THE ORIENTAL WOMAN'S CLUB

2025 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
111 Years of Community Service

2025 YEARBOOK

Officers

President Ellen Blackmon Vice President Maryellen Bickel

Secretary Donna Crothers & Kim Hutchins

Treasurer Jody Riddle

Motto: Be What You Seem Colors: Violet and White Emblem: Violets

Vision: Women Together – Making a Difference

President's 2025 Focus: Education & Community Commitment

DEDICATION

The 2025 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 111 year history of accomplishments.



In memory of:

Ginnie Jenks Goodwin Judy Baker Privette Carol Jamerson Betty Callahan Carol Herman Nancy Miller

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

2025 OFFICERS PICTURE

Left to Right: President: Ellen Blackmon, Co-Secretaries: Kim Hutchins & Donna Crothers, Vice President: Maryellen Bickel,

Treasurer: Jody Riddle (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.

2025 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 BlackmonVice President Maryellen Bickel

Co-Secretaries Donna Crothers & Kim Hutchins

Treasurer Jody Riddle

PROGRAM CHAIRMEN

Voting Members of the Executive Committee (Bylaws, VII) (see Roster for address, telephone, email)

❖ Arts Carol Young❖ Education Carol Young

Garden Program Julie Wiegand & Linda Parker

Community 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

Asst. Treasurer of Cemetery

Audit Committee Chairman

Jean Chastang

Linda Caroon

Sharon Morgan

Building Maintenance Manager TBD

❖ Bylaws/Parliamentarian Sharon Morgan

Cemetery Managers Jennifer Walsh & Linda Caroon

Fundraising Manager
TBD

Hostess Manager Gay Webster

❖ Inspirational Reader
 ❖ Membership Manager
 ❖ Newsletter Editor
 Marguerite Garrett
 Sharon Morgan
 Jean Chastang

Nominating Committee TBA

Past President Ellen Blackmon
 Property Rental Manager Sharon Morgan,

Tidewater Real Estate

❖ Publicity Manager TBDScrapbook Manager TBD

Scholarship Manager Susan Van Meter
Sunshine Note Writer Gay Webster

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 10:00 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 Program: The Garden Program meets on the third Tuesday of the month, September through June, at 10:00 am at the clubhouse. Field trips are scheduled in advance.

Community Life: Meeting dates to be announced.

Ladies of the Neuse: The LON meets as needed September through June 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 Program

The Garden Program 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 Program are identified in the Roster with a "G".

Community Life

The Community Life Program recognizes and meets needs of families and children in Pamlico County including delivering Meals on Wheels in the Oriental area, sponsoring a community Yoga class, providing Christmas gifts for a family in need, collecting monthly cycle items for Caring Cycle at the schools.

Members of the Community Life Program are identified in the Roster with an "C".

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, 2025

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

Community Life Program meetings as scheduled in advance

Garden Program meets third Tuesday at 10:00 AM

LON meets as needed

January

7 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse - membership 26 Arts Festival, Noon to 3pm 28 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse Appoint Audit Committee Chairman

February

4 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse – Lori Altman,
Pharmacist at Bayboro Pharmacy
25 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse

March

4 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at the clubhouse

Program: New Library with Sidney Phibbons, Manager

15 Annual Chowder Cook-off – 11am to 1pm at Oriental Marina Inn

25 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 am at clubhouse

April

1 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse

Program: Olwen Jarvis - Birding

5 Trivia Night, 5:00 pm at clubhouse

20 Easter

29 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 am at clubhouse

May

6 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse

Program: Jamie Gibbs, VP of Student Services PCC

27 Executive Committee Meeting – 10:00 am at clubhouse

Approve Audit Report Approve Donations

June

3 Scholarship Pot Luck Luncheon – 11:00 am at clubhouse Recognize Scholarship Winners

28-30 Croaker Festival – OWC judges parade

August

23 Golf Tournament Minnesott Golf & Country Club

26 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse

Appoint and Elect Nominating Committee Chairman

September

2 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse

Steven Hollowell, Clerk of Courts, Wills & Estates

Elect 2 other Nominating Committee members

30 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse

October

7 General Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse

Tonya Jordan, Executive Director of Hospice

Announce slate of officers to members

28 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse

Approve 2026 annual budget

November

4 Annual Meeting – 1:00 pm at clubhouse

Speaker: Jim Cornette, Geologist

Election of 2026 Officers

Present Annual Budget in Newsletter

18 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse

December

2 Christmas Luncheon – 11:30 am at clubhouse Installation of Officers 30 Executive Committee – 10:00 am at clubhouse Joint 2025 & 2026 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 Program 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.

Yoga

Exercise classes are offered twice a week for clubwomen and members of the community as an outreach project of the Community 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. 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. Hargro	ove 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 participati	on

2021	Isabella Rodriguez	
2022	Tobey Rice	
2023	Taylor Diane Buck	Grantsboro
2024	Layla Grace Prescott	New Bern
Violet and Fran	nk 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
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
2024	Brooklyn Elizabeth Altman	New Bern

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

scholarship)	
2020	Jenna Bustamante
2021	Jenna Jones
2022	Jaden Ernst & Marissa Hinshaw
2023	Taylor Buck & Cheyenne Sanders
2024	Morgan Conner



Ode to the Oriental Women's Club

In a town where rivers meet the sea, There lives a force, proud and free. With open hearts and giving hands, You lift us up, you help us stand. You saw in me a budding flame, A dream, a hope, a future name. In '88, your gift took flight, And lit my path with guiding light. You plant the seeds, you tend with care, With every act, you're always there. You fund, you cheer, you do your part, With quiet strength and boundless heart. From books and pens to dreams come true, We walk our path because of you. And in each step that we achieve, It's you who taught us to believe. So here I stand, your mission clear, A grateful voice for all to hear, I am because I came through you.

Jamie D. Gibbs Hargrove Scholarship Recipient 1988

BUDGET, 2025

REVENUE

Building Fund (Yoga)	500.00
Building Income (Rentals)	5,000.00
Contributions: Scholarships & Donations	6,500.00
Member Dues	3,500.00
Fundraisers	12,450.00
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,300.00

TOTAL 29,250.00

EXPENSES

Building Utilities	5,450.00
Building Insurance (wind & hail & liability)	5,800.00
Building Maintenance	1,950.00
Building Professional Fees	1,900.00
Grants, Scholarships & Donations	7,500.00
Office, Administration & Advertising	1,250.00
Special Events: Fundraisers	5,000.00
ABC License	400.00

TOTAL 29,250.00



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 2025 Garden Club was changed to Garden Program and Home Life was changed to Community Life.

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. In 2024 two of the groups were renamed: Garden Club became Garden Program and Home Life became Community Life to better describe the work that is done by these groups.

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 Aldridege	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	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
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	
2016	Fay Bond and	
2016	Carol McAdoo	
2017	Debbie Montgomery	Mrs. Dale Montgomery
2018	Elizabeth MacDonald	Mrs. B. MacDonald
2019	Gwen Rhodes	Mrs. Edmund Rhodes
2020	Gwen Rhodes (moved	d 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	
2025	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.