



# GRAND HAVEN WOMAN'S CLUB

Post Office Box 350684  
Palm Coast, FL 32135

## DECEMBER 2023 Newsletter

### GHWC BOARD

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Contact info for Board members is available on our website:  
[GHWomansClub.org](http://GHWomansClub.org)

### *1st Vice President*

*Awilda Hamilton*

The holiday season is upon us and how fortunate we are to reflect and refresh! By attending our holiday gathering you will surely see old friends and make new acquaintances. We will definitely eat, drink and be merry!

As we enter the coming year, your presence and involvement in our planned meetings and community based activities will guarantee a meaningful start to the new year. Though we will not meet in January, our February membership meeting will hopefully motivate some and remind others of why we are so passionate about all we have done and continue to do.

Continue to **Laugh** often, **Live** fully, and **Lift** up others!

### GHWC 2023-2024 MEETING DATES

11 December	2023
<b>January 22, 2024</b>	<b>- Day of Games!</b>
19 February	2024
18 March	2024
15 April	2024
20 May	2024

### *President's Update*

*Roi Parris*

It is my sincere hope that everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! The holiday season is upon us and many of us are planning celebrations for Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanza and before long 2023 will be history!

I want to wish all of you a very joyous Holiday Season filled with all the things that make you happy.

Our first fundraising event, Nine and Dine was a success thanks to the efforts of our hard working Fundraising Committee. I want to thank our players, sponsors and volunteers for their generosity and support.

Our Annual Gift Giving campaign is coming along; we have received \$10,795.00 and are currently at 72% of our goal. Your contributions enable GHWC to continue efforts to help those in our community.

I personally want to thank all of our members for their efforts and their contributions throughout the year. Everything you do, regardless of how small your effort or contribution is, it is greatly appreciated. To that end, please make sure that you report your volunteer hours and your donations, both cash and in-kind.

I would like to remind you that the website [GHWomansClub.org](http://GHWomansClub.org) is your source for the most current information.

Looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting on December 11th, 2023.



# Grand Haven Woman's Club

## **FOUNDING MEMBERS OF GHWC SHARE THEIR MEMORIES**

*Membership Co-Chair Cheryl Dresnok*

“Hey, we’ve got to get a club started!” said Carolyn Bouck, a former resident of Grand Haven. And the rest is history.

Five of the original Founding Members of GHWC are still active in our club after 18 years and they are happy to share their memories of those early years with us. The members are Sally Nord, Louise Dycke, Nan Reid, Sue Freytag, and Lucy Crowley.

Lucy said, “My good friend Carolyn Bouck belonged to the Palm Coast Woman’s Club which was getting very large, so they asked her if she thought Grand Haven would like to form their own group, which she agreed to do.” Sue added, “Many of us played golf together in the 9-Hole League at Grand Haven and became good friends.” Sally agreed, “I was a beginner golfer and I met Carolyn through the 9-Hole League.” Louise said, “I met Carolyn at a party. She invited me to be a part of this group.”

Nan said, “Carolyn chose ladies who had been in other clubs or who were interested in being part of the club.” Sue said, “Our first organization meeting was at my home in late winter. The Federation was contacted, and we began working on the by-laws. Lucy was very helpful because she had been a Women’s Club member in Wisconsin.” Lucy added, “We worked on the by-laws with help from other clubs’ by-laws books.” Sally added, “It was a learning experience for me, as I was not familiar with the Federation!” Sue said, “The by-laws were finished and approved by the Federation in August. We had our first meeting that fall!”

“We got the word out that there was a Woman’s Club in Grand Haven by word of mouth and emails,” Lucy said, “There were about 45 women who joined that first year!”

Committees were formed. Sally said, “When Carolyn learned I was in Education, she asked me to be on the Board as the Chairman for Education.” Sally also served as the third president of the club! Louise said, “I was part of Material Girls, plus Corresponding Secretary and Home Life Coordinator, and I am proud of holding those positions!” Sue said, “I enjoyed being on the Board for several years and organizing the luncheons for monthly meetings. I also headed the Health and Wellness Committee.” Lucy said, “As second Vice-President, I had the idea of having the closing Fancy Hat and Tea Party as our entertainment for the May meeting. It became a tradition for many years. I have held other positions in the club and have had a part in the Day of Games since the beginning.”

How has the club changed since 2005? Nan said, “The club has become larger, and more ladies have become interested in our causes.” Lucy agreed, “It has grown by leaps and bounds! So many worthwhile committees have been formed, we have raised much more money than in the beginning, we keep getting new members who are willing to get involved and we have many more charities that we support!” Sue said, “We have many new members that have brought new ideas into the club. We are more computerized which comes with the times. With more members, the club has become more professional in the everyday workings of the organization.” Louise agreed, “The club has gotten much larger, but also less intimate. I also realize that this growth had to happen and it is helping so many people in our community!”

These ladies have lots of favorite memories from the early years of the club. Nan said, “My favorite memories are of all the meetings we attended in the district and the lovely people we met and the parties we had with our husbands!”



## Grand Haven Woman's Club

### ***CONTINUED: FOUNDING MEMBERS OF GHWC SHARE THEIR MEMORIES***



*Founding Members at 10th Anniversary dinner in 2015. L to R Front Row: Bonnie Cross (lives in CA), Lucy Crowley, Louise Dycke, Nan Reid, Bernadette Lawrence (deceased), Nancy Richards, Carol Olsen, Back Row: Sue Freytag, Sally Nord, Barbara Kurp (lives in Jax), Gloria Schleith (deceased).*

Lucy's memories were "the organization of the club, planning of the luncheons, meeting so many wonderful women, the 10-year anniversary dinner, getting involved with so many committees." Louise remembers, "the teas we had in May and many of the speakers were fantastic!" Sally said, "It was wonderful to work with the other Founding Members. I felt it was a privilege to be a part of such a great group of women."

The GHWC has clearly had an impact on our Founding Members. Nan said, "In many ways it made me stronger to do good for others. I am most proud of being a part of ladies who were interested in helping others!" Sue agreed, saying, "Our club has made a difference in many people's lives. Our club is known throughout the area for helping others." Lucy said, "Being a member has impacted my life by giving me a purpose in life after retiring from teaching and raising my boys. I felt the need to volunteer again and that really helped during a few tough years after my husband first passed away."

Nan summed up her feelings about the direction the club is going. She said, "I have no regrets. The club is in capable hands and runs well!"

Thank you ladies, for sharing your memories of the earliest days of the GHWC. Your vision for what the club could be for our community became a reality of giving back that continues to inspire us all.



## Grand Haven Woman's Club

### ***Meet Our New Member!***

*GHWC Membership Co-Chair Cheryl Dresnok*

December is a month to celebrate our holidays, but also for us in Grand Haven, it is a month to celebrate and welcome **Eva Larsson** to the Grand Haven Woman's Club!

Eva and her husband moved to the Osprey Lakes section of Grand Haven from Sweden seven years ago. She said she was attracted to Palm Coast "because it is a beautiful area where nature is preserved." She has worked as an Herbalist/Nutritional Counselor and now she is focused on enjoying life in Florida. Eva said, "My favorite things to do in Grand Haven are pickleball, gardening, reading, walking, doing puzzles, spending time with family and friends, and enjoying nature!"

She's not too crazy about a couple of things – "the way people drive, all the toxic spraying in yards and landscape, the exaggerated use of plastic bags in grocery stores." I somehow don't think you are alone in some of your concerns! Welcome Eva!



*L to R: Roi Parris, President of GHWC, Eva Larsson, Cheryl Dresnok, Co-Chair of Membership*



## Grand Haven Woman's Club

### ***Environment Committee***

*Environmental Chair, Beth Wald*

Our November 15th visit to the University of Florida (UF) Whitney Laboratory Sea Turtle Hospital was wonderful. It was educational, informative, emotionally moving and fun! We were greeted by UF Development Coordinator Ellie Padgett and Sea Turtle Hospital Program Manager Catherine (Cat) Eastman. Cat spoke to us about the mission of Whitney Lab and introduced us to several lab residents, including a conch, a horseshoe crab, sea urchins, and a sea star. She explained how knowledge gained from the research conducted on marine animals and the study of fundamental problems in biology can be applied to issues of human health, natural resources, and the environment.

The highlight of the tour was watching veterinarian Brooke Buckhalter perform surgery on an ill juvenile sea turtle. Cat introduced us to all the patients of the Sea Turtle Hospital and discussed their various illnesses and injuries. A very serious illness adversely affecting sea turtles in our area is Fibropapilloma (FP) virus. UF Whitney Lab Sea Turtle Hospital is the only facility in northeast Florida treating sea turtles with the FP virus. Several GHWC tour participants became sea turtle sponsors that day and more have followed.

Sponsor a Sea Turtle in honor of a loved one for the holidays! They will receive a certificate with their name, their turtle's name and photo. They will receive monthly updates on their turtle's rehabilitation, and, when all goes well, be invited to their turtle's release back into the ocean! For more information on sea turtle sponsorship, go to:

<https://www.whitney.ufl.edu/conservation--sea-turtle-hospital/sponsor-a-turtle/>. I've planned a second tour of the Sea Turtle Hospital for March, at a date yet to be determined by WL administrators.



*GHWC members with Whitney Lab's UF Development Coordinator, (far right) Ellie Padgett*

**"Reaching Out and Lifting Up"**



## Grand Haven Woman's Club



Getting bags ready to pack hot meals at Our Father's Table. L to R: Lucie Lachance, Gail Naworal, Barbara McCarthy, OFT coordinator, Michele Seyfert, Pam Parker and Michelle Kreiss Keating



Awilda Hamilton helps with meal preparation at Our Father's Table.

### ***Health and Wellness***

*Health and Wellness Chair, Adele Large*

Donations will continue to be collected in December. Please note that the collections will be on the **second** Monday in December (Dec. 11th) and the **fourth** Monday in January (Jan. 22nd.) If you know of neighbors who donate please pass the information on.



# Grand Haven Woman's Club

## Arts and Culture

Arts and Culture Chair, Marie Lanier

Hi Ladies

I know Thanksgiving has come and gone. But, I'm still so full of thanks. Being your Arts and Culture Chair brings me so much joy. I hope you are all also enjoying all of the activities. I am truly thankful for all of the wonderful ladies I get to plan things with. Your enthusiasm warms my heart every day.

The most recent joy was gathering together to make wreaths to donate for The Festival of Wreaths, benefiting the Flagler Humane Society. All together we donated 21 beautiful wreaths. When I delivered them to the Windsor Assisted Living Facility, where the fundraiser is taking place, one of the elderly residents came over in her wheelchair. She looked at the wreaths and said "Oh my goodness! They are so beautiful that they are giving me goose bumps!" WELL DONE LADIES!

A double blessing. Helping not only the shelter, but giving joy to the residents who will see all the wreaths adorning their doors. They will know that there are generous people who devoted their time and talent to enhance their hallways and help the furry creatures who cannot help themselves.

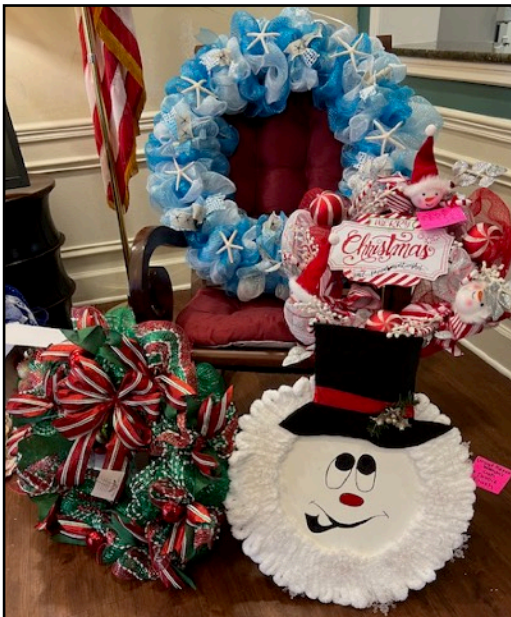
This event alone was enough.... But there is more!.... Our Crepe demonstration was a hit and delicious. ....Our book club, stimulating as always .....our movie days and Author book signing, well attended.

The icing on the cake of our month.....was selling 69 tickets for The **Back to Motown** Show at the Flagler Auditorium. This fundraiser alone raised \$1380 for our GHWC.

What can I say my friends. I'm so blessed. Thank You, Thank You!!!

Stay tuned. There's more to come ❤️

Hugs.



Some of the fun wreaths at The Festival of Wreaths.



GHWC members and friends made wreaths to donate for The Festival of Wreaths. L to R: Karen Villanova, Lucie Lachance, Suzanne O'Meally, Donna McGevna, Terri Burde, Marie Lanier, Michelle Kreiss Keating, Chris Jablonski and Vanessa LaForte



# Grand Haven Woman's Club



Wreaths waiting to be hung at The Windsor Assisted Living Facility. Wreaths will be on display until December 3rd when visitors to the facility can purchase wreath benefitting the Flagler Humane Society from 1-3 p.m.

## Material Girls

Material Girls Chairs, Lucie Lachance and Michelle Kreiss Keating

**MATERIAL GIRLS  
2023-2024  
MEETING DATES  
1 p.m.**

**14 December 2023**  
(15 Sand Pine Drive)  
29 January 2024  
27 February 2024  
25 March 2024  
22 April 2024  
15 May 2024

Lucie Lachance,  
lucieglachance@gmail.com; 603-203-7636  
Michelle Kreiss Keating,  
Michelle\_Kreisskeating@verizon.net;



## GHWC DECEMBER & JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

GHWC Membership Co-Chair Marilyn McNamara



Fran Anderson	December	5
Carol Olsen	December	5
Terry Burde	December	7
Donna McGevna	December	7
Claire Moore	December	10
Gail Moro	December	16
Lori Csik	December	18
Jelena Kaveney	December	22
Pat Ritger-Mays	December	28
Kimberly Lyons	December	29
Janet Mosher	December	31

Kathy Donovan	January	7
Amy Stowe	January	8
Dianne LaVerne	January	15
Peggy Guerriere	January	20
Gail Naworal	January	21
Raquel Scornik	January	24
Ruthanne Chesebro	January	27
Nancy Crouch	January	27
Kathy Murray	January	27
Karin Smith	January	28
Susan Heard	January	29
Rebecca Fitzpatrick	January	30





# Grand Haven Woman's Club

## Fundraising Committee Update

Fundraising Chair, Laura Mcbride

We started out our fundraising year with our first event, the Nine and Dine Golf Tournament on Saturday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Paula Geppner and Carolyn Million created a fun afternoon and evening that raised over \$7,500 for the club. Everyone enjoyed both the golf and the delicious food prepared by the club's new chef. Thanks to all our volunteers for a great event to kick off our year!

Our next event will be Day of Games, and ticket sales are already underway. This event sells out every year, so please contact Lucy Crowley at [jerlu37@gmail.com](mailto:jerlu37@gmail.com) if you're interested in obtaining a table. She will be at our next general meeting selling tickets.

Letters went out for solicitation for our Annual Giving Fund. Please consider making a generous donation toward this fund.

Finally, a new fundraiser for the club is our ticket sales for events held at the Fitzgerald Center for the Performing Arts. Our first play, 'One Night in Memphis' netted \$862 for the club. Our second offering is 'Human Nature: Back to the Sound of Motown' being held on January 26, 2024 at 7 p.m. Our original bundle of tickets has already sold out, so we bought more! Please see Marie Lanier if you would like to purchase tickets (assuming they haven't already sold out!)

**GHWC thanks this year's Annual Partners**



### And thanks to this year's event sponsors



**Patty Stauffer  
Realtor**

