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**Cedar Key women rock the fashion world;
*Event draws busload from Gainesville***



The Grand Finale is performed.



Story, Photos and Video

By Jeff M. Hardison

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CEDAR KEY -- To say that the 51 active members of the Cedar Key Woman's Club rocked the fashion world is an understatement, but it captures the essence of what happened Thursday afternoon (March 8).

The Tacky Tourist carries a bag to help promote Another Way. Another bag she carried is her Oh Canada bag, presented to her by a good friend whose roots are in that country on the northern border of the United States.

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The Tacky Tourist this year also became known as The Tatty Tourist, because pirates put tattoos all over her arms and legs when they visited Cedar Key in December. Cedar Key Police Chief Virgil Sandlin found the tourist and took her to Another Way, thinking she had been abused, according to the storyline this year. Once again, it was an entertaining event that helped raise funds for various worthy causes.

That particular Thursday was International Women's Day, and while there was a celebration and honors worldwide, the women of this club in northwestern Levy County municipality brought the spirit to life locally.

There were at least 130 women guests, and there were three men who were guests.

Though this fashion show event heralds its thirteenth consecutive year, CKWC President Jane Moore has previously mentioned that some members participated in the CKWC's Fashion Show of 1960, and there were at least some other fashion shows in the 1960s and 1970s.

As is always the case with this set of ladies, where they had set the bar of excellence was gain exceeded by the standards they established and then brought it to the higher level that came into existence by their efforts. This year's luncheon name was "Divine Ladies."

Once again, the Cedar Key Community Center was the place to be. The Cedar Key Woman's Club Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show was a sold-out event.

Some things remained the same. Some things were different.



Paula Wescott prepares to serve water, coffee or tea to guests.

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This is the bus that delivered many of the guests this year.

Thanks to Cedar Key Woman's Cub Member Paula Wescott and a bit of serendipity, a busload of women came from Gainesville to attend the event. This was a first – a busload of women coming to the fashion show.

Wescott, who is also a member of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles (#4194) of Cedar Key, sold a ticket to a member. That member had a friend in Gainesville who wanted to go too.

One thing led to another, and the next thing anyone knew -- there were 23 women on a bus from the Oak Hammock community coming to enjoy the event.

A reliable source mentioned that while the husbands of the women from Gainesville chose against attending, several of them rented golf carts and toured the island at the same time.

To make it easier for readers with particular interests, this story is subdivided – The Vendors; The Luncheon; The Presentations; The Quilt Winner; “Divine Ladies” In Cedar Key Model Fashions; and finally, the Grand Finale.



The chandeliers are an added touch to add even more class to this fun fashion show.

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The Vendors

While the luncheon began at bit before noonish, the fun began at 10ish as artisans and vendors set up their tables.

This set of people gave the women plenty of opportunities to buy jewelry, artwork, books, soaps, candles and much more. And by lunch, there was quite a hubbub at each table as the buyers showed each other their finds and acquisitions before lunch.

That activity continued even after the grand finale.

The vendors this year were Misty Baker (Elegant DeLites); Lynn Sylver; Esta Johnston (Cedar Key Hand Prints); Marie Lewis (Marie Designs); Darlene White; Emily Colson {represented this year by her grandmother Sue Colson} (Cedar Key Scrubs); Connie Nelson; Donna Bushnell; Amy Gernhardt (helping people sign up for a Cedar Key Historical Society event); Jane Velcamp and the Cedar Key Woman's Club Trinkets & Treasures Collection.



Esta Johnston holds some of her artwork. This is a sketch to show what used to be known as the Honeymoon Cottage that was on stilts out in the Gulf of Mexico. That is what is on the tee-shirt she is wearing as well. That structure is just stilts now.

Johnston a former illustrator for the University of Florida Biological Sciences Department and then an illustrator at The Smithsonian (and now retired from that) was selling her sketches. Tee shirts where she created the art as well were selling like hotcakes as well.

Baker and some of the other vendors found their unique handmade jewelry was marketed in just the right place at the perfect time. Members and guests of the Cedar Key Woman's Club made the rounds of shopping before and after the luncheon and fashion show.

Emily Colson was unable to attend due to a death in the family. However, her grandmother Sue Colson was present to represent Cedar Key Scrubs.

Among the items Colson was selling were her granddaughters' homemade soaps. These soaps included ingredients from the Cedar Key Community Garden, Riely's Raw Honey and the surrounding natural environment. Even the salts, Sue Colson said, come from the waters next to the island, after those molecules are evaporated back into the atmosphere.

Colson chose the name Cedar Key Scrubs from the scrub lands that are nearby and from the idea of

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soap being used to scrub a person clean. Her grandmother noted that Emily is a Cedar Key School graduate, a Santa Fe College graduate and an entrepreneur of the highest magnitude in Cedar Key.



Sue Colson holds some of the products that her granddaughter Emily Colson sells.



Marie Lewis of Marie Designs holds a copper piece of jewelry she created.

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Lewis said some of the jewelry she sells is made from sea glass. This glass primarily comes from the shores of Lake Erie, where they call it beach glass.

Many of the ladies shared the happiness of having found just the right pieces of locally made jewelry as they returned to share with their colleagues at the many different round dining tables



Jane Velcamp (in the cattlemoan's hat on the right) speaks with a person who bought her children's book *Beauty and the Beak*. To read a story about Velcamp by Teri Brennan click [HERE](#). To read a story about Velcamp by Jeff M. Hardison click [HERE](#).



Desserts, desserts, desserts

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Desserts, desserts,



The Luncheon

Members and guests all found their chairs. Cedar Key Woman's Club (CKWC) President Jane Moore politely brought the roar of the crowd to become a whisper and then to silence.

Yes, they are women – hear them roar; and hear them be polite as they listen to others.

President Moore mentioned the group that “came all the way from Gainesville” and she also spoke about other visitors from other parts of Florida.

Eileen Senecal, a very active member of the CKWC, invited her daughter Charlene Snyder from Port Richey, and her sister-in-law Lorraine Skeldon from Beverly Hills. It was the first CKWC Fashion Show for those two ladies, as it was from some number of other guests.

And with President Moore having a place in her heart for a nearby country, and with this being International Women's Day, there was another island declaration as well.

“I think there are people here from Newfoundland (Canada),” President Moore said.

Many members of the audience very loudly noted their happiness at hearing this announcement.

The lunch was a delicious tuna salad, apple and cranberry mix on a leaf of Romaine lettuce. A

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small rectangle of some sort of special cranberry-mix gelatin and a crescent roll were part of the main lunch as well. Tea and water were available for drinks.

The several dessert tables covered with items made by 35 different CKWC dessert contributors were the key of this event on Cedar Key. Many of the diners commented on the delicious strawberries this year too.

The luncheon was certainly something to write home about, but the dessert tables would call for a telegraph in the days of old and absolutely resulted in some instant Facebook and other social media posts.

The range of desserts was awesome. There was an impressive array of different chocolate-covered, chocolate foundation, cream-filled baked goods, through an assortment of bon-bons, éclairs, miniature cupcakes galore, and a huge array of every type of finger dessert imaginable. And the amount seemed endless. Everyone was invited to help themselves to take desserts home too.

The luncheon began with a similar grace as was carried from its start to finish.

Pastor Robin Jocelyn of Ellzey United Methodist Church (Town of Otter Creek) gave the devotional prayer. Cedar Key Woman's Club members served each person at their tables.

The Presentations

One CKWC member who is relatively renowned for her character was present.

The Tacky Tourist (Eileen Senecal) helped President Moore deliver information to the people at the luncheon.

She mentioned that she has never been a model. Then she spoke about the Pirate Invasion of Cedar Key in December, when the pirates shanghaied her and put tattoos all over her – therefore, this fashion show she may well be The Tatty Tourist.

The Tatty Tourist told a lively tale about her adventure with the pirates, who left town. Then Cedar Key Police Chief Virgil Sandlin took her to Another Way – which is a shelter for abused women.

There are 35 beds at this shelter in Chiefland, Tacky said.

Another Way is among the recipients of monetary gifts from the CKWC. During the presentations, Tacky Tourist was given a check for \$500 to give to Another Way, and by her going from table to table, she collected almost another almost \$350 to give to that group.

Tacky, or Tatty as she became known, said Another Way has 75 percent of the money it needs to replace a van it uses. She hopes the CKWC and other groups in Levy County can help Another Way with this project.

Fisher House

From the 2017 Fashion Show, the CKWC donated a \$1,000 scholarship for a graduating female senior from CKS, and the club bought shoes for the Lady Sharks Basketball Team.

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Accepting checks from CKWC Treasurer Susan Hollandsworth to present for various causes, the following women are seen here -- Sue Colson \$500 for the CKS Youth Summer Program; Brenda Coulter an amount for some structure behind the community center; ten, \$25 gift cards to Robin Jocelyn to present to the Levy County Guardian Ad Litem Program; Judy Treharne \$500 for the Cedar Key Food Pantry; Tina Berger \$500 for the CKS to have art supplies; Susan Rosenthal \$500 for the PTO to give \$500 for CKS Fifth Graders' Safety Patrol Trip to Washington, D.C.; and The Tacky Tourist to give \$500 to Another Way, plus the almost \$350 she collected by strolling around the event with a can.



The Quilt Winner

Last year, Eileen Senecal won the quilt.

This quilt is made during the summer by CKWC members. The name of the quilt this year was "Serenity of the Sea."

The winner of the quilt this year was Pat Casey.

There was also a 50-50 draw and several door prizes were awarded.

Money raised in this quilt raffle goes to the Fisher House of Gainesville.

Pat Casey stands with the quilt she won in the raffle.

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Divine Ladies In Cedar Key Model Fashions

The fashion show this year featured two aspects. President Moore explained “Homemade in Cedar Key” and “Shopping at Belk In Gainesville” were the two factors.

CEDAR KEY FASHION SHOW



Students from Cedar Key School’s Sharks Sewing Club. (The CKS teams are Sharks. It’s not like the students sew clothing for sharks.)

The Models

This year’s models (above) were Karen Decker, Beth Wright, Kathy Salkaln, Becky LaFountain, Gini Barss, Kathy Freidenfelds, Marie Evans, Alexa Lipscomb, Serenity Yearly, Taylor West, Vicki Crumpley, Teri Brennan, Macy Ryan, Ann Morgan and Makenna Stottlemyre.



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During the fashion show part of the event, as President Moore described each model's attire, Pat Stephens performed the background music on the piano.

Each model from the Belk group represented a month of the year, and the CKS students showed the clothes they designed, cut and sewed for the show.

The Grand Finale

The Grand Finale this year was produced by Judy Duvall and Eileen Senecal.

It included a raucous dance routine, complete with throwing of undergarments and The End.

https://youtu.be/T6yMMF_KG4w

This video captures the last part of The Grand Finale. It is interesting.