



# THE HIBISCUS LEAFLET

Coral Gables Garden Club Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 97th Year

A proud member of the National Garden Club, Inc. and the Florida Federation of Garden Clubs

January 2022

## President's Message: New Beginnings

**Happy New Year, Everyone!** As we embrace the year 2022, let us all be positive and cheery, with shining spirits and aspirations for the future.

We have so much to look forward to in the next five months, beginning with our presence at the Farmers Market, promoting our club and selling caladium bulbs (dates to be announced). The Special Spring Floral and Fashion Show Event, March 18th at the beautiful Biltmore Hotel, is fast approaching, with a kick-off party planned at the Lily Pulitzer boutique in Merrick Park the first week in March. Pencil in May 4th for our annual installation luncheon, which will be a fun informal event at the Merrick House.

The "As I See It" Photography Competition will begin April 1st through April 30th, with eight categories this year. This event is a fundraiser, but another important goal is to enjoy the process. So go outside, appreciate the beauty of nature and start taking photos! And please share this event with your friends and family. We had five winners last year who were either club members or related to our members. There are cash prizes, and the Marlene Kerdyk Grand Prize is \$1,000 for the best picture overall. The submission process will be easier this year, so have fun with it!

The General meeting January 24th will be on Zoom due to the Covid positivity rate. Look for a Zoom link via email a week prior to the date. The good news is that our members who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend in person can now attend.

Finally, with sadness, I want to announce that our dear member Gayle Duncan passed away from multiple complications on Sunday January 2nd, 2022. I will be sending out an email with loving tributes by her Garden Club friends, one of which is included here below.

Love to all,

Susan Rodriguez, President



*As I See It 2021 winning photo by Steve Roth*

### January Program News

by Teresa Zohn

The **January 24**, General Membership Meeting will be held on Zoom. The room will open at 9:30AM, and the meeting will start at 10:00 AM. The speaker will be Meg Daly with "What I Should Know About the Underline." She will present at 11:00 AM. The planned workshop with Leticia Gunn has been postponed.

## Remembering Gayle Duncan

I met Gayle 30 years ago when she moved to Miami as a single parent with two small children. Gayle was a math and finance whiz and, after obtaining her stock broker's license, she was the only woman in the bond department at Merrill Lynch. In the 1980s, that was quite an accomplishment! Her life took an unexpected turn when she and her former husband, Fuller, were remarried, and they shared many years of happy marriage until his death in 2016.



Once Gayle had time to pursue her community interests, she gave generously of her time to historic preservation as a member of the Villagers. Upon joining the Coral Gables Garden Club in 2006, she continued to develop her talent and love for flower design—and for several years she chaired the Garden Club's Merrick House Holiday Decorating Committee. Every December, she and her stalwart committee placed dozens of poinsettias and delightful Christmas displays that welcomed hundreds of annual visitors to Merrick House and was one of the Garden Club's most successful community projects.

Gayle had a passion for sunflowers, and her home décor reflected her love for this special flower that symbolizes loyalty and happiness. Gayle will always be remembered by her many friends as a sunflower person who brought people together and instilled optimism in everyone she met. Rest in peace, dear friend.

—Garlin Lewis

*Gayle Duncan*

## Mangrove Project Update

**A fantastic day of collaboration** with the City of Coral Gables, Commissioner Anderson, Garden Club Members, and high school volunteers, thanks to Grace Carricarte.

On Saturday, January 8th, we all came together to plant the mangrove propagules in mixed soil and positioned them in 20 pools at the temporary nursery, the Boy Scout troop grounds on the Granada Golf Course. The scouts and the city will tend to them for the next six months before the mangroves are planted on the coastlines of Florida by the Mang organization. The group planted fifteen hundred pups. Go Coral Gables Garden Club, and the Keep the City Beautiful initiative!!



On this page: Student helpers. Right: Volunteers (l to r): Grace Carricarte, Marlin Ebbert, Jasper Brock, Maria Ason, Susan Rodriguez, Rhonda Anderson, Judy Mangasarian, Deena Bell-Llewellyn

## Butterfly of the Month: The Miami Blue

by Linda Waldron

The Miami Blue butterfly is a small butterfly with a wing length of about half an inch.

Both sexes are bright blue on the back with a gray underside. Males have narrow black margins, while females have a wide black margin and an orange eye spot on the hindwing.

These butterflies feed mainly on balloonvine, gray nickerbean and blackbead. Blues are capable of producing multiple generations each year between the months of February and November. Their eggs are laid on the flowers, flower buds and terminal growth of the host plant.

The Miami Blue inhabits tropical hardwood hammocks, pine rocklands and beachside scrub. Historically, it was known as far north as Hillsborough County, but was thought to be extinct until it was rediscovered in Bahia Honda State Park in the Florida Keys. It is protected as an endangered species by the Federally Endangered Species Act.



Florida Museum Of Natural History Photo  
By Jaret Daniels

## Green Tip: Change A/C Filters and Open Windows

by Marlin Ebbert

Get the new year off to a good start by changing the filters in your air-conditioning units—saving both energy and money on cooling costs! Plus, enjoy our lovely south Florida winter weather by turning off your air-conditioning and opening your windows to experience the cooler temperatures.



Above and below: Holiday designs

## Fun with Flowers

by Kitty Winkler and Sharon Trbovich

The December 7 Fun With Flowers Zoom Workshop was successful and fun for all. Two holiday designs were showcased, and participants created their own versions as they listened and watched the demonstrations. Participants picked up design kits before the session, and supplied their own flowers and containers.

Several of the participants' resulting designs were on display at the Flower Show at the December 8 Club meeting at the Biltmore's Danielson Gallery. Since the workshop, some participants have made additional nosegay designs like those they created in the session. These arrangements make perfect small gifts for shut-ins or a hostess.

There are two more Fun With Flowers sessions in our Club year. On Saturday, February 26, from 10:00-12:00, the theme will be Winter Wonderland. Members can sign up any time from now until Saturday, February 19, one week before the session. (Note that the deadline for sign-up has changed from what was published in the Yearbook.)

The final Fun With Flowers session of the Club year will be Saturday, April 23, 10:00-12:00, with a theme of Springtime Designs. (Deadline to sign up is April 16, also a change from what was published in the Yearbook.)

To sign up for either or both sessions, contact Sharon Trbovich, 401-935-6709, [skyeterriers1@gmail.com](mailto:skyeterriers1@gmail.com) or Kitty Winkler, 786-479-3599, [kittywink1@gmail.com](mailto:kittywink1@gmail.com).



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## Bringing the Spirit of the Season to the Merrick House by Alexis Ehrenhaft

Santa's Elves came to the Merrick House on December 6th at 9 AM to carry on the wonderful Garden Club tradition of decorating George's family home, as we have done for many decades. Susan Rodriguez, Michele Wisehart, Carmen Cason, Ana Lam, France Ingraham, Victoria Cabeza, and I busily worked inside and out using our creative juices to transform each area to reflect the joy of the season. 24 large poinsettias, donated by a nursery in Homestead, added to our glee and adorned the house. At 12 PM we were quite pleased, cleaned up like good little elves, and departed through the back door!

... 'til Next Year,

—Alexis Ehrenhaft



Finished decorations, Santa's elves  
and an appreciation letter from the City of Coral Gables for our efforts.

### Letter from Warren Adams

Dear President Susan Rodriguez,

In appreciation of your organization's tireless work to beautify the Merrick House and other City properties, special thanks to the Coral Gables Garden Club in this holiday season for spending hours on Monday, December 5, 2021, decorating the Merrick House, both inside and outside. Please express gratitude to the Holiday Decorations Committee, especially Alexis Ehrenhaft as Committee Chair. Happy Holidays to the Coral Gables Garden Club.

Warren Adams  
Historical Resources & Cultural Arts Director

City of Coral Gables

### Announcements

**Tour of Kitchens** date has now changed due to Covid-19 to **March 5th**. If you are available to help set up the day before and/or sell plants and orchids the day of, send an email to [susan56athome@gmail.com](mailto:susan56athome@gmail.com). We need a set-up shift, Friday March 4th from 3:00 PM-5:00 PM. For March 5th, we need 3 shifts: 9:00-11:00 AM, 11:00-1:00 PM, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM.

**Website updates**—Check out the latest for a full-color experience

- AS I SEE IT photography competition <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/photocontest/>
- The new hothouse blog from Dalton Helsey on Citizen Science <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/the-hothouse-blog/>
- Linda Waldron's latest Green Gables blog post <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/green-gables/>
- The updated Pollinator Patch page <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/pollinator-patches/>
- The Merrick House holiday décor and event <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/merrick-house-holiday/>
- The 2022 Red mangrove project <https://www.coralgablesgardenclub.org/red-mangrove/>

**Membership deadline**—A reminder that the deadline for new membership applications is right around the corner, March 1, 2022. Please send to: [morris.sally@comcast.net](mailto:morris.sally@comcast.net) under the header Membership Application, or mail to:

Sally Morris  
6905 Leonardo St  
Coral Gables, FL 33146

Applications can be found on our website, and I will also bring them to all in-person upcoming meetings. If you are sponsoring a new member, a letter from the sponsor and two letters of endorsement must accompany the new member application.



# A Meeting to Remember From a Mostly Virtual Year

by Susan Rodriguez

**Finally, we came together: to learn, laugh, listen and enjoy ourselves...**

The December 8th Holiday meeting was amazing, with a record attendance of 81 members and guests! The Hospitality Committee, Chaired by Maria Gonzalez, included Michele Wiseheart, Ana Collenette, Lynn Kerdyk, Carmen Cason and Victoria Cabeza. These talented women did an outstanding job with the delicious lunch and décor.

Thanks to Teresa Zohn for the entertainment, the lovely Paula Barrera Scheer, who delighted us with a fun musical program. Below is a collage of photos to trigger happy memories...



# Club Happenings and Volunteer Opportunities 2022\*

## 2022

Feb 16 (Wed) **Field Trip — Casey's Corner Natives Nursery**, Homestead, FL

Feb 26 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers 10:00 AM-12:00 PM** — Winter Wonderland Designs (Sign-up deadline is Saturday, February 19).

Mar 5 (Sat) **Tour of Kitchens** — The Coral Gables Community Foundation's 13th annual Tour of Kitchens schedule has changed. Watch for news on our club's participation this year.

Mar (TBD) **Garden Therapy** — COVID -19 permitting

Mar (TBD) **Kick-off Party for Spring Event** — Lily Pulitzer, Merrick Park

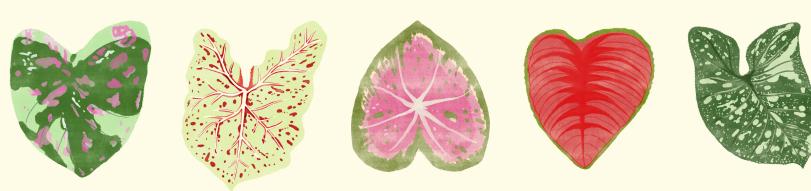
Mar 18 (Fri) **Spring Floral and Fashion Show**  
A very special Floral and Fashion Show chaired by Barbara Reese and Jowanda Peterson, this will be our main Fundraiser and open to the public. The show will be held at the Biltmore Hotel, Alhambra Room, starting at 11:00 AM. Plan now to bring your friends, as this promises to be a fabulous event! Please sign up for a committee by contacting Barbara Reese: [barbarareese1@aol.com](mailto:barbarareese1@aol.com), (305)-445-2258 or Jowanda Peterson: [jogpeterson@gmail.com](mailto:jogpeterson@gmail.com), (305)-669-3140.

April 1 (Fri) **CGGC Photo Contest**  
April 1st - April 31st, 2022—Our 2nd annual Photography Competition that reaches all

April 23 (Sat) **Fun with Flowers 10:00-12:00 – Springtime Designs (Sign-up deadline is Saturday, April 16)**

April (TBD) **Arbor Day To be arranged with the City of Coral Gables**

May 4th **Luncheon and Installation of CGGC Officers, Merrick House:** Contact Liz Parnes at [ecparnes1@aol.com](mailto:ecparnes1@aol.com) to sign up for that committee.



## OUR CALADIUM FUNDRAISER IS BACK!!

Watch for an email from which to order. Send the email to friends! Last year we had orders from non club members thanks to your efforts.

Proceeds help to pay for our caladium bulb planting at the Merrick House. Last year the Merrick House garden was stunning thanks to the addition of hundreds of caladiums.

We offer pick up or delivery.  
Email [betsytilghman@yahoo.com](mailto:betsytilghman@yahoo.com) with questions

