



GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUB

Big Rapids Newsletter

WEBSITE: GFWC-BIGRAPIDS.ORG

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

"Working for a Better Community"

February, 2024



President's Note

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

It's Heart Health Month. I hope you are taking care of yourself. **Let's wear red to our meeting.**

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 red hearts can you find?  (not including this one)



February 13 —Club Meeting @ The Elk's 6:00 pm social time/6:30 pm meeting

February 17—Sleigh Ride at Four Green Field Farms, 2pm

March 7—Woman of Achievement Lunch, noon @ El Burrito

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

May 14—Club's Spring Banquet

June 29-July 1—GFWC National Convention—Chicago, IL

CHECKLIST FOR MEETING

- ☐ Secret Sister Gift (if participating)
- ☐ Money for the drawing
- ☐ Batteries for Recycling
- ☐ Can Tabs for the Ronald McDonald House
- ☐ Quarters for Heifer International
- ☐ Greeting Cards (used) for the Senior Center
- ☐ Filled Birthday Bags for Project Starburst
- ☐ Operation Smile Items



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

11—LEONA ROYER

19-SUE JOHNSON

Club Members—Cares and Concerns

Carl & Joan Boroff

Mary Sue Hansen

BJ Johnson (Sue's son-continued treatments)

Kathy Lewis (State President)



BIRTHDAY BAGS NEEDED

The Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP is looking for more birthday bags filled with a cake mix, frosting, oil, cake pan, candles, balloons and a birthday card. This initiative is for Project Starburst food pantry clients when they have a birthday. Just bring bring them to the next meeting.



Don't forget your secret sister!



UPCOMING EVENTS



OFFICER NOMINATIONS

NEXT MEETING — The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the 2024-2026 years with nominations accepted from the floor until the time of voting in March. Please consider helping the club.



NEXT MEETING—FEBRUARY 13
WEAR SOMETHING RED AND YOUR
RED DRESS PIN FOR
HEART HEALTH MONTH.

BE THINKING ABOUT A NEW COMMUNITY
PROJECT.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

SLEIGH RIDE

February 17

2:00 p.m.

Four Green Fields
Farm

15693 Wilson Road
Rodney, MI



All GFWC members and friends are invited for a fun afternoon. We will have about a half hour sleigh ride then have a chance to warm up with hot chocolate and marshmallows around the campfire. They have a warming room to enjoy also. Our Board would like to know how many are able to come so we can plan some additional snacks. **PLEASE LET MELANIE KNOW IF YOU CAN COME BY OUR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13TH.** The cost of the event will be split between those attending the event. Sure hope you can join us.



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc.

2023 WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT

Sue Bean



Sue Bean was selected as GFWC-Big Rapids Woman of Achievement for 2023 because of her volunteerism and achievements in the club and the community. She was selected as 2017 Clubwoman of the Year; has been the Health and Wellness Community Service Program Chair for several years; Board Member and volunteer for the Manna Food Pantry for four years, has served on the Big Rapids Township Board of Review for five years, current Election Inspector and past Election Chair for Big Rapids Township; and both Board member and current Treasurer for St. Mary/St. Paul Ministry and volunteer for 20 plus years which is a resale store where 100% of the profit goes back into the community in the form of housing assistance, utility assistance, etc.

Sue is involved with the club's Suitcases for Foster Care Children Program, the Adopt-a-Family Christmas program for the women's shelter, the club's annual yard sale with proceeds going back into the community, and has attended state and district GFWC meetings as well.

The past volunteer opportunities for Sue include being a ten year Board member for WISE, Inc. (Women's Information Services, Inc.) which is the local domestic violence women's shelter; 10 year Board member for City of Big Rapids Planning Commission; and also has served on the GFWC-Big Rapids Executive Board.

Sue has been married for 47 years and has four daughters and nine grandchildren, has been a realtor for 21 years and is a lifetime member of St. Mary/St. Paul Catholic Church. She has achieved a lot and is truly living the volunteer spirit.

A luncheon will be held on March 7, beginning at noon, at El Burrito to honor Sue.

GFWC STATE CONVENTION

May 3-5, 2024

Start getting your arts and crafts projects ready to enter in the State Convention in Menominee. You do not need to attend to enter a project, even though the State Convention is a lot of fun.

Sue Bean, Woman of Achievement from Big Rapids, will be honored at the convention. Let's all go to show our support. Wouldn't it be fun to have a caravan to go to the UP?

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

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



Four members (Leona Royer, Linda Telfer, Sue Johnson and Ann Stellard) were able to volunteer at Manna Pantry on MLK Day of Service. The staff were so grateful for all the cleaning that we accomplished in two hours. Thank you ladies for a job well done.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY OF SERVICE CONTINUED



Three members were able to volunteer at Project Starburst on January 15 by sorting, organizing and labeling clothes. Thank you very much for making our community better.

Pictured in top photo is Pat Rossi, Melanie Henry, Linda Telfer and Project Starburst Director Diane Long.

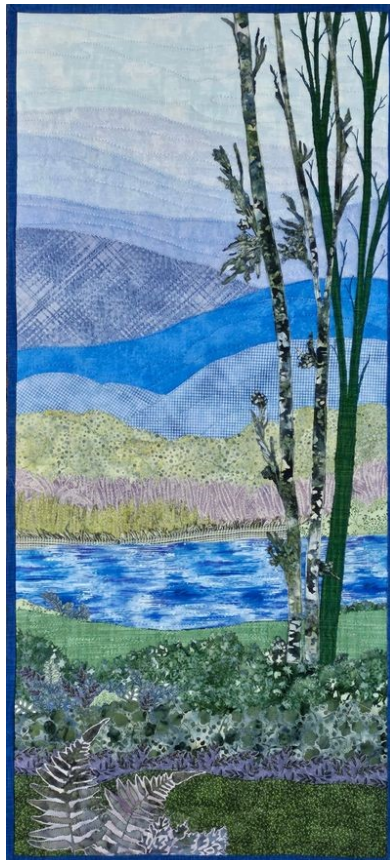
WOMAN ARTIST OF THE MONTH (provided by the Arts & Culture CSP)

SUSAN KRUSZYNSKI



Dr. Susan Kruszynski is an award-winning art quilt designer, teacher, and gallery artist. She has over 50 years of experimentation with fabrics to produce colorful artistic creations. She started landscape fiber art design with collage art quilts in 2014. By hand cutting, collaging, pressing, and machine stitching pieces of fabric together, she creates art quilts that look like paintings. A native of Michigan, her works are often inspired by the trees and woodlands along the Lake Michigan shoreline. She currently resides in Muskegon, Michigan. Besides creating her quilt art, she also teaches quilting classes, markets her fiber art at shows and exhibitions, and runs her Quilting Fabrics in Time business. She recently retired from Muskegon Community College as a literary specialist. Susan placed in the top 25 in the Grand Rapids ArtPrize Nine in 2017 and was

1st place in the Grand Haven Lighthouse Quilt Guild Show in 2018 and 2019. Pieces of her quilt art can be purchased at Artworks in Big Rapids.





The Puzzle



HEART MONTH

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

CANDLELIGHT CARDS CHOCOLATE CUPID DINNER FLOWERS
HEALTH HEART HUG KISS LOVE PINK RED VALENTINE WINTER