

CORAL GABLES

JUNE 2026

MAGAZINE

BANKING ON JORGE

Going from \$3 billion to \$30 billion -
and then to Coral Gables



CITY NATIONAL BANK CEO
JORGE GONZALEZ

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HOMESERVICES

EWM
REALTY



COVE CAY ESTATE
88351 OLD HWY, ISLAMORADA, FLORIDA
Jason Zarco | 305.975.4061

EXCEPTIONAL OCEANFRONT ESTATE IN ISLAMORADA



ewm.com





PONCE PARK

CORAL GABLES

THE MOST EXQUISITE *Expression of Home*

Nestled along the tree-lined streets of Coral Gables, Ponce Park presents an intimate collection of 58 residences, ranging from two-to five-bedrooms. Each home is thoughtfully designed and curated by the renowned Meyer Davis, blending contemporary luxury with old world charm.

Residences Priced from \$3.1M

Project Address: 3000 Ponce de Leon Blvd, Coral Gables, FL 33134

Sales Gallery: 203 University Drive, Coral Gables, FL 33134

ALLEN MORRIS COMPANY ONE Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY

ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. THIS OFFERING IS MADE ONLY BY THE OFFERING DOCUMENTS FOR THE



Schedule a Private Appointment
PoncePark.com | 786.783.6679



Artist's Conceptual Rendering

CONDOMINIUM AND NO STATEMENT SHOULD BE RELIED UPON IF NOT MADE IN THE OFFERING DOCUMENTS. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL, OR SOLICITATION OF OFFERS TO BUY, THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS IN STATES WHERE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION CANNOT BE MADE. PRICES, PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Departments

June 2026

- 8 EDITOR'S NOTE**
An All-Important Vote
- 10 LETTERS TO OUR EDITOR**
Comments from our Readers
- 13 STREETWISE**
Latest News From City Hall
Politics - The City Charter
Talk of the Town
- 29 LIVING**
Best Events for June 2026
Meet Your Merchant
New Openings in the Gables
Summer Travel Shopping Guide
Night on the Town
Theater This Month
- 43 BITES**
Quick Bites: Sandwiches
Executive Dining for Lunch
New Dining at The Wagyu Bar
Happy Hour at La Rosa Gastrobar
- 53 PEOPLE**
Dr. Harold "Hal" Silberman
Paola Mendez
Sebastian Rodriguez
- 75 BACK OF BOOK**
Home: Monthly Look at Interiors
Don's Rambles: The 200 Club
Historic Preservation
The Seen: Community Foundation
The Gables Dining Guide
- 96 COLLECTIONS**
Coral Gables Nine Towers



“I HOPE THAT MORE DEVELOPERS FOLLOW THIS EXAMPLE, BECAUSE IT’S ONE OF THE THINGS THAT SETS OUR CITY APART FROM ALL OTHERS”

VICE MAYOR RHONDA ANDERSON TALKING OF GABLES BUILDER VENNY TORRE SAVING FOUR MATURE OAK TREES - SEE TALK OF THE TOWN ON PAGE 16

POWER EXTRAORDINARY

THE CAMPAIGN FOR BAPTIST HEALTH



ADVANCING INNOVATION FOR SOUTH FLORIDA

Cancer treatment can take a toll that goes beyond the body. Many patients experience memory loss, difficulty concentrating and cognitive changes. At Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute, the Brain Fitness Lab brings together a team of specialists to assess, diagnose and treat these challenges through innovative approaches like Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation.

It's because of donors like you that innovations like these become reality. Your generosity supports care for the whole patient — right here in South Florida.

Give today to fuel the innovations transforming patient care.



PowerBaptistHealth.net



**Baptist
Health**

60

THE RELENTLESS BANKER

How Jorge Gonzalez turned City National Bank into a financial powerhouse and moved it to Coral Gables. Winning, to him, means preparation and staying calm when everyone else is panicking. It means finding opportunity in moments when others see only danger. And it depends on being able to connect with other people.



60



66

66

YOUR GUIDE TO SUMMER READING

Part of the ritual of summer, and summer vacations, is picking the right book to read. Thanks to our friends at Books & Books, we present here a selection of the latest in fiction, non-fiction, history and children's books, all highly rated and most of them brand new (released in May, June and July).

Just Call Audrey

When it comes to South Florida luxury real estate, one name rises above the rest: The Audrey Ross Team. For more than four decades, Audrey and her team have been the trusted advisors behind record-breaking sales, exclusive listings, and the kind of discreet, personalized service that makes clients for life.

Backed by the powerhouse technology at Compass, Audrey brings together marketing strategists, skilled negotiators, and design-savvy professionals who know how to position a property for maximum impact. From exclusive residences in Gables Estates to Brickell Avenue penthouses, Audrey and her team understand not just the market, but the lifestyle buyers and sellers are seeking.

Their reputation is built on results, top-tier marketing, global connections, and a proven track record in one of the world's most competitive luxury markets. With Audrey at the helm, clients don't just get an agent; they gain a trusted partner who listens, guides, and delivers with unmatched expertise.

So when excellence matters and experience makes all the difference, there's no need to wonder who to call...

Just call Audrey!

Audrey Ross
Founder | **The Audrey Ross Team**
Vice President | **Compass**
M: 305.206.4003
aross@miamirealestate.com



Presenting Bird Key, an uninhabited 4+/- acre island in Biscayne Bay. The ONLY privately owned island, with sights of Miami's skyline, amid the clear beautiful, blue waters of the Bay, is for sale! Bird Key sits just 500 yards offshore, south of the 79th Street Causeway, a 37.5 acre opportunity with 4+/- acres of land surrounded by 33+/- acres of submerged land. Only four owners have been able to claim ownership to this gem. It is a golden opportunity for a developer to acquire and use for environmental mitigation, or one could acquire it to donate it to the public as an environmental treasure, or finally a very lucky individual may create Miami's most exclusive address.

\$31,500,000
37.52 +/- ACRES - including submerged land
1 Bird Key, Miami



\$21,900,000
4 Beds | 6 Baths | 4,435 sqft | .65 ACRE Bayfront Lot
820 San Pedro Avenue, Gables by the Sea



\$10,950,000
5 Beds | 5 Baths | 2 Half Baths | 5,317 sqft | .69 ACRE Lot
4901 Hammock Park Drive, Coral Gables



COMPASS



An All-Important Vote

The recent referendum which took place toward the end of April – the first written vote in the history of Coral Gables – was remarkable by several measures. First, it led to important changes in the City Charter, the details of which are outlined in our Politics page. Second, the vote demonstrated sober judgments on the part of voters. During the weeks when ballots were being mailed there was some very aggressive messaging to vote in a certain direction – blogs and emails from various groups that wanted all the charter amendments rejected.

We ourselves did not advocate for either a yes or no on any item, but simply reported the pros and cons as they were openly and objectively discussed by the Gables Good Government Committee, which does its level best to look at our local issues in a fair and balanced way. At the meeting we attended, both the pros and cons of each item were given plenty of airtime.

In the end, 29% of the registered voters of Coral Gables approved six of the eight changes. And they did so by decisive margins, and despite claims from the anti-change groups that proclaimed all sorts of nefarious motives and “dark money” behind the referendum. Such nonsense. The questions in the referendum – changes to the city charter – were openly discussed in public forums presided over by former Mayor Don

Slesnick, one of the most transparent and honest politicians ever to assume that role.

What is equally noteworthy is that a turnout of 29% of registered voters was considered a high number. Less than a third of citizens decided important course changes for the city. The good news is that one of the changes approved – and by a large margin – was to move the city’s bi-annual elections from April to November to coincide with national elections. The idea was to dramatically increase voter participation. Those opposed felt this would reduce the quality of voters in favor of quantity – that only those who are truly motivated about the issues should decide them. Again, nonsense. One of the reasons City Hall has been dysfunctional over the past few years is because a tiny minority elected a couple of unqualified candidates. Democracy always works better when the voice of all the people, not just a few, is heard.

We look forward to a much higher turnout this November.

JP FABER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
CORAL GABLES MAGAZINE



Cover: City National Bank CEO Jorge Gonzalez. Photo by Rodolfo Benitez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
 J.P. Faber

PUBLISHER
 Gail Scott

ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER
 Amy Donner

CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
 Monica Del Carpio-Raucci

VP SALES
 Sherry Adams

MANAGING EDITOR
 Yousra Benkirane

DIGITAL EDITOR
 Amanda Martell

ART DIRECTOR
 Jon Braeley

PRODUCTION DIRECTOR
 Jorge G. Gavilondo

WRITERS
 Karelia Carbonell
 Andrew Gayle
 Don Slesnick
 Tina Wyngate

PHOTOGRAPHERS
 Rodolfo Benitez
 Jonathan Dann

PROOFREADER
 Lesley Fonger

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
 CircIntel

OFFICIAL FRAMER
 Adam Brand / Frames USA

Coral Gables Magazine is published monthly by City Regional Media, 1200 Anastasia Ave. Suite 115, Coral Gables FL 33134. Telephone: (305) 995-0995. Copyright 2026 by City Regional Media. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or part of any text, photograph or illustration without prior written permission from the publisher is strictly prohibited. Send address changes to subscriptions@coralgablesmagazine.com. General mailbox email and letters to editor@coralgablesmagazine.com.

BANKING THAT **SPEAKS** **YOUR LANGUAGE.** IN EVERY SENSE.

Experience a team that
reflects South Florida's
diversity - ready to serve you
with genuine partnership and
expert guidance.



Scan to
learn more

AMERANT BANK

amerantbank.com

Member FDIC

Each month we print letters we receive from our readers. We encourage all commentary, including criticism as well as compliments, and of course any commentary about our community. If you are interested in writing to us with your opinions, thoughts, or suggestions, please send them to letters@coralgablesmagazine.com. Letters may be edited for brevity.



Shelly Berg

A well-deserved profile of retiring Shelly Berg appeared in your May issue. His retirement as Dean for the Frost Music School at the University of Miami will leave a deep void. Berg's almost twenty years as Dean has established the University's School of Music as one of the best in the nation. Among the great staff he brought to the campus is the now conductor of the Frost Symphony Orchestra, Gerard Schwarz. It is a pleasure as a resident of the Gables to be able to attend these wonderful musical events in our own neighborhood at Gusman Concert Hall on campus. Roger Shatanof

The Hispanic Contribution

Special thanks to Coral Gables Magazine for organizing such a significant afternoon in support of local emerging artists ["The Paintings of Emerging Artists" at the Miracle Theater in May]. Each of these exhibitions once again connects us to a vision I have shared many times before: bringing back [to Coral Gables] programming of the Hispanic American Art & Cultural Festival "Hispafest." This time, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the United States' independence, we should celebrate the extraordinary artistic contributions that the immigrant and multicultural community has made to the building and enrichment of this great country. Nubia Abaji, Director of The Bright Foundation & Hispafest

But at What Cost?

I enjoyed reading about our "hidden" waterway in the article "A River Runs Through It" (May 2026 issue). And I respect Mr. Swain's position about opening up the waterway when he states, "a lack of access is a missed opportunity."

But is it a missed opportunity? Or has a lack of access been a saving grace to the waterway's conservation? Having the waterway somewhat secreted away from open public consumption has helped keep Merrick's waterfront as pristine and protected as naturally possible. As a preservationist, I believe there must be a balance when considering the ramifications of such open

access. More access may bring more opportunities to enjoy the waterway, but it will come with a cost to the natural state of the waterway. More access means more people. More people means more encroachment to the waterway's environment and eco-system. More people means more pollution to the historic canal.

Yes, when developer George Merrick conceived the master plan for Coral Gables 100 years ago, his promotional brochures advertised his new city as "Forty Miles of Waterfront" offering a ride in a gondola from the Biltmore Hotel to Tahiti Beach. But it was managed access. In my opinion, limited access has been the main reason why the Gables Waterway has endured a century of unpolluted natural beauty. Dr. Karelia Martinez Carbonell

Orange is the New Ugly

The City Beautiful is no longer Beautiful. I fell in love with the City of Coral Gables, The City Beautiful, where we built our house in 1986. Its streets, with Beautiful and Amazing Trees that gives its unique character and sets it apart from all others were a sight to behold.

I no longer feel that way. It is now impossible to enjoy it in the same manner.

Wherever there is construction activity, which is in almost every other street, our trees are now surrounded by "tree protection barriers." These are horrible eyesores, 2x4 wood rail fencing with a ghastly orange mesh intended to protect them from "Earthwork and Utility Operations." Sheet 3 of the City's Tree Protection Details [on the CoralGables.com website] lists the prohibited activities [to be posted on the fences] some of which are highly unlikely to occur in the median or swales, such as "Dumping of fuels or other chemicals or liquids" or "Building materials or Trailers." These would occur inside of the property; use the barriers there away from public view, I don't mind. Also, there is a required 6' minimum from the trunk which is oftentimes not being provided.

A better solution is for the City to enforce tree protection by requiring both the owner and the contractor to enter into a recorded restrictive covenant which would ob-

ligate both to protect the trees without barriers and make them subject to fines after warnings and notices issued by the building inspectors.

Whenever I drive along our beautiful streets, I see our trees surrounded by these eyesores and I regret to say that The City of Coral Gables is no longer "The City Beautiful" but the "City of the Orange Tree Protection Barriers." Please, provide a solution that does not deface our trees so that we can enjoy looking at them again! Carlos Ramos

Protecting Public Art

Walk through Coral Gables and you'll notice it immediately: art is part of the city's identity, woven into its streets, parks, and public spaces. From sculptures along Miracle Mile to installations in public plazas, these works shape how residents and visitors experience the city.

As this collection continues to grow, so does the responsibility to protect it, not just as individual pieces, but as part of Coral Gables' long-term cultural legacy. Public art isn't only something to admire. It represents a meaningful investment by the City, both culturally and financially. But unlike traditional infrastructure, art presents a unique set of challenges that often go unseen.

Sculptures, paintings, and installations are inherently vulnerable. A piece can be damaged during transportation or installation. Over time, heat, humidity, and sunlight can affect materials in ways that are not always immediately visible. These are not unusual challenges. They are part of managing public art in any city and Coral Gables is no exception.

Protecting these assets involves more than many realize. Stewardship begins early. From acquisition to installation, and through the life of the piece, each stage requires attention. As Coral Gables continues to invest in its cultural landscape, pairing that growth with strong stewardship ensures these works remain part of the community for generations. Protecting public art ultimately means preserving the identity and heritage that make Coral Gables unique.

Aaron Casariego [The City of Coral Gables Insurance & Risk Management Board]



REGENCY PARC
CORAL GABLES



Now Pre-Leasing

Live A Life That Is Spacious, Secure & Simplified.

Regency Parc Is A Class-Defining, Ultra-Luxury Residential Tower In The Heart of Coral Gables, Featuring 126 Spacious, 2- To 4-Bedroom Residences Ranging From 1,768 To 6,005 Total Square Feet.

RENTING FREES YOU FROM:

- Having To Pay Property Taxes
- Constant Home Maintenance & Upkeep
- Navigating The Drama of Condo Governance
- Live Outside of A Flood Zone and an Evacuation Zone

Lease A Sky Residence Starting At \$8,200/month

BE AMONG THE FIRST TO CHOOSE YOUR RESIDENCE DURING OUR PRE-LEASING PERIOD.
TO REQUEST A PRIVATE, PRE-CONSTRUCTION TOUR CALL 305.569.2211.

2601 SALZEDO STREET, CORAL GABLES | REGENCYPARCCORALGABLES.COM



All images presented in this advertisement are conceptual only and are for the convenience of reference. They should not be relied upon as representations, express or implied, of the final detail of Regency Parc or its residences. *Only a limited number of units are available for long-term lease.

**WATCH FÚTBOL
ALL SUMMER
AT
GRAZIANO'S
mercado**



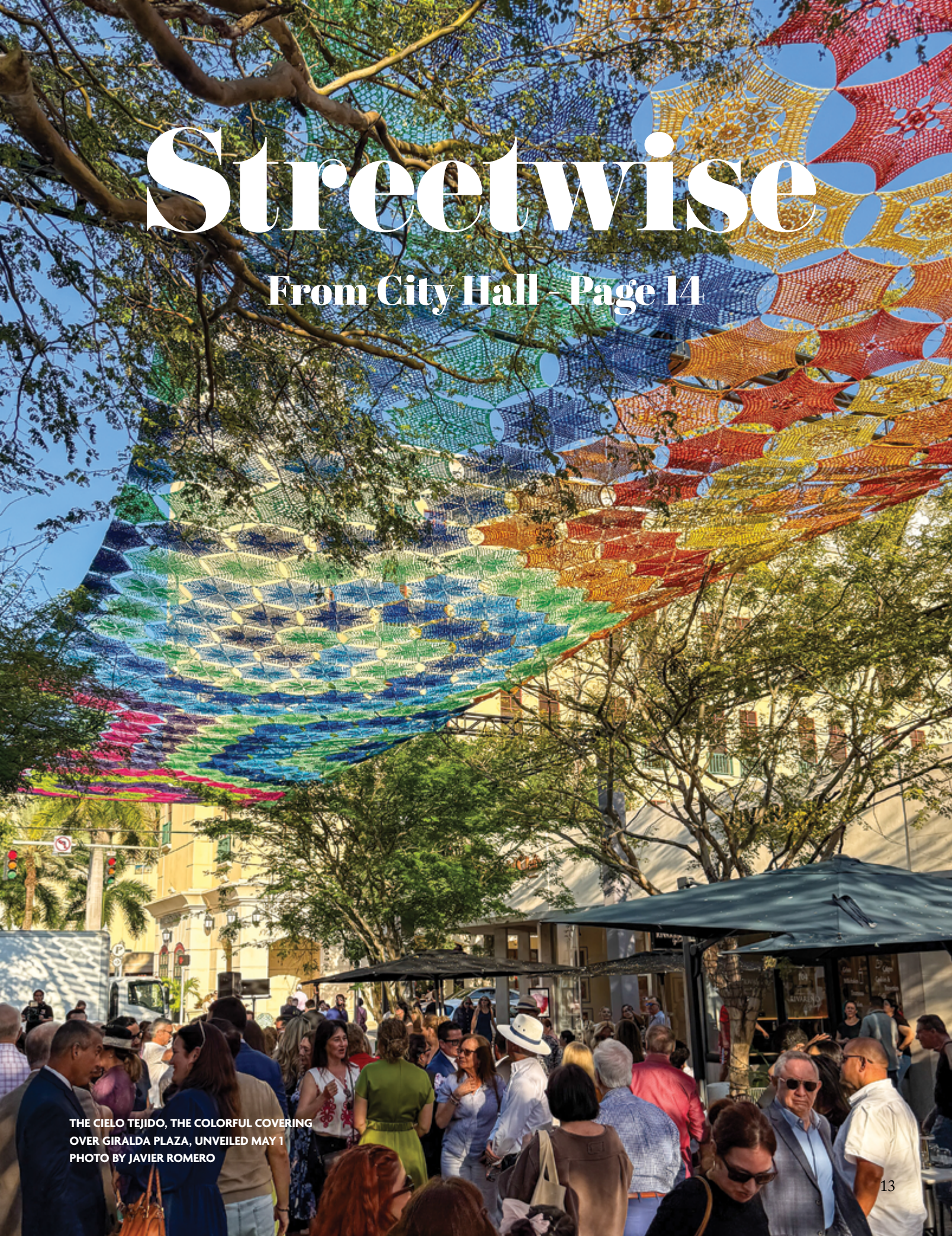
**30FT LED SCREENS
SURROUND SOUND
OUTDOOR GRILL,
BEER SPECIALS, AND
MORE...**



**LIFETIME MERCADO
229 S DIXIE HIGHWAY,
CORAL GABLES, FL**

Streetwise

From City Hall - Page 14



THE CIELO TEJIDO, THE COLORFUL COVERING OVER GIRALDA PLAZA, UNVEILED MAY 1
PHOTO BY JAVIER ROMERO



From City Hall

AT ITS FIRST MEETING IN MAY, THE CITY COMMISSION:

LISTENED TO A CIELO UPDATE

The city's director of economic development, Belkys Perez, described the success of the Cielo Tejido, the colorful covering over Giralda Plaza starting May 1. The covering was crocheted by 200 women from Jalisco, Mexico. Thanks to the Cielo, the First Friday in May drew 5,300 people to Giralda Plaza, compared to the typical 3,400 to 3,600 First Friday visitors. The Cielo will be replaced in three months with another display.

LISTENED TO A HIGH-TECH UPDATE

The city's director of innovation and technology, Raimundo Rodulfo, discussed the accomplishments of the Smart City Research Laboratory, which recently won the 2026 Smart 20 Award. The Lab is a tech tank incubator for students whose innovations solve city problems, such as developing a sidewalk speed violation sensor (to monitor scooters), programming a voice activated interactive AI agent for the city website, and developing electronic business cards for city employees. The Lab, which will expand in the future, is also a talent pipeline connecting kids to jobs.

VOTED TO RECOGNIZE HISTORIC TEE-TIMES

The Commission voted 5-0 to recognize the Granada Golf Course's historic relationship with the Granada Golf Association, the Greenway Women's Golf Association, and the Coral Gables Women's Golf and Bridge Association, authorizing the continued reservation of certain tee times for members of these organizations. These tee times had been threatened by the revamping of golf fees to support renovation of the course.

REJECTED PROPOSALS FOR FURTHER GOLF DISCOUNTS

The Commission voted 3-2 to not offer 30% discounts to seniors (to \$21 each round) and not to offer golf memberships at \$2,500 for 100 rounds of golf (\$25 each round). City Manager Peter Iglesias explained why the city must limit annual rounds to 50,000 at \$30 each, which will produce an annual income of \$1.5 million, the amount required to upgrade and maintain the golf course, now in serious disrepair. Mayor Vince Lago admonished Commissioners Melissa Castro and Ariel Fernandez for proposing the discounts, which could have cost the city \$300,000 or more each year. "I'm always the bad guy who says that winter is coming" said Lago, who said Castro was reckless to introduce discounts without researching the consequences. Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson said the discounts would mean taxpayers subsidizing certain golf club users.

OUSTED A VOCAL CRITIC

The Commission voted 3-2 to deny further comment during the session from Maria Cruz, a long-time Lago critic, who attacked the mayor, calling him a self-appointed king. Cruz had been repeatedly warned in previous commission meetings to keep her comments to criticism about policies and decisions, rather than personal attacks on the mayor (Mrs. Cruz in 2024 spearheaded a recall of the mayor, which has since been investigated by the FDLE for forging recall signatures). "I do believe we have been beyond patient," said Commissioner Richard Lara, who voted for ousting Cruz. Commissioners Castro and Fernandez voted against censure, claiming it was a violation of the First Amendment guarantee of free speech.

HELPED FUND THE ART CINEMA EXPANSION

The Commission voted 5-0 to allocate another \$100,000 to the Coral Gables Art Cinema to help add an additional screen to the movie theater. The city had previously allocated \$350,000 for the additional screen, but construction costs have since skyrocketed. Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson noted that every dollar spent on the arts has a seven-times return on investment. The city will manage the construction. (Sponsored by Mayor Lago).

ASKED THE COUNTY FOR SIGNALING

The Commission voted 5-0 to urge Miami-Dade County to complete its approval to prioritize traffic signals for fire, police, and trolley. The city has been quietly asking Miami-Dade to do this for five years, but to no avail. (Sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson)

ENDED PHISHING IN THE CITY

The City Commission voted 3-2 to condemn the use of fictitious organizations and deceptive digital interfaces to conduct anonymous political intelligence-gathering from Coral Gables voters. In particular, the referendum called for the investigation of Analytics 305, disguised as a link from Survey Monkey, which asked how city employees would likely cast their ballots. The resolution was sponsored by Mayor Lago partly in response to evidence linking Commissioner Ariel Fernandez to Count USA, a similarly illegal "phishing" operation.

"I don't know who, in good faith, would not be in favor of condemning anonymous political phishing in this city," said Commissioner Lara. "That is my opinion, not Claude or ChatGPT," he added, referring to Commissioner Castro, who voted against the resolution after reading aloud what appeared to be a chatbox statement about how the resolution "implies a coordinated political operation without naming a responsible party or proving intent," that would "open the city to defamation exposure and political retaliation." She was referring to Commissioner Fernandez, whom she said should sue Mayor Lago. The Mayor said he welcomed such a lawsuit, since it would further expose Commissioner Fernandez – who refused to answer Mayor Lago when he asked whether Fernandez was behind the People Count operation.

SAID YES TO RUMBLE STRIPS

The Commission voted 5-0 to direct staff to review, develop, and implement a process for the installation of rumble strips – raised edges – along the edges of existing and future bicycle lanes. The item was sponsored by Vice Mayor Anderson in response to the deaths of two bicyclists struck by cars in the city. The strips stop bikers from crossing into car lanes, as well as noisily alerting cars that they are crossing into bike lanes.

THE ONLY THING YOU TAKE WITH YOU AFTER YOU'RE GONE IS WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND.

At **Coral Gables Trust**, managing wealth from generation to generation is at the heart of what we do. So we've built a team of senior professionals who meet with you to build a unique investment strategy based on your goals—so the wealth you've accumulated in this generation, will benefit the people whom you hold dearest and the causes you've spent your life supporting—in the next generation.

Call us. We're the leading provider of Trust & Estate, Wealth Management, and Financial Planning services in South Florida. Chances are ... one of our offices is right around the corner.



CORAL GABLES

TRUST

Coral Gables

Fort Lauderdale

Boca Raton

Palm Beach

305.791.9136

All Rights Reserved. Investment and related products are: Not insured by the FDIC, the United States Government, any Government Agency, Coral Gables Trust Company, or any affiliates, may lose value, and are not guaranteed by CGTC.

Reforming the City Charter

WHAT THE RECENT REFERENDUM MEANS

At its first meeting in May, the City Commission certified the April mail-in votes regarding eight referendum items that could change the city's charter. More than 8,700 ballots were cast, representing almost 29% of the city's 30,342 registered voters. The most important item on the ballot, the decision to move City Commission elections to November on even years – to align with state and national elections – passed with a resounding 66% of voters in favor of the move. With only two of the eight items turned down, the results were considered a powerful endorsement of the policy priorities of Mayor Vince Lago, Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson, and Commissioner Richard Lara, and a rejection of the policy priorities of Commissioners Melissa Castro and Ariel Fernandez, who, along with Coral Gables Neighborhood Association, urged voters to reject all eight items.

The results are as follows:

REFERENDUM #1: MOVE ELECTIONS TO NOVEMBER

YES: 66.07% NO: 33.93%

This means the April 2027 election will be moved to November 3, 2026, with candidates filing by June 12, runoffs set for December 1, and swearing in on December 4. The next election after this year will therefore be held in November of 2028.

REFERENDUM #2: KEEP ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER

YES: 62.54% NO: 37.46%

This prohibits the City Commission from changing the date of the November elections (on even years) without a public referendum.

REFERENDUM #3: ALLOW COMMISSION MEMBERS TO REMOVE THEIR BOARD APPOINTEES

YES: 39.30% NO: 60.70%

This means appointees can only be removed by a majority vote of the City Commission, intended to give board members a level of independence after their appointments.

REFERENDUM #4: REVIEW THE CITY CHARTER EVERY TEN YEARS, WITH A LARGER COMMITTEE

YES: 66.38% NO: 33.62%

This requires a review every decade, with a seven-member committee (with appointees by the city manager and city attorney in addition to appointees by the five city commissioners).

REFERENDUM #5: CONTRACT FOR INSPECTOR GENERAL SERVICES

YES: 68.86% NO: 31.14%

This authorizes the city to contract with Miami-Dade County or a private entity to provide inspector general services to investigate fraud, waste, mismanagement, or abuse of power.



A REFERENDUM ON THE POLICIES OF LAGO, LARA, AND ANDERSON

REFERENDUM #6: RESTRICT HOW CITY COMMISSIONERS VOTE THEMSELVES RAISES

YES: 77.84% NO: 22.16%

This means that city commissioners cannot, except for adjustments reflecting the Consumer Price Index, give themselves a raise without voter approval.

REFERENDUM #7: ELIMINATE RUNOFF ELECTIONS

YES: 33.65% NO: 66.35%

Voters decided that if no candidate wins more than 50 percent of the vote, that runoffs must be conducted between the candidates with the two highest vote counts.

REFERENDUM #8: PROTECT THE CITY'S GENERAL FUND RESERVE

YES: 63.00% NO: 37.00%

This requires the city to maintain a reserve fund equal to 25 percent of the city's operating budget, which cannot be used except in emergencies or with a four-fifths vote of the commission.



The Palace owners aren't in Corporate Headquarters. They're here every day.

Helen & Jacob Shaham founded The Palace Senior Living 45 years ago and they've never changed their "hands-on" rule of management. Joined by their sons Zach & Haim, they are familiar friendly faces to every Palace resident.

They come to the parties, seldom miss a birthday, and you can talk to them whenever you want because everyone has their personal cell numbers.

Being personally involved makes a huge difference for the staff as well. That's why companies like Gallup and Fortune rate The Palace one of the world's best places to work.

At The Palace, we're all happy to be here every day. We bet you will be too.

Call 305-445-7444 or visit us today.

One Andalusia Avenue



www.PalaceCoralGables.com



MOVING ONE OF FOUR OAKS AT 2900 SEGOVIA ST.
LEFT TO RIGHT: DEAN COLSON, ARCHITECT FRANK MARTINEZ,
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT HERBERT (BUD) MARTIN, AND VENNY TORRE

Talk of the Town

Saving the Oaks

The tree canopy of Coral Gables is considered a sacred part of its identity. The city maintains a data base of some 40,000 trees in public spaces (mostly in the swales), keeping track of location, species, height and health. Mess with one of those, and you're in trouble. But trees on private property are not similarly protected.

It is therefore highly commendable when developers preserve trees by relocating them, rather than simply cutting them down. Such was the case for MG Developer when their Village at Coral Gables was built on Malaga Avenue – several trophy trees were relocated.

The latest such move took place last month at 2900 Segovia Street, where two duplexes are scheduled to be constructed. At a cost of \$100,000, builder Venny Torre (and partner for the project Dean Colson) moved four mature Oak Trees from the property to swales on Catalonia and Palermo avenues. “Sonia Blair [a well-known local realtor] lived there until she passed away,” says Torre. “So, these trees are for Sonia to see from above, that they are being saved.” Says Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson, a perennial advocate for saving trees, “I hope that more developers follow this example, because it’s one of the things that sets our city apart from all others.” –J.P. Faber

Course Correction

At 101 years old, the Granada Golf Course is one of Coral Gables’ oldest public amenities. But the latest debate over the historic nine-hole course came down largely to arithmetic: how many people are using it, how much they are paying, and how much the city can afford to subsidize. At issue was underfunding and overuse, which dramatically deteriorated the condition of the course.

In order to restore the course and save some \$600,000 annually, the City Commission adopted a new usage, fee, and membership structure in March, which they approved in April. Resident tee times increased from \$22 to \$30, while non-resident tee times rose from \$28 to \$39. The old Granada golf membership was also restructured. Previously, for a fee of \$921, its 86 members were allowed unlimited play – accounting for about 24 percent of total course usage while generating only 6.5 percent of revenue. Under the new plan, golf members are required to join the Country Club for \$2,100, for which they receive 30 complimentary rounds per year, cart included, plus a \$5 discount on additional rounds, with seven-day priority booking.

The master plan, according to City Manager Peter Iglesias, is to reduce the current unsustainable usage of 69,000 annual rounds to roughly 50,000 rounds. At an average of \$30 for each round, that will produce \$1.5 million each year, sufficient to both upgrade and



SRA. MARTINEZ



EATING HOUSE



BEAUTY & THE BUTCHER

ON JUNE 25TH, TASTE THE GABLES RETURNS!

AND THIS IS THE FIRST DELICIOUS TASTE OF WHAT'S TO COME

FLAVORS OF THE GABLES IS BACK! And serving up a delicious night filled with bites from local restaurants, lively music, and a signature Johnnie Walker bar to keep spirits high. Your admission includes access to all tasting stations and beverage samples, so come hungry and curious!

ENJOY TASTE THE GABLES JULY 1 - 31



FLAVORS OF THE GABLES THURS, JUNE 25 7 - 9 P.M.
CORAL GABLES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
SCAN TO PURCHASE TICKETS



SCAN TO PLAN! [TASTETHEGABLES.COM](https://www.tastethegables.com)
[@CITYOFCORALGABLES](https://www.instagram.com/cityofcoralgables)
[#TASTETHEGABLES](https://www.tiktok.com/@tastethegables)



BROUGHT TO YOU BY -AMERICA-



AND
JOHNNIE WALKER



maintain the course at a professional level. Golfers who were used to low fees subsidized by the city pushed back, especially the women's groups that rely on dedicated tee times. In the end, the Commission in May voted to preserve those reserved blocks (see pg. 18) while keeping the new \$30 resident fee in place. — Yousra Benkirane



A World Record at Chewy Bark Park

Chewy Bark Park, the 17,000-square-foot dog park at the intersection of Ponce and LeJeune, just made dog history. At the Chewy Summer Social event last month, Chewy officially set the Guinness World Record for the largest dog pool party ever, with 277 dogs splashing around in pop-up pools. A Guinness adjudicator was on site to make it official, counting every dog.

The summer social brought local pet parents and their dogs together for a summer kick-off filled with poolside fun, games, and prizes. Dogs got to cool off in the pools, try pupsicles, and sample Chewy's new Get Real food line, while pet apparel Frisco's new summer collection was on display. Chewy Bark Park opened in January as a partnership between the City of Coral Gables and Chewy, Inc. The space features cooling turf, separate areas for small and large dogs, and hydration stations throughout. It sits within Phase 3 of The Underline, the ongoing project transforming underutilized land beneath the Metrorail into public green space. — Amanda Martell

Gulliver Prep Turns 100

Gulliver Preparatory School is a co-educational, nonprofit institution serving approximately 2,200 students from pre-K-3 through

12th grade. Modeled after Northeastern preparatory institutions, it was founded in 1926 by Arthur Gulliver. In the early 1950s, educator Marian C. Krutulis purchased the school and expanded its academic and extracurricular programs, earning recognition from the U.S. Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School (the Marian C. Krutulis PK-8th Campus is located on Red Road in the Gables).



Over the past century, thousands of students have been educated through its programs. To recognize the milestone, Gulliver has launched The Next 100: The Centennial Campaign for Gulliver, a \$100 million initiative focused on faculty support, student well-being, and future facilities, including new buildings dedicated to science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics. As President Simon Hess notes, the school measures success not only by academic outcomes, but by the character and direction of its students. — Amanda Martell



Sacrebleu! Bachour is zee best!

We have long loved Bachour, the bakery-cum-restaurant catty-cornered from the Public Safety Building on Salzedo Street. It was lured to the Gables seven years ago by developer Armando Codina after proprietor Antonio Bachour was recognized as the best pastry chef in America by several hundred of his colleagues.

Now Bachour has another feather in his/its cap, being recently recognized as one of the 14 best French bakeries in the U.S. by Tasting Table, a digital media brand and website. Hmmm. We know it's a great bakery, with "no ordinary croissants," as they say, but French? With dulce de leche croissant and guava, and cheese pancakes? On the other hand, those delicate little pastries in the glass showcases, each so sculpted and delicate, packed up for customers in those Tiffany-blue boxes... Oh là là! — J.P. Faber

1228 ALHAMBRA CIRCLE

\$5,995,000 | 6 BED | 4.5 BATH | 4,319 SQ. FT. | HALF ACRE LOT | 1927



**HISTORIC
HOMES**
specialists



COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY

LAURA MULLANEY & JANE GOMEZ-MENA
Laura@HistoricHomesMiami.com | 305.790.1000
Jane@HistoricHomesMiami.com | 305.491.6485
HISTORICHOMESMIAMI.COM



A Blowout Gala

A RECORD ATTENDANCE TO HELP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Each year the Actors' Playhouse at the Miracle Theatre holds its Reach for the Stars Gala Auction to raise money for the theater. This year's black-tie event was the 35th gala, attended by more than 500 guests and raising more than \$150,000 to support the theater's artistic and educational programming. The auction featured 323 items donated by 177 supporters; the food, beverages and floral arrangements were also donated. Guests enjoyed the "Tastes of the Coral Gables" that featured tasting stations from more than 30 local restaurants. These included Birdie's Bistro, Bouchon Bistro, Café Abbracci, The Collab at THesis, Doc B's, Francesco, JohnMartin's Irish Pub, Kojin 2.0, Morton's Steakhouse, Pincho Burgers, Salumeria 104, Sawa Restaurant, Tullio and Zucca.

Guests were also regaled with a stirring rendition of "This is the Moment" from the Broadway musical Jekyll & Hyde, which is part of the recently announced 2026-2027 season at Actors' Playhouse. It was sung by leading man E.L.Losada, who starred this season as Don Quixote in *Man of La Mancha*. And, not to be undervalued were the libations, provided by Gables corporate anchor Bacardi USA, which recently moved to The Plaza Coral Gables from its LeJeune Road mid-rise. Playhouse Executive Producing Director Barbara S. Stein is already planning for next year's gala, which will also take place in late April. — J.P. Faber



Photos by Alberto Romeu



TOP: THE MARQUEE LIT UP FOR THE GALA NIGHT
 BOTTOM: VANESSA CERECEDA, MIAMI-DADE COMMISSIONER RENÉ GARCIA AND ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE EXECUTIVE PRODUCING DIRECTOR BARBARA STEIN

SOME OF THE BEST HOMES ARE NEVER LISTED

Recently, we've been working with clients who were looking for something that just wasn't coming up on the market.

Through trusted relationships and a more intentional approach, we secured two off market opportunities:

- | An old Spanish home in Coral Gables
- | A luxury condo in the heart of Coconut Grove

Some opportunities never hit the market. Access makes all the difference.



Luxury Real Estate Advisor
 305.608.8750
 jj@jjsnowhansen.com



Compass is a licensed real estate broker. All material is intended for informational purposes only and is compiled from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, condition, sale, or withdrawal without notice. No statement is made as to the accuracy of any description or measurements (including square footage). This is not intended to solicit property already listed. No financial or legal advice provided. Equal Housing Opportunity. Photos may be virtually staged or digitally enhanced and may not reflect actual property conditions.



COMPASS

Make Retirement Your
RENAISSANCE

LET'S TALK ABOUT YOUR EXCITING NEXT CHAPTER
786.706.0454 | GRANDLIVING.COM



GRAND LIVING®

YOUR LIFE. UNIQUELY EMBRACED.

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY #13799



INDEPENDENT | ASSISTED | MEMORY CARE



Daily Chef-
Prepared Meals



The Grand Spa
& Fitness Center



Signature
Experiences



Chauffeured
Transportation



Housekeeping
Services

363 Granello Ave, Coral Gables, FL 33146 | GrandLiving.com

Seniors to Seniors

RIVIERA PREP'S GRADUATING CLASS GETS LIFE ADVICE AND A LESSON IN "RIZZ" AT THE PALACE

Who better to advise the Class of 2026 than people who have already done the whole life thing? On April 21, about 100 graduating seniors from Riviera Preparatory School headed to The Palace on Andalusia Avenue for an intergenerational Q&A that turned out to be equal parts life advice, comedy hour, and cultural exchange.

The questions were big ones: How do you stay open to new people? What was the happiest time in your life? What do you do when life gets hard? One resident offered what may have been the most sanguine summary of aging: "Every phase of my life has brought joy." Then, proving that fun is not exactly a novel invention, she added, "Going to college. Oh my goodness. I loved being in school. I loved partying. We used to say... Thursday was Thirsty Thursday."

Another resident gave the students a practical formula for meeting people: "Listen, be interested in them... ask them questions. Don't talk about you." And when the subject turned to setbacks, one man delivered the line of the morning: "Never, never give up."

Then came the really important business: slang. Residents took on words like "rizz," "cap," "sus," and "cooked," while students got a crash course in "greaser," "sauced," and other throwback vocabulary. Riviera senior Luke Para left with a fitting takeaway: "Life is kind of short, so you have to have fun in life and enjoy every single chapter."

—Yusra Benkirane

100 GRADUATING SENIORS FROM RIVIERA PREPARATORY SCHOOL AT THE PALACE FOR A CULTURAL EXCHANGE THAT FEATURED AN INTERGENERATIONAL Q&A



Books & Books

Your Locally Owned - Independent Bookseller

COME SEE US AT OUR LOCATIONS!

CORAL GABLES

COCONUT GROVE

BAL HARBOUR SHOPS



DONATE HERE



Nurturing Readers, Cultivating Community, and Promoting the Exchange of Free Ideas.

Books & Books
Literary Foundation

SAVE THE DATE: UPCOMING EVENTS



MAGGIE O'FARRELL

WEDNESDAY
July 1 @ 7 PM



MARLON JAMES

SATURDAY
September 5 @ 5 PM



HERNAN DIAZ

SATURDAY
October 3 @ 5 PM



CHECK OUT OUR MENU



THE CAFÉ AT BOOKS & BOOKS IS OPEN FOR BREAKFAST!

MONDAY - SATURDAY: 9AM - 11PM
SUNDAY: 9AM - 10PM

SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER TO STAY UPDATED ON EVENTS



THE WELL

COCONUT GROVE

SLEEP SOUNDER. MOVE MORE. STRESS LESS. FEEL BETTER. LIVE AT THE WELL.

Residences Designed For Wellness. From \$1.5M.



Terra

AB

**ASSET
MANAGEMENT**

EXCLUSIVE SALES BY DOUGLAS ELLIMAN DEVELOPMENT MARKETING

305.910.2158
THEWELLCG.COM

SALES GALLERY
2640 S Bayshore Dr #101
Miami, FL 33133



This project is being developed by AB CG Owners LLC, a Delaware limited liability company ("Developer"), which has a limited right to use the trademarked names and logos of Terra and THE WELL. Any and all statements, disclosures and/or representations shall be deemed made by Developer and not by Terra or THE WELL, and you agree to look solely to Developer (and not to Terra, THE WELL or any of their affiliates) with respect to any and all matters relating to the marketing and/or development of the project. The Terra and THE WELL groups of companies are each comprised of several separate companies that are legally distinct. Reference to Terra and THE WELL is merely for convenience and should not be relied upon for any other purposes. ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, MAKE REFERENCE TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. These materials are not intended to be an offer to sell, or solicitation to buy a unit in the condominium. Such an offering shall only be made pursuant to the prospectus (offering circular) for the condominium and no statements should be relied upon unless made in the prospectus or in the applicable purchase agreement. In no event shall any solicitation, offer or sale of a unit in the condominium be made in, or to residents of, any state or country in which such activity would be unlawful. All plans, features and amenities depicted herein are based upon preliminary development plans and are subject to change without notice in the manner provided in the offering documents. Plans, features and amenities described herein may be provided at an additional cost. No guarantees or representations whatsoever are made that any plans, features, amenities or facilities will be provided or, if provided, will be of the same type, size, location or nature as depicted or described herein. No guarantee or representations whatsoever are made that existing or future views of the project and surrounding areas depicted by artist's conceptual renderings or otherwise described herein will be provided, or if provided, will be as depicted or described herein. Unauthorized reproduction, display or other dissemination of such materials is strictly prohibited and constitutes copyright infringement. No real estate broker is authorized to make any representations or other statements regarding the projects, and no agreements with, deposits paid to, or other arrangements made with any real estate broker are or shall be binding on the developer. The projects graphics, renderings and text provided herein are copyrighted works owned by the Developer. All rights reserved. ®

Groundbreakings

CORA AND SEVENTEEN GABLES ADD TO THE “AFFORDABLE” HIGH-END HOUSING STOCK

With prices for single homes skyrocketing in the Gables, it seems that nothing is available – not even a starter fix-up home – for less than \$1 million. Filling the need for something a little more affordable are a pair of new mid-rise buildings which just broke ground, one on Douglas Road near the Alhambra Circle entrance (Seventeen Gables) and in the Merrick Park district across San Lorenzo Avenue from Nordstrom (Cora). Both are offering “attainable luxury,” with prices at Seventeen Gables starting in the mid-\$600,000, and prices at Cora starting at \$900,000.

Seventeen Gables, a project by BAM Development and Ascendra Capital, is the larger project, with 117 units and the expected amenities of fitness center, sauna, pool, and lounge, along with integrated co-working spaces. The interiors are designed by Karen Asprea, a New York hot shot who now keeps an office on Miracle Mile. Her motto: “Thoughtful spaces for curated lives.” The sell here is also walkability to downtown Gables, starting with Bouchon Bistro, Bay 13, and Ró Steakhouse just a few blocks away.

Cora, a project by the Constellation Group and The Boschetti Group, is more boutique, with 74 units and a major investment in longevity design features – including circadian lighting, filtered air and water, hydrotherapy pools, red-light therapy, and shielding from electromagnetic frequencies. Besides its appeal to extended lifespans (along with pool, fitness center, etc.) is its adjacency to the Shops at Merrick Park. The building is designed by Arquitectonica, interiors by Urban Root and wellness features by Spanish firm Lamarca Well. – J.P. Faber



TOP: A RENDERING OF SEVENTEEN GABLES
BOTTOM: THE ROOFTOP AT CORA

A ONCE-IN-A-GENERATION EXPERIENCE

Documents That Forged a Nation



Secure your tickets today!

HISTORYMIAMI IS NOW



MUSEUM OF MIAMI

From June 20 to July 5, 2026

George Washington’s Oath of Allegiance. The Treaty of Paris. The Senate Mark-up of the Bill of Rights. The real documents that built America are leaving D.C. — and they’re coming to Miami for the first time.

The Freedom Plane National Tour is made possible in part by the National Archives Foundation, through the support of The Boeing Company, Comcast Corporation, Microsoft, and P&G. Additional support is provided by FedEx.

Exhibition locally supported by Trivest Partners, Private Equity for Founders, and The David and Hilary Gershman Charitable Fund.



FREEDOM PLANE NATIONAL TOUR





LIVE THE SOUTH FLORIDA LIFESTYLE

3584 St Gaudens Rd | \$6,750,000 | 3584stgaudens.com

600 Conde Ave | \$4,250,000 | 600conde.com

8800 SW 57 Ave | \$6,245,000 | 8800sw57avenue.com

639 Almeria Ave | \$4,395,000 | 639almeria.com

1228 Anastasia Ave PH 304 | \$3,995,000 | 1228anastasia.com



ASHLEY CUSACK TEAM

SPECIALIZING IN MIAMI LUXURY REAL ESTATE

www.ashleycusack.com

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY** | EWM
HOMESERVICES | REALTY

©2026 BHHS Affiliates, LLC. An independently operated subsidiary of HomeServices of America, Inc., a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate, and a franchisee of BHH Affiliates, LLC. Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate. Equal Housing Opportunity.

Facelifts Less is More

If your goal with a facelift is to end up looking like yourself, only younger and refreshed, then 'less is more' is a good guideline. There are so many things being offered these days for facial rejuvenation, so you should be selective with your choices, both to remain a natural, non-plastic appearance, and to avoid unnecessary overspending. Just because it's on the menu, doesn't mean you need or should have it. What is most beneficial? Everyone ages uniquely but most will develop laxity and sagging in their neck and jowls, contributing to a tired, less than fresh appearance, and at some point, insufficiently improved by non-surgical cosmetic treatments. There are many confusing 'descriptions' for facelifts nowadays, so let's simplify terminology: divide your face into an upper half (eyes and forehead) and lower half (cheeks/jowls and neck).

The 'Lower Facelift' targets the cheeks, jowls and neck and restores a clean jawline which is the principal sign of youth and beauty. It addresses both the deep (plane) and superficial layers of the face by tightening the deeper strength layer below and removing all slack skin above. The Lower Facelift, when expertly performed, is the one operation which produces the most, and natural looking, improvement in the majority of patients. Frequently, it is accompanied by an Upper Eyelid procedure (Blepharoplasty) to remove redundant skin arising around the same time as jowls and necks become a concern. The combo of the Lower Facelift and Upper Blepharoplasty effectively addresses the concerns of close to 90% of the patients I see.

Well selected patients might also benefit from a 'Lateral Brow Lift' to address sagging of the outer corner of the eyes, but many don't need this since Botox may suffice here. Lifting the brows on a patient who doesn't really need it only contributes to a surgical and surprised look. A full brow lift is very rarely indicated.

Lower eyelids are more sensitive than upper eyelids, and 'Lower Blepharoplasty' surgery thus riskier. Fortunately, many patients don't need this surgery as it only really benefits those with obvious 'bags' below their eyes caused by protruding fat.

Fat grafting - is it worth it? It's true that part of facial aging may include facial fat atrophy in some patients, though certainly not in all. But while it appears intuitively desirable, though overly simplistic, to just replace lost facial fat with fat from other areas, it just doesn't pan out as hoped for, as much of the transferred fat ends up atrophying in unpredictable ways or potentially remain as unnatural areas of fullness or irregularity. Fat grafting is accompanied by increased swelling, bruising, longer surgery, and downtime, at least if seriously performed. In our era of abundant facial



Stephan Baker MD

filler options, which allow for considerable precision in volume enhancement after the facelift has healed, fat grafting has lost much of its initial appeal.

Lip lifts have been resurrected on social media. Few patients really are good candidates. Risks include potentially visible scarring under your nose and possibly a snarled (rabbit) look. Certainly not an essential addition for most patients. So why add risk and expense?

A word of caution on another social media marketed procedure - reduction of your neck salivary glands. These glands produce saliva and are tacked away under the lower jaw. Cutting away part of these normal glands to obtain a 'better' jawline requires a large incision below the chin, lengthens the surgery and increases the risk for complications such as bleeding, saliva leakage and prolonged, annoying necks swelling. It's been called 'radical neck lifting' and excessive for a cosmetic procedure. I agree.

In summary, when considering any item on the aesthetic 'menu', always think about your risk/benefit ratio. Only procedures with high benefit and low risk are desirable. Also, the more procedures you do, the potentially less natural you'll end up looking. Nobody can make you look twenty again, no matter how much you cut, pull, or fill and if you try too hard it might just look desperate. You probably have seen it. Good facial surgery just looks good, not surgical or obvious, making others wonder why you look good but not being able to tell you had something done. Also, you do want to lose your unique natural beauty! So think 'less is more'. As always, research carefully, choose wisely to end up safe, looking yourself, and not spending your money unwisely.

STEPHAN BAKER, MD, FACS

Plastic Surgery of the Face Breast and Body

Certified by the American Board of Plastic Surgery

305.381.8837 | www.dr baker.com

3850 Bird Road Suite 702, Miami, FL 33146

Living

Summer Travel - See page 36



120% LINO

120% LINO STORE AT 342 SAN LORENZO AVE FOR LINEN DRESSING, AND THEIR SS26 COLLECTION

June Best Bets

MUSIC, DANCE, CINEMA AND BOOK READINGS



SOIRÉE DES ARTS: MEDITERRANEAN EDITION

Les Ailes du Désir Foundation presents “Mediterranean Edition” as part of Soirée des Arts, blending aerial acrobatics, contemporary dance, live music, and Mediterranean influences. Featuring acclaimed international artists and emerging local talent, the performance celebrates Coral Gables’ cultural diversity. Tues., June 2 at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$13 to \$28. Sanctuary of the Arts, 410 Andalusia Ave. ci.ovationtix.com



GABLES GALLERY NIGHT

Gables Gallery Night returns as galleries and cultural venues across Downtown Coral Gables open for an evening of art and live music. Presented by the City of Coral Gables, the monthly art walk includes stops like Coral Gables Museum, Cernuda Arte, The Americas Collection, and Garcia Art Gallery. Fri., June 5 from 6 to 10 pm. Free. coralgables.com

BOYD MEETS GIRL AT SANCTUARY

The Miami Chamber Music Society brings Boyd Meets Girl to Sanctuary of the Arts for the Mainly Mozart Festival 2026. Guitarist Rupert Boyd and cellist Laura Metcalf will perform Bach, Beethoven, Ravel, Brazilian pieces, folk-inspired works, and songs by



The Beatles, with pianist Marina Radiushina joining. Sun., June 7 at 4 pm. Tickets \$13 to \$38. 410 Andalusia Ave.



FANMEILE MIAMI KICKS OFF AT BAY 13

Fanmeile Miami launches at Bay 13 Brewery & Kitchen with a USA vs. Germany watch party. Inspired by German fan-zone traditions, the opening brings large screens, biergarten fare, imported beers, live music by German artist Vroni, and an evening after-party. Sat., June 6 at 2:30 pm. Free. 65 Alhambra Plaza. bay13brewery.com

DIAL M FOR MURDER

Suspense comes to Actors’ Playhouse with Dial M for Murder, Jeffrey Hatcher’s adaptation of Frederick Knott’s classic thriller. The production follows Tony, a polished husband whose plot to murder his wife begins unraveling. Through June 7, with performances Wed.-Sat. at 8 pm and Sun. at 3 pm. Tickets \$40 to \$95. 280 Miracle Mile. actorsplayhouse.org (See page 40)



YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN

The comedic masterpiece starring Gene Wilder as the nephew of the mad scientist who recreates his uncle’s work. An amazing cast

brings it all to life: Madeline Kahn as his cold fiancé, Teri Garr as his lab assistant, Marty Feldman as Igor, Cloris Leachman as Frau Blücher, Gene Hackman as the blindman, and Peter Boyle as Frankenstein's monster. Coral Gables Art Cinema. June 11, 8 pm. Tickets \$10-11.75. 260 Aragon Ave. gablescinema.com



POIESIS QUARTET AT MAINLY MOZART

The Miami Chamber Music Society presents the Poiesis Quartet at the Knight Center for Music Innovation for the Mainly Mozart Festival 2026. The award-winning ensemble will perform contemporary works before joining pianist Marina Radiushina for Brahms's Piano Quintet in F minor, Op. 34. Fri., June 12 from 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Tickets \$39.19; students \$12.51.



pean ensemble will perform Bach's "Contrapunctus I" from The Art of the Fugue and Schubert's dramatic Death and the Maiden, with academy participants opening with Chopin selections. Thurs., June 18 at 7:30 pm. Free with RSVP. 5513 San Amaro Dr.



A FIRST TASTE

Taste of the Gables Restaurant Month kicks off with Flavors of the Gables, a signature tasting event celebrating the culinary creativity of the city. Savor bites from Fleming's Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar, Fontana at The Biltmore Hotel, La Rosa Gastrobar, Salumeria104, Rivareno Gelato, Gelato E Macchiato, and more to be announced. Guests will also enjoy access to the Johnnie Walker bar. Coral Gables Golf & Country Club, 990 Alhambra Circle. June 25, 7-9 pm. \$60-\$105. Tickets available through Eventbrite.com or coralgables.com



MANGO MANIA AT FAIRCHILD

Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden's annual Mango Festival returns with two days of tastings, chef-led experiences, family activities, fruit displays, seminars, and a rare tree sale celebrating South Florida's favorite summer fruit. Upgrades include smoothies, tastings, cocktail pairings, and the Mango Lounge. Sat., June 13 and Sun., June 14 from 10 am to 5 pm. fairchildgarden.org

EUREKA DAY

Fresh from Broadway, Eureka Day arrives at GableStage as a regional premiere. Jonathan Spector's satire follows a Berkeley prep school board devoted to consensus until a mumps outbreak challenges its liberal vaccine policy and everyone's patience. Running through June 14, with performances Thurs.-Sat. at 7:30 pm, Wed. and Sun. at 2 pm. 1200 Anastasia Ave. gablestage.org (See page 40)

"DEATH AND THE MAIDEN" AT FROST

The Frost Chopin Academy & Festival presents the Apollon Musagete Quartet at Newman Recital Hall. The acclaimed Euro-



AN EVENING WITH LISA SEE

Bestselling author Lisa See visits Books & Books to discuss her new historical novel, Daughters of the Sun and Moon. Set in 1870s Los Angeles, the book follows three Chinese women navigating migration, discrimination, and friendship. Sun., June 21 at 5 pm. Free. Books & Books, 265 Aragon Ave. booksandbooks.com. Also this summer, Books & Books is hosting Maggie O'Farrell, author of the bestselling novel Hamnet, to discuss her latest novel, Land, on Wed., July 1 at 7 pm at Coral Gables Congregational United Church of Christ.

Spy World

WHERE SURVEILLANCE MEETS FAMILY TRADITION (AND DYSFUNCTION)

BY YOUSRA BENKIRANE
PHOTOS BY RODOLFO BENITEZ

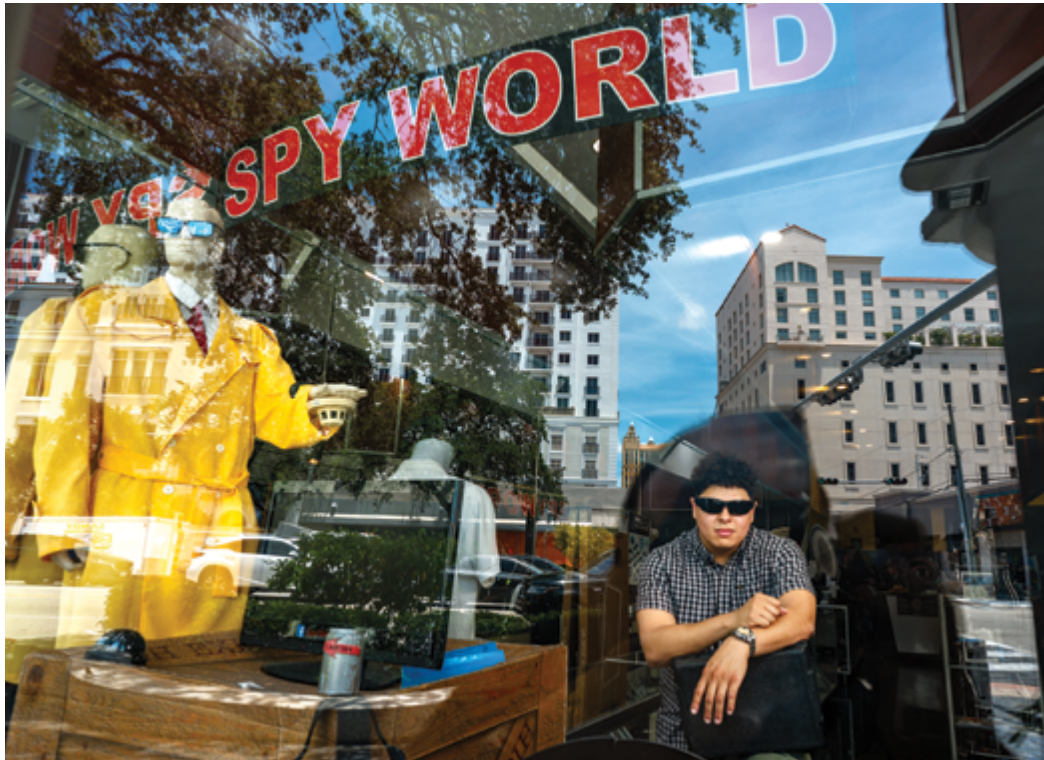
From James Bond's tricked-out briefcases to the hidden gadgets of Mission: Impossible, spy gear has long occupied a place in pop culture fantasy. On Miracle Mile, that fantasy has had a real-world address for more than three decades. Tucked among boutiques and cafés, Spy World has built a following with surveillance equipment, counterintelligence tools, and a sense of intrigue that's made the family-run shop a local curiosity.

Opened in 1993 by Steven Gonzalez, Spy World grew from an unusual family legacy. According to his son, Apollo Gonzalez, who recently stepped into a larger role running the business, the roots go back even further. "My grandpa was working for the government," he says. "Then he bought the building, and we made the store."

That origin story helps explain the shop's singular identity. Part security outfitter, part gadget emporium, Spy World specializes in surveillance technology — much of it designed or customized in-house. Tiny cameras can be concealed inside everything from water bottles to screws, while the shelves hold an eclectic mix of bug detectors, recording devices, tactical gear, personal protection tools, and old-school spy novelties that make first-time visitors feel as though they've wandered onto a movie set.

For Apollo, who has been managing the store for the past year, the business is ultimately about service. "This store is not just selling items," he says. "It helps people have peace of mind."

That ethos has sustained Spy World through decades of retail shifts on Miracle Mile. While businesses have come and gone, the shop has maintained a loyal clientele ranging from business owners and private citizens to law enforcement agencies. Apollo says roughly three-quarters of their work involves police clients, while others come seeking solutions for personal security or sensitive situations, like tracking a wayward spouse or spying on a bad nanny. Then there are toys to hide your stash — like cans and



bottles with secret compartments and with purses that prevent your phone from being tracked. Apollo is particularly proud of a sophisticated instrument he says was sold to Mar-a-Lago to detect listening devices.

Part of the draw is the store's unusual degree of customization. "Everything is manufactured by us," Apollo says, explaining that customers can request discreet surveillance devices integrated into everyday objects. Some customers, he says, have visited Spy World for years. The store's mystique has always been part of its appeal, but Apollo is quick to stress there is a serious, ethical side to the business. "We don't cross

OPENED AT 96 MIRACLE MILE IN 1993 BY STEVEN GONZALEZ, SPY WORLD IS NOW RUN BY HIS SON, APOLLO GONZALEZ, ABOVE. HE SAYS PROUDLY, "THERE'S ONLY TWO STORES LIKE THIS IN THE WHOLE UNITED STATES."

the line," he says. "We really help the people in a legal way."

Even after 30-plus years, Spy World still inspires a sense of discovery. One visitor may come in looking for pepper spray, another for hidden cameras, another simply to browse a store unlike any other. Or at least like just one other. "There's only two stores like this in the whole United States," he says proudly. **B**



One Team, One Vision With You at the Center

Led by Lani Kahn Drody, The Lani Group is a luxury real estate team offering boutique-style service to home sellers and buyers across South Florida.

Anchored by Lani's 30 years of experience, over \$1 billion in sales, and her deep roots as a native Miami local, The Lani Group offers unmatched expertise in the greater Miami area.



JUST LISTED | MR. C RESIDENCES COCONUT GROVE

3 BED 3.5 BATH | WORLD-CLASS AMENITIES | STUNNING VIEWS

JUST LISTED | MR. C RESIDENCES

2655 S BAYSHORE DR. #1911 MIAMI, FL 33131
3 BED | 3.5 BATH | 1,603 SQ FT* | \$3,900,000

EXPERIENCE LUXURY LIVING FRAMED BY PANORAMIC BAY VIEWS
LISTED BY LANI KAHN DRODY | (305) 216-1550 | MRC1911.COM

JUST LISTED | THE LAUREL HOME

11900 SW 14TH PLACE DAVIE, FL 33325
5 BED | 6 BATH | CLUB ROOM | 3 CAR GARAGE | POOL | 5,301 SQ FT
LUXURY ESTATE-STYLE LIVING IN THE HEART OF DAVIE | \$3,450,000
CONTACT PATTI CECCHERINE FOR DETAILS | (954) 473-9188

UNDER CONTRACT | BERMUDA VILLAGE

550 LORETTO AVE. CORAL GABLES, FL 33146
3 BED + DEN | 3 BATH | 2 CAR GARAGE | 2,305 SQ FT | \$1,800,000
A RARE BLEND OF LUXURY, PRIVACY, & WALKABLE URBAN CONVENIENCE.
LISTED BY LANI KAHN DRODY | (305) 216-1550 | 550LORETTO.COM

JUST SOLD | BAPTIST/KILLIAN

11450 SW 92ND CT. MIAMI, FL 33176
4 BED | 4 BATH | 3 CAR GARAGE | 3,958 SQ FT
NEARLY AN ACRE OF PEACE, PRIVACY, AND POSSIBILITY
LISTED BY LAUREN DOWLEN | (786) 942-0193

JUST SOLD | CORAL GABLES

1530 CATALONIA AVE. CORAL GABLES FL 33156
3 BED | 2 BATH | 1 CAR GARAGE | 1,683 SQ FT
SITUATED ON A QUIET, TREE-LINED STREET IN THE HEART OF CORAL GABLES
LISTED BY LAUREN DOWLEN | (786) 942-0193

4601 PONCE DE LEON BLVD. STE. 102, CORAL GABLES, FL 33146
305.520.5420 · LOWELLINTERNATIONALREALTY.COM
Search active listings with ease, visit our website!



JUST LISTED | THE LAUREL HOME

NEW CONSTRUCTION | 5 BED 6 BATH | 5,301 SQ. FT.



EXPERIENCE IS EVERYTHING
OVER \$1 BILLION IN SALES
#CHOOSELOWELL



The information contained herein, while not guaranteed, has been secured from sources we believe to be reliable. However, information is subject to verification by purchaser, and broker assumes no liability for corrections thereof. Square feet shown may be living, adjusted or total area - see agent for details. For sale offerings are made subject to errors, omissions, change of price, prior sale or withdrawal without notice. In accordance with the law, properties are offered without respect to race, color, creed or national origin. If a property is located in a flood or hurricane zone, broker assumes no responsibility for providing information on elevations or other information pertaining thereto. If you are working with a Realtor, this is not a solicitation.

New Openings

Alejandría Floral Art

Alejandría Floral Art opened its first location in Paraguay seven years ago. Since then, what began as a single shop has grown into an international brand, expanding to Brazil before opening its first U.S. location in Coral Gables. The brand now consumes more than 25,000 Colombian roses every week. In 2024, Great Place to Work, an organization that surveys employees worldwide and certifies companies based on trust, culture, and workplace experience, named Alejandría one of the best companies to work for in Paraguay.

Inside the shop, the floor-to-ceiling windows bring in plenty of natural light, while the space itself is decorated with antique-inspired touches – classical busts, oil paintings, ceramic pieces, and vases line the walls alongside the arrangements. There’s a small lounge area if you’re waiting for a bouquet, with a large, arched backlit mirror and a digital display cycling through arrangements in case you need some inspiration before ordering. All the flowers are stored in a refrigerated unit in the back, which slows the blooming process and keeps the blossoms fresh for longer.

“We work with premium Colombian farms that provide beautiful roses, hydrangeas, garden roses, and other specialty flowers central to our signature style,” the team says. Arrangements range from the Signature Rose Bouquet at \$80 to the Grand English Basket at \$1,000. Custom designs and event florals are also available, and the shop is open for walk-ins or online orders. – Amanda Martell

1516 PONCE DE LEON BLVD.
786.300.2928 ALEJANDRIAFLORERS.COM

ALEJANDRÍA FLORAL ART, A GLOBAL
BRAND, HAS ARRIVED IN THE GABLES



Danny Jelaca Salon

After nearly three decades on Miami Beach, Danny Jelaca has brought his namesake salon to Coral Gables. For Jelaca, the move was both personal and practical. He recently bought a home here, and many of his longtime clients already live in or adjacent to the Gables.

“South Beach, although I love it, has become extremely seasonal,” says Jelaca, who began working there in 1995 and opened his own business in 2010. “People [in Coral Gables] tend to live here year-round. There’s community here” – along with the steady rhythm of nearby businesses, restaurants, shops, medical offices, and the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce, where he has joined as a trustee.

The salon itself brings a polished, full-service beauty experience to the neighborhood, with services ranging from precision cuts, blowouts, styling, highlights, extensions, and hair treatments to makeup, bridal styling, and smoothing services. During our visit, even a simple haircut felt elevated: comfortable, unhurried, and quietly luxurious, with attentive service that made the appointment feel more like a reset than an errand. The new location also makes it easier for clients who once made the long drive to South Beach.

For Jelaca, the move marks a new chapter: living here, working here, and becoming more involved locally. He is active with local charities and says Coral Gables feels like the right fit for both his business and his life. “It was time,” he says. “I wanted to relocate and go to a cool neighborhood where we could service all of those clients.” – Yousra Benkirane

THE SALON DANNY JELACA HAS MOVED
TO THE GABLES FROM MIAMI BEACH

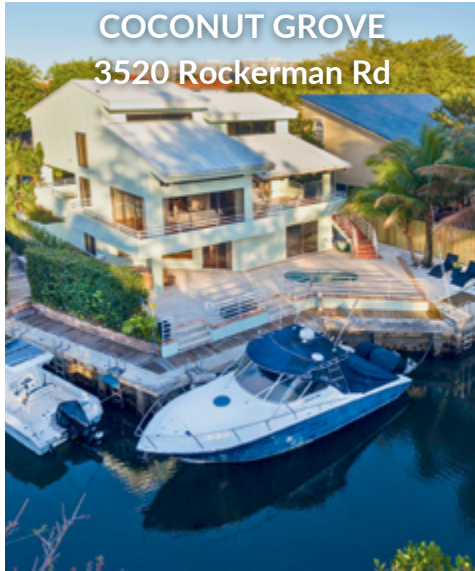
301 ALTARA AVE., SUITE 103
305.604.9696 DANNYJELACA.COM



HUTCHINSON ISLAND
4917 Watersong Way

\$1,175,000 - New Price

3 Bdr | 3 BA | 2,351 ASF | 4,356 SF Lot



COCONUT GROVE
3520 Rockerman Rd

\$5,498,000

4 Bdr | 4.5 BA | 4,125 ASF | 6,420 SF Lot



CORAL GABLES WATERWAY | 5343 Orduna Dr

\$6,998,000 - New Price

6 Bdr | 4.5 Ba | 4,712 ASF | 18,153 SF Lot



PONCE DAVIS | 4867 SW 82nd St

\$8,498,000

6 Bdr | 6.5 BA | 5,653 ASF | 40,946 SF Lot



Navigating South Florida
Real Estate for
Over 30 Years.

Family-run.

Third generation
Miami natives.

Belinda Sime

786-344-9579

belinda@simerealty.com

Amber Sime

305-785-2588

amber@simerealty.com

Website: SimeRealty.com

Socials: SimeRealty



Summer Travel Shopping Guide

BY AMANDA MARTELL

Summer officially arrives June 21, and with it comes the familiar ritual of figuring out what to pack for your summer vacation. From the perfect beach-to-dinner dress to luggage trackers and everything in between, consider this your starting point for the season. As for your summer reading, head over to page [66] for the latest.

Swimwear Worth the Splurge (right)

ViX Paula Hermann offers a wide selection of swimwear, with best-seller animal prints this summer. The Tri Top and Tie Side Bottom (\$118 each) come in a fun zebra pattern that mixes easily. For a one piece, the Tammy Renee One Piece (\$348) is a leopard halter with a gold bar waist clasp; the Firenze Sade One Piece (\$258) is off-white with a tortoiseshell belt buckle. 370 San Lorenzo Ave #2422/786.717.7475



The Right Bag (below)

All trips need good luggage. BÉIS, founded by “Pretty Little Liars” actress Shay Mitchell, is both practical and chic. The rollers have built-in weight indicators, compression systems, TSA-approved locks, and 360-degree wheels. The line runs from a Weekender Bag to a Check-In Roller starting at \$108, in black, white, pink, or beige. Nordstrom/4310 Ponce de Leon Blvd /786.999.1313



Clothes (Linen) that are light (left)

120% Lino is synonymous with linen dressing, and their SS26 collection can be your summer uniform. The Italian brand’s jersey dress (\$355) has a V-neckline, tie belt at the waist, and a flared above-the-knee skirt. For something dressier, their long white linen dress (\$585) features a deep V-neckline front and back, sequin appliques, and a flared silhouette. 342 San Lorenzo Ave Suite 1100/305.774.1212

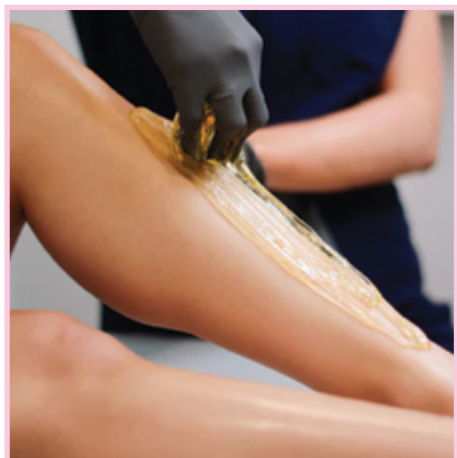
The Season’s Best Frames (right)

No summer outfit is complete without great sunglasses. Miu Miu’s oval acetate frames in tortoiseshell (\$524) are a classic. The Ray-Ban Meta glasses (\$459) go further with a built-in HD camera, Meta AI, open-ear speakers, and five microphones in the tiny frame. With eight hours of battery and a pocket-sized charging case. Sunglass Hut/350 San Lorenzo Ave Spc 2105/786.497.0664



Shoes That Go the Distance (below)

The right pair of shoes can make or break an outfit, and having two options goes a long way. The Avena sandals (\$75) have a crossover strap in blush that works with anything. The Roma wedges (\$70) offer a bit more height with a braided toe strap and woven platform. Both can carry you from casual lunch to a proper dinner out. Essence Boutique/78 Miracle Mile/305.448.6777



Glow Before You Go (left)

Smooth skin makes everything look better in a bikini, sundress, or a white linen dress. Sugared + Bronzed offers sugar waxing starting at \$69, a gentler alternative to traditional waxing that leaves skin clean without the irritation. For those wanting to go the extra mile, their Air-brush Tan is also \$69 and delivers a streak-free glow. 2610 Ponce De Leon/754.704.3573

Designer Sitka Semsch Opens on Miracle Mile

AN INTERVIEW WITH SITKA SEMSCH
WHO IS OPENING A BOUTIQUE AT
330 MIRACLE MILE

As part of a new interview series presented by Terranova Corporation, we're spotlighting the people and businesses shaping our community. This month's conversation, led by Mindy McIlroy, offers a closer look at the story behind the store Sitka Semsch.

Sitka Semsch, a Lima-born fashion designer whose work blends modern silhouettes with the rich textures and cultural influences of Peru. Known for her attention to detail and for infusing her ethos - planet, people, purpose - into each piece, Sitka creates clothing that feels both timeless and effortless.

How would you describe the woman you design for?

I would say my woman is well traveled and socially active but most importantly she is so secure in herself that she doesn't need brand recognition. That part is very important. She is looking for unique pieces that aren't available worldwide. Something specific. Something that has a story and is very handcrafted. You know we do all of our collections in Peru. I am Peruvian. The work that we do impacts many women in Peru. All of my manufacturers are women

Your designs reflect a strong sense of place. How has growing up in Lima Peru shaped your creative vision?

Anyone who knows Peru, they know that we have the inca culture and all of the cultures previous to the inca culture. We have a lot of roots, a lot of handcraft, a lot of story. It's a very cultured country. So definitely growing up - this really impacts you. I try to incorporate the handcraft into the collections but in a very elevated way. Not necessarily ethnic, but with handcraft and flair. Definitely my collections are rooted and even the store décor in the Peruvian culture.

Planet, People, Purpose – your design philosophy – how would you describe it to someone discovering your brand for the first time?

For us our values are more important than anything else. We produce exactly for the demand that we have. We do not over produce, we don't like to have excess inventory, over consumption, putting things on sale, all the things that the fashion industry is complaining about. I don't want to be part of that. I want to be part of the responsible way of doing things and we can do it by looking at consumption, working responsibly and that is taking care of the planet. Regarding people, I have



a saying: it's not about the clothes; it's about the woman. I say this because, for me, women are the most important factor in the value chain. From the women who sew and weave the collection to the woman who wears it, and anyone in between. To be really taken care of in every sense of the word. From the personal side, the family side, income - in all the value chain we have to be really well taken care of. This is my purpose actually. I always say, if I do not impact thru what I love doing - which is design - then let others design. I would not have the brand. For me the brand is about impact.

Your work was recognized by the Tory Burch Foundation. Tell us about that.

That was amazing. They choose 50 women out of the whole united states. You have to be a womanowned business. They look at your business plan and depending on the solidity of your business they choose you or not. If chosen you are trained for a whole year on how to scale, grow and make your business more solid for the future. At the end of May, along with the other 49 women I will be going to New York to meet Tory Burch and to present the business plan.

Why is connecting with communities like Coral Gables important to your brands growth?

I love Coral Gables, I love the women in Coral Gables because I think they fit perfectly the vision of the brand. We are not about logos. I could put a logo, I could be louder but I am not that person, intrinsically, I am a different person and I think the brand reflects who I am and that attracts women of Coral Gables which yes, they like to dress beautifully but in an understated way which is my vision - more classy, natural and you can appreciate the handcraft.



terranovalcorp.com

305.695.8700

255 Alhambra Circle

Coral Gables, Florida 33134



Giralda Plaza, Costazul, and The Burrow

DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE ON A FIRST FRIDAY

BY AMANDA MARTELL

The first Friday of the month in Coral Gables goes by the moniker Gallery Night, and it reflects what amounts to a nascent resurgence of art galleries in the city. A half dozen participating galleries, along with the Coral Gables Museum, now open their doors from 6 to 10 pm. The event is further anchored by Giralda Live, which comprises live music, popup vendors, and the outdoor cafes of Giralda Plaza.

For the First Friday in May, the unveiling of Cielo Tejido (“A Woven Sky”) brought new spectacle to the plaza. The canopy, handwoven by artisan women from Etzatlán, Mexico (in collaboration with the Consulate of Mexico) stretched overhead across the length of the street in a pattern of pinks, golds, deep blues, and greens. With the sun still shining until 8 pm, the patterns shifted, drawing people to stop, look up, and snap photos. Meanwhile, a line formed at the Zacapa Rum kiosk, where free cocktails were being poured for anyone willing to wait. Most people were.

Strolling the plaza, we passed the folks from Bliss Imprints – owners Eddy and Marilyn Martinez – who had set up a large version of their Gables-Opoly, a Coral Gables version of the classic board game with every square mapped to a local street or landmark. Eddy guided a group of kids through the game while parents watched, some finally stepping in to join.

We had reservations at Costazul Peruvian Cuisine, known for its fresh ceviche and mar y tierra dishes. Despite the humidity we sat outside to enjoy the parade of people stopping to photograph the canopy overhead. We started with a lime mojito and glass of cold Chardonnay and settled on the Lomo Costazul, beef loin with portobello mushrooms, soy sauce, and fresh cilantro, served over risotto in red pepper sauce. From our table, we could listen to the Mariachi Mexico Internacional band play a steady set of classics, eventually drawing a few from the crowd into dancing.

Giralda Live runs until 11 pm but we had tickets to visit The Burrow, a new semi-private club two blocks south on Miracle Mile. Founded by Omar Yunes Marquez, The Burrow (motto: “Follow the Rabbit”) works like a speakeasy; guests who have purchased tickets ahead of time online receive a code they use to get through the door.

The Burrow holds events almost randomly, Wednesday to Saturday nights, with different themes. One night will be a scotch tasting with a live band, another will be an omakase and sake event, another cocktails and disco. The theme for the evening we went was Vinyl & Cocktails, with old vinyl records filling the background with classic jazz and blues.



LEFT: GIRALDA LIVE ON FIRST FRIDAY UNVEILED CIELO TEJIDO OR WOVEN SKY

TOP: LIME MOJITO AND COLD CHARDONNAY AT COSTAZUL

ABOVE: THE BURROW SEMI-PRIVATE CLUB WITH THEMED EVENINGS

COSTAZUL RESTAURANTE PERUVIAN CUISINE 160 GIRALDA AVE. 786.360.3775

THE BURROW 94 MIRACLE MILE THEBURROW.CLUB

Inside, a long marble bar runs the length of the room, bottles lined up on wooden shelves behind it, glass pendant lights hanging above. Small tables with candle lamps are scattered across the room, creating a cozy atmosphere. We settled in with some friends and ordered dirty martinis along with the octopus in olive oil.

Evenings at The Burrow are priced at \$65, with all house beer, sake, wine, spirits, and cocktails included. They also offer memberships (\$225 to \$425 per month) for those looking to make it a regular stop. While we waited for our Uber home, we reflected on how Coral Gables always surprises you with something new. ■



A Storybook Estate of Understated Luxury, Nestled Among Ancient Oaks & Secret Gardens on 1.25 Private Acres in Snapper Creek Lakes | 5BD | 6.5BA | 7,700+ Total SF | 1.25 Acre SF Lot | \$10.75M



North Pinecrest European Transitional, Grand Masterpiece | 6BD | 8.5BA + 1 HB | 11,879 Total SF | 39,204 SF Lot | \$9.75M



Brand New Construction on Lush, Private, Pinecrest Acre | 5BD | 6.5BA | 6,000+ Total SF | 39,026 SF Lot | \$5.175M



JOSIE WANG

\$3.3 Billion in Sales

Brown Harris Stevens

305.666.9759 | JosieWang.com

Josie@JosieWang.com

JosieWangcb@yahoo.com

All information is from sources deemed reliable but is subject to errors, omissions, changes in price, prior sale or withdrawal without notice. No representation or guarantee is made as to accuracy of any description. Equal Housing Opportunity Broker.

At the Theater

Dial M for Murder

Suspense, deception and razor-sharp dialogue take center stage at Actors' Playhouse this month with a gripping new production of *Dial M for Murder* at the Miracle Theatre.

Originally written by English playwright Frederick Knott, the classic thriller inspired Alfred Hitchcock's celebrated 1954 film adaptation and has remained a favorite among mystery lovers for decades. This latest staging brings the tension to life with an elegant production that reminds you just how much fun it is to attend a tightly written and well directed stage drama.

Set in 1950s London, the story follows former writer Tony Wendice, who devises a deadly scheme to murder his wealthy wife Margot after discovering her affair with an American woman who is also a crime writer. Tony's carefully crafted plan begins to unravel, however, leading to a dangerous web of blackmail, betrayal and unexpected twists. The play's suspense builds steadily not so much as to who did it but how to catch him.

Actors' Playhouse, known for its polished productions and strong performances, transforms the Miracle Theatre's intimate upstairs stage into a stylish world of psychological intrigue. There are no weak performances, but Stephen Anthony is especially on target as the British inspector who tries to solve the mystery.



BEN SANDOMIR AND LINDSEY COREY BRING DIAL M FOR MURDER TO LIFE. PHOTO BY JAVIER FRANCESCHI

The production showcases a truly professional production that blends classic noir atmosphere with timeless themes of greed, manipulation and justice. Now through June 7.

ACTORS' PLAYHOUSE AT MIRACLE THEATRE
280 MIRACLE MILE
305.444.9293

Eureka Day

GableStage closes its season with a sharply funny and unsettling production of *Eureka Day*, Jonathan Spector's acclaimed satire about modern liberalism, public health and the limits of consensus. The play feels both hilariously absurd and painfully timely.

Set at a progressive private school in Berkeley, California, *Eureka Day* centers on a well-meaning board of parents and administrators who pride themselves on inclusivity, mindfulness and collective decision-making. But when a mumps outbreak hits the school and the issue of vaccinations explodes into public debate, the group's carefully cultivated civility begins to crack. What follows is a chaotic spiral of virtue signaling and passive aggression delivered with biting wit.

Under the direction of Stuart Meltzer, the production balances broad comedy with moments of genuine tension and anguish. The ensemble cast excels at capturing the awkward rhythms of overly woke privileged parents desperate to appear compassionate while dealing with real world threats. Rita Cole, Ryan Didato, Jordyn Moone, Jeni Hacker and Mark H. Dold bring sharp comedic timing and emotional authenticity to the characters. Dold is positively brilliant as the overly solicitous head of the school who tries to keep everyone happy.

One particularly memorable sequence – a hilariously disastrous online Zoom meeting – earns some of the evening's loudest laughs while revealing the deep fractures beneath the school's polished progressive image. As always, GableStage proves fearless in selecting challenging contemporary work. Now through June 14.

GABLESTAGE
1200 ANASTASIA AVE.
305.445.1119

JORDYN MOONE, MARK H. DOLD, RITA COLE, AND JENI HACKER AND ARE SHOCKED BY AN ONLINE MESSAGE





We Sell Coral Gables Homes for 14% Over Zestimates

Zestimates are backward-looking averages. They don't account for the renovation, the location within the neighborhood, or what our skilled negotiation strategy will yield.

Every Coral Gables home we sold in the last 12 months closed above Zillow's estimate - producing an incremental, collective \$1,874,200 above what the algorithm predicted.

Curious what your home is really worth?
Call 305.775.5330.



747 Palermo Avenue, Coral Gables
SOLD FOR 26% ABOVE ZESTIMATE



5907 Riviera Drive, Coral Gables
SOLD FOR 16% ABOVE ZESTIMATE



6400 San Vicente Street, Coral Gables
SOLD FOR 12% ABOVE ZESTIMATE



1315 Granada Boulevard, Coral Gables
SOLD FOR 9.6% ABOVE ZESTIMATE

14% IS AN AVERAGE ACROSS OUR SOLD CORAL GABLES LISTINGS



SMITH
FORMOSA
TEAM

305.775.5330 VERYSPECIALHOMES.COM
1515 SUNSET DRIVE #40
CORAL GABLES, FL

COMPASS

Be Part of The City Beautiful Annual Chamber Guide



**Distributed to:
20,000 Households**

**The City's
Economic Development
Department**

**Major Hotels
Local Businesses in
the City Beautiful**

Contact:

**sales@coralgablesmagazine.com
305-995-0995**



CORAL GABLES
MAGAZINE

Bites

Executive Lunches - see page 54

PLUS :
QUICK BITES
FINE DINING
& HAPPY HOUR

BULLA GASTROBAR FOR SPANISH-STYLE EXECUTIVE LUNCH SERVED IN A BRIGHT AND AIRY SPACE WITH WOODEN FLOORS AND A LARGE MARBLE-TOPPED BAR

Sandwiches!

Who does not love a good sandwich? It was invented – or perhaps just popularized – by the Earl of Sandwich in 1762, who supposedly asked for some meat between slices of bread so as not to interrupt his gambling streak. And that first sandwich? Likely cold, salted beef between slices of toast, a way to eat with one hand while gambling with the other. Here are a few local variations.

MADRUGA BAKERY

Madruga Bakery is easily the busiest bakery in the Gables, with a loyal following for its artisanal breads, pastries, and sandwiches, so get there early. At 9:30 am, the sandwich selection becomes available, including the Smoked Salmon Sandwich (\$13) that we tried. Served on a toasted baguette with thinly cut smoked salmon and dill cream cheese, it's cool and tangy – and almost as good as their incredible roast beef on rye. 1430 S Dixie Hwy (on Madruga Ave).

FUKU

With a casual, bright interior, Fuku brings to Miracle Mile the Sando, a sandwich popular in Japan that consists of deep-fried chicken served between slices of soft, crustless Japanese “milk bread.” The chicken here is well brined before it's fried, giving it a juicy, salty flavor – and who doesn't love fried chicken? Add Fuku mayo, pickles and a butter-toasted potato roll (our version of milk bread) and you've got a winner. 135 Miracle Mile.

JHOLANO'S DELI

Jholano's Deli is a small but well-stocked deli with an extensive menu of cold and toasted sandwiches. We opted for The Jholano (\$20.99), wrapped in butcher paper and pressed on focaccia with prosciutto di Parma, mortadella, hard salami, and brie that melts into every bite. The fig jam steals the show, bringing a natural sweetness that softens the slightly peppery arugula and saltiness of the salami. 1390 S Dixie Hwy #2122

SANGUICH

Located in The Plaza Coral Gables, Sanguich is known for its fresh Cuban bread. We ordered the Sanguich de Miami (\$14.25) and the Pan con Bistec (\$15.75), both toasted golden brown. The bread was perfect, crisp on the outside, soft inside, and pressed just enough without flattening everything. The Sanguich de Miami was stacked with turkey, smoked bacon, Swiss, lettuce, tomato and mayo; the Pan con Bistec was heartier, with tender steak, mojo rojo and crispy potatoes. 111 Palermo Ave.

FRANKIE & WALLY'S

Newly opened on Ponce, Frankie & Wally's is already making a name for itself with overstuffed sandwiches and fresh flavors. We tried the Oh Honey (\$22) with oven-roasted honey turkey, bacon, cheddar, arugula, tomato, mayo and honey mustard. It hits that sweet-and-savory balance just right. The Chopped Cheese (\$29) is made with Wagyu beef, American cheese, onion, lettuce, tomato and bodega sauce. It's rich, messy and incredibly satisfying. The sandwiches are pricey but loaded with high-quality meat. 2526 Ponce de Leon Blvd.



FROM THE TOP:
 MADRUGA BAKERY - SMOKED SALMON SANDWICH
 FUKU: THE SANDO DEEP-FRIED CHICKEN JAPANESE STYLE
 JHOLANO'S DELI - THE JHOLANO WITH PROSCIUTTO
 SANGUICH - PAN CON BISTEC WITH CHEESE
 FRANKIE & WALLY'S - OH HONEY WITH HONEY TURKEY

Join us in our
one-of-a-kind
campus in
Brickell!



Week-long sessions from June 9 to July 24 9 AM - 4 PM for children ages 3 months – 11 years old

The Elementary* Specialty Camp

*Rising 1st - 6th Graders

Children ages 5–11 can choose from a variety of engaging activities, including

- Cooking
- Drama Club
- Music
- Soccer
- Studio Art
- Dance
- Science
- Aerial Acrobatics
- Tennis

The Elementary* Day Camp is designed to offer children a vibrant balance of activities that cater to every interest. From arts and creative projects to outdoor adventures and games, our camp promises a rich and engaging experience for every camper.

For both camps, **Fridays** are **field trip days**, featuring organized visits to **museums, arts & crafts studios, theaters**, and other **exciting experiences**.



Preschool** Summer Camp

**3 Months - Rising Kindergarten

We offer a variety of activities, games, and projects catered to each age group, from infants 3 months old to 4 year olds.

Summer experiences include:

- Splash Days
- Story Time
- Music
- Studio Art
- Sensory Exploration
- Lights & Shadows
- Movement & Yoga
- Games

REGISTER TODAY!

www.klaacademy.org/kla-plus/summer-camp

klaplus@klaacademy.org ♦ 786-422-6262 ♦ 375 SW 15th Rd, Miami, FL 33129

LEARN
MORE:



Bulla Gastrobar

FAST & BOISTEROUS

Bulla's Spanish-style executive lunch is easily one of the best values in Coral Gables. The prix fixe menu is just \$21.50 for two courses, and \$26.50 if you'd like to add a third-course dessert. The service is prompt and the inside seating (there are six tables outside) is at high tops, four tops and long tables, in a bright and airy space with wooden floors and a large marble-topped bar that dominates the entrance. It's an extensive space, as the entire ornate building on the corner of Ponce and Valencia is theirs.

The first-course choices are true to the Spanish palette, with chickpea stew, serrano ham croquettes (with fig jelly!) and Spanish lentil soup with chorizo. We tried the Ensalada de Espinacas, a large baby spinach salad with beets, walnuts, arugula and goat cheese. Healthy, bright, crunchy, and generous enough to be lunch by itself. We thought the Patatas Bravas in spicy brava sauce and aioli could have been a bit crispier, but we couldn't help eating them anyway.

For mains, the Chicken Mediterranean Bowl is the best example of Bulla's range. With hummus, tomatillo salsa, crispy chickpeas, rice, tomatoes, cucumber, pickled onions, Greek yogurt sauce, and olive oil, it's both healthy and satisfying. The Pollo al Chilindrón Platter is heartier, pairing pan-seared chicken with serrano ham, red pepper stew, rice, and a house salad. As an executive lunch, Bulla is hard to beat, especially if you like the feel of a busy, bustling informal neighborhood cafe.

2500 PONCE DE LEON BLVD.
(786) 810-6215
BULLAGASTROBAR.COM

CHICKEN MEDITERRANEAN BOWL WITH HUMMUS,
TOMATILLO SALSA, CRISPY CHICKPEAS, RICE, AND
GREEK YOGHURT SAUCE



Francesco

AN ELEGANT PAUSE

Francesco brings a touch of Peru to the Coral Gables executive lunch scene, with a \$32 prix fixe menu that includes fresh bread, one appetizer, one main course, and dessert. The food focuses on Peruvian cuisine with Italian influences, reflecting the coastal Peruvian town where the grandparents of owner Franco Danovaro moved to from Genoa, Italy, 50 years ago. The restaurant itself has a retro-modern nautical-Deco feeling, with long rounded mirrors, a curved central bar, and a blue and white color palette. It shares a unique curved glass wall with the Miracle Theater entrance patio next door.

The appetizer options includes a Chef's Soup of the Day, Salmon Tiradito, House Salad, and Causa Limeña de Pollo. We went with the Causa, which arrived as three small, colorful bites made with potato, chicken, avocado, and aji amarillo. Cool and creamy.

For mains, the menu ranges from Chicken Chaufa with Sweet Plantains to Risotto de Aji Amarillo with Grilled Vegetables and Anticuchera Sauce. We tried the Grilled Skirt Steak with Spaghetti in White Sauce. The plate came with sliced steak topped with pesto and a generous portion of spaghetti in cream sauce. Hearty and filling. Dessert was Tocinillo del Cielo, a glossy custard served with caramel sauce and fruit.

Francesco's executive lunch is best for when the workday meal calls for something a little more polished. The white-tablecloth setting and full three-course plating in a bright, elegant space elevates the lunch experience.

GRILLED SKIRT STEAK TOPPED WITH PESTO, SERVED
WITH SPAGHETTI IN WHITE CREAM SAUCE

278 MIRACLE MILE
(305) 797-4039
FRANCESCO-RESTAURANT.COM



Experience Healthcare on Your Terms

Baptist Health Concierge Medicine is designed with the highest level of personalized care you could imagine.

As a member, you'll receive 24/7 access to a personal physician and dedicated care team, as well as the region's top-ranked specialists to manage your healthcare journey. Your health deserves concierge-level attention — priority scheduling, extended visits and a seamless approach to care coordination tailored just for you.

Now Accepting New Members
Boca Raton • Coral Gables • Delray
Key West • Pinecrest

786-596-7378
BaptistHealth.net/ConciergeMedicine
Bringing Personalized Care to You.



**Baptist
Health**

Upping the Steaks

THE LATEST ENTRY IN THE STEAK RACE PLAYS IT LOW-KEY

BY ANDREW GAYLE
PHOTOS BY RODOLFO BENITEZ

Imagine a comfortable, unpretentious neighborhood restaurant where they happen to serve a stunning assortment of steaks, from a humble 10 oz. New York strip for \$35 to an authentic 10 oz. Kobe A5 ribeye from Japan for \$320. That is the modus operandi of The Wagyu Bar, the latest steakhouse in Coral Gables. Located in the space where Caffè Vialletto served a loyal clientele homestyle Italian food for decades, Wagyu Bar aims to become the new local standard on the edge of the Merrick Park District.

The Wagyu Bar, owned by butcher Meat N' Bone, was originally on Coral Way, and relocated to the corner of LeJeune Road and Bird Road in April. From the outset, the goal was to offer exceptional steaks in a low-key, relaxed space with a very neighborhood vibe. "We wanted to keep things simple, to have a place where you could relax," says JP Abbas, Meat N' Bone's director of food and beverage operations — a distinct shift from the high-powered über-ornate approach taken by most steakhouses in the Gables. Here, the décor is simple, almost neo-industrial, with a brick wall, mirrors to make the relatively small space feel larger, and slate gray shades on the other walls. The focus is the food, served on wooden tables reminiscent of carving tables.

While The Wagyu Bar has menu items suitable for the less carnivorous — a nice grilled branzino with lemon-caper sauce, a BBQ-glazed salmon, and an orange zest-tweaked free-range chicken breast — the point here is the beef. Even half the appetizers are meat, like the Wagyu Picanha Crostini (\$30) and the Japanese A5 Wagyu 'nigiri' (\$45) both from the Raw & Rare section of the menu. They are each given a final blowtorch treatment at the table, to take the edge



TOP: OUR CHOICE OF THREE COLORADO WAGYU STEAKS SERVED ON A WOODEN BLOCK. THE 14 OZ. RIBEYE, A 14 OZ. NEW YORK STRIP AND THE 8 OZ. PICANHA WAGYU

ABOVE: THE WARM LOW-KEY INTERIOR GIVES OFF A NEIGHBORHOOD VIBE

RIGHT: JP ABBAS, MEAT N' BONE'S DIRECTOR OF FOOD AND BEVERAGE OPERATIONS

off the raw. The Picanha is served on slices of artisanal bread with avocado, while the thin-sliced A5 Wagyu — the real deal straight from Japan, where the cows are massaged, fed beer, and serenaded — is served on sushi rice with sesame mayo.

4019 S. LEJEUNE RD.
(786) 579-2498
THEWAGYUBAR.COM



The buttery A5 Wagyu Nigiri whetted our appetite for more, but we restrained ourselves by ordering the Colorado rather than the Japanese Wagyu, a 14 oz. ribeye, and a 14 oz. New York strip (each \$135); we also ordered the 8 oz. Picanha Wagyu (\$45) to compare. We shared the steaks, which were served sliced on a cutting board. All the meats, deftly seasoned and charred by Chef Chucho Rojas, were rich with flavor, the ribeye soft, the strip juicy, and the picanha sharply tasty. I would come back for the 48 oz. picanha (\$225) to share with a table of friends.

As for sides, we also ordered the Caesar salad (\$16), which arrived as grilled wedges. A little disconcerting at first, like a crudité dish, but the more we ate the more we liked this raw approach. Also exceptionally good was the seasonal grilled vegetables (\$10), an assortment of roasted veggies that included baby bok choy and yellow peppers, sautéed with sweet onions after being roasted. They were fresh and perfectly al dente, with a sweet overlay. We left none in the tureen in which they were served. We also loved the beef butter bone marrow (\$24), still in the bone, as caveman as it gets, smeared on crusty bread (the bread here is excellent, by the way).

Whether The Wagyu Bar can thrive in its present location remains to be seen. Being located on LeJeune Road is great exposure to be sure, but from inside you see the stream of cars passing by. Our table was split on this, some enjoying the road show of light and movement, some finding it mildly annoying. That may be because we sat next to the window; regardless, there is no noise from the street. Just don't try to enter the



TOP: BEEF BUTTER BONE MARROW WITH CRUSTY BREAD FOR SHARING

ABOVE: TORCHED JAPANESE A5 WAGYU NIGIRI

TOP RIGHT: SMOKY GRILLED CAESAR

MIDDLE RIGHT: SEASONAL ROASTED VEGGETABLES

BOTTOM RIGHT: CHOCOLATE MOUSSE

restaurant from the LeJeune side. You have to go down Laguna Street, one block east of LeJeune. Here you'll see the canopy over the entrance, with \$15 valet parking. We parked a block away on Altara Avenue, for the sake of a pleasant stroll through the emerging Merrick Park neighborhood, with its array of midrise apartment and condo buildings, which should supply the neighborhood clientele that kept Violetto thriving for decades.



H Hour at the Bar

AT LA ROSA, YOU'LL NEED TO BELLY UP

La Rosa Gastrobar is tucked into the west end of Miracle Mile, where it bends to join LeJeune Road, creating a small, park-like space. Ignore the outdoor tables and go inside to the bar, which is flanked by shelves of Grey Goose, Bacardi, and Don Julio. The street sounds fade away here, where La Rosa offers happy hour Tuesday to Friday from 4 to 7 pm. La Rosa calls it “Sip, Savor & Taste,” offering eight cocktail options and a short food menu, all priced at \$10. The catch is that it’s available only at the bar.

We stopped in on a Tuesday evening, when the bar crowd leaned toward young professionals, mostly in suits and office attire straight from work. The Sexy Mezcalita (\$10) seemed to be the drink of choice, so we ordered one to see what the fuss was about. Made with mezcal, lime, orange juice, and grapefruit, with a tajín-coated rim, it struck a fine balance between sweetness and a quiet kick of spice. Next came the Aperol Spritz (\$10), a refreshing mix of Aperol, prosecco, and a splash of club soda (though it’s often found for closer to \$5 during happy hour elsewhere).

The food menu had six options to choose from. We started with the jamón y chorizo croquetas (\$10), three to a bowl, golden and crisp, with a smokiness from the chorizo. The croquetas also come in Manchego and Bacalao, with a Tabla de Charcutería, Guacamole La Rosa, and Tortilla Española rounding out the menu. - Amanda Martell

TOP: CRISPY JAMÓN Y CHORIZO CROQUETAS PAIRED WITH THE SEXY MEZCALITA COCKTAIL AND APEROL, MADE WITH PROSECCO



*E*LEVATED CATERING,
*F*LAWLSS EXECUTION.

Luxury catering for weddings, social & corporate events. Let's start planning your next celebration!
inspireeventsmiami.com · 305-421-6335 · info@inspireeventsmiami.com

Helping You Live Well.

“Wealth is the ability to fully experience life.”

– Henry David Thoreau



EVENSKY & KATZ / FOLDES
— WEALTH MANAGEMENT —

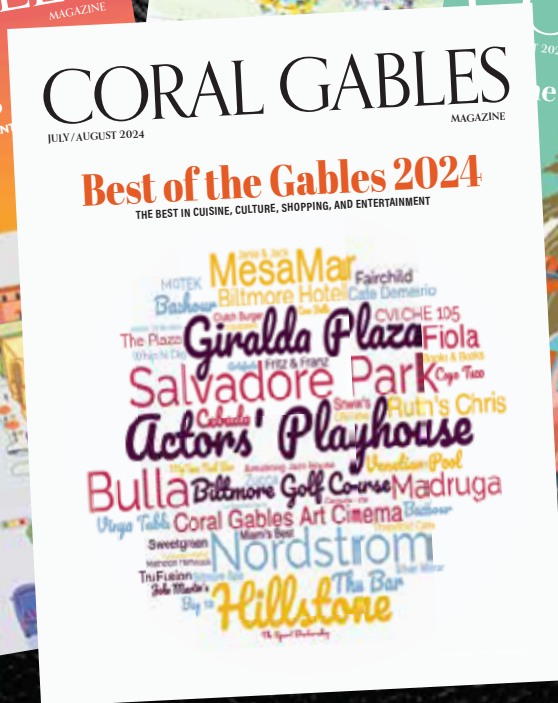


Talk to an advisor and start planning your best moments today.

4000 Ponce de Leon Boulevard, Suite 850 | Coral Gables, FL 33146 | 305-448-8882 | www.evensky.com

THE BEST OF THE GABLES

COMING
JULY
AUGUST
2026



Don't wait!
Deadline
June 15th

Advertise why your business is the BEST!

Coral Gables Magazine is pleased to announce its **2026 Best of The Gables issue**. Covering the entire range of all there is to do and see in the City Beautiful, the annual “Best Of” edition of Coral Gables magazine is always a keeper for its readers as we bring to light the:

Best Food & Drink | Best Shopping & Retail | Best Arts & Entertainment
Best Sports & Recreation | Best Architecture & Public Places

TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO REACH THE MAGAZINE'S AFFLUENT READERSHIP WITH YOUR BRAND, YOUR PRODUCT OR YOUR SERVICE.

For rates contact sales@coralgablesmagazine.com or call 305-995-0995

People

INCLUDING

DR. HAROLD "HAL" SILBERMAN

PAOLA MENDEZ

SEBASTIAN RODRIGUEZ



DR. HAROLD "HAL" SILBERMAN,
WORLD WAR II VETERAN, PHYSICIAN,
AND COMMUNITY LEADER

Dr. Harold “Hal” Silberman

WORLD WAR II VETERAN, PHYSICIAN, COMMUNITY LEADER

At 101, Dr. Harold “Hal” Silberman is still keeping busy. One of South Florida’s oldest living World War II veterans, Silberman served as a communications and decoding officer aboard the USS Arkansas and is among the rare surviving veterans who served in both the Atlantic and Pacific. After the war, he completed his medical studies at Johns Hopkins with help from the GI Bill and moved to Miami in 1951, where he built a long career in medicine, including founding PrimeCare in Coral Gables and Clinical Research of South Florida.

Today, Silberman lives at The Palace in Coral Gables with his wife, Susan, where retirement looks more like a second career. He is editor of the Residents’ Gazette, chairman of the welcome committee, leads current events chats, and organizes medical lectures for residents. His days are filled with exercise, chess, table tennis, dancing, reading, writing, and welcoming new residents into the community.

“I GET A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE OUT OF READING, OUT OF WRITING, AND OUT OF LECTURES....”



THE LATEST

Silberman recently celebrated his 101st birthday and restarted his “Innovations in Medicine” lecture series at The Palace, a program he created to bring medical specialists directly to residents. The lectures focus on issues relevant to senior health, from dermatology to longevity, while connecting residents with Coral Gables physicians. He has also built relationships with the Coral Gables Senior Center, the University of Miami, and the HistoryMiami Museum to keep residents active and engaged. As chairman of the welcome committee, Silberman helps new residents settle into life at The Palace, introduces them to others, and encourages friendships – something he views as essential to good health.

WHAT HE SAYS

“I’ve always been interested in keeping busy, both physically and mentally,” Silberman says. “In spite of the Great Depression, where we had nothing, our parents encouraged us to learn. I get a great deal of pleasure out of reading, out of writing, and out of lectures.” On life at The Palace, Silberman says, “From day one, we loved it, and I can’t pick one day that I haven’t been happy. You eat correctly, you work out, you have people who are extremely alert and who communicate.” As for why he continues to welcome new residents and organize lectures, he says, “I’ve always wanted to help people. When people come in, I sit down with them and help them understand what they have to do to socialize, to establish relationships with people, because that’s very important.” – Youusra Benkirane

Dr. Jose Rodríguez-Feliz

PLASTIC SURGEON, FACELIFT & EYELID SURGERY SPECIALIST

Dr. Rodríguez-Feliz is a New York-trained, board-certified plastic surgeon specializing in deep plane facelift and eyelid surgery. He completed fellowship training in aesthetic facial surgery under world-renowned plastic surgeon Dr. Mark Codner in Atlanta, Georgia. He is a board-certified member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, an author of scientific articles and book chapters, and a sought-after speaker in facial aesthetic surgery.

Recognized among the top 1% of facelift and eyelid surgeons in the United States for four consecutive years by Newsweek, he cares for a discerning clientele that includes high-net-worth individuals, executives, professional athletes, celebrities, and public figures.

His Coral Gables boutique practice is defined by a commitment to personalized care, operational excellence, and the delivery of refined, natural outcomes with reduced risk.

”

Sometimes the best care I can provide is to tell a patient - Plastic surgery is not the answer -



WHAT MAKES YOUR MEDICAL PRACTICE EXCEPTIONAL IN THIS COMMUNITY?

Excellence is the principle that guides everything we do. Our team is composed of highly trained professionals dedicated to mastering their craft. Through continuous improvement of our systems and processes, we reduce risk and deliver a consistently high standard of care to our patients.

CAN YOU SHARE AN EXPERIENCE THAT REFLECTS YOUR PRACTICE PHILOSOPHY?

One philosophy that guides my practice is that our services are not for everyone—and that is intentional. Putting patients first means being honest about what will truly benefit them. My role is not simply to perform surgery, but to exercise judgment and ensure patients pursue the right procedure, for the right condition, and for the right reasons. Sometimes, the best care I can provide is telling a patient that plastic surgery is not the answer.

WHAT DISTINGUISHES YOUR PRACTICE FROM OTHERS?

I value being a doctor first, and that has not changed in the 12 years I have practiced in Coral Gables. I take seriously the judgment and responsibility that come with caring for patients. Our on-site surgical suite allows us to treat patients in a highly controlled and safe environment, while our boutique practice prioritizes privacy and personalized care in a discreet, calm setting.

Paola Mendez

GABLES INFLUENCER, HYPNOTHERAPIST

Coral Gables resident Paola Mendez did not start out to become a blogger and influencer. She studied computer science and mathematics at UM and then went to work as a programmer for UBS in New York City. But she came back to Miami when her mother became ill with cancer and started a designer toy store with her sister while continuing to work as a software programmer. At her Pink-ghost toy store she learned to market via blogging, which led her to launch the CoralGablesLove.com in January 2015. Soon afterward she started South Florida Bloggers, which began with five local members who banded together to help each other learn and solve problems.

“That snowballed into having thousands of members, and then some members moved to other cities and started their communities. And so, we rebranded to the Blogger Union,” she says. At its peak, The Blogger Union had 20,000 members; her own CoralGablesLove.com blog reached 27,000 followers, with its food tours, workout tours (to gyms), reading tours (sharing books), etc.

“I WAS PUTTING THE CELEBRATION OF EVERYONE AHEAD OF MYSELF AND AHEAD OF MY OWN HEALTH...”



THE LATEST

About four years ago Mendez heard about hypnotic yoga flow, which she says was transformational for her. Already training to become a yoga instructor, Mendez then trained to become a hypnotherapist, a requirement to becoming an instructor in hypnotic yoga. “Because I wanted to teach the yoga flow I signed up for it, and started learning the tools and the process,” she says. “I still teach yoga every Sunday, but I was like, ‘No, this is it. I finally found what I love, my passion, this is what I was meant to do.’” Mendez now practices as a hypnotherapist, helping patients with pain management, eating disorders, depression, anxiety, and lack of self-confidence. “

WHAT SHE SAYS

“The first blog I ever tried was about cool gifting ideas, but the problem was that there was no reason for me to leave the house with a blog like that,” she says. “So, I said, ‘Well, if I make a blog about the city I live in, that’s going to force me out into the world to go meet people and help people grow their businesses and share their stories.’ Then she realized that “I was putting the celebration of everyone ahead of myself and ahead of my own health... I realized that I had chosen computer science to make my parents happy. I had to keep myself in mind and figure out what it was that I actually wanted to do and not always compromise for someone else.” Now, she says, “We [my clients and I] work together to get their subconscious and conscious minds on the same page.” ▢



PALMER TRINITY SCHOOL

Class of 2026 Congratulations!



93%

*of the Class of 2026
were admitted to one of
their top three schools*

143

*seniors submitted more than
1,375 applications to 253
colleges and universities*

729

*unique offers of
admission from
institutions worldwide*

37,822

*hours of community service
over the past four years*

\$10M

*Academic
scholarship awarded*

Matriculation 2024 - 2026

American University*
 Amherst College
 Appalachian State University
 Babson College*
 Belmont University
 Bentley University
 Bocconi University - Italy
 Boston College*
 Boston University*
 Bowdoin College
 Brown University*
 Bucknell University
 Cal Poly
 Case Western Reserve University
 Chapman University
 Clemson University*
 College of Charleston*
 Colorado School of Mines*
 Colorado State University
 Columbia University
 Cornell University*
 DePaul University
 Duke University*
 Duquesne University
 Elon University*
 Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
 University (Daytona Beach)
 Emerson College
 Emory University
 Endicott College
 Escuela Superior de
 Administración y Dirección de
 Empresas (ESADE) - Spain

Florida Atlantic University*
 Florida Gulf Coast University
 Florida International University*
 Florida State University*
 Fordham University*
 Frank Phillips College
 Franklin University Switzerland
 George Washington University*
 Georgetown University*
 Georgia Southern University
 High Point University
 IE University* - Spain
 Indiana University (Bloomington)*
 Lehigh University
 Louisiana State University
 Loyola Marymount University
 Loyola University New Orleans
 Lynn University
 Miami Dade College*
 Michigan State University
 Montana State University
 New College of Florida
 New York University
 New York University*
 Northeastern University*
 Northwestern University*
 Nova Southeastern University
 Oberlin College
 Parsons School of Design at The
 New School*
 Penn State University*
 Pepperdine University*

Pomona College
 Purdue University*
 Rhodes College
 Ringling College of Art
 and Design
 Rollins College*
 Saint Peter's University
 Santa Fe College*
 Savannah State University
 Smith College
 Southern Methodist University*
 Southwestern University
 St. Thomas University
 Stanford University
 Suffolk University
 SUNY Albany
 Susquehanna University
 Syracuse University*
 Tallahassee State College*
 Texas Christian University*
 The Ohio State University
 The University of Edinburgh - Scotland
 Tufts University
 Tulane University*
 United States Military Academy
 Universidad Europea - Spain
 University of Arizona
 University of California
 (Berkeley)*
 University of California (Los
 Angeles)
 University of Central Florida*
 University of Chicago*

University of Cincinnati
 University of Colorado (Boulder)*
 University of Connecticut
 University of Florida*
 University of Georgia
 University of Kentucky
 University of Miami*
 University of Michigan*
 University of Mississippi*
 University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)*
 University of Notre Dame*
 University of Oklahoma
 University of Pennsylvania
 University of Richmond
 University of San Diego
 University of South Florida*
 University of Southern California*
 University of St Andrews*
 University of Tampa*
 University of Texas
 University of the South
 University of Virginia*
 University of West Florida
 University of Wisconsin*
 Vanderbilt University*
 Virginia Military Institute
 Virginia Tech
 Wake Forest University*
 Walsh University
 Washington College
 Wentworth Institute of Technology
 Wesleyan University
 Western Michigan University

Sebastian Rodriguez

MODEL; FOUNDER AND STYLIST, TURN BACK THE CLOCK

Born and raised in Coral Gables, Sebastian Rodriguez entered the fashion industry early, modeling from the age of four to 14. Working with multiple agencies and traveling internationally, he gained exposure to the structure of fashion, with campaigns and appearances for brands including Ralph Lauren, Macy's, Coppertone, Kodak, and Sony. He also explored acting, appearing in soap operas and landing a McDonald's Super Bowl commercial in both English and Spanish.

Rodriguez attributes his sense of fashion to watching his grandmother, Maricela, rework outfits in Caché fitting rooms at Dadeland Mall. Rodriguez says that early exposure shaped his instinct to reinterpret and personalize clothing. He opened Turn Back the Clock in 2021 at age 18, building the store around vintage pieces that reflect his personal style. Located on Bird Road just outside Coral Gables, the store allowed him to draw much of his clientele from the Gables community.

Without a traditional launch strategy, Rodriguez has built his clientele through direct interaction, wearing store pieces on the streets of the Gables and connecting with women who respond to his look. That approach has led to a steady client base which engages him for styling. He works one-on-one with clients to curate outfits for events, offering both in-store and appointment-based styling, typically centered around vintage pieces.

"I FOCUS ON MAKING PEOPLE FEEL LIKE THE BEST VERSION OF THEMSELVES...."



THE LATEST

A defining moment came when Rodriguez began seeing customers wearing his pieces, marking a shift from initial exposure to sustained recognition. As interest in vintage clothing continues to grow, he has positioned his business within that movement by offering one-of-a-kind pieces that stand apart from trend-driven fashion.

Turn Back the Clock recently marked its five-year anniversary with a celebration held at The Globe, the European-inspired café and bar on Alhambra Circle known for its live jazz and intimate, old-world atmosphere. He views the store as a foundation for his next step, which is designing his own clothing line.

WHAT HE SAYS

"The goal has always been to make women feel beautiful. When something works, you can see it right away. It shows in how they carry themselves," says Rodriguez. He approaches styling as more than just selecting clothing, focusing instead on how a look comes together to reflect the person wearing it.

"I focus on making people feel like the best version of themselves. It's not just about what they're wearing. It's about confidence, storytelling, and helping someone discover a look they might not have tried otherwise." — Amanda Martell

EATFUKU.COM

LUNCH WORTH EXPENSING

135 MIRACLE MILE

fuku

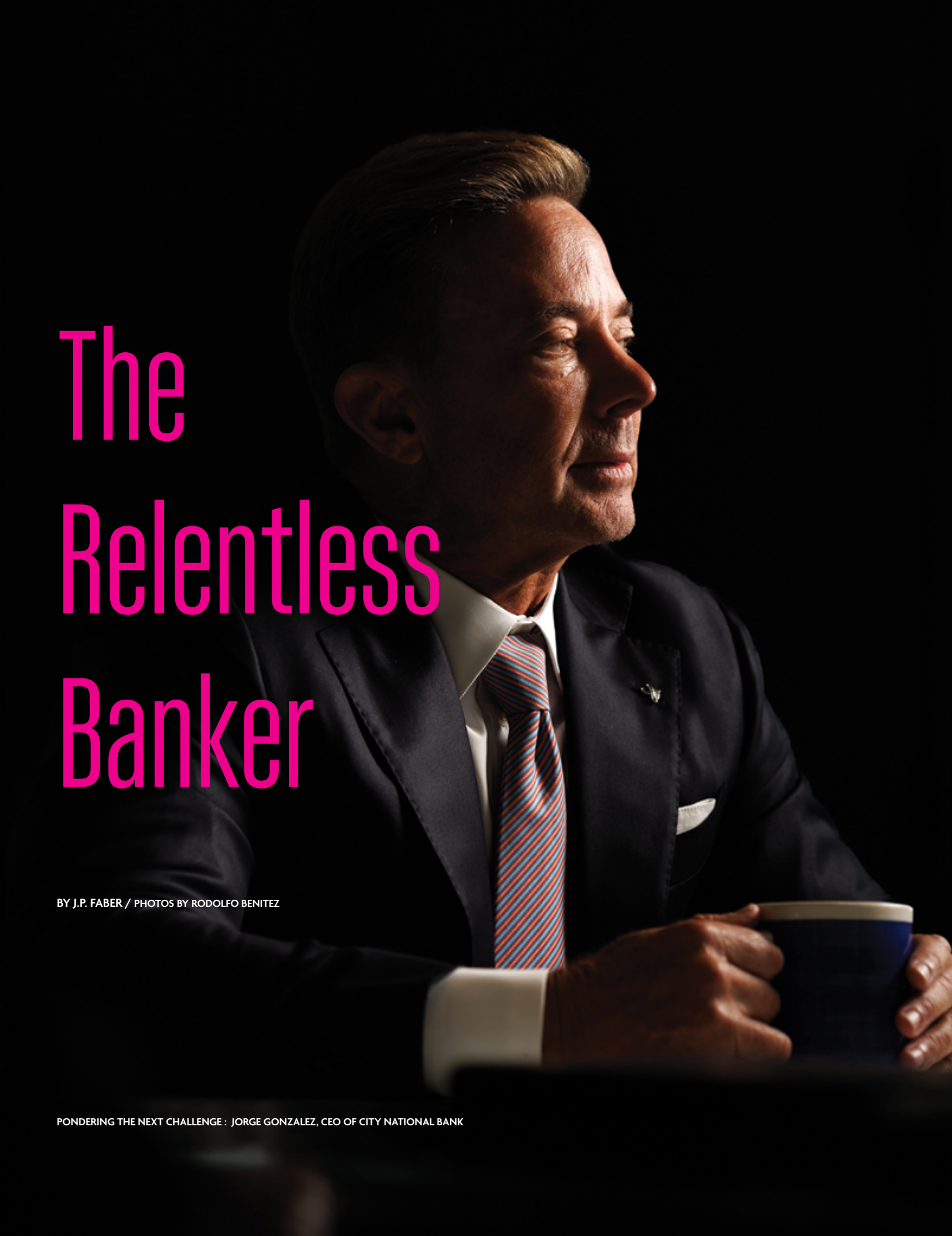
CG

FL

A FINE BRINING
ESTABLISHMENT



ORDER ONLINE



The Relentless Banker

BY J.P. FABER / PHOTOS BY RODOLFO BENITEZ

PONDERING THE NEXT CHALLENGE : JORGE GONZALEZ, CEO OF CITY NATIONAL BANK



AN IMMEDIATE PRESENCE: CEO JORGE GONZALEZ STRIDES INTO A CONFERENCE ROOM TO CONDUCT AN INTERVIEW WITH PGA GOLFER NICO ECHAVARRIA

HOW JORGE GONZALEZ TURNED CITY NATIONAL BANK - NOW CORAL GABLES' NO.2 EMPLOYER - INTO A FINANCIAL POWERHOUSE

It is a Monday evening in May, and some two dozen senior staff members and VIP guests have assembled in a downstairs conference room at City National Bank's executive offices on LeJeune Road, a few blocks south of Miracle Mile. They are waiting for CEO Jorge Gonzalez, who soon strides into the room with the kind of presence that instantly changes the atmosphere. His energy is immediate and electric, confident without being theatrical.

This evening Gonzalez is interviewing – more accurately, chatting with – Nico Echavarria, one of the hottest young golfers on the PGA Tour, fresh off a victory at the Cognizant Classic in Palm Beach Gardens. Echavarria has just signed on as a brand ambassador for City National Bank, and Gonzalez wants to officially welcome him “to the family.” The next hour unfolds with Gonzalez in perfect form: smiling frequently, teasing his guest, firing off quick jokes, then pivoting seamlessly into serious questions about discipline, resilience, and what separates winners from everyone else.

“The last person I interviewed was Jamie Dimon,” Gonzalez jokes to the room, referring to the billionaire chairman and CEO of JPMorgan Chase & Co., who he interviewed at the Kaseya Center for the America Business Forum. “So this is a smooth transition to you.” The audience laughs and Echavarria grins. Gonzalez leans forward and gets to the heart of the matter. “When it’s Sunday afternoon and the pressure is building,” he asks the golfer,

“what allows you to stay mentally focused?”

The question could just as easily apply to Gonzalez himself. Winning is what Jorge Gonzalez is about, but not in the simplistic chest-thumping sense usually associated with corporate success. Winning, to him, means preparation and staying calm when everyone else is panicking. It means finding opportunity in moments when others see only danger. And it depends on being able to connect with other people.

That ability to understand both numbers and human beings has helped Gonzalez transform City National Bank from a relatively modest institution with less than \$3 billion in assets into one of Florida’s most formidable financial organizations, now approaching \$30 billion in assets after 17 years under his leadership.

It is a remarkable trajectory by any standard, especially because most of that growth has been organic. Yet those who know him best insist the numbers alone fail to capture what makes him exceptional. “He understands the critical role that banks play in communities,” says Jaret Davis, managing shareholder of Greenberg Traurig and a member of City National Bank’s board. “And he’s phenomenal at cultivating talent.”

Leonard Abess, the legendary former owner of City National Bank who recruited Gonzalez to run the institution after selling it in 2008, puts it even more directly. “Banking is in his blood,” Abess says. “He was born to do this.”

BUSINESS FORUM



A MIAMI STORY

To understand Jorge Gonzalez, you have to understand Miami. Not the glossy international capital of luxury condos, Formula One races, and hedge funds that have relocated to the city en masse, but the older Miami, the rougher, scrappier, immigrant city that existed before Brickell became a canyon of glass towers.

Gonzalez grew up in Little Havana, near the old Orange Bowl stadium. His mother still lives in the same house where she brought him home as a baby more than 60 years ago. “She’s been there 61 or 62 years,” Gonzalez says. “And now I get to take my kids back to the house I grew up in.”

His parents came from Cuba and, like so many other immigrants who fled after Castro took over, rebuilt their lives in the United States through hard work and sacrifice. His father, Gonzalez says often, shaped his entire philosophy about work ethic, discipline and surrounding yourself with good people.

His mother, ironically enough, worked for City National Bank long before her son ever imagined leading it. Years later, after Gonzalez accepted the top position, he called her with the news. “I said, ‘You’re not going to believe this. Remember that institution you used to talk about all the time? I’m the new president.’ We both cried like babies.”

Growing up in Miami during the 1970s and 1980s also meant growing up amid constant change. Gonzalez remembers the McDuffie riots, the Mariel boatlift, and the transformation of South Beach from urban decay into a global destination. “I feel like I owe this city a lot,” he says. “The diversity of the city has really allowed me to become who I am today.”

That environment also sharpened his instincts. “The more change you see,” he says, “the more it prepares you from a business standpoint to anticipate change or react to change.” Those lessons would later prove invaluable.

“THE MORE CHANGE YOU SEE, THE MORE IT PREPARES YOU FROM A BUSINESS STANDPOINT TO ANTICIPATE CHANGE OR REACT TO CHANGE.”

JORGE GONZALEZ (SHOWN INTERVIEWING THE BILLIONAIRE CHAIRMAN AND CEO OF JPMORGAN CHASE & CO)

THE BANKER WHO ALMOST BECAME A LAWYER

Gonzalez did not initially plan on becoming a banker. As a student at Florida International University, where he majored in finance and international business, he intended to go to law school. But during an internship at a German bank on Brickell Avenue, he spent time around corporate attorneys and quickly realized that the reality of legal work differed dramatically from the glamorous courtroom dramas he had imagined. “I thought law was what I saw on TV,” he says. “These great litigators in front of juries. But 99 percent of it was reading contracts and negotiations. I said, ‘No bueno.’” Instead, he discovered banking.

What appealed to him was not simply finance, but problem-solving. Banking sat at the intersection of business strategy, economics, relationships, and community development. He joined Southeast Bank, which later became First Union, then Wachovia and eventually Wells Fargo through a series of mergers. Gonzalez stayed with the organization for more than two decades, rising steadily through the ranks.

Unlike many executives who specialize narrowly, Gonzalez gained exposure to virtually every aspect of banking. He worked in commercial banking, small business lending, credit underwriting, asset recovery, and retail banking. Perhaps most importantly, he spent time working through bad loans. “You never understand banking unless you understand what happens when things go wrong,” he says, an experience that would shape his entire leadership philoso-

phy. “Sometimes you learn more during bad times than during good times.”

By the time he left Wachovia, Gonzalez was running the Florida market for one of the nation’s largest banks. He had security, prestige and influence, but he also saw an opportunity.

BUILDING THE BIG BANK ALTERNATIVE

In 2008, in the middle of the financial crisis, Gonzalez made what many would have considered a risky move: He left the giant-bank world for City National Bank. At the time, CNB was far smaller and less prominent than the banking giants dominating the market, but Gonzalez saw something others missed. “The market was craving more relationship banking,” he says. “Clients couldn’t access anybody who could make decisions at the large institutions.”

His vision was deceptively simple: create a bank with the technology, sophistication and product capabilities of a large, national bank, but with the responsiveness and intimacy of a community institution. In other words, a high-touch bank with big-bank capabilities. That concept became the defining strategy of City National Bank.

“We see ourselves as the big-bank alternative,” says Eddie Dominguez, a longtime executive at the bank. “We can deliver the same products and services, but with relationships.”

Leonard Abess, meanwhile, had spent years quietly searching for someone who could take City National to another level. When he met Gonzalez, he recognized immediately that he was that person. “I knew exactly who needed to come in here and take this bank over,” Abess says, bringing in Gonzalez as president in 2008.

At the end of that year Abess sold his 83% stake in City National to the Spanish banking group Caja Madrid (which later be-



EXPANDING NORTH: GONZALEZ AT THE NEW ORLANDO CITY NATIONAL BANK OFFICES AND LEFT, SPEAKING IN ORLANDO



came Bankia) for \$927 million, famously giving away \$60 million of his personal proceeds to current and former employees. But before stepping aside, he groomed Gonzalez to become CEO.

Then the financial world exploded. Lehman Brothers collapsed, the Great Recession intensified, and the Spanish owners themselves became engulfed in Europe’s banking crisis. Gonzalez suddenly found himself navigating economic chaos while simultaneously trying to rebuild and reposition the bank.

“He didn’t just hop into a finely tuned race car,” Abess says. “He had to deal with the 2008 crash, a struggling owner, regulatory challenges, the sale of the bank and a changing market – all while building the organization.” Yet Gonzalez, in what may be his defining characteristic, never panicked.

TURNING CRISIS INTO OPPORTUNITY

Almost every executive claims to perform well under pressure, but few have a track record like Gonzalez. After stabilizing CNB in the wake of the 2008–2009 U.S. financial crisis, its parent bank in Spain went through its own crisis and was forced to sell its foreign assets. Bankia announced a sale agreement in 2013 to Chile’s Bci but then took two years to close the sale due to regulatory hurdles. While it turned out to be a great deal for CNB – providing capital resources while granting autonomy – keeping the bank focused and growing during those two years took a steady hand.

That challenge paled in comparison, however, to the Covid pandemic, which threatened to close down the U.S. economy. While many banks hesitated, Gonzalez was determined to get ahead of the problem. Rather than viewing the pandemic solely as a threat, Gonzalez viewed it as a chance for the bank to demonstrate leadership. “We focused on the solution,” he says. “Not the problem.” City National aggressively



embraced the federal PPP lending program designed to keep businesses alive even before the regulations were finalized. “We were building the airplane while we were flying it,” recalls Dominguez.

Rules changed daily, systems had to be built from scratch, and employees worked around the clock from home. Gonzalez created virtual “war rooms” with employees collaborating late into the night, processing forms and applications and working through strategies. “I remember conference calls at three or four in the morning,” Gonzalez says. “And everybody was all in.”

City National ultimately became one of the nation’s leading PPP lenders, and its top lender in the Federal Reserve’s Main Street Lending Program, distributing some \$4 billion in funds, which helped preserve an estimated 300,000 jobs. While other banks shrank during the Covid crisis, City National actually grew, making it to the front page of the Wall Street Journal as the bank in Miami leading the bailout program for businesses.

The same pattern repeated itself during the regional banking turmoil that followed the sharp rise in interest rates in 2023. As institutions like Silicon Valley Bank and First Republic collapsed, fear spread rapidly through the financial system.

Many banks went silent, while Gonzalez did the opposite. He ordered senior executives to personally call thousands of clients, first anyone with at least a million dollars with the bank. “That was round one. Then we lowered the bar, and we ended up doing this bank wide, with an effort to call all the depositors of the bank,” says Dominguez. “We were basically saying, ‘I’m reaching out because of what’s happening in the environment and want to reassure you.’ Our clients were thanking us. They hadn’t heard from any other banks because no one else wanted to even talk about it.”

The effort reassured depositors. While many banks lost money, City National gained deposits. “He doesn’t hide when times are tough,” says Davis. “That’s when he becomes more visible.” And that willingness

“YOU CAN HAVE GREAT CULTURE AND MIEDOCRE STRATEGY AND STILL DO WELL. BUT YOU CAN HAVE GREAT STRATEGY AND NO CULTURE, AND YOU’RE PROBABLY NOT GOING TO SUCCEED...”

JORGE GONZALEZ AND DAN RADA KOVICH, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI

to confront problems head-on has become part of the bank’s culture.

“Through every moment of difficulty, emerges a better, more efficient, stronger organization,” says Joe Nader, who oversees private banking and wealth management at CNB. “There’s just nothing like that cultural feeling inside an organization when you’re able to persevere during a very difficult time. It changes everything about the organization. It brings people much more closely together. You align on a singular mission and purpose, and you just execute with so much pride and meaningfulness that it becomes part of the organization.”

CULTURE AS COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

Ask Gonzalez what he is most proud of and he does not begin with asset growth. He talks about people, specifically the culture inside the organization. “You can have great culture and mediocre strategy and still do well,” he says. “But you can have great strategy and no culture, and you’re probably not going to succeed.”

That emphasis explains much about City National’s growth. Executives repeatedly describe the institution less as a corporation and more as a mission-driven team. “He cultivates talent better than almost anyone,” Davis says. “There are bankers throughout the community who say, ‘I cut my teeth with Jorge.’”

That development mentality traces back partly to Gonzalez’s own mentors. One of the most influential was Carlos Migoya, the



“ HE UNDERSTANDS BANKS ARE PART OF THE COMMUNITY ECOSYSTEM... NOT SEPARATE FROM IT.”

JARET DAVIS, A MEMBER OF CITY NATIONAL BANK'S BOARD TALKING OF GONZALEZ SERVING ON NONPROFIT BOARDS AND THE BANK SUPPORTING THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

future CEO of the Jackson Health System, under whom Gonzalez worked during his First Union years. Like Migoya, Gonzalez believes organizations succeed when leaders invest deeply in people.

The bank's internship program reflects that philosophy. Each summer, City National brings dozens of college students into the organization to expose them to the realities of banking. Gonzalez believes too many young people choose careers without truly understanding them. “You have to go see what these jobs really look like,” he says.

Internally, he emphasizes accessibility and accountability. Unlike giant financial institutions where decision-making disappears into layers of bureaucracy, City National prides itself on responsiveness. Clients can reach senior leadership, and that matters. “When things get difficult, people want to know somebody's there,” Gonzalez says.

One of Gonzalez's most consequential decisions has been resisting the traditional retail-branch arms race. While many banks expanded aggressively through sprawling branch networks, City National chose a different path. A bank of City National's size should have hundreds of branches. CNB has just 30.

“We replace brick and mortar with people,” Gonzalez says. Technology handles routine transactions, while relationship managers handle clients. “Our model is about going to visit clients where they are,” he says. That approach allows the bank to invest more heavily in talent and technology instead of real estate. It also reinforces the institution's identity as a relationship bank rather than a transactional one.

The strategy has proven especially effective among high-net-worth clients and businesses seeking more personalized service. Nader says Gonzalez recognized early that affluent clients increasingly wanted integrated financial solutions, brought to them in a personalized way. “He had the vision to bring banking, lending, wealth management and trust services together,” Nader says. The result has been rapid growth in private banking and wealth management alongside the broader expansion of the bank.

BANKING AS COMMUNITY BUILDING

Under Gonzalez, City National has also become deeply embedded in South Florida's civic and philanthropic fabric, and especially in Coral Gables. “I always felt Coral Gables was becoming the center of South Florida,” he says, one reason he lives here and moved the executive leadership team to a company-owned building on LeJeune in 2019. This month he is doubling down on that move, relocating all 900 employees from downtown Miami to Coral Gables, occupying what was formerly the Bacardi building.

In the same way that Southeast Bank became the model of what it means to support the community, City National has been actively sponsoring events for the Coral Gables Chamber of Commerce and partnering with the Coral Gables Community Foundation. The bank is now also the official bank of the University of Miami, the city's largest employer (City National is now the second largest employer).

Manny Kadre, chairman of the university's board of trustees, says the partnership reflects shared values. “Whenever you stand two strong brands together, they both become stronger,” Kadre says, noting that the relationship goes beyond sponsorships. City National executives mentor students and student-athletes on financial literacy, investing and wealth management. “Jorge took it seriously,” Kadre says. “Not just being the bank, but helping students understand their financial lives.”

Gonzalez also serves on nonprofit boards throughout South Florida. “He understands banks are part of the community ecosystem,” Davis says. “Not separate from it.”

THE HUMAN SIDE OF LEADERSHIP

For all his intensity, Gonzalez remains surprisingly approachable. People who work with him describe a leader who combines relentless standards with humor and warmth. “He loves picking on people,” Dominguez says, laughing. “He'll tell you, ‘If I'm not picking on you, that's when you should worry.’”

That personality surfaced repeatedly during his conversation with golfer Nico Echavarria. At one point, Gonzalez joked about the bank's uncanny timing in signing athletes and organizations shortly before major successes. City National partnered with Inter Miami before Lionel Messi arrived. It became the official bank of the University of Miami before the Hurricanes reached the national championship game. The bank signed Echavarria days before his PGA victory. “We should start getting paid for this,” Gonzalez joked.

But beneath the humor was something more revealing. Throughout the evening, Gonzalez kept returning to the same themes: preparation, discipline, composure and resilience. He listened intently as Echavarria described breathing techniques for handling pressure and the importance of staying present during critical moments.

The parallels between championship golf and banking were obvious. “You can't be thinking about the outcome,” Echavarria said. “You have to focus on executing the shot in front of you.” Gonzalez nodded. That mindset mirrors how he approaches business. And that strategy has worked. ■



Your Guide to Summer Reading

Part of the ritual of summer, and summer vacations, is picking the right book to read. Thanks to our friends at Books & Books, we present here a selection of the latest in fiction, non-fiction, history and children's books, all highly rated and most of them brand new (released in May, June and July). In these lists and synopses you will find well known authors and something for everyone, from intimate memoirs and fascinating new novels to historical reprises, satirical essays and books for toddlers (it's never too soon to introduce your kids to reading). So, make your picks and get started. There is nothing like losing yourself in the world of thought, imagination and good writing. Long live the printed word!

Books & Books founder & owner, Mitch Kaplan
Photo by Rodolfo Benitez

Fiction

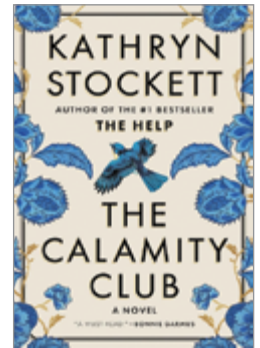
JOHN OF JOHN BY DOUGLAS STUART

From the Booker Prize-winning and New York Times bestselling author of *Shuggie Bain* and *Young Mungo*, *John of John* is the moving story of a young man returning to his Scottish home in the Hebridean islands after art school, where he clashes with his devout, sheep-farming father, John, over secrets, duty, and his own hidden desires. Tensions rise as lambing season approaches.



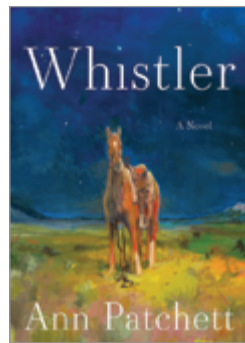
THE CALAMITY CLUB BY KATHERINE STOCKETT

The author of the best-selling novel *The Help* returns with a big-hearted story set in 1933 Oxford, Mississippi, about a group of unbreakable women, fighting for what's rightfully theirs – and the power of friendship to change everything. The New York Times calls it “A heart-wrenching, often hilarious story of economic hardship, moral posturing, and the particular yearnings of childless women and motherless girls.”



WHISTLER BY ANN PATCHETT

The latest book by popular author Ann Patchett (*Bel Canto*, *The Dutch House*, *The Magician's Assistant*, etc.) will be released this month: *Whistler*, the story of a chance reunion at the Metropolitan Museum of Art between a woman and her former stepfather, who she hasn't seen since she was nine. The book explores their brief but impactful past relationship and how it shaped their lives and the choices that define us.



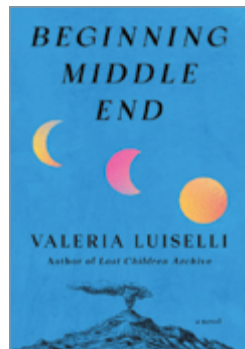
COUNTRY PEOPLE BY DANIEL MASON

Daniel Mason, the Pulitzer Prize finalist author of *North Woods*, crafts this tale of a Russian folktale scholar who moves his family to Vermont. There he becomes fascinated by a local legend and a cast of quirky characters, including a ghostly tree surgeon and a snowflake photographer. Penguin Random House calls it “a rollicking, lyrical novel [from] one of America's greatest living writers.” Released next month.



BEGINNING MIDDLE END BY VALERIA LUISELLI

A mother and her teenage daughter travel across Sicily after the mother's divorce, exploring family history and archaeological sites. Amidst a backdrop of volcanic landscapes and migration, the journey becomes a quest for origins, confronting questions about home, identity, and the stories that shape us. A tender, inventive, and expansive novel that blends a road trip story with a mystery.



LAND BY MAGGIE O'FARRELL

This historical novel by the author of *Hamnet* is set in 19th-century Ireland after the Great Famine, following a father and son working to map the land for the British Ordnance Survey. The story is inspired by O'Farrell's own family history and delves into the psychological and physical impact of the famine and colonization, featuring a mysterious, life-altering event. Penguin Random House calls it a story of “survival...for our times.”



THE THINGS WE NEVER SAY BY ELIZABETH STROUT

By the winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (*Olive Kitteridge* in 2009) and the best-selling *Lucy Barton* series, this new novel by Elizabeth Strout focuses on a high school history teacher who grapples with loneliness and isolation despite his seemingly normal life. A shocking revelation from his son forces him to confront hidden family secrets. Set in small-town New England with a backdrop of the 2024 election.



THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN BY MATT HAIG

The Midnight Train, a new novel by Matt Haig (part of “The Midnight World” series, including “The Midnight Library”), is about a recently deceased man who gets to relive his life's most important moments on a magical train. The train takes him back through his life to revisit key moments, particularly what went wrong with the love of his life. It's a time-traveling love story about regret, second chances, and choices.



Fiction

OUR PERFECT STORM

BY CARLEY FORTUNE

From the New York Times bestselling author of *Every Summer After* and *One Golden Summer* comes the story of Frankie and George, best friends who clash right before Frankie's wedding – which is dashed when Frankie's fiancé dumps her. Now the friends decide to go on the planned honeymoon together, to heal Frankie's broken heart. Penguin Random House calls it “heart-stopping, utterly romantic...”



A PARADE OF HORRIBLES

BY MATT DINNIMAN

This is the eighth book in the *Dungeon Crawler Carl* series, another fantasy/sci-fi tale featuring Carl and Donut, this time on the dungeon's tenth floor competing in races while dealing with chaos and whispers about the mysterious eleventh floor. The title refers to the eleventh floor, which the AI calls a “coming-out party for the ages.” The book involves Carl planning a dangerous, secret party of his own as the series builds towards its conclusion.



THE INTRIGUE

BY SILVIA MORENO-GARCIA

Avarice, lust, deception, and unexpected romance take center stage in this noir novel about a con man who targets a boardinghouse owner in 1940s Veracruz, only to find his scheme complicated by her sharp niece who discovers his plan and tries to get in on it, complicating things as he finds himself drawn to her. From the New York Times bestselling author of *Mexican Gothic* and *Velvet Was the Night*.



VILLA COCO

BY ANDREW SEAN GREER

A new coming-of-age novel by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Andrew Sean Greer (*Less*), *Villa Coco* is about a young American man who becomes an assistant to a flamboyant, 92-year-old Baronessa named Coco at her crumbling villa in Tuscany. There he catalogs art and deals with a parade of eccentric guests – and gets entangled in her quest to find her lost love.



COOL MACHINE

BY COLSON WHITEHEAD

It won't be released until July, but *Cool Machine* is worth the wait. The third and final book in Whitehead's *Harlem Trilogy* (following *Harlem Shuffle* and *Crook Manifesto*), it's set in 1980s New York City. The story returns to the world of Ray Carney, pulled back into a life of crime for one last heist to save his cousin's son. Described as “a crime novel with metaphysical and social depth.”



CONTRAPPOSTO

BY DAVE EGGERS

The first adult novel in five years by Dave Eggers (*A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius*) *Contrapposto* is a moving and funny novel about what it means to be an artist. The story spans six decades, focusing on the artistic, professional, and romantic relationship between Cricket Dib and Olympia Argyros, exploring the pursuit of art, the impact of market forces, and lifelong friendship. The book is illustrated by Eggers himself.



CAGES

BY CHANTEL ACEVEDO

Cages is the story of a zookeeper in Cuba during the time of the missile crisis, an exile in swinging sixties London, and finally a dying man in 1980s AIDS-era Miami. This daring novel by Acevedo (*The Distant Marvels*, *Our Shadows Have Claws*) is his most personal and heartfelt to date, is a sweeping portrait of a man as seen through the eyes of those who loved him, feared him, and were betrayed by him.



DAUGHTERS OF THE SUN AND MOON

BY LISA SEE

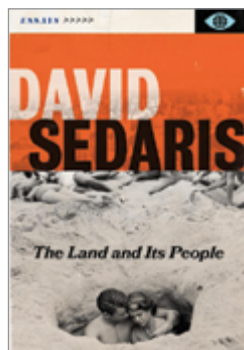
From beloved New York Times bestselling author Lisa See, this is the story of three Chinese women whose unexpected friendship helps them survive and, despite the odds, thrive in the turmoil of post-Civil War Los Angeles. Arriving in the violent pueblo of Los Angeles in 1870. One is the bound-footed daughter of an imperial scholar, another the big-footed daughter of peasants, the last married to a doctor of traditional Chinese medicine.



Non-Fiction

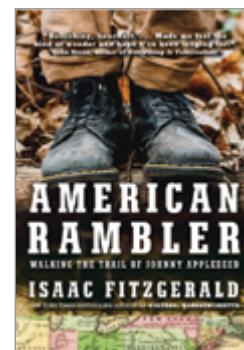
THE LAND AND ITS PEOPLE BY DAVID SEDARIS

Beloved satirist David Sedaris (*Naked*, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, *Santaland Diaries*) is back with a new series of essays. In this new collection, which *Publisher Weekly* says are “among the best of his career,” Sedaris reflects on what it means to be a foreigner, a brother, and a lifelong friend, with his quirky, clever and always amusing observations about life in the modern world.



AMERICAN RAMBLER BY ISAAC FITZGERALD

New York Times best-seller Isaac Fitzgerald is back with this blend of memoir, travelogue and history that follows him on a year-long journey to retrace the path of legendary Johnny Appleseed as he travelled westward. Walking, driving, and even floating downstream from Massachusetts to Indiana, Fitzgerald turns a childhood fascination into a profound look at loss, the American heartland, and the generosity of strangers at every turn.



THE BOOK OF BIRDS BY ROBERT MACFARLANE

This lovely book with over 300 new watercolor and gold-leaf paintings by Jackie Morris is a celebration of 49 declining or endangered bird species, from avocet to yellowhammer, with essays on their lives, myths, and threats. Macfarlane and Morris, creators of *The Lost Words*, reimagine the classic field guide by blending lyrical essays with detailed illustrations to foster connection and awareness of avian loss and the urgent need for conservation.



TAKE ME TO YOUR LEADER BY NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON

An entertaining and appealing book by America's favorite astrophysicist: a practical guide for dealing with Alien visitors, how it might happen, and a history of our fascination with extraterrestrials. *Take Me to Your Leader* is the culmination of a lifetime of fascination and amassing of scientific data about the possibility of Aliens visiting Earth: what they might look and act like, and useful etiquette tips for your first close encounter.



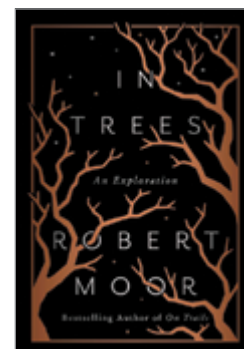
CATCH THE DEVIL BY PAMELA COLLOFF

A true-crime book about audacious con man Paul Skalnik, who led a decades long career of deception, posing as a fighter pilot, a high-rolling oilman, a criminal defense attorney, an undercover agent, and a terminal cancer patient. In these guises he married nine women – some at the same time. To gain freedom he used his false testimony to send an innocent man to death row.



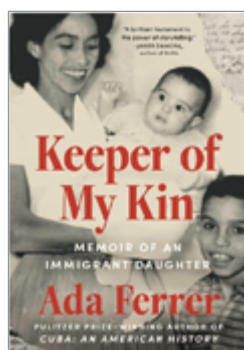
IN TREES: AN EXPLORATION BY ROBERT MOOR

The author of *On Trails* returns with this deep dive into the wisdom of trees through a decade-long, globe-spanning journey, blending science, philosophy, and personal adventure to examine how trees teach us to live, grow, and connect with the world. The book chronicles his adventures, including climbing giant sequoias, visiting Papuan treehouse communities, and sleeping in a chimpanzee nest to understand our evolutionary past.



KEEPER OF MY KIN BY ADA FERRER

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Cuba: An American History* comes this heartbreaking memoir about migration and separation. In 1963, four years after Castro came to power, Ada Ferrer's mother made the decision to flee Cuba with infant daughter Ada, leaving behind a nine-year-old son. Ferrer masterfully shifts between historian and family member, weaving a tale using both government documents and letters found after her parents died.



LONDON FALLING BY PATRICK RADDEN KEEFE

The fascinating story of the mysterious 2019 death of 19-year-old Zac Brettler, who “jumped” into the Thames from an apartment balcony in London. The best-selling author of *Say Nothing* and *Empire of Pain* creates a spellbinding account of the devastated family, who soon discover he had a secret life as the supposed son of a Russian oligarch, which drew him into the dangerous criminal underworld that lies beneath London's glittering surface.



History

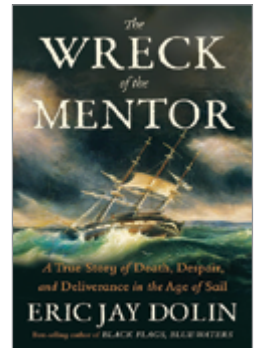
AMERICAN PATRIARCH BY H.W. BRANDS

A timely new biography of George Washington by Pulitzer Prize finalist H.W. Brands. Arriving for America's 250th anniversary, the book follows Washington from his early military years to the Revolution and the presidency, portraying him as the reluctant but essential leader who helped shape the nation's founding ideals and traditions.



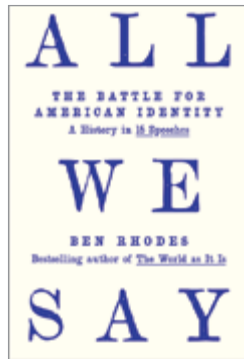
THE WRECK OF THE MENTOR BY ERIC JAY DOLIN

When the American whaleship Mentor wrecks on a remote Pacific reef in 1832, eleven survivors are stranded far from home with dwindling supplies and little hope of rescue. Eric Jay Dolin reconstructs their ordeal in Palau, where shipwreck, captivity, cultural misunderstanding, tribal conflict, and a dangerous naval rescue unfold into a vivid story of survival in the Age of Sail.



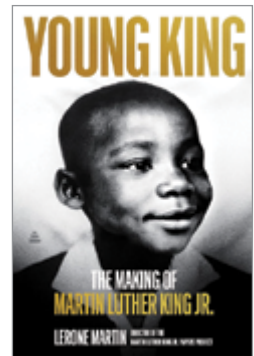
ALL WE SAY BY BEN RHODES

A compelling history of the United States told through fifteen defining speeches, from the founding era to the present. Former President Obama speechwriter Ben Rhodes explores how language has shaped America's fiercest arguments over identity, power, democracy, and belonging, showing how speeches can capture moments of crisis, expose competing national stories, and reveal what Americans hoped the country might still become.



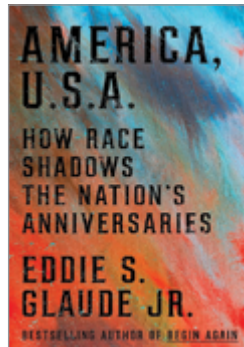
YOUNG KING BY LERONE MARTIN

A fresh look at Martin Luther King Jr. before history knew his name. Stanford scholar Lerone Martin follows King from Auburn Avenue to Morehouse and seminary, capturing the prankster, student, son, and young minister behind the icon – and showing how ordinary doubts, ambitions, and discoveries helped prepare him for extraordinary leadership.



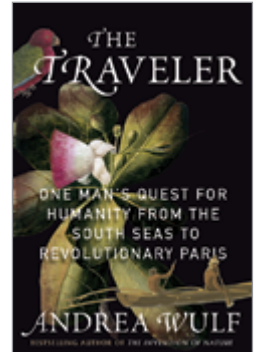
AMERICA, U.S.A. BY EDDIE S. GLAUDE JR.

Eddie S. Glaude Jr. examines America's milestone anniversaries as moments when the country celebrates freedom while often avoiding the harder truths of racism, violence, and exclusion. Drawing on history, literature, and voices from W.E.B. Du Bois to Martin Luther King Jr., he challenges the myths that shape the national story and asks what an honest reckoning with America's past might require.



THE TRAVELER BY ANDREA WULF

A richly drawn biography of George Forster, the young naturalist who joined Captain Cook's second voyage and returned with ideas far ahead of his age. Andrea Wulf follows him from Russia and London to the South Pacific and revolutionary Paris, reviving a brilliant, restless thinker who challenged empire, slavery, and prejudice while arguing for freedom, equality, and the shared humanity of all people.



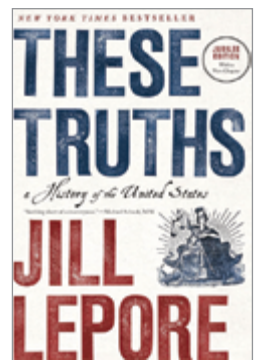
VIEW FROM THE EAST WING BY DR. JILL BIDEN

A personal memoir from Dr. Jill Biden about her four years as First Lady during the Biden presidency. Writing in her own words, she looks back on life in the East Wing, her advocacy for education, military families, cancer research, and women's health, and the unusual balance of serving in the White House while continuing to teach.



THESE TRUTHS BY JILL LEPORE

Jill Lepore tells the story of the United States from 1492 to the present, tracing how politics, law, journalism, technology, and protest movements shaped the nation. Centered on America's founding promises of equality, rights, and self-government, this revised edition asks whether the country has fulfilled those ideals – or repeatedly betrayed them across more than five centuries of conflict and change.



Children

BORED

BY FELICITA SALA

Rita is bored beyond belief, until her restless mind turns a dull afternoon into a wildly funny daydream. She imagines all the bored people in the world boarding a bus, swelling like balloons, and floating through the sky until excitement finally sends their boredom away. Felicitita Sala turns a familiar childhood mood into a playful story about imagination, creativity, and unexpected inspiration. (For ages 4-8.)



ELLIE HAS A SECRET

BY AMELIA BOTHE

Ellie finds a strange shell at recess and slips it into her pocket without telling anyone. When a mysterious creature inside begins to grow, her small secret becomes harder and heavier to carry. With magical illustrations and a gentle sense of suspense, Amelia Bothe's debut picture book explores honesty, courage, and the relief of telling the truth. (For ages 4-8.)



HOGBERT

BY BRIONY MAY SMITH

When Hogbert the boar follows a tempting trail through the forest, he wanders too far from his family and finds himself alone. Along the way, sounds and shadows that seem frightening turn out to be new friends with familiar fairy-tale echoes. Briony May Smith's warm picture book follows little Hogbert's first adventure away from home, full of gentle suspense, kindness, and courage. (For ages 3 to 7)



THE PAPER BAG PRINCESS

BY ROBERT MUNSCH

After a dragon destroys Princess Elizabeth's castle, burns her clothes, and carries off Prince Ronald, she sets out to rescue him, wearing only a paper bag. Using clever tricks instead of force, Elizabeth outsmarts the dragon and saves the prince – only to discover he cares more about appearances than bravery. Robert Munsch's classic turns the fairy tale rescue story upside down with humor and independence. (For ages 4-8.)



THE SALAMANDER ROOM

BY ANNE MAZER

A young boy discovers a salamander and begins imagining the perfect home for it in his bedroom. As he thinks through everything the creature would need – moss, insects, trees, water, shade, and sky – his room slowly transforms in his mind into a living forest, making this a gentle story about curiosity, care, and seeing nature with wonder. (For ages 3 to 7)



IF YOU MAKE A CALL ON A BANANA PHONE

BY GIDEON STERER

When a shy child picks up a banana phone, a surprising friendship begins with a gorilla on the other end. Their silly conversation opens into questions, secrets, and careful listening, showing how reaching out can lead to unexpected connections. Gideon Sterer and illustrator Emily Hughes turn one wild idea into a warm, playful story about curiosity, courage, and making new friends. (For ages 4-8.)



FIREWORKS

BY MATTHEW BURGESS

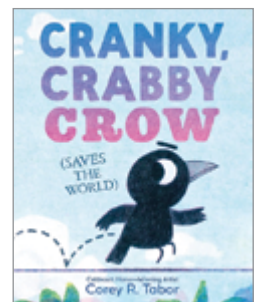
On a sweltering Fourth of July in the city, two siblings spend the day waiting for the fireworks show. They splash through fountains, feel the heat rising from the pavement, and listen as the neighborhood hums around them. As evening falls, their excitement builds until the sky finally erupts in color, sound, and wonder. The book won the prestigious 2026 Caldecott Medal for its vibrant illustrations. (For ages 4-8.)



CRANKY, CRABBY CROW (SAVES THE WORLD)

BY COREY R. TABOR

Crow is in no mood for games, loop-de-loops, or friendly visits, and everyone thinks he is simply being rude. But while his friends worry he will end up alone, Crow is secretly focused on a much bigger problem: an asteroid headed for Earth. Corey R. Tabor's funny picture book mixes friendship, science, and a surprising twist. (For ages 4-8.)



Experience
Insight
Advice



PATTON
REAL ESTATE

3 DECADES OF
INNOVATION
IN MIAMI REAL ESTATE



305.456.2496

Call William H. Holly, President,
for your commercial real estate needs.



PATTONRE.COM

4000 PONCE DE LEON BLVD. | SUITE 400 | CORAL GABLES, FL | 33146

Home

**YOUR MONTHLY LOOK
AT WHAT'S NEW IN
HOME DESIGN**

Showroom Focus: Calimia Home

Décor: The New Palette's Cloud Dancer

Design Notes: Maison, Scavolini, Roche Bobois

Designer Showcase: Juan Poggi's Modern Take

A KITCHEN SETTING AT THE
CALIMIA HOME SHOWROOM



ABOVE: THE MILLER AND SVENSSON FAMILY
LEFT: THE CALIMIA HOME SHOWROOM WITH A COZY FAMILY ROOM AND WOOD & MARBLE KITCHEN

HEART AND SOUL

AT CALIMIA HOME, DESIGN IS PERSONAL

BY OWEN KESSLER

One of the many charms of the Calimia Home showroom in the restored La Palma building is that it doesn't look like one. Flooded with sunlight and layered with natural textures, the venue captures the essence of home effortlessly. In one corner, a kitchen out of a Nancy Meyers movie is the definition of cozy-chic, a showplace of wood and marble surfaces complete with glass-front cabinetry, a vintage-looking Lacanche range that can deliver the ideal Thanksgiving turkey, and exposed copper piping overhead. Just steps away is the dining room with a table for six dressed for company with porcelain, cutlery, and stemware laid out with catalogue precision. Not to be outdone, the family room is tucked by a window and set up with the requisite sofa, armchair, and coffee table, plus eye-catching extras that include two wicker ottomans and a credenza with patina so distressed it could pass as an heirloom or antique.

"We call it lived-in luxury – layered, warm, and never too precious," says Monique Miller, who owns the shop with her partner, Gustaf Svensson. "We love creating spaces that feel collected rather than decorated. A home should feel like you – personal, intentional, and timeless."

The same could be said about the Calimia Home backstory. Miller and Svensson met in Miami some years back when she was overseeing the visual department for the South Florida locations of Intermix, a high-end women's boutique, and he was running Wynwood Shipping, a moving and logistics company, with his brother. Once together, they purchased a 1930s-era house in El Portal and completely renovated the structure themselves. One baby and a summer in Sweden later, they left their respective jobs, sold their home, and drove up the East Coast to Savannah, drawn by the "history, architecture, and mossy oaks," says Miller.

Once established there they bought another old property – this time a 1918 Georgian Colonial – and again restored it themselves. "That's when the idea for Calimia was born, because we loved the process of creating together," says Miller. "We thought about whether to base the business in Savannah or Miami, and Miami won. We knew the city and its potential."

Back in Florida, Calimia (a portmanteau of "Cali" for Miller's California roots, and "mia" for Miami) opened its Gables doors in 2018. Today, the store is a showcase of everything Miller and Svensson love about design: Scandinavian lines, solid craftsmanship, simple luxuries, and a mix of old and new. The inventory includes Stoffer Home cabinetry, Armac Martin hardware, Lacanche ranges, Victoria Morris ceramics and lighting, One Bi One handmade pillows, Flamingo Estate candles, Gray Gardens Plant Studio planters, and vintage knickknacks sourced during annual trips to Sweden. The La Palma space also serves as the couple's studio for interior design projects both big and small, everything from a gut renovation to a kitchen upgrade.

"The shop and studio represent a full-circle moment for us," says Miller. "Our goal going forward is to keep being the experts in our space, deepen our roots in the community, and continue doing the best work we can." 116 Alhambra Circle, calimiahome.com



935 ESCOBAR AVE, CORAL GABLES, FL. Nestled on a beautiful oak-tree-lined street in the highly sought-after Golden Triangle, just steps from the iconic Biltmore Hotel.
5 BEDS | 3 BATHS | 2,910 SF | 14,822 SF LOT | \$3.59M. TERE SHELTON BERNACE 305.607.7212



CLOSING JUNE!

277 VELEROS CT, CORAL GABLES, FL
6 BD | 6.5 BA | 6,475 SF | 22,725 SF LOT | \$11.25M
TERE SHELTON BERNACE 305.607.7212 (Seller)



CLOSING JUNE!

279 GALEON CT, CORAL GABLES, FL
5 BD | 4.5 BA | 3,583 SF | 16,700 SF | \$5.999M
TERE SHELTON BERNACE 305.607.7212 (Buyer)



199 CAOBA CT, CORAL GABLES, FL
5 BD | 5 BA | 2 HALF BA | 6,066 SF | \$13.995M
TERE SHELTON BERNACE 305.607.7212



VITA - 5 GROVE ISLE DR # S503, MIAMI, FL
4 BD | 4.5 BA | 4,117 SF | 1,147 SF EXT | \$8.94M
ANA MATTSON 305.951.8006



13621 DEERING BAY DR # 801, C. GABLES, FL
3 BD | 3.5 BA | 2,814 SF | 2 PARKING | \$2.399M
TRACEY SPIEGELMAN 786.356.9228



300 BISCAYNE WAY # 2103, MIAMI
ASTON MARTIN | 3 BD | 4.5 BA | 3,078 SF | \$4.5M
MARTA AMADOR 305.205.0667



5602 SW 65 CT, SOUTH MIAMI, FL
5 BD | 4 BA | 2 HALF BA | 3,726 SF | 10,050 SF LOT
\$3.245M | ILIETTE OLIVEROS 305.803. 2314



3600 STEWART AVE, COCONUT GROVE, FL
5 BD | 6 BA | 4,173 SF | 23,250 SF LOT | \$10.48M
LOLA CANAS 917.348.2224



COVERING A BROAD MARKET RANGE,
COMMITTED TO HANDS-ON SERVICE
WE ARE NOW POWERED BY **COMPASS**

Tere Shelton Bernace

Shelton Bernace Group | Team Principal
305.607.7212

tere.sheltonbernace@compass.com

2025 Top Ten Agent in Coral Gables by RealTrends



THE NEW PALETTE

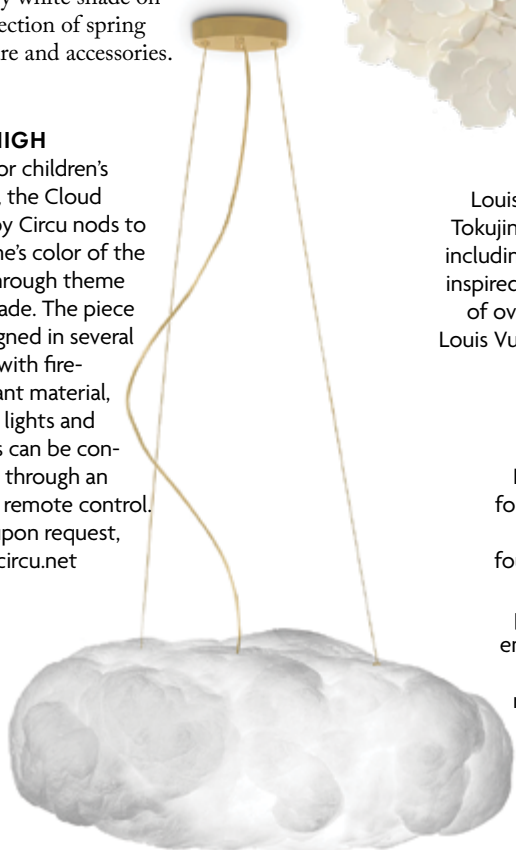
BY OWEN KESSLER

PALETTE MATTERS

It's official. Pantone, the entity that ensures color consistency worldwide through physical and digital color libraries, has declared Cloud Dancer as the hue of 2026. Here's the billowy and airy white shade on our selection of spring furniture and accessories.

SKY HIGH

Ideal for children's rooms, the Cloud lamp by Circu nods to Pantone's color of the year through theme and shade. The piece is designed in several layers with fire-retardant material, and its lights and sounds can be controlled through an app or remote control. Price upon request, Circu, circu.net



IN THE HOT SEAT

Designed by British pop star Robbie Williams, who describes it as "part sculpture, part sanctuary," the Introvert Chair from Moooi is a cocoon-like pod that's meant to wrap whoever is sitting on it like a hug. \$4,395. Moooi, moooi.com



GLASS ACT

Adorned with hand-cut coco shells all around its frame, the Ginkgo mirror offers a tropical yet subdued statement for the home. No piece is ever the same. \$1,895, Neiman Marcus, Shops at Merrick Park, 358 San Lorenzo Avenue, neimanmarcus.com



IN FULL BLOOM

Louis Vuitton's Blossom Stool by designer Tokujin Yoshioka comes in various materials, including ash wood (shown here). The seat is inspired by flower forms and features a swirl of overlapping "petals" on its seat. \$12,500, Louis Vuitton, Shops at Merrick Park, 358 San Lorenzo Avenue, us.louisvuitton.com



TALL BEAUTY

Designed by Marc Sadler for Itlamp, the Grand Collier floor lamp looks like four smaller lamps stacked to create a totem. The piece's milky blown glass emits an ethereal diffused light, and its silhouette makes it an eye-catching addition to any room. Price upon request, Itlamp, italamp.com



CALL DREW...He Closes a Deal EVERY 4 DAYS



Spectacular Home in Gated Community
6721 SW 140 Street
5 BR | 5 BA + OFFICE | 5,079 SF
OFFERED FOR \$3,300,000



Gated Estate Home
6075 SW 85 Avenue
5 BR | 4 BA | 4,788 SF
OFFERED FOR \$3,250,000



Fully Renovated in Pinecrest
12940 SW 73 Avenue
5 BR | 4 BA | 3,862 SF
OFFERED FOR \$3,150,000



Mangewood Poolside Home
8241 SW 146 Street
4 BR | 4 BA | 2,858 SF
OFFERED FOR \$1,450,000



Spacious Home in Peaceful Cul-de-sac
7885 SW 179 Terrace
4 BR | 3.5 BA | 3,056 SF
OFFERED FOR \$1,375,000



Fantastic Home in Palmetto Bay
7950 SW 161 Street
3 BR | 2 BA | 2,358 SF
OFFERED FOR \$1,299,000



Updated Palmetto Bay Gem
17050 SW 83 Avenue
4 BR | 2.5 BA | 1,968 SF
OFFERED FOR \$1,275,000



Serene Palmetto Bay Living
16745 SW 74 Court
4 BR | 2 BA | 2,339 SF
OFFERED FOR \$1,150,000



Spacious Lakefront Cutler Cay
19528 SW 79 Place
5 BR | 3.5 BA | 3,061 SF
OFFERED FOR \$890,000



DREW KERN
Sr. Vice President
BHHS EWM Realty



DREW KERN

**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY
HOMESERVICES**
EWM REALTY



305.329.7744 | KERN.D@EWM.COM | WWW.DREWKERN.COM

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM AROUND TOWN

BY OWEN KESSLER

HOUSE OF STYLE

Maison & Co. is steadily making its way across Florida with showroom openings from Miami-Dade to the Gulf Coast. Its newest location in Coral Gables is five blocks south of Miracle Mile with an inventory curated with top brands (and design lovers) in mind. We're talking appliances from Sub-Zero, Perlick, and Wolf; plumbing from Kallista, Watermark, and Toto; lighting from Visual Comfort & Co. and Flos; and hardware from Ashley Norton. The showroom is fast to tout its "trade-first approach," working closely with designers, architects and builders from early concept to final installation. "Our showrooms represent more than an expansion of our footprint," says Anthony Hernandez, the company's president and founder. "They are about bringing together the right products, the right environment, and the right level of service." 2850 Salzedo Street, maisonco.com



SPEED LIMIT

The auto-inspired lines of Roche Bobois' Speed Up furniture collection have made it one of the brand's most popular lines, so to mark the collection's 20th anniversary, RB has given the pieces a tune-up. Designer Sacha Lakic has tweaked the Speed Up dining table by reworking the central lacquer base, which now "appears to capture the exact moment when the material comes to life and is set in motion." He's also introduced new pieces for the line: an armchair, a console, and a set of cocktail tables, all with aerodynamic silhouettes that evoke fluidity and movement. "My focus was not on nostalgia, but on showcasing the essence of design," says Lakic. "The pieces have kept the sculpted, taut lines rooted in their DNA, while revealing greater precision and sensuality." 450 Biltmore Way, roche-bobois.com



KITCHEN REVERENTIAL

Chosen for its warmth and natural textures, wood plays a starring role in the new Poetica kitchen collection from Scavolini. Among the line's most prominent features are its nearly one-inch cabinet ash doors, which are finished with retro-inspired motifs and functional details. The Poetica kitchen island also demands attention with an oval extension meant for cook preparation, casual meals or kids' homework. 2600 Ponce de Leon Blvd., scavolini.com



SETTING THE SCENE

Fans of Williams-Sonoma are in for some spring discoveries thanks to the retailer's expanded collaboration with designer Aerin Lauder. Inspired by her East Hampton garden (and ideal for Coral Gables' alfresco gatherings), the AERIN for Williams-Sonoma collection of tabletop and décor now includes trays, frames, mirrors, and other accoutrements inspired by botanical motifs and marked by joyful colors. The new additions complement an already vast array of tabletop that covers everything from glassware to linens. Shops at Merrick Park, 350 San Lorenzo Avenue, williams-sonoma.com/aerin

SEVENTEEN GABLES

THE RESIDENCES

Just Broke Ground

1-3 Bedroom Residences

Starting in the \$600K's



Artist's Conceptual Renderings

Seventeen Gables offers a rare balance of peaceful residential living within the tree-lined streets of Coral Gables, along with access to Miami's most dynamic destinations, all within a suite of world-class services and amenities.

Now fully capitalized and under construction, Seventeen Gables brings a New York sensibility to the doorstep of Coral Gables, on track for Q1 2028 delivery.

SITE LOCATION AT:


1715 DOUGLAS RD, CORAL GABLES, FL 33134

305. 686. 3258

SEVENTEENGABLES.COM

SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY



ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS, MAKE REFERENCE TO THIS BROCHURE AND TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. THE INFORMATION PROVIDED, INCLUDING PRICING, IS SOLELY FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES, AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SELL, OR SOLICITATION OF OFFERS TO BUY, THE CONDOMINIUM UNITS IN JURISDICTIONS WHERE SUCH OFFER OR SOLICITATION CANNOT BE MADE OR ARE OTHERWISE PROHIBITED BY LAW. THIS OFFERING IS MADE ONLY BY THE OFFERING DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONDOMINIUM AND NO STATEMENT SHOULD BE RELIED UPON IF NOT MADE IN THE OFFERING DOCUMENTS. 

OUT OF THE BOX

DESIGNER JUAN POGGI UNLEASHES HIS CUSTOM APPROACH TO MODERN IN AN OLD CUTLER BAY RESIDENCE THAT DELIGHTS WITH PERSONALITY.

BY: OWEN KESSLER

PHOTOGRAPHY: CARLOS DOMENECH

THE DIRECTIVE

When a client for whom he had designed homes in Caracas, Panama, Key Biscayne, and Aruba approached Juan Poggi about the renovation of an 8,000-square-foot residence in Old Cutler Bay, the designer didn't hesitate. "We've shaped multiple houses together and my design approach evolved with each one. This was a chance to continue the story in Coral Gables," says Poggi. "Our task was to bring the house into a more modern direction by simplifying, editing, and aligning every element under one clear language. We started by stripping back what felt excessive. Modern is not about adding; it's about refining."



JUAN POGGI

A world traveler, Coral Gables-based designer Juan Poggi brings a lifetime of experience to his role as interior designer. His refined sensibility, deep technical knowledge, and personal touch are the hallmarks that define each of his projects, which range geographically from Miami's most exclusive private communities to Paris' chicest arrondissements. Poggi's hands-on approach and client commitment have made him one of South Florida's most in-demand design professionals. "In all my years of working in this field, I have come to understand two very important things," he says. "Each client is a unique universe, and each project is a lesson in communication." poggidesign.com



THE LIVING ROOM

Nodding to Poggi's penchant for going off book (and with the homeowners' full blessing), the living room became a lounge. "It offers a more social, more fluid way of living," says Poggi. "It replaces formality with presence. The design is tailored, and the proportions, materials and layouts all respond to it. It's not just a change in furniture; it's a shift in how the room is experienced." Eye-catching elements include a Manuel Valdez painting and massive cylindrical light pendants (custom by Poggi) that drop from the ceiling.



THE DAUGHTER'S BEDROOM (LEFT)

Color takes precedence in the daughter's room, a space ripe with palette and patterns. The eye here zigzags from the custom area rug by Poggi to the butterfly-themed curtains to the striped wallpaper by Scion. A Big Bang chandelier by Vicente Garcia Jimenez for Foscarini crowns the room.

THE DINING ROOM

Poggi's approach in the dining room was to let the art – a butterfly-themed sculpture by Manuel Valdez and a painting of produce by Liu Bolin – take top billing. A mirrored wall was installed to amplify light, depth, and the presence of the art.



THE FOYER (RIGHT)

The foyer is an exercise in restraint with a multi-panel photographic work by Peruvian artist Nelly Garcia and a custom bench with glass legs that reads as a sculpture. "It's a space that breathes," says Poggi. "Everything here was carefully considered, and nothing overwhelms; it's just enough to feel welcome."

THE LOGGIA (FAR RIGHT)

This residence's loggia leaves nothing to chance with areas for cooking, dining, and lounging. "This outdoor space was built around the summer kitchen and barbecue," says Poggi. "It was designed to be easy and connected to the way the clients entertain. The gardens are positioned to overlook the canal behind the house, extending the living experience into the landscape."





Judy Zeder



Venny Torre, Chris Erickson, Joe Zoellers & Mauricio Vivero



Daniel Leon



Dale Chapman Webb



2026 ROCKS OF THE COMMUNITY

Dale Chapman Webb

Chris Erickson & Joe Zoellers

Daniel Leon

Jon & Judy Zeder



Anthony R. Abraham Foundation

Tim Anagnost,

Sally Baumgartner

Trish & Dan Bell

Peter & Kerrin Bermont

William A. Bonn & Ruben Ceballos

Linda Lubitz Boone & Norman Boone

Dale Chapman Webb

Ambassador Sue & Ambassador Chuck Cobb

Ray Corral & Alina Meledina

Ashley & Jimmy Cusack

Chris Erickson & Joe Zoellers

David & Cristina Evensky

Robert* & Marian* & Carole Fewell

Margot B. Friedman in honor of

Albert H. & Rose Friedman

Jon & Anne Goldman

Mike & Bekki Haggard

Claudia Holliman

Daniel Leon

Jack* & Natasha Lowell

Matthew Meehan & Rod Hildebrant

Lee J. Osiason

Ernest & Anne Purcell

Don & Jeannett* Slesnick

Mary Snow

The Stamps Family

Miriam Dosal Stone, Howard A. Stone

& Catherine Dosal Cross

Alirio & Dorys Torrealba

The Williamson Family

Jon & Judy Zeder

**Deceased*

Emerging Artists

Photos by Smash Pixel Studio

Coral Gables Magazine hosted “Emerging Artists” on May 7 at Actors’ Playhouse, drawing some 200 guests for an evening dedicated to up-and-coming artists, along with the galleries and cultural leaders shaping the city’s creative scene. Sponsored by City National Bank and the Mosaic Art Foundation, the event opened with a cocktail hour hosted by Clementine’s Wine Gourmet and Inspired Events.

Speakers included Jill Deupi of the Lowe Art Museum, Nico Hough of Cernuda Arte, Elvis Fuentes of the Coral Gables Museum, and Alex Perez of The Americas Collection, who shared insights on new artists and how they help fuel community culture. Participating galleries included Cernuda Arte, The Americas Collection, Garcia Art Gallery, H. Benitez Fine Art Gallery, and Zapata Art Gallery.





6.



7.



8.



9.



10.



11.



12.

- 1 Sara Cronin, Markham Cronin, of Markham Yard and Amy Donner
- 2 The CGM team: Amanda Martell, Monica Raucci, Gail Scott, J.P. Faber, Amy Donner, Sherry Adams
- 3 Mauricio Vivero (President of the Community Foundation) and Peter Zubizarreta (UBS)
- 4 Cristina Acevedo (Mason & Co.) and Byron Cordero
- 5 Elvis Fuentes, Jill Deupi, JP Faber, Nico Hough, Alex Perez (Art event speakers)
- 6 Maggie Rodriguez and Elvis Fuentes
- 7 Ledia Zapata, Santiago Zapata and friend (Zapata Art Gallery)
- 8 Alex Perez and Luis Gomez
- 9 JP Faber and Ramon Cernuda
- 10 Luis Gomez, Oscar Garcia and friend
- 11 Jovita Martinez and Yudelys de las Cagigas (Clementine's Wine Gourmet)
- 12 Humberto and Lissette Benitez



ABOVE: TRICIA BELL AND MARY SNOW

LEFT: LARRY MCMILLAN, ALINA HUDAK, ED HUDAK, SOPHIA MCMILLAN AND PHIL SEIPP

BOTTOM: COOKIE THELEN, PAST PRESIDENT ED WILLIAMSON, CAROL WILLIAMSON, LOUISE STANSELL



Meandering Around Town # 34: The 200 Club

AN ADVENTURE IN WHICH A FORMER MAYOR CONTINUES TO SEEK THE "SOUL" OF HIS HOMETOWN

BY DON SLESNICK

This past month I rambled to the Spring banquet of The Two Hundred Club of Greater Miami, which was held at Riviera Country Club. If we are searching for our community's "soul" this charitable organization clearly represents the goodness in the hearts and minds of our residents.

The Club was founded in 1968 by several prominent citizens, including Ralph Renick and Ben McGahey, for the purpose of providing financial assistance to the families of first responders who lose their lives in the line of duty. It functions for the benefit of all law enforcement officers and firefighters in Dade County working for municipal, county, state, and federal agencies. Immediate monetary assistance is provided to the family of the deceased as soon as appropriate after a fatality. The Club's support for the surviving family members also includes an annual cash gift provided

to each child through and including his or her 18th birthday. Since its inception, the Club has paid benefits totaling more than \$1,000,000.00. The Club does not seek public funding. It is supported by membership dues, investment earnings, corporate donations, and estate bequests.

At the recent dinner, the current President, Jose Perdomo, told me their philosophy that no family should be left alone in the wake of a tragic loss. "For over five decades, the Club has been stepping forward to provide immediate support to the families of fallen law enforcement officers and firefighters in their time of greatest need," he said. "Through the unwavering generosity of its members, the Club honors these heroes by standing beside their loved ones with compassion, dignity, and lasting commitment."

Retired Miami Beach Police Officer

and Club member, Rosa Redruello, added to our conversation: "Having spent a career in law enforcement, this great organization allows me to continue providing 'back up' to my fellow first responders," she said. "Serving on the committee that personally visits families in need by providing financial relief during such difficult times has been especially impactful. Witnessing their appreciation and seeing the sense of relief in their faces is truly priceless."

We can be truly proud of the number of Coral Gables citizens who have served as President of this truly great organization. They include: Stan Dodd, Charles Kimbrell, Bill Quesenberry, Jr., Jack Hoehl, Ed Williamson, Jack Eades, Dick Anderson, Bob Ellyson, D. Alan Nichols, Richard Cole, Jon Zeder, Ben Battle, Bill Walker, Alex Soto, Jack Brumbaugh, Huber Parsons, Harold Humphrey, Dr. Richard Souviron, Susan Perry-Fuhrman, Kathy Ezell, Bob Gallagher, Edgar Jones, Ed Hudak, Mike Gold, Ann Stith, Jim Hartnstein, and me.

I believe that this "meander" has led me to the discovery of a very significant piece of our hometown's soul!

This column appears monthly by Don Slesnick, who served as mayor of Coral Gables from 2001 to 2011. If you wish to reach him with suggestions on where he should next meander in search of the city's soul, email donslesnick@scllp.com.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Coral Gables has a similar charitable organization all its own – LEAF – which provides a financial safety net for the families of uniformed police and firefighters who lost their lives, were injured, or became disabled in the line of duty. The charity was created by Willy Bermello and is administered through the Coral Gables Community Foundation.

Women Who Make a Difference

The Junior League of Miami, headquartered in Coral Gables, marked its 25th Annual Women Who Make a Difference event and Centennial Celebration on April 24 at the Rusty Pelican in Key Biscayne. Co-chaired by Felicia Shtivelman and Chelsea Ambriz, with Julia Rea Bianchi serving as Honorary Centennial Chair, the evening welcomed more than 350 guests for a “100 Years in Paradise” celebration of the League’s century of service.

Honorees included Maria Figueroa Byrd, Cheryl Goldstein, Shownda Pagan, Dr. Rachel Silverstein, and Marty Steinberger. Guests enjoyed waterfront views, tropical décor, live entertainment, Bacardi cocktails, and a silent auction supporting the League’s programs for women, children, and families.



1.

1. Current JLM Board Members
2. Julia Rea Bianchi and Berta Blecke
3. Event Co-Chairs, Chelsea Ambriz and Felicia Shtivelman
4. Past JLM Board Members
5. The 2026 WWMD Honorees Dr. Rachel Silverstein, Marty Steinberger, Cheryl Goldstein, Shownda Pagan, Maria Figueroa Byrd
6. Libby Witherspoon, Maria Figueroa Byrd, Cathy Lorie, Julia Rea Bianchi
7. WWMD Committee



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.

Keeping it Green

THE TREES OF CORAL GABLES ARE PROTECTED. PERIOD.

BY KARELIA MARTINEZ CARBONELL

Coral Gables is one of the very few U.S. municipalities whose “city plan” has been designated a local historic landmark. In 2018 that blueprint was officially recognized by a unanimous vote of the City Commission, joining cities such as Charleston, Fort Worth and Salt Lake City, whose citywide historic preservation plans are officially recognized as landmark documents. And with that designation, George Merrick’s planned city is legally protected and, in turn, protects the city’s tree canopy and foliage.

PHILOSOPHY OF AESTHETICS

In designing Coral Gables, founder Merrick employed the concepts of the Garden City and City Beautiful movements, both popular approaches to comprehensive urban planning at the time. These models of municipal development took into account the philosophy of aesthetics, which played a major role in the movements.

Consequently, the city’s landmark plan not only protects its carefully developed urban landscape from ill-conceived projects that could detract from the harmonious built environment, but also safeguards against any potential giveaways or takeaways from the green-scape features that are an integral part of the Garden City precepts.

Today, that protection is appreciated all over town, where one can find beauty and solace in green corridors, sculpted water fountains, heritage trees, and old foliage. Swales are populated with beautiful Southern Live Oaks, many draped in whispering Spanish Moss, along with Gumbo Limbos, Mahoganies, Royal Poincianas, and magnificently tall Ficus trees. It is a landscape that plays tribute to Merrick’s vision for the area.

On page 32 of the city plan, Merrick stipulates exact instructions for the preservation of its trees. He states, “The new development also will take steps to save from destruction full grown trees when new buildings are erected in new sections...as all of the full-grown trees and old foliage will be kept intact...”

On page 11 of the city plan, Merrick’s master planner, Frank Button (Florida’s first registered landscape architect) observed during an assessment of Merrick’s land: “A careful study was made of the natural conditions and beauties of the property (a tract of 1200 acres) and care taken to preserve all trees.”

In honor of National Preservation Month (May), it is important to recognize the green parts of Merrick’s city plan and follow his admonition that “New development take steps to save from destruction full grown trees...and old foliage will be kept intact...” While thousands of new trees were planted along the streets of the unfolding city, trees were standing long before Coral Gables existed, and saving pieces of the inherited green scape was an important part of his urban planning dictum. Yes, Merrick was a developer, and, yes, he developed a brand new city, but he also wanted to keep the old foliage intact.

Outside of Everglades National Park, however, today less than 2 percent of the native pine rocklands remain in urban Miami Dade County. In Coral Gables, only a few areas of native rockland hammock still exist, including Camp Mahachie, the 11.5-acre tract



A SWALE IN THE NORTH GABLES: HOME TO MATURE TREES WITH SPANISH MOSS

off of Old Cutler that is owned by the Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida, and parts of the adjacent Matheson Hammock Park. To help preserve what remains in private hands, the City of Coral Gables passed an ordinance last year, sponsored by Vice Mayor Rhonda Anderson, to create a conservation-based transfer of development rights (TDR) program to help preserve ecologically significant land before it is sold or developed.

Karelia Martinez Carbonell is the president of the Historic Preservation Association of Coral Gables.

To request a digital PDF copy of the City Plan report, including the Resolution and Ordinance to make it a landmark, please email info@historiccoralgables.org

FRIENDS of Gables High



Friends of Gables High Congratulates the Members of Coral Gables High School's Class of 2026 for Acceptance to Top U.S. Colleges

BOTTOM ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Eliem Salazar (Columbia University) Alexander Tam-Solis (University of Chicago) Yara Korse (Georgia Institute of Technology) Adriana Garcia (University of Virginia) Oliver Angulo (Vanderbilt University) Avril Donner (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) Kate Kuryla (New York University) Dania Ortiz (Franklin & Marshall College) Corina McDanal (University of Florida) Barbara Teixeira da Silva (McGill University)

MIDDLE ROW (LEFT TO RIGHT): Sela Peña (Mount Holyoke College) Serafina Baraloto (Georgetown University) Gabriella Roa (Northeastern University) Orly Schoolman-Wood (George Washington University) Lucia Rodenberg (Florida State University) Jasmin Abu-Zaraybah (Princeton University) Diego Arborio (Cornell University) Lauren Kaler (University of Michigan) Alyssa Dopico (Smith College) Nicolas Gertzenstein (Emory University)

TOP ROW LEFT TO RIGHT: Wilhelm Meyer (Wake Forest University) Marina Astorga (Northwestern University) Adrian Perez (Purdue University) Andres Florentino (Boston University) Joshua Markowitz (United States Military Academy at West Point) Beatriz Stampino-Strain (Pomona College) Hazel Grosell (Washington University in St. Louis) William Hardie (Colby College)

A RATED SCHOOL
BY THE FLORIDA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

94% OF SENIORS ATTEND A TWO
OR FOUR YEAR COLLEGE

40 STUDENT LED
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES

43
ADVANCED COURSES
ADVANCE PLACEMENT &
DUAL ENROLLMENT

IB MAGNET
SCHOOL OF
EXCELLENCE

2,900 STUDENTS

1 OF 3
NAF DISTINGUISHED
SCHOOLS

Paid for by Friends of Gables High

Contribute to the success of Gables High and contact us today!
info@friendsofgableshigh.org | www.friendsofgableshigh.org

Best Restaurants

June 2026

THE DINING GUIDE

Each month we publish a select list of restaurants that we recommend for our readers. We cannot, of course, include the Top 100 each month, so this month we are featuring 56 of the best in the categories of, Asian, Mediterranean, Seafood, Spanish, Steak Houses, and Pubs & Cafes & Delis. Next month we will look at the best of American, Latin American, French, and Italian restaurants – along with some of our other perennial favorites.



TINTA Y CAFÉ

\$	Under \$25
\$\$	\$25-\$40
\$\$\$	\$35-\$75
\$\$\$\$	\$70-\$100+

Prices are per person for appetizer and entrée, without tax, tip, or drinks. Prices are approximations.

ASIAN

Anaba

This small, cozy sushi bar and restaurant just east of Galiano serves Japanese fare such as gyoza, ramen, and teriyaki bowls in a casual setting with a couple of outdoor tables. Good, fresh sushi and rolls; our favorite is the poke bowl (\$20), comprised of tuna, salmon, Kani salad, ikura (red caviar), seaweed, and edamame – the Japanese mayonnaise and caviar add a salty, creamy edge. 70 Aragon Ave. 305.476.0655 \$\$

Benihana

There's nowhere else in Coral Gables where you can see an onion volcano made at your table, and that kind of showmanship is why we can't help but love Benihana. Great place for a kid's birthday – or just to have some fun – with hibachi steak and teriyaki chicken. 242 Miracle Mile. 305.567.2000. \$\$-\$\$\$

Dōjō

When Chef Pablo Zitzmann first opened Zitz Sum on Alhambra, it was a pop-up. That now-permanent spot is joined by his latest creation Dojo, an izakaya restaurant that encourages patrons to start with some chilled sake. From there it's mochiko fried chicken oysters, Okonomiyaki cabbage pancake, and a 14-ounce teak cooked on a teppanyaki grill. Too bad is open only for dinner. 148 Giralda Ave. 305.849.3456. \$\$-\$\$\$

Fuku

A Sando is a popular Japanese sandwich comprised of deep-fried chicken served between slices of soft, crustless

Japanese milk bread. The menu includes three versions of the OG sando, along with chicken burgers, chicken tenders, and sides that include cucumber salad, gem wedge salad, rice vinegar and waffle fries. Framed images of chicken wings are hung around the bright, fast-food style restaurant, along with wooden shelves displaying soy sauce, tamari, and chili crunch for sale. 135 Miracle Mile. 786.615.5901 \$\$-\$\$

Ichimi

This off-Mile eatery has developed a cult following, with diners often content to stand in line for the opportunity to eat Ichimi's huge ramen and rice bowls. And the wait is worth it. Delicious and rich, with faraway flavors you can't find just anywhere, in a raw, cool space. Pro tip: try the scallion pancakes. 2330 Salzedo St. 305.960.7016 \$\$-\$\$

Kae Sushi by Chef Landa

Kae Sushi prides itself on fusing Japanese with Latin flavors, adding coconut, jalapeno, and mango to the mix. At Kae Sushi you can build your own poke bowl from a smorgasbord of ingredients, order individual sushi or sashimi pieces, or take advantage of rolls and lunch specials for \$16 to \$20. 143 Giralda Ave. 786.257.0511 \$\$

Miss Crispy Rice

Miss Crispy Rice brings its playful, affordable omakase to Coral Gables, offering multi-course menus (7 for \$35, up to 16 for \$127) and creative twists like crispy rice nigiri. Dishes include otoro with watermelon and latke with caviar. With sake, wine, and a fun vibe ("Kill Bill" bathroom included), it's a fresh, casual take on Japanese dining. 808 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 239.980.2912. misscrispyrice.com

Khaosan Road

Formerly Bangkok, Bangkok, this Giralda Plaza mainstay – with plenty of outdoor tables – has reinvented itself as the new home for Thai street food. Think you know Thai food? Be prepared for new and delicious tastes, from curry street sausage to chili paste

fish to the best crispy duck. 157 Giralda Plaza. 305.444.2397 \$\$

Kojin 2.0

There must be something in the air at 804 Ponce de Leon, the spot which formerly hosted Chef Giorgio Rapicavoli's Eating House and then Chef Michael Bolen's Lion & The Rambler. Today, the address belongs to Kojin 2.0, taking up the mantle for creative cuisine, like their twice-cooked chicken, scallops with white bean sauce and pork, and a Japanese take on the traditional chicken sandwich. Tasting menus from \$85-plus with constantly changing ingredients. 804 Ponce de Leon. 786.747.1404 \$\$\$

Su Shin Izakaya

Located across the street from the Colonnade building, this tiny, bustling Japanese restaurant serves a great bento box – along with an impressive array of daily specials that are posted on the wall in chalk. Super popular lunch spot, for good reason – a much deeper take on Japanese food than just sushi and rolls. 159 Aragon Ave. 305.445.2584 \$\$

Mai Sushi Tapas & Bar

A large portion of the menu here is on sticks, a variety of skewers and sushi pintxos inspired by the Spanish bar snacks but reinvented to spotlight sea ingredients like freshwater eel, sea urchin, and octopus. And as the name suggests, there's sashimi – both traditional and elevated – and beverages made with shochu, the distilled Japanese spirit. 98 Miracle Mile. 206.696.0674 \$\$-\$\$\$

Malakor Thai Isaan

This eatery on Miracle Mile prides itself on delivering true, tasty Thai food. That means pork skewers with sticky rice, grilled fatty pork neck sliced and tossed with lime juice, or the Gang Aom, a Thai curry with fish sauce, dill, and herb paste. And they can really spice it up. 90 Miracle Mile 786.558.4862 \$\$

Moon Thai & Japanese

Can't decide between Japanese or Thai

food? No problem. Here, you can have a Japanese house salad or miso soup as an appetizer and Pad Thai as an entrée. Truly the best of both worlds. Comfy booths inside and umbrella-covered outdoor tables. Great duck dishes. Across the street from UM. 1118 S. Dixie Hwy. 305.668.9890 \$\$

Mottai

The interior – inspired by French Japonisme, a blend of European architectural elements and Japanese symbolism – is worth a visit by itself. The cerulean blue and ivory white color palette makes the high ceilings feel airier, with a central canopy over an open sushi station. The exquisitely light fare tweaks traditional Japanese cuisine into something brighter. The sashimi and nigiri are world class, deftly prepared by sushi chef Hiroshi Shintaku. Among the signature dishes, the black garlic chicken is excellent, as is the kinoko hot pot, the Japanese version of Korea's Bi Bim Bop. 2881 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.454.2488 \$\$\$

Namaste

Hidden on a side street off Ponce, the last standing Indian restaurant in the Gables is small and humble ("namaste" means "I bow to you") yet superb in its rendering of classic Indian dishes, from tandoor to biryanis. Our favorites is the mango curry chicken, followed by the chef's special black pepper shrimp. 221 Navarre Ave. 786.534.2161 \$\$

Sakura Japanese

A vast menu for rolls, along with selections of noodles, yakitori, katsu, tempura, teriyaki, etc. But they serve some of the best sushi and sashimi in town, if raw fish is your thing. We also love their seating – a half dozen curved alcoves that line the walls and provide a sense of private space. 440 S Dixie Hwy. 305.665.7020 \$\$

Sawa

Delicious take on Japanese flavors served in parallel with Lebanese Mediterranean, Sawa offers seating inside or outside at the Shops at Merrick Park. A vast selection of sushi rolls and tapas

SUNDAY BRUNCH AT THE BILTMORE

Father's Day



Sunday, June 21st | 10am, 12pm, 2pm seatings

The best way to celebrate fathers.... a relaxing and decadent dining experience at our award-winning brunch. Enjoy all of our exceptional brunch items plus a few created just for this occasion.

Culinary Features Include

Herb slow roasted prime rib, loaded breakfast casserole, chorizo & brisket hash, bacon & cheddar biscuits.



Scan the QR code
to reserve today.



1200 Anatasia Avenue | Coral Gables, FL 33134
305-445-1926 | www.biltmorehotel.com



DINING GUIDE

that range from chicken yakitori to octopus ceviche, along with super fresh Middle Eastern comfort food. Belly dancers on weekend nights, plus a doggy menu and late-night happy hour. 360 San Lorenzo Ave. (Shops at Merrick Park) 305.447.6555 \$\$\$

SHINGO

If you're looking for a luxurious experience, consider the omakase menu at Coral Gables' first Michelin-starred restaurant. Located in the historic La Palma building, the restaurant is the brainchild of now twice-starred Chef Shingo Akikuni, previously of Hidden in Wynwood. Every element of the restaurant is carefully curated, from the pristine 14-seat table to how each course is served. 112 Alhambra Circle. shingomiami.com. \$\$\$\$

Sushi Maki

Flagship of the Ng family food empire, Sushi Maki has some of the best quality sushi anywhere, albeit in an unsophisticated space. No matter. Good prices, fresh fish, and some over the top desserts to balance all that protein – like deep fried Oreos. 2335 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.443.1884. \$\$

Zitz Sum

Brought to you by Chef Pablo Zitzmann of No Name Chinese fame, this “pop up” dinner restaurant off the huge lobby of the 396 Building is here to stay. The result of a year-long pandemic dive into dim sum by Zitzmann, the dumplings, hand-rolled daily, are superb. Other menu items are highly inventive and flavorful. 396 Alhambra Circle. 786.409.6920 \$\$-\$\$\$

MEDITERRANEAN

Calista Greek Seafood Taverna

There aren't many pure Greek restaurants in Coral Gables, but Calista is aiming to change that, serving authentic Greek dishes with fresh ingredients sourced from local farmers' markets. Their specialty dish is the Moussaka, an eggplant or potato-based dish reminiscent of a lasagna that is commonly served in Egypt, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Also, excellent Greek meatballs, classic spinach and feta phyllo pie, and yes, seafood dishes. 150 Giralda Ave. 786.310.7660 \$\$-\$\$\$

Fogare

Fogare is a new restaurant serving modern Mediterranean and international fusion cuisine in the Aloft Hotel, taking over the space formerly occupied by Mistico. Even if you've been to Aloft recently, you could've missed it, with its unassuming door off the lobby and only a small sign. Inside is a hidden gem, with an industrial interior that lets the food take center stage, and an international menu that features a diverse mix of fresh, fire-finished plates, smoked seafood, and globally-inspired tapas such as short rib baklava, morcilla spring rolls, and bluefin tuna tataki. 2524 S. LeJeune Rd. 305.454.3999 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Levant

Levant is named after the Mediterranean region of Western Asia that includes Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, and most of Turkey (also Cyprus, depending on who you ask). At the Coral Gables restaurant, all the chefs are Turkish and the owners hail from Iraq. The food is similarly eclectic, featuring dishes from across the Levant, including Lebanese batata harra (spicy potatoes), and their signature baked Iraqi eggplant and peppers in a clay pot. 2415 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 786.762.2905 \$\$-\$\$\$

Marhaba

This relatively modest space in a retail strip provides a comfortable, intimate setting, with hanging lanterns, soft drapery, patterned walls and green velvet chairs. It feels neighborhood warm, a place for people to settle in, pass plates around and stay awhile – or knock out a quick lunch. The easy atmosphere fits the clientele, diners from different backgrounds who gather over Lebanese food that tastes completely traditional. Try the Marhaba Trio, with hummus, Baba ghanouj, and labneh, all fresh dips distinct in texture and flavor. 537 Madruga Ave. 786.752.8330 \$\$-\$\$\$

MIKA

Over three decades into a career that has amassed six Michelin stars, Chef Michael White's new MIKA restaurant celebrates “coastal Riviera” cuisine, with a menu that ranges from steak to pasta to crudos, with an entire section devoted to latter. Recommended: The sea scallops with citrus colatura, the beef carpaccio, and the gnocchi, stuffed with ricotta and bathed in a pomodoro sauce. A comfortable, Boho-esque interior of woven chandeliers and imitation olive trees. 3007 Ponce de Leon Blvd. (The Plaza Coral Gables) 305.404.2200 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Motek

Surprisingly enough, this Israeli-inspired restaurant has taken home the prize for the best burger at Burger Bash twice in a row now, an unexpected feat explicable only by a bite of the sandwich itself. But as popular as the Arayes Burger is, it's not why you should visit Motek. You come here for the Eastern Mediterranean food: a smorgasbord of shish kebabs, mezzes, shawarma, and hummus, in a comfortably cavernous space. 45 Miracle Mile. 305.396.8547 \$\$-\$\$\$



The finest northern Italian cuisine, specializing in Venetian seafood.
Welcoming, warm, elegant and delicious. Visit with us today.

"Best Fine Dining 2025" – CORAL GABLES MAGAZINE

160 Andalusia Avenue
786-707-8978

tulliomiami.com

My Cousin Nick

If you've eaten at Calista Greek Seafood Taverna on Giralda Plaza, My Cousin Nick may be your new favorite fast-casual spot. Billed as the home of Greek street food, the restaurant is owned by Calista proprietor Thomas Fotouras. The menu ranges from gyros to signature bowls, salads, fries, croquettes, and more. You can make your own meal or choose from the menu, order at the counter, and be off within minutes. 2207 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 786.778.2381 \$-\$\$

SEAFOOD

Calista Greek Seafood Taverna

There aren't many pure Greek restaurants in Coral Gables, but Calista is aiming to change that, serving authentic Greek dishes with fresh ingredients sourced from local farmers' markets. Their specialty dish is the Moussaka, an eggplant or potato-based dish reminiscent of a lasagna that is commonly served in Egypt, the Balkans, and the Middle East. Also, excellent Greek meatballs, classic spinach and feta phyllo pie, and yes, seafood dishes. 150 Giralda Ave. 786.310.7660 \$\$\$-\$\$\$

MesaMar

Some of the best – if not THE best – seafood in the Gables with inventive fusions between Peruvian and Japanese cuisine. Their fish is caught daily in local waters and brought to your table for inspection. The whole fried fish is a marvel. Also, make sure to try the lobster tacos and the rock shrimp with mushrooms and ponzu sauce. Pitbull's favorite restaurant in Miami. 263 Giralda Ave. 305.640.8448 \$\$\$

NOMA Beach at Redfish

Redfish is born again, this time as NOMA Beach at Redfish, under the command of celebrity chef Donatella Arpaia. The pricey haute cuisine of Chef Adrienne has been replaced with simpler, more moderately priced dishes that feel much closer to the old Redfish, albeit with an Italian seafood spin. The award winning meatballs and romantic views of the bay that are unbeatable. 9610 Old Cutler Rd. 305.668.8788 \$\$\$

Sea Grill

Sea Grill is a popular weekend destination for lovers of Mediterranean seafood. A large, brightly lit and futuristic space with lots of energy, it serves fish caught in the Aegean Sea and flown to the Gables. Their octopus, which takes two days to prepare, is simply superb. Lots of outdoor seating, big screens inside showing visions of Greece, and the best Greek salad in town. 4250 Salzedo St. (Shops at Merrick Park) 305.447.3990 \$\$\$

SPANISH

Bulla Gastrobar

As valued for its cocktails as for its tapas, Bulla is also something Coral Gables needs – an informal, smart neighborhood hangout with a young, boisterous vibe. Great "small plates" and refreshing sangria. Yes, it is a national chain, but it still feels local. 2500 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.441.0107 \$\$

La Jamoteca

The specialty here is ham, and it's no ordinary ham, but the gourmet Iberico ham that is raised in a special place in Spain on a special diet of local

acorns. You can enjoy this ham in sandwich or sliced form – but there is also a short but authentic menu of traditional Spanish foods, from white anchovies, to stuffed red peppers, to potato and egg tortillas, etc. Pleasant outdoor seating, with ice-cold Spanish beer, or inside with the hung hams. 359 Miracle Mile. 786.360.4376 \$\$-\$\$\$

La Taberna Giralda

Routinely rated among the top tapas places in South Florida, La Taberna brings the added twist of a chef from Galicia, who puts his own regional spin on the dishes. It's a small place with a neighborhood vibe, orange walls, string lights and great live flamenco on Saturday nights (\$5 cover), so reservations are a must. Sophisticated and inexpensive lunch specials that change daily, with a lovely hidden courtyard. 254 Giralda Avenue 786.362.5677 \$\$

Pastor at Pascal's

Pascal's on Ponce was the benchmark for refined, classic French cuisine in South Florida. Last year Oudin retired, replaced by Chef Alberto Pastor, a Basque native who has transitioned the restaurant into a combination of Spanish and French fare, with a slight tilt toward the Iberian: White asparagus "cojonudos" from the Navarra region of Spain, Galician style grilled octopus, and piquillo peppers stuffed with braised oxtails. The warm Manchego cheesecake with red fruit jam is astonishingly good. 2611 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.444.2024. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Sra. Martinez

Michelle Bernstein has revived her Sra. Martinez, and the space alone – with an alcove for live music -- tells you you're in for something special.

Miami's Favorite Picture Frame Shop

LOW PRICES / OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

We print your photos!

For FREE
With a purchase of a frame and glass for photo

DISCOUNT COUPON
\$15
off your next picture frame

Frame your diplomas
photos, posters
art, jerseys

Frames USA & ART GALLERY
30 Minute Picture Framing

Frames USA Miami
6822 sw 40th st
Miami, FL 33155
305-666-3355

SAME DAY SERVICE



DINING GUIDE

The menu runs from carbonara croquetas to oxtail paella with bone marrow and a dry-aged strip steak finished in a wood-burning oven. Cocktails include a chocolate negroni and a lychee martini, with a happy hour worth checking out. 2325 Galiano St. 786.860.5980 \$\$\$

STEAK HOUSES

Christy's

Coral Gables' oldest steakhouse, Christy's was long the power lunch go-to – until it stopped serving lunch. But its aged steaks are still consistently superb, as are the seafood entrees. Their Caesar salad is absolutely the best in town, matched by classic oysters Rockefeller, garlicky escargot, and a jumbo shrimp cocktail that's a house specialty. Feels like you are in an episode of Mad Men, with the dark red walls – and the only prime rib in the Gables. Great bar, top cocktails. 3101 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.446.1400 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Daniel's

The new kid in town, replacing the previous super-haute Fiola, but with the same crew at the helm. First opening in Fort Lauderdale last year – and quickly earning a spot in the 2025 Michelin Guide – Daniel's offers cuts of (you guessed it) wagyu beef and prime rib. They've also kept a couple of the Fiola favorites, like rigatoni vodka, while adding a lobster mac and cheese and oysters Rockefeller that uses watercress instead of spinach. 1500 San Ignacio Ave. 305.912.2639. \$\$\$\$

Fleming's Prime Steakhouse

Fantastic aged steaks, a seafood tower that won't

quit, and a wine cellar that appears to have no end of depth. A place for special celebrations. Recently redecorated, but the open kitchen with its copper "sash" across the top still gives the main dining room a warm glow. Good menu at the bar – and now open for lunch! 2525 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.569.7995 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Fogo de Chão

At Fogo de Chão, meat reigns supreme. Try the "churrasco experience" (\$61) and let expert gaúcho chefs keep the finely cut slabs coming, from beef ribeye to flank steak to lamb picanha. If you're a Wagyu fan, this is the place to be. The interior is as grand as the experience, which is a show in itself, Brazilian-style. Great cocktails in the upstairs lounge for before or after. 2801 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 786.297.8788 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Morton's The Steakhouse

Mort's in the Gables is not just another Morton's. Its setting in the Colonnades gives it a unique elegance, with outdoor seating under the arches. Dependable quality, prime-aged beef, excellent salads, and warm fresh loaves of bread for the table. Good place to take that important client. Great bar food with filet mignon sandwiches or short rib tacos. 2333 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.442.1662 \$\$\$

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille

Perry's is a Texas chain that gets its beef from the heart of the Lone Star State. Great outdoor space with a fire pit and a huge interior with its own piano bar. The entrees are all carefully concocted, including excellent reduction sauces for the finer cuts and their famous five-finger giant pork chop that is carved at the table and can feed two. Pro tip: The Friday pork

chop special. 4251 Salzedo St. (Shops at Merrick Park) 786.703.9094 \$\$\$\$

Rò Steakhouse

Located inside Alhambra Towers, Rò is not your typical steakhouse. It is an immersive encounter with inventive cuisine, a windowless space that creates the atmosphere of a futuristic cave. Rò is the first American entry of the ViCa Hospitality Group, which has developed some 40 themed restaurants throughout Mexico. Creative dishes like grilled artichoke hearts with roasted sweet pepper sauce and spicy rock shrimp add to the most affordable steak in town, a half-pound rib eye for \$32. 121 Alhambra Plaza. 786.778.4158. \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

Ruth's Chris Steak House

Some of the most expensive steaks in the Gables, but also some of the best. A chain with a surprisingly sweet backstory in Ruth Fertel, who bought the original steakhouse in New Orleans in 1965, their Gables location is both spacious and business-like. Almost all the beef is USDA Prime and the menu ranges far beyond steak, including menus for those on specialty diets (keto, gluten-friendly, vegetarian). 2320 Salzedo St. 305.461.8360 \$\$\$-\$\$\$\$

PUBS & CAFES & DELIS

Bagel Emporium

And you thought all the great Jewish delis had disappeared. Not this one. Rated the best bagels and deli sandwiches in Miami, it's also a great breakfast spot (waffles, blintzes, French toast). But this is where you come for a real pastrami or corned beef sandwich on rye. Yes, \$20 a pop, but a time machine to New York's

CORAL GABLES
MAGAZINE
2025
BEST OF
THE
GABLES
BEST STEAKHOUSE

CHRISTY'S
Miami's Premier Steakhouse
A GABLES TRADITION SINCE 1978

Still home to the finest
in steaks, seafood, classic cocktails and our famous Caesar salad
Open evenings Tues-Sat • 5:30-9:30pm, until 10pm Friday & Saturday
www.christysrestaurant.com • 3101 Ponce de Leon Blvd. • 305.446.1400

lower East Side. Soon to relocate to Ponce de Leon Blvd. 1238 S. Dixie Highway. 305.666.9519 \$\$-\$\$\$

Bay 13 Brewery + Kitchen

Bay 13 Brewery & Kitchen is Coral Gables' go-to for craft beer and laid-back vibes. With Aussie-inspired brews, \$5 happy hour bites, and standout dishes like scallops or steak with ale sauce, it's perfect for casual meetups or relaxed dinners. Spacious patio, daily specials, and in-house brewing make it a must for beer and pub food lovers alike. 65 Alhambra Plaza. 786.452.0935. bay13brewery.com \$\$

Birdie Bistro

The beloved Burger Bob's has returned – reborn as The Birdie Bistro at Granada Golf Course. Now run by longtime favorite Rita Tennyson, it keeps the spirit (and many menu items) of the original, with a few upgrades. Familiar faces, classic affordable burgers & fries, with American fare (great chili) and a fresh vibe make it a nostalgic yet new community spot worth visiting. 2001 Granada Blvd. (Granada Golf Course). 305.567.3100. birdiebistro.co \$-\$\$

Café at Books & Books

Healthy eats and a beautiful (mostly) shaded outdoor courtyard make this the perfect place for a quick catch-up or a solo lunch with a good book. Excellent salads for healthy readers. Live music on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday nights gives this bookstore café a touch of the romantic. 265 Aragon Ave. 305.448.9599 \$\$

Façade

Façade in Coral Gables goes beyond pastries with all-day breakfast, homemade bread, and standout dishes. The spicy onion toast (\$17) with eggs, cara-

melized onions, and chili oil is a flavor bomb, while the Dippy Soldiers (\$14) offer an elevated take on eggs and toast. Cozy vibes, great music, and inventive eats. 271 Giralda Ave. @facademiami \$\$

Frankie and Wally's

Frankie and Wally's is somewhere between a grocery store, restaurant, and to-go sandwich shop. The open-concept space features a gourmet market with shelves stocked with olive oils, hot sauces, pastas, and pickled vegetables. If you're in need of local produce, it also carries red beets, oranges, starfruit, lettuce, and more. Besides the market, there's seating and an open kitchen, where you can watch your sandwich being prepared. Try the "The Frankie" on a soft Italian hero roll with ham and salami. 216 Palermo Ave. \$\$-\$\$\$

Fritz and Franz Bierhaus

Be transported from Coral Gables to Oktoberfest. Enjoy German comfort food like Weisswurst and Heringsschmaus and German beers (amazing selection) straight from the source. Naturally, you must order a beer, but here you can have it served in a giant glass boot – and the selection, like the place, is huge, with outdoor seating. 60 Merrick Way 305.774.1883 \$\$

Sanguich

Sanguich De Miami brings its award-winning Cuban sandwiches to The Plaza Coral Gables, now with a walk-up *ventanita* and tropical *batidos*. The standout *pan con bistec* features tender shredded steak and crisp potato sticks on toasted Cuban bread. Unpretentious, quick, and deeply satisfying, it's a must-visit for classic Cuban favorites done right. 111 Palermo Ave. sanguich.com \$

Sports Grill

A go-to spot for any major sporting event, but also a popular destination for any given night of the week. You don't even need to look at the menu: the pub is home to the Special Grilled wings, dipped in their signature sauce, then charbroiled and lightly covered in a secret sauce. The Coral Gables Magazine perennial winner for best wings. 1559 Sunset Dr. 305.668.0396 \$

Threelfold Café

You have to love a place that is dedicated to breakfast all day long. But who needs dinner when you can get shrimp tacos for breakfast, along with salmon scrambled eggs, chicken parma, and that Millennial favorite, smashed avocado toast? Also popular for Sunday brunch. And their coffee is some of the best around. 141 Giralda Ave. 305.704.8007 \$\$

Tinta y Café

Funky and comfortable, this former gas station turned Cuban café has 1) the best Cuban coffee, 2) great fluffy eggs for breakfast, 3) furniture that makes you feel like you are in someone's living room, and 4) some of the most inventive Cuban sandwiches you will ever eat, way beyond the media noche. 1315 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.285.0101 \$-\$\$

Titanic Brewery and Restaurant

A nice beer garden out back and pub food makes this English brewery a hotspot for nearby University of Miami students and staff. Karaoke on Sundays, blues on Wednesdays, and live bands regularly. Easy drinking, easy eating, and easy listening. 5813 Ponce de Leon Blvd. 305.667.2537 \$\$

OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS, BUGATTI HAS EARNED A DEVOUT FOLLOWING IN CORAL GABLES SERVING FRESH PASTA INCLUDING THE LEGENDARY WEDNESDAY LASAGNA.

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE ANOTHER DECADE WITH A SPECIAL MENU AND SEE WHY THIS PLACE HAS BECOME A LEGENDARY INSTITUTION!

BUGATTI
BISTRO
2504 PONCE DE LEON BLVD.
305.441.2545
WWW.BUGATTIRESTAURANT.COM

BOOK YOUR RESERVATION ONLINE OR VIA PHONE

A City of Towers

Among the architectural elements that distinguish Coral Gables from other municipalities are the towers that punctuate its skyline. Unlike the rectangular high-rises of Downtown Miami, the city's iconic spires give it a magical touch. Driving south on Le Jeune from the airport, the towers loom in the distance, signifying that you are home.



Mr.Nitin Khanna and Mrs.Aleksandra Khanna
Location Tulum, Mexico. Photographers Wilks Wedding Studio



MY GROOMS ROOM

OWN IT. DON'T RENT IT!

Coral Gables

225 Miracle Mile, Coral Gables, FL 33134 (305) 964-5073

Miami International Mall

1455 NW107th Ave, Miami, FL 33172 (305) 594-9126

www.mygroomsroom.com | www.sartoriamici.com



**SARTORI
AMICI**
Life

Google ★★★★★ yelp

Miami's #1 Grooms & Groomsmen
Destination on Yelp and Google
with 1000+ 5 STAR reviews!



Celebrating Our Centennial Summer
and America's 250th, The Biltmore Presents:

Red, White & BBQ

A Night of Fireworks and Celebration

SATURDAY, JULY 4th, 2026

6 PM - 10 PM

GRANADA BALLROOM



Celebrate Independence Day in extraordinary fashion, an evening of refined Americana set against one of the most coveted vantage points on our historic resort.

As twilight settles, enjoy an elevated Fourth of July barbecue experience, where classic flavors are reimaged with sophistication and paired with impeccable service. This is more than a celebration. It is a moment of heritage, hospitality, and history.



Members Discount Applies
Scan the QR code for tickets
and more information
Tickets must be purchased
in advance



1200 Anatasia Avenue,
Coral Gables, Florida 33134
305-445-1926
www.biltmorehotel.com