



Marco Island (FL) Branch

P.O. Box 841
Marco Island, FL 34146

WAVE

January
2024

www.MarcoIsland-FL.AAUW.net



Happy New Year !!

I hope everyone had as great a holiday with family, friends, food, and of course fun as I did. We were so lucky to have our family (daughter, son, daughter-in-law, grandson, and granddaughter) with us for one week. Who knew how many towels five extra people can use?

As 2024 begins, we need to get busy because we have a lot going on between now and the end of April. As you will read in this issue of the WAVE, plans are underway for our fundraiser, the Time, Talent, & Treasures Auction and Luncheon at the Marco Island Country Club on February 16th.

We need: **Donations, Chefs, Meal Organizers, Volunteers (before the event), Volunteers (at the event), Your Friends (attendees), and finally, YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** of our one and only fundraiser to provide the funding for scholarships and grants. It takes every member to participate for the event to be successful. I hope I can count on **YOU** again this year.

Also, and just as important, is the need for volunteers to hold positions on the Board starting on July 1st. The three positions up for election this year (for the 2024-2026 term) are President, Secretary, and Director for Membership. Please reach out to me or Durell, Nomination Committee Chair if you have any questions about any of the positions. **WE NEED YOU!!**

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

Jacky Childress

President, AAUW - Marco Island Branch



Looking Ahead



HAPPY NEW YEAR !!!

Nina Tomaino, Director for Programs has planned a varied and interesting schedule of meetings for the upcoming season from October 2023 through April 2024. Most of our meetings will be held on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. at the [New Life Community Church](#)

[Click Here](#)

For a list of all the General Meeting Details for 2023-2024

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.



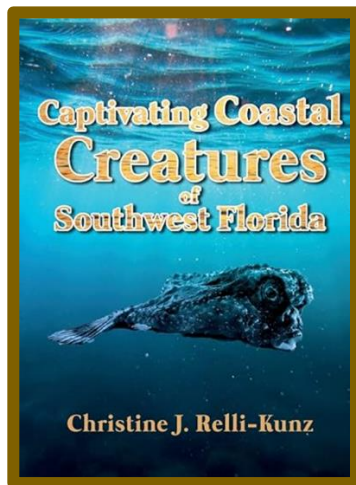
Our Next Meeting

Monday, January 15, 2024
10:00 a.m.

New Life Community Church
489 W. Elkcarn Circle

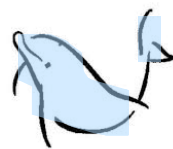
Captivating Creatures of Southwest Florida

Presenter, Author
Christine J. Relli-Kunz



“Join the author on a tour of Southwest Florida’s incredible coastal marine life. In thirty years of recreational fishing, boating, and harvesting of stone crabs, she has seen a remarkable array of unique fish, crustaceans, birds, mammals, and other stunning displays of nature.”

From the Amazon.com website



AAUW- Marco Island Branch

Time, Talent and Treasures Auction and Luncheon *Island Country Club*

Friday, February 16 at 11:30 a.m.

Reservations for Tables of 8
(Gluten Free/Vegetarian lunch available)

\$55 pp payable to “AAUW- Marco Island” to:
Durell Buzzini
421 Pheasant Court
Marco Island, FL 34145

Bring donated Items Feb 1 to Feb 13 to:
Lynn Tuttle, 1490 Caxambas Court
Questions?: Call Lynn Tuttle 603.289.1448

*More Details,
A letter from event chair Lynn Tuttle
and
The Event Reservation Form are at the end of this newsletter*

Our February Meeting

Monday, February 19, 2024
10:00 a.m.

New Life Community Church
489 W. Elkcam Circle

Charlette Roman

(AAUW Marco Island Branch Member)



Charlette Roman

Charlette works hard every day to restore America's Everglades, improve water quality, protect the region from flooding and ensure an adequate water supply for millions of South Floridians.

[from South Florida Water Management District website](#)

A retired U.S. Army colonel, as well as a former Marco Island City Councilor, Charlette Roman has now turned her talents toward serving the State. In 2019 Governor Ron DeSantis appointed her to the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District and she was confirmed by the Florida Senate. Roman was reappointed in 2021.

In her seat on the Governing Board, she covers 10 counties and also serves as Chair of the Big Cypress Basin Board, a separate taxing district covering all of Collier County and part of mainland Monroe County.

A dedicated Environmentalist, Charlette Roman is a certified Florida Master Naturalist. In recognition of her many years of educational and stewardship efforts, in 2009 she received the prestigious Collier County Audubon Society Fellowship.

In 2022, Roman was honored with the Laverne Norris Gaynor Environmental Champion Award by the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve Board of Directors for her years of service in protecting the coastal environment.

To learn more about Charlette Roman's background and work, [click here](#) (and come to the meeting!)

Interest Groups

Interest Groups provide members with similar interest an opportunity to learn together and to enjoy one another's company. Current Interest Groups are:

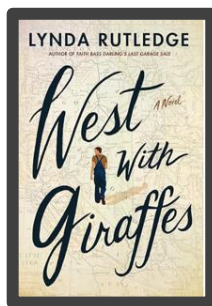
Fiction Book Club

Chairs are: Jessica Barron – 239-302-6773 – jessdbarron@gmail.com
Gwyn Goodman – 239-595-4064 – gsgoodman11@comcast.net

The group meets at 10:00 a.m. in the Choir Room at
New Life Community Church
489 W. Elkcarn Circle
On the following dates:
10/24/23 - 11/14/23 - 1/23/24 - 2/27/24 - 3/26/24 - 4/16/24

To see the complete, updated 2023-2024 Book List
[CLICK HERE](#)

January's read is:
West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge - Katie Goetzmann, lead
10:00 a.m. on January 23, 2024



Click on the book to connect to the Amazon Review page

For those Book Club members who like to read ahead:

February's read is: [Horse](#) by Geraldine Brooks - Linda Corea will lead

Great Books Discussion Group

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

Email: psantiago378@gmail.com

The group has resumed its regular in-person meetings for the 2023-2024 season 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 ~

Dear Great Books Discussion Group Friends:

We will continue to read selections from *Cloudbursts* - Two or three stories per meeting. Please join us at the **Marco Island Library Porch** for a lively discussion!

January 2024 | 3:00 p.m., Marco Library Porch

(I've pushed the January dates back by one week because members will either be traveling or recovering from holiday guests.)

January 11, 2024

January 25, 2024



February 2024 | 3:00 p.m., Marco Library Porch

February 1, 2024

February 15, 2024

Great Decisions Study Group

Chair is Liz Haines, 239-642-1843 echaines3@aol.com

Our Marco Island AAUW Branch has established a Great Decisions Study Group. Great Decisions is a program sponsored by the [Foreign Policy Association](#) and is America's largest discussion program on world affairs. The program model involves reading the Great Decisions Briefing Book, watching the documentary film series and meeting in a Discussion Group to discuss the most critical global issues facing America today.

A note from Liz Haines

Our AAUW Great Decisions group will meet from 3:30 to 5:30, by zoom, every other Wednesday starting on January 17th until April 24th. Jessica Barrons will send out the zoom link. There are eight topics to cover, listed below. The topics they pick are always timely! The book is available from the [Foreign Policy Association website for \\$35](#). They also have a video available

Topics for discussion this year are:

Mideast Realignment	NATO's Future
Climate Technology and Competition	Understanding Indonesia
Science Across Borders	High Seas Treaty
U.S.-China Trade Rivalry	Pandemic Preparedness

[Click Here for more information on these topics and speakers](#)

If you would like to participate call Liz Haines 718 249 7450.
and take a look at the [Foreign Policy Association website](#).

Now In Its Second Year - Casual Contract Bridge !!!

aka - Bridge Before

Just another reason to mark your social calendar
to reserve the first Monday of the month

You already know about Cocktails and Conversation (C&C) at CJ's. Now you can join your friends a few hours earlier for Bridge. Players meet from 2:00-5:00 and then can segue into C&C. (Hence the name "*Bridge Before*")

If interested in playing Bridge at CJ's, please get in touch with
Lynn Tuttle at tuttlemarco@gmail.com or 603-289-1448

Don't Forget
Cocktails and Conversation



The first Monday of every month
5:00 p.m.
At CJ's on the Bay

Membership



A note from our Director for Membership
Linda Corea

New Member Mentorship Program

Volunteers Needed

In an effort to provide a better experience, our branch has initiated a mentorship program for new members. We need volunteers to befriend our new members and help them navigate our meetings, activities, and programs. The Membership Committee will match you to a new member and for one season, we'll ask you to contact that member twice a month. It will be as simple as introducing your new friend to others at General Meetings or inviting her to join Book Club or to be on your cooking team for TT&T. Think back to when you were a new member and how difficult it was to attend activities not knowing anyone. Please consider volunteering to guide a new member to have a successful first year in AAUW. Contact Linda Corea at Linda.corea@gmail.com or 410-652-4508 to sign-up.



2023-2024 Board of Directors

President	Jacky Childress	jacky3348@gmail.com
Director for Membership	Linda Corea	Linda.Corea@gmail.com
Director for Development	Lynn Tuttle	tuttlemarco@gmail.com
Director for Finance	Durell Buzzini	meddybliss@gmail.com
Director for Programs	Nina Tomaino	Nina.Tomaino@gmail.com
Director for Public Policy	Rosalie Tornello	Rosalie.Tornello@outlook.com
Director for Communication	Lenore Yale	Lenore.Yale@gmail.com
Director for Publicity	Laura Furlong	FurlongFamily@mac.com
Secretary	Kathi Parris	kpa7005202@aol.com



AAUW - Our Mission
Gender Equity – and – Economic Security

AAUW - Our Values
Intersectional – Inclusive – Intergenerational – Empowering

Some Very Important Updates from Rosalie Tornello, Director for Public Policy

Reproductive Freedom

In Florida, the people have the right to propose amendments to the Florida Constitution through an initiative petition process. Sponsors of these initiatives must secure the required number of valid petition signatures in order for their initiative to be placed on a General Election ballot.

The needed petitions for a 2024 ballot initiative, “Limiting Government Interference in Abortion”, have been collected. Several of our Branch members had been involved in collecting signatures. The fact that the signatures were collected in 8 months shows that Florida voters very much support reproductive freedom. The matter now goes to Court Hearings next month.

Equal Rights Amendment

The Florida State Legislature is now in session. Our representatives will be considering bills (SCR-142 and H-647) which would ratify the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) to the Constitution.

38 states have already done so, and Arizona, Florida, N. Carolina and Utah currently are considering bills in support of ratification.

If you would like Florida to be the 39th state to ratify the ERA you might consider reaching out to our state representatives.

Senator Kathleen Pasidomo
409 The Capitol
404 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1100

805 487-5028

Representative Bob Rommel
303 House Office Building
402 South Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1300

850 717-55081

Photos from our November Meeting

Journey of a Female Entrepreneur

Clarice Dowdle (right)



Clarice Dowdle (left), President and co-owner of the Coton Frais Clothing Company, recounted her life, and the many varied experiences and opportunities that led her to her Marco Island business.

Looking Ahead to Time, Talent and Treasures, by Lynn Tuttle

As the new year begins, we are all anticipating our fabulous fundraiser, the Time, Talent and Treasures (TT&T) Auction and Luncheon. What a wonderful time to invite women friends to a lovely lunch at the newly remodeled Island Country Club; to gather with other AAUW-Marco Island Members to enjoy each other's company; and to raise money for our grants and scholarships.

The event is at 11:30 on Friday, February 16 in the Main Dining Room of the Island Country Club.

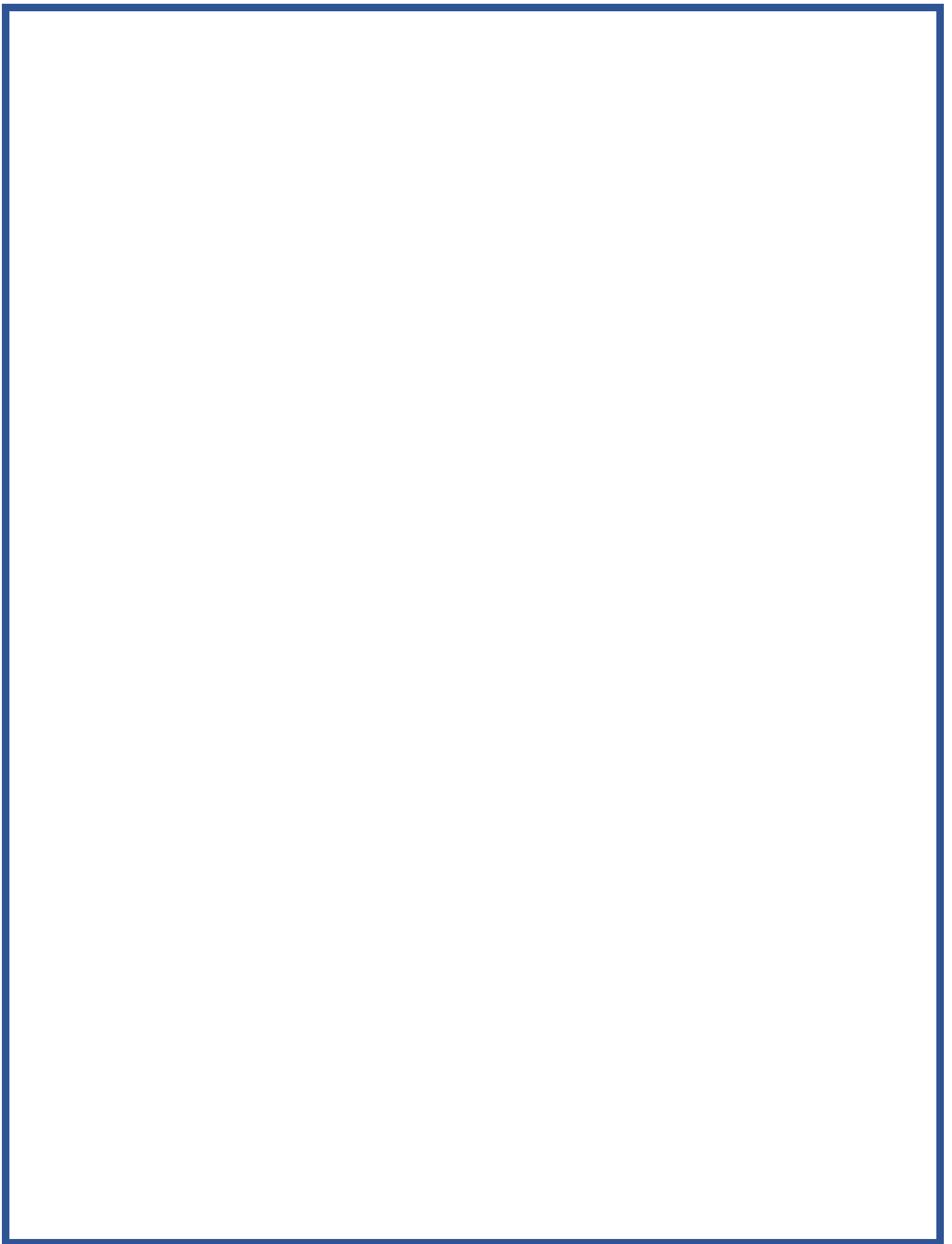
Many members are forming small cooking groups to provide a meal for our live auction. This tradition brings the most money for our scholars! Call a friend and suggest you involve others to make an ethnic or family style meal for the auction. Plan together on the dates you are available to bring your meal to the lucky winner. Be ready to volunteer your dinner at our January 15 AAUW meeting.

Everyone is scanning her closets and cabinets and even recent holiday gifts to donate for our auction. All clean, *new looking* items are welcome. Perhaps you'll join with a group of friends to make a basket? These auction items can be brought to the January meeting, too. Look for Lynn Tuttle's big, white Kia Telluride parked in front of the church to collect your auction items. Auction items can also be brought to Lynn's home at 1490 Caxambas Court between February 1 and February 13 when we will meet there to organize our auction.

There will be a sign-up sheet for working at The Time, Talent and Treasures Auction at the January 15 AAUW meeting. The second page of jobs can be done sitting down. The third page of jobs requires walking around. Please give a little bit of your time so everyone has a chance to enjoy the comradery of the luncheon. Volunteers also gather at Lynn Tuttle's home at 1490 Caxambas Court on Tuesday, February 13 to prepare our auction items. You can sign up for just two hours, or perhaps to stay with us all day. We *may* gather again at 12:30 on Thursday, February 15 if we do not finish our preparations on Tuesday. If you are unable to attend the January AAUW meeting please email Lynn Tuttle at tuttlemarco@gmail.com or text her at 603 289 1448 to volunteer to help at the auction and/or on February 13. We have fun working together.

Thank you all for your generous contributions of your time, talent and treasures.

Lynn



AAUW - MARCO ISLAND

Time, Talent, and Treasures Auction and Luncheon Reservation
Marco Island Country Club - Friday, February 16, 2024 @11:30 a.m.

Lunch is an ICC Salad with either Grilled Chicken or Salmon. Dessert is the Chef's choice (chocolate). Also includes Rolls/Butter; Soda, Tea, or Coffee. Drink tickets will be sold for Beer, Wine, and Cocktails (cash only).

Seating is at tables of 8. Reserve a table or join one.

Number of Reservations at \$55 per person: _____ Total: _____

Person Submitting Reservations: _____ Phone: _____

If you are not reserving an entire table, please indicate below the names of ladies with whom you might like to be seated.

Select your meal choice.

Name & Email Address

Chicken (C) or Salmon (S)

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____

Mail your check for \$55, payable to AAUW - Marco Island to:

Durell Buzzini, 421 Pheasant Ct., Marco Island, FL 34145 by February 9th
Reservation Questions: Durell Buzzini 207-745-4679 or meddybliss@gmail.com

Schedule of Events

11:30 - 12:15 - Bid on Silent Auction Items

12:15 - 1:00 - Enjoy Lunch and Conversation

1:00 - ?? - Live Auction (Bring your checkbook or cash - Sorry, No Credit Cards)