



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

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

September 2020

## An Exciting New Year Starts: Welcome back Ladies!

The summer has come and gone and I hope you all have been well and safe in these intervening months. Now that Fall is around the corner, it is time to welcome you back to a new year in the Garden Club. Despite the pandemic, it promises to be exciting and busy, filled with challenges, but also opportunities.

As you probably know, we will be having our General Membership meetings via Zoom, a wonderful new technology perfect for keeping us in touch with each other. Programs have been planned for each meeting, and if you can't attend the meeting, you can still see them as videos on our new website. Workshops, interactive on Zoom or as videos on our website, have also been lined up, as our "Petal Pushers" are eager to introduce you to creative ways to enjoy this time apart.

Speaking of our website, it is fabulous and set to launch in late September. You'll be amazed at the utility and beauty of it. Susan Rodriguez and her committee have worked countless hours this summer putting everything you could need or want on it. Knowing that the website is the perfect place for some information not used frequently, we've been able to remove that text from the yearbook. Don't be surprised when you pick up your yearbook and discover it is much smaller!

Our Board has already met twice on Zoom and over the summer has approved several exciting initiatives. First, along with the launch of the website, we are also introducing Project Canopy, a new community outreach to the Coral Gables Public Schools. We are offering to plant three large shade or flowering trees at each of five schools, for a total cost of \$11,000. We are also hoping that members, friends, and supporters will offer to donate to this project, especially since we are dedicating it to our dear Life member and tree lover, Sallye Jude. This will be our first ever virtual fundraiser!

The Garden Center renovation has begun with the installation of Pella impact-resistant windows and doors and an historically accurate front door. The interior renovation, much needed after 32 years of use, and the exterior improvements - painting and an awning over the front door - are in our sights. It would be wonderful to make progress on these after so many years of planning and hoping.

The Lamar Louise Curry Park is also making headway, with the City completing step after step toward completion in December of 2021. The plans shown at the neighborhood Zoom meeting included our suggestions and described a beautiful, colorful place which would have delighted Miss Curry.

So much has happened this summer, but so much more is in store. The Garden Club is gearing up for a great year, one in which we hope you all can participate. Keep in touch with each other, read your emails from Lucy, and enjoy the new website. Be open to Zooming too, so you can see each other from the comfort of your own homes. I will be sending you links for instructions on how to Zoom. Give it a try - it's easy and fun!

Take care, stay safe, and hope to "see" you at our first meeting of the year on Monday, September 28th at 10 a.m.

With love from the garden,

~ Judy Mangasarian, President



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## A Warm Welcome to our wonderful new members



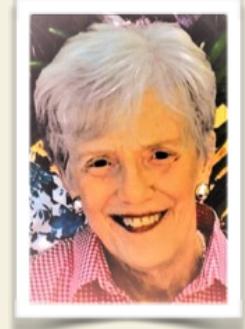
**Leticia (Leti) Ateca:** I have lived in Coral Gables since 1988 and brought up my children here. My interests are in home design and architecture and certainly landscaping. I would love to learn more about flower arranging and the native flora of Florida. Looking forward to meeting in person! Hopefully soon!

**Paula Biehler:** After attending a few meetings as a guest, I wished to join this amazing organization. Being a self-taught gardener, I know the Coral Gables Garden Club will increase my understanding of gardening for personal use as well as expose me to issues that affect my community, state, and the world in general. Other areas of interests for me are cooking/baking, knitting/crocheting, and reading. I greatly enjoy the outdoors and have been involved with two service trips to national parks where I worked with teams of park employees and volunteers to repair hiking trails. I have lived in Coral Gables for 27 years and am glad to have discovered the Coral Gables Garden Club.



**Grace Louise Carricarte:** Is a Miami native and resident of Coral Gables. She has volunteered and worked in the non-profit community sector since grade school and continues to do so today. Her license and specialty focus on youth mental health. As a strong believer of our interconnectedness she cares very much about nature and believes it is an essential part of education. In her childhood after school she wouldn't let an earthworm be stepped on if it crawled onto the cement carpool pickup area due to rain. The only infraction she ever received in all her years of schooling was for yelling at a student to stop as he tried to stomp on the earth worms. She then presented a science project on why worms are important. Sister Mary Christie gave her an A. She was in third grade.

**Sidney CulleDaniel:** I have always loved gardening, and now that I am retired from 25 years of teaching, it is my hobby. I attend St. Phillips Episcopal Church for my spiritual uplift. The Garden Club has let me meet wonderful members. I love to see old friends and meet new ones. In 2013 she decided to leave Brickell Key and buy a home in Coral Gables so she could have a yard for her rescued dogs and a garden. She hopes to contribute and learn more through her membership and is grateful for the Garden Club's warm welcome.



**Teresita (Terry) Diaz:** Our family moved to Coral Gables in 1978 from New York City. My husband was starting a new job, and my daughters were in elementary school. We fell in love with our old Spanish home, bought it without hesitation, went through a few renovations, and we are still enjoying the neighborhood. I am originally from Cuba. After getting the family settled, I started working at the University of Miami in the Controller's Office in 1980. I have a College Degree in Accounting from Queens College of the City University of New York. My retirement years from UM began in 2011.

I enjoy spending my free time outside, walking or sitting under a tree. We have been lucky to have Lisbon Park, with the oldest tree in North Gables, half a block from my house. As I became familiar with the activities of the Garden Club and met its friendly members, my desire to become part of the group increased. I am grateful that it has become a reality.

The Coral Gables Adult Activity Center with its multiple activities is part of my leisure years. I enjoy playing cards, line dancing and all types of exercises for the mind and body. I recently joined the Coral Gables Music Club and have attended their exceptional luncheons.

I would enjoy making flower arrangements for the events of the club following the example of my mentor, Carmen Cason. Cooking interests me too. I would like to contribute to the work of the club with an open mind. *Continued on Page 3*



**Rosita Gardiner:** I was born in Havana, Cuba, and graduated from Havana Business Administration where I majored in Business Studies. After moving to Miami, I continued my career as a fashion model for Yero Enterprises, whose clientele included Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus. About that time, I met my husband, who was a native of New York City. I am currently a widow, mother of two, and grandmother of three, who live nearby.

I was a longtime member of the Coral Gables Country Club until its closing. At the Country Club, I enjoyed golf and the various organizations within the Club, developing a long-term interest in golf and dancing. Both my husband and I enjoyed cruising, so we took advantage of having ports in Miami and Ft. Lauderdale, or we flew to New York to board a ship or plane to Europe. In addition, I was very active in the Women's Cancer Association, Bush Chapter. I like reading, bowling, tending to my roses, and enjoying the massive palms I planted alongside my home.

I look forward to meeting new friends in the Coral Gables Garden Club and to participating in the various committees and projects of the Club.

**Elizabeth (Liz) Parnes:** had an illustrious career with Xerox Corporation, where she excelled in Marketing and Operational Management. Liz is recognized for building Global Account relationships and has had extensive industry success with Healthcare, Government, Finance/Insurance and Education. She has been a distinguished Marketing Executive throughout the United States including Puerto Rico. Additionally, Liz has held Corporate Leadership positions as Vice President, General Manager, Global Account General Manager and Director Business Development. During her tenure, Liz received numerous awards for her accomplishments in many roles. She was honored by Xerox achieving the President's Award twice, 2-8 people annually selected with highest achievement across all business entities nationally. She was also awarded Xerox President's Club more than 20 times, which is awarded based on excellence in Marketing and Operational Results.



Liz's high energy and relentless drive to overachievement stem from her experience in delivering measurable value to her Clients, Xerox and her Staff.

Her love of travel takes her all over the world appreciating the many cultural, culinary and social diversities of different people.



**Sherry Puerto:** I've lived in Coral Gables since 1985, and have raised our three grown children here. I'm a retired dental hygienist, but family has always been my first career. I'm a group leader in Bible Study Fellowship, which I've enjoyed for many years, and am active in my church. I enjoy getting to know other women and learning about their interests and talents. My husband and I have been married for 40 years, and we enjoy traveling and cooking together. I look forward to learning all I can about our incredible and diverse world. Susan Thomas is a good friend and is my sponsor; I look forward to gardening with her and all of you, and contributing to our City Beautiful!

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS:

*In spite of Covid-19 restrictions, it looks like an active year for the New Member Committee, getting our 2020 new members oriented and active in the club, as well as taking applications of prospective new members for 2021.*

*The newly-formed New Member Committee is made up of Kitty Winkler, who is the committee chair, Mari Arnold, Evelyn Budde, Carmen Cason, Rosita Perez, and Cristina Soler. All of the committee members, except Kitty, were sponsors of new members in 2020, so they have a special interest in seeing that new members are active and enjoying their experience in the club.*

*Members who have friends and/or neighbors who might be interested in membership can "bring" them to our Zoom General Membership Meetings. When Judy sends out the meeting notification, simply notify her that you will have a guest attending and give her the name and e-mail address of the guest. Keep in mind that there is a requirement for prospective new members to attend two meetings before they can be considered for membership.*

*Our 8 new members for 2020 will participate in a Zoom orientation session on September 24. The session will acquaint them with club basics and where to find more information when needed. The orientation meeting will also help prepare the new members to participate in the General Membership Meeting that will take place a few days later.*

*~ Kitty Winkler, Membership Chair*

## *A Busy Summer produces a great Website for CGGC*

Covid-19 has created a new normal for everyone, and for that reason, it was recommended at our May board meeting that we reexamine our current website structure and functionality. The board determined that supporting socially distanced meetings, fundraisers, communications with our members and continuing the good work that the garden club has done for 94 years was paramount.

Cari Gardner, chair of the Social Media/Publicity committee, researched the possibilities and reported that our current web software was out of date and that soon it would not be supported. A total rebuild of the website was needed to accommodate our new normal.



The garden club redesign committee got to work, viewing other similar organizations' websites and established a profile for a website that would suit our organizational needs. After reviewing several bids, we decided to contract with Karl Fitzgerald, a locally based web designer. We are thrilled with the new website, which showcases our club beautifully.

To the public our new website displays beautiful photographs, a narrative of our history, numerous projects past and present, events, a resource page with relevant links and two wonderful blogs: "Green Gables" by Linda Waldron and "The Hothouse," a blog that local writers will contribute to about gardening, the environment and our community. Subscribe to our blogs and you will get a notification when a new article is available.

Scholarship is featured and has its own page; students will be able to apply online. Floral Design and Horticulture pages feature members designs, plants and gardens. Educational videos on the environment, pollinators and Coral Gables passive parks are available to view, as well as many other features.

Members will have access to a private site. Members will receive login instructions when the site goes live. Everything that has traditionally been in our yearbook will be at your fingertips. Mobil Device accessibility was important to the committee, so you can view this site on your phone, tablet or computer.

An Events Calendar will be available with important dates for meetings, programs and special events. Workshops and programs will be recorded so that they can be watched at your leisure if you cannot attend a zoom meeting. Membership renewal can be done online. Automatic renewal reminders will be generated by the website. How efficient is that!!!

Many thanks to our website redesign committee, Susan Rodriguez, Judy Mangasarian, Betsy Tilghman, Sharon Trbovich, Cari Gardner, Lucy Reinhardt and Julie Connor for putting in the work when needed.

### **DISTRICT XII:**

*In case you did not know...Our District Director of District XII is Jean Hawa. Her home club is the Coral Pines Garden Club in South Dade. In District XII we have nine Garden Clubs: Coral Gables, Coral Pines, Ken Pines, Marathon, Miami Beach, Miami Lakes, Pinecrest, South Dade and South Miami. District XII covers Dade and Monroe Counties. The flower for our district is the Musaceae Strelitzia Reginae (The Bird of Paradise) and the Wildflower for our district is Gaillardia Blanket Flower. Each district honors a butterfly and in District XII our butterfly is the Schaus' Swallowtail.*



*Gaillardia Blanket Flower*

## PETALPUSHER NEWS:

### Kokedama Workshop:

The September Zoom Petal Pushers Workshop will feature visual instructions for making a kokedama.

Kokedama (Japanese for moss ball) is a style of potting up plants in a ball of moss and displaying them in a dish or suspended in the air. The style comes from a centuries-old tradition of exhibiting the exposed root ball of a bonsai specimen on a plate to highlight its elegant root system. As time passed, moss would accumulate on the roots, enhancing the display.

Today, kokedama are usually crafted into spherical shapes and are often made with house plants. You can make your own simple kokedama at home using a houseplant, potting mix, fresh or dried sheet moss and waxed twine. ~ Ruth Markham, PetalPusher Workshops



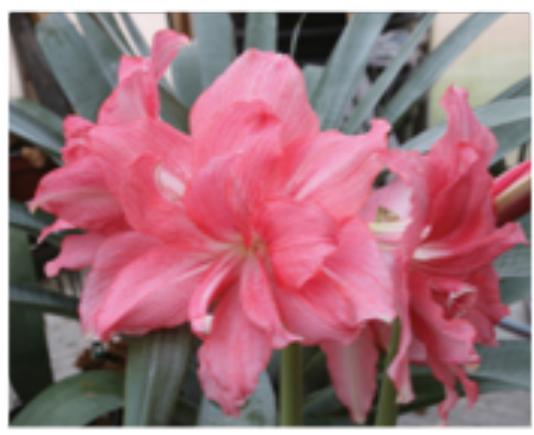
### Amaryllis Workshop:

Last year's workshop was so successful the Petal Pushers are giving another workshop virtually. The You Tube video will be available for viewing at the end of October. Planting them in the beginning of November will give the bulbs time to grow for Christmas. Not only are they beautiful in your home during the Holidays they make a spectacular gift.

We are offering the following bulbs at \$10.00 each. There are four bulbs to choose from. The white bulb is named "Snow White"; The red and white bulb is named "Samba"; the pink bulb is named "Ballerina" and



the red bulb is named "Fire Dancer". Please let me know via email which bulbs you would like to order and how many. There is a September 30th deadline for ordering the bulbs, so you need to send check now. Make the check to: The Coral Gables Garden Club. Send to Lucy Reinhardt, 3801 Durango



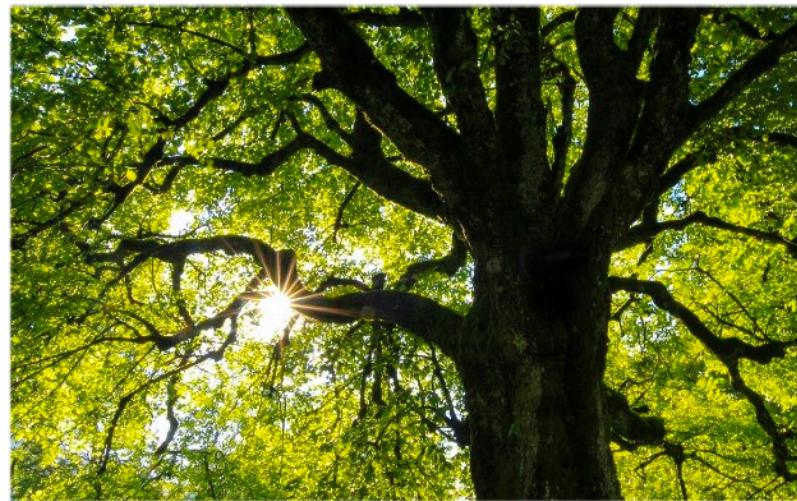
Street, Coral Gables, FL 33134.

~ Lucy Reinhardt, PetalPusher Workshops

## A Project to warm our hearts and to serve our community

BUILDING OUR CITY'S URBAN FOREST: Since 1927 the garden club has dedicated part of its work to landscape beautification projects of public sites throughout the City of Coral Gables. Public Schools have been beneficiaries of our club's projects beginning with the Coral Gables Elementary School's interior courtyard patio. Over most of the 20th and into the 21st century, the Garden club has continued to plant gardens and trees at the City's public schools and at the University of Miami.

FAST FORWARD to 2020: Today, the need remains to help our public schools with their landscape beautification, but we are shifting our focus. As temperatures rise and global warming poses a real threat to our natural environment, building our urban canopy especially in the barren recess areas and sports fields of our public schools is of great importance to our urban environment and our children's well-being. In addition to their aesthetic value, native shade trees will provide much needed shade for our children, provide a natural habitat for our local wildlife, reduce stormwater runoff and provide cleaner air to breathe. This summer a committee has been working to organize Project Canopy, coordinating with school Principals and PTSA Presidents and the great news is that the Garden Club board unanimously voted to fund the plantings of (3) 14 ft. shade trees for five public schools.



The garden club's commitment is a total of \$11,000. With the commitment of each school, this project encourages our youth to be stewards of the earth and good gardeners by tending and watering their young trees. Our new website will be launched by the end of this month, and "Project Canopy" will be our first ever Virtual fundraiser. Folks can go to the website and click on the featured Project Canopy button and donate to help us raise more funds to plant more trees. An evite will be sent to all members to celebrate the launch of this new project with a link to our website. When you receive the evite please share with your friends and family. Support our efforts to build our canopy and reduce our carbon footprint.

IT ONLY GETS BETTER: This past August, the board held a special vote to dedicate this project to our environmental leader, Sallye Jude. It is with love and admiration, that the Garden Club Board unanimously voted to dedicate "Project Canopy" to our dear life member, Sallye Jude.

~ Susan Rodriguez

*Please read the beautiful tribute written by Marlin Ebbert and Sherry Jordan. The entire tribute will appear on our new website at [www.coralgablesgardenclub.com](http://www.coralgablesgardenclub.com).*

*The members of the Coral Gables Garden Club voted unanimously to dedicate "Project Canopy" to our dear Life Member, Sallye Jude. Sallye, who joined the garden club in 1983, has a long history of promoting environmental causes in South Florida. Sallye is a member of the Sierra Club, a Fellow at Fairchild Botanic Garden, a past Board member of the Fern and Exotic Plant Society, the South Florida Palm Society and the Tropical Flowering Tree Society. Plus, for many years she has been a major supporter of the Royal Poinciana Fiesta which celebrates our magnificent Royal Poinciana tree. Her love and interest in trees is well known throughout the South Florida and Coral Gables communities. It is with deepest admiration that this project is dedicated to her. She is our "Johnny Appleseed."*



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