



MIWC UPDATE

April 2021

Volume 54 Issue 8



In This Issue

Monthly Luncheons Resume

Masks required

Limited Seating & Social Distancing Observed

-News and Features-

Slate of Officers Announced for 2021-2022

-Regular Features-

Special Interest Club News

Kudos & Thanks to these Incredible Members

And on a Personal Note

Click for
[Club Website](#)

Luncheon Wednesday, April 7, 2021

Has

*** SOLD OUT ***

Due to Covid-19 constraints

attendance at this luncheon had to be limited.

See Pages 5 for more details.

Be Sure to Reserve Early
For the May Luncheon!

President's Message

Find Joy

In Everything You Choose to Do

Our April luncheon sold out in record time, a testament to how much we miss our connection with each other.

I am very excited to chair my first luncheon and look forward to resuming our in-person events next season. To secure a reservation, consider booking early for our May luncheon.

We had a very different year these past months, but by working together we provided benefits to Our Daily Bread, The Marco Island Charter Middle School, The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, and the Greater Naples Fire District. I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your generosity and kindness.

Working together is also a great way to get to know other members. Consider getting involved in your Club. We need talents of all kinds for our Fashion Show, Cards and Games, publicity and website, just to name a few. Call me so we can talk! I know we can find a place for you.

The nominating committee has been busy putting up a new slate of officers for next year. Please check out their bios in the UPDATE!

I hope you all have a Safe and Happy Easter and Passover!

Debbie Rago,
President, MIWC

2021 Membership Dues

Final Day: April 1, 2021

\$50 for Active / \$55 for Associate Members

Pay via check to: MIWC and mail to:

P.O. Box 604

Marco Island, FL 34146

Or

Pay via credit card on website: [Club Dues](#)

(Includes \$2 finance fee)

Questions?

[Contact Leesa Carls](#): 239-315-2802

Our members are our greatest asset. It is time to renew your membership. Our Club has been in existence for 54 years and we depend on your support to continue our mission of giving back to the Marco community. [Please click here](#) for a link to an important Membership Renewal Form so that we can update your contact information and keep track of your interests. Print out the form, complete, and return.

Don't

Let Your Membership Lapse

We are all so looking forward to the coming, more normal, year with in-person luncheons at the Yacht Club, the Fashion Show, Holiday Parties and more. We hope you will be with us to enjoy all our Club activities as we continue to Give Back to our Community.!

In order to remain on the MIWC mailing list and membership roster, be sure to get your dues in no later than April 1. [Click Here](#) to pay by credit card.

March Is Women's History Month

From Wikipedia:

"Women's History Month is an annual declared month that highlights the contribution of women to events in history and contemporary society. It is celebrated during March in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia, corresponding with International Women's Day on March 8, and during October in Canada, corresponding with the celebration of Persons' Day on October 18."

In Appreciation

We would like to thank our local Winn Dixie Customer Service Manager, Jocelyn Gonzalez, for the donation of 10 floral centerpieces to our April luncheon. We welcome Winn Dixie's support of local women's organizations.



MIWC Nominating Committee Announces Slate of Officers for 2021-2022

Below is the slate of officers proposed by the MIWC Nominating Committee.

You will be asked to vote on these candidates at the April 7, 2021 meeting.

President - Debbie Rago

Debbie, our current Club President, has agreed to serve one more year in that role. During her current term, even without the help of our major fundraising events due to Covid, Debbie and her Board have managed to identify sources of income allowing the Club to continue our mission of giving back. In addition to several "minor" roles and contributions, Debbie served 6 years as Club treasurer during which time she successfully completed and filed MIWC's application to become a 501c3 organization, saving us the cost of an outside specialist. She also facilitated our adoption and use of Square and Constant Contact. Debbie is an accountant. For 20 years she served as Controller for a company she and her husband owned. Debbie's goals for the Club this year are to increase Club membership, encourage membership participation in Club events and fund-raising efforts and to identify new sources of income to benefit our Marco Island Community.

Vice President - Barbara Malta

Barbara, MIWC member since 2015, brings many and varied talents to the Board; her most recent, book author, *"Ribbons of Ibis- Betty Collier Marco Island Pioneer"* was inspired by research for Barbara's avocation: Victorian Re-enactment. Barbara brought Betty Collier back to life at a re-enactment to an audience of over 100 at the Marco Island library, where enthusiastic audience members encouraged her to write a book on the subject. A former labor relations university professor, Barbara transitioned to industry where she became the first female vice president at Code 3 Public Safety Equipment. Code 3 is the world's largest manufacturer of light bars – the bars that go on top of police cars. Barbara also volunteers at the Bargain Basket.

Recording Secretary - Elisabeth Rehtin

Elisabeth, member since 2012, is our current Recording Secretary and she has kindly agreed to once again serve in that role. Elisabeth also chairs the new MIWC Special Interest Travel Group. Elisabeth hails from Chicago where she taught home economics for 26 years. Instead of retiring, she and a partner bought a travel agency, a natural move for the dedicated traveler she is. Elisabeth has traveled to 67 countries in continents ranging from Africa to Antarctica.

Corresponding Secretary - Elizabeth White

Originally from New York, Elizabeth has a long, dedicated and continuing career and commitment to education. From NY she moved to Washington, DC, where she began her 35-year career as an elementary school teacher, then ESOL teacher, finally, as a Math Specialist and new teacher mentor in Montgomery County, MD. Elizabeth spends about six months a year on Marco Island where she continues to substitute teach at Tommie Barfield ES. She and her husband maintain a home in Chevy Chase, MD and they also spend time in Colorado during the summer. Elizabeth first began coming to Marco Island in 1973 with her beloved parents who lived on Marco for 30 years.

Treasurer - Julia Maslanka

Julia, our current treasurer, has agreed to once again serve in that role. Before coming to Marco Island, Julia worked as a financial analyst and investment banker in Chicago, where she met her husband. The couple first came to know and love Marco when visiting family snowbirds. But when best friends moved here, they couldn't resist the pull, and 5 years ago they became residents. In addition to being treasurer this year, Julia has co-chaired and assisted with MIWC Home Tour fundraisers. She also loved being a hostess at our monthly luncheons. Julia is a regular volunteer at Our Daily Bread Food Pantry. She will tell you it is the most heart-warming work she has ever done.

Assistant Treasurer - Leesa Carls

Leesa currently serves as our assistant treasurer and has agreed to continue on in that role. Before serving with the MIWC, Leesa was a treasurer of Newcomers. She is currently Chair of the Board of the Marco Lutheran Church Foundation. She also is a musical show producer! For the last 5 years Leesa has chaired the Church's Artist Series where (pre-Covid) she has produced 5 annual musical-entertainment shows for the community. A CPA, Leesa's background is in Accounting and finance. Hailing from Illinois, Leesa has lived on Marco for 10 years,



This Month's Luncheon Program and Menu



What's for Lunch ?

Menu for April 7, 2021

Scallopini of chicken with capers, lemon, white wine and parsley
With angel-hair pasta

Vegetarian Option is a stacked vegetable tower

Dessert: Limoncello Cake

Thanks To This Luncheon's Hostesses

Carol Ann Anzalone, Monna Hormel, Sue Mishka, Carol Salvino, Carol Schwalje

Program Speaker
Bob McConville
Florida Master Naturalist



&

In addition to the usual 50/50 - 3 Surprise Raffles!

How to Reserve for the Luncheons

Luncheon Cost: \$39

Luncheons are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the Month - October through May

Reservations must be received by the Thursday before the luncheon

[To Register using your credit card click here](#)

(There is a small fee to sign up electronically)

You may also send your check to: Marco Island Woman's Club, P.O. Box 400, Marco Island, FL 34146

Important Note: The Vegetarian Meal must be pre-ordered.

If you register online you will be given a choice of a regular or vegetarian meal.

If you register by mail, be sure to indicate on your check if you want the vegetarian option.

Questions: Shirley Thayer 239-642-0733

Your “Lunch Money” Has Helped a Tremendous Amount

We Thank All Our Members Who Contributed

The MIWC Lunch Money Campaign has been a wonderful success. As you know, many of us pledged to donate the money that we would normally spend on the canceled luncheons to benefit others.

Your donations, have enabled us to provide help to: Our Daily Bread Food Pantry, The Shelter for Abused Women and Children, the Greater Naples Fire District, the “Feed the Children” initiative at the Marco Island Charter Middle School and the Marco Island Woman’s Club Charitable Foundation.

This Covid Season, without our usual Fashion Show, Home Tour and other fund-raising activities, your generous contributions to this program have been especially important and appreciated.

Treasurer’s Report

As of March 15, 2021

Club Balance: \$11,536.89

MIWC Charitable Foundation, Inc. Balance: \$5,512.29

BLUE ZONES PROJECT OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

The MIWC Board has approved moving forward with the application process to become an organization member of the Southwest Florida Blue Zones Project. This program is designed to inspire, encourage and promote well-being within our organization. There is no cost to join and become a member. Our Club needs to complete a verified checklist that includes implementation guidelines. We are at the beginning of the process and will be sharing more information throughout the year. If you would like more information, go to <https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com/> or contact Jill DiZio.



Announcing

The Marco Island Woman's Club Charitable Foundation

Lorraine Rodgers Scholarship

The Club's Charitable Foundation will award two \$1,000 scholarships this year in honor and in memory of Lorraine Rodgers. Lorraine was a Past President of our Club (2001-2002) and for many years chaired our Education Committee. She was an avid supporter of our many events, was much loved, and is sadly missed.

Each scholarship will be open to a female Marco Island senior who has demonstrated leadership at school and in the community and has a minimum 3.0 GPA.

Candidates may call Debbie Rago for an application or speak to their guidance counselor.

Please be aware that donations collected during the remaining Club year, February-April, will go toward funding all of the Club's scholarships. We appreciate your generosity and your support.

Please know there is never a credit card service charge when donating to our charitable foundation



Got Any Good Photos?

If you take pictures at any of our events, or with our Special Interest Groups, please email them to:

Austine Frawley at: miwcel@gmail.com

Be sure to include captions including the events and names of people in the photos.

A Little Stitch Maker Magic



Kathy Porcaro's precious baby sets



Blankets by Vini Just & Priscilla Penn



Jenny Caughey Guest Master Quilter

It Takes a Village

Volunteers Needed

*Your Club, The Marco Island Woman's Club, doesn't run itself.
You know that.*

We have a long and proud history of Giving Back to our Marco Island Community and we want to continue that mission.

From our fabulous fashion shows and other fund-raising events, to our lovely luncheons and special-interest activities, to the nuts and bolts of making it all happen. It takes a lot of woman-power.

We need: Ladies who are creative, ladies who are good with words, ladies who are good with numbers, ladies who are super-organized, ladies who are artistic, ladies who have office skills, ladies who are computer whizzes, ladies who can offer an extra set of hands for whatever needs to be done.

We need *you*. Whether you only have enough time to help out at an occasional luncheon or you have an abundance of time and energy, we need you.

Those of us who are active in the Club can tell you that the giving is so much more meaningful when you have had a part in making it happen. In the process of giving back we have also given back to ourselves in the fun and friendships that develop along the way.

Please help.

Call Club President Debbie Rago. Tell her you want to get involved. Tel: 860-798-0270

Club Motto

*Why you were born and why you are living
depends on what you are getting out of this world
and what you are giving*

Need a Gift Idea?

Why not give a donation to the Woman's Club in some special person's memory or honor? Your honoree (or his/her family) will receive acknowledgement along with a description of the Marco Island Woman's Club history and mission of giving back to our community.

Checks should be addressed to Marco Island Woman's Club Charitable Foundation and mailed to P.O. Box 604 Marco Island, FL 34146. [You may also pay via credit card on our website. \(click here\)](#)

[Please know there is never a credit card service charge when donating to our charitable foundation](#)

Be sure to include the name and address of your honoree and any special instructions
Questions: [Debbie Rago, Club President](#)

Special Interest Club News

Book Club

The Book Club has continued holding Zoom meetings on the third Thursday of each month. The books to be discussed in March and April are: "Lady Clementine," by Marie Benedict, and "The Woman who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine who Outwitted America's Enemies," by Jason Fagone. Questions: Contact Cristina Leske (239) 394-1088 / [Cristina's Club email](#)

Stitch Makers

Welcome Back to in-person meeting for this Special Interest Group for women who like to crochet and knit! The Stitch Makers will resume their monthly meetings on Wednesday, April 14th at 1:00 in the Social Room at The Plantation! There is plenty of room to socially distance while we are working on our projects and enjoying each other's company! Any questions, please contact Anne Marchetti: 201-321-0801 or [Anne's email](#)

Theater-Goers

Artis-Naples Broadway series has been canceled. All money from ticket sales for previous two plays canceled and subscribers for 2020-2021 season has been refunded. Thank you to all who participated. Best regards, Sharyn

Travel Group

This group was just about to get started when Covid-19 began its rampage. All planning and activities are on hold pending safer times. Chair Elisabeth Rehtin has traveled extensively and also has worked professionally in the industry. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact Elisabeth at: (239) 389-1456 or [email Elisabeth](#)

..... *And on a Personal Note*

“*And on a Personal Note*” is a section to the UPDATE Newsletter, added in recognition that many of us would appreciate being updated with important happenings in other members’ lives. Events could include births, weddings, special anniversaries, honors, awards, etc. If you have something to include in this section contact: [Lenore Yale, editor of UPDATE](#). 203-506-5075

Please keep in mind: If you know of any member who is ill or could use a card of support, notify [Jill DiZio, Club Corresponding Secretary](#)

Stay Safe



Stay Well

While Being
Together Again

Kudos & Thanks

We have some pretty incredible ladies in our Club, so we have added a section to the Newsletter to recognize their contributions and to express our appreciation for all they do.

If you would like to recognize a Club member here, contact
Lenore Yale 203-506-5075 or email

Kudos to Caitlin

Joy and enthusiasm seem to pervade everything she does. Whether she is strutting down a runway for a MIWC fashion show or finding a home for a hundred bathrobes donated by the Hilton Marco Island Beach Resort and Spa, Caitlin Robinson-Carlson is all in – and it's contagious!



A Bathrobe Story

Caitlin works, parttime, as an esthetician at the Hilton. The Hilton, you can guess, soon became aware of Caitlin's generous nature and good deeds. So, when the Hotel decided to change out their spa bathrobes, Caitlin's name immediately came to mind. Did she have any ideas for what to do with a hundred gently-used bathrobes? You bet she did!

Caitlin laughs as she tells the story. She was relaxing having coffee with sister MIWC member Carol Ann Anzalone when the Hilton called to tell her the bathrobes were ready to be picked up. Good thing she was not alone and had a ready and willing companion to help retrieve the robes! The Hilton had kindly cleaned and sanitized all the robes. Normally they would have been placed on hangers. Instead, the hotel put all the robes into (clean) garbage bags in preparation for their journey with Caitlin. Picture, if you will, a luxury spa bathrobe; thick, plush and bulky. Now picture a hundred of them stuffed into bags awaiting transport. Even with the use of Carol Ann's SUV, Caitlin had to put down the top on her convertible to accommodate all the robes.



While arrangements were being made to deliver the robes to their new homes, Caitlin found that although she was able to temporarily stockpile many of the bags of robes in her garage, she still had no choice but to keep the overflow of garbage bags in her car, convertible-top down, until she could deliver them. So, there was Caitlin, driving around Marco, car stuffed full of garbage bags, with no room for much of anything else. And she continues to laugh as she tells the story and recalls the scene. We can only guess what she must have been thinking; how all those bags that looked like garbage would soon be bringing such a warm and welcome treat to the Women's Shelters in Naples and Immokalee as well as to St. Matthew's House. What a terrific haul!

A History of Giving

Before coming to Marco Island and joining the Woman's Club, Caitlin lived in the Miami area and worked in government for 30 years. She even served as a town manager for a time. During her Miami years Caitlin's generous nature would surface, especially at Christmas time, when she would coordinate a holiday-meal drive serving about 100 families. She found an altruistic local baker and other willing food donors and if supplies were running short, she would donate personally to make up the shortfall. Although it was years ago, Caitlin vividly remembers how excited some of the children became at the prospect of receiving even the most basic food items; peas and beans for example. "It touched my heart" she recalls.

Next Phase - Marco Island

When Caitlin left Miami and government service, she was eager to go back to school for something. So, she chose something completely different. She became an esthetician and now works parttime at the Hilton Beach Resort and Spa. She is so enthusiastic about her second career. One wonders if Caitlin's new profession might have been her inspiration for her current holiday gift-giving mission.

Caitlin joined the Woman's Club in 2013, not long after she moved to Marco Island. No doubt she contributed to the annual Holiday Toy Drive for the Shelter for Abused Women and Children. The focus on toys for the children set Caitlin to wondering about the women in the shelter. She thought about the terrible circumstances that brought them to the shelter and about the possibility that they might have had to arrive with little or nothing in the way of personal items. As Caitlin was pondering this situation, she got a surprise.

A New Inspiration for Giving

One day Caitlin ordered an item of clothing from an online catalogue. Along with the garment she requested came a free pocketbook as a promotional item. A subsequent clothing order yielded a second free pocketbook. Hmmmm. This gave Caitlin an idea. Caitlin contacted the vendor to purchase additional pocketbooks at a very reasonable price and thus was born Caitlin's first collection of holiday gifts for the women of the Shelter.

Although the pocketbooks were nice, Caitlin couldn't give up on the idea of gifting the women personal/luxury grooming items like lipsticks, nail polish, lotions, perfumes. "You're there without anything and a little indulgence could mean so much". Instead of pocketbooks, the following year Caitlin settled on makeup cases which she planned to fill with personal items.

As noted previously, Caitlin's enthusiasm and positivity are contagious. This past year the Hilton contributed bathrobes. Another year, the Hotel & Spa donated 40 bottles of nail polish. The Shelter used the bottles as tree ornaments to create a colorful display. On Christmas, each woman was able to choose her own ornament/color to keep. Several other MIWC members also contributed to the cause, supplying multiple items for the gift bags and then helping to fill the cosmetic cases with all the bounty they collected.

As you can imagine, Caitlin's offerings are a tremendous success. She spends all year preparing and gathering supplies. She can tell you that Walgreen's has a great 75% off after-Christmas Sale and that she is well-known at the dollar store. She also found a great outlet for buying lipsticks. Other sources include samples from cosmetic and perfume companies and travel supplies from Hotel stays.

Won't You Help ?

Although the Holidays may seem a long way off, now is the time to be alert for possibilities as you travel or refresh your own cosmetic supplies. Save whatever you discover for Caitlin.

And, Caitlin - Kudos to you. Never lose that spirit.

If you have questions or supplies for Caitlin, you may reach her by calling 239-642-6968 or by [clicking here for email](#).

