



"LEND A HAND"
WCCG Motto since 1891

Woman's Club of Coconut Grove
October 6, 2022
General Membership Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 11:15 am by President Billie Jean Baldwin. Officers in attendance were the President and the 1st Vice President Freda McMillan

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Sherrill Martin shared an inspirational message, which addressed the strength of connections.

The minutes of the September 8, 2022, General Meeting were approved as written.

The president welcomed our guests and Stephanie Kepley acknowledged and thanked the members of the Hospitality Committee and recognized Sherrill Martin who was celebrating a birthday in October.

OFFICERS' REPORTS

President - Billie Jean Baldwin

Billie Jean reported on Judy Orr's visit to former WCCG President Arlyn Phillips, who is a resident at the Miami Jewish Home where she lives with her husband. (See attached letter)

Billie then welcomed Freda McMillan as the newly appointed 1st Vice President.

1st Vice President – Freda McMillan

Freda announced the many GFWC awards for outstanding accomplishment that the WCCG received. These include Human Trafficking Awareness, Civic Engagement and Outreach, GFWC Honor Score, Arts and Culture, Women's History and Resource Center, Legislation – Public Policy, and Environment.

Treasurer – Billie Jean Baldwin for Iline Davilla

Billie presented the Treasurer's report (see attached)

District 11 Report – Emily Boland for Virginia Yermoli

Emily Boland read the report prepared by Virginia announcing the Annual District 11 Meeting on October 15 at the Miami Woman's Club. Members who would like to attend may RSVP by October 7 to vayermoli@hotmail.com.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Archives – Karen Cunningham

Karen reported on members who have been affected by Hurricane Ian, Yvette Bravo, Sandy Riley, and Peggy Hall. Sandy and Peggy's home sustained heavy water damage.



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Karen announced that she and Toni Valarezo had completed and submitted the "Lest We Forget" component for the new yearbook, spanning the period during Virginia Yermoli's presidency. Karen announced that there will be a Villagers event in March, celebrating Plymouth Church. (See attached)

Community Life – Sherrill Martin

Sherrill reported on Salsa Night, September 14, co-sponsored with the Rotary Club, which raised \$2000 for the Coconut Grove Food Pantry and \$681 for the WCCG. Nonperishable food and clothing and toiletries are also being collected. (See attached)

Cultural Arts - Irene Munroe

Irene reported on the successful UM Architectural Exhibition held September 18-22 and the first Art Book Club meeting on October 3. She announced two upcoming events: Line Dancing Happy Hour on November 17 and Sing in the Season Holiday Music on December 8. (See attached)

Environmental Committee & Plastic Free Initiative – Priscilla Rhew

Priscilla reported that the International Coastal Cleanup on September 17 was a success. The next one is scheduled for November 17. The Plastic Free Initiative has new members, including the Cocoplum Woman's Club, the Green Campus Initiative at FIU, and WCCG member Alejandra Barber. (See attached)

The next Environmental Committee meeting will be held on October 17th at the club house.

Education Committee & HTAP – Carol White

Carol reported on a Self Defense Seminar for at-risk women to be held on October 20 and 22. She announced an Education Committee and HTAP meet and greet at the Sailing Club that she will host on October 27. (See attached)

Hospitality & Bingo – Stephanie Kepley

Stephanie asked for volunteers for the next Bingo Night, October 27, and for the general meeting luncheon, November 3. She announced that the King Mango Strut, a Coconut Grove tradition, would be back on January 8.

Billie Jean announced that, following the lunch, Iris Guzman Kolaya, a local historian would make a presentation about the Mediterranean Revival architect, Richard Kiehnel who was prolific in designing local mansions. (See attached bio)

The meeting was adjourned for lunch at 12:03 p.m.

Minutes reported by

Emily Boland, Acting Recording Secretary



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ATTACHMENTS

A letter from Judy Orr:

Dear friends of Arlyn Phillips,

Now that the Miami Jewish Home has opened back up to visitors, I visited Arlyn Phillips today. All through Covid, I tried to contact her or get information about her. Only this week did I hear that she and Jackson (her husband) had been moved to another location on the campus where they can receive a higher level of care.

My visit with them was interesting. They were sitting at a small table in their apartment, and there was a caregiver with them. Arlyn and Jackson have both declined greatly in mental function since I last saw them (pre-Covid). They obviously didn't know who I was when I arrived (I was wearing a mask), but after a short time Arlyn asked me two questions. "How is your dog, and how are the chickens?" (yes, I have chickens in my backyard). That was the extent of what she was able to communicate to me, but those two questions showed me that, without a doubt, she still knew me.

Jackson is able to hear and speak, but he doesn't remember much. For example, he doesn't remember that Arlyn is his wife. He told me that he knew her, but didn't know where he knew her from or for how long he had known her.

Arlyn is not able to hear well. She can understand what is being said to her, but you have to speak loudly. You can almost see the wheels turning in her brain to understand what you are saying, but when she tries to respond, she cannot put the words together to get her thoughts across.

The caregiver (Yolanda, whose English is about as bad as my Spanish) told that she is there for 3 hours in the mornings, and that another caregiver comes in for 3 hours in the afternoons. We really couldn't communicate with one another very well.

I was so happy to be able to see Arlyn again. My goal in sending this letter is to get as many people as possible back into her life. The caregiver told me that somebody from the church (St. Stephen's Episcopal, I guess) comes to see Arlyn each Wednesday. If you are able to go visit, you'll have to jump through some (minor) hoops. The day before your visit, you'll need to call 305-756-8583 and speak to Ernie (not sure of the spelling). Tell her when you are coming and she will give that info to the guard at the main gate so that you can get in. I think that it might be important that you visit when a caregiver is there. (I'm not sure that Arlyn or Jackson could get to the door on their own. They sat at the table the whole time I was there, so I don't know how



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well they ambulate.) Oh, one very important detail – everybody there knows her as Nevada Phillips, and you have to use that name when you inquire about her. (Arlyn is her middle name).

If you are unable to go visit, perhaps you could send Arlyn a “thinking of you” card or note – maybe once a week. Keep it simple – talk about the weather (they have a great view of the outdoors from their bedroom), or memories you can share, or tell them what you have been up to.

The address is: Nevada Arlyn Phillips
Hazel Cypen Tower -- #405
Miami Jewish Home
5066 NE 2nd Ave
Miami, FL 33137

Sincerely,
Judy Orr
305.812.0671

Treasurer's Report Iline Davila

October 6, 2022

Treasurer Report for the BOD

GBT – OPERATING ACCOUNT	\$ 48,411.96
GBT – CONTINGENCY ACCOUNT	\$ 29,647.01
GBT – RESTRICTED ACCOUNT	\$187,263.24

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All Updated please see **bold**
Western World Insurance Co.
SafePoint Insurance

\$ 6,541.30 8/8/2022-8/8/2023

\$23,399.28 (I requested 2 quotes, but the market could not beat this price we are paying in 3 monthly payments we already did #1) 7/31/2022-7/31/2023

Second payment is due Oct 29, 2022 \$4,883.00

Mt. Vernon Fire Insurance \$1,168.65 4/1/2022-4/1/2023
The policy schedule is in a binder in the office.

The 2021 IRS Form 990 has been filed.

GBT Line of Credit

Process finished all documents submitted to maintain our line of credit. I will bring topic up at the BOD meeting so we can formally have it in our BOD Minutes.

Accounts in Restricted Account



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I have begun reconciling the different accounts for the different committees and will be forwarding the accounts to each Chair within the next coming weeks.

Virginia Yermoli

Dear Members,

I am sorry I could not be here today, but I would like to congratulate all the newly elected members of this administration, I am confident that together you will make the club shine.

I would like to remind members that there is a GFWC Florida, Annual District 11 meeting on Saturday, October 15th, it will be a luncheon and it is hosted by the Miami Woman's Club. If you would like to attend this meeting, meet the GFWC Florida President Elect, Sara Dessureau and visit the Miami Woman's Club newly renovated clubhouse, please RSVP by October 7, to Elizabeth Fisher, the Call for this meeting was sent various times to all Club Presidents to be shared with the membership. If you are interested, please contact the person assigned by the president to gather all the RSVP'S or you can contact me at vayermoli@hotmail.com. Or call me at: 786.252.9272.

With Respect and appreciation,

Virginia
Virginia Yermoli
WCCG Director
GFWC Florida District Director

Archives October 2022 Report

Karen Cunningham

As you all know, the state of Florida was hit by the devastating hurricane Ian last week. Some of you may also know of three members of the Woman's Club of Coconut Grove family have also been affected. Yvette Bravo, Peggy Hall and Sandy Riley all live in the affected area of Ft Myers. Thankfully, we have Sandy and Peggy here today. They all were able to evacuate ahead of the storm. Sandy and Peggy's home sustained heavy water damage up to the rooftop and Sandy's famed Fiat floated away. They are temporarily staying in Cuttler Bay and Sandy's brother sent her a car to use. I ask you all to keep these sisters in your prayers and if you can help in any small way please reach out. They will need help with clean up when they are safely allowed back into their home. In the interim please keep all them in your thoughts and prayers.

During this summer, Toni Valarezo and I finished the update to the Lest We Forget for this year's yearbook adding Virginia Yermoli's last two years of service as president.

In March the Villagers are having an event celebrating Plymouth Church's 125 Anniversary. Flora MacFarlane will be honored during Woman's History Month, and you will be able to visit the Old School House.



Community Life Committee October 2022

Sherrill Martin

Salsa Night, co-sponsored with the Rotary Club of Coconut Grove on September 14, 2022, was a success. \$2000 was raised to support the Coconut Grove Crisis Food Pantry, as well as \$681 for the club. Our next event will be the Seniors Holiday Party on Wednesday, December 14, 2022. Plans are being made to bring this fantastic event back to the club. We will need volunteers, donations, food, gifts, and cookies. If you are interested in volunteering for this event, please see Sherrill Martin. We are also still collecting nonperishable food items for the Crisis Food Pantry as well as clothing and toiletries for the St. James Feeding and Clothing Ministry.

Cultural Arts Committee

Irene Munroe

Two major events occurred in September. The UM Student Exhibition, "Architectural Visions For The West Grove", opened from September 18-22. We had approximately 100 visitors at the opening reception. The clubhouse remained open to the public for five days. This would not have been possible without the twenty volunteers who worked together for this event.

The second event was the launching of the Art Book Club, which meets on October 4th, 11:00 AM, at the clubhouse. The first selection is "Fierce Poise - Helen Frankenthaler and 1950's New York.

Save the Date: upcoming events at WCCG clubhouse

- November 17th - Line Dancing Happy Hour
- December 8th - "Sing in the Season" holiday music

Environment Committee Report for October 6, 2022, Meeting

Priscilla Rhew

1. International Coastal Cleanup took place on September 17, 2022- A few of our members participated and it was a great day. 800 pounds of trash were removed from Clarington Island. The next cleanup is November 17, 2022. Please sign up at [Volunteercleanup.org](https://www.volunteercleanup.org).
2. The Cocoplum Woman's Club has joined the Plastics Free Initiative Coalition and are currently spotlighted on the website. Please visit the website at www.plasticsfreeinitiative.org
3. Also the Green Campus Initiative from FIU has joined PFI. If you go to the website and click on the Members tab and find the Green Campus Initiative logo, you can look at



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their page which is a wealth of information about what plastic is doing to our state. One of their accomplishments is getting the different food vendors on their campus to institute a "plastics if you ask" format. Other information on their site includes that only 8% of plastic is recycled in Florida. Florida is the third largest generator of plastic in the United States but ranks 34th in plastic recycling. So please look at their presentation on the PFI website.

4. One of our WCCG members, Alejandra Barba, whose business is Therese Art Chocolate and who is committed to an environmentally friendly business has joined the Florida Plastics Free Initiative Coalition.
5. All these new members to PFI will be spotlighted on the website.
6. Our next meeting is October 17, 2022, but it might be postponed until October 24, 2022.

Human Trafficking HTAP

Carol White

Thursday October, 20th & Saturday October 22nd we are hosting Self Defense Seminar that women from Casa Valentina, Lotus organization, & Camilla's House will be attending. These women have been trafficked or at high risk to be trafficked. In the past HTAP has paid me my minimal for their attendance. I am waiving all fees.

There will be an HTAP & Education committees will be having a meet & greet at the Sailing Club on Thursday, October 27th at 5:00 pm Refreshments will be served.! We will then come over to Bingo.

Iris Guzman Kolaya - Guest speaker

Iris is a freelance writer and researcher based in Miami, Florida. A former print and broadcast journalist, Iris has written and reported on a wide range of issues and events throughout her career. She currently specializes in local history, bringing to life stories from South Florida's rich heritage. She recently co-authored, together with Joanna Lombard, a book on El Jardin, a historic estate in Coconut Grove (*El Jardin: Creating the Modern Mediterranean Home*). Iris lives in Coral Gables, with her husband Tim, and their two daughters.