



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

December, 2025

Hello everyone, welcome to December and it looks like we're going to have a "White Christmas."

I left on Thanksgiving for a cruise to Celebration Key in the Bahamas with my daughter and her two friends. It was 81 degrees and sunny then came back to Michigan with 15 degrees and snow? I had a great time with my daughter and one of the events on the boat was "Groove for St. Jude" which is one of our GFWC affiliates. We all bought donation t-shirts and after a brief presentation, got in the groove dance for St. Jude. Had fun while giving to a great cause.

I want to thank each of you for all you have done this year in GFWC. Your time and efforts have helped to make not just our community, but our world a better place. Every donation, every bit of time and project completed make such an impact on others and I look forward to working with you as we continue this into the new year.

I hope to see all of you next week at our Christmas Party and I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Sue

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP(Membership)
Leona Royer, Secretary
Cheryl Tessier, Treasurer
Melonie James, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

December 9—Club Christmas Party—Linda Telfer's Home—6:00 p.m.

January 13—Club Meeting—6:00 Chili Cookoff/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks

February 10—Club Meeting— 6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks

March 10—Club Meeting—6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks

March 14—Northwestern District Gathering in Evert (More info coming)

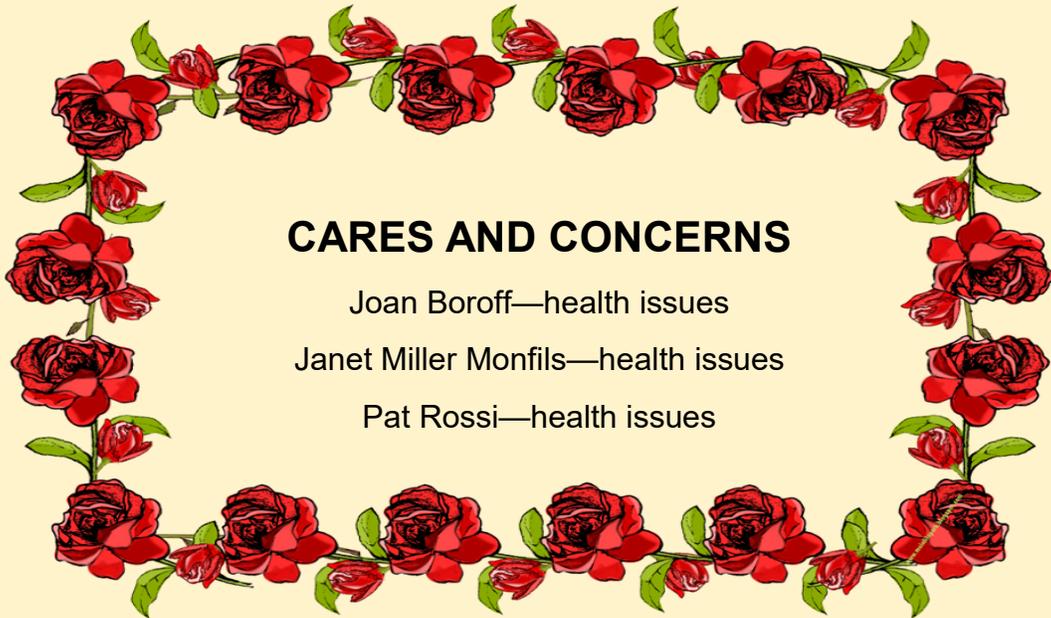
April 14—Club Meeting 6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elks

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

NO DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Therese Allen moved to Big Rapids in 1982 to take a school psychologist position with the Mecosta-Osceola Intermediate School District and fell in love with the town. She grew up downstate and most of her siblings and mom still live there. She has one son and he, his wife and two daughters live on forty acres just outside of Canadian Lakes. Both granddaughters are in the Professional Golf Management program at Ferris.

Therese keeps busy visiting her significant other who is a marine technician near Torch Lake. He has taught her how to winterize and shrink wrap all kinds of boats and then do a spring start-up. Oh the boats that she has been on. When in Big Rapids, she makes greeting cards and catches up with friends. She is looking forward to spending more time with GFWC and volunteering with this organization. Welcome Therese!



Deb Iafrate lives on her family's Centennial Farm outside of Hersey with her husband Michael and sweet Golden Retriever Bella. Her son Justin and his senior dog Carlos live next door in the farmhouse that her great-grandfather built in 1895.

Deb's interests include taking photos of the farm and nature, exploring 160 acres and being a good steward of the farm. She also weaves baskets, bakes, volunteers and loves animals-especially dogs, laying hens and cattle. She has been involved in Period Poverty for some time and when traveling with her husband in his semi, she leaves little bags of period products in the truck stop bathrooms along the way.

Deb worked at Ferris for 32 years and is a two-time breast cancer survivor. Welcome Deb!



Pam Hughes retired from Ferris State five years ago. She worked in the accounting area for nineteen years and in the College of Pharmacy for five. Her favorite side job was being the Cheer Team coach for Ferris from 1993 to 1997. She enjoyed working with the students the most. In 1997, Pam her husband adopted their son who became their primary focus and the love of their lives. They became a hockey family when their son turned five and watched him play until he graduated. They now enjoy traveling, biking, hiking, skiing and boating in their retirement. Pam is looking forward to getting more involved with GFWC and indicated that it's been a pleasure meeting all of the ladies. Welcome Pam!

UPCOMING EVENTS



CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY



Tuesday, December 9

Linda Telfer's Home

15620 Colfax Cove—Big Rapids

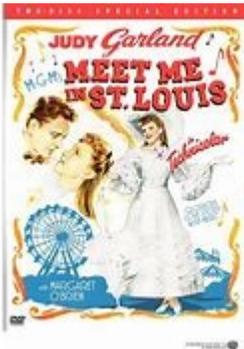
6:00 cocktails/6:30 hors d'oeuvres

(Catered by Pere Marquette Catering)

Carpooling is encouraged

DON'T FORGET

Bring a \$10 gift wrapped in aluminum foil and wear your sparkly Christmas outfit for a fun evening.



CLASSIC FILM — “Meet Me In St. Louis”

December 13—2:00 p.m.

Immanuel Lutheran Church

Free Admission

See Delores Simpson for more details.



CHILI COOK-OFF

Don't cook dinner. Come and enjoy some chili before the January meeting.

6:00 start time (we need you to vote). be prepared to try three different kinds of chili.

Sponsored by the Arts & Culture CSP.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING.....



Honoring our Women Veterans



Table of Honor



Veteran Guest Speakers (L-R) Sue Pohl, Kim Brejcha, Pastor Amy Ruhf-Brien, Mel James, and Lisa Benson



Club members wore red, white and blue in honor of Veterans' Day to the November club meeting. Each guest speaker shared their experience in the military which was very enlightening.

ELK'S VETERANS' DINNER



Three club members were able to assist the Elks Lodge with their annual Veterans' Dinner. This is a way to say thank you to the Elks for letting us use their facility for our club meetings.

CHARCUTERIE CLASS



Nine club members attended a charcuterie class at a local food establishment. Each person was able to take home the masterpiece that they created. The skills that each member learned can be used when the club has an event requiring food.



THE MITTEN TREE



If you haven't stopped by the front lobby of Artworks, please do so and look at all the mittens and hats that have been donated. You can still donate until December 15th. This is our effort in keeping the local children warm this winter.

ST. JUDE'S ON THE CRUISE



As Sue mentioned in her letter at the start of this newsletter, the ship had a presentation on St. Jude's which is an affiliate organization of GFWC. Pictured is Sue and her daughter sporting the St. Jude t-shirts.

FLOWER OF THE MONTH

From the Environment CSP

The Christmas Cactus



- Christmas cacti thrive best in bright but indirect light and prefer cooler temperatures between 60 -70°F.
- Weekly watering is necessary from spring to summer, but during flowering season, keep the cactus evenly moist.
- Christmas cacti require complete darkness for 12-15 hours daily to set buds for blooming.

How to tell the difference between a Christmas Cactus and a Thanksgiving Cactus.

- Thanksgiving cactus has pointy "teeth" on its stem segments, while Christmas cactus stems have scalloped or rounded edges.
- Thanksgiving cactus flowers have yellow pollen, while Christmas cactus flowers have pink pollen.
- Thanksgiving cactus tends to bloom earlier in November, while Christmas cactus blooms in late November or early December.



Information taken from BHG.com

HEALTH AND WELLNESS TIPS.....

"IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT LIKE CHRISTMAS"



The holidays are upon us and with them comes a long to do list: Gifts to buy and wrap, cards to send, cookies to bake, parties to host and attend, decorating to do ... The list is endless. The good news is that you don't have to do it all. Lean in to what is most important and what you enjoy doing. Let go of what you are able to. If you find you aren't able to let go, enlist some assistance. What child doesn't love helping Grandma make cookies or Mom decorate the tree?

Maintain healthy habits: Enjoy favorite treats in moderation to avoid holiday weight gain. Take a walk around town to appreciate the beautiful decorations and lights. Get your optimal amount of sleep as much as possible.

Manage stress by: Deep breathing, prayer, and putting it all in perspective. Enjoy this "most wonderful time of the year" **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON**