

Organizations, businesses are revamping Spring calendars



Massive cancellations put hold on installations and conferences; so, you can pretty much clear your social calendars for April and May events as service organizations and businesses are revamping calendars and finding creative ways to get business done.

Regular spring festivities are on hold as are many weddings and other celebrations. Coral Gables Woman's Club's May 2 Tea has been canceled as has the Presidents' Reception in April.

Also in April, Rotary District 6990's conference scheduled aboard the *Navigator of the Seas* has been canceled. Rotarians from all over South Florida and Nassau were signed up for this opportunity to meet and do a community service project during the cruise in the Bahamas. Updates on that will come in a future issue. Please note that most all Rotary Clubs everywhere are also choosing not to meet in person until late April or when the COVID-19 threat is contained.

Conference calls are being employed by many for board meetings. Some Rotarians and other service organizations are even using Zoom and Facebook just to convene unofficially to connect. While many fundraisers have been postponed or

canceled, the need for raising funds right now is more critical than ever. If you had an event cancel, please consider making a donation to whatever charity to help them over this interruption in revenue.

While meetings and events are currently on hold, some lucky groups held events just before the shut down. One such group was The Villagers, whose Annual Garden Tour, now in its 28th year, had more than 500 guests attending. Titled "A 20/20 Vision of Tropical Splendor," the tour featured gardens in Coral Gables and Pinecrest that have been nurtured over time by home owners such as Coral Gables resident Victoria Corrigan.

On the tour, chaired by Terry Cook, Jody Crosland and Sheila Revell, tour goers enjoyed a stop at Pinecrest Gardens for a garden themed gift boutique, Villager' Attic Treasure vintage sale and wonderful refreshment. Of course, the event chairs had a great committee making this all possible including Debbie Kavanaugh, Loyda Lewis, Fran Blake, Valerie Volpe, Paula Volpe, Bonnie Hutton, April Matteini and Karen Buchsbaum. Funds raised from this event will be used for the next grant cycle to fund worthy preservation-related projects. Organizations looking for funding should visit www.thevillagersinc.org.

At this time of year several charitable groups are electing and/or installing officers for the coming year and look for more on that in the future.

Several of our historic South Florida Woman's Club clubhouses rely on rentals to preserve and maintain their beautiful buildings and support community outreach



The Villagers 2020 Garden Tour Committee

efforts. Unable to rent during this time, revenue losses may put some in great need as well as the charities they support. We are all so inter connected but I know we will come through this stronger than ever with a new set of tools to deal with future challenges.

Please use Miami's Community Newspapers website (newsletter) to post your events online. Checking this site will be helpful as you reschedule events and, of course, please send releases my way.

By the way, when you do your essential business, banking, grocery shopping, etc., be sure to thank those employees who are risking their health to serve much like our brave healthcare workers, police, EMTs, etc. Please consider helping our local restaurants by getting takeout or delivery when possible and stay at home unless you must run an important errand.

Until next time, keep making each day count and stay safe.



Armando Olivera with Villager Bonnie Hutton



Pictured are Terry Reisman, MD, (left) with homeowner-Villager Andrew Ware, and Marcia Reisman

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