



## Spring Newsletter 2022

### Message from the President



Greetings to all.

Summer is here! Although our Monday volunteer numbers decrease during the deep summer months, the volunteers we do have are very vigilant. We have also picked up a few full-timers, some of whom are new Master Gardeners. Our visitors are posting rave reviews about the lush gardens. Thank you to all.

We have a few major projects going on right now. I hope you will be as excited as I am to see what is going on. You may have heard about the major renovation of the Green Gazebo. We set out to raise fifty thousand dollars. In a short period of time we have already raised over forty thousand of our goal. We encourage everyone, whether member or not, to be among those who help raise the funds needed. The new gazebo will not

only be beautiful but will also withstand our weather and climate. And since we host many events and weddings, the new layout will be very appreciated. Watch for updates. Construction is set to begin early September.

We are also working on improving our curb appeal. New signage is up, and it's beautiful and fresh. In the interior of the fort, Lynne Bentley Kemp has mounted new photos in the entry room, hung numerous prints and paintings of our beloved ficus and archway in the reception room. Lynne will bring a new exhibit to our library room this fall. All of this is aimed to be weather and climate strong.

For those of you who may not have met me yet, I am Mary Olson, the president of the Garden Club--officially as of May. And many are now asking, "What happened to Rosi?" Rest assured, Rosi is remaining extremely active as our garden curator, and I will handle the administrative portion of the Garden Club.

Stop by and say hello!



## Garden Club Board and Chairs 2022-2023

Front row: (left to right), Cathie Gottshalk, Lynne Bentley-Kemp, Kitty Somerville  
Second row: Sharon Jones, Hazel Hans, Mary Olson, Rosi Ware, Christa Varacalli. Last row: Lou Ann Steely (great hat!), Sharon Lieberman (leaving the Board this year), and Sue Sullivan.

### Who's Who:

#### Officers

President: Mary Olson  
VP/Garden Curator: Rosi Ware  
VP/Fort Curator: Hazel Hans  
VP/Propagation: Kitty Somerville  
Director/Recording Secretary: Lynne Bentley-Kemp  
Director/Corresponding & Communications Secretary: Sue Sullivan  
Treasurer: Rahn Clayton

#### Chairs

Chair/Membership/Web/Social Media: Christa Varacalli  
Chair/Receptionists: Mary Olson  
Chair/Programs: Cathie Gottschalk  
Chair/Plant Sale: Janet Borch  
Chair/Garden Tours: Connor Boyd  
Chair/Events: Lou Ann Steely  
Bookkeeper/Chair/Orchids/Luncheon: Sharon Jones  
Co-Chair/Orchids/Luncheon: Pam Van Soest  
Chair/Holiday Lighting: Jane Tiedeman  
Chair/Butterfly Garden: Donna Farrow



### Tiara Trio

Mary Olson, center, has taken over the reins of president of the Key West Garden Club. Rosi Ware has seen the Club through many ups and downs and helped us come out on top, and Mary will continue to keep us going forward. A huge THANK YOU!! to Rosi.

Rosi will continue as Garden Curator. Past, past President Sue Sullivan continues on with advertising, and communications. Robin Robinson (not pictured) another past president, continues to write columns for the Key West Citizen.

Love the tiaras!





## Butterflies in the Keys

Lisa Kost, who lives in Big Pine Key, gave a lecture on reintroducing the state butterfly, the Zebra Longwing back to the Keys. Our intrepid butterfly gardeners have used some of her ideas to help the butterflies in our gardens by protecting caterpillars and chrysalids in little tents. The “rumor” is that the curly tailed lizards are snacking on them.

Thanks to Cathie Gottschalk, Donna Farrow, Trish Delaney and Jane Tiedeman.







## Garden Club Scholarship update

The Garden Club Scholarship recipient, Marcella Munoz, has finished her first year at FSU. Her summer is very busy. She is getting her dive instructor rating this summer and will be teaching SCUBA with the DiveN2Life.org.

She will also be working on coral restorations in the Virgin Islands with the University and is doing well in school.

Lots of energy in this young lady!

## Orchids!

**Dendrobium crumenatum.** This gorgeous plant on the right is also called pigeon orchid and thunderstorm orchid. It's a species. When there is a thunderstorm, the blooms only last about a day or two.

Sharon Lieberman donated it to the garden before she left.

This is the day following a big thunderstorm the night before in Key West. From Kitty Somerville.



## And there are always vandas!





## Work Around the Garden



Right to left clockwise:

Tunie Hamlen, Shelly Chase,  
Janet Borch, Trish Delaney  
(and son!) and Jeannie  
Richbourg.

Great to have smiling  
volunteers!

Carol Borland and Kitty  
Somerville split a large  
staghorn fern to create new  
smaller plants. They will be for  
sale in November.  
Propagation rocks!



## Congratulations to Garden Club Members



**Jill Benado** is one of this year's Anne McKee Artists Fund grant recipients. Her project will benefit the Star of the Sea (SOS) organization! Her unique style is to make abstract designs using food coloring, then making photographs of them. This grant will allow her to print greeting cards, the sale of which will go to SOS. She will donate the proceeds to SOS. In addition to the grant, Jill received the Jack Baron Award for Outstanding Achievement.



**Lynne Bentley-Kemp** is another of the 2022 Anne McKee Artists Fund grant recipients. Her project --Botanical-- will be an exhibit of a series of horticultural photographic images that have been made at Key West Garden Club.

They will include both color and black-and-white framed, archival digital prints and will explore the structure and texture of plants. A print-on-demand catalog will be published to accompany the exhibit.



## ROSI WARE – KEYS WOMAN MAGAZINE

This was a lovely article about “our” Rosi in a Keys Weekly edition of Keys Woman. (4/21/22).

“Rosi Ware doesn’t have to go far to reach her happy place. One of the most recognizable, active and committed Key West residents, she finds peace and happiness in her backyard garden, which is reminiscent of those in her native England.”

Not many people can say they’ve been honored by the Queen of England and worked with Robert Redford!



Tunie Hamlen, bottom left, is a new Ambassador.



Dick Rezba, Kris Griffin and Trish Delaney are new Master Gardeners.



## School Tours of the Gardens



Master Gardener Volunteers and the Key West Garden Club hosted the May Sand Montessori 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders for a tour of the garden. The students especially loved the butterfly garden and learning about butterflies and other pollinators.

## Goodbye Luncheon

**Sharon Lieberman**, our most wonderful treasurer, has left the Keys for another adventure on Pawley's Island in South Carolina. We had a yummy goodbye lunch at Salute's. And a goodbye gift of Key West Monopoly! Rahn Clayton will be stepping in as our new Treasurer.





## Billy Connolly, BAFTA Award



Sir William Connolly (World famous Scottish comedian and Oscar winner), was honored with a lifetime achievement award in the UK for the British equivalent of The Emmys/Oscars the BAFTA. Billy wanted his acceptance speech filmed at West Martello!! Pamela Stephenson, his lovely wife (a star in her own right) picked a spot by the Lignum Vitae tree in the Courtyard.

Now retired, he has topped many UK polls as one of the greatest comedians of all time and has appeared in various films, including *Mrs. Brown* (for which he was nominated for the BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role), *The Last Samurai*, *Brave*.

Billy moved to Key West in 2016.

It was an honor to have him pick the Gardens as the spot to receive his award.



## The Bard at West Martello

Now, **this** is exciting news! The Keys Shakespeare Company production of Romeo and Juliet will be staged outdoors at the West Martello Tower, home of both renowned gardens and an unsurpassed view of history. A live-streamed video feed and projections will transport audience members to the far reaches of the old fort where various scenes will play out concurrent with action in the central plaza.

Glorious music from composers across time will augment performances by twelve professional actors, some playing more than one role; a live local children's choir will underscore many romantic and tragic sequences in this most-famous, most-taught love story of all time.

The Key West production will play Tuesdays through Sundays April 18-30 at 7 PM; additional matinees and rain dates TBA.

Mark your calendars for next April!!!



## Plein Air Painting with Maggie Ruley





## Gazebo Update

Thanks to all of the Garden Club's hardworking volunteers, the gardens at West Martello are the best they have ever been. We are currently attracting over 70,000 visitors per year and hosting over 100 private events or weddings.

To make our beautiful gardens even more attractive for our own Garden Club events and private weddings and parties, we want to update our large green gazebo, modernizing it to incorporate an outdoor refrigeration area and better, more resilient serving facilities. The renovations will also make the gazebo airier and more in keeping with the style of the gardens.



The cost to do this is approximately \$50,000. We are hoping you will help us raise the funds, which will enable us to carry out the renovation during our quieter summer months this year.

So far we have raised \$40,882 toward our \$50,000 target. That's 82% of the total. Help us make it to the top! Donate at this link. Thank you. <https://keywestgardenclub.com/club/capital-campaign/>

## More Old and New

Kevin McIntyre, a visitor on our Facebook page, sent this photo that was taken by his father, circa 1962. For credit, the father's name is Lt. Byron McIntyre, Dredgers Key, Naval Station, Key West.



1962



2022

Thank you for photo and other contributions from **Lynne Bentley-Kemp** (most of the wonderful photos), Eloise Pratt, Kitty Somerville, Rosi Ware, Christa Varacalli and Sue Sullivan. Thank you to Christa Varacalli for proofreading.

Editor, Sue Sullivan





Hear me out... a party bus,  
but it stops at plant stores