April 2025 Monthly Newsletter

KEY WEST WOMANS CLUB





Hi Sisters,

What a season we had! As we close out the 2024–2025 club year, I just want to say...we did it!! What an amazing season of connection, service, and purpose. This club proves time and time again, women really do get things done!

As we continue to celebrate 110 years of the Key West Woman's Club, I just want to say how thankful I am for the strong, generous women who came before us and the KWWC sisters of today. Because of them, and because of all of you, our club continues to grow, give, and make a difference. We are a service organization, and our mission has always been to give back. This year, thanks to your time, energy, and support, we raised money that went directly to nonprofits, schools, and programs that help our island and the people who call it home.

I want to thank every single volunteer...whether you chaired an event, worked behind the scenes, brought food, ran the bar, set up chairs, or stayed late to clean up. You gave your time, and it made all the difference.

In this April newsletter, we will be shining the spotlight on our annual club awards luncheon and the women who went above and beyond this season. While we are celebrating a few standout members, I want to take a moment to recognize every single one of you who gave your time and heart to this club. Not every act of service comes with an award or round of applause, but please know — your efforts never go unnoticed. You are seen, appreciated, and so valued.

Although we will not have regular meetings again until Wednesday October 1, 2025, we still have plenty of great things going on and ways to for you to stay connected over the summer. Keep an eye on your email and our Facebook page to stay up to date.

Wishing you all a joyful, restful, spring and summer. Whether you're near or far, remember — the spirit of this club is always with you. Keep doing good, keep lifting others, and keep being the incredible women you are. I can't wait to see what we do next... together.

Sending love and gratifude Aundrea

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Woman of the Year – The most prestigious honor, given to a leader whose vision, strength, and dedication have defined the Key West Woman's Club. She represents everything our club stands for: leadership, service, and the power of women coming together to get things done and create change

DR MARLENE THORN

Each year, we recognize one remarkable woman whose leadership, service, and dedication have left a lasting mark on our club. This year's honoree is a true standout—someone who brings brilliance, heart, and a whole lot of hustle to everything she does.

Dr. Marlene Thorn has been a driving force behind so many of our club's successes. She was the visionary behind our four-day Key West Historic Days Celebration, helped meticulously revise our 2025 Key West Woman's Club Cookbook, and has used her incredible marketing talent to put the Hellings Curry Museum firmly on the map.

She's also the founder of one of our most meaningful traditions—the annual Docent Appreciation Event—now in its third year. Thanks to Marlene, our docents feel seen, celebrated, and valued for all the ways they support our mission.

Marlene is the kind of woman who keeps things moving, keeps people inspired, and keeps me sane. I've leaned on her insight more times than I can count, and I'm endlessly grateful for her wisdom, kindness, and that wonderfully strategic brain of hers.

This woman truly gets things DONE—and we're proud to honor her as our 2024–2025 Woman of the Year.



you are the BEST!!
Thank you Marlene!!

TOP HONORS

PATTY NEYRA

WOMEN GET THINGS DONE AWARD

Honoring a club member who faced challenges head-on, turned obstacles into opportunities, and made a lasting impact.

I had the honor of presenting the very first Women Get Things Done Award—a new tradition to recognize the women in our club who go above and beyond in service, creativity, and commitment. Our first recipient was someone who saw a need and took action. She launched the Hellings Curry Museum Business Membership Program, creating a new and lasting way to support our mission. On top of that she is an amazing marketing committee member, event sponsor, Business Member, fundraiser and event planner!

I am so grateful for her support, her ideas, and her commitment to our mission.



Honoring a woman whose years of dedication, design and generosity have helped shape our club. into what it is today.

She has sewn, fluffed, hung, trimmed, and transformed so many of our rooms over the years. You can still see her beautiful work in the Wicker Room—and let's be honest, no one does a table centerpiece quite like her.

At 85 years young, she brings more spunk and sparkle than most people half her age. Whether she's sewing curtains, decorating for a holiday event, or just making us laugh, she makes this club more beautiful in every way She is truly one of a kind, and we are so lucky to call her ours



DEE JOHNSON



BETINA JUSTICE

COMMUNITY CHAMPION AWARD

Celebrating a volunteer whose service extends far beyond KWWC, supporting multiple organizations and making a lasting impact in our community.

Our Community Champion Award honors someone whose heart for giving back is simply unmatched. She's the kind of woman who doesn't just say she cares, she shows up, gets to work, and changes lives in the process. She gives to us, and she gives to countless other organizations across this community. Her generosity is constant, her energy is contagious, and her impact? Immeasurable. She founded Eleanor's Boutique, turning a simple clothing donation idea into a beautiful shop that raises funds to help preserve our historic home. But it doesn't stop there—she donates prom dresses to students in need, provides professional wear to Samuel's House for women rebuilding their lives. She does all of this with a smile, with style, and with that undeniable spark. Around here, we have a saying: Don't underestimate her. Because when she's involved, the results are nothing short of amazing.

ANNITA TSCHANZ



SUSAN COLLIER



TEO CHAPA

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Recognizing a member whose selfless dedication,

endless energy, and efforts have strengthened our club. She's been a longtime member of our club and never hesitates to step up. She launched what we now call Pack the Bag, a beautiful project that provides essentials to those in need. This year alone, she and her team packed 150 bags, each one filled with care and purpose, thanks to everyone here who donated and helped make it happen. She's also the proud new den mother of our Teddy Bear Project, making sure 150 dressed-up bears are ready each year to be shared with first responders, who give them to children or anyone in need of a little extra comfort. She brings that same heart and talent to everything she does from baking the most delicious cookies, and cakes, to decorating events with her beautiful touch. In fact, she was the Chairwoman of our beautiful Awards Luncheon She is an inspiration. She is such an important part of this club, and we are beyond thankful for her.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

A special recognition, given to a woman whose leadership, generosity, and commitment have been the heart of our club for many years.

This award goes to a woman who is always there when I need her. There is truly nothing she won't do to help, whether it's jumping in behind the scenes, offering guidance, or just being that calm, steady voice I can count on. She served as our club treasurer for years, Now, as our First Vice President, she continues to lead with heart, loyalty, and a deep love for this club. She gives without hesitation, shows up without being asked, and supports not just me, but all of us! It was my absolute honor to present the President's Award to someone who means the world to me...Susan Collier

DOCENT OF THE YEAR

Given to a volunteer docent whose is passionate about history always stepping up to fill in where needed and helps to keep our museum open.

Teo is a volunteer whose passion for history and storytelling brings Key West and the Helling's Curry Museum's history to life. He shares our past with visitors from around the world, making sure Eleanor's stories continue to be told. He is always the first to step in when we need a substitute volunteer.

BEST NEW IDEA AWARD



PAUL EATON

ELEANOR BEAUTIFICATION AWARD



JANE GOBLE

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR



ROBERTA ISLEIB

YOU ROCK AWARD



MARY KAY RICH **HEART AND SOUL AWARD**



KATHY HEMMESCH

KWWC RISING LEADER AWARD



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS & SPECIAL RECOGNITION THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS FOR MAKING THIS EVENT HAPPEN!! Annita Tschanz, Linda Tuffey, Susan Collier, Eileen Kawaler

Honoring our 2024-2025 Executive Board: Susan Collier, Marlene Thorn, Mary Kay Rich, Barbara McShea, and Stacie Gleason

Honoring our 2024-2025 Board of directors: Susan Collier, Marlene Thorn, Mary Kay Rich, Barbara McShea, Stacie Gleason, Patty Neyra, Susan Mitchell, Roberta Spencer, Roxanne Wood, Kim Gordon, Eileen Kawaler, Janie Teitelbaum, and Jody Gross

CLUB EXCELLENCE & SERVICE AWARDS

Best New Idea Award – Recognizing a visionary whose creativity brought something meaningful to our club. This honoree gave us more than just an idea—they gave us a powerful new club slogan that reflects who we are.

Docent of the Year Award – Given to a volunteer docent whose is passionate about history always stepping up to fill in where needed and helps to keep our museum open.

Volunteer Service Leaders- recognition of three amazing volunteers with the most hours logged into Volunteer Impact.

Joyce Benavides- 66 hours Patti Carey- 66 hours Kathy
Torrey- 61 hours

SISTERHOOD & LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Sisterhood of Service Awards – Recognizing the patience, kindness, and commitment of our volunteer membership "goddesses" who worked tirelessly to implement our new volunteer software, and are always making sure our members are supported and new members feel welcome.

Special Recognition – Honoring a member for her outstanding dedication and leadership in membership. She is also the creator of our Big Sister Program.

Big Sister Appreciation – Celebrating our dedicated members who serve as Big Sisters, guiding and supporting our new members.

Linda Badwey, Stacie Gleason, Nancy Funt, Claire Keller, Karen Leonard, Emily Maltz, Mimi McDonald, Jill Pluckebaum, Cori Ross, Sharon Smarsh, Annita Tschanz, Angie Walterson, Wendy VanderWegen

BEHIND-THE-SCENES AWARDS

Supporter Awards — Honoring members who are always working behind the scenes, making sure that everything runs smoothly. Let's thank them for their service and dedication. Recipients: Barbara McShea, Stacie Gleason, Joyce Benevedidas, Kim Boswell, PJ Eaton, Cindy McCausland, Lisa Menditch, Joanne Garzarella Boyle, Vicky Golay, Martha Hubbard, Kim Livingston, Susan Mitchell, Mindy Schilleci, Patty Sickel, Janie Titlebalm, Linda Tuffy, Roxanne Wood, Joy Davis, Marilou Howell, Nancy Amsterdam, Wendy VanderWegen

DEDICATION & TMPACT AWARDS

Eleanor Beautification Award – Honoring a club member whose amazing design skills, hard work and generosity help preserve the beauty of our historic home, Eleanor.

You Rock Award – Presented to our member who is always stepping up, showing up, and making sure things run smoothly. Her dedication and reliability are truly invaluable to our organization.

Heart and Soul Award – Recognizing a member who embodies the true spirit of our club through kindness, generosity, and dedication.

Rookie of the Year Award – Celebrating a new member who jumped right in, contributing many hours of time and energy to our club and our project.

KWWC Rising Leader Award – Recognizing a

young woman who has already begun shaping her community, proving that the next generation of female leaders is unstoppable.

WOMAN OF THE MONTH (MAY 2024 - APRIL 2025)

Recognizing 11 incredible women who have each left a unique and lasting impact on our club over the past year:

Annita Tschanz - May 2024
Roxanne Wood - June 2024
Betina Justice - July 2024
Penny Walker- August 2024
Joyce Benevedidas - September 2024
Nancy Romain - October 2024
Jane Goble - November 2024

Diane May - December 2024

Myra Ciardi - January 2025 Cindy McCausland - February 2025

Mendy Schilleci - March 2025

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR EVENT CHAIRS: FANTASY FEST: PATTY NEYRA
BOUGIE HIGH TEA: KATHRYN NORRIS & PATTY NEYRA. WEARABLE ART FASHION SHOW: BETINA
JUSTICE & DIANE MAY. DENIM TO DIAMONDS: SUSAN MITCHELL & JOANNE LOGIE

SPREADING KINDNESS







Great BIG Thank You to

Tim and Annita Tschanz for their thoughtful gift and hard work in refurbishing and donating two amazing garden benches to our club! These benches are beautiful and sturdy, they make a lovely addition to our grounds. Every member or visitor who sits to rest or reflect will be touched by their kindness.

We're so grateful for you both!



A NOTE FROM SUSAN



The Key West Woman's Club proudly sponsors

MONTHLY ICE CREAM and BINGO social

I would like to remind everyone of Poinciana Gardens on May 8th at 6 PM. Please bring a plate of cookies or cheese & crackers for everyone to enjoy. I have met two residents there who were former members of the KWWC. Let's share our love with these wonderful men & women.

Questions Contact Susan Collier 609-425-0064

COMMUNICATIONS

Book Club

We had another great turnout for our February book club led by Maxine Pollack. Below is our reading list for the up coming months.





May 20 - "James" by Percival Everett

June 17 - "Broken Country" by Claire Leslie Hall

July 15 - "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman

Aug 19 - "Isola" by Allegra Goodman

Sept - skipping this month

Oct 21 - "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting" by Clare Pooley

Nov 18 - "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki

To accommodate everyone's summer travel plans, I'm investigating ways to host virtual discussions using Zoom, so stay tuned for more details!

KEY WEST HISTORIC DAYS

What an event we had! I hope all of the KWWC and the KW Community that attended our 110 Anniversary Celebration, had as much fun as I did and learned as much as I did.

It is impossible to list all of the names of those of us who volunteered so many hours, talents and service to making the 4 Day Celebration memorable. Thank you to The Day Captains:

Susan Collier, Aundrea, Barbara McShea, and my Co-Chair Sharon

Smarsh. They worked very hard with their Committee's and other volunteers. All were dedicated to the event and it showed.

Our KW Community Partners also worked hard to make this event a grand KW event for the KWWC. I could feel how much our Partners wanted this to be a big success. Our Partners are really rooting for us. Some of our Partners say they plan to continue aspects of the events they delivered for our Historic Days Celebration as part of their organizations ongoing plans.

I have heard some unsolicited feedback coming from people in the Community, who are not KWWC members. Following are some comments I have heard:

"People are talking about how wonderful the KWWC 4 Day Event was"

"The KWWC's image as a "special guild for a few women" has turned into a Community Asset "

"The KWWC's is being seen as a big community player and a Community Catalyst for many other ideas, museums, attractions, and the donations to non-profits." (We know we have been doing this for years, but now the Community is knowing this and recognizing it in a big way).

"The KWWC is a Community Catalyst with its donations to non-profits is approaching similar to how the TDC has been a catalyst for many good things in the community. "The panel presentations, the food, the music, all complemented each other."

Pat yourselves on the back KWWC!! We have achieved many things in the KW Community and the community is recognizing it in a big way.

Thank you, Thank you KWWC. Happy Anniversary to us. And thank you to all who put the house back together again and in full swing for the docents to carry on their good work and for other events to continue just the Monday after.

P.S- as with all our public events, the Marketing Team and those of us involved in the planning do a debrief/feedback session on what worked best and what could we do to improve. If you have some feedback/thoughts please send them on to me thornmarlene26@gmail.com We may not be doing this event again, but it will help for other events.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP NEWS

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

It's Spring and we have so much to look forward to!
There are almost endless opportunities to volunteer.
And while not everyone has begun logging their volunteer hours, probably leaving thousands still uncounted for this season, at least 130 of you have generously recorded 4300 hours since October. Thank you for helping us qualify for grants to fund our beautiful clubhouse, the Hellings Curry Museum. If you're new to logging hours online, go to https://bttr.im/wvxre on your computer/laptop or iPad to



KIM GORDON

easily create your own member profile. Then the next time you can log in at myimpactpage.com. If you prefer to use the mobile app, go to your App/Play Store and look for "My Impact."

Last September, many members kindly completed my survey, giving our club leadership a better understanding of how to serve your needs. In fact, that's how the KWWC Sisters program was born. It's our club's first mentoring program. Each new inductee is matched with a long-term member, or Big Sister, who introduces them to new friends and fun club experiences. And if you've been a member for at least three years, you can become a big sister. With so many wonderful new women joining our club, the Big Sisters are our official welcome brigade!

Over the last year, your Membership department has been working hard for you and with you. We replaced the outdated method of tracking volunteer time, and now we all have an easy, online way to log our hours. Also, last summer Membership began working collaboratively in Google Drive and started sharing information in real time with other departments. In addition, we now have information tracking systems in place to help us support you.

Are you thinking about becoming a member? There's a new online application. Just go to keywestwomansclub.org, click on membership and fill out your application there. Once you've completed your three meetings and ten volunteer hours, you can email me your application at KWWCmembership@gmail.com. If you send it to me by mid-September, you could be inducted into the Key West Woman's club in October!

Thank you for all you do to help our community.

BUSINESS MEMBERSHIP NEWS

HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM

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



Please join me in welcoming new Bronze Business Member the College of the Florida Keys.

The College of the Florida Keys (CFK) has been a cornerstone of education in Monroe County since 1965, serving diverse educational and workforce needs. Offering a comprehensive range of programs, CFK provides bachelor's and associate degrees, certificates,

career training, and personal enrichment courses. The institution's offerings span various fields, including marine science, diving, engineering, nursing, business, education, hospitality, culinary arts, and law enforcement.

CFK's commitment to accessibility is evident through its multiple locations in Key West, Marathon, and Key Largo, as well as its virtual learning platforms. The College also houses CFK Academy, a tuition-free public charter high school, on its Key West Campus. What sets CFK apart is its dedication to a small, personal, and hands-on approach to teaching and student support. This philosophy fosters a unique learning environment that adapts to the changing needs of students and industries.

As a unifying force in the community, CFK has forged strong partnerships with numerous businesses, organizations, and agencies. These collaborations aim to improve lives and strengthen the economy in the Florida Keys, underlining the College's role as a vital contributor to the region's growth and development.

For information regarding becoming a business member please contact Board Member Patricia Neyra at patty@neyraconstruction.com.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Our Volunteer docents are the Heart of the Hellings Curry Museum, bringing Key West's history to life for visitors. Their dedication makes our historic home a popular attraction and helps preserve the stories of the Key West Woman's Club, the Hellings Curry family, and our island's unique past.

Why Are Docents Essential?

Docents do more than guide tours—they keep our museum running!
Their efforts ensure we maintain our official museum status, qualify for vital restoration grants, and offer an engaging experience for guests.

Join Our Docent Team!

Love history? Enjoy meeting people?
No experience? No problem!
Come by, soak in the stories and
Contact Jane Teitelbaum
at jteitelbaum@pacbell.net or
415-308-0236 to get started!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Hosted by

Sarah Compton Annita Tschanz Stephanie Hench Lalita Pierson marilou Howell Roxanne Wood



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!

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 MAY 7TH,

5:00-7:30

PLEASE TEXT OR CALL

ROXANNE WOOD
HOSPITALITY DIRECTOR
562-716-2786































































































SAVING ELEANOR

The Hellings Curry Museum, home of the Key West Woman's Club, has been honored with the highest award for historic preservation and restoration by the Historic Florida Keys Foundation. This prestigious recognition celebrates the care and dedication involved in preserving our historic home and club house, one of Key West's few remaining brick structures. The award includes a Ceramic Star and a Certificate of Excellence, acknowledging the collaborative efforts of architects, designers, builders, and craftspeople who contributed significantly to the project's success. Maintained by the KWWC since 1940, our museum is more than a piece of architectural history it is a vibrant part of the community, reflecting the ongoing dedication and spirit of our Key West Woman's Club.





SAVING ELEANOR



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



THE ANNE MCKEE ARTISTS FUND

2025

ART FROM THE ATTIC

April 18 May 10, 2025

In person viewing Key West Woman's Club Online Viewing and bidding:

VISIT US AT THE HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM MONDAY-FRIDAY 10:00-3:30 TO FIND BEAUTIFUL ART FOR YOUR HOME

Hellings Curry Museum

HOME OF THE KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

319 DUVAL STREET

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



BENEFITING





MANGOS 700 DUVAL STREET KEY WEST FOR RESERVATIONS VISIT EVENTBRITE.COM OR CALL 305-294-8002

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



All Woman's round on the front porch of the Hellings
Curry Museum home of the Key West Woman's Club
No tickets needed, Doors open at 3:00pm
make your \$20.00 donation upon entrance.
Donation includes Drinks, Music, and Appetizers

Featuring:

4:00pm Liz Rose, Cassidy Daniels, Lauren McLamb
(Liz Rose has written 25 songs with Taylor Swift)

5:00pm Gloria Anderson, Brooke Lynn,

Danielle Johnson

6:00pm Bridgette Tatum, Sheena Brooke

Allie Colleen

Come Join Us!

Зерио	wednesday	women cowine)X/O - 0:)O
Sept 11	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 8:00
Sept 25	Thursday	BOD meeting	3:30 - 4:30
Oct1	Wednesday	Membership Meeting	Noon - 1:00
Oct 9	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 8:00
Oct 15	Wednesday	Women &Wine	4:30 - 6:00
Oct 2l	Tuesday	Book Club - "Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting" by Clare Pooley	4:00 - 5:00
Oct 23	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 - 4:30
Oct 25	Saturday	Fantasy Fest Viewing Party	TBD
Nov 5	Wednesday	Membership Meeting	Noon – 1:00
Nov 6	Thursday	Docent Appreciation Party	5:30 - 7:00
Nov 13	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 8:00
Nov 18	Tuesday	Book Club - "The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post" by Allison Pataki	4:00 - 5:00
Nov 19	Wednesday	Women &Wine	4:30 - 6:00
Nov 20	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 - 4:30
Dec 3	Wednesday	Membership Meeting	Noon – 1:00
Dec 6	Saturday	Holiday Parade viewing party	TBD
Dec 7	Sunday	Holiday Open House	TBD
Dec II	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 – 8:00
Dec 16	Tuesday	Book Club	4:00 – 5:00
Dec 17	Wednesday	Women &Wine	4:30 - 6:00
Dec 18	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 - 4:30
Jan 7	Wednesday	Membership Meeting	Noon – 1:00
Jan 8	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 8:00
Jan 20	Tuesday	Book Club	4:00 - 5:00
Jan 21	Wednesday	Women &Wine	4:30 - 6:00
Jan 23	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 - 4:30
Feb 4	Wednesday	Membership Meeting	Noon – 1:00
Feb 12	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 - 8:00
Feb 17	Tuesday	Book Club	4:00 = 5:00