



JUNE 2025

NEWSLETTER

GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB



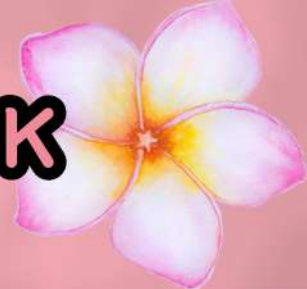
"Love, Respect and Kindness"



Leadership Camp - June 27-28, Camp Weed
Leadership Camp - July 18-19, Camp Dayspring
Board Meeting - July 6, 6:30 p.m.
Signature Program Webinar - Sept. 7, 7:00 p.m.



FROM DIANNE'S DESK



Happy Summer, Blue Umbrella members!

I hope each of you is finding time to enjoy some lazy, hazy days of summer! I plan to do the same myself—just as soon as I catch my breath from the fantastic GFWC Annual Convention in Atlanta. Those of us who attended have plenty of photos and wonderful memories to share. It was a fantastic and busy experience, as always!

President Suellen Brazil, along with the GFWC Executive Committee and Board of Directors, offered us so many opportunities. We heard inspirational speakers, attended informative workshops, participated in hands-on service projects, celebrated report winners, connected with affiliate partners, and rekindled friendships. We also took care of important Federation business, addressing bylaws and resolutions that reaffirmed GFWC's commitment to stand strong for our beliefs. It made me feel proud—once again—to be part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

And of course, we had plenty of fun too! From Elvis and the silent disco to shopping and a new rendition of "We Are the World"—there was never a dull moment. If you can, please plan to join us next year in Scottsdale, Arizona, for the 2026 GFWC Annual Convention. Start making plans now!

One of the highlights for many of us was visiting with our friends from Belize, Aruba, and the Philippines. You'll find the International Update and some great photos later in this newsletter. Also, be sure to check out this month's Member Highlight featuring Lee Kraus, written by Karen Griggsby. As a cyber club, we may not have as much face-to-face time as traditional clubs, but we hope the monthly Member Highlight helps bridge that gap.

I look forward to seeing many of you soon at Leadership Camp—whether at Camp Weed or Camp Dayspring. If you haven't registered yet, a few rooms are available in both locations, so there's still time to join us!

I'm also very excited to announce that Blue Umbrella has finalized our activity for the 2025 GFWC International Day of Service, which focuses on the Signature Program. We'll be hosting our third webinar, featuring Tamica Thomas Simpson, GFWC Florida Signature Program Chairman, on Sunday, Sept. 7 at 7:00 PM ET. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us! Congratulations to Tamica, whose Florida Signature Program report won 1st place in the largest category of state federations at this year's GFWC Convention. Well deserved, Tamica!

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has renewed their membership, and a warm welcome to all our new members. We are so thrilled to have you in the Blue Umbrella Club—a club whose members are dedicated to spreading LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS in all we do. Your positivity and enthusiasm is so very necessary and truly does make a difference!

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

♥ Hugs, Dianne

= SUMMER =



2025 GFWC Convention Atlanta



2025 GFWC Convention Atlanta



Member Spotlight

Lee Kraus



Lee Kraus began an inspiring journey in Burlington, NC, that blossomed into a lifelong passion for sales, leadership, and service. After moving to Baltimore as a teen, she found her calling in marketing through the Distributive Education Classes of America (DECA) program. DECA is a global association that prepares emerging leaders for college and careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management. Lee was crowned "Miss DECA Maryland" in 1966. Her successful career spanned positions with Hilton Hotels, Reuben H. Donnelley Corporation, and Catons Plumbing, where she served as Vice President of Sales—and even married the company owner, with whom she's shared 37 wonderful years.

Later, Lee transitioned into real estate, enjoying the thrill of helping others find their dream homes. But it was her move to Naples and involvement with the GFWC Naples Woman's Club that sparked her second career—as a dedicated volunteer. In her 21 years as a club member, Lee has held nearly every leadership role, including Club President for four consecutive years, during which membership more than doubled. She played a key role in securing financial stability for the Club, and her leadership of beloved events including the Kitchen Tour and the Empowering Women's Scholarship Luncheon yielded tremendous results.

Lee's commitment extends beyond her club. She served as GFWC Florida District 12 Director during the pandemic, earning the District Director of the Year Award, and was instrumental in founding the thriving GFWC Bonita-Estero Woman's Club. From 2022–2024, she served as GFWC Florida Signature Program Chairman—a cause close to her heart—and she now serves as the 2024–2026 GFWC Florida Health & Wellness Chairman. She was honored as a "Woman of Initiative" by the Women's Foundation of Collier County.

As a proud member of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, Lee supports President Dianne Foerster's vision of spreading Love, Respect, and Kindness. She's passionate about the cyber club model and plans to introduce the Blue Umbrella Club to women in Maryland this summer.

Lee is quite proud of her family – husband Tim, son Jonathan, stepchildren Tim Jr. and Kimberly, and five grandchildren who are the delight of their Nana and Poppy. Her faith, leadership, and service continue to shine through in everything she does.

Thank you, Lee, for being a beacon of hope and a true GFWC leader!



By: Karen Griggsby



International Update



It was truly exciting to have seven international delegates -- four from Belize, two from Aruba, and one from the Phillipines -- attend the recent GFWC Convention in Atlanta. These members enjoyed touring the city, shopping, and socializing with fellow clubwomen. As part of the Opening Flag Ceremony, they processed in behind their country's flag in their native attire, representing their clubs with pride as they were formally presented to the assembly. They were also recognized for submitting their annual statistical reports, gave short presentations at their region meetings, and took part in various workshops. One of the Aruba members participated in the LEADS seminar held just before the Convention. All seven members actively engaged in the business sessions, meals, and dances—making this an unforgettable introduction to GFWC for our International sisters. We hope to see them all again in Scottsdale!



Woman's Club of Aruba President Reina Geerman & Vice President Roxanne Vieira



Linda Gonzalez, President, GFWC in The Phillipines



Regina Bermudez (GFWC Belmopan Women's Club), Mariela Ramirez, Camy Cajun and Alicia Ramos (GFWC Suga City Sistaz), Belize





Leadership Camp



Get Ready to Learn, Lead, and Grow at the 2025 GFWC Florida Leadership Camp!

The GFWC Florida Leadership Committee warmly invites all members—current leaders, rising stars, and those simply curious about stepping into leadership—to join us for the 2025 GFWC Florida Leadership Camp! This empowering weekend is designed to inspire personal growth, build confidence, and cultivate the skills needed to lead with purpose at any level of our organization.

The same powerful program will be offered at two locations, so you can attend the weekend that works best for your schedule:

- June 27-28 - Camp Weed, Live Oak
- July 18-19 - Camp DaySpring, Parrish

Both locations promise a welcoming environment filled with learning, laughter, and leadership.

What to Expect:

The weekend kicks off Friday evening with a warm welcome from Patty Fisher, GFWC Florida Leadership Chairman, and GFWC Florida President Sara Dessureau, followed by fun and fellowship hosted by GFWC clubs from each district.

Saturday is packed with engaging breakout sessions and inspiring speakers. Keynote speakers include Juliet Casper, GFWC Treasurer (Camp Weed) and Jolie Frankfurth, GFWC First Vice President (Camp DaySpring), both ready to share wisdom from their journeys in leadership. Morning and afternoon breakout sessions will cover a wide range of topics including:

- Effective Communication
- Women Who Lead
- Bridging Generations
- Innovative Leadership
- Mentorship
- Leadership Confidence
- Succession Planning, and more

The day closes with an insightful panel titled “Passing the Torch – Empowering the Next Generation,” featuring seasoned and emerging leaders sharing their experiences and lessons learned.

Cost & Lodging Options:

- All Access – Double Occupancy: \$115 + \$25 registration; includes accommodations + 3 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)
- All Access–Single Occupancy + 3 meals: \$155 + \$25 registration; includes accommodations + 3 meals (Friday dinner, Saturday breakfast and lunch)
- Meals Only Options also available starting at \$30 + \$25 registration

Your registration includes meals, sessions, materials, and memories that will last a lifetime.

Registration is officially closed but there are a few spaces left at both camps. If you are interested, **contact Patty Fisher right away at leadership@gfwcflorida.org**/ We hope to see you there!

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club

Events



GFWC Blue Umbrella Club WEBINAR

Sunday, September 7
7:00 pm ET

The Legacy Within:
What Survivors Carry and
How We Help Them Rise

Featuring
Tamica Thomas-Simpson
GFWC Florida
Signature Program Chairman

Just a thought!
Instead of buying
fireworks buy 2
cans of pet food for
a shelter animal.
Don't make a
noise...make a
difference!

Tampa Bay History Center Exhibit for Celebrating GFWC Milestones

On May 4th, District 8 commemorated 135 years of GFWC and 130 years of GFWC Florida by hosting a grand opening ribbon-cutting ceremony for a stunning sixty-foot exhibit at the Tampa Bay History Center, making it the largest community-curated exhibit ever at the Center. GFWC Florida's First Vice President, Laura Connelly, had the honor of cutting the ribbon in front of a crowd of fifty-five cheering attendees.

The items and photographs showcased were carefully curated, reflecting GFWC at the club, state, and international levels. The intention was to create an exhibit that attracted guests visiting the center, encouraging them to learn more about our great organization and potentially join GFWC. We received many items and photographs from clubs in District 8. In addition, GFWC Florida Headquarters opened their archives, donating items, some dating back to the early days of Sorosis of Orlando; we also received photographs and research materials from GFWC Headquarters in DC.

We carefully wove the curated materials into an exhibit that truly represents our current GFWC Volunteer Spirit working together and our rich **HERstory**. At the event, we introduced a QR code to a narrated tour of the exhibit, 250 business cards with information on how to join GFWC, a special D8 Display Photo Circle and acted as Behind the Scenes Tour guides. A great time was had by all! The Tampa Bay History Center serves as a major attraction in the Tampa area, conveniently located within walking distance from the cruise ship port, making it an international destination for tourists. **The exhibit is only available until the end of July** in the TECO Learning Center on the third floor. For more information on the location and times of operation, visit the Tampa Bay History Center's website at <https://tampabayhistorycenter.org/>





New Blue Umbrella Club Merch Alert!

We're thrilled to announce the new and improved Blue Umbrella Club T-shirts are now available to order! 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 Juvinal 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.
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Club Officers & Board of Directors



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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.



Happy Birthday



June

Gregory Breidenbach - June 17th

Nancy Crawford - June 17th

Thelma Slawson - June 17th

Joyce Johnston - June 27th

Melanie Muench-Day - June 29th

*"Your 40's are good. Your 50's are great.
Your 60's are fab. And 70's are awesome!"*

Helen Mirren

July

Kelly Bishop - July 4

Mimi Frezza - July 4

Candy Jackson - July 9

Bonnie Josey - July 19

Marsha Gobbard - July 21

Carey Bates - July 23

Carol A Johnson - July 28