

## **LEARNING FROM THE LOTUS**

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The theme for this edition of the California Clubwoman is “Learning from the Lotus”. As members of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs we are dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.

As we strive to make a difference, we may often feel as if we are hitting the wall. No matter how hard we try, the outcome in various projects, just does not seem to be all we had hoped. In this regard, there is much to learn from the Lotus. The Lotus plant emerges from a murky environment. It reaches upward from the water and as it emerges from the water, its’ beautiful petals open. It is said that this lovely flower has become a symbol of having an open heart and of treating others with empathy, concern, and always with kindness. Just like the Lotus, focus on the sunshine and the positive aspects of making a difference and the positive outcome may well be reached.

We would do well to keep in mind that as the Lotus grows and matures into an amazingly beautiful flower, it doesn’t dwell on its’ beginning. It looks ahead to what is to come. We, in turn, should look ahead to what is to come as we continue to strive to make a difference. Learn from things that did not work in projects or programs and look ahead to new ways to make them successful.

There are many who think of the Lotus flower as representing life. I think it represents the desire we all have to reach out in our communities and beyond to make a difference.

October was a busy month for the CFWC Membership Team. I had the pleasure to attend all four of the Area Conferences. Each Conference was remarkable and reflective of the Area. It was wonderful to see old friends and meet new ones throughout California. I will truly be forever thankful for the opportunity to share this time together.

As you continue in your dedication to making a difference through your projects and programs, remember to keep looking upward towards the sunshine and positive results will be within your reach. You are amazing and I am so very proud of all of you!