

January 2026



PRESIDENT, AUNDREA WAGNER



Happy January Sisters!

Happy New Year!!! I want to say thank you. Thank you for the heart, time, laughter, and steady commitment you bring to the Key West Woman's Club. This organization is more than meetings and events, it's a community of people who show up for one another and for the island we love. 2026 is just getting started, and I am so excited for all the good we will continue to do together.

One thing I would like for you all to remember We are first and foremost a service organization not a social club, Since 1915, our mission of service, education, and civic involvement has guided everything we do. The way we carry it out may change, but the purpose never does. Through scholarships, charitable giving, historic preservation, or simply being there when our community needs us, this club continues to make a difference because of all of you!

As we move into the heart of our club year, a quick reminder—we have only three regular membership meetings left this season. Our February meeting on **February 4th** will be Valentine-themed, so dress in pink or red. We will also be holding a shoe drive for **Kids Come First**. Please bring one pair of children's shoes to help support local kids in need.

Here's what else is coming up:

- **Bougie Afternoon Tea – January 17**
- **Tropical Luncheon – February 8**
- **Wearable Art Fashion Show – February 14**
- **Denim to Diamonds Gala – March 1**
- **Awards Celebration – April 1**

Each of these events brings us together in a meaningful way.

Buying a ticket is one of the easiest, and most enjoyable, ways to support the Key West Woman's Club. Every ticket directly supports our programs, scholarships, and preservation work, and turns a fun event into something that truly matters.

If you haven't completed the member survey, please take a few minutes to share your thoughts. Your voice matters.

I am so grateful to serve alongside this amazing group of women and can't wait for the fun, friendships, and impact we will create together while lifting our beautiful island community every step of the way.


*with Gratitude and Sunshine,
Andrea*



This month we are celebrating Wendy, our Woman of the Month, for the care, creativity, and heart she brings to the Hellings Curry Museum each holiday season. For the past several years, Wendy has taken the lead on decorating the museum, transforming our historic home into a warm, festive space that feels welcoming to every member and visitor who walks through the door. Her eye for detail, respect for the house, and willingness to give her time year after year truly embody the spirit of the Key West Woman's Club. Wendy's work helps make the holidays at Eleanor feel special, and we are so grateful for all she does

Wendy Van Der Wegen

- 1. Where are you from and How long have you been in Key West?** I was born in New York Wendy Van Der Wegen is originally from Wisconsin, where she still has a summer place in Egg Harbor. She has had a home in Key West since 2015.
- 2. How long have you been a member of the Key West Woman's Club?** Since 2018
- 3. What inspired you to join our club?** She joined the Key West Woman's Club in 2018 after meeting Susan Mitchell and Janie Teitelbaum through the Key West Bike Club.
- 4. What is your favorite aspect of being a part of the Key West Woman's Club?** the history and meeting people, she really loves the house and all the events associated with it. She and her husband, Dave, love decorating for the holidays. She took on the Holiday decorating as a way to help from missing her family during December.
- 5. Background, Hobbies, Interest** Wendy is a retired veterinarian and owned 2 full service CompanionAnimal practices in Wisconsin before retiring to Key West. She is a foodie and loves to travel. She has two wonderful Golden Retrievers, Stars and Truman, that she spends a lot of time with. Since coming to Key West she has learned to paint and also loves sewing costumes for herself as well as our bears.



You are amazing Wendy thank you for your service!

CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

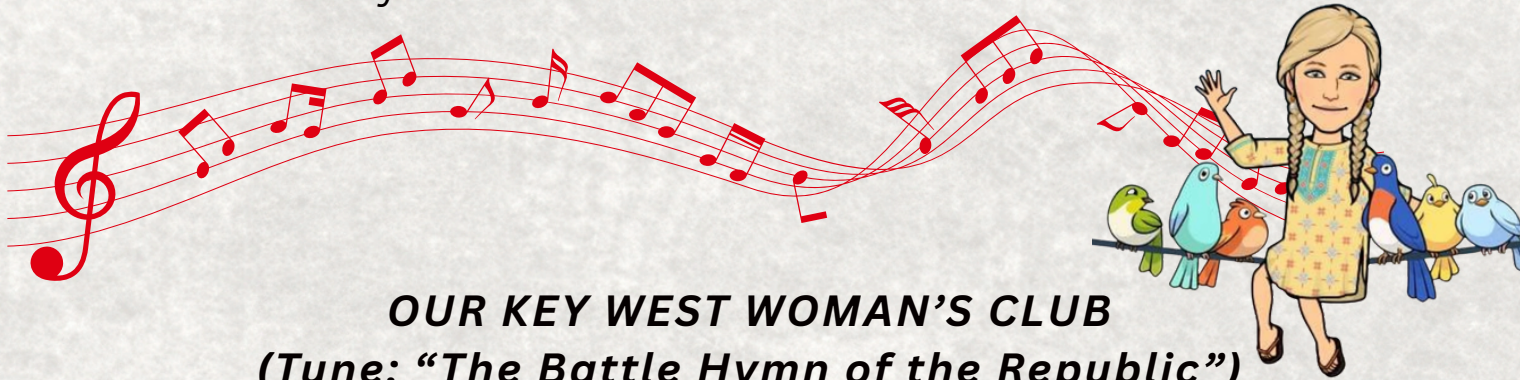


In January 1937, the Key West Woman's Club showed exactly who we are. At a regular January meeting, members raised concerns about the cleanliness of our city streets—especially along Duval Street. Rather than letting it slide, the Club appointed a small committee of women who went straight to City Hall to address the issue. Their advocacy worked. The Key West City Council responded by appointing a sanitary inspector, and all Duval Street merchants agreed to keep sidewalks and gutters clear of debris. That meeting also reflected the Club's steady commitment to education and culture, with continued support for the public library, plans for upcoming Fine Arts programs, and the opening of the meeting with the Collect for Clubwomen, a tradition that still grounds us today. Fast forward nearly 90 years later, the details may look different—but the heart of this Club hasn't changed. We see a need, we step up, and we make things better for our community.

DID YOU KNOW?

The Key West Woman's Club Has Its Very Own Song

In the 1930s, our members began opening meetings and holiday gatherings by singing an official Club song titled "Our Key West Woman's Club." Set to the tune of The Battle Hymn of the Republic, it celebrated sisterhood, service, and the beauty of our island home. Recently rediscovered in one of our vintage scrapbooks, the song is one of the most charming artifacts of our Club's early traditions.



OUR KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

(Tune: "The Battle Hymn of the Republic")

***On a lovely little island where the balmy breezes blow,
And the sun is always shining and the fragrant jasmines
grow,***

***You'll find a band of women it will do you good to know —
Our Key West Woman's Club.***

CHORUS:

***Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Our Club is marching on.***

***We love this little island with its spirit strong and free,
We love the waving palm trees and the wide and
boundless sea.***

***Our love and loyal services are shared by you
and me —Our Key West Woman's Club.***

Spreading Sunshine This Month's Community Impact



At the Key West Woman's Club, "Spreading Sunshine" isn't just a phrase—it's a reflection of our century-long commitment to uplifting our community. Each month, we are proud to support other nonprofits that share our vision of a brighter, more caring Key West. By reinvesting in these causes, we are building a stronger future for everyone who calls this island home.

Here's who we're lifting up this month.

Christina's Courage :The Florida Keys' sexual assault crisis center, providing free, confidential advocacy and trauma-informed support—including 24/7 help, counseling, and prevention education so survivors aren't alone.

Cornerstone Resource Alliance: supports individuals and families experiencing homelessness in the Florida Keys by providing emergency shelter, housing assistance, and case management to help people move toward stability and self-sufficiency.

Inez Martin Child Care Center: provides quality early childhood education and care for working families in our community, giving children a safe, nurturing place to learn, grow, and thrive.

MARC House supports adults with developmental disabilities in the Florida Keys by providing housing, employment opportunities, and life-skills programs that promote independence and dignity.

Sister Season Fund: assists local hospitality and tourism workers in Key West who face temporary financial hardship by helping with rent and utility payments so they can stay in their homes through illness, accidents, hurricanes, or other crises.



A NOTE FROM SUSAN



SUSAN COLLIER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT



POINCIANA GARDENS

On January 15, our members will be visiting Poinciana Gardens to host a night of bingo for the residents. It's a simple evening filled with laughter, conversation, and connection—bringing a little fun and fellowship to our senior neighbors. Please join us as we share smiles, stories, and time together—these moments truly mean more than you might imagine.

Thursday January 15, 2026
from 6-8 PM

Questions contact

Susan Collier 609-425-0064

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WE WILL BE "**PACKING THE BAGS**" ON FEBRUARY 17, 2026. THIS IS OUR THIRD YEAR DOING THIS PROJECT. THE BAGS ARE FILLED WITH PERSONAL CARE ITEMS AND GIVEN TO THE DOMESTIC ABUSE CENTER. THEY ARE THEN DISTRIBUTED TO THEIR CLIENTS WHO ARE IN NEED. WE WILL USE THE CINCH BAGS GIVEN TO US BY MT. SINAI HOSPITAL. WE PLAN TO PACK 150 BAGS AND NEED MEMBERS TO DONATE ITEMS TO FILL THE BAGS. A LIST WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE JANUARY NEEDED. PLEASE SIGN UP AND HELP WITH THIS WORTHWHILE PROJECT.

ANY QUESTIONS, CONTACT
ANNITA TSCHANZ OR KIM BOSWELL.



Marketing News from Marlene



Marlene Thorn, VP

Happy New Year! We are kicking off January and February with lots of fun events and activities. All tickets are available at KeyTix for the events below:

Bougie Tea Party, January 17 Saturday - Kathryn Norris and Patty Neyra have this well organized and marketing and advertising has been going on for several months. Let's get "Our Bougie On" and all have a great time at the Bougie Tea Party, that is a fundraiser for Take Stock in Children. The fund's raised at the Bougie Tea are matched by the State of Florida and supports a 4 year scholarship for a child from the Florida Keys.

Tropical Luncheon and Garden Party, February 8, Sunday 12:00 – to 2:00 – This is a revival of a KWWC cherished 1950's tradition presented in partnership with the Key West Art and Historical Society that will preview their Smithsonian-affiliated exhibition: Food: Celebrating Conch Cuisine. Hear Cori Convertito, Roberta Isleib, aka Lucy Burdette, and eat an Elegant Buffet lunch prepared by Chef Martha Hubbard. The Tropical Lunch will feature tropical fruits of South FL, fresh local seafood, and dishes inspired by the 1949 KWWC Cookbook. Get your Garden Party Dress and special Garden Party Hat on and enjoy!

The Wearable Art Fashion Show and Live Auction, February 14, Saturday – Betina Justice has once again organized a fun-filled afternoon Live Auction, fundraising for Key West High School Scholarships and raising funds for "Eleanor." Come out, enjoy the fun, and bid on one of a kind creative designs.

Thank you to Stacie and the KWWC Book Club for partnering with Sharon Smarsh with the Friends of the Library, February 7, Saturday, 3:30 to 5:00 – Key Lime Murder: a Deliciously Deadly Mystery at the Library. Tickets are free, but necessary, and will be available in January.

Thank you to the entire Marketing Committee for all the work you do to market and advertise these events.

A special thank you to Patty Sickel and Mindy Schilleci, members who work once a month, keeping our kitchen extra clean and organized which ultimately helps all of us set up and clean up for all our events.

COMMUNICATIONS

Book Club

What an amazing turnout we had for Decembers Book Club!

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month
in the Wicker Room at 4pm.



STACIE GLEASON

Jan 20th - My Friends by: Fredrik Backman

Feb 17th - The Nature of Fragile Things by: Susan Meissner

Mar 17th - The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing & Healing by: Lara Love Hardin

Apr 21st - The Art Thief: A True Story of Love, Crime & Dangerous Obsession by: Michael Finkel

May 19th - The Nightingale by: Kristin Hannah

I created a spreadsheet that shows all of the books we have read since book club started in June 2022. It is located under “Files” on the Facebook Social Page.



The Book Club is partnering with the Friends of the Library on their Murder Mystery Tea on Feb 7th. We will be providing the food. Checkout Keystix.com for a free ticket.

They are going fast!

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



**Kim Gordon,
Membership Director**

Happy new year! It's a joy to see all of you volunteering and getting involved with activities at the club. There are so many exciting things happening this season.

Here's a great way to have fun while helping to provide after-school meals for our local children! Be sure to get your tickets for the Black and Red Masquerade Ball on March 14 at the Key West Theater. It will be a big, glam music and danceparty to benefit S.O.S.

Foundation. Together, we'll provide afterschool meals to our most in-need local children next summer. I'm returning to the stage with my All-Star band featuring Grammy-winner Tim Mayer on sax. And you'll hear swing, jazz, pop, favorite standards, plus R&B and blues. There will be great music, champagne and prizes for the best masks and ensembles. All to feed hungry kids. You can order your tickets now from the Key West Theater box office or at <https://bit.ly/musicwithheart>

Last year, 74% of all the public-school children in Key West alone qualified for meal support. But with your help, we won't let our kids go hungry.

Here at the club, we want to continually grow and meet your needs while serving the community. Many thanks to all the members who have already responded to KWWC's second annual survey to get your opinions and thoughts about the club and all that we do. If you haven't taken a moment to fill it out, we want to hear from you! It's a great way to share your feedback and help the club stay on top of what matters most to you and all our members.

Are you looking for ways to volunteer this winter? Then check out all the events and categories in our Better Impact volunteer software. It's easy to sign up to volunteer right in the software, and you can even track everything you volunteer for using the scheduler. Just click on the schedule button near the top. If you're new to recording your hours or signing up to volunteer 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 log in at myimpactpage.com. If you prefer to use the mobile app, go to your App/Play store and look for "My Impact."

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 February, please email your application to me at KWWCmembership@gmail.com by January 16.

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

We are thrilled to welcome Red Barn Theatre as a business member this year! For more than 40 years, Red Barn has been a beloved cultural institution right here in Key West, operating just behind the Key West Woman's Club and sharing in our commitment to community and creativity.

What started in 1980 when a spirited group of local actors and technicians transformed an old carriage house into a theater has grown into one of Key West's most cherished performance venues. Red Barn presents high-quality plays, musicals, cabaret shows, and regional premieres in an intimate setting that draws both locals and visitors together around live theater.

Their current season (and past seasons) features a mix of bold comedies, heartfelt dramas, inventive musicals, and creative collaborations that showcase local talent and bring fresh artistic energy to Duval Street. We're especially proud of the long partnership between the Red Barn and the Woman's Club—their home has been part of our historic property for over four decades, adding creativity and entertainment to our shared corner of Key West while enriching the cultural life of our island community.

Welcome, Red Barn Theatre—thank you for your continued contribution to the arts and to the vibrancy of our Key West community!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN AND WINE WEDNESDAY

HOSTED BY



Aubrey Posey-Hitchcock,
Anna Maarie Forney, Tunie Hamblen
Mary Means, Jackie Evans,
Mendy Anderson, & Ellen Cavanaugh

JANUARY 21, 2026
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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**Early Bird Clean up
Duval and Eaton
Streets hosted by the
Key West Woman's
Club**

**January 9, 2026
8am-9am**



KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

Bougie Afternoon Tea Party

Saturday, January 17th, 4pm to 7pm

Platinum Sponsor



Gold Sponsor

Mount Sinai
MEDICAL CENTER
Key West

Bronze Sponsor



Live Music
Fun Contests & Prizes
Specialty Cocktails
Beautiful Decor
Tea Service

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



Gold Sponsor



Finger Sandwiches
Petite Quiches
Salads
Scones & Clotted Cream
Mini Desserts



tickets on sale at keystix.com

SATURDAY JANUARY 17, 2026

TO VOLUNTEER CONTACT
KATHRYN NORRIS OR PATTY NEYRA

305-587-1964

954-684-8805





Tropical Luncheon & Garden Party

*A Taste of the Keys.
A Touch of the Past.*



Sunday, February 8th



12:00pm - 2:00pm



Key West
Woman's Club



KEY WEST
ART & HISTORICAL SOCIETY™



Smithsonian



keystix.com



\$75.00



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB PRESENTS

THE WEARABLE ART FASHION SHOW

Coming Soon
FEB. 14th
2026

2PM - 5PM

GET TICKETS

@Keystix.com



Join us as
Epiphany Get Paid,
Sushi & Queen Mitch
step in as guest hosts.

Get ready for
a one-of-a-kind
local innovation
live auction!



Hellings Curry Museum
319 Duval Steet

**CONTACT BETINA JUSTICE
TO VOLUNTEER**

423-618-8284

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

JOIN US!

Denim *to* *Diamonds* Gala

Open Bar • Elevated Hors d'Oeuvres • Decadent Desserts
Silent Auction • Live Music • Dancing Under the Stars

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2026
5:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Hellings Curry Museum
319 Duval Street, Key West. FL 33040

Tickets available at [KeyStix.com](https://www.KeyStix.com)
All proceeds benefit Saving Eleanor -
preserving our historic 1892 home.

DECEMBER







