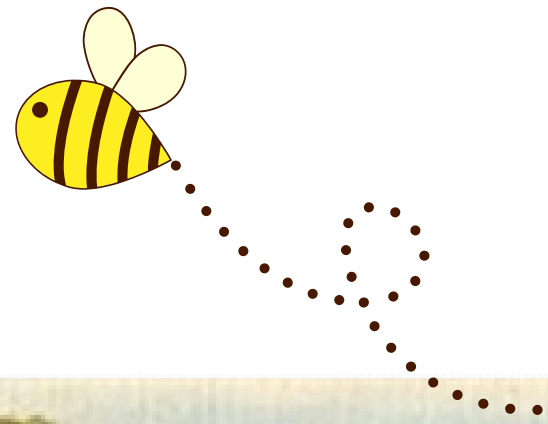


GFWC RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB
MARCH 2025
RWC NEWSLETTER



Clubhouse Address:
503 S. US Hwy 41
Ruskin, Florida 33570

Website:
gfwcruskinwomansclub.org

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 547, Ruskin, Florida 33575

Telephone: 813.296.3900

Email: gfwcrwc@gmail.com



GENERAL FEDERATION
of WOMEN'S CLUBS



MARCH 9





CLUB OFFICERS*

PRESIDENT

Sharon Davis

1ST VICE PRESIDENT

JoJo Woodland

2ND VICE PRESIDENT

Deborah V.

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jane Wenzel

TREASURER

Maria Huelin

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Anne Frappier

APPOINTED OFFICER*

Phyllis Elsberry,
Parliamentarian & GFWC Liason

TRUSTEES

Amber Council
Dottie Dickman
Kat Sherwood

HISTORIANS

Carolyn Pyle
Jane Wenzel

*Executive Committee

President's Message

Time is Marching on! Our program for March will address Human Trafficking, an important initiative that aims to provide essential support to those affected and raise awareness within our community. Our Community Service Project will be to donate designated items to Selah Freedom Safe House. As we step into this season of renewal and growth, let's come together with a spirit of generosity and compassion. Your contributions, whether in the form of goods or time, will make a significant impact.

In addition to our March initiative, it is also time to nominate our new club Officers for 2025-2027 to start preparing for our new year beginning in May. Also at the March meeting, the Membership Committee will recognize Members in our club for their Years of Service, celebrating those who have been contributing their time and generosity for 5, 10, 15, and 20 years.

One of the exciting events for our members to look forward to is our second Cash, Cocktails, and Clothes on March 22nd from 10am-2pm. This event will take place at our clubhouse grounds, and members can sell items they no longer need with half the proceeds being donated to the club. Stay tune, more information to come.

We are also thrilled to share our upcoming plans for the Fashion Show on May 10th. The event will now be held at the Riverside Club Golf Community. Our fashions will be dazzlingly presented by Patchington, and the delectable food will be catered by Banquet Masters. Keep an eye out for our flyer with more details and information on when donations for tickets will be available. This is set to be an elegant and memorable event you won't want to miss.

I encourage each of you to participate and contribute in any way you can. Together, we can create a thriving, supportive environment for our members and the broader community. Thank you for your continued dedication and enthusiasm.

Warmest regards,

Sharon Davis

Sharon Davis





Congratulations to the Members to be recognized at the March General Meeting for their years of service. Thank you!

Kathy Atkins 5 years

Anne Frappier & Shawn Geitner 10 years

Dawn Bradley 15 years

Coleen Laskey 20 years

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 26th

Board Meeting at RWC Clubhouse at 10am

March 5th

Monthly Meeting starting at 11am at RWC Clubhouse

March 22nd

Cash, Cocktails, and Clothes from 10am-2 pm at Clubhouse Grounds. Details forthcoming.

March 25th

Game Night at RWC Clubhouse from 6:30 pm till 8pm. See details on page #.

March 26th

Board Meeting at RWC Clubhouse at 10am

April 2nd

Monthly Meeting starting at 11am at RWC Clubhouse

May 10th

Fashion Show & Luncheon @ Riverside Club Golf Community



MONTHLY GENERAL MEETINGS

Each meeting has a speaker and Community Service Project (CSP).

SEPTEMBER
GFWC & ME

OCTOBER
Education & Libraries

JANUARY
Civic Engagement & Outreach

DECEMBER
Arts & Culture

JANUARY
Honor Past Presidents

FEBRUARY
Health & Wellness

MARCH
Human Trafficking

APRIL
Environment

MAY
Domestic & Sexual Violence
Awareness & Prevention

STANDING COMMITTEES

Chair

ARTS COMMITTEE
Linda Freeth

DEAN OF HOSTESSES
Elaine Eaton

EDUCATION FOR
NEWSLETTER
Jane DeBrosse

FACEBOOK
Linda Freeth

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Phyllis Elsberry

GAME NIGHTS
Sue Crawley

GRANT COMMITTEE
Deborah V.
Sharon Davis

HISTORIANS
Carolyn Pyle
Jane Wenzel

HOUSE & GROUNDS
Sharon Davis

INSPIRATIONAL COMMITTEE
Sandy Ottino

MEMBERSHIP
Sharon Davis

NEWSLETTER
Brenda Sanchez

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Jane DeBrosse

PUBLICITY
Linda Freeth

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Jennifer Looper

WEBSITE
Vanessa Josey

CLUB NEWS

HOSTESS COMMITTEE

March Hostesses:

Kat Sherwood

Maria Huelin

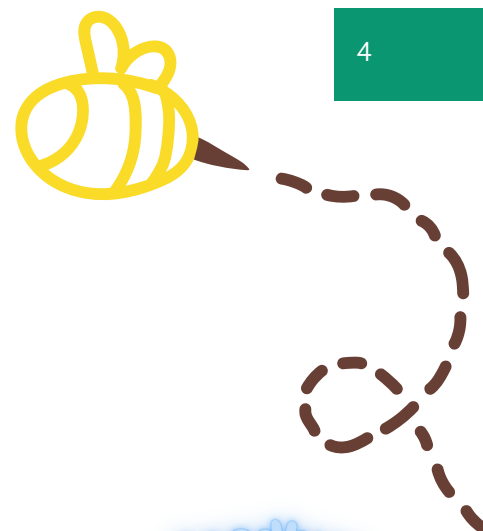
Carolyn Pyle

Cookie Sondergeld

Coleen Laskey

Theme: Goodbye Winter, Hello Sunshine

Colors to wear: Yellow and Orange



*Best
wishes to
all who
celebrate
a birthday
in March.*



GFWC Ruskin Women's Club

“Rummikub” Game Night

Tuesday, March 18th, 2025 6:30pm-8pm

503 S U.S. 41, Ruskin, FL 33570

\$10 ticket donation per person/BYOB/snacks provided

Cut-off date for signup is Friday, March 14th, 2025

Attendance is limited to 24 people please call to reserve your spot.

Sue Crawley 517-749-7244

Come join us and bring your friends for a great night out! Whether or not you know how to play “Rummikub” you will enjoy this game! Each table will have a “Pro” who knows the game and will teach you how to play.

Rummikub has all the elements that make a great game. It's easy to learn and fast moving. The “board” changes all the time as players adjust the tiles on the table. It combines luck and strategy and it changes quickly so every player has a chance to win until the very end. Players take turns placing numbered tiles in runs and groups. The Joker tiles add to the fun; they can be any color or number. The object is to be the first to play every tile on your rack. Rummikub is ideal for people of different ages to play together, and it's great for a game night too.





2/8 RWCE HIGH TEA LUNCHEON
HEARTS & ROSES



THE ORIGINS OF THE RUSKIN WOMAN'S CLUB

(Copied in abridged form from "Woman's Club Celebrates Community Involvement for a Century," written by Melody Jameson. The Observer News, February 23, 2012)



On the frontier here one hundred and thirteen years ago, this community's women were enjoying a legal equality unknown to their sisters in northern cities. Their votes and their voices carried the same weight as those asserted by men. That fact well may explain both how and why their organization would become a backbone of the community, growing with it, continuous in its service, strong and supporting, for a full century, and counting.

In 1912, when the 20th Century Club, precursor of today's woman's club, formed, its members held equal voting rights in the Commongood Society, the organization that anchored the fifth and last U.S. settlement named for and founded on the principles of English social critic John Ruskin. In northern cities at the time, where women had few options beyond those granted by husbands, the campaign for woman's suffrage - the legal right to vote in U.S. elections - was being waged by the likes of Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony. Yet, in Ruskin "A woman could be president of the Commongood Society; she could be president of anything!," notes Dr. Arthur "Mac" Miller, the son of pioneers, in his authoritative history of the area.

Improvement, both personal and in the community, was the first objective in 1912. Members sought to meet the objective in their monthly meetings, originally held in members' private homes, featuring progressive programs and in their community as they undertook an extraordinary range of efforts that have highlighted their history, year after year. In 1919, the Club joined the Federation of Florida Woman's Clubs, becoming the nineteenth federated club in Florida.



Ruskin Woman's Club is a 501(c)(3) registered with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services as a non-profit charitable organization. Registration Tax ID# 59-1201409. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the division of consumer services by calling toll-free within the state 1-800-435-7352 or web site SunBiz.org. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.



Human Trafficking, under both federal and Florida law, is defined as the transporting, soliciting, recruiting, harboring, providing or obtaining of another person for transport; for the purposes of forced labor, domestic servitude or sexual exploitation. Human trafficking is modern slavery. Approximately 30 million people are enslaved in the world, with 2.5 million here in the United States. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, every 2 minutes a child is transported for purposes of sexual exploitation. Unfortunately, our state of Florida is ranked number three in the nation for reported Human Trafficking cases. In Hillsborough County, 104 people were arrested on January 31, 2025 as a result of an ongoing operation between last June through November. Earlier last year there were 85 arrests. Perhaps you would be surprised to know that about 25% of those arrested were women.

Human trafficking is often a crime that is hidden in plain sight, so it is important to be aware of its warning signs. Some indications that a person may be a victim of human trafficking include (especially in the case of women and children):

- Appearing malnourished or showing signs of physical injuries and abuse
- Avoiding eye contact, social interaction and authority figures/law enforcement
- Seeming to adhere to scripted or rehearsed responses in social interaction
- Lacking official identification documents
- Working excessively long hours
- Living where security measures such as bars covering the insides of windows or barbed wire on fences exist
- Not being allowed to go into public alone or speak for themselves

In Florida, if you suspect anyone of being a victim of human trafficking, please call: 855-FLA-SAFE

DON'T GET HURT, STAY ALERT WHEN GARDENING!

Many of us look forward to March because we know that Spring is on its way. It's also the month when we take steps to clean up our yards from winter debris, and Nurseries and Garden stores attract us to buy new plants and shrubs to brighten our planting beds. As we age it is particularly important that we take steps to stay safe while working in our yards:

1. Warm up: Perform some warm-up exercises, especially for your back.
2. Protect your skin: Wear a hat, sunscreen and protective clothing that covers exposed skin
3. Stay hydrated: Drink plenty of water, and avoid drinks with caffeine or high sugar
4. Use proper lifting techniques: Get help when needed and check your lifting form.
5. Take breaks: Take short breaks to rest and cool down.
6. Protect your eyes and airway: Wear gloves and protect your eyes and airway.
7. Work in the shade: Plan to work in the shade or early in the morning or late in the day

