



# MIWC UPDATE

October 2020

Volume 54 Issue 2



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### -Due to current Covid-19 Situation-

October Members' Luncheon: CANCELED  
November Members' Luncheon: CANCELED  
December Members' Luncheon: To be determined

### -News-

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### -Regular Features-

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And on a Personal Note

Click for  
[Club Website](#)

### **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](mailto:miwcel@gmail.com)

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

### **Don't Miss**

The beautiful photos of our Stitch Makers handiwork posted on the [Club's Facebook Page](#).

## President's Message

### HOPE

Once you choose HOPE  
Anything is Possible

Dear Friends,

October 24<sup>th</sup> we will be observing the founding of our Club. Unfortunately, we won't be able to celebrate our 54 years of giving to the community and to scholarships in person. This continues to be a very unusual year, but know that our primary focus on education scholarships remains undeterred.

Scholarships will be awarded in May 2021 as usual.

[The food Pantry](#) is doing great work but needs help. The [Shelter for Abused Women and Children](#) has always counted on us for support and we, in turn, have always come through for them. The increased need at the Shelter is real. To help, please consider our "Lunch Money" program. Your donations will be greatly appreciated. See page 2 to donate today. Our goal is to give \$2,500.00 to the food pantry from October donations and \$2,500.00 to the shelter from November donations. We need membership involvement to reach our goals.

This year we have decided to use our UPDATE newsletter to highlight events in our history. Please see the article this month on the Marco Cemetery. It is a tale that will surprise and make you proud to be part of this amazing Club. After doing research, our takeaway is that the MIWC has been instrumental in many very important milestones; always seeing a need on the Island and responding to it. If you have a particular interest or special insight in any aspect of our history, please contact Lenore Yale, editor of UPDATE.

Many of you may be willing to help or have ideas. We need your ideas and involvement to fulfill our other philanthropic endeavors. Our history on Marco Island is long and proud.

Debbie Rago,  
President

## How Your “Lunch Money” Can Help

For safety reasons, MIWC has canceled our scheduled luncheons for October and November. Please join those of us who plan to donate the money we would normally spend on the luncheons to benefit [The Food Pantry](#) and the [Center for Abused Women and Children](#). October Luncheon contributions will be directed to the Food Pantry and the November contributions will go to the Shelter.

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

\* \* \*

### *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 with Music by Rosetta Stone - Subject to Change

Tuesday, January 19, 2021

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 is still scheduled for January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. A decision will be made in the fall about this date. A spring date will be held as back-up if necessary. Any questions, contact Sharyn Kampmeyer: (239) 389-0988 or [via Sharyn’s email](#). Hope everyone is staying well and safe!”

### **Privacy Please**

In many ways electronic media has made our lives easier. With a single “click” we can navigate from one site to another and easily send an email via a link. This is a mixed blessing. If our UPDATE newsletter includes personal email addresses, this personal information eventually ends up on the website where all our newsletters are stored. Our website is open to the public. This means that personal contact information is easily available to potential scammers, hackers and “phishing expeditions”.

To remedy the situation, in UPDATE we will no longer be listing personal emails. Instead, when you click on an email link in the newsletter, your email will be routed through a central MIWC hub. Your email will then be forwarded to the appropriate person.

## Special Interest Club News

### Book Club

The Book Club has continued meeting monthly via Zoom. The topic of the September discussion was "The Book of Longings," by Sue Monk Kidd,

The October and November books selected are: "And the Mountains Roared," by Khaled Hosseini, and "The Last Days of Night," by Graham Moore, respectively

Given the current uncertainties, the club will continue 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

A note from Sharyn: The 2020-2021 Broadway season for Artis-Naples has been canceled due to Corona-19. The safety of the patrons and performers is number one to them. They will have smaller musical groups and Baker Museum will be open, so visit their website. I have requested refunds for "A Bronx Tale" and subscribers. I will distribute checks upon receipt of these funds from Artis-Naples. Thank you for your interest and participation. Questions to Sharyn Kampmeyer: 239-389-0988 or [email 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 is Sooner Than You Think!*

As many of you know, our Club has the joy of brightening the holidays for those individuals who find themselves at The Shelter for Abused Women and Children during this special time of year. Whether or not we hold a luncheon meeting in December, we will be collecting toys and gifts, so now is a good time to start looking around as you do your own shopping.

We have been informed by Club member Caitlin Robinson that she will be donating 30 cosmetic bags to [The Shelter](#). She needs your help. Please save any unused travel toiletries or samples, small lotions and nail polish ... anything along those lines that Caitlin could include in her goody bags. It looks so nice to have a few things in each bag and these items are so NEEDED and WANTED.

Questions? Contact Caitlin: 239-642-6968 or [Caitlin's Club email](#)

## 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 Anne Marchetti – *who Chairs both the Stitch Makers Group and Membership Committee*



*In addition to her "formal" responsibilities, Anne sent out an email sharing her beautiful work. In doing so, she unleashed a torrent of responses from members eager to get back in touch. So, kudos to Anne for all she does including for bringing us closer during these trying times. .... And ..... a shout out to all Anne's fellow Stitch Makers who have donated over 350 blankets in three years to Golisano Pediatric Hospital and Outreach Program and 150 hats to an elementary school in East Naples. Be sure to check out photos of their work on the [Club's Facebook Page](#)*

### & Our Thanks to Debbie Roddy

*Past MIWC President (2013-2014) and Club member since 2009, Debbie Roddy has informed us that she has moved off the Island.*

*Through the years Debbie has served the Club in many roles including: Club President and Vice-President, Chair Education and Publicity Committees, "keeper of the website and social media", leading the annual beach clean-up and participant in numerous major fundraising events..... Handling many of those roles simultaneously!*

*This year, as in several years' past, Debbie has been heading the education committee. MIWC by-laws require that this position be filled by a member who is a Marco Island resident. As required by her move, Debbie has resigned her participation on the Committee. The Committee will miss her years of experience and her leadership.*

*Debbie will continue on with the Marco Island Woman's Club as an associate member. She will continue to lead this years' annual beach clean-up. Please join her on Saturday, November 7, 8:00 a.m. on the South Beach boardwalk.*

*Our sincere thanks to Debbie Roddy for her innumerable hours of service to the Club and to the Marco Island community.*

#### Treasurer's Report

As of September 16, 2020

Club Balance: \$10,612.71

MIWC Charitable Foundation, Inc. Balance: \$ 4,418.63

## ..... 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

- Sue Ellen Welch thanks all MIWC members for their kindness and prayers for her grandson. She is pleased to report that he has returned to university this fall!

Stay Safe



Stay Well

### Volunteers Needed

#### Beach Clean Up

Be outside – It’s Safe – Get Healthy – Do Good. Join Debbie Roddy 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](#)

### 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](#)





*Picture at left: MIWC's Memorial Garden in the Marco Island Cemetery.*

*The Club has a long history tending this little triangular garden situated within the cemetery's borders. It's quite a story and you can read about it below.*

*The Club's latest contribution to the site is a new plaque that replaces a series of Woman-at-the-Well fountains and ornaments that could not withstand time and the harsh Florida weather.*

*Now, recently-installed crotons and gardenias will soon mature to frame a large Florida limestone rock that showcases a new Woman's Club plaque.*

## How MIWC came to have a garden in the Marco Island Cemetery

### It's quite a story! From Tragedy to Renewal

Peaceful today, but not always, the Marco Island Cemetery dates back to the Island's early settlers. The Great Depression and the 1930's were a particularly difficult time for Marco Islanders and many of the original families moved away. There was no one left to care for the gravestones. By the time the Mackle Brothers began development in the 1960s, the cemetery was largely forgotten and had fallen into disrepair. Beer cans, old mattresses and car parts littered the grounds. Vegetation had completely overtaken the area. The abandoned site became a refuge for local ruffians who went there to drink, race motorcycles and dirt bikes. It also became a "secret" hangout for local teens who had few places to gather.

In the 1960s and early 1970's the focus in Marco Island was on new development. The old settlers' cemetery might have been overlooked for many more years, but a shocking incident riveted the community's attention.

In 1973 two local girls, ages 15 and 16, were found dead; bullet holes through their temples and a .38 caliber pistol beside them. Police ruled it a murder suicide but it also could have been a double suicide. The population of Marco Island at that time was about 4,000 close-knit inhabitants. The tragedy affecting two of their own spurred the residents into action. A group of citizens toured the site, distressed with what they saw. Among the group were three mothers, members of the Marco Island Woman's Club. They were particularly moved by a heart-shaped gravestone inscribed: "Here Lies our Heart". The sight of this heart strengthened the ladies' resolve to restore the cemetery and thereby honor those early settlers. The women were sure MIWC members would want to get a project into action. These incredible ladies also successfully lobbied Frank Mackle to assist in the cleanup effort and to donate some land for a youth center.

The Woman's Club Community Affairs Committee began its own beautification project in 1977.

Many civic minded individuals and groups contributed to the eventual restoration of the cemetery.

After seven years of effort, on Flag Day, June 14, 1985, a ceremony was held to mark the official opening of the Memorial Garden in the century-old Marco Island Cemetery. The event was presided over by Project Organizer Jane Hittler (MIWC President 1978-1979). Club Vice President Evelyn McDowel cut the dedication ribbon.

Our commitment to the Historical Cemetery Memorial Garden continues to this day. Over the years we have tended the garden and repaired and replaced monuments. In 2014 the Club added a heart-shaped granite marker, reminiscent of the earlier heart-shaped gravestone that had been so touching to our members. The Club's latest refurbishment efforts in 2020 replace a series of fountains, ornaments and plaques that could not withstand time and Florida's harsh weather. Now, recently-installed crotons and gardenias will soon mature to frame a large Florida limestone rock that showcases a new Woman's Club plaque.

Additional information, including personal reminiscences of Jane Hittler are available from Club Historian [Arlene Soldano](#) and the Marco Island Historical Society.