New Beginnings: A Dawn of a New Day for Membership

Although our May Annual Meeting was postponed, as evidenced by my first official President’s message, it has been business as usual with lots happening despite the quarantine and lockdown. On May 21st we conducted our first General Meeting by Zoom which was well attended. Since then, several committees have been actively working on targeted projects and goals agreed upon at our February Strategic Planning session.

Also we continue to be actively engaged with Jennifer Tisthammer, Bethany Gray and Alfredo Brito regarding the Estate’s existing projects; specifically the Stone House refurnishing plan, with an eye towards moving forward with a phased-in completion leading up to the 2022 Centennial Celebration activities. Recently Maria McDonald, Maredith Ehrman, our fantastic new Furnishing & Design Committee Chair, and I met with Jennifer and staff to discuss how to continue this process. Be sure to check out Facebook for our latest Marketing Committee campaign spearheaded by our incredible Committee Chair, my Vice President, Elizabeth Battaglia. Ten very early bird 100 Ladies met in time for sunrise to participate in several fun photos in support of social distancing. The serenity of watching the sun come up on a new day is food for the soul and brings to mind the lyrics, “And I say to myself what a wonderful world.” Watching the sunrise at the Deering Estate is something that never gets old, and one that we all should experience.

I can only imagine what it must have been like for Charles Deering and his family to have the privilege of seeing this every day. What a good feeling to know that, because of our work dedicated to the preservation of Charles Deering’s legacy, the 100 Ladies of Deering, in partnership with the Deering Estate Foundation, afford the opportunity for the community and future generations to appreciate all that the Estate has to offer. #STANDING TOGETHER 6 FT. APART TOGETHER IN HEART

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Our **Membership Committee** is transitioning as Suzuyo Fox has passed the leadership torch to Terry Long. Her many years of hard work and commitment has left us with a solid foundation to build upon. We are so grateful for her dedication. The good news is that she will still be a member of this committee, so we can continue to count on her wisdom, experience and knowledge. Terry is a formidable replacement with fresh, new ideas. We’re excited to watch as the Committee, under her able leadership, looks to the future to grow our numbers, while also reaching out to appeal to a younger and more diverse demographic.

A special thank you to Maria McDonald, Michelle Streit and Nina Zanella for your ongoing support and patience as I navigate my way through this learning process. I’d be lost without you. It has indeed been a very busy first month. We’re hoping that soon we’ll be able to conduct business as usual. Until then, you can rest assured that we’ll continue to find creative ways to keep our agendas moving.

In closing, I’d like to share with you my recent trip back home to Cleveland during the quarantine. I was only able to visit with Dad through a closed window using a baby monitor to talk. It was very frustrating but better than nothing and, if that’s what it took to keep him and the other residents at his Assisted Living safe and healthy, I was all in.

While preparing to put my dad’s house on the market (he’ll be 100 next month), we found a box of letters he wrote to my mom dated February 1945 through October 1946 during World War II when he was fighting in Europe. What a treasured discovery! In today’s world I just can’t see an email, Instagram or text replacing the true beauty of the “written” word. Sadly, we are witnessing the lost art of letter writing. These letters are my “Whipple Collection.” They are my legacy. Once we’ve read them, they will be donated to the Archives of the World War II Memorial in Washington DC where they will be preserved for future generations. I think my dad will be proud to know that he will be forever remembered for the small contribution he made, like so many others, in the name of our freedom. Is it any wonder they are called “The Greatest Generation”? Have a safe and healthy summer. Warmest regards!

Nancy Eggland, President
Magic Moments Still Happening In Our New Normal

BARBARA BASS: My daughter, Katie, and her boyfriend, Adam, became engaged in February. Luckily, I was in Atlanta that weekend when this exciting event took place. Katie and Adam selected April 24, 2021 as their wedding date and had selected their Atlanta venue within the following week.

Through the pandemic both Katie and Allison began working from home at their respective apartments in Atlanta, while I stayed home in Palmetto Bay. We have continued with the wedding planning and booked a wedding planner, band, and photographer via conference calls and Zoom meetings. Katie then found out she had to start working back at her office on June 15th and asked if I could come up to help her pick out her wedding dress before she returned to work. I donned mask and gloves, wiped down my seats at the gate and on the plane, and added clear wrap-around safety glasses to prevent me from touching my eyes and a second mask over my N95 mask. I made it to Atlanta for the wedding dress shopping appointments. We had to wear masks and Katie found some cute masks on Etsy. She was only allowed to bring 2 people with her so her sister and I were allowed that honor!

As it turned out, Katie fell in love with the third dress she tried on at the first bridal shop we visited. She canceled her two other appointments which gave us time to visit a couple of floral designers, masks and all. I am now back home self-quarantining again. I have found through this pandemic you have to do a risk assessment as to what is important to you. I didn’t want to miss seeing my daughter try on her wedding dress for the first time so I took what precautions I could and made the trip to Atlanta.

DEBI MCCARTHY: It has been a crazy time during this quarantine from family and friends. First my son, Silas, was a senior in high school this year so it was quite sad to witness as my senior year was so much fun with friends; senior trip, prom and graduation which he didn’t get to experience like I did.

It was nice to finally eat out with mother-in-law, Sandy McCarthy and daughter Casey...with suits and masked. I believe this is the new norm, wearing masks, not hugging like I’m so used to and social distancing to not only keep myself safe but those family members and friends safe as well.
ELIZABETH BATTAGLIA: I am very busy at work, and tired of being in front of a computer. I have worked from home the last few years, but with covid-19, the lines have blurred and I find myself expected to work much more than before. With the family, after the ‘when can we get together with our friends?’, food is the main topic of discussion. We have started ordering Hello Fresh every few weeks. Each of my kids (Douglas, 18, and Clare, 16) picks a meal and then prepares it. I love it! The food is tasty and I don’t have to do a thing but enjoy. Soon we will have to expand to ordering for pick-up delivery and am dreaming of Golden Rule, Sports Bar and Grille, Bombay Darbar, Fratallino’s and my other local favorites. I have enjoyed seeing the 100 Ladies on Zoom and hope to see everyone in person, even if at a distance, in September.

LORI HAAS: This time of quarantine brought one of my daughters home for three months, while she was furloughed. We bought fresh fruits, vegetables, and enjoyed testing so many new recipes. We also enjoyed walks on the beach, collecting seashells, and appreciating sunsets. With the gift of technology, we were blessed each week as we watched our church services on television. With the advice of our legal counsel, and the constantly changing protocol, we took on the challenge of becoming a take-out only restaurant. We are very grateful for our faithful employees, and so many loyal customers.

SUZUYO FOX: I have always been interested in the healing arts. At the start of sheltering in place, John and I decided that the best thing we could do was to build up our immune system. I expanded my knowledge of essential oils and used nano-particle colloidal silver and essential oils as part of our sanitizing efforts. We found that one of the first pillars of a healthy immune system was to improve our gut health. Along with researching different supplements, we started experimenting with fermented foods and have had fun making batches of kimchi, sauerkraut, and different pickles.

KELLY FULLERTON: No time at home for me. Our business has not shut down for one day as we were deemed essential due to governmental contracts. Working with a reduced masked staff, social distancing and disallowing any customers within our establishment has been challenging. At the same time, myself and all of our employees are so very grateful to have been able to continue to work and serve our clients. Working sure did beat staying home, although I really do feel like I need a break at this point. I have watched many webinars, become fluent with zoom, even conducting my first employee tele meeting and I know the phone number to the SBA by heart. Challenging and unprecedented times unseen in my lifetime. I look forward to some sort of normalcy where the 100LOD can interact in person again soon. Stay safe.

BARBARA LUDOVICI: As most of us, I cleaned closets, tried to dispose of some things without much luck. I joined a group that makes cookies for different Baptist Hospitals. Someone donated 7 foot towels to Camillus House. Camillus House wanted them cut in half and hemmed. I am helping with that. I understand there are 1000 + towels. I am on the committee that makes a casserole for Camillus House once a month. I have been enjoying my workouts in pool and in the past while reached to a number of people that I have not talked in a very long time.

JUDY PARKER: I have been making masks for our family, and my husband and I recovered our dining room chairs. We also went to Nashville to spend a few days with our family, while celebrating our 55th wedding anniversary.
**TERRY LONG:** I have been having fun on Zoom playing Bridge with 100LOD and attending various Zoom meetings. The quiet time has allowed me to pursue my art and photography. Charlie and I celebrated our 5th Anniversary in Islamorada. How blessed we are to both be “lucky twice.”

**MAREDITH EHMAN:** As the shock of sheltering in place and isolation became the new norm, I found myself actually enjoying some of the alone time. Might as well purge out closets and donate some items, go for long walks with my daughter and wave at the neighbors walking by across the street, bond with my family and grandson, read, meditate, and apply myself to projects in the yard. At first it was like a vacation no real responsibilities, no schedules, no deadlines, kinda nice.. Then the soaring, negative, confusing news of corona virus and continuing lockdown. So then it started---COMFORT baking. Cookies, pies, trying new recipes and surprise new pounds to contend with. Can't fit into my clothes, Hmm,why not? So happy to have heard things were calming down and WHAM, Black lives matter. Whoa,where are we? Is this a movie? No, this is real and all over the world. So sad that is happening as we all try to look at the positives in our midst and pray for our world. I hope you all have some good memories from these dark times.

**PAMELA MULLINS:** Took an anniversary trip to St. Augustine to celebrate and enjoyed celebrating Ann DeStefanis birthday in June. Life is still happening with our grandchildren...attended their dance recital recently.

Beginning September 1, 2020, the 100 Ladies of Deering Facebook page will be expanded for membership beyond the current members of the 100 Ladies of Deering to include Friends of the 100 Ladies. It will still be a closed group where people must request to be added. Rules of participating in the page will be posted, but will include no solicitation, no political posts, no posts that could be construed as hurtful based on age, race, religion, etc. The page will continue to be a place for the 100 Ladies of Deering to post about Deering Estate Events, DEF events, and 100 LOD news and events.

If you wish to withdraw for the 100 Ladies of Deering (or any group on facebook), while logged into facebook, click on ‘Groups’, then '100 Ladies of Deering’ at the top there will be a ‘...’ if you click on that, one of the choices will be 'Leave the Group'. At the top of the page is also the '+Invite' tab, which you can use to invite friends to become members of the group’ (Outside members will NOT be accepted until September 1).

If you have any questions about this change, please feel free to reach out to Elizabeth Battaglia, elizbattaglia@yahoo.com
MARKETING:
On Wednesday, June 6, ten of the 100 Ladies met for a sunrise photo session on Deering Estate. The photos will be used to highlight the natural beauty and artwork currently installed at the Deering Estate (and of course!). Did you know that the ‘#’ social media posts followed by key words allows people to search everything tagged with those same keywords? #100LadiesofDeering is one we can all start using, and you can make up your own! Some of the hashtags the marketing committee used for the photo shoot and suggests adding are: #StandingTogetherSixFeetApart, #TogetherInHeart, #100LOD, #100LadiesofDeering, #QuarantineFun, #DeeringEstateSunrise, #DeeringFun. See how easy that is! The marketing committee is working with Deering Estate staff to set up a few short Social Media 101 sessions, be on the look out for more information. ~ Elizabeth Battaglia, Chairman

MEMBERSHIP & HOSPITALITY:
Since the shutdown and our group not meeting in person, the Membership Committee has met a few times using Zoom. For the new category, (The Legacies: for under 50 years) which was approved last year at a General Meeting, inroads have been made contacting prospective members. A brochure was designed and sent with the hope of having these ladies attend our first In-Person meeting. We give thanks to Daryl Bowser who has been faithfully sending birthday cards to each member. ~ Terry Long, Chairman

FURNISHING & DESIGN: Although Covid-19 has unfortunately delayed progress for everyone, our goals are still hopefully achievable and God willing in the near future and especially before our centennial year of 2022. Currently, we are on target for the film room in the Richmond Cottage and anticipate completion by the third quarter of this year.

At the request of Jennifer Tisthammer, we had a meeting with staff, Nancy Eggland, Maria McDonald, Alfredo Brito and I to orient us and discuss some of the goals, projects and ideas they would like to bring to the 100 LOD to see if there is interest and ability to move forward with or plan for:

- Conservationist Room- Second Floor Richmond Cottage
- Phased Approach to the Great Hall draperies leading up to the Centennial activities
- Third Floor Stone House- Treasury Gallery

In the near future a committee meeting will be scheduled to share and explore ways to begin process and implement the above goals, all 100 LOD are invited and welcome to attend, please let your interest be known to Nancy Eggland or myself. Lets all continue to make the Charles Deering Estate all that it can be! ~ Maredith Ehrman, Chairman

MUSEUM GUIDE & COFFEE TABLE BOOK: Our Committee has continued to meet virtually over the last 3 months, and our enthusiasm continues. Our focus is in creating a Coffee Table “Look Book” of the beautiful Deering Estate with a completion date of Fall 2021. We have received awesome pictures from the Deering Estate and other amazing photographers of the Estate for us to look through as we create this publication. Any photos you have of the Estate..please share. If you would like to join this fun and creative committee contact Nancy Michelson. ~ Lori Haas, Barbara Bass, Nancy Michelson, Tri-Chair
2019 A Very Good Year: A Walk Down Memory Lane