

coral gables connections

The Newsletter of the Coral Gables Community Foundation

VOL. 2 NO. 2 Summer 2009

www.gablesfoundation.org



GABLES HOME PAGE “Under Construction” Preview Party a Huge Success!

Nearly 100 residents braved the rain and crowded the offices of the Coral Gables Community Foundation on June 30th for a behind-the-scenes look at the Foundation's latest initiative: **Gables Home Page**, an online news and information exchange specifically for people who live or work in Coral Gables.

Foundation Chairman **Jerry Santeiro** welcomed guests and introduced the Gables Home Page team: project consultant **Beverly Mills Gyllenhaal**, content consultant **Matt Bokor**, calendar coordinator **Onelia Collazo Mendive**, and University of Miami student interns **Brian Schlansky** (website developer) and (pictured L-R with the Mayor) **Chelsea Matias**, **Lauren Whiddon**, **Allison Rich** (Goucher College), and **Rebecca Rodriguez**. Also on hand was **Claudio Vera** of **Studio Module**, the creative director of the site.

Greeted by yellow caution tape and hard hats—symbolic of the website's "under-construction" status—guests were shown samples of news, video, and commentary from the site. Stations were set up to help anyone wishing to participate set up a free **Facebook** account and have a profile photo taken. Guests networked with fellow residents and site participants, and enjoyed drinks and hors d'oeuvres donated by **Catering by Lovables**, whose executive chef, **Elizabeth Silverman**, is a member of the Foundation. “**The energy in the room was evident**,” Foundation Chairman **Santeiro** said. The Mayor of Coral Gables, **Don Slesnick** (a Foundation past chair), was on hand and spoke to the assembled guests and passed around hors d'oeuvres.

One of the project's biggest supporters **Jeanett Slesnick**, immediate past chair and current Board Member, commented that “**The event was just what we needed to jump start Gables Home Page: a great turnout with interested potential writers, bloggers, and photographers, who will capture the soul of Coral Gables and spread the positive news.**” continued on page 2 . . .



University of Miami Interns Chelsea Matias and Brian Schlansky



Partygoers pack the hallway to hear Chairman Jerry Santeiro



Gables Home Page interns pose with Mayor Don Slesnick



Elizabeth Silverman of Catering by Lovables and Coral Gables Community Foundation Executive Director Andria Hanley



Save the Date!

Friday, October 23rd | 7:00 PM

You are invited to a night of intrigue and mystery at the Coral Gables Community Foundation's **MASQUERADE BALL**. Formerly **The Greening of the Gables GALA**, this year's event falls one week before Halloween. Don your favorite mask, be ready to eat, dance, and be merry, and join us at the elegant **Comber Hall** (1251 Palermo Avenue) on Friday, October 23rd. While the theme and venue may have changed, the fun and celebration of our great City has not. The Foundation continues to need your support to fund important projects in our community. Table Sponsorship opportunities have been reduced 50% to make sure our community can come together to celebrate and support the philanthropic needs of The City Beautiful.

As in years past, you will have the opportunity to bid on a variety of items at the **Silent Auction**. If you would like to **contribute an item** to our Auction, please contact our Executive Director Andria Hanley at 305-446-9670 or at ahanley@gablesfoundation.org. **Tickets and Table Sponsorships are now available**. At the time of printing our corporate participants are **Bacardi** and **Baptist Health South Florida**. If you are interested in sponsorship, please call: 305.446.9670

info@gablesfoundation.org





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GablesHomePage.com Preview Party

... continued from page 1

Public launch of the Gables Home Page site will coincide with the Foundation's Masquerade Ball on Friday, Oct. 23rd—a perfect setting to "unmask" the final look. Until then, see their progress at gableshomepage.com and join their online mailing list, or email them at: info@gableshomepage.com.



Coral Gables Community Foundation is pleased to partner with **ACGraphics.com** to produce our first "certified green" newsletter! This newsletter was printed using certified paper from well-managed forests and vegetable-based inks.



CGP-EGC/PR-1001

Chairman's Corner

A Message from our Chairman **Jerry Santeiro**



It may be the lazy days of summer, but at your Community Foundation the activity goes on full steam. I hope by now many of you have heard of our newest exciting initiatives: The CoralGables@HOME membership program and the Gables Home Page.com website project.

>>>**CoralGables@HOME** is available to anyone over fifty, and as a member of that generation I have had occasion to avail myself of some of their services, and I can attest to the peace of mind it brings to be able to call a friend at CoralGables@HOME for assistance when needed. I hope you agree that everyone on our staff is focused on the members' needs, and on providing the highest level of customer service possible.

>>>**Gables Home Page** (our cover story) is still in the development stage and we recently enjoyed an "Under Construction" reception to share the website's work in progress with all of you. If you did not have an opportunity to attend this event, I hope that we will

have an opportunity in the near future to bring you on board to participate in what is sure to be an excellent platform for interactive dialogue and an interchange of ideas for all who live and work in "The City Beautiful". This will be "our" site and it will be up to all of us in Coral Gables to use it and visit it for pertinent news about our town. There are many ways for you to get involved in this project, so if you are a frustrated writer, please contact the Foundation office and offer your expertise—we welcome it!

The Foundation is also still active in supporting our **Donor-Directed Philanthropic Goals** in the areas of education, health care, and social services (see page 5). We also continue to partner with the City and the **Parknership Program** to beautify not only green spaces, but also the bridges that span the many miles of beautiful waterways throughout our city (see our story on p. 4).

Please join with me in extending a warm welcome to our newest Board Members: the two gentlemen pictured on the right. **Frank C. Quesada, Esq.**, from Fowler Rodriguez Valdes-Fauli, and **Anthony L. ("Tony") Rogers, J.D.** of Planning Consultants Group. On behalf of all of us on the Board of Directors and the staff, we wish you and your loved ones a fantastic summer. If you have not visited your community foundation recently, I invite you to stop by our offices and get reacquainted with the great folks and the great work taking place there.

Until next time,

Jerry Santeiro



Frank C. Quesada, Esq.



Anthony L. Rogers, J.D.



THEATER PARTY | MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ATTENDEES ENJOY "HAVANA BOURGEOIS" AT ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE

On Friday, May 22nd, the Coral Gables Community Foundation partnered with the **South Florida Hispanic Chamber of Commerce** in hosting a membership drive event that supported the arts by attending the play "Havana Bourgeois".

The evening began in the lobby of the **Miracle Theatre** with a networking reception. Over 60 members

and guests from both organizations enjoyed mojitos and Cuban food sponsored by **Irina Vilarino** of **Las Vegas Cuban Cuisine**. **Berta Bravo**, gracious owner of **The Guayabera Lady**, donated creative door prizes. Lucky winners were **Herb Levin** and his wife **Vilma Sanchez-Levin**, who renewed their membership at the event. We would like to extend our

appreciation to our newest Foundation members who joined that night: **Arsenio & Elena Milian**, and **Fernando & Bethsaida Craveiro**.

To end the evening, the Chamber and Foundation group were taken backstage and introduced to the cast, including lead actor **Danny Pino**, star of the current **CBS** hit TV series "Cold Case".



Wally & Caroline Carlson, Ruben Ceballos, Ana-Maria Rodriguez-Diaz de la Portilla, Bill Bonn, Jeannett Slesnick



Las Vegas chef, Irina Vilarino, Irella Bague



Andria Hanley, Heather and Michael Harris

"At first I thought I wasn't 'ready' to join CoralGables@HOME, but in just the first month my life got so much easier. My prescriptions are being delivered for free, and I now have an amazing home repair contractor who showed up the same day and finished the jobs in record time. I can see my CoralGables@HOME membership is more than going to pay for itself, and my life is already more stress free! I feel like I have a whole team of 'personal assistants' I can count on to get the job done."



— Beverly Mills Gyllenhaal

There's no place like home!

CoralGables@HOME UPDATE

There's No Place Like Home!

Thanks to the Coral Gables Community Foundation and generous support from the **Kirk Foundation**, Coral Gables boasts the first membership program of its kind in Florida designed to support the fullest degree of independent living at home. The pioneer of programs like CoralGables@HOME, Beacon Hill Village (www.beaconhillvillage.org) lists more than 35 similar programs now operating in 19 states.

Legacy Partnership

It takes a village! Community support is a critical ingredient to building the CoralGables@HOME program. You can help build this important program for Coral Gables by becoming a **Legacy Partner**. Legacy Partners receive *The @HOMEbody* monthly member

newsletter and can attend up to three CoralGables@HOME events each year at the member rate. Annual Legacy Partner dues are only \$200 and may be applied to the cost of a CoralGables@HOME membership at any time.

Full Membership

Upgrading from a Legacy Partnership to a CoralGables@HOME membership makes sense when you need any type of home repair or service, including help with hurricane preparation or when you are recovering from surgery or an illness. CoralGables@HOME members enjoy social and cultural events, free prescription delivery, transportation services, grocery shopping, and a catered selection of heat 'n' serve menu options available each week for home delivery. Home repairs and

services are offered at a discount by reliable, background-checked vendors.

Privileges Program

A coming attraction for CoralGables@HOME members is the new **Privileges Program**. Members will be receiving a CoralGables@HOME Privileges card to present to the many participating restaurants and shops in Coral Gables offering **special discounts** and **amenities** to our members.

To learn more about these programs or upcoming events, please call 305.443.4011 or email Marli Lutz at mlutz@gablesfoundation.org. You can also visit our page on the Coral Gables Community Foundation site at gablesfoundation.org.



FEATURED DONOR Shelly Roberts

DO YOU HAVE A CIRCLE?

The fortunate ones have a solid circle: a group of family and friends who will come to their rescue in times of need. Professional, financial, and emotional support are assumed and assured from the "circle". The real magic of the circle is when it is formed by people you have never met, but who want you to feel the support they felt when they needed it most. **Shelly Roberts**, fund holder of **The Shelly Roberts Circle of Love Fund** at the Coral Gables Community Foundation, is one of the fortunate ones. Not fortunate in the sense that she has never seen struggle or pain, but fortunate that she had a circle to support her during difficult times.

In 2005, Shelly Roberts was diagnosed with lung cancer, and for Shelly, her family was and is her circle. During her illness her husband, children, and grandchildren were her

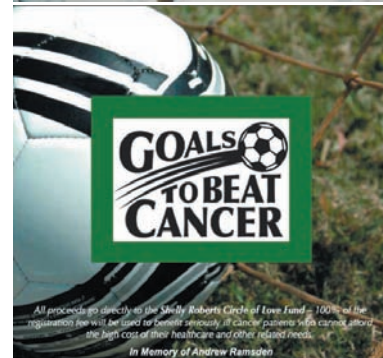
inspiration. Something she noticed very early on in her treatment was that not everyone had a strong circle. "My heart is always with those who **don't have what I have**", is how she describes her observations of other cancer patients. She found herself crying because she couldn't believe the sadness of patients with the same pain and struggle, who were lacking in financial resources.

Having the ability to pay for medicine that could appease her nausea that came as a result of aggressive treatment was a blessing. It was a blessing she wanted to share. "I can't stand to see the imbalance," says Shelly. She recalls helping a single mom with a child undergoing treatment at Jackson who did not have gas money to make the frequent trips to the hospital. Because of the support of the

Circle of Love Fund, the child was able to have her mother with her.

The Shelly Roberts Circle of Love Fund is just one of several funds at the Foundation with a heart-warming story at its core. With the help of her dear friend **Dr. Judy Schwartz**, Shelly did some researching and decided to open a fund to help with the medical needs some people can't meet. After considering Foundations they chose to open a fund at the Coral Gables Community Foundation.

To help make the Fund grow, **Brad Sokol**, Shelly's son, created a **Soccer Clinic**, which is the main fundraiser for the Fund. You can learn more at goalstobeatcancer.com. Now, for her birthday and other gift-giving occasions Shelly encourages her friends to make a donation to the Fund rather than give her a personal gift. Through the generosity of Shelly



and those close to her, the "Circle" continues to lend support to those in need.

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CHARITABLE GIVING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ESTABLISHING A FUND?

There are a variety of ways you can **participate in Charitable Giving** through the Coral Gables Community Foundation to benefit a cause that is near and dear to *your* heart.

Designated Funds

Do you have a favorite charity? Designated Funds **direct your gift to a specific nonprofit organization**, such as a senior center, museum, or virtually any nonprofit organization. Designated Funds enable nonprofit organizations to build their endowment and enhance their ability to accept large and complex gifts. With Designated Funds, there are many funding options that may be established in your name, or in the name of your family, organization, or anyone you wish to honor. All grants distributed from the Fund you establish are awarded in the name of that Fund. **It's a great way to always be involved with, and remembered for, your community investment.**

Field of Interest Funds

You can target your gift to **address needs in an important area of community life**—The Arts, Aging, At-Risk Youth—any cause that is close to your heart. We then award grants to the charitable organizations or programs who are making a difference *in that field*.

Donor-Advised Funds

With a Donor-Advised Fund, you can have an *ongoing involvement* in the use of your gift. You can **work with us** to identify ways of using your Donor-Advised Fund to address the issues and needs you care about most.

Unrestricted Funds

With Unrestricted Funds, your gift can **address our community's ever-changing needs**. Our Board of Directors continually evaluates all aspects of community well-being: arts and culture, economic development, education, environment, health and human services, and more, and uses your unrestricted gift to respond to the community's most pressing needs today, and to be here for the unanticipated needs of tomorrow.

Please feel free to call and ask about Charitable Giving. We are here to answer your questions and concerns, and are grateful for your interest and involvement: 305.446.9670.



PUBLIC|PRIVATE WATERWAY RENAISSANCE PROJECT HONORS CITY FOUNDER GEORGE MERRICK'S VISION



L-R: Gil Reisinger of Reisinger Painting; Patrick Nolan of the Riviera Neighborhood Association; Vice Mayor Bill Kerdyk Jr.; Andria Hanley, Executive Director of Coral Gables Community Foundation; and Coral Gables resident Peter Hairston

The Coral Gables Community Foundation's **Partnership Program** is providing initial seed funding for the Coral Gables **Waterway Renaissance Project** (WRP). The first visible manifestation of this exciting initia-

tive is the aesthetic makeover of the bridge over the Mahi Waterway on Granada Boulevard between Alfonso Avenue and South Alhambra Circle (before and after photos above).

The WRP is being led by Peter

Hairston and other residents, including **Bruce Brockhouse**, **Arva Moore Parks**, **Luis Perez**, and **Richard Pettigrew**, who are working with the City in a public/private partnership that involves the neighborhood, and requires the help of private donations.

The bridge colors and artistic finishes (approved by the City Architect) were inspired by the famous DeSoto Fountain. To achieve this look, multiple layers of lime paints and patinas are applied, along with sturdier 'micro-toppings' on more exposed surfaces. The result replicates years of natural weathering without looking "faux." Time and the elements will do the rest. **"Our goal is to achieve the Mediterranean look sought by City founder George Merrick,"** says Hairston. The bridge painting process is **cost-effective and totally eco-friendly.** **"We made sure before starting work that our materials and process would be acceptable to Coral Gables and DERM. This is a feel-good project, for sure,"** says Vice-

Mayor Bill Kerdyk, Jr.

Project plans include landscaping bridge entrances and embankments with bougainvillea and other native plants. Coral Gables has 47 miles of waterways with 18 unpainted concrete bridges, but not all are maintained by the municipality. City officials are hopeful that success with the City bridges will help convince other neighborhoods to follow suit. Next in line on the WRP's list, the nearby bridges on Maynada Street and Hardee Road, will require more funding from private donations. The WRP group hopes the success of the first bridge will build momentum to help the project reach its full potential. For more information, to participate or contribute, please visit WaterwayRenaissance.org. You can also join the **Coral Gables Waterway Group** on Facebook and follow their progress on Twitter ([cgwaterway](https://twitter.com/cgwaterway)).

info@waterwayrenaissance.org

Gina Green/Partnership 305.446.2586

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"MOVIES & MOJITOS" FUNDRAISER BENEFITS CORAL GABLES ART CINEMA



On June 18th, **Coral Gables Cinemateque, Inc.**, a non-profit organization, hosted an evening of cocktails and appetizers to benefit its 144-seat theater, the **Coral Gables Art Cinema**, which will open on October 2, 2009, in the new Museum Parking Building across from Books & Books on Aragon Avenue.

Throughout the evening, about 250 attendees were introduced to the non-profit organization, the Art Cinema, and the Founding Members' Campaign—which will recognize members at the \$1,000 level and above on a permanent bronze plaque in the Cinema's lobby. **Mayor Slesnick** spoke of his commitment to the Cinema and encouraged the attendees to invest in this exciting and important community project. **Steven Krams**, the Coral Gables Cinemateque (CGC) president, talked about his passion and commitment to cinema and community that led him to establish the CGC. In addition to the cocktails provided by **Bacardi**, attendees were treated to **Peterbrooke** chocolates (another Aragon Avenue business). The Coral Gables Community Foundation was a sponsor of the event, and shares their office space with Coral Gables Cinemateque.



For more information, please visit our website:
coralgablescinemateque.com, or email us at:
info@coralgablescinemateque.com.

Brenda Nieborsky
Coral Gables Art Cinema Director

the Art of Photographing People



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Students Awarded CGCF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

Karen Forbes was awarded the **Miami Senior High Class of '61 Scholarship**. Karen plans to attend **Florida International University** this fall and will major in Mechanical Engineering. This Scholarship Fund was established by the Miami High Class of '61 Reunion Committee to help deserving students pay for college.

Anton Gomez was the winner of this year's **Lady Suzanna P. Tweed Scholarship**. Created by Lady Tweed, this Scholarship was created to reflect Lady Tweed's love for children and her desire to help deserving students continue their education. A varsity athlete, community service participant, lifeguard, and computer programmer, Anton was an ideal candidate for this award. Anton aspires to become a radiologist, and will begin his studies this fall at **Florida State University**.



Maria Fernandez received the **Ralph V. Moore Scholarship**. Maria, a recent graduate of Coral Gables Senior High School, worked nearly 30 hours per week in addition to logging more than 100 community service hours. Named for a former principal of Gables High, the Ralph V. Moore Scholarship is awarded annually to a graduating senior who demonstrates not only academic excellence but also involvement in extracurricular activities and service to school and community. We wish Miss Fernandez all the best as she begins her college studies this fall at the **University of Florida**.



Coral Gables Museum UPDATE

With construction progressing as planned, the Coral Gables Museum is **on schedule to open in late 2010**. Among Museum programs and events for the next several months are a **Preservation Education workshop series**, lectures and tours for the **American Institute of Architects'** November **"Celebrate Architecture"** month, partnership projects with **Miami-Dade County Schools' "Museums Magnet Program"**, and the Museum's 2nd annual **Gingerbread House Contest**.

The Coral Gables Museum's **Civic Arts focus** allows for a variety of wide-reaching programs and partnerships while celebrating the cultural, architectural, and environmental heritage of our community. In that spirit, the Museum (which will be housed in the City's original Police and Fire Station) has **developed relationships with both the Coral Gables Police and Fire Departments** to engage them in the project. Retired firefighters and police officers have been interviewed and have participated in past school programs, and in the Museum's Oral History Project. Recently, retired Gables Police Chief **Jim Harley** met with Museum Chairman **George Kakouris** to tour the construction site and hand over **the original jail cell keys** to the Museum (pictured L-R George Kakouris and former Police Chief Jim Harley).



For more information about the Coral Gables Museum, please visit coralgablesmuseum.org, or call 305.910.3996.

The Foundation would like thank **The Gables Gazette** and **EWM Inc., Realtors®** for the donation of much-appreciated office furniture. Continued thanks to **Mr. Ralph Sanchez** of **Old Spanish Village®** for generously providing our current office space at 3001 Ponce. We are grateful for their support!



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2009-10 Membership Committee Co-Chairs

Ana Maria Rodriguez-Diaz de la Portilla



Irela Bagué

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