



PRESIDENT, AUNDREA WAGNER

AND CORPUSCLE

Happy New Year, Sisters!

As we welcome 2025, I want to take a moment to thank each of you for the amazing dedication and hard work you've brought to this season so far. Your commitment to volunteering, giving back, and supporting our mission and Museum has continued to make a wonderful impact in our community. Plus we had so much fun doing it!!

With just four regular meetings left in this 2024-25 season, let's make every moment count! We have many volunteer opportunities and exciting charity-focused events coming up, and your participation makes all the difference. We need all our sisters to make these events successful. Whether you volunteer, spread the word, or simply show up, your support is invaluable.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 8th, at noon, and I can't wait to see each of your beautiful smiling faces there!

Sending wishes to each of you for an incredible New Year filled with love, kindness, friendship, sisterhood, purpose, gratitude, positivity, and the joy of giving back.

*With love and a hug,  
Aundrea*

**WOMEN GET THINGS DONE -**  
PAUL EATON, RETIRED MAJOR GENERAL  
UNITED STATES ARMY

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We are excited to announce **Myra Cardi** as our January 2025 Woman of the Month! Myra has been a faithful member of the Key West Woman's Club and a dedicated year-round docent for our Museum. Her dependability and commitment every week helps to keep our free museum open to the public. Myra's storytelling and passion for sharing the history of Key West and the Curry Hellings Family enrich every visitor's experience. She is a treasured part of our Key West Woman's Club family, and we are so fortunate to have her!



**MYRA CARDI**

I asked Myra about what brought her to the Key West Woman's Club, her journey in Key West, her passions, and the causes that are nearest to her heart. Here's what she shared:

**How long have you been a member of the Key West Woman's Club?**

I think I was inducted in 2019.

**Where are you from and How long have you been in Key West?**

Born in Cambridge MA, grew up in NJ and first came to KW in 1975 . I have lived here full time since 2013.

**Background and hobbies/Interests?** My father was a poet who came to Key West to be among other writers and artists that were his friends and he was a founding member of the Writers Compound on Windsor Lane. He had a house built here in 1978 in which I now reside. I enjoy gardening, cooking healthy meals for myself and taking care of my kitties & I love riding my bike around the island

**What initially attracted you to join our women's club?** I wanted to contribute to the town and meet people. I truly love the wonderful ladies I have met!

**What are some causes or issues that are important to you?** I am extremely concerned with our environment and the preservation of what's left .

**What's your favorite book/movie/quote, or travel destination? Is there a fun fact or something unique or interesting about yourself that you'd like to share?** One of my favorite quotes-"I have promises to keep and miles to go before I sleep" Robert Frost - who was a close friend of my father's and with whom I spent some time with as a child in Vermont . I was fortunate to grow up in my father's creative world and met many interesting people thru the years. I was a classically trained singer and sang in rock bands for years in NJ/New York area. Now I'm pretty boring but try to find reasons to be cheerful every day.



*You Rock Myra!!!*



**SUSAN COLLIER**  
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



**I want to thank you all so much for your generosity of gifts for Poinciana Gardens. We had more gifts than we needed but we will be giving them as bingo prizes on our January 9th visit. We hope to see you there.**

**I also wanted to remind you all that a service for our beloved club member Mary Ann Finlay will be held at St. Mary's Church Saturday January 4th at 11 AM. A celebration of life will immediately follow at Key West Womans Club.**

**We will be at the club at 9:30 that morning setting up for the family. Any help from our members in setting up & clean up would be appreciated.**

**Wishing everyone a healthy & Happy New Year!**

**Susan**



*Mary Ann Finlay*

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# BINGO

## AND ICECREAM



### POINCIANA GARDENS

The Key West Woman's Club proudly sponsors  
**MONTHLY ICE CREAM SOCIAL and BINGO**

Join us on Thursday, **January 9, from 6-8 PM** for a fun-filled evening of Ice Cream and BINGO with our wonderful seniors!

**BINGO** takes place on the third floor, and the games start at 6 PM, wrapping up by 8 PM. The residents play 11-12 games, with each winner receiving a \$10 Publix gift card as a prize.

We are always looking for volunteers, and your presence truly adds to the excitement of the evening. If you are interested in helping with activities, we'd be thrilled to have you join us!

Questions contact

**Sandy Higgs 305-797-6992 or  
Susan Collier 609-425-0064**

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## Happy New Year and Happy 110 Anniversary of the KWWC!



Marlene Thorn

January will be the time that all the Key West Historic Days Celebration/110 KWWC Anniversary Day Captains/Chairs will be meeting with their Committees and making final plans and commitments for their day programs. They will also be planning for setting up arrangements, food and bar decisions and determining the additional volunteers needed to help on their day.

Those of you who recommended Community Partners should use January to make final commitments with them and ensure that they have forwarded the website information needed about their event. Kathy Hemmesch and Kathy Molina are the website designers for the Historic Days Celebration. The website will "go live" in January with additions/corrections being made as necessary. Tickets will be sold through KeysTix.

If you originally signed up to volunteer and were on the original planning meetings last April and May, and are not already on a Committee, please consider putting your name forward for activities such things as being a docent during the events, setting up, bringing food, serving, welcoming and registration/ticket desks, merchandise selling, raffle item and sales, and bar tending. There is plenty to be done for all of us! And plenty to Celebrate!

If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Thorn at [thornmarlene26@gmail.com](mailto:thornmarlene26@gmail.com)



## Restaurant Card Donations

Each month we present donations to various non-profit organizations with money raised from the sales of the Restaurant cards. Last month we donated to four wonderful organizations.

**Boys & Girls Club of Key West** is committed to promoting a safe, positive and inclusive environment for all. Their goal is to enable all young people, especially those who need it most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens.  
<https://bgckeywest.org/>

**Cooking with Love** has cooked, prepared, and delivered over 200 meals each Saturday to those on the island in need of a nutritional meal. If you would like to volunteer please contact Director, JJ Eller, at [jeller611@outlook.com](mailto:jeller611@outlook.com)

**Domestic Abuse Center of the Florida Keys** provides victims of domestic abuse and their families with safe emergency shelter, safety planning, risk assessments, crisis intervention, supportive counseling, advocacy services, Outreach in three locations throughout the Keys, support groups, courthouse accompaniments, information and referrals. All services are provided at no charge. <https://domesticabuseshelter.org/>

**Samuels House** in Key West provides housing for homeless women, women and men with children and intact families. They provide them with care coordination beneficial to their physical, mental and emotional and spiritual well-being.  
<https://samuelshouse.org/>



STACIE GLEASON

## Book Club

It's a great way to get to know other members in a more intimate enviromet.

- Jan 21 - How to Age Disgracefully by: Clare Pooley
- Feb 18 - The Plot by: Jean Hanff Korelitz
- March 18 - The Lion Women of Tehran by: Marjan Kamali



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## Saving Eleanor Donations

With the year end approaching, we would like to point out that Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from traditional IRAs are a tax-efficient way to donate to Saving Eleanor, as we are a 501(c)(3) charity. You must be 70½ or older to qualify.

QCDs do not count as taxable income. It satisfies as a Required Minimum Distribution (RMDs)

for those age 73 or older. The donation must be directly transferred to our club. An invoice for the donation can be provided upon request. Please consult with you tax advisor for further information.

THANK YOU!



**MARY KAY RICH**

### 2022-2023 Restaurant Card Donations: \$122,500

#### Charitable Grants (made in fiscal year 2023-2024):

Aleena Brown (KWHS Outstanding Student)

Alex Vega Fire Museum

Anchors Aweigh Club Inc.

Bahama Villiage Music Program

Botanical Gardens

Boys and Girls Club

Bridgette Sweeney (KWHS Scholarship)

Brook Biskupie (KWHS Scholarship)

Cancer Foundation of The Florida Keys

College of the Florida Keys

Comerstone Resource Alliance

Domestic Abuse Shelter

Dostmu Khammad (KWHS Scholarship)

FIRM Keys

Florida Keys Healthy Start

Friend's of the Library

Gracie Lechman (KWHA Scholarship)

Habitat for Humanity

Heron Guidance Care Center

Horace O'Bryant School

Inez Martin Child Care Center

Key Bridge Inc.

Key West Art & Historical Society

Key West Art Center

Key West Beauty Academy

Key West Chamber Foundation

Key West Community Orchestra

Key West High School

Key West Wildlife Center

Kids Come First

Kristopher Hackle (KWHS Scholarship)

Literacy Volunteers of America, Monroe Co

Metropolitan Community Church

Monaya Carey (KWHS Scholarship)

Mote Marine Laboratory

Old Island Restoration Foundation

Plant a Million Corals

Publix (Gift Cards for Coast Guard)

Red Barn

Reef Relief

Rural Health Network of Monroe County Florida Inc.

S.O.S.

Samuel's House

Silverliners

Sister Season Fund

Special Olympics

Studio's of Key West

The Fringe

The Marc

The Studios of Key West Inc.

The Tropic Cinema

United Way of Collier County & The Keys

VFW Post 3911

William Weech American Legion

William's Hall

Womankind



# Baby Time

## CHANGES TO BABY TIME

For some time now, the Woman's Club has been providing much needed baby clothing and supplies to families who commit to the Wesley House Healthy Families five-year program.

Beginning in 2025, we will not be holding a shower at the club. Instead, we are kindly asking for donations from our Amazon Wish List.

The list will be active from  
January 15th thru February 15th.

We will provide gender neutral 0-3 and 3-6 clothing and accessories/supplies. Fifteen baskets will then be given to Wesley House. They will hand them out to FIRST-TIME parents in need throughout the year.

Two volunteers are needed to co-chair the event and committee members are needed to open

Amazon boxes and sort items

Please contact Mary Kay Rich at  
[mkrich59@gmail.com](mailto:mkrich59@gmail.com) with any questions.



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## KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

Happy New Year! And thank you, thank you to the more than 100 members who logged volunteer hours in 2024. At least 100 of you used the new software, and many of you who don't use the Internet tracked your hours in our handy binder. I'm sending you big hugs for helping us qualify for future grant dollars that will make it possible to keep the Hellings Curry Museum beautiful and functioning so well for members and our community.



**KIM GORDON**

If you're new to logging hours, go to <https://bttr.im/wvxre> on your computer/laptop or iPad to easily create your own member profile. Or just use the handy QR code in this newsletter. Then the next time you can log in at [myimpactpage.com](http://myimpactpage.com). If you prefer to use the mobile app, go to your App/Play Store and look for "My Impact."

Did you join the club last April or anytime this season? If so, we've created a special event just for you. Please mark your calendar for **January 22, 11:30-1:00 p.m.**, for a fun new member orientation that includes an ideation session where we'll hear your ideas for community service. There will be a lovely lunch and we'll conclude with an historic tour of the house guided by Janie Teitelbaum, head of our docent program.

This month we welcome 5 new members. Regina Benetti is a world traveler with a background in business and marketing. Maura Gannon has been a concert promoter, business consultant and restaurateur, and you can now find her at Soul House. Artist and on-line gallery owner, Kathy Corey, exercises her MBA serving on the board of the Key West Art Center. Former Army test pilot, Diana Davis, is not only brave, but she has also founded two businesses and is president of her own financial planning company. Nancy Moulton has multiple degrees including a PH.D., and while running her own consulting business she also serves as the commander of the William Weech American Legion Post 168. Plus, this month I'll also formally introduce our member Meg Blake, a retired physician who loves to play the violin. What a remarkable group!

I'll close this column by introducing you to another incredible woman, long-term member Annita Tschanz. You may know Annita for her stellar work spearheading the Teddy Bears project as well as the upcoming Pack the Bags fundraiser for the Domestic Abuse Shelter. And now she has taken on leadership of the April awards luncheon. Annita was Woman of the Month last May and says she enjoys, "Meeting all the beautiful people of the club," and especially loves "sharing our experiences and talents to better serve the community."

## HOLIDAY DECORATION TAKE DOWN!!

We need your help with taking down the holiday magic at Eleanor.

Our **season's sparkle** is over the top beautiful, but soon it will be time to wrap it all up!



Please Join us for teamwork and lots of fun as we pack away her beautiful decorations and return her to her timeless beauty.

### WHEN:

**JANUARY 6TH , 2025**  
**10AM- UNTIL FINISH**

**ESTIMATE 2-3 HOURS**

Sign up with Volunteer Impact or Contact:  
Wendy Van Der Wegen 262-309-1912  
or Jane Goble 803-602-8342

# PLOGGERS BREAKFAST

**WHEN: FRIDAY  
JANUARY 10TH , 2025**

The Key West Woman's Club is hosting a Ploggers' Breakfast to thank the amazing volunteers who help keep Key West clean and beautiful. These hardworking individuals are out there making a difference, and now it's our turn to show them how much they're appreciated.

To make this event special, we need your help! Here's what we're looking for:

- **Food Donations:** Breakfast items like pastries, fruit, bagels, coffee, or juice would be perfect. Items can be dropped off the day before or between 7:15 - 8:00 on Friday. If the item needs to be warmed up please leave a note.
- **Setup Volunteers:** We need help getting everything ready to welcome our ploggers. 7:15am
- **Plogging -** be there at 8am and plogging takes about an hour
- **Tear down Volunteers:** We need help putting everything away around 9:15

If you can pitch in by bringing food or helping with setup, please let Betina or Jody know or sign up in the workroom.

This is a great way to support the people who help keep our island paradise looking its best. Thank you in advance for your generosity and for stepping up to make this breakfast a success!

**Contact:  
Betina Justice 423-618-8284**



## Hosted by

Sheryl Hoss  
Maxine Pollack  
Lisa Loma  
Marilou Howell  
LaLita Free  
Conner Boyd



JOIN US FOR OUR MONTHLY  
WOMEN AND WINE EVENT!  
BRING A FRIEND, ENJOY  
DELICIOUS WINE AND  
APPETIZERS PROVIDED BY OUR  
WONDERFUL HOSTESSES, AND  
CONNECT WITH AN AMAZING  
GROUP OF WOMEN.  
MOCKTAILS WILL ALSO BE  
AVAILABLE—SOMETHING FOR  
EVERYONE!

WE CAN'T WAIT TO  
SEE YOU THERE!

## BE A HOSTESS!

### IT'S A SIMPLE PROCESS:

- HELP WITH THE SETUP.
- BRING ONE APPETIZER AND ONE DESSERT (FINGER FOODS WORK BEST).
- PROVIDE TWO LARGE BOTTLES OF WINE (1.5 LITERS—ONE WHITE AND ONE RED) TO SHARE.
- STAY FOR CLEAN-UP AFTERWARD.

### THAT'S ALL IT TAKES!

THIS IS A VERY CASUAL  
GATHERING AND A FUN WAY  
TO EARN HOURS OF  
VOLUNTEER SERVICE  
TOWARDS YOUR YEARLY  
10 HOUR MEMBERSHIP  
REQUIREMENT.

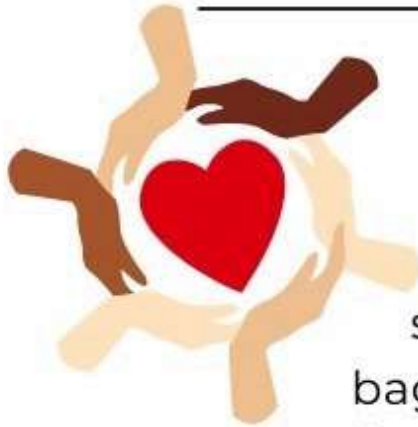
IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP HOST

## WOMEN AND WINE

ANY MONTH OR ON  
**FEBRUARY 19TH,**  
**4:30-6:00**

PLEASE TEXT OR CALL

**ROXANNE WOOD**  
HOSPITALITY DIRECTOR  
562-716-2786



## FEBRUARY 19, 2025

We will be packing nylon cinch bags for the domestic abuse shelter's clients. We will pack 100 bags filled with personal care items as well as five dollar gift cards to McDonalds or Wendy's.

A list of items needed will be available at the meeting next week as well as on the website. All items need to be brought to the club by

**Thursday, February 13.**

We will pack the bags at women and wine on February 19.

Questions call Annita Tschanz  
at 513-594-3711



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**JODY, CATHY AND PERK OPEN FOR TOURS ON NEW YEARS DAY**

### **Why Our Volunteer Docents are the Heart of the Hellings Curry Museum**

At the Hellings Curry Museum, our dedicated volunteer docents are the true storytellers of Key West's history. Thanks to their passion and commitment, our historic home has become a very popular tourist attraction, drawing visitors who are eager to learn about The Key West Woman's Club, the Hellings Curry family, and the unique history of Key West.

### **Why Are Docents So Important?**

Our docents do more than just guide tours—they bring our history to life. Without them, we wouldn't be able to maintain our status as an official museum or qualify for critical grants from the Tourist Development Council (TDC), which help fund important restorations to preserve our Eleanor. The time and energy our docents share help keep our museum running, ensuring visitors have a wonderful experience while also contributing to the continued preservation of this historic landmark.

### **YOU CAN BE A HELTINGS CURRY MUSEUM DOCENT TOO!**

We are always looking for more volunteers to join our docent team. It's a fun and easy way to get involved with our organization, fulfill your volunteer hours, and share some cool history of Key West. If you love meeting new people, enjoy learning and sharing history, and want to be a part of something meaningful, we would love for you to join us!!

Don't worry if you're unsure about what to say—you can always drop by, sit on the porch and take it all in! You will have plenty of time to learn the stories and become a part of our of history-loving volunteer docents team!

Interested?

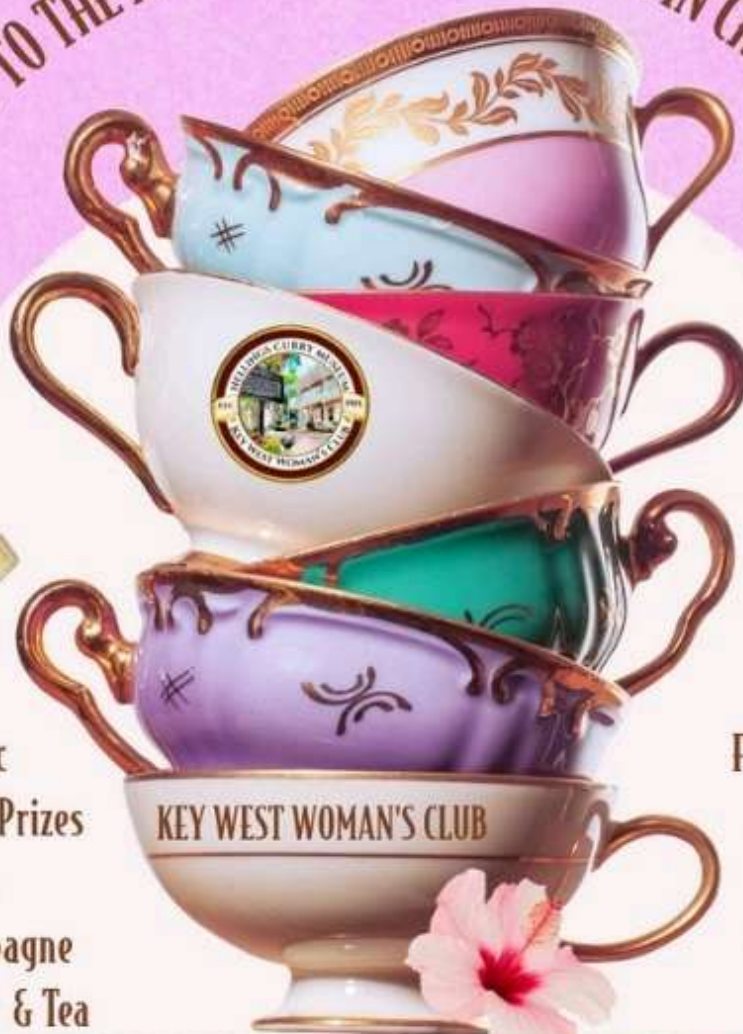
Contact Jane Teitelbaum at [jteitelbaum@pacbell.net](mailto:jteitelbaum@pacbell.net) or 415-308-0236 to learn more.

# Bougie Afternoon Tea Party

Saturday, January 18th , 3:30pm to 7pm



ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE KWWC'S FIRST TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN SCHOLARSHIP



Live Music  
Fun Contests & Prizes  
Cocktails  
Wine & Champagne  
Beautiful Decor & Tea

Finger Sandwiches  
Petite Quiches  
Salads  
Scones & Cream  
Desserts

TICKETS AT [KEYSTIX.COM](http://KEYSTIX.COM)

## Thank you to our Sponsors



*Ileana Garcia*  
*Joe Garcia*

🎵 **MAKE NEW FRIENDS, BUT KEEP THE OLD... 🎵**  
**"ONE IS SILVER AND THE OTHER GOLD!"**

**Join Us for a  
Silver & Gold Celebration  
When: Thursday, January 30  
Time: 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM  
Where: Key West Woman's Club**

**We are honoring our longest-serving members  
(our "gold") while welcoming our newest members  
(our "silver") for a evening of friendship and  
dancing!**

**Our "golden" hosts—Susan and Bruce Mitchell,  
and our 2022-2023 Man of the Year,  
Don Rich are serving up the main course!**

**This is a special celebration for  
Woman's Club Members Only**

**What to Bring: Yourself and a side dish to share  
(Spouses or Significant Loves are welcome too!)**

**Event Line-Up:**

**Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM**

**Dancing: 6:30 - 7:30 PM**

**Bust a move to the KWWC Dance Playlist**



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THE KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS

# WEARABLE ART FASHION SHOW



COMING SOON

# FEB. 15 2025

2:PM-5:PM

GET TICKETS  
[@keystix.com](https://www.keystix.com)

LIVE AUCTION  
LOCAL INNOVATION  
SCHOLARSHIPS  
AWARDS

Hellings Curry Museum  
319 Duval Street



WOMEN GET THINGS DONE!  
1915 2025



KEY  
WEST  
WOMAN'S CLUB

*110th Anniversary*

Key West Historic Days Celebration • April 3-6, 2025

**Join Us for  
Four Unforgettable Days!  
We Will Celebrate Key West History  
and Honor the Remarkable Women  
Who Have Shaped Our Island Over the last  
110 Years!!**



last phase of shutter instillation





*Tid Bits from*  
**2006**

*Thank you for reading*



Anne McKee surrounded by friends.



Nita Bigelow, Dee Johnson, Judy Gornitz, Norma Ginnore, Elizabeth [unclear], Key West Women's Club President Mona Santiago, Elbert [unclear]



Larry Johnson was awarded "Man Of The Year"



Shoshanna Lichtenstein was presented the Woman of The Year Award by club president, Mona Santiago and VP Joy Rodriguez.

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# WOMEN AND WINE WEDNESDAY



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**POINCIANA GARDENS**



**TEDDY BEAR SHARING**





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Apr 2	Wednesday	Awards/Membership Meeting	noon		
Apr 3-6		Historical Days Event			
Apr 10	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6 – 8pm		
April 16	Wednesday	Women & Wine	4:30 – 6:00		



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