



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

# CHATTER

**March, 2024**

**GFWC FLORIDA - DISTRICT 12**  
**WHERE VOLUNTEER SERVICE**  
**AND FRIENDSHIP MEET**



### NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Gwen Grace, 201-317-2317

[Gweng1999@yahoo.com](mailto:Gweng1999@yahoo.com)

My notes this month will be short because I have been annoyed by sciatica which has kept me down for the past couple of weeks. I am not used to being homebound, so this presents quite a challenge. Hopefully, I will be able to get around soon. Meanwhile, welcome to

March and St. Patrick's and the wonderful weather this time of year.



Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> was the Lemon Bay Historical Society Cracker Fair on Dearborn Street in Englewood. We were invited to host the Lemon Dessert Baking Contest with the proceeds we raised from selling the delicious entries (after judging) going to the Historical Society. It was a busy, fun, and delightful day and we are so proud to have been asked.



Please read the wonderful articles that our members contribute.

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

## Gwen



### FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Gloria Rogoski, 440 487 5586

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

I am writing this on March 2<sup>nd</sup> after returning home from LEADS (Leadership Education and Development Seminar) in Lakeland. Linda Hall and I had the privilege and the fun of attending together. You will hear more about this training and our short adventure later but suffice to say we are glad to have gone and glad to be back home.

The entire GFWC Florida Executive Committee was at LEADS as presenters, facilitators, and friends. They reminded us that now is the time to register to attend the Spring Convention in Orlando scheduled for the weekend of April 12-14, 2024. This is an opportunity for all to meet our State leaders, our District Directors, and members from across the state. I would like to encourage everyone to consider attending this convention, especially those who have never attended. We will be talking about the registration process at the March general meeting.

Take time to smell the flowers, enjoy the sunshine, and whatever brings you happiness.

You are all awesome – don’t ever forget that.

Straight to the Chatter from LEADS Day in Lakeland. Three of our District 12 Candidates were having a BLAST! Left to Right, District 12 Volunteer of the Year Lisa Trocki, GFWC Rotonda West 1st VP Gloria Rogoski, and GFWC RWWC Civic Engagement Chairman Linda Hall!



### SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Jennifer Cope, 816 678 4045

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

### MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

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

We had four women attend orientation on February 29. Welcome to the club!

This brings our membership to 154. Another orientation will be held in April. Please be sure to look for our new members and guests at the meeting. It can be overwhelming for a new person to walk into such a large group.



Keep bringing your friends and neighbors. Word of mouth is a great way to grow our club.



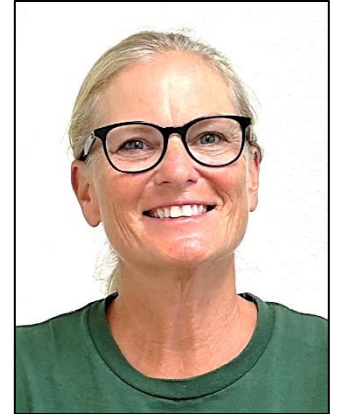
Joyce Oberacke



Jamie Clanc



Barbara Knodel



Lynn Olson



### **GFWC FL DISTRICT 12 DIRECTOR**

Kathryn Gallagher, 610 952 1333, [kathryngal@yahoo.com](mailto:kathryngal@yahoo.com)

#### **GFWC FLORIDA - DISTRICT 12**

#### **WHERE VOLUNTEER SERVICE AND FRIENDSHIP MEET**

#### **District 12 Director's Report**

We had a great District 12 Meeting and Arts & Crafts Competition on Friday, February 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you so much to all of you who attended and especially to Kathy Altenburg for hosting the District Arts & Crafts Competition. That's a tremendous amount of planning and work. Kathy is to be commended for her dedication to Arts & Culture. It's no wonder GFWC RWWC won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the state for 2022. How about a Repeat this year for 2023!!! Thank you, Kathy. You made it all happen with your own creativity.

District 12 Director Elect, Joyce Powell, will lead the Spring District Meeting on May 18<sup>th</sup> that will be held at the Naples Woman's Club. I hope Naples also decides to begin a little later in the morning. Everyone seemed to enjoy the 11:00 meeting start time. Joyce will have the opportunity to announce a new District 12 Project as well as introducing her new District 12 Board.

I must tell you that we have pretty well wrapped up our District 12 Director's Project, Sunflowers for Support of Ukraine. On Friday, February 23, I met with Bohdana Puzyk, President of the Ukrainian National League of Women in America. At that time, I gave her a \$300 donation that was raised by recent Ukrainian Egg Sales and, also, the Opportunity Drawing at the District Meeting. That money will go directly to Ukraine to continue the purchase of Bullet Proof Vests for women fighting to save their homeland.



Thanks to Jackie Miller who made the Sunflower Table Runners we used at each District Meeting, I was able to give the Runners and the little Sunflower Centerpieces to Bohdana to be used as needed at the UNLWA meetings in Northport. In fact, she was going to use them the very next day after a Prayer Service that they were having to commemorate the Second Anniversary of the Invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Army. I hope that we will all continue to keep Ukraine in our hearts and minds.

This is very exciting. I just had the opportunity to look over the Winter 2024 GFWC Clubwoman Magazine that came out a couple of weeks ago. In addition to showing nominees for the new GFWC 2024-2026 Administration including incoming Shannon Bailey as GFWC Director of Junior Clubs and Jolie Frankfurth as incoming 1st VP, there is the traditional Membership Recruitment List.

With congratulations to Gwen and her very enthusiastic board, GFWC Rotunda West WC, in Rotunda West, FL is number 3 on the list of new members with 24 new members! That's fabulous! (North Pinellas only had 14!) There was a total of 653 new members throughout all of GFWC and Rotonda is #3 ♥♥♥

(What is really ironic is that #1 is GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase with 65 new members...I went there for Cotillion in 8th Grade). Had no idea at the time that some day .... I bet having Debra Strahanoski just down the street as International President got those ladies recruiting pretty well!!

## MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT LIST

# RUBY: "SHARE YOUR PAS

REPORTING PERIOD: SEPTEMBER - NOVEMBER 2023

### 653 NEW MEMBERS!

Clubs recognized added 3 or more members

**GFWC Woman's Club of Chevy Chase - 65**  
Chevy Chase, MD

**GFWC Gulf Shores Woman's Club - 30**  
Gulf Shores, AL

**GFWC Rotunda West - 24**  
Rotunda West, FL

**GFWC Woman's Club of Raleigh - 10**  
Raleigh, NC

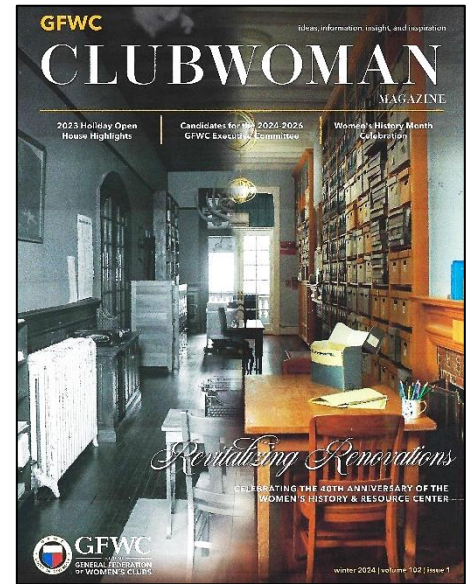
**GFWC Royal Oak Woman's Club - 9**  
Royal Oak, MI

**GFWC Sedgefield Woman's Club - 9**  
Greensboro, NC

**GFWC Woman's Club of Saraland - 10**  
Saraland, AL

**GFWC Atlanta Woman's Club - 10**  
Atlanta, GA

**GFWC Cocoa Beach Woman's Club - 10**  
Cocoa Beach, FL



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Save the Date

GFWC  
Rotonda  
West  
Woman's  
Club

**MAY 1, 2024**  
Open House 1:00 to 3:00 pm

•646 Rotonda Circle  
Rotonda West, FL 33947





## ARTS & CULTURE

Kathy Altenburg, Chairman, Co-Chairman GFWC FL District 12  
941-698-9130 Home, 941 268 1232 Cell  
[kathy6150@aol.com](mailto:kathy6150@aol.com)



## ARTS & CULTURE/CREATIVE CRAFTERS

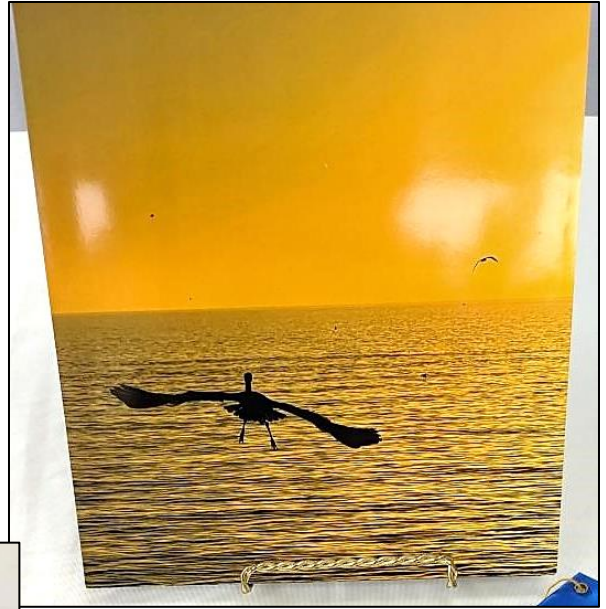
Well we have had a busy month in February. We had our District 12 art competition and also went on a trip to the Sarasota Shell Show.



# Sarasota Shell Show 2024



Our club winners are: Annette Carruthers for her Mosaic Manatee, her clay turtle ornament and her Florida photo of sunset on Venice Beach. Norma Wood for her papercraft origami box, Rosemary Collins for her Gnome with dog, Kathy Altenburg for her Trunk Bay acrylic painting, Glenda Sammett for her World up close photo of the Frog and Reflections photo by Jane Tumanic.





The crafters have been working on decouping soy candles and are planning a trip on March 8th to the Sea Grape Gallery in Punta Gorda and having lunch at Fishermans Village. This trip will be open to all club members. Just email me and let me know if you are interested.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Linda Hall, Chairman, 678 485 0762

[lindashall53@gmail.com](mailto:lindashall53@gmail.com)

Bev Dobbins, Co-chairman 317 373 4503

[bosartbev@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bosartbev@sbcglobal.net)



World Water Day is March 22nd! Help us raise money so GFWC Florida can purchase water purification tablets. These tablets will help people who do not have potable water. \$40 buys enough for 10,000 gallons of water.

We will Raffle a Basket containing: a water picture by Laura Todd, 4 tickets to Waterfest, a Rabbit wine/champagne bottle sealer, a Yeti Rambler cup, and 2 tickets to Charlotte Players for Two on the Aisle, Four in a Van. Tickets will be available before our March meeting. \$1.00 each; 6 for \$5.00. Look for Linda Hall or Claire Imrie.

## EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

Kara Kelly, Chairman, 410 652 6830 [babs013@comcast.net](mailto:babs013@comcast.net)

Debra A Sigismondo, Chairman Scholarship, 941 697 7519 [sqad7@aol.com](mailto:sqad7@aol.com)

Doris Walker, ESO Chairman, 941 828 0410, [dew414@comcast.net](mailto:dew414@comcast.net)



## SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE=SUCCESS



**Thank You** for your tremendous response in support of our elementary schoolchildren who are in need of replenishing the items they need to get the best education possible. We received 425 items including: notebooks, computer paper, erasers, folders, pens, and crayons at our February General Meeting. The value of all the donations was \$2,125.00! The gifts were gratefully received at Myakka River and Vineland Elementary Schools. We can be very proud of our efforts.

**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” —Nelson Mandela**

## 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

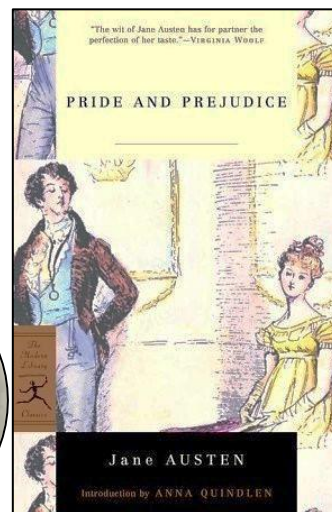
[dew414@comcast.net](mailto:dew414@comcast.net)

### SUGGESTED BOOK FOR MARCH, 2024

The Brunch Buddies book club has chosen to revisit a classic from 1813 as their next book of choice. "Pride and Prejudice" sold over 20 million copies and is considered to be one of the best loved novels of English Literature. There is always interest in the works of Jane Austen. Some in the book club will be revisiting old friends Elizabeth Bennett and Mr. Darcy and for others it will be a first introduction. Once finished with the book, the group will be discussing the themes of marriage, wealth, social status, and the emergence of the self.

Submitted by Debera Sigismondo, Brunch Buddies Leader

For all ESO Book Club members: the Spring ESO Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, March 13, 2024 at The Hills Golf & Country Club.



### ENVIRONMENT/FUNDRAISING COORDINATOR

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

[Read122@gmail.com](mailto:Read122@gmail.com)

Janet Rojas, Environment Co-chairman

[Linc322@gmail.com](mailto:Linc322@gmail.com)

### ENVIRONMENT



March is our month to shine. Here is some information on our speaker, sent by the Lemon Bay Conservancy.

Sue Wills, Lemon BayWatch team leader for the "One Dock at a Time" oyster restoration program, will be the featured speaker at the Rotonda West Women's Club meeting in March. Originally from the Midwest, Sue and her husband Kevin retired to Florida in 2021 and settled in Rotonda West. They were drawn to this area by the outstanding natural features of our coastal lands and surrounding waters. Sue and Kevin are avid travelers and enjoy camping, kayaking, and gardening. Sue is a retired East Coast history, US government, marine biology and STEM educational tour Director leading programs at the middle and high school level. Combining her history and environmental education interests and love of travel, Sue spent 20 years as a guide and instructor for the country's largest student travel company.

Sue's interest and enthusiasm for the environment led her to join the BayWatch team of Lemon Bay Conservancy. She helped develop the oyster teams that produce and deploy vertical oyster gardens throughout the Lemon Bay area. Restoring the oyster population of Lemon Bay and helping the public learn how to improve water quality has become her passion. Lemon Bay Conservancy is proud to have Sue Wills as our Oyster Ambassador!

***We will also have a project during the Social Hour where you can make your own oyster condo. We will be running this project between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m. if you wish to participate.***



## Lemon Bay Creek Wildflower Preserve Open House



Several members participated in this year's Lemon Bay Creek Wildflower Preserve Open House on 2/24/24. Our members were on hand to greet, direct visitors, sign visitors up for tours via golf carts, and give out bottles of water. Thank you to District Director Kathryn Gallagher for arranging this opportunity. Here are some pictures from the event.

## Water Treatment Plant Tour

Here is another opportunity for those who might be interested in touring the Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility on Wednesday, April 17th. We need to make a reservation to participate so we would need an idea of interest soon. This is mainly an outdoor, walking event and anyone interested should email Janet Rojas by March 8th at:

[Linc322@gmail.com](mailto:Linc322@gmail.com)

## Furry Scurry Update



## Wastewater Plant Tours

The Charlotte County Utilities Department is offering tours of four facilities to give citizens a behind-the-scenes look at the process involved in providing water and wastewater treatment and reclamation services to the community. Tour dates are as follows (subject to change): **Tuesday, February 27, 10am to noon:** Burnt Store Water Treatment and Reclamation Facility, 17430 Burnt Store Road, Punta Gorda. **Wednesday, March 13, 10am-noon:** West Port Water Reclamation Facility, 15005 Cattle Dock Point Road, Port Charlotte. **Wednesday, March 27, 10am to 12:30pm:** Peace River Water Treatment Facility, 8998 SW County Road 769, Arcadia. **Wednesday, April 17, 10am-noon:** Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility, 3740 Kendall Road, Rotonda West. Visitors will learn about the water reclamation process, observe treatment plant operators in action and learn about the transport, processing and disposal of biosolids. Wear closed-toed shoes for a walking tour, mostly outdoors. Please email [CCUPR@CharlotteCountyFL.gov](mailto:CCUPR@CharlotteCountyFL.gov) or call **941•764•4304** to request a reservation.

This year's event raised \$25,000 for local animal rescues as well as Peace River K9 Search and Rescue. We were a proud silver sponsor and hope to be a gold sponsor in 2025.

## Great American Cleanup

April 20 is the Great American Clean-up Day at Stump Pass. This is the first year we have been a sponsor so that is exciting. While you may not be able to get a t-shirt at this point, you can still participate if you wish by emailing Glenda at [Sammet@verizon.net](mailto:Sammet@verizon.net). She has graciously agreed to take lead on this. Times, parking situations or carpool opportunities will be decided as we get closer.



## Tip of the Month

### How Can You Be Environmentally Friendly?

There are small changes you can make to become more environmentally friendly.

**Use Reusable bags.** Plastic grocery bags that get thrown out end up in landfills or in other parts of the environment. These can suffocate animals who get stuck in them or may mistake them for food. Also, it takes a while for the bags to decompose. Keep a couple of reusable bags in your car so you never leave home without them. If you are in a position where you need to use plastic bags, reuse them the next time you go shopping, or use them for something else. Try not to be so quick to throw them out!

**Print as Little as Necessary.** You can screenshot or take a picture of things you want to keep and save them in your phone or tablet.

**Use Reusable Beverage Containers.** Instead of buying individually-packaged drinks, consider buying a bulk container of the beverage you want as well as a reusable water bottle. Not only will this help the environment, but it will also help you save money since you are buying a bulk container.

**Save electricity!** Use energy-efficient light bulbs instead of regular bulbs. They last longer, which will save you a bit of money. Make sure you turn off lights, the TV, and other appliances when you are not using them. Lower your air conditioning or heat when it's not necessary. This is especially true between seasons. Open your windows and layer your clothes in the early fall.

**Save Water.** Water is wasted more frequently than we can see. Turn off the faucet as you are brushing your teeth. Don't turn your shower on until you're ready to get in and wash your hair. Limit your water usage as you wash dishes.

***Our next committee meeting will be April 11th at 10 a.m. at the RWA Community Center. We will be discussing turtle nest sponsorships.***



### **GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, Inc. "Designer Bag Bingo"**

Bingo! On Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club, in collaboration with the South Gulf Cove HOA Social Committee, held a Designer Bag Bingo. The event was held at the SGC HOA Community Center and was attended by over 140 ticket holders!





Attendees enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the ladies of the SGC HOA Social Committee. Twelve bingo games were played with the winner of each game receiving a designer bag. Seven of the twelve bags were donated by members of the DBB Committee; the other five bags were purchased from discount online websites whose addresses were provided by the purse companies.

Attendees also participated in an Opportunity raffle as well as a Silent Auction with many wonderful prizes on display.



Our Emcee, Derrick Hedges, Manager of the RWA, proved to be a crowd pleaser! He modeled the purses, made announcements, and generally entertained everyone.

In all, over \$7,300 net profit was raised! Monies derived will benefit Back Pack Kidz (from GFWC RWWC) and St. David's Jubilee Center (SGC HOA).

Many, many thanks go out to all of those people who helped to make this such a successful event!!



**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.

**HEALTH & WELLNESS**



Clare Imrie, Co-chairman, 713 825 2154 [clareimrie@hotmail.com](mailto:clareimrie@hotmail.com)



Hi Ladies,  
Please save the date of April 27<sup>th</sup> - PanCAN.org PurpleStride - walk to end pancreatic cancer. The walk will be held in Broadmoor Park starting at 8:30am - walk as far or as little as you'd like. Well-behaved children, husbands, partners, dogs etc. are invited to attend also! :) Learn the symptoms of pancreatic cancer and spend time enjoying beautiful Broadmoor Park with your fellow Women's Club members, neighbors etc. Don't forget to wear purple!

Anyone who registers at:

[http://support.pancan.org/goto/Rotonda\\_West](http://support.pancan.org/goto/Rotonda_West)

and raises \$50 receives an official 2024 PanCAN PurpleStride T-shirt! If you'd like to walk, no registration is required, but all donations are gratefully received. The 5-year survival rate for pancreatic cancer has increased to 13% - this walk will help fund vital research to improve that number.

**Pancreatic Cancer Action Network**

**PanCAN.org PurpleStride Walk USA 2024**

GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club & Rotonda West Association (RWA) invite you to **WALK** to help end pancreatic cancer

**Date:** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2024

**Time:** 8:30am

**Location:** Broadmoor Park (RWA)  
646 Rotonda Circle  
Rotonda West, FL 33497

**Team Name:** Rotonda West

**Register at:** [http://support.pancan.org/goto/Rotonda\\_West](http://support.pancan.org/goto/Rotonda_West)

**Further info:** Clare Imrie, 713-825-2154  
[clareimrieuk@hotmail.com](mailto:clareimrieuk@hotmail.com)



This walk is very personal to me as my lovely Mum, Gwynneth Wright, died of pancreatic cancer in May 2022, less than 4 months after she was diagnosed. Thanks for your support to help end pancreatic cancer. Please visit <https://pancan.org>, the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network website for more information about pancreatic cancer & general questions about PurpleStride.



The GFWC Rotonda West Women's Club is sponsoring a One Blood Drive on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, from 9 am to 3 pm. The Big Red Bus will be at the marina across from The Hills Golf and Country club, 100 Rotonda Circle, Rotonda West. Please register online at [oneblood.org](http://oneblood.org) or contact Ellen Lang, 917 579-7770.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Doris Walker, Chaplain - 941 828 0410  
[dew414@comcast.net](mailto:dew414@comcast.net)

### **INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHT'S FOR VALENTINE'S DAY & EVERY DAY**

*To love is nothing, to be loved is something.  
But, to love and be loved, that's everything.  
Also, remember there is nothing better than  
a friend, unless it's a friend with chocolate.*

### **PLEASE BOW YOUR HEAD FOR THE BLESSING**

*Dear Lord, thank you for the lives of everyone here today. We also thank you for bringing us together for this meeting. Grant us healthy lives and keep sickness away from us during this Valentine Season. Let us experience your love in abundance. Let us feel your goodness and mercy first hand. Help us to overcome all adversities in our lives. Give us strength and perseverance to achieve all our goals. Give us hope and grace in excess. Bless us in all endeavors in your name.*

AMEN

**FEBRUARY, 2024**





## BEDTIME BAGS PROJECT

Lois LeVasseur, 941 698 9116 941 875 1570 (cell)

[lolveasse52@gmail.com](mailto:lolveasse52@gmail.com)

Today (February 28<sup>th</sup>) I had the honor and pleasure of delivering 12 Bedtime Bags to the Guardian ad Litem office in Punta Gorda. Tracy Trotter greeted me with a huge hug – one I look forward to every quarter. Then she rolled out the cart used to gather the generous donation of items from the ladies of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club.



A quick trip to The Closet showed how much the bags are appreciated. How, you ask? Because there was only ONE bag left in the closet to be gifted to a needy child in care.

Since its inception in January 2022, the Bedtime Bags Project has donated 120 bags to A.N.A.'s Friends (formerly Guardian ad Litem). All items included in the bags have been provided through donations from members of the Woman's Club. Not one penny has been spent by the Club.



Items included in each bag are toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo & conditioner, combs, razors, lotions, socks, fleece blankets, and even decorated flip flops! The children also receive an age-appropriate book and a comfort toy.

The next donation is scheduled for May. Contact me for more information on how to keep this worthy project moving forward!!

## KNIT AND CHAT

Lois LeVasseur, Chairman, 1 941 698 9116

[lolveasse52@gmail.com](mailto:lolveasse52@gmail.com)

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



Boggy Bear Afghan! Such beautiful colors! This project was donated by one of our Club's members, and a member of the Knit n Chat group. It illustrates just one of the many items that have been created by the talented ladies of the group.

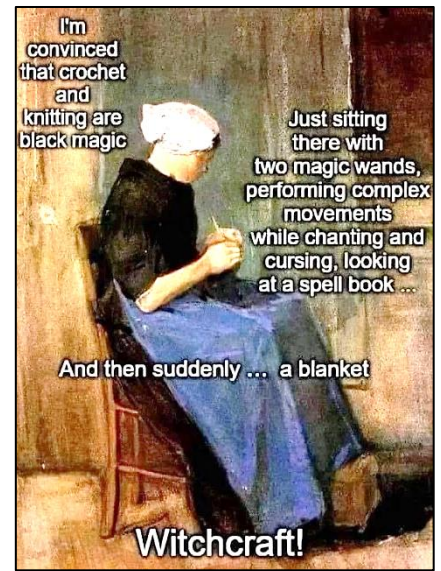
As of this writing, work continues on items to be donated to the Venice Area Pregnancy Care Center as well as chemo hats for the Florida Cancer Centers located in Englewood and North Port.

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

If you would like to create an item for donation but don't have time to attend our get-togethers, contact me! We'd love to see what you can do! Patterns are also available.

The Knit n Chat group meets weekly on Tuesdays at the RWA Community Center 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](mailto:btoglesby@comcast.net)

Kathy Messick, Cochairman, 609 828 8821

[khmessick@embarqmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:Jackie2gm@gmail.com)

We are on an ongoing sewing request for the Pregnancy Center. Burp cloths and bibs are being crafted: p.js. are being made for the teen set at ANA (foster care children), and lap robes (9) so far, and port protectors (18 donated to date) for the cancer centers. We are also in the process of creating hats for cancer patients.

I might add, we are available to do minor alterations for a donation to help us cover costs related to our civic projects.

Help us help others....thanks, Jackie Miller.



### SUNSHINE COMMITTEE

Beverly Dobbins, Chairman, 317 373 4503

[bosartbev@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto:gdmajudy@yahoo.com)

Sweet Caroline? Country Roads? Hallelujah?

We are practicing 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

# Leap Year Magic

Submitted by Kathryn Gallagher

Lately I have heard the word “Glimmer” used to describe something that pleasantly resounds in your mind and just makes you feel the warmth of unexpected magic. That happened on this just past Leap Year Day (2/29/24) at 11:03 am.

Marg Moeller’s daughter, Janet Rathke from Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, called me to say Hello and ask if I would like to have some of her Mother’s mementos from her much enjoyed time as a member of the Rotonda West Woman’s Club.



Collage of Paper Doll Janet and her four outfits!

Leap Year Magic? Glimmer? 50 Year Anniversary on the horizon?! I would say so! On Saturday, March 2, I met Janet Rathke in person at the Port Charlotte Mall where we sat and talked like age-old friends, sitting on a bench just outside of Dillard’s.

Dale and Marge Moeller were one of the first four or five couples to contract property and a house to be built in the new community of Rotonda West, at 14 Oakland Hills Road. They vacationed there every February for 7 or 8 years until Mr. Moeller retired in 1982 and then they moved permanently to Rotonda West from Jackson, MI. They spent 13 very happy years in Rotonda, then moved in 1995 to Southport Square in Port Charlotte where they loved that community too. Mr. Moeller passed to life eternal in 2012 and Marge joined him in 2017.

Janet gave me newspaper clippings that Marge saved about Woman's Club activities and the most unique thing that she shared is a plywood "Paper Doll" that Marge created and members made to sell at the Annual Christmas Bazaar. One clipping shows Marge holding the "Paper Doll" and describes the successful sales of the doll at the 1988 Bazaar, so members were making custom dolls along with four outfits to go with each doll for the 1989 Bazaar. This project has Elaine Claussen's fingerprints all over it. It's so sad that Elaine is no longer with us to confirm that. But on the bottom of the wooden stand that holds the hand-painted doll, there is the notation: Rotonda West Woman's Club 1989.

Doll Janet was custom painted for Marge's daughter Janet, who brought her to us for our Archive. I can't wait for you to meet "Paper Doll Janet." I am sure that she will be wearing her Red Party Dress at our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

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Thanks to everyone who submitted articles and photos – great job! Special thank you to Kathryn Gallagher for submitting the "Leap Year Magic" article. That is so cool!

I came across the "Witchcraft" photo and thought it was appropriate (just for fun) to include it in Lois LeVasseur's Knit n Chat article.

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.

I was so influenced by Gloria Rogoski's investigation about the "Special February Days" for her article last month, that I had to research the "Special Days" in March. I thought you might enjoy some of them:

International Women's Day – March 8

National Barbie Day – March 9

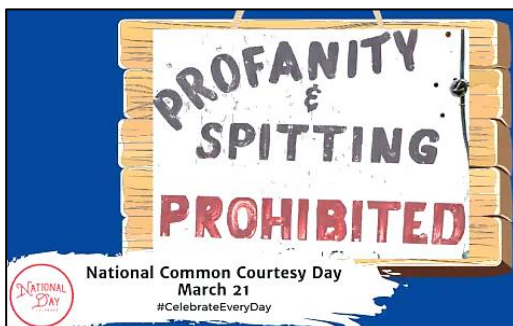
National Procrastination Week (first two weeks in March... or whenever it's convenient)

National Girl Scout Day and Working Moms Day - March 12

**St. Patrick's Day – March 17**

**Common Courtesy Day – March 21**

World Water Day – March 22



## NATIONAL COMMON COURTESY DAY – MARCH 21

Submitted by Donna Krabbe

In the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary, *courtesy* is described as *a*: behavior marked by polished manners or respect for others: courteous behavior. *b*: a courteous and respectful act or expression.

Common courtesy can be as simple as saying "please" and "thank you" when asking for and receiving a service, gift, or assistance.

Kindness and courtesy go a long way and are noticed by others even if you do not realize it. Letting someone in front of you in traffic is easy. Hold open a door for someone or give a person a hand with his groceries. Give up your seat on the bus to someone who might need it. Introduce yourself to the new employee or kid at school (women's club member) and take the time to introduce them to the rest of the crew.



These examples provide a glimpse into how you can infuse courtesy into your life. Momentary deeds of courtesy may be incremental, but they might make a huge difference in someone's life.

## HOW TO OBSERVE COMMON COURTESY DAY

- If common courtesy is not a part of your daily routine, make Common Courtesy Day your opportunity for change.
- Start implementing courtesy into your life.
- Try it; not only will others appreciate it, but you will feel good about it, too.
- Show your appreciation for the common courtesy you experience.
- Use #CommonCourtesyDay to post on social media.

## NATIONAL COMMON COURTESY DAY HISTORY

National Day Calendar continues to seek the day's origin but identified it began around 2003.

National Common Courtesy Day – March 21<sup>st</sup> serves as a reminder of the behavior that keeps society from melting into a sea of madness. In addition, it brings awareness to how crucial common courtesy is in our lives and provides examples to help us improve.

*Copied from the nationaldaycalendar.com website*

I prefer Random Acts of Kindness for every day, but maybe Common Courtesy Day could be a good start.



### LOOKING AHEAD ??

March 8 – Arts Committee visit to the Sea Grape Gallery in Punta Gorda and lunch at Fisherman's Village

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 – Plann 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

March 22 – World Water Day

April 5 - Board Meeting 1:00pm at RWA Building

April 6 – Chatter Deadline

April 17 -Rotonda Water Reclamation Facility

April 18 - General Meeting 10:00am (9am Social Hour) at RWA Building

April 20 – Great American Clean Up Day at Stump Pass

April 27 – Pancreatic Cancer Walk 9am at Broadmoor Park

May 1 – GFWC RWWC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration



### COMMITTEE SCHEDULED MEETINGS

RWWC Board Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> 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 – 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday 9am-noon – RWA Building

Tonettes – Tuesdays 2-3pm – RWA Building

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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  
 Annette Carruthers 3/17  
 Dolores McNeill 3/29

Marianne Kelly 4/2  
 Doris Walker 4/14  
 Deb Orchard 4/16  
 Jean Loughman 4/22  
 Meg Meyer 4/24  
 Kathy Kean 4/24  
 Pat Guillerm 4/25  
 Connie Shatzer 4/27  
 Shirley Kastner 4/30

## GENERAL MEETING, FEBRUARY 15, 2024







**GFWC FL DISTRICT 12 MEETING, FEBRUARY 16, 2024**







**DESIGNER BAG BINGO – FEBRUARY 18, 2024**







**LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:**

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

**Officers for current term are as follows:**

**President – Gwen Grace**

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**Second Vice President – Jennifer Cope**

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**Assistant Treasurer - Jean Howard-**

**607 427 8994**

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**GFWC FL CLUBWOMAN NEWSLETTER**

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**GFWC ROTONDA WEST WOMAN'S CLUB**

Website: [www.gfwcrotondawest.org](http://www.gfwcrotondawest.org)

Email: [rwwcmembership@gmail.com](mailto: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**

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**GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club**

**District 12**

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TO : \_\_\_\_\_

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