



100 Ladies of Deering President's Report – December 2023

In the last month we have focused on our efforts in community outreach and promotion of the Deering Estate. From promoting the Deering Estate (and [Legacy, the Deering Estate Coffee Table Book](#)) at the Miami Book Fair, to decorating the Great Hall, Film Room and Scholar Room for the holidays, and adopting three local families in the Guardian Ad Litem program, the 100 Ladies of Deering has worked to highlight the beauty, artwork, and spirit of the Deering Estate within our community.

The 100 Ladies of Deering continue to allocate significant time and money in support of the Deering Estate Holiday Décor program. Ann DeStefanis, Maria McDonald and Nancy Egglund conceptualized Alice in Wonderland in a very approachable and whimsical way for the three areas the Ladies decorate. Members supported by shopping for décor, sorting through past years ornaments, ribbon and lights to repurpose what we could, and making new ornaments featuring butterflies, mushrooms and framed Alice in Wonderland vignettes for the tree in the Great Hall. In addition to all the preparation, the ladies spent several days putting up the decorations in the Richmond Cottage and Stone House. Everything looks amazing and is widely regarded as the best year yet. The Great Hall was featured prominently in SoFloHome Project on Local Channel 10 episode on the Deering Estate decoration. [Click here for a link to the episode](#). The décor will remain up until January 7, 2024, be sure to stop by and enjoy it!

The 100 Ladies of Deering also sponsored three families totaling 16 family members through the Guardian Ad Litem program. Toys, shoes, clothes, self care items, and gift cards were donated. This year the DEF also donated a Family Membership to each family so they can enjoy the Deering Estate year-round. Gifts were presented at our Holiday Luncheon on December 13. All three guardians came by, as well as three family members from one of the families, who were delighted with the gifts and who received a special tour of the Estate.

As we look forward, there is already a lot on the calendar in January. The Archives Committee, Marketing Committee, Membership Committee and Outreach Committee all have activities in addition to our social events - a Sunrise Morning 1/9, Dinner Out 1/9, General Meeting 1/18, trip and special tour of Vizcaya 1/19, Mahjongg 1/25 and New Member Orientation 1/17. With the postponement of the Stone House restoration, the Furnishing and Design Committee will revisit the list of projects that had been deferred due to other work.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Battaglia
President, 100 Ladies of Deering