

Women's Club

By Jan Corsello

At the October meeting, Pine Knoll Shores Women's Club First Vice President JoAnne Ferguson introduced our speaker, retired Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Rosie Noel. GySgt Noel is the first female Marine gunnery sergeant to receive a Purple Heart for combat-related injuries. While deployed at Al Asad Airbase in Iraq, GySgt Noel received a wound to her jaw, caused by a piece of shrapnel the size of her thumb. Doctors wanted to put in a plate, wire her jaw shut, and send her to Germany, then to Maryland, to recover, but she refused. Though everyone wanted to send her home on leave for convalescence, she said, "Rosie wanted to go home to her children, but GySgt Noel wanted to stay with her marines." So she stayed.

Among her other assignments in the Marines, she was an avionics instructor in Pensacola, Florida, and a drill instructor in Parris Island, SC.

She returned home in 2006 and retired in 2009, after 20 years with the Marines. GySgt Noel has stayed very active with the Marines, especially female marines. Among other things, she is a member of the Women Marines Association, NC-1, Tar Heel Chapter.

In 2017 Rosie Noel bought 7-plus acres in South Carolina and turned them into a retreat for wounded warriors, especially those with PTSD, and their families to get some much-needed rest and recuperation. She named the inn and kennel she created "Teufelshunde," a German word that translates to "Dogs from Hell" and harkens to the name given by the Germans to the Marines as "Devil Dogs." In addition to a retreat, this site also serves as a place to train service dogs. Service dogs can be trained to help people with diabetes, can learn to tell if someone has high or low blood sugar by smelling their breath, and can assist veterans with PTSD by helping to create a personal space around their veteran.

Service dogs may be any breed, but some work out better than others. For example, Huskies are headstrong, and hard to train. Staffordshire Terriers make excellent service dogs. The dog that GySgt Noel had with her at the meeting was a boxer/English bulldog mix. Some dogs entering the program are shelter dogs. Trainers like to work with dogs that are at least a year old, especially dogs that have had some training, for instance those who are "Canine Good Citizen" dogs. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against dog breeds. The ADA also asserts that service dogs must be allowed into any building except religious institutions and organizations.

Pauly Brown entertained us with the story of the most famous female inventor of the 20th Century, Betty Graham. In 1958, Betty invented Liquid Paper (a correction fluid used to cover typographic errors made on a typewriter so that the mistake can be fixed), an invaluable product for secretaries everywhere. Today's generation of keyboarders has probably never heard of it.



Retired Marine Corps GySgt Rosie Noel and her personal service dog, Eva.—Photo by Jan Corsello

As the Women's Club moves into the new season, most of our special interest groups are well underway. We currently have three book clubs, and several are welcoming new members. Among the books recently read are *The Secret Wife* by Gill Paul, *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman, *Cimarron* by Edna Ferber, *Lilac Girls* by Martha Kelly and *A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles. In the Between the Bookends Book Club, this year each hostess has chosen a book published in the year she was born, which has included some great classics.

Elaine Temple is the new chair of Cook's Night Out. In November they gathered at the country club for burger night. Their next dinner out will be in March.

The Supper Club, chaired by Susan Johnson, will have a new format this year. Instead of formal sit-down dinners in several members' homes, the club will become a less-formal tapas club, where everyone will gather together in one location for hors d'oeuvres. The tapas club meets on the third Sunday night of the month. In the spring, they plan to do a brunch.

The Women's Club Christmas luncheon at The Country Club of the Crystal Coast on December 1 was well attended; some women brought their husbands or other guests. The beautiful decorations put us all in a holiday mood and, as usual, the food was delicious. We were entertained by pianist Cathy Turner with Christmas and holiday songs.

Women's Club members are looking forward to the Fashion Show on February 23, also to be held at the country club. Paula Stadiem is the chair for this event, and is encouraging us to gather groups ahead of time and purchase tickets for nine women per table. This year, we will feature clothing from Atlantic Beach retailers, with our own club members serving as models.

Looking ahead to spring, though it is barely winter, we have been invited by the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club to accompany them on a bus trip in March to visit the Raleigh Museum of Art to enjoy their exhibit of "Art in Bloom."

Our January meeting will feature Glenda Riggs, executive director of Caroline's House, our local domestic violence shelter. With the exception of special events, meetings are held on the fourth Friday of the month, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with refreshments, followed by the speaker and a short business meeting. Guests are always welcome.

BHA Events

The Beaufort Historical Association (BHA) will host the Ninth Annual Christmas Candlelight Tour on Saturday, December 9, from 5 to 8 p.m., showcasing Beaufort's holiday hospitality and providing a rare glimpse into private historic homes, several inns, bed & breakfasts and churches, all elegantly decorated for the season. These private homes represent a wide variety of Beaufort's architectural styles from different periods of the town's history.

In addition to homes being open for tour, Lennar at Beau Coast community will host a special Winter Wonderland from 7 to 9 p.m. on Shearwater Lane with warm beverages, decorated model homes and a space for the community to gather in holiday cheer.

Guests will have the opportunity to stroll through candlelit streets or join the carolers aboard the BHA's 1967 English double-decker bus for a free ride to their destinations.

Early in the afternoon on December 9 the Beaufort Art Walk celebrates the season for its seventh year, from 2 to 5 p.m. The Art Walk, held in conjunction with the Christmas Candlelight Tour, will begin at the Mattie King Davis Art Gallery, located at the Beaufort Historic Site, where maps will be available. The Art Walk is free of charge and is a great opportunity to find one-of-a-kind holiday gifts.

Tickets and maps of the tour and information on the homes and Art Walk are available at the BHA Visitors Center at 130 Turner Street and online at beauforthistoricsite.org. Christmas Candlelight Tour tickets are \$16 per person. For more information call 728-5225.