



THE SEA BREEZE

Sawgrass Women's Club Monthly Newsletter

October, 2024

Message from the President



October always brings to mind many Halloween traditions and memories. As children and even as adults, Halloween costumes gave us the chance to take on another identity, pretend to be someone else. When I was a child,

I dressed up as a fortune teller, a hippy, and a cowgirl, among other things. Even now, it's fun to give into an alter ego for an evening, but we certainly don't want to feel like we can't be ourselves on a day-to-day basis. In the Sawgrass Women's Club, we WANT you to be yourself, be involved, and be welcomed. We want you to share your interests, curiosity and personality to enrich the lives of your fellow members. Your participation is what makes our community so vibrant, and I look forward to seeing you all at many events and learning more about each of you.

Start by registering for and attending our General Meeting on October 14th to hear outgoing County Commissioner, Henry Dean, speak about growth in the county as it relates to the Strategic Plan. Sip, nibble and giggle at our 2nd annual Funny Napkin Exchange. Join the field trip to Marineland. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn bridge right here at Sawgrass with a certified instructor! And that's just a teaser! Be sure to read the entire newsletter so you don't miss anything!

Cindy Feeley



SWC October Program

Monday, October 14, 2024

10:00 a.m. Social ~ 10:30 a.m. Program

Reservations are required ~ Reserve on-line at <https://www.sawgrasswomensclub.com/event-sign-up>

County Commissioner Henry Dean

The SWC is pleased to have County Commissioner Henry Dean speak at our general meeting on October 14th. With vast experience in

state and local government, and especially in water related issues, Henry will give us an overview of the state of our county and our local area.



To be more specific, Commissioner Dean will discuss the state of St. Johns county, the strategic plan for the future, the

challenges of controlling growth, and the beach re-nourishment project.

As Commissioner since 2016, and involved in Florida government since 1974, Dean has been active in conservation, especially water management. He established the first minimum flows and levels in Florida for the Wekiva River System. He has given special attention to springs protection, led efforts to acquire critical buffers to benefit Silver Springs and Silver Glen Springs, and assisted with restoring more than 200,000 acres of marsh along the St. Johns River.

Henry Dean, a long-time resident of St. Johns county, lives in St. Augustine Beach with his wife and four children.

After Hours

Natalie Costello

Bunco

Date: Thursday, October 10th
Time: 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Location: Casey Robyn's home,
Location: 104 Water Oak Drive, TPC



\$10 to play and light snacks provided. BYOB!

RSVP to Leigh Warren at
Leighw3626@gmail.com or text 201-655-3626.

SWC Happy Hour!

We will continue our SWC Happy Hour on the 3rd Thursday in September, October and November.



Our next Happy Hour is:
Date: Thursday, October 17th
Time: 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.
Location: Beach Club Pavilion

No RSVP required, just show up and have fun!

Canasta

Elly Stephens

American Canasta and we invite you to join us. We play on Tuesday afternoons, weekly, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in Ocean's Edge South at the Beach Club. The ladies are playing and having fun ~ it is a great way to meet new people. Questions? Please contact [Elly Stephens at 843-540-0156](tel:843-540-0156).



If you are new to Canasta, please contact [Sara Ann Gomez at 914-393-9681](tel:914-393-9681), who will continue to offer her skills as instructor. Thank you, Sara-Ann for your skillful efforts in organizing this active group and for codifying the SWC House Rules by which we all play this great game!

Needlers

Joyce Miller

The next meeting of the Needlers will be on **Wednesday, October 9th**. If you know how to knit, crochet, or any other kind of needlework, come join us Needlers on the **second Wednesday of every month, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.** at the **Beach Club**. For more information, kindly contact Joyce Miller, joyceamiller@me.com.



A project Joyce Miller was knitting during the September meeting.

Mahjongg

Cathy Edge /
Betty MacGilvray

SWC Mahjongg players meet at the Beach Club (Topsider) on Mondays from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. for drop-in games. Beginners to advanced players are welcome as well as observers new to the game and members wishing to refresh their mahjongg skills.



Interested in group mahjongg lessons? Please contact [Cathy at catherineaedge@gmail.com](mailto:catherineaedge@gmail.com) or [Betty at emarymac3@gmail.com](mailto:emarymac3@gmail.com) to receive current information.

Storied Lives

Deb Holton

We had an awesome time sharing our favorite back to school memories. As always, the stories are funny and relatable no matter where your First Day of School story occurred.

While it's still hot and humid, our calendars tell us that Fall is here. Our topic this month is "Something that triggers a Fall memory"...



sights, smells, food or a special memory. We all have lived in different parts of the country and Fall traditions are always special. Please share a favorite thing that reminds you of Fall and makes it special for you.

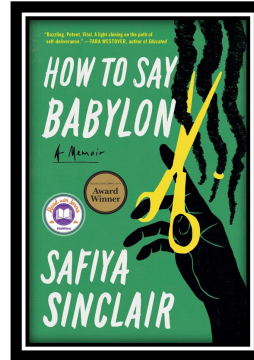
We will meet on the Pavilion on Monday, October 14th, at 4:00 p.m. You do not need to be a skilled writer. Just scribble down your story (a page or less) so you can share it with the rest of us. There are no grammar police, so no worries. And there's a dual benefit ... enjoying some amazing company AND you get a primo seat for Hamburger night! How can you not come???

For more information, contact [Deb Holton at debholton@gmail.com](mailto:debolton@gmail.com).



Book Club

Jill Mountan/
Anne Horton

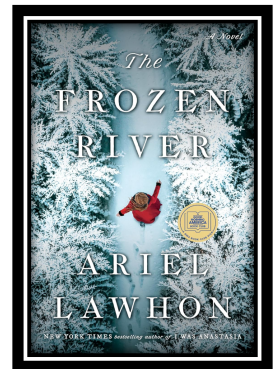


to seeing you there!

We meet in the Miller Room at the Sawgrass Clubhouse at 4:00 p.m. Arrive early if you'd like to get a drink from the pub. Be sure to RSVP on the event sign-up page of the SWC website so we have enough chairs for everyone. We look forward

On Tuesday, September 24th, we will be discussing *How to Say Babylon* by Safiya Sinclair. The novel is a National Book Critics Circle Award winner. *How to Say Babylon* is the stunning story of the author's struggle to break free of her rigid Rastafarian upbringing, ruled by her father's strict patriarchal views and repressive control of her childhood, to find her own voice as a woman and poet.

On Tuesday, October 22nd, we will be reading *The Frozen River* which is a 2023 historical fiction thriller by Ariel Lawhon. It takes place in Maine as the Kennebec River begins to freeze in the winter of 1789. A corpse floats down the river and becomes trapped in the ice. The story follows Martha Ballard, an 18th-century midwife in Maine, as she leverages her standing as a medical professional to investigate two crimes: both a murder and a rape.



For more information, contact [Jill Mountan at jillmountan@yahoo.com](mailto:jillmountan@yahoo.com) or [Anne Horton at annehorton789@gmail.com](mailto:annehorton789@gmail.com).



GAMES, INC. is scheduled twice monthly. We will meet on **Wednesday, October 9th** in the Miller Room at the Sawgrass Clubhouse and meet again on **Wednesday, October 23rd**, at the Beach Club, Ocean's Edge South, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Simplicity is the rule ~ GAMES, INC offers a variety of card, tile and board games each time we meet, and each of these games can be learned in just minutes. We have introduced some new games in the spring and summer months that have kept the ladies laughing ~ try one out and join us! The GAMES fan base is growing!

October 9th - Grab your beverage of choice from the bar, then join us for our traditional variety of GAMES.

On **October 23rd**, we will be offering a “party-time” atmosphere ... a Halloween-themed game or two, to be played by everyone present ... think Halloween Trivia, Halloween Charades, Halloween “Family Feud” ... your hostesses are busy planning!! Contact **Elly Stephens** with any questions at elainestephens96@gmail.com or 843-540-0156.



Marineland®

Join us **Friday, October 25th**, for a 2-hour guided tour of Marineland!

This is a follow-up to the presentation about Marineland at the September General Meeting. We will carpool from Sawgrass in time for our **10:00 a.m.** guided tour.

Cost: **\$17.12 per person**

Registration Opens: **Monday, October 7th**

Registration Deadline: **Monday, October 21st**

Maximum Number: **25**

Questions? Contact Barbara Maletz at barbara.maletz@gmail.com or **904-580-0039**

Duplicate Bridge/ Marathon

**Diane Cannon
/Judy Flynn**

Play runs from **October 2024** through **March 2025**, on the **first and third Mondays** of each month. Play begins at **12:15 p.m.** in **Ocean's Edge South**. The fee is **\$50 per person** and we are limited to a **maximum of 48 players**. The registration deadline is **September 15th**.

This is a sanctioned game, so the top two or three teams each session will be awarded Master Points, and the top players in season totals will be awarded cash prizes.

We look forward to having new teams join us and hope you will sign up. For questions, please contact **Diane Canon** at **904-392-6900** or dncannon@aol.com.

We're looking for some additional teams!

The Chicago Bridge Marathon is a fun activity offered by the Sawgrass Women's Club. Pairs of players sign up in the fall and play as a team for 10 matches - from **October through March**. You may play whenever and where ever you would like, as long as all 10 matches are completed by March 31st. Each match will consist of 20 bridge hands, (four rounds of four hands each) with one of the other pairs. Hands are played and scored in accordance with the usual rules of Chicago Bridge.

Email jgustine@sawgrasscountryclub.com or jkelly@sawgrasscountryclub.com, if you want to play at the Club to schedule your time and date, or at each other's homes, which some prefer. The **participation fee is \$20.00** per person, and you must be a member of the Sawgrass Women's Club. All funds collected will be used for prize money at the end of the season.

For those of you who are new to bridge, this is a fun and "non-competitive" way to play more. It's not duplicate; we just shuffle the cards and play, so you are not playing the same hands competitively against another team.

Please feel free contact Karla Dunham, at 904-285-6463 or kdunham1216@comcast.net, with any concerns or questions. You need to sign up before **Tuesday, October 1st**. We had lots of fun last year and hope you will join us this year!



Sawgrass Women's Club is happy to announce that we have Sharon Carter, a cutting-edge Master Teacher back this Fall.



She will teach the basics for all levels. Whether you are completely new to bridge or simply wish to review the basics, you will benefit from her modern teaching style.

You will use cards in hand to learn about:

- October 11 - Mechanics of Bridge
- 18 - No Trump Stayman, Jacoby Transfers
- 25 - Opening Leads and Play of the Hand in No Trump
- November 1 - Complimentary/Optional Review Class (led by Sharon Lindberg)
- 8 - Bidding Five Card Majors, or Convenient Minor
- 15 - Responders Bid and Play of the hand in a Suit.
- 22 - Rebids by opener, Responder

Questions? [Call Sharon Lindberg at 315-559-5691](tel:315-559-5691) or [Christine Costello 203-253-3262](tel:203-253-3262)

Cost: **\$150**

Dates: **Friday, October 11th, 18th, 25th and November 8th, 15th, 22nd**

Time: **10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Optional Review: **Friday, November 1st, 10:00 a.m. to Noon**

Place: **Oceans Edge South**

CPR /AED Class

Natalie Costello

Are you interested in learning or refreshing how to do CPR or would you like to learn how to use an automated external defibrillator (AED)? If so, Jenn Hampton, the Fire & Life Safety Educator for St. Johns County, will be providing a class for SWC members at the **Clubhouse on Thursday, October 10th, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.** This will be a hands on course with mannequins, so you'll be able to practice what you're learning.



The **cost is \$45/person** and Jenn requires a **minimum of 6 persons (maximum of 24)** to give the class. There will be a link to sign up directly with St. Johns County. IF you are interested, please **contact Natalie Costello via text or call at (904) 439-2283** and she will provide you with the link.

Fun with Flowers

Elise Beard

Get excited for more Fun with Flowers (and Keith!) We have three sessions and three fun themes scheduled for the Sawgrass Women's Club this year, so mark your calendars! All gatherings are from **4:00 to 5:30 p.m.**

- **Sunday, November 17th** – “Welcome Fall”
- **Sunday, December 1st** – “Holiday”
- **Sunday, April 6th** – “Spring”

Hope to see you there!



Lunch Around

Lisa Grabeman/
Cathy Richard



Please join us on **Thursday, October 24th** for a delicious lunch at **Seasons 52**. Sign up will begin the end of **September**.

If you have any questions, please contact **Lisa Grabeman** at grabeman@msn.com or contact **Cathy Richard** at the.cathy@gmail.com.

Time: **12:00 p.m.**

Location: **5096 Big Island Dr.**
(Town Center)

Register by: **Monday, October 21st**



Voter Information Event

Please join us on **Monday, September 30th at 10:00 a.m.** at the **Member Clubhouse** for a presentation by the League of Women Voters on the proposed constitutional amendments which will be on the November ballot. There is no cost for this program, but please register on the website as you would for a general meeting. Member registration is now open, and we will open registration to spouses and guests on **Thursday, September 19th** until capacity is reached.

Join us for our second annual

Funny Cocktail Napkin Exchange
and
Happy Hour

Bring a package of hilariously funny
cocktail napkins to exchange.

Enjoy light snacks and a bartender
While we socialize and vote on the funniest
napkins.

The winner gets first dibs on her choice of
napkins to take home!

This was a BLAST last year - so sign up early
before it sells out!

****BONUS: Laughter is good for the soul!****

Date: Tuesday, October 29th

Time: 4:00 to 5:30 p.m.

Location: Sawgrass Clubhouse, Miller Room

Registration Deadline: Monday, October 21st

Questions? Contact Elise Beard
at elisebeard@msn.com or
904-463-7774



Special Event

Elly Stephens

CHIC CHARCUTERIE & DELECTABLE
DRINKS

Want to learn how to put together a
holiday-themed charcuterie board, with
companion holiday drinks?

Sawgrass has offered
its very own Chef Elia
to show us how to
easily assemble a
festive charcuterie
board, sure to be
an attractive
centerpiece for
your upcoming,
holiday party. Chef Elia
will also show us how to create
festive holiday beverages, certain to
be party-pleasers!!! Please join us for
this fun culinary event.



Date: Sunday, November 10th

Time: 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Location: TBD

Cost: \$56.50 (Minimum 10 persons)

Registration Opens: Monday, October 14th

Registration Deadline: Friday, November 1st

CHECK OUT OUR

Looking for a fellow member?

Our Member Directory is
available on our website under
the "Members Only" tab

WEB SITE!

www.sawgrasswomensclub.com

First Day of School

By

Sara-Ann Gomez

Well, most of you know that I have no real memories prior to age 9, but my family has told this story so many times that I feel like I remember it.

We lived in a pretty isolated neighborhood of about 7 streets that criss-crossed, with the area surrounded by a busy US 1 on one end, a major four lane street on the other, and dead ends every where else. Our house was just two blocks from the school, which was across the busy 4 lane street and up on a big grassy hill. You could either climb up the stairs or walk up a long hilly driveway.

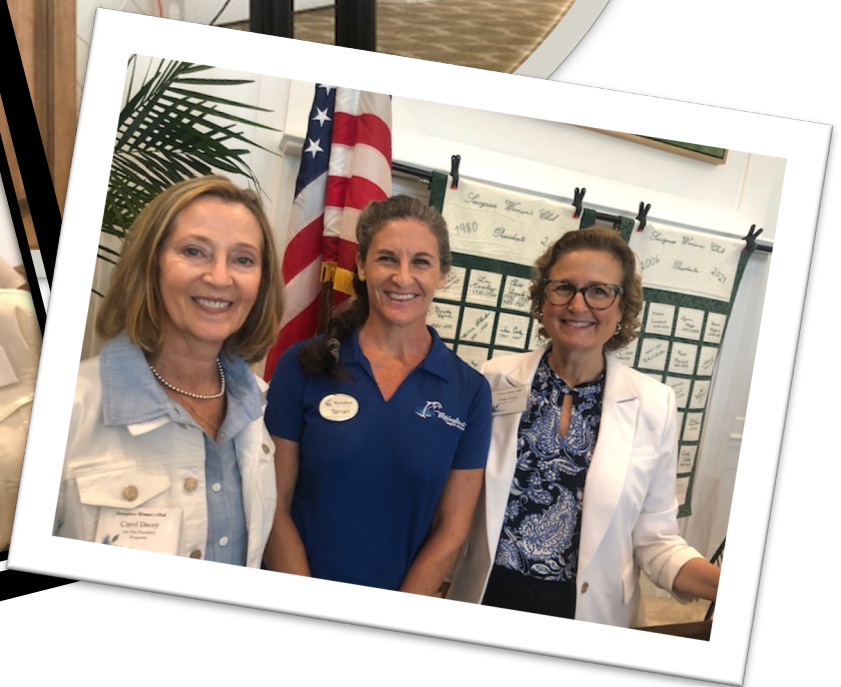


My mom walked me down, crossed at the traffic light and up the stairs into the front door on the first day of kindergarten and right to the door of my classroom (all classrooms had two doors). She didn't come in the door but watched me walk in and assumed I went to my seat. We had been a couple of days before and I had met my teacher. Well, she left and went back the same way we came. I, on the other hand, went into the classroom, out the other door and then the back door of the school, down the driveway, crossed that big street in the middle and through several back yards and beat my mother home. She found me sitting on the back porch steps. I said I wanted nothing to do with school, nope not going. She let me stay home that day. Well, we tried again the next day and same thing. This went on for the whole week.

Of course, my mother was in touch with the school and now the school psychologist suggested that I was just too attached to my mother and they needed to think of some separation ideas. My mother said I could go to my favorite Aunt's every weekend and maybe that would help. Agreed, the school said. So, on Friday afternoon, my mother took me on the little red bus which traveled through town to my aunt's on the other side of town. My Aunt adored me and I adored her. She was much older than my mother and had three grown boys who shared a room in the attic of this house. For me, they were uncles so I knew they loved me. My aunt and uncle lived on the first floor and a tenant lived on the second floor. The first weekend was tons of fun with all of them and on Sunday, my mom and dad came to get me.

This arrangement went on for several weekends, and while I called my mother on the phone all weekend, in between making homemade bread with my aunt, or bike riding with my uncles (cousins), I still wasn't ready to go to kindergarten and stay there until about the fifth week of school, they tell me. After that I guess I figured it was okay for during the week as long as on Friday, my mother put me on the little red bus that took me across town all by myself (the bus driver was a cousin) and dropped me right in front of my aunt's house.

September General Meeting
Marineland
with
Terran McGinnis



Membership

Mary Jean Spegal

swcpvmembership@gmail.com

704-277-4274



Our SWC Membership continues to grow for the 2024-25 year. We now have 379 members, 25 of whom are new. Please extend a warm welcome to our newest members: Alanna Berger, Lisa Hibbard, Beth Jones, Frances Lancelot, Melissa O'Malley, Julie Stephenson, and Laura Strauber.

Once again, the SWC Online Directory is up and running. If you haven't already done so, review your personal information and verify that it is correct. You may access the Online Directory by going to www.sawgrasswomensclub.com and clicking on Members Only. From there you can enter the password that has been sent to you when you joined or renewed your membership. Contact the Membership Chair, Mary Jean Spegal, if you need help getting into this directory.



2/2 Wendy Gebhardt, Connie Sullivan; 10/3 Deb Bailey, Barbara Knowles, Leslie Miro; 10/5 Nancy Hedlund; 10/6 Margaret DeFranco, Linda Granfield; 10/7 Peggy Semple; 10/8 Grace Kinsella, Lois Schwinger, Janet Taucher; 10/10 Kim Leeker; 10/12 Melissa Jurgens; 10/13 Kitty Ketcham; 10/14 Barbara Maple, Cynthia Pendell; 10/16 Toula Drakatos; 10/18 Beverly Beck; 10/19 Margie Levey; 10/20 Kathleen Allen; 10/22 Trish Arnett, Marcia Haytaian, Beth Jones, Helen Morse-Skeen; 10/24 Karen Breakell; 10/25 Peg Babcock; 10/29 Flynn Lundh; 10/30 Gretchen Binard, and Monica Jacoby.

Remember to always visit our Facebook page and website:

[Sawgrasswomensclubpontevedrabeach](https://www.facebook.com/Sawgrasswomensclubpontevedrabeach)

www.sawgrasswomensclub.com

2024-2025 Officers

President – Cindy Feeley
1st Vice President, Programs – Carol Dacey
2nd Vice President, Membership – Mary Jean Spegal
3rd Vice President, Health & Wellness – Natalie Costello
Treasurer – Martha Hayes
Recording Secretary – Pam Cronauer
Corresponding Secretary/ Calendar – Katie Tartt
Parliamentarian – Nan Healy
Website - Peg Babcock

Advisory Board

Book Club – Jill Mountan, Anne Horton
Bridge, Chicago – Karla Dunham
Bridge, Duplicate – Diane Cannon, Judy Flynn
Bridge Lessons – Sharon Lindberg
Canasta – Sara Gomez
Communications – Mary Jean Spegal
Day Trippers – Barbara Maletz
Decorations – Paula Larsen
Fashion Show – Casey Robyn
Fun with Flowers – Elise Beard
Games, Inc. – Elly Stephens
Historian – Anne Morgan
Hospitality – Betty MacGilvray
Lunch Around – Lisa Grabeman, Cathy Richard
Mahjongg – Cathy Edge, Betty MacGilvray
Needlers – Joyce Miller
Newsletter Editor / Publisher – Tracy Stevenson
Pop-up Events Coordinator – Nan Healy
Social Media – Traci O'Neill
Special Events Trips – Elly Stephens
Storied Lives – Deb Holton

Dates to Remember

Sept. 24 Book Club 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 30 Voter Information Event 10:00 a.m.
Oct. 8 Bunco 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Oct. 10 CPR / AED Class 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Oct. 14 General Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Oct. 14 Storied Lives 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 17 Happy Hour 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Oct. 22 Book Club 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 24 Lunch Around 12:00 p.m.
Oct. 25 Marineland Outing
Oct. 29 Hilarious Napkin Contest 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Nov. 17 Fun with Flowers 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Open Mahjongg – Mondays, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Beach Club
Open Canasta – Tuesdays, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Beach Club
Duplicate Bridge – 1st and 3rd Mondays, 12:15 p.m.
Games, Inc. – 2nd and 4th Wednesdays, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Katie Tartt maintains the Sawgrass Women's Club Master Calendar. When planning activities please contact her for date availability at: KatherineTartt@me.com

Send newsletter articles to: traceskier@att.net
Deadline for information to be included in the Newsletter is the 6th of the month prior to the next issue.

Sawgrass Women's Club Cares
Please notify [Katie Tartt](mailto:KatieTartt@me.com) at 904-671-2144 concerning Sawgrass Women's Club members who are experiencing life situations which warrant notes of sympathy or encouragement.