



Abundance News

GFWC Woman's Club of Stuart

“Celebrating 108 Years of Community Service”

*A Member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs**

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Paulette Holliday, Editor

October 2020

From the Desk of President Jo Baxter



This month we recognize the outstanding lives of two of our members – Denise Vitale and Grace Linn. Denise fought brain cancer with a positive attitude and cheerful heart until her death in September at the too-young age of 62. Please read more about Denise in this newsletter. Grace, one of our beloved past presidents, will turn 98 this month. Read about Grace's remarkable life, also in this newsletter.

Be sure to mark your calendar for our second meeting of the year, **Wednesday, October 21, at 11 AM, on Zoom**. Our September meeting was great fun, and our meeting this month will be, too. Our speakers will be the chairs of our five community service committees. They will describe their ideas for our projects and encourage us all to get involved.

As always, if you need help with Zoom, we will be more than glad to help. As my college statistics professor used to say, “It's easy when you know it.” We will also be glad to pair you with another member for the Zoom meeting if that is what you prefer. Just let me know.

As we approach the November general election, let us honor the thousands of women who fought for our right to vote. October 5 is the last day to register as a newly registered voter in Florida. Vote-by-mail ballots can be mailed or dropped off at the Elections Office, 135 SE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in Stuart. Early in-person voting is 8 AM to 5 PM daily from October 19-October 31, at the Elections Office or at any of the libraries in Martin County. Ballot Drop Boxes will also be available at these early voting sites.



**GFWC an International Women's Club
dedicated to community improvements by
enhancing the lives of others.*





A Sad Loss...

When Denise Vitale joined the Woman's Club of Stuart in 2016, she brought a blast of energy, enthusiasm, and fun to the club. She was among the first to volunteer, and she could be counted on to do what she said she would. Denise sparked the Girlfriends Committee with her joy in every endeavor. She greeted members as they came to meetings with a warm welcome and often a hug.

She helped with the Holiday Home Tour and the Breast Cancer walks every year, among other events. Despite her illness, Denise always had a smile and a good word for us. She buoyed us all as she battled brain cancer; her bravery, can-do attitude and kindness will continue to be an inspiration to us. We will miss her presence terribly, but her love will always be with us.

Laura Shepherd, who introduced Denise to the Woman's Club, said that no services are planned for now, but that a celebration of Denise's life will be held, probably in January, when her relatives are able to come. Some of her friends plan to buy bricks for the patio sidewalk in her memory.

Sympathy cards may be sent to:

Irene (sister-in-law) and Bill Cafiero (brother)
685 Nazareth Pike, Nazareth, PA 18064

Friar JohnPaul Cafiero, OFM (brother)
St. Peter Friary, 110 West Madison St., Chicago, IL 60602

Nieces were like Denise's children, because she never had children.

They are:

Christie Cafiero, 27 Chestnut Ct., High Bridge, NJ 08829

Cynthia and Shaun Spenser, 87 Pembroke Loop, Staten Island, NY 10309

Denise and Kaeley Cafiero, 404 Beech Ave., Garwood, NJ 07027

Holiday Home Tour

The Tour must go on! The 12th annual Holiday Home Tour is going virtual this year!

We will have a videographer tape six homes for general viewing on Sunday, December 6th. Those tickets will be \$20 each and you will be able to watch it in your pajamas from the comfort of your home. We will have a VIP Preview day on Friday, December 4th. Our Presenting Sponsors Audi, Infiniti and Maserati have offered their large conference rooms (with 80-inch televisions) for private viewing for 9 people in each at 3 different times. Those tickets will be \$35 each. We will also have an online auction which will start at least two weeks before the event.

Here is where we need you! Because of our current environment we are not reaching out to all the local vendors that have donated in the past. We'd like our members to help collect desired items for themed baskets for our auction. Let's get creative...martini, Pampered Chef, tailgating, margarita, movie night are some ideas for baskets to get your creative thoughts flowing. Possibly a few ladies can take on a theme and collect/donate a few quality items and drop them off to me (Palm City), Paula Rosen (Port Salerno), or I will come to you. We will put the baskets together and ready them for the auction. We are looking for new items you'd expect in a highly desirable basket. We would like to have all donations by November 1st.

Another very important way to help is by asking friends and family to buy tickets! If each one of us could sell 5 tickets, it would help us be incredibly successful. Invite your out-of-state friends and relatives to enjoy the Home Tour. This can and will go worldwide...exciting!

Please watch for information in the next weeks for how to purchase tickets and bid on our auction items. This is our biggest fundraiser and supports our scholarship fund.

Thank you in advance for all your help and generosity... I deeply appreciate it!

Be Well,

Lisa Pinkley, Chair, Holiday Home Tour Committee

620-632-5667

Lisa.pinkley67@gmail.com



Plans for our Holiday Home Tour are underway and we are planning a gift to be included with the purchase of tickets. We would like to involve our members as much as possible so could you please send us your favorite recipes, family traditions, craft ideas, or holiday memories? If you have photos, please send them along with your submissions to Sharon Mason — sharon.masonnc@gmail.com.

We have also started a Pinterest page as a fun way to collect holiday ideas. <https://pin.it/61NqKkp> If anyone would like to collaborate, contact Sharon.



Feeding the Hungry

September is Stomp Out Hunger month. The Health and Wellness Committee got together on September 21 at the Fort Pierce Woman's Club. We gave them the day off and prepared dinner to hand out to those in need. It was a delightful experience. We will do it again in October/November. I do not have that date or time yet, but if you would like to participate, please let me know.

I would like to thank all of our volunteers who participated that day, including

Renee Gould, Ann Arner, Letizia Shaffer, Sharon Mason, Laura Shepherd, Dar Gur, Lisa Pinkley and Nancy Hayden. I would also like to say thank you to Paula Rosen for asking these ladies to send donations to pay for the sausage. **Lois Genuario, Maureen Vaillancourt, Pat Schmader and Ruth Martini.** Great teamwork, ladies!

PS... Remember to get your flu shot.

Your Health and Wellness Committee Chair,
Regina Mogle

Woman's Club Raises \$7,700 for Abused Women

The International Outreach Committee of the Woman's Club of Stuart, together with The Inner Truth Project (ITP), had planned a Casino Night fundraiser last spring. As most are aware, the event was canceled due to the pandemic. However, The Inner Truth Project held its own fundraiser, a virtual showing of films by women called LunaFest, last month.

Many businesses who were sponsors (and donors) of the canceled Casino Night generously agreed to sponsor The Inner Truth Project's LunaFest. Many thanks to the International Outreach team for securing these donations to this very worthy cause. **Overall, the committee raised \$7,700 and more than \$2,500 of in-kind donations for The Inner Truth Project.**

The ITP sold 143 tickets to LunaFest and grossed \$13,000. Many hands were crucial in helping ITP transition from the Casino Night event to the virtual film festival. Thank you! And many thanks for all our members who participated in the LunaFest!

The Inner Truth Project provides services locally for sexually abused women and children. Since last March it has seen an increase of 40% in the demand for services. Thank you again for all of your hard work and dedication on behalf of ITP and the survivors of sexual violence.

Be sure to read the cover article about The Inner Truth Project in the Stuart News' Luminaries section on October 16.

Mona Salisbury and Patty Bushman
International Outreach Committee



Service Committees



At our October General Meeting, we will hear from the heads of all of our service committees. We have some new committee chairs with lots of fresh ideas. They will each speak for 4-5 minutes about their plans and goals. Each member of our club is required to choose a service committee on which to serve, so this is a wonderful opportunity for any undecided members to find out more about each of our signature programs. This year, GFWC has changed the committee structure to encompass five instead of six Community Service Programs (CSPs). Even during a pandemic, there are many ways we can help our community. We hope everyone will enjoy learning more about these exciting ideas. The service committees and their chairs are as follows:



Susan Clifford
ARTS



Bobbi Demers
CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH



Gail Brinley
EDUCATION & LIBRARIES



Laura Elsenboss
ENVIROMENT &
CONSERVATION



Nancy Hayden
ENVIRONMENT &
CONSERVATION



Regina Mogle
HEALTH & WELLNESS

The Remarkable Grace Linn



Grace Linn, a bright, engaging Past President of the of the Woman's Club, will celebrate her 98th birthday on October 18. She's been a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs for 73 years, including the last 31 years with the Woman's Club of Stuart. During her nearly ten decades, she's always been a woman ahead of her time.

She graduated from high school at the age of 16 in Mingo Junction, Ohio, where her parents, immigrants from southern Italy, settled. Although she was awarded a full college scholarship, she said that young women of her culture didn't leave their parents' homes to go away to college.

But that didn't stop her from learning. In the mid-1960s, she taught herself computer programming using "machine language," a complicated precursor to COBOL computer programming language. "This was before they taught computer courses," she recalled.

Working for a medical center in West Virginia, she started the Computer Department, designing and programming all the financial systems. Sitting on the medical committees, she was able to write several medical programs. The Microbiology Reporting System was shared with medical centers all over the world, and recognized by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta. She also developed the unit dosage pharmacy system that was sold to many hospitals.

After she'd already become a self-taught computer whiz, Grace decided to go to a community college where her daughter was also a student. "We took some classes together," she laughed. "We were on the same side of the debate team arguing the Viet Nam war."

Her career at Weirton Medical Center began as a switchboard operator; she was administrative director of the hospital when she left the job 33 years later. She also chaired the board of directors of West Virginia Community College, and was a board member of a home health agency.

After retiring, Grace taught adult education computer classes and worked as an accountant for a small business. She was the office manager of the Florida Sportsmen Fishing shows for seven years. In addition to her Woman's Club activities, she's been president of the Native Plant Society, active member of the Conservation Alliance, Martin County, and chaired the Martin County Planned Parenthood committee for several years. She was also active in the Tropical Trekkers of the Florida Trail Society.

Today, our members know her as the petite woman who always has a warm smile and an encouraging word. Grace is truly an inspiration. She embodies the spirit of service we should all aspire to --- and she does it gracefully.

Birthday wishes can be sent to Grace at 1926 NE San Carlos Calle, Jensen Beach, FL 34957.

----Jo Baxter

October Birthdays



E. Lee Vought – 10/1

Marilyn Dayton – 10/6

Joan Longo - 10/12

Grace Linn - 10/18

Marię Argana - 10/19

Esther Twitchell – 10/25

Best Wishes on Your Birthday
and
Throughout the Coming Year!

***Our next General Meeting
will be Virtual via Zoom on
October 21, 2020
at 11:00 a.m.***



***Instructions will be provided prior to
the meeting on how to access Zoom.
If you need help, contact Jo Baxter.***

Please make plans to attend!

***It will be a fun and
exciting experience!***