GFWC COCO PLUM WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

November 2026

President's Message

It is the month when we are reminded to be thankful, and, collectively, we members of Coco Plum give thanks for being back in our historic clubhouse. Again, a nod to Laura McNaughton! Of course, personally we are thankful for friends, family and our ability to be of service to them and our community. The Civic Engagement & Outreach Committee will offer Coco Plum members some opportunities to share with those in need in our community this month when we celebrate Thanksgiving Day. Much has been requested of members at the beginning of this year, so please note the Committee's requests in their report in the newsletter and help as much as you are able.

My gratitude goes out to all members who were able to attend the District 11 Annual Meeting at East Ridge Village on October 16th and had the chance to interact with GFWC Florida officers and members of other clubs. I did miss having more contact with Coco Plum members at the meeting since we were divided into groups composed of members from various other District 11 club members. However, this provided an opportunity, through interactive exercises, to get to know other GFWC members in the District as we explored the qualities of leadership.

I urge everyone to embrace the November 15th Coco Plum membership event planned by Membership Chair, Aminita Konawicz, and the Membership Committee. During the club president's "brag time" at the District Meeting, some presidents announced their clubs had added members since May. So, as Aminita is indicating in her newsletter report, it is very important that you look within your circle of friends and acquaintances for those women with community spirit to join the club. Please invite them to come November 15th. Yours truly will be acting as bartender.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Norma Craig

1st Vice President
Janice Gordillo

2nd Vice President
Aminita Konawicz

3rd Vice President
Laura McNaughton

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Sally Perlman,
Sally Russonanno,
Sara Warren,
Yolanda Woodbridge

Of course, special thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their time and energy that went into making the “70’s Dance Party” a success. Fringed vests, headbands, bellbottoms, and peace signs ruled the night. Do enjoy the photos included in the newsletter of Coco Plum members and their friends dancing to the 70’s music and enjoying some bubbly! Be sure to let the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Claudia Santana, know how much you enjoyed the evening and appreciate the amount of time and effort they spent to make it successful. Also, thank you to all members who supported the Committee’s efforts with donations and by attending.

The Arts & Culture Committee, chaired by Maria Clara Franco, has planned some cultural experiences for members to enjoy this month and next. Also, I hope everyone noted the invitation from the Miami Villagers to attend the documentary film premiere of *A Woman of Fire: Julia Tuttle and the Founding of Miami* on Thursday, November 19th, at Actors’ Playhouse in Coral Gables. There is a catered reception at 6:30 PM before the film screening at 8:00 PM, all for $25 per person. It offers Coco Plum members an opportunity to gather socially while supporting an important philanthropic organization. Tickets are available through Eventbrite. The Miami Villagers Facebook page has a link to the site to purchase tickets. Please check the calendar in the newsletter for all the November activity dates and times. I look forward to seeing everyone at the November 11th meeting.

Norma Craig, President
GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.
“We are lifted up when we support others.”



Attendees at GFWC FL District 11 Meeting

Membership Corner

Share the Joy of Membership!
“Friendship, Family, and Service—Together We Shine!”

Dear Members,
Our Membership Committee invites you to share the joy of friendship and community service
by bringing a friend, neighbor, or family member to our upcoming Membership Drive!

Sunday, November 15, 2026 | 7:00–9:00 p.m.
Annie’s Beautiful Home | 7125 Sunset Drive, Miami, FL 33143

Join us for a delightful evening of music, delicious hors d’oeuvres, entertainment, and friendship. Introduce your guests to the wonderful opportunities and lasting friendships that make our Coco Plum family so special.

“Let a Friend Shine with You!”

RSVP: Nadine La Guette | (305) 613-6665

Aminta Konawicz, Membership Chair
2nd Vice President



SAVE THE DATE

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Let a Friend Shine with You!

The Membership Committee warmly invites you to a special evening celebrating friendship, community service, and welcoming new members to our Coco Plum family.

Sunday, November 15, 2026
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

At Annie's Beautiful Home
7125 Sunset Drive
Miami, FL 33143

Come enjoy an elegant evening of friendship, music, and delicious finger foods!

Bring a friend or prospective member and help our Coco Plum family shine even brighter!

RSVP
Nadine La Guette
305-613-6665

With warm regards,
The GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club Membership Committee

Aminta Konawicz
2nd Vice President & Membership Chair
GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.

House Report

The repairs and exploratory work on the Club have been ongoing since August 16th with the exterior work continuing beyond the October 9th deadline with Red Door Construction.

The kitchen repairs uncovered additional structural damage to the exterior walls in the patio as well as the board room wall and window. The next phase will be focused on the 3 storage room areas and stage entrance requiring new engineering plans not included in the original proposal.

The engineering plans will be submitted to the City of Coral Gables along with a new repair contract that includes additional shoring for the unexpected repairs that now include 6 windows, multiple roof trusses and support beams, exterior walls and ceilings.

NEXT STEPS

We are in the process of pricing out the restoration of the main entry double doors and the double doors in the board room that exit to the street. The main entry doors will need to be repaired during the June 1st to August 31st, 2027, shut down since it will impact the rentals while the board room doors can be repaired with no impact to our business.

WORKING TOGETHER

The Grant Committee is actively seeking grants with multiple historical preservation organizaions to assist CPWC in the restoration of multiple doors. The main doors to the ballroom are being prioritized with restoration anticipated beginning June 1, 2027.

Laura McNaughton, House Chair
3rd Vice President





Arts & Culture

The Arts & Culture would like to invite members to join together in attending several events available in the City of Coral Gables in the next several months.

Let's Visit

- Coral Gables Gallery Night, November 6, 2026, 6 PM. Art and music galleries in downtown Coral Gables will participate. Please confirm attendance in advance with Yoli Woodbridge and meet 2 hours before at Seasons 52.
- *Seraphic Fire: Noel – An Old-World Christmas,* December 12, 2026, 8 PM. This choral candlelight performance will be held at the Coral Gables Congregational Church located across from the Biltmore Hotel.
- SPECIAL REMINDER: Join other members in attending the premiere of the documentary "A Woman of Fire, Julia Tuttle and the Founding of Miami" for $25 on November 19th catered reception will be held from 6:30-7:30 PM with the film beginning at 8 PM. The event is offered by the Miami Villagers at the Coconut Grove Woman's Club. Tickets are available on Eventbrite.

Annual Arts and Crafts Competition

We also want to let you know about our great annual Arts and Crafts Competition scheduled for February 10, 2027. Everyone who wishes to participate can begin preparing their creations in advance. We want our club to stand out and to distinguish itself with its contributions. During the month of November, we will distribute competition details with the different requirements and the process for entering your creative designs and handiwork. We can't wait to see them!

Maria Clara Franco, Arts & Culture Chair



Civic Engagement & Outreach

October Speaker, CEO of Kristi House

On October 14, Coco Plum Woman's Club welcomed our speaker Amanda Altman, CEO of Kristi House of Miami. Amanda enlightened us with the facts and figures of Human Trafficking and the amazing work that they do to help and heal the teen survivors of abuse and trafficking. We are so grateful that we have Kristi House in our community.

Thank you club members for donating over 50 backpacks with toiletries for these young survivors. You brought a little comfort to their lives.



Backpacks collected for Kristi House



Amanda Altman, CEO of Kristi House

Thanksgiving Collection

At our November 11 Business Meeting, please bring non-perishable food items for The Community Food Bank at Kristi House of Miami. Suggested items include:

- canned ham, box stuffing, box mashed potatoes,
- canned gravy, canned corn, canned green beans, canned yams, canned black beans,
- white rice, box corn muffin mix,
- apple sauce, canned cranberry sauce, apple juice, and mac & cheese.

Please check expiration dates on food items that you donate. Money for Publix gift cards can also be donated.

The Community Food Bank at Kristi House of Miami is especially low on food right now. This Food Bank feeds the families of teen survivors of abuse and trafficking.

Wreaths Across America

Please bring $17.00 (cash or check) for each wreath to the November 11th Business Meeting so we can order the wreaths for the December Celebration.

Thank you for your giving hearts,
Sally Russomanno, Civic Engagement Chair



Education & Libraries

Turkeys, Christmas Trees, Santa, and Crates for the Migrant children at Redondo Elementary School in Homestead

Best time of the year!
Once again, we are asking you to help us fill these crates with books (grades 1-6), small gifts such as card games, other small games, tiny stuffed toys, and Lego sets. My elves are ready to shop for you with dollar donations that you can also provide.

We ask you to bring these things to our November meeting as we need to determine what else may be needed. We will be assembling these crates after our December meeting in the Board Room. All are welcome to help.

Christmas is a time to share once again. Thank you again for your support in this wonderful way of celebrating the holiday.

November Speaker
Our guest for the November meeting will be Rae Ann Feldner Gruver. Rae Ann will be giving a presentation on Hazing Prevention. We are *GRANDMAS AGAINST HAZIING*.

Coco Plum Book Club
Our Book Club is once again meeting in the Board Room. Our next meeting is November 17, at 10:30 and we will be discussing *The Lady in the Lourve* by Helen Constantine.

We recently learned during our October book discussion of *A Pair of Aces* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray, that it has been officially recognized as one of three finalists for the inaugural *Scott Turow Prize for Excellence in Legal Fiction*. This award is presented by the *American Bar Association's ABA Journal*.
Great reading and discussion always!

Mahjong
Our second mahjong group being currently instructed is fast learning the nuances of the game! We have a very enthusiastic group trying to learn the tiles and the secrets of picking a hand. Congrats ladies! Graduation is soon!
PS The snacks are always great.





2nd Mahjong Group, Initial Winning Hands



1st Mahjong Group, Winner with Concealed Hand

Happy Thanksgiving and remember our adopted children!

Charlene Feldner (Mrs. Santa),Education and Libraries Committee Chair
(and my hard-working elves)



Happy Thanksgiving to all the Coco Plum families!

Enjoy your festivities while keeping in mind minimizing your plastics usage. If you happen to be hosting a more informal Thanksgiving, keep in mind compostable plates and utensils are available (Target and Amazon) and they break down in the landfills or your compost sites at breakneck speeds vs. plastics. Compostable materials do not go in your curbside pick up as that is usually just aluminum, glass, cardboard and hard plastics. (Check with the Miami-Dade Solid Waste Department website to confirm what is collected curbside at your address.)

We are still collecting soft plastics at our general meetings. If you don't make the meeting, you can drop off your plastics in the Boardroom marked for "recycling" and contact Libby (305-733-1322) to let me know to pick them up soon. (We want to stay on the good side of our House Committee!!)

Each month we go through these bags of soft plastics and couple of suggestions might help our members in their recycling efforts.

- (1) WE DO NOT COLLECT PLASTIC FOOD TAKE-OUT CONTAINERS (TRY YOUR CURBSIDE SERVICE).
- (2) ALL PLASTICS MUST BE CLEAN! Whether you are recycling with us or curbside, this is a very important consideration. Dirty plastics do not get recycled ~ they get rejected and go direct to the landfill.
- (3) Please REUSE YOUR BAGGIES OR ZIP LOCS WHEN YOU CAN. Sometimes your baggies are so pristine, we wash and re-use them. Washing and re-using your baggies saves you MONEY!

In fact, recycling saves all of us money! Glass and aluminum are valuable resources, and our county sells them to offset the cost of recycling. In turn, you may save money on your Solid Waste bill one day!

One last comment on recycling. We in the U.S. use two million plastic bottles every five minutes! Less than 7% of this plastic is recycled. The rest degrades in our environment. It is reported that each of us has at least a credit card sized amount of plastic in our bodies!

We can do better! But if you find yourself with a cool drink in a plastic bottle, at least replace the plastic lid on the empty, cleaned bottle before you drop it in your curbside collection bin. Apparently, the little lids jam up the conveyor belts in the sorting operation so remember to replace those little plastic caps on your plastic bottle.

Thank you for taking into consideration Mother Earth in your decisions to use or avoid plastics!

Libby Mahaffey, Environment Chair

Health & Wellness

Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Health and Wellness Committee is very excited to invite each of you to join us for the "Walk to End Alzheimer's" on November 21 st . The walk will take place at Loan Depot Park (Marlin Stadium). The event opens at 8 AM, Opening is at 9 AM and is complete with marching bands and thousands of people gathered in one place to take a firm stand against Alzheimer's. Coco Plum Woman's Club is a registered Team that needs more walkers and cheerleaders (at the site and remote)! The walk actually takes place inside the stadium. If you can't walk, we ask that you make a donation towards the cause. You will be receiving a sponsor form to solicit donations from friends and family. There aren't many who have not been touched personally by this awful disease.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with thousands of people affected by Alzheimer's is both powerful and overwhelming. We hope you will join us!

Betty Quinn, Health & Wellness Chair





Safe Haven for Newborns

Betty Quinn, chair of the Coco Plum Health and Wellness CSP, received an award for her tireless contribution to Safe Haven for Newborns. This award was presented at the 25 th anniversary celebration and Gala on October 24, 2026, at the Miami Intercontinental Hotel. We are all very proud of her!

Norma Craig, President



Fundraising

We are excited to announce our major fundraiser 70s Dance Night was a complete SUCCESS!

From the welcome committee greeted by a professional photographer at the VW photo opportunity to the sensational Viki Ryan, the musical entertainer.

The silent auction set up in the courtyard was spectacular with such a multitude of items accompanied by music, the perfect charcuterie and cash bar to complete the ambiance. Then an exquisite dinner in the ballroom with more fun filled engaging 70s - Era music and another backdrop to capture the vibe with friends and family dressed up in appropriate ERA attire.

Overall a total Triumph!

A huge SHOUT OUT to Terri Portela, her sub-committee and all who have worked diligently in making this event such a VICTORY! Teamwork makes Dreamwork!!

Our profits exceeded our expectations in benefiting the recertification and renovation of our historic clubhouse.

SAVE THE DATE for our next "FESTIVAL OF TABLES" January 20th, 2027.

Claudina Santana, Fundraising Chair

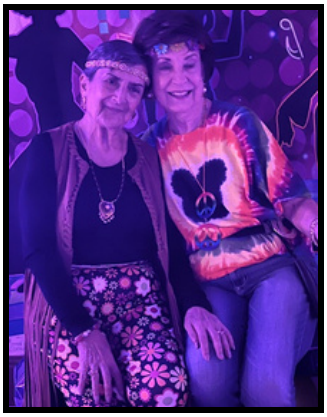
























70's Dance Night













Telephone



MAKE SURE YOUR PHONE HAS THE INFORMATION YOU NEED TO ANSWER WHEN YOUR CALLER CALLS!

Members, be sure you have the name, phone and email for your caller in your phone's CONTACTS.

If you are a committee head, make sure all members have your contact information. If you miss a meeting, read the minutes - they are sent out soon after each meeting.

Margo Natsui, Telephone Chair

November Birthdays

Kim Schain	1st
Yazmyne Eterovic	5th
Renee Reichling	7th
Marlene Martinez	9th
Victoria Wiltsie	19th
Norma Craig	23rd
Kristen Quinn	24th
Helene Valentine	28th



In-House Committees 2026-2028

Bylaws:	Victoria Wiltsie
Fundraising:	Claudia Santana
Hospitality:	Norma Cooper
Inspiration:	Vera Cooper
Newsletter:	Terri Portela
Publicity/Roster:	Norisa Glickman
Telephone:	Margo Natsui

Appointees

Aide:	Donna Falana
Historian:	Margarita Botero
Parliamentarian:	Annie Goodrich-Sorgie





Calendar

11/6 Board Meeting - Boardroom, 10:30 AM

11/6 Gallery Night - Coral Gables, 6 PM-Meet at Seasons 52, 4 PM

11/11 General Business Meeting, 11 AM

11/17 Book Club - Boardroom, 10:30 AM

11/17 District 11 Wine Tasting Fundraiser - Coconut Grove Woman's Club, TBA $100 a ticket ($90 for GFWC members) through Eventbrite

11/19 Villagers Documentary - Actor's Playhouse, Coral Gables, 6:30 PM $25 through Eventbrite

11/21 Alzheimer's Walk - Loan Depot Stadium, 8AM



GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.

1375 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33143

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.

a not-for-profit, section 501c3

305-665-5731

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Email: info@gfwccocoplum.org

GFWC Florida: https://www.gfwcflorida.org

GFWC: https://www.gfwc.org