

SPWC Happenings



GFWC St. Petersburg Woman's Club

December 2024

Message from the President "All Pulling Together"

"Well, my dear Sisters, is anyone else wondering where 2024 went? Honestly, I can't believe how quickly it seems to have gone by! But it's not like we didn't accomplish anything because as I was compiling my Annual Report for the November meeting, it literally took me hours to pour over our newsletters and meeting minutes and make a list of our activities. I am so proud of you all! As a Club, we accomplished so much good for our community, and that, despite our beloved Clubhouse being flooded with 2 feet of sea water and sewage from Hurricane Helene! Lead by our amazing VP of Daily Operations, Cathy Allen, you never missed a step and you pitched in to start remediation and recovery right away! Your dedication and determination enabled us to hold our fundraiser there less than a month following this devastating blow!

Speaking of our fundraiser, wasn't it FABULOUS?!? Joyce Taylor and her team never gave up, and put together a most memorable evening of fun, beautiful music & dancing, great food and impressive auction baskets. It was the morale booster we all needed to see how lovely our clubhouse could look, even though restoration wasn't complete. Everyone in attendance was amazed at our progress.

We still have a little way to go until the end of the year, and we will be doing gift stockings for the kids at Sallie House, and backpacks for the residents at Brookwood Academy. They're counting on us to give them a Happy Christmas they might not have otherwise. A huge thanks to the members who picked up a stocking or a backpack at the November meeting. As always, your generosity is so inspiring! It's very important for you to remember to bring them back at the December meeting so no child will be disappointed!

Thank you all for your support and understanding this year - it means so much, knowing we take care of each other in bad times and good. Take care and I wish you all a blessed and happy holiday season!!"

Barbara Sundholm, President

OUR NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Friday, December 13, 2024
Hosted by Civic Engagement CSP
Pot luck lunch at noon



Please return the Sallie House stockings and bring your favorite treat to share for lunch

2024 Officers

President ~~ Barbara Sundholm
Past President ~~ Cathy Allen
VP Programs ~~ Evelyn Nakelski
Membership ~~ Marianne Snyder
Financial Officer ~~ Liz Coerver
Daily Operations ~~ Cathy Allen
Fundraising ~~ Joyce Taylor
Capital Expenditures ~~ Oneita Tinsley
Recording Sec ~~ Judy Hunt
Corr. Secretary ~~ Cheryl Freeburg
Treasurer ~~ Beth Timberlake
Bookings Treasurer ~~ Linda Morgan
Evening Group ~~ Tyler Kornatowski
Jennifer Brackney
Publicity ~~Josephine Spinelli

Social Director~~Liz Pacheco Editor~~Carolyn DeFreitas

2024 CSP Chairpersons

Arts & Culture ~ Mary Beattie Civic Engagement ~ Precella Wallace Education & Libraries ~ Mary Palumbo Environment ~ Nancy Westphal Health & Wellness ~ Joyce Sterling





Membership

Marianne Snyder, VP; Nanci Odom, Assistant Committee Members: Roseanna Costa & Marilyn Lanctot

Mentor Program: Deborah Burke

We now have 229 members, which includes 47 new members for this year. If you know anyone who you think might be interested in joining our club, please feel free to let me know and I will be happy to contact them by phone and/or email. I send them our latest newsletter, magazine articles about our club, Tuesday Evening group information, book club news, a new member application and a link to our website.

Our "Volunteer Commitment" form is enclosed with this newsletter – this is for NEW members as well as EVERYONE else in the club. When asked, I always tell people that we are a "SERVICE organization that also provides social activities for our members". We are SERVICE first, then social. Please consider volunteering in some capacity. You can send the form directly to the club, ATTN: Membership OR bring it with you to the December general meeting. If you have any questions, please feel free to let me know.

Our next general meeting will be on Friday, December 13th at NOON. This will be a covered dish luncheon so feel free to bring your favorite dish as well as your appetite! We will also be installing our new board so it should be a lovely afternoon.

DUES for 2025 are \$75. and will be due before the end of the year. Checks can be made out to SPWC (note dues on memo line) or you can pay by credit card through our website. However, if you would like your name in the directory they must be PAID by DECEMBER 1st. Dues MUST be given to me personally, a member of the membership committee or placed in the membership mailbox in the library. Please do not give them to anyone else, including Beth, our treasurer. I need to record the payment, fill out a form and then the checks go to Beth. This process ensures that you get the proper credit for your payment.

Welcome New Members

Susie Leduc Lizzie Fitzgerald

Fran Brusini Karen Mills

Carol Bonanno





Cívic Engagement CSP

Precella Wallace, Chairperson

We make and collect charitable donations

Stockings will be collected at the next general meeting beginning at noon on Friday, December 13th.

This meeting is also a covered dish celebration for Christmas. Please bring your covered dish with your stocking. We no longer have to wrap presents that do not fit inside stockings. Just put them in a bag labeled with the child's name. We are also still collecting shampoo, conditioner and body wash for the children.

A local school has volunteered to do the Christmas wrapping for Sallie House, so they will not need our help with that.

Remember that this is also the <u>Installation of Officers for 2025</u>. Hope to see everyone there.



Social Events

Liz Pacheco, Chairperson; Arlene Smith, Assistant

Club Calendar

<u>Friday, December 20th, 6:00 p.m</u>. Christmas dinner at Carrabba's on 4th Street. Let's dress Christmassy. Please let me know if you plan to attend.

<u>Note</u>: there will be no Maj Jong, First Friday Morning Board Games or Bunko this month due to construction at the Clubhouse. Hope to be able to resume in January.

If I don't see you on December 20th, wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Liz Pacheco, Social Director

727-481-4821

pacheco02031946@gmail.com

Correspondence

Cheryl Freeburg



Linda Morgan is recuperating from an injury. She is doing very well.

Happy Holidays. Please remember to text or email me with any news of our members needing a little boost of friendship. Have fun, stay safe.

Email is <u>cfreeburg@tampabay.rr.com</u>. Cell number 803-448-6700

2025 Annual Report

Our theme this year has been "All Pulling Together" as we continue to place emphasis on how much we can accomplish as long as we work together. We started the year out with 187 members, and we currently have 224!

Our finances this year have taken some hits, the first being the necessity of replacing our air conditioning system. We also realized that our caretaker's apartment was in desperate need of updating for the safety and comfort of his family. And then came Hurricane Helene who flooded our clubhouse with 2' of seawater and sewage, but I'll come back to that. Currently, we are \$40K in the red, but we are solvent. We lost \$27K in bookings, due to the hurricane and getting the new A/C working properly, but suffice it to say our Finance Officer has our affairs well in hand, we are still in good shape.

Although not covered individually in this report, I want to point out our Social Activities, Book Club and House & Grounds committees are always active. Also too numerous to recount are the activities of our Civic Engagement CSP who are consistently producing quilts, twiddle muffs, walker bags, stuffed animals, bone pillows, crocheted bags for hygiene products and the like for Ronald McDonald House, Hospice, and Sallie House to name a few. They are always busy!

January saw a very successful Arts & Crafts competition where our very talented members dazzled us with their skills in various categories. We had a total of 9 blue ribbon entries to send to the District competition in February. Our featured speakers were from the Suntan Art Center on St. Pete Beach and spoke of the educational opportunities in various mediums. Our Health & Wellness CSP hosted a Qi Kong seminar and offered classes in that discipline.

In February, we hosted the District 14 Arts & Crafts Festival and luncheon where the theme was Mardi Gras. We had 6 blue ribbon winners that went to the state competition. Our February program, hosted by our Health & Wellness CSP featured the Supervisor of the Memory Disorders Center of St. Anthony's who spoke to us about the services & resources available at no charge to patients with memory disorders and their families. Our Tuesday group volunteered at the Dreammaker Luncheon for the Children's Dream Fund. We also got our new air conditioner!

Our March meeting was a membership tea hosted by our Membership committee celebrating International Women's Day. Our Tuesday group did their first lasagna dinner at Praise the Lord Mission for food insecure families. Arts & Culture CSP organized a tour of Sunken Gardens that was well attended. Easter came early this year, and 30 members of our club filled 800 plastic eggs with jelly beans and made 40 Easter baskets for the kids at Sallie House and the residents of Brookwood Academy. We also had volunteers from the Tuesday group helping out at the Firestone Grand Prix. The Book Club held a book drive to benefit All Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House.

Our April meeting was a pot luck luncheon honoring the St. Pete Police Department. We had 5 officers plus one K-9 as our guests. They spoke about their duties and answered questions from our group. We presented them with a statue of a bald eagle as a thank you to the department for their service. President Sundholm proposed collecting donations towards sponsoring a bullet proof vest for one of the K-9's as an ongoing project. Five of our members attended the Spring Annual Convention in Orlando and picked up club awards for our Honor Score, our newsletter and for Human Trafficking Awareness. Our VP of Daily Operations proposed repairs/renovations for the caretaker's apartment, and it was approved. We had members turn out at the St. Pete airport to greet the Honor Flight veterans returning from Washington, DC.

For our May meeting hosted by our Environment CSP, we welcomed representatives from Sea Turtle Trackers who spoke to us about their efforts to monitor and protect sea turtle nests on our beaches and barrier islands. We also collected over 300 boxes of cereal to be donated to our Title One school for food insecure kids who might not have breakfast while school is out for the summer. In partnership with the Children's Dream fund (for children who are victims of life threatening illnesses), our Tuesday group and the Juniorettes club organized and staged a Mother's Day event for 25 Dream Children and their families to let the kids make cards, decorate and fill gift bags, and make paper flowers and bracelets to give to their moms for Mother's Day. The moms were treated to refreshments while the children had fun making their gifts.

In June we sent several representatives to the District Workshop in Bradenton. Our Tuesday group stayed active, assisting with the Belle of the Ball program helping teens with dresses for prom, and making another lasagna dinner for Praise the Lord Mission. In July, our Civic Engagement members delivered 32 crocheted bags filled with hygiene products to the Free Clinic and handmade stuffed animals for Hospice and Ronald McDonald House.

There was no business meeting in August, but there were volunteer activities happening. Our members volunteered at the Rays on the Runway event to benefit the Children's Dream Fund which raised more than \$200K. Work on the caretaker's apartment was completed.

September saw a successful collection of over \$2000 of school supplies for our adopted school and we enjoyed a program from a representative of Habitat for Humanity, hosted by the Education & Libraries CSP. We had 4 members attend the Fall Board of Directors meeting in Orlando, where we delivered a large amount of food and clothing items our club collected for the GFWC National Day of Service. Several of our members went to the St. Pete airport again to welcome home veterans on the 50th Honor Flight

October started out pleasant enough until Hurricane Helene dealt us a devastating blow. Our October meeting was cancelled because of the hurricanes. Our clubhouse was completely flooded by the storm, and as a result, we have been aggressively pursuing remediation and repairs. Our progress to date is nothing short of astounding, thanks to our energetic VP of Daily Operations and a team of dedicated helpers! Obviously funds will be needed to meet our rather large deductible, so a GoFundMe campaign was initiated, (currently at a little over \$6K) among other efforts. We are in the process of replacing all of the furnishings, and many numerous other things we lost, and we will have a brand new kitchen, too! In the meantime, our prayers continue for our members who also suffered devastating losses. Our Tuesday group still managed to coordinate another Mission dinner despite limited facilities and lack of electricity. We were also able to send 7 representatives to the Annual District meeting in Clearwater where we shared the extent of our damages and promoted our fundraiser in November.

Here we are now, in November and so pumped about the amazing success of our fundraiser, an evening of Jazz in St. Pete! No one believed we could do it so soon after the hurricane, but we did it, thanks to the vision and dedication of our VP of Fundraising and our VP of Daily Operations, and our amazing members who helped.

Today we elect a new slate of officers and look forward to what our team can accomplish in 2025. This past year has been bumpy at times, but it has been my pleasure and my honor to work with you all.

In spite of the challenges, the impact we have made on our community is immeasurable, as evidenced by the outpouring of generosity and concern by our neighbors and associates. This report, although lengthy, can't possibly cover all we have done as a team. We're still able to make a contribution to 9 local non-profits because they're suffering, too. We have the potential to exceed the volunteer hours of previous years, and once our repairs and improvements are done, this Grand Old Lady will be the Pride of St. Pete!

Barbara Sundholm, President



Daily Operations

Cathy Allen, VP; Diane Dudley, Assistant

If you have been to the clubhouse lately you have witnessed our metamorphosis from a water-logged shell to a lovely work in process. Our half-plastered walls are now complete, we have a new lower stage and dancefloor, our bride's room is almost complete and some of our antique furniture has been replaced.

However, the next month will really show what our house can be. In December we will have new tile floors, new kitchen cabinets, new carpeting, new floorboards and our electrical will be completed. We are working on adding another unisex bathroom downstairs, if permitting is completed. In other words, we hope to be almost finished when 2025 rings in.

What does that mean for us? Well, it means we can resume all our treasured activities. January will bring the return of Mahjongg, Bunco, Bridge and our other games. It will mean our event bookings go forward, and we can pretty much resume our activities. If anyone has a source for making mahjongg tabletops, please let me know. They really made it easier to play.

I do want to thank all of you for helping in the process. It has been wonderful to see the great turn out of volunteers. You were there when we needed you and we thank you for all your patience, hard work and vision for our house! Hope you all have a very Happy Holiday Season and a Safe, Happy and Prosperous New Year.

In service, Cathy Allen



The <u>December 13th meeting</u> is officer installation led by Dianne Foerster. We will celebrate the holidays and have a wonderful covered dish luncheon at noon. Mark your calendar. <u>Dec 13th... at noon</u>, holiday pot-luck lunch and installation. Remember to return your Sallie House and Brookwood packages, too!







Evening News

Tyler Kornatowski & Jennifer Brackney, Co-Chairs

It was so good to gather on November 12th inside our Clubhouse and see smiling faces again after recovering through two storms. We had a group of 15 including 6 new members and quests.

THANK YOU to Jennifer Brackney who helped lead our Evening Group during 2024 and is stepping aside. Be sure to give a warm welcome to Li Watts for stepping in. We continue to appreciate everyone's help managing meeting minutes, news articles and vetting of group volunteer opportunities. Thank you Deneen McQueen and Cathy Squeo for offering to lend a hand in the coming months!

Over 30 Gift Tags were distributed for the Silver Santas program run by <u>Better Living for Senior Pinellas County</u>. For more info, please email Lisa Moore at <u>lisa@mooreinsuranceoptions.com</u>. There will be volunteer opportunities at the Silver Santa gift sorting sites during the first week of December. Dates, locations and shift times TBD.

Our next meeting is a Holiday White Elephant Book Swap on December 10th at 6:30pm @ our Clubhouse. We will have a sign-up at our December meeting for the Praise the Lord Mission Dinner scheduled for December 28-29.

We're working on securing a date in January to volunteer as a group making a meal at Ronald McDonald House.

Please get in touch if you have any volunteer ideas to share and/or if you have any questions or comments for the Evening Group.



Arts & Culture CSP

Mary Beattie, Chairperson; Mary Fletcher, Assistant

Just a reminder that the 2025 Arts & Crafts competition will take place on Friday, January 10th. Registration will take place on Wednesday, January 8th from 9:00 am—12:00 pm.

Marianne Snyder will be heading this CSP in 2025. If you are interested in being on the committee, please contact her at MarianneSnyder233@gmail.com OR 215-805-9277.



Claudia Griffin & Mary Braisted help with stocking distribution



Left to right: Marianne Snyder with new members Terri Russo, Carol Bonanno, Fran Brusini, & Karen Mills



Mary Braisted presents gift to speaker Victoria Michel of the Children's Home Network

Book Club News Mary Braisted



With everything going on in our city, county and even our club, everyone may be feeling a bit blue these days. Our groups are unable to meet at the club and we are losing that social contact. But don't despair, January is a new year and things will be brighter. We should be able to get back to our normal ways very soon.

Luckily, Cathy Parks has opened her home for our <u>December 10th</u> book club luncheon meeting. We are so thankful for her willingness to be our host. Our book for December is "Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon.

Our <u>January 14th</u> meeting will be held at Pistil House at 2533 1st Avenue South and our book for discussion is "The Winemaker's Wife" by Kristin Harmel.

Below are some books that have been recommended by our members but have not been chosen for 2025.

"One Thousand White Women" by Jim Fergus

"Hello Beautiful" by Ann Napolitano

"The Echo of Old Books" by Barbara Davis

If anyone wants to join our book club, please email me at braisted636@gmail.com





Fundraising

Joyce Taylor, VP; Gail Brazzell & Jennie Jamison, Assistants

The entire Fundraising Committee and I want to thank the Board Members, SPWC members, sponsors for the Fundraiser and all the generous donors for making this year's "A Night of Jazz in St. Pete" a huge success.

Please remember to thank and support the businesses that supported the SPWC Event.

My personal best wishes to the new VP of Fundraising, Angie Haynes, who I believe will be an awesome 2025 leader.



Photo Gallery

In spite of the damage to our lovely lady, she was repaired enough for us to hold our Annual Fundraiser on November 2nd celebrating Jazz in St. Pete. It was a smashing success!



Chairperson Joyce Taylor welcomed the participants.



Chairperson Joyce Taylor with assistants Gail Brazzell & Joyce Sterling



Carol Tillis & Beth Timberlake at the reception table







Joannie Rubenstein & Liz Pacheco





Evelyn Nakelski & Cathy Allen



Barbara Creamer, Cheryl Martin, &?











Many opportunity baskets were available for the silent auction

Club Calendar

<u>Friday, December 13th:</u> Club Day Meeting at Noon. Hosted by Civic Engagement CSP Potluck Lunch and Installation of Officers

Every Monday at 2 pm: Mahjongg.

Every Wednesday at 1 pm: Hands on projects with Civic Engagement

Twice a month on Friday at 1:00: Bridge

Every first Fri at 10 am: Games followed by lunch

Every second Tues at 7 pm: Evening group

Every third Friday at 7 pm: Bunco

Last Friday of the month: Ladies Night Out

NOTE: Mahjongg, Friday Games and Bunco will hopefully return in January Dates are subject to change if needs arise. Contact Social Director Liz Pacheco for more info.

Dag 01 Mami Dagtio

Dec 29-Louise Choate

GFWC

St. Petersburg Woman's Club 40 Snell Isle Boulevard NE St. Petersburg, FL 33704

CLUB NEWSLETTER December 2024



Mondays: 2-4 pm

Due to the damage to the clubhouse, Mahjong has been cancelled until further notice

2nd Tuesday at 7 pm

The next Evening Group will meet on December 10, Contact Tyler Kornatowski or Jennifer Brackney for confirmation & location

Fridays at 7 pm

Due to the damage to the clubhouse, Bunco has been cancelled until further notice.



| Dec 01—Mary Beattie | Dec 29—Petra Urban | Feb 01—Judy Amos |
|--------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Dec 03—Cindy Stokes | Dec 30—Teresa Hartley | Feb 03—Liz Pacheco |
| Dec 05—Antoinette Corey | Dec 31—Deborah Burke | Feb 04—Gail Brazzell |
| Dec 05—Amy Giskin | | Feb 04—Kristine Dowhan |
| Dec 06—Julie Hall | Jan 01—Sarah Osterholt | Feb 04—Cathy Parks |
| Dec 06—Tara Kipp | Jan 06—Sherry Cohen | Feb 04—Arlene Smith |
| Dec 06—Celia Ryan | Jan 08—Annette Baesel | Feb 05—Barbara Edelman |
| Dec 07—Lisa Zamanillo | Jan 09—Audrey Baria | Feb 05—Fran Spector |
| Dec 08—Maria Rossi | Jan 09—Colette Florido | Feb 06—Debra Malinics |
| Dec 10—Joanne Raquet | Jan 10—Lisa Rice | Feb 07—Dragana Sanader |
| Dec 11—Marjorie Joiner | Jan 12—Pat Hayes | Feb 10—Toni Riche |
| Dec 12—Suzanne Chesser | Jan 13—Helen Bennett | Feb 10—Eleni Shipe |
| Dec 14—Katharine Magrann | Jan 13—Monica Taylor | Feb 11—Linda Donaldson |
| Dec 14—Carole Pope | Jan 14—Diane Dudley | Feb 12—Carolyn Wells |
| Dec 18—Dorothy Shuman | Jan 15—Barbara Kirk | Feb 13—Sally Scott |
| Dec 18—Patricia Wiand | Jan 16—Mary Palumbo | Feb 15—Sara Galiger |
| Dec 19—Judy Lee | Jan 21—Dayla Arabella | Feb 19—Marianne Snyder |
| Dec 24—Carol Howard | Jan 21—Margit Smith | Feb 20—Leslie Singer |
| Dec 25—Carol Tillis | Jan 31—Nancy Westphal | Feb 24—Gina Myers |
| | | |

ST. PETERSBURG WOMAN'S CLUB

VOLUNTEER COMMITMENTS

____ clean up after the event

| Name | |
|-------|--|
| Phone | |
| Email | |

| LEADERSHIP POSITIONS | DAILY OPERATIONS | |
|--|---|--|
| President | plant & maintain flowers/landscaping | |
| VP Programs Asst. | touch up painting inside clubhouse | |
| VP Membership Asst. | maintain organized kitchen drawers/ cupboards | |
| VP Daily Operations Asst. | general cleaning | |
| VP Fundraising Asst. | | |
| VP Capital Improvements Asst. | Once or twice annually: | |
| Recording Secretary Asst. | clean refrigerators | |
| Corresponding Secretary Asst. | wipe baseboards | |
| Bookings Treasurer Asst. | wipe doors around knob | |
| General Billing Treasurer Asst. | wipe interior trim (stair railings, etc.) | |
| Finance Director Asst. | clean door windows | |
| Editor: Newsletter/Directory Asst. | | |
| Publicity/PR Asst. | CLUB MEETINGS | |
| Social Media Asst. | | |
| Chair of Arts & Culture CSP | sell 50/50 | |
| Chair of Civic Engagement & Outreach CSP | check-in members | |
| Chair of Education & Libraries CSP | greeter | |
| Chair of Environment CSP | bring refreshments | |
| Chair of Health & Wellness CSP | set up & clean up | |
| FUNDRAISING and EVENTS | MISCELLANEOUS | |
| treasurer – record of donations to VP | | |
| serve on planning committee | GRANT WRITING | |
| prepare/mail invitations | singer | |
| prepare guest program | pianist | |
| prepare & manage RSVP's | help collect & deliver donations | |
| record all donations & money with a copy | work on written history of the club | |
| to fundraising chairperson & treasurer | scrapbooking | |
| solicit donations | help assemble newsletter for mailing | |
| make opportunity baskets | | |
| set up the day before the event | | |
| set up day of the event | | |
| work during the event | OVER - | |

COMMUNITY SERVICE

| <u>SERVICE</u> | Name |
|---|--|
| PROGRAMS | |
| "Our CSP's" | Phone |
| Please consider joining at least 1 CSP. We need LOTS of help and we need YOU! | Email |
| More information about the CSP's can be found in our club directory as well as the contact information for our CSP Chairwomen. | ENVIRONMENT be a member of this CSP provide assistance to chairwoman |
| ARTS & CULTURE be a member of this CSP | arrange speaker for 1 meeting per year towels & sheets collection collect & deliver donations to charities |
| provide assistance to chairwoman | (SPCA, Animal Shelter) |
| arrange speaker for 1 meeting per year | HEALTH & WELLNESS |
| Arts/Crafts Competition in January & Februse secure judges provide gift check inventory of ribbons check in entries set up entry display file reports of winning entries & release with district coordinate with district for district arts/crafts competition | provide assistance to chairwoman arrange speaker for 1 meeting per year assist with disseminating information on health & wellness for newsletters & membership sewing projects for various charities help with Christmas stockings and Easter |
| CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH | EDUCATION & LIBRARIES |
| be a member of this CSP provide assistance to chairwoman arrange speaker for 1 meeting per year participate in service projects such as: support of police support of military support of 1st responders | be a member of this CSP provide assistance to chairwoman arrange speaker for 1 meeting per year school supplies collection in September cereal collection in May public library volunteer opportunity education/library volunteer opportunity |
| safety measures for women & s | seniors |

