

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE (NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK IS APRIL 23-29)

CATHERINE J. ROURKE
For the Siuslaw News

Ginny Kelly

our priority list," Kelly said. "Volunteering is the greatest gift because we're the ones who receive. It teaches you not to judge people because they're down and out. Everyone deserves the dignity of food, shelter and support when it's needed."

For Kelly, volunteering comes naturally. The Texas native traces her volunteer roots to a family tradition of giving back. With parents and a brother who remained actively involved in their local community in Lubbock, Kelly grew up learning the value of making time for others.

"Wherever there was a

need, my family was there," she said. "Our table was always set for another unexpected place. They instilled a strong ethic in me for sharing whatever we had without expecting anything in return."

That also included the local turtle races as well as serving on hospital and school boards, in Scout troops and preparing food boxes for the needy.

"Lubbock was a caring place to grow up," Kelly said. "If some tragedy befell a family, everyone pitched in to help. I learned early on that the sun is still going to shine tomorrow and having faith in others and ourselves holds it all together."

A longtime Master Gardener who still maintains a beautiful garden, Kelly began planting her first seeds at age 6. She would continue nurturing young sprouts as an educator and volunteer throughout her life. After graduating college, she taught third grade in Lubbock and became interested in another form of roots — in words.

"I wanted to teach Latin because its root words helped me so much in science and other college subjects," she said. "It was important for me

to instill that appreciation for Latin in my students because most of our words stem from it."

Kelly found creative ways to make the language fun for her sixth-graders, such as writing valentines in Latin, and claims many students returned years later to tell her how much it helped them with their studies.

"Teaching is a form of giving," she said. "My students gifted me and we all grew together."

Naturally, Kelly found many ways to integrate her legacy of volunteering into her 34-year career in education. As a barrio schoolteacher, she took it upon herself to expand her students' horizons beyond the classroom. Kelly's extracurricular excursions included trips to the library, the local university and even McDonald's since many had never experienced any of these places.

"It's just amazing how we often marginalize people," she said. "Opening doors for others makes you feel so good and happy inside even when just making a difference for someone for a day."

It was during her early

teaching career that Kelly met another volunteer who would inspire her to reach out in even greater ways. Gary, a volunteer for the Jaycees and United Way who loved bringing Christmas to less fortunate kids, soon became her husband.

"When you see the kindness that results when a person respects and values all walks of life and gives back, that fosters love," she said.

The couple devoted their summers to delivering Meals on Wheels together and volunteering at a community garden. After retiring in 1998, they traded the sand hills of Texas for the sand dunes of Florence and immediately added Food Share and Habitat for Humanity to their ongoing meal rounds for shut-ins.

"Florence has a beauty in its people as well as in the land," she said. "We wanted to live in a vibrant community that supports schools, the library and the hospital. Schools are so important because we must invest in our children; they are our lifeline to what happens next."

The seeds planted long ago through volunteering as Master Gardeners and other causes blossomed into rich friendships for Ginny and Gary, who also enjoyed fly fishing as well as "eating and cooking with friends."

While Gary recently passed away, Ginny continues to volunteer at Meals on Wheels, noting it's not just the gift of food but that of a kind word or smile. She has now devoted a total of 19 years to local com-



PHOTO BY CATHERINE ROURKE

Ginny Kelly learned about "the gift of volunteering" at an early age.

munity volunteer projects.

"All that people do here to help others is so amazing," Kelly said. "They just give and give and give. In a world of so much 'gimmees,' it's reassuring to see so much giving back. When you give, you can smile in your sleep at night."

Founded in 1974 by the Points of Light foundation, National Volunteer week recognizes those like Kelly who lend their time and talent to be the change they wish to see in the world.

This week, we encourage the community to recognize all the countless volunteers at organizations like the Boys & Girls Club, Rotary, Food Share, Helping Hands, Habitat for Humanity, Western Lane Community Foundation, Oregon Coast Humane Society, the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter group and so many others enhancing lives and often saving them too.

Catherine J. Rourke is an award-winning journalist, author and book editor who teaches creative writing at the Florence Regional Arts Alliance. Email her at CJReditor@gmail.com.

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To be included in this directory contact
the Siuslaw News at 997-3441, or drop off
information at 148 Maple St., Old Town, Florence.

JOIN US IN WORSHIP

WATCH! 3 ANGELS BROADCASTING NETWORK
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24 hour Christian TV highlights Bible studies of prophecy, inspirational music, health lectures, healthy cooking and more.

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**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
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Located at Munsel Lake Road and North Fork Road
Worship Services 10:00 AM Sunday
All are welcome! 541-997-7268

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer -- 997-7418
Sunday School, 9:30a.m. - Worship, 10:45
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. - Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Corner of 10th & Maple -- 997-3533
Wednesday, 7 p.m. - Family Connections
Sunday, 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. - Worship Services
florencecrossroad.org • office@florencecrossroad.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. - 997-7660 • Pastor, Dr. Marvin Owen
Series "People of the Bible." on Wednesdays 6 p.m.
A friendly place to worship, vacationers welcome.
Sun.; 11am & 6pm, Sunday school 9:45am.

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2nd & Ivy - 997-2961 - Non-Denominational
Worship Service: 9:00 am & 10:30 am
Middle School and High School youth groups meet on Wednesday.

FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)
1833 Tamarack Street (2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.
www.churchofchristflorence.org

FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal -997-9020
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
10 am Wed., Women's Bible Study
Saturdays, Mens' Breakfast @ 8 a.m.
Online Worship Service@ www.florence naz.com

FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1318 Rhododendron Dr. -- 997-2523 - Worship at 11:00 AM -- Sunday
School at 9:30 AM - Variety of Sunday evening activities - 5 PM
Wed. Bible & Children classes at 6:00 PM
Call for details.

FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) - 997-3951
Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M.
Adult/Children's Sabbath School 9:15 A.M.

**FLORENCE UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP**

N.W. Corner of Heceta Beach Road & Hwy. 101
Every Sunday at 10 a.m.
All are welcome. (541) 997-2840

FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1st Sunday of each month worship at 10:30 am
2nd-5th Sundays worship at 9am and 10:30am
Every Sunday Adult Sunday School at 9am
Children and Youth Sunday School at 10:45 AM
2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) -- 997-6337
Pastor George Pagel - Something for the entire family.
Sun. Services: 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.
Website: florence4square.com

FLORENCE VINEYARD (GOD'S POWER HOUSE)

2610 Kingwood, Florence • 541-268-2025
Sunday Worship @ 10:00 a.m., experience the Power of the Holy Spirit
Pastors: George & Beverly Sisemore
Intercessory Prayer & Worship, Thursday night @ 5:00 pm
florencevineyardchurch.com

NEW LIFE CHURCH-UPC

1424 15th Street • 541-991-9398
Sunday Services: 10am and 6pm
Tues. Bible Study 7:00pm

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.

21st & Spruce Street - 997-8113
Adult Forum 9 a.m. - Sunday School 10:30 a.m.
Worship services: Sun. 10:30am & Wed. 6pm.
Pastor Lori Blake
www.lutheranchurchflorence.com

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW

Traditional Worship Service 10:00 a.m., Reverend Greg Wood
Sunday School and Nursery - Organ and Choir
All Welcome. Come as you are.
3996 N Hwy 101 997-7136

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

"War is still not the answer." FCNL
We worship in homes at 11am Sundays
Call 997-4237 or 902-9511 for locations.

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH, L.C.M.S.

Every Sun., Bible Class 9 a.m., Worship Service 10 a.m.
85294 Hwy. 101 S. - 997-8038
DVD of Weekly worship service available.
Pastor Randy Bencotter

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2135 19th St. - 997-6600
8:30am, Tuesdays, Morning Prayer
Sunday Services: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. - Wed, 11 a.m.
Everyone Welcome - Come walk our Labyrinth.

**SAINT MARY, OUR LADY OF THE DUNES
CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Masses: Sat. 5:30 p.m., Sun. 11:00 a.m.
1.5 miles south of river on Hwy 101 - 997-2312

Rose and Crown celebrates Earth Day today with class

Celebrate Earth Day with the magic of bitters and medicines from the earth during Rose & Crown Apothecary's "Herbs for Digestion, Weight Loss and Metabolism" class today from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

"Incorporating bitter herbs into our diet has many benefits, including decreased sugar cravings, healthier digestion, increased nutrient absorption and weight loss," said Apothecary Co-founder & Herbalist Patricia Immel. "We have a fun, informative class prepared for you with many herbs to sample and recipes for you to try. Celebrate Earth Day with the gifts of wild medicine."

When people taste bitter their digestive system is activated. Enzymes and hormones are released for optimal digestion reducing gas, bloating, heartburn, indigestion and stomach upset.

Research shows that bitters reduce appetite, consumption and waistlines. Bitters are also effective to lower blood sugar and cholesterol levels.

The liver also responds to bitter. Bitter enhances the flushing of inflammatory compounds and irritating substances from our body. The liver detoxification function is optimized, blood is

cleansed and inflammation is reduced. This is why bitter herbs are recommended to alleviate headache, pain, fatigue, allergies, asthma and skin conditions including acne.

The Rose & Crown Apothecary is an expansion of the Wellspring Clinic. It is a special place to learn about herbs, medicine making and to enjoy a hand-selected variety of organic bulk herbs and teas. This working apothecary also specializes in custom tea blends and herbal consultations with Immel and Horticulturist Sarah Butte. You'll also find handcrafted organic skin-care products and distinctive gift items.

At the heart of the apothecary are Immel and her daughter, Butte. Together, they create botanically based products to enhance health, beauty and vitality. They personally grow and carefully wildcraft many of the medicinal plants used in Rose & Crown products.

The class is free for Rose & Crown Herb Society members and \$20 for non-members.

Call 541-902-8860 to reserve a spot in this popular class. Rose & Crown Herb Society classes take place inside Rose & Crown Apothecary at 1845 Highway

**Deadline for Press Releases
Is Every Monday and
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