



"The Sophisticated Ladies"
The Red Hat Society of South Gulf Cove
February, 2007 Newsletter

Hello Ladies,

Congratulations to "The Sophisticated Ladies" on our Fifth Anniversary!! It is unbelievable that much time has passed since our very first luncheon February 14, 2002. We have grown from a little over twenty ladies to close to ninety. We come from all parts of the US and Canada; we have the one thing in common, friendship. We enjoy getting together once a month to have lunch, chat, and develop a common bond.

The Queen's Court was introduced: Karen Price, Vice Mother, Char Traxel our Princess of Monies, Jane Beckwith, our Founding Queen Mum, and yours truly as QM. Not present are Ellie Vollmer, Duchess of Secret Pals/Membership Diva, and Carol Vanderploeg, our Contessa of Chapauses. Carol takes care of all of little name hats. When we have a new member, she makes sure they get one.

We celebrate our anniversary each year by having a tea. This year was our Fourth Annual Tea. The tea committee was introduced by Karen Price: Linda Atkinson, Helen Griffin, Mary Bayless, Wanda Totten and Judy Post, decided on MT's also know as Chef's Table, Sarasota. These ladies put a lot time and effort into making this the best tea ever. There were all kinds of nice touches that made it special, the hand-made place cards, the candies, the little hat soaps, and many more. I just loved the unique idea of the little red bags as our ticket and to carry our own tea cup and saucer in. What a wonderful job they did! Ladies on behalf of "The Sophisticated Ladies", I thank you and I applaud you. In appreciation for their hard work they were each presented with a Red Hat Society Tea Pin from their Queen Mother, yours truly. Wear them with pride Ladies, you deserve it.





Fifty-four ladies and one gentleman attended. The one gentleman was Dick Miller. Many months ago I had asked Dick if he would consider taking a nice group picture of us and do some other pictures at our tea. He so graciously agreed. Most of the time in the past during our luncheons and our teas especially, I am running around taking pictures, trying to record every minute. I love to take pictures, but, I don't usually get to enjoy a meal or much of any conversation. It was so nice to have a hot cup of tea and have a Cosmo that is not watered-down. Thank you Dick,

The visiting red hat groups from Port Charlotte were introduced: Dianne Rensch, QM and Linda DeCamp, VM of the "Ladies On The Edge"; Sarah Ratliff, QM of "Purple Glow"; Jean Whittford, QM, of "Red Hat & Purple".



Our Founding Queen Mum Jane Beckwith read our poem, "When I Am An Old Woman" written by Elizabeth Lucas. Jane was our very first Queen Mother, what a great job she has done. The poem reminded us not to take life so seriously, that we earned the right to be silly and have fun.

Kathy Winkler, owner/restaurateur, talked about the "History of Tea". She also told us about the different teas to be served that day. Very interesting information she shared with us. I asked Kathy to open up a tea house in Port Charlotte, preferably closer to South Gulf Cove. Wouldn't that be great? Kathy provided recipes for some of the food we enjoyed. What a nice idea!

Next up was Deborah Miller. Deborah is a resident of SGC who enjoys our tea parties. She told us how she had an opportunity to do an on-air (radio) interview as a favor for Dick, with a direct descendant to the Twinning's Tea Co. Deborah made copies of the interview on cds and gave them out to each of us. We learned all about tea, especially how to drink a cup of tea properly. I've been doing it wrong all these years, with milk and sugar/splenda. Tried it without either, and you know what, it was pretty good. So the ladies at our table learned something new, although Anne Osborne, originally from England, already knew. Wasn't it nice to see Anne again? Thank You Deborah for all that important information.

The food was good. The finger sandwiches were tiny but tasty. They kept them coming so there were plenty. I heard no complaints that there was not enough food, (like last year). The scones were enjoyable, plenty of them, loved the blueberry; the little pastries were to die for. The staff kept our tea cups filled with hot tea. The room was a bit tight for us. As long as we stayed in our seats it was ok. We really need a larger room. Loved the food, the atmosphere, and the service. They certainly know how to do a Tea.

We celebrated the February Birthday Ladies. Those in attendance were Linda Atkinson 2/23, Kathleen Beecher 2/28, and yours truly 2/23. . Everyone sang Happy Birthday. We enjoyed the Cassata Italian Wedding Cake baked and decorated by Publix,



Other birthday ladies not in attendance are Carlene Leach 2/25, Marge Miller 2/13, Lydia Kerstetter 2/21, Karen Ireland 2/9 and Vern Troutman 2/5. Happy Birthday Ladies, make it a good one.

Char Traxell, our "Princess of Monies", held the 50/50. Winners were: Dianne Rensch won the purple phalanopsis orchid; Kathleen Beecher and Sarah Ratliff won money. Congratulations ladies.

Now we were going to do the "group photo" (see below). We all had to line up along the back wall, some standing on the bench seat, some standing on the floor, and some sitting. The ordeal took us forever to get in place. What a laugh. Deborah helped with this; she is very good at positioning us in the right spot. Great job Deborah; and Dick got to take the picture. Thank God. I wonder whose idea it was?? ;) I want to send this photo onto the National Red Hat Society in CA. They will probably post it to their website.



All the door prizes were given out. Many thanks go to all the Ladies who donated door prizes. Great job Ladies. There were quite a few.

Upcoming Events:

Feb 22: "Putting On The Glitz" Annual Englewood Area Red Hat Convention at the Englewood Elks. 650 are expected to attend. The event is sold out. If you didn't get a ticket, better luck next year. We are all looking forward to another great day.

March 9: Navigator Co-hostesses, Regina Brown and Milly Lutman. Lunch and boat ride \$28 each. Pay ahead. To sign up call or email Regina: 698-2972 ivanho@ewol.com or Milly: 698-1851 modmil13@earthlink.net Only a limited number can fit on the boat, so hurry.

April 13: TBD Waiting for April Birthday Ladies to make a plan.

April 25: "National Red Hat Day" Parade on Dearborn Street, Englewood. I have secured the Trolley as last year. \$15 per lady for round-trip 10 am from our SGC homeowners pavillion, parade, lunch at the Dearborn Café, (separate checks for lunch), pick off menu, shop, return at 2 pm. Pay me ASAP. Please make checks payable to "SGC Red Hatters". We had a great time last year. Limited seating for the trolley so please sign up early.

May 11: Nicholas Rt 776, Alice Burnell hostess. Watch for more info

February Anniversaries: Sharon & hubby Marvel 2/19; Louise & Jerry Covey 2/2; Fay & Bill Kolodziejcki 2/12; Sonja & Bill Minoughan 2/6; Judy & Mike Post 2/12; Gale & Jack Schemm 2/23; Darlene & Mike Simkins 2/24; Vern & Ron Troutman 2/2

March Birthdays: Alice Burnell, 2/19; Barbara Harmon 3/6; Jeri Lowe 3/30; Milly Lutman 3/13; Penny Penland 3/16; Our Princess of Monies, Char Traxell 3/3

March Anniversaries: Lil & Steve GaNun 3/17; Catherine & Jeff Warren 3/26

The following Ladies would like to thank their secret pals:

Judy Post: "thank my secret pal for the wonderful gifts I received for my Anniversary and Valentine's Day. I am honored by how much time and trouble she went through to make my special occasion even more special!! Secret Pals are so much fun!!!

Fay K; "Thank you Secret Pal for being so talented and creative. Thank you for the gifts."
Yours truly: "Thank you, my secret pal, for my gifts. Love the white tea bath items, and of course the Elvis chocolate. Even if the box was empty, that would be fine. You are just too generous. My secret pal made the right choices."

Our Princess of Monies would like to remind everyone it is that time of year to pay our dues, \$5 per lady per year. Please take care of that Ladies.

Note from Helen Griffin: I have a few things that need to be returned to the rightful owner. I have one three plate rack with purple flowers. The rack does not have a name on it I also have a cup and saucer with blue flowers on it. Call or email Helen if these items belong to you. 698-1633 helen@sidson.net

I hope everyone had a great Valentine's Day. Thanks again to the Tea Committee for a great day. To those who could not attend, you missed a good one.



Fondly, Judith McElwaine, QM

