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Working alongside a talented team of local architects, construction experts, and engineers, Lilianne offers a comprehensive solution for all your real estate needs. No matter the scope of your project, whether it's minor renovations or ambitious construction plans, she has you covered. From acquiring permits to overseeing the entire construction process, Lilianne and her team will handle every detail, leaving you with peace of mind.

What sets Lilianne apart is her unwavering commitment to her clients. With transparency, honesty, and open communication at the forefront, she ensures that your real estate journey is not only successful but also enjoyable.

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- Our reputation among repeat clients and real estate colleagues.

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<p>2012 64' AZIMUT</p> 	<p>2023 47' FREEMAN</p> 	<p>2021 41' VALHALLA</p> 

IF YOU WANT YOUR **BOAT SOLD**,
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Please consider the companies who make this publication possible when sourcing the respective services and products below:

GIAROSE CHILDRENS FASHION

Cocoplum residents we introduce Rossie Santibenz and her chic children’s clothing boutique GiaRose. Rossie tells us ‘When the world slowed down in 2020, life as we knew it shifted—and so did mine. I had just welcomed my daughter into the world, and while navigating the new rhythms of being a mother of two, I found myself reflecting on a long-held dream: owning a clothing boutique’.

What was once a love for fashion centered around me -and quickly transformed into an obsession with beautifully made children’s clothing. I became inspired by the tiny details, soft fabrics, and the need to find pieces that were not mass-produced but on occasion felt as special as they are, one-of-a-kind.

Named with love (my children are Gianluca and Alessia Rose) GiaRose was born, and it is more than a boutique—it’s a passion project.

The vision, to bring the classic style and charm of European brands to Miami. Every item is hand-picked by me, thoughtfully curated and limited in quantity. As we grow (want to emphasize that we are still very much a start-up), my goal is to expand and bring styles from all countries.

This is a space where I get to nurture my creative side and love for fashion-something that often gets pushed aside in the day-to-day of motherhood and life.

Email: giarosechildren@gmail.com
Website: giarosechildren.com
IG: @giarosechildren



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At Greatstone Design, we do more than design interiors — we provide a turnkey, in-house service for remodeling, renovations, and decorating, all thoughtfully tailored to bring your vision to life. From full home remodels, kitchen and bath renovations, custom closets, built-ins, motorized window shades, flooring, and lighting to furnishings, décor, and finishing details, our team of trusted contractors, fabricators, and artisans ensures a seamless, white-glove experience from start to finish. With every project, our goal is simple: create a home that reflects your style, your lifestyle, and your vision — not ours.

Founded by Tanya Etessam, Greatstone Design blends entrepreneurial expertise, artistic creativity, and deep industry knowledge. Tanya grew up in a family of builders, developers, and designers and brings a rare perspective shaped by her background as a dancer and lifelong athlete. She sees every home as a work of choreography — where spatial flow, balance, and beauty come together in perfect harmony.

What makes Tanya different is what she doesn’t do: she doesn’t chase trends, push a specific “look,” or make it about her. “My style isn’t what matters,” she says. “What matters is understanding yours — and making it shine.” Known for her calm energy, meticulous attention to detail, and seamless project execution, Tanya focuses on making the design process enjoyable, stress-free, and on time. Her work speaks for itself. Her clients - many of whom come through referrals — appreciate her sincerity, discretion, and dedication to excellence.

At the heart of Greatstone Design is a shared commitment: honest communication, seamless collaboration, and delivering outstanding results — always on time, never overdone, and without unnecessary fluff.

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INJOY

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InJoy specializes in the design and build up of custom storage structures to maximize space. We are focused on helping our customers make their daily activities flow with ease. Our standard procedure starts with a complementary consultation with the option for a walk-through meeting or via a Zoom call. Our ultimate goal is to recreate your space into an InJoyable everlasting experience. Trusted by our clients with their home and business.

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CLIENT TESTIMONIAL:

“We have been working with InJoy as our home organizing team for 3 years now. In the beginning I was adjusting to becoming a mom, wife and an entrepreneur. Natalia helped me declutter, restructure, improve functionality and productivity in my home and with work! She was also a stress reliever when it was time to prepare our home for my second baby and postpartum with 2 babies under 2. Natalia was able to provide emotional support, guidance, storage input and solutions to get ready for my new baby! We then trusted in her work again when we decided to relocate from our condo to a house. Always handling the projects professionally and with grace”

—PHEONA WELSH-GLEASON



PEACE OF MIND MATH COACHING

Malcolm Gladwell famously said it takes 10,000 hours to achieve mastery. With over 25 years of teaching mathematics to thousands of students at the University of Miami, Patricia Rua has far surpassed that threshold—earning a reputation as a master teacher.

Today, she channels that expertise into personalized tutoring and coaching for students in grades 7–12 and college, helping students improve fast, understand deeply, and stress less.

Patricia started early. As a student at Ransom Everglades, she hosted weekly Calculus pizza parties to help prepare her classmates for the AP exam—proving that Calculus + Pizza = High Scores! She went on to earn a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from McGill University in Montreal and a Master’s degree in mathematics from the University of Miami.

Patricia’s goal is simple: to make sure that math never stands in the way of a student’s dreams, especially in science and engineering. She’s adept at helping high-achieving students reach the next level. She also LOVES rebuilding the confidence of students who have had discouraging experiences with math. They discover that the problem was never in their ability, but in how it was taught to them. Their self-esteem blossoms as they succeed in ways they never thought possible. It’s no surprise that some call her The Math Whisperer.

Want to hear directly from the students she’s helped?

Scan the QR code below to read her reviews on Rate My Professors and see why so many call her the best math teacher they’ve ever had.

Drawing on decades of experience, Patricia has distilled the best practices that drive student success. She works outside of sessions to create custom material that eliminates any weakness and to deeply anchor new math concepts for long term retention.

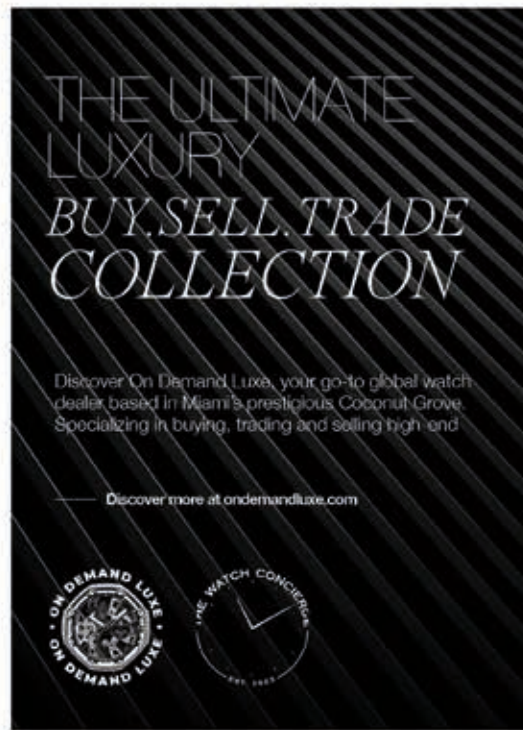
Perhaps most importantly, Patricia understands the intense time demands faced by today’s students. She teaches them how to study smarter- not longer. With her expert guidance, one focused hour can save students hours of solo study—freeing them to dedicate more time to their other academic and extracurricular commitments.

If you’re looking for a passionate math teacher who brings deep expertise and the steadfast support to help a student thrive, Patricia Rua is here to help with Peace of Mind Math Coaching.

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Q: What is your pet’s name?

A: Lilly

Q: Does Lilly have a nickname and what is it?

A: Liloca

Q: How did you come up with her name, does it have any specific significance?

A: Our Kids Choose her name

Q: How old is Lilly?

A: 3 years old

Q: When and how did you get her?

A: on April 5, 2022, we were looking for two pets then we found Lilly And adopted her.

Q: What breed is she?

A: Welsh Corgi

Q: What is her Favorite food? Treat?

A: Meat

Q: Her Favorite game?

A: Playing with Water

Q: Lillys Favorite toy?

A: Ballons and Balls

Q: Favorite thing to do together?

A: Watching Tv

Q: Favorite place to go together?

A: Her Running away on the street

Q: Best thing about Lilly?

A: She’s adorable, Smart and protective

Q: Funniest memory involving Lilly?

A: One day she escaped, went into our neighbor’s pool and came back all clean.

Q: Most rewarding thing about being a pet owner?

A: The unconditional love and loyalty she gives back to us

Q: Have you ever taught Lilly any tricks if so, what?

A: A trick we taught her is bouncing a ball on her nose and catching food when we throw it.

Q: Where does she sleep?

A: In the floor of our room

Q: What special way do you spoil/ pamper her?

A: giving her some bones and treats without doing anything.



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-Cocoplum Yacht Club Member and Boat Owner ”



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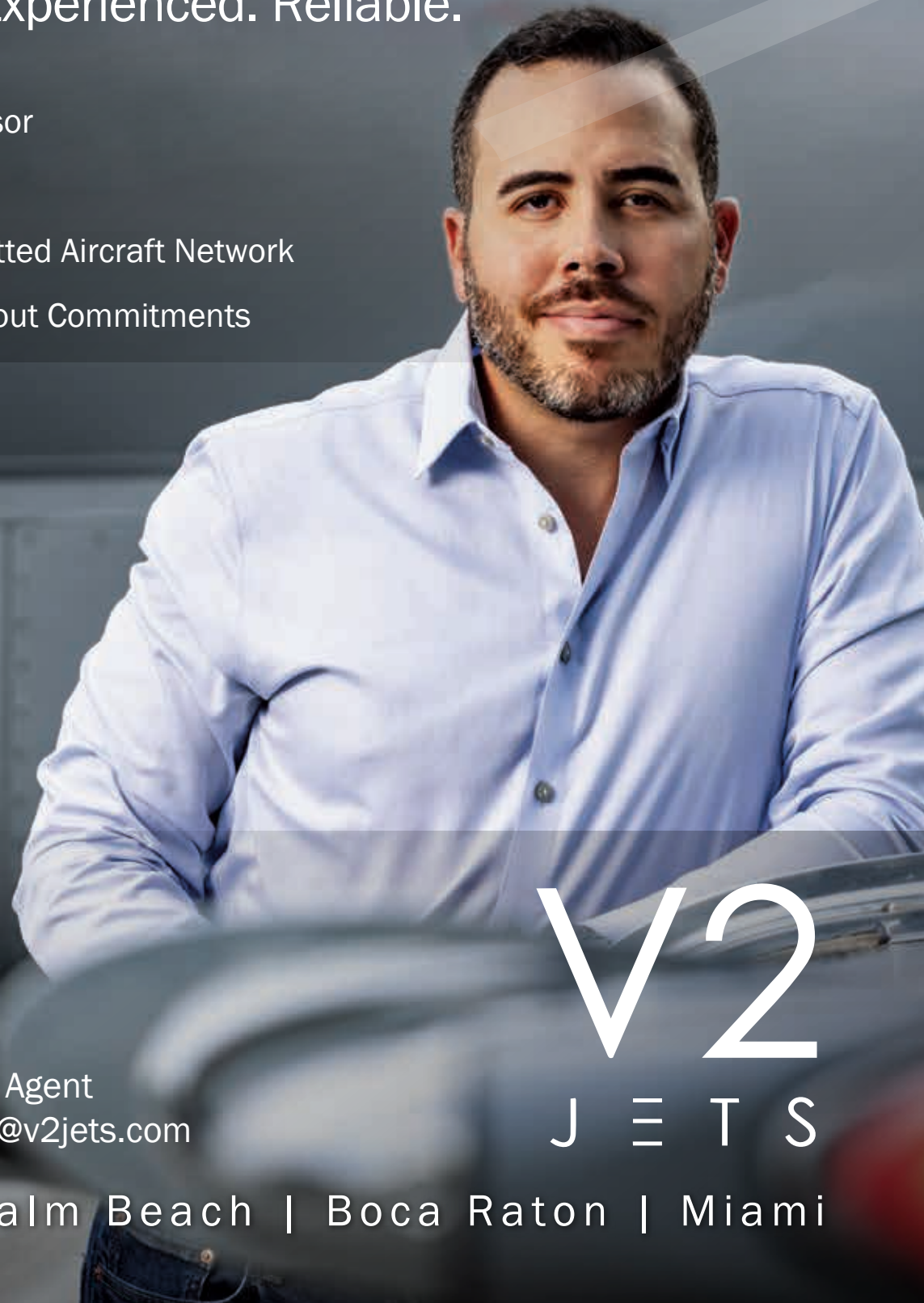
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Fun, Celebration, and Charity in Cocoplum

**Learn about Freddy's Key mission and help transform Cuba
with Christ and Revitalize the Cuban Catholic Church!**

ERIN MICHELLE NEWBERG, PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARMANDO COLLS/COLLS FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY



This isn't your average Saturday night social. After all, when it's your neighbor Freddy Piedra, it's sure to be a sensory experience wrapped in fun, music, and purpose. Picture this: super-premium liquor, fine wines, an irresistible spread of savory tapas, award winning cigars, and live performances that will stir your soul. The evening will come alive with flamenco dancers in full flourish and live music that's guaranteed to move you emotionally.

But way more than a social soiree - this elegant evening holds a much deeper meaning. At its heart, the event supports the transformative mission of the Cristo En Cuba Foundation—a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization driven by Catholic Emmaus Brothers and Sisters from South Florida, Cuba, and beyond. The Foundation exists solely to transform Cuba with Christ by conducting Emmaus retreats, in communion with the Cuban Catholic Church. And here's something truly extraordinary: every single penny raised goes directly to fund these retreats in Cuba – not to overhead in the U.S., and not to the Cuban government. It's 100% for the people, for the mission, for Christ. Freddy feels the “Cristo En Cuba- Emmaus Foundation has given him and the brotherhood a very strong purpose since its inception in 2018. Since then, they have collectively completed 65 large Emmaus retreats throughout the Island.

Each lasting two and a half days, “they are beyond powerful, especially as an evangelization tool for the Cuban Catholic Church that moves people to heal and believe again.” Because during COVID travel to Cuba became impossible for two years, “we turned something negative into something transformational,” he shares, “and we used that time to train the Cuban-based brotherhood to lead the retreats better than we do.” Thanks to Piedra's leadership skills, the retreat leaders and servers no longer need to be physically in Cuba. “We now only need to send the Catholic retreat house funds and retreat materials through Vatican channels to the Cuban Catholic Church, who is our devoted partner in implementing the retreats.”

Freddy furthermore explains how “currently, our brotherhood leads the retreats throughout Cuba with



incredible love, devotion, and effectiveness. The results are amazing. What we are accomplishing is truly miraculous.”

Working with extraordinary results “it's like a spiritual pyramid as we train the brotherhood to evangelize parish by parish via retreats across the Island.” From afar, the Cristo En Cuba Foundation is filling the Cuban parishes once again. “When we are not doing retreats, our Emmaus Brotherhood serves in their parishes and serves the underprivileged, together with the Catholic Church: the old, homeless, handicapped, sick and needy.” Through this structure, they are transforming thousands of Cuban hearts with Christ and are revitalizing the Catholic Church in Cuba.

Did you know that at one point, approximately 95% of Cubans identified as Catholic? Sadly, that number plummeted to less than 5% when for decades worship was prohibited. So, “what we're doing now is restoring that legacy and beginning to transform Cuba with Christ.”

Raised with the mentality that the more successful you are, the more humble you must be and the more you have to give back, “the Emmaus brotherhood here in St. Hugh allowed me to do that. However, founding the Cristo En Cuba Foundation took it to a different level. “During my 30 years at



Bacardi, I traveled nationally and globally approximately 40 % of the time - sadly, I was unable many times to be present with my family - let alone give back to those in need so now is my time!"

And this is the legacy he wants to leave behind.

With a tremendous sense of gratitude, "all of us at CEC feel we are obligated to give back because God blessed us, and with that blessing comes a responsibility to lift and help others."

THE EVENT!

Expect fun, community, and connection. Whether you're sipping a Mojito or swaying to the rhythm of a rumba beat, your presence makes an impact—bringing peace, love, and light to Cuban hearts that need it most.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Mark your calendar, gather your friends, and prepare for a night that will linger in your memory and ripple across borders. Let us celebrate, elevate, and transform—one heart, one dance, one glass (of Bacardi products) at a time.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

This unforgettable event is proudly sponsored by: East Coast Metals, Bacardi, FYI Yachts, Shelton and Stewart Realtors, Puntilla Music, Chef Gio Enterprises, Light F/X, La Flor Dominicana, Ana and Cecil Milton, Pastrana Bariatrics, Hermanos Cantina Grill, and Inner Music Management.

WANT TO ATTEND?

You can purchase tickets online with a Credit Card at Cristoencuba.org, or, by sending a check that is payable to Cristo En Cuba Inc. and send it to: Cristo En Cuba // PO Box 650153 // Miami, FL 33265

AND - please attach the following to your check.... Your Name // Number of Tickets // Phone Number // Email Address

More About The Cristo En Cuba- Emmaus Foundation

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed by Catholic Emmaus Brothers and Sisters from South Florida, Cuba, and other parts of the world. Together, they donate their time and talents to fund and implement Emmaus retreats in Cuba, hand-in-hand with the Cuban Catholic Church. With a clear vision to transform Cuba with Christ, please join Mr. Piedra —because transformation begins with belief. And belief begins with you.

Other Ways to Help:

• Donations- Make a donation which is 100 % tax deductible! Every penny counts and goes directly to fund Emmaus Retreats in Cuba because Cristo En Cuba has no General and Administrative Expenses since all operational costs and time are donated by the Brotherhood.



Sponsorship - For Sponsorship opportunities contact Freddy Piedra at apiedra@breakthruinnovations.com, or 305 606 1365.



Cristo En Cuba Foundation

“Wines and Tapas Celebration”

A Night of Fun, Celebration and Charity

September 27th 7:00 pm - 11:00 pm

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What Would You Do With an Extra Hour at Life Time?

Inspiration for how to spend time at your athletic country club if you happen to have just a little bit more free time one day.

By Life Time

There are only so many hours in a week — and many of us have our waking hours mapped out so we can make every minute count. But imagine, just for a moment, that you have an extra hour to yourself at the club . . . how would you spend it? To inspire you to enjoy some “what if” time, we asked several Life Time on-demand class instructors — who Life Time Coral Gables members can engage with through the Life Time app — to share how they would spend a bonus hour at Life Time.



David Freeman, CPT, CCP, PES

Senior director of signature coach excellence, cohost of the *Life Time Talks* podcast

I'd divide an extra hour at the club in two parts: 30 minutes in the Alpha space dialing in my own performance and then 30 minutes connecting with other athletes and coaches. There's something powerful about sweating with intention and then pouring into others through conversation and community.



Jessie Syfko, ND, RYT, CSCS, FMS

Senior vice president of *Life Time Digital* and creator of *MB360 at Life Time*

If I had an extra hour at the club, I'd be on the workout floor lifting weights and doing cardio on the stepmill machine. As a busy mom with a fast-paced career, I would indulge in time for my own fitness. Strength training makes me feel my best and centers my mind so I can be the best version of myself the rest of the day.



Hayley Akradi, CPT

National program lead of *Ultra Fit* and digital fitness project manager for *Life Time*

I would absolutely play pickleball if I had an extra hour to spend at the club. Pickleball is one of my favorite activities, but with my crazy schedule, it's something that goes to the wayside when I run out of time. But what a fun way to spend the day: Drop the baby off at the Kids Academy and then my husband and I can go get competitive on the courts.



Austin Head

Group fitness instructor and 5-Star *ELI* performer at *Life Time*

If I had an extra hour to spend at the club, I would get a massage from one of our incredible massage therapists. Recovery is so important if we want to perform at our best, and a massage is an amazing way to recover both physically and mentally.

LIFETIME
CORAL GABLES

While Life Time Coral Gables is on a waitlist for new members, Cocoplum residents are given priority consideration. Email Alejandra Blanco at ABlanco@lt.life to learn more.

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Back to School: Real Tips for Real Moms and Dads

Cristina Leal de Salvaterra, founder at Bridges Teaching and Learning Consulting shares real-life tools to help families trade chaos for confidence this school year.



I'm sure you can relate to that moment every August when we declare, "This is going to be the year!"

The year we stay organized helps our kids become more independent, stay on top of all the calendar events, and finally feel like we've got this parenting-through-the-school-year thing figured out.

We all do it- as moms and dads. We start strong, determined to be superhuman for our kids, our partner

(or solo!), and the dog. And yet, as routines pick up and life happens, it can feel like we're barely holding it all together.

Here's the truth: even when things don't go perfectly, small intentional changes can make a huge difference. There's no need for Pinterest perfection- just thoughtful systems and routines that help your kids feel confident and allow you to breathe easier. And the best part? It's never too late to start.

As psychologist Lisa Damour reminds us, "Stress is not always a

bad thing. It's what helps kids grow." And parenting expert Michelle Icard says it best: "Middle schoolers want independence, but they need support." That's the sweet spot we're aiming for.

Before the First Bell Rings (or Even Now)

Set Up a Launch Pad: Pick one consistent spot in your home for school gear- backpacks, water bottles, chargers, sports uniforms.

- Let younger kids decorate the area to give it ownership
- For teens, keep it simple and functional-ideally near their room or the front door
- Encourage a habit of resetting it every evening Create a School Supply Station A stocked space avoids late-night homework panics.
- For little ones: crayons, glue sticks, sharpened pencils
- For teens: highlighters, sticky notes, index cards, chargers
- Add a calendar or planner-digital or paper-for tracking assignments



- Sync the Family Calendar Stay ahead of the chaos with shared scheduling.
- Use a family wall calendar or a digital one (Google Calendar works great)
- Add school holidays, activities, club meetings, and deadlines
- Encourage teens to manage their own events to build time management.

Routines That Build Confidence

Kids (and adults) thrive on structure. And if school has already started? No worries. You can introduce healthy routines anytime.

- Build in tech-free blocks for reading, rest, or reconnection
- Encourage older kids to pack their own lunch and set their own alarm
- Keep consistent wake-up and wind-down times, even on weekends

when possible, Try using Sunday evenings as a family reset: review the week ahead, prep bags, and check the calendar together.

Let Them Mess Up (Yes, Even the Big Kids)

As much as we want to protect our kids, it's powerful to let them experience small failures.

- If they forget homework or gym clothes, don't rush to the rescue.
 - Ask: "What's your plan for next time?" instead of offering the solution
 - Praise effort, problem-solving, and follow-through-not just results.
- As Lisa Damour puts it, "We build resilience when we let kids sit with manageable discomfort." Mistakes are how they grow.

Tech with Boundaries, Not Battles

Technology is part of school life-but left unchecked, it can become a major distraction.

- Designate phone-free times (like dinner or before bed).
- Use apps like Screen Time or Family Link to set healthy boundaries.
- Talk openly about digital behavior, social media, and focus strategies Involve teens in setting limits. When they help create boundaries, they're more likely to respect them.

Final Thought: Keep It Real

Not every morning will be smooth. A lunch will be forgotten. A project will be done at the last minute. But none of that defines your success as a parent. You're showing up with love and intention-and that's what really matters. If your family needs help getting into a rhythm that actually works, I offer customized back-to-school plans that support your child's development and your peace of mind. I specialize in creating customized plans for families to stay organized and build structures that help everyone thrive-no matter the season.

Feel free to reach out-I'd love to help you build a structure that works for your family.

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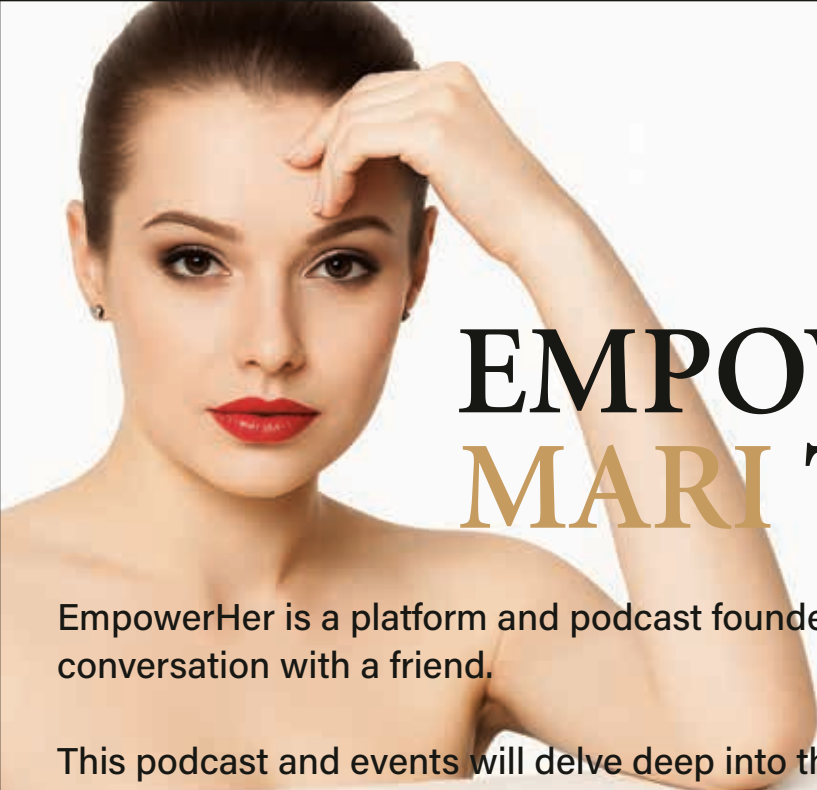
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EmpowerHer is a platform and podcast founded by Mari Trilogy, inspired by a conversation with a friend.

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Bridal Beauty, Reimagined:

Naty's Signature Style Is Transforming 'I Do' Glam'

From bespoke makeup artistry and hairstyling to facials, lash extensions, and expertly sculpted brows, IG queen Naty now helms a full-fledged glam empire that is as polished as it is personal.

ERIN MICHELLE NEWBERG, PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARMANDO COLLS/COLLS FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Bridal Beauty & Beyond with Makeup by Naty

There's something magical about a woman who finds her calling in a bold moment of creativity at home. And for Miami-based makeup artist **Nathalie "Naty" Valentin**, that moment came during the chaos of 2020, when she was laid off from two jobs and navigating a break in her college studies. With nothing more than a brush and a spark of inspiration, she painted a vivid, colorful look that turned out to be more than just a playful experiment—it was the start of **Makeup by Naty**, who explains "I didn't plan this career, but every step was meant to happen."

Beauty with Heart—and Precision

Naty's aesthetic? Think **natural, radiant beauty with just enough glam to turn heads**. Her signature look is all about enhancing—not masking—your features. "I want my clients to feel like themselves, just elevated," she says. Whether it's a bridal contour that adds warmth and dimension or the perfect outer-corner eyeshadow to make eye color pop, her process is meticulous, personal, and rooted in years of experience.

And while her specialty is bridal beauty—both makeup and hair—her services are fully customizable for any occasion. From



destination weddings to Miami soirées, Naty travels with her kits of Huda Beauty, Charlotte Tilbury, Tarte, and MAC in tow, delivering flawless glam in even the most humid of settings (yes, she has tricks for that too—hello, MILK primer and One Size spray).

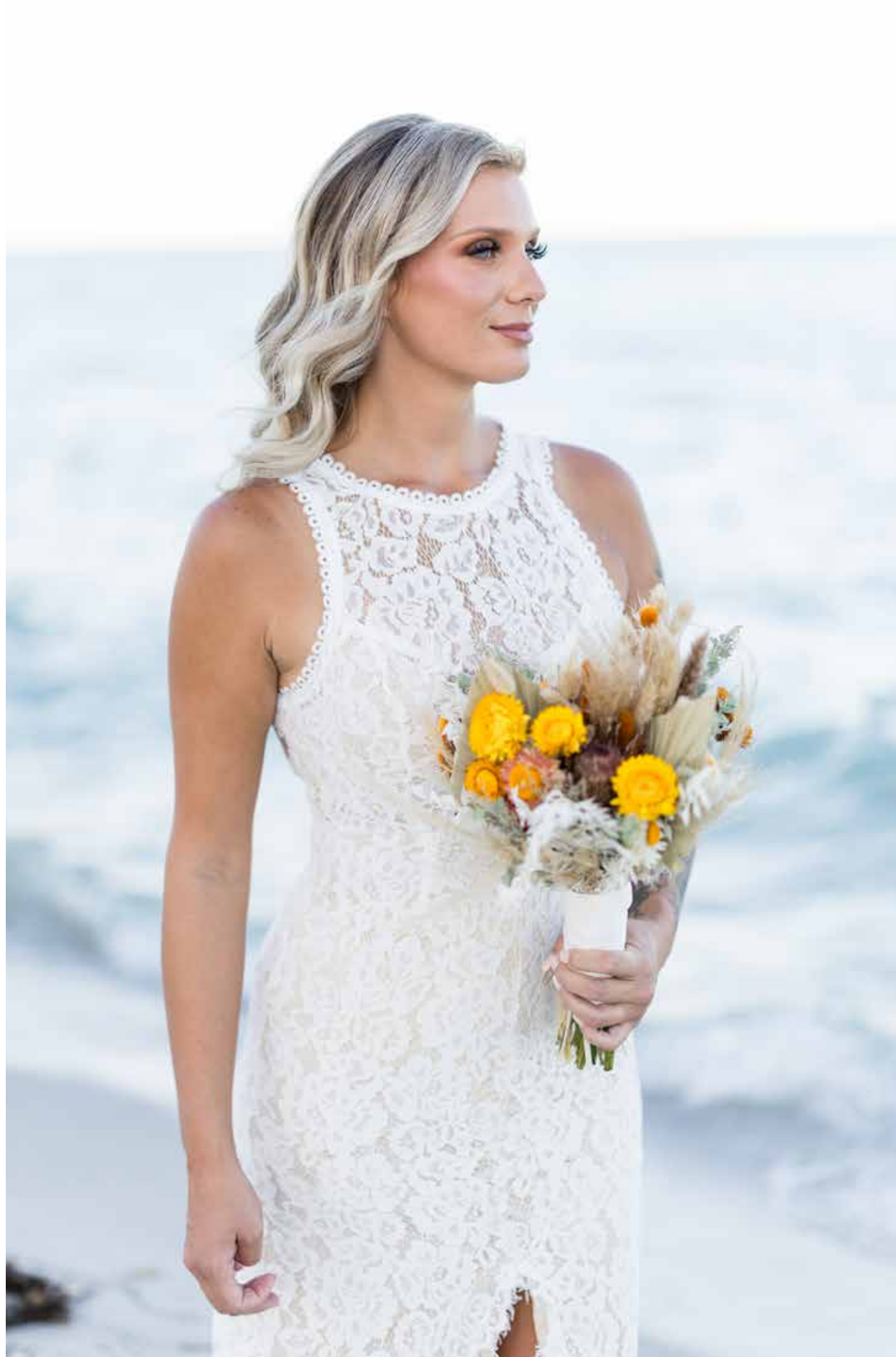
A Studio That Feels Like Home

You'll find her tucked inside **Enlightened Artistry**, a cozy modern salon in the heart of Miami. The space is inviting and serene, curated to offer more than just beauty services—it's a full experience. Think calming music, luxurious products, and zero rush. "Booking a makeup appointment isn't a necessity—it's a luxury," Naty says. "I want my clients to feel that from the second they walk in."

Bridal Beauty, Tailored to You

When it comes to weddings, Naty takes the lead with her calm energy and expert hands. Her bridal services are **entirely tailored**, with a no-rules approach that begins with a complimentary phone consultation and often includes a dedicated bridal trial. "This is a day





and eyelash extension services are all rooted in skin-first philosophies. Each facial begins with an assessment and ends with a glow that's photo ready. Want a luxe moment? Her **premium facial** includes a hydro jelly mask, LED light therapy, and even an optional **live sound bowl experience**—yes, a spiritual skincare moment that feels totally 305.

For lashes, clients choose from **classic, hybrid, volume, and mega-volume** sets, all curated after a consultation based on natural lashes and desired results. Her refill policies are clear (minimum 40% retention, FYI) and her hygiene protocols are on point—clean tools, disposable applicators, and sanitized surfaces, always.

The Naty Experience

What truly sets her **apart** is the full-circle experience: from the gentle booking process to the pampering in her chair. “I take my time to really understand your vision,” she says. “It’s not just about the look—it’s how you feel when you see yourself afterward.”

Clients rave about her ability to create magic, even under pressure. One bride captured the sentiment perfectly:

“Naty is the best person you can have for those special moments... I had a beach wedding, and my makeup stayed perfect until the end of the ceremony.”

What's Next?

With plans to launch her own **proprietary brush line**, grow her bridal brand across NYC and NJ, and lean into her facial services, Naty is just getting started. “The future for Makeup by Naty is bright,” she says. “I’ve been trusted to be part of so many unforgettable moments, and that never gets old.”

To Book Your Glam Moment /
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bridal_makeupbynaty

you’ll remember forever. You should feel fabulous—but also like *you*,” she explains. From glam waves to low buns, her hairstyling is just as artful, and packages are built to be as streamlined as they are stunning.

She books bridal clients **9 to 12 months out** and emphasizes the importance of trials and trust. “My favorite compliment is when someone tells me, ‘I don’t know what I want, but I trust you.’”

Glow Beyond the Glam

Makeup by Naty is more than makeup. Her **custom facials**, brow shaping,



PAVING THE WAY

Congrats to Cocoplum Neighbor Matthew Martinez on Launching Miami-Dade’s First Fully Approved Live Local Housing Development. A trailblazer for Miami-Dade’s ‘missing middle,’ Martinez champions attainable, workforce-focused housing in a region desperate for solutions

A major milestone in addressing Miami-Dade County’s housing crisis was reached earlier this summer with the groundbreaking of Beacon Hill at Princeton—a \$28 million, 112-unit workforce housing development led by Cocoplum resident Matthew Martinez, President of Beacon Hill Property Group. The project is the first in the county to move from site plan approval to construction under Florida’s groundbreaking Live Local Act (SB 102), serving as a model for how thoughtful development can meet real community needs.

Setting a New Standard for Workforce Housing

Beacon Hill at Princeton is notable not just for its size or speed to market—but for what it represents: a blueprint for creating housing for the “Missing

Middle”—families earning too much to qualify for subsidized housing but not enough to afford soaring market-rate rents. “What we’ve tried to do at Beacon Hill is create and develop workforce housing for the missing middle that adheres to the spirit of the legislation,” said Martinez. “We want to provide good, safe, financially attainable housing for people who make our communities work and function.”

Apartments at the Princeton development will range from \$1,700 to \$1,900 for a one-bedroom and \$2,100 to \$2,300 for a two-bedroom. To qualify, renters must earn no more than 120% of the county’s median household income—about \$95,000 annually.

A True First for the Live Local Act

While many developers have proposed projects under the Live Local Act,

Beacon Hill at Princeton is the first in Miami-Dade County to officially break ground. Martinez and Beacon Hill’s Managing Director, David Rothenstein, credit not the zoning breaks, but the financial incentives as the real catalyst—such as property tax relief, impact fee reductions, and state rebates on materials. “We’re making a little dent in this huge need,” said Rothenstein. “We’re using it for exactly what it was meant for—to add workforce housing, not market-rate housing.”

Revitalizing a Neighborhood in Need Princeton, located in South Dade, has long been considered a “Dead Zone” by some residents—an area hit hard by Hurricane Andrew and the decline of surrounding agriculture. But the tide is turning, thanks in part to transit-oriented development along the new South Dade



TransitWay, a 20-mile rapid bus corridor. “We think this is a phenomenal area for people to live,” Martinez said. “It’s affordable, it’s accessible, and it’s on the cusp of transformation.”

The county has also enacted special zoning along the TransitWay that encourages higher-density development, drawing a wave of new housing projects to the area.

A Broader Vision for Florida

Beacon Hill Property Group—originally founded in Boston and now headquartered in Coral Gables—has deep experience in affordable and Section 8 housing. With this latest shift, the firm aims to deliver 1,500 workforce housing units across Florida over the next five years. “Everyone deserves a place they’re proud to call home, and we’re committed to making that a reality,” said Martinez.

As Miami-Dade faces an ongoing affordability crisis, Beacon Hill at Princeton offers more than housing—it

offers hope. Through smart policy and strong leadership, Cocoplum’s own Matthew Martinez is showing how local developers can have a statewide impact.

At *Stroll Cocoplum*, we’re committed to amplifying the voices that shape our community. That’s why we felt it important to share the full text of Matthew Martinez’s powerful speech from the groundbreaking ceremony on June 6th. His words were not only poignant and profound but also deeply inspiring—capturing the spirit of progress and hope of Beacon Hill’s vision. To complement our feature article, we invite you to read Matt’s speech in its entirety and experience firsthand the vision behind Miami-Dade’s first fully approved Live Local housing development.

Good morning, everyone.

My name is Matt Martinez, and I’m the principal of Beacon Hill Development Group.

Thank you for being here today to celebrate a transformative moment—not

just for Beacon Hill, not just for Princeton—but for the future of housing in Miami-Dade County and across the state of Florida.

I would like to first acknowledge and thank our elected officials, community leaders, and industry partners. Your support, leadership, and shared belief in this mission have brought us to this point.

I also want to take a moment to thank my business partners, David Rothenstein and Rob Khorram, for your steadfast resolve to accomplish difficult things; to my family (Lisa, Nico, and Alec) for your unwavering support and encouragement; and to the incredible team of professionals who helped bring this project to life.

The architects, engineers, planners, attorneys, consultants, and construction partners—your expertise, persistence, and commitment to excellence are the foundation we’re building on today.

CONTINUED ►



You turned vision into reality, and I'm proud to stand with you on this milestone.

This moment belongs to all of us.

Today, we break ground not just on a building—but on a bold vision.

The Live Local Act stands as a landmark piece of legislation in Florida's efforts to expand access to affordable housing.

We are extremely proud that Beacon Hill at Princeton is the very first ground-up development in Miami-Dade County to be fully dedicated to workforce housing under Florida's Live Local Act.

This, however, isn't just another development—it's a commitment.

A commitment to the working families who make our communities run...

A commitment to all people who deserve a place they're proud to call home.

A commitment to policies like the Live Local Act—legislation that can make a real difference in the lives of working-class families throughout our state.

For far too long, the "Missing Middle"—those earning between 80 and 120% of the area median income—have been left behind.

These are the teachers, nurses, police officers, and first responders—the backbone of our community.

They earn too much to qualify for subsidies, yet not enough to afford the market rents that keep rising faster than wages.

Beacon Hill at Princeton was built with them in mind—because when we support our workforce, we support our future.

Admittedly, we didn't get here overnight. This project represents years of visioning, collaboration, and dedication from everyone involved.

From planning and zoning to policy reform, financing, and design—every step has been taken with intention and care. And this is just the beginning.

Beacon Hill is committed to delivering 1,500 workforce housing units across Florida over the next five years. Beacon Hill at Princeton is our first fully realized step toward that goal—and we couldn't have asked for a more fitting place to start.

As we turn this soil today, we're not just building structures—we're building security.

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Thank you!





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The Dog from Ipanema: A Loving, Gentle Approach to Grooming.

A Beloved Fixture in the Miami Pet Community For the fourth time, The Dog from Ipanema has been named Best Groomer in Miami by the Miami New Times

ERIN MICHELLE NEWBERG, PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY BY ARMANDO COLLS/COLLS FINE ART PHOTOGRAPHY

Nestled in the heart of South Miami, this grooming studio has earned a reputation not just for beautiful work, but for the deep care and emotional connection they offer to every dog who walks through the door.

Dog grooming may seem simple, but it requires skill, patience, and empathy. Jarbas Godoy, founder of The Dog from Ipanema, leads a team of 20 compassionate and highly trained professionals. Their approach focuses on building trust with each pet, ensuring that the grooming experience is a calming one, not a fearful one. As Jarbas says, “We Greet every dog by name. They come running in, excited to see us — that’s how we know we’re doing something right.”

The studio was recently redesigned to reflect a warm, inviting, salon-style space. With nearly four decades of service to the community, Jarbas is preparing for a partial transition as he moves to Portugal. He’s partnered with a longtime colleague K-Dee Glazebrook, who has been with Jarbas since 2005 and now offered her minority ownership to run the show in his partial absence.

A Lifelong Bond with Animals, Guided by Compassion

Jarbas’s background in psychology (he holds a master’s from the University of Miami) deeply informs his approach. “We talk to the dogs while we groom them,” he explains. “They listen. I guide them through every step, and yes — I joke with them, too.” He emphasizes the emotional intelligence of dogs and treats them with the same respect and gentleness as one would a child.

This isn’t just about haircuts. It’s about restoring trust in pets who may have had difficult past experiences. **CONTINUED ►**



“So many dogs come to us with anxiety about grooming,” Jarbas says. “But here, they run to us with wagging tails.”

Importantly, The Dog from Ipanema is a muzzle-free space — a core value of the studio. Jarbas believes handling animals with force is never acceptable, and his staff shares that conviction. Each team member is a true animal lover, chosen for both their skill and their heart.

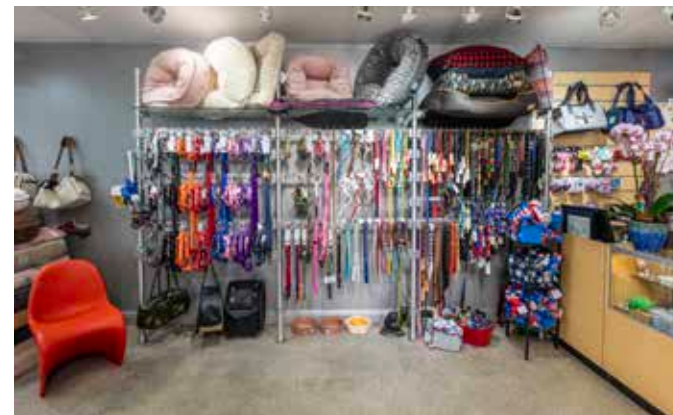
And their dedication is rewarded — the team is not only treated like family, they are also compensated with competitive, livable wages that reflect their experience and commitment. Many have stayed with the business for decades, a reflection of mutual respect and trust within the team.

An Unexpected Journey: From Brazil to Miami

Jarbas grew up in Rio de Janeiro under difficult circumstances, experiencing homelessness at a young age. Through it all, dogs were a source of love and comfort — especially his first, a mutt named Laika, whom he still remembers fondly.

His life took a turn when he visited Miami in the late 1970s. What started as a vacation became a new beginning. His wife spotted a “groomers needed” sign in Coconut Grove, and that led to Jarbas’s first job in the U.S. grooming dogs — a trade he had already been practicing in Brazil since 1976.

A few years later, when the business he worked for closed, Jarbas was uncertain of his next step. Then, in a moment he still reflects on with gratitude, a client who believed in him offered a small loan to help him open his own business. “When I look back, it feels surreal,” he says. “But I always held onto my passion and let the dogs guide me.”



Over time, Jarbas found that the love he had given came back to him. “I took care of people and their pets for years — and when I needed it most, they took care of me. It all came full circle.”

Building a Home for Pets — and the People Who Love Them

Behind the scenes, Jarbas credits much of the studio’s growth to his life partner of 26 years, Al Soares, who has worked in the business for over 37 years. Al leads the prep team and ensures operations run smoothly. “Al’s support, his eye for detail, and his dedication have shaped The Dog from Ipanema into what it is today.”

The studio is known not only for its grooming work but also for its high hygiene standards and professional care. Grooming tables are sanitized after each pet, and the space is meticulously maintained. “We often give clients a tour,” Jarbas says. “We want them to feel safe leaving their pets with us.”

Many of the team members have been with the business for decades, and clients often span generations — grown children of original customers now bring their own pets in for grooming.

During this interview, Jarbas called in from overseas, where he’s spending more time while gradually stepping back from day-to-day operations. But no matter where he is in the world, his heart remains in South Miami — with the dogs and community he’s served for nearly 40 years.

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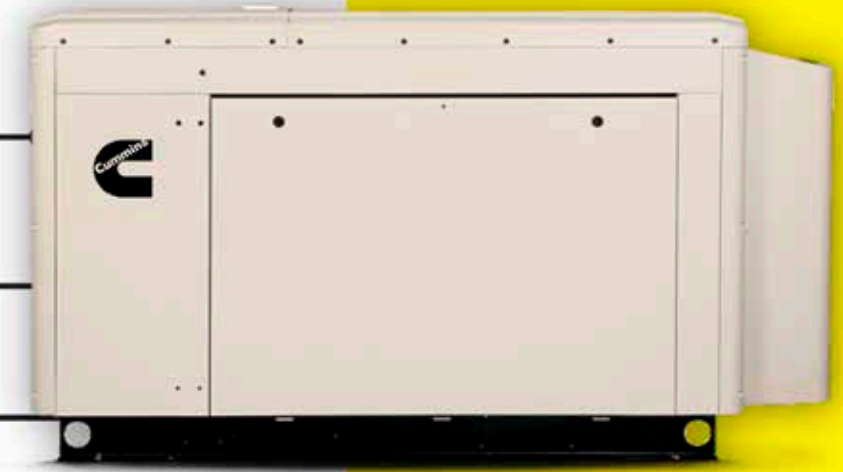
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GALÁPAGOS: A JOURNEY OF WONDER WITH THE MILTON FAMILY AND FRIENDS.

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Ron & Rita Magill, Stacey Todd Matthews, Diana, Ana & Cecil enjoy a Zodiac ride to a wet landing - so much to explore!

DAY 1: Arrival in the Enchanted Isles

After a brief stop in Guayaquil to pass customs and “sterilize” our private jets (a requirement to protect the islands’ fragile ecosystem), our group of sixteen landed on Baltra Island. The moment we crossed the Itabaca Channel by private boat, Galápagos magic began.

On our way to the Royal Palm Hotel, nestled in Santa Cruz Island’s lush highlands, we visited Los Gemelos, two giant sinkholes formed by collapsing empty magma chambers. Surrounded by exclusively Galapagos Scalesia forests and fluttering Darwin’s finches, Los Gemelos is a vivid reminder of the islands’ volcanic past and scientific significance.

That evening, we descended 60 feet underground into a 2.5-million-year-old lava tunnel for an unforgettable gastronomic journey. Illuminated by flashlights and protected by hard hats, we discovered the Royal Table, where local organic ingredients from land and

sea were paired with world-class wines for a five-course gourmet dinner in one of the world’s most unique dining settings. AMAZING!

DAY 2: Diving Deep and Highland Discoveries

While the adventurous divers among us braved the chilly waters at Gordon Rocks, swimming alongside eagle rays, turtles, and whitetip reef sharks, the rest explored Reserva Ecológica Cerro Mesa. We hiked around impressive volcanic craters, admired sweeping vistas, and encountered free-roaming giant tortoises.

Later, we visited the iconic Charles Darwin Research Station & Giant Tortoise Breeding Center, where we met newly-hatched tortoises and learned that some of their ancestors can live over 200 years. Dinner at Almar Restaurant was a celebration of Galápagos seafood, freshly caught and beautifully prepared.

DAY 3: All Aboard the National Geographic Islander II

Via Zodiacs, our group transitioned to sea aboard the luxurious National Geographic Islander II, a vessel designed for discovery and comfort. With Ecuadorian crew, artisan interiors, and sustainable cuisine, it felt like a floating extension of the islands themselves.

Our first “wet landing” at Las Bachas on Santa Cruz Island introduced us to marine iguanas, ghost crabs, and shorebirds. The naturalist-led walk along the beach ended at a lagoon frequented by flamingo, a perfect welcome from the Galápagos wilderness.

DAY 4: Among Sea Lions and Cactus Forests

South Plaza Island Greeted us with sea lion pups sunning themselves near towering Opuntia cacti and cliffs bustling with nesting seabirds. Some kayaked in the turquoise waters while



The Nazca (blue-footed) Boobies perch on the rocky coastline of the volcanic islands.



Diana & Cecil go for a father/daughter exploration trek at Las Bachas, Santa Cruz Island, encountering marine iguanas and ghost crabs.



The red-footed Booby has a bright blue beak.



Diana, Ed Barroso, Daniella, Ana, Alexandra, Frank, and Claudia Barroso at Sullivan Bay’s páhoehoe lava flows - note the smooth, ropy terrain and lack of fauna at one of the “newer” islands.



Exploring Reserva Ecológica Cerro Mesa are Ana, Diana, Joe & Alexandra Milton, Rocio Martinez, Claudia Barroso, and behind them, Ron & Rita Magill.

others explored the coast via Zodiac or swam off the ship’s stern.

Later that afternoon on Santa Fe Island, we spotted the golden-hued endemic land iguanas and snorkeled with playful sea lions. The stark beauty of the prickly pear forest was only rivaled by the white sand beaches where sea lions lounged like sunbathers on holiday.

DAY 5: Volcanic Landscapes and Penguin Sighting

We arrived at Sombbrero Chino, a cinder cone resembling a Chinese hat, admiring its volcanic landscape. We spotted a lone penguin during an exploratory Zodiac cruise along the coast. Snorkelers enjoyed the company of sea lions and reef sharks.

At Sullivan Bay, we hiked across páhoehoe lava flows, a type of basaltic lava flow that forms when molten rock cools relatively slowly, allowing a smooth, often ropy or billowy, crust to develop. Our naturalist guides pointed out the contrasting layers of black and reddish-brown rock, proof of the islands’ ever-changing terrain. For me, this was a highlight of the trip as it was a beautiful late afternoon, carefully maneuvering over barren lava rock starting to show some signs of pioneer species taking hold, creating the necessary conditions for other species to thrive. We were time traveling to the origins of Galápagos!

CONTINUED ►



Ana, Daniella, and Diana explore the Charles Darwin Research Station. Darwin explored the Galápagos during his five-year voyage around the world on the HMS Beagle.



Ana, Eric & Diana Milton and Rocio Martinez are excited to be in Galápagos Santa Cruz Island, learning about the volcanic origins of the islands through Los Gemelos, collapsed empty magma chambers repurposed by nature.

DAY 6: Bird Island and the Equator Crossing

Genovesa Island is a sanctuary for seabirds, and at Darwin Bay, we strolled among a thriving aviary of nesting colonies of frigatebirds, Nazca (blue-footed) boobies, and red-footed boobies. The unmistakable frigatebirds, with glossy black wings and piratical habits command attention. These aerial acrobats are known to steal food mid-flight from other seabirds, but it is their flamboyant courtship ritual that captivates: males inflate brilliant red throat pouches like heart-shaped balloons to impress nearby females. Kayaking and paddleboarding brought us close to the dramatic caldera walls, while snorkeling revealed schools of vibrant tropical fish, a kaleidoscope of color and motion.

In the afternoon, we ascended Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco), a narrow and steep cliffside path that opens to the plateau surrounding Darwin Bay, extending to the north side of the island. We walked through bird colonies and lava fields, where we were lucky enough to spot the elusive short-eared owl camouflaged among the rocks.

Later that evening, as the National Geographic Islander II crossed the Equator, we celebrated with music, dancing, and cocktails under the stars. With the ship's lights dimmed, one of our naturalist guides pointed out constellations visible from both hemispheres. The sky was clear, vast, and humbling. A perfect finale to an extraordinary day in the Galápagos.

DAY 7: Farewell to a Natural Wonder

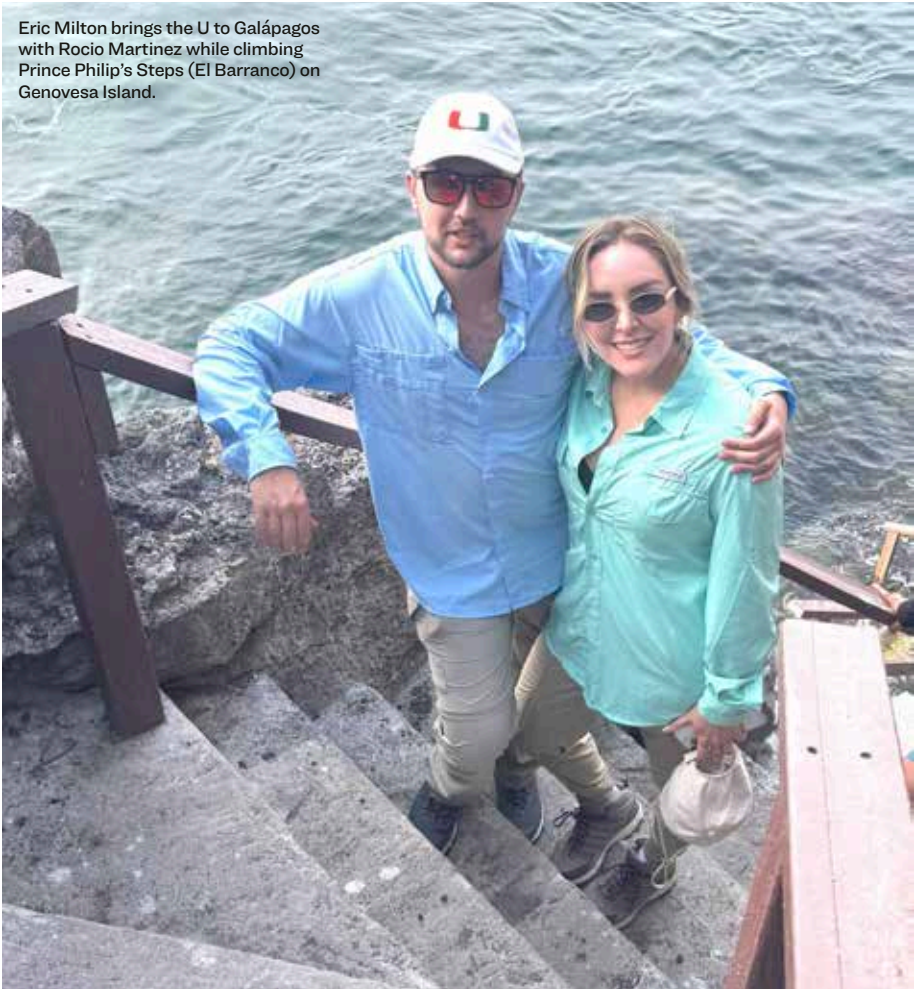
On our final morning, we returned to the highlands of Santa Cruz for a last



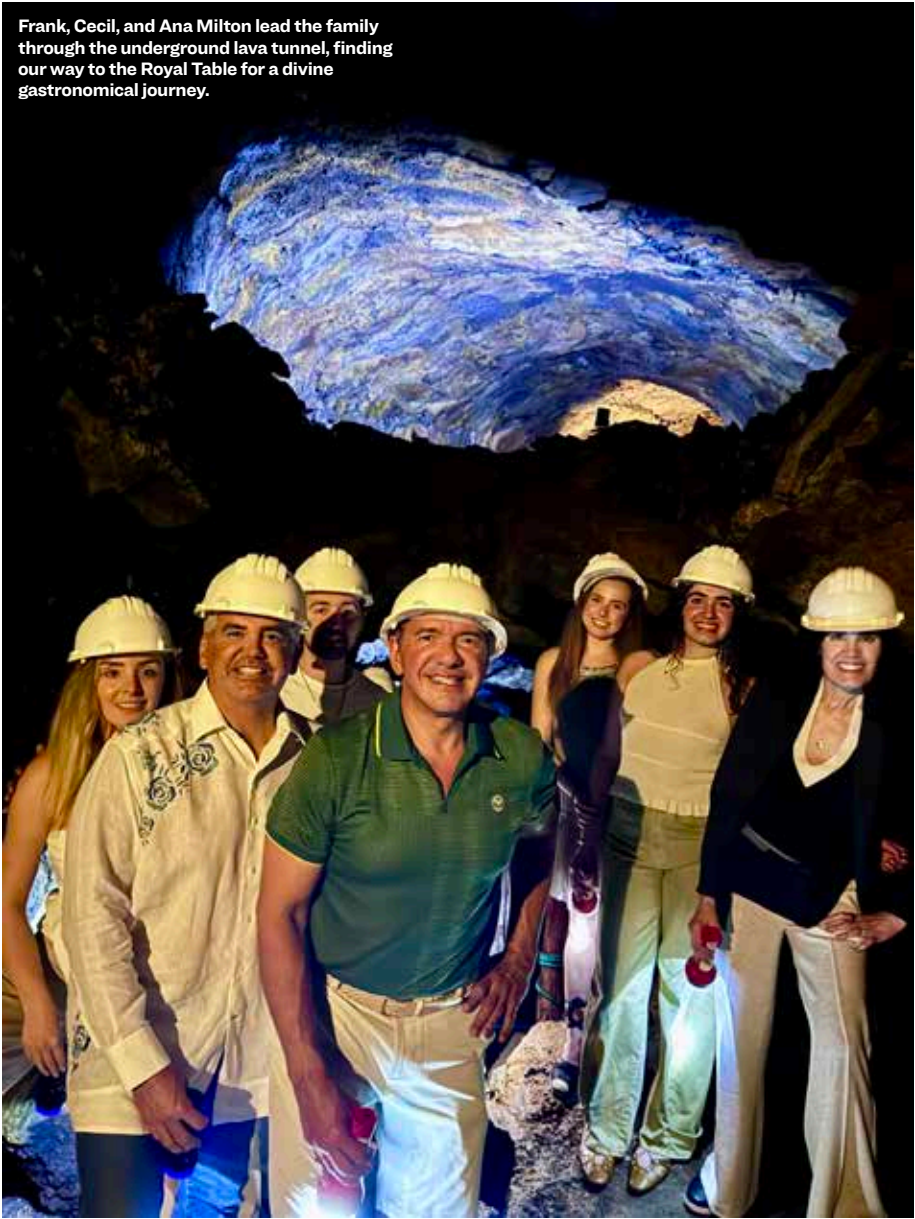
The elusive short-eared owl camouflages itself among the rocks.



A free-roaming Galapagos Tortoise captures our attention!



Eric Milton brings the U to Galápagos with Rocio Martinez while climbing Prince Philip's Steps (El Barranco) on Genovesa Island.



Frank, Cecil, and Ana Milton lead the family through the underground lava tunnel, finding our way to the Royal Table for a divine gastronomical journey.



The Milton Family and Friends: one wild adventure, a thousand shared awe moments, and memories to last a lifetime.

encounter with migrating giant tortoises, many much older than us mere mortals, at a local ranch, an experience both peaceful and humbling. With full hearts and thousands of photos, we departed the Galápagos, forever changed by its beauty and fragility.

Reflections

The Galápagos Islands are more than just a destination; they are a revelation. For our group, this journey offered moments of thrill, awe, serenity, and deep connection with each other and our planet. From underground lava feasts to snorkeling beside sea lions, we left with renewed wonder and respect for the natural world.




We catch a glimpse of a lone penguin sunning itself on the rocky coastline.



Ron (Nikon Ambassador, Zoo Miami Conservationist) and Rita Magill snap a selfie. A seasoned Galápagos explorer, Ron's passion and expertise made the trip even more memorable for the group.



The male frigatebirds exhibit their flamboyant courtship ritual by inflating their brilliant red throat pouches like heart-shaped balloons to impress nearby females.



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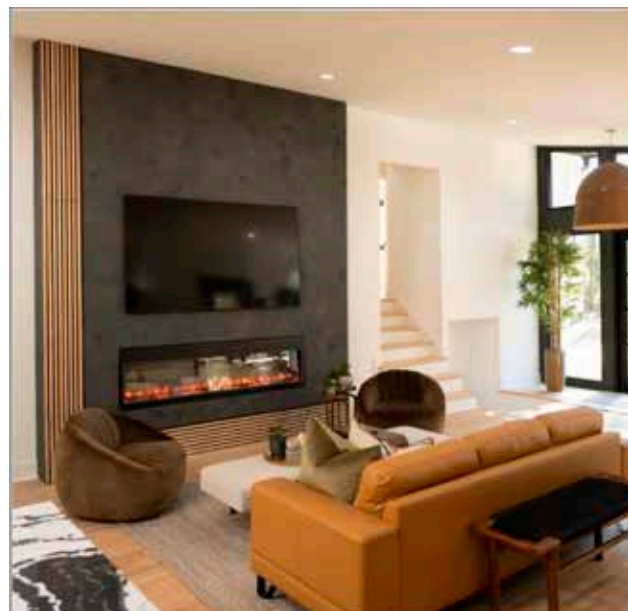
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Coral Gables Trust celebrates new Boca Raton office with Grand Opening celebration



Richard DeNapoli and Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer



Donald Kress



Ivan Shegota, Donald Kress and John Harris

“
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”

CELEBRATING GROWTH

Coral Gables Trust Opens New Boca Raton Office – Congrats to Our Valued Advertising Partners!

CORAL GABLES TRUST, one of South Florida’s largest independent trust and wealth management firms, celebrated the opening of its new Boca Raton office with a grand opening reception earlier this spring. The firm is expanding from its previous space into a larger new office—marking a long-term investment in Palm Beach County and reflecting its continued growth across the region.

Located at 2255 Glades Road, the office spans 2,500 square feet and features upgraded amenities in a modern, client-focused setting. The celebration welcomed Boca Raton Mayor Scott Singer, city officials, Boca Chamber Ambassadors, clients, and friends of the firm. “This move represents an important milestone in our mission to better serve clients in one of South Florida’s most dynamic and sophisticated markets,” said Donald Kress, CEO and President of Coral Gables Trust. “Our

growth in Boca Raton is a testament to the strength of our team, the loyalty of our clients, and the increasing demand for independent, personalized wealth management services.”

Founded in 2004, Coral Gables Trust has earned a reputation for its client-first philosophy and bespoke approach to wealth management. The firm caters to affluent individuals, families, business owners, foundations, and pension and endowment funds—many of whom may fall below the minimum asset thresholds required by larger national institutions. Services include investment management, estate and trust planning, and fiduciary services tailored to each client’s unique financial goals. “The Boca Raton community has welcomed us with open arms, and we are proud to now have a dedicated space to serve them,” added John Harris, Managing Director at Coral Gables Trust. “This new office allows us to

deliver the same high-touch service our clients expect, with enhanced resources and room to grow.”
The Boca Raton office is led by Executive Vice President Ivan Shegota and will continue to provide the firm’s signature relationship-driven service model, which includes direct access to senior decision-makers and highly customized investment solutions.

In addition to the new Boca Raton office, Coral Gables Trust also operates locations in Coral Gables, Fort Lauderdale, and West Palm Beach.

For more information about Coral Gables Trust, visit <https://cgtrust.com>.

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Thank you to everyone who came out for this event at the IOC tennis courts and sponsored by your neighbor Angel Nicolas. It was a day filled with fun, friendly competition and great community spirit. Congratulations to the Father- Son Duo Tennis Champs of Arnaud and Gabriel Karsenti. And another dynamic father-son duo - Ben and Felix Bragard who were the Pickleball Champions.





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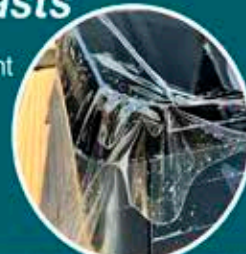
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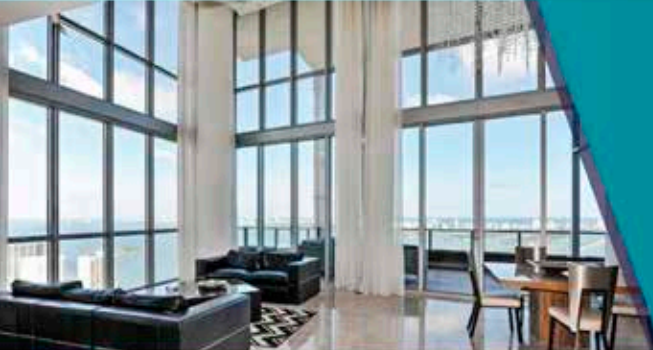




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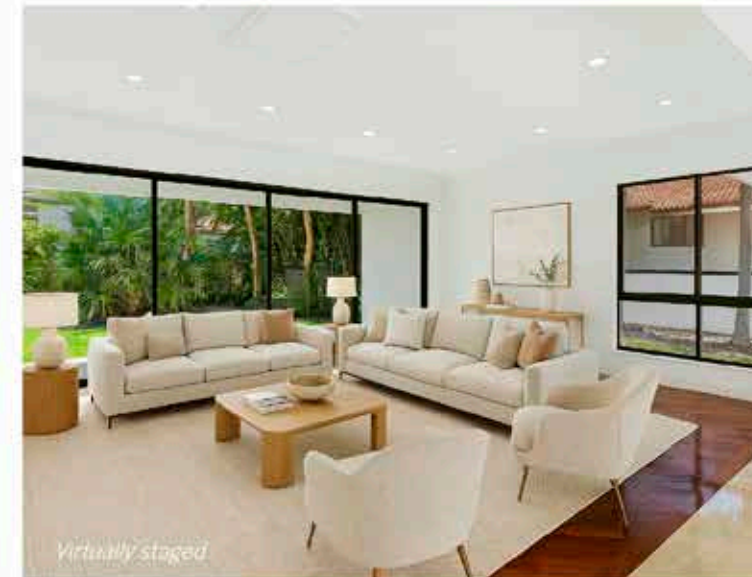
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Philanthropy & Community Engagement

Brought to You by Ana VeigaMilton, The José Milton Foundation: Family Values • Community-Wide, and the Cecil and Ana Milton Family Foundation



As a former Take A Walk in Her Shoes Honoree, I am proud to support the Chapman Partnership luncheon, a celebration of resilience, impact, and the power of women lifting each other up! Trish Bell (in the center next to Ana) is a past chair of Chapman and its greatest champion!



Baby Mateo celebrates the Fourth of July with Abuela Ana and the Milton Family in New York City. Next year, USA turns 250 years old (since the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4th, 1776)!

Cheers to a New School Year: Fueling Brighter Minds for a Brighter Future!

Milton STEM Scholarship Awarded to a Girl Scout Gold Awardee. Girl Scouts Tropical Florida held its Highest Awards Ceremony celebrating 15 extraordinary Girl Scouts for earning their Gold Awards and completing a combined thousands of hours of community service. The Girl Scout Gold Award acknowledges a young woman's power and dedication to improve herself while making the world a better place. To encourage and reward these courageous leaders and visionary changemakers, on behalf of the José Milton Foundation, I accepted applications to select one of the Gold Awardees to receive the Milton Advancing Women in STEM Scholarship. The Milton STEM Scholar must have done her project in a STEM area and plans to prepare for a STEM career where women are underrepresented.



Ana snaps a selfie with Myrna Vaca, Be Strong's CEO & Chief Heart Officer Michelle Shirley, and Lily Lopez from the So FL Hispanic Chamber.



Emily Zubi, charismatic founder of Miami Women Who Rock, stands with Ana VeigaMilton, celebrating Emmy-Award winning journalist, generous volunteer, and Miami Rockstar Laurie Jennings, winner of the Trish Bell Lifetime Achievement Award.



Always an inspiring evening getting to know the wonderful projects and successes of Be Strong, Int'l. Ana is pictured with Adriana Verdeja from UM, Yesenia Moreno, and Miami Dolphins Mascot TD.



Girl Scouts Tropical Florida Board Member, Alum, and Supporter Ana VeigaMilton presents Gold Awardee Amelia with a Scholarship to study Environmental Science at UF. CEO Chelsea Wilkerson joins in presenting the check.

This year's winner completed her Gold Award last year as a junior and expanded it her senior year. Amelia, a South Miami Sr High graduate, is headed to the University of Florida to study Environmental Science. Her Gold Award project, plastic smART, uses science and art to fight plastic pollution and inspire global environmental action. Amelia's commitment to environmental advocacy and her vision for bridging STEM with public policy reflect the leadership, innovation, and purpose Girl Scouts and the Milton STEM Scholarship seek to uplift.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. I am proud to be a part of the sisterhood!

Milton STEM Scholarship for 5000 Role Models Graduate.

For the 10th year, the José Milton Foundation is proud to award the Milton Advancing Minorities in STEM Scholarship to a graduate of the 5000 Role Models, founded by Congresswoman Frederica Wilson. Thanks to my colleague Paul Hernandez for presenting the check to Fabio who will be studying architectural engineering at FIU. Eric and I interviewed the finalists and chose Fabio because of his preparedness and passion for solving problems and helping the community.

Team UPM at the Corporate Run. Team UPM (United Property Management: A Milton Company) was among the over 18K registrants for Corporate Run 2025. Team UPM submitted our T-shirt for competition, and we placed an impressive third place in the "Creative Use of Company Logo" Category! UPM Team members collaborated in the winning design. Way to go, Team UPM!!

Miltons Celebrate July 4th by Battery Park in NYC. It is never too early to instill love of country and pride in our nation, which is why spending Independence Day together as a family with our newest member, Baby Mateo, is such a cherished moment.

Share your philanthropy and acts of gratitude with me:
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Presenting the Girl Scouts Silver and Gold Awardees of 2025. These girls worked on service projects that improve the world and have lasting impact.



The Miltons celebrate the Fourth in sight of the Statue of Liberty, Liberty Island, NY Harbor. Eric and Girlfriend Rocio Martinez, Diana, Ana, Cecil, Jessie & Alec enjoy being together in NYC - anticipating the upcoming fireworks extravaganza!



Daughter Diana (furthest to the right) joined Ana VeigaMilton at the Big Brothers Big Sisters Gala. How nice to connect with long-time fellow supporters from the Women's Committee, Carol, Sharon, Bronwyn, and Migna! JMF is a proud donor to BBBS!



Alec and Justin Milton proudly hold up the winning T-shirt design for the 2025 Miami Corporates Run through Downtown Miami: "Creative Use of Company Logo."



Eric and Ana Milton host two families whose children were saved and cared for at Jackson Holtz Children's Hospital at the Milton Miami Marlins Box at the Savannah Bananas exhibition game - an entertaining, family-friendly, sold-out event! The boys and their families had a personal connection to base



Greenberg Traurig (GT Law) is a major sponsor of the Miami Mayor's Ball. Here Jaret Davis represents the firm at the Ball.



Miami Mayor Francis Suarez hosted the Miami Mayor's Ball in support of Hermanos de la Calle (connecting homeless individuals with resources to help rebuild lives). Ana VeigaMilton, Alice Bravo, Kadie Black, and Gaby Ibarra join Mayor Suarez for a selfie.



Alice Bravo, Ana VeigaMilton, Miami-Dade Commissioner Danielle Cohen Higgins, and Kadie Black (Voices for Children CEO) arrive at the Miami Mayor's Ball to celebrate Mayor Francis Suarez's successful terms in office. His term ends Nov 2025.



The José Milton Foundation proudly awards the Advancing Minorities in STEM Scholarship to Fabio, a graduate of the 5000 Role Models Mentoring Program. Congresswoman Frederica Wilson joins Paul Hernandez in presenting the check at the 5000 Role Models Academic Signing Ceremony.



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SOLD | \$3,200,000



3240 Morris Lane
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45 Morningside Drive
SOLD | \$2,385,000



2831 S Bayshore Dr, Unit 1005
SOLD | \$1,950,000

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FLICKER AND FLAME

Give new life to citrus scraps with a DIY project that blends scent, sustainability and a little summer magic in every spark.

BY SHAUNA OSBORNE, NATIONAL EDITOR

August evenings call for glowing fire pits, toasted marshmallows, and a chance to slow down before the leaves start to change. This end-of-summer project transforms everyday kitchen scraps into something surprisingly beautiful and useful: DIY citrus peel fire starters. With just a few ingredients — dried citrus peels, herbs and wax — you can create fragrant, eco-friendly starters perfect for backyard bonfires or weekend camping trips.

MAKE & BAKE



Sparked by citrus

Citrus peels aren't just compostable — they're flammable in the best way. The natural oil limonene, found in orange, lemon and lime rinds, burns easily and smells delightful as it does. Paired with dried herbs like rosemary or lavender, the finished starters release a soft, aromatic scent as they ignite. They're a clean-burning alternative to chemical-heavy store-bought versions and a smart way to use what you already have.

Crafting the kindling

Dry leftover citrus peels until they're crisp, either by air-drying for several days or baking at 200°F for a few hours. Line a mini muffin tin with paper liners and add a few peels to each cup. Tuck in a sprig of dried herb, then place a short cotton wick or string in the center. Melt soy or beeswax, pour just enough into each cup to bind the ingredients, and let cool until hardened. Once set, pop them out and store in a dry container.

Gather your goods

- Dried citrus peels (orange, lemon, lime or grapefruit)
- Dried herbs (optional: rosemary, thyme or lavender)
- Soy or beeswax
- Mini muffin tin and paper liners
- Cotton string or candle wicks
- Double boiler or heat-safe bowl

Light it up (or wrap it up)

These little starters look as good as they smell. Wrap a few in kraft paper or a small tin with twine for a thoughtful thank-you gift or party favor. Keep a stash by your own fire pit and enjoy the quiet joy of lighting up something you made yourself.

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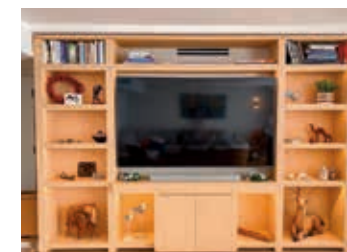
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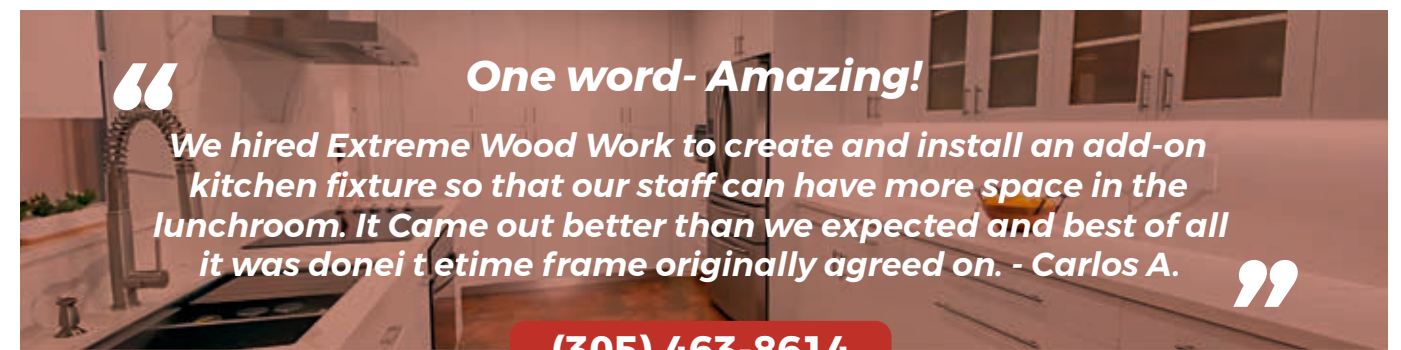
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