

# GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.

## May 2025 Newsletter



### What's Happening in May!



### President's Message

Happy May! May is primarily known for being the final month of spring, and next month is the beginning of summer. We will soon be celebrating the **running of the roses at the Kentucky Derby, Cinco de Mayo, VE Day, Mother's Day** and **Memorial Day**.

Memorial Day is a federal holiday, to honor those who have died and served in military service. May is national military appreciation month, celebrated every May and is a symbol of unity. At sunrise, flags are raised to full staff briskly then lowered to a half-staff position where the flag remains until noon, then raised to full position. A big thank you to **Fernando** who maintains our flags and raises and lowers them for us.

April was a very busy month with a very thought-provoking program on human transplants and donors presented by the Health & Wellness CSP Committee. A

musical concert was attended by many of our members, and we are all looking forward to the patriotic concert in November. Some members met the veterans coming back from their Honor Flight; other members enjoyed the book club meeting; 10 members will return from convention and will report on all the new ideas presented to them, and last, but definitely not least, Lunch & Broadway will not only raise money for scholarships but will bring us delightful entertainment. Congratulations to all the CSP committees for your contributions to Coco Plum Woman's Club and for giving the club so many options to choose from for community service.

The Dade Heritage Trust awarded the Coco Plum Woman's club a plaque honoring the preservation and stewardship of our historic clubhouse. A big thank you goes to Kristen Quinn and the members of the Grant Committee and to our House Chair, Sue Nichols. A thank you is in order to our member Barbara Moller who brings to our attention grants we should apply for and who brought this award to the Grant Committee and encouraging them to apply. Congratulations to Kristen Quinn and her committee. ***Congratulations and thank you*** to each member of the Coco Plum Woman's Club for all that each one does to ***promote Community service***

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

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# Happy May Birthdays

Yolanda S. 1<sup>st</sup>

Gabrielle M. 15<sup>th</sup>

Claudia S. 18<sup>th</sup>

Evelyn C. 22<sup>nd</sup>

Sara W. 29<sup>th</sup>

## Members Monthly Spotlight

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The Coco Plum's member of the month is **Kristen Quinn**. Kristen earned a Bachelor of Science Degree, with a Major in Exercise Science and a Minor in Dance from Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. As a competitive dancer for eighteen years, she received gold, silver and special awards in local, state and national dance competitions. She was an administrative assistant from 2004 to 2018 and has been a Clerical Assistant at the Law Firm of Marko & Magolnick, P.A. since 2020.

As a St. Louis Columbiette since 2010, she has served on the Board of Officers in the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary & Immediate Past President,



Auxiliary Delegate to Southeast Chapter for the past eight years, as an Auxiliary Delegate for the Florida State Convention for the past six years, and as a committee member responsible for planning a variety of events.

Kristen has been an equestrian rider at Miami International Riding Club since 2016. Kristen has been blessed with two guide dogs from Dogs, Inc. (Nedra and Gabby and is currently on the list to receive a new dog).

Kristen was installed as a GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club member in 2023. As a very active member she has served on the caller committee, and currently is the Grants Committee Chair, as well as a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Health and Wellness Committee. She has been a member of the Florida Organ Transplant Association since 2021, and as a recipient of 3 organ transplants herself, Kristen, through the recent informative program of speakers she organized for the April Coco Plum meeting, made members and the community aware of the vital work done by this organization and the need for registered donors.



## 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



The following members of The Coco Plum Woman's Club Arts & Crafts First Prize winners in District will be taken to our GFWC Spring Convention Arts & Crafts Competition in Orlando.

CATEGORY #6A Jewelry "Blue Lace Agate & Silver metal Jewelry" made by NORMA CRAIG

CATEGORY #17 Crafts Recycled material "Button Necklace" made by PEGGY VITAL

CATEGORY #37 Crafts "Reversible Apron" made by DONNA FALANA

CATEGORY #75 Crafts mixed media collage "Springtime" made by AMINTA KONAWICZ

CATEGORY #94 Photography "GLORY" made by BETTY QUINN

I am so proud of all of you as your Art is beautiful. Good luck in the GFWC State Competition.

On Friday April 4, 2025 our Arts & Culture Committee went to an amazing Concert at the First United Methodist Church of Coral Gables at 7:30 pm and listen to an International group of two talented musicians, British organist Clive Driskill-Smith and percussionist Joseph Gramley. The group is call "Organized Rhythm". Several instruments in percussionist wind instruments were play with an amazing pipe organ and multi percussion instruments, music took the audience to a level of rhythm with classical composers in the repertoire, music of Joan Sebastian Bach and lyrical and powerful thunderous and dulcet wood and metal organ pipes. We had a great time.

**Save the date May 20....at the Coral Gables Art Cinema "The Sound of Music" Sing Along.**

Aminta Konawicz, Chairman

## 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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The Florida GFWC "Flight to Honor" is scheduled for April 2026. Coco Plum Woman's Club is planning a possible fundraising event at the South Miami American Legion, or other military connected organization, to contribute in support of this state project.

Six Coco Plum members attended the Honor Flight return at Ft. Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport on April 5. As usual, it was an emotional event. There were about six female Vietnam veterans on the flight. The next three flights for 2025 are: May 17, September 6 and October 25.

On March 27, six members took a tour of the Chapman Partnership facility at 28205 SW 124 Court, Homestead. The tour was conducted by Candice Myles, Community Relations Manager. Everyone was impressed with the operation of the complex, especially the grounds, kennel, healthcare and dining facilities. The facility provides three meals a day to the 300 residents and depends on volunteers to assist with serving the meals.



**SAVE THE DATES!**

*Announcing our 2025 Flying Season*

**SATURDAY APRIL 5 - MISSION 34**  
**SATURDAY MAY 17 - MISSION 35**  
**SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 6 - MISSION 36**  
**SATURDAY OCTOBER 25 - MISSION 37**



**ALL FLIGHTS WILL DEPART/ARRIVE  
FORT LAUDERDALE-HOLLYWOOD INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

## 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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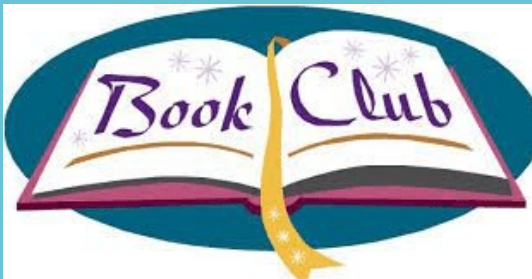
HAPPY MAY EVERYONE! When you read this, a very successful Lunch & Broadway event will be behind us. April was extremely busy for the Education and Libraries Committee, but what a joy it was to work with our great committee. Huge



thanks to Norma Cooper, Julie Czaja, Annie Goodrich-Sorgie, Jan Gordillo, Arlene McGee, Margo Natsui, Sue Nichols, Betty Quinn, Renee Reichling, Kim Schain, Jeannie Smith, Collette Traylor, Sarah Warren, and Joyce Windhorst.

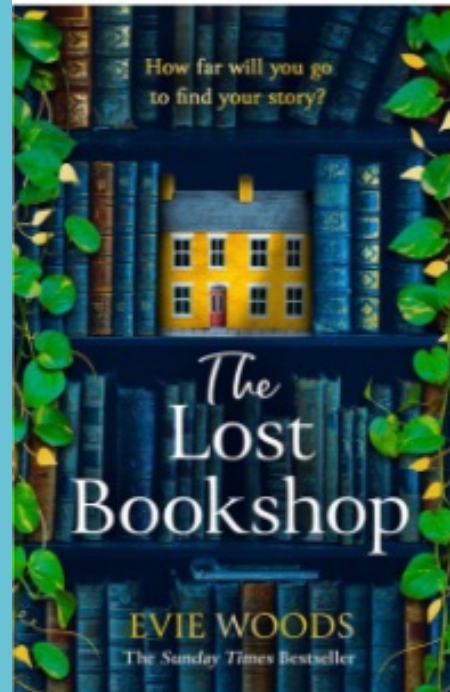
Our book club continues to be very active. Eleven members including two new prospects attended a lively discussion on April 22 of the ***Frozen River*** by Ariel Lawhon. Our next read is ***The Lost Bookshop*** by Evie Woods which will be discussed on May 20. Everyone is welcome!

The committee co-chairman and President are looking forward to attending two special events. One was the 37th Annual Migrant Senior's Recognition Program at the Dadeland Marriot on April 22, where scholarships were presented to two recipients: Andrea Alcantrara-Juarez and Lusdhari A. Miranda. The co-chairs and President will also attend a scholarship reception at the Coral Gables Community Foundation on May 5 to present a third scholarship to Destiny Neveah Casimir for a total of three \$2,000.00 scholarships to very deserving Miami Dade County students.



We are reading ***The Lost Bookshop*** by Evie Woods. We will meet on **Tuesday, May 20th, at 10:30 AM** in the boardroom hosted.

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!**

I was so proud of the effort that was put forth on Coco Plum Woman's Clubs behalf in celebrating Arbor Day by planting a native flowering tree, ***Lignum Vitae***.

The event was outstanding, i was so proud of all who attended and helped with the event. The food and liberations were wonderful, especially the champagne.

Thank you to member Pat Kyle for donating this beautiful tree, valued at \$425.00.

I thought as I looked around the room, "these are our future leaders among some of our current leaders." I can just imagine what our club will be like in five years with these new members at the helm.

Please members when you see Libby and members of the committee, thank them for a great job not only today but all year through especially the GFWC plastics initiative on-going project.

Many thanks from your Environment Committee,

Libby Mahaffey, CSP Environment Committee Chairman  
and the Environment committee. (Norma Craig, Donna Falana, Pat Kyle, Helene Valentine, and Margaret Saragoflu)





## 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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April was National Donate Life Month. On behalf of the Health & Wellness Committee, we hope everyone who was able to attend the April 9th business meeting program enjoyed learning about the importance of organ donation. Our very own member, Kristen Quinn shared her story about her kidney transplants. She was accompanied by Olivia Gilbert, the spouse of Kristen's donor, as well as the heart recipient, Brien Muschett. Olivia shared a beautiful letter about her husband Justin, and Brien shared his story on receiving Justin's heart. Ralph Papp, a family support coordinator, shared his role as the contact between organ donors and recipients. Thanks to the generosity of our members in attendance at the program, we will be donating \$555.00 from the raffle baskets to the Florida Organ Transplant Association. Please note the following statics and information on how you can become an organ donor. The presentation was educational and inspirational for all.

### **ORGAN DONOR STATISTICS**

20 people lose their lives each day waiting for an organ transplant

48,000+ transplants were performed in 2024

1 donor can save up to 8 lives and enhance up to 75 lives through tissue donation, corneas, skin, bone, tendons, heart valves and veins

100,000+ people are waiting for an organ donation in the United States

Every 9 minutes someone is added to the organ transplant donor waiting list

***THERE IS NO AGE LIMIT TO SIGN UP TO DONATE***

There are three ways to sign up:

(1) Sign up online now in your state. You may need your driver's license/ID number to fill out a form. (2) Visit your local motor vehicle office. (3) Sign up through the health app on your iPhone. Your information is sent to the national computer system.

The Health & Wellness Committee would also like to remind everyone that we are continuing to collecting donated items for Breast Cancer. You can bring your items and drop them off in the pink box located in the board room. Thank you for all of your support!

Sincerely,

The Health & Wellness Committee







## Dollars for Delegates for GFWC Florida Convention

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## Grant Committee

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# Congratulations

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.  
Received the  
2025 Dade Heritage Trust Preservation Award for  
Preservation & Stewardship

Your hard work and dedication to preserving our historic landmark



has definitely been noticed by many members of the Community. The grants committee will next be working diligently on submitting an application to the Florida State Department for Historic Preservation.



## Membership Committee

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On April 7th new member Orientation was heard at Sally Russomanno home.  
On April 9th, we installed three new members to GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.  
Victoria Wiltsie, Ines Mander and Terri Portela.

Pictured are Victoria Wiltsie, Libby Mahaffey, President Annie Goodrich Sorgie,  
Ines Mander, Terri Portela and Sally Russomanno.

Let's all welcome them to our club with open hearts and open arms!  
With warm wishes for a Happy Spring,

Sally Russomanno  
Membership Chair

Our motto: "We are sisters serving and playing together"

## 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

# Ways and Means Committee

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A final update on Ann's High Tea: profits were \$3,027.00 and expenses were \$712.68. After \$618.86 (20%) for the house, the total to the FIU homeless student food bank is \$2,475.46.

Lunch and Broadway was on Wednesday April 30th, 11 am-2 pm. Gift card donations from retail stores, restaurants, and gas stations as well as prepaid gift cards for general use were greatly appreciated and much needed to make the gift card raffle a great success. The nine baskets prepared by members with different themes to be raffled were enthusiastically received. Additionally, the ad book with ads from numerous members and companies contributed to the event. The scheduled entertainment from the students at Miami Dade College was fantastic as was the Lunch and the Wine and Prosecco Bar. It was a triumphant achievement which will fund three higher education scholarships for deserving women who are high school seniors.

Betty Quinn  
Ways and Means, Chairman

## Hospitality Committee

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The hospitality Committee shall receive and welcome guests and members to each meeting and is responsible for name tags for all members. The hospitality chairs ensures that the name tags are out at each meeting and for collecting and storing the name tags after the meeting.

Chairman, Donna Falana

### **Regarding replacement name tags:**

If you need a replacement name tag, the process has typically been that you send a check to Joyce Windhorst for \$12.00. Joyce would let me (Donna Falana) know that she received the money, and I would place the order for your replacement. If your name tag has been misplaced, or lost (it happens), or if you just want a second tag, this is what to do. Email the owner of L&M Engraving (Ana Ochoa) at [Lmengraving@aol.com](mailto:Lmengraving@aol.com). Let her know that you're with GFWC Coco Plum, and how you want your name to appear on the name tag. You can pay by card, and pick the tag up when it's ready. This way you can skip the step of sending Joyce a check.

L&M Engraving's address is 9465 Miller Drive.

Their phone number is 305-273-7607.

Ana is very helpful, and has been making our name tags for quite a while





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## **GFWC FLORIDA WEBINARS**

### ***GFWC Florida Upcoming Webinars***

#### **MAY 7, 2025 - Bylaws, Standing Rules and Robert's Rules**

Join us on 7:00 PM ET Wednesday, May 7, for our next GFWC Florida Webinar featuring Shannon Bailey, Dara Bergdoll, and Kelly Holmes.

Do you ever wonder why we have Bylaws and Standing Rules? Have you heard of Robert's Rules but aren't quite sure what they are or who Robert is? We've got the answers to these questions—and more! Don't miss this opportunity to deepen your understanding of club governance and get your questions answered.

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/ynkuZQibKVLx3dUw5>



## **Calendar Events**

5/2: Board Meeting @10:30am  
5/7: GFWC Florida Webinar 6:30PM - Robert's Rules, Bylaws, & Standing Rules for Clubs  
5/14: General Membership Meeting @ 11AM  
5/17: Honor Flight Mission 35 @ FLL arrival time 8PM  
5/20: Book Club Boardroom 10:30AM  
5/20: Coral Gables Art Cinema "The Sound of Music" Sing Along.  
5/23: District 11 workshop 10AM-2PM @ Coral Gables Woman's Club  
6/6-9: GFWC International Convention in Atlanta  
6/18: Planning Meeting @10:30AM Cardroom  
11/7: Annual District Meeting (ADM) SAVE THE DATE

Click on the Calendar link below which will direct you to our website Calendar page for detailed information and flyers in the newsletter.

[Click to CALENDAR](#)

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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

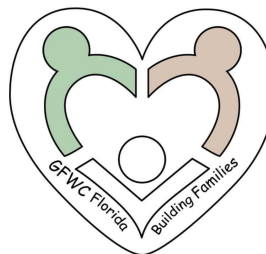
Historian - Maria Clara Franco

Parliamentarian - Pat Rivas

**PARTNERS & LINKS to the 2 GFWC Logos**



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**FLORIDA**



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

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

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



**Contact Us**

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