

MAY 2026



GFWC BLUE UMBRELLA CLUB NEWSLETTER



Board Meeting: Sunday, May 17th 6:00 pm

Membership Meeting & Officer Elections: Sunday May 17th 7:00 pm

gfwcblueumbrella.org



FROM DIANNE'S DESK

BY DIANNE FOERSTER

Happy May, dear Blue Umbrella members and friends!

It already has been a very eventful May, even though it isn't yet half over! With the GFWC Florida Annual Meeting (Convention) starting the month, the Blue Umbrella Club hit a lot of firsts. It was so good to see and visit with many of you. Some of us were in early and took the opportunity to dine together. Maggiano's was perfect great food, lots of variety, close to the hotel, and the BEST company. Thanks, Lisa for coordinating!

At the Annual Meeting, Blue Umbrella registered voting delegates for the first time and took part in all the activities. Thank you to Bradlee Swanson, Karen Griggsby, and Pat Tillman Shadd for representing us so well.

A main part of the convention involves recognizing and celebrating successes of the clubs and the entire state organization. We all get excited for our own club, our sister clubs and for the outstanding individuals who are recognized! This was the first year that the Blue Umbrella Club has reported, and we were thrilled to receive Honor Score and our very first club award. Our philosophy emphasizes cooperation rather than competition, but it was thrilling to hear our club's name called! Regardless, our mission remains the same, LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS!

We all celebrated the success of the President's Project, Flight of Honor. GFWC Florida loves our veterans and we were proud to be a part of honoring them.

One of my favorite parts of convention was the privilege and pleasure of having Suellen Brazil, GFWC International President, as our very special guest. She represents us so well and is so knowledgeable and articulate and yet so approachable and interested in all we do. I consider her a friend and loved getting an opportunity to spend time with her!

The Installation of the 2026-2028 GFWC Florida Executive Committee was beautiful and meaningful! Thank you to Mary Powell and Suellen Brazil. It is always exciting to look to the future with new projects and a renewed sense of possibilities for volunteer service! I see it as a bright and shining path. Thank you to all of those willing to give so much of themselves to us!

Speaking of new beginnings, Blue Umbrella is also on the edge of a new era! We have a 7 p.m. EST. on Sunday May 17 membership zoom meeting where we will elect new leadership for the next two years! I am beyond excited with the slate of officers (further along in the newsletter) who have agreed to run. Nominations from the floor will be accepted at the meeting. Please make every effort to join the meeting as we do need a quorum to elect!

The ability to change and grow is the mark of a healthy, strong organization and that is what Blue Umbrella is! I am so very proud to have had the opportunity to serve you these past two administrations and I hope to continue as an advisor, but we ARE ready to move forward. There will be many more "firsts" for this club and I can't wait to see where we will go!

What will not change, I feel sure, is our mission of always leading with LOVE, RESPECT, and KINDNESS and doing that with a positive upbeat attitude! It is so important! Thank you to each and everyone of you for everything for your support!

 Dianne



Memories from Convention



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

BY NANCY CRAWFORD



The GFWC Blue Umbrella Nominating Committee, consisting of Laura Connelly, Patty Fisher, Lee Kraus, Margie Harper, and Nancy Crawford, present the following slate of nominees for election as GFWC Blue Umbrella Club officers for 2026 -2028.

President - KATHY MAMMENG
1st Vice President - DANA MONTENIERI
2nd Vice President - HARRIET HANKERSON
Recording Secretary - NANCY CRAWFORD
Treasurer - MARGIE HARPER

The Election of Officers will be held at the May 17, 2026 virtual meeting of the GFWC Blue Umbrella Club, with the meeting starting at 7 pm, and WE NEED YOU TO ATTEND! At that time, nominations from the floor can also be made. According to the Blue Umbrella Club bylaws, members on the current roster hold membership through May 31, 2026 and are eligible to vote. A quorum of 20% of our current membership is required to hold elections. 20% of our membership is 16. Please plan to attend the May 17, 2026 meeting. Newly elected officers begin on June 1, 2026, with the first Board Meeting currently scheduled for June 7 at 6:30 pm.

A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY WITH CANINE COMPANIONS CHAPTER 2

BY PAULA JUVINALL



I could tell this Canine Companion Training was going to be so different than what I had with Angus, my previous service dog. When I arrived at the CC campus, volunteers helped me with my suitcase, set me up at the dormitory and assured me that assistance would be available at all hours during my stay.

It was a wonderful beginning to my two-week stay to learn how to care for and interact with my new service dog. As I settled in, other participants began arriving, all of us full of anticipation and excitement as we prepared for classes - including homework.

The large campus includes large training rooms with all kinds of equipment to train for different situations, a very large building where all the dog runs are, bathing areas and an area for dogs that have had to come back to go through a special camp to lose weight. They take the health of their dogs very seriously. Service dogs must be in top shape for all the work they do and even a few pounds overweight can be very taxing on their bones and hips.

I was one of 14 people in the training class, which was divided into those who, like me, were receiving a service dog, and others who were getting facility dogs (which go to hospitals or courthouses) or a service dog trained to help children with special needs.



A LIFE-CHANGING JOURNEY WITH CANINE COMPANIONS

CHAPTER 2 CONTINUED

BY PAULA JUVINALL

As we entered the training room for our first session, the dogs were already there, sitting calmly in their crates. That certainly made it difficult to focus our attention on the instructors. However, we found out we wouldn't be getting assigned to a dog until the third day. Some of us would work with the one dog we would graduate with while others could work with 3-5 dogs until the instructors felt the match was perfect.

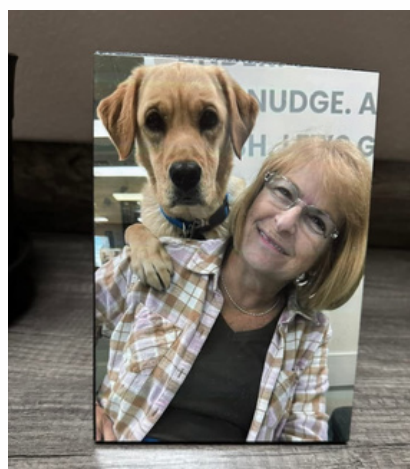
After training with the dogs, we also had to study a handbook which was over 200 pages, and pass three tests: one written and two working with the dog, I think our excitement turned to fear. What if we failed? How awful that would be after waiting for this for years.

Over the next couple days, we worked with different dogs on basic obedience, like sit, stay, down, come. We had a lot of homework to do after a long day in the classroom, and after class we enjoyed comparing our experiences with the dogs. All starting to get to know each other. It was beneficial having others to talk to about our excitement, our fears, etc. We all sat around and talked about the different dogs we trained with.

The first day I worked with a couple of dogs, but mostly a black lab that was probably close to 85 pounds. I think he was the most laid-back dog there. He didn't really have a lot of energy or at least he didn't care to use his energy. Once I worked with him, that's who they had me working with the rest of the first day and all the second day except at the very end I did work with one female yellow lab.

We returned to the dorms that night all excited knowing that the next morning we would be matched with the dog we probably would go home with. Most of us felt we knew which one we were going to get. Everyone was sure I was going to get the black lab since that's who the instructors had me working with 95 percent of the time. After tonight we would be adding 14 dogs to our dorm! Once we got our dog, we would have them 24/7. We would be responsible for their food, brushing their hair and teeth, exercise, etc. We would also start our specialty training. It may not sound like a lot of work, but it really was, both physically and mentally. The next day we all got to class early. So much excitement in the air. We were about to have our lives changed in many ways.

Which dog came home with me? That's the next chapter.



BLUE'S NEWS

BY LAURIE AUTH - SHARE SHEET CHAIRMAN

Dianne Foerster and I, along with some helpers, happily distributed the four-page Blue's News Share Sheets at Convention earlier this month. This new Share Sheet is now available digitally on our club website under the Share Sheet tab.

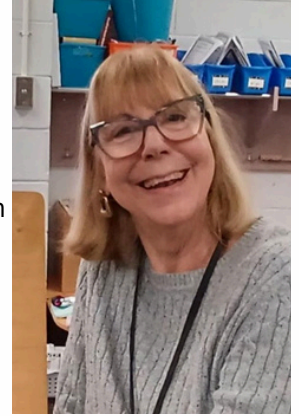
Since then, I have ordered items for period pouches from the GFWC Alachua Woman's Club and school backpacks for the GFWC Woman's Club of Historic Overtown Village. The Amazon wish list links for both projects are included in the Share Sheet under each club's article.

The GFWC Alachua Woman's Club has partnered with five local schools to stock rolling carts with stylish bags containing a variety of sanitary pad sizes and brands. Club President Tammarin McDaniel can be reached at tammarin@hotmail.com, and their Amazon wish list link is <https://a.co/OeZ5ZKtj>

The Woman's Club of Historic Overtown Village is sponsoring a Grandparents Raising Grandchildren initiative, and is seeking backpacks and school supplies to distribute at the Historic Black Police Precinct on August 1 at 11:00 a.m. If ordering from their Amazon wish list and the guest registry address does not appear in the delivery options, you may manually enter the club president's address: Lavette Moore, 2035 N. Miami Avenue, Apt. 918, Miami, FL 33127-4966. The club's Amazon wish list for this project can be found at <https://a.co/OhvaNcES>

Please review the Share Sheet for additional ways our members can support the clubs featured. We were excited to receive submissions from seven newer clubs for this second edition of Blue's News Share Sheet, and we would love to show them our support!

Huge thanks to Laurie Auth for once again putting together the 2nd Annual Blue Umbrella Share Sheet now known as BLUE'S NEWS! She makes the contacts and most importantly follows up with everyone! Then she and Amber Treat get creative and put it all together and ready to print. And then Rachelle Warmouth steps in and gets the blue paper and gets it printed for us! What a wonderful way to show how "Better Together" works! - Dianne Foerster



GFWC FLORIDA PRESIDENTS PROJECT

Get involved with **Terry Reese's** President's Project, "**Fired Up For Firefighters**," by participating in the Firefighter's Calendar Contest! Clubs should submit a photo with local firefighters to their District or Junior District Director by mid-July. The best photo from each district will be sent to Chair Georgia Browning by August 1st.

Georgia Browning - gbrowning78@gmail.com





Firefighter's Calendar Contest

A fun and engaging project to support Scholarships & Equipment for the Florida State Fire College

Who Can Participate All GFWC Florida Clubs	Why It Matters - Support Firefighter Training & Certification - Scholarships for the Florida State Fire College - Essential Equipment for Fire Safety
The Project 2027 Firefighter Wall Calendar - Photos with local firefighters in action - Club members encouraged to join the fun! *Get in the photo. Be creative & interactive!	Timeline May – July: Clubs take & select photo Mid-July: Submit digital photo to District Director August 1: Districts submit one digital photo to State Chairman
How It Works - Take photos with local firefighters - Make it fun and engaging - Submit one photo to your District Director	
Where To Find It - Available at 2026 Fall Board - Available on gfwcflorida.org Marketplace	

Winning Photos Featured in the 2027 Calendar and Recognized at Fall Board 2026

Contact: Georgia Browning, President's Project Chairman gbrowning78@gmail.com

GFWC FL JUNIOR DIRECTOR PROJECT



Royally Served
GFWC Florida



cereal for summer
MAY 1 – JUNE 5



Donate essential breakfast items to keep summer filled with possibilities.

Benefiting

FEEDING TAMPA BAY

MOST NEEDED BREAKFAST ITEMS

- Breakfast Bars
- Dry Cereal
boxes or bags | nutritious cereals like Cheerios, Chex, or Wheaties!
- Shelf-Stable Milk
- Oatmeal
- Granola

SCAN TO JOIN OR SUPPORT OUR TEAM!



Together, we can provide meals and hope to children and families in our community.

SHOP OUR AMAZON WISHLIST
Items ship directly to our collection site!



https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FCQXFQL9R5V1?ref=wl_share

EVERY ITEM COUNTS.

Summer should be full of possibilities, not hunger. Donate today to give kids in 10 counties a nourishing start to their day.

GFWC DISTRICT 8 SPRING WORKSHOP MEETING
Saturday, June 6, 2026
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Doors Open @ 9:00 AM

THE GROVES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
7924 Melogold Circle
Land O'Lakes, FL 34638

Nourishing bodies. Restoring dignity. Serving with love. Royally Served.

In Support of **Sherry Clendinen's** Director's Project, **Royally Served**. We are proud to be participating in Feeding Tampa Bay's Cereal for Summer campaign as we work to nourish bodies, restore dignity, and serve with love.

Together, we can help provide essential breakfast items to children and families experiencing food insecurity this summer.

There are many ways to help: Join or support our team:

<https://donate.ftb.org/GFWCFLROYALLYSERVED>

Donate Breakfast through our Amazon Wishlist – all donations will be shipped directly to Feeding Tampa Bay:

<https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/FCQXFQL9R5V1...>

Drop off donations at the GFWC District 8 Spring Workshop Meeting Every donation helps provide meals, hope, and dignity to children and families in our communities.

Summer should be full of possibilities, not hunger.

GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE



The General Federation of Women's Clubs is united in its dedication to volunteer community service. The 2026 GFWC International Day of Service is scheduled for Saturday, September 26. The focus will be to help end domestic and sexual violence across the United States and internationally.

Clubs can register here:

<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/gfwc-international-day-of-service>



MEMBER SURVEY

We want to hear from you!
Survey closes May 31, 2026

As we begin updating our GFWC Florida strategic plan, we want to hear directly from our members! Your experiences, ideas, and feedback are important in helping us understand what is working well and where we can better support you, our valued members.

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/PKEOHJALPFKQROAC6](https://forms.gle/PKEOHJALPFKQROAC6)

The survey will close on May 31, 2026.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



Check out the GFWC Learning Academy today:

The General Federation of Women's Clubs continues its mission of supporting women through education, leadership, and community impact. The GFWC Learning Academy offers free online training in leadership, membership, technology, and more—helping members grow and succeed in their club journey.

<https://memberportal.gfwc.org/pages/learning-academy>

*Save
The
Date*

Right Now!
GFWC FLORIDA
LEADS
**Leadership Education
And Development Seminar**
ATTEND GFWC FLORIDA FALL BOARD ON A HIGH NOTE!
SAVE THE DATE: FRIDAY, SEPT. 18, 2026

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
17	18	19

Planning for the 2026 Leadership, Education and Development Seminar (LEADS) for GFWC Florida is underway! It will be held just prior to the Florida Fall Board meeting on Friday, September 18, 2026 at the Rosen Plaza in Orlando. Start thinking today about your club's candidates to participate. Do it "Right Now!"

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

Please download the PhotoCircle App and begin uploading your BUC photos directly to the Blue Umbrella Club PhotoCircle (scan the QR code below to join).

It makes creating the newsletter and gathering historical memories so much easier!



 2026 Blue Umbrella Club
Join my circle by scanning
the QR Code above

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 Juvinall	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.

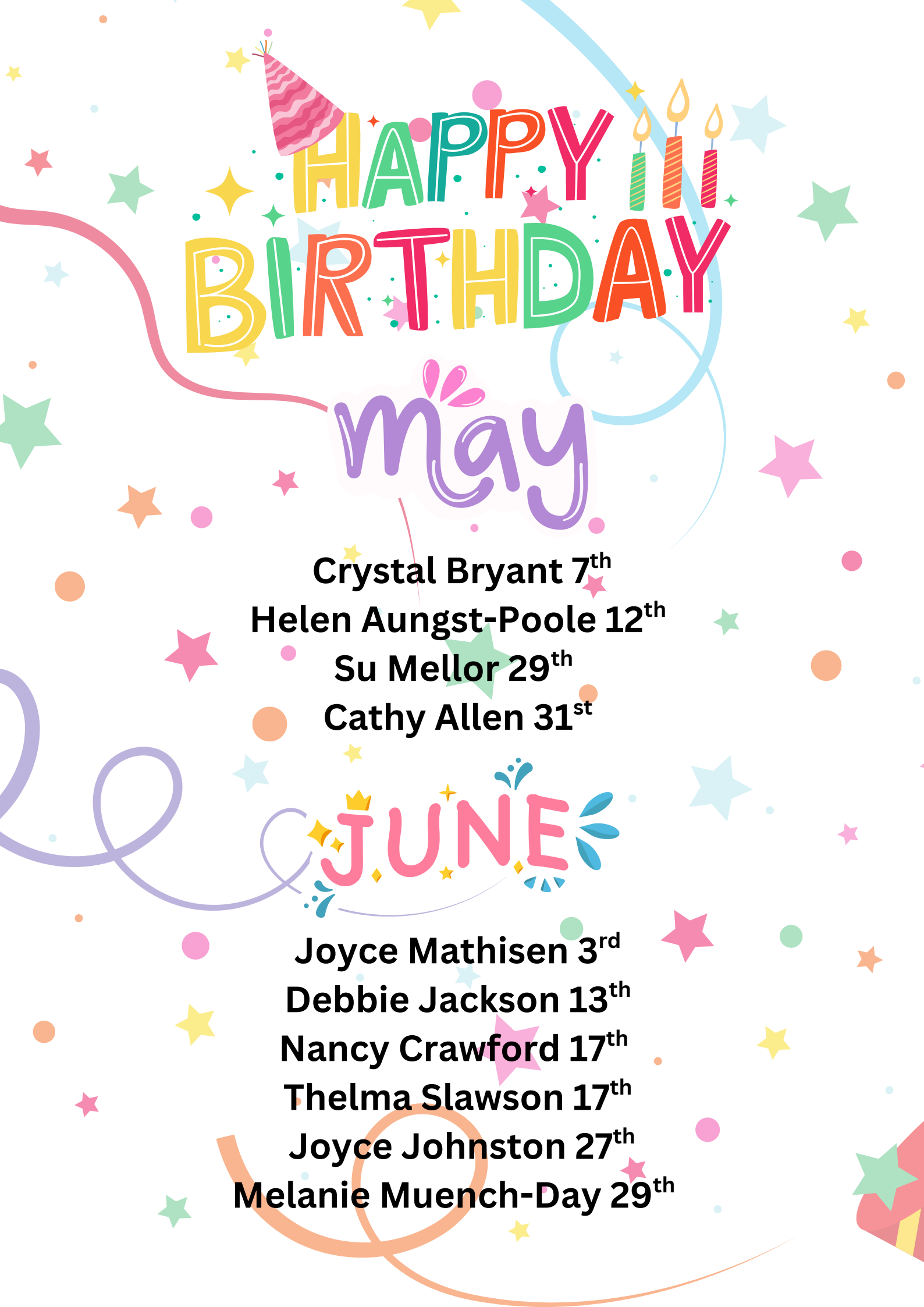
A COLLECT FOR CLUBWOMEN

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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

may

Crystal Bryant 7th

Helen Aungst-Poole 12th

Su Mellor 29th

Cathy Allen 31st

JUNE

Joyce Mathisen 3rd

Debbie Jackson 13th

Nancy Crawford 17th

Thelma Slawson 17th

Joyce Johnston 27th

Melanie Muench-Day 29th