



KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB



PRESIDENT, AUNDREA WAGNER

AND CORPUSCLE

Tis the Season, Sisters!

It is so wonderful to be back in full swing!

Mark your calendars for our next meeting on **December 4 at noon.**

I hope you will join us! We will enjoy a delicious holiday lunch, with the main course prepared by our very own Chef Martha Hubbard. We are expecting a crowd, so if you could bring a side dish or dessert to share, that would be very helpful. If you still have Teddy Bears, please bring them to this meeting so we can make sure they reach our first responders in time for Christmas.

November was a great month! We went all out for the Veterans Day Parade as it rolled down Duval Street! It was so much fun honoring our veterans and celebrating the incredible construction workers who have been instrumental in helping us save Eleanor. A big thank you to our event chairs, **Roxanne Wood, Susan Collier, and Linda Badwey**, for pulling it all together, and to **Don Rich** for manning the grill and serving up delicious burgers and hot dogs!

Our November Women and Wine event was totally awesome! Thank you to our wonderful hostesses! Great teamwork ladies! We also had the pleasure of hosting our sisters from the Lower Keys Woman's Club for this event. What a great group of ladies, it was so nice to have them join us.

Our Third Annual Museum and Docent Appreciation Reception was another outstanding event. **Thank you, Thank you, Thank you** to everyone who helped make this event a success!

Special recognition to the amazing **Marlene Thorn, Kim Livingston, and Carol Rezba** for organizing such a lovely gathering. Your efforts truly brought us and other museums together to celebrate our shared mission.

The halls have been decked, and Eleanor is shining like the star she is!! **BIG THANK YOU** goes to **Wendy and Dave Van Der Wegen**, our “power couple” who give their heart and soul every year to make our historic home so beautiful and festive. Another special thank you goes to our **November Woman of the Month, Jane Goble**. Her design expertise has turned Eleanor into a stunning showplace! Jane not only worked tirelessly on the holiday décor but also designed and donated the beautiful new valences in our meeting room. They look SO BEAUTIFUL!!!

Exciting news that I am over the top excited to announce (drum roll...) The appointment of our new board member and **Hospitality Director, Roxanne Wood!** Thank you Roxanne for all you do and continue to do for our organization and for sharing your talents with us. We are so lucky to have you!

It's almost time for our Annual **Community Holiday Open House!** **December 8, 3:30-6:30**. This year's beloved tradition is made possible thanks to the incredible generosity of **Historic Tours of America**, and we couldn't be more grateful for their continued support! I hope you will join in for a magical evening filled with community fun and holiday cheer. We will be serving the one and only famous **Amsterdam Egnog** generously provided by **Phil and Nancy Amsterdam**. **Mr. Santa Mac and Mrs Santa Cindy McClausland** will be on hand to visit with the children. Performances by Bahama Village Children's Choir and the Key West Community Orchestra will bring holiday music to our ears. To top the night off, we will light up our beautiful Christmas tree with the help of Key West Mayor **Dee Dee Henriquez**. This is a beautiful night of holiday music, and community spirit! Donations of unwrapped, new clothing items for students K-12 are appreciated.

For those who like to plan ahead, we have included a full calendar at the end of this newsletter. Don't forget to check our signup sheets in the workroom or use our new volunteer app to stay up-to-date with all the cool things going on this season.

I am honored to lead this organization and witness the incredible work you ladies continue to do for our club and community. As we approach this holiday season, may your hearts be filled with joy, your homes with laughter, and your lives with the blessings of love and peace. Thank you for all you do, Your love and dedication inspire me every single day! I couldn't ask for a better group of women to call sisters.

*Happy Holidays
With love,
Aundrea*

WOMAN OF THE MONTH

I'm excited to announce **Diane May** as our December 2024 Woman of the Month!

Diane has been a devoted member of our club for over ten years, embodying the spirit of service and community. Whether she's lighting up the stage in a local play or selflessly driving someone to Miami for a medical appointment, Diane's impact on those around her is nothing short of inspiring. As our longtime Fantasy Fest façade captain, she's brought creativity and dedication to one of our favorite traditions. I couldn't be more grateful for all she's done! I asked Diane 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.



DIANE MAY

Here's what she shared:

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

I think it was 2012. I had just moved here full time and felt embraced by the lovely women of the Woman's Club.

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

I raised my family in Reston, Virginia, outside of DC. I was active there in the Junior League of Washington and have always loved working with community volunteers. We became snowbirds in 2004. After I became a widow in 2009 I realized Key West was home. It took a few years to let go of Virginia, but I've been happy ever since!

Background and hobbies/Interests?

I have always lived a very Spiritual life. Crafts and designing, whether painting, sewing, jewelry making, building things, interior design, and writing, being creative, gives me energy. Cooking and creating yummy things for people, has always been a source of enjoyment. I can truly say I've never been bored. There is always inspiration to create something new. I made 36 gallons of mashed potatoes for Thanksgiving. I learned something new!

What initially attracted you to join our women's club? The wonderful people and their commitment to the community.

What are some causes or issues that are important to you?

People. Everyone can use support of some kind in their lives. I also am committed to creating the Key West Children's Museum in 2025. We will have exhibits to make our children little Key West Ambassadors, showing them many aspects of our island. I welcome all volunteers to join me!

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?

I love being in Key West! I call it my happy place, my fountain of youth! I keep forgetting to get old here! My favorite quote is "Who has more fun than we do?"

CLUB NOTES

LETS SHARE SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!!

With Christmas approaching let's share some holiday cheer with the residents of Poinciana Gardens. We will be meeting there Thursday Dec. 12th on the 3rd floor at 6 o'clock.

The residents will play bingo and one of our talented members, Camille Toler will lead us in Christmas Carols.



SUSAN COLLIER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

We are in need of 30 inexpensive wrapped gifts (\$15-20). Please mark them Woman, Man, or Either.

We will be collecting these gifts at our December 4th meeting We will also be passing around volunteer sheets at our meeting so members can sign-up to attend bring dessert or give a gift. Or you can sign up on our new site betterimpact.com

No matter how you celebrate this holiday season may it be filled with family, love & mistletoe!

**With Sister Hugs,
Susan**



KEY WEST HISTORIC DAYS

The Historic Days Celebration is shaping up to be fun filled days. The four days will include, Key West Woman's Club history and contributions to our Community, Tours of Curry Houses, Red Barn, a trolley tour of KW, history of Key West, Panels of generations of Key West Conchs, a panel of KW Culinary History, a Food Competition for a one Savory Dish and one Desert Dish, and local music and local vendors, including our own Woman's Club members. We will end the Celebration with a High Tea. It promises to be a great fun event.



Marlene Thorn

In January the Committees for all 4 Days will identify the additional needs for volunteers to make this event run smoothly. If you have not signed up yet, please do when there is a call for additional volunteers. Our member volunteers are very good at all the events and most of the tasks will be familiar to! You are experts at the Bar, the Cooking, the welcoming and registration and the clean-up and all the other things that make our Club so wonderful! In addition, please consider the following:

Vendor opportunities: If you are one of our wonderful artists, whether it be paintings, crafts, book authors, or have a store, etc., join us on April 5, Day 3, "the festival". Set up shop for free and sell your wares. Please let Aundrea or me, Marlene know if you wish to participate in this opportunity. If you are a Painter, please contact P.J Eaton for information on the Art Opportunity that the KW Art Gallery Center is planning.

Pianist: If you are a Pianist, and would volunteer to play Tunes of the Era of 1900- 1920's or ??, please contact Marlene. We would like to give KWWC Members this opportunity before we check the Community for this need.

Docents: We will need you on Thursday, Friday your regular hours, and we will need some for Saturday of the Festival. Contact us if Docents would like to sign up for Saturday.



COMMUNICATIONS

The Holiday's are here and so are the New Restaurant & Theater Cards!

We will have them on sale at the meeting



This year brings exciting updates to the card!

First, we are going **COLOR!!**

First, we're going full color! When the card launched 19 years ago, it featured around 10 restaurants and was priced at \$95. Now, with 32 restaurants and 8 theaters/venues, and after more than a decade without any price adjustments, we've decided to raise the price to \$120. Remember, 100% of these proceeds go directly to local charities.

In response to feedback from participating restaurants, we're also introducing two new restrictions:

- A maximum of 2 cards per table.
- Restaurants may add a gratuity of up to 20% based on the original check total.

Although we lost 8 restaurants for various reasons, we're excited to announce the addition of 6 new restaurants and 2 new theaters/venues.

We greatly appreciate our restaurants and servers and are committed to ensuring a



STACIE GLEASON

Join us for our monthly book discussion. It's a great way to get to know other members in a more intimate enviromet.

- Dec 17th - In Five Years by: Rebecca Serle
- Jan 21 - How to Age Disgracefully by: Clare Pooley
- Feb 18 - The Plot by: Jean Hanff Korelitz



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

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

CLUB MEMBERSHIP NEWS

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

Hi Ladies!

Starting at the October meeting, we began using a handy software program and app to log our volunteer hours and find fun ways to volunteer. It's easy to use and very important to the club because all our hard work for this community can help us qualify for essential grants.

So when you're ready to volunteer or log your hours for the first time, go to <https://bttr.im/wvxre> on your computer/laptop or iPad to easily create your own member profile. Then the next time you can simply log in at myimpactpage.com. You can also click the handy QR code below and that will take you to the website.

If you prefer to use the mobile app, just go to your App/Play Store and look for "My Impact." It will be an orange and green square from Better Impact. The mobile app is quite easy because it remembers your login details, so opening it will automatically access your profile! Questions? Reach out anytime to KWWCmembership@gmail.com, or click the chat button while using the program for immediate help 12/5 from a real, qualified person.



KIM GORDON

This month, We are excited to induct three new members on December 4. Please welcome Susan Beale, Janet Taylor and Oakleigh Waits. Susan is a highly creative person who is helping with the Teddy bear project and the Wearable Art Fashion Show among other activities. Oakley is a successful fashionista who has helped with activities from the Veterans Day parade to the India Hicks book signing. Janet owned a restaurant and catering business for 20 years and would like to continue to help us with hospitality. Each of these new members will be matched with a KWWC Big Sister, an experienced member who will introduce her to new friends and help her choose fun activities to get involved with at the club. These are some of our most illustrious members, so you'll have to wait until the December meeting for the big reveal to find out who they are.

Speaking of illustrious members, have you met Mimi McDonald? A member since 2002, Mimi is managing director of the Red Barn Theatre and has brought her theatrical talents to our club's holiday meeting for more than 20 years. She says, "Being acknowledged with the Extraordinary Contribution to the Arts award last year, inspired by the remarkable Anne Mckee, was a lifetime honor for me." And what Mimi treasures most about her many years with the club, are the exceptional women who've shaped this community and have mentored her throughout the years.

See you at the December meeting!
Yours in Sisterhood,
Kim Gordon



BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM



THE HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM
WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME
NEW SILVER BUSINESS MEMBER
KEY WEST BUSINESS GUILD!



PATRICIA NEYRA

The Key West Business Guild (KWBG) is a Not-for-profit organization (501C6) devoted to promoting Key West to LGBTQ+ travelers. They provide comprehensive information about Gay Key West and promote their members to a national and international travel market.

This work helps to attract about 250,000 LGBTQ+ travelers to Key West each year, earning Key West the well-deserved reputation as one of the most appealing gay-friendly destinations in the world.

The Guild was formed in 1978 to encourage summer tourism and support Key West's gay community. The KWBG is the nation's first LGBTQ+ destination marketing organization. From a small original membership, it has grown to include more than 475 enterprises representing virtually every facet of the island's business community.

Today, the Key West Business Guild ranks among the nation's leading gay business associations, and its marketing efforts, supported by the Florida Keys Tourism Development Council, incorporates a gay marketing specialist and an award-winning advertising campaign.

The Guild also operates the Gay Key West Visitor Center located at 808 Duval Street. Walk-in visitors can find a warm welcome and an informative introduction to the island, events, local businesses, and area attractions.

In addition, the KWBG produces several annual signature events that support area businesses and attract visitors from around the world: Key West Pride, Tropical Heat, Key West WomenFest, and Headdress Ball! LGBTQ+ visitors have something special to enjoy year-round.

Gaykeywestfl.com 305-294-4603

The support of our business community assists the HCM, home of the Key West Woman's Club, fulfill its mission of preserving the history of the museum and the culture of the Florida Keys for locals and visitors from around the world to enjoy. For more information regarding the benefits of becoming a business member please contact Board Member Patricia Neyra at KWWCmarketingdirector@gmail.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

IT'S A HOLIDAY TRADITION!

We need festive volunteers to help make our
Annual Holiday Community Appreciation
Open House unforgettable!

Join us in spreading joy and holiday magic to our
Key West Island Community

Key West Woman's Club

OPEN HOUSE

Sunday December 8, 2024

3:30-6:30

Join us for

Appetizers, Desserts, and Amsterdam Eggnog!

Music Presented by:

Bahama Village Children's Choir & Key West Community Orchestra

PHOTOS WITH SANTA AND SPECIAL TREE LIGHTING

*Donations of unwrapped, new clothing items for
students K-12 appreciated*

HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM
319 Duval Street

Huge Thank You to our Generous Event Sponsor!!



HISTORIC TOURS OF AMERICA

THE NATIONS STORY TELLER

If you would like to volunteer to bring appetizers, or desserts for this
very special Holiday event please Contact

Susan Mitchell 704-274-9091
or Aundrea Wagner 423-304-8982

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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**

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

BINGO AND ICECREAM



POINCIANA GARDENS

MONTHLY ICE CREAM SOCIAL and BINGO

Join us on Thursday, **December 12, from 6-8 PM** for a fun-filled evening of Ice Cream and BINGO with our wonderful seniors!

The Key West Woman's Club proudly sponsors **BINGO** on the second Thursday of every month, and we would love for you to be part of the fun.

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

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



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 HELLINGS 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 or 415-308-0236 to learn more.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hosted by

Sharon Smarsh
Oakley Waits
Susan Collier
Debbie Wilcox
Kathleen Fatica
Linda Badwey



Join us for our Monthly Women and Wine Event

Feel free to bring a friend who might be interested in joining our organization.

Enjoy a welcoming atmosphere, delicious wine and appetizers, all generously provided by our wonderful member hostesses. It's the perfect chance to unwind and celebrate the spirit of our club and community with an incredible group of women. Mocktails will also be available, so there's something for everyone. **We hope you will join us!!**

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
JANUARY 15TH,
4:30-6:00

PLEASE TEXT OR CALL

ROXANNE WOOD
HOSPITALITY DIRECTOR
562-716-2786