



The Civic Courier

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

Volume VIII-Issue 1
September 2018



From the President's Desk

I hope that you have had a good and restful summer, whether it involved traveling, visiting with family and friends, or just staying at home.

Are you ready to embark on another year of fun filled events that will help and benefit our PCB community? The luncheon committee has planned our first luncheon at Runaway Island, September 6. Looking forward to seeing everyone.

Ironman will be held on November 1, 2018, this year. Volunteers will be needed the week of October 30 – November 1 to pack backpacks, register and check in athletes. I would encourage each and everyone of you to volunteer as much as you can. This will give us visibility in the community, income to support our charities, and an opportunity to meet athletes from all over the world.

Looking forward to a great and successful new year,

Basma

Officers and committees spend summer preparing for 2018-19

New venues and speakers on tap for coming year



New officers for the 2018-19 year were installed at the May meeting at Texas Roadhouse. They are (L to R) Sue Jiles, Treasurer; Peggy Lowery, Corresponding Secretary; Karen Gunsallus, First Vice President; Cheri Leistner, Secretary; Diane Vitale, 2nd Vice President; Lorraine Odom, Past President and Installing Officer; and Basma Swearingen, President.

Diane Vitale, 2nd Vice President, and her Luncheon Committee spent many hours this past summer setting up the venues and speaker for 2018-19.

"We tried to find some new places for lunch and to find some interesting speakers for members," she said.

New additions for luncheon venues will be Margaritaville, Wicked Wheel, Capt. Jack's and Spinnaker.

Speakers will include a representative from the Tourist Development Council and Gulf Coast State College, along with the annual programs - Fashion Show, Christmas and Induction of new officers.

Members of Diane's Luncheon and Program Committee are Arlene Geneva, Sue Jiles, Cheri Leistner, Elaine Lichtenberger, Rowan Quave, Kay Vider, Nan VandenBerg and Basma

September Birthdays

- 7 – Candy Peszko
- 10 – Barbara Vecrumba
- 14 – Lynn Padgett
- 15 – Basma Swearingen
- 22 – Nancy Parker
- 23 – Mary Lou Holm
- 23 – Clara Register
- 24 – Ann Hawk
- 25 – Shirley Brown
- 30 – Jean Sturman

Members enjoy Bunco on a summer day



President Basma Swearingen is seen giving instructions to all the ladies who were out for a fun day of Bunco at The Egg & I.



Babs Umenhofer (center) was installed at the May meeting. With her, above, are (L to R) President Basma Swearingen, Sponsor, Joyce Goetz and Membership Chairman and 1st Vice President, Karen Gunsaulus

New member Babs Umenhofer shares interesting background

Hello everyone! I was born in Knoxville, TN...and moved three weeks later, thus beginning my life as a gypsy! My father was a construction engineer. We moved every year or so during my childhood. I married a construction engineer and continued the same lifestyle! I have packed up my belongings 23 times, and lived in 10 states along with Venezuela and Belize.

The only semi-constant in my life has been Panama City Beach. My grandparents moved here in 1971. We visited every year and I have watched it grow and change over time. Because I still have an aunt and cousins in the area, Larry and I decided to "retire" here, so this is "home."

Larry and I have been married for 38 years. My 28-year nursing career—in a nutshell- O.R. Registered Nurse, 1st assistant ophthalmology surgery and office nurse, O.R. Manager and Administrator of outpatient surgery centers.

My adult children: Lance (wife, Robyn) live in Nashville where they own a book publishing company. He is working on an MBA, while she is a professor at Nashville State College; Sydney was in the Navy, and is currently attending GCSC, taking general studies courses and working at Patches.

These days I fill my time traveling or at Kaleidoscope Theatre in Lynn Haven. I fell in love with live theatre in the fourth grade as "The Mighty Germ" in a class performance.

While studying performing arts in high school, I also co-wrote/directed, stagecraft-ed, acted, sang and danced in 16 plays and was awarded "Best Supporting Actress." I found a passion for stage management working on 20ish post-high school productions. I enjoy bringing a show visually to life and utilizing organizational skills to assure a smooth execution of the production.

I boldly barged into Kaleidoscope Theatre two seasons ago. I have been involved in six shows as AD/SM, and performed one bit part. A shout out to all the WCC members who support Kaleidoscope Theatre—I love seeing your faces in the audience!!

I joined WCC to give back to a community that has been my "constant" and look forward to working with all of you



Volunteers: Save the date for Ironman

- Tues. Oct. 30 (9-?) Prepare Registration Packets & stuff athlete bags
- Wed. Oct. 31 (9-1) Athlete Check-in
- Wed. Oct 31 (1-5) Athlete Check-in
- Thurs. Nov. 1 (9-1) Athlete Check-in
- Thurs. Nov. 1 (1-5) Athlete Check-in (Note: this is WCC luncheon)

Please Contact

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Jean Smith—1922-2018



Jeannie Frazier-1940-2018

Helen “Jean” Bruce Smith of Panama City Beach, FL, passed away Sunday, July 15, 2018, four days prior to her 96th birthday, at Sims Veteran Home. Jean was born July 19, 1922 in Marquette, MI. She graduated from Bishop Baraga Catholic School and attended Northern Michigan University until enlisting in the United States Navy. She proudly served her country as a WAVE during WWII, stationed at Hunter College in New York City. While attending Northern, she met her future husband, Robert M. Smith. After the war, Robert, a USAF pilot, and Jean married and raised four children and owned a business in Owosso, MI. Jean was an adamant bridge player and golfer. She and Bob were active in Michigan politics, serving as delegates at state GOP conventions. Jean and Bob retired to Panama City Beach in 1979. She thoroughly enjoyed the Women’s Civic Club, of PCB, and appreciated the newsletter and cards and calls from friends in the club. Throughout Jean’s life she remained a committed Catholic Christian. This faith was manifested in her devotion to her grandchildren and children everywhere. Jean was preceded in death by her husband, Robert. She is survived by her children, Lawrence (Christine) Smith, Katherine (Thomas) Janego and Nancy (Mandeville, III) Smith, ten grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Dominic Catholic Church on August 24, 2018 with interment at Greenwood Cemetery, Panama City. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Sims Veterans Home.

Her daughter’s address is as follows:
 Nancy Smith, 1405 Massachusetts,
 Lynn Haven, FL 32444 Phone: (850-258-8214)

Jeannette Lou Frazier, 78 of Panama City Beach, passed away June 13, 2018 at Covenant Care Hospice. Jeannie was born April 12, 1940 in Norwood, OH and moved to Panama City Beach in 1968, coming from Cincinnati, OH. Jeanette retired from the Bay District School Administration with over 33 years of employment at Beach Elementary and Surfside Middle schools. She was a member of Woodlawn United Methodist Church where she volunteered in the office each Monday, and was actively involved with Panama City Beach Care Services, where she worked each Wednesday. She worked on many projects for the Women’s Civic Club of Panama City Beach, FL, Inc.

Jeannette was united in marriage in 1960 to Coach Bill Frazier, who preceded her in death in 1992. The ballpark at GCSC was named for Coach Frazier, and she was very proud of that. She is survived by her sons, Billy (Susan) Frazier of Newnan, GA and Scott (Tracey) Frazier of PCB, three grandchildren and six great grandchildren. Funeral services took place at the Kent-Forest Lawn Funeral Home and interment was held in Forest Lawn Memorial Cemetery. Memorial donations may be made in Jeannie’s memory to Covenant Care Hospice.

Jeannie became a member of WCC of PCB in 2004. Not only did she work for Beach Care Services, but she also was chairman of the School Committee for several years. When Arnold High School first opened, new uniforms were needed for the school band. WCC and St. Joe Foundation were the first to donate to that cause, due to Jeannie’s efforts. One year Jeannie noticed that West Bay Elementary School was the only school at the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Frank Brown Park without uniforms of some sort. She organized WCC members to cut out and sew 40 or more Christmas vests (lined) for the occasion. The children were so happy and proud when they performed!

Jeannie was dependable, pleasant and reliable—never missing a Board Meeting or a Regular Meeting. She will be greatly missed.

(See more on page 5)



Amy Sears-1937-2018

Mother of Arlene Klaas dies in Colorado in June

Our sympathy goes out to new member Arlene Klaas, whose mother, Amelia N. Sears of Pueblo, CO, died on June 13, 2018.

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

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United for a Better Community

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COMING EVENTS

September 6—Luncheon 11 a.m.
Runaway Island
Program: Lara Herder of GCSC
“Educational Opportunities for Mature
Adults”

September 27—Board Meeting—10 a.m.
PCB Chamber Conference Room

October 1—Luncheon 11 a.m.
Edgewater Conference Center
Program: TDC Representative

October 30—November 1— Ironman
(See details on Page 2)

FOOD PANTRY NEWS

Brenda Bryson has agreed to be a regular worker at the Food Pantry. She and Susan Curry will work together every Wednesday from 9 a.m. to noon.



Brenda Bryson



Susan Curry

The pantry is located at the Gulf Beach Presbyterian Church on Hwy. 79. Monthly food donations by members are so greatly appreciated! All staples, paper products and toiletry articles are always needed. They must be unopened. Thank you!



**Jeannie Frazier
1940—2018**



**2nd from left, Jeannie Frazier presenting check to
Arnold High School for band uniforms.**



Jeannie working at a display table for a Fall Festival at