



MIWC UPDATE

November 2020

Volume 54 Issue 3



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December Members' Luncheon: CANCELED

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[Club Website](#)

Important Club Event Updates !

The Annual MIWC Holiday Party scheduled for December 8, 2020 has been canceled.

The Marco Island Woman's Club Luncheon and Fashion Show originally scheduled for January 19, 2021, has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Hideaway Beach Club. Qs? Contact [Sharyn](#)

The Board believes these decisions are in the best interest of our members' health and safety.
More information coming in the next UPDATE

President's Message

Let our Lives be full of
Both Thanks and Giving

Dear Friends.

As we move from October into November we find ourselves still needing to make decisions between our physical health and the social gatherings that we have come to depend on for our mental health.

These decisions are hard but they must be faced. We have decided to cancel one of our favorite luncheons, our December meeting, as well as our holiday party. We have also changed the date of our Fashion Show from January to March in hopes of saving this fundraiser.

Due to Covid concerns, holiday gift-giving for the [Shelter for Abused Women and Children](#) will look very different. Plans have not been finalized, but we will let you know how you can help in the very near future. We will still donate our November "Lunch Money" to the Shelter.

My heart felt very grateful to all of you when we were able to give a check for \$2,000 from our October "Lunch Money" to [Our Daily Bread](#) last Friday. This amount will feed 52 families for one week.

My thanks and gratitude to everyone who gave.

I hope you and your family stay safe and healthy this Thanksgiving.

Debbie Rago,
President, MIWC

How Your “Lunch Money” Can Help

For safety reasons, MIWC has canceled our scheduled luncheons for October, November, and December. Please join those of us who plan to donate the money that we would normally spend on the November luncheon to benefit the [Shelter for Abused Women and Children](#). There is still time to donate. We have not yet reached our goal of \$2,000 for this very deserving organization.

If you would like to contribute, just as for the luncheons, there are two ways you can do this: Electronically with your credit card or via check and snail mail.

To contribute by credit card:

[Click Here](#)

To Contribute by check:

Checks should be written to: MIWC Charitable Foundation

And mailed to: Marco Island Woman’s Club, P.O. Box 604, Marco Island, FL 34146

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Future Events

[\(Click here for link to Club Calendar\)](#)

Saturday, November 7, 2020

Annual Beach Clean Up – Meet @ 8:00 / S. Beach Boardwalk – Volunteers Needed

Questions: [Debbie Roddy’s email](#) or (239) 394-4832

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Annual Holiday Party at the Island Country Club : *CANCELED due to Covid-19 situation*

Tuesday, January 19, 2021 *now rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Hideaway Beach Club*

Annual Luncheon/Fashion Show* - See notes below from Chair, Sharyn Kampmeyer

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Annual Cards & Games Party – Subject to Change

Home Tour – If and When To be Determined

*A note from Sharyn: “The 2021 Luncheon and Fashion Show originally scheduled for January 19 has been rescheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021. The Board believes this move is in the best interest of our members health and safety Any questions, contact Sharyn Kampmeyer: (239) 389-0988 or [via Sharyn’s email](#).”

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.



Special Interest Club News

Book Club

The Book Club has continued meeting monthly via Zoom. The October book discussed was: "And the Mountains Echoed," by Khaled Hosseini. The November and December books are: "The Last Days of Night," by Graham Moore, and "Countdown to 1945," by Chris Wallace, respectively.

Given the current uncertainties, the club will continue conducting Zoom meetings and limiting acceptance of new members. Questions: Contact Cristina Leske (239) 394-1088 / [Cristina's Club email](#)

Stitch Makers

Women who like to crochet and knit, you may have your work donated. Using your own yarn, proceed at your leisure or at the monthly "Stitch Session". Stitch Makers sessions are canceled until further notice for the protection of our members. Please continue to work on your projects (blankets and hats) in the comfort and safety of your home. As always, thinking of you all. Please be safe and healthy! 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](#)

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

The Holiday Season - It's Complicated this Year

As many of you know, our Club has the joyful tradition of brightening the holidays for those individuals who find themselves at the [Shelter for Abused Women and Children](#) during this special time of year. Normally we have a toy drive and this year Caitlin Robinson was planning to put together toiletry goody bags for the women.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 constraints once again interfere. This year, toy collection is logistically more difficult for us and for The Shelter. There are new health and safety requirements in place and Shelter staff are stretched thin trying to comply. The addition of an influx of toys that need to be sorted and wrapped becomes a burden as well as a blessing. The Shelter is appreciative and eager for our help. Together we are trying to figure out the best way, for all concerned, to make the season brighter.

Stay tuned for more information in the next few weeks.

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 Austine Frawley

Austine's title of Communications Chair does not come close to signaling all she does for the Club. She serves as Webmaster, Publicity/Public Relations guru and Editor of our soon-to-be unveiled electronic version of the Yearbook. As if that weren't enough, she has agreed to marshal volunteers to care for the Club's Memorial Garden in the Marco Island Cemetery.

New to these roles this year, Austine was able to look at each function with "fresh eyes". Take a look at the updated MarcoWomansClub.com website to see an example of Austine's mastery and creativity at work. The website is inviting, informative, simple to navigate and always current. Austine is constantly updating news and events, making the website and [Club's Facebook page](#) excellent resources for members as well as a welcoming introduction to those curious to learn more about the Club. If you have ever wrestled with your computer to try to get things to turn out just right, you will certainly appreciate Austine's efforts!

As editor of this UPDATE newsletter, I have to add that Austine also serves as my fantastic proof-reader while offering invaluable editorial comments and insight as well.

& Our Thanks to Sharyn Kampmeyer

Fortunately for the MIWC, Sharyn Kampmeyer seems to have an abundance of energy and a natural talent for organization. Member since 2012 and President 2014-2015, Sharyn has served on the Board in various roles and has chaired or co-chaired 5 Luncheon/Fashion show events. MIWC's fashion shows are among our most successful annual fund-raising affairs. For those who have never organized a charity fashion show, one might compare it to planning a large wedding-on steroids! It's complicated.... This year it's even more complicated as, thanks to Covid-19, our show date has been a moving target with all the rescheduling that entails!

As if that weren't enough, Sharyn chairs the Theater Goers Special Interest Group. She arranges Artis Naples season tickets for a large group of members and single event tickets for other members. That means collecting money, purchasing and dispensing tickets. After doing all that arranging for the upcoming year, like many venues Artis canceled this season due to Covid concerns. That meant Sharyn had to reverse the process with close to 200 tickets. Can you imagine?

Treasurer's Report

As of October 14, 2020

Club Balance: \$9,077.24

MIWC Charitable Foundation, Inc. Balance: \$4,509.79

..... And on a Personal Note

“And on a Personal Note” is a new 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

Volunteers Needed

Beach Clean Up

Be outside – It’s Safe – Get Healthy – Do Good. [Join Debbie Roddy](#) Tel: 239-394-4832 for MIWC’s Annual Beach Clean Up. Volunteers will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the South Beach Boardwalk on Saturday, November 7

Monthly Luncheon Table Décor

Love flowers? Have an artistic flair? Pam Spering is seeking volunteers to help design and prepare table décor for the monthly luncheons. You only need to volunteer for 1 luncheon. This is a great way to get involved without over taxing your busy schedule. If interested contact Pam: (215) 880-9034 / [Pam’s email](#)

Tending to the MIWC Memorial Garden in the Marco Island Cemetery

The garden is small but looms large in our hearts. It needs a little TLC beyond what the Cemetery’s Groundkeeper can provide. Are you willing to visit and pull a few weeds/water once a week or so? It’s a nice destination for a walk or a bike ride and not a big time commitment.

If interested, contact: Austine Frawley (781) 545-1155 or [email Austine](#)

Club Information

In addition to our website, you can “Like” us on [Facebook @MarcoWomansClub](#)

Have a Friend Interested in Becoming a Member?

Contact Anne Marchetti: 201-321-0801 or [by Anne’s email](#)

The birth of the Marco Island Youth Center

1973

“We have Yacht Clubs and Golf Clubs and Bridge Clubs but nothing for our Youth”

- MIWC member and future Club President, Jane Hittler



Jane Hittler, Bernice Newton and Elliot Fisher of Naples Federal Bank (donated the sign April, 1974)
Photo courtesy of the Marco Island Historical Society and the Marco Eagle

If you read the Cemetery article in last month's UPDATE newsletter, you will recall the horrific 1973 incident where two local teens were found dead of self-inflicted gunshot wounds in the Marco Island Cemetery. It seems the old settlers' cemetery had fallen into disrepair and had deteriorated into a haunt for unsavory characters and a hangout for bored local teens.

The tragedy led MIWC members Jane Hittler and June Murphy and their fellow Marco Island Golf buddy, Bernice Newton, to initiate a public clean-up of the cemetery. These ladies also involved the Woman's Club in the effort, leading to the creation of a MIWC memorial garden at the cemetery which we maintain to this day.

But that wasn't enough. In a recorded video talk available at the Marco Island Historical Society, you can see and hear Jane Hittler musing that while Marco Island had Yacht Clubs and Golf Clubs and Bridge Clubs for the adults, there was nothing here for the Island's youth. And so, began a major push to establish a Youth Center on Marco Island. The ladies formed the non-profit Marco Island Youth Center, Inc, and obtained a state charter.

In the recording, Jane Hittler explains how she and the ladies lobbied Deltona for their support. Deltona provided a \$1/year lease for an 8.7-acre tract of land, cleared the land and developed the plans for an air-

conditioned building, an outdoor patio for cook-outs and a recreation area for baseball, football, softball as well as a bike path leading to the tennis courts in a major planned 120-acre recreation complex.

Now, the ladies had to come up with \$65,000 to endow the building. They got to work organizing a house-to-house fund-raising drive as well as an all-out effort to involve the community. In her talk, Jane Hittler noted that the Woman's Club agreed to provide a monthly stipend to support the venture.

The women were successful and Jane Hittler became the first President of the Board of Directors for the new Youth Center. Never short on ideas, Jane and the Board had plans for expansion. Once again money became an issue. The Board petitioned the United Fund for financial assistance. The United Fund could not help because according to its by-laws, the Youth Center was duplicating an already-available resource in Collier County: The Naples 'Y'.

The Marco Island Youth Center offered a number of varied activities, tailored to the community, and not available at the 'Y'. The 'Y' offered management as well as fund-raising experience and expertise.

While officially it was considered a merger, Jane Hittler called it a marriage. In 1977 the two organizations combined to become the Marco Island YMCA.

The following year, Jane Hittler served as President of the Marco Island Woman's Club for the 1978-1979 term. She died in January 2006 at the age of 91.

If Jane were alive today, she would be so pleased to see how her Youth Center has evolved into the current day Marco Island YMCA, an organization that serves all ages in so many ways. She also would be gratified to know that the Marco Island Woman's Club, an organization she once led and often relied on, continues its mission to serve and give back to the community.

My thanks to the [Marco Island Historical Society](#) and especially to Heather Otis, Collections Manager, for invaluable assistance in researching this article. Look for a piece on the Woman's Club's most famous contribution to date, The Marco Island Library, in the January edition of UPDATE.

Lenore Yale, Editor

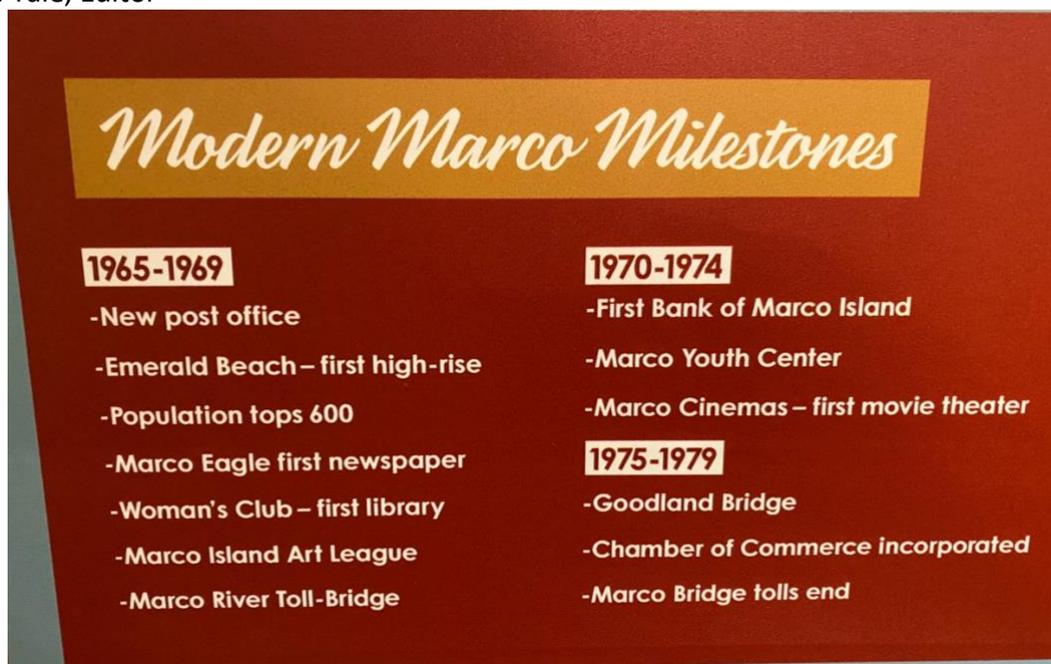


Photo of a display in the "Modern Marco" section of the Marco Island Historical Museum