



*The Sophisticated Ladies™*  
*The Red Hat Society of South Gulf Cove*  
*June / July 2008 Newsletter*  
*By Judith McElwaine, QM*

Hello Ladies,

Well, so much has happened in the past two months, that there was no time to get to our newsletter, so I decided to just do June and July together. I hope no one minds. If so, please drop me a line and I will deal with it.

June's luncheon was a beach day at Englewood Beach. We enjoyed the sunshine, the water and nice breezes for the day. Some of us arrived early to get the most out of the day. The water was so beautiful that we wanted to stay in all day. Some even brought their drinks with them while in the water. I won't say who, but so what!! We can do whatever we want. We earned the right. "Girls just wanta have fun", that's what we do. It was a perfect beach day. We had plenty of time to enjoy it, have our lunch, celebrate the birthdays and get home before the afternoon storms. We are lucky to live close to the shore.



Pictured here is: Sandy Buchan, Judy Rossi, Marla Young, Denise Andrews, Wanda Totten, Alice Burnell, Darlene Simkins, and Regina Brown.

We enjoyed the birthday cake baked by Publix. The birthday ladies present were: Dolly Scolase, Denise Andrews, and Judith VanLandegend

Other birthday ladies not present were: Helen Griffin 6/21; Barbara Holmes 6/25; Jeanne Karellas 6/7; Janet Messer 6/16; Ruth Oberlin 6/29; Sharon Paine 6/16; Hebe Scholl 6/4; Kathy VonVreckin 6/23; Linda Spadaro 6/23. Happy Birthday Ladies!





International Red Hat Convention, was to celebrate a decade of Sparkle, ten years since Sue Ellen Cooper and Linda Murphy first sat down to lunch.

This was held at the Gaylord Hotel in Kissimmee, FL. Thirty-five hundred ladies participated. A Grand event it was. It was unbelievable to see that many red hat ladies milling about everywhere.

The hotel was beautiful, a fitting place to hold such great event. Societies came from all parts of the

world. They each displayed their names with banners tied to the balconies surrounding the great atrium. Our society was represented with a brand new banner that fit the balcony perfectly. Our room was on the eight floor, so we had a view of the whole atrium. It was a covered atrium so we didn't have to worry about rain ruining our banners or our event. Some hung lights of red and purple as if it was Christmas. I decided not to do it because we were warned by the hotel not to hang electrical lights. Some did it anyway. I'm not one to break the "rules".



Florida had the largest representation of ladies with 600 of us. Almost every state in the union was represented. Ladies came from all parts of the world. Amazing that the red hat society has grown that much!!

The themes were different eras, the twenties, the thirties, the forties, the fifties, the sixties, and the seventies. Some dressed in outfits for that era. Some went to great extremes to put their outfits together. I was able to meet ladies from all over. Though, I never did find the ladies from Spring Lake, NJ, my home state.

We were supposed to sit in the era that we signed up for, but when the doors opened for dining, it was like a herd of cattle running in. It was every "lady" for themselves. So after that it was "add lib seating". Most had a difficult time finding the ladies they came with, which made it an opportunity to meet new ladies and make new friends. My roommate, Betty Trynor, Queen of the "Mad Hatters of Englewood, and me only were able to sit with the other ladies we went with from Rotunda, for our last dinner.



We were all treated to great shows for each meal served in the grand ballroom. Some that entertained us were: The Village People, Donna Summer, Tina Turner, Elton John, Little Richard and so much more; they were all impersonators, very good ones. They played a lot of Elvis music while on break, but no Elvis impersonator. I was surprised about that. Everyone was up dancing for most of the weekend.



No time to eat. I was right in front of the stage, of course, for a lot of it. There was the longest conga line I've ever participated in. So much fun!! The cast of Hats the Musical put on a performance for us too. Please see video news clip of the event. <http://growingbolder.com/media/living/happiness-is-a-red-hat-159612.ht>

The food was great. They had enough, can you imagine that!! They had all the you could eat. You could even take some to your room, to eat later. We did. Nothing like ice cream for breakfast!



There was the "queen's crowning". We each brought our own tiaras and were crowned. Pictured here is just after my coronation with Queen Bee Sharona who put the whole crowning event together. Sharona put my tiara on my "Kentucky Derby" hat. There were 54 queens who were "crowned".



I could go on and on, but "ya had to be there". It was unbelievable. It's a shame more from our society couldn't be make the trip, maybe next time. Let's try and have a better turnout. I have a DVD from the event; maybe we could have a get together and watch it.

There's a Florida State Convention next year, Aug 8<sup>th</sup> 2009, to be held in Jacksonville. I will attach more info.



Many thanks to Joanne Olesen, who gave our mascot Lady Annie a make-over for the mascot ball. She did a great job. Thank you Joanne!



The July 11<sup>th</sup> luncheon was held at the Riverwood Club House restaurant. Irma Whitmer and Wanda Totten were our co-hostesses for the month. Thirty-one ladies were in attendance.



We were allowed pick from the menu and have separate checks. We received a great welcome. They made the room look the way it should for ladies having lunch. The service was great. The food was not bad.





The July Birthday Ladies were: Joanne Olesen, Irma Whitmer and Mary Bayless. Also celebrating a birthday is our Founding Queen Mum, Jane Beckwith 7/11; Susanne Beverly 7/16 who were not present. We enjoyed birthday cake. Happy Birthday Ladies!



Char Traxell, our "Princess of Monies", held the 50/50. The winners were: Kathy Beecher and Fran Massimino for the money and Dolly Scolase won the beautiful phalanopsis orchid. Congrats ladies. Thank you Char for taking care of our money. She is doing a wonderful job, and I'm glad I don't have to do it.



HAT - pennings

Aug. We are taking a breather. If you would like a beach day let me know.

Sept. TBD, we need a hostess.

Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> Swap meet at the Englewood Elks. More info to follow.

Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> Big Purple Undies. Those who signed up please wear a conservative hat. If you still want to go, you will not sit with us.



Oct 30<sup>th</sup> Broadway Palm, "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" \$58 Per lady includes bus and lunch. Let me know ASAP.

Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> Vendors Day at the Englewood Elks. More info to follow

Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> Dorli Hauserman agreed to be hostess of the month.

Dec. ? Yacht Club Boat Parade.

Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> Carrabbas our annual Christmas/Hanukah luncheon.

## Secret Pals

Barbara Holmes would like to thank her secret pal for her birthday gift and all the other nice things she has done this year. Remember Ladies, you can thank your SP in this newsletter; just let me know by the Tues. after our luncheons.

July Anniversaries: Sandy & Tom Buchan 7/11; Linda & Bill Spadaro 7/13; Wanda & Phillip Totten 7/5.

August Birthdays: Christ Ahern 8/11; Veronica Anderson 8/29; Doris Bigham 8/20; Ruth Brosmer 8/29; Lil GaNun 8/6; Sonja Minoughan 8/20; Marcela Stabile 8/4.

August Anniversaries: Kathy & Tom Bowser 8/27; Alice & John Burnell 8/26; Lynda & Gene Graves 8/16; Helen & Sid Griffin 8/7;

Pat & Jim Hawley 8/5; Judy & Carmine Rossi 8/13; Marla & Ralph Young 8/22;

Some of our Ladies could use a card of encouragement; Helen Griffin who will be needing surgery, and Linda Atkinson who is going through a difficult time right now with the health issue of her husband Jim. Our hearts and prayers go out to you both.

See you in September,  
Fondly,  
Judith McElwaine, QM aka Lady Orchid