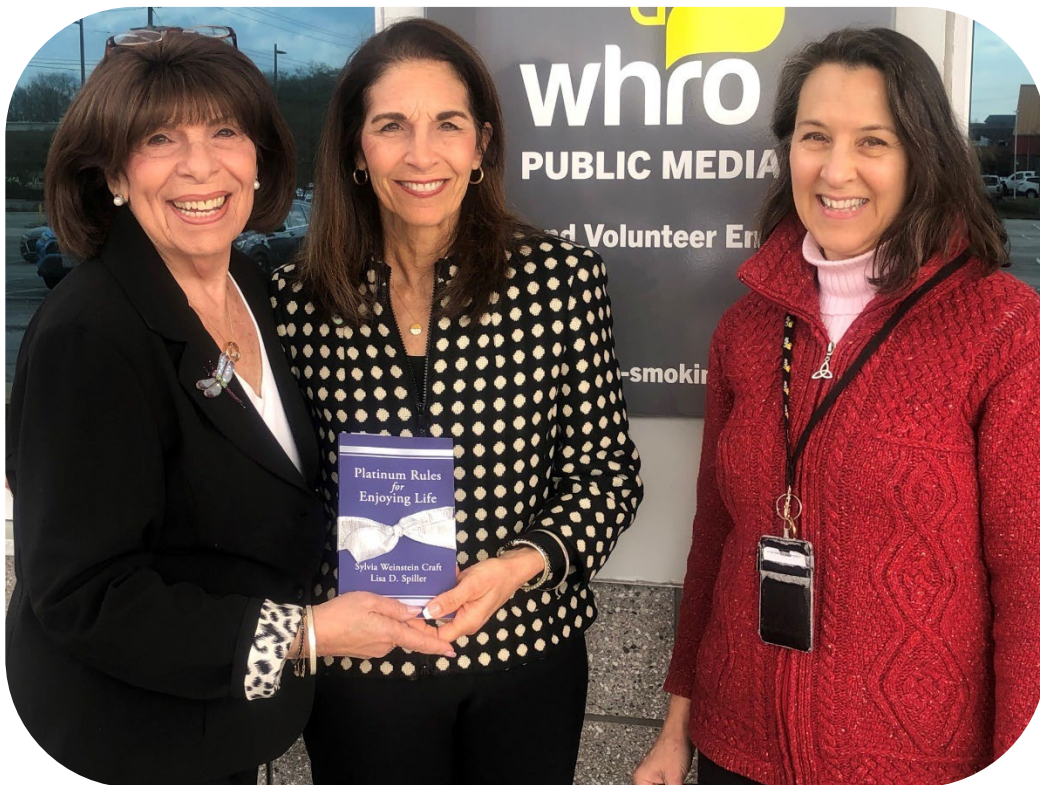


## Alum News – Spring 2024

*Quarterly Newsletter for GSCCC Alums*

In this edition you'll find recaps from some recent events, spotlights on our Girl Scout Alum, updates on our brick ceremonies and next month's virtual auction, plus details on our all-adult camping weekend coming up this fall and other great events!

More stories, resources and other information can be found at [gsgcc.org/alum](https://gsgcc.org/alum).



### Meet the Authors

Some of our Girl Scout alum joined members of the American Association of University Women at their Spring District Meeting held at WHRO on Saturday, February 24 to hear from authors of the book [Platinum Rules for Enjoying Life](#). Sylvia Weinstein Craft,

publisher of the Oyster Pointer, and Lisa D. Spiller, recently retired professor of marketing at Christopher Newport University, also GSCCC Famous Former Girl Scouts, spoke about publishing their book which is a roadmap on how to live a happy life. Each chapter focuses on a rule which were all taken from newspaper columns written by Sylvia over the years. “Giving Back is one of our very favorite rules and chapters in the book,” Lisa said. “It's one we learned and worked on as Girl Scouts.” Sylvia added that everyone benefits — the gift receivers and the giver themselves in terms of their health and happiness. To make the event just a bit more happy, desserts made using Girl Scout Cookies — Thin Mints and Samoas — were served!



Tracy Keller and Girl Scouts with Delegate Marcia Price, a Girl Scout alum, and Carolyn Pittman



Vickie Kearn, Sen. Bill DeSteph, Barbara Tierney and Girl Scouts Martha-Ann W. and Lilly J.

## **GSCCC Alum, Advocates Journeyed to the Capital**

On February 19, GSCCC CEO Tracy Keller and Board Chair Carolyn Pittman led a group of eleven teenage Girl Scouts and fourteen volunteers to Virginia’s Capital to visit legislators along with key members in the Governor’s Cabinet. Among them were past Council Board Chair Barbara Tierney and her sister, GSCCC Advocacy Committee member Vickie Kearn. Many thanks to Delegate Marcia Price, a Girl Scout alum, for sponsoring our Smart Cookies Open House that was held in the morning hours at the General Assembly Building for all legislators and their staff. Tasty Girl Scout Cookies were a big hit and our “Smart Cookie” Girl Scouts had an opportunity to talk about their amazing experiences. The GSCCC group was also treated to a lunch program hosted by Girl Scout alum and GSCCC Board Member Amanda Howie, Administrator of the Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys. [Read the full article at gsgccc.org/blog](https://gsgccc.org/blog).



## 10th Annual Cookie Classic

The 10th Annual Cookie Classic Run was held on January 13 at Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, welcoming members of the public as well as Girl Scouts, GSCCC alum, and their friends and families. Pictured here wearing their finisher's medals — and big smiles — are Elizabeth Thapaliya, a former GSCCC outdoor manager and camp director, and Kathy Roberts, who was a Girl Scout Mariner as a girl and has helped introduce Girl Scouts to sailing and canoeing as an adult volunteer.

## Dedicate a Commemorative Brick or Bench – New Ceremonies

In 2024, GSCCC is expanding to two celebrations to unveil the new bricks and benches in a timely manner. If you are purchasing as a gift or tribute, you can invite your honoree(s) to the upcoming ceremonies. GSCCC communicates only with the purchaser in case it is a surprise!

- Spring ceremony – New date TBA
- Fall ceremony on October 12 – orders due by September 6

Learn more and place your order for a brick or bench today at [gsc.org](https://gsc.org).

## You're Invited! Mark your calendars...

We have a full calendar of events ahead for 2024-25, just for our GSCCC alums!

### Cocktails for a Cause: Wednesday, March 13

6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Town Point Club, Norfolk VA



Cheers to the 112th Girl Scout Birthday! Adults 21 and over are invited for a night filled with great company and a whole lot of fun. We will be featuring a special green mint cocktail, based on a famous cookie, and have expanded our available ticket numbers so there is room for everyone! Free admittance, hors d'oeuvres, cash bar. [Learn more and register today!](#)

### **“Camp is Calling” Auction: April 28 – May 4**

You'll have a chance to bid on some amazing items, trips, and unique experiences during our online auction, and then join us for a special wrap-up event with exclusive items you can only bid on in person! *Stay tuned for details.* (We are still accepting donations; if you have an item or service you'd like to offer, please reach out to [philanthropy@gsgccc.org](mailto:philanthropy@gsgccc.org).)

### **All Adult Camp Weekend: September 21–22**

Camp Darden, Courtland, VA

Camp Darden is reserved for s'more fun, just for adults. \$55 per person, food and beverages included. Registration will be opening soon; **outdoor facilitators are needed to coordinate activities**. If you can assist, please sign up in your area of expertise and you'll receive a **50% discount!** Email your interest today to [philanthropy@gsgccc.org](mailto:philanthropy@gsgccc.org).

### **Did you say CRUISE?**

#### **GSGCCC friends are cruising out of Norfolk, VA, February 16-24, 2025!**

Experience Turks and Caicos, Dominican Republic, and the Bahamas. GSGCCC will coordinate Girl Scout socials and activities, or you can just kick back and enjoy the Caribbean sunshine. The choice is yours! (*The cruise is open to all adults 18 and up; however, if you are interested in bringing your family, you may do so knowing that certain activities being offered will not be available to children.*) Bookings must be made through [threetreasuretravel@gmail.com](mailto:threetreasuretravel@gmail.com). If you have questions, please contact [philanthropy@gsgccc.org](mailto:philanthropy@gsgccc.org).

**RSVP TODAY**



**MICHELLE ELLIS YOUNG**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER,  
YWCA SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS

**JILL QUEEN**  
DIRECTOR OF WOMEN UNITED  
UNITED WAY OF SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS

**EDITH G. WHITE**  
PRESIDENT/CEO, HAMPTON ROADS  
COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM

**TRACY KELLER**  
CEO, THE GIRL SCOUTS  
OF THE COLONIAL COAST

## **WOMEN BEHIND LEADING NON-PROFITS**

Join us in honoring Women's History Month with a panel discussion highlighting the accomplishments of four dynamic women who are prominent leaders in the community and in their respective non-profit industries.

Also, learn how you can start your path to career success and attain information about our degree programs and scholarships.

SCAN QR CODE TO RSVP



## **Bryant & Stratton College**



301 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE  
VIRGINIA BEACH, VA 23462



TUESDAY, MARCH 19TH  
AT 5:30 PM



## Girl Scout Alum Honored with Unity Awards

Congratulations to Girl Scout Volunteers Shan Sixbey and Janice “Jay” Johnson, who were recognized for their leadership by the Hampton Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Under the guidance of Hampton’s Citizens’ Unity Commission Shan, Jay, and several other community leaders were presented with the UNITY Award on February 9th at The American Theatre in Phoebus. Fellow Girl Scout volunteer Mei Stukes who serves as a member of the CUC presented the award. [View the full post on GSCCC’s Facebook.](#)



## Kindness with the Kappas

The Kappa Delta Sorority hosted an exciting “Random Acts of Kindness” event at William & Mary on February 10. Together, these ambitious leaders shared their ideas on how to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts participated in activities that included learning how to replace negative language with positive talk, creating chalk art and posters to spread kind messages on campus, and showing kindness to our earth by picking up litter.



## Cookie Count-n-Go

Thank you to everyone who came out to lend a hand at our Cookie Count-n-Go on February 24. You handled nearly one million boxes of cookies! Now that our Girl Scouts have all that inventory, booths are popping up all across Hampton Roads. Use the [Cookie Finder](#) to locate the booths nearest you and make sure to stock up before March 31, when our cookie season wraps up for another year.

## GSCCC CEO Tracy Keller Named on 2024 ‘Serve Virginia’ Honor Roll

Congratulations to GSCCC’s own Tracy Keller for this well-deserved recognition! Over the past year, Tracy took on the challenge of volunteering as the lead of the Empowering Girls initiative for the Rotary District 7600, a district that has joined other Rotary clubs and districts internationally to embrace this key initiative that focuses on improving the health, education, well-being, and economic security of girls. Keller has always been involved in community organizations where her volunteer talents and her commitment to making the world a better place can be harnessed. She currently chairs the Chesapeake Schools’ Parent Teacher Association’s Reflections Program, a program that provides opportunities for recognition and access to the arts which boost student confidence and success in the arts and in life. She is also a member of the Women United Leadership Society hosted by United Way of South Hampton Roads. In past years, she served in several roles on the board of the Women’s Division of the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce. [Read more in our newsroom.](#)



## Alum Spotlight: JoAn Berry

JoAn Berry is a star among our extraordinary volunteers here at GSCCC. Her calendar is filled with Girl Scout activities throughout the year, such as helping within her service unit as a product chair, assisting other service units with outdoor program and an assortment of trainings, and serving as a Council National Delegate. Her commitment to Girl Scouting has been a lifelong

passion; from girlhood, where she spent years in the program, to motherhood, where she served as her daughter’s Girl Scout leader, JoAn has always had Girl Scouting in her life.

“Girl Scouts makes me happy,” she said. “It inspires me. As a product program coordinator, I’ve seen girls grow up through Girl Scouting. I’ve seen Daisies who were extremely shy and reserved become confident leaders as Juniors. This really makes my heart sing to think I was part of making that happen.”

[Read the full article at gsgccc.org/blog.](https://gsgccc.org/blog)



## “Make the World a Better Place” Podcast: Episode 2

Meet Sarah Buck, a GSGCCC Girl Scout alum who remains connected to the Mission as an involved volunteer. Listen as Sarah draws a connection between the skills she learned while earning the Girl Scout Gold Award 25 years ago and her career today as a leader in the national telecommunications industry. (You can also read more about her on our [blog!](#))

[LISTEN NOW](#)