



"The Sophisticated Ladies"
The Red Hat Society of South Gulf Cove
January 2008 Newsletter
By Judith McElwaine, QM

Hello Ladies,



"The Pink" Elephant on Boca Grande was the scene of our January 11th luncheon.

Eileen Surett was our hostess of the month. Forty-three ladies were in attendance. The food was very good. A lot of us thought the BLT quiche was excellent, just loved the melted cheese. The service was the best; the staff was very friendly and courteous. It was nice that they served coffee without prompting.



Most of us are glad the holidays are over and we all can get back to "normal", whatever that is. We are always so busy in our community. We are all supposed to be retired, to just relax, enjoy the sunshine, read, or whatever. We are lucky to be busy rather than sitting home alone. No one should have to do that. The Red Hat Society is about the Ladies in our community getting together once a month, or more, to have lunch, socialize, and make new friends. When our families are back home, up north, some of our friends are still working, and our husbands are off golfing, fishing, or doing whatever they do in the garage, we can get out with our Red Hat Sisters. Thank you all for making this a great society in South Gulf Cove.

We welcomed visitors: My guest Carol Steidle from Colorado, who does Pilates, jogs and....she skydives too!!!



Here is a picture of Carol with her son who teaches skydiving in CO. Brave Lady that is what she is. Also visiting: Judy Rossi's sister-in-law Evelyn Rossi from NJ; Eileen Curto; Lil Miller; Andrea Martin a guest of Irma Whitmer. We welcomed back Lucianna Dutcher and Lynda Graves. We welcomed our newest member, Anna Marie Dratch.

We participated in the 2007 SGC Yacht Club Lighted Boat parade.



Many thanks go out to the boat committee, who, without their help, we would not be able to participate in the

parade. First, thanks to Linda and Tim Killinger who provided their boat and allowed us to decorate it. Thanks to Tim who captained the boat for the night. Next, we thanked Fran Massimino for allowing us to borrow her husband, Andy, with whose expertise helped us put it all together.



The Ladies had the idea of what we wanted and Andy and my hubby, Don, did the heavy physical work. Jane Beckwith, FQM, Karen Price, VM, and I helped put some of the lights on. The guys did

a great job of lighting up our big hat. Thanks again to Andy Massimino. We didn't win but we put in a great effort. There were some really nicely decorated boats this year. We would like to have more volunteers for next year, please let me know. Thanks to Karen for inviting the boat committee to her house after the parade. Thanks to the Crafty Girls for inviting us to their get-together at the pavilion after; so sorry we missed out on all those goodies.

Ellie Vollmer, our Duchess of Secret Pals/Membership Diva, advised us that, "dues is due". Please pay her/or Char. Some ladies have not paid for 2007, please catch up. We only ask for \$5 per year, which is not too much to ask. Also, new members need to pay for their name hat, \$2.50. Not a bad deal. If your hat is damaged or needs repair, let Mary Bayless, our Duchess of Hats, know and she will take care of it. If it needs to be replaced you have to pay \$2.50. You must turn in your hats at the end of our luncheons. Also try and sit where you find your hat at our luncheons, it's nice to meet new Ladies, and nice to talk to some you don't know very well. Please don't switch them around. If you bring a guest, it is understandable that you would want them to sit with you, we do make that exception. Please wear your name-hat during our luncheons.

The 50/50 was held by Char Traxel our Princess of Monies. Winners were: Ruth Oberlin won the beautiful orchid; money was won by Linda Atkinson and Elaine Surette. Congratulations Ladies.

We celebrated the January birthdays: Those in attendance were Diann Crossman and Ellie Vollmer. We enjoyed our cake baked by Publix. Birthday Ladies not in attendance are Pat Hawley 1/29, Nancy Kueck 1/15, Helen Shipka Jan 2, Judy Taylor 1/1, Doris Vance 1/3, and Lyn White 1/31. Happy Birthday Ladies.



Thank you to Elaine Surette and Jane Beckwith for collecting our money at the door. It is a great help.

Upcoming Events:

Jan 27th: Hats the Musical, Tampa Bay Performing Arts, is sold out. Better luck next time. There are five buses from our area going. Wow!!

Feb 8th: Sixth Anniversary Luncheon: This is to be held at the Palmetto Grille, Cape Haze. \$15 per Lady. Menu choices are: # 1 Chicken Caesar Salad, # 2 Salmon BLT, # 3 Pulled pork sandwich # 4 Angus Beef Burger. Price includes menu choice, soft drink, ice tea, lemonade, tax, and tip. A cosmo drink special will be \$5 each. Co-Hostesses are Karen Ireland kireland@ewol.com 698-1909, and Marla Young beach4fun2@hotmail.com 697-9976 Call or email them to sign up.

Feb 21st: "Red Hats Do Broadway" Annual Englewood Area Red Hat Convention to be held at the Englewood Elks, Rt. 776. \$17 per lady. Sorry you are too late to sign up.

March 14th: Visani's w/ Al Holland \$25 per Lady includes: menu choice with salad, coffee, tea, soft drink, ice tea. Choices are: # 1 Chicken ala Vodka # 2 Shrimp Ptarmigan # 3 Sirloin Tip Marsala mmm, they all sound good. Our hostess for the month is Alice Burnell call her to sign up 828-0265

April 11th: We need a hostess. Come on April birthday girls, show us your stuff.

April 25th: National Red Hat Day: is celebrated on Dearborn St. Englewood. We usually ride on the trolley. I will have a sign up sheet for that at the Feb luncheon

with a collection of a \$15 fee. It is a fun day with lunch at the Café on Dearborn (new owners).

May 9th: Nicola's Italian Kitchen Rt. 776 Englewood. Alice Burnell again has offered to be hostess. Thank you Alice. Watch for upcoming menu choices.

June, July & Sept: We need a hostess.

October 10th: They're coming!!! "Big Purple Undies"...held at the Englewood Elks, 11 am \$35 per lady includes lunch and a hilarious show. Tickets are available on a first come/first served basis, limited to 250 ladies. Get your tickets now. Call or email Karen or myself, Judith, to sign up.



Hatquarters update: We have no rules, but we do have a dress code. When attending events with other Red Hats groups, ea: Hats the Musical, Red Hats do Broadway, we need to dress appropriately. We have been requested to not wear white pants/skirts, but black pants/skirts are acceptable. The motto is: "Red on your head and purple on your shoulders". So Ladies, lets try and dress to code. But.....at our own functions, we can continue to wear white slacks/skirts/shorts with a purple top!!! I, your queen mother, will be held accountable. I thank you for your cooperation.

*Secret
Pals*

Thank you so much to my secret pal for already leaving a gift at our December luncheon. I don't know who you are, but you made the right choice of the "Red Hat" photo album. I am anxious to fill up the pages with lots of Red Hat photos. I wonder who took the time to make such a beautiful album. Alice Burnell would also like to thank her secret pal for already remembering her this year. Keep up the great work Secret Pals. We look forward to your cards and gifts. If anyone would like to thank their secret pal, let me know by the Tuesday after our luncheon and I will include it in our newsletter.

January Anniversaries: Bob Mahone & Wendy Burnett 1/29, Barbara & Ed Holmes 1/25, Nancy & Charles Kueck 1/15, Doris & Paul Vance 1/11, Milly Murgia 1/9.

February Birthdays: Linda Atkinson 2/23, Kathy Beecher 2/28, Lydia Kersetter 2/21, QM Judith

McElwaine 2/23, Marge Miller 2/13, Doris Vance 2/5, Karen Ireland 2/9.

February Anniversaries: Fay & Bill Kolodziejcki 2/12, Sonja & Bill Minoughan 2/6, Judy & Mike Post 2/12, Gale & Jack Schemm 2/23, Darlene & Mike Simkins 2/22, Vern & Ron Troutman 2/2.

If your name has been omitted, please let me, Judith McElwaine, know so I can make the correction.

Some of our Ladies have moved from our community, Shirley Sudholt, Judith Taylor, Wendy Burnett, Pat Pank, Peg McCauley. We wish them well and hope if they are in the area they will feel like joining us for lunch. They will always be welcome. Try and keep warm, we are in Florida aren't we???? Feels like Jersey.

Fondly,
Judith McElwaine, QM

