



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

January, 2025

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas and is looking forward to the year ahead. I want to thank all of you for and congratulate you on your accomplishments over the year 2024. You, the members of GFWC Big Rapids, did a fantastic job of volunteering time and donating to our community and I know it is appreciated in so many ways.

Moving into 2025, we will continue to support our community by living "The Volunteer Spirit" as members of GFWC. Happy New Year to all of you!

Sue

Sue Johnson, President (231)349-5137
Linda Telfer, 1st Vice President
Delores Simpson, 2nd VP(Membership)
Leona Royer, Secretary
Ann Stellard, Treasurer
Melonie James, Parliamentarian
Linda Telfer, Newsletter Editor

Due date for the newsletter is the 25th of each month.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

January 14—Club Meeting 6:00 Social/Craft Time/6:30 Meeting @ The Elk's

January 20—MLK Day of Service

January 28—Flower Arranging Class @ Patterson's—6:30 pm

February 11—Club Meeting 6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elk's

March 15—Northwestern District Gathering—Evert

April 24-27—GFWC Michigan Convention, Traverse City

MEETING CHECKLIST

A FRIEND

Can Tabs

Sneakers

\$ for Heifer Intl.

Used Greeting Cards

Birthday Bag Items

Card Supplies

Operation Smile Items



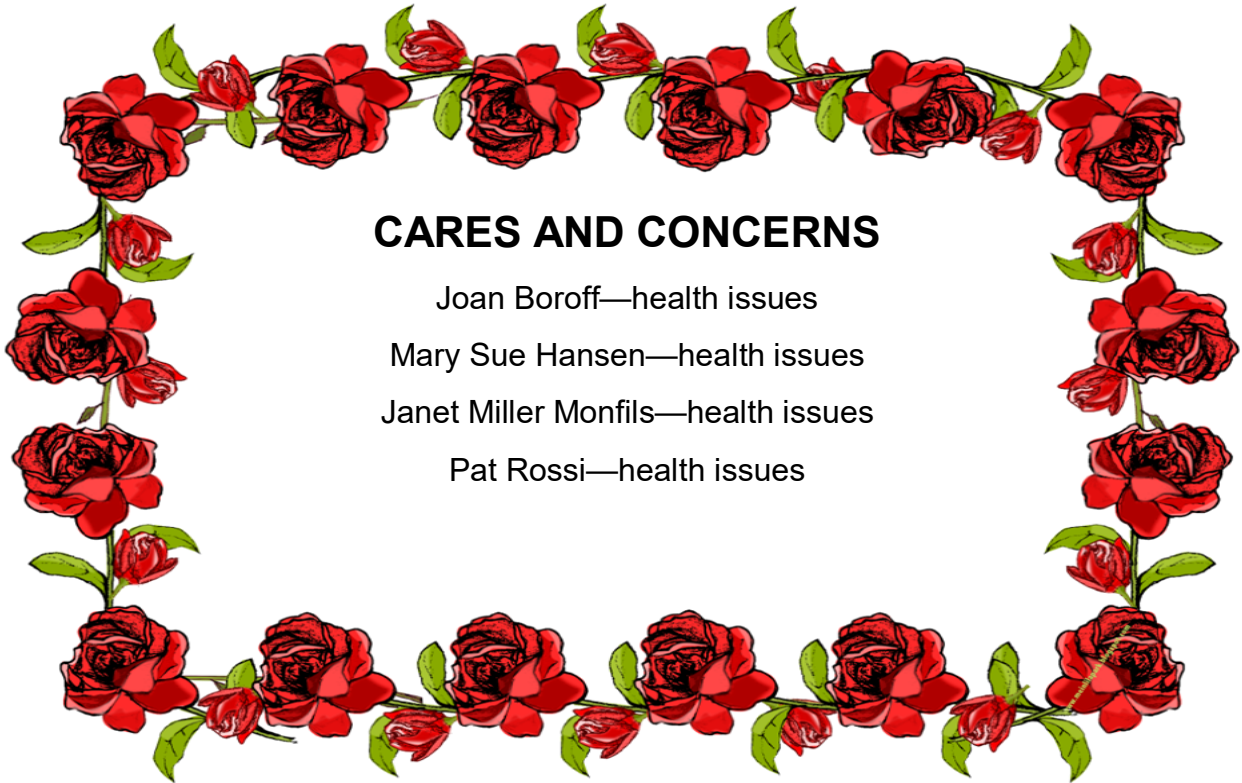
ATTENTION

We will **NOT** be collecting batteries until further notice.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

NO JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues



GFWC Tidbits . . .

One of the main things GFWC led the fight for was official support of suffrage by the General Federation of Women's Clubs, which was by far the largest and most vital woman's organization in the country, in the beginning, representing over one million women, which would signal that the suffrage movement had graduated from a once-radical dream to a mainstream cause.

GFWC Michigan has had five State Presidents from the Northwestern District and two of them were from GFWC Big Rapids.

Barbara Wallace was the first State President from Big Rapids and was instrumental in establishing McGruff the Crime Dog.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, January 14th

6:00 Social & Craft Time

6:30 Meeting

Host: Arts & Culture CSP

Speaker will be from Artworks.

We will be making Valentine's Day cards for Meals on Wheels clients. Bring any supplies that you may have.



GFWC-BIG RAPIDS

FLOWER ARRANGING CLASS

Tuesday, January 28th

6:30 p.m.

at

Patterson's Flowers

Cost: \$35

Must have 10 people for the class. Please let Melanie Henry or Delores Simpson know if you will attend.

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

Christmas Card from Shannon Penfound. . . .



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY

On December 14th, three GFWC Big Rapids "Snow Bunnies" braved the 16 degree weather to pass out food to 120 families at the Manna Mobile Food Pantry.

Pictured L-R—Sue Johnson, Melonie James and Leona Royer

THE ANNUAL MITTEN TREE



The annual Mitten Tree was displayed in the Artworks Lobby from mid-November through mid-December. Club members and the community were encouraged to donate mittens by leaving them at the display. Club members were able to collect 137 mittens/gloves, hats, scarves and a couple of blankets. Above Mary Bechaz, Sue Bean, Ann Stellard, Vickie Vogel and Karin McKean delivered the items to Angels of Action for distribution to area children.

CHRISTMAS FOR MOTHERS AT THE WOMEN'S SHELTER



Select purses, scarves and jewelry leftover from the 4B's fundraiser were taken to the WISE shelter for the children to select items for their mother for Christmas. No pictures were taken due to the confidentiality and the fact that the children were watching the set-up the entire time. One child couldn't wait for Christmas and gave her mom the present that day.

ANNUAL YARD SALE



A check for \$1700 was presented to Jane Currie, Executive Director of WISE, with proceeds from the May Yard Sale. These funds will be used for the playground area of the new WISE facility. (Pictured L-R: Jane Currie, Mary Beth Vanderlist, Ann Stellard, Vickie Vogel, & Sue Bean.)

WISE FAMILY CHRISTMAS



Thank you to everyone who donated to the WISE family for Christmas this year. Special thanks to Ann Stellard, Mary Bechaz, Karin McKean, Sue Bean, Mary Beth Vanderlist and Vickie Vogel for shopping for the family.

Christmas Party

2024



Christmas Party

Continued.....



Seventeen members and one guest attended the annual club Christmas Party held at The Yellow Window Café on December 10. A surprise visit from Santa was enjoyed as well as a fun gift exchange where it seemed like Mary Beth opened most of the presents. A fun time was had by all.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

(Sponsored by Environment CSP)

Poinsettia After Christmas Care Guide

Every year many of us wonder what to do with a poinsettia after Christmas. With good care, it can live on through the year, but the poinsettia requires us to follow a few simple steps to trick the plant into reblooming the following holiday season.

Light-Poinsettias initially produce their red bracts in response to shorter day lengths. In their native habitat as fall approaches they begin to experience lower light levels and, as the nights get longer, the plant's photosensitivity responds by forming red flowery bracts.

While in bloom, poinsettias need bright light to look their best. They should get at least 6 hours every day. After the holidays they require the same level of light until around mid-September. After that, as autumn approaches, they need at least 12 hours of darkness. In spring they can be re-potted and moved outdoors for the summer.

Water- Poinsettia plants prefer moist soil. Remove the foil from around the plant so it never sits in standing water. When the soil is dry to the touch 2 inches (5.08 cm) below the surface, the plant needs water. Room temperature water is best for this plant. The frequency of watering will depend on where the plant is located. Container plants living outdoors for the summer need more water than those kept indoors. Continue your normal watering routine until spring (or the first of April), then allow it to dry gradually.

Temperature & Humidity-In their native habitat in Mexico, poinsettias live in mixed forests. As such, they require warm temperatures and have little resistance to the cold. Keep poinsettia plants away from extreme temperature changes in the home; don't place them near drafty doors and windows or near forced heat air. Indoors, the plants prefer a temperature of 60-70 degrees F (15.56-18.33 C) and slightly cooler at night, but keep it above 60 F. (15 C) to avoid leaf drop.

Fertilizer-Poinsettia plants do not need extra nutrients during their blooming period, but they respond well to fertilizing in spring through summer. Apply liquid fertilizer diluted by half every 2 weeks. Common liquid house-plant fertilizer works fine.

Here are tips for the best ways to care for your poinsettia through the seasons.

Winter-Avoid placing the plant where sudden temperature changes occur. This could cause the flowering bracts and leaves to fall off. Keep the plant near bright light and in moderately warm temperatures. Water and fertilize as needed and pinch or prune back any dead or leggy growth.

Spring-Spring is a good time to repot the plant. Poinsettias need well-draining slightly acidic soil. A potting mix with a high percentage of peat or perlite will provide a good medium for further growth. Pinch off the top growth to promote side branches and develop a nicely shaped plant.

Around the middle of April or May, or if your plant becomes leggy, cut the stems back to about 4 inches (10 cm) above the soil and repot in a larger container with fresh, sterile potting mix or a soilless mix.

Summer-In early summer, when nighttime temperatures are remaining above 50 F. (10 C) you can move the plant outdoors (in its pot) in a slightly shady location. Gradually, leave it outside for longer and longer periods of time until finally giving it 6 hours a day of full sun. Continue watering and fertilizing the plant as usual. Trim it again as needed in summer (typically around the first to middle part of July), pinching about an inch (2.5 cm) of terminal growth from each stem. Give it another pruning towards the first part of September. Trim off two to three inches (5-7.6 cm) to promote side branching, allowing 3 or 4 leaves to remain on each shoot. Keep watering and fertilizing as usual. Move the plant outdoors where it will get some sheltered light. Harden it off. By mid-summer, trim the plant again and move it to full sun. Be sure the plant gets 6 hours of sunlight daily. In the summer, plants can withstand some heat but should be placed where there is a bit of protection from direct noonday sun.

Fall-Autumn is the season to trick your poinsettia plant. Move it to a location where it gets 12-13 hours of darkness (some gardeners say 16 hours of darkness). A basement, attic, or even closet will provide the required darkness. Just before the end of November, the darkness treatment can stop. Return the plant to a bright window, and reduce watering and feeding by half. When the plant is in light, turn the container frequently to develop even growth. With a little luck the plant will begin to produce its bright red bracts just in time for the holidays.

As the days again begin to get cooler and shorter, follow the directions above for fall care of your poinsettia. By Christmas, your reblooming poinsettia will again be the centerpiece of holiday decor and ready to begin the cycle anew. The elements of this plant's natural habitat can be difficult to mimic at home, and there's no guarantee that your poinsettia will bloom again even with the best care. But it's certainly worth a try.

From gardeningknowhow.com