



THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

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

May 2020

With Resilience and Patience, the Garden Club will return

Resilience. What we have witnessed recently is nothing less than breathtaking! The earth is healing itself and much more resilient than we could have imagined. Porpoises frolic in the canals of Venice, in water so clear you can now see the fish below. Once smog-laden cities - Beijing, London, New York - now enjoy blue skies. Animals are exploring areas once reserved for humans. Boars roam Paris streets, elephants and rhinoceros take back the villages of South Africa, kangaroos bounce through Australian towns, bears and mountain lions extend their ranges in the American Southwest, and coyotes trot along the beach below the Golden Gate bridge. How thrilling to see nature recovering so quickly from the pressures of humankind. Let us not forget this moment. It is an inspiration for a reimagined future.

In an article for Flower Magazine, Frances Schultz quoted a Japanese haiku:

My barn burned down,
and now I can see the moon.

Patience. Life, as we knew it, may not return quickly or totally. And that is fine. It may even be a blessing in disguise. Take time to savor the quiet and imagine the possibilities.

We may have lost time together, but gained perspective.



With resilience and patience, the Garden Club will reconvene when it is safe to do so. Until then, take care of yourselves, your families, and each other. And while you're at it, think of ways you can also take better care of Mother Earth.

With love from the garden, Judy Mangasarian

A Hearty Welcome 2020 - 2021 New Members ~ We will see you soon!

Leticia (Leti) Ateca
55 Merrick Way, Apt. 715
Coral Gables, FL 33134
leateca@comcast.com
305-439-3085

Paula Biehler (Mrs. Jefry)
835 Sistina Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33146
miamicook835@yahoo.com
305-669-9844

Grace Carricarte
1036 Palermo Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
gccarricarte@hotmail.com
305-962-2258

Sidney Daniels (Mrs. Bill)
918 Roderigo Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-445-7565/305-710-9828

Teresita (Terry) Diaz (Mrs. Guarione)
914 Lisbon
Coral Gables, FL 33134
tadiazeli4@hotmail.com
305-443-6679

Rosita Gardiner
1410 Ancona Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33146
305-665-8952

Sherri Abbot Puerto (Mrs. Gabe)
422 Amalfi Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33146
stpuerto@bellsouth.net
305-753-3270

Elizabeth (Liz) Parnes (Dr. Edmund)
440 Valencia Avenue
Coral Gables, FL 33134
ecparnes1@aol.com
305-798-5133



May Luncheons ~ A Fond Trip Down Memory Lane

1991



1

1999



2

2001



3

2001



4

Photo 1: Standing, Betsy Adams. Sitting: Charlotte Henderson, Fran Stokes, Marion Apgar, Pat Gabriel, Mary Ann Polizzi, Van Thompson, Nita Norman.

Photo 2: Mary Elizabeth Andrews, Martha Ann Haas, Nancy Gray, Evelyn Nickas, Susan Thomas, Joanne Monnen. Photo 3: Rosita Perez, Helen Reynolds, Mary Whitcomb. Photo 4: Charlotte Henderson, Donna Box, Martha Golden, Evelyn Budde, Betsy Adams.

2013



2013



2014



2014



2014



2015



2015



2015



2016



2016



2017



2017



2018



2018



2019



2019



Many Thanks To Everyone...We Made It With Big Smiles!

With our **May Luncheon** set for May 6th now cancelled, I thought I should bring you a taste of what would have transpired. Betsy Tilghman and her committee had planned a delightful event at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden with fun and games for all, along with the installation of Officers, introduction of new members, recognition of new Legacy members and a wrap-up of the year's activities. We will have to properly install our Officers in the fall, and in this Leaflet you will find our new members and Legacies welcomed and congratulated. I'd like to give you a wrap-up of this past year here, along with my sincere thanks to all the members who worked so hard to make our year so productive, despite the abrupt halt in March.

Our Officers were amazing! Our **First Vice President**, Susan Rodriguez worked hard all summer arranging for fascinating Programs and wonderful regular and evening Workshops, aided in those by Ruth Markham, Lucy Reinhardt, and Sharon Trbovich. Teresa Zohn, our **Second Vice President**, and her committee spent the same time creating our gorgeous yearbook. Denise West, our **Recording Secretary**, kept perfect minutes of all our meetings and Lucy Reinhardt, our **Corresponding Secretary**, kept our lines of communication humming. Olga Lazo kept a record of and deposited all dues and other payments, until she had to move away. Luckily, France Ingraham agreed to take on the responsibilities of **Financial Secretary**, and she did not miss a beat. We are in good hands! Sandy Milledge kept important payments and reimbursements going out as **Treasurer**, and Nancy Leslie kept an eagle eye on our past year's transactions as **Auditor**. I couldn't have had a better Executive Board. I also want to thank our **Directors**, Past Presidents all, who were always available to give good advice, and the same for our **Parliamentarian**, Charlotte Henderson. She always knew the proper procedures for getting things done.

Our club year was cut short, but still quite productive and lots of fun. Starting with our

Kathryn Parrish Floral Extravaganza on November 19th, Susan Rodriguez and Betsy Tilghman and their incredible team put together an amazing event. It was called a Friend-

raiser, but became our main fundraiser when our House and Garden Tour had to be cancelled. A few weeks later, Gayle Duncan and Joan Johnson organized our ladies to **decorate the Merrick House** for the holidays, an annual tradition we truly enjoy. Keeping the **Merrick House Heritage Garden** planted and cared for was done by Susan Thomas and the Spade Brigade, a cadre of dedicated

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gardeners. (Susan also gave us **Horticultural** tips in the Leaflet.) Beth Werner worked with the students and their teacher at **Ponce de Leon Middle School** to plant and tend two gardens, helped by more of our enthusiastic members. At the Coral Gables Community Foundation's **Tour of the Kitchens**, on Februray 8, our members led by Betsy Tilghman, Susan Mauer, Susan Rodriguez sold herbs, orchids, bromeliads and tomatoes. It was a great way to introduce our club to the public as well as earn needed funds.

On to March 4th and Victoria Cabeza chaired a lovely **Garden Therapy** event at the Riviera Health Resort where she and our members helped their 40 residents arrange bouquets to take back to their rooms.

Behind the scenes we have begun to make the **Lamar Louise Curry Park** a reality. Thank you Betsy Tilghman and Susan Rodriguez for joining me on the "Design Team" to work with the City on this exciting project.

The renovation of our **Garden Center** is a step closer to realization too, although the repair of our front door and the permit for new windows and French doors is on hold until the coronavirus threat has passed.

Unfortunately, after the March Board meeting, all activities came to a screeching halt with the arrival of COVID19. We had to cancel our **House and Garden Tour** scheduled for April 4th, which promised to be fabulous. My sincerest thanks go to Alexis Ehrenhaft, Marie Vacca and their committee for all the planning they did prior to the

cancellation. We hope to recreate it next spring. The **Arbor Day** celebration at Sunset Elementary School in conjunction with the City, was also



year. Thank you, JoAnne! The **Royal Poinciana Fiesta** met the same fate, as it was cancelled until early next summer. Thank you, Sallye Jude, Dolly MacIntyre, Beth Werner, and Carmen Cason, for all your efforts to make it happen.

There are so many other members I need to thank for their hard work and enthusiasm. Our club could not function smoothly without them! The **By-Laws** committee was ably chaired by Ruth Markham and recommended a variety of changes we will be making in the club. Stay tuned! **Hospitality** was chaired by Olga Lazo until her move, and then Mercy Arrieta, Maria Gonzales, and Maria More stepped in to fill the gap. Thank you.

The beautiful **Hibiscus Leaflet** is created monthly by Suzuyo Fox, who is also our **Historian**, crafting a lovely book of memories for us. Marie Harley always is happy to **snail mail** our Leaflet to the members who do not have email.

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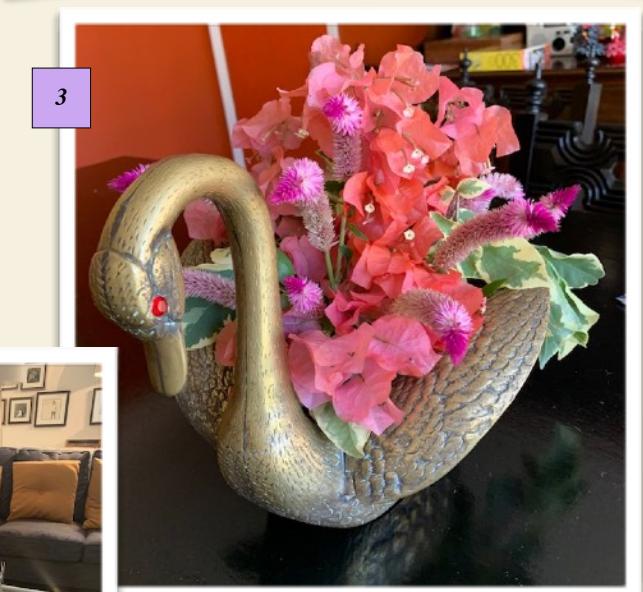
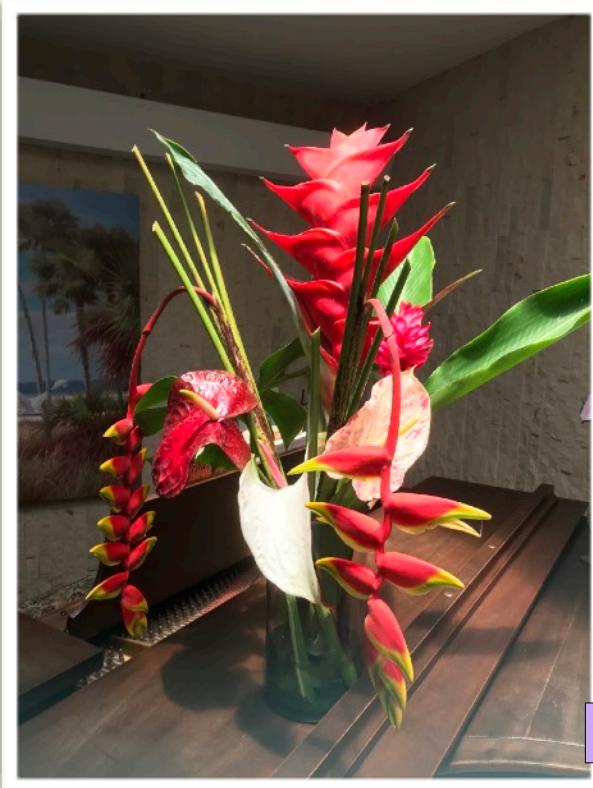
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Our **Photographers**, Sherry Jordan and Jeannett Slesnick, do a wonderful job of capturing the club at work and play. New Members co-chairs, Connie Cabeza and Kitty Winkler, brought in eight new members this year, welcoming them warmly. We look forward to having these new ladies join us. The **Membership co-chairs**, Joan Wright and Blanche Brownell, worked hard on updating the membership files and planning for new name tags. Our **Courtesy** chair, Margaret Seropian, kept up with our steady stream of notes to members, making sure they knew we were thinking of them. Our **Environment** chair, Marlin Ebbert, encouraged us to be “green”, with her connections to the City’s Sustainability Board. Charlotte Smiley kept an eye on our **Butterfly Garden** at the Coral Gables Library, and was our voice for its upkeep. Carmen Cason and her committee always amazed us with their beautiful and creative **Centerpieces** at our meetings. Cari Gardner and Julie Connor were cyber wizards at **Social Media** and **Publicity**. Thanks to them we have a great website and are on Facebook and Instagram too! The friendly faces at the **Registration table** for each meeting were Rosita Perez and Sally Morris. Thanks for keeping track of attendance and lunch money! Kay Lores was in charge of the **World Gardening** baked goods auction. It was a delicious success, allowing us to send funds to FFGC/NGC. Sharon Trbovich is still hard at work finding deserving students for our **Scholarships**. Dorothy Thomson kept us updated on the City’s **Crime Watch and Community Affairs** messages, and our **Chaplin**, Cathy Zuckerman, always started our meetings off with a lovely inspirational message. The smooth running of the club depends on so many more members who fill important positions: Mary Whitcomb (**Board Meeting Hostesses**), Evelyn Budde (**Buffet Florals**), Donna Box (**Flower Shows and Awards**), and Derita Downey (**FFGC sales and field trips** - the latter unfortunately a casualty of COVID19.) It is amazing that so many of you have freely offered your time and talents to this club. I want to thank you all so very much for your hard work. You have made my first year as President a wonderful one. It certainly will be a memorable one as well.

~ With love, Judy Mangasarian



Who are these Masked Marvels?
Their beauty and personality shows through. We asked for masked photos and promised to include names. Lets hear from you? What do you think?



Our Covid Challenge: Using what is around your house and garden, create an arrangement and if you can, briefly describe. Photo 1: Beth Werner used the different Heliconia in her garden for a stunning display. Photo 2: Lucy Reinhardt used Florida Roses, Milkweed, and Golden Thryallis for a gorgeous Easter arrangement. Photo 3: Carmen Cason's creation is enhanced by her different Bougainvillea and Ethiopian Spinach flower. Photo 4: When the wind blew off two stems off her orchid, Betsy Tilghman did what any good CGGC member would do... consult her Inner Diva. The big balloons and the small white flowers are from the African Milkweed Gomphocerus physocarpus. She also added wild coffee, sprengeri and a big palm-like leaf ground cover Judy Mangarsarian gave her. Photo 5: Teresa Zohn and family celebrated her Granddaughter's 2nd birthday. She made a gorgeous and healthy fruit arrangement for the happy occasion. Photo 6: Painted Charmin and Viva rolls, act as a recycled armature for the Orchids and Ginger found in Suzuyo Fox's garden.