

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc. May Newsletter



What's Happening in May!



President's Message

Congratulations to the new Board of Directors of the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club for the 2026-2028 administration. I am happy that you have elected new members on the board and glad that you elected so many existing members to higher positions as this will provide continuity in that is necessary in the growth and wellbeing of a club.

I cannot believe that two years have passed. It seems May 15th, 2024, was just a brief time ago, when GFWC District Director Ruth Martinez was installing the 2024-2026 Board of Directors, and I was announcing my theme, **"Building Bridges of Friendship Through Community Service"**. My sincere hope is that you have cultivated many new friendships through the community service projects in which you have participated. As stated in our standing rules, you must serve on two committees, and most of you have worked on two committees which helped our club grow and prosper.

The committees are the backbone of any successful club. Our CSP and In-House committees are proof of that. The chairs have held monthly meetings, attended the board meetings, presented reports at the board and business meetings, and presented a newsletter article each month. **Congratulations to the committees and the Chairs for performing a magnificent undertaking.** In this newsletter,

each committee will touch on the outstanding performances of their respective committees.

On **May 1st**, ten members will travel to Orlando to GFWC Florida's spring convention. During the convention, we will learn how our club measures up against other clubs in category four. The state has a total of 189 clubs, divided into five separate categories. We owe a big thank you to our reporting team, Jan Gordillo and Norma Craig. Jan and Norma met with each individual chair explaining the reporting process. We had more reports than ever. Congratulations Jan and Norma for your perseverance and dedication to this process which can be overwhelming.

GFWC Coco Plum will be cheering on Sara Warren Coco Plum's and District 11's nominee for GFWC Florida Volunteer of the Year.

Congratulations GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club

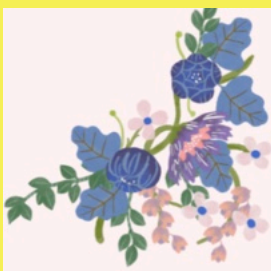
Annie Goodrich-Sorgie, President

Always in Community Service,

Annie Goodrich-Sorgie

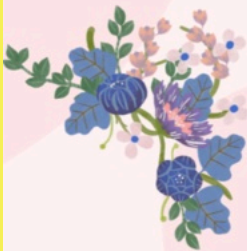
Annie Goodrich-Sorgie, President,
GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club
"Building Bridges of Friendships Through Community Service"

May Birthdays



Happy May Birthdays

Y. Straile	1st
G. Martonffy	15th
C. Santana	18th
E. Chesney	22th
S. Warren	29th



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

It has been an honor to serve as Arts & Culture Committee Chair for the past two years. This term has been marked by creativity, meaningful engagement, and a deep appreciation for the arts within our club and the community.

Throughout this period, the Arts & Culture Committee has remained committed to promoting artistic expression while creating opportunities for members to connect through cultural experiences. Our annual “**Love of the Arts**” **Arts & Crafts Competition** continued to be a cornerstone event, showcasing the remarkable talents of our members in art, photography, and crafts. Each year, our clubhouse was transformed into a vibrant gallery filled with creativity and inspiration.

Our participation in the **GFWC Florida District 11 Arts & Crafts Competition** has been a source of great pride. With strong member involvement, we achieved outstanding results, including multiple Blue Ribbon (First Place) and Red Ribbon (Second Place) awards. First Place of these winning entries advanced to the state competition, reflecting the exceptional talent and dedication within our club. We were also honored with recognition for both participation and overall achievement at the district level.

Beyond competitions, we expanded our cultural outreach through enriching experiences. Members attended concerts, gallery exhibitions at the Museum of Coral Gables and a private tour of “A House of Small Altars” by artist Mai Yap, which offered a deeply reflective and personal artistic perspective. We also participated in community cultural events such as local festivals and museum programs, strengthening our connection to the broader arts community.

Collaboration with neighboring clubs enhanced our programming, including invitations to attend live performances at Actors’ Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre and engagement with the Second Annual Coconut Grove Theatre Festival. These shared experiences fostered fellowship while celebrating the performing arts.

One of our most memorable achievements was hosting the **Art Open House**, a well attended event that brought together art, music, letters and fashion. With over 60 attendees and funds raised in support of our initiatives, the event highlighted the power of the arts to unite and inspire.

Additionally, the Committee embraced opportunities to align the arts with cultural awareness, including celebrating National Hispanic Heritage Month through programming that incorporated music, literature, and youth participation.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members who contributed their time, talent, and enthusiasm. Your participation is the foundation of our success.

Aminta Konawicz - Arts & Culture Chair





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

The next Honor Flight at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport is **Saturday, May 30**. Please let me know if you are interested in attending.

A Disaster Preparedness presentation is being planned for the month of May. A notice will be sent to all members when the date and time are confirmed.

Below is a recap of Civic Engagement and Outreach (CE&O) events, programs, meetings, and other activities from June 2024 through May 2026 which I and/or committee or Coco Plum members attended, participated in, provided funding for, donated products to complete.

Four CE&O planning meetings
100 bags of toiletries to the VA Hospital
Six District 11 meetings
Four Florida GFWC state conventions
Supplied games, toys, coloring books, crayons and pencils to MIA Military lounge
Collected funds for 160 hygiene kits for homeless veterans
Placed blue pinwheels around flagpole for Child Abuse Prevention Month
April 2025 & 2023; gave members Child Abuse Prevention ink pens in 2026
FBI Cyber Security Seminar
Fundraising program for GFWC Flight of Honor at American Legion
Flag Day - June 14, 2024 & 2025 - placed flags around our flagpole
GFWC National Day of Service - 2024 - Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry
2025 - Lotus House - clothing, shoes, toiletries, household items, etc.
Six Honor Flights at Ft Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport
Six members toured Chapman Partnership homeless housing facility in
Homestead
Scheduled speakers for three business meetings including table decorations.
Vietnam Veteran, Chapman Partnership, Lotus House
Collected clothes, diapers, rattles, baby products, etc. for pregnant military
members
South Miami Safe Streets Halloween - 2024 & 2025 Donated and handed out
candy
Provided six Thanksgiving baskets of food and a \$25 gift card to South Miami
Community Center for low income residents - 2024 & 2025
Wreaths Across America - \$680 in 2024 - \$952 in 2025
Cops for Kids - 2024 & 2025 - stuffed animals donated

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.

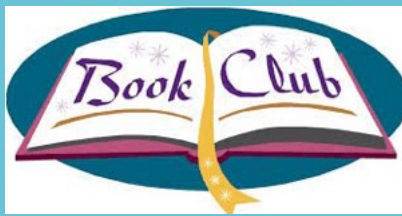
Charlene Feldner and Barbara Wexler,
Chairmen

We cannot thank everyone enough for supporting our major fundraiser, “Boots, BBQ, and Bingo”! Because of your support, we were able to award three Max Gruver scholarships. The first scholarships will be presented to two wonderful young women from the MDCPS Migrant Program in Homestead. These young women have worked hard to go on to college. Annie, Charlene, and our special guest Rae Ann Gruver were able to meet these delightful young women at the annual Migrant dinner held April 21, 2026. As Annie said last year, “Seeing these young women, our support means so much more.” Thank you again for your support in all we try to do for children.

Our book club in May will meet on **May 19**, in the Board Room at 10:30 AM. We will be reading ***Sisters of Fortune***, by Anna Lee Huber. Join us to discuss our book and enjoy your fellow members.

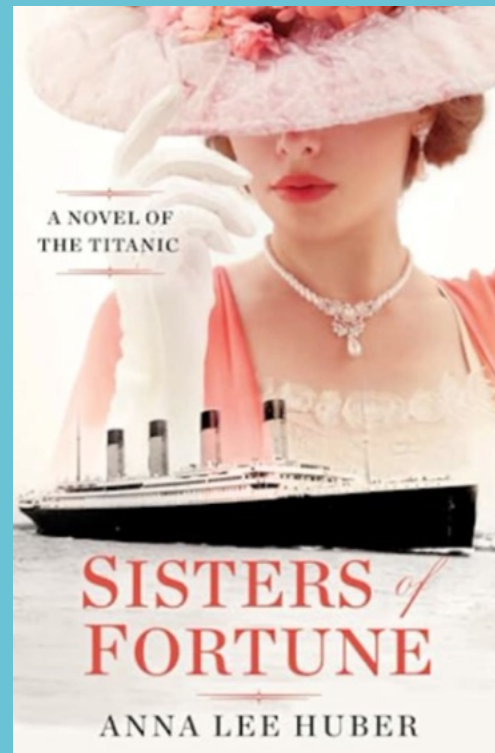
Barbara Wexler and Charlene Feldner, Co-Chairmen





We are reading **Sisters of Fortune** by **Anna Lee Huber**.

We will meet on **May 19, 2026**, at **10:30 AM** in the boardroom. Join us to discuss our book and enjoy your fellow members.



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!

The Environment Committee wrapped up the year with a weeding, mulching and border setting around the Lignum Vitae (Tree of Life) that we planted last year. It was time to remove the brace that held the tree in place this past year while it sent out roots. We look forward to next year possibly planting matching, yellow flowering trees on either side of our blue flowering Lignum Vitae.

A giant thank you goes out to Pat Kyle and Galloway Nursery for once again coming to our rescue and providing the bricks and mulch for our beautiful tree.

Our objective is to increase the pollinator friendly environment of our clubhouse. Pollinators are vital to our food supply and our ornamentals. With many people choosing Clusia or other non-natives instead of native plants and shrubs, our native pollinators are left to expire. Even balcony growers can plug in a milkweed or two. They are guaranteed to attract gorgeous Monarch butterflies! Consider an

herb garden on your property or balcony. Visit Galloway Nursery for an array of lovely butterfly attracting plants and herbs.

If you are lucky enough to own property, leave a patch of barren soil and soon you will see little concave dwellings of some of our native bees. You may never see the bees, but they will be grateful to you for your kindness. In turn, they will happily pollinate your flowering plants or shrubs. We are still trying to reach out to the Everglades National Park for an appointment the end of July to recognize National Ranger Day once again. We will keep you posted.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

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

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

Hoping all of you ate healthy during March Nutrition Month! April is Donate Life month. We encourage all to sign up and be an organ donor. There is no age limit on being a donor, and you can save up to 8 lives and enhance up to 75 lives through donation of tissues, corneas, skin, bone, tendons, heart valves and veins. Also, please remember our ongoing collection for the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. The bin in which to place your gently used clothing and small household items is in the Coco Plum boardroom.

Diana Martin, Health & Wellness, Chairman

By-Laws Committee

The GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club Bylaws Committee met 5 times during 2024-2026. The bylaws were amended with substantive and non-substantive changes by majority vote of the members during the February 2025 and December 2025 business meetings.

The members also voted to adopt changes to the Standing Rules at the September 2024 and the October 2025 business meetings providing additional clarity as they relate to the Club's Bylaws. The Committee is responsible for assuring clarity and consistency between the Club's Standing Rules and the Bylaws that govern our Organization.

The committee met during the regular year and in the summer volunteering over 130 hours and donating over 90 travel miles. The Bylaws committee consists of 6 members including the President and First Vice-President. Committee members are Laura McNaughton serving as Chair (member since 2023), Sandra Oltz (member since 2023), Pat Rivas (Club Parliamentarian and member since 2011), Victoria Wiltsie (member since 2025), Annie Goodrich-Sorge, President (member since 2019) and Norma Craig, First Vice-President (member since 2013).

Fundraising Committee

This has been a very successful year for our GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club fundraising efforts. We held four major fundraisers in this organizational year. All of them were both great fun and financially successful. We raised much needed funds for those in need in our community and had lots a great time doing it. Our Tea Party raised \$3000 which was donated to the FIU Homeless Students Food Bank. The Night of Jazz brought in \$6000 which was donated to PATCHES PPEC treating medically challenged financially needy children in Florida City. The Festival of Tables netted \$2000 for the Thrive Clinic at University of Miami for the comprehensive care of human trafficking victims. Boots, BBQ and Bingo net profits were \$6000. This will provide scholarships for three young women, two of whom will come from the South Dade/ Homestead migrant community.

Approximately \$3500, 20% of each fundraiser, was given to the House Maintenance Fund to help in the upkeep of our treasured historical clubhouse.

I want to thank the fundraising committee and all the members who helped in these events to make this such an amazing year of service.

Betty Quinn, Fundraising Chair

Betty Quinn, Fundraising Chairperson



Grant Committee

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club grant committee has made Historic Preservation recognition a key focus during the past year and efforts have been successful. Coco Plum received a \$5000 grant from The Villagers to help in the maintenance of our historic building. The grant committee would like to proudly announce that GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club has been selected to receive two prestigious awards in May from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation in Tallahassee. Our organization will be recognized in the categories of Organizational Excellence, as well as Preservation, Restoration & Maintenance. These awards will be recognized in the state newsletters, state-wide press releases and on the state of Florida Preservation website. Our hope is that receiving these two awards will open doors for GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club to apply for grants in the future with the Florida Trust. Thank you to the grant committee for all of their hard work and dedication this past year.

Kristen Qunn, Chair

House Committee

Over the past two years the House Committee has completed the rewiring of the Coco Plum clubhouse and replaced the electrical fixtures to meet code. New air conditioners were purchased and installed in the ballroom, ladies' restroom, and kitchen. Repairs were also made to several of the other air conditioners in the building. The clubhouse is currently going through a recertification process with the City of Coral Gables, so Allied Inspection Services was hired to inspect the building for issues which would need to be addressed in order to be recertified. Coco Plum hired a structural engineer to draw up plans to deal with issues presented in Allied's inspection report for review by a contractor who will submit a proposal for needed work. The recertification project will be a main focus for the club, steered by the House Committee '26/'27.

Membership Committee

April was a wonderful month for the Coco Plum membership committee. On April 8th, the club welcomed and installed four new members: Marlene Martinez, Cary Ballesteros, Chrisanne Fordik and Anell Llanes. Please get to know these women and welcome them into our club. We look forward to many years of service and pleasure together. Also, on April 26th, we had a New Members and Sponsors Tea. It was a very enjoyable time with all of our new friends! These past two years, the club has welcomed and installed fifteen new members. What a joy it has been for me to be Coco Plum Woman's Club membership chair. I want to thank my committee and all of the sponsors for bringing in these fifteen wonderful women.

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

Sally Russomanno, Membership Chair







Social Committee

2024-2025

- **Dinner and Theatre event** on July 27, 2024, at the restaurant Casita Tejas and The Seminole Theatre: The Social and Arts and Culture committees co-hosted club members and friends for dinner and the "Grease" Musical Show event.
- A **card/game event** on August 14, 2024, at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club: Members brought luncheon food and identified friends to play games with. Approximately 25 ladies attended.
- A **wine event** on November 7, 2025, was held at Seasons 52 on Miracle Mile: This was courtesy of Yolanda Woodbridge's contact with the proprietor of the establishment. Approximately 15 ladies attended.
- **December Program** theme, The Gift of Giving: This program was held on December 11 at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club. Members provided cookies to share and to sell. The Social Committee decorated the tables, read an essay on The Gift of Giving, and assisted members with enjoying and purchasing cookies. Approximately \$452.00 was collected for the house budget.
- **Holiday Event:** This was held on December 17, 2024, at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, costing \$25.00 per person. The Social Committee members provided decorations and dessert. Approximately 60 ladies and friends attended.
- **Concert:** The Social Committee also recommended that members attend a **concert** at the Coral Gables United Methodist church on May 4th 2025.

2025-2026

- A **BUNCO card event** on June 25, 2025, was held at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club. Members brought luncheon food and identified friends to play games with. Approximately 25 ladies attended.
- A **card/game social** was held at GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, July 30, 2025. Members brought luncheon food and identified friends to play games with. Approximately 25 ladies attended.
- **Veteran's Concert** at the Coral Gables United Methodist Church, November 16, 2025 was attended by Coco Plum members.
- The **Holiday Event** was held on December 7, 2025, at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, costing \$25.00 per person. The Social Committee members provided decorations and dessert. Approximately 60 ladies and friends attended.
- A **Paint and Wine** event at the GFWC Coco Plum Club on February 26, 2026, was attended by approximately 15 members.

Sandra C. Williamson, Ph.D., Chair

Telephone Committee

**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

Calendar Events



- 05/01-04: GFWC Convention
- 05/08: Board Meeting
- 05/13: Business Meeting
- 05/19: Book Club 10:30am Boardroom
- 05/30: Honor Flight @ FLL Airport
- 06/05: Joint Board Meeting Boardroom
- 06/20: District Spring Workshop @ 10am @ Miami Woman's Club

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

President
Annie Goodrich-Sorgie

1st Vice President
Norma Craig

Recording Secretary
Jan Gordillo

Corresponding Secretary
Julie Czaja

2nd Vice President
Sally Russomanno

3rd Vice President
Sue Nichols

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

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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>



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