

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”

December, 2023



President's Note

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

The holiday season is once again here and I hope that you can enjoy some relaxing times with your family and friends. Remember the reason for the season!

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 trees of this type can you find?



December 12—GFWC-Big Rapids Christmas Party 6:00 pm, Social time, 6:30 dinner at 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

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAY

25—JESUS

Club Members—Cares and Concerns

Carl & Joan Boroff

Mary Sue Hansen

Joyce Ittis

CHECKLIST FOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

- Wear your Ugly Sweater**
- Wear your name tag**
- Bring any flannel blankets that you have made for the Salvation Army.**
- Secret Sister Gift (if participating)**
- Arrive at 6:00 for social time with dinner around 6:30.**



Don't forget your secret sister!



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**”

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY OF SERVICE January 15, 2024

You will have the opportunity to volunteer at Manna Pantry and/or Project Starburst on January 15. I trust that you have signed up at the November meeting. They will have some special projects for us with more information coming.



Mitten Tree has “stepped” things up this year and is awaiting mittens, hats, scarves, etc. This is located in the lobby of Artworks. All items will be donated to those in need.

WELCOME NEW MEMBER



Shannon Penfound moved to Big Rapids in July 2023 from Westfield, Indiana. Her parents were both Air Force so she doesn't have a hometown, but has lived in lots of fun places! She has two degrees from Purdue University and has a Masters in Public Health from IU Bloomington (Go Boilers!). She works remotely as a Sr. Epidemiologist/Sr. Data Analyst for the Indiana Poison Center and has been working there for the last 6 years. She lives with her husband of (almost!) 4 years, her pup Ollie, and her black cat Hugo. She is excited to be living in Michigan, to make Big Rapids her hometown, and is especially excited to be a part of GFWC! She has already helped with several projects and we will initiate her at our Christmas party. Welcome Shannon!!

WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Time to be thinking about who you would like to nominate for the Woman of Achievement Award. The Board is recommending Ann Stellard but nominations for others will be taken at the January meeting. Criteria is:

- Civic minded and involved in her community as a volunteer, an officer or as an appointee. Acknowledged as an “achiever.”
- Actively involved in her club including but not limited to an office or chairmanship. Active in other organizations or clubs.
- Actively involved in her faith or religious institution.

Past honorees are:

2006 Barbara Randle
2007 Mary Sue Hansen
2008 Jerena Keys
2009 Bonnie Jacoby
2011 Sue Johnson
2013 Joyce Iltis
2015 Dee Van Horn
2017 Beth Martz
2019 Ruth York
2021 Melanie Henry



SPRING TEA/SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



Thank you for your comments and ideas regarding the idea of a Spring Tea/Scholarship initiative. If you are interested in serving on a committee to come up with criteria and how this will work, please let Linda Telfer know (250-2088). The committee will begin meeting right after Christmas to brainstorm this further so that it can be presented to the membership.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING



Chamber of Commerce Gala—Four members braved the thunderstorm on November 8th to make 150+ ornaments for the Mecosta County Area Chamber of Commerce's Annual Gala. The driving was terrible and one member turned around and went back home as roads were flooded. All ornaments were completed and delivery was made the next day. Thank you to everyone who assisted with this.



The Monthly Walkers — The monthly walk took place on the Monday following our Club meeting. The group had four people join in on the fun this month? Yes there are four people in the picture.



Can Tabs—Well way to go club members. Celeste Szczerowski delivered **45.5 pounds** of tabs to the Ronald McDonald House on November 9th. They will turn them in for money enabling families to stay at the Ronald McDonald House free of charge.



Guiding Harbor Centerpieces—Five members gathered one evening at the Elk's Lodge to construct the centerpieces for the Guiding Harbor Auction. It was a pleasure to assist one of our own organizations with this but that was a lot of dots.



Flower Arranging— What a fun night we had on November 20th when eight ladies created 35 centerpieces for both Thanksgiving and Christmas. These creations will be shared with the shut-ins that we know and those in nursing homes that do not get anything special at Christmas. You will see some of these at the Christmas party and you will be encouraged to take one and share it with someone who would enjoy this for the holiday season.



WOMAN ARTIST OF THE MONTH

(Information provided by Arts & Culture CSP)



As a child, Jilly Barnes was always drawing and sculpting. She remembers sculpting ducks with her mother's pie crust trimmings. Jilly was an Illustration Major at Kendall College of Art and Design in Grand Rapids, MI. While at school, she supported herself by tending bar. Going to art school helped her evolve as an artist in multiple mediums.

In 1988 she began selling her two-dimensional art, such as pet portraits, at various art shows. A friend put a piece of modeling clay in her hand one day, and she added clay-sculpture dogs to her booth. All the sculptured dogs sold out! Today, in addition to whimsical clay sculptures, Jilly is known for her art glass work.

Her first gallery was in Muskegon, and 11 years later she moved her studio to Pentwater, where she now has a combined art gallery, studio and classroom. Jilly's 18-foot long glass mural won the 2nd place in People's Choice Award at Grand Rapids' Art Prize in 2014. The mural depicts the four seasons of the year at four different times of day – Winter moonlight, Spring morning, Summer sunset, and Autumn afternoon. She included dune sand and pieces of driftwood embedded in the scene. You can see this fascinating wall mural as well as one-of-a-kind art, gifts and jewelry at Jilly's, 226 S. Hancock, Pentwater, MI. Her website is www.jillysgallery.com.





The Puzzle



Tis the Season

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

Bells	Food	Family	Joy
Tree	Christmas	Garland	Wreath
Gift	Birth	Church	Lights
Red	Green	Candles	Peace
Carols	Silent Night	Angel	Mary
Joseph	Jesus	Santa	