

# GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc. March Newsletter



## What's Happening in March!



## President's Message

Dear GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club Members:

February is the shortest month, but it is one of the busiest for Coco Plum members. The February business meeting was the Arts & Culture CSP Committee's Arts & Crafts Competition. The quality of art entered in the various categories was mind-blowing. The winning competition entries from our club were then entered in the District 11 Arts & Crafts Competition, and the blue-ribbon winners will go to the GFWC Florida competition in May at the spring convention. Congratulations to all who entered. What a talented group!

March is a special month in our club since we are nominating members to fill offices who will continue the Coco Plum Woman's Club mission of community service and friendship among its members. Please think carefully about anyone you are thinking of nominating as it is not a personality or a friendship contest. It is a time to look for true leaders who have the club's well-being and best interest at heart and have the capability to perform in the position. Good luck to all those nominated, and may the best women prevail.

GFWC Coco Plum's building will celebrate one hundred years in March. Another celebration!

At the March meeting, the Environment committee will host the renowned Cuban-American eco-artist Xavier Cortada, known for over 150 public art objects addressing climate change, sea-level rise, and biodiversity loss. **Please wear green to the meeting. Coco Plum's color is green.**

The month of March brings in the most awaited day of the year – the last day of winter. I am excited about it, and today I am bringing you the March representations of new growth to help you get into the mood of spring, too. The month of March has as its flower symbol the daffodil which represents forgiveness, trust, honesty, and true love.

I hope that in March you will have a lot of happiness in little moments and discover more about yourself.

Always in Community Service,

## **Annie Goodrich-Sorgie**

Annie Goodrich-Sorgie, President,  
GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club  
"Building Bridges of Friendships Through Community Service"

# **Celebrating 114 Years**





## March Birthdays

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# HAPPY MARCH BIRTHDAYS



5th Heike L.

9th Pat K.

12th Diana M.

14th Liz L.

18th Donna F.

26th Rosie H.

31th Cary B.



**Member Monthly Spotlight**

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Norma Craig was born Norma Hutton in rural southwestern Michigan south of Kalamazoo and grew up on a farm. She and her siblings attended a one-room school where grades from kindergarten through eighth were taught by one teacher. Later, bussed to the nearest high school in Constantine, Michigan, she graduated valedictorian and was accepted at Albion College. Upon graduation with a B.A. major in English, minor in Spanish, she taught high school English and Spanish until she met her husband, the teacher of a ceramics class she took at a local community college. When he accepted a position as Art Department Chair at Miami Dade College, North Campus, in 1971, their move to Miami offered new challenges and opportunities. Both found the weather and urban living required major life adjustments, especially the first hurricane scare they lived through. While working in the Writing Lab at North Campus, she pursued a Master's Degree in English at Florida Atlantic University, and she and her husband joined Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden in 1974. Norma took tropical plant growing classes and became a walking tour guide at the Garden at that time, and she has maintained a volunteer relationship to this day; at present she gives guided tram tours there.

In 1980, Norma became the assistant to one of the Deans at Miami Dade, Wolfson Campus, and managed an office staff of 7, worked on grant writing teams, and handled the Dean's appointment schedule. Norma moved from that position to become the Director of two Miami-Dade outreach centers offering English as a Second Language classes during the influx of Cubans in the Mariel Boat Lift.

In 1983, Norma decided to move into the Miami-Dade County education system and began teaching College Prep and Advanced Placement at Southwest Miami High. At this time, she was accepted into a University of Miami program to earn a second Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Second Language (TESOL). In the summer of 1989, Norma competed for, and won, a spot in a National Endowment for the Humanities workshop at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah, to study the

writings of Argentinian author Jorge Borges and, at the end of the summer, had her analytic study published in a compendium volume printed by the university.

After being invited to attend training for teachers at the Miami-Dade County Writing Institute to learn the latest methods of teaching writing to students of all ages, she was asked to take on the task of setting up a creative writing program in the Magnet Program at Drew Middle School in 1990. The following year she was invited to join the startup faculty at Design and Architecture High School where she eventually taught every level of high school English. While at DASH, she started and sponsored a National Honor Society chapter and successfully lobbied for including Advance Placement English classes at DASH.

In 1995, Norma became a member of the English faculty at New World School of the Arts where, again, she taught every level of English, ninth grade through Advanced Placement. While at New World, she became the president of the Miami Chapter of the National Council of Teachers of English. At the same time, she served 4 years as the president of Alpha Zeta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international organization of women in education. In 2000, Norma was one of 200 teachers, 2 per state, chosen for a summer Fulbright to travel to Japan for a month-long visit to interact with Japanese teachers at all educational levels, visit classrooms, and stay in a Japanese home to increase cultural understanding and to share educational approaches. A year later, she accepted a position as Curriculum Support Specialist with the Miami-Dade County Schools' Division of Language Arts and Reading where she wrote curriculum and presented workshops for teachers to model methods effective in successfully teaching reading and writing. Norma retired from the Miami-Dade County School System in 2006, but she maintained her adjunct teaching position at Miami Dade College, Kendall Campus, until 2019. At this time, she wished to become more involved with her committee commitments at Coco Plum, as well as her volunteer activities at Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden, The Kampong, and as a Master Gardener. Sponsored into Coco Plum in 2013, she started her involvement on the Environment Committee, but this was interrupted over the next several years by her aiding a fellow Coco Plum member experiencing a slow Alzheimer's decline. As that responsibility lifted, Norma once again followed her passion for the environment, becoming a co-chair of the environment Committee with Donna Falana. Together they first helped Coco Plum join the GFWC Florida State plastic free initiative so energetically carried on by the present Environment Committee. For the past two years, Norma has served as the First Vice-president of Coco Plum, and in this office she has had the opportunity to work with all CSP and In-house Committee Chairs and members. As well, she has been a member of the House, Budget, and Bylaws Committees, and through this participation, has acquired a full understanding of the workings of the club. This understanding, she says, has deepened her commitment to the good work done by Coco Plum.

## ARTS and CULTURE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

The GFWC Arts and Culture Community Service Program encourages members to promote and support art and cultural programs in their clubs and communities, and to expand understanding on every level, from local and regional to national and international. Our goal is to create projects that include crafts, dance, drama, food, music, and other manifestations of

art and culture that develop skills, awareness, and appreciation. It is designed to inspire clubwomen and ignite within them a desire to make the world a more beautiful, thoughtful, and caring place.

Chairman, Aminta Konawicz



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The Coco Plum annual Arts & Crafts Competition once again showcased the remarkable creativity, talent, and heart within our club members. This cherished tradition continues to grow each year, and this year's entries were nothing short of inspiring.

First, and foremost, we extend our heartfelt thanks to every member who participated: Sally Russomanno, Sandie Margoluis, Barbara Wexler, Claudia Martonffy, Joyce Windhorst, Kim Schain, Betty Quinn, Evelyn Chesney, Aminta Konawicz, Norma Craig, Norma Cooper, Linda Simpson, Maria Clara Franco. Whether you submitted your first-ever project or are a seasoned exhibitor, your willingness to share your creativity is what makes this event so special. The time, care, and passion evident in each piece transformed our exhibition space into a gallery of community spirit. It takes courage to put your work on display, and the committee is deeply grateful to all who contributed. We are thrilled to announce this year's blue ribbon winners whose entries truly captured the admiration of our judge and attendees alike. Congratulations to our blue ribbon winners.

**Categories:**

**Art:** Pastel-Victoria Wiltsie; Watercolor-Evelyn Chesney;  
Oil Miniatures-Aminta Konawicz

**Crafts:** Joyce Windhorst, Norma Craig, Norma Cooper, Kim Schain,  
Donna Falana, Maria Clara Franco, Linda Simpson

**Photography:** Betty Quinn, Aminta Konawicz

Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition! Your work exemplifies creativity at its finest and inspires us all to continue exploring our own artistic paths. Most importantly, the competition is about community. It is about encouraging one another, celebrating effort and imagination, and honoring the joy that art brings into our lives. Thank you to the amazing Arts and Culture Committee members for making this year's Arts and Crafts Competition a vibrant, uplifting success. Blue ribbon winners will be participating at the District 11 Arts and Crafts Competition on February 25, 10:30 am, at the Coral Gables Woman's Club.

We cannot wait to see what everyone creates next year!

With love for the Arts,  
Aminta Konawicz, Chair









**GFWC Coco Plum Women's Club  
Arts and Culture Committee**

Has the pleasure of inviting you to an  
exclusive Private Art Tour of

**artist MaiYap's  
A HOUSE OF SMALL ALTARS**

Friday, March 13th, 2026  
1 to 3 PM

Edge Zones Gallery  
3317 NW 7th Ave. Cir. Miami, FL  
[www.edgezones.org](http://www.edgezones.org)

Please RSVP Aminta Konawicz  
Art & Culture Chair  
(305) 934-4299  
[amintarealtor@gmail.com](mailto:amintarealtor@gmail.com)

***A HOUSE OF  
SMALL ALTARS***

Curated by Sophie Bonet

3317 NW 7th Ave Cir, Miami, FL



**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT and  
OUTREACH  
COMMUNITY SERVICE  
PROGRAM**

**Overview of this CSP** - The GFWC Civic Engagement and Outreach Community Service Program reminds GFWC members that each of us is a part of a larger society and is responsible for undertaking actions that will create a better quality of life and foster a sense of community locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. This Community Service Program highlights and



encourages citizenship; crime prevention, safety, and disaster preparedness; the needy, hungry, and homeless; and our military personnel and veterans.

Chairman, Sara Warren

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Civic Engagement is asking members to bring an Easter card to the March general meeting for military patients at the VA hospital. Add a note of appreciation, your first name and GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club.

Although we are not planning anything for March, I want to inform you that March 13 is National K9 Veterans Day which honors the service and sacrifices of American military and working dogs. March is Women's History Month and March 22 is World Water Day. This year's theme is "Where water flows, equality grows."

The next two Honor Flights at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport are Saturday, April 11 and Saturday, May 30. If you are interested in attending, please let me know.

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. It is recommended you wear blue on the first Friday in April. We will place blue pinwheels around the flagpole on April 8 at our general business meeting.

The town of Davie will host The Moving Wall, a powerful replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial that bears the names of 58,000 Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Wall will be free and open to the public 24 hours a day, **April 24-26, 2026**, at the **Bergeron Rodeo Grounds, 4201 SW 65th Way, Davie, FL 33314**.

Sara Warren, Chairman

## EDUCATION and LIBRARIES COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**Overview of this CSP** - GFWC members promote education in both children and adults. We aim to help others, while we also continue to learn. Projects in this CSP are designed to foster schools, as well as other educational institutions and opportunities, and to promote literacy, libraries and the love of a good book. Through these efforts, we encourage the growth of individuals and communities at home and around the world.



Charlene Feldner and Barbara Wexler, Chairmen

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It's time to join us for a day of fun line-dancing, tasty barbeque, and prize-winning bingo games all to raise funds for the club's college scholarships given to deserving female high school students. Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, March 25, from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM**. Tickets are \$75.00. Contact Kim Schain for reservations or

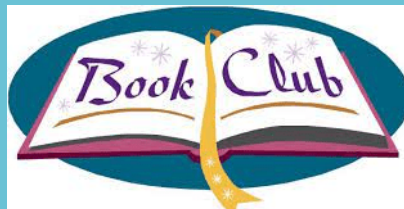
see her at the March 11th meeting. There will be some extra surprises to make this a special day for all!

Reminders:

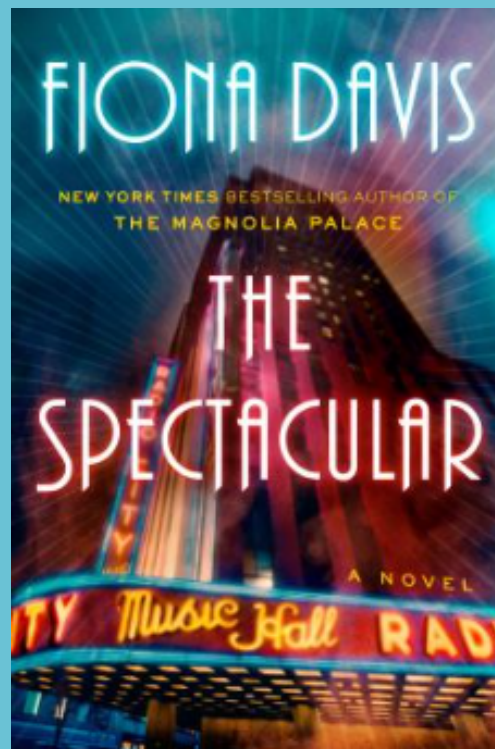
1. **Saturday, March 7th, at 8:30AM** – Max Gruver Walk, Baptist Hospital Pavilion - Join all the Grandmas Against Hazing
2. **Book Club – March 17th** – St. Patrick’s Day at 10:30 AM in the boardroom. We are reading *The Spectacular* by Fiona Davis.

Hope to see everyone at the fundraiser. Thanks for all your support.

Barbara Wexler and Charlene Feldner, Chairmen



We are reading **The Spectacular** by **Fiona Davis**  
We will meet on **March 17, 2026**, at **10:30 AM** in the boardroom.  
Everyone is welcome. Please join us!



## ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM

**Overview of this CSP** - The GFWC Environment Community Service Program encourages us to become stewards of the earth by working to preserve the world’s resources, protect wildlife and domesticated animals, live sustainably, and beautify our communities and enjoy nature. Environmental degradation is cumulative and many scientists warn that we are at a tipping point. There is no time like the present to act.



Chairman, Libby Mahaffey

**Remember the three “Rs” - REDUCE, REUSE and RECYCLE!**

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The speaker at the March business meeting, Xavier Cortada, is Miami’s pioneer eco-artist. He uses the power of art to engage people and bring awareness to

environmental issues like climate change, sea level rise and biodiversity loss. Mr. Cortada has served as the inaugural Artist-in-Residence for Miami-Dade County and for three decades has created art at the North and South Poles and across six continents, and he leads a robust community-engaged art practice. Please go to his website and find his TED Talk, "A creative approach to community climate action", which has already had over one million views. He is impressive!

Some good news on the Urban Development Boundary battlefront! As of February 13th, Mayor Daniella Levine-Cava has again VETOED the application to expand the UDB for Kelly Tractor. Let's hope that decision stands uncontested.

On your home recycling program, please go to the website Miami-Dade County Solid Waste Management site and scroll down to Recycling at Home. It really elaborates on what, and what cannot, be recycled curbside as well as what to do with items not on the list. Another resource is RECYCLEPEDIA.INFO. Just plug in your zip code and further recycling details are listed. Did you know old clothes are not accepted curbside? Did you know the average American discards over 80 lbs. of textiles a year? We can do better.

We will leave a flier on each table at the March business meeting from the Miami-Dade County Solid Waste site for your convenient reference. Let's strive to be better stewards of Mother Earth as we approach Earth Day!!!

Your Environment Committee,

Libby Mahaffey, Donna Falana, Norma Craig, Helene Valentine, Pat Kyle, Claudia Martonffy, Margaret Sarafoglo, Patricia Saunders, Marion Weiss, Ines Mander & Jan Gordillo

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## HEALTH and WELLNESS COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM



**Overview of this CSP** - The human body, mind, and spirit comprise our health and wellness. To improve our well being, we must address three key components: nutrition, disease prevention, and physical and emotional care. This Community Service Program aims to explore the various opportunities for awareness and advancement of each of these vital areas.

Chairman, Diana Martin

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The Health and Wellness Committee sponsored an event for Women's Heart Health Month on Thursday, February 19th. WomenHeart is part of the National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease. The speaker, Sharon Patish, was dynamic, sharing stories of women survivors of heart attacks, as well as details of her own personal experience with the hidden signs of heart attacks in women and what steps can be taken to be proactive in preventing heart disease. She gave out information and "goody bags" to all attendees with information on the impact of climate on heart disease, diabetes on heart disease, sleep patterns on heart disease, as well as the impact of excessive weight on heart disease. A lively Q&A session followed the talk.

Diana Martin, Health & Wellness, Chairman



## GFWC Florida Signature Program

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On January 14, 2026, the Coco Plum Woman's Club recognized Human Trafficking Month with a guest speaker from Glory House of Miami. Daniela Camacho, Care Team Community Engagement Coordinator, presented the membership at our business meeting with an overview of their work with survivors of human trafficking. Glory House is an undisclosed location where professionals help survivors with guidance and emotional support as they navigate their transition to new lives of freedom. Ms. Camacho was very grateful to the Coco Plum members for their donation of over 200 full-size toiletry items for the women at Glory House. Just Coco Plum's way of giving back!



Sally Russomanno  
Chairman

## Telephone Committee

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

Many of us do not answer our phones when we do not recognize the caller. Be sure that you have the information for the head of your committee - that is name, phone and email. And put that in your phone's CONTACTS. (On I-Phones, I know a separate list can be made. Probably other types of phones also have this option.)

**IF YOU ARE THE HEAD OF A COMMITTEE:**

Make sure that all the members of your committee have your contact information.

**IF YOU ARE A CALLER ON THE TELEPHONE COMMITTEE:**

Be sure that you remind your callee of your information.

Let her know you need her to answer your call!

If you miss a meeting, do read the minutes of the meeting. They are sent out to everyone soon after each meeting for approval. Jan's minutes are very good, and everything is there in black and white.

Margot Natsui, Chair of Telephone Committee

## Fundraising Report

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**BOOTS, BBQ & BINGO** will be our next Fundraising event on March 25th. This event sponsored by the Education and Libraries Committee promises to be great fun! Line dancing lessons, great BBQ cooked on site, Margaritas, draft beer, a DJ and Bingo with great prizes! Can't get much better than that! Tickets are \$75 to be reserve with Kim Schain (305) 322-4626 and consider placing an ad, personal or business, in the color program. Contact Jan Gordillo or Betty Quinn for ad information. Final deadline for ads is March 11th. All proceeds from this event will provide scholarships for needy local high school students.

Betty Quinn, Fundraising Chairperson

# BOOTS, BBQ & BINGO

PLEASE JOIN US

**MARCH 25 | 11 AM- 2 PM**

FOR A BBQ, BINGO  
&  
LINE DANCING INSTRUCTION



TICKETS **\$75**



**RESERVATIONS: [SCHAIN2@AOL.COM](mailto:SCHAIN2@AOL.COM)**

All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.



**GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club**  
1375 Sunset Drive  
Miami, FL 33143

Coco Plum is a 501(c)3

## Grant Committee

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Historic preservation of GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc. has been a focal point of the Grants Committee. Our organization has been selected to receive a grant from the Villagers Foundation in the amount of \$5,000. The grant funds will be applied to the house renovation costs for the light fixtures and scones throughout the facility. Thank you to the grant committee for all of their hard work and dedication to seeking opportunities to maintain and beautify our club house. The following members are on this committee: Betty Quinn, Sue Nichols, Barbara Moller, Yolanda Woodbridge and Yazmyne Eterovic. If you have any grant opportunities you would like the committee to apply for, please feel free to contact Kristen Quinn at (786) 338-0145 or [q.kristen1124@gmail.com](mailto:q.kristen1124@gmail.com)

# Membership Committee

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March is here, and we are celebrating everything green: St. Patrick's Day, the shamrock, the lucky four-leaf clover, green drinks and great food! In February we welcomed two new members: Cary Ballesteros and Chrisanne Fordik. Please get to know these special ladies and give them a big Coco Plum welcome! As always, I have applications for any special lady who would love to join our club of friendship and service.

Remember our motto: "We are sisters serving and playing together "

**Sally Russomanno, Membership Chair**



## Calendar Events

- 03/06: Board Meeting 10:30am
- 03/07: Max Gruver Walk, Grandmas Against Hazing @ Baptist Hospital Pavilion
- 03/11: General Membership
- 03/13: Tour of MiaYap's art work
- 03/17: Book Club 11:00am - 2:00pm We are reading the *Spectacular* by Fiona Davis
- 03/25: 11:00am to 2:00pm Boots, BBQ and BINGO

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## GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club Executive Board and Board of Directors 2024-2026

**President**  
Annie Goodrich-Sorgie

**1st Vice President**  
Norma Craig

**2nd Vice President**  
Sally Russomanno

**3rd Vice President**  
Sue Nichols

**Recording Secretary**  
Jan Gordillo

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Julie Czaja

**Treasurer**  
Joyce Windhorst

**Financial Secretary**  
Barbara Wexler

**Past President**  
Caroline Jensen  
2014-2016

# Immediate Past President

Carol Nobles 2022-2024

## Directors

Anita Jenkins

Betty Quinn

Aminta Konawicz

Pam Ciravolo

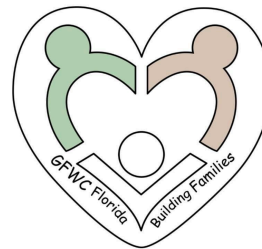
## Appointees

President's Aide - Sara Warren

Historian - Maria Clara Franco

Parliamentarian - Pat Rivas

## PARTNERS & LINKS to the 2 GFWC Logos



### **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](mailto:info@gfwccocoplum.org)

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

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



Contact Us

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc. | 1375 Sunset Dr. | Coral Gables, FL 33143 US

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