


**BPW Connection | December 2018**

**Upper Keys Century Business & Professional Women**



[www.upperkeysbpw.org](http://www.upperkeysbpw.org)

**Celebrating Women in Business**

**Happy Holidays!**

**Happy Holidays from the Upper Keys BPW!**

**We hope you will join us for the Annual Holiday Party!**

Thank you Theresa Sutter for opening your home to us once again! It will be a night of networking, friendship, fun, laughter, gift giving and celebration of the Holiday Season! Bring your favorite dish and drink, bring an ornament for the gift exchange, and feel free to bring your spouse or a friend!

**RESERVE YOUR SEAT IN ADVANCE - CLICK HERE!**

\*Once you RSVP, you will be sent the physical address\*

**BPW'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY!**

**Join us! WED December 19th 5:30 - 7:30 PM**

**At Theresa Sutter's Home, MM 100, Key Largo**

**It is a potluck, so bring your favorite dish and/or your favorite beverage. And don't forget your favorite spouse or friend!**

**TACKY ORNAMENT EXCHANGE**

*Here's how it works:*  
 You bring a wrapped ornament to participate.  
 Everyone is given a number. Number 1 goes first and picks a gift, number 2 can take Number 1's gift or open a new one.  
 Number 3 can pick from Number 1 or 2's gift or pick a new one.  
 It continues until all the ornaments are gone.  
 An ornament can only be "stolen" three times.

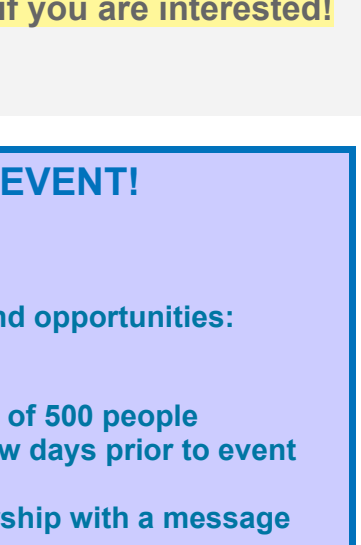
R.S.V.P online at [upperkeysbpw.org](http://upperkeysbpw.org) Questions: [info@upperkeysbpw.org](mailto:info@upperkeysbpw.org)

**Message from the President**

*Ilja Chapman, President*

Happy Holidays Upper Keys BPW Members!

'Tis the Season of decorations, Christmas music and mulled wine. We look forward to seeing you all at the BPW Holiday Party and sharing the holiday cheer. I especially look forward to the traditional tacky ornament exchange. It is true that I bought my ornament back in October. I love traditions like this!



Since December is the last month of the year, it is good practice to stop, reflect on our achievements, and look forward to new exciting things to come. My recommendation is for everybody to do this, personally and professionally.

When looking back on the 2018 Upper Keys BPW year, we can be very proud of what we achieved. We reached our financial goal of being able to give out the UKBPW scholarships twice this year and we are on track with our budget. Our vision to create more value for the members is shaping up nicely. It is not too late to share your voice by partaking in the online poll we sent out.

In January, we are kicking off the Professional Development Series during our luncheon followed by training sessions in February and March. Topics covered will help our members develop professionally and personally. A mentorship program is almost ready and will be launched in the New Year too.

But most important is still the networking opportunity and the sisterhood amongst Upper Keys BPW members. Familiarize yourself with the businesses represented in our membership database who can help you in your business and development. Call me if need help navigating the website or need help with your login.

Our slogan stands strong: Supporting WOMEN is just GOOD BUSINESS Period!

I wish you a Magical Holiday Season and hope you will ring in the New Year with a positive bang!

Festive Greetings,  
 Ilja Chapman

**bpw | CALENDAR**

**December 19:** Annual Holiday Party, Theresa Sutter's Home, 5:30-7:30. Potluck & Tacky Ornament Exchange in keeping with tradition. [RESERVATIONS](#)

**January 16:** Luncheon, 11:15-1:00. Location TBA. Sponsorship Opportunities Available.

**February 20:** Evening Networking Event, 5:30-7:30 PM. Location TBA. Sponsorship Opportunities Available.



The Upper Keys BPW meets once a month, on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. We alternate between luncheons and evening networking events, and would love for you to join us! Click the button to see our full event schedule and register for an upcoming event.

**EVENT SCHEDULE**

**SPONSOR THE JANUARY LUNCHEON!**

**We are offering a unique opportunity for sponsorship of the January Luncheon. Instead of one sponsor for the full \$250, we are offering three (3) businesses or individuals the chance to sponsor the luncheon for only \$100 EACH. You will get all of the benefits listed below (except for the free attendance) for a significantly reduced rate! Contact us ASAP if you are interested!**

**SPONSOR AN UPPER KEYS BPW EVENT!**

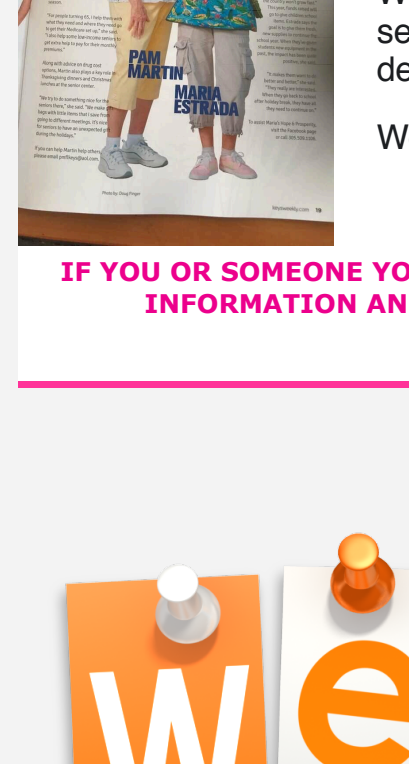
The cost to sponsor an event is \$250. With the sponsorship you receive the following benefits and opportunities:

- Logo/branding:
  - Event E-vite emailed three times to a database of 500 people
  - Monthly BPW member Newsletter emailed a few days prior to event
  - Mention at Upper Keys BPW social media
- One Free dedicated business E-Blast to our membership with a message your business likes to share
- Display table and/or hand outs to all attendees
- Banner display at the luncheon
- Two FREE entrees to the luncheon
- 5 minute speaking time at the luncheon directed to all attendees

**In the Spotlight**

**bpw|member SPOTLIGHT**

**Meet Carlee Waack**



I feel both proud and lucky to have been born and raised in Key Largo. I'm sure my passion for the water and need for warmth are a direct result of growing up here.

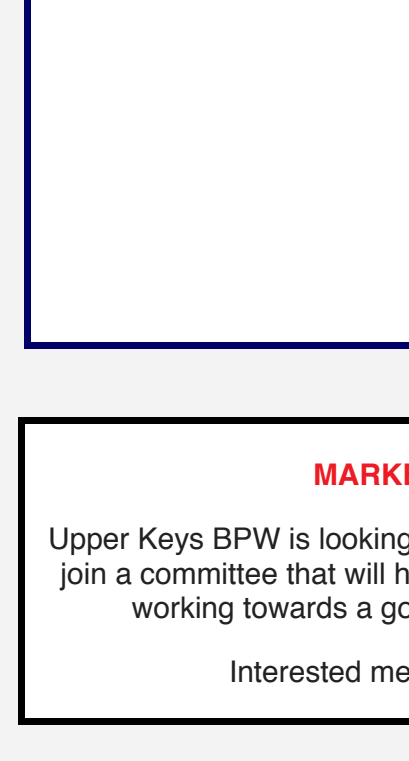
After Coral Shores, I went to school in San Diego, CA studying Landscape Architecture. My love for nature is closely accompanied by my ardor for culinary adventures and my affection for family and friends.

I am fortunate to have three jobs to invest my time in. My full time, and newest position, is as a salesperson with AI's Carpet and Home Decorating Center. They are family owned and operated with 42 years in business. The DeGraaff's have been helping me grow in the trade since employing me after Hurricane Irma. My longest held position is with Chef Andrew Tsang. His company, Chef Drew's Island Catering, continues to be an especially fulfilling endeavor for me. Finally, being a Mary Kay Beauty Consultant has been an inspiring step in my life. Surrounding myself with such a driven group of women has helped me push my boundaries and find success.

Joining the BPW, and being part of THIS group of incredible women and men, has also given me much to be thankful for. The comradery, sense of community, personal support, and endless smiles keep me excited for every monthly meeting. I am quite shy in public speaking forums, but catch me one on one and I'm sure we'll have lots to talk about. I appreciate this opportunity to share some details of my life with all of you. Thanks so much!

**attagirl**

**Atta Girl to BPW Board Member Wendy Coffman**

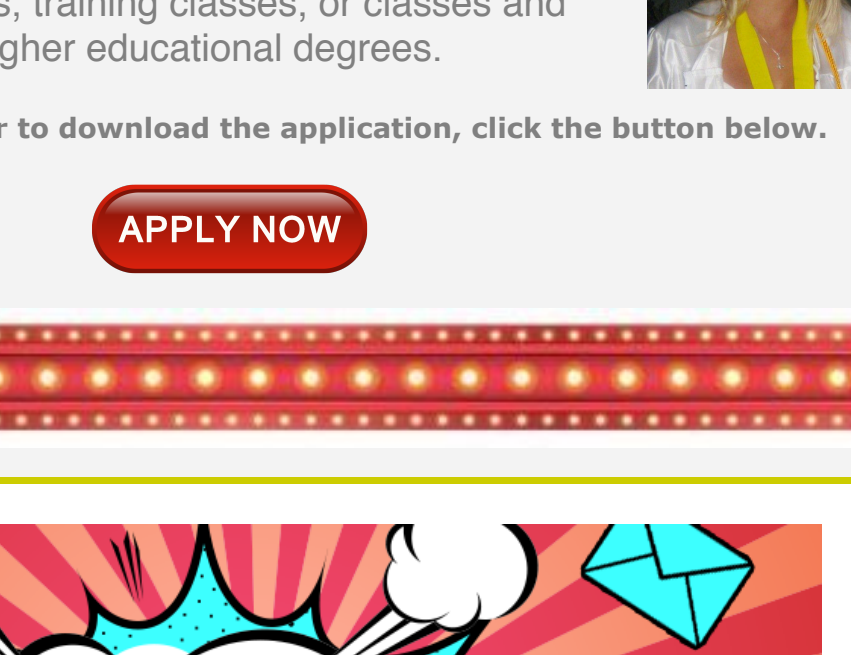


Congratulations to Wendy on her new appointment to the Key Largo Chamber of Commerce Board! She was inducted at a chamber ceremony on December 12th.

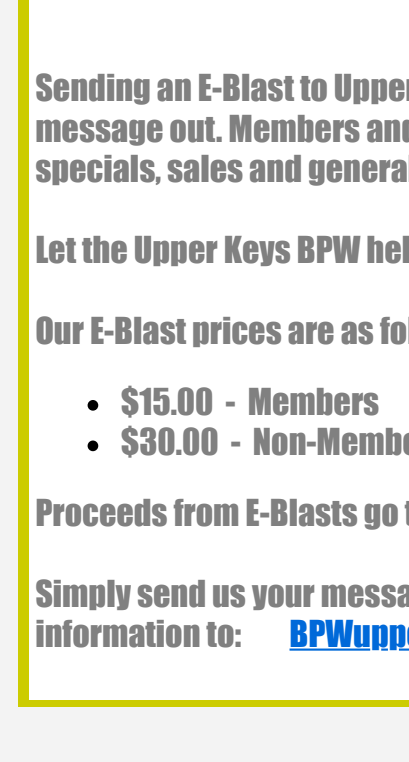
Way to go Wendy!

**Atta Girl to BPW Member Trinity Van Steenburg**

Congrats to Trinity on how successfully she juggles weddings and catering at Caribbean Catering. If you have been to an event around town lately, you have probably seen her. She is everywhere!



**Atta Girl to BPW Board Member Pam Martin**



The Weekly Newspapers recently recognized our own Board Member Pam Martin for all the wonderful things she does in an issue about heroes in our community!

Well deserved recognition for all the work she does helping seniors in the community, and also for her amazing holiday decorations!

We love you Pam!

**IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW DESERVES AN ATTA GIRL, PLEASE SEND US THE INFORMATION AND WE'LL MAKE SURE YOU/ THEY ARE RECOGNIZED!**

[bpwupperkeys@gmail.com](mailto:bpwupperkeys@gmail.com)

**welcome**

**NEW MEMBERS & RENEWING DECEMBER**

Please help us welcome new and renewing members!

**NEW MEMBERS:**

Christine Wilson Florida Keys Mediation  
 Trisha Woods Ocean Studies Charter School

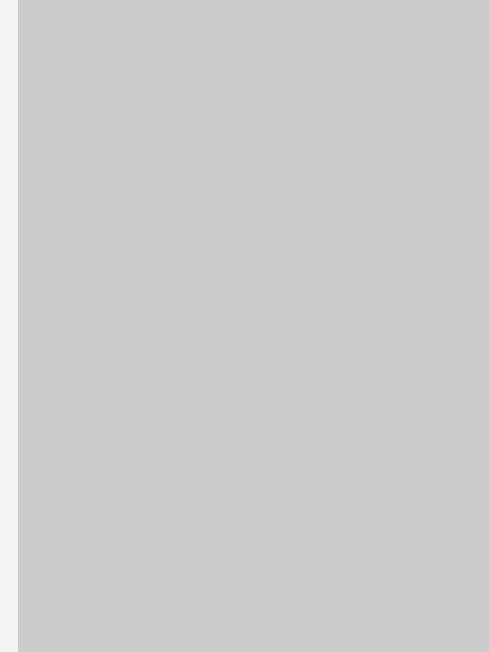
**RENEWING MEMBERS:**

Ginette Hughes Marine Resource Development

*Ask us about the benefits of being a member!*

**Become a Member**  
 JOIN TODAY! ▶

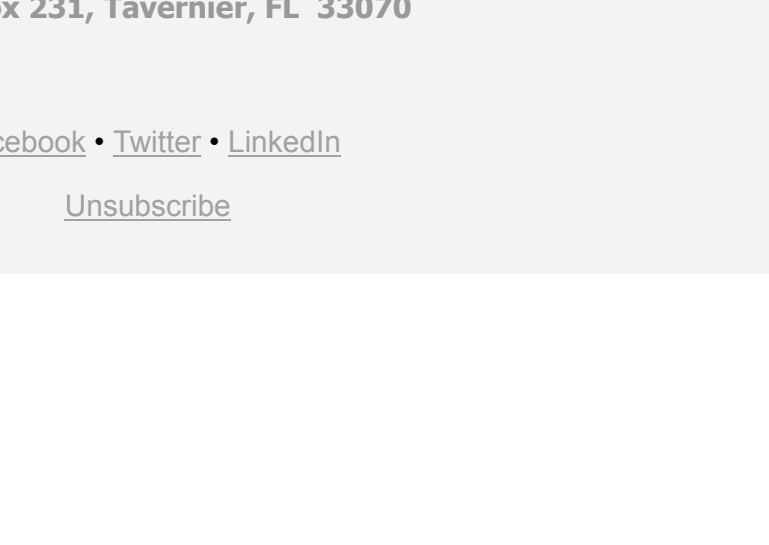
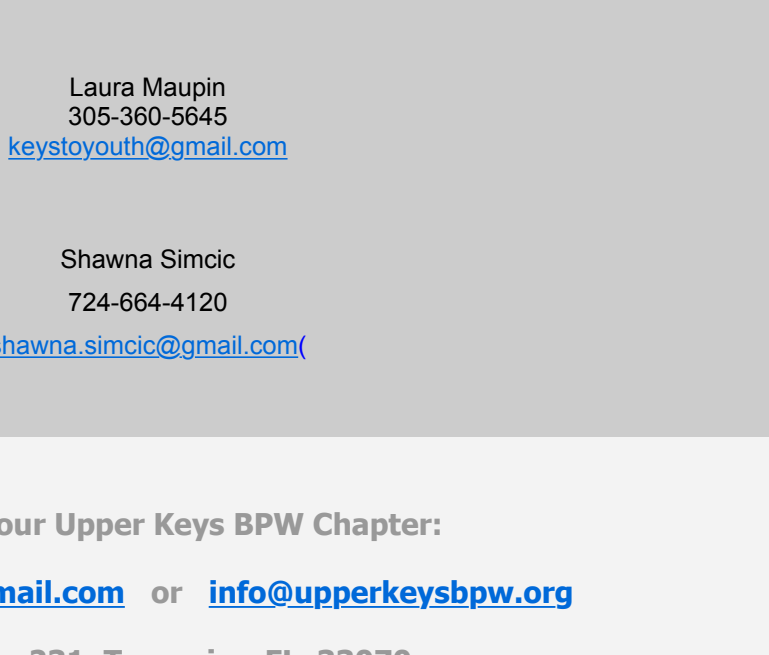
**November was a busy month for the Upper Keys BPW!**



We Voted in the midterm elections, and elected a record number of women to serve in congress!



And, we made Cake Pops for the Key Largo Chamber CookOff! Thanks Shawna Simic for your idea, your recipe, your kitchen and your patience! It was fun and we enjoyed being part of the event!



**MARKETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS WANTED**

Upper Keys BPW is looking for members with experience in marketing & public relations to join a committee that will help create a strategic marketing plan for the Upper Keys BPW, working towards a goal of increased membership and community awareness.

Interested members should call Ilja Chapman at 305-998-8348.

**APPLY FOR AN UPPER KEYS BPW ADULT SCHOLARSHIP**



The Upper Keys's BPW Adult Scholarship program is about women helping women! Apply for the Upper Keys BPW Adult Scholarship and the UKBPW-Holly Given Memorial Scholarship.

The specifications and applications can be found on our website.

Applications are accepted all year round, and are reviewed on March 15th and August 15th annually. Scholarships may be used for certifications, training classes, or classes and required materials for higher educational degrees.



For more information, or to download the application, click the button below.



**E-BLAST!**

Sending an E-Blast to Upper Keys BPW email recipients is a great way to get your message out. Members and non-members alike are invited to use this forum for events, specials, sales and general advertising.

Let the Upper Keys BPW help you spread the word about your business!

Our E-Blast prices are as follows:

- \$15.00 - Members
- \$30.00 - Non-Members

Proceeds from E-Blasts go toward our Adult Scholarship Fund.

Simply send us your message, along with your name, business name and billing information to: [BPWupperkeys@gmail.com](mailto:BPWupperkeys@gmail.com)

**Connecting our Upper Keys Chapter to BPW Florida**



BPW/FL Florida Federation of Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.

**State Conference**

*Mark your calendars!*  
 BPW/FL State Conference June 27-30, 2019.  
 If you would like to attend with the Board and other Members, let us know!

**Advocacy**

America was founded on the principal of equality for all and derives its strength from individuals working together for a common good. This Public Policy Platform is BPW/FL's blueprint for our work in respect, justice, and equality for working women.

[CLICK TO read the official BPW/FL 2018-2019 Public Policy Platform.](#)

**Member Resources**

On the BPW Florida website you can find wealth of information about our organization and we now encourage all members to take advantage of the resources. Log in at <https://bpwfl.org/members-only-documents/>

**BPW Insider**

Congratulations BPW/FL on their E-Newsletter, [BPW Insider](#). There is a lot of good information and the first issue gave a shout out to the Upper Keys BPW as their Highlighted Local Organization! We thank them for their recognition and their leadership!

[To read the article CLICK HERE.](#)

**Upper Keys BPW Board of Directors 2018-2019**

**President**

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Suzi Youngberg, Hospitality  
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Contact your Upper Keys BPW Chapter:

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