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VOLUME III - JANUARY 15, 2023

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



From Dianne's Desk:

Hello, GFWC Blue Umbrella Members!

Happy New Year to each of you. I hope your holidays were wonderful and blessed with family time, restful time and joyous time! What a perfect opportunity to live our club philosophy of "Love, Respect, and Kindness" always and everywhere. And now we begin a new year of volunteer service, learning and defining more of who we are and who we hope to be.

We are well on our way to establishing our Blue Umbrella persona. We have paid dues for more than 70 members from Florida as well as some from out of state. Hopefully we will continue to grow. I believe that an increasing number of people want to see more kindness, more respect, and much more love in the world today. Our members commit to a positive approach in a world with too much negativity and strife. We are determined to make a difference! We are also learning how to combine our efforts with other organizations through cooperation and support. We can and will help!

Your donations for those impacted by Hurricane Ian through your clubs, religious groups or individually was greatly appreciated. Regardless of whether you gave nonperishable food, pet supplies, blankets or gift cards, you came together and helped. I know that many of you plan on donating to the people of Belize who also suffered from a devastating hurricane.

We will continue to find and suggest more projects that are applicable wherever you may live. Thank you to those Blue Umbrella members who honored veterans by participating with Wreaths Across America, a nationwide effort. There are many other examples, along with some new ideas that you will find in this newsletter. Please find and do what appeals to you.

Because of our quick growth, the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club has some bylaws changes needed as we adapt to a bigger membership and an extended outreach and as we begin the process of becoming a 501c3 organization. You will be receiving the proposed changes in a few weeks for your review. A Zoom meeting will be scheduled for all members after at least 30 days, so that you have time to consider the proposed changes and vote. Please be watching for that communication.

A whole new year is ahead of us and I hope you are as excited about the possibilities as I am! We may be a new club, but we are a strong club, full of enthusiasm and...

LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS...everywhere and all the time!

Hugs,

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
President
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc

GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES!



Dianne Foerster
GFWC International Liaison Committee member



Last month we highlighted the GFWC International clubs in Belize. This month we are going to continue to highlight another GFWC International organization. The world has become very aware of the country of Ukraine, due to the ongoing war between Ukraine and Russia. What GFWC members may be less aware of is the fact that we have federated sisters and an active GFWC club in Ukraine. Since the war has been protracted, many women, children and the elderly have been forced to leave their homes and become refugees.

The president of the Woman's Club of the Ukraine, Lora Pavlenko and her daughter, RenaTa Chorna and her granddaughter left their homes in Kyiv, as did most members. They left husbands, fathers, brothers and sons. Lora and her daughter and granddaughter fled to Switzerland. In early July of 2022, these three were able to visit the United States of America, arriving around the Fourth of July. They found the fireworks very disconcerting, reminding them of the bombs exploding in their home city. They eventually came to Florida and were hosted by a fellow GFWC clubwoman in Palatka for a visit and then visited with Lora's sister who lives in the Villages. It was there that I had the opportunity to accompany GFWC Second Vice President Jolie Frankfurth for a short visit. Lora speaks English to a remarkable degree, but RenaTa helps with translation. RenaTa had been an attorney in Ukraine. Jolie and I, Lora and RenaTa enjoyed a lunch and conversation. Lora shared her hope of going home and starting a place to counsel her country women after the war. That, unfortunately, has not occurred.

However, since their return to Switzerland, the many refugees have been meeting with Lora on a regular basis and giving each other the support they all need. They have taken on the name of Vision Women. They have projects, several of them arts related, painting, crafts, and more. The most important thing they do, however, is to show their camaraderie. Most, including Lora, still have husbands or other family members in Ukraine. They are so worried about them as explosions and fighting continues. Both Lora and her husband minister to the refugees and those still remaining in their homeland.

Lora and RenaTa are on Facebook. I share most posts I receive but any of you can "friend" them, too. Please let me know if you want to be a part of this. Lora is a gifted writer and her posts are heartfelt.

GFWC has strongly encouraged donations through UNICEF, a GFWC affiliate. GFWC Florida did collect donations at the 2022 GFWC Florida Convention, last May which were sent to UNICEF for Ukraine support. We are aware that other community organizations are also advocating additional ways to help Ukraine. Some of our Blue Umbrella club members have partnered with them individually. That is part of our mission. Of course, due diligence when donating, should always be observed.

The main thing I have learned with this new relationship, is that we all are truly sisters and that although our major contribution may be prayers and emotional support, that in itself may be the most important thing that we can give!



From the Ukraine Woman's Club Facebook page

Thank you for every day we live together, learning to love, understand and conquer our fear and pain. We became more than a club; we became a family. Thank you, dear, for our meetings, for God putting you next to me in distant Switzerland. And you share precious warmth and care. Drops of soul warmth are the most precious, inexhaustible wealth that hides inside each of us. Not to be stingy with it for all the people around you mean to live joyfully, to live with love. A person who gives warmth is as if he glows from within, and this light attracts even more goodness and happiness into his life. Dear girls, look for joy in the details of life! Life is all about joy. Wishing you a wonderful day. To cheer up. To hug. Paying a sincere compliment. Prepare tea with tenderness and care. Let's love more, give more, warm more. We have many plans and many projects; we learn to serve people and support those who need us with all we can. Let every day be lived with joy and love!



Florida Clubs Extending a Helping Hand

In the spring of 2022, GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club began donating funds for the support of Ukraine to the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda. That Rotary Club has established a direct bank transfer system to the Rotary Club of Czeszochowa, Poland, the closest Rotary Club to the Ukraine border.

"Today, we dispatched another shipment of humanitarian supplies to Ukraine. This time around, we were joined by a Florida-based Rotary Club "Punta Gorda", who fundraised 3000 USD for this cause. We used those funds to purchase medical supplies, directly from a wholesaler who also agreed to resign from their margins – thus the funds provided were used to a maximum. From the funds gathered by

Stand With Ukraine T-Shirts now available!
\$10 of every purchase goes to Ukraine Relief!

Rotary
E-Club of Southeast USA
and Caribbean
Club of Punta Gorda

A joint project of the Rotary E-Club of Southeast USA and Caribbean and the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda, Florida.

Donated funds go to the Rotary Club of Czeszochowa, Poland, and are used to purchase humanitarian aid delivered directly into Ukraine.

<https://daggercustomapparel.com/ROTARYSTANDWITHUKRAINE>

SCAN ME

our own club members, we bought a variety of food items, supplementing the shipment. We'd like to thank the Rotary Club from Florida for their trust in our operations and the invaluable help provided to those, who are suffering from a war. During the loading of the shipment, a local TV station „Orion” was present, recording a video material that will be aired. Our transport is supposed to arrive in the occupied Mariupol, for which we'd like to thank the transport company „Egelmann."

Currently, the Rotary Club of Punta Gorda has a t-shirt available for purchase to raise funds for Ukraine. If you would like to communicate directly with the Global Grants Coordinator of this Rotary International effort, his name is James Williams, past president of Punta Gorda Rotary.

Kathryn S. Gallagher
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club
GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club
GFWC FL District 12 Director



Blue Umbrella Angels Doing Their Magic!



It would take an enormous Blue Umbrella to cover the entire Englewood, FL Lemon Bay High School Gymnasium, but that's what happened on the morning of Saturday, December 17th. A Meals of Hope food pack event, sponsored by the four Englewood/Rotonda West Rotary Clubs brought together 400 volunteers to pack 170,000 meals for Holidays without Hunger. All the meals were distributed immediately within Hurricane Ian devastated Charlotte, DeSoto, Collier

and Lee Counties. 15 members and a Booster of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club joined their new best friends from Englewood Lions Clubs International, the Englewood Animal Rescue Sanctuary, Lemon Bay High School students and local family groups to complete the task in just over two hours! Blue Umbrellas and feeling great all around!

Kathryn S. Gallagher





Spreading Love, Respect and Kindness

Humble moments serving the beautiful clients at Metropolitan Ministries. My heart was full hearing about their families, how they plan to cook their holiday meals and their gratitude for this organization and volunteers.

#InspireHope

Mimi Frezza

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club



Show Love, Respect and Kindness for the Troops

It's that time of year again.....Girl Scout cookie time! This year, your order can be purpose-filled. Did you know you can purchase cookies and donate them? Donated cookies go to "Support Our Troops" for our heroes in the military. Scouts in the Tampa area have also chosen to direct some of the donated cookies to Feeding Tampa Bay. What a wonderful way to support our military and our neighbors in need, and to help develop and support our future leaders. When you order Girl Scout Cookies, you're helping a Scout learn essential life skills—all while supporting the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world!

Reach out to your favorite Girl Scout and place your order today! If you need a recommendation, consider supporting the daughters of GFWC Florida clubwomen Candice Postel and Sherry Clendinen.

To order from Sadie Postel: <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/sadie736832>

To order from Savannah Postel: <https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/savannah188502>

To order from Mia Clendinen: <https://DigitalCookie.GirlScouts.org/scout/mia889434>

Cookies are \$5 a box. Don't delay, they are sold for a limited time only!



Sadie and Savannah



Mia

NATIONAL
**BLOOD
DONOR**
MONTH 2023

3%
OF THE U.S.
POPULATION
DONATES
BLOOD—
join them



January is #NationalBloodDonorMonth! Thank you to America's blood donors for ensuring there's blood on the shelf when it's needed the most. #NBDM #WhyBlood #ADRP

Roughly 7 million blood donors walk through blood center doors annually. Thank you for your dedication to helping save lives! #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #ADRP

Every two seconds in America, someone needs blood. Thank you to all those who so selflessly give blood and save lives! #NationalBloodDonorMonth #NBDM #WhyBlood

Being a superhero is literally in your veins. Donate blood this #NationalBloodDonorMonth and help save lives: donatingblood.org #WhyBlood #YourCapeAwaits

Fact: 1 in 7 patients entering a hospital will use blood. Donate today: donatingblood.org #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #WhyBlood

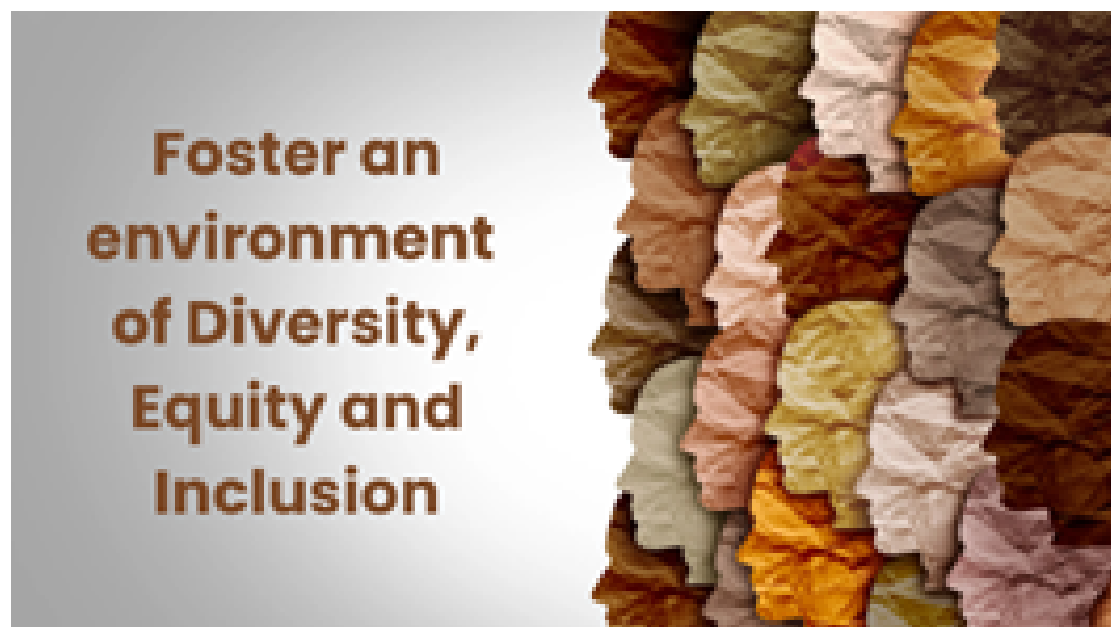
Fact: 1 in 83 births will need a blood transfusion. Donate today: donatingblood.org #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #WhyBlood

A single blood donation can save two or more patients in need. Donate today: donatingblood.org #WhyBlood #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth

Do you know someone with cancer? Someone who is pregnant? Someone with sickle cell disease? Then you know someone who may need blood. Donate today: donatingblood.org #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #ADRP

One in three African American blood donors are a match for a sickle cell patient. Donate today: donatingblood.org #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #WhyBlood

25% of the blood supply is used by patients battling cancer. Help save lives by donating today: donatingblood.org #NBDM #NationalBloodDonorMonth #WhyBlood



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

GFWC Florida continued our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) journey earlier this month with a webinar conducted by the DEI Implementation Team, led by Haadhaq Lawrence, Betty Medina, and myself. The highlight of the evening was a keynote presentation by author and trainer Seconde Nimenya, secondenimenya.com, who shared



her suggestions on how organizations can implement DEI. If you missed it, I encourage you to watch the webinar recording using these links:

<https://youtu.be/7oPVMmNucvo>

<https://youtu.be/-o6JFoWBLt8>

<https://youtu.be/VgLcVvUaPzk>

Although we were unable to record Seconde's presentation, the rest of the webinar is available to you.

I also encourage you to check out the DEI Toolkit. There are some great resources for clubs, and the DEI Implementation Team will continue to build it up over time.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1D3RRj9m64rmicbSU-nKsj0bg5O3pb15o?usp=share_link

If you have suggestions or questions about DEI, I would love to hear from you!

Virginia Yermoli

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

GFWC Florida DEI Implementation Team Co-Chairman



JILL'S HOUSE

In December, I participated with a group of women called the Soul Sisters, putting on a Christmas brunch for Jill's House. This is a home that was founded by Jill Wright whose daughter, Jill, died of an overdose because there wasn't a room at St. Matthews for her when she needed it most. This home is for women getting their lives back together. They sign a full year's contract to live there, be educated on how to stay off drugs, alcohol, and toxic relationships. They are a part of St. Matthews House but the female division. After sharing about my job as the Domestic Violence Chair for Florida, I was invited to speak. This falls right into the spirit of GFWC Florida's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion program.

Lee Kraus

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

G.F.W.C. Blue Umbrella Club Inc.

General Federation of Women's Clubs



Dear Members,

On behalf of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc., I would like to welcome you into our sisterhood and thank you for joining our Club.

I hope you embrace our motto and look forward to reading about how you touch your community as you spread Love, Respect and Kindness. If you find an organization that is struggling to reach their objectives, please let us know, we will try to help in some way.

We encourage all our members to send us information of the work they do in their communities; If you would like to post events and/or work that you have done/do for your community, please be sure to post it on our Facebook page or send the information for the newsletter to: vayermoli@hotmail.com

With Love, Respect and Kindness, always,

Dianne Foerster

President

GFWC Blue Umbrella Inc.

dlynnfoerster@gmail.com



WELCOME!

Adler, Rachele	Gallagher, Kathryn	Milner, Sallie	Wines, Lucy
Albala, Harriet	Grace, Sharon	Moore, Elizabeth	Wolff, Patricia
Allen, Annetta "Sue"	Gudbrandsen, Elaine	Moore, Lavette	Yermoli, M. "Virginia"
Aubin, Candi	Guenther, Josephine	Morris, Karen	Hamada, Susan
Aungst, Helen	Harper, Margie	Norris, Terri	
Auth, Laurie	Hawley, Jannett	Papadopoulos, Virginia	
Babcock, Julie	Heenan, Laurel	Peer, Bernice	
Bassinger, Elayne	Hendrickson, Beverly	Powell, Joyce	
Bellingar, Annette	Hoffmann, Mary "Ellen"	Ratica, Jodi	
Bruno, Jo Ann	Holland, Shelby	Reed, Beth	
Cason, Marion	Hussar, Jane	Rice, Cindy	
Connelly, Laura	Jackson, Candy	Robinson, Jeri	
Crawford, Nancy	Jenkins, Linda	Stewart, Christine	
Crockett, Theresa	Johnson, Carol A	Taylor, Suzan	
Culver, Becky	Jones, Irene	Thurrow, Glenda	
Cunningham, Karen	Joseph, Linda	Tillman-Shad, Pat	
DiMaria, Jean	Juvinall, Paula	Valarezo, Toni	
Doty, Kaitlyn	Kain, Fran	Vegnani, Patricia	
Elsberry, Phyllis	Klatt, Lisa	Warmouth, Rachelle	
Estep, Mindy	Kraus, Lee	Werner, Lynn	
Fisher, Patricia "Patty"	Lamneck, Patti	Wheeler, Elizabeth "Liz"	
Frezza Mimi	Mammenga, Kathy	Whitenton, Linda	
	Markowitz, Madeline	Windham, Caroline	

CAMP BOGGY CREEK



MISSION

To foster a spirit of joy by creating a free, safe and medically-sound camp environment that enriches the lives of children with serious illnesses and their families.

Camp Boggy Creek has been selected as GFWC Florida President O'Toole's state project for 2022-2024. Together, we as members of GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc. can work to make a difference in a child's life. My ask is that you join me in supporting this initiative.

WHAT IS CAMP BOGGY CREEK

The Camp is a safe place for children ages 7-16 with one of the following illnesses: asthma, bleeding disorders, cancer, craniofacial disorders, diabetes, epilepsy, heart

disease, kidney disease, rheumatic disease, ventilator assisted disorders, sickle cell, spina bifida and transplants to spend time and forget their illnesses and have an opportunity to enjoy life as a child – without thinking about their disease. The camp was founded by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Paul Newman and is in Eustis, Florida.

PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

They host year-round sessions, including summer camp for the children and family retreats in the spring and fall. Activities include swimming, boating, fishing, arts & crafts, horseback riding, theater, archery, mini golf, dancing, singing and adventure activities.

WHAT IT TAKES

Roughly 3.8 million dollars is needed each year to run this ADA, state of the art medical camping facility. The one building that stands out - the Patch (where you go to get patched up) is filled with volunteer medical specialists to ensure each camper's safety. The cost to send each child to camp for one week is \$2,500. No parent is asked to pay to send their child. Camp Boggy Creek relies on non-profit organizations like GFWC to fund all expenses. Every walk down cabin row, every stage day, every smile, every new friendship... it all matters...Camp matters...and your gift matters to children with serious illnesses and their families.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AS A BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB MEMBER?

The camp needs “Boggy Creek Bears” which are made from a specific pattern. I am not a seamstress, and I’ve been told the patterns are extremely difficult, but if you’re a sewer, this is an excellent opportunity for you to get engaged! In addition, the Camp is looking for hand crocheted afghan blankets that would be given to each child to take home after their stay. There are specific dimensions for the blankets as well. If you or your friends and family can assist in making the Boggy Creek Bears or an afghan blanket, please let me know and I will be more than happy to share the specific instructions with you.

In addition to the bears and the afghans, you can help raise \$2,500 or more, to send a camper to Camp Boggy Creek for a week. Since this is a two-year project, we have time to help raise/solicit these funds. Opening our hearts to these children and their families is one way we can show our support to make memories in the life of a child.

Please send me an email at membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com if you would like the pattern for the bear, instructions for the afghan blanket or have an idea for raising funds to send a child or two to Camp Boggy Creek.

Wishing each of you and yours a healthy, happy New Year!

Yours in Service,

Lisa Klatt
Communications and PR Chair
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
727-543-7461
membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com

We would like to keep records of our club’s history. To this end, it will be important for those volunteering for activities on behalf of this Club, to copy the information to Rachelle Warmouth, at rachelle3364@gmail.com, as well as Dianne and the Communications Team.

Thank you!



Find us on:
facebook®

Sharon Grace
sharon_grace@aol.com
352-668-8088

Our club is official, and we are on Facebook!

We have two (2) sites. One is a "Public" PAGE and the other a "Private" GROUP. Dues paying members are encouraged to join BOTH. These are the differences between "page" and "group":

"Public" PAGE: It can be seen by anyone on Facebook. It is used to recruit new members and introduce people to our vision and purpose. This PAGE collects "likes" and "followers." Once you like and follow this PAGE, you can "invite" your friends to like and follow it. Anyone can like/follow and keep up with our activities. Since I am one of the PAGE administrators, I have placed restrictions on posting by just anyone. I must "approve" posts first. This is to control spammers to a degree.

"Private" GROUP: You must be a "dues paying" member to join. You must "request" and be "approved" in order to view and post on it. This GROUP will be used for announcements, zoom meeting links, member discussions and the like. Members use this GROUP to communicate with one another, access files and other member information that we do not want to share with non-members. I am also one of the administrators of this GROUP.

How can we tell the difference between the two sites? There are a couple of ways:

"Public" PAGE:

Name: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

Cover photo: 3 blue umbrellas with the words, "Love, Respect, Kindness" and a GFWC logo seal

What you will see once on the site under the name: "# likes and # followers"

"Private" GROUP:

Name: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

Cover Photo: our Charter certificate and gavel

What you will see once on the site under the name: "Private group and # of members"

Virginia Yermoli
vayermoli@hotmail.com

786.252.9272



Welcome to our newsletter!

Please send me any articles you would like to be included in this newsletter.

If you send pictures with your articles, please send them as a jpeg or png attachment with a short explanation of who is in the picture, what is it about and any other relevant information that may be needed to explain the action in the picture.

Thank you!



If you would like to become a member of this wonderful Club, please fill out the application below and send it with your \$35 check made out to GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc, and mail to:

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
Kathy Mammenga - Treasurer
11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195
Seffner, FL 33584

If you would like an application emailed to you, please send your request to Virginia Yermoli at vayermoli@hotmail.com

Mission Statement

This Club is organized to encourage an ongoing, positive opportunity for volunteerism based on incorporating the attributes of love, of respect and of kindness through all aspects of life. The mission will also encompass support for existing clubs and projects at local levels.

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc. *General Federation of Women's Clubs*



Member Registration Information

Please send the information below to Lisa M. Klatt at:
membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com

First Name _____

Last Name _____

Email Address _____

Home
Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code _____ Home Phone _____

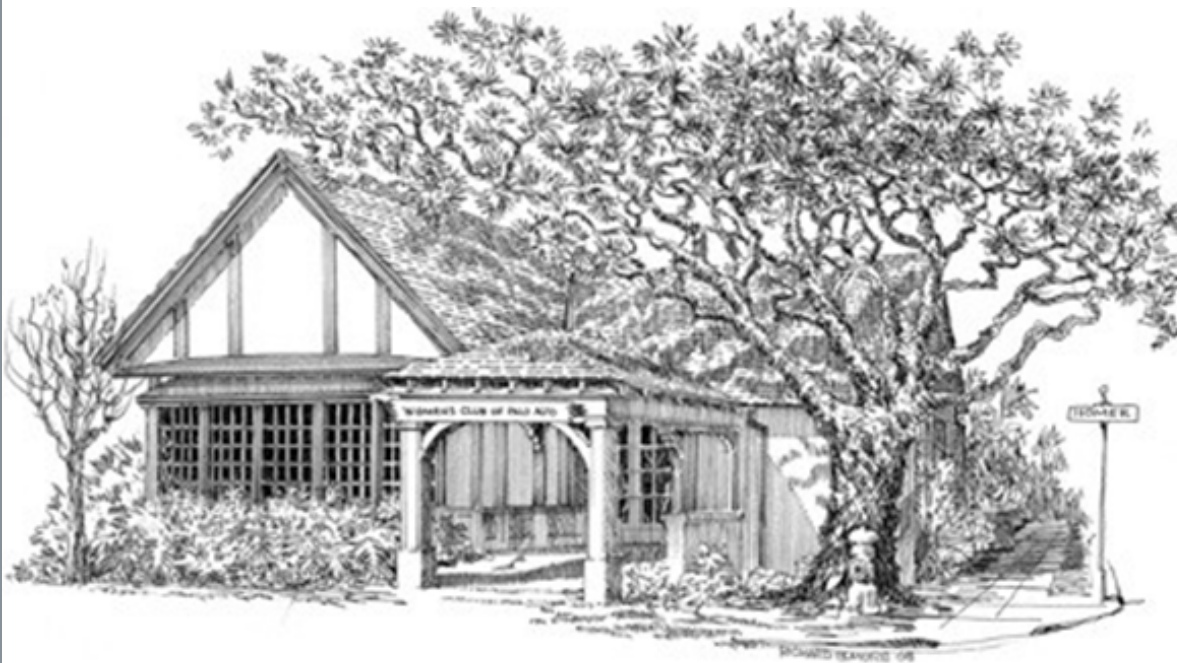
Cell Phone _____

District_____Country_____

Areas of Interest _____

**Dues (\$35) checks should be made payable to: GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
and mailed to:**

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
Kathy Mammenga - Treasurer
11214 E Dr. MLK Jr. Blvd #195
Seffner, FL 33584



A Collect for Club Women
Mary Stewart

Keep us oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, and deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense and meet each other face to face,
without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.
Let us take time for all things.
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.
Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is the little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
the great common human heart of us all.
And oh Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 – 1943), wrote a “Collect for Club Women” which our club recites at meetings, as do club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the Collect was written “...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own.”



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Sent by vayermoli@hotmail.com