



Marco Island (FL) Branch

P.O. Box 841
Marco Island, FL 34146

WAVE

April
2024



Well, it's here, the last meeting of this year is Monday, April 15th. While our year ends officially on June 30th, April is our last membership meeting. That means it is also time to remind everyone (who has been a member for more than a couple of years) that it is time to pay your dues for the 2024-25 year. (Newer members now pay based on when they joined, not based on the AAUW year - July through June.) Many of us belong to other organizations (Newcomers, Just Friends, Marco Women's Club, Kiwanis, etc.) and it seems they all have different fiscal years and it can be confusing to remember when dues are actually due. And to add to that confusion, AAUW-Marco Island only meets from November to April, and many of our members go north (or west) for the summer. Please pay your dues (either by check or online) now or at least before June 30th.

As I finish my term as president, I want to say THANK YOU to all the current (and past) board members. Your efforts are greatly appreciated. When they say it takes a village, it truly does. I am happy to have been part of our "village."

As most of you know, Tim and I are planning on moving back to Ohio this year. While I will no longer be in Florida, I plan on continuing my membership with the AAUW-Marco Island branch and will serve as Director for Communications for the coming year.

I can't finish this last President's message without saying WELCOME to our newest members - Cynthia Wolfe, Peggy Palmer, Lyn Maggio, Jo Marco, Debbie Kelly, Kat Sanders, Sandy Lyverse, and Kathy Sawin. It warms my heart to see the enthusiasm these new members are bringing to our branch!

In closing, it has been my honor and privilege to serve as your president for the last two years. I am especially grateful for the support each of you provided in our collective fundraising efforts to enable us to provide funds for our much needed grants and scholarships. I am amazed each year by your generosity. When you meet some of our scholars on Monday, you will see that your donations are being well spent. We do make a difference.

In Friendship,
Jacky

Very Important and Timely Information

An Update from Rosalie Tornello, Director for Public Policy

On April 1st the Florida Supreme Court ruled that Amendment 4, to limit government interference with reproductive rights in Florida, meets the requirements for placement on this year's ballot.

Floridians WILL get the chance to vote on the amendment in November, 2024.

AAUW Florida has been a partner in this effort and thanks you for all you did to get the required signatures and spread the word. A million Floridians, across political parties, signed petitions to get the amendment on the ballot.

The Court also ruled that the Constitution of Florida's privacy protections do NOT extend to abortion. *This will allow Florida to ban abortion* after 6 weeks of pregnancy. This law will take effect in less than 30 days.

The only thing that will overturn this will be if Amendment 4 gets at least 60% of Florida voters approving it in November.

VOTE

AAUW - Our Mission

Gender Equity – and – Economic Security

AAUW - Our Values

Intersectional – Inclusive – Intergenerational – Empowering



Looking Ahead



April Happenings

The Final Meeting of the Season

~ The Scholarship Luncheon ~

Monday, April 15, 2024 - 11:30 a.m.

[CJ's on the Bay](#)

Celebrate the fruit of our fundraising labors with our scholarship winners, say goodbye to retiring Board members, and welcome new Board members.

~Reservations Required~

Read about our very impressive scholarship winners
At the end of this newsletter



We are Eagerly Awaiting Next Season's
Programs, Interest Groups and Social Gatherings

Mark your Calendars!

Important Notice about Next Season's Meetings

The Board has noticed that attendance has been low at our season kick-off meetings in October. It seems many of our members do not arrive back on the Island until later in October or November. As a result, the Board has voted to amend the season to run from November through April. The first meeting of the AAUW-Marco Island Branch 2024-2025 Season will be held on November 11, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the New Life Community Church.!

With the exception of meetings in December and April
All Meetings will be held at
10:00 a.m. - at the New Life Community Church

Meeting Dates for 2024-2025

November 11, 2024

December 9, 2024

January 20, 2025

February 17, 2025

March 17, 2025

April 21, 2025

“Lunch After”



When planning your meeting time,
don't forget

“Lunch After”

After the formal meeting, all interested members reassemble at a local restaurant for friendship and a meal. Generally, the details of the lunch gathering are announced at the meeting.

Programs

Next season we have a new Director of Programs,

Bonnie Bozzo.

Bonnie already has a number of ideas percolating for the year ahead. There will be more information about our first, November 11 program as we get closer to that date. Stay tuned !

~~~~Casual Contract Bridge~~~~  
(aka - Bridge Before)

~ Will resume in the fall ~

## Interest Groups

Interest Groups provide members with similar interests an opportunity to learn together and to enjoy one another's company.

Current Interest Groups are:

### Fiction Book Club

Chairs are: Jessica Barron – 239-302-6773 – [jessdbarron@gmail.com](mailto:jessdbarron@gmail.com)

Gwyn Goodman – 239-595-4064 – [gsgoodman11@comcast.net](mailto:gsgoodman11@comcast.net)

April's read is:

[Demon Copperhead](#) by B. Kingsolver - Pat Bunke, lead

10:00 a.m. on April 16, 2024



Click on the book to connect to the Amazon Review page

### Hot off the Presses!!!!

The Fiction Book Club Announces Its Reading List for Next Season!

***Bewilderment*** - Richard Powers

***Clark and Division*** - Naomi Hirahara

***The Covenant of Water*** - Abraham Verghese

***The Heaven and Earth Grocery Stor*** - James McBride

***Lady Tan's Circle of Women*** - Lisa See

***The Women*** - Kristin Hannah

*There is no schedule yet, so stay tuned for updates from Jessica and Gwyn*

## Great Books Discussion Group

Chair is Pat Santiago – cell phone (talk or text) 239-776-9319

Email: [psantiago378@gmail.com](mailto:psantiago378@gmail.com)

The group meets at the Marco Island Library Porch at 3:00 p.m. on the first and the third Thursdays of the month. (November thru May). As a reminder, the readings are usually short stories/essays which makes this an ideal group for those who do not want to commit to reading novels.

### *A note from Pat Santiago ~*

Our tentative April dates are the 4th and the 18th.



## Great Decisions Study Group

Chair is Liz Haines, 239-642-1843 [echaines3@aol.com](mailto:echaines3@aol.com)

### *A note from Liz Haines*

The last meetings for Great Decisions will be April 10th and April 24th from 3:30pm to 5:00 pm via zoom. We will start with a new Great Decisions book next January. Information for next year will be in the November WAVE. Have a good summer.

For further information call Liz Haines 781 249 7450  
and take a look at the [Foreign Policy Association website](#).

## Membership



### About Dues

National AAUW has updated the process of paying dues. If you have been a member for at least one year your dues notification will come from National AAUW. Our dues have always been due by June 30<sup>th</sup> of every year. But since our season was over in April, many women didn't pay dues until they returned in the fall. National would like everyone to pay on time. They will send each member a renewal notice. Online payment is the preferred method of payment but they will offer a way to send a check to your local Branch at PO Box 841, Marco Island 34146. Please pay on time.

Payment online is easy. Go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org) - Login and use your email address and personal password to sign into your Personal Snapshot. Go to the bottom and press RENEW. It takes you to Membership Management. Update your personal information. Follow directions to Membership Type and select National. Next please select add Branch, our Branch is FL3054. Next takes you to payment and it will show your total payment due (National, State and Local) and ask for credit card information. National will notify our Director of Finance, Durell Buzzini that you have renewed for the next year.

*Let's all be recruiters for AAUW Marco Island! There are many ways to recruit, but please remember that people join people not organizations. Be sure to tell prospective members that fellowship is one of the benefits of joining us in community service.*

*Linda Corea, Director for Membership 2023-2024*



*Membership Application at the end of this newsletter*

## Photos from our March Meeting

Our March Speaker

Jana Csenger  
Coordinator for  
Psychological Services for Collier  
County



Branch President Jacky Childress  
Presents a donation to  
Tica Barrett of  
New Life Community Church

Along with our sincere thanks for the  
Congregation's generosity in sharing  
their facility with us for our meetings.

## *~ Lunch Instead ~*

Although Formal Branch Meetings are suspended until November, Members still meet to socialize. We call it: "Lunch Instead"



Our "Lunch Instead" season begins in May with our Third Annual Poinciana Luncheon at the The Little Bar Restaurant at 11:30 on Monday, May 20. If you would like to attend the Luncheon, please email Lynn Tuttle at [TuttleMarco@gmail.com](mailto:TuttleMarco@gmail.com) by May 15.

*Bright Orange Attire Suggested*

Jacky Childress ([Jacky3348@gmail.com](mailto:Jacky3348@gmail.com)) will host our "Lunch Instead" in June

Don't Forget  
Cocktails and Conversation



The first Monday of every month  
This event continues  
All Summer Long

5:00 p.m.  
At CJ's on the Bay

We are all looking forward to our final meeting of the year

## *The Scholarship Luncheon*

### 2024 Martha Yates Scholarship for Adult Women Recipients

**Grace Fields** is a junior at the University of Hartford majoring in Ballet Pedagogy and Performing Arts Management. She works two part time jobs on campus plus a work study job and on breaks works as a dance teacher and at her family's thrift shop, Better Homes and Bargains. Her program is among the Top Ten in dance in the country. She has multiple internships set up. She dreams of opening a dance studio to teach dance to children with disabilities. Her professors' recommendations praise her determination, courage, perseverance, and remarkable talent.

**Carla Melendez** is enrolled at Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) taking one class at a time to prepare for a degree in Software Engineering. She started her degree at Florida Gulf Coast University before going on-line with SNHU. Carla and her husband both work at C.J.'s on the Bay and have two sons, aged two and four. Her firm dream is to get out of the service industry and get her degree! She takes courses in computer software. She would love to find a tech job that allows her to work from home. She can do this with our help!

**Kathleen Kirsten** has been working at C.J.'S on the Bay for four years. She originally attended Florida South Western college in Naples and lost credits transferring for her Associate's Degree from Wake Technical Community College in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is now attending FGCU to receive her Bachelor's Degree in Finance with a concentration in Financial Services. She will sit for the Certified Financial Planner (CFP) exam and Securities Industries Essentials (SIE) exam upon graduation. She has 9 classes remaining. She is a woman with a clear goal we can help her attain!

**Sophia Torres** has been accepted at Harvard, Stanford and more than a dozen prestigious law schools. She will soon accept one of these opportunities and notify us when she has set her course for her law degree. She will complete her degree with loans, without family support. She has worked as a legal analyst at a Manhattan firm where she never met a Latina litigator until she served on a defense team opposing a Latina federal prosecutor. As a paralegal she has set her goal to practice law as a "powerful, well-informed litigator." We can stand with her in this pursuit.

## 2023 High School Scholarship Recipient

**Ava Cartwright**, a senior at Marco Island Academy. Ava's academic credentials are impressive as she has earned all A's in a challenging curriculum of Honors and AICE courses with a 5.24 GPA. In addition, she has exhibited a leadership role in her extra-curricular activities as President of the National Honor Society, Student Government Representative and Captain of the Varsity Soccer Team. But, more importantly, what really impacted the Committee was Ava's work with the Sugden Water Ski Camp where she helped host adaptive classes for disabled people so they could learn to ski. In Ava's words, "The smiles on the participants' faces are like nothing I have ever seen...(they) truly changed my perspective on life and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to work with them." As a result of this experience, Ava has decided to major in Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida in order to pursue a career in designing and building adaptive equipment such as prosthetics. Her letters of recommendation describe her as a "leader among leaders" and as "having a heart for serving people." We believe that Ava's goal of helping humanity is a direct extension of the mission of the AAUW.

Congratulations to our Impressive 2024 Scholarship Winners  
And Many Thanks to Our Marco Island Branch Members, Friends and Donors  
Who Made these Scholarships Possible

**AAUW MARCO ISLAND BRANCH**  
**MEMBERSHIP & FRIEND APPLICATION**

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE: \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CONDO/APT: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ LOCAL TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ALTERNATE ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTH MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ DAY \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL DUES ARE:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Marco Island - \$98.00 (includes National & State/Florida).

\_\_\_\_\_ Dual - \$26.00\* (Primary Branch \_\_\_\_\_, AAUW # \_\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_\_\_ Life - \$26.00\* (Primary Branch \_\_\_\_\_, AAUW # \_\_\_\_\_ )

\_\_\_\_\_ Branch Friend - \$20.00 (no Associate of Arts or equivalent, or higher degree)

\*If your primary branch is in Florida, pay only Marco Island Branch dues of \$14.00.

**EDUCATION INFORMATION:**

**Undergraduate Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Graduate Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

**Post Graduate Degree:** \_\_\_\_\_ Major/Concentration \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Date (mm/dd/yyyy) \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**Release:** AAUW - Marco Island Branch may use my name and photograph in branch publications and on its Website, <https://marcoisland-fl.aauw.net>

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME BADGE:** The cost of an AAUW name badge is \$14.00 and can be added to the amount of your dues. We will order it for you. Please print your name below as you wish it to appear on the badge:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this Membership Application Form with your check payable to AAUW-MARCO ISLAND to:**

AAUW-MARCO ISLAND  
P.O. BOX 841  
MARCO ISLAND, FL 34146