

March 2, 2023

To: Warren Adams, Director, Coral Gables Historical Resources and Cultural Arts Department
Kara Kautz, Assistant Preservation Officer for Coral Gables HRCA Department
Joanne Meagher, Chairperson, Coral Gables Merrick House Governing Board

From: Gay Bondurant, Docent Coordinator, Coral Gables Merrick House

RE: February 2023 Activity Report- Corrected Version #2

What was supposed to be a well-organized, easy 4 weekend month turned out to be controlled confusion. The Docent Coordinator contracted Covid in late January and because of the on-going shortage of docents the House was closed for the first two weekends of February. Later in the month, the wife of one docent contracted Covid and in an abundance of caution, our docent opted to bow out of his scheduled assignment. His place was covered by the “always at the ready” **Chairperson Joanne Meagher**.

However, we still managed to host the **Coral Gables Landmarks Advisory Board** on February 7th and provide the venue for another in the series of programs presented by HPACG. Attending the L.A.B. luncheon were the 7 members of the Board, 2 members of the HRCA staff and MHGB Chairperson, Ms. Meagher. Picknick lunches were served on the east porch.

The Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables in joint participation with the **MH Board and Docent Corps** presented A Tertulia: **Tales of the Alhambra** with speakers **Sadia Raja and Ziyad Mneimneh**. The accounting for this activity is as follows: Eventbrite tickets (23x\$5=\$115); HPACG tickets (14x\$5=\$70 Check #1224) Walk-ins (4x\$5=\$20) for a total of paid attendees=41 + MHGB members, HPCR and docents=6 yielding a grand total of 47. **The total receipts for the evening = \$205.**

Additionally, the **DAR** met at the House on February 14th bringing in **29 visitors and a fee of \$50.**

MH provided the stage for the 44th **Independence Day Flag raising ceremony for St. Lucia**. Twenty people attended the meaningful ceremony on February 22. Coral Gables is the location of the Consulate of St. Lucia.

Weekend visitors to the House for two weekends totaled 45 (29 Adults, 13 Seniors and 3 Students over 12.) **Receipts from those visits totaled \$214.00 including** one \$5.00 tip and the sale of 2 small boxes of cards. St. Lucia ceremony brought 20 visitors to the house and the fee from the **DAR = \$50. Total visitors to the House=151** (LAB-10; The Tertulia=47 (\$205); DAR=29 (\$50), St. Lucia=20; MH=45 (\$214)) **Total receipts equals \$469.**

Since June 2023 (Arrival of new Docent Coordinator) we have recruited and trained 4 new docents with one more in the application process. The 4 are almost ready to be on their own. Assuming 5 we will have 8 fully active docents with 3 marginal on whom we can sometimes depend. We have 3 (of the 8) who are bilingual + one who is conversant but does not feel he has the vocabulary to do a tour, 5 are female and 3 male.

Submitted by: Gay Bondurant, Docent Coordinator, Coral Gables Merrick House