



GFWC COCO PLUM WOMAN'S CLUB, INC.

September 2026



EXECUTIVE BOARD

President
Norma Craig

1st Vice President
Janice Gordillo

2nd Vice President
Aminta Konawicz

3rd Vice President
Laura McNaughton

Recording Secretary
Kristen Quinn

Corresponding Secretary
Linda Simpson

Treasurer
Sue Nichols

Financial Secretary
Barbara Wexler

Past President
Annie Goodrich-Sorgie

Directors
Sally Perlman,
Sally Russomanno,
Sara Warren,
Yolanda Woodbridge

President's Message

Special Note: Please pardon that the newsletter is being sent to you a bit later than the first of the month. Since we have changed to Canva to produce the newsletter, it is a work in progress as Jan and Terri help me learn what Canva page layouts are available, so we can coordinate more smoothly. The appearance of the newsletter will change as I find my way.

Welcome back! We are beginning an unusual club year due to the structural repairs underway on our historic building. Also, setting up a new accounting system on QuickBooks, overseeing the reconstruction work, and setting up a new newsletter format has meant long summer hours spent by Sue Nichols, Laura McNaughton, Jan Gordillo and Terri Portela, respectively in the service of Coco Plum members. We all owe them our gratitude for the many hours they have donated this summer to strengthen the club. As their demanding duties are not over, be sure to let them know you appreciate their efforts. And I've been a bit busy, too! Taking on the duties of president has had its challenging moments, but the support I have received from members willing to step up and assume committee chair positions, as well as offer advice, has been invaluable to me. It means, of course, that members recognize they are the backbone of the club's success, and that the elected officers do not have total responsibility for that. Very soon after my installation, the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee, chaired by Sally Russomanno, met and made plans to display flags at the Coco Plum clubhouse in celebration of Flag Day and proposed our club project centered on donations to help youth recovering from all forms of abuse at Kristi House Miami for the September 26th GFWC International Day of Service.



Flag Day at the Clubhouse

Other committees met in the summer, as well, to make plans for the coming year. I attended the first productive meetings of the Bylaws Committee, chaired by Victoria Wiltsie, and the Fundraising Committee, chaired by Claudina Santana. Despite being faced with this thorny problem of having to find an off-site venue, the Fundraising Committee wanted to plan Ann's Annual Tea. Having it at Cauley Square felt like a new twist on this long-time fundraiser. A new and interesting location offered renewed interest and, perhaps best of all, members will not have to make dozens of sandwiches and dessert goodies or cart in tea sets. Only show up in their hats, drink tea, and enjoy one another! I was very glad the committee decided to plan the tea one more time because when Ann Robson contacted me to say she would not be able to attend, she also expressed pride in the tea's continuation over the years. It was a fundraiser she proposed over ten years ago when the club was very low on funds. She talked about what a great time everyone had, and it was a financial success, too! Kudos to the Fundraising Committee which has worked hard to make Ann's Annual Tea on September 2nd a success. A fitting tribute to Ann!

Of course, the other CSP Committees met and worked diligently this past summer to plan activities in which members can participate. The Health and Wellness Committee, chaired by Betty Quinn, will hold the St. Jude walk on September 29th. The Environment Committee, chaired by Libby Mahaffey, will present the speaker at the September 9th meeting and, of course, continue collecting plastics. Chair Maria Clara Franco and her Arts and Culture Committee have planned an interactive activity with a local artist. The Education and Libraries Committee will continue the book discussions which they kept going in the summer, as well. Earning money for scholarships and continuing support for elementary school reading programs also will be continuing projects for this committee. Aminta Konawicz, Membership Chair and her committee have planned events to introduce prospective members to our community service projects and the social benefits of membership in the Coco Plum Woman's Club. Thank you for all your efforts!

As president, looking ahead at the coming club year, I have been heartened by the way Coco Plum members have maintained their commitment and enthusiasm despite having to deal with the disruption caused by major structural repairs on the clubhouse. Thanks to this can-do attitude, I know this will be a great club year!

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



Membership Corner

“Honoring Each Other in Friendship”

Dear Members,

Membership is the heart of our club! As we begin a new year together, let's continue to grow our wonderful sisterhood through friendship, service, and welcoming new women into our club.

Every new member brings fresh energy, new ideas, and another special friendship. I encourage each of you to think of a woman who would enjoy being part of our Coco Plum family—and invite her to join us!

Prospective Member Events

Sunday, November 8, 2026 | 4:00–6:00 PM

Sunday, February 21, 2027

Members, sponsors, prospective members, and newly joined members are warmly invited. **Please bring a prospective member!**



New Member Orientation and Installation Events

December: Orientation – December 8 | Installation – December 9

April: Orientation – April 7 | Installation – April 14

Application Fee: \$20

Annual Dues: \$75 (September–May)



Applications are available throughout the year. If you know someone who would enjoy friendship, community service, leadership, and making a difference, please send her my way!

Aminta Konawicz,

2nd Vice President & Membership Chair

Let's grow together, one friendship at a time!





House Report



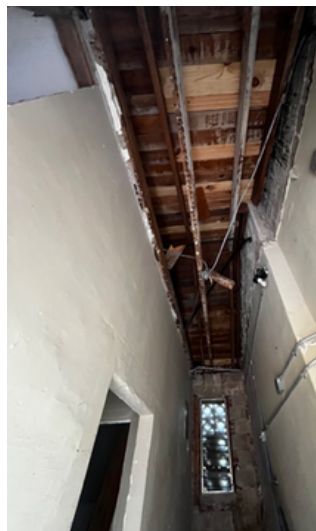
During the summer the House Committee has been working on the Recertification of our historic building. The extensive project includes structural repairs requiring us to be closed through October 9th, 2026. CPWC has engaged Red Door Construction and Tong Engineers, both experienced in restoring historic buildings in Coral Gables.

While exposing the walls and ceilings reveals the structural fragility and vulnerabilities of our century-old building, we remain fully dedicated to restoring it as a vital civic and cultural anchor for our community, for women and for generations to come.

Laura McNaughton,
3rd Vice President



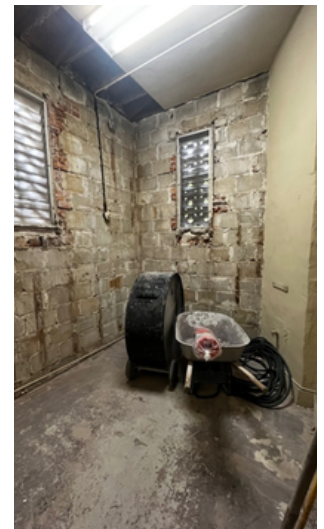
North Side



Staircase Ceiling



Kitchen



Walls to the Studs



Arts & Culture

We are thrilled about the exciting year ahead for the Arts & Culture Committee of the Coco Plum Woman's Club! Our goal is to bring our members wonderful opportunities to explore their creativity, learn something new, and experience the rich arts and cultural offerings of our Miami community.

In November, we hope to welcome a University of Miami professor who will lead a drawing class designed especially for beginners. Whether you have never picked up a pencil to draw or simply want to refresh your skills, this will be a fun and relaxed opportunity to learn, create, and discover your artistic side. We are also exploring a potential collaboration with a Miami Conservatory during October. There will be more information to come later. We hope many of our members will take advantage of these special programs!

And then comes our major Arts & Culture event in February 2027 — the Arts & Crafts Competition! This is an opportunity for every member of the Coco Plum Woman's Club to participate, whether you consider yourself an accomplished artist or simply enjoy creating something beautiful. We encourage everyone to join in, share their talents, try something new, and most importantly, have fun. We look forward to seeing the incredible creativity and imagination of our members on display!

It promises to be a wonderful year filled with art, creativity, learning, culture, and plenty of fun. The Arts & Culture Committee is excited to bring these opportunities to our club and hopes you will join us, participate, and help make this an especially memorable year!

Maria Clara Franco, Arts & Culture Chair



Civic Engagement & Outreach

Hope, safety and commitment to support survivors of abuse and human trafficking.”

The Committee invites all members to join them in observing GFWC INTERNATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE, which is Saturday, September 26, 2026. This year in honor of International Day of Service, we ask our club members to please support Kristi House of Miami and its “Kathy’s Kloset” by donating one backpack with travel size toiletries inside to give to young survivors of abuse and trafficking. Please see suggestions that follow.

*Backpacks (17” and larger) in solid colors (available at Amazon for \$10)

*Travel size toiletries inside: shampoo, conditioner, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, small hairbrush and feminine pads - no mouthwash or razors, please (available at a Dollar Store, about \$10)

*Total spending about \$20

Join us on Saturday, September 26, at 10:30 AM at our clubhouse with your backpacks for pictures and lunch afterwards, if you wish. For those who cannot attend the 26th gathering, please bring your backpacks and toiletries to the October 14th business meeting when a representative from Kristi House will be our guest speaker. At that time, we will present the donated backpacks to her.

Sally Russomanno, Civic Engagement & Outreach Chair



Education & Libraries



Hi everyone! Welcome back! Looking forward to another great year with our projects for our Education and Libraries CSP! We kept things going during the summer with our fabulous Book Club. The conversations continue to be informative and very exciting and humorous. So many different perspectives make for interesting discussions. The next book is ***I See You've Called in Dead*** by John Kenney.

Once again, we will be meeting at the ***Pinecrest Library on September 15*** while the restoration continues at our clubhouse. Thanks to Pat Kyle for making the arrangements with Ellen Book for the use of the area in the library.

Once again, we were happy to donate school supplies to our adopted school, Redondo Elementary, and the Title I Migrant After School Program.



Because of popular demand, we will be offering Mahjong lessons to club members. There will be a sign-up sheet at the September 9th meeting or contact Charlene Feldner.



Charlene Feldner, Education & Libraries Chair



Environment



Your Environment Committee thanks everyone for the bounty of goodies we delivered to the Everglades National Park Rangers last month. It was a very gratifying adventure followed by a very pleasurable lunch at the Cauley Square Tea Room. In the picture you can see by the rangers' expressions how much they appreciated the efforts of our club members.

At our September 9th business meeting, we will be hosting speakers from the Ocean First Institute. As we live on a peninsula off the Atlantic Ocean, we have a personal stake in keeping our oceans clean and thriving. Our speakers have addressed groups from all over the world, so we are very fortunate to have them present to the Coco Plum membership.

The committee will continue to support the Plastics Initiative. Please bring your summer stash of plastics to the September meeting.



Baskets Delivered for Ranger Appreciation Day

Libby Mahaffey, Environment Chair



Health & Wellness

The Health and Wellness Committee is so excited for the start of the 2026-2027 year at GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club. September is a very busy month that focuses on Healthy Aging and National Childhood Cancer Awareness. We have planned a St. Jude Virtual Walk to raise monies to support the mission at St. Jude Children's Hospital where no family is ever asked to pay for medical services, treatment or housing during their child's profound, life-altering journey of hope and fear. Please try to attend and walk as well as enlist your friends and family to donate towards our efforts to assist St. Jude providing the very best to these children and their families. Please be watching for the flyer and sponsor form which will be sent out in a separate email. Join our members walking at the South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge on Tuesday, September 29th, at 10 AM.

Also, for the Breast Cancer Awareness Initiative, the committee will be collecting at our first meeting any donations you have accumulated over the summer. Clothing and small appliances are greatly appreciated. We will have collection bins at the entrance to the Elks Lodge meeting room where we will have our September 9th business meeting.

Betty Quinn, Health & Wellness Chair



Fundraising



The Fundraising Committee has been diligently working this summer on a list of proposed fundraisers for the 2026-2027 club year.

As the Clubhouse will be undergoing major renovations, our first fundraiser, Ann's Annual Tea Party, is scheduled for **Wednesday, September 2nd, from 1:00-4:00 pm at The Historic Cauley Square Tea Room**. The afternoon will include a **curated silent auction**, so come prepared to bid! And, of course, remember to wear your **loveliest tea hat!**

For members interested in volunteering for any of our upcoming fundraisers, we invite you to contact the chairperson for each event:

- Ann's Annual Tea Party in September – Sandy Oltz
- '70's Dance Night in October – Terri Portela
- Festival of Tables in January – Gabrielle Martonffy & Margaret Sarafoglu
- Boots, BBQ & Bingo in March – Yolanda Woodbridge
- Derby Day in May – Mary Anderson

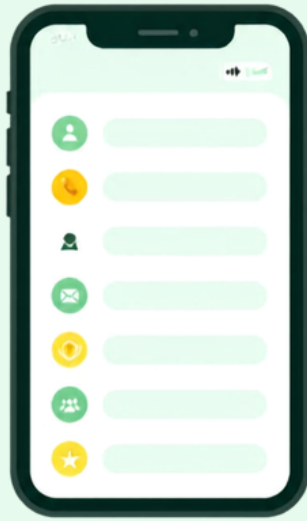
We look forward to an exciting year of fundraising, friendship and **FUN!** Thank you to all our members who volunteer their time and talents to help make these events a success.

SAVE THE DATE - '70's Dance Night – Thursday, October 29th, 2026 from 6:30 -9:30 pm

Claudina Santana, Fundraising Chair



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.

Margot Natsui, Telephone Chair

September Birthdays

Pat Rivas	3rd
Ginny Onorati	5th
Barbara Moller	17th
Nancy Frazer	19th



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: Margot Natsui

Appointees

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



9/2 Ann's Annual Tea, 1:00-4:00 PM,
Cauley Square

9/4 CPWC Board Meeting, 10:30 AM

9/9 CPWC Business Meeting, 11:00 AM,
South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge

9/15 CPWC Book Club, 10:30 AM,
Pinecrest Library

9/18-20 GFWC FL Fall Board, Orlando

9/26 GFWC International Day of Service

9/29 St. Jude Virtual Walk, 10:00 AM, South
Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge

9/30 Honor Flight, FLL Airport

10/2 CPWC Board Meeting, 10:30 AM

10/7 CPWC Business Meeting, 11:00 AM,
South Miami/Coral Gables Elks Lodge



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

Website: <https://gfwccocoplumwomansclub.org>

Email: info@gfwccocoplum.org

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

GFWC: <https://www.gfwc.org>

Facebook

