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VOLUME XXI - JULY, 2024

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc.
General Federation of Women's Clubs



From Dianne's Desk:

Dear Blue Umbrella members and friends,

I hope that each of you are having a wonderful, relaxing summer, albeit a very hot one! Some of us are enjoying vacations, some just staying in the air conditioning, and some are still very actively involved with volunteer endeavors. Isn't it comforting that somehow we can combine all of these activities in the same month?

Our Blue Umbrella members have been incredibly busy since the last newsletter, and the coming months foretell that level of activity continuing! Several of our members were in attendance at the GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago. This Convention marked the end of the 2022-2024 administration and the beginning of the 2024-2026 administration with newly installed International President, Suellen B. Brazil from Alabama. I hope you all get an opportunity to meet Suellen. She is dynamic!

Several of us did wear our "Blue Umbrella" hats and they absolutely did start conversations...and laughter! But it gave us an opportunity to share our philosophy of "Love, Respect, and Kindness" which resonated with those we were talking with. We shared Blue Umbrella information cards with QR codes, plus cute little candy bags and as much excitement and enthusiasm as we could muster! Hopefully, seeds were planted. Hats will be worn again at the GFWC Florida Fall Board as we

continue to spread the word. Thank you to Patty Fisher, Membership Manager for finding the umbrellas and leading our cause!

Further in this newsletter you will have another opportunity to read an article from the talented Karen Griggsby about Kathryn Gallagher, our Vice-President and Project Manager. Since we are a cyber club, it is important that we have a method of getting to know each other. Karen will highlight a different member every month. Thank you, Karen!

You will also find an International Update with some pictures. There were 17 international delegates in attendance in Chicago, the most who have attended in recent years. It was great! I love my job on the International Liaison committee.

Our new blingy Blue Umbrella T-shirts were ready for some of us to wear while we were in Chicago. They are so nice, really soft and comfortable. They do run a little small, so choose accordingly. Order now so you have them by Fall Board.

There is another new really exciting piece of information to share. I hope all of you have been carefully following the new environment articles which have been running in the last few Blue Umbrella newsletter. If you have been reading these and at the same time watching the intense and dramatic changes in the weather around the world, I am sure that you are concerned. From ridiculous high temperatures, to a record numbers of tornadoes, to the very rapid melting of ice in the Arctic and Antarctic, Greenland and Iceland, we can see climate changes occurring all around us. The GFWC Blue Umbrella Club is planning a webinar by Louise Hoffman, the Director of Education and Public Outreach, School of US Ice Drilling Program, Dartmouth College and a member of the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club. It is being planned for late August or early September and will be open for members and guests to register to attend. Watch for the upcoming notice. Education is a major goal of the new 2024-2026 GFWC administration and we are thrilled to contribute to that learning! We will "Show Our Stripes". Stay tuned!

Please, never, ever lose sight of our goal, our mission: LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS!

Hugs,

Dianne

Dianne Foerster
President
GFWC Blue Umbrella Inc.
dlynnfoerster@gmail.com



Madame President Brazil Goes to Washington

It's Day 4 in GFWC Headquarters for newly installed GFWC International President Suellen B. Brazil. However, it's her first day sitting at the proverbial President's Desk. Having arrived in DC, on Friday, July 5, Suellen has settled in nicely, thanks to her dedicated move-in team of four. Without a doubt,

Madame President is here to spread the news about GFWC members' good works and commitment to Living the Volunteer Spirit! Welcome to the nation's capital, Suellen! Best Wishes.

A group of seven women are standing on a stage, each holding a bouquet of red roses. The woman in the center is wearing a red dress, while the others are in light-colored dresses. A woman in a red dress is also visible on the far left.

[illegible]

GFWC International Clubs Update

Dianne Foerster, GFWC International Liaison Committee

The 2024 Convention was a banner year for the GFWC International Clubs. We saw the highest number of international members attending GFWC Convention since the pandemic. 17 representatives from **Aruba, Austria, Belize, Brazil, the Philippines** and **Canada** were able to attend and participate. The Flag Ceremony during the Opening Session was a spectacular sight as the representatives of the countries entered the room, following a member of the GFWC International Liaison Committee carrying the flag of their country. The delegates received recognition at the Better Together Luncheon, and Brazil was recognized at another event as a prestigious Community Improvement Program winner. All of the International delegates fully participated in the entire Convention and added a spark to all those they were able to meet.



The GFWC Annual Convention in Chicago: A Memorable Gathering of Global Unity and Accomplishment

The GFWC (General Federation of Women's Clubs) Annual Convention recently took place in the bustling and vibrant city of Chicago, IL. This year's convention was a remarkable event, drawing over 900 members from 49 states across the U.S., as well as 17 international members. The Windy City provided a dynamic backdrop for this gathering of dedicated and passionate individuals.

As a proud attendee, I was thrilled to be part of this extraordinary event. The convention was a time of celebration and reflection, as we bid farewell to our 2022-2024 International President, Deb Strahanoski, and acknowledged the significant achievements accomplished in 2023. The GFWC shared with us the following impressive statistics reported:

- *Projects Completed: 95,936
- *Volunteer Hours: 6,154,357
- *Dollars donated: \$18,237,946
- *In-Kind Donations: \$10,529,275

One of the highlights of the convention was the installation of the GFWC 55th International President. For the first time in history, the president hails from Alabama. Suellen Brazil was ceremoniously installed on Monday night, under the inspiring banner of **"Educate, Engage, and Empower."** Her leadership promises to usher in a new era of growth and impact for the organization.

A memorable moment shared by all was when Deb Strahanoski, in one of her final acts as president, and Suellen Brazil, in one of her first, both signed an agreement making the Alzheimer's Association an official affiliate of GFWC. This collaboration

opens new avenues for advocacy and awareness, and we are eager to support this worthy cause.

The convention also offered a variety of workshops focused on leadership, membership, communications, and more. These sessions provided valuable insights and strategies, empowering attendees to further their personal and club initiatives.

Patty Fisher
Blue Umbrella
Membership Manager

I had a wonderful time at GFWC convention in Chicago wearing my blue umbrella hat, shirt and jewelry. I received lots of stares and lots of questions which I was happy to answer. I believe all in all it was a fun and wonderful membership drive. I also wore my blue umbrella hat and jewelry to the ESO breakfast in Chicago. The guest speaker mentioned me during her talk and drew more attention to my outfit, I handed out everything I had!



Patty Fisher



GFWC FLORIDA JUNIOR DIRECTOR'S PROJECT



Racquel Sturgis, GFWC Florida Director of Junior Clubs, has chosen to work with One More Child as her Director's Project for her 2024-2026 administration. After personally experiencing five long years of fertility treatments and the birth of her daughter, Racquel and her husband chose adoption for the birth of their son. Knowing first-hand the struggles and full range of emotions that accompany the world of infertility, she wanted to bring awareness to others and share her testimony. One More Child is a child welfare agency that helps to care for foster and adoptive children, trafficked children, hungry children, single moms and struggling families. They have been around since 1904 and are headquartered in Lakeland. They serve children in more than 50 locations worldwide, including more than a dozen locations in Florida. One More Child is excited to partner with GFWC to engage in exciting service opportunities to impact children in our great state. Your club can get involved in many ways including fundraising, diaper or food drives, school supply collections, support for local foster and adoptive families and much more.

Below is the link to the Amazon gift registry. These are some of the everyday needs that our foster and adoptive families have as they welcome new children into their

homes. If you all want me to add more items, we can CERTAINLY do that but I wanted to send this to you as a place to start.
Thank you!



[One More Child | Amazon Gift List](#)

www.amazon.com



Karen's Corner

Interviews by Karen S. Griggsby

Ms. Kathryn S. Gallagher Blue Umbrella Club



As the lazy, hazy days of summer continue, and our lawns bask in the glow of daily showers, let me introduce the Blue Umbrella Club's Vice President & Project Manager, **Ms. Kathryn Gallagher**. When you hear Kathryn's name many thoughts come to mind; dedicated club member who is devoted, giving, respected, but most of all, one who exemplifies the spirit of Love ~ Respect ~ and Kindness!

Kathryn was born in the Swamp on Day 3 of the Baby Boom, which makes her one of the oldest living Boomers! The timing dropped her right into what the Kennedy Administration called the Soaring 60's (of Camelot,) to be a Dippy, Hippy, totally unaware of what she wanted her future to be. That Swamp, Washington, DC was built on swamp land, and is still inhabited to this day with creatures of all kinds.

When Kathryn was born, DC was a segregated city, and as she grew older realized how segregated the city truly was. She did not like that the man who cut the teeny-tiny lawn in front of her row house, through no fault of his, was relegated to sit in the back of the bus with all the other black people when he went home. Kathryn's family didn't own a car so they rode the same bus black people rode, so she had a "front row" seat and saw what segregation looked like. She was lucky in one respect for her parents sent her to an all-girls religious school which was integrated so her best friends were girls of every color and nationality. Her experiences at the school with her best friends has stayed with her, and will remain with her for the rest of her life. Whether the nuns realized it, at the time they taught her if you are good with God, you will always stay on the right path. Kathryn heard Him speaking to her at a

very early age, and even though she parted ways with the first religious body, she chose another traditional religion to be good with God.

Kathryn's first foray into the workplace included various positions in the food industry, but eventually worked for Merck Pharmaceuticals. She retired from Mutual Funds with PNC Bank, and felt there was always something about technique, numbers, and data which appealed to her.

By happenstance, Kathryn was introduced to the GFWC Rotonda West Woman's Club while attending their Fall Bazaar, and was so impressed she joined the Club in 2014 because they offered such a wide variety of learning and volunteer opportunities. After serving as church treasurer for 10 years, she decided to look into the volunteer arena thus becoming a member of Rotonda West. In 2015 she became International Outreach Chairman and began fundraising for Operation Smile. Her "Smile Teddy" program raised a considerable amount of money for Operation Smile, and because of Kathryn's project, Rotonda West was invited to send a Club member on the Operation Smile Mission to Bolivia. Kathryn was selected to go on this Mission in 2018, and her Club raised the money to send her. She was treasurer of her Club for four years, served as Club President from 2020-2022, followed by being District Director from 2022-2024. She was also the former GFWC Florida President's Project Co-Chairman for the Blue Umbrella of Special Needs. She became a charter member of the Blue Umbrella Club in 2022 because she didn't want to see the philosophy of Love, Respect, and Kindness disappear.

Kathryn feels the best attribute she brings to the Club is she is fairly quiet, but never afraid to stand her ground or voice her opinion when necessary. Kathryn would like to see growth within our club, and to see the club partner with other clubs, **not compete in any way**, but work toward forming alliances to assist in joint efforts. She firmly states she does not want the Blue Umbrella Club to step on the toes of any "on the ground" clubs. She becomes excited when talking about the club having the opportunity to give a presentation at a state or international meeting, and partnering with other cyber clubs for a joint project in the host city.

Clubs are realizing there is a need to recruit new, younger members and the Blue Umbrella Club is joining this effort. Kathryn believes they are definitely moving in the right direction to assist in accomplishing this most important goal. Advice she would give to young women who become members of GFWC Florida and/or the Blue Umbrella Club is to be proud of the work done by our predecessors, and continue that work with joy, creativity, and a giving spirit. She thinks we all need to be open minded, generous in our time, and always willing to change and grow, for that creates longevity.

In the next five years Kathryn wants the Club to continue being known for sharing Love, Respect, and Kindness for all...Everywhere!

We gratefully acknowledge all the time, energy, and loving kindness Kathryn has brought to the Blue Umbrella Club, and wish her continued success as she continues her important roles within the Club. On behalf of President Dianne, the Board of Directors, and the entire membership body, we proudly salute Kathryn with Love, Respect, and Kindness!

The Blue Umbrella says it all!!



.....and our members looking très chic

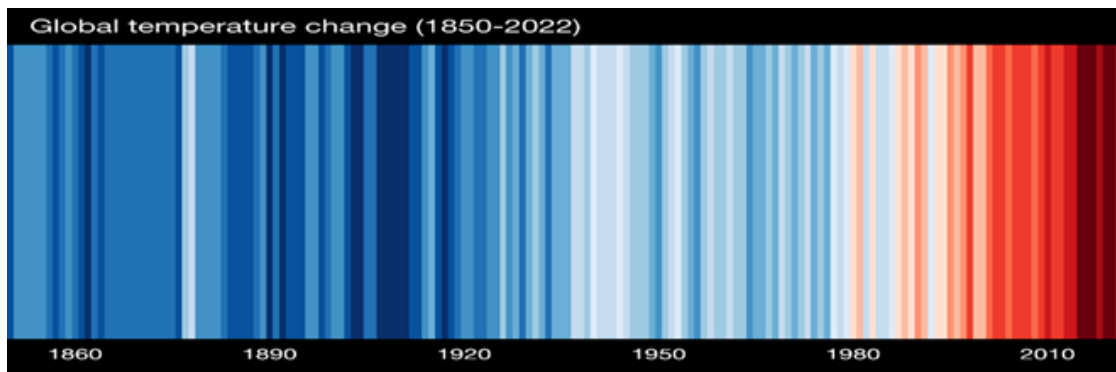


Candi Aubin



Kathryn Gallagher





Louise T. Huffman, MS Ed.

Director of Education and Outreach for NSF US Ice Drilling Program at Dartmouth College
and 10 year member of GFWC Rotonda West
Woman's Club

Watch this space to find out how to “Show Your Stripes”

I Live in Florida—Why Should I be Concerned about the Ice in Polar Regions?

Part 2: Antarctica

Last month we imagined the Greenland ice melting at a rate equal to 2,500 elephants *per second* running into the ocean! That's a pretty shocking illustration. Are there concerns about ice in the Southern Hemisphere? Thinking South, (waaay south from Florida!), Antarctica holds 90% of the world's ice and 70% of the world's fresh water is locked in that ice. Currently the biggest concern about ice melting in Antarctica centers on the Thwaites Glacier. Observations and studies indicate that its floating ice shelf is beginning to break-up. Since the ice shelf is floating, if that ice melts, it won't raise sea level... **BUT, the land-based Thwaites Glacier which is being held on land by the ice shelf, could/would slip into the ocean causing sea levels worldwide to rise abruptly.** How much and how soon are questions scientists are urgently trying to answer. **If you'd like to learn more about the vital signs of Thwaites Glacier, check out this Ice Drilling Program (<https://icedrill.org>) Virtual Field Lab with Dr. Richard Alley, Nobel Peace Prize co-recipient for climate change. (<https://icedrill-education.org/portfolio/virtual-field-labs-sea-level-rise-and-thwaites-glacier-vital-signs-of-the-doomsday-glacier-with-dr-karen-alley-and-dr-richard-alley/>)** Want to know more about climate change and where to find answers to your questions? Check out NOAA's Climate website: (<https://www.climate.gov/>) Check out <https://drawdown.org/climate-solutions-101> . Their mission is “to help the world stop climate change – as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible.” The solutions videos are a great place to start learning more about what we can do locally and globally. Get involved!

Having fun at the Chicago convention!



GFWC Executive Committee and all the international delegates



The GFWC Florida delegation with outgoing President Deb Strahanoski



Linda Hartwell, Ruth Martinez, District 11 Director, and Blue Umbrella Club President Dianne Foerster



Kathryn Gallagher, Blue Umbrella VP, Kathryn's daughter Jean, and Patty Fisher, Blue Umbrella Membership Manager



Three amazing hard working GFWC Florida Gals: Candy Jackson, Dianne Foerster and Laura Connelly. Looking beautiful, ladies!



Lee Kraus and Kathryn Gallagher looking very chic in their beautiful roaring twenties gowns!



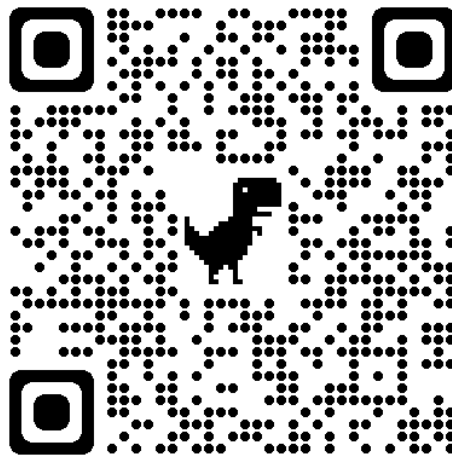
Flag Ceremony at the Opening Business Session, Dianne Foerster carrying the Belize flag, followed by Tricia Pelayo President GFWC Belmopan Women's Club, Belize



Dianne Foerster and Laura Connelly with three delegates from GFWC Belmopan Women's Club, Belize - President Tricia Pelayo, President-elect Armid Haylock and member Lizette Sutherland.



**NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 28, 2024
DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER YOUR CLUB!
CLICK ON THE QR CODE BELOW FOR
MORE INFORMATION**



If you have not paid your Blue Umbrella Club dues yet, please do so. You can go to the QRCode at the end of this link to do so. Thank you!

If you will not be renewing, please let me know so that I can delete your email address from our CC list. You can email me at: vayermoli@hotmail.com



We have the NEW and IMPROVED Blue Umbrella Club T-shirt available to order! The picture only shows an umbrella done in bling after the word "LOVE". The finished shirts have the bling umbrella also after the words "RESPECT" and "KINDNESS". The color is a blue turquoise.

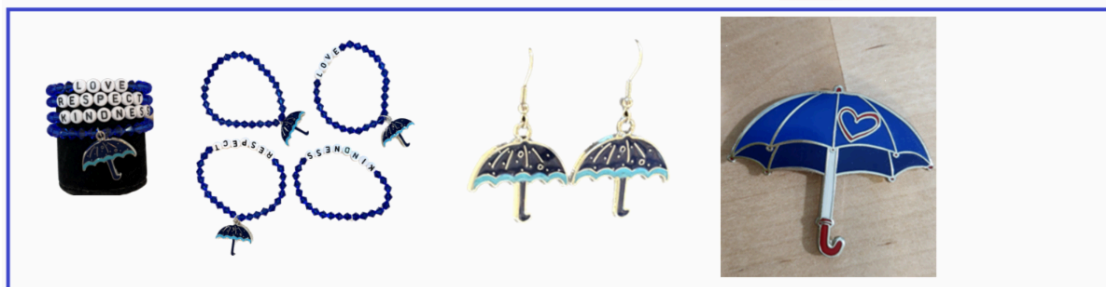
They are available to order in sizes SMALL - 4XL . Please order at least one size up from your normal size. I usually wear a medium in the GFWC t-shirts and the BUC shirt I have on is a size large. I put it in the washer and dryer, and it did shrink a little bit but still fits me perfectly. Please be aware that this

is more of a fitted shirt. It is not loose and flowy. The length is great; you could even wear yoga pants with it

COST:

Small - XL: \$27 tax included plus add \$5 shipping

2XL - 4XL: \$29 tax included plus add \$5 shipping



Bracelets are \$15, earrings \$10, pins are \$10 plus shipping

Please contact Paula for the message that you want on your bracelets, at the email below.

If paying by QR Code please be sure to put a checkmark in the **box labeled other**. Then in the box below that, put t-shirt, the size you're ordering, and/or jewelry information.

If paying by check, please put in the memo area t-shirt and what size and/or jewelry information. The mailing address is:

Blue Umbrella Club
11507 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd
#371
Mango, FL 33550
Pjuvinall@gmail.com
Paula Juvinall

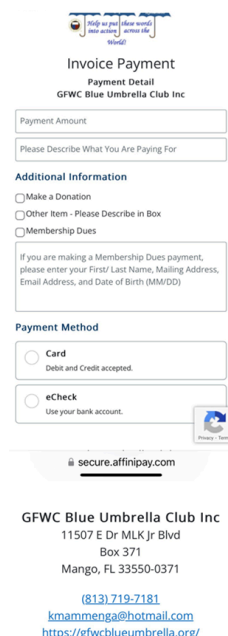
Accessing data from the QR-code:

Hover over the code; when you see a yellow message at the bottom of your screen (it will say "affinipay.com") click on the yellow tag and it will take you directly to the payment page. This is what you will see (picture below)

Once you are on this screen you can fill out the information of what you are paying for and make your payment as it states.

You can also send a personal check to the address at the bottom of the form.

If you send a check, be sure to print the completed form and include it with your check.



The screenshot shows a web form titled "Invoice Payment" for "GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc". The form includes fields for "Payment Amount" and "Please Describe What You Are Paying For". Under "Additional Information", there are radio buttons for "Make a Donation", "Other Item - Please Describe in Box", and "Membership Dues". A note states: "If you are making a Membership Dues payment, please enter your First/ Last Name, Mailing Address, Email Address, and Date of Birth (MM/DD)". The "Payment Method" section has radio buttons for "Card" (Debit and Credit accepted) and "eCheck" (Use your bank account). At the bottom, there is a secure URL "secure.affinipay.com" and the mailing address: "GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc, 11507 E Dr MLK Jr Blvd, Box 371, Mango, FL 33550-0371". Contact information includes the phone number "(813) 719-7181", email "kmammenga@hotmail.com", and website "https://gfwcblueumbrella.org/".

Help us pay (how would you rather pay?)
World

Invoice Payment
Payment Detail
GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc

Payment Amount

Please Describe What You Are Paying For

Additional Information

☐ Make a Donation
☐ Other Item - Please Describe in Box
☐ Membership Dues

If you are making a Membership Dues payment, please enter your First/ Last Name, Mailing Address, Email Address, and Date of Birth (MM/DD)

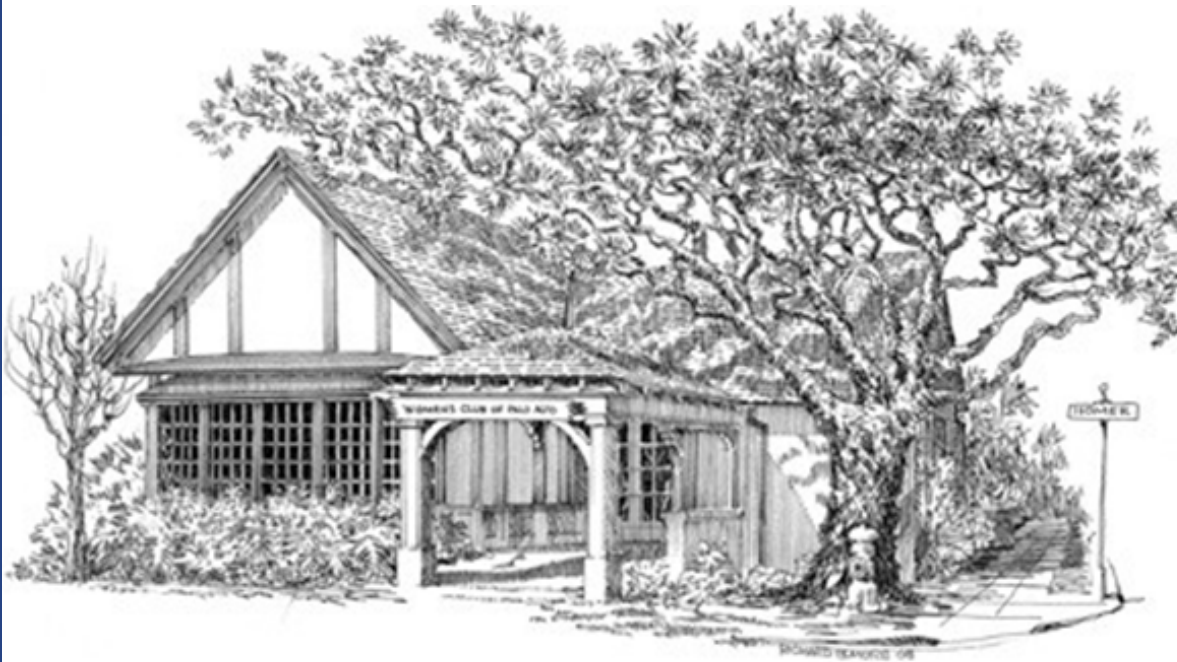
Payment Method

☐ Card
Debit and Credit accepted.

☐ eCheck
Use your bank account.

secure.affinipay.com

GFWC Blue Umbrella Club Inc
11507 E Dr MLK Jr Blvd
Box 371
Mango, FL 33550-0371
(813) 719-7181
kmammenga@hotmail.com
<https://gfwcblueumbrella.org/>



A Collect for Club Women

Mary Stewart

Keep us oh God from pettiness;
Let us be large in thought, in word, and 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 judgment 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 not forget to be kind!

In 1904, Mary Stewart (1876 – 1943), wrote a “Collect for Club Women” which our club recites at meetings, as do club women throughout the world. Stewart stated that the

Collect was written "...as a prayer for the day. I called it a Collect for Club Women because I felt that women working together with wide interests for large ends was a new thing under the sun and that, perhaps, they had need for a special petition and meditation of their own."



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