

Pinecrest

ONE OF MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

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Villagers members tour lush residential gardens in Pinecrest

BY KAREN BUCHSBAUM

More than 650 garden enthusiasts enjoyed the 2015 annual Villagers' garden tour featuring six uniquely private gardens in Pinecrest.

Tropical Perspectives took place on Saturday, March 7, and featured a range of gardens including symmetrical, exotic, playful, Tuscan, fanciful and all things bamboo.

"This year's tour was one of our best ever and we are grateful to the homeowners who opened their garden gates to share with our community," said Beverly Loftus, Villagers president.

Villagers members served as docents for the day and owners, professional garden designers and landscape architects also were on site to answer questions about design concepts, materials and methods.

Complimentary refreshments, entertainment and a boutique with a variety of unique garden-related gifts enhanced the day-long event.

With more than 200 members, the Villagers are now hard at work on a coffee-table style garden book titled *The Gardens of Miami*. The book will have more than 250 pages of colorful photographs and descriptions of 30 gardens in Miami-Dade County. Unique and diverse, the one common element of the various gardens is their beauty and good representation of the area's unique waterfront micro-climate. Resource material about local plant societies and associations, as well as public gardens, will also be included. The book is slated to be published before the end of the year. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

"This book will be a real keepsake and should be on display in the home of anyone who loves gardens, beautiful homes or our wonderful, tropical environment," said Dolly MacIntyre, co-chair of the Villager Garden Book committee.



Pictured (l-r) are Linda Flores, Lelis Vernon, Jane Petrick and Amy Kilborne at the gate to Pinecrest homeowner Vernon's lush World Collection Garden.



Pictured (l-r) are Eileen Lamchick, Leslie Cassel and Rebecca Simon in the Le Bon Vivre in the Pinecrest home of Marc and Patti Silverman.

All proceeds from Villager events and projects support historic restoration and preservation in Miami-Dade County. Founded in 1966, The Villagers is an all-volunteer, not-for-profit organization.

For more information about The Villagers, or *The Gardens of Miami* sponsorship opportunities, go to <www.thevillagersinc.org>.



Howard and Rose Davis learn about bamboo applications from homeowner Gary Rich.