

OCTOBER 2026



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWSLETTER



Board Meeting: Sunday, November 1 at 6:00 pm

Membership Meeting: Sunday, November 1 at 7:00 PM

gfwcblueumbrella.org



President's Message

BY: KATHY MAMMENGGA

Fall is here. We are in a season known for change, clearing out, and cooler weather. It is my favorite season of the year. The temperature begins to drop, the humidity eases, and we get to clean out the remnants of our summer gardens as we prepare for fall vegetables and flowers.

As clubwomen, fall also means gathering, learning, and sharing. Those who attended Fall Board found two floors bustling with workshops, learning opportunities galore, connecting with friends from across the state, and welcoming the chance to meet new people. A variety of topics were covered. We learned how to tailor presentations to different types of audiences, how to use storytelling, and how to enhance our communities, among many other things. It was a weekend full of laughter, learning, and connection.

Another exciting highlight of Fall Board was the Blue Umbrella Club table. Visitors stopped by to learn more about our club and what we do. Best of all, several became members! There was also a large map where members placed blue pins to show where they live. The map was open to everyone who wanted to participate, and several friends added their pins, too. By the end of the weekend, our Blue Umbrella community was popping up all across the map!

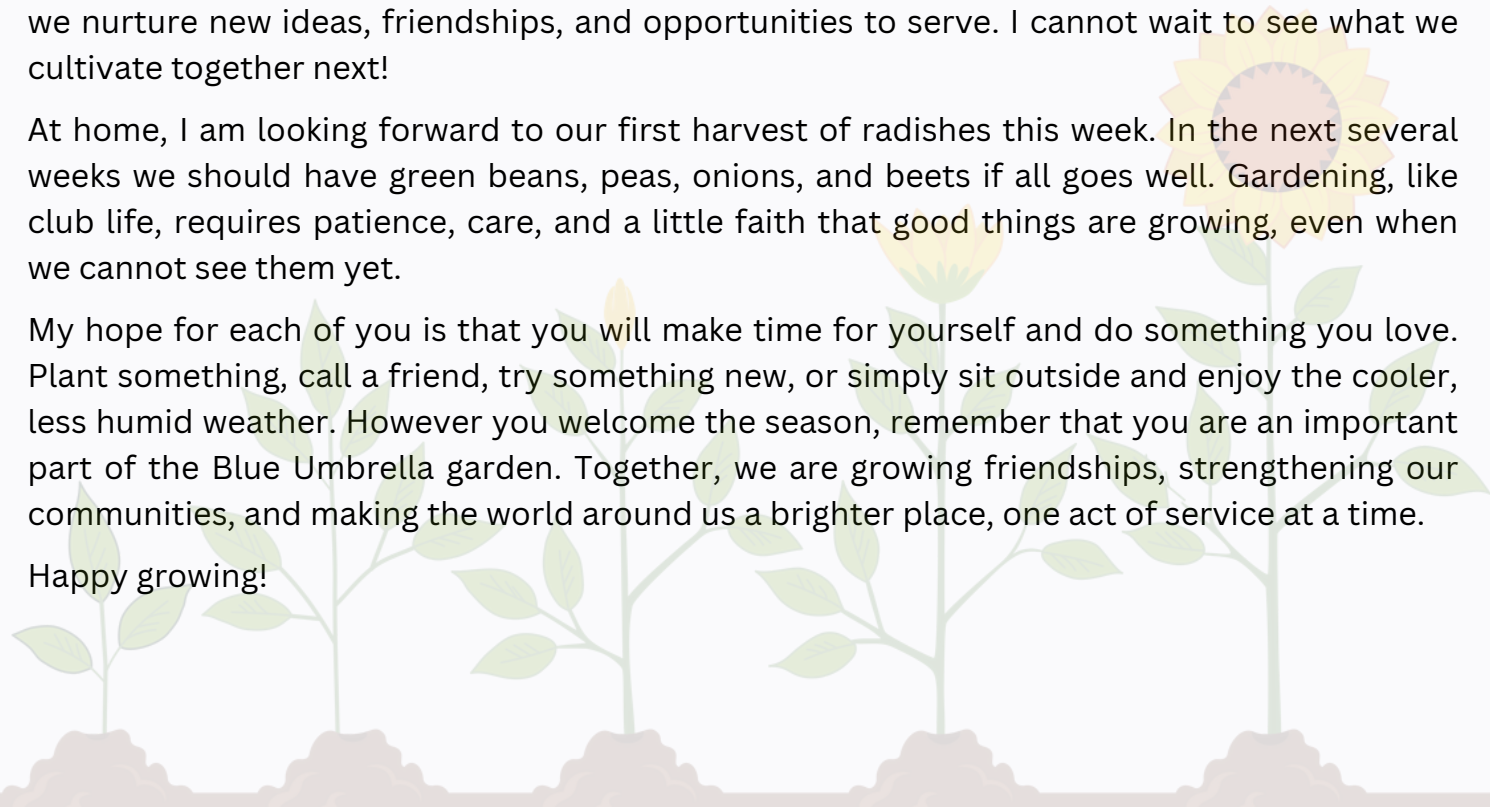
Our members worked one-hour shifts to keep the table open. We sold shirts, totes, lanyards, and pins. People stopped by to pose for photos with friends, with the fun props we had, and in front of our large map. The table was particularly busy between workshop sessions as attendees hustled from room to room. During the sessions, members and friends were able to linger, giving us an opportunity to enjoy longer conversations and make meaningful connections.

Thank you to every member who worked a shift, greeted visitors, shared our club's story, or stop by to support us. Like our fall gardens, the Blue Umbrella Club continues to grow when we nurture new ideas, friendships, and opportunities to serve. I cannot wait to see what we cultivate together next!

At home, I am looking forward to our first harvest of radishes this week. In the next several weeks we should have green beans, peas, onions, and beets if all goes well. Gardening, like club life, requires patience, care, and a little faith that good things are growing, even when we cannot see them yet.

My hope for each of you is that you will make time for yourself and do something you love. Plant something, call a friend, try something new, or simply sit outside and enjoy the cooler, less humid weather. However you welcome the season, remember that you are an important part of the Blue Umbrella garden. Together, we are growing friendships, strengthening our communities, and making the world around us a brighter place, one act of service at a time.

Happy growing!



WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU!

Join us on Zoom for our Membership Meeting
on November 1st



*Same
Mission
Brighter
Together*

*A Stronger
Brighter
Community*



November 1, 2026



7:00 PM



Zoom Meeting

Join us as we reconnect, share updates, celebrate
our accomplishments, and look ahead to what's next.



Connect with
fellow members



Hear important
updates



Share ideas
and feedback



Celebrate
our community

Your voice matters,
AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU THERE!

Zoom link and login information will be sent separately.

Confessions of a Blue Umbrella Woman

BY: KATHY MAMMENGGA

People think superheroes wear capes. Clearly, they've never met a Blue Umbrella woman. Our superpowers include:

- Organizing an event with three phone calls and a biscuit.
- Finding volunteers before anyone has even asked.
- Solving problems with creativity, teamwork, and a healthy dose of determination.
- Knowing exactly who needs a helping hand and showing up with one.

We've earned our wisdom, our friendships, and a well-deserved confidence in our ability to tackle almost anything.

Most importantly, we know that small acts of kindness add up to big changes in our community.

So here's to the Blue Umbrella Club: doing good, having fun, and proving every day that we can do extraordinary things.



Honoring Hispanic Heritage, Strengthening Our Communities

BY: AMBER TREAT

National Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated September 15 through October 15, honors the rich histories, cultures, traditions, and contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans.

For GFWC members, it is also a reminder of what makes our communities stronger: learning from one another, celebrating our differences, and coming together in service.

Put that spirit into action! Consider partnering with a local organization serving Hispanic families, collecting bilingual children's books for a school or library, supporting a Hispanic-owned local business, or inviting a community leader to share their culture and experiences at a club meeting.

Through service, education, and friendship, GFWC clubwomen can celebrate the people and cultures that help make our communities vibrant and strong.



GFWC Minute

Where It All Began

1890: Women United for Change

Did you know GFWC began with 63 women's clubs joining together on April 24, 1890? Founded through the efforts of journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, GFWC united women who believed they could make their communities better through education and service.

One of their earliest and most lasting causes was expanding access to books and education. Over the decades, clubwomen helped establish hundreds of free public libraries and thousands of traveling libraries, bringing the joy of reading to communities across America.

*More than 135 years later, we're still
making a difference, one community at a time!*



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

New Website

BY: DANA MONTENIERI



Check Out Our Newly Designed Website!

We're excited to share our updated Blue Umbrella Club website, created to make it easier to explore, get involved, and see the amazing kindness happening across Florida!

NEW!

Kindness Across Florida Interactive Map

See where kindness is happening all across our state! Each red heart represents a Blue Umbrella Club member sharing their location.



Add Your Dot!



Check Back Often!

We'll be adding new features, updates, and exciting changes to the website, including new pages, resources, and ways to get involved. There's always something new to explore! ♥



Updated Design

A refreshed look to make it easier to explore and find information.



More Ways to Connect

Find resources, stories, and ways to get involved.



Celebrating

Love, Respect & Kindness

www.gfwcblueumbrella.org

Love, Respect, and Kindness Changes Everything. ♥

What's Happening Around GFWC Florida?

There are plenty of opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate with fellow clubwomen across the state! Mark your calendars for these upcoming GFWC events:

- October 23–25, 2026: Southern Region Conference, Jacksonville, FL
- December 9, 2026: GFWC Holiday Reception, Washington, DC
- December 12, 2026: GFWC Florida Holiday Open House, Lakeland, FL
- February 19–21, 2027: Juniorette Annual State Meeting, Melrose, FL
- April 30–May 2, 2027: GFWC Florida Annual Convention, Orlando, FL

Annual District Meetings are taking place throughout October and November! For district meeting dates, event details, and the latest updates, visit www.gfwcflorida.org/events/.

We encourage all members to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities for friendship, fellowship, and inspiration!

Join a Committee



**SHARE YOUR
TALENTS**

**STRENGTHEN OUR
CLUB**

Newsletter

Help write
articles

A Little Help Goes a Long Way!
As we expand, we need assistance. We are looking for volunteers to join a few important committees. If you have some time, we would love your help on a committee to keep our club vibrant, connected, and growing.

Membership

Assist the
2nd VP with
membership

Merchandise

Develop new
ideas. Coordinate
orders and
deliveries. Track
sales.

*Here's the secret. The
more people who pitch in,
the lighter the load and
the more fun we have!*

Please contact
president@gfwcblueumbrella.org

Facebook

Post and
approve
posts

GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENTS PROJECT



🔥 What is your club doing to support the GFWC Florida President's Project? 🔥

We would love to hear how your club is supporting your local firefighters! Are you providing meals, donating teddy bears for children, collecting needed supplies, or planning another special service project?

We also want to hear your fundraising ideas! How is your club raising money to support the Florida Firefighters Academy and help offset tuition and supply costs for firefighters attending the academy?

Share your projects, fundraising ideas, photos (in photocircle), and successes! Please email me at: communications@gfwcblueumbrella.org. Your idea may be exactly the spark another club needs! 🚒💖🔥



GFWC FL JUNIOR DIRECTOR PROJECT



Royally Served

NEIGHBORHOOD FRIDGE Food & Hygiene Drive

Nourishing Bodies ♡ Restoring Dignity ♡ Serving with Love

Help us stock neighborhood refrigerators and pantries with essential food and hygiene items for our neighbors in need.



MOST NEEDED ITEMS



PANTRY STAPLES

- ♡ Rice
- ♡ Beans
- ♡ Pasta & Pasta Sauce
- ♡ Canned Vegetables
- ♡ Canned Fruit
- ♡ Canned Tuna & Chicken
- ♡ Peanut Butter
- ♡ Oatmeal
- ♡ Cereal
- ♡ Shelf-Stable Milk
- ♡ Cooking Oil
- ♡ Low-Sodium Soups
- ♡ Shelf-Stable Protein Shakes
- ♡ Individually Packaged Snacks



HYGIENE ESSENTIALS

- ♡ Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
- ♡ Soap
- ♡ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ♡ Deodorant
- ♡ Menstrual Products
- ♡ Diapers & Baby Wipes
- ♡ Toilet Paper
- ♡ Tissues
- ♡ Laundry Detergent
- ♡ Incontinence Products



ESPECIALLY HELPFUL FOR OUR UNHOUSED NEIGHBORS

- ♡ Ready-to-Eat Meals
- ♡ Protein Bars
- ♡ Trail Mix
- ♡ Crackers
- ♡ Fruit Cups
- ♡ Applesauce Pouches
- ♡ Electrolyte Packets
- ♡ Bottled Water
- ♡ New Socks
- ♡ Sunscreen
- ♡ Travel-Size Hygiene Items



DROP-OFF LOCATION:
Junior Fundraising Table

Donations benefit:
**NEIGHBORHOOD
FRIDGE**
neighborhoodfridge.org

♡ Thank you! ♡
for your generosity
and support!

EVERY DONATION HELPS PROVIDE NOURISHMENT,
DIGNITY, AND HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED.

CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Kathy Mammenga	president@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
1st Vice President	Dana Monteneri	firstvp@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
2nd Vice President	Harriet Hankerson	secondvp@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Recording Secretary	Nancy Crawford	recordingsec@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Treasurer	Margie Harper	treasurer@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
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History Chairman	Rachelle Warmouth	historian@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Merchandise Chairman		merchandise@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Technology Chairman	Lisa Klatt	technology@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Parliamentarian	Sallie Milner	parliamentarian@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Social Media Chairman	Sharon Grace	socialmedia@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Julie Babcock	advisorbabcock@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Dianne Foerster	advisorfoerester@gfwcbblueumbrella.org
Advisor	Laura Connelly	advisorconnelly@gfwcbblueumbrella.org

Mission Statement

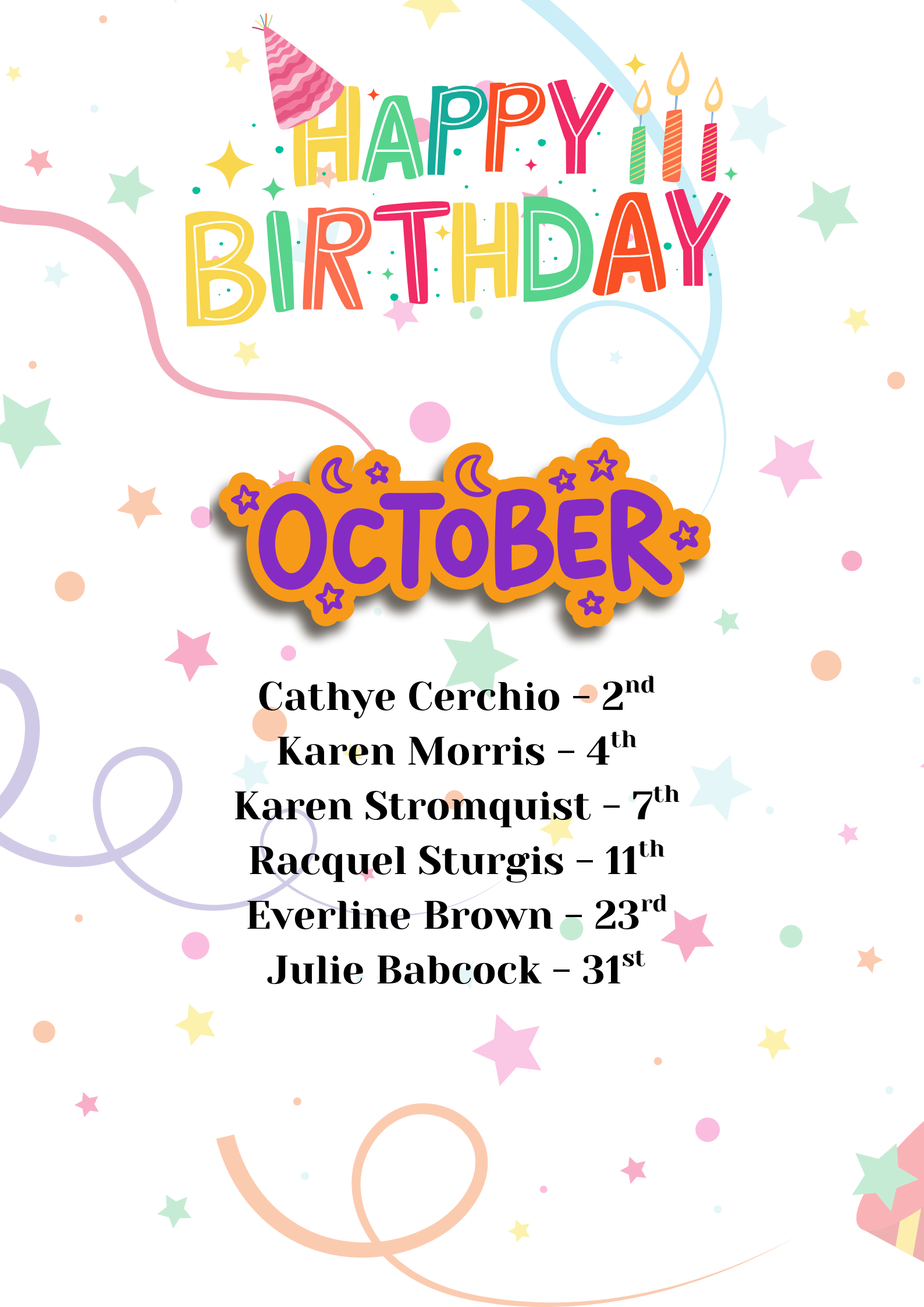
This Club is organized to encourage an ongoing, positive opportunity for volunteerism based on incorporating the attributes of love, respect, and kindness through all aspects of life. The mission will encompass support for existing clubs and projects at local levels.

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



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

OCTOBER

Cathye Cerchio – 2nd

Karen Morris – 4th

Karen Stromquist – 7th

Racquel Sturgis – 11th

Everline Brown – 23rd

Julie Babcock – 31st