



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 95th Year

February 2020

## *What you do makes a difference. What difference do you want to make?*

Greetings, Lovely Ladies!

I hope you are looking forward to the next 3 months of Garden Club events as much as I am. It reminds me of that cute image of a duckling gliding smoothly along the surface of a pond, only because she is paddling like mad underneath!

We have so many members who are making things happen behind the scenes. I'm sure they would love to have your help, so give them a call. They really would appreciate it!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the House and Garden Tour on April 4th. Alexis Ehrenhaft and Marie Vacca need everyone to pitch in and help, whether as a hostess or ticket taker, baker, or seller of tickets, or all of the above!

### **A few thoughts . . .**

I am an optimist! I see all around me evidence that our species can find solutions to earth's problems if we try hard enough. I left Dr. Jaret Daniel's presentation yesterday with one thing still stuck in my mind, his photo of beautiful wildflowers along a highway. His simple suggestion to improve the chances for insects to survive was to ask the FDOT to mow the right-of-way every six or even twelve weeks instead of every three weeks. What a "win-win" that would be! Helping our pollinators thrive, while saving money, gas and emissions.

A few years ago, the Coral Reef Restoration Foundation came to speak to us about the alarming death of corals from bleaching. We supported their work in growing corals with a generous donation. After all, coral gardens are not so different from our own gardens above water. They are both beautiful, but also support a myriad of living creatures we would not like to lose. While snorkeling in Bonaire and St. Barth's last week, I saw what appeared to be old-time TV antennas anchored to the sea floor and spangled with tiny elkhorn and staghorn corals.. It was a magical sight, an act of hope and optimism.

Staring from the ship, I spied bits of bright pink and blue plastic floating with the Sargassum seaweed. My heart sank, but then I remembered how the ship had stopped using plastic lids, stirrers, and straws to keep them from flying overboard. A seemingly small but important effort to help stem plastic pollution of the seas.

And thanks to our member, Rhonda Anderson, we are once again growing little mangrove pups to replenish the mangroves along our shores. Please contact her to thank her for initiating this project and ask if you can foster a few pups of your own!

A quote of Jane Goodall's comes to mind:

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."*

Let us each decide to make a difference, one wildflower, mangrove pup or non-use of plastics at a time.

Thanks for reading my musings.

*Judy Mangasarian, President*



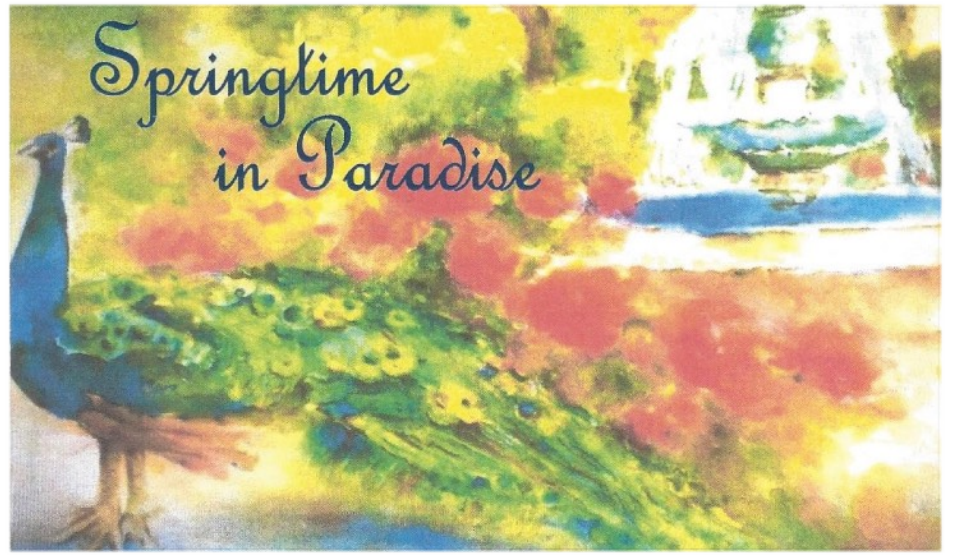
*President, Judy Mangasarian, in St. Lucia, Windward Islands.*



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

## *Working hard to make a successful House & Garden Tour*

Planning is well under way for our 2020 House and Garden Tour, "Springtime in Paradise", which will take place on Saturday, the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2020. The homes and gardens, located in the southern portion of Coral Gables, are lovely; each with its own special beauty and distinct personality. The Tour also includes admission into the Montgomery Botanical Center, a leading garden for palms and cycads that is usually open by reservation only. This 120-acre garden was the home of Nell and Robert Montgomery, founders of Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden. The Presidents' Tea, Bake Sale and Plant Sale will be located there and the Center will be offering tours of their beautiful grounds.



In order for the Tour to be a success, we need each and every member to participate. If you have yet to receive your envelope containing five tickets, along with an Advertising and Sponsorship form, please contact us. As a note, one ticket is yours to use. The cost was included in your annual dues.

- . Sell a minimum of 4 tickets and come back to us for more!
- . Sign up to work as a Hostess, Ticket Taker or Designing Diva.
- . When called upon to provide baked goods for the Presidents' Tea and Bake Sale... say "yes".
- . If possible, secure advertising and sponsorships to help defray our costs.

We are counting on you! With our thanks.

~ Alexis and Marie, Tour Co-Chairs

## *Busted! .... But actively surviving latest Garden Club outing*



These are photos from the program at the police station. Even behind bars our CCGC ladies look great! Officer Denham gave an amazing presentation on how to survive in an active shooter encounter and then some of us toured the holding cell, 911 dispatch and the emergency operation meeting room.



## *Holiday Workshop bears beautiful results for members*



Although this hands-on workshop was held in November, it is lovely to see the results of our members' hardwork. Many thanks to Ruth Markham, Sharon Trbovich and Lucy Reinhardt for coordinating this workshop at the home of Susan Rodriguez.

### ***More thoughts from our President...***

Opportunities for fun abound too, with an inspiring Floral Design Workshop before our next meeting on February 24th (contact Susan Rodriguez to reserve your place for \$25) and a Field Trip to a beautiful and historic garden in the Redlands on March 25th (note date change from the yearbook, contact Derita Downey)

Underline project is taking shape and now is the time to give them your ideas for Coral Gables' portion of it. A public input session will be held on Thursday, February 13th from 3 to 5 pm at the U of M Abess Center\*. Meg Daly, daughter of our member, Vann Thomson, is the moving force behind it, and she has asked our club for suggestions. "Put on your thinking caps" and come with me to the session, or let me know about your ideas.

#### ***A few more opportunities to help:***

February 8: Coral Gables Foundation Tour of Kitchen Plant Sale. Contact Betsy Tilghman. Photo shows Susan Rodriguez and Beth Werner at Bullis Bromeliads in the Redlands.

March 4: Garden Therapy. Contact Victoria Cabeza

April 24: Arbor Day ~ Contact JoAnne Matthews.

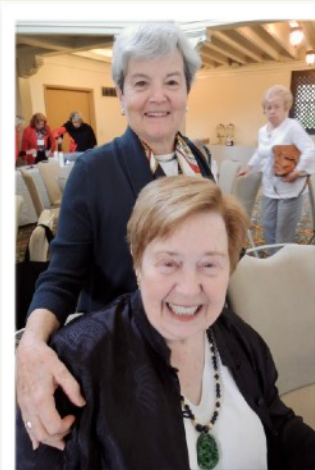
Stay engaged with our club. The next three months will be rewarding and lots of fun. I hope to see your smiling faces everywhere.

With love from the garden. ~ Judy Mangasarian.





## *Pollinators Program was a big draw at full January meeting*



### *Getting ready for our new door!*



### **February 24, 2020 Meeting**

**Location:** The Biltmore - Laguna Room

**Workshop:** Designing for a Flower Show, Mayfair Hydro. Need to sign up and prepay \$25. Contact Susan Rodriguez. [susan56athome@gmail.com](mailto:susan56athome@gmail.com)

**Program:** The Ferns of South Florida: Up Close and Personal, Jennifer Possley of Farichild Tropical Garden

**Lunch Committee:** Sherry Jordan\*, Nancy Gray, Haydee Pichardo..

**Buffet Centerpiece:** Sandy Milledge

