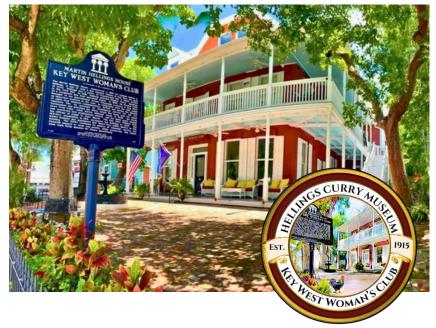
October 2025 Monthly Newsletter KEY WEST WOMANS CLUB





Welcome October!!

October has always been a month of new beginnings for the Key West Woman's Club. It was in October of 1941 that our members first gathered inside the home at 319 Duval Street, what we now lovingly call Eleanor. That meeting didn't begin our story. Before that October meeting, the women of this club had already been serving and uplifting Key West for more than twenty-five years. But it did mark a new chapter, one where we became the proud caretakers of this historic home that still stands as a symbol of our community spirit and commitment to giving back.

Eighty-four years later, as we celebrate our 111th year, we are still coming together each October to begin another season of community giving, friendship, and purpose. It was so wonderful to see so many of our sisters at our first meeting of the season. It was a beautiful reminder that sisterhood is alive and well within our walls. Thank you to everyone who brought a bottle of liquor to restock our Fantasy Fest bar. If you forgot yours, you can bring it to Women & Wine on October 15.

What's Ahead This Month:

Our 20th anniversary Restaurant Card is now on sale. For twenty years, this little card has helped us turn dining out into steady support for our community. Thank you to everyone who has purchased a card and to our generous restaurant partners who make it possible year after year.

Later this month, we'll celebrate Fantasy Fest with our Nightgowns & Nightcaps Parade Viewing Party and the return of our Over the Fence Liquor Sales Fundraiser. It's been quite a while since we've done it, but with your help, it can be a highlight once again. Our famous KWWC Monkey Punch will be back, and Glenda, our longest-serving member, is already mixing up her magic. She needs empty plastic milk jugs to store the punch for our three days of over-the-fence sales, so please drop them off at the club anytime. We will need lots of helping hands to make it all happen. Whether you can give an hour or an evening, your time truly makes a difference. Please let Letisia Powell, our event chair, know if you'd like to volunteer and be part of the fun!

We have so many ways to get involved in giving back this season, I encourage each of you to find a way to take part, because our community truly needs us. Every effort makes a difference and carries forward our mission of service and preservation.

As we step into our 111th year, let's continue the tradition of kindness and caring for one another and our island home. Because when we all work together, we get things done!

with Gratifude and Sunshine, Aundrea

Woman of the Month Octo

October 2025



We don't usually feature our board members, but Patty's dedication and commitment deserve recognition. She gives her time, and ideas with the goal of helping our club grow and thrive. As our Director at Large, Patty also built and leads our Business Membership Program, which has become such an important part of connecting our club to the wider Key West community. Her leadership and vision have opened new doors for collaboration and support that strengthen everything we do. Patty is not just dependable, she's inspiring. Her kindness, generosity, and follow-through remind us what it means to serve with heart. I couldn't be more grateful to work alongside her. Please join me in congratulating Patty Neyra, as our October 2025 Woman of the Month! She is a true example of Women who Get Things Done.

Patty Neyra

Where are you from and How long have you been in Key West? I was born and raised in Key West. I moved away for college in 1992, live in Broward and Palm Beach Counties for many years and then moved back home in 2009.

How long have you been a member of the Key West Woman's Club? 4- 5 years or so.

My life is so busy. I lose track of time.

What inspired you to join our club? Susan Mitchell. I loved her inclusiveness and positive energy. I remember Diane and I had dinner with her at Louis's Backyard upstairs. I said "I have good news! I'm going to be Vice President of the KW Chamber!" Then she said "Awesome! I'm going to be President of the KWWC!" At that point Diane and I committed to becoming active members in support of Susan. What is your favorite aspect of being a part of the Key West Woman's Club? I love the opportunity to work on something bigger than me. Like establishing and Co-Chairing with Kathryn Norris the Bougie Tea Party that funded the KWWC's 1st Take Stock in Children Scholarship for \$25,000. Something like that changes someone's life. That is so fulfilling.

Background, Hobbies, Interest Both my parents were born in Cuba. I had my DNA tested. My background is 60% Portuguese, 30% Spanish and 10% French. My professional background is in construction. I have been a certified general contractor since 1996. My hobbies are working out, walking with close friends, boxing with my trainer Rashad and playing pickle ball. My interests are traveling, investing and business. My newest interest is doing whatever I can to be an amazing mom to my 5-month-old puppy Gracy.

What causes are important to you? Key West historic preservation has been an important cause for me. My work at the KWWC has been dedicated to helping fund the restoration of the Hellings Curry Museum. I have done so by Chairing the Fantasy Fest Parade Party three years in a row bringing in around \$69,000 in profit. I also developed the KWWC sponsorship program which has brought in \$38,000 and the Hellings Curry Musuem Business Membership Program which has brought in \$13,500.

Fun fact about you, something unique or favorite book, movie, travel destination etc.. My middle name is Ali, inspired by Muhammad Ali. My mom said she wanted me to be strong a fighter. I think it's interesting that I would take up boxing in my early 50s.

You are amazing Patty thank you for your service!

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

On October 6, 1941, the Key West Citizen announced that the Key West Woman's Club would hold its first meeting in its new club home at 319 Duval Street, the former Hellings residence.

Under the leadership of then President Mrs. Wallace B. Kirke, the women purchased the home that summer for \$10,000, with Eleanor Hellings herself holding a note for \$4,000 to help make it possible. The main reason for the purchase was to give the Monroe County Public Library a permanent home, something the club had worked toward for many years.

Members spent months cleaning, restoring, and repurposing the house to serve the community. It quickly became a hub of activity and marked the beginning of the club's long stewardship of the beautiful home we now call Eleanor.

That October meeting opened a new chapter for the Key West Woman's Club, one that continues today through our care of the Hellings Curry Museum and our ongoing mission to serve and uplift the people of Key West.



THE KEY WEST CITIZEN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1941

: SOCIETY

Woman's Club To Meet Tuesday Afternoon in New Headquarters

(By RUBY MORGAN)

1941-42 season of the Senior Woman's Club will be held Tuesday afternoon at 4:00 o'clock. This will be the first meeting to be held in the new club home at 319 Duval street, formerly known as year will be announced. the Hellings' building.

stored and remodeled to accom- guest speaker. modate the Public Library which It is urged that all members of

The opening meeting for the Red Cross Sewing Rooms and two modern apartments.

Mrs. Frederic W. Knapp, president will conduct the meeting.

Committee chairmen for the

The program arranged by the The summer months have been National Defense Home and Combusy ones for the leaders in this munity Service chairman will be organization. The Hellings' build- of interest to all women. J. J. ing, which was purchased by the Trevor, chairman of Defense club in the summer is being re- Bond and Stamp sales will be the

the club sponsors, the club rooms, the Woman's Club be present.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Collect for Clubwomen

The collect for club women was written in 1904 by Mary Stewart, a high school principal in Longmont, Colorado. She originally penned it as a personal prayer for daily guidance and later shared it so that "women working together for large purposes" could have words to unite them.

It first appeared in The Delineator magazine and was later adopted by the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Our own club embraced it in 1926, and to this day, we begin each meeting by reading it together, a tradition that continues to remind us to be kind and generous.

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. Let us be done with fault-finding And leave off self-seeking. May we put away all pretense And meet each other face to face. Without self-pity and without prejudice. May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous. Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle. Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize it is The little things that create differences, That in the big things of life we are at one. And may we strive to touch and to know The great, common human heart of us all, And, oh Lord God, let us not forget To be kind!

w in Nightcaps & Nightgowns

a Moonlight Pajama Party

Fantasy Fest Parade Viewing

Saturday, October 25, 6:00pm-10:00pm

Two Premier Seating Options

VIP Velvet View: \$350 pp

- Reserved VIP table seating with prime parade viewing
- Signature welcome cocktail
- One premium drink ticket
- Evening hors d'oeuvres, gourmet dessert treats, Chocolate Fountain
- Access to Eleanor's Elixirs at The Martini Dream Bar

Star Light View: \$250 pp

- Reserved seating
- Evening hors d'oeuvres, gourmet dessert treats, Chocolate Fountain
- Access to Eleanor's Elixirs at The Martini Dream Bar

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSOR

Mount Sinai

MEDICAL CENTER

Key West

IN THE NEWS & ON A MISSION



A big thank-you to our Key West Woman's Club members who joined the Conch Republic Marine Army to help clean up the mangroves! This amazing local nonprofit has been working since Hurricane Irma to haul trash and debris from our island's shorelines, and our volunteers jumped right in—pulling ropes, nets, and storm leftovers from the mangrove roots. It was a great show of community spirit from our members who always find ways to make a difference in our community.











COMMUNICATIONS



Book Club



STACIE GLEASON

Oct 21 - "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting" by Clare Pooley Nov 18 - "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki Dec 16 - "The Matzah Ball" by Jean Meltzer



The KWWC Book Club
is assisting the
Friends of the Library
with a Murder Mystery
event. Stay tuned for
more information.

WEBSITE PROFILE

IF YOU GET A CHANCE PLEASE, CHECK YOUR PROFILE ON THE KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB WEBSITE TO MAKE SURE EVERYTHING IS CORRECT AND UP-TO-DATE. IF NOT OR IF YOU NEED THE PASSWORD TO ACCESS IT PLEASE SEND ME AN EMAIL TO KWWCSTACIE@GMAIL.COM

Marketing News

The Marketing Committee met on Sept 8 in order to get a jump on our responsibilities and tasks for Fall Season. We are ready! First up is Fantasy Fest in Oct, currently being marketed. Second is the Museum and Docent Appreciation Reception in Nov. and then comes our HolidayBlock Party/Festival and KWWC Open House. We are ready to Market! There are many volunteer opportunities for all those Fall events including decorating our beautiful house.



Marlene Thorn Second VP and Marketing Director

Check the additional volunteer opportunities throughout the Newsletter.

Volunteer Opportunities:

Museum and Docent Appreciation Happy Hour Reception: Please contact Marlene Thorn, Thornmarlene26@gmail.com if you are interested in volunteering for this Reception on November 6, 5:00 to 7:30. This event honors and thanks our Community Staff, volunteers, and our own Docents for the long hours they give to provide an enjoyable and informative time to our Key West visitors. Sign-up at the house on paper or on-line on Impact.

Waterfront Farmers Market and Artisan Market: Please contact Liz Calkin calkins.liz@gmail.com or Marlene Thorn, thornmarlene26@gmail.com if you are interest in volunteering to promote donations for Restaurant Cards, Cookbooks, and other KWWC merchandise/memorabilia. It is a fun way to meet new people, promote goodwill in the Community and inform the community about the KWWC. Sign-up at the house on paper or on-line on Impact.

KWWC Coordinator of Trivia Night at the Key West Cooking School: For Fun! to Support the Key West Cooking Show, who have been so supportive of the KWWC. Contact Marlene Thorn, thornmarlene26@gmail.com if you are interest in Coordinating the KWWC Trivia Team or signing up to play Trivia. So far, we have had only one member sign up for this event, so consider if you would like to be on the team and contact me for more information.

Back to our Roots! Calling all Gardeners: The KW Art and Historical Society will be planting trees and plants at the East Martello Towers with Landscape designs by Amy Dimukas. The Fort is in desperate need of trees/plants after the construction phase and storms of the past damaged the plants. Once the plans are approved by the airport they will proceed with acquiring plants and trees. The KWWC started the KW Garden Club many years ago. For all of us gardeners who love to propagate our yard plants and give them to others, please think about what you would like grow for KWAHS's tree planting Landscape project and let's go Back to Our Roots! Contact thornmarlene26@gmail.com. Let me know if you would like to be a part of this project—I have already started with Lignum Vitae seedlings, Pulmeria Frangipani tree cuttings, Asian Star bushes, Desert Rose Bush cuttings. More information to you as this project proceeds.

Fantasy Fest MARC bead recycling project:

MARC has partnered with Fantasy Fest for an eco-friendly recycling program. KWWC is participating in this program and we can donate beads at the House in a collection bin.

The House will be one of the locations throughout Key West that will collect the reusable beads. MARC will list us on their website and create a graphic with the logo for social placement.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Fall has marked the return of our fun general membership meetings and luncheons. A big thank you to our current members for your ongoing sisterhood and your most generous gift...your precious time as a volunteer. Our October 1 meeting marked the one-year anniversary of launching our volunteer software. And today, more than 150 members and prospective members are actively volunteering and recording their hours, which is essential to the club's receipt of grants to run our beautiful home and museum.



Kim Gordon, Membership Director

Our Fall new member orientation is scheduled for November 7 at 11:30. Were you a new member last season but unable to attend the Spring orientation, or were you inducted this month or plan to be in November? Then this is just for you! Aundrea will tell you about the history-making women who came before us, Janie Teitelbaum will give you an inside look at the treasures of our museum, and I'll lead an ideation roundtable where you will get to share your own ideas for helping the community and club!

Here are just some of the great ideas that were born in the ideation session last Spring... Stephanie Hench is creating a beautiful club flag. Roberta Isleib is creating a murder mystery at the library with a cookbook tie-in. Janine Jones Steely is organizing a country dance party for the Spring songwriters festival. Judy Sandground is planing a program to provide school supplies to in-need students. And Susan August is working on an initiative to provide art supplies to students of an elementary school followed by an "art show" and auction to benefit the school. WOW.

Three extraordinary women were inducted this month. Margie Smith is the director of development for Baptist Health Foundation fundraising to support clinical services throughout the Keys and has been instrumental in bringing cancer care back to the Keys. Donna Kuch owned and operated a manufacturing business in Ohio for 30 years that specialized in sewn packaging products for automotive manufacturers. And Meredith Tracy is the owner of a Key West property management business called Pineapple Properties of the Florida Keys. Let's make them feel welcome.

Are you hoping to join the woman's club? Once you've completed your ten or more volunteer hours and attended three general membership meetings, you're ready to submit your application. Just visit our website www.keywestwomansclub.org and click on the membership tab at the top. Please fill out your application right online, print it out and have it signed by your two sponsors. To be considered for induction in November, be sure to email your application to me at KWWCmembership@gmail.com by October 20.

And if you're a member or a volunteer planning to apply and new to recording your hours online, 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 login at myimpactpage.com. If you prefer to use the mobile app, go to your App/Play store and look for "My Impact."

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

In 2024, the Key West Woman's Club introduced the Hellings Curry Museum Business Membership program, giving local businesses a meaningful way to partner with us in preserving one of Key West's most treasured historic landmarks while helping us carry out our mission in the community. As a Business Member, you will receive social media recognition, a feature in the Key West Woman's Club newsletter, discounts on venue rentals, and VIP sponsorship opportunities. We invite you to join our distinguished list of current Business Members who are working alongside us to protect history and strengthen our community.



Patricia Neyra
Director at Large

First State Bank would like to celebrate their Platinum Anniversary with the Key West Woman's Club by becoming a Platinum Business Member of the Hellings Curry Museum. First State Bank has a long history of serving, reaching out, and connecting in the Florida Keys. We started out in 1955, with a single Key West branch and a handful of employees. As the Keys community grew, so did the Bank, steadily adding more services and branches. We've grown and changed in a lot of good ways. But our core values remain the same - we're a proud, locally owned institution operated for the benefit of the people of Monroe County, over 70 years later, First State Bank continues to thrive and expand our line-up of products, services, and delivery systems offered in our offices from Key West to Key Largo. And although we may be the oldest bank in Monroe County, we've stayed up-to-the-minute with technology, security, and customer service so that you can also bank online or in our mobile app anytime, anywhere. But what really sets us apart? Our people. We're your friends and neighbors, and we care about you. From our tellers to our president, we're all working to help you fulfill your dreams and aspirations, to create a better life for you and your family. We want to see you succeed. That's why we do all we can to see that your deposits go toward developing our own local communities. So if you're looking for a bank that feels the way you do about

the Keys, a bank run by people who have a real commitment to

this area, switch to

We're Locals Like You! Keysbank.com

FIRST STATE
STATE
BANK

KeysBank.com

For more details regarding becoming a business member or event sponsor please contact Board Member Patricia Neyra

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We are in the home stretch!

After our October 1 meeting, only 50 bears remain to be dressed out of the 150 that arrived. Right now, they are sitting patiently—bare as can be just

waiting for a little love and creativity from our members. Each bear is a standard 18-inch size, so doll clothes fit perfectly. We're asking members to dress them in bright, happy outfits—no pins or loose embellishments, please. Think cozy, cheerful, and huggable. Once dressed, these bears will go straight into the arms of children and sometimes adults experiencing trauma, illness, or loss. Our local first responders tell us time and again that a bear given at just the right moment brings comfort, calm, and connection when it's needed most.

Please sign out a bear from the "Dress Me Up" sheet, take it home, and return your bear dressed and ready for duty. Your time counts toward volunteer hours, and your efforts will send 150 of these little ambassadors of kindness out to do what they do best: make someone's day a little better.



A NOTE FROM JANIE

Well. Autumn has arrived here in Northern California. The leaves on the trees have a tinge of orange and birds are showing up in the ponds and waterways as they head south for the winter. Alan and I are heading south as well. We return to Key West on October 7th. Which reminds me, many of you must be making plans to return to Key West as well. When you know your schedule — when you are returning and when you are leaving again— would you let me know. I will put that information on the Docent Information Sheet.

That way I know if you are available to be a sub or possibly fit into an open Docent position when one becomes available. Also, if you are a Substitute Docent now and would like to have a weekly Docent position or conversely, if you are a weekly Docent and would prefer to go back

to being a Substitute please let me know and I will try

to accommodate you.



JANIE TEITELBAUM
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

You'll notice that the schedule looks pretty much the same as last month's schedule. We are still sticking with our three-day schedule with two people each shift for now until more of our snow-bird members (like me) fly their way home to us.

Notice that I am attaching is the TENTATIVE schedule so that you have time to tell me if you need a sub in October and there is time to find one for you. Snow-birds are returning all this month so help is on the way!

Take care, stay dry, and I'll be back October 7th. Looking forward to seeing you all then!

Janie

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our volunteer docents are the heart of the Hellings Curry Museum, bringing Key West's history to life for every visitor who walks through our doors. Their dedication keeps our historic home open and ensures that the stories of the Key West Woman's Club, the Hellings Curry family, and our island's past are preserved and shared.

Where would we be without them? Simply put....CLOSED!!



Our dedicated volunteer docents Teo and Jennifer waiting to share our beautiful museum and our history with locals and visitors from around the world.

KWWC Docent Schedule -October 2025

Tuesday:

Melinda Hudson, (PJ Eaton to sub 10/21 &10/28) Patty Carey, Rebecca Lacey, Peggy Guidotti (Kathy Corey to sub 9/30 & 10/7)

Wednesday AM Jennifer Glynn (10/8 only)/Janie Teitelbaum Teo Chapa PM Jody Gross Nancy Romain

Thursday AM Myra Ciardi/Kathy Torrey Joanne Garzarella/ Marlene Thorn

PM Francine Gittins (Dianne Brendle to sub 10/30) Eileen Kawaller Join Our Docent Team!

WE NEED YOU!

Love Key West stories?

Enjoy meeting people?

No experience?

No problem.....

we will teach you everything

you need to know!

Come by, be a porch sitter,
soak up the history, its FUN!

To get started, contact

Jane Teitelbaum

415-308-0236

jteitelbaum@pacbell.net

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN AND WINE WEDNESDAY



OCTOBER 15, 2025 4:30-6:00

It's easy to help host:

- Help with setup
- Bring one appetizer and one dessert (finger foods are ideal)
- Provide two large bottles of wine (1.5 liters—one red and one white) to share
- Stick around for cleanup at the end

That's it—simple, fun, and a great way to be part of the evening!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP HOST THE NEXT WOMEN AND WINE PLEASE TEXT OR CALL OUR HOSPITALITY DIRECTOR

Roxanne Wood: 562-716-2786

LET'S GO!- TATS FOR TATAS!

After Women & Wine on October 15, let's head down the street together to support our friends at Womankind during their annual Tats for TaTas celebration!

When: Wednesday, October 15, 2025, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM Where: Tattoos & Scars Saloon, 512 Greene Street, Key West

This fun, local event raises funds for Womankind, helping provide breast health and women's wellness care in our community.

Let's show up together in true Woman's Club spirit—supporting Womankind and supporting our neighbors.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



Veterans Day Parade Watch & Courtyard Cookout Tuesday, November 11, 2025 | 3:00 PM

Join us in the courtyard as the Veterans Day Parade heads down Duval Street. We'll be honoring the veterans in our lives and the construction and service workers who've helped us save Eleanor.

Roxanne is chairing this year's event, and she's planning of great spread with handheld appetizers, desserts, wine, are beer. It's a casual way to gather, say thank you, and enjoy the best seat in town.

If you'd like to help or bring something, get in touch with Roxanne Wood text 562-716-2786 or email roxannew714@yahoo.com

Let's show up, show thanks, and enjoy the day together

Understanding Breast Density

SAVE THE DATE!

AFTER HOURS

SUPPORT WOMENS HEALTH



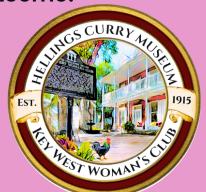
Join us for an evening with Dr. Katrina Rabinovich, as she presents vital information on breast density and its impact on breast cancer screening and diagnosis. Learn why understanding your breast density matters—and how it could help save lives. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.

Free Event sponsored by

Mount Sinai

MEDICAL CENTER

RSVP AUNDREA 423-304-8982



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



Calling All Holiday Helpers!

It's time to add some Key West sparkle to Eleanor! We need many hands to deck-out our clubhouse and museum. Come join us to get in the holiday spirit, have some fun and transform our historic halls into a holiday showplace!

DECORATIONS GO UP

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2025 10AM-UNTIL FINISHED

DECORATIONS COME DOWN

MONDAY JANUARY 5, 2026 10AM-UNTIL FINISHED

SIGNUP ONLINE OR IN THE WORKROOM



Wendy Van Der Wegen

262-309-1912

or

Jane Goble 803-602-8342







MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Key West Woman's Club

OPEN HOUSE

Join us for

Appetizers, Desserts, and Amsterdam Eggnog! Music Presented by:

Bahama Village Children's Choir & Key West Community Orchestra

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

Sunday December 7, 2025









MARK YOUR CALENDAR





OCTOBER Membership meeting



Welcome New Members Meredith, Margie & Donna





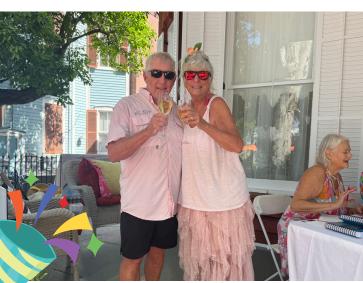












Thank you for reading