



# GFWC Naples Woman's Club

Service is the privilege we are given for living on this Earth



## The Hibiscus



GENERAL FEDERATION  
of WOMEN'S CLUBS

*The General Federation of Women's Clubs is an international women's organization dedicated to community improvement by enhancing the lives of others through volunteer service.*

A Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 3 Winter 2014

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## President's Message



Dear Ladies,

If you read the President's Message in your new 2014-2015 Yearbook, you know what we

accomplished in the year 2014 and the goals I have set for 2015. That being said, I will not bore you by repeating myself.

You have heard me talk about the book, "Simple Abundance" by Sarah Ban Breathnach. This book has been in my life since 1996 and I consider it the gift that keeps on giving. I'm a firm believer that what you put into your mind on a daily basis is what will be evident in your life as you live each day. We are all busy sometimes too busy to take care of ourselves. The "Season" is starting, actually it started in November with our club hosting more activities than ever before. So how do we create the balance needed? My recipe is to try and practice the following principles: gratitude, simplicity, order, harmony, beauty, and joy. In order to practice these, I need to stop, take a breath, and introspectively consider their implication. Perhaps you are all doing this and that's why I see so many smiling faces on general meeting days.

I am excited to start this new year! Last year, we gave out approximately \$70,000 in scholarships, and gifts to organizations, and our in-kind giving was over \$300,000. This year we are hoping to surpass this number. One exciting piece of news is we have been offered a matching scholarship fund. The donor is setting up the guidelines and by our next meeting, I will have the definite details to tell you. Now that's what I call starting the new year off with a bang!

Happy New Year my dear sisters. I pray for you all to enjoy our club life together, get involved if you're not and if you are involved many thanks for making us who we are today.

God Bless,  
Lee Kraus



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**President - Lee Kraus**  
**1st Vice President (Programs) - Jaina MacLaren**  
**2nd Vice President (Membership) - Pat Jolly**  
**3rd Vice Presidents (Fundraising)**

**Ann Marie O'Hara**  
**Pat Petrow**

**Recording Secretary - Kathy Abraham**  
**Corresponding Secretary - Millie Savarese**  
**Treasurer - Anne Palmer**  
**Assistant Treasurer - Hina Sanghvi**  
**Parliamentarian - Jacquelyn Pierce, RP**

**DEPARTMENT CHAIRS**

**The Arts - Kathy Freeman**  
**Jane Tripp**

**Conservation - Jessica McCarthy**  
**Austine Frawley**

**Education - Jean Nadeau**  
**Home Life - Jerilyn Natrop**  
**Lois Jordan**

**International Outreach - Bonnie Slobodien**  
**Public Issues - Donna Porter**

**STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRWOMEN**

**By-Laws - Louise Wilmot**  
**Budget & Finance - Anne Palmer**  
**Community Improvement - Pat Limbach**  
**Dining For Philanthropy**

**Valerie White**  
**Tridy Albrite**

**Empowering Women**  
**Barb Virelli**  
**Jo Maeder**

**House & Grounds - Nancy Quinter**  
**Kitchen Tour - Debra McInnis**  
**Flea Market**

**Chair - Bonnie Slobodien**  
**Booths- Pam Zbierajewski**

**Bridge**  
**Claire Schoenwetter**  
**Valerie White**

**Philanthropy**  
**Linda Lucks**  
**Ann Cox**

**Rental Coordinator - Barrie Conley**  
**Sew Much Comfort - Donna Porter**  
**Hospitality**

**Kathy Lie**  
**Marcia Leverte**

**Memorial/Tributes - Jeanie Haustein**  
**Sunshine Photographer - Jeanie Haustein**  
**Publicity/Public Relations - Kathy Bertone**  
**Website & Newsletter Editor - Barrie Conley**

**SCHOLARSHIP/AWARDS CHAIRWOMEN**

**Art Awards**  
**Kathy Freeman**  
**Jane Tripp**

**Beryl Paulson Memorial - Jean Nadeau**  
**Community Service Awards**  
**Linda Lucks**  
**Ann Cox**

**Dora Valentine Scholarship - Barb Virelli**  
**Dorothy Edwards Scholarship - Millie Savarese**  
**Education Scholarships - Jean Nadeau**

**Eileen Steen**

**Naples Woman's Club Historian and Business Administrator passes away**

By Kathy Bertone, Board member



Eileen Steen, a dynamic presence at the Naples Woman's Club for the last 20 plus years, passed away suddenly on January 15, 2015. A memorial service for Eileen was held at the Naples Woman's Club where many friends spoke to Eileen's life, loves, and accomplishments. Past NWC president Patricia Stentz, stated, "Eileen was always a lady who treated others with kindness and respect. Her heart was filled with joy, and she had a passionate dedication to the Naples Woman's Club."

It was at that memorial service where I confirmed that which I knew in my heart: the Naples Woman's Club is not just a charitable organization that does good deeds for our community, it is also a place with a soul. A place where

women have been gathering for decades, not just during the happy times filled with laughs and camaraderie and good works, but also in the sad times, when comfort and support are needed. The words of President Lee Kraus rang true as we remembered our friend. "Last year we remodeled our NWC building. Lots of new sparkly paint on the walls, but I will tell you this: no matter how many coats of paint are ever applied to these walls, the spirit of Eileen Steen will never be covered up, her very spirit is infused in them forever."

A lady, and a multi-talented one, some of Eileen's accomplishments include being a charter member of Naples Philharmonic Chorale; singing operatic arias with The "Showerstall" Opera Company; performing a cameo role in Hello Dolly with the Naples Players; and performing with First Baptist's Living Christmas Tree. The American Association of University Women bestowed Eileen with the Woman of Achievement Award. The Greater Federation of Women's Clubs awards include: Publication of her poem "Centennial Reflections" in commemorative program for GFWC International Convention in Orlando, FL; Volunteer of the Year Award for GFWC District 12; GFWC Photography Awards for 5 years; Florida State Haiku Poetry Winner, 2 years; GFWC national recognition for an original one-act play.

Eileen graduated Magna Cum Laude from University of Maryland with a B.A. and completed her M.A. in Visual and Performing Arts from Towson University with three costumed voice recitals, a sculpture exhibition and survey/thesis for Maryland Department of Aging on "Art and Self Esteem." Her photographs have been published by Loyola College and the national trade magazine "Bus Tours Magazine".

President Lee Kraus: "The Naples Woman's Club has lost a very special woman with Eileen's passing. Eileen had been a member for well over 20 years and the last 7 had been employed as their Business Administrator. Not only did she handle the business issues but worked tirelessly in a philanthropic manner raising money yearly for the President's project and The Shelter for Abused Women and Children. Eileen was a wealth of knowledge regarding the club and was the historian. She will be sorely missed by all. Eileen is survived by her daughter, Therese Lynne, her son Samuel Allan, and her grandchildren, Valentina, Hope, and Dan. The family has asked that if you wish to send a memorial that Eileen's charity was The Shelter for Abused Women and Children. Please send in memoriam with her name mentioned.

Dear Eileen - Hear our Prayers.

You are loved and missed. Your spirit will continue to guide us, as you always have done. With appreciation for all your hard work and your generosity.



Peace be with you,  
 GFWC Naples Woman's Club



## General Membership Meetings

**OCTOBER** - The first meeting of the season was held on October 15 at the club. There were more than 75 members and friends in attendance. Since October is Public Issues Department month, the program was about our military who have and are serving our country. The speaker was from Hodges University, Lee Denny Smith, Director of the Dr. Peter Thomas Veterans Services Center. Lee shared how the center works with and for the active service persons and the veterans - including continuing education. She additionally had a woman veteran, just back from active duty, to share her life "Back Home" and ongoing life as a civilian.

**NOVEMBER** - Bonnie Slobodien, Chair of the International Committee, arranged for husband and wife speakers, Marina and Alex Berkovich and their moderator Roger Baker Weatherburn. Their presentation to an audience of 120 members and guests consisted of short video clips from the last Olympics. Alex and Marina were responsible for formatting music for athletes from synchronized swimming, gymnastics, ice dancing and rhythmic dancing. The clips were of these athletes performing to music originally composed by famous composers. The guest speakers then formatted music to fit their short program and composed and added music. A short clip on their new documentary about Naples that the three speakers had produced here in Naples was also shown. Members had the opportunity to purchase their DVD, if they wished. A special pin was awarded to Jean Worrel for completing 25 years of service to GFWC Naples Woman's Club. Jackie Pierce's thought for the day and Louise Wilmot's salute to veterans were also highlights of the afternoon.



**DECEMBER** - The general meeting on December 10, 2014 was hosted by the Home Life Committee. Chairs: Lois Jordon and Jerilyn Natrop. The speaker for the day was Jennifer Pash, Director of Philanthropy of Habitat For Humanity of Collier County. Jennifer has been part of the Habitat team for 11 years. She gave a heartfelt, very informative talk on the Habitat organization. Habitat of Collier County is rated the highest nonprofit in the nation for community and housing. Seasonal centerpieces were made by Karen Carr and an inviting buffet of salads, sandwiches and yummy desserts was enjoyed by all. Luncheon was provided by the Home Life committee. The meeting was attended by approximately 120 members and



guests and a "doggie" Christmas stocking was passed around the crowd to collect pocket change for Canine Companions, a GFWC FL President's Project. Everyone was delighted with the holiday atmosphere and big beautiful Christmas tree decorated by Rental Chair, Barrie Conley. We also had the drawings at the meeting for the seven prizes from the Chinese auction benefitting YMCA; and three beautiful door-prizes, hand-made by Karen Carr, were given to the lucky winners.





## Dora Valentine Scholarship Luncheon



Shelly Artistizabel, Author

## Empowering Women

Barbara Virelli and Jo Maeder, Chairs

On Friday, Nov. 14, 2014, the Empowering Women's Committee hosted the eighth annual luncheon at Windstar on Naples Bay Country Club to honor this year's recipient of the Dora Valentine Scholarship. The theme for our luncheon was "This is Your Year" presented by author, Shelly Artistizabel.



The recipient received a combined check (\$3000) from the Valentine Family and the GFWC Naples Woman's Club to help further her education. An impressive Chinese auction of three gorgeous prizes also helped provide funds for the event. This Community Service Project continues throughout the year, providing mentoring for the recipient and is part of our clubs' CIP project in partnership with The Shelter for Abused Women and Children to establish better awareness and reduction of domestic violence. The mission: Leading the community to Prevent, Protect, and Prevail over domestic violence through advocacy, empowerment and social change.



## “Laws of Life” Essay



The Education “Laws of Life” Community Service Program is held each December in conjunction with the Collier County Board of Education. This is a competition in three different grade levels: elementary, middle school and high school students. NWC receives about 500 juried essays and each essay is read and graded three times by NWC volunteers; it is a gratifying experience. NWC results are returned to the Board of Education for selection of their finalists. The finalists then present their essays in speech form for an audience of parents and teachers at a special Scholarship Reception scheduled for April 12. There are monetary prizes awarded to the winners in each division.



## 25 Years of Service Living the Volunteer Spirit Jean Worrel



## Heart Walk with Home Life

Mary Brown, coordinated members for the annual American Heart Association walk held on November 1 at Cambier Park. Our club had ten participants and we collected a total of \$570. Nancy Holland of the American Heart Association spoke at the October General Membership meeting to promote the walk, so some donations were collected during the meeting.



## Reporting Workshop

Pat Petrow and Barrie Conley attended the District 12 Reporting Workshop in Arcadia, Florida on Nov. 22. There were over 30 District members in attendance. Each year GFWC clubs are requested to provide program and project reports summarizing the volunteer hours, in-kind donations and monetary donations to the community.



## Judy Ventrella Past District 12 Director

It is with great sadness we inform that Judy Ventrella, Past District 12 Director 2012-2014 & FL Leadership Chair, passed the day before the annual meeting, Nov. 7. Judy was a dynamic leader, full of fun and always ready with a helping hand for all her Southwest Florida Federation Clubs. We will remember with great joy all our good times and shared Federation interaction.





## Social Networking

The first Social Networking meeting took place on Oct. 29 from 4-6pm with a wine and cheese social followed by three speakers and topics of discussion: "Legal

Issues Affecting Women as they Age" by Jo-Anne Jeffreys, Esq, PA; "A Passage to Women's Financial Well-Being" by Shannon Holland, Financial Advisor, Raymond James; and "Planned



Giving" by Candace R. Marshall, VP Philanthropic Services, Wells Fargo Advisors. Jalna MacLaren and Gail Klein organized the legal and financial discussions impacting members.



"Art Connect Us" was the theme on Nov. 18 for the Social Networking event at the beautiful von Liebig Art Center. Seventeen members and their guests enjoyed wine and cheese in the gallery, while getting a sneak peek of a new show by three local artists. We were warmly welcomed by our

member, Aimee Schlehr, who is also the Executive Director of Naples Art Association. Aimee introduced a myriad of programs and opportunities the Art Association offers at the von Liebig Center and in the community. We were also fortunate to have Merrill Lynch adviser and new member Rochelle Jackson enlighten us about "Fine Art as an Investment". Our minds, bodies and creative spirits were all nourished during this wonderful evening.

Fun Bridge, Chaired by Valerie White and Claire Schoenwetter, is a rovides a new social networking program for 2014. There are currently about 20 women active in this monthly afternoon event. So if you play bridge or are interested in learning, please check the calendar information for scheduled times; there is no level of proficiency expected.



## Annual District Meeting

The GFWC Annual District 12 Meeting was hosted at our club on Nov. 8. Among the 37 attendees was Charlotte Arcadia, District 12 Director; Sherry Miraldi, District Chaplain; Jeanie Haustein, District Public Issues Chair, Jannett Hawley, District Secretary & President of Arcadia; Laura Wine, President of Rotonda West & District President's Project Chair; Posey Bauer, District Credentials Chair; Mary Powell, GFWC FL President Elect; and Catrina Sistrunk, GFWC FL Director of Junior Clubs; and Barbara Holland, District Parliamentarian Pro Tem; and Lee Kraus, Naples President. The meeting featured a fun how-to skit highlighting "Real Talk about Membership", "Catch the Wave" starfish membership reporting, "dog house" display for coin collections for Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), and new GFWC English/Spanish brochures. A short memorial service was also held for Judy Ventrella. Monies that were previously collected to honor her as the outgoing District 12 President were donated to CCI project and "Military-Stand-down" project that she supported.





## Shelter for Abused Women & Children

Pat Limbach & Joy Buck coordinated a Holiday stocking and gifts/partnership with Home Life and Membership members of the GFWC Naples Woman's Club. NWC presented Christmas stockings filled with toys and bears to the children and useful toiletries to the mothers at the Shelter for Abused Women on December 11th. Additional gift bags for the residents were also presented. The stockings were made by the members of our Home Life Committee and filled with items donated by many members of our club. The partnership with The Shelter for Abused Women is our NWC Community Improvement Project for 2014-2015. Additional service projects are being planned for both adult residents and their children residing at the Shelter.



## NWC President's Project - YMCA

Pat Limbach, chairperson of the NWC President's Project, and member, Joy Buck, presented a check for \$1000 from the GFWC Naples Woman's Club to Paul Thein, CEO of The Greater Naples YMCA on Monday, December 15th. Funds were raised from a "Chinese Auction" coordinated by Eileen Steen. Seed money for the seven prizes were underwritten by the Friedenwald Fund. Thank you to all the ladies that bought tickets to support this great project. The Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is at the YMCA on January 14th at 12:30 pm and 5:30 pm for the grand opening of the new YMCA. All members are welcome to join the YMCA at a discount.



## Holiday Boutique & Providence House

There was a "Holiday Boutique" held at the GFWC Naples Woman's Club on Nov. 20th. New member, Raenell Murray, sponsored the event. There were 14 vendors selling many varied items. A portion of the sales from each vendor was donated to "Providence House" in Naples. A check for \$1400 was presented to the Director of Providence House at the Dec. 10 meeting at the club. A chance drawing took place for a \$230 valued necklace and the proceeds were also donated to Providence House. Next year Raenell hopes to enlarge the boutique and also increase the donation.



“Yes, there is a Santa Claus”



What a fun afternoon! Jackie Pierce had the focus of her 50 guests at Audrey's charming Tea Room in downtown Naples. Jackie told us stories about giving and sharing which reflected both the theme of her event and the spirit of Christmas. There were tiny food treasures served in a formal, old-world tradition with a variety of brewed teas. Our hat contest was also fun with prizes in several categories; the winners, selected by attendees, were rewarded with adorable seasonal gifts.



New Juniores



The “Juniores” program at Manatee Middle School is 25 young ladies strong and growing. Juniores is sponsored by GFWC Naples Woman’s Club and GFWC Florida. The young ladies are planning service projects as ways to give back to the community and the world in which we live. A food drive is going to be planned and a Distracted Driving Campaign will be shared with schoolmates and family members. The Juniores are under the direction of Ms. Gail Klein, who is empowering them to choose personally meaningful projects, along with other Juniores or individually. Meeting times are Thursdays from 4-5 pm at the school.

Christmas Caroling

It is always fun and gratifying to walk through the halls of the downtown Naples Community Hospital singing carols and holiday songs and wishing staff and patients joys of the season. Our group was small this year but we made up for it with enthusiasm. If you have not had the opportunity of participating in this rewarding activity, please plan to put it on your calendar for next year.



Clubwoman Spotlight

We never know where the path of life will take us.



Jacquelyn Pierce is a much sought after, never-ending delight as a speaker and in her professional history as 2006-2008 GFWC International President she has had many requests to share her experiences. This past spring Jackie presented the program "Heart to Heart" to a local club on Marco Island. Several of the women present were from England and they asked if she might be coming to Great Britain during the month of September. Coincidentally, she was going to be in London in September on two separate occasions. Arrangements were made for her to present the same program while in London. Imagine her surprise when the program was held in a soccer stadium which held 5,000 people.....and what was Jackie's biggest worry? That they would understand her Missouri accent !



**GFWC Naples Woman’s Club, Inc.**

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*Naples Woman’s Club, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and a member of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs and is dedicated to enhancing the community through philanthropic activities and volunteer service in the Naples community. For the past 83 years it has worked to raise awareness of ongoing needs in our community and continue a tradition of helping people of all ages through a variety of programs.*