



# The Hibiscus

Coral Gables Garden Club, Coral Gables, Florida ~ Celebrating our 99th Year

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

April - May 2024

## Bringing the Community Together

### President's Message

As I sit down to write my final President's message, I am filled with a mix of emotions. Three years of nurturing friendships, cultivating new ideas, and overcoming challenges have made this journey unforgettable. I am excited to pass the watering can onto a new board, with Bonnie Seipp at the helm, ready to celebrate our centennial in style, including a historical election with the first man ever on our executive board.

Let me tell you, folks, it has been an incredible journey. From our successful butterfly conservation efforts to our fabulous fundraisers, we've left no stone unturned or tree unplanted. I want to take a moment to acknowledge Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson for her outstanding contribution as our very own green thumb hero, spreading native plants like confetti at a garden party! Your achievements have made us all proud.

Our presence at the Farmers Market was a source of great joy and pride. The enthusiasm of our residents for our butterfly plant sale and the sight of a monarch flitting around the Giant Milkweed plants all day was truly exhilarating. Moments like these remind us of our positive impact on our community.

Barbara Reese and Jo Wanda are the dynamic duo of garden galas, turning petals into profits. With \$26,700 in the bank as a net profit this year, they created a fabulous event with significant challenges to overcome.

The Fashions and Floral event was the talk of the town, and I can't thank them enough for Chairing this event three years in a row. Move over Paris Fashion Week; the Coral Gables Garden Club is where it's at.

Sharon Trbovich, our Floral Show master, orchestrated a fabulous Flower Show. With over 250 enchanted guests wandering through the blooms at our Fashions and Florals event, the room buzzed with excitement and admiration. The Flower Show and the Fashions and Florals event were the crown jewels of our club's public relations efforts.

And last but certainly not least, to our committee chairs: you're the glue holding this garden together, the fertilizer to our blooms. Your grace under pressure and unwavering commitment to the cause have been instrumental in our success. I am deeply grateful for your contributions and am excited for the future, especially with eleven new members itching to get involved! The best advice I can give our new members is to get your hands dirty right from the beginning, you will enjoy the experience immensely.

So, my fellow garden clubbers, as we bid adieu to another season, it's time to relax and relish the knowledge of a job well done. Here's to a summer filled with laughter and love. Safe travels to all, and may your blooms be bountiful! Thanks for the privilege of being your President.

With Love,

Susan Rodriguez



Camp Mahachee Dedication

## Fashions and Florals

By Barbara Reese and Jo Wanda Peterson

Dear Members,

Our Fashions & Florals "A Night At the Museum" was a huge success. Over 288 people attended. Thank you to all our members who helped make this event so special. The evening was filled with fun, florals, fashions, and a wonderful silent auction. Our internationally known designers presented the most amazing fashions, which were the talk of the town. The fashions and headpieces were over the top. We are so thankful for the many sponsors who made our event successful. Our sponsors were treated to a VIP party prior to the event. By having the event at the Coral Gables Museum, our Floral Show attracted so many people who could have a first look at our fabulous Floral Exhibit. The proceeds from this event will support our ongoing projects in our community.

With gratitude,

Your Co-Chairs, Jo Wanda, and Barbara



## Flower Show

By Sharon Trbovich

Our Flower Show, "Weekend At the Museum" was a fabulous success! Thank you to all who participated and submitted wonderful designs.

Design of Excellence and Designers Choice Award winner. Design completed by Sherry Jordan.



Education Award, the subject the benefit of Pollinators to People and Animals. Exhibitor was Susan Rodriguez.

## **Pollinator Planting at the University of Miami**

By Rhonda Anderson

University of Miami staff and students planted mangroves on campus in collaboration with Xavier Cortada. The plants were donated by Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson. The project highlights the critical role of mangroves in South Florida's battle against rising sea levels.

Planting for a sustainable future, these resilient trees are not just beautiful, they're essential for coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and supporting marine life. Let's keep our roots grounded in sustainability!



## From The Centennial Committee



We have information and a few **SAVE THE DATES** for your calendars for our Centennial.

We are currently seeking sponsors for the year of our celebration. Sponsors will receive ads in our yearbook, ads in the Historic Anniversary Book, recognition in the Home and Garden Tour Brochure, and other ways depending on their level of support. Deadline is August 1, 2024.

In the Fall, the Garden Club is giving out up to \$10,000 in grants to schools and community groups. Applications are currently being accepted. Contact Tess Doheny for more information.

**November 16, 2024 - HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR** - We will need many volunteers to help leading up to and on the day of the event.

**January - March, 2025** - A Historic Exhibition will be held at the Coral Gables Historical Museum. Contact Susan Rodriguez for information and/or to volunteer.

**March 20, 2025 - CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden.** This will be a wonderful luncheon and party to celebrate our 100 Years.

Other events will happen throughout the year, and we look forward to celebrating with everyone. If you have any questions or suggestions for sponsors, please contact us.

Warmly,

Teresa Zohn and Kristal Meyer, Co-Chairs Centennial Committee

Teresa Zohn – [teresa.zohn@gmail.com](mailto:teresa.zohn@gmail.com)

Kristal Meyer – [kristal@cnsportsgroup.com](mailto:kristal@cnsportsgroup.com)



## May Luncheon



Our May Luncheon gave us the opportunity to recreate our centennial photo, install our new board, and welcome new members and provisionals alike.

Our Garden Club Provisional Class of 2023-2024: Donna Blythe, Aleysa Burgio, Tess Doheny, Ariel Fernandez, Mabel Galloppi, Denise Glasser, Michele Koelsch, Peggy McMahon, Norma Gavarrete-Centurion, Gail Pinon, Eleanor Ware

### Officers 2024-2025:

President, Bonnie Crouch Siepp

First VP, Barbara Reese

Second VP, Jo Wanda Peterson

Treasurer, Jose Riera

Assistant Treasurer, Liz Parnes

Recording Secretary, Denise Glasser

Corresponding Secretary, Fabiola Bolanos

Auditor, Julie Connor

