

SEPTEMBER 2025



NEWSLETTER

GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB



"Leadership is unlocking people's potential to become better" – Bill Bradley



Our next Board Meeting: October 5, 2025, 7pm
GFWC Florida Fall Board of Directors: Sept. 26-28, 2025
gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

Welcome to Fall, dear Blue Umbrella members and friends,

Well, sort of, for those of us here in Florida. I have been told that you can feel some coolness early in the morning. If so, I personally have missed it! But we do know it is on the horizon and that our friends and family living a little further north are enjoying the change of temperature. If we can make it through the rest of hurricane season with nothing major, we will count ourselves fortunate! And that would be great since clubs have so many things planned for September and October. Please find a festival or a service project near you and plan to attend and show our mutual support for each other.

One of the major upcoming events is the Florida Fall Board of Directors Meeting (open to all members), September 26-28 at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando. For the first time, the LEADS seminar will be held on Friday, just before Fall Board. I am very excited about the Fall Board schedule. The keynote speaker on Saturday evening will be a female former astronaut in keeping with President Sara's emphasis on veterans; the workshops will be interactive and informative, and will offer something for everyone; and we will all have an opportunity for a hands on service project Saturday evening, helping put together Comfort Cases for foster children in support of Junior Director Racquel's special project!

The GFWC International Day of Service is September 27, and although most clubs have scheduled a specific project, the actual date will be while the Florida Fall Board is occurring. Don't forget to bring your donations, which will be donated locally. The focus this year is on the GFWC Signature Program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention. Blue Umbrella is very proud to have sponsored a webinar, open to all, on September 7, led by Florida Signature Chairman and Blue Umbrella member Tamica Thomas Simpson. Further along in this newsletter, we have a review of the webinar, which was amazing! For those of you who couldn't attend, the webinar was recorded and is available for you to view at your convenience. Contact Lisa Klatt for information.

The Annual District Meetings (ADMs) with visits from our Florida officers are coming up, as is the Southern Region Meeting in Huntsville, Alabama, with visits there from GFWC officers. I encourage you to attend as much as you can. One of the greatest benefits of being a part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs is the opportunity to spend time with like-minded members everywhere in the world who are dedicated to volunteer service. Unity in Diversity is our motto, and even with all of our differences, it is phenomenal how much we have in common and how much we can accomplish together! Come be an active part!

LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS.....always!

Hugs,

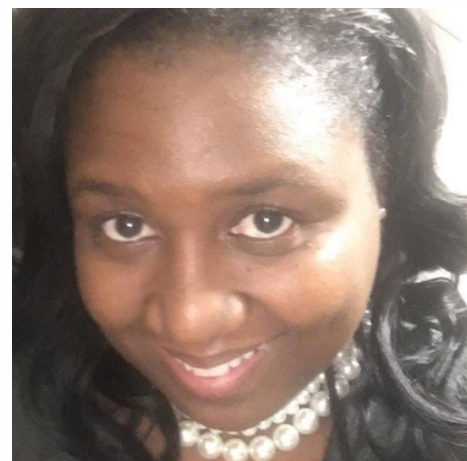
Dianne

SHINING A LIGHT: THE LEGACY WITHIN

BY PATTY FISHER

The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club was honored to host an impactful and inspiring webinar in support of the GFWC International Day of Service, shining a light on Domestic & Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention.

On Sunday, September 7, GFWC Florida's own Tamica Thomas Simpson, Signature Program Chairman, presented *The Legacy Within: What Survivors Carry and How We Help Them to Rise*. Her heartfelt program touched the minds and hearts of all in attendance.

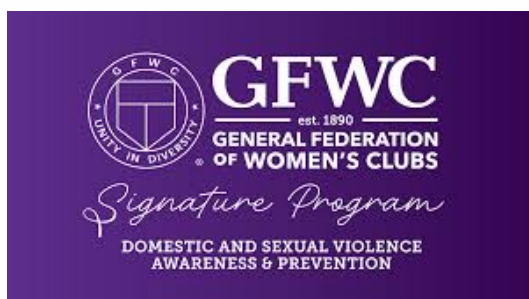


Tamica courageously shared her own story with honesty and strength, giving us a deeper understanding of the struggles survivors face and the invisible burdens they carry. One of the most moving parts of her presentation was the Invisible Backpack exercise, which allowed participants to visualize the unseen weight survivors bring with them every day. Through her passion, Tamica reminded us that sometimes the greatest gift we can offer is not advice or solutions, but to listen—truly listen—with compassion and without judgment.

This important conversation didn't end with awareness; it sparked a call to action. Tamica challenged us to create personal plans for involvement and bring those ideas back to our clubs to encourage collective action.

Here are some practical steps we can all take:

- Support Local Shelters: Collect needed items such as toiletries, clothing, gift cards, or transportation passes.
- Promote Awareness in Schools: Advocate for age-appropriate education programs in middle and high schools. Teachers and staff need resources to help recognize warning signs of abuse and dating violence.
- Educate Ourselves and Others: Share information on the dynamics of domestic and sexual violence at club meetings, community events, and through social media.
- Volunteer Your Time: Partner with local crisis centers or hotlines to provide hands-on support.
- Be a Voice of Compassion: Model non-judgmental listening and encourage others to do the same.



SHINING A LIGHT: THE LEGACY WITHIN

CONTINUED

The reality is clear: our young people need awareness and prevention education, and our educators need tools to identify when something may be wrong. Together, we can help break cycles of silence and empower survivors to rise.

The Blue Umbrella Club proudly stands with GFWC's Signature Program in this mission. Let us continue to shine a light, not only in our communities but also in the lives of the survivors we encounter every day.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

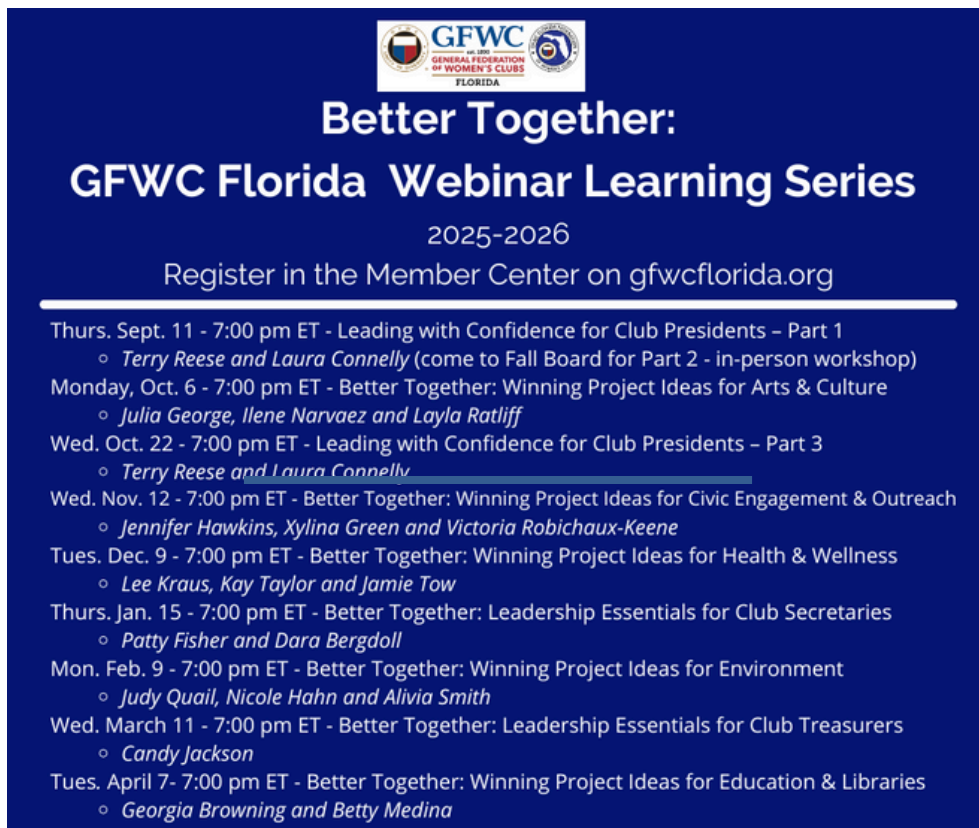
You are invited! Club Presidents and future leaders - plan to attend Session 2 of the Lead with Confidence Leadership Training Series - Lead Smart: Real Talk and Real Tools for Club Leadership, on Saturday afternoon at Fall Board. Don't miss this opportunity to hear from GFWC Florida leaders and Past Presidents as they share their wisdom with you! Session 3 of this three-part series will be a webinar held on Wednesday, October 22, entitled Lead Smart: A Club President's Toolkit. Registration will open on September 22.



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

The GFWC Florida Webinar Series will be presenting the **Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Arts & Culture** webinar on Monday, October 6 at 7:00 pm ET. You will hear Arts & Culture ideas from clubs across the state who will spark your creativity as they share unique and winning project details! Our GFWC Florida Chairman, Junior Chairman and Juniorette Chairman will offer reporting tips and details on the GFWC Florida Focus Project and GFWC Community Connection Initiative.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/wwTXABevD5KhnUnDA>



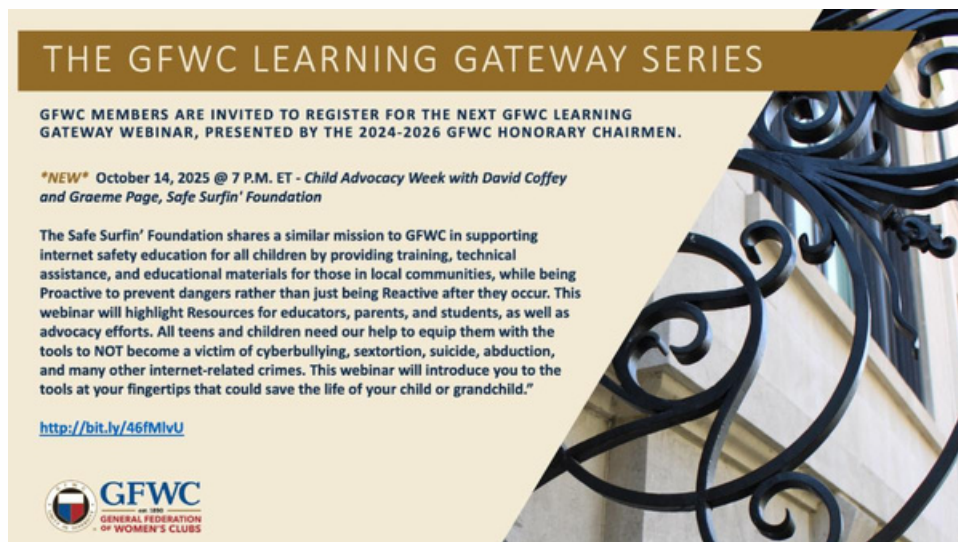
The poster features the GFWC Florida logo at the top, which includes the text "GFWC", "INC. 1920", "GENERAL FEDERATION", "OF WOMEN'S CLUBS", and "FLORIDA". Below the logo, the title "Better Together: GFWC Florida Webinar Learning Series" is displayed in white text on a dark blue background, followed by "2025-2026". A white line separates the title from the registration information: "Register in the Member Center on gfwcflorida.org". A list of webinar topics and speakers follows, each preceded by a date and time. The topics include "Leading with Confidence for Club Presidents", "Winning Project Ideas for Arts & Culture", "Winning Project Ideas for Civic Engagement & Outreach", "Winning Project Ideas for Health & Wellness", "Leadership Essentials for Club Secretaries", "Winning Project Ideas for Environment", "Leadership Essentials for Club Treasurers", and "Winning Project Ideas for Education & Libraries".

**Better Together:
GFWC Florida Webinar Learning Series**
2025-2026
Register in the Member Center on gfwcflorida.org

- Thurs. Sept. 11 - 7:00 pm ET - Leading with Confidence for Club Presidents – Part 1
 - Terry Reese and Laura Connelly (come to Fall Board for Part 2 - in-person workshop)
- Monday, Oct. 6 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Arts & Culture
 - Julia George, Ilene Narvaez and Layla Ratliff
- Wed. Oct. 22 - 7:00 pm ET - Leading with Confidence for Club Presidents – Part 3
 - Terry Reese and Laura Connelly
- Wed. Nov. 12 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Civic Engagement & Outreach
 - Jennifer Hawkins, Xylina Green and Victoria Robichaux-Keene
- Tues. Dec. 9 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Health & Wellness
 - Lee Kraus, Kay Taylor and Jamie Tow
- Thurs. Jan. 15 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Leadership Essentials for Club Secretaries
 - Patty Fisher and Dara Bergdoll
- Mon. Feb. 9 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Environment
 - Judy Quail, Nicole Hahn and Alivia Smith
- Wed. March 11 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Leadership Essentials for Club Treasurers
 - Candy Jackson
- Tues. April 7 - 7:00 pm ET - Better Together: Winning Project Ideas for Education & Libraries
 - Georgia Browning and Betty Medina

Be a Part of the GFWC Learning Gateway Series for Child Advocacy Week

Registration link: <http://bit.ly/46fMlvU>



The poster has a gold header with the text "THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES". Below this, it states "GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE NEXT GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR, PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN." The date and time are listed as "NEW* October 14, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET - Child Advocacy Week with David Coffey and Graeme Page, Safe Surfin' Foundation". A paragraph describes the mission of the Safe Surfin' Foundation and the goals of the webinar. The registration link <http://bit.ly/46fMlvU> is provided. The GFWC logo is at the bottom left, and the background features a close-up of ornate black metal scrollwork.

THE GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY SERIES

GFWC MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO REGISTER FOR THE NEXT GFWC LEARNING GATEWAY WEBINAR, PRESENTED BY THE 2024-2026 GFWC HONORARY CHAIRMEN.

NEW October 14, 2025 @ 7 P.M. ET - Child Advocacy Week with David Coffey and Graeme Page, Safe Surfin' Foundation

The Safe Surfin' Foundation shares a similar mission to GFWC in supporting internet safety education for all children by providing training, technical assistance, and educational materials for those in local communities, while being Proactive to prevent dangers rather than just being Reactive after they occur. This webinar will highlight Resources for educators, parents, and students, as well as advocacy efforts. All teens and children need our help to equip them with the tools to NOT become a victim of cyberbullying, sextortion, suicide, abduction, and many other internet-related crimes. This webinar will introduce you to the tools at your fingertips that could save the life of your child or grandchild."

<http://bit.ly/46fMlvU>

GFWC
INC. 1920
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

INTERNATIONAL UPDATE



Congratulations to five GFWC International Affiliates who have registered to support the International Day of Service focused on the GFWC Signature Program, Domestic and Sexual Violence Awareness and Prevention. They have shared that it is an important issue worldwide.

Just like us, many clubs in Belize are investing their time and energy into helping local students start school ready to learn and thrive. Below, GFWC Belmopan Women's Club Vice President Armid Haylock presents school supplies to local school representatives.



The GFWC Suga City Juniores (Belize) visited a senior center where they enjoyed activities and board games with the residents as they listened to their life-changing stories. The Juniores also distributed bags of groceries for the residents to enjoy.



INTERNATIONAL UPDATE



The GFWC Suga City Sistaz (Belize) sold snacks at a night market to raise funds for their club. They also took the opportunity to promote their club to the community!



ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT



Single-use plastic is a problem.

By 2050 there will be more plastic than fish in the ocean. Our actions make a difference!



JUNIORETTES AT FALL BOARD

Let's support our amazing Juniores! New location for their fundraising table-2nd floor by the salons! And check out their online store! All proceeds go towards supporting our Juniores with their annual state meeting and ventures.

SUPPORT JUNIORETTES!
SUPPORT JUNIORETTES!



Head over to our table at Fall Board on the 2nd Floor by the Salons!!



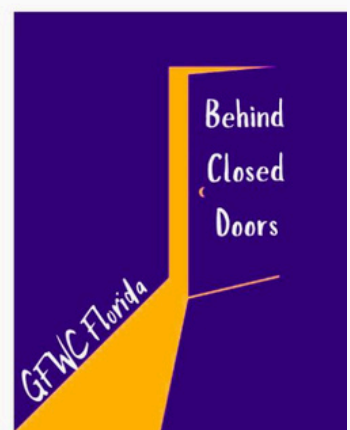
silicone keychains!

silicone and bead bracelets!



Check out our online store too!!

Fall Board pickup deadline is 9/9/25!!



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB

QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE

Stay Connected

- Check the Blue Umbrella Facebook page and newsletter regularly for updates.
- Join quarterly meetings, and make note of Annual Convention and Fall Board gatherings.

Show your Spirt

- Wear your Blue Umbrella Club shirt or jewelry and bring your tote bag to GFWC meetings and events to promote unity.
- Keep an umbrella in photos for fun, recognition and visibility

Engage with Others

- Introduce yourself to new members at events—Blue Umbrella members are known for being welcoming!
- Share your GFWC journey and what the Blue Umbrella Club means to you.

Be Involved

- Volunteer to help with club projects or state events. Even small contributions make a big impact.
- Offer to write a short spotlight for the newsletter or share your club's projects for recognition.

Learn and Grow

- Take advantage of leadership workshops, webinars, and mentoring opportunities.
- Ask questions—someone always has the experience to guide you.

Celebrate each Other

- Congratulate members on milestones and accomplishments.
- Support fellow members' projects by attending or spreading the word.

GFWC FLORIDA JUNIOR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT



The poster features a gold glitter background. At the top left is a heart logo with two figures inside, labeled 'GFWC Florida Building Families'. To its right is the Texas state seal and the 'GFWC' logo with 'est. 1890' and 'GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS FLORIDA'. On the right is a teddy bear. Below the title are illustrations of a toothbrush and toothpaste, socks, pajamas, and a book. The text 'Fun Night for a Cause' is in large cursive. Below it, 'When: Saturday night immediately following dinner' and 'What: Packing comfort cases' are written in blue and red. A large backpack is shown on the left. A blue box on the right contains text about the comfort cases, with a yellow button below it. The bottom section has logos for 'COMFORTCASES.' and 'ONE MORE CHILD +1', followed by the phrase '... together building families...'.

  **GFWC**
est. 1890
GENERAL FEDERATION
OF WOMEN'S CLUBS
FLORIDA 

Fun Night
for a Cause

When: Saturday night
immediately following dinner

What: Packing comfort cases



Comfort Cases are backpacks filled with comfort and personal care items for youth entering the foster care system.

[SEE WHAT'S IN EACH CASE](#)

 **COMFORTCASES.** and **ONE MORE CHILD** 

... together building families...



BLUE UMBRELLA MERCHANDISE

Do you need a Blue Umbrella Club T-shirt? These fitted tees come in a stunning turquoise blue and are available in sizes Small through 4XL. Please order at least one size up—these shirts are fitted and may shrink slightly in the wash.

T-Shirt Pricing (tax included):

👕 Small-XL: \$27

👕 2XL-4XL: \$29

📦 Add \$5 shipping per order

💎 Jewelry Collection:

🌟 Bracelets: \$15

(more pictures on the website)

🌟 Earrings: \$10

🌟 Pins: \$10

📦 Shipping additional

🛍️ NEW! Blue Umbrella Totes \$5
Perfect for meetings, errands, or
gifting—grab one (or more)!

NEW!! Blue Umbrella Lanyard \$5

To Order:

Email Paula Juvinall at"

merchblueumbrella@gmail.com

with your order and shipping info.

Payment Options:

✓ Use any of the payment links on our website

✓ Or mail a check



Use the QR code for online payment, or mail a check to the address listed below.

QR Code - put a checkmark in the box labeled "Other". Note t-shirt size or jewelry details in the box below that

Check - in memo line, write t-shirt size or jewelry details

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.
PO Box 371
Mango, FL 33550-0371

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Position	Name	Email
President	Dianne Foerster	president@gfwcblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Sallie Milner	firstvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Patty Fisher	secondvp@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Karen Griggsby	recordingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Kathy Mammenga	treasurer@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Corresponding Secretary	Lisa Klatt	correspondingsec@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Communications Chairman	Amber Treat	communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org
History Chairman	Rachelle Warmouth	historian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Merchandise Chairman	Paula Juvinal	merchandise@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Technology Chairman	Lisa Klatt	technology@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Parliamentarian	Nancy Crawford	parliamentarian@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Social Media Chairman	Sharon Grace	socialmedia@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Julie Babcock	advisorbabcock@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@gfwcblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Karen Morris	advisormorris@gfwcblueumbrella.org



Mission Statement

This Club is organized to encourage an ongoing, positive opportunity for volunteerism based on incorporating the attributes of love, respect, and kindness through all aspects of life. The mission will encompass support for existing clubs and projects at local levels.

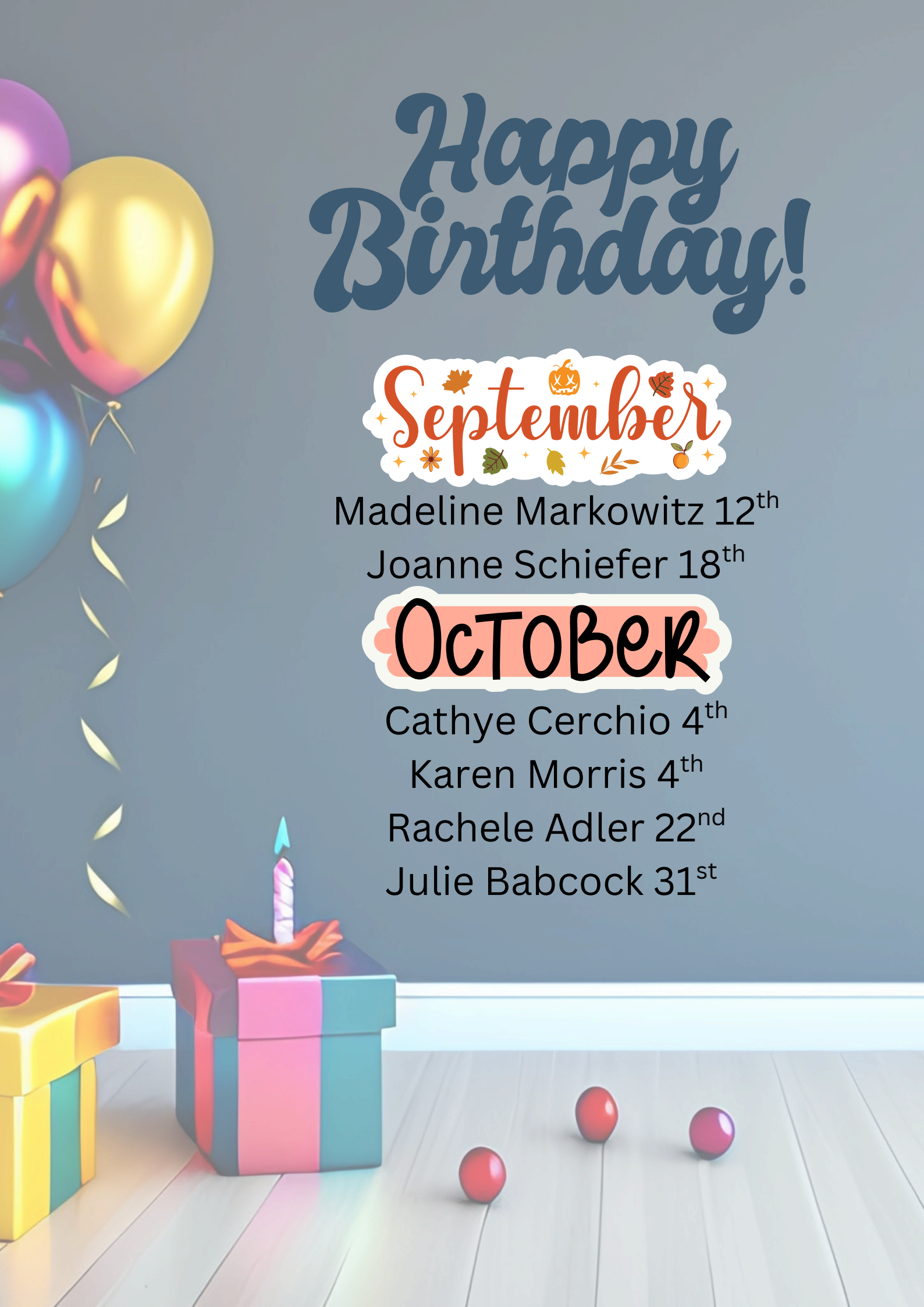
A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

Keep us, oh God, from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.
Let us be done with fault-finding
And leave off self-seeking.
May we put away all pretense
And meet each other face to face,
Without self-pity and without prejudice.
May we never be hasty in judgement
And always generous.
Let us take time for all things;
Make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

Teach us to put into action our better
impulses,
Straightforward and unafraid.
Grant that we may realize it is
The little things that create differences,
That in the big things of life we are at one.
And may we strive to touch and to know
The great, common human heart of us all.
And, oh Lord God, let us forget not
To be kind!

Mary Stewart, 1904

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Inc.

The background is a light blue wall with a white baseboard. On the left, there are several balloons: a purple one at the top, a large gold one below it, and a blue one further down. A streamer of yellow and white ribbons hangs from the gold balloon. In the bottom left corner, there are two gift boxes: a yellow one and a pink and blue one. A single lit candle is on top of the pink and blue gift box. On the floor, there are three small balloons: two red and one purple.

Happy Birthday!

September

Madeline Markowitz 12th

Joanne Schiefer 18th

OCTOBER

Cathye Cerchio 4th

Karen Morris 4th

Rachele Adler 22nd

Julie Babcock 31st