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CORAL GABLES

MAR. 25 - APR. 7, 2024

Connecting Communities

The Villagers' annual Garden Tour a 'blooming' success

TO MIAMI'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

A record crowd of garden-lovers enjoyed a beautiful sunny day to explore six private gardens during The Villagers' 31st annual Garden Tour on Mar. 2.

From lush to impeccably manicured, the gardens reflected the individuality of their owners who are passionate about their gardens. Visitors enjoyed finding unique touches such as striking tablescapes, vintage farm tools repurposed as decorative elements, dramatic sculpture, fish-filled ponds, a private beach, whimsical sculptures, and fanciful art displays.

Each "Tropical Oasis" captured the 2024 theme well with showings of the spectacular flora and fauna found in the Coral Gables and High Pines areas. Visitors were treated to an array of flowering plants including orchids, ginger, and Brazilian red cloaks, as well as mature oaks, gumbo limbo, and palms. A star of the show was an incredible twisted, curving 100-plus-year-old Florida thatch palm.

"I was truly inspired by the homeowners' enthusiasm to share their love for their gardens," said Carmen Diaz-Padron, Garden Tour chair. "It was because of the collective effort of the members of The Villagers that every detail was meticulously planned to ensure a perfect day."

The 2024 Villagers' Garden Tour Committee was led by Diaz-Padron with co-chair Molly Gail Keily and The Villagers' remarkable botanical advisor Sheila Revell. Committee members included Lilian Walby, Kelley Schild, Sweet Pea Ellman,



Pictured (l-r) are garden-owner Sally Matson, with Elise Gerrard and Jeanine Watkin. Sally's daughter, Malone Matson, a principal with Phyla Landscape Studio, designed the garden.

Bonnie Hutton, Karen Buchsbaum, Renee Betancourt, Monica Fidel, Jane Holguin, Beverly Gerard, and Lynn Yeiser.

Head docents, who coordinated members at each garden, were Karen Alexander, Mary Beth Burke, Gina Guilford, Molly

Gail Kiely, Loyda Lewis, Beverly Loftus, Joanne Meagher, Susan Medina, Kelley Schild, Lilian Walby, Wendy Zepernick and Julie Ziska.

Proceeds from the highly successful tour support The Villagers' historic preservation

projects and university scholarships for students studying historic preservation.

For more details about projects funded, scholarships, membership opportunities, and the full scope of The Villagers' legacy, visit www.thevillagersinc.org.