



August 2026



Monthly Newsletter

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB



PRESIDENT, AUNDREA WAGNER



Happy August Sisters!

I hope everyone is enjoying summer and finding a little time to relax, spend time with family and friends, and stay cool! Although our regular season is on pause, your Board and committee chairs have been busy behind the scenes planning events, preparing for our 2026–2027 season, and finding new ways for our Club to serve our community. We have a wonderful season ahead, and I can't wait for us all to be together again!

Before our new season begins, I have a few leadership changes to share. Our sister Susan Collier has stepped down as First Vice President to focus on her family. We are very grateful for Susan's many years of service to the Board and everything she has done for our Club.

Dr. Marlene Thorn is now serving as First Vice President, Kathryn Norris is our new Membership Chair, Betina Justice is serving as Director-at-Large, and Dr. Nancy Romain has joined the Board as our Docent and Museum Department Chair.

A special thank-you to our returning Board members: Mary Kay Rich, Treasurer; Stacie Gleason, Communications Vice President; Barbara McShea, Recording Secretary; Roxanne Wood, Hospitality Chair; Susan Mitchell, Immediate Past President; Roberta Spencer, Past President; and Jody Gross, Parliamentarian.

Thank you, ladies, for continuing to give your time, energy, and heart to the Key West Woman's Club. I am so grateful to serve alongside such a dedicated group of women who care deeply about our Club, our members, our historic home, and our Key West community!

August is a special month in women's history. The 19th Amendment was ratified on August 18, 1920, and officially certified on August 26, giving women the right to vote. By then, the Key West Woman's Club was already five years old and our founders were hard at work making a difference in Key West. They knew that when women come together, things get done—and 111 years later, we are still proving them right. I think they would be very proud to see their sisterhood still going strong today.

This season has so many fun things coming up!

Our **first official meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, October 7**, at noon, be sure and wear pink for breast cancer awareness.



On **Veterans Day, November 11**, we will gather in our front courtyard for our annual Members & Family, Veterans Day Parade Watch Party & Cookout. Cheer on the parade as it rolls down Duval Street, and enjoy one of our favorite Club traditions. Bring an appetizer or dessert to share we will take care of the rest.

We're also celebrating with a **FREE Members +1 Welcome Back Party** on **Saturday, November 21, from 6:00–9:00 p.m.** Join us for an Italian dinner, live music, and dancing. Come dressed in your favorite Italian-inspired style—from 1930s glamour and vintage gangster chic. Rumor has it there may even be a costume contest!

I feel incredibly lucky to serve as your president. Thank you for your friendship, your support, and for the sisterhood that makes the Key West Woman's Club such a special place.
cant wait to see everyone!



*with Gratitude and Sunshine,
Andrea*

VOTES
FOR
WOMEN

A HISTORY OF COURAGE, COMMITMENT & CHANGE

THE 19TH AMENDMENT JOURNEY

Honoring the Women Who Paved the Way

From the founding of the Key West Woman's Club to the ratification of the 19th Amendment, women have worked, organized, and persevered for a better future.

19TH
AMENDMENT
RATIFIED

AUGUST 18
1920

1

1915



KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB FOUNDED

A group of dedicated women came together to improve their community through education, literacy, civic improvement, and service.

2

1917



WOMEN BEGIN PICKETING THE WHITE HOUSE

Courageous women stand for their right to vote, bringing national attention to the suffrage movement.

3

1919



CONGRESS PASSES THE AMENDMENT

The U.S. House passed the 19th Amendment on May 21, 1919. The Senate followed on June 4, 1919.

4

AUGUST 18
1920



TENNESSEE RATIFIES

Tennessee becomes the 36th state to ratify the 19th Amendment, securing women's right to vote.

5

AUGUST 26
1920



AMENDMENT BECOMES LAW

Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby certifies the 19th Amendment as part of the Constitution of the United States.

6

TODAY



MORE THAN 110 YEARS OF SERVICE

The Key West Woman's Club continues to preserve history, support our community, and empower women.

“Well-behaved women seldom make history.”

– Laurel Thatcher Ulrich



CELEBRATING THE PAST.
SERVING THE PRESENT.
BUILDING THE FUTURE.



WOMEN GET THINGS DONE.

HONORING OUR HISTORY. INSPIRING OUR FUTURE.
Thank you to the generations of women who made the impossible possible.



Spreading Sunshine

This Summer's Community Impact

At the Key West Woman's Club, spreading sunshine is more than a phrase—it is what we have been doing since 1915. Through donations, volunteer service, and community partnerships, we proudly support local nonprofits, schools, and organizations that make Key West a better place.

Our Restaurant & Theatre Tour Card sales, now in its 21st year is our largest source of fundraising income and make much of this charitable giving possible. Every card sold helps us put more money directly back into our community and continue our 111-year tradition of women helping others.

A Positive Step of Monroe County, an organization helping local young people and families build stronger futures. Its programs include mentoring, family support, and the Idle Hands Summer Youth Employment Program, which provides Key West High School students with paid summer jobs, job training, and real-world experience.

Alex Vega Key West Firehouse Museum, a local nonprofit dedicated to preserving an important part of Key West's history. Housed in historic Firehouse No. 3, the museum honors generations of local firefighters through rare artifacts, historic equipment, photographs, and the stories of the men and women who protected our island

Area Health Education Center. Keys **AHEC** is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that helps Monroe County children receive medical and dental care, regardless of their families' financial circumstances.

Key West Business Guild & Woman's Fest 2026 a nonprofit organization that promotes LGBTQ+ tourism, supports welcoming local businesses, and strengthens Key West's inclusive community.

Anchors Aweigh Club, a nonprofit recovery clubhouse that has provided help, fellowship, and a safe place to gather for more than 40 years. With over 50 twelve-step meetings held each week, Anchors Aweigh offers steady support to residents and visitors working toward recovery



CELEBRATING OUR HISTORY

This is so exciting!! The framed artwork you see below was tucked away in the large built-in cabinet in the Club's Butler's Pantry. I had seen it several times over the years and always assumed it was just a General Federation of Women's Clubs symbol. I never paid much attention to the signature.

While researching our Club's history one day, I came across a February 6, 1950, Key West Citizen article announcing a Gene Otto art exhibit held and sponsored by the Key West Woman's Club. I went back and looked at the artwork again. That's when I realized it wasn't just a federation symbol it was one of the Key West Woman's Club's own logos!

I pulled out my collection of historic photographs and found the same logo displayed on the front porch in a 1964 photo of the clubhouse. I couldn't believe it! (oh happy day!)

The artwork, designed by Gene Otto, is now hanging in our Wicker Room where everyone can enjoy it. I don't know if it was the first official logo our Club ever used, but it's one of the oldest I've found.

If you have old photographs, programs, stationery, pins, or other Club memorabilia, I'd love to see them. Every piece helps tell the story of our Club and the women who helped make our Club what it is today.

The Key West Citizen
KEY WEST, FLORIDA, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1950

SOCIETY NEWS
By NINA LESLIE GULEY

Phones: The Citizen Office—51
Residence—629-J

**Recent Paintings By Gene Otto
Comprise Second Show Sponsored
By Key West Woman's Club**

On view now at the Woman's Club Building on Duval street is an exhibition of recent paintings by Gene Otto, the second in the seasonal series arranged for by the Fine Arts Department of the Woman's Club.

Gene Otto is a native Key Wester who has studied abroad and who has now returned to live in the Island City. He studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Chicago, and afterwards at the Art Students League in New York City, following which he journeying from France to Italy and Spain, and spending the last four of his student years at the Academie Julianne, where Whistler and Sargent were trained.

His paintings of Key West

scenes are known and admired throughout the world of art, as are his still-lives, examples of both of which are included in the present show.

Among the landscapes are *A Corner of the Artist's Garden, The Blue Balcony, The Rooftops Green Mansions, West Indian Ruins, Other End of Galveston Lane, The Little Entree, Treuse House, Noonday Sun* and *The Courtyard*, while the still-lives in the show include *Zinnias In A Copper Pot, Persian Jar With Tecomaria, The Shell, The Chimney Corner, Old Ironstone Dish With Flowers, and Jasmine Tea*.

The gallery at the Woman's Club is open daily from 2:00 to 6:00 P. M., and the show will continue through February 18.



former presidents, Mrs. Frank Warren, Mrs. Dan Navarro, Mrs. George Mills White and Mrs. George Eaton White.

The mortgage group was merrily up the hall. "For Things In Life Are Free" by Pierre Duval on his picture. As the fire subsidy members joined their and past presidents in the Doxology. There were present to whom the subscription ceremony was a happy outcome of year's work, heartaches and Prior to the actual of the past president's sume of their account her administration.

Mrs. William W.



KWWC MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Hello, fellow members!

As your new Membership Chair, I'm excited to connect with each of you and contribute to the vibrant spirit of our Key West Women's Club. A little about me: I hold an MBA and currently assist in managing my husband's small concierge physician's office. I have a passion for community engagement and collaboration. I truly believe in the power of our collective efforts to make a positive impact in our community.



**Kathryn Norris,
Membership**

I hope you are all enjoying a restful summer, whether you're soaking up the sun (and heat) here in Key West or relaxing somewhere else. Summertime is a wonderful time to rejuvenate and reflect on the amazing work we accomplish together throughout the year.

As we prepare for the upcoming fall season, I want to remind everyone that membership dues for our 2026-2027 season will be due in just a few weeks. Please keep an eye out for reminder emails in your inbox, as it is important to ensure your membership remains active.

I look forward to seeing everyone soon and sharing an exciting year ahead full of friendship and community service!

Wishing you a wonderful remainder of your summer,

Kathryn

NOTES FROM OUR DIRECTOR AT LARGE

Gratitude for the Key West Woman's Club gave me a fresh perspective this summer. Organizing events like Women and Wine and The Summer Solstice allowed me to truly connect with our newest members, reminding me how vital it is to pause and appreciate one another amidst the island's busy hustle. August is National Wellness Month, a perfect time to focus on self-care, stress management, and healthy routines.

As your new Director-at-Large, I have introduced an anonymous suggestion box where you can share your joys, cares, and concerns. The entire KWWC Board of Directors deeply cares about your wellness. When event preparation feels overwhelming, we want to ensure you still enjoy your time and feel fulfilled by the service you bring to our club.



**Betina Justice,
Direstor at Large**

As fall approaches and we gear up for our busier season, I encourage everyone to slow down and savor the bonds we share at the Key West Woman's Club. Take a moment to give a compliment, share a hug, and offer yourself the positive affirmation that you belong here.

Taking simple breaks is the best way to keep stress from taking over. As Aundrea says, "Members are the heartbeat of our club," and I couldn't agree more. A massive thank you to everyone who stepped up this summer to keep our community connections growing strong!

Beyond Grateful!
Betina

Website Updates

Have you checked out our website lately???



STACIE GLEASON

We now have a Google Calendar that you can subscribe to so that all of our events can be downloaded to the calendar on your phone.

Click here to see it...

Members Area

All active Members have been added to the Members Directory. If there is no photo of you or your information is missing or incorrect please contact me at kwwcstacie@gmail.com so I can updated it.



Book Club

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

Aug 18 - "Theo of Golden" by Allen Levi (**will be held at Art on Duval**)

Sept - skipping

Oct 13 - "This Book Made Me Think of You" by Libby Page

Nov 17 - "The Sober Diaries" by Claire Pooley

Dec 15 - "Christmas with the Queen" by Hazel Gaynor & Heater Webb

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

October 7, Membership Meeting

Maxine will be unable to attend the October Membership Meeting, so Roxanne Wood will be coordinating the meal in her place. Volunteers are needed for: lunch Set-up and Clean-up. We also need side dishes and desserts .contact: Roxanne Wood 562-716-2786

Women & Wine Hostesses Needed

We are looking for hostesses for the following Women & Wine gatherings:

October 21

November 18

December 16

Hostesses may sign up through the website, on the sign-up sheets in the workroom. or contact: Roxanne Wood 562-716-2786

It's easy to help host:

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

That's it—simple and fun



Fantasy Fest Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers in October to work our Over-the-Fence Bar during the three days of Fantasy Fest. We need members to work shifts, help with setup, and join in the fun. Last year was a blast!! We dressed up, met lots of people, told them about the Key West Woman's Club and Hellings Curry Museum, sold drinks, and raised money for Saving Eleanor.

If you are interested in volunteering Thursday 22, Friday 23, Saturday 24 afternoon /evening

Please contact me (Aundrea) 423-304-8982

Supporting the Residents of Poinciana Gardens and Oasis at The Conch Republic

Twice a month, the women of KWWC come together to brighten the day for residents of Poinciana Gardens and Oasis at The Conch Republic with an afternoon or evening of Bingo, fellowship, laughter, and snacks. Volunteers help create a welcoming and joyful experience for residents, and KWWC provides a \$10 Publix gift card for each game winner.

- **Poinciana Gardens:** 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:00–7:30 p.m.
- **Oasis at The Conch Republic:** 4th Thursday of each month, 2:00–3:30 p.m.

Please consider joining us as we share kindness with our fellow friends, some of whom look forward to KWWC visits as a special highlight of their month.

Come play, cheer, visit, and help us make a meaningful difference!

Contact Christina Chew 610-470-1176

MUSEUM HAPPENINGS

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 ensures that the stories of the Key West Woman's Club, the Hellings Curry family, and our island's past are preserved and shared.

*The museum will be closed during August and September for a seasonal break. This will give our hardworking docents time to rest and recharge while we freshen up Eleanor and complete our kitchen project. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in October.



48-STAR UNITED STATES FLAG

Official Flag of the United States, 1912–1959



ABOUT THE FLAG

This is an original 48-star United States flag. It was the official flag of our nation for 47 years, from July 4, 1912 to July 3, 1959.

The 48 stars represent the 48 states of the Union before Alaska and Hawaii were admitted.

A NATION THROUGH CHANGE

Under this flag, Americans lived through extraordinary times that shaped our history:

- World War I (1917–1918)
- The Roaring Twenties
- The Great Depression
- World War II (1941–1945)
- The Korean War
- The beginning of the Cold War

CONNECTION TO THE KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

This flag has a special connection to the Key West Woman's Club and our community.

- The Key West Woman's Club was founded in 1915.
- The club purchased the Hellings House in 1941.
- This flag flew during the years the club grew, served, and supported Key West, including its many years as the home of the Key West public library.

A symbol of unity. A reminder of history. A heritage we honor.



PROUDLY DISPLAYED BY THE
KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB
HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM

EST. 1915

Our original 48-star American flag will remain on display at the Hellings Curry Museum through the end of October. The 48-star flag was the official flag of the United States from 1912 to 1959. It was our nation's flag when the Key West Woman's Club was founded in 1915 and when the 19th Amendment was ratified in 1920. This special piece connects our Club's history with an important period in our nation's history. We hope our members will stop by and see it while it is on display.



MARKETING NEWS

The Marketing Committee has been meeting this summer to improve our forward planning for the new fall/winter season and to streamline some of our marketing approaches for the new season. Following are some highlights:

We welcomed Kathleen Goldstein, a new KWWC member with Marketing experience. She quickly developed a “Save the Date Card”—for KWWC new season’s Events. These cards can be distributed by Liz Calkins’ markets volunteers as they sell our merchandise and market our events. KWWC members can also distribute these cards to other places they volunteer or events/meetings they attend. Aundrea, and I will distribute them at the many community organization meetings we attend throughout the year.



Dr. Marlene Thorn
Vice President

We welcome back Becki Balcer in full force, who has agreed to be KWWC/HCM spokesperson and Public Relations member on the radio once a month. She will speak to the important role KWWC has historically played and continues to play in supporting many community non-profit organizations, and the hands on volunteering we do in the community. She will also promote the Hellings Curry Museum. She will announce the one or two major events a month that the KWWC is hosting. We look forward to hearing more about the KWWC’s from Becki on air!

The Marketing Committee and the Executive C has also been discussing how to promote more “hands on” volunteer opportunities in the community for members. More hands on within the KWWC, and much more hands on volunteering directly in the community. The KWWC members volunteering with Oasis has been such a success and gratifying for our members, we want the KWWC to go back to some of its hands on volunteering experience. We want to reach more and touch individuals on site, hands on helping, as much as we currently do directly with the financial funds we raise and grants we give to other community non-profit organization. Susan Collier has helped identify a few focused community efforts where members can focus volunteer efforts this year. More information on this later.

Based on member feedback the last couple of years and experiences, time this summer has been devoted to developing KWWC Guidelines for smoother operations for all members in the following areas: Event Leader Guidelines, Parking Guidelines, and Security Guidelines. There are also Housekeeping Guidelines. Early in the season these will be delivered to all members, and Event Leader Meetings to clarify the guidelines and answer questions. These Guidelines will also be posted in the Membership Directory Tab on the KWWC website. We want all members to familiarize themselves with these guidelines. They are important for the security of the house and the smooth operations as we take on more events, more volunteering, and more community contributions.

We look forward to seeing you, and all of us back together in a few months to participate and enjoy!

Marlene

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
Business Membership

Welcome new Bronze Business Member **Location 3 Real Estate!**

The Location 3 Real Estate Key West team offers many years of both residential and commercial property experience through both client representation and self-driven development projects. Broker Chris Belland has over 40 years of expertise in commercial sales and leasing in Old Town Key West. As one of the original founders of Old Town Key West Development he was part of restoring Key West's Old Town historic district in the 1970's. With Location 3 Real Estate of Key West, he and his partners expanded into the luxury real estate market developing Marquesa Court, Key Cove Landings, Paradise Harbor, Key West Steamplant and most recently Key Havel Estates. Additionally, they have focused on the need for Workforce Housing in the lower Keys building over 200 workforce homes for sale and lease. Debbie Swift Batty, Director of Property Development, Broker Associate, CAM brings over 25 years of sales and project management experience. Born and raised in Key West, Debbie began her sales career as a retail buyer and store manager for Tropical Shell and Gift, a subsidiary of Historic Tours of America. Her construction and project management experience began with the Old Town San Diego market, working on the restoration of an existing building as well as the recreation of a historic 1800's building to create a vibrant retail marketplace. She then spearheaded the rebuild of the Boston Tea Party Ship and Museum as Property Manager overseeing all details of pre-development for this multi-million-dollar attraction and retail complex. Returning home to Key West in 2005, Debbie transitioned to her current position working in property development and construction, real estate and association management. She has overseen the development and construction of multiple Key West properties. Additionally, a Broker Associate for Location 3 Real Estate of Key West, she has successfully closed over 60 real estate transactions in the past three years, and managed multiple Community Associations. If looking to be represented by locals that know Key West and the lower Florida Keys inside and out contact Debbie Swift Batty at:
Deborah Swift Batty

dbatty@location3keywest.com

<https://www.location3keywest.com>

305-509-1958



LOCATION3
REAL ESTATE • KEY WEST

SAVING ELEANOR



Saving Eleanor

When our electrician came to install our new washer and dryer (yes we have a washer and dryer whoop whoop!), we thought it would be a simple project. Instead, it uncovered another important improvement Eleanor needed.

Like many historic homes, Eleanor's electrical system had evolved over many years. As the house's needs changed, additional circuits, fuse boxes, and panels were installed. Our electrician determined that the system had reached the point where it was a fire hazard and needed to be completely replaced to meet modern safety standards. Sooo, Eleanor now has a completely updated electrical system with new panels, properly wired circuits, and meets the required safety standards. It's one of those improvements that most people will never notice, but it's one of the most important investments we've made in protecting this historic home.





Women & Wine Celebrates

August is National Wellness
Month: Focuses on self-
care, stress management,
and healthy habits.

Wednesday, August 19th
5:00 – 6:30 P.M.

Join our amazing hostesses
Carrie Graves , Christina Chew, Debbie Wilcox,
Donna Farrow, Jose Mintz Lesperance.
Kathy Hemmisch, Roxanne Wood



DON'T MISS WHAT'S COMING UP

STUDIO 319

Party Like a
ROCKSTAR

**FANTASY
FEST**
— KEY WEST —

SCAN HERE



KEY WEST'S MOST EXCLUSIVE FANTASY FEST
PARADE VIEWING PARTY!



PREMIUM
PARADE VIEWING



SIGNATURE
COCKTAILS



GOURMET
HORS D'OEUVRES



CLEAN
RESTROOMS

COME DRESSED AS
YOUR FAVORITE
MUSIC ICON!
SATURDAY OCTOBER 24 2026
6pm-10pm
\$350 PER GUEST



319 Duval Street, Key West

VETERANS DAY

PARADE WATCH PARTY & COOKOUT

NOVEMBER 11

PARADE BEGINS AT 4 PM

BURGERS & HOT DOGS

HELLINGS CURRY MUSEUM
319 DUVAL STREET

Veterans Day Parade Watch Party

Come celebrate Veterans Day with us on Wednesday, November 11, from 3:00–6:00 p.m.!

Members and their families are invited to watch the parade roll right past our front door on Duval Street while enjoying burgers, hot dogs, and plenty fun!

Bring an appetizer or dessert to share.

sign up or contact Roxanne Wood to volunteer 562-716-2786

The poster features a warm, Italian-themed background. At the top left, a gold banner with the text 'KEYSTIX.COM' is set against a backdrop of red flowers and a building facade. The central text is framed by a decorative arch. The background includes a string of warm-toned lights, a large Italian flag on the right, and a scene of people in Italian attire walking on a cobblestone street. In the bottom left, there is a still life with a bottle of red wine in a wooden basket, a glass of red wine, and a basil plant. The bottom right corner shows a decorative wrought-iron chair and more red flowers.

KEYSTIX.COM

KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

WELCOME BACK!

Members only Party
AN ITALIAN EVENING

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21ST 6-9PM

DINNER • LIVE MUSIC • DANCING
FREE FOR MEMBERS + ONE GUEST

Italian attire encouraged

RSVP Kcystix.com

BYOB