



The Civic Courier

The Women's Civic Club
of Panama City Beach, Inc.

May 2018
Volume VII—Issue 9



From the President's Desk

Cheri Leistner

Dear Ladies,

Where has the time gone? It seems like it was only weeks ago that I was installed for my first term as your president, and now here we are at the end of my second term! Oh, what fun we've had!

I want to say a special thanks to our elected officers. They made my job so very easy and were a true pleasure to work with. Also, thanks to each and every committee chair and co-chair. They should be proud of the work their committees accomplished!

We had very successful events this year, celebrated a special 50-year anniversary, and did such wonderful work in the PCB community! I'm confident that our founding members would be proud of the club that we have become.

So as I step into a new role for the Women's Civic Club of PCB, I wish Basma and all the officers much success in their roles. May we continue to grow and prosper so that we can continue the mission of improving life in PCB for ALL!

Blessings to all of you! It truly has been my honor and pleasure to serve you.

Blessings to ALL! *Cheri*



New officers for 2018—19 prepare for upcoming year



New President, Basma Swearingen (center) is surrounded by her new Board members. Seen are Cheri Leistner, Recording Secretary; Karen Gunsallus, First Vice President; Peg Lowery, Corresponding Secretary; and Sue Jiles, Treasurer. Not shown is Diane Vitale, Second V.P.

Todd Herendeen Dinner Theater fun and successful evening



Todd Herendeen and wife Angel are shown with the committee who made it all possible: (Left to right) Joyce Goetz, Cheri Leistner and Sue Jiles. Ticket sales were 188, the food was delicious and everyone had a wonderful time!

(See more on page 5)



Basma Swearingen is shown with Tyler Plunkett, Parent Liaison at Hutchison Beach Elementary. The committee delivered school slacks, shorts and shirts, undergarments, lunch boxes and backpacks.

WCC IN ACTION
SCHOOL PROJECTS OUTREACH



Here Basma is shown with Shawnee Hagan, Parent Liaison at West Bay Elementary. They received jackets, school shirts, boxes of school supplies, cases of Kleenex, Lysol spray and disinfecting wipes.

IRONMAN.
70.3 GULF COAST



Joyce Goetz is busy once again preparing for the upcoming Ironman 70.3 Gulf Coast event. The triathlon is taking place at Edgewater Resort and Convention Center on Saturday, May 12, 2018. Help is needed to prepare for the big day!

Helpers are needed on the following days:

Wednesday, May 9 - 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Bag Stuffing

Thursday, May 10 - 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. - Athlete Check-in

Friday, May 11 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Athlete Check-in

Please call or e-mail Joyce as soon as possible. We need your help to make this happen! It's work, but everyone enjoys working together! It's a good way to get to know fellow members better, to serve our community and to earn money for our club.

Joyce: Phone: 850-249-2117

E-mail: goetzjoyce@gmail.com

Additional information will be at the luncheon check-in table.

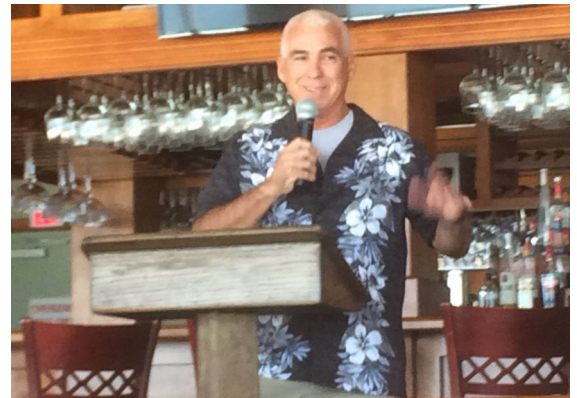
Domestic Violence News

Judy Hardegree, Chairman of Domestic Violence, reports that Lorraine Odom has given the club dozens of Mary Kay lipsticks, eyeshadow and miscellaneous cosmetics, which will be taken to the Domestic Violence Safe House. These items, along with the recently donated business clothing, are a great help in improving self esteem for those seeking new jobs and are greatly appreciated by all.

Two long-time friends of WCC honored at April meeting



Joe Cocco, (L) also known as "Mr. Safety" retired in 2016 after 31 years with the PCB Fire Department. He is shown introducing John Daly at the April luncheon.



John Daly, former Fire Chief for PCB, officially retired in January after serving 33 years. The WCC wanted to show its appreciation to these men for all they have done throughout the years. They are traveling, enjoying their families and getting some well deserved rest.



New member Arlene Klaas, (center) is shown at her Initiation Ceremony at Harpoon Harry's at the April meeting with Nancy Hollowell, her sponsor (L) and Membership Chairman, Basma Swearingen, (right), who presented her with flowers, a club shirt and a year book.

Welcome Member Arlene Klaas

Arlene has written a short bio so members can get to know her better.

I was born in Pueblo, CO. Upon college graduation, I moved to Anchorage, AK for the adventure, where I lived for 37 years. I enjoyed fishing and flying across the state in small bush planes with my first husband, who was a bush pilot and fishing guide. I worked at a remote fishing lodge cooking and cleaning for a couple of summers, and served 11 years with the Alaska Air National Guard. I retired from the Municipality of Anchorage's Police Department as an office administrator.

Then I decided not to live in snow country ever again, so my second husband Phil and I moved to Kissimmee. After three years there, we decided it was too hot and too much traffic, so we bought a motorhome and traveled the USA for a bit. Then we came to PCB in October 2016 to spend the winter, decided the winter weather was cool enough, but best of all, no snow, and light traffic (in off season)!

So we decided to stay here and bought a condo. We enjoy traveling, kayaking, cooking and looking out at the beautiful waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

I joined the WCC to get involved with the community. Barbara Vecrumba and Nancy Stovall live in the same condo building as I do and invited me to meetings. I volunteered for the Unwined event and loved it. I am looking forward to many more volunteer opportunities.



Giving Project for May



Gail Claffy reports that Anchorage Children's Home at their McElvey location on Thomas Drive, is in need of toys and outdoor activities for their children to use in the summer. Things like beach toys, yard games, blow-up toys, beach towels, etc., would be greatly appreciated.

Please bring them to the May luncheon.

Also, remember articles for the Food Pantry. The need goes on year round.

Have a wonderful summer!



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 6 - Babs Umenhofer
- 8 - Kay Vider
- 14 - Barbara Olson
- 17 - Barbara Britson
- 21 - Pat Diamond
- 23 - Glenda Densmore
- 24 - Barbara Doblin
- 24 - Lori Becerra

Eight members have had perfect attendance this past year

The following people had perfect attendance at club meetings this past year. Congratulations go out to the following:

- Joyce Goetz
- Karen Honeycutt
- Cheri Leistner
- Peggy Lowery
- Maddie Niederberger
- Gayle Oberst
- Nancy Stovall
- Nan VandenBerg

Leadership Day at Hutchison Beach Elementary School

All members are invited to attend Leadership Day on Friday, May 18, 2018 from 8 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. at 12900 Hutchison Blvd. On line reservations are required no later than May 14 on the Leadership Day tab at www.bayschools.com/bes.

Learn how they are empowering their students to develop leadership skills in and out of the classroom. It is interesting and very enjoyable!



REMINDER-IT'S TIME TO TURN IN
Committee Signup Sheets!



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City Beach, Inc.

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COMING EVENTS

May 3 - Luncheon—11 a.m.
Texas Roadhouse
Installation of 2018-19 Officers

May 12 - Ironman Gulf Coast
Edgewater Beach Resort
and Conference Center

May 13 *Happy Mother's Day*

May 18 - Leadership Day 8 - 10:45 a.m.
Hutchison Beach Elementary School
12900 Hutchison Blvd.
www.bayschools.com/bes

May 28 - **memorial DAY**

May 31 - New Board Meeting 10 a.m.
Chamber Board Room

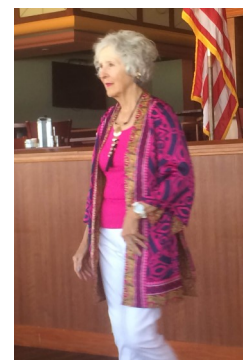
Fashions by Chico's enjoyed by all



Sharon Williams



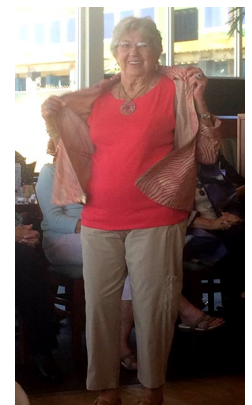
Chairman Gayle Oberst lines up all the models after the Fashion Show at the April meeting. Shown (from L to R) are Edith Ellis, Cheri Leistner, Peggy Lowery, Diane Vitale, Sharon Williams, Phyllis McLane and Jane Nendick.



Diane Vitale



Gayle Oberst



Edith Ellis



Janet and Lark Roan are seen with Joyce Rouillard enjoying dinner.



The food line was long, but moved very quickly

Todd Herendeen Dinner/ Theater Highlights



Guests enjoy the wonderful buffet served by Texas Roadhouse



Lou and Arlene Geneva (center) are enjoying the evening with friends Linda and Jim Hooten.



The food line dwindles down. It's almost show time!



Laughter fills the air as guests enjoy their meal amid the fun atmosphere.



Angel sings with the group



Bernie and Ginny Schmertmann enjoy their meal.



Florence "Betty" Malin

November 5, 1924—February 26, 2018

Betty Malin, 93, of Panama City Beach, passed away Monday, February 26, 2018, at a local nursing facility.

Betty has been a long time resident of Panama City Beach since retiring here in 1984, moving from Columbus, OH, where she taught school for many years. She grew up on a farm, in the heartland of Indiana, during the depression years. Being from the Greatest Generation, Betty, during WWII, helped build B-17's. Later she attained her teaching degree at Ohio State University. She was of the Catholic faith. Betty was the founder of Panhandle Federated Republican Women's Club, and its first president. She was a member and past president of Bay County Retired Educators, and past president of the Woodlawn Homeowners Association. She was an active member of St. Bernadette's Women's Guild, Bay County Duplicate Bridge Club and Panama City Beach Women's Civic Club. She was the recipient of Governor Jeb Bush's Points of Light award for her volunteer and charity work in Bay County.



Our Deepest Sympathy



Gertrude Elizabeth "Beth" Watrous

April 9, 1927—
April 19, 2018

Gertrude Elizabeth Watrous, known to all as "Beth" and affectionately known to her family as Auntie Tula, passed peacefully in her sleep, April 19, 2018, at the age of 91, in Panama City. Gertrude was born April 9, 1927, in New York City, to Millard Fillmore and Louise Marie (Ortiz) Watrous. She is survived by her brother, Millard Nelson Watrous; nephew, James Alvarez; nieces, Judith Clancy, Ruthie Yount, Gabriele Stickley, Deborah Brown; and 9 great nieces and 3 great nephews and their off-spring.

After serving in the United States Navy's Women's Auxiliary Volunteer Emergency Service (WAVES), she was Honorably Discharged in 1952. She continued her career in nursing at Tyndall Air Force Base, becoming a supply logistician working until retirement in 1988. She was a resident of Panama City Beach for over 50 years. She was actively involved in her community as a member of the Women's Civics Club of Panama City Beach, served at the polls during elections, gave generously to the Food Pantry and could always be counted on to assist her community when and where she was needed.

Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home handled arrangements and graveside funeral services were at Evergreen Memorial Gardens on Hwy. 231.



Beth at a luncheon. She never missed a Board meeting.



Bertie Lou Reynolds

December 11, 1928—April 6, 2018

Bertie Lou Reynolds, 89, passed away April 6, 2018. Born in Birmingham, AL, she soon moved to Panama City Beach with her family. As a lifelong resident, she graduated from Bay High School, became a prominent member of the business community, and was elected the First Woman Council Person for Panama City Beach. She continued her support of the community, retiring as the Referral Coordinator for the Panama City Beaches Chamber of Commerce. We will miss her smiling face at the Chamber.



Gertrude Elizabeth Watrous

TRIBUTE TO LIFE MEMBER



Beth at the check-out at the Yard

BETH WATROUS



FOR 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE WOMEN'S CIVIC CLUB OF PANAMA CITY BEACH, INC.



Christmas Parade 2014



Christmas Parade 2013



Beth taking a lunch break during a past Yard Sale (2016) with fellow workers Jan Pieterse (deceased), Jane Nendick and Ginny Schmertmann.



Beth as Mrs. Claus on the Christmas Float in 2009 (before golf carts) with Eloise Cox.