



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida

December 2018

Everything's Coming Up Roses!

Do you remember that Ethel Merman signature song about successes and good times from the Broadway show "Gypsy"? It has been playing in my head all day as I think of our club's many November successes – our Blue Star Memorial Dedication, our wildly fun



White Elephant Sale and the amazing Floral Presentation by Sybil Sylvester. How did we manage so many great events in just one month? *With member dedication, hard work and camaraderie!* Hugs and praise go out to our chairmen for these events – **Evelyn Budde** for the Blue Star Memorial Dedication, **Kitty Winkler** for our White

Elephant Sale and **Joan Johnson** for the Floral Presentation with Sybil Sylvester. Kitty had a committee that enjoyed all aspects of the event. It was a fun-loving team of **Mari Arnold, Connie Cabeza, Nina Jarp, Brenda Martinez, Michele Wiseheart and Hallie Yanno**. And Joan, who hosted Sybil in her home and worked along side her for two days, was

complemented by another vital group of workers and organizers including **Judy Mangasarian, Sharon Trbovich, Julie Connor, Teresa Zohn, Olga Lazo and myself**. All of these successful events were enhanced by legions of early risers, volunteers, cookie bakers and sandwich makers. I only wish I could name each person here who contributed in all the ways that ensured the achievements we are so proud of. Thank you! And now it is your families' turn to enjoy your cookie baking and attention as the holidays approach!

Wishing you a season of love and family as we gather around our south Florida hearth ... the patio! Our beautiful winter has begun!

- Betsy Tilghman, President



Coral Gables Garden Club, Inc. is a proud member of the National Garden Clubs, Inc; and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs.

THE WHITE ELEPHANT TRUMPETED WILD SUCCESS!



A new event, the White Elephant Sale, brought fun and profit to the Club. Brainchild of 1st Vice President, Judy Mangasarian and President, Betsy Tilghman, the sale quickly gained interest and support from our members, and even some non-members. Kitty Winkler chaired the event and the committee members were Mari Arnold, Connie Cabeza, Nina Jarp, Brenda Martinez, Michele Wiseheart, and Hallie Yanno. Three donation days filled the Garden Center with beautiful household items and designer fashion accessories. The committee transformed the Garden Center to a retail establishment, and the sale opened for business at 9:30 on

November 26. Shoppers included Club members, their guests, and Biltmore guests who couldn't resist our bargain prices. The sale was a social and business success, bringing in \$1670 that can be used for Club projects.



SMALL BUCKET COMPOSTING:

This is another easy way to make composting for your garden; I have been successful making it in 1 to 5 gallon plastic containers.

I do the following: fill the bottom of the bucket with ½ to 1 inch soil; next add 1 inch dry leaves; next add kitchen trimmings (vegetables and fruit). At this time add the worms and cover with ½ inch soil. Using a spray bottle, wet the compost and cover the container, and place in a part shade area. In two weeks you can start to move the compost. Check if it needs water.

The use of worms in composting; worms are use to recycle food scrap and other organic materials into a valuable soil amendment called vermicompost or worm compost.

I use this method to do plant propagation. I leave the containers outside for three weeks, then I plant the plant sticks. Be sure that the soil is moist.

Tips for composting: do not use meat, chicken, fish, dairy products, cat or dog feces; do not use grass clippings from lawns that have been sprayed with chemicals (weed and feed). Do not use ash from charcoal.

To get worms you can go to (<http://www.unclejimswormfarm.com>) or go to a tackle fish shop.

If they deliver from Postal Services, talk to your postal person to be aware that the worms are alive and cannot be stored in the mail box or exposed to sun.

- Ernesto Clark, October 2018 Workshop

Crime Watch Committee at work



Club members, Dorothy Thomson, Judy Mangasarian and Ana Lam at the recent Crime Watch Christmas Party with Chief Hudak, the new city Manager, Peter Iglesias, and Community Affairs officer, Kelly Denham.

A beautiful day completes the Blue Star Memorial Dedication



Commissioners Pat Keon and Michael Mena performing the ribbon cutting, for The Blue Star Memorial Dedication accompanied by Betsy Tilghman and Chairman, Evelyn Budde.

Thanks for all who came, made cookies and volunteered. Special thanks to Milam's Grocery for the delicious sandwiches and fruit.



Save the Date: CGGC Field Trips

Saturday, February 16 at 10:00 am

A Tour of the Kampong in Coconut Grove, followed by a picnic lunch.

Wednesday, April 3 at 10:00 am

Fruit and Spice Park, Homestead, FL

Followed by lunch. Please contact Beth Werner to reserve your spot. 305-815-3872 or email Beth at betwerner@gmail.com

Environmental Report

- Marlin Ebbert

Saturday, November 17, 2018 - 9:00 am - noon

Approximately 400 cars

We recycled:

12,000 lbs of electronic waste

7718 lbs of hazardous waste

8500 lbs of sensitive documents were shredded

December 12, 2018 Meeting - Danielson Gallery

10:30 -11:30: Christmas Fascinators workshop with Sharon Trbovich
Program: Christmas Musicale - Miami Top Brass Quintet
Lunch Committee: Olga Lazo*, Julie Connor, Nina Jarp, Betsy Tilghman, Jo Anne Matthews
Buffet Centerpiece: Rosita Perez

The Villagers Award Grand Funds to the CGGC

Heartfelt thanks go out to **The Villagers** who have awarded our club \$4000 for an authentic replication of our historic front door to the Garden Center, the Biltmore's original Guard House. We are grateful and honored that The Villagers have recognized this preservation project as one of the charming threads in the fabric of our city's history.

Merrick House Grand Re-Opening - Sunday, December 9th

Thank you Gayle Duncan and your decorating committee for once again teaming up to festoon the Merrick House with garlands, pine boughs and poinsettias. The house, restored to its former glory, is ready for the season! Stop by to see this historic jewel in our neighborhood, and admire Althea's Garden and the Heritage Garden which the Club helps plant and maintain.

New swale options for us in Coral Gables

We no longer need to grow grass on our swales! The City has come up with several alternative options for homeowners wishing to plant something other than grass, especially for those of us who have shade trees on our swales and struggle to keep grass growing. At this time swale plantings may only include Wart Ferns, Liriope, Variegated Liriope, Flax Lily, Philodendron "Burl Marx" or Rd Congo. Other approved options are Crushed Granite, Ollite, and Coquina Shells. To opt for one of these alternatives, owners must fill a permit application with the City of Coral Gables Public Works Dept. They are striving to make this an easy process, so if you are interested in replacing your grass (or your dirt!) with one of these attractive options, contact the Public Works Department to obtain a permit.

March 16 House and Garden Tour Tickets:

Don't let your tickets get lost in your overflowing holiday mail piles. - send your money now, and put those tickets in some dear friends' holiday stockings.

Tour of Kitchen Plant Sale:

Sign up to help at our Plant Sale at the Tour of Kitchens sponsored by the Coral Gables Community Foundation. The date is February 9, 2019. Please contact Susan Rodriguez.

Remembering Jane Wilson and Pat Clarke

Jane Wilson, Emeritus Member and South Florida pioneer, (remember Holsum Bakery?) passed away on November 3rd. Jane was a past President of our club and gave over 65 years of dedicated, enthusiastic service to the club she loved so dearly, and the friendships among us she cherished. Under Jane's presidency we became a 501C3 organization. Also under her leadership she and Betsy Adams secured the Danielson Gallery for our meetings. Jane wrote a fascinating book about her family history, *Papa Fuchs' Family, 1881-1981*, and we have placed a copy in our Garden Club library. Who can resist this picture of Jane from another era - with her pony, Nancy Hanks, transported to her in her dad's car.



Jane Fuchs in 1935 with her pony Nancy Hanks.

On November 14th Pat Clarke, another beloved member of our club passed away. For 23 years she was our active supporter, often serving on the Board, and twice chairing our Holiday Home Tour. Pat was a founding member of the Pinecrest Garden Club and a past President of the South Miami Garden Club. Pat was a Hall of Fame Member and a Life Member of FFGC.

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS....

As you remember members and friends who have passed away, please consider the Coral Gables Garden Club as a worthy recipient of memorial donations. We are a 501C3 organization and your donations are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

Membership News:

As we start the New Year, keep in mind that we have only two meetings remaining in which to bring guests. The guidelines specify that "Prospective Members must attend two meetings. The membership process requires an application and a letter of recommendation from the sponsor and two endorsers. The sponsor and the endorsers must have known the prospective member for a minimum of one year. The prospective member must be a resident of Coral Gables.

We have two remaining meetings in which to bring guests: January 28 and February 27. Applications and letters must be received by February 25. Applications will be available at all meetings.

- Connie Cabeza, Membership Chairman