



GFWC-Big Rapids, Inc. Newsletter

FEBRUARY, 2025

Reports are done and submitted! A big “thank you” to Linda Telfer for all the work she put into compiling the reports. When you read what our club has accomplished over the past year, the projects, the hours and the donations, it is amazing. More important is what your contributions have done for our community and the people in it. Congratulations to all of you for a job well done!

Now onto 2025 and all the exciting things coming up: new projects, new members and the upcoming State Convention in Traverse City to name a few. Looking forward to working together and to continue to help make our community a better place in all ways. *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!

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

February 11—International Day of Women & Girls in Science

February 14-17—Great Backyard Bird Count

March 11—Club Meeting 6:00 Social/6:30 Meeting @ The Elk’s

March 15—Northwestern District Gathering—Evert (invitation was sent)

April 24-27—GFWC Michigan Convention, Traverse City

MEETING CHECKLIST

A FRIEND

\$ for Heifer Intl.

Operation Smile Items

Can Tabs

Used Greeting Cards

Batteries

Sneakers

Birthday Bag Items

ATTENTION



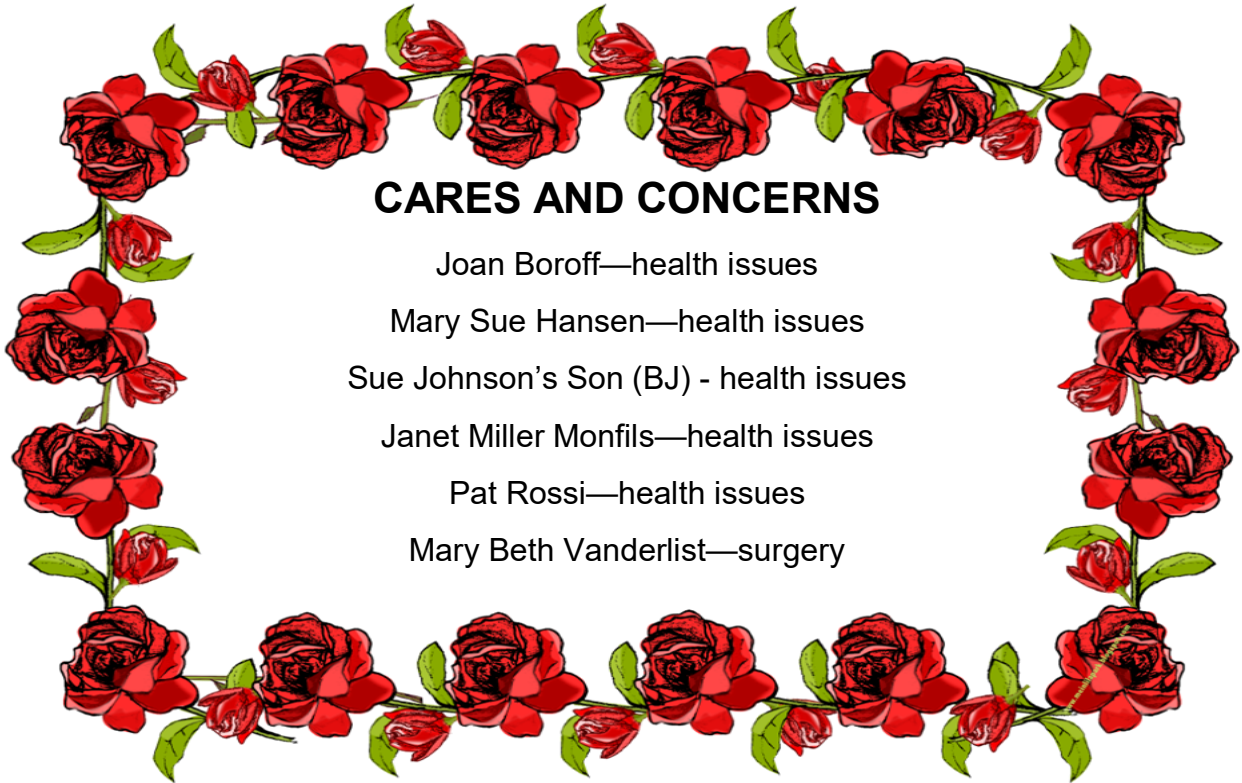
We **WILL** collect batteries from your power tools (leaf blower, weed whip, etc.)



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

11—Leona Royer

19—Sue Johnson



CARES AND CONCERNS

Joan Boroff—health issues

Mary Sue Hansen—health issues

Sue Johnson's Son (BJ) - health issues

Janet Miller Monfils—health issues

Pat Rossi—health issues

Mary Beth Vanderlist—surgery



GFWC Tidbits . . .

In each GFWC International Administration there is a club formed by the 50 State Presidents of that administration. They choose a name for their club, executive officers and have at least an annual meeting. This group of State Presidents are mentored by the International 1st Vice President.

GFWC Michigan has a Past State President's Club that meets annually via Zoom prior to the annual State Convention. At this time there are eight living members.

Prior to March 1971 the General Federation of Women's Club - Big Rapids was known as the Intermediate Women's Club and was accepted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs in the following month of April.

UPCOMING EVENTS



NEXT CLUB MEETING

Tuesday, February 11th

6:00 Social Time

6:30 Meeting

Host: Health & Wellness



GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

February 14-17, 2025

You can participate by going to:

<https://www.birdcount.org> and click on the participate button at the top.

There are several ways to participate!



JUNIOR SPECIAL PROGRAM

Champion for Children

February is National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. As club members, we can raise awareness through social media, show support by wearing orange and explaining why. We can partner with local schools to fund speakers or have posters put up to educate young boys and girls on acceptable dating boundaries and respect.

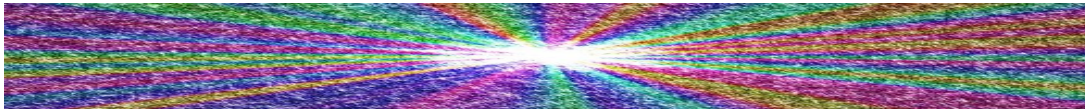
February 11 — Celebrate International Day of Women and Girls in Science

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING...

4B's



Arthur Johnson, Director of Children's Programs at Artworks, was our guest speaker in January. He spoke on the new children's programs which will be happening in 2025. After this presentation, the 4B's Committee presented him with a check for \$2308.70 for the children's art programs.

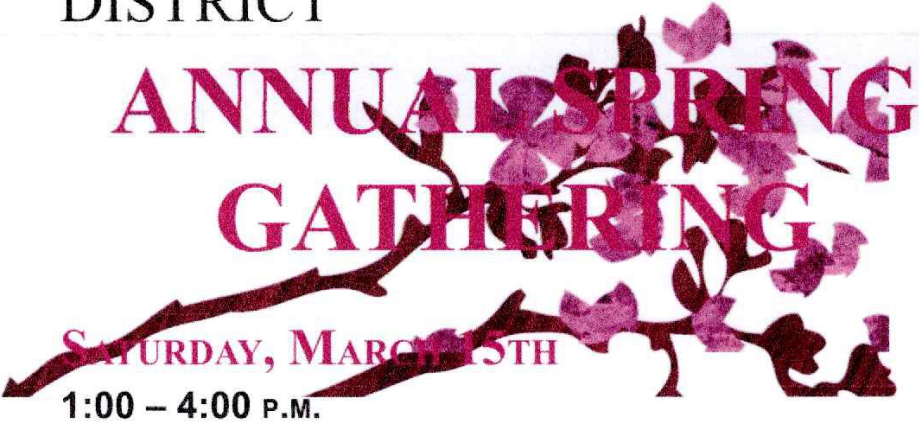


Introducing Crystal.....

If you were unable to attend the January meeting, you missed Crystal. Crystal is our newest member created by the Arts & Culture CSP designed and created by Cathy Chapman. Crystal is adorned with a scarf from the 4B's fundraiser and jewels with a GFWC sash. She would like to travel with you and have her picture taken. Just contact Ann Stellard as she will be taking care of her schedule.

MARCH 15, 2025

GFWC NORTHWESTERN
DISTRICT



SACRED HEART CATHOLIC CHURCH

9878 US-10, EVART, MI 49631

Come spend an afternoon with your GFWC District sisters!
Enjoy some lunch and hear about all the exciting projects our clubs have planned in 2025 as well as all the ways we will need your help at the State Convention in Traverse City, April 24-27, 2025.

Each Club should bring a dish to pass and the NWD Board will provide the table service and drinks.

Please RSVP to Melissa Povilaitis by text @ [989-429-4479](tel:989-429-4479) or by email Mpovilaitis2002@yahoo.com by March 13th, 2025.



MLK Jr. Day of Service



In recognition of MLK Jr. Day of Service, the club voted to deliver cookies to three area nursing/assisted living facilities for the staff to enjoy. The staff in all the facilities were surprised that they were for them. We really appreciate their service to those in need.



BOOK DONATION

Some of books that were collected at the Christmas party by the Education and Libraries CSP were donated to the Big Rapids Head Start Program. Pictured is Celeste Belcher accepting the books for Head Start.

CRYSTAL TRAVELS



Yes, Crystal was excited to travel to Canadian Lakes for her first quilt retreat with six club members. Not sure how much quilting she got done but she sure had fun. Will her next trip be with you?



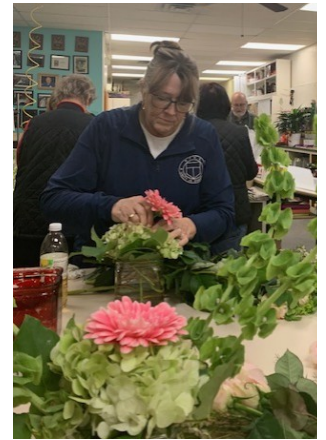
Crystal attended the flower arranging class at Patterson's Flowers in January. She was so excited to have her picture taken with the beautiful colorful flowers.

DISTRICT #10 HEALTH DEPARTMENT DONATION



Thank you for supporting the District #10 Health Department by donating both boys and girls deodorant. This deodorant will be available to all schools (middle & high schools) in Mecosta County. Pictured above is front row L-R Linda Telfer and Sue Johnson, back row Delores Simpson, Ann Stellard, Hannah Sperry (District #10 rep.) and Mel James.

FLORAL ARRANGING CLASS HELD



Seven members and two guests attended a floral arranging class held at Patterson's Flowers. Attendees were instructed on how to assemble a beautiful arrangement. We missed the two members that were sick.



FLOWER OF THE MONTH

(Sponsored by Environment CSP)

AMARYLLIS



Many of you may have gotten an amaryllis for Christmas. If you did, you may find this information helpful.

If you haven't ever had one, maybe get one next year.

Post-Bloom Care and Reblooming

As an amaryllis bloom fades, snip that flower off at the base of its stalk. Deadheading spent flowers prevents the plant from spending energy on creating seeds, redirecting it toward more blooms or growing new leaves. After all the flowers on a stalk are finished, cut the entire stalk off just above the neck of the bulb.

Allow the amaryllis to recharge for several months. After flowering has finished, place the plant in a sunny spot and continue to water and feed it like any houseplant. After five to six months, or in autumn, when the leaves begin to yellow, it's time to begin a dormant period.

Amaryllis require a period of dormancy to bloom. This happens naturally for outdoor planted bulbs, but you need to help if your amaryllis is a houseplant. To send the plant into dormancy, remove any old foliage. Water it well and place the plant in a dark, cool area, about 40°F-50°F. A windowless basement or a cellar works well. It takes about six to eight weeks for the cycle to reset. After that time has elapsed, bring the amaryllis back into the light, give it a good watering, and wait for new growth.

Pests and Problems

Wet conditions and poor drainage cause problems for amaryllis. If they stay wet too long, the bulbs are susceptible to rotting. If your soil is typically soggy over winter, consider making a raised bed for your amaryllis. For potted bulbs, cut back on the water as the plant goes dormant, and test with your finger before watering during the growing season.

This information was from: <https://www.bhg.com>