

# CORAL GABLES

JANUARY 2025

MAGAZINE



## THE ART OF HEALTHY AGING

Hint: It's all about  
staying in motion

Plus

A Golf Course History  
Beaux Arts Festival  
Inside Iron Arrow

AGING GRACEFULLY WITH  
TENNIS STAR DONNA FALES,



## Talk of the Town

### Glam Camping for the Girls

One of the Gables' biggest fundraisers is now the Campfires to Cocktails gala at Camp Mahachie, the 11-acre Girl Scouts of Tropical Florida compound across Old Cutler Road from Fairchild Tropical Botanic Gardens. This unique evening of glamping (short for "glamorous camping") offers attendees the chance to experience the excitement of activities that Girl Scouting offers, including archery, fencing, axe throwing, making friendship bracelets, and, of course, roasting s'mores at the campfire. This year's November event raised almost \$500,000 for the organization and the nearly 3,000 girls it serves throughout Miami-Dade and the Keys. Kudos to this year's host committee, headed by co-chairs (and GSTF board members) Gloria M. Velazquez and Ray Dueñas. While the event is obviously for girls only, a few men nonetheless slipped in – at least for a while – including former city mayor Don Slesnick and former *Miami Herald* publisher (and founder of The Children's Trust) David Lawrence Jr. They won no contests, however. —*JP Faber*

### When Women Ran the Show

Speaking about female pioneers, the inspirational tale of the golden age of luxury department stores – and the trailblazing women who ran them – was recently recounted by author Julie Satow from her latest book, "When Women Ran Fifth Avenue." Satow read from her *New York Times* bestseller at an exclusive luncheon held at the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club, presented by philanthropist and high-powered realtor Judy Zeder. Over lunch, an audience of more than 60 accomplished and perfectly coiffed women listened to the



TOP: GLAMPING WITH GIRL SCOUT ALUMNI ON-STAGE SAYING THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE AND LAW. ABOVE: A GUEST TRIES FENCING WITH DAVIS ACADEMY FENCING

inspiring and glittering portrait of glamour and power at the dawn of American fashion, the golden age of American department stores, and of the three visionary women who led them.

Satow spoke of the 20th-century American department store as a literal palace of consumption where every wish could be met under one roof – afternoon tea, a stroll through the latest fashions, a wedding (or funeral) planning. It was a place where women, shoppers, and shopgirls alike could stake out a newfound independence. Whether in New York or Chicago, men owned the buildings, but inside it was women who ruled – Hortense Odlum of Bonwit Teller, Dorothy Shaver of Lord & Taylor, and Geraldine Stutz of Henri Bendel.

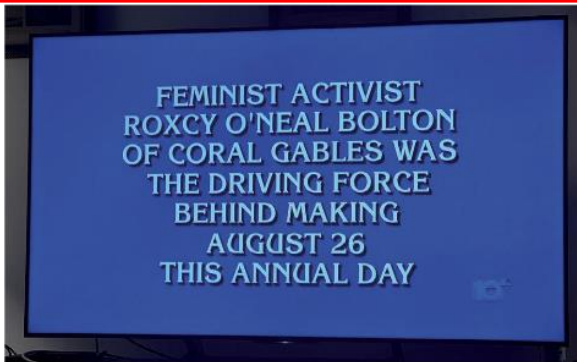
Zeder, part of The Judy Zeder Group of Coldwell Banker Realty, invited the author as part of her FORCE series about women

## STREETWISE / TALK OF THE TOWN



AUTHOR JULIE SATOW (LEFT) WITH JUDY ZEDER

who are leaders in business, community, philanthropy, and education. "It was a privilege to have Julie recount her story of these remarkable women," said Zeder. "These barrier-breaking women are an inspiration to all generations." The late November event was cohosted by Coral Gables Trust and its managing director John Harris. —JP Faber



SCREENSHOT OF "JEOPARDY" CLUE

### Gables Pride

We are always thrilled when national media recognizes Coral Gables as a name-brand city and not as a suburb of Miami. Last month, in an episode of the TV quiz show "Jeopardy," the \$1,000 clue in the category "Florida Women" was about legendary Gables women's rights activist Roxcy Bolton. The question was: what annual day on August 26 was Bolton "the driving force behind"? Give up? The answer is National Women's Equality Day, commemorating the day in 1920 when the 19th Amendment was certified, granting women the right to vote. —JP Faber

### The Palace Shines Again

The Palace Group, South Florida's largest family-owned senior living operator, has been honored for a second consecutive year by *Fortune* magazine as the "Best Large Workplace in Aging Services." While it has nine locations in South Florida, the Coral Gables Palace on Valencia is considered the star location (and the subject of an MTV special), with a lobby designed to replicate the George V hotel in Paris and amenities that include an Olympic-size swimming pool, personal trainers, adult education classes, and a high-end restaurant and bar. The award was based on a survey of over 181,000

employees in the aging services industry. Nearly 100 percent of The Palace Group's 1,600+ employees rated the company as a great workplace, well above the national average.

"This award reaffirms the positive culture we've cultivated across all our communities," said Helen Shaham, The Palace Group's president and founder, who accepted the award with husband Jacob Shaham. Employees were surveyed on workplace environment, trust in management, loyalty, accessibility of leaders, whether they feel respected, and whether they are proud of their work. "The family



HELEN AND JACOB SAHAM OF THE PALACE GROUP

atmosphere was the number one reason employees cited when asked about The Palace," said Andrea Rodriguez, vice president of human resources. "They praised the accessibility of the owners and said that they felt safe and protected." The Palace Group advocates promoting from within, including for executive directors, which contributes to a high level of employee retention. —JP Faber

### From the Police and Fire Department Blotters

Coral Gables is an exceptionally safe place to live, but that doesn't mean citizens — and its police and fire department — don't face occasional challenges.



One of those occurred at the tail end of November, reinforcing the need to continue undergrounding power lines in the city. At about 5 am on the Friday morning before Thanksgiving, a power line on Ferdinand Street near Country Club Prado snapped and fell onto two parked cars, which burst into flames. Coral Gables Fire Rescue

**Coral Gables Magazine**

Coral Gables Magazine is published to provide the residents of the city with intelligence about its culture, business, politics, and people, with information about civic issues, entertainment options, retail establishments, and business developments.  
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