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VOLUME IV - February 15, 2023

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



From Dianne's Desk:

Hi, my dear Blue Umbrella sisters!

What a busy and exciting month we have had! You should have received the proposed bylaws recently, as well as the zoom information for our upcoming meeting on Sunday, March 12 at 6:30 EST. All of us in attendance will be voting on the proposed bylaws changes. Your board has met a couple of times this month to work on those bylaws proposals and then again to discuss some new merchandise which will be available for you to order very soon. That will include GFWC Blue Umbrella shirts, Blue Umbrella Pins, and some awesome Blue Umbrella bracelets! Paula Juvinal, who has accepted the role of Merchandise Manager, will have all the details for you.

Another really exciting venture in the works is our first webinar! The Monarch Butterfly Webinar will be Thursday, April 6! We already have people registering for it so please register soon by sending an email to membershipblueumbrella@gmail.com. This will be a learning experience for anyone who is interested in developing a habitat conducive for the Monarchs to go from egg to caterpillar to butterfly. Patty Fisher and Helen Aungst will share their knowledge, pictures, and advice on how you can make a difference for this beautiful species which is now considered endangered. What a shame it would be to lose these beautiful creatures!

The group of people who will be traveling to Belize with Laura Connelly will be taking items to our sister club members in Belize to share with those affected by the hurricane

that hit their country. Elsewhere in this newsletter is a final call for items that would help. You still have a few days if you wish to help.

It is such a pleasure and a privilege for me to work with all of you as we continue to reach out in our communities and in our world with a positive attitude sharing our LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS...always ... and everywhere!

Take care! There is so much more to come!

Hugs,

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
President
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc

GF WC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWS AND UPDATES!





The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club encourages membership from every locale. One of the ways for us to reach out is by becoming more knowledgeable about our sisters who are already members of GFWC international clubs. We have highlighted the GFWC International Clubs in Belize and in Ukraine in previous Blue Umbrella Newsletters and today we spotlight the Women's Club of Aruba.

Recently, GFWC Southern Region President Joyce Johnston and her husband Tracy were on a cruise that stopped in Aruba. Joyce was able to meet up with two of the Aruba members, Milagros Posner and Norma Brinkenberg, current president. They all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to visit. Later, the ladies also shared their newsletter and Joyce shared it with me! They are an active club and have been busy this month making Valentine cards and personal letters for the elderly at three different facilities where they will play bingo with the residents. They are also excited that February marks the beginning of the bright and colorful carnival season in their country.

As you make plans for your vacations this year, consider making contact with local groups who may or may not already be affiliated with GFWC. We are always interested and excited to introduce new members and clubs to our wonderful organization. Love, Respect, and Kindness is truly an international language!

Dianne Foerster

GFWC International Liaison Committee Member



**Milagros Posner – GFWC FL Southern Region President Joyce Johnston
– Norma Brinkenberg, Woman's Club of Aruba President**



Thank you to the members of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club for asking how you can help support our upcoming service project trip to visit the GFWC clubs in Belize! Our 14 travelers have been collecting donations from friends and family for months, and now that our trip is almost here, we have created a wish list for the remaining items we will need for our trip.

The list contains items requested by the GFWC clubs and the teachers at the schools we will be visiting. If you want to help, don't delay! As indicated at the top of the list, please be sure the items will arrive by Sat. Feb. 18. The shipping address is my home address, and the Tampa-based travelers will be meeting on Feb. 19 to distribute the items we have collected for packing. Here's the link to the wish list:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/YXZPIRDM2L2Q?ref_=wl_share

On behalf of our Belize travel team, we are so grateful for your generosity!

In Federation,
--Laura Connelly



Blue Umbrella Angels Doing Their Magic!



I recently participated in a project that provides garden starter kits for countries to help their people have access to fresh food in their own backyards and ultimately begin to change their dependency on imported foods.

Convoy of Hope, Hope Seeds and Hope Fleet International have linked arms to provide 1,400 Hope Buckets to local families in the Bahamas. 200 Hope Buckets were filled in several hours that day, with irrigation tubing, topsoil & seeds & other necessary items and will be sailed to

the Bahamas.

Hope International not only organizes these events to fill the “big blue buckets”, they also are involved in Child Wellbeing, Community Development as well as Disaster Response. This was a wonderful project.

Jo Ann Bruno



HOPE FLEET

P.O. Box 51164
Sarasota FL, 34232
www.hopefleet.org
(321)317-2460



Thank you for volunteering
your time. You can see where
these buckets are going and check
out our other projects on our
website.

Thanks again,

- Hope Fleet team



This was a knitting/crocheting project for the four Veteran ladies and a local homeless shelter. Thus, the red, white and blue theme.

Note: striped pattern, upper right is my contribution.

Jo Ann

A total of 50+ Valentine cards were collected and given to the men & women veterans residing in "Homes For The Brave", along with a Valentine breakfast provided by the volunteer organization Trumbull Helps. "Homes For The Brave" is a homeless shelter program that helps and guides returning veterans become a part of their community.

Jo Ann Bruno

jabruno1220@yahoo.com





In September 2020, it took just one look at a single, brand-new President's Project Blue Umbrella T-Shirt of Love, Respect and Kindness to convince the members of GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club to buy in.

They had found the right message of assurance for their community which was currently shut down tight as a drum with Covid restrictions.

The club asked their T-Shirt supplier to add Love, Respect and Kindness to their navy V-neck shirt order. The first 25 blew out immediately, so did the second 25, and then a third order was placed. Neighbors began seeing club members in Publix and Walmart and the airport wearing the new message and they talked to us!

The following summer the Health & Wellness CSP Chairman began to plan for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. She ordered Purple Love, Respect and Kindness T-Shirts with the ALZ logo on the chest and "Rotonda West Walks the Walk" at the bottom. That did it! Everyone knew that the Purple Shirts being worn by women and men made the statement that GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club has Love, Respect and Kindness for All and supports the search for the ALZ Cure. Fundraising went from about \$1,000 annually to \$8,000 for the 2021 Walk to End ALZ.

Then came the Red Shirts! Wow! GFWC and the Rotonda West Woman's Club are no longer the best kept secret in Charlotte County.

It's the universal message that did it. When you've got it, flaunt it! GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club is on the map, and all thanks to the Blue Umbrella.



Votes for Women

CELEBRATE WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

Come celebrate GFWC's contributions to women having the right to vote in Florida and throughout the United States. Many of Florida's leaders in the woman suffrage movement were also members of the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs.

During Women's History month in March, five Florida National Votes for Women (NVWT) markers sites are hosting dedication ceremonies.

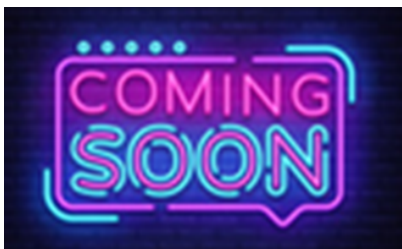
- March 9 – Orlando, Rosalind Club – where the state suffrage league, Florida Equal Suffrage Association (FESA), was formed.
- March 24 – St. Petersburg, at the intersection of Central Ave and 6th St N – where hundreds of suffragists formed up to march in the March 4, 1919, Kermess Parade.
- March 29 – Jacksonville, Saint James Building – where the Florida Equal Franchise League (later renamed the Jacksonville Equal Suffrage League) held meetings. This league drafted the first amendment to the state constitution to enfranchise women.
- TBD - Orlando, at the First Unitarian Church, where Dr./Rev Mary Safford, FL Equal FESA President, was the minister.
- TBD - Pensacola, where Celia Myrover Robinson, FESA Chairman Press. Committee, lived.

GFWC North Pinellas Woman's Club's Woman's History Committee, led by Killian O'Donnell, has been the lead for the Florida portion of the National Votes for Women Trail.

The virtual Trail consists of over 2,400 sites nationwide, with 113 in Florida. The

physical Trail consists of over 200 historical markers, 14 of those are in Florida. For more information, please check out the Trail at the following websites:

- National Votes for Women Trail – National Collaborative for Women's History Sites www.ncwhs.org
- Welcome Message: National Votes for Women Trail | William G. Pomeroy Foundation wgpfoundation.org



We are excited to announce that we have some great products in the works for the Blue Umbrella Club. You will be able to order a shirt in the color of your choice with a logo on it; one of the well-known blue umbrella pins from Dianne's term of Presidency, or a bracelet with an umbrella charm.

The only item we have the price for at the moment is the umbrella pin, and they will be \$10 each. If you would like to order one now, please contact Paula Juvinall at pjuvinall@gmail.com. Paula is taking orders now and you can pick them up at Convention. If you want yours before then, you will have to pay for shipping. If you live in the Clearwater area, contact Paula and you can pick it up at her house.

Paula Juvinall pjuvinall@gmail.com



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



Dear Members,

On behalf of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc., I would like to welcome **Lisa Colon** and **Diane Price** 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

Dianne Foerster
President

GFWC Blue Umbrella Inc.
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com



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, 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

We have two Facebook 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.

For more information please contact Sharon.

Virginia Yermoli
vayermoli@hotmail.com
786.252.9272



Welcome to our newsletter!

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

If you send pictures with your articles, please send them as a .jpg 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 _____

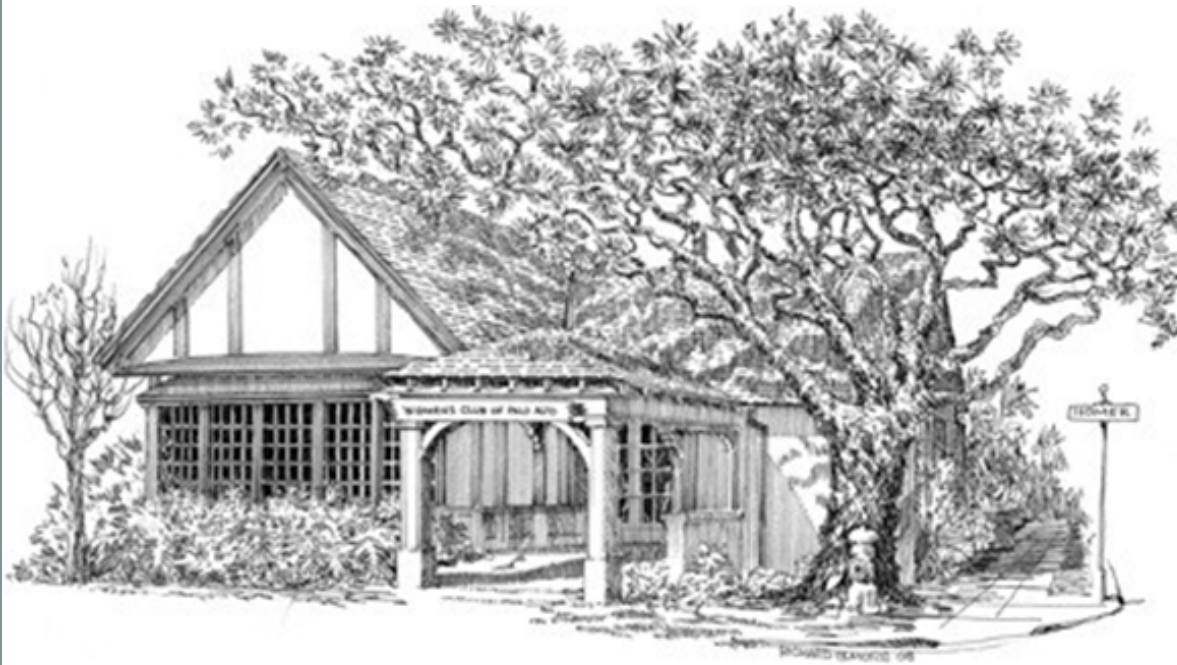
Cell Phone _____

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



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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