



DWN WOMENS CLUB

October Newsletter

Join us for our Nov. 18th Holiday Celebration!

Doors open at 3:30 PM

This is a members only event!

\$25 per person, includes dinner a free glass of wine, & 7 Lady Luck door prize tickets (\$50 gift cards to Honey Baked Ham, Master Butcher -Tillman's new location on Philips Hwy-, Publix, and ALDI.

Optional \$20 gift swap (with your table mates).

This event was extremely popular last year and sold out quickly. Please make a note that *payment is due no later than 10/26. If payment isn't received by 10/26 you will be removed from the list and your spot will be given to someone on the waitlist.*



This year's menu:

Autumn Quinoa Salad

Caprese Salad

Green Salad with Pears, Cranberries & Pecans

White Balsamic Vinaigrette

Roast Chicken with Honey Mustard Sauce

Honey Mustard Salmon

Assorted Desserts

Iced Tea

Red or White Wine

If you have registered & paid, you will receive a second email with a signup for tables on 11/11.

[To attend please sign up here](#)



Join us for the
DWN Women's Club



Holiday TOY DRIVE

To Benefit Bright Holidays



Nov. 1-Nov.18



*We will be collecting
the following for
children aged 7-17:*

- make up kits and nail polish
 - dolls
 - Arts & Crafts kits
- sports equipment such as soccer balls,
basketballs & footballs,
 - Cars & trucks
 - Lego sets



- Cash donations will be accepted

*DROP OFF in donation box in Canopy Club lobby
beginning on 11/1, or bring your donation to the 11/18
Women's Club meeting.*

OUTREACH

Oct. 18th Breast Cancer Survivors & Supporters Walk

Over 75 people gathered at 9 am on a beautiful Saturday to walk & show their support for each other & those dealing with a diagnosis of breast cancer.



On-Going Outreach Project to Benefit *St. Francis House*

This outreach program is done on the third Thursday of every month. Women's Club volunteers prepare and serve a meal to residents at the shelter in St. Augustine.

In September, and again on October 16, forty-five shelter residents were served a delicious meal that was prepared by 35 of our members.

Our November 20th serving is a BIG deal to our club and to the residents! We will need many volunteers for this outreach effort as we are again preparing & serving a full traditional Thanksgiving meal, (turkey and gravy, stuffing, mashed potatoes, sweet potato casserole, green bean casserole, pumpkin pie, and apple pie with ice cream), to 45-50 shelter residents, many of who are families with small children. All leftovers are then served

the next afternoon at a meal which is open to all. Traditionally this service sees many people seeking a warm meal.

Please consider helping us prepare or serve on Nov. 20th. An email with more details and a chance to sign up will be hitting your in-box the last week of October.

Meals on Wheels Donation

\$1800!!

Thanks to all of you who so generously donated to COA's Meals on Wheels Program.



Wolfson's Children's Hospital Blanket Drive

42 Soft, fuzzy blankets were made by members & then donated to the hospital in September.

Mark Your Calendars! 2026 Meetings

Doors open at 3:45!

January 20th	March 17th	May 19th
July 21st	September 15th	November 17th

Membership Update

The DWN Women's Club will begin collecting membership renewals for 2026 starting in November. We are excited for another year filled with events, activities, and opportunities to connect with one another.

Membership Renewal Process is easy and will entail two simple steps:

1. *Sign up & re-join the club! An email will be sent out in early Nov.*
2. *Pay your \$20 dues after you sign up.*

Fun Fact: The early birds, those who renew or initiate their memberships before November 18th will be entered into our Early Bird drawing for a \$100 gift card to the Chop House Restaurant!.



Membership Renewal Drives will be held in the Canopy Club Lobby on:

- Wednesday, November 5th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- Thursday, November 6th 5:00 – 7:00 PM
- Saturday, November 14th, 5:00 – 7:00 PM



Simply stop by our table to renew and stay part of the excitement for another year! ***Don't forget your checkbook!***



Important Notes:

- Beginning January 31, 2026, non-members will be removed from all email distribution lists.
- You must be a current member to participate in any club activities, Activity Groups, or the Volunteer Action Committee.
- If you need assistance with the online process, please contact:
Diana Elmore – sedeee1@gmail.com
Nancy Brown – nancymbrown66@yahoo.com

**Thank you for being part of the DWN Women's Club.
Together, let's make 2026 another wonderful year!**

Congratulations to our 2026 Women's Club Board!



Ginger LeBlanc- President
Julie Jones- VP



Terese Bloom- Treasurer



Penny Kahn- Secretary



Kathy Reynolds-
Member-at-Large



Activity Groups!

In September, the **Art & Museum Enthusiasts** toured the Mandarin Museum & Walter Jones Historical Park. We learned the history and culture of the Mandarin area -- specifically the untold story of Black Mandarin, the residency



of Harriet Beecher Stowe and the Maple Leaf Shipwreck. In October, we will be exploring the Ximenez Fatio House Museum in downtown St. Augustine for its "Mortality and Mourning: Women in Black Tour". It's a hauntingly elegant tour examining the ways women were shaped by grief, death and mourning in Old St. Augustine.

We have 49 members in 4 **book clubs** that meet each month to discuss a different book. The 4 coordinators met recently to provide an update on each club and share best practices. We are pleased with the level of interest and engagement, and will consider starting a fifth club for future new members if interest grows.

Book Club 2 now meets the 2nd Monday of the month at 4 pm. In September we read Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman and our October book is Shelby Van Pelt's Remarkably Bright Creatures. In November we will be discussing Jodi Picoult's Nineteen Minutes.

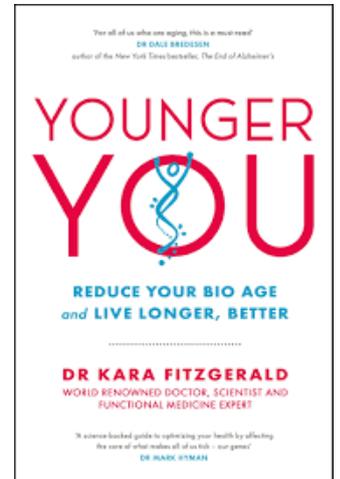




In September, **Foodie Friends** hosted a Fall Fiesta with a Mexican flare and a Pajama party! Everyone had a blast! In October, there will be a Halloween themed event along with a Soupalooza event. Our membership is growing!

The **Green Cuisine** Activity Group has been very engaged and recently invited Dr. Diane Brogan-Habash to speak at our October meeting. Dr. Diane discussed

the national bestseller book, “*Younger You*” by Dr. Kara Fitzgerald. This book provides a guideline for living longer and feeling healthier and younger. Dr. Diane discussed and provided examples of the types of food choices that can either increase or decrease biological age. We learned that clinical data now suggests that by lifestyle choices, diet and supplements, we can actually “age backwards.”



November 6 will be our “Friendsgiving” get together. We will **pilot** the option of including vegetarian choices in 50% of the dishes; however, we do not want to lose sight of the mission to learn and enjoy healthy food options. After our meeting, we will ask our members whether they wish to stay plant-based or include healthy vegetarian options in the future. Stay healthy and be well!



In September the **Women's History** activity group went on the Downtown Jacksonville "Top to Bottom" walking tour. "Andrew Jackson" guided us through buildings, secret underground tunnels, and even an old 1909 bank vault. It was a little history, architecture, culture and fun. November 1st there is a public walking tour of the Ortega neighborhood which interested women can join.



The LADIES (Life After Death In Every Step)

widow activity group remains as small groups meeting monthly and recently the second small group began. We have the groups named as gemstones : the diamond group and the sapphire group. We celebrate the memories life of our loved ones, give recognition to our members birthday, support each other in friendship and discuss the new normal of our life while moving

forward to the next chapter we face. We have become sisters in widowhood. Please feel free to contact Sherry Andreo bristolhouse100@gmail.com if you would like to know more about our group.

Our **Lunch with Friends** bi- monthly luncheon's has been very successful with our smaller groups! We offer two different restaurant selections every other month....this month (October) offers, Palm Valley Fish Camp and Coopers Hawk.



We're also excited about our upcoming Holiday luncheon at the Canopy club December 17th. We will have more information soon!



After a summer break, the **Trailblazers** started back up on September 26th with an early morning walk around Settlers Pond. Upcoming events include a trip to Losco Regional State Park to walk the 3.1 loop trail October 24th, and in November we are planning a sunset walk at Vilano Beach.

The **Working Women & Wine** activity group recently had a fabulous afternoon at a Corks & Forks walking tour of St. Augustine. Our next activity will be our annual holiday dinner on December 4 at Poppy's Italiano.

The purpose of the WW&W activity group is to have fun doing activities in the evenings or on Saturdays, when many working women are available. If you'd like to be notified of upcoming events please join our activity group.



Want to Join a New Activity Group Next Year?

After 1/1/26 all paid members will be able to log into the "Members Only" page on the website and signup for new groups.

If you are already in a group and have paid you don't need to do anything, you'll automatically be included in the groups emails, etc.

After 1/31/26 all non-paid members will be removed from Activity Groups.

Remember:

Signup to rejoin the Club beginning on Nov. 1 (look for the signup link in your email the end of the month)!

A Note from the President

Greetings Women's Club Friends,

It's hard to believe we are nearing the end of our second year as the DWN Women's Club! I am truly humbled by how we have grown and all that we have accomplished together.



- Our membership has grown to **376 women**.
- We now have **10 Activity Groups** reflecting a wide range of interests.
- Over the past 24 months, we have enjoyed an exciting variety of **programs** — from our Spring Fashion Show to engaging presentations such as David Ray from the Nocatee Community and Pamela Splane from Council on Aging, where members created greeting cards for Meals on Wheels recipients. In November, we will hold our **Twelfth Member Meeting**, which will also be our **Second Annual Holiday Celebration**.
- We have **reached out to serve our community** through partnerships with:
 - Villages of Hope
 - St. Francis House
 - Port in the Storm Youth House
 - Florida School for the Deaf and Blind
 - International Beach Cleanup Day
 - Betty Griffin Center

- Diaper Bank of North
- St. Johns County Pet Center
- Wolfson Children's Hospital
- DWN Breast Cancer Awareness Walk
- Bright Holidays

I am delighted to be “passing the baton” to Ginger LeBlanc as President, along with the 2026 Board Members — Julie Jones, Vice President; Terese Bloom, Treasurer; and Penny Kahn, Secretary. I know they will do an outstanding job leading the Women's Club in the year ahead.

As you may know, I am also running for a position on the DWN Nocatee HOA Board of Directors. That election will conclude at the Annual Meeting on November 3. Should I be elected, I will be resigning my 2026 role as Member at Large, allowing the new Board to appoint a replacement.

The past two years have been an amazing journey, and I hold each of you very dear. I look forward to seeing you — and sharing lots of hugs — at our November 18 Holiday Celebration!
With love and gratitude,

Kathy Reynolds

Contact Us

Email us at dwnwomensclub@gmail.com