.



## VIA members support our town



Any chance we can, the VIA and its club members support our town agencies and community members.

Recent donations include a \$300 value "Hit Em' Straight" basket for the GCS Police Golf Tournament at the Magnolia Point Golf & Country Club.

And support of Charles E. Bennett Scholastic Book Fair.

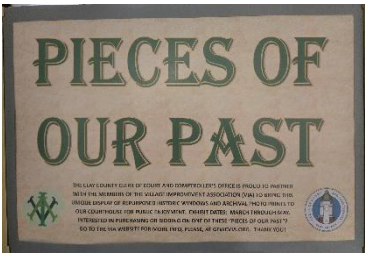


# VIA Members Visited the Courthouse



VIA members met on March 24th at the Clay County Courthouse to see the room the VIA sponsored in January of this year for Human Trafficking Month. The waiting room in the Civil Department (namely for obtaining injunctions for protection from Domestic Violence actions) is now a comforting, private place to make the filling out of paperwork less stressful. Books and toys for children are also in the room who may accompany parents.

While there, VIA members viewed the **Pieces of Our Past** art work on the 4th floor which will be on display through April and up for auction in July. This is an excellent example of how community partnerships benefit us all; this collection features full-size windows rescued from a local historic Green Cove Springs home combined with historic photos of GCS sites and people from our Clay County Historical Archives Division photo library. [Watch for updates on the Auction.](#)



The nine attendees also toured the recording hall where many GCS displays and informational cases were viewed (including a tribute to May Mann Jennings). Many thanks to our tour guide, VIA member Mary Justino, Clay County Public Information Officer.



# VIA Members Volunteer at the Clay County Fair



Who doesn't love the Clay County Fair? We had 10 volunteers who were able to work the 4-hour time slot to earn the VIA \$500.

Thank you to those who were able to participate.



# Health and Wellness

There are many causes to support in **May**:

- Older American Month
- National Osteoporosis Awareness Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Melanoma & Skin Cancer Awareness
- Maternal Mental Health Month
- National Stroke Awareness Month



Congratulations to VIA Health and Wellness member **RaeAnne McCarty** who danced in the **Clay Can Dance** fundraiser on April 11th! “Dancing is definitely not in my comfort zone. The most dancing I do is in the comfort (and most importantly, privacy!) of my home shaking it while cleaning the house. But I’m a big advocate of supporting our local schools and this fundraiser will raise funds to support **Career and Technical Education (CTE) scholarships** for Clay County students”.

There is still time to donate! Go on RaeAnne’s Facebook page for the link.



Continue to save those puzzles you wish to donate ~ see Cheryl.



## More April Meeting pictures



All April meeting pictures are on our VIA website ~ Events, April Meeting.

## VIA is Represented at the Networking Round Table



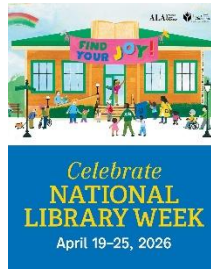
Over 30 vetted community resource partners attended the **Networking Roundtable** at Camp Blanding on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. They were able to tell about their organization offered and they handed out promotional items they had.

The VIA was well represented. And our newly designed brochures were passed out.



## VIA Appreciates Our Librarians

The cookie delivery to the Green Cove Springs librarians in honor of **National Library Week**, April 19-25, was much appreciated. The VIA loves our librarians ❤️



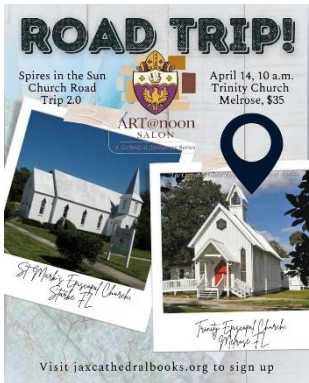
## ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) Sorority Happenings

### Tuesday Trippin': Spires in the Sun Road Trip

VIA members were enriched by a wonderful day of friendship and fellowship (and lunch) as they traveling to Melrose and Starke, touring the Carpenter Gothic churches featured in "Spires in the Sun," learning about their history, craftsmanship, and the deep roots of faith in our region.

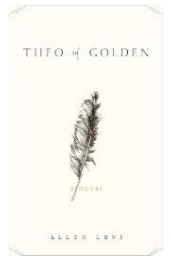
The collaboration between ESO and ART@noon made the day especially meaningful, blending learning with connection.

These sponsored trips continue to remind us how much history and culture live right in our own backyards, and how much richer it becomes when experienced together.



## VIA One Read with ESO (Epsilon Sigma Omicron) ~ You are Invited!

The ESO Book Club invited all VIA members to join in a shared reading experience last month. As we experience **Theo of Golden** by Allen Levi we hope it will deepen our appreciation for small-town life, relationships, and perhaps even help us see our community with fresh eyes. Each month from April to November we will offer monthly themes and light activities. In December we will gather to share insights, favorite moments, and conversation.



### May – New Beginnings

Focus: A book that invites growth and renewal

Activity: Create a quiet reading space

Reflection: What am I ready to begin again? What feels new in their season of my life

Practice: write a short intention for the months ahead

## VIA Members are invited to attend ESO Sorority Meeting

On Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00pm, the ESO Sorority Meeting (open to all) will feature our very own Larianne Stutts who will be sharing about her writing journey and discussing her books ~ **Let Us Gather** and **When the Vow Breaks**.

You are welcome to attend, bring your own beverage and an appetizer to share.

Larianne's books are available on Amazon for purchase.

Feel free to invite guests.



## April Book Sale

The VIA Education and Libraries Committee held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Book Sale on April 25th at the VIA. Books for many ages and types of readers were donated and sold at a reasonable price. It was wonderful welcoming people into our “home” who hadn’t been inside the building before. It was a great opportunity for them to learn a little about the VIA, as well as buy some books and get some special goodies.



**Mother's Day** has become a day that focuses on generally recognizing mothers' and mother figures' roles. Mother's Day has also become an increasingly important event for businesses in recent years. This is particularly true of restaurants and companies that manufacture and sell cards and gift items.

The origins of Mother's Day are attributed to different people in the United States. Many believe that two women, Julia Ward Howe (GFWC Massachusetts 1<sup>st</sup> President) and Anna Jarvis, were important in establishing the tradition of Mother's Day in the United States. How will you celebrate?

## VIA Welcomes these NEW Members

**Susan Guy** ~ 2829 Bailey Way, Middleburg ~ 904-673-7030 | srgtsx@yahoo.com

**Adela Hunt** ~ 2239 Craven Road, Green Cove Springs ~ 313-485-1390 | ahuntnp@yahoo.com

## VIA Member birthdays



### May:

- 5 ~ Tara Green
- 9 ~ Dawn Mahnken
- 16 ~ Carol Bendlin
- 18 ~ Tonia Everitt
- 19 ~ Lynn Elliott
- 26 ~ Terry Wilson

### June:

- 12 ~ Sue Middleton
- 13 ~ Sherry Kelly
- 17 ~ Karla Ziegner
- 18 ~ Freda Blackmar

## Support Villages of Hope

Healing through Art  
**May 16**  
1:00PM - 3:00PM

**An Afternoon of Art and Hope**

Silent Auction & Art Sale Supporting Villages of Hope  
Helping women survivors of sexual exploitation  
find healing, housing, and a path to independence.

Church of Eleven22 - 14286 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville, FL  
Auditorium B (Student Space)  
Park by Students side of the building and enter doors under the Students sign.  
Light refreshments will be served.

Scan QR code to RSVP for event and for information on sponsorship opportunities  
Event is free but donations are appreciated.  
VillagesofHope.org • (904) 253-3123



### Feliz Cinco De Mayo ~ May 5<sup>th</sup>

More popular in the United States than in Mexico, Cinco de Mayo has become associated with the celebration of Mexican-American culture.

## VIA Headquarters Rental

Our historic 1914 cottage is available to rent for YOUR next party. Have a special occasion such as a Birthday Party, Anniversary Celebration, Wedding, Family Gathering, Graduation or Baby Shower?

**Members task! Anytime the opportunity rises, please share info about our clubhouse.**

For more information contact:

Christy McCarthy @ [gcsviarental@gmail.com](mailto:gcsviarental@gmail.com)

### The Village Improvement Association Venue Rental

17 Palmetto Avenue  
Green Cove Springs

[gcsviarental@gmail.com](mailto:gcsviarental@gmail.com)  
Christy- 904.860.2597

#### Host Your Event in Historic Elegance

Perfect for showers, receptions, parties, graduations, and business gatherings, the Village Improvement Association's historic clubhouse is the perfect place to bring people together.

Affordable, welcoming, and full of character, this Green Cove Springs treasure is ideal for family celebrations, milestone events, and professional gatherings.

Every rental helps our nonprofit continue serving the community—140+ years strong!

Reserve your space and celebrate with purpose. Book your date today!



<https://gfwcvia.com>



## Village Improvement Association Federated Woman's Club of Green Cove Springs, FL, Inc. Executive Board



**President:** Larianne Stutts  
[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com)

**Vice President:** Cheri Starnes  
[cstarnes2326@gmail.com](mailto:cstarnes2326@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Sharon Nellis  
[snellis@bellsouth.net](mailto:snellis@bellsouth.net)

**Correspondence Secretary:** Tracy Hardy  
[hardy.tracy@gmail.com](mailto:hardy.tracy@gmail.com)

**Treasurer:** Cherie Wilson  
[cheriewilson@comcast.net](mailto:cheriewilson@comcast.net)

**Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness  
and Prevention:** Janey Fox  
[jmf1052@aol.com](mailto:jmf1052@aol.com)

**Arts & Culture Committee:**  
Terry Wilson  
[ktsswil@bellsouth.net](mailto:ktsswil@bellsouth.net)

**Epsilon Sigma Omicron (ESO):**  
Sandi Dunnivant  
[bookladi2012@gmail.com](mailto:bookladi2012@gmail.com)

**Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee:**  
Mary Justino  
[justinom@clayclerk.com](mailto:justinom@clayclerk.com)

**Education & Libraries Committee:**  
April Pearson  
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**Environment Committee:**  
Christy McCarthy  
[christy@interiorsrevitalized.com](mailto:christy@interiorsrevitalized.com)

**Health & Wellness Committee:**  
Cheryl Gonzalez  
[Cherylgonzal@yahoo.com](mailto:Cherylgonzal@yahoo.com)

**Building Maintenance Committee:**  
Sharon Nellis

**Building Rental Committee:**  
Christy McCarthy

**Membership Committee:** Pam Harris  
[pamdora878@comcast.net](mailto:pamdora878@comcast.net)

**Communications & Public Relations  
Committee:** Donna Shibley  
[dmshibley@gmail.com](mailto:dmshibley@gmail.com)

**Newsletter articles** are due by the 18<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please email them to:

[l.stutts@aol.com](mailto:l.stutts@aol.com) and [dmshibley@gmail.com](mailto:dmshibley@gmail.com)

*All submissions must represent VIA supported events and activities.*

Larianne Stutts, Newsletter Editor

Donna Shibley, Newsletter Design & Layout

**Facebook postings** are managed

by Tracy Hardy and Donna Shibley.

Reach out to them for any suggested VIA postings.



## “The House That Built {Us}”

Our ladies have been working hard this past month to give a thorough cleaning to our precious clubhouse! Ladies have been cleaning the chairs, washing the windows and “decluttering” all our storage spaces. Our interior literally sparkles now and looks more inviting than ever! The most interesting part, however, is that you have all truly had fun doing it. The pictures have been so fun and inspiring!

Earlier this year, we made some repairs and added a new rug to our Archives Room. More recently, there are subtle but lovely additions to our restroom, to make it more welcoming and attractive. Changes have been made to some of our wall hangings as well. All of these “upgrades” are in keeping with our historical time frame, as well as indicative of our mission.

I’m sure the clubwomen of the 1800’s would be so proud of what we have done to honor the legacy and continue the work they did so many years ago.

**Larriane**



The recent window/blind cleaning crew.



## VIA History



We have all heard the story of Green Cove Springs’s origin in 1874. We often share about how the ladies of the community began to congregate at that time to make the city cleaner, more beautiful and appropriate for family life. As we talk about upgrades that we have made in the last year, have you ever thought about the two portraits that hang to the right of the stage?



Mrs. E.G. Munsell became the President of the VIA in 1897. It is her portrait that hangs to the right of our stage and is the one of top. Mrs. Munsell is credited for starting the first kindergarten in 1900. She, along with the members of

the VIA, maintained and paid the salary a teacher for the children for over four years. Mrs. Munsell was the President of the VIA for seventeen years.

The portrait under Mrs. Munsell’s is that of Penelope Borden of the Borden Milk Company. Mrs. Borden is remembered for donating our cottage to us in 1914.



Because of these ladies’ significant contributions, their portraits will respectively remain in high esteem in our clubhouse.

**Larriane**



*“My mother told me to be a lady. And for her, that meant be your own person, be independent.”*

RUTH BADER  
GINSBERG



## Member/Family Businesses

### Accounting/Tax Services

- Susan Hess CPA, P.A. | 904-500-2100

### Auto Body Shop

- Darren's Custom & Restoration Body Shop | Darren Stutts | 904-509-2420

### Beauty

- Rodan & Fields Skin Care Consultant | Larianne Stutts | 904-251-4995

### Financial Advisor

- Hess Financial Group | John Hess | 904-269-8772
- VyStar Investment Services | Raeanne McCarthy | 904-908-2495

### Gifts

- Nikki's Custom Gifts | Nikki Glanville | 904-476-2475

### Home Care

- Assisting Hands Home Care | Tracy Hardy | 904-746-1036

### Interior Design/Home Staging

- Interiors Revitalized | Christy McCarthy | 904-860-2597

### Pet Services

- Jen's Pet Sitting Service | Jenifer Dunnivant | 904-657-4460

### Outdoor

- Space Coast Green Fence and Gates | Teresa Moore | 904-678-7754

### Realtor

- Exit Magnolia Point Realty | Christina Treadway | 904-548-7775

### Restaurant

- Corner Pocket | Cheri Starnes | 904-548-7775

### Scents

- Scentsy | Jo Potter | 541-279-0595

### Specialty Women's Clothing

- One Swanky Chic Boutique | Kristina Byrd | 904-671-3819

### Web Design Development and Photos

- Unicorn Web Development / BOH Entertainment | Bobbi Nagle | 904-891-4538



Let's support the businesses of our members and their spouses!

