

GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUB-Big Rapids, Inc.

Linda Telfer, President
Pat Rossi, 1st Vice President
Melanie Henry, 2nd VP(Membership)
Joyce Iltis, Secretary
Sue Johnson, Treasurer
Ann Stellard, Parliamentarian

WEBSITE: GFWC-BIGRAPIDS.ORG



"Working for a Better Community"

November, 2023



President's Note

"It's easy to make a buck. It's a lot tougher to make a difference" — Tom Brokaw

November is here and time to set our clocks back, can you believe it? And....what is up with all that snow on Halloween? We have a few events coming up so check out the newsletter for the information.

Linda Telfer, Club President & Newsletter Editor
(Contact info: LindaTelfer@ferris.edu (231-250-2088)
Deadline for submission is the 25th of the month.

P.S. How many turkeys can you find? Be prepared at the November meeting.



November 4—Michigan LEADS Seminar in Midland, MI

November 8—Creating Chamber Gala Ornaments, 6pm, Ann Stellard's Home

November 11 — Guiding Harbor Auction, Novi Sheraton

November 13— Mitten Tree is available at Artworks Entrance

November 14—Club Meeting @ The Elk's 6:00 pm social time/6:30 pm meeting

November 20-Flower Arranging @ Sue Johnson's House 6:00 p.m.

December 12—GFWC-Big Rapids Christmas Party 6:00 pm, Szot's Bar & Grill

January 9—Club Meeting @ The Elk's 6:00 pm social time/6:30 pm meeting

January 15—MLK Jr. Day of Service **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!**

May 2-5, 2024—GFWC Michigan State Convention—Menominee, MI



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

5-MARY SUE HANSEN

20-MARY BECHAZ

5-LINDA TELFER

26-ANN STELLARD

18-PAM MUCCIO



CHECKLIST FOR MEETING

- Christmas Party reservation \$22 & WISE Family donation \$15
- Used Clean Plastic Bags for Project Starburst (please flatten)
- Secret Sister Gift (if participating)
- Good used learning toys (for 4-7 year olds) for Elk's Learning Nook
- Birthday Bag Items (Cake mix, candles, card, frosting, napkins, etc)
- Batteries for recycling
- Can Tabs for Ronald McDonald House
- Books (both new and/or used) for the Little Libraries
- Quarters for Heifer International
- Greeting Cards (used) for the Senior Center
- Clean pop cans or bottles for the Big Rapids Scout Camp Fund

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Janet Miller-Monfils was born and raised in Alma Michigan. She grew up in a loving and very giving family. Her Grandma Miller was a part of GFWC in the 1970s, and Janet is proud to continue the outreach traditions. In her spare time, Janet loves horses and crafts! She has a horse named Bella and has ridden since she was a child. She also has a cat named Sophie, and two wonderful step-children. Adam is a mental health therapist and has his own practice in Cadillac Michigan. Kaitlyn is in marketing and sales, is a fanatic about health and wellness, and lives in Miami Florida. Janet's hobbies include crocheting, cooking, sewing, painting, and other hands-on activities. Janet lives in Big Rapids with her husband Greg who works in the IT department at Ferris and she is excited to continue her philanthropic outreach in Mecosta County. She is passionate about helping others. This is apparent in her career as well. She has been a college professor for many years and specializes in teaching hard subjects such as path-

ophysiology and biochemistry. She gained her Ph.D. in neuroscience in 2005 and has continued her education by recently finishing her MBA degree and her MSML (Master of Science; Management and Leadership). She hopes to use her newly gained leadership skills to cultivate and lead initiatives in Mecosta County and the surrounding areas through GFWC Big Rapids. We are so happy you have joined our club!



Don't forget your secret sister!



*Congratulations
Tim and Vickie Vogel
On Your
50th Wedding Anniversary*



UPCOMING EVENTS



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 12, 2023

6:00 p.m. Social/6:30 Dinner

Location: Szot's Bar & Grill

732 N. State St—BR

Dinner—\$22 (cash bar)

WISE Christmas Family—\$15



Wear your “**Ugly Christmas Sweater**”

Payment can be made at the November meeting.



Calling All Crafters—We will be making the Chamber Gala ornaments on **November 8th beginning at 6:00 p.m.** We only have 150 ornaments to do so the more the merrier.



Holiday Flower Arranging will take place on **November 20th beginning at 6:00 p.m. at Sue Johnson's home.** Come and enjoy dinner, wine and sisterhood as beautiful arrangements are created for shut-ins and nursing home patients for the holidays.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE

January 15, 2024

You will have the opportunity to volunteer at Manna Pantry and Project Starburst on January 15. More information will be coming.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Hello to Mary Sue Hansen—Members gathered at Mary Sue Hansen's home in Big Rapids just prior to the October meeting to take a picture as she has permanently relocated to Petoskey. Pictured from L-R:

1st row—Janet Miller-Monfils, Ruth York, Dee Van Horn
2nd row—Leona Royer and Jerena Keys
3rd row—Ann Stellard, Vickie Vogel, Melanie Henry
4th row—Joan Boroff, Linda Telfer, Cathy Chapman, Celeste Szczerowski



The Monthly Walkers — The monthly walk took place on the Monday following our Club meeting. Was Mary Beth actually hiding in the background again and is that her cleaning the table after the walk at Bernie's?



The Halloween Party at the BR Library was a great success with children enjoying a story by Ms. Howard and GFWC-Big Rapids assisting with treats where each child received a book, water and a bag of candy.



BAY CLIFF HEALTH CAMP'S 90TH BIRTHDAY BASH-OCTOBER 13-15, 2023



Group picture of those attending.



Ann Stellard making a wine cork wreath.



NWD Attendees-Linda Telfer, Ann Stellard, Denise Allen, and Melissa Poviliaitis

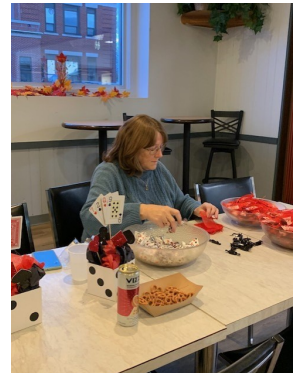
Below is the laundry room that GFWC-Big Rapids has supported.





Fall Festival was held in downtown Big Rapids with the streets decorated with cornstalks. Three club members decided that the cornstalks needed something more, so yellow, orange and purple bows were tied on the cornstalks to give them a little more color. Great idea Vickie and Ann.

Guiding Harbor Auction Centerpieces were assembled this week. Sue Johnson and Ann Stellard had things cut out and ready to go. Thirty centerpieces will be taken to Novi next weekend.



Michigan Leads—Delores Simpson and Janet Miller-Monfils traveled to Midland, Michigan to attend the Michigan Leads seminar on November 4th. They are pictured here with Kathy Lewis, State President. This was an opportunity for them to learn more about the GFWC organization and develop their leadership skills.

NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT MEETING

October 21, 2023

A BIG THANK YOU to all members who attended the Northwestern District meeting and to those who provided food and/or drinks for the breakfast. We had a total of 10 members attend and it was great to hear what the other clubs are doing.



Sue Johnson conducting nominations with Denise Allen, NWD President to the right.



Missy Poviliaitis asking questions submitted to the State officers.



Diane LaBree-Campbell selling GFWC merchandise.



One of three tables of attendees.



Denise Allen, NWD President; Kathy Lewis, State President; Missy Poviliaitis, incoming NWD President



Wacky Bag Fundraiser



Installation of NWD Officers



4B'S FUNDRAISER—OCTOBER 26

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to the 4B's Fundraiser committee for organizing such a wonderful event, co-chairs Melanie Henry and Ann Stellard for leading the charge, and to all club members who invited people to attend, donated food and drinks, and to those who worked at the event. It was a huge success thanks to all of you.



Committee before 4B's fundraiser!

Committee after 4B's fundraiser!

Committee: L-R—Linda Telfer, Karin McKean, Cathy Chapman, Ann Stellard (Co-Chair), Pat Rossi, Sue Johnson, Melanie Henry (Co-Chair)



WOMAN ARTIST OF THE MONTH

(Information provided by Arts & Culture CSP)

Custom woodworker Melanie Provost is a very busy woman these days. She share her talents with the public at craft shows and artist markets most weekends. During the week, she creates striking furniture, entertaining items and other unique accessories in her home workshop. Oh, and did I mention she is married with two small, adorable daughters? Free time is not normally n her vocabulary, but she made time for me recently one day. With an eye on her girls' frog hunting and her dog supervising, we toured her garage workshop in Mecosta County.

Born and raised in Japan, home schooled, then trained as a pastry chef, Melanie found her creative way to work working in 2020, making quilt ladders. That quickly led to other items such as coffee tables, end tables and charcuterie boards. Last year she introduced candle holders, flower vase wall sconces, drink flight trays, and her current best seller, key holders. All items are handmade and finished with her unique touch.

Currently, she combines colored epoxy into her creations, with stunning river and wave effects. She also makes furniture with live edge techniques in several types of wood. With every show, Melanie delivers new and unique ideas.

When asked what her greatest challenges are, Melanie said time, tools and inventory are all things she wishes she had in greater supply. She successfully manages her business and her home life with the help of her family. You can often see her husband and daughters assisting in set up and take down at venues.

Life on the Edge will be exhibiting at numerous shows this upcoming fall and holiday seasons. Check her out on Facebook, Instagram and in person!





The Puzzle



GFWC BIG RAPIDS HAPPY
THANKSGIVING

H	S	E	B	R	A	H	W	H	E	I	V	O
P	W	P	U	M	P	K	I	N	L	G	T	P
J	E	E	E	G	P	U	P	O	Y	L	P	T
S	E	B	E	J	L	O	U	L	K	R	O	A
N	T	U	R	K	E	Y	I	T	W	O	T	A
H	P	I	E	N	D	M	S	S	P	P	A	F
F	O	O	T	B	A	L	L	T	R	T	T	H
C	T	E	N	F	L	S	G	P	S	N	O	O
D	A	K	R	O	N	A	Y	R	T	N	E	L
T	T	G	R	E	E	N	B	E	A	N	S	R
I	O	D	R	E	S	S	I	N	G	V	D	H
O	S	O	A	G	I	I	Y	E	T	R	Y	Y
T	H	A	N	K	S	G	I	V	I	N	G	T

FAMILY GREENBEANS POTATOES THANKSGIVING TURKEY APPLE
DRESSING FOOTBALL GRAVY PIE PUMPKIN ROLLS SWEETPOTATO

