

KEY WEST WOMANS CLUB



PRESIDENT, AUNDREA WAGNER



Happy March Sisters!

I think March has always been an important time for the Key West Woman's Club. Since our founding in 1915, this is the time when we begin looking ahead to the next season of leadership and the future of our Club. I'm excited to see what this next chapter will bring and all the wonderful things our board and members will accomplish together. The women who started this Club believed that when women come together with purpose, they can make a real difference in their community. Over the years that has meant many things: supporting the library, organizing community events, helping families in need, and stepping up whenever Key West needed a helping hand. Today we continue that tradition by raising funds that go right back into our community to support other nonprofits, schools, and organizations in need. As the longest-standing nonprofit in Key West, it's something we can all be proud of!

Our 2025–2026 season has been incredible!! Most recently, the Tropical Luncheon, Wearable Art Fashion Show, and the Diamonds Gala brought everyone together for some truly memorable events. But the real magic is our members. The volunteers who step in, work together, and make every event feel special. You are the reason our events are so amazing and why they continue to sell out.

In just a few days we will gather for our Annual Awards Celebration Luncheon on April 1 at noon. (Beachside Resort, 3841 N Roosevelt Blvd,) During the luncheon we will also induct our officers and board members for the next two-year term. Many of our leaders will continue in their roles, and we are excited to welcome two new board members, **Betina Justice** as Director at Large and **Kathryn Norris** as Membership Director. Thank you, ladies, for stepping up and for your commitment to the Club. Our Awards Celebration marks the end of our official season, but we still have plenty of events and activities happening throughout our “off-season” months, so be sure to take a look at the calendar at the end of this newsletter.

I want you to know how much each of you means to this Club. Because of you, we continue a proud legacy that began more than 100 years ago. Because of you, our community is stronger. And because of you, this sisterhood continues to grow and thrive. Thank you for the time, heart, and joy you bring to everything we do.

I hope to see you all for our Breakfast at Tiffany’s Luncheon. “Nothing very bad could happen to you there.”
– Holly Golightly



*with Gratitude and Sunshine,
Aundrea*



This Month's Community Impact



At the Key West Woman's Club, "Sharing 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.

Forgotten Felines: provide compassionate care, including veterinary services and nourishment, to homeless and abandoned cats in the Middle and Lower Keys.

Fairy Gay Mothers: are a Key West nonprofit dedicated to spreading kindness and support throughout the community. Through their Magic Meals program, they partner with local restaurants to provide free meals—no questions asked—to anyone who may need a little help.

Anchors Aweigh Club Inc: is a longstanding nonprofit recovery clubhouse in Key West that provides a safe meeting space for Alcoholics Anonymous, and offers a welcoming environment for people working toward sobriety and mutual support.

Key West Art Center: The Key West Art Center is a nonprofit gallery dedicated to supporting local artists and preserving Key West's identity as a city of artists. It provides a year-round marketplace for artists' work, along with a community gathering space, learning environment, and public exhibition gallery.

Kids Come First: a nonprofit organization that helps children in Monroe County who are facing financial hardship by providing essentials such as clothing, school supplies, and personal care items so they can succeed in school and daily life.

Tropic Cinema: a nonprofit independent theater dedicated to bringing diverse cinema to Key West, including independent films, international movies, documentaries, and classic films. It also serves as a cultural gathering place for the community, hosting special screenings, lectures, and events that celebrate the art of film.

Queer Keys: nonprofit organization in Key West dedicated to supporting, educating, empowering, and celebrating the LGBTQ+ community throughout the Florida Keys. It offers programs, resources, and a safe community space that helps connect and support LGBTQ+ residents and families.

A Note from Susan

The Key West Community Orchestra had a wonderful concert at Poinciana Gardens on Thursday March 12th . They no longer have a director there but hopefully we will be able to arrange bingos there in the near future.

We went to Oasis the assisted living near LKMC on Feb.19th to play bingo with the residents there. Unfortunately we only had 5 of our members attend. We are going back there on Thursday March 19th from 2:00-4:00.I am hopeful to see more members there. I return North for the summer the first of May & we will need another member to chair these 2 missions until I return in the Fall. Please call me if this is something that might interest you. i don't want to have to suspend these visits until Fall.
Susan 609-425-0064

THURSDAY March 19,2026

FROM 2-4 PM



Questions call

SUSAN COLLIER 609-425-0064



SUSAN COLLIER
FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

Marketing News from Marlene

We are ending this year's "Season" with a Bang! February brought us fun filled events like the Friends of the Library, Murder Mystery that led us up to the Tropical Luncheon and Garden Party. Then came the Wearable Art Fashion Show and Live Auction. Both successful opportunities that were different, full of fun, and sold out! March brings us our Annual Gala Fundraiser, "Diamonds are a Girls Best Friend" and preparations for our last formal Membership Meeting of the year, the Awards Luncheon. See more detailed information below.



Marlene Thorn, VP

Upcoming Events:

The KWWC Annual Awards Luncheon, Wednesday April 1. Annita Tschanz and her team are working on creating a fabulous Luncheon.

Events later in April and May – Mark your calendars.

The Country Line Dance Party – A family event, April 26

Singer Songwriters – May 2

For all who wonder what the Marketing Committee does.

The many tasks of the Marketing Committee include how to best: 1) market, 2) advertise (press releases, social media, radio, and other community organization outreach markets), and 3) implement each of KWWC's events. Other Marketing Committee related planning and tasks include: 1) Debrief each event with the Event leader after the conclusion of the event, in order to enhance the event and improve it and our event marketing effort for the next year, 3) develop Community Business Memberships for the Hellings Curry Museum, and Sponsorships for the KWWC events, and creating Merchandise ideas for our Docent tours and the Community Markets. This is just a preview of the work we do. If you are interested in contributing to these efforts next year, please contact me for more information: thornmarlene26@gmail.com

Thank you to the entire Marketing Committee for all the work you do. And thank you to all the wonderful KWWC members who volunteer and make all the events fun and successful.

HouseKeeping: House Security- Back door.

There is a new lock on the back door. The new Back Door lock Does Not Lock automatically.

To lock the new back door lock: Push the door in tightly and then just push the upper button that reads Teccho. Hold the button in until the door locks.

Please keep the doors locked if you are in the house. If you are in the kitchen or delivering things to the kitchen then the door does not need to be locked while you are in the kitchen or delivering.

Keeping the house secure is for your safety and the safety of the items in the house, many that are valuable. Many members are surprised when they hear that we have had unwanted visitors on the premises and also come into the house during events and at other times. While Key West is a very safe island, we are in a location that is vulnerable to curious individuals that help themselves. Examples: sleeping on the front porch at night, taking baths in the fountain, wandering into an event looking for food, etc.

If you are having a meeting and members of the Committee do not have the code, please have the Committee members come to the side door and knock to be let in. If the Committee Chair doesn't have the code the, the Event leader, who does have the code or can be given a code by Aundrea, should unlock the house for the Committee Chair to let other members into the house at the side door...not the back door. Do not leave the back door unlocked. Lock it please.

If you are a member who has been given the code. Please do not give the code to anyone who asks you for it. Only our President Aundrea can give the code out.

**Thank you
Marlene**

COMMUNICATIONS

Book Club



STACIE GLEASON

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

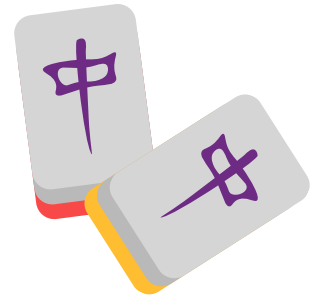
Mar 17th - The Many Lives of Mama Love: A Memoir of Lying, Stealing, Writing & Healing by: Lara Love Hardin

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

May 19th - The Nightingale by: Kristin Hannah



The Woman's Club hosted a Mahjong Tournament and proceeds benefited the Woman's Club.



Winners



Thanks to our amazing organizers!



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

It has been my honor and great joy to serve as your Membership Director for the past two years. And now at the April awards luncheon, it will be time for me to say goodbye to the office. During this, my second term on the Board of Directors, I hope I've brought new vision, modernization, and a great deal of fun to the role. Over these 20+ years as a member, I've worn a lot of hats, , and I'll continue to support and love you all in the coming years. And I will always help those in our community who need it the most.



**Kim Gordon,
Membership Director**

This month is a record-breaker for inductions and I'm so proud of our club for attracting such incredible women! Please join me in welcoming fourteen new members.

Kadi MacKenzie is the founder and creative director of The Sailor's Heart, a Keys-based floral design and event planning studio. You may remember her work from the Wearable Art Fashion Show.

Laura Stewart describes herself as a long-time, stay-at-home mom. She recently moved back to Key West with her family and works at Naitini day spa.

Ellen Cavanaugh had a 40-year career as a utility executive and attorney. This included 29 years at Peco, a subsidiary of Exelon Corp. one of the nations leading energy services companies, both as a vice president and assistant general counsel. She has also been a litigation attorney.

Dimitri Danielides is from Indiana, where she owned and operated a daycare center. She has also been a flight attendant and is a graduate of the ambassador class of January 2025.

Phyllis Ann Bauman has owned a home in Key West for seven years and just recently became a full-time resident. She cares particularly deeply for people going through hard times and would like to help with people in need.

Rosanne Firriolo has had a successful 40 year career in real estate. She has also spent 20 years as a licensed general contractor building residential homes.

Jackie Sauter splits her time between Key West and the North Country. Before retiring, she was director of on-air and online content for North Country Public Radio. She serves on the executive committee

of ARC of New York and is an advisor for the New York State family support services program. She is also president of a regional arts organization in the North Country.

Cristina Chew spent 30 years working in global sales, marketing, and business consulting throughout the northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. In 2022, she made a bold career shift and became a teacher. She now teaches at Poinciana elementary school.

Carrie Graves has lived in Key West for five years and is eager to volunteer to help with as many events as possible, though she works full-time. She has already helped our club in so many ways.

Keith Dodson moved to Key West full-time from Virginia in October 2024. She served on the local school board there and was active with two performing arts theaters. She is a retired real estate agent.

Mendy Anderson is an ICU nurse who says she's used to advocating fiercely, listening, and making clear decisions under pressure. She says she is committed to turning compassion into action in the community.

Kathleen Goldstein has been a full-time resident in Key West for eight years, and prior to retirement she had 21 years experience in marketing and strategic communications specializing in nonprofit organizations. She was the owner of Green Fish communications and worked with organizations such as the African Wildlife Foundation, Environmental Defense, the Nature Conservancy, and World Wildlife Fund.

By now you probably know I have an exciting concert and fundraising event coming up on March 14 at the Key West Theater! Many thanks to the club for its partnership and support. This will be a big, glam music and dance party to benefit S.O.S. Foundation to feed our most in-need local schoolchildren. Do you have your tickets for this magical night? The entire theater will be decorated like an exotic Venetian Carnival. I'm returning to the stage with my All-Star band featuring Grammy-winner Tim Mayer on sax. There will be great music and prizes for the best masks and ensembles. All to feed hungry kids. Tickets are available at the box office and online at <https://thekeywesttheater.com/e/?event=1210858>

Yours always in sisterhood! See you at the Masquerade Ball.

Kim Gordon

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.



Please join me in welcoming new Platinum Business Member Roof Assassins. They are a commercial and residential roofing company serving Key West and the lower keys. They are committed to delivering quality roofing solutions to meet the needs of our community.



Patricia Neyra
Director at Large

A NOTE FROM JANIE

I am attaching a very TENTATIVE Docent schedule for March. You will notice that even though the crowds may be dwindling a bit, we still need one additional regular Docent on Monday afternoons. Please let me know ASAP if you are available for any of the positions highlighted in yellow.

What follows is some more good history from Jean Shannon, our resident historian:

Since March 31, 1886 is the 140th Anniversary of the Great Fire of Key West, it maybe a good time to include a couple of facts the docents may be interested knowing and to use during your tour.

I'm normally asked: The number of casualties?

Seven fatalities and 15 injuries were attributed to the fire. Many of the injuries were blistering burns, caused by flashing gunpowder. The great fire caused damages of \$1,500,000. It affected everyone on the island. 50 acres of property was destroyed.

Where did it start? It started, suspiciously, in a café next to the San Carlos. Fire leaped to adjacent buildings, destroying the San Carlos and other buildings in less than an hour.

Effects on Cigar Industry: The fire destroyed 16 large cigar factories and many smaller cigar operations, putting thousands of cigar workers out of work.

For what reasons were the Spanish blamed for fire:

- because they would gain the most by the fire.
- report stated that the fire was reported in the Havana newspaper days before its occurrence.
- The next morning Spanish gunboats arrived in the Key West harbor, ready to pick up any cigar workers who wished to return to Cuba.
- theory was that Cuban anarchists started the blaze to gain International support for their cause against Spain, and that, again, Spain would probably be blamed.

None of these accusations was ever proved.

Moving forward, the Jacksonville newspaper reported in 1888 that 50 new buildings were being constructed every week in Key West.

Built Back Better.

One additional thing.... Only 7 children living on the island received 10K. Henry Franklin, another son, followed the efforts of his grandfather Capt. Benjamin Curry and had already established himself in a very lucrative citrus business near Curry Point, mid FL east of Bradentown (now Bradenton). He died in 1917 and his body was transported back to Key West by train and buried in the Key West Cemetery. William's Father, Benjamin had taken a group of Curry's from the Bahamas to Bradentown. He did not encourage his sons William and Benjamin to stay in Key West.

Have a great Month and Thank You for all you do!

Janie



JANIE TEITELBAUM
MUSEUM DIRECTOR

BE A VOLUNTEER DOCENT

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!!

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



Our amazing volunteer docents leaving for the day after sharing our beautiful museum and our history with locals and visitors from around the world.

Monday
AM

Lora Wandras
Jean Shannon
Dianne Brendle
PM

Anne Davenport 3/2, 3/13 (Need sub 3/9, 3/23)
Kathleen Mahoney
Sue Lynch (Demetria Danielides to sub 3/2)

Tuesday
AM

PJ Eaton (need sub. 3/24) Debi Wolf to sub 3/31
Paul Eaton (Teo Chapa to sub 3/24 & 3/31)
Patti Carey (need sub 3/24)
PM

Peggy Guidotti
Tunie Hamlen(need sub 3/3)
Rebecca Lacey

Wednesday
AM

Cathy Hesse (need sub 3/18)
Janie Teitelbaum
Teo Chapa
PM
Jody Gross
Nancy Romain
Janet Stampfl

Thursday
AM

Myra Ciardi/ Kathy Torrey
Joanne Garzarella/ Marlene Thorn
Rita Marshall/Susan Merrill
PM

Lonnie Gordon
Joan Shea
Louise Weithas

Friday

AM
Melinda Hudson (need sub 3/6 & 3/13)
Susan August

Susan Mitchell
PM
Francine Gittins
Eileen Kawaller
Mary Means

DID YOU KNOW?



Did you know that in the spring of 1919, the Key West Woman's Club faced a library crisis?

At the time, the Club was operating the public library for the community. When the Dr. Sweeting building — where the books were housed — was demolished, the women acted quickly. They relocated the entire collection to the home of Miss Lilly Watlington to keep the library open.

That home, known today as the Oldest House,

There was no county library system then. The women of the Key West Woman's Club were the system.

Even during financial hardship and constant moves, they refused to let literacy disappear from this island.

For 110 years, our organization has stepped forward when Key West needed us and we still do.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN AND WINE WEDNESDAY

HOSTED BY



**Kathy Norris, Carolyn Will,
Carol Rezba, Jackie Sauter,
Linda Badwey, Cindy McCausland**

**MARCH 18, 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 bottles of wine 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



**Baptist
Health**

Cancer
Care

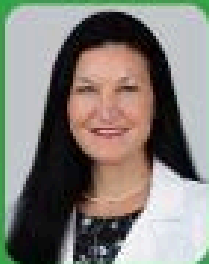
Join us!

An Evening With Baptist Health Cancer Care Key West.

Bringing physicians and
community together for
meaningful dialogue.

Join us for an evening of networking and education
at the Key West Woman's Club, featuring a
physician panel with Dr. Filiaggi, Dr. Porrazzo
and Dr. Summers. Enjoy light bites and
refreshments while engaging in meaningful
conversation about women's health.

Panelists:



Kathleen Filiaggi,
M.D., Internal
Medicine Physician



Michael Porrazzo,
M.D., Radiation
Oncologist



Thomas Summers,
D.O., Medical
Oncologist



FREE EVENT

When

Tuesday, March 24, 6-8 p.m.

Where

Key West Woman's Club
319 Duval St., Key West

For more information,
Scan the QR code.



2026 Awards Luncheon

*Did someone mention
going to Tiffany's for lunch?
Well, you're in luck because that is our
Awards Luncheon theme this year!*

Breakfast Tiffany's

Our celebration will be held on **April 1, 2026** at the **Beachside Resort, 3841 North Roosevelt Boulevard, Key West, Florida**. Parking is available in the garage.

Our buffet menu consists of a Champagne welcome toast, Tomato Basil soup with breadsticks, Caesar Salad, Tomato Caprese, Penne Rustica, Chicken Parmesan, Gorgonzola Meatballs, Herbed Risotto, Brussels Sprouts and Cheesecake with fresh berries for dessert. Water and coffee are included and cash bar will be available

The cost is \$50 per person and reservations and payment must be made by **Friday, March 20, 2026**.

So, dust off your black hats and your little black dresses and join the fun! We look forward to another fun event as we honor our volunteers and members!

QUESTIONS..CONTACT
ANNITA TSCHANZ 513-594-3711.
LISA MENDITCH 240-463-2346



SUNDAY
26 APRIL
5PM-8PM

PRICE
\$85
/PERSON



**CONCH
COUNTRY**
DANCE PARTY

DANCING FOR A CAUSE
BENEFITING DANCE KEY WEST

LIVE COUNTRY BAND:

WHERE'S DAVE

**COUNTRY BARBEQUE
SIGNATURE COCKTAILS
BEER AND WINE**

- LINE DANCE LESSONS (BEGINNER FRIENDLY)
- OPEN LINE & COUNTRY DANCING
- HAT & BOOT CONTEST
- DRESS TO IMPRESS - THE KEYS COUNTRY COOL WINNER TAKES THE CROWN!
- OUTDOOR DANCE FLOOR
- FAMILY FRIENDLY

DRESS CODE:
KEYS COUNTRY COOL
WEAR WHATEVER YOU
DEFINE AS COUNTRY.

TICKET INCLUDES
BBQ DINNER,
LIVE MUSIC, AND
LINE DANCE
LESSONS

KEY WEST WOMEN'S CLUB BACKYARD
319 DUVAL ST KEY WEST

PRICE: \$85.00/PERSON | KIDS 12 AND UNDER \$40.00

**MORE INFO AND TO
PURCHASE TICKETS**
KEYSTIX.COM



 **DANCEKEYWEST.ORG**



save the date

ART FROM THE ATTIC



April 22 – May 8, 2026
Online and In-Person Auction
Benefits the Anne McKee Artists Fund &
the
Key West Woman's Club



ON OUR FRONT PORCH

Saturday May 2, 2026
4-7pm
\$20.00 Donation

COMMUNITY



Food Drive

Join us and make a difference in the lives of our fellow residents.

We are collecting canned goods and non-perishable food items to help families within our own community..

**Key West Woman's Club
319 Duval Street**



Having Fun at February's

Women & Wine



***Laughter! Friends!
Great Wine!***

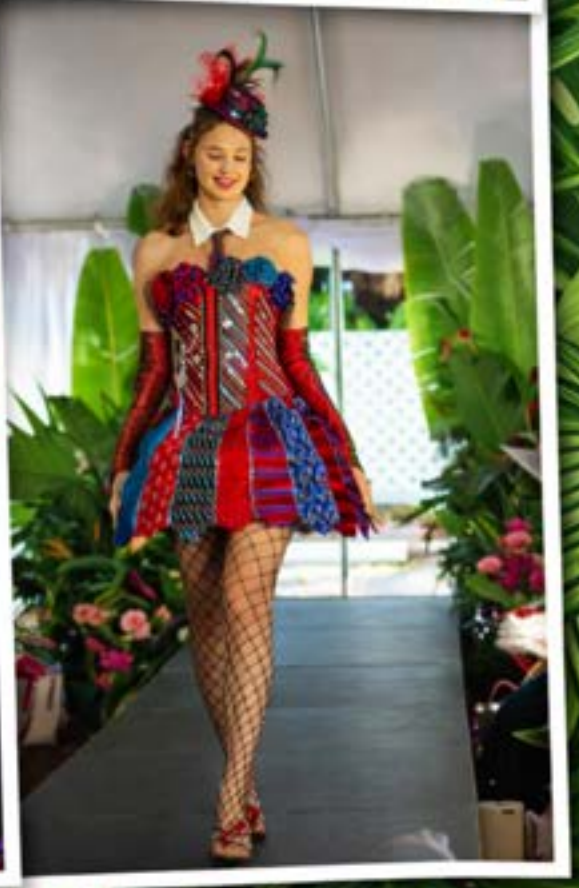


Key West Woman's Club *Wearable Art Fashion Show*



Key West Woman's Club Wearable Art Fashion Show





KEY WEST WOMAN'S CLUB

Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend Gala

PHOTOS FROM OUR GLAMOROUS EVENT!



*Thanks to our amazing
Volunteers...*





Mark Your Calendars

Mar 14	Saturday	Black & Red Masquerade Ball	7:30 – 10:00
Mar 17	Tuesday	Book Club – The Many Lives of Mama Love by: Lara Love Hardin	4:00 – 5:00
Mar 18	Wednesday	Women & Wine	4:30 – 6:00
Mar 19	Thursday	Oasis Assisted Living Center – Bingo	2:00 – 4:00
Mar 24	Tuesday	Baptist Health – Cancer Care (Free)	6:00 – 8:00
Mar 25	Wednesday	New Member Orientation	11:30 – 2:00
Mar 26	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 – 4:30
Apr 1	Wednesday	Awards Luncheon – Breakfast at Tiffany’s	11:30 – 1:30
Apr 9	Thursday	Poinciana Gardens Bingo & Ice Cream Social	6:00 – 8:00
Apr 15	Wednesday	Women & Wine	4:30 – 6:00
Apr 18	Saturday	Donate art for “Art in the Attic”	
Apr 21	Tuesday	Book Club – The Art Thief by: Michael Finkel	4:00 – 5:00
Apr 22	Wednesday	Art from the Attic - Opening Reception	5:30 – 7:30
Apr 23	Thursday	Art in the Attic sale – Thru May 8 th (not Sundays)	10:00 – 4:00
Apr 23	Thursday	Oasis Assisted Living Center – Bingo	2:00 – 4:00
Apr 23	Thursday	BOD Meeting	3:30 – 4:30
Apr 26	Sunday	Conch County Dancing Party	5:00 – 8:00
May 2	Saturday	Women Song writers perform at KWWC	4:00 – 7:00
May 8	Friday	Art in the Attic sale ends	10:00 am – 4:00
May 19	Tuesday	Book Club - The Nightingale by: Kristin Hannah	4:00 – 5:00