

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



## What's Happening in January!



## President's Message

Dear GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club Members:

I hope everyone had a peaceful, restful and wonderful Chanukah, Christmas or Kwanzaa, whichever holiday you celebrate with your immediate or extended family and friends. As we bring in the new year let's keep all of those wonderful feelings and peaceful thoughts in all that we do. There are so many plans that each of our CSP and In-House Committees have planned for the rest of the year.

The January board meeting will be held on **January 9th**, and the first business meeting will be on **January 14th, 2026**. The program will be put on by Glory House, a non-profit dedicated to rescuing and restoring adult female survivors of human trafficking with long-term housing, trauma care, education, and life skills. We have been asked to bring regular sized bottles of toiletries (soaps, shampoos, toothpaste, etc..) to the January board and business meetings.

I know everyone is planning their table for the first fundraiser of the year on **January 28th, The Festival of Tables**. I know I am. My table's theme was inspired by a beautiful set of dishes from Portugal Liz Lane's mother left her, and she honored me by gifting them to me. I also have the help of Victoria Wiltsie who has given me the ideas for the pink menu. Please contact **Margaret Sarafoglu**, Chair of this creative event and give her your table's theme. Contact **Kim Schain** with the names of your

table guests. The recipient of the funds raised will be **THRIVE Clinic** at The University of Miami.

Please don't forget your plastics which the Environment Committee is still collecting. Also, don't forget your slightly used clothing donations for the pink Breast Cancer box in the board room, which they pick up when our box is filled.

I can never say enough about how proud I am of the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club and its members. Please help to spread the word about all that each member under the auspices of the CSP and In-House committees contributes to the betterment of our community. The month of January, Jan Gordillo and Norma Craig will be putting together the club report from the data each officer and committee chair turns in. The period we are reporting on is January 01, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Please look back at your board and business minutes, your monthly newsletters and your calendars to help jog your memories. We don't want to miss one hour or one minute of the work that has been donated and performed on behalf of our club.

Always in Community Service,

### **Annie Goodrich-Sorgie**

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

## **January Birthdays**

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# HAPPY JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



Janice G.	1st
Bonnie G.	4th
Ines M.	4th
Pam C.	11th
Colleen D.	11th
Margaret S.	16th
Carol N.	28th



## 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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Greetings members and lovers of the Arts! **February 11, 2026**, will be our "Love of the Arts" Arts and Crafts Competition at the regular business meeting. As a reminder, the art or craft work you enter must have been completed during 2025. Look through the 2025 beautiful photos you've taken, needlework you've completed, jewelry you've made, or poem you've written to enter in our juried show.

Aminta Konawicz, 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

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Twenty-one GFWC Coco Plum members and their family members participated in Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 13, at Palms Woodlawn Cemetery in Naranja. Our Club donated \$952 which allowed us to purchase 56 wreaths. It was a heartwarming, emotional experience for all, especially retired Vietnam Veteran Lt. Colonel Don Westbrook.

We again participated in Cops for Kids, and our members very generously donated many teddy bears and other stuffed toys for homeless children in the Homestead area.

We will have a committee member meeting in January to discuss our plans for the rest of the year. Detailed information will be sent at a later date.

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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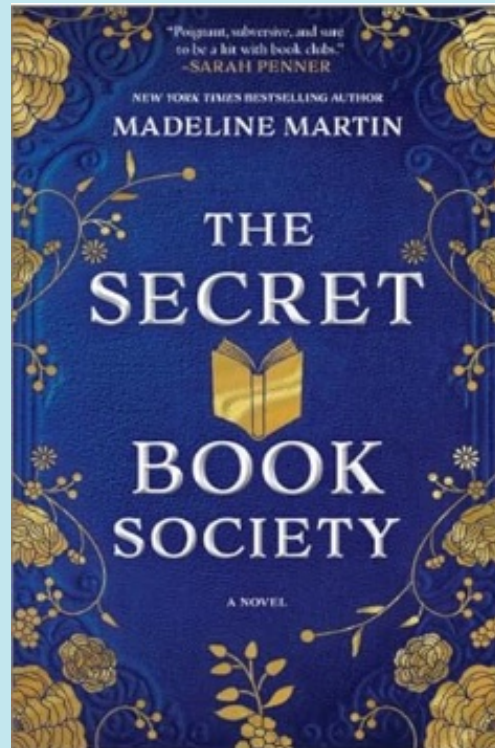
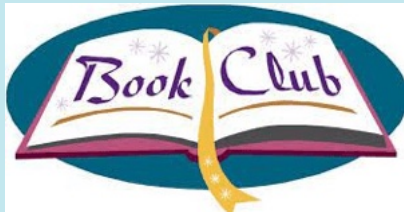
December for our Education and Libraries Committee was a very fun time! Once again, our book club had a lively discussion about ***The Nurse's Secret*** led by Jodi Mercier. All of Santa's helpers supplied delicious goodies and special treats for everyone.

Our next book club is **January 20, 2026**. We are reading ***The Secret Book Society*** by Madeline Martin.

Again, our End of the Year event is our holiday celebration with the migrant children at our adopted school in Homestead, Redondo Elementary. We played games, ate yummy food, and gave out our wonderful library crates. A big thank you to all the members of Coco Plum who so generously supported this event through gifts of money, games, and books. The joy you brought the children was hundred-fold, and the children and staff were so appreciative of all we do for them.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year!

Barbara Wexler and Charlene Feldner, Chairmen



We are reading ***The Secret Book Society*** by Madeline Martin.  
 We will meet on **January 20, 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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**CHANNEL 10’S POPULAR NEWS ANCHOR, LOUIS AGUIRRE  
WILL BE SPEAKING AT OUR CLUBHOUSE ON THURSDAY,**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2026  
AT 10:00 A.M.**

Louis has been with local ABC Channel 10 News for almost a decade and is a multiple Emmy-award winning journalist. Louis has worked for “Extra”, “A Current Affair” and as a co-host of “Fox and Friends.” We are excited to have him speak at Coco Plum about his career and his advocacy for the environment through his weekly Channel 10 specials titled “Don’t Trash Our Treasure!”

Invite your garden clubs, friends and neighbors to join us for this free event!

**Please RSVP to Donna Falana at [Dfalana@bellsouth.net](mailto:Dfalana@bellsouth.net)**

While we continue to collect those soft plastics, the Environment Committee wants to support one of the State GFWC’s newest campaigns that brings to our attention the environmental challenges of discarded clothes and textiles. Fast fashion is designed for wear and discard and is produced usually abroad in poorer countries where working environments and conditions are borderline inhumane. Excess chemicals and textiles end up spoiling the waterways and environments in most of these countries.

Take action by thinking twice when you consider buying another piece of clothing. Do you really need it or can you shop in your closet! While you are in your closet, maybe you will find clothes in good condition that you can donate to a thrift shop that supports an admirable cause. We suggest **The Dragonfly Thrift Boutique at 5815 S.W. 68 Street, South Miami**. It is an upscale clothing and household boutique that provides impressive support for previously incarcerated women through the LEAP Program. This is a social enterprise that empowers these women and is worthy of your consideration. The LEAP Program also has daily classes for those women still inside the State prison system.

We hope that one of your New Year’s Resolutions will be to be kinder to Mother Earth by adopting one new environmentally proactive action like recycling, avoiding plastics in general or shopping smarter.

We wish everyone a happy and healthy New Year!!

Libby Mahaffey, Norma Craig, Donna Falana, Helene Valentine, Pat Kyle, Margaret Sarafoglu, Ines Mander, Claudia Martonfly, and Marion Weiss

# 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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A special “thank you” goes to Dr. Cary Ballesteros and Dr. Fordik whose “Feelings During The Holiday Season” was a very informative and insightful program. The emphasis was on coping with emotions and self-care during the holidays.

The Health and Wellness Committee made the jolly and festive holiday table decorations for meeting.

Also, everyone enjoyed the artfully decorated, delicious Christmas cookies created by Health and Wellness Committee member, Margarita Botero.

Wishing you all a wonderful and blessed holiday season and a happy New Year full of health and wellness! Stay safe!

Diana Martin, Health & Wellness, Chairman









## Social Committee

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Approximately 50 members and guests of the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc. gathered on December 7, 2025, to celebrate the holiday season. The festive party, held at the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, was graciously hosted by the Social Committee members along with Rosie Hayden and Fernando Smaniotto. The ballroom was beautifully transformed by stunning centerpieces created by Joyce Windhorst, adding an elegant touch to the celebration. Guests enjoyed delicious hors d'oeuvres, lively music provided by a DJ, and special entertainment from an instructor at Arthur Murray's Dance Studio, who kept everyone laughing and dancing throughout the evening. The event was filled with camaraderie, joy, and holiday spirit. Club members extend their heartfelt thanks to Rosie, Fernando, and the staff for their continued generosity and support throughout the year.







## 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

The Fundraising Committee is very excited about our next big event for this fiscal year. The Festival of Tables will be on Wednesday January 28th. This event is always so vibrant and exciting with every table having a unique theme, from formal to casual and everything in the middle! Cost is \$25 per person.

Please contact Margaret Sarafoglu to schedule your table or join an existing table. (305)298-7058

Proceeds to benefit the THRIVE Clinic at the University of Miami for victims of sex trafficking.

Betty Quinn, Fundraising Chairperson



The poster features a light blue background with a large white circle in the center. At the top left is the logo for the GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, which includes a circular emblem with a green leaf and purple grapes, and the text "GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club" and "Founded in 1912". At the top right is the GFWC logo, a circular emblem with a shield and the text "GFWC" and "UNITY IN DIVERSITY". In the center, there is a black silhouette of a fork, knife, and spoon. Below this, the word "Festival" is written in a large, black, cursive font, and "OF TABLES" is written in a large, bold, cyan, blocky font. Underneath, the text "Host a table, create a theme, and choose your guests" is written in a smaller, black, sans-serif font. A yellow scroll graphic contains the date and time: "JAN. 28, 2026" and "11 am to 2 pm" in bold black text. Below the scroll, it says "Call Margaret Sarafoglu to host a table 305-298-7058". A black rounded rectangle contains the price "\$25 per person" in white text. Below that, the mailing address is listed: "Mail checks to: Kim Schain, 16820 SW 137th Ave. Apt. 1324, Miami, FL 33177". At the bottom, two lines of text are separated by horizontal lines: "Proceeds go to the Thrive Clinic at the University of Miami for victims of sex trafficking" and "GFWC Coco Plum Historic Clubhouse Preservation". The final line of text is "Coco Plum Woman's Club 1375 Sunset Drive, Coral Gables (501c3)".

**Grant Committee**

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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January is here and it is time for new beginnings. Let's start the new year by inviting friends to become members of our club!

At the December business meeting, we installed five new members. Please welcome Rosalie Kolesar, Colleen Daunt, Nancy Lowry, Yadi Mercier and Diane Annesser.

Remember our motto: "We are sisters serving and playing together."  
Have a happy and healthy 2026!

Sally Russomanno, Membership Chair

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## The Coco Plum Woman's Club Roster 2025-2026

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GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club 2025-2026 Roster has a new cover. Updated information for 88 club members and 8 booster members is included, as well as some members' updated photos.

If any member has not yet received a copy of the 2025-2026 roster, please contact Nori Glickman at our next business meeting in December.

Thank you to Nori for all of her efforts to provide members with correct contact information so important for coordinating club efforts.



## Calendar Events



- 01/09: Board Meeting @ 10:30am
- 01/14: General Membership Meeting @ 11am
- 01/15: GFWC Florida Webinar for Club Secretaries @ 7pm
- 01/20: Book Club @ 10:30am Board Room
- 01/28: Festival of Tables @ 11am-2pm
- 02/05: Guest Speaker Louis Aguirre @10am
- 02/11: General Membership and Arts & Craft Competition @10:30am
- 02/25: D11 Arts & Craft viewing and meeting at Coral Gables Woman's Club time: TBD

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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

**Recording Secretary**  
Jan Gordillo

**Corresponding Secretary**  
Julie Czaja

**Treasurer**  
Joyce Windhorst

**Financial Secretary**

**3rd Vice President**  
Sue Nichols

Barbara Wexler

**Past President**  
Caroline Jensen  
2014-2016

## Immediate Past President

Carol Nobles 2022-2024

## Directors

Anita Jenkins

Aminta Konawicz

Betty Quinn

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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