



# INNER WHEEL USA NEWSLETTER

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## Nashville or Bust!

Inner Wheel USA heads to “Music City”  
for its April 2022 national conference



Ladies, it's time to tug on your cowboy boots, order up a batch of hot chicken, and get ready for a Grand Ole time at Inner Wheel USA's upcoming national conference in Nashville.

We are excited to welcome you, your family, and your friends to this special city during our five-day conference April 20-24. Founded in 1779, Nashville is perhaps best known as the capital of country music as it is home to the Country Music Hall of Fame, the popular Music Row district and, of course, the Grand Ole Opry. But the city's musical tastes extend well beyond Johnny Cash and Dolly Parton. Nashville also helped launch the careers of Bon Jovi, Michael Buble, Taylor Swift, and the Black Eyed Peas!

Reservation forms for our conference site, the **Drury Plaza Hotel** in downtown Nashville, are now availa-

ble through your club president. The hotel rate is \$159 a night. Take advantage of the Drury's daily hot breakfast and 5:30 p.m. nightly “kickback” featuring free drinks and snacks. The hotel is only a 3-minute walk from the Country Music Hall of Fame which includes tours of RCA Studio B where Elvis Presley and Dolly Parton recorded some of their most iconic hits. (For other nearby attractions, see pg. 2)

The planning committee has arranged for Inner Wheel guests to enjoy one musical evening at the famous Grand Ole Opry and another on a riverboat cruise with a buffet dinner and live music.

Book your hotel reservations now; the Inner Wheel USA conference registration packet will be available right after the holidays. We look forward to seeing you all there!



## INNER WHEEL USA 2021-2022 OFFICERS

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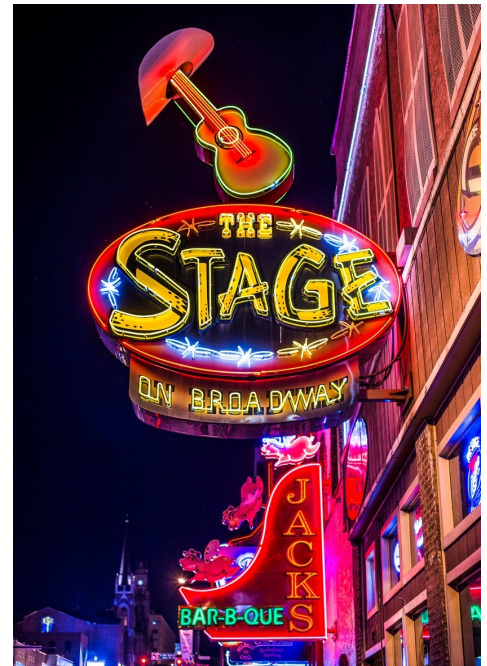
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**Inner Wheel USA Website:**

<https://innerwheelusa.com>

## Things to see, do, and chew while visiting Nashville

- Don't want to get sore feet? Try a hop-on-hop-off bus or trolley tour. If you're looking for something adventurous, consider sightseeing on a golf cart or a monster truck.
- Besides the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, you can learn more about your favorite musicians at museums devoted to Johnny Cash, Patsy Cline, and Glenn Campbell or get inspired at the National Museum of African American Music.
- Are you a Civil War history buff? Book a tour at Nashville's Belmont Mansion or the Belle Meade Historic Site and Winery. In nearby Lynchburg, guests can tour the Jack Daniel Distillery, the oldest of its kind in the United States, to learn how the legendary No. 7 is made.
- As the story goes, Nashville hot chicken harks back to a tall, handsome, and well-known womanizer named Thornton Prince. It seems Mr. Prince went out on the town one night without his steady girl. The next day, she served him a plate of fried chicken chock full of hot pepper. Turns out Prince liked it so much he started making it



for family and friends. You can set your own tongue ablaze at the birthplace of Nashville hot chicken by heading to Prince's Hot Chicken Shack located in Assembly Hall.

Here are some other eateries you might want to check out:

**Peg Leg Porker**  
**Pancho and Lefty's Cantina**  
**Jeff Ruby's Steakhouse**  
**Shotgun Willie's BBQ**  
**The Loveless Café**  
**Southern Steak & Oyster**  
**Aquarium Restaurant**  
**Trattoria Il Mulino**  
**The Stillery**  
**Jane's Hideaway**





## Greetings from Inner Wheel USA President Linda Daniel

Dear Friends,

I remain excited and delighted to be Inner Wheel USA President after these first few months in office. Many wonderful things are happening:

- A great conference in Nashville is being planned for you.
- The Foundation is going gangbusters!
- We have the opportunity to participate in Inner Wheel's first joint international project, the Covid Fund.
- And we have a new national Social Media Coordinator, Paula Edwards from the Inner Wheel Club of St. Thomas, USVI.



On top of all of this are people and projects that continue to inspire us through community service. It's amazing what we can do when we work together toward a common goal.

There are many administrative issues that the Inner Wheel USA Governing Body has had to take care of in the past few months including the selection of a new CPA and liability insurance agent and changing many items on our website. We are continuing to clean up items that need to be corrected to be consistent. One of the issues we have grappled with over the years has been how to properly identify ourselves.

Are we I.W.U.S.A.?

Are we Inner Wheel U.S.A.?

Are we Inner Wheel U.S.A. Inc.?

Well, ta-da, we are: **Inner Wheel USA**. And the Foundation should be identified as the **Inner Wheel USA Foundation**. Similarly, Inner Wheel clubs should be identified as Inner Wheel Club of Citrus Heights, for example, and not Citrus Heights Inner Wheel.

In other administrative news, Joan Cotton has been working on an issue that our Inner Wheel clubs in California facing with banks regarding their charitable status. Banks have new rules and wish clubs to have state tax-exempt numbers. We are working directly with the California Franchise Tax Board along with an attorney to learn how to do this properly, but we still have more work to do. We will keep you updated on our progress.

NOW we are all about our April 20-24 conference in Nashville. It is going to be great fun! All events will take place at the Drury Hotel where Inner Wheel guests will receive a special rate of \$159 per night which is almost half the normal price that time of year. The hotel includes free hot breakfast daily, free dinnertime drinks and snacks from 5:30 to 7 p.m., and is within walking distance to many places of interest. We have one night planned at the Grand Ole Opry and another enjoying a river boat cruise complete with a buffet dinner and live entertainment. We plan to keep most afternoons and evenings open for you to enjoy activities of your choice. Bring your spouse, your sister, your friends. Book your hotel now and the conference registration packet will be available right after the holidays. Don't miss out on this — it will be a blast!

In the meantime, let's keep rolling forward, fueled by friendship and purpose. Make sure to invite others to join and share in our wonderful organization. I am proud to be your President and look forward to seeing you in Nashville and of being of service to all of you.

Warmly,

**Linda Daniel**

**Inner Wheel USA President**



## 'Tis the season for giving ...



### Inner Wheel USA Foundation now registered with Amazon Smile

The holidays also mean shopping! The Inner Wheel USA Foundation is now registered with Amazon Smile. All you need to do is just register once at [www.smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) and choose Inner Wheel USA Foundation as the charity you want to support.

From then on, when you shop Amazon, the company will donate 0.5% of what you spend to the Foundation, at no cost to you! You can't beat a deal like that!

### New to our Foundation work? Learn more!

Ever wonder what happens after a child who has lost a limb is referred to Hanger Clinic by our Foundation? Do you know the duties of the Foundation Coordinators at both the club and district level? Would you like to learn more about how our Foundation got started in the first place? Then check out our Foundation Resource Manual. It is chock full of useful and relevant information. The booklet was distributed to all Foundation Coordinators in 2019. Now is the time to make sure you have a copy of your own. For more information, contact Gay DiGiovanni at [phillychick26@gmail.com](mailto:phillychick26@gmail.com).

While you're making your list and checking it twice, think about what gift you can give to help the Inner Wheel USA Foundation this holiday season.

Holiday events are a great opportunity to talk up the amazing work our Foundation does providing upper body myoelectric limbs to children who have lost a limb due to trauma, disease, or genetics.

The Foundation currently is assisting six students from California to Florida get fitted with new limbs at no cost to their families.

The prosthetics they receive may be new technology, such as the "Hero Arm," or more traditional limbs depending on the needs and the growth of the child.

In addition to talking about the Inner Wheel USA Foundation's work at your next event, display our book of some of the children we have helped over the years.

Are you all in? Then consider setting up a display of various prosthetic limbs for a "hands-on" experience. The technology involved in creating today's prosthetics is both fascinating and inspiring.

It's easy to request myoelectric limbs and other prosthetics for your next activity:

**Contact Deloris Donnelly at [deldula@comcast.net](mailto:deldula@comcast.net) or Sherry Harris at [mrssherryharris@yahoo.com](mailto:mrssherryharris@yahoo.com).**





## Membership losses impact national budget, club dues

***President Linda Daniel sets challenge for each club to recruit at least two new members in the new year.***

Dear Inner Wheel friends,

There has been substantial attrition in the membership of clubs and the number of U.S. clubs themselves in the past five years. This has been due to two main issues:

In the past year, we lost one of our largest clubs, the Inner Wheel Club of Baton Rouge. For 30 years, they have led an extraordinarily successful fundraiser in their city and have raised hundreds of thousands of dollars for charities within Baton Rouge. Last year, they informed us that they were going to form their own 501(c)(3) and disconnect from Inner Wheel USA.

That decision resulted in a net loss of more than 100 members, effective July 1, 2021, reducing our national membership to 544 members. As a result, we cannot operate in the black within our proposed budget which calls for two live meetings a year. As a result, we plan to adjust our numbers by having only one live meeting a year.

Our Treasurer has run the numbers and we need to be above 600 members to be in a healthy position. In the meantime, our Board has made the difficult decision to raise dues by \$4.00 per member (from \$31.00 to \$35.00).

Membership is what keeps us rolling. And new

memberships will allow us to do more ... or make our dues less.

We are one of the most wonderful women's organizations in the world. We allow each club to choose their local projects and focus. We have a great National Foundation. We are a welcoming, inclusive group. There is purpose, but not major pressure or huge expense. We are connected to other countries and their good work. We have a great history and we have FUN. Did I say that we have fun!? We do!

I have met some amazing women while working together on meals, crafts, blankets, decorations, book labels, sock drives, food for the hungry, bake sales, veterans projects, help with hospice, a boost for those in crisis and, of course, the Foundation. During these projects, we've shared meals, laughter, health concerns, and car rides. We've celebrated birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, new babies, and Celebrations of Life. It is these connections that have brought a richness and purpose to my life. And I have fun! Yes, I do! So invite your friends to Inner Wheel to have both purpose and FUN!

Every club that recruits two new members in 2022 will be given special recognition at our Nashville conference. Let's celebrate all the good that is Inner Wheel!

— Linda



# INNER WHEEL AROUND THE GLOBE

## **Orangevale members welcome Inner Wheel's National Secretary from the Philippines to U.S.**

Ever wonder about all the letters your ISO sends out to faraway places? Do they even get read? Well, one recent letter sent by the Inner Wheel Club of Orangevale, CA certainly did. Club Treasurer Annelise Graf said she got an unexpected phone call on June 29 from Minnie Elizaga, the 2021-2022 National Secretary for Inner Wheel Philippines and former District 383 Chairperson. She happened to be visiting family in Modesto and asked if she could pay them a visit. Minnie ended up meeting with Club President Kathleen Franklin, Carol Hart, Marcia Kiese, Graf, and IWUSA President Linda Daniel just two days later at a restaurant in Stockton. They talked about their latest club and district projects. "Minnie was a delight and very interested in what the U.S. is doing," Graf said. Orangevale's Marcia Kiese spent time growing up in Manila and, as it turns out, discovered that she and Minnie had attended the same Catholic school there. Small world!



**Want to make your ISO efforts more effective? Encourage your club to create an introductory letter that can be attached to ISO letters or emails you send to other clubs. Talk up your recent service projects and include photos!**



# INNER WHEEL AROUND THE GLOBE



## Inner Wheel launches first global initiative for COVID-19 vaccines

The past two years have been a rollercoaster of emotions as families here and around the world make choices about how to protect themselves from COVID-19, continue to earn a living, send their kids to school, buy more masks, and prepare for the next Zoom meeting.

Americans have been fortunate to have a trove of free vaccines and COVID boosters available at most local pharmacies, courtesy of the federal government. But many countries will have no such chance.

And with winter upon us, cases of the deadly virus are again on the rise with a new wave sweeping across Europe and the northern U.S.

The International Inner Wheel Governing Body created a COVID-19 Disaster and Vaccination Fund in April 2020 to raise money to assist with the distribution of vaccines, especially among those who are disadvantaged.

The suggested fundraising target is £500,000 or proximately \$664,000. If every Inner Wheel member contributed at least \$1 to the fund, we would be well on our way to achieving our goal.

We realize that each of us have been affected by the pandemic in one way or another. But we must press on, striving to improve the outcomes of all citizens, particularly those who are most vulnerable.

**A friend is a gift you give yourself.**

**— Robert Louis Stevenson**



## San Leandro club members connect with ISO in Bangladesh

On Aug. 6, 2021, Club President Lynnette Flusche and ISO Pearl Johnston launched a Zoom call. Who hasn't these past two years? But this call was to a woman they'd never met before in a country 7,688 miles away. That's the beauty of Inner Wheel's ISO work, bringing women around the globe together through service. Parsa Sanjan Lateef is the ISO for the Inner Wheel Club in Dhanmondi, Bangladesh. Through their Zoom call, they learned more about each other's country and talked about their club's service projects.

"What a delightful woman!" Johnston said. "Friendship abounds all over the world!" Sanjan later posted about the Zoom call with the San Leandro members on her District 328 club's Facebook page: "Bangladesh and the United States of America, such faraway lands, but here we are now connected through Inner Wheel."

# Inner Wheel takes a stand against cervical cancer

**Cervical cancer is the only cancer that is preventable, thanks to HPV vaccinations and screening. Yet it remains the 4th most common cancer in the world — and one of the most deadly.**

In late July, 33 women from the Tondo district of Manila managed to make their way to a caravan where they received free cervical cancer screenings.

In the United States, Pap tests and HPV vaccinations are common and typically covered by insurance. But in many other parts of the world, they are far beyond what a family can afford. The cost of one dose of the HPV vaccine in the Philippines would cost the equivalent of two weeks' salary for many residents,

according to CerviQ, an organization focused on eliminating cervical cancer in that country. CerviQ has partnered with the Inner Wheel Club of Makati, several sister clubs, and two Rotary clubs to lead seminars, train midwives, and provide free cancer screenings to young women in their country.

2020-2021 International Inner Wheel President Ebe Martines has encouraged clubs around the globe to consider projects in January 2022 aimed at stopping cervical cancer among women and girls.

Inner Wheel USA President Linda Daniel has picked up the gauntlet, challenging all U.S. clubs to write local newspapers advocating for more focus on cervical cancer.

"This is such a silent killer and it is so preventable," she said.

The American Cancer Society estimated that 14,480 new cases of invasive cervical cancer would be diagnosed this year and that an estimated 4,290 American women would die from it.

The CDC recommends that girls get the HPV vaccine at age 11 or 12 so they are protected long before they become sexually active.



## FACTS ABOUT CERVICAL CANCER from the World Health Organization

1. Cervical cancer develops in a woman's cervix (the entrance to the uterus from the vagina).
2. Almost all cervical cancer cases (99%) are linked to infection with high-risk human papillomaviruses (HPV).
3. While most infections with HPV resolve spontaneously and cause no symptoms, a persistent infection can cause cervical cancer in women.
4. Cervical cancer is the fourth most common cancer in women. In 2018, an estimated 570,000 women were diagnosed with cervical cancer worldwide and about 311,000 women died from the disease.
5. Effective primary (HPV vaccination) and secondary prevention approaches (screening for, and treating precancerous lesions) will prevent most cervical cancer cases.
6. When diagnosed, cervical cancer is one of the most successfully treatable forms of cancer, as long as it is detected early and is managed effectively. Cancers diagnosed in late stages can also be controlled with appropriate treatment and palliative care.
7. With a comprehensive approach involving prevention, screening, and treatment, cervical cancer can be eliminated as a public health problem within a generation.



# Stitching Hearts Together ...



Military veterans display their "quilts of honor" at the Nov. 9 Inner Wheel District 519 meeting. The men served in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan.



Six U.S. military veterans were recognized for their service and sacrifice at the Inner Wheel District 519 meeting held Nov. 9 at the Northridge Country Club in Fair Oaks, CA.

District Chairman Rosemary Lamb invited Quilts of Honor to come speak about their organization which bestows patriotic homemade quilts to American military members as a way of providing them love, comfort, and healing. "The men were all very touched and became quite emotional," she said.

Quilts of Honor calls the beautifully handstitched creations, all made by volunteers, "hugs of gratitude."

Five of the honored veterans are married to an Inner Wheel District 519 member and a sixth is a member's father-in-law. The honorees were: Don Buonamici (Michele of Citrus Hills), Don Cotton (Joan of East Sacramento), Don Finton (Nancy of East Sacramento), Warren McWilliams (Janet of Fair Oaks), Tony Ulep and Vincent Ulep (Karen of East Sacramento).





## NEWS FROM ALAMEDA



### Alameda supports Pink First agenda

At their October 27 meeting, the Inner Wheel club of Alameda, CA, learned what it's like to be a woman in Afghanistan from someone who knows.

Edna Mitchell, a former Mills College educator who spent 4 years working for the Ministry of Education in Kabul, gave members a glimpse into life in a place where women's freedoms are sorely limited, where a persistent drought has limited food supplies, and where the recent takeover by the Taliban has left families questioning their future.

Upon her arrival in Afghanistan, Ms. Mitchell said she was immediately trained to recognize bombs and always traveled with an armed guard to avoid being kidnapped. Her work, sponsored by UNICEF and Save the Children, involved educating and empowering young Afghan girls to study to be working professionals.

Emails Ms. Mitchell has received from in-country friends indicate there are no banks open and no bread or milk to be found. She told Alameda club members that the country would likely return to their traditional form of government, with each small locality determining their own way of life and solving their own problems.

In the meantime, most women are not venturing outside much, she said. If they must go outside, Ms. Mitchell said, they wear a burqa for protection. While Afghan women have very few rights outside the home, she said they do have a say inside their own home.



## DUNEDIN NORTH

### Club president earns city award named after her grandmother

Instead of a reindeer sleigh, Janette Donoghue-Kingsbury climbed into a sleek convertible on Dec. 11, ready to head through downtown as a special honoree in the city's Christmas parade. The second-year president of Inner Wheel of Dunedin North recently received the 2021 Delightful Dunedin Award from the Chamber of Commerce for her dedication and service to the community. It was a fitting award for Janette, not just because she is an upbeat go-getter, but because the award is named after her predeceased grandmother, Beatrice Donoghue, a longtime civic activist here. "It meant the world to me because the award was named after my 'Oma' over 20 years ago," she said. How delightful!





## MATTHEWS - MINT HILL

**Inner Wheel club sews therapy pillows, donates children's books, and thanks local first responders**



Sandy Herberg displays one of the club's finished therapy pillows.

Club co-president Mary Ellen Randall is happy to report that the Inner Wheel Club of Matthews-Mint Hill, NC remains busy behind their COVID masks.

Club member Anna Moore has sewn and delivered more than 1,000 therapy pillows to breast cancer patients in the community. The small pillows provide comfort and protect and reduce the strain on a patient's incisions.

In the meantime, club member Sandy Herberg continues to lead the group's Promising Pages BookWorm project. Members gather to write encouraging letters that are tucked inside new books given to needy children in the community. The club also continues to collaborate with the Matthews, NC Rotary Club and other non-profits to write letters and cards thanking first responders, police, and veterans for their much-appreciated service.



Above, Anna Moore, Sue Fisher, Paula Schmitz, Miriam Fisher, and Mary Ellen Randall write letters of inspiration to needy children as part of the club's Promising Pages BookWorm initiative. Directly below, a closet filled with fabric keeps the group's therapy pillow project clicking. Bottom right, club co-president Mary Ellen Randall (second from the left) works alongside the Woman's Club Service League to show their appreciation to local firefighters and EMTs.







## STAMFORD - HOBART



Club members deliver homegrown plants to Usha Tagliaferro (left) at the Robinson Terrace Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

### Club brings a touch of nature to nursing home residents

The Inner Wheel Club of Stamford-Hobart, NY has been busy this fall with two major activities. On Nov. 11, members prepared a turkey dinner for the Rotary Clubs of both Stamford and Hobart, NY as a fundraising event. In the meantime, members have been busy putting their green thumbs to good use, too. The club has been growing small potted plants for residents at the Robinson Terrace Rehabilitation and Nursing Center. On Nov. 18, four club members presented 32 plants to the facility's concierge, Usha Tagliaferro, who will deliver them to residents. The project will continue into spring 2022 with the club's goal to provide a plant to every single resident.





## SAN LEANDRO



Barbara Mehan (left) and JoAnn Cornelius pose at the newly renovated Boys and Girls Clubs. The club held their regular monthly meeting there.



## Great futures start here

### Club members find inspiration touring newly renovated Boys & Girls Clubs



The Inner Wheel Club of San Leandro, CA had the honor and pleasure of holding their latest meeting at the newly renovated Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro. Chief Executive Officer Kimberly Pace led the group on an amazing tour that clearly displayed the dedication of so many. The Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro serves some 2,500 children at 12 differ-

ent program sites, offering after-school programs and a teen camp to needy youth. The Inner Wheel club held their general meeting after the tour where they welcomed their newest member, Monika Williams. The mission of the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Leandro is to inspire and enable all young people to realize their full potential and become productive citizens.



## SLIDELL



Above, Slidell members Theresa Wallot, June Green, Renee Arsenault, Gay DiGiovanni, and Sherry Garcia show off their creative Halloween costumes while serving seniors at Peace Lutheran Church's Monster Bash in October. At right, Kim Kirby, executive director of Safe Harbor, attends the club's wine social fundraiser while local musician Bobby Ohler, below, entertains guests. Safe Harbor is Slidell's Charity of the Year.

## Slidell club shifts into high gear with back-to-back fundraisers in October

The Inner Wheel Club of Slidell, LA must be taking their vitamins as they knocked out four different events in the month of October — two fundraisers and two service projects.

The club held an Oct. 2 garage sale FUNraiser for their Charity of the Year. More than 20 tables filled with household treasures were donated by club members and their friends. All of the \$1,500 raised will go to Safe Harbor which provides shelter and services to domestic abuse survivors.

The club continues to solicit sponsors, prizes and T-shirts for its Brock Elementary Reading Challenge, which encourages third graders to improve their reading, writing, and comprehension skills.

Members then turned their attention to the Senior's Monster Bash at Peace Lutheran Church. The club joined members of the Slidell Ladies for Liberty



organization on Oct. 25 serving the church's seniors a spooktacular meal followed by a costume contest and Halloween-themed bingo. If that wasn't enough, Slidell held its second fundraiser of the month on Oct. 28, a scaled-down wine social at the home of club member Sharron Newton with live music provided by local musician, Bobby Ohler.





## Fort Myers embraces projects that aid women from rural Guatemala

The Inner Wheel Club of Fort Myers met a woman named Genelle Grant more than 3 years ago. That introduction had led to a deepening relationship with Genelle and the mission effort she leads called GRACE Project which stands for Guatemalan Rural Adult and Children's Education Project. The project provides a variety of assistance to local Guatemalans as well as those who live in rural parts of their native country.

The Hispanic population in Lee County, FL, where Fort Myers is located, has increased 170% since 2000 to more than 60,000 people. At least 10% of Hispanics are in farm worker or indigenous (Maya or Azteca) families from Mexico or Guatemala. They speak an indigenous language first and Spanish is their second language. They have limited education. Some do not read or write in any language.

At the club's September meeting, Genelle Grant shared one of the sewing projects made by a local Guatemalan woman at a summer camp she organized. Club members presented her with another 1,000 fertility bracelets and boxes of material for a sewing school in Guatemala. And Fort Myers member Betty Gould continues to sew hundreds of reusable



menstrual pads for the GRACE Project which Genelle takes with her to Guatemala several times each year.

The club's speaker for their October meeting was Lucy Garcia, a friend of Genelle Grant. She leads Organizacion Internacional de Latinos en El Exterior which provides sewing lessons and fabric to women, many of them from Guatemala. With the training, they are then able to start their own small business, selling items they make. Lucy brought one of the organization's students with her along with items she had made which club members were happy to buy. This international project is just one of many service projects taken up by the Fort Myers club.



## HAINES CITY



The Inner Wheel Club of Haines City hosted a dessert table at the Haines City Rotary Club's Taste of the Ridge Event held in October at the Lake Eve Event Center. Proceeds from the event provide scholarships to students at Haines City High School and Ridge Community High School.

Pictured from left to right: Joy Sims, IWUSA Constitutional Chair; Gill Broadway, IWUSA Immediate Past President; and Dr. Carys Felton, Club President.

## WESTCHESTER

The Inner Wheel Club of Westchester, NY got back in the swing of things in mid-September by inducting two new members, Laura DiPierro and Barbara Timcoe, to their now 18-member club. Welcome to the Inner Wheel family, ladies!

All Westchester members made contributions to the club's school backpack project while others helped with the shopping. Club President Eileen Marx and member Kathi Oliveri dropped off 14 backpacks loaded with school supplies to a nearby Family Resource Center that distributed them to children in need at a local school. Marx said the club plans to continue supplying backpacks as needed. "This is our second year doing the backpack project," she said. "... It has been very successful."



Clockwise from top left, Barbara Timcoe receives her Inner Wheel pin, Laura DiPierro accepts a bouquet of flowers, and Maria Flores of the Family Resource Center receives the Westchester club's generous backpack donation.





JoANNE RYAN ELLIS died peacefully on Oct. 20, 2021, at Novant Medical Center-Mint Hill. She was 92. After graduating from the University of Southern California, she taught sixth grade in inner city Los Angeles for 31 years and was recognized by the school district as an outstanding teacher. After her retirement, JoAnne reunited with the love of her life, Seth Ellis, in Charlotte, NC. They remarried in 1984. In Charlotte, JoAnne found her next purpose in life, the ability to give back through the International Rotary Club, the North Mecklenburg Rotary Club, and Inner Wheel of Charlotte, NC among other service organizations. She is survived by her beloved daughter, Linda Reese and her husband Cameron; three grandsons, Travis, Zach, and Zaniel Reese; and great-grandchildren Cameron Diana, Conner Reese, and Paisley Reese.

## In Memoriam

We all know the breast cancer awareness message, “Think Pink,” and certainly Inner Wheel’s recent “Pink First” theme. They’re meant to represent specific initiatives. But pink invariably reminds me of women in general. Strong women. Remarkable women. Kind, giving women. Let’s all remember the amazing women we honor on these pages by continuing the Inner Wheel mission of public service, something they each cared so deeply about.

— Lesley Shaw



KATHERINE MAE HENRICKS died peacefully on Nov. 16, 2021, at her home in Citrus Heights, CA. She was 75. Kathy was

the woman you knew was going to bring the fun. She loved her family dearly and was very involved in her church. She also loved traveling, Halloween, cooking, Bunco, Inner Wheel, her knitting groups, and playing in her ukulele band. She is survived by her husband of 51 years, Dean; sister Nancy Fox; daughters Amy Gariano (Tony) and Melissa; grandchildren Whitney Clatte (Austin) and William Gariano; and two great-grandchildren.



MELBA WEISS RILOTT, died peacefully on Nov. 3, 2021, at her home in Dunedin, FL. She was 83. Born in Belleville, IL, she married Ronald Rilott on Jan. 29, 1956. They moved their family to Dunedin in 1968 where they owned and operated a mobile home park and a beauty salon. A faithful Christian, she taught Sunday School classes from the time she was a teenager through adulthood, including classes for the mentally challenged. Melba was involved in a host of civic organizations. She was a dedicated member of the Inner Wheel Club of Dunedin North since 1987 serving in many roles including president and foundation coordinator. In 1991, she became a trustee for the Inner Wheel USA Foundation, serving for 6 years. She was Chairman of the Board from 2002-2004 and was instrumental in partnering with Hanger Clinic to provide more upper limb-deficient children with myoelectric limbs. She loved traveling and had visited at least 63 countries. She is survived by her daughters, Rhonda Eberhard, Robin Rilott, and Randi New (Chris); seven grandchildren; and great-grandchildren Caden Fitchett and baby Fitchett expected in May. Although her passing was unexpected, we are so grateful for her friendship and dedication to her family and the community she loved.



PATRICIA RAPOSO died on July 18, 2021 in San Leandro, CA. She joined Inner Wheel in 2018 with a dedicated history of civic involvement. Pat was involved in many city organizations including the San Leandro Scholarship Foundation, Kiwanis, Soroptimist, San Leandro Art Association, Philanthropic Educational Organization, and the Jaycee-ettes. She was named the city's first Outstanding Business Woman of the Year. Pat's beautiful smile and compassion has left a legacy of love for all who had the honor of knowing her.