



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"

March, 2024



President's Note

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

Top of the morning to you! Hope you enjoy this monthly newsletter.

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 shamrockss can you find?



(not including this one)



- March 7**—Woman of Achievement Lunch, noon @ El Burrito
- March 12**—Club meeting @ Elk's , 6:00 social/6:30 meeting
- March 16**—Northwestern District Gathering, 1-3 pm, Ewart, MI
- May 2-5, 2024**—GFWC Michigan State Convention—Menominee, MI
- May 14**—Annual Spring Banquet, Antler's in Canadian Lakes at 6:00 p.m social time/6:30 p.m. dinner
- 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
- Money for Annual Banquet



MARCH BIRTHDAYS

5—MELANIE HENRY

5—JOYCE ILTIS

15—JERENA KEYS



Club Members—Cares and Concerns

Carl & Joan Boroff

Mary Sue Hansen

Marshall Henry (Melanie's husband)

BJ Johnson (Sue's son-continued treatments)



Don't forget your secret sister!



UPCOMING EVENTS



NEXT MEETING

MARCH 12

6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting

WEAR SOMETHING GREEN OR SPORT

YOUR IRISH SPIRIT—PRIZE WILL BE AWARDED.

BE THINKING ABOUT A NEW COMMUNITY PROJECT.



NORTHWESTERN DISTRICT GATHERING

Saturday, March 16

1:00—3:00 p.m.

9878 US-10 (Sacred Heart Catholic Church) Evart, MI



ANNUAL SPRING BANQUET

Tuesday, May 14, 2023

The Antler's Restaurant

Canadian Lakes

6:00 p.m. Social Time

6:30 p.m. Dinner (Tour of Italy)

Cost: \$30 per person

Checks are to be payable to GFWC-Big Rapids and can be given to Sue Johnson at the March or April meetings.





2023

**WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT
LUNCHEON TO HONOR**

SUE BEAN

March 7, 2024

Noon at El Burrito

RSVP to Linda Telfer by 3/5/24.



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?

NEW MEMBER



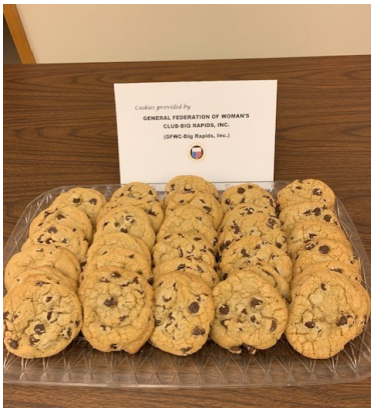
Melonie (Mel) James joined our club last month. She lived in the Livingston County area until the 7th grade when her and her mom moved up to the Paris area. She graduated from Reed City High School and attended Ferris State University for 2 years majoring in accounting and marketing. She then left the area to join the United States Air Force and was enlisted for 3 years. That is where she met her then husband and were married and moved to Portland, Oregon, then moved to Tacoma, Washington. From there they relocated to a small town in New Jersey and lived there for 2 years. Then they moved to Conyers, Georgia and lived there for 4 years then moved to Chula Vista, California and were there for 3 years before they returned to Conyers. Their last move as a family was to Savannah, Tennessee where they spent 18 years there as a family of 6 (one boy and 3 girls.). After her divorce, she chose to come back to Michigan for a couple of reasons, the main one being to be with her mom and to help her with her health and to make sure that she had the best care that she needed. She has been back in the Big Rapids area since 2014. Mel has worked at Meijer and has recently chosen to work for Lowe's. She loves helping people and using her love of people to do good things for others. She sees this organization as a great place to move forward with her wanting to make a difference in Big Rapids. Welcome Mel!!

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

STATE REPORTING WAS SUBMITTED FOR 2023!!!!

Thank you to everyone who submitted reports.

Festival of the Arts Contribution



The **Arts & Culture Community Service Program** was happy to supply cookies for the opening reception of the Festival of the Arts celebration on February 2, 2024. What a wonderful way to show our support for this community event.

Community Thank You Treats Delivered



The **Environment Community Service Program** members showed their appreciation to the Mecosta County road workers by delivering a bag of goodies for each person so they could take it on the road with them. Did you know that there are 40 people keeping our roads safe? (Pictured with the two Mecosta County workers are Mary Bechaz and Ann Stellard.



Health and Wellness Community Service Program members delivered cookies to the Mecosta County Sheriff Department as a way to say thank you for all that they do for our community. Pictured L-R Mary Beth Vanderlist, Sgt. Phippen, Ann Stellard and Vickie Vogel. Front row is Zeke.

Community Thank You Treats Delivered cont.



Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program members Melanie Henry, Cathy Chapman and Dee Van Horn delivered trays of cookies for each shift of police and firefighters. They also packaged individual treat bags for each employee.



Health and Wellness Community Service Program members Mary Beth Vanderlist, Ann Stellard and Vickie Vogel delivered treats to EMS employees as a thank you for all that they do for our community. Receiving the treats for the employees is Melanie Ressler, Education Coordinator.



Valentine's Delivered



The **Arts & Culture** project of making Valentines for the Meals on Wheels program was successful and 80 Valentine's were delivered to the Mecosta County Senior Center by Mary Bechaz, Ann Stellard and Linda Telfer. Senior citizens received these with their meals on Valentine's Day. Thank you to everyone who assisted with this project.

Heart Health Month



Members wore their red at the February club meeting to observe Heart Health Month. The Health and Wellness Community Service Program provided a wide array of healthy treats and shared some heart health information.

SLEIGH RIDE

What a fun afternoon enjoying sisterhood as we went on a sleigh ride at Four Green Fields Farm on February 17th. We went through the woods and over the hills (yes hills!!) lead by Charlie and Junior and oh yes Kevin played a part also. After the sleigh ride, refreshments were enjoyed in the Warming House. Some might have enjoyed something warm prior to the ride but no one will say for sure.



Pictured L-R—Vickie Vogel, Ginny Hapner, Sue Johnson, Ann Stellard and Melonie James



Pictured L-R—Leona Royer, Ginny Hapner and Melonie James on the sleigh.



Pictured Ann Stellard & Melanie Henry



Sue Johnson & Ann Stellard :)



Sue Johnson, Melanie Henry, Linda Telfer & Ann Stellard



The gang except for Melanie taking picture.



As you can see, we had an electrifying time.

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

MARGO BERKE



Multi-media artist, **Margo Carlson Berke**, possesses a broadly varied background in the visual arts. While her Bachelors degree from Michigan State University is in the History of Art, Ms. Berke has always considered herself primarily a studio artist and arts educator. Whether working in pencil, pastels, clay or fiber, precision and clarity of form characterize this Big Rapids resident's work. Natural elements and themes recur in her pottery and drawings and are reflective of her concern for the environment. Ms. Berke has taught consistently at ArtWorks since its inception, focusing mainly on wheel-work ceramics. You will find her pieces in ArtWorks and make wonderful gifts. Additionally, she taught Elementary Art at St. Mary's School in Big Rapids and was an adjunct instructor at Ferris State University.





The Puzzle



THE WEARING OF THE GREEN

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

BLARNEY CELTIC CLOVER DONNYBROOK EMERALDISLE GREEN
IRISH LEPRECHAN LINERICK LUCK POTOFGOLD RAINBOW
SHAMROCK SHILLELAGH