



# **GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter**

## **January, 2026**

Happy New Year to all of you and I hope your Christmas was a merry one! I also hope all of you are back up and running with power. Mine has gone in and out since December 26th. It made for an interesting visit with my daughter who was home from Iowa. Candle-light, blankets, and time to reminisce.

As we head into the new year, there is no slowdown for us. Reports are on the horizon, nominations for the 2026-2028 club officers, plans are underway for the annual yard sale, the State Convention which is hosted by the Southeastern District and with that, our club year will be over! Busy times for remarkable busy GFWC women.

Again, I wish all of you a very Happy New Year and look forward to 2026 together.

*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!**

**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**

### **CHECKLIST FOR MEETING**

**Your appetite for chili cook-off**

**Used Batteries**

**A friend who is interested in GFWC**

**Used Greeting Cards**

**Can Tabs**

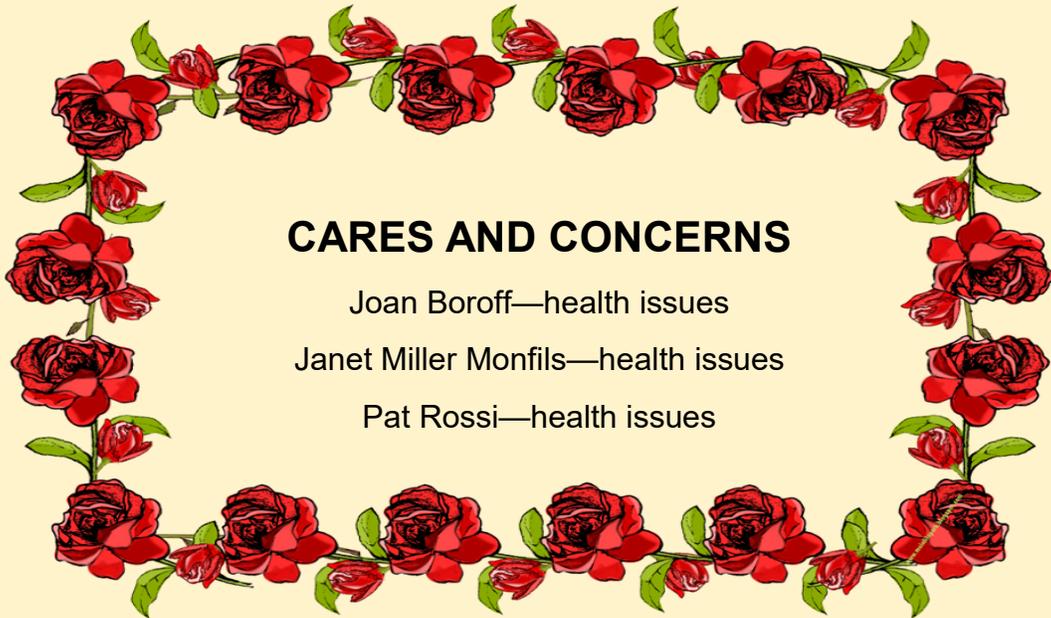
**Used Sneakers**

**\$ Heifer International**

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

**22—*Pam Hughes***



**CARES AND CONCERNS**

Joan Boroff—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



## GF WC TIDBITS.....

**GF WC International**—About sixty women’s clubs came up in different cities of France. Of them, “The Society of Revolutionary and Republican Women” was the most famous.

**GF WC Michigan**—Gladys Beckwith founded the Michigan Women’s Hall of Fame, reflecting GF WC’s focus on recognizing women’s contributions.

**GF WC Big Rapids**—During the 1940s, the Big Rapids Women’s Club hosted annual fashion shows. Many of their fundraising events, including the fashion shows, supported the Red Cross.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 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.....

*The 2025 CHRISTMAS PARTY is in the books.....*



Thank you to everyone who attended the Club's Christmas party. It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces and sparkles. A total of 18 members and 3 guests (possible new members) attended and enjoyed food catered by Pere Marquette Catering.

## WISE PURSE DONATION from the 4B's event....



Ten purses, scarves and jewelry were delivered on December 18th to the WISE shelter. These items were taken from the 4B's fundraiser. Janet Miller-Monfils made blankets and Leona Royer provided little bags with lotion. These were waiting for the children to come home from school to select the items for their mother for Christmas. Gift bags and cards were provided by the club as well.

## MITTEN TREE DEILVERY



The Mitten Tree collected 65 pairs of mittens/gloves, 189 hats, 65 scarves and 29 sets for a total of 348 items. These items were delivered to Angels of Action to be distributed to those in our community who need to keep warm this winter.

## DHHS DELIVERY



The Christmas Family Committee received a wish list for five children who came into the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) program after the cut-off date for gifts. The committee shopped, wrapped and donated, and delivered 10 large totes of gifts to the DHHS office this year.



## WISE ADOPT-A-FAMILY DELIVERY



The Christmas Family Committee made their annual delivery of items for the WISE Adopt-a-Family project.

## TEDDY BEARS.....



Remember the teddy bears we collected when we collaborated with Artworks on their Bear Project? Well.... they have found a home! Some were donated to the Mecosta County Victim's Services Team and others to Toys for Tots.

## THE MORE YOU KNOW.....

### HEALTH AND WELLNESS TIPS.....

Starting the new year with a positive mindset means embracing the opportunity for a fresh beginning and a clean slate. It's about reflecting on lessons learned from the past year, acknowledging growth, and then looking forward with excitement and optimism rather than dwelling on past shortcomings. This positive approach often involves setting intentions or realistic goals, cultivating an attitude of gratitude for current blessings, and prioritizing self-care and strong relationships. By viewing the new year as a change for self-improvement and new adventures, one can approach each day with renewed energy and purpose, making it a year of meaningful progress and personal growth.

# FLOWER OF THE MONTH- From the Environment CSP

## CARNATION

People born in the month of January have two birth flowers—the carnation and snowdrop. Whether they're your birth flowers or not, learn more about the history, meaning, and symbolism of these colorful flowers that are sure to lift your spirits during these cold winter months.

**The Carnation**-Native to the Mediterranean area, the [carnation \(\*Dianthus caryophyllus\*\)](#) is a widely cultivated fringe-petaled flower with a spicy fragrance. It was first imported to the United States in the 1850s, and within 2 decades, more than 50 varieties had been made available. It has long been a staple in the flower industry—especially for [Mother's Day](#) and [Valentine's Day](#)—thanks to its meanings of love and remembrance. It is also the [state flower](#) of Ohio.

**Carnation History**- Translated from Greek, carnation is often referred to as “flower of the gods.” It grew in the wild on the hillsides of Greece and is said to have been named by Greek botanist Theophrastus. The carnation's history dates back to when it was used in garlands, art, and decor in ancient Greece and Roman times.

At one time, the carnation was used to treat fevers in Europe. In the Elizabethan era, it was used to spice wine and ale as a substitute for the more expensive clove. An essential oil can be extracted from a carnation's flower and used for aromatherapy and perfumes. It is traditionally prescribed in European herbal medicine to treat coronary and nervous disorders.

In the Netherlands, a white carnation is worn in remembrance of veterans and the resistance in World War II. Bright red carnations represent the 1970s military and civil coup in Portugal, often called the Revolution of the Carnations. Red carnations also symbolize socialism and the labor movements and have been worn on International Workers' Day (May 1).

**Carnation Meanings and Symbolism**-In early times, carnations were predominantly pale pink and peach, but over the years, the availability of colors has grown to include red, yellow, white, orange, purple, and green, as well as bi-colors and frosted varieties. As with roses, different-colored carnations convey different meanings, as shown below.

### Carnation Colors & Meanings

Color	Meaning
Light Red	Admiration
Dark Red	Deep Love
White	Innocence, Pure Love, Remembrance
Pink	Affection, A Mother's Love
Purple	Capriciousness
Yellow	Disappointment, Rejection
Striped (any color)	Regret

According to Christian legend, the first pink carnation on Earth grew from Mary's tears when she wept for Jesus as he carried his cross. Therefore, a pink carnation often symbolizes a mother's unyielding love. What is our club flower? The Pink Carnation!!



Info from almanac.com