



GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB
GFWC-FL DISTRICT 12
A Proud Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

CHATTER

February, 2024

GFWC FLORIDA - DISTRICT 12
WHERE VOLUNTEER SERVICE
AND FRIENDSHIP MEET



NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gwen Grace, 201-317-2317

Gweng1999@yahoo.com



February -- Valentine's and red hearts. February marks American Heart Month. It is when everyone, but especially women, are encouraged to focus on cardiovascular health. Statistics show more women die from heart disease compared to men. Doctors say, it kills more women than all types of cancers combined and 60 million women in the U.S. are living with some form of heart disease. So, help prevent it by living a healthy lifestyle, controlling your blood pressure, and checking your cholesterol.

At our January meeting, I had the pleasure of congratulating all the members that attended every general meeting in 2023. There were eighteen all together and I thank them for being so dedicated.



February 1st is the deadline for our club to submit its reporting forms to GFWC Florida. I have been asked "WHY REPORT?" In case you are interested, here's what GFWC Florida says:

- Reports are a "diary" of the club's activities during the year, providing a picture of achievements of the group and the accomplishments of individual members.
- Reports are the heart and soul of a club's history, reflecting the concerns and interests of club members at a particular point in time and over time.
- Reports are the basis of a publicity campaign, illustrating what the group is doing at a given time.
- Reports help future members plan activities, knowing what was done in the past and what was or was not successful.
- Reports are useful for membership recruitment efforts, allowing potential members to gain a realistic picture of the club's purpose.

- Reports are necessary to compete for recognition and awards on the district, state, and international levels of GFWC.
- Reports provide critical statistical information to help GFWC represent the membership to national policy makers and to receive grants and partnerships with national organizations.
- Reports document the club’s non-profit organization status.

Well, our reports are submitted and here’s a summary of what our club members achieved in 2023:

262 Projects done in the community
87,598 Volunteer hours
\$31,130 Donated to community Charities and Scholarships
\$26,768 of In-Kind Donations Given by our members

Once GFWC Florida evaluates and compiles the statistics, it is sent to GFWC Headquarters. The 2022 numbers reflect the work completed by the 60,000 club members across the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Number of Projects: 193,201
Volunteer Hours: 5,849,739
Dollars Donated: \$12,912,981.97
In-Kind Donations: \$9,512,287.05

Thanks to all our members who make a big impact on the community! You are amazing.

Keep busy, keep healthy and “Bee” all you can “Bee”!

Gwen



FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Gloria Rogoski, 440 487 5586

rogoskigj@gmail.com

Here we are in the second month of 2024 already. So, what kind of activities, events and celebrations can we look forward to In February?

Our club has several fun and informative events including the Cracker Fair Lemon Baking Contest which we are hosting on February 10th, our General Meeting on February 15th, the District 12 meeting with the Arts and Crafts Competition (and much more) on February 16th, Designer Bag Bingo at South Gulf Cove, that many of us have been anxiously awaiting, on February 18th, and the Lemon Bay Conservancy Wildlife Preserve Open House on February 24th.

February is known for several national holidays and events. There’s Valentines Day for all you lovers and the Super Bowl for all you football lovers. This year February is also hosting Mardi Gras, Chinese New Year and Black History Month. It is Library Lovers Month, and National Bird Feeding Month. Almost every day has something special going on, like National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, National Boy Scouts Day, National Pizza Day, International Day of Women and Girls in Science, National Guitar Day, Presidents Day, National Drink Wine Day and, of course, Leap Day at the very end. How can we fit that many special events into 29 days? Pick a few that you like and celebrate all month long. I’ll see you out there.



SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Cope, 816 678 4045

jennylynncope@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

rwwcmembership@gmail.com



Happy Valentine’s Day! I am looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting. We will take some time to recognize our members who have been members for 5,10,15, 20 years. We will be including years 2023 and 2024. Several of you have mentioned you never received your 5-year pins. The club started presenting 5-year pins in 2019. If you joined before 2014, you would have received a certificate. I hope this clears up any confusion. The good news is that members who joined in 2013 and 2014 will receive their 10-year pins in February.

We will also be celebrating the Power of One/Membership is Friendship. If a friend invited you to join our club or you have made a new friend, take a minute to say thank you at the meeting.

You may have a special guest at your table. If you see someone with an unusual name tag, ask about their connection to GFWC RWWC. You never know who you might meet!

ORIENTATION: February 29, 10 am - RWA Conference Room



GFWC FL DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR

Kathryn Gallagher, 610 952 1333, kathryngal@yahoo.com

**GFWC FLORIDA - DISTRICT 12
WHERE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP MEET
District 12 Director’s Report**

It’s February and time for our District 12 Meeting and Art Competition on Friday, February 16th. Thank you so much for signing up to attend. We will have a good group of about 60 GFWC Sisters together for the meeting.

I am sorry to share sad news about the current status of Healing Art Missions in Haiti. Last year due to extreme civil unrest, they were forced to close the clinic in Dumay, but with the help of charitable foundations, they began the use of a Mobil Unit that traveled outside of the rebellion areas to hospitals farther south where their medical assistance was critically needed. That is no longer a viable alternative, due to danger and financing. We could still support their education program for the Charles Salomon School and the clean water filtration systems in the mountainous community of Demier.

In April 2016, our good friend and club member Judy Laing introduced us to Healing Art Missions, a nonprofit organization formed by her daughter, Tracee Laing, M.D., in 1999 to serve the medical needs of the people in Dumay, Haiti. Since that time, GFWC Rotonda West Woman’s Club has attempted to provide support to H.A.M. although life and political conditions in Haiti have become critical for Haitians, at the same time that we had our own struggles with Covid and Hurricane Ian. Below are excerpts of a letter received February 1st from Dr. Tracee about the very current and sad circumstances for H.A.M.



Dearest Friends,

We write today with important news about Healing Art Missions' programming in Haiti. As you know, HAM has served communities in Haiti for 25 years and, over those years, the focus and nature of our work has shifted due to circumstances in the country and their impact on our staff and operations.

As we begin 2024, HAM finds itself at an inflection point. Although we were able to successfully implement new programs, and even grow, in 2023, we recognized that, due to ongoing challenges in Haiti, our growth trajectory is not sustainable, and we need to right-size the organization now in order to meet our upcoming financial obligations.

HAM's supporters have been incredibly generous in 2023 supporting the work of the new Mobile Medical Team, but as Haiti's situation has deteriorated, we have also seen a corresponding reduction in donations from foundations and other entities which have previously been open to funding Haitian causes. We no longer can finance this program with individual donations alone.



School in Port-de-Paix: The Charles Salomon Primary School in Haiti's North West department provides a high-quality education to children in an impoverished community. If it weren't for HAM's support, the children in the community would likely not attend school otherwise. HAM remains committed to ensuring that the children of Port-de-Paix have access to educational opportunities.

Thus, HAM has made the difficult, but necessary decision to phase out medical programming in 2024 and to focus on our two other partner communities in Haiti which have no other partners.



Clean water and basic healthcare in Demier: HAM is the only NGO which supports the rural mountainous community of Demier. With our support, the community has access to water filtration systems and basic healthcare. HAM will remain a partner to the hundreds of families in Demier to ensure they have access to these basic human needs.

Our goal has always been, and still remains, to help the Haitian people to the best of our ability with the resources we have available to us. At this time, focusing our financial and staff resources on the communities of Port-de-Paix and Demier will enable us to continue to achieve that objective.

Thank you for your continued support and for your commitment to the people of Haiti. We are both available to answer questions or provide additional information; our email addresses are below and we welcome your outreach.

In gratitude,
Tracee Laing, MD
Founding Director
tracee@healingartmissions.org

Connie Skingel
Executive Director
connie@healingartmissions.org



ARTS & CULTURE

Kathy Altenburg, Chairman, Co-Chairman GFWC FL District 12
941-698-9130 Home, 941 268 1232 Cell
kathy6150@aol.com



ARTS & CULTURE/CREATIVE CRAFTERS

Ladies, we held a successful Annual Club Art Competition on Thursday, January 18th. Ten members received First Place Blue Ribbons, seven second place ribbons, and six third place winners. I hope it enticed some of you to enter next year's competition. Save a folder of all the great pictures you take and you will have 6 photo categories to choose from for your entry.

There are 50 arts and crafts categories from ceramics, jewelry, paper crafts, quilting, sewing, painting (all media) to an open category if your project doesn't have a category. You have all year to be creative. Let the club see your hidden talents!

Our Blue Ribbon winners will now compete in the District 12 Art Competition hosted by our club on Friday, February 16th. You never know, we might just end up getting '10' First Place Winners!

All Blue Ribbon winners need to have their project brought to the community center Friday, February 16TH by 9:30 am. The judging will be from 10:00 to 12:30. Any questions please email or text me.

Blue Ribbon Winners:

Cat. #4 Mosaics - Manatee - Annette Carruthers



Cat. #12 - Paper Crafts - Origami Box - Norma Wood



Cat. #21 - Ornaments - Turtle - Annette Carruthers



Cat.#41 – Gnome with Dog – Rosemary Collins



Cat. #71 - Acrylic Painting - Trunk Bay - Kathy Altenburg



Cat. #73 - Watercolor - Abstract - Rosana Halprine



Cat. #75 - Mixed Media - Seahorse Resin - Lisa Glenn



Cat. #90 - Photo World Up Close - Frog - Glenda Sammet



Cat #92 - Photo Reflections - Daydreams - Jane Tumanic



Cat #94 - Photo Florida - Venice Sunset - Annette Carruthers



Our Member's Choice was the Manatee by Rosana Halprine

The Arts and Culture/Creative Crafters are going to the **Sarasota Shell Show** on Friday, February 9th (\$5 entry). We will be meeting at 9:00 am at the community center and carpooling. All from the club/neighbors and friends are welcome!



The **Englewood Shell Club** will be having a seashell and shell crafters market at the St. David's Jubilee Center on Tuesday, February 20, from 12:00 to 1:00 pm.

Any questions please contact me kathy6150@aol.com; 941-268-1232(c).

Thank you

Kathy Altenburg, Arts & Culture/Creative Crafters

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Linda Hall, Chairman, 678 485 0762

lindashall53@gmail.com

Bev Dobbins, Co-chairman 317 373 4503

bosartbev@sbcglobal.net



Plarn Workshop

Monday March 11, 2024

From 10am - Noon

Community Center - Piano Room



Come Join Us For Another Workshop Where Eileen McVeigh Will Demonstrate How To Crochet A Mat Made From Plastic Bags That Are So Highly Requested By The Homeless Campers.

We Will Also Show You How To Cut, Tie And Roll Those Plastic Bags That Seem To Pile Up Overnight.


It's A Nice Time To Relax, Chat And Have Fun Too.

Bring Your Plastic Bags And Scissors And Let's Make A Dent In The Mountains Of Plastic Floating Around Out There.

Hope To See You There!!!

LOVE ISN'T LOVE UNTIL YOU GIVE IT AWAY!

(A Quote from GFWC Florida President Pat Keel, as her theme for 2006-2008)

It's February, which mean's Valentine's Day, Hearts, Flowers, and Loving Greetings that must be shared. Let's call it "The  Project."

The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club had an idea. Propose to your home club the creating of Valentine's Day Cards to be distributed to one or more Retirement Communities, Memory Care Facilities, maybe Domestic Violence Shelters.



At the Civic Engagement Committee Meeting on January 18th, Linda Hall and the committee decided it would be a fun idea to try at the General Meeting the next day, so we had a Civic Engagement Pop Up Blue Umbrella test run. Our members made 40 Valentines in about 30 minutes! Everyone was delighted to hear that we would deliver the Valentines to the Heritage Oaks Memory Care Unit.

GFWC Rotonda West Civic Engagement will write up a report to submit for reporting for 2024. It's a win-win for everyone! The Blue Umbrella Club does not report. The whole purpose of Blue Umbrella is to share the philosophy of Love, Respect, and Kindness and, hopefully, inspire some unique projects for their home clubs to share in the community. ❤️

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Kara Kelly, Chairman, 410 652 6830 babs013@comcast.net
Debra A Sigismondo, Chairman Scholarship, 941 697 7519 sgad7@aol.com
Doris Walker, ESO Chairman, 941 828 0410, dew414@comcast.net



Our own Connie Friess stepped up to the plate and hit a Home Run, by being our entertaining host at **Trivia Night** in January. We heartily thank her. We welcomed 102 players on 15 teams who came ready for fun, testing our knowledge of the 70's and 80's. Do you remember songs from *Berlin* and *Journey*? Or the cast of "*The Mary Tyler Moore Show*"? Well, some of us remember! Congratulations to the First Place Team: "Just the Facts" and second place: "The Overthinkers." Rachele and Debra want to thank everyone who worked so hard on this event. Thanks to Betsy Bouchard for the Wine Pull, and all the volunteers. Money was raised for the RWWC Scholarships and a project of the Environmental CSP. Your caring hearts and volunteer spirit are evident.

FEBRUARY SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE



Once again, we want to support our elementary schoolchildren who are in need of replenishing their school supplies halfway through the academic year. We are asking members to please shop for notebooks, loose leaf and computer paper, pencils, pens and crayons, etc. Also, if you have extra calendars for the classrooms, bring them too. Look for the smiling members of the Education & Libraries CSP in the lobby at our General Meeting on February 15, 2024.

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship

The RWWC is offering two (2) Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Education Scholarships of \$1,500 each. Applicants should be from the Englewood/Rotonda West/South Gulf Cove area and pursuing advanced education or retraining in a college or vocational school. The scholarships are intended for adults returning to school who have had an interruption in their studies. A resume, narrative and letters of reference may be sent to GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Attention: Scholarship, PO Box 672, Placida, FL 33946



Deadline for receipt of resumes is **Thursday, March 21, 2024.**
For additional information, call Debra 917-573-5512.



ESO – BOOK CLUBS

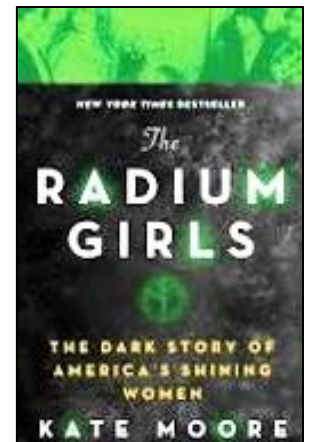
Doris Walker, Chairman - 941 828 0410
dew414@comcast.net

SUGGESTED BOOK FOR MARCH, 2024

“The Radium Girls” by Kate Moore

This is a true story of a group of young, female workers in the 1920's who got radium poisoning from painting watch dials that glowed in the dark. The book details their heartbreaking stories plus their battle for worker's rights.

Ellen Lang, Leader - Golden Girls Book Club




The Golden Girls Book Club met at the Culture Coffee on Dearborn Street, Saturday January 27, for a book signing by local author Todd Cameron. His new book is Devilfish Key. He has published two previous books: Snowblind and Hurricane Hole, and a novella Midnight Pass. The settings of his books are the Englewood area and Gulf Coast. Todd, his wife and 3 month old baby girl live in Englewood.

For all ESO Book Club members, the Spring ESO Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at The Hills Golf & Country Club. Note: Betsy Bouchard – New email betsybou60@gmail.com



ENVIRONMENT/FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

Rachele Adler, Environment Co-chairman/Fund Raising Coordinator 941 697 5303

Readl22@gmail.com

Janet Rojas, Environment Co-chairman

Linc322@gmail.com

ENVIRONMENT     

Environmental Fun Facts

By Rico Fleshman | September 7, 2021



The environment around us is full of amazing features and facts you might not know. One of the best ways to appreciate the earth around us is to learn more about how we interact with nature. Here are some cool environmental facts you might not know:

1. Around 27,000 trees are cut down each day

The world has over 3.04 trillion trees in the world. However, 27,000 of them are cut down daily to make toilet paper. This translates to about 9.8 million trees annually. One single recycled edition of the New York Times newspaper could save 75,000 tree

2. Humans use only 1% of all available water

About 71% of the earth is water. The oceans hold approximately 96.5% of this water and the ice caps hold about 2%. The remaining water exists in rivers, ponds, glaciers, ice caps, lakes, as water vapor and our taps, among other water bodies. Only 1% of the earth's water is safe for human consumption.

3. 78% of marine mammals are at risk of choking on plastic

Seventy-eight percent of marine mammals are at risk of accidental deaths, such as getting caught in fishing nets. Plastic bags and other plastic garbage that ends up in the ocean kill over 1,000,000 sea animals every year.

4. Americans throw away 25 trillion Styrofoam cups every year

Styrofoam is not biodegradable. Switching to single use options will help cut down on Styrofoam pollution.

5. Fungi play a highly vital role in the environment

Fungi play a protective role in the environment. From digesting minerals out of rock formations to consuming fossil fuel spills, and even de-radiating the environment

6. Ants weigh more than humans

The combined weight of ants on the planet is higher than all human beings. The world has over 7 billion people, and 100 trillion ants.

7. Every three months, Americans throw enough aluminum in the landfills to build our nation's entire commercial air fleet.

Recycling one aluminum can save enough energy to run a TV for three hours. During the time it takes you to read this sentence, 50,000 12-ounce aluminum cans are made.

8. On average, one supermarket goes through 60 million paper bags each year.

One of the best ways to cut down on single-use bags-both paper and plastic-is to switch to reusable.

9. A glass bottle can take up to 1 million years to decompose.

Glass takes a very, very long time to break down. It can take a glass bottle more than a million years to decompose in the environment, possibly even more if it's in a landfill. This means that glass manufactured and used 5000 years ago may still be present in the environment. Because its life cycle is so long, and because glass doesn't leach any chemicals, it's better to repurpose and reuse it over and over again before recycling it.

10. Recycling one glass bottle saves enough energy to power a normal light bulb for about four hours.

While glass does not decompose easily, recycling it might be more beneficial to the environment. The recycling of one glass bottle not only [saves energy](#) but the energy saved can also power a normal light bulb for about four hours.

11. The world's oldest trees are 4,600 year old Bristlecone pines in the USA.

The Great Basin Bristlecone Pine (*Pinus Longaeva*) has been deemed the oldest tree in existence, reaching an age of over 5,000 years old. The Bristlecone pines' success in living a long life can be attributed to the harsh conditions it lives in. Very cold temperatures associated with high winds, in addition to a slow growth rate, create dense wood, meaning some years they grow so slowly, they don't add a ring of growth. [Learn More about these cool trees!](#)

12. If you walk a mile along an average US highway, you will see, on average, about 1,457 pieces of litter.

According to Keep America Beautiful, if every American picked up 152 pieces of litter at the same time, we would have a litter-free nation.

13. Paper from trees can be recycled 6 times.

Paper comes from trees and can be recycled a maximum of six times, after which, its fibers become too weak to hold together. [Learn More](#)

14. There is a giant floating patch of garbage

[The Great Pacific Garbage Patch](#) is a twisting and turning vortex composed of trash and waste. It is twice the size of continental America and contains about 100 million tons of garbage, it stretches from the West Coast of North America to Japan along the Pacific Ocean.

Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve

Free to the Public Open House

Saturday, February 24, 2024

8:00 am to 12:30 pm



An Opportunity to Participate and to Learn

In 2023, several members from our club volunteered to meet and greet visitors to the Lemon Bay Conservancy Open House at Wildflower Preserve. We wore our Love, Respect and Kindness Club shirts and helped direct visitors to the Butterfly Garden, the Labyrinth on the Hill, and also let them know when and where to meet guided walks for butterflies, aquatic life, plants and trees. This year some walks will deal with Water Quality and the fact that the Preserve has been developed to purify water runoff from inland sources that flow into the ponds where it is filtered by many native plants before flowing out to Lemon Bay and beyond.







Through our Environment CSP, we have been invited to be greeters once again and are welcome to have our own Club Brochures on hand to introduce GFWC RWWC just as the local environmental groups, who will have exhibits providing information and demonstrations on programs such as oyster gardening!

It was fun and it was helpful to Lemon Bay Conservancy, all of whom are volunteers, just as we are. Let's do it again. We need about 5 or 6 volunteers. You don't have to be there from 8 to 12:30, we can split up the time to make our own schedule. Call Kathryn Gallagher at 610/952-1333 or email at kathryngal@yahoo.com to sign up!

Lemon Bay Conservancy is a 501c3 not for profit organization managed by volunteers and funded by donations, memberships, and grants.

Also, please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our upcoming Coastal Seminar Series Events. Click here for more information: [Coastal Seminar Lecture Series February 22, 2024](#) **Note:** please copy and paste into your browser – does not work from a word document.

TRIVIA NIGHT

  We co-sponsored the Trivia Night on January 25th, 2024, along with the Education CSP. It was a fun night and will support our club's scholarship fund and environmental projects. We raised \$1655 in profit.  

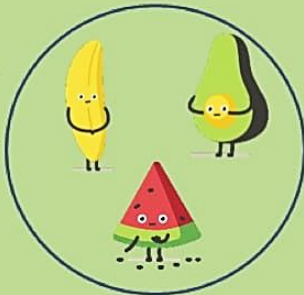


7 Tips on How YOU Can Help the Environment



<https://blogs.iu.edu/sciu/2019/09/14/7-tips-environment/>

Practice non-consumerism and conscious shopping



Take public transportation, ride your bike, or walk whenever you can



Use bars of soap to help reduce packaging waste



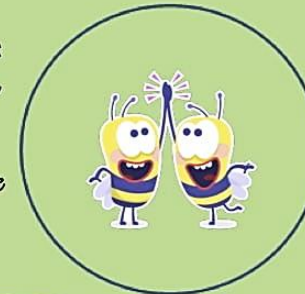
Reduce the use of air conditioning, mainly in the summer to reduce carbon emissions and lower your energy bill



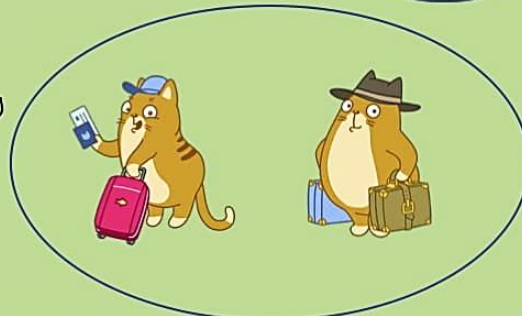
Donate your money! Donating to conservation groups can significantly help with field research



Contribute your time: Look on local museum, aquarium, zoo, and Fish and wildlife websites to find more volunteer opportunities.



Research the area you are visiting beforehand to ensure that the primates in the area are treated humanely and live in protected areas.





ROAD CLEANUP

Our next road cleanup will be Monday, February 19th at 8:30 a.m. Meet at the Sassy Tarts Parking lot on Placida Rd and Rotonda Boulevard West.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, February 8th, 10am at the RWA Community Center. We will be discussing our project and guest speaker for the March general meeting.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please feel free to contact Rachele or Janet.



PENNY HARVEST COLLECTION

This year's Penny Harvest donations will again be going to Canine Companions for Independence (CCI). Please remember to keep saving those pennies or any change and turn them in to the blue and yellow dog house each month. Every little penny helps, thank you.

Cute Video

Rachele sent the following link – It's a Christmas video from the North Port Sanitation Department. It is adorable and worth watching; however, the link will not work from this document. So, copy and paste it into your browser.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/s56R1yw8bZbPJUaB/?mibextid=HSR2mg>

Note: The City of North Port has taken their variation of North Pole (Port) and went with it by making videos from various city departments. This is one from the Sanitation Department.



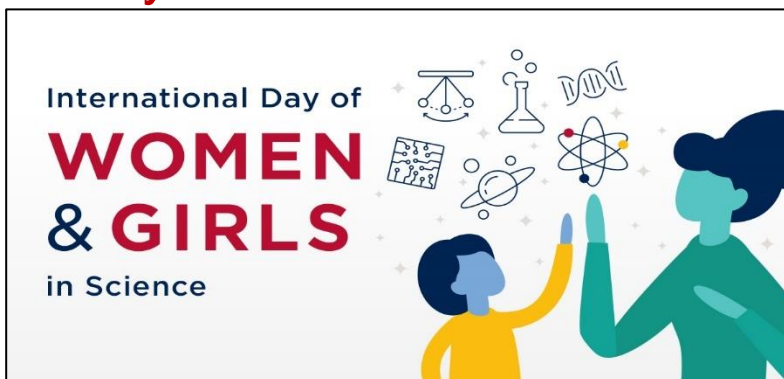
Furry Scurry

The Furry Scurry was held Saturday, February 3rd, and was very successful, and well attended. Many of our members, and their families participated in the walk/run and the Mutt Strut, as well as buying opportunity Drawing tickets.

Here is a picture of some of the members who attended.



February 11



Designer Bag

BINGO

Sunday, February 18, 2024

South Gulf Cove HOA Clubhouse
14859 Ingraham Blvd, Port Charlotte 33981

11:30 DESIGNER BAG PREVIEW
OPPORTUNITY TICKET SALES / SILENT AUCTION BEGINS
12:00 Noon BINGO BEGINS - PROMPTLY

Purses Include
Coach, Dooney & Bourke, Kate Spade and More
ALL BINGO PURSES ARE NEW WITH TAGS

Sponsored by: GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc., a 501(c)3 charitable organization
In collaboration with the South Gulf Cove HOA
Proceeds Benefit: Back Pack Kidz, St. David's Jubilee Center and GFWC RWWC & SGCHOA programs
(All are 501(c)3 charitable organizations)

TICKETS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE DURING THE SOCIAL HOUR AT THE JANUARY 18TH
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING. Or...

PHONE: 1(941) 698-9116
1(678) 485-0762
Email: RWWCbingo@gmail.com

If you would like to donate a basket for the Opportunity Drawing or an item for the Silent Auction,
please contact Lois LeVasseur or Linda Hall. We'd love to hear from you!!

SOLD



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Clare Imrie, Co-chairman, 713 825 2154
clareimrie@hotmail.com



As this is Heart Health month, here are some eight lifestyle behaviors for optimal heart health:

1. Following a healthy sleep schedule
2. Not smoking
3. Getting regular physical activity
4. Adhering to a healthy diet
5. Maintaining a healthy body weight
6. Maintaining healthy blood glucose levels
7. Maintaining healthy cholesterol
8. Maintaining healthy blood pressure

Brookdale Senior Living at 550 Rotonda Boulevard West is holding a Health Fair on Tuesday, Feb 13th from 10am - 2pm, everyone is invited to attend. Gwen & Gloria will be there representing GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club so please drop by and say Hello! I'm flying back from Costa Rica that day - pictures of toucans, volcanoes etc. to follow.



Please save the date of Saturday April 27th for the Pancreatic Cancer Walk in Broadmoor Park at 9am, more details to follow in the March Chatter. If you'd like to register for the Rotonda West team, contact

me. Anyone who raises \$50 gets a pancan.org T-shirt!

At the January meeting, I mentioned volunteering to help patients while they have infusions: serving tea, coffee, snacks and blankets, my husband calls it my flight attendant duties! If you're interested in this, please go to [Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation \(fcsf.org\)](http://FloridaCancerSpecialistsFoundation(fcsf.org)) for more details. It's a 3-hour commitment every week for 6 months. I've been going every other week for a year at the North Port clinic, Kathryn Gallagher volunteers at the Englewood clinic. There are clinics in Port Charlotte, Englewood, and North Port.

As always if you have ideas for Health & Wellness activities or projects - e.g. beach yoga 😊 - please let Ellen or I know!



Our One Blood Drive on January 23, 2025 resulted in 35 units of blood. This means possibly 105 patients will benefit from the drive. This was amazing. The blood received at the drive is likely to be transfused into a patient within 48 to 72 hours. The turnaround is that fast. We had quite a number of walk-ins at this drive. Thank you to everyone who signed up to donate.



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Doris Walker, Chaplain - 941 828 0410
dew414@comcast.net

INSPIRATIONAL MESSAGE

WISHES FOR YOU FOR THE NEW YEAR

That you have someone to Love, have meaningful work to do, and have things greater than yourself to believe in; that you have a reason to smile every day, and a shoulder to cry on when you need it, that you keep your integrity even when the choices are hard. That you love deeply, give freely, forgive willingly, laugh easily, and live well enough to be grateful for every day.

PLEASE BOW YOUR HEAD FOR THE BLESSING

Another year is dawning with the chance to start anew. May we be kinder, wiser, Lord, in all we say and do. We ask you to bless this New Year with love and light, bless this year with faith and sight, bless this year with grace and ease, and above all, bless this year with love and peace. May God shower each of you and your family with love and happiness in 2024.

AMEN

JANUARY, 2024



BEDTIME BAGS PROJECT

Lois LeVasseur, 1 941 698 9116

lolveasse52@gmail.com

Thank you for all you do.

Let's keep up the good work!!

The New Year began with a wonderful donation from the Sew n Sews. The group has generously created and donated 20+ pajama/sleep shorts and pants for children in the Charlotte County foster care system! Sizes range from 8-14. (Children's sizes)

There is a need for t-shirts to go with the shorts/pants. If you would like to help with this, we are looking for plain- colored t-shirts with no logos or printed designs, etc. on them. White, black, gray, pink, red, blue – any color you would like – and they will all be gratefully accepted.

The next quarterly donation will be delivered to the Punta Gorda office of the Guardian ad Litem at the end of February. There has been a generous outpouring of donations for this project – meaning that everything needed for the first quarter of 2024 have been received! We are now looking ahead to May.

Also, it may be of interest to know that, due to the generosity of the members of RWWC, NO monies have been spent by the Club towards items for this project! How amazing is that!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

KNIT AND CHAT

Lois LeVasseur, Chairman, 1 941 698 9116

lolveasse52@gmail.com

Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible." His Holiness Dalai Lama



The Knit n Chat group has started the New Year with a bang!

At the beginning of January, the group was asked to participate in providing chemo hats to Florida Cancer Specialists located in Englewood, with an expansion into the Venice, North Port and Port Charlotte facilities. The women of the group got right on it! On January 18th a dozen hats were provided to the Civic Engagement and Outreach group for delivery/donation. To date another half dozen have been created for future donations.

The group was also asked to knit and/or crochet wheelchair shawls using a pattern that had been provided for our use. This has turned out to be a more challenging project than anticipated, but two shawls have been completed with another two or more in the works!

One of our more fun projects came to fruition in January – The Mitten Lady visited Myakka River Elementary School with 38 pairs of mittens which were distributed to the children in Ms. Atherholt's two reading classes. This is the 9th year that mittens have been given to needy children through this project. A big shout out goes to the group for their enthusiasm and work devoted to this worthy endeavor.

Work continues for items to be donated to the Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center with 2 baby blankets and one car seat blanket having been completed and donated for future delivery to the Center. The Knit n Chat group is working with the Sew n Sews, who are providing bibs and burp cloths to be donated to VAPCC.

Also in January, 3 afghans, 5 baby blankets, and 5 lap robes were donated to the Jubilee Center for distribution to needy families and the homeless.

Whew! And work continues towards the Fall Bazaar and other worthy projects that come up!

If you would like to create an item for donation but don't have time to attend our get togethers, contact me! A pattern of your choice will be emailed to you.

The Knit n Chat group meets weekly on Tuesdays at the RWA from 9:30 am to 11:30 am or so. If you would like to see what the fuss is all about, stop by! We'd love to hear from you and have you join our group.

As always, yarn donations are gratefully accepted. Let's keep the enthusiasm and creativity going!



RECEPTION

Diane Oglesby, Cochairman, 941 828 0119

btoglesby@comcast.net

Kathy Messick, Cochairman, 609 828 8821

khmessick@embarqmail.com

Please remember to check-in at the Reception Desk, so we will have the correct count for attendance.

Please wear your name tags. If you forget, we have temporary tags you can have.

Thank you, Diane



SEW N SEWS

Jackie Miller, Chairperson 305 745 1685

Jackie2gm@gmail.com

It's Spring cleaning time!

Half price sale during social hour at our Feb. meeting. Bring all your loose change. See you there.



SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Beverly Dobbins, Chairman, 317 373 4503

bosartbev@sbcglobal.net

Please call or send an email to me when a member needs some get well cheer, encouragement or condolences. An appropriate card will be sent to them right away to let them know their sister members are thinking about them.



TONETTES

Judy Long, Chairperson, 912 398 7047

gdmajudy@yahoo.com

Sweet Caroline? Country Roads? Hallelujah?

We are just starting practice for our Winter 2024 “Sentimental Journey” performance featuring a medley of oldies and recent tunes. We encourage our audiences to join us in song—this winter’s collection of music tunes and patriotic selections will be fun filled and bring back fond memories.

Come on and join us---do you sing in the car, feel like you might be holding that voice back around others? Would you like to sing like you are belting it out on stage in Nashville! Then, your stage is our stage!. You don't have to be a classically trained vocalist!! You don't have to know how to read music. All genres, all skill levels. For those who play other musical instruments, we can also use that talent, come join our group....the stage is open, open your door! Your voice will make a difference in people's lives.

We meet on Tuesdays from 1-3 pm, at the Rotonda Community Center. All music is provided. Questions or concerns--feel free to contact me. 912-398-7047



RWWC Library - Free Book Give Away !!!

Due to the overwhelming donations to the RWWC Library, there will be a free book give away during the *social hour before our February meeting*. Since library space is limited, older books need to be purged. There will be titles and authors you like, so bring a bag to fill.



NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Donna Krabbe, Editor, 941 223 1573 Cell (may text)

rwcc chatter2020@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and photos – great job! These will keep all members up to date with what’s happening.

A special Thank You to Gloria for researching and providing information regarding the many holidays and events celebrated in February. I’m in favor of a “National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day” and a “National Pizza Day.”

To save confusion about the Chatter deadline, it was decided at the February Board Meeting to standardize the deadline. The **Chatter deadline is the Saturday immediately following the Board Meeting** - scheduled the first Friday of the month.

Of course, I’m always looking for Letters to the Editor, information on pertinent subjects, and vacation/trip information/photos. What’s the Buzz – Tell me what’s happening.



LOOKING AHEAD ??

- February 3 – National Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day (reschedule to any day)
- February 8 – Environment CSP meeting at 10am – RWA Building – discuss project & guest speaker for March
- February 9 – Sarasota Shell Show – meet RWA parking 9am
National Eat Pizza Day

- February 11 – International Day of Women & Girls in Science
- February 13 – Brookdale Senior Living Health Fair 10am to 2pm
- February 15 – General Meeting 10:00am (9am Social Hour) at RWA Building
Library Book Give Away
Bring School Supplies for Education & Libraries
Sew N Sews Half Price Sale
- February 16 – District Meeting/Arts & Crafts Competition – 10-10:45am Member Registration – RWA Building
- February 18 – Designer Bag Bingo 11:30am at South Gulf Cove Clubhouse
- February 19 – Road Clean-up – 8:30am at Sassy Tarts Parking lot on Placida & Rotonda Blvd West
- February 24 – Lemon Creek Wildflower Preserve Open House 8am - 12:30pm – at Wildflower Preserve
- February 29 – New Member Orientation 10am – RWA Conference room
- March 1 – Board Meeting 1:00pm at RWA Building
- March 2 – Chatter Deadline
- March 9 – 2024 Annual Native Plant Day 9am – 1pm at Lemon Bay Park. Volunteer at Wildflower Preserve – help pot native plants on Tuesday & Thursday 8-10am, for this event.
- March 11 – Plarn Workshop 10am – noon – Community Center Piano Room
- March 13 – ESO Spring Luncheon – 11:30am at the Hills Country Club
- March 16 – Rummage Sale 9am – 1pm at Community Center
- March 19 – Florida Presidential Preference Republican Primary – at assigned polling site or absentee mail in
- March 21 - General Meeting 10:00am (9am Social Hour) at RWA Building
Entry Deadline for Bella Williams Memorial Continuing Ed Scholarship
- April 5 - Board Meeting 1:00pm at RWA Building
- April 6 – Chatter
- April 18 - General Meeting 10:00am (9am Social Hour) at RWA Building
- April 27 – Pancreatic Cancer Walk 9am at Broadmoor Park



COMMITTEE SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- RWWC Board Meeting – 1st Friday 1:00pm – except summer
- Creative Crafters – Fridays 9:30am – beginning January 12 at 9:30am
- Knit and Chat – Tuesdays 9:30-11:30am – RWA Building
- Sew n Sews – 1st & 3rd Tuesday 9am-noon – RWA Building
- Tonettes – Tuesdays 2-3pm – RWA Building



mardi
gras

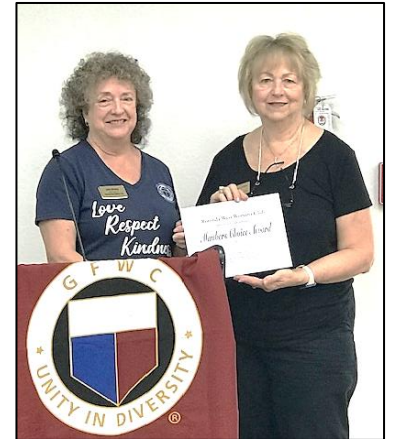
NEW ORLEANS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Barbara Frey 2/3
Sandy Langenfelder 2/6
Mary Lyons 2/7
Charlene Marcus 2/14
Jeanne Swanson 2/16
Linda Hall 2/17
Cathy Taylor 2/17
Liz Moore 2/18
Linda Bermea 2/19
Teri Erickson 2/20
Rita Bertler 2/21
Jean Howard 2/21
Lyn Duchemin 2/23
Annie Jameson 2/27

Eileen McVeigh 3/2
Melanie David 3/5
Annemarie D'Ambrosca 3/6
Jo Ann Hopkins 3/6
Mary Stoffels 3/6
Sandra Ouderkirk 3/12
Glenda Sammet 3/12
Dolores McNeill 3/29

GENERAL MEETING, JANUARY 18, 2024





PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2023

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/gfwcrotondawestwomansgroup/?ref=share>

Officers for current term are as follows:

President – Gwen Grace
201 317 2317

gweng1999@yahoo.com

First Vice President -Gloria Rogoski
440 487 5586
rogoskigj@gmail.com

Second Vice President – Jennifer Cope
816 678 4045
jennylynncope@gmail.com

rwwcmembership@gmail.com

Recording Secretary – Jo Ann Hopkins
941 661 1976
hopkins.joann@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary – Jane Tumanic-
941 214 5981
jane.tum83@gmail.com

Treasurer – Anne T. Vickery
941 626 9398
vickeryat@gmail.com

Assistant Treasurer - Jean Howard-
607 427 8994
jphoward_fnp@hotmail.com

GFWC WEBSITE:

www.gfwc.org

**GFWC FL CLUBWOMAN NEWSLETTER
SUBSCRIBE:**

www.gfwcflorida.org

GFWC FLORIDA WEBSITE:

www.gfwcflorida.org

GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

Website: www.gfwcrotondawest.org

Email: rwwcmembership@gmail.com

General Meetings:

Held on the third Thursday of the month,
September through May.

RWA Activity Building.

9:00 am Social Hour – 10:00 am General Meeting.

Donna Krabbe, Editor

rwwcchatter2020@gmail.com

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
District 12
PO Box 672
Placida, FL 33946-0679

TO : _____
