

S I N C E 1 9 1 2

The Coco Plum News

GFWC Coco Plum Woman's Club, Inc.
1375 Sunset Drive
Coral Gables, Florida 33143
305-665-5731

APRIL 2017

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Spring is in the air, with so many flowers and orchids blooming around the community.  Thank you Gabrielle Martonffy for inviting Dr. Jason Downing from Fairchild Garden to give us a presentation on the Million Orchids Project. Some of attendees were fortunate to receiving an orchid sprout from Fairchild.

We are looking forward to our upcoming picnic. If you are a new member you won't want to miss this fun and casual meeting. Carol Nobles will be giving us a program on how to protect our identity. This is a program that we all can gain something from. Don't miss this! Be sure to call Donna Lewis to make your reservations.

GFWC Spring Convention is April 21st – 23rd and 6 members will be attending. Our Arts and Craft Chairman, Donna Falana, will be bringing our 1st place Arts winner to the State Convention.

Also in April, we will be having the "Pinwheel Garden"  and bake sale, April 28th -29th. So, start thinking of what you are going to bake and how many pinwheels you want to plant. This year, we will be selling the pinwheels for \$ 1.00 and instead of you taking the pinwheels, you will write your name on it and it will be planted in the garden. Plan on helping with this project to Prevent Child Abuse. Funds from this will be given to "Amigos for Kids."

If you have any suggestions, for upcoming meeting or events, please see me, and we will see what can put together. This is your Club and you need to be involved.
Thanks for all your support.



Anita

INSPIRATIONAL MOMENT APRIL 2017

By Rosann Whitten

“There is no time like Spring
When life’s alive in everything.”
Christina Rosetti



NEW MEMBER

Ursula (Ulla) Kasprzyk
6150 SW 90 Court
Miami, Fl. 33173
Tel.: 305.596.5593 Home
305.776.0376 Cell
kasprzyu@gmail.com
Birthday December 24



Welcome to GFWC Coco Plum Woman’s Club

Dates to Remember

Friday, April 7, 2017

Board Meeting
10 am to 12 Noon in Board Room

Wednesday, April 12, 2017

Business Meeting
10:30 am – 2:00 pm
Annual Picnic Meeting

Program:
How to protect our Identity
Speaker: Carol Noble

Friday April 21 – Sunday April 23, 2017

GFWC Spring Convention
Rosen Plaza Hotel - Orlando

Friday April 28 – Saturday April 29, 2017

Pinwheel Garden
We will plant the garden on Friday and
have a Bake Sale on Saturday



See attached flyer

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

2 – Marielle Montail-Lopez
 14 - Sally Perlman
 18 – Cathie Cotton
 30 - Laura Proctor



CARD PARTY

By Sally Perlman – Chair

The Coco Plum Woman's Club annual Card Party was held on March 15th to benefit **Feeding South Florida**. It was a great success with over 45 attending. Many thanks to our wonderful Bartenders, Nadine LaGuette and Pam Ciravolo and our Greeters, Donna Lewis and Jennie Joy. Many thanks also to Carol Renick and Doris Southern for providing wonderful Raffle and Opportunity prizes and to Heike Leibkuchler for preparing the flyer and tickets. Lunch was provided by the ladies of Coco Plum, and they outdid themselves with an array of delicious food. Everyone had a marvelous time. Thank you all for coming and participating in this great event.

Busy playing Cards



MISCELLANEOUS

Peggy Vital wants to know who made the cole slaw-like dish with mini macaroni circles in it. She said it was to "die for" and wants the recipe.

We will be collecting dimes at our April meeting for March of Dimes, so start collecting spare dimes and drop them in the bottles that will be on the lunch tables, These will be taken to the Spring Convention and presented to the Jr's.

We are also collecting Plastic Caps "Caps for Love", Pop Tops for Ludlam Elementary School, and Pull Tabs for Ronald McDonald House, and Grocery Coupons for the Military.

BOOK CLUB

Anita Jenkins

We will be reading "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles. Our next meeting is April 21st, at 11:30 am at Bahamas Breezes. Everyone is invited.



MEMBER OF THE MONTH



President Anita Jenkins with Pat Chehab

FUNDRAISERS

By Heike Leibkuchler – Treasurer

A big thank you to all of you who supported our two fundraisers, our Book Review in February our Card Party in March. Our proceeds from our Book Review are \$ 820.00 which will go to Patches in Homestead. We collected \$ 1,193.00 at our Card Party. Thank you Sally Perlman for taking the chair. I also want to thank Pat Chehab for her generous donation to Coco Plum.

OUR BUILDING

By Pat Rivas

As House Co-Chairperson, I would like to thank Rosie and Fernando for their donation of our new sidewalks. I hope all members take the time to see what a great change it has made to the look of our club. In addition we are adding new lighting and landscaping to this area.

The House Committee also had an air conditioner installed in the ladies bathroom in the ballroom.

Please feel free to let us know of any suggestions you have as your input is important.



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE

By Aminta Konawicz

I want to thank all the members who donated items for the Domestic Violence Shelter Thank you Laura Proctor for collecting the items and keeping them at your house.

Thanks Pat Chehab for donating the night-gowns. Sorry you missed our meeting, but we are happy that you delivered the pajamas to Safespace director Alicia Consuegro.

Thank you so much to Pam Ciravolo, Nadine LaGuette, Rosemary Welton for helping to deliver the baskets to the office of Alicia Consuegro, Board Director of Safespace.

I thank our President, Anita Jenkins for her support and coming to our meeting



FACTS OF EARLY COCO PLUM CLUB FROM ELEANOR JORDAN

By Mary Lou Winkler

As we gather at Coco Plum on the second Wednesday of the month, greeting friends and acquaintances and then finding a comfortable spot at the decorated tables, ready for a delicious luncheon prepared by Fernando, think about what it was like for those who started our club. How are we alike? They were newcomers to Florida, as many of us are. They all were lonely. They were isolated due to being in a virginal frontier, but shared common goals, hardships, and were neighbors. We are not neighbors, but being strangers at first meetings, also may be lonely, needing friends. In 2017 we exist in the suburban, technological South Florida, which allows us comforts and interesting activities, unknown to our founders, but these conditions may limit our time for personal relationships.

With changing times, our membership and focus has changed, as well. How are we living in the 21st Century? What is Coco Plum today? What's needed today for our community, for our fellow members, for the survival of the aims of our founders? Let's go back to a 1924 letter by Eleanor Jordan for inspiration and gratitude of what our founders did, granting us the chance to enjoy and support Coco Plum today.

"We arrived in Larkins, Florida, seventeen years ago this coming summer* and moved into a two room shack on what is now Sunset Drive. I was here for many weeks before I met and spoke to another woman. The only way to travel in Larkins at that time was not by the modern automobile, but in a mule wagon or on bicycle,

and the roads were more wagon tracks, very narrow and rough. The men were in love with Florida. but the wives, who had given up comfortable homes and left their children in northern cities, were very lonesome. We all had a few chickens, and when the men cropped we would help pack pepper and egg plants, but there were long days while the men were at work, which were very lonely."

"Mrs. Van Horn, who was here to visit her son, met with us one day and suggested that we form a little club, the following Wednesday. On that memorable day we had one of the worst rains of the season, but shortly after two o'clock it stopped raining and five came on their wheels. We then organized the Coco Plum Thimble Club with six charter members, of which I had the honor to be the first President."

"The next week there were sixteen. You would wonder, had you seen the country and the roads where these women came from, but the men were so pleased to have their wives contented, that they gladly drove around through the pines and picked up little groups of women at the different corners to bring them to the club meeting. Chairs were scarce, so we would have planks laid across dynamite boxes to sit on. Since we did not wear georgette dresses, but gingham house dresses and white aprons, we were not afraid of soiling our clothes. The club was a salvation to these homesick people, and Wednesday a red letter day in our lives.

"As we increased we needed a central meeting place so we began giving small entertainments and taking free will offerings to raise money, which sum gradually reached \$100, and this was turned over to our second president, Mrs. Mary Dorn."

*Probably 1907,