

GFWC GREATER WEST PALM BEACH WOMEN'S CLUB

a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

Changing Lives One Project At A Time

January 2017

VOL. 17 ISSUE 1



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Suzan Close and Cathy Hopkins

First and foremost, we would like to thank the members of the Board for volunteering for the next two years to help lead our club. We know that this is an act of love for the club and we really appreciate you. Also, for the Department Chairmen for volunteering, without you, we would not be able to do any projects or be able to reach out to our club members or the community. This year our focus is "Changing Lives One Project at a Time". Without the volunteer work of all our club members, we would not be able to reach out to our community and change lives.

Thank you all for supporting and helping us through our first meeting as Presidents. We promise that we will do our best to follow "Robert's Rules of Order" at the next meeting. All in all, the planning meeting went well and we thank you all for attending.

We have made many changes, and we are very excited about them. From the feedback we have received, you are too. The calendar is a wonderful idea! This will make us more organized and make planning activities easier. Hopefully you could all hear everything discussed with the microphone and that the speakers held your attention as they came to the podium.

We are looking forward to a wonderful year watching our club grow and changing lives one project at a time.

Yours in Federated love,

Suzan and Cathy



Treasurer - Janet Carlson

Please remember dues are now due. They are \$50 and will be collected again at the February meeting.



MEMBERSHIP - Janie D'Ambrosio and Fran Green

Ladies Day Out for February will be lunch and a movie on February 16th. Time and place will be sent out in an email.

January Ladies Day Out was held at Nick's Diner after the Race for the Cure. 7 members, 2 boosters and 6 guests met for breakfast and to share fellowship.



This year we do not have an officer for Fundraising. So, we will be asking people to volunteer to chair different fund raising activities.

Phyllis has graciously volunteered to chair a fashion show committee. "Thank you" Phyllis and everyone who has volunteered to help her

with this undertaking. If you have volunteered or are interested in helping with this project, please let her know by email or text. More information will follow at the next meeting.

Bunco was held on January 27 at Barbara & Rick Burdette's home. Thank you Barbara & Rick for being such great hosts. We had 8 members, 6 boosters. and 8 guests attending. Dinner had a "tailgate party" theme, great food and lots of fun. It was a beautiful evening. We made \$190. We'll let you know by email when the next Bunco will be held.





Our next craft meeting....

Jewelry Seminar, February 9 at 10 am. Bring old, broken and any unused jewelry and we will make something you will love. Learn how to make bracelets, earrings, necklaces and pins which I will demonstrate. I will have various clasps, elastic string, stringing supplies, earring wires and posts to make items. Will have epoxy glue as well. Please bring pot luck lunch items for after the workshop. I will have fruit and donut holes and tea for snacking. RSVP pbreen3383@aol.com.



ARTS - Peggy Breen

Members met for a pot luck dinner and to make a wall jewelry hanger using picture frames.



CONSERVATION - Mary Evelyn Mitchell and Nancy Wood

The **Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC)** is a free, fun, and easy event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of bird populations. Participants are asked to count birds for as little as 15 minutes (or as long as they wish) on one or more days of the four-day event and report their sightings online at birdcount.org. Anyone can take part in the Great Backyard Bird Count,

from beginning bird watchers to experts, and you can participate from your backyard, or anywhere in the world. Each checklist submitted during the GBBC helps researchers at the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](#) and the [National Audubon Society](#) learn more about how birds are doing, and how to protect them and the environment we share. Last year, more than 160,000 participants submitted their bird observations online, creating the largest instantaneous snapshot of global bird populations ever recorded. **The 20th annual GBBC will be held Friday, February 17, through Monday, February 20, 2017.** Please visit the official website at birdcount.org for more information and be sure to check out the latest [educational and promotional resources](#).

The Conservation Department is asking members to participate in the GBBC and report your count. If anyone would like to just send their count to Mary Evelyn she will report it, also.

The state of Florida is attempting to take back one of America's National Wildlife Refuges. The Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge provides critical habitat to 250 species of birds, including the largest wading bird colony in the Everglades with more than 7,000 active nests. Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past sixty years, the Refuge has flourished into some of the healthiest remaining Everglades habitat. But now, in an effort that has long been encouraged by the sugar industry, Florida has begun the process of evicting the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This move will eliminate federal wildlife protections on the 144,000 acre Refuge. You can send our sample letter, or edit it with your own words for even greater impact. ***Your letter will be sent directly to Governor Scott when you click "Send Letter."*** ***"To locate the letter, you can search for the National Wildlife Refuge in the Everglades at Risk/National Audubon***

Delivery to Peggy Adams - Thank you to Cathy Hopkins and Meg America for their donation (5 BIG bags) of blankets, towels, and other items that can be used at Peggy Adams. Nancy and Mary Evelyn will be delivering the supplies on Friday, Feb. 3 if anyone would like to join us.

Please continue to save your ink cartridges, items for the animal shelters and items for the **Teacher's Resource Depot.**



EDUCATION - Kathy Stackhouse and Linda Ferris

Three women club members met for lunch on Wednesday, January 11. Then they delivered two boxes of books worth approximately \$240 to the Hagen Branch Library. These donated books will be included in the Friends of the Library Book sale to be held January 28.



Twenty copies of Disney Junior Book Stuff's Colorful Cure purchased at First Book Marketplace are stamped and ready for the February Women Veterans' Baby Shower.

Please wear Pink Shirts to our February meeting. We want to join in with the Literacy Coalition of Palm Beach and the Palm Beach County School District for a county-wide celebration of the international event. Pink Shirt Day is scheduled for February 22, and this event supports character-based education to help turn "bullies into buddies." The 2017 theme is *Gratitude is the Attitude.*

Linda Ferris contacted Dr. Mary Stratos, Principal of Forest Hill High School, with information on our club's scholarship application.

The deadline is March 15, 2017, to get the applications to Linda, who is the chairman for this project. As you know, the club is offering \$1,000 scholarship to senior at Forest Hill HS.

Mary Evelyn and Meg volunteered their time to judge HOSA (Health Occupation Student Organization) students from Palm Beach Lakes HS and other schools in the area at their Regional Competition. Students in the southern region were given a topic and 3 hours to illustrate the topic in a poster. There were about 1,000 students there for the competition.



Race for the Cure - Seven members, 2 boosters, and 9 guests participated in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure. Thank you to Janet for being our "team captain". We have 3 breast cancer survivors in our club who participated in the race.



HOME LIFE - Suzanne Valentage

Members wore Red to the meeting in honor of February Heart Health Month.

After school snack project - Thank you Mary Evelyn for doing this project again with help from Nancy Wood. They make about 45 peanut butter & jelly sandwiches for Aftercare students. The club members supply peanut butter & jelly donations. They do the real work of making and taking the sandwiches once a month throughout the school year.

Greeting Card Project - We are collecting greeting card fronts to be sent to St. Jude's Ranch for Children. The greeting project involves collecting any type of greeting card front. Children and volunteers at St. Jude's Ranch for Children can turn them into recycled cards that sell at StJudesRanch.org for \$17 for a pack of ten. **Send only the card fronts (with no writing on back) and exclude Hallmark, Disney, and American Greeting cards.** We will collect at our monthly meetings.



INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH - Liz Bloeser and Phyllis Gauger

We started the year with a productive planning meeting and as new chairs, we will try to mix things up a bit in this department. Ongoing projects will be **clothing collection for men, women and children** to be donated to Haiti as they are still reeling from the devastating hurricane they experienced. We will also continue to **collect eye glasses/cases**, please ask your friends/family to pass their old eyeglasses to us.

International dinners will continue as they were quite popular and will be scheduled (for the most part) on the 4th Thursday of each month. However, our dinners may be replaced or included with a scheduled event such as our **first outing** for the year on Friday, **February 24 a 7 PM when we will attend the Global Dressage Festival** at the International Equestrian venue located at 13500 South Shore Blvd. in Wellington. Admission is FREE but

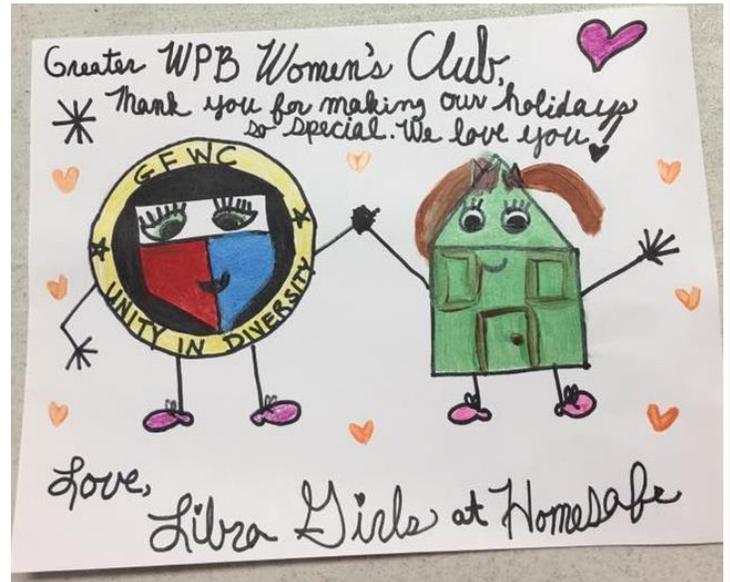
there is a \$10 parking fee so plan to carpool. Food and beverage is available. We will send out an email prior to the event. Dressage is a highly skilled form of riding performed in exhibition and competition, as well as an "art" for the sake of mastery. It is the highest expression of horse training where horse and rider are expected to perform from memory a series of predetermined movements. The highest levels of competition are held at the Olympics.



PUBLIC ISSUES - JeffAnne Pike and Cathy Hopkins

Thanks to all the donations, we collected \$800 to buy gifts for the girls at HomeSafe for Christmas. Cathy and JeffAnne did the shopping and had a crew of elves to help wrap all the gifts and deliver them to HomeSafe. While there we were able to take a tour of the facility to see where the girls live.





There are several ways we could help out with the children at HomeSafe.

- Every Tuesday Home Safe holds a domestic violence meeting where children and parents meet for counseling and encouragement. The youngest children are feed dinner and stay together while the older kids and parents go off to meeting. We can volunteer to provide dinner for the kids...easy and simple and pre-made.
- We could to sponsor a pizza dinner or the girls living at Home Safe,
- Providing tickets so the girls could have a movie night.
- Donate gently used suitcases or duffle bags.

More information will be provided at our next meeting.

Forgotten Soldiers - We will be collecting items each month to donate to the Forgotten Soldiers Organization. This month I delivered 18 boxes of assorted beef jerky/sticks.



We received a thank you note from the girls for their gifts.



Next month, I will be collecting individually packed drink mixes. Please add a box to your cart when you go shopping and bring them to our February meeting!

VA Mommy Bags - The VA Shower for women veterans is on February 25. Therefore we will have **mommy bag stuffing meeting on Saturday, February 18** at JeffAnne's house (4288 Edward Rd, WPB, 33406) at 10:00 am. I've decided not to put shampoo and conditioner in the bags and just stick to bath gels, lotions and other items. I already have mirrors, candles, and notepads purchased and donated. If you wish to make a donation please get to JeffAnne by the 18.

We will be **delivering the filled Mommy Bags on Tuesday, February 21 at 11:00 am**. We will meet at JeffAnne's, carpool to the VA and then have lunch at the Gun Club Café.

Girl Scout Cookies - Again, as we have done in the past, we donated a case of cookies to the military.



I would also like us to do something special for **our police officers/sheriff deputies and firemen/women**. I was thinking baking cookies and delivering to their break rooms. Just a little something to let them know they are special. More information will be presented at our February meeting or via email.



PUBLIC RELATIONS

Signature Project DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION - Linda Ferris and Deb Durand

It's Birthday Bag collection time again! We want to donate birthday bags to the children in Harmony House, our local domestic violence shelter. We have done this project for several years. Please bring birthday plates, napkins, cups, favors, games, toys, etc., to the February and March meetings. If you donate birthday bags to put all the items in, please make sure they are the HUGE bags. We include a game/toy and new book in each bag. We want to deliver them in March, so we can hold a second drive in late summer.

LEADERSHIP - Cathy Hopkins and Suzan Close

Our nominee for "**VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR**" is Linda Ferris. We are very happy that she has volunteered so much of her time this year to the club and we hope that she will become the Volunteer of the Year for District 10. Linda, we wish you much success and love.

District 10 News:

The first **District Meeting** this year is District 10 Arts and Crafts hosted by GFWC Treasure Coast Woman's Club in Vero Beach. The meeting will be held Saturday, March 4, 2017 at Pointe West Golf Club, 7500 14th Lane, Vero Beach, Florida. Registration time is 9:30 and meeting will be called to order at 10:00.

Arts & Crafts



If you have an art or craft item, the deadline is February 23, 2017 to register the item. If you

have an item, please let Suzan or Cathy know by February 17. We need to mail the registration form before February 22. Registration for the meeting is \$2 with lunch at \$16. (Club will pay half.) If you are interest in submitting a project or going to the meeting, please e-mail/text Suzan or Cathy to let them know. We want to carpool so let us know if you want to drive or ride (anyone for the Outlet Mall?). The deadline to let us know if you are going is February 17.

PERSONALS

I need to give a shout out to my girlfriend Cathy Opel who donated \$40 to be divided among the mommy bag items and the forgotten soldier items. It was a big help in purchasing these items. Bill and I matched her donation so it could be an even larger donation. Thanks again, JeffAnne.

Congratulations and thank you to our new board members. Nice job at our first meeting, looking forward to your changes. Phyllis

Thanks to the club for selecting me as your GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year candidate. Many members worked just as hard as I did in 2016, so I feel very honored. Love, Linda

DATES TO REMEMBER:

February 9th - Crafts at Peggy's

February 14th- P&J sandwiches

Mah Jongg

February 16th - Ladies Day Out

February 17⁺ to 20th - Backyard Bird Count

February 18th- Stuff Mommy Bags

February 20th - Board meeting

February 21st- Deliver Mommy Bags

February 24th -Global Dressage Festival

February 27th - Business Meeting

February 28th- Mah Jongg

Please refer to the February calendar e-mailed or other information.

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