



WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF WASHINGTON COLLEGE

JUNE, 2026 NEWSLETTER

We are in the last days of our 75th anniversary celebration. It has been a whirlwind since May and our beautiful "Diamonds and Decades" Scholarship Luncheon, May 12th. Do you believe the coincidence of having the luncheon the same date, May 12th that Helen Gibson founded the Women's League of Washington College? 75 years to the day we met to honor and celebrate this special organization.

The ballroom at the Chester River Country Club sparkled in tribute to the diamond anniversary. We had a fundraiser flower shop giving members and guests a chance to purchase plants and flowers to remember the occasion. The afternoon's program focused on the deep history of the WLWC with a nostalgic journey through the decades, featuring reflections from past club presidents and personal stories shared by Helen Gibson's daughter, Jillian Gibson, who shared the founder's early vision for WLWC.

Among the guests in attendance were Washington College First Lady Sue Matthews, various college staff members, and the individuals who represent the core of the WLWC's mission: its scholarship recipients. The event bridged the club's legacy by honoring both current scholarship recipient Kailey Drain and past recipient Kathryn Nordhoff Ralfs, who is working at Washington College.

Thank you all so much for attending and supporting the fund raiser. **The net total for this years Scholarship Luncheon was \$11,215.70.** Many thanks to all the members of the Scholarship Committee, volunteers and donors who made this possible. You are the best!

If you would like a complete financial report, contact Ginette Corney ginettecorney@gmail.com. To see all the pictures from Diamonds and Decades and Legacy on the Lawn log onto the web site: <https://www.womensleagueofwashingtoncollege.com/>

Grand Raffle Winner Drawn by Sue Matthews at the Luncheon...

The lucky winner was Peggi Fisher, a familiar face to locals as a vendor at the Chestertown Saturday Farmers Market, where she runs Our Greek Market. Ms. Fisher won our luxurious package featuring a two-night stay at Chestertown's historic White Swan Tavern paired with a dining gift card to Watershed Alley.

Peggi was so happy to win and was so inspired by the stories of the students and the profound impact the WLWC has had on the Washington College community over the last 75 years. Peggi surprised the Scholarship Committee by immediately turning her win into a moment of philanthropy donating \$250 donation from a family trust to kickstart next year's fund raising efforts.



Diamond Jubilee "Legacy on the Lawn" Cocktail Party

A huge thank you goes out to member Letha Hammond and her husband, Bland Dickey, for hosting "Legacy on the Lawn" at their beautiful home on Churn Creek. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their warm hospitality and the wonderful ambiance of their home.

Guests spent the evening socializing with fellow members, friends, and Washington College staff while enjoying a delicious assortment of food provided by the WLWC membership. The highlights of the evening included presenting our financial gifts to the College, taking a brief look back at our proud history, and sharing an exciting vision for our future.

2026 Diamond Jubilee Financial Gifts to Washington College

Thank you for helping make our 75th Anniversary year so successful!

Because of your generosity and hard work, we were able to make a \$27,000 donation to the college with the funds we raised this year:

\$20,000 was given to the Women's League Scholarship Fund to support a local student at Washington College

\$5,000 was given to the Washington College Miller Library Archives

\$2,000 was given to the Helen Gibson Endowment at Washington College.

Since our founding in 1951, we have donated more than \$540,000 to the college.

This year's funds were raised through a variety of events including the sale of Exam Care Packages, the Scholarship Luncheon, our increasingly popular Grand Raffle, Trivia Night at the Blue Bird, a Wine and Chocolate Pairing, a tour of Mt. Harmon and a Dickens Weekend shop.

Much thanks to our fabulous Treasurer, Anne Hart for this report and for sending a copy to each parent who bought an Exam Care package for their student, each person who bought a Grand Raffle ticket and guests who made donations to WLWC.

Upon receiving the note, one wonderful parent joined WLWC already!

Anne also received this gracious response from our WC First Lady, Sue Matthews:

Congratulations!!!

On behalf of President Matthews and myself, your generosity of time, combined efforts and the funds generated, are greatly appreciated by the Washington College community.

Thank you.

*Best,
Sue*

*Thank you,
Sue Matthews*

Moving Forward from 75 and Beyond"- A New Logo...

Barbara and Darla announced the winner of the WLWC Logo contest held by the Board of Directors.



The logo uses a stylized Washington College elm tree to represent several interconnected ideas that align perfectly with the Women's League's mission and history. The tree logo beautifully captures the essence of the Women's League as an enduring, nurturing force—deeply rooted in its origins, branching out to support education and community for 75 years, and continuing to grow into the future. It's a fitting emblem for this anniversary celebration, evoking resilience, legacy, and ongoing vitality.

Moving Forward from 75 and Beyond”- New Leadership

Barbara and Darla announced the new Board of Directors for 2026-27.

Co- Presidents	Mary Alice Ball and Anne Hart
Vice Presidents	Barbara Brown (Membership) and Karen Ellner (Exam Care)
Treasurer	Ginette Corney
Recording Secretary	Mackey Dutton
Corr. Secretary	Sigrid Whaley
At- Large	Linda Applegate and Letha Hammon
Past Presidents	Darla Downer, Bobby Sutton and Rita Premo

The new board will be installed at the Board Meeting on June 30th.

A Message of Gratitude from Barbara and Darla

Dear Members of the Women’s League of Washington College,

As we prepare to pass the gavel to our incoming presidents, we want to extend our deepest, most heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Leading the WLWC over the past three years has been an absolute privilege and a joy.

Reflecting on our time together, we are incredibly proud of everything this wonderful network of women has accomplished. From our major fundraising milestones for student scholarships, the library, and the Helen Gibson Endowment, to the spectacular culmination of our **75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee**, these successes belong to all of us. Your dedication, energy, and unwavering support have made these past three years truly unforgettable.

Thank you for your hard work, your passion for our "Town and Gown" community, and above all, your friendship. It has been an honor to serve you.

Please join us in giving our enthusiastic support and a warm welcome to our new co-presidents, Anne and Mary Alice, as they lead the League into its next exciting chapter!

With warm regards and lasting gratitude,
Barbara and Darla *Co-Presidents, WLWC (2023–2026)*

