

LADIES CHOICE

JANUARY 2016

VOLUME LIV, No. 5

Peggy Olney, Editor

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Club members:

The spirit of Christmas abounds around us. I love listening to all my Christmas CDs and Pandora 's Christmas selections. Oh! The simple white lights in windows, Christmas trees twinkling in all our homes, the mechanical reindeer and inflatable Santas abound with cheer on these dark nights. The simple beauty of Shipyard Park and Old Salty greeting us with his Santa hat. I love all the kids' TV movies and cartoons especially Charlie Brown's Christmas with his pathetic tree.

I love decorating the mantle with greenery and sparking lights, flood lights gracing our front door 's wreath. Oh! All the Santas are bedecked around our fireplace—Chef Santa, Carpenter Santa, Uncle Sam Santa, and a Newport Santa that has my Father-in-law's identical gentle eyes.

On our buffet is the Nativity. The grandchildren love to watch the German Pyramid move by the heat of candles as they witness the first Christmas night with Baby Jesus in the manger surrounded by his parents and the animals with the Shepherds watching amidst sheep. Grandchildren just seem to bring Christmas alive with their wonder and awe.

The Christmas tree is adorned with our German ornaments, our Grandchildren's Christmas photo ornaments, and an assortment of ornaments collected from our various military tours. Even the German pickle ornament is hidden in our tree. Who will find the pickle? Also, proudly hanging are many of the White House ornaments representing each presidents' terms.

A Christmas family tree bears so many stories as each ornament hangs gently in its place.

We too bear the heritage of our families. We carry on our traditions and heritage with favorite foods, songs, and stories to share with our children, grandchildren and friends.

As I get older, I love the simpler things in life and remember my childhood. My Mother loved going to see the Christmas lights in the wealthier neighborhoods around Atlanta. I always sang in my Catholic school's and church's Choirs. As a child, my church choir recorded a record of Christmas music with the Church's organ. We learned to hold notes and be in harmony. I should convert this record to a CD to share with my grandchildren. Even

singing at midnight Mass was magical. My parents attended as well, along with my dear Grandmother and Aunt Frances.

Oh! Sharing food is important for all our holiday festivities. I must admit the sons have inherited their Dad's awesome cooking skills for entrees plus our youngest daughter. Every meal is creative, so tasty and colorful. However, they love my baking of desserts and quiche and awesome breakfast sausages and eggs.

As you can tell, I'm in Christmas Heaven remembering days past. That's what's so beautiful about Christmas. We remember and we share. So midst shopping, wrapping, and bustling about, I love the simplicity of Christmas. I love our Church's advent candles, the Christmas concerts and fairs, and our Club's Annual Christmas Program. What a lovely day, December 10th. We all enjoyed a wonderful luncheon provided by Jadine Loo-Dixon of Wok Magic. The food was so delicious! We all had time to socialize and just enjoy one another's company.

Thank you to the Garden Group for the lovely centerpieces with fresh greenery. Also, thank you to all the Hostesses this month: Roxanne Bungert, Lois Ennis, Sue Haley, Hilda Harrop, Barbara Ketchel, Leda Kim, Lois Murray, Kay Smith and Ruth Souza.

Sadly, we have lost one of our dedicated members, Suzanne Sylvester. Even though she had just joined us the year before our Garden Tour 2014, she not only opened her garden for our Tour, she also worked intently with the GT committee. Her friendliness and gregarious spirit will be greatly missed.

Madeline, we all offer our sympathy in the loss of your brother.

God bless all of you who have lost loved ones this year. Rest assured we all are supportive of you. May you find strength in God's love for you and your family.

So, as we reflect on year's past, may 2016 be filled with peace, joy and love. We will celebrate our Club's 75th Diamond Jubilee Anniversary in October.

Our next luncheon is January 21st with Gerry Rooney sharing his travels across the Globe. It will be a fabulous presentation.

May God bless you, your Family and our great Country.

May your holidays be filled with joy, wonder, happiness for you and your family and friends.

Blessings,
Elaine Botelho, President
Mattapoissett Woman's Club

BOARD MEETING

The next Executive Board meeting will be held at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library Thursday, January 14, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in the lower level meeting room.

JANUARY MEETING

The next general meeting will be Thursday, January 21, 2016 at 12 noon.

Gerry Rooney, last January's speaker, who related the Whitfield-Manjiro story, the connection to the John Howland whaling ship and the Friendship House in Fairhaven for us, will again be the guest speaker at our January luncheon. His topic this month will be about his travels across the globe. He has traveled extensively and will have some very interesting stories and photos to share with us. Please come to enjoy an interesting program and bring a friend!

HOSTESS: Katrina Beneker

Tea Committee: Carol Atkinson, Sandra Dawson, Nancy Fletcher, Lynn Haugen, Libby Klim, Lorraine Rodrigues, Alice Williams

NEW MEMBER

Carole Clifford

87 North Street, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Phone: 774.582.1913 Cell: 860 416 4343 email: moosie999@comcast.net.

GREAT DECISIONS

Ellen Flynn

REMINDER: The Great Decisions discussion group begins Wednesday, January 20, 2016. The series highlights eight of the most thought-provoking foreign policy challenges facing Americans each year. We meet on Wednesday's for eight consecutive weeks from 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Mattapoisett Free Public Library's lower meeting room at 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett. A snow date would extend the meetings to March 16th. For more information contact chair: Ellen P. Flynn at 508-758-1312

Discussion topics for this year are:

Middle East Alliances, the Rise of ISIS, The future of Kurdistan, Migration, The Koreas, The United Nations, Climate Change, Cuba and the U.S.

GARDEN GROUP

Mary O'Keefe

The first meeting of the new year will be on Wednesday, January 6 at 10:00 AM in the Mattapoisett Library Meeting room. There will be a business meeting and then we will form teams to enjoy a Garden Trivia game led by Sandy Hering. This was great fun and a big hit last year. There will be prizes too! In February we will choose a focus book and work on a display for the library Children's Room.

LITERATURE GROUP

The January meeting will be held at 9:30 AM on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 at the home of Dorothy Ross, 46 Prospect Road. Our discussion book for January is "The Marriage of Opposites" by Alice Hoffman. The group would like to have some new members so please come and join us even if you haven't read the book. Upcoming books are: "The Orphan Train" by Christina Baker Kline for February and "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee for March.

KNITTING AND CHROCHETING

The Knitting/Crocheting Group will be meeting at Sandy Hering's house, 10 Mechanic Street on Thursday, January 28th from 2-4 PM. We welcome all to come with your current project and enjoy one another's company while we work on whatever item we each are currently doing. All skill levels are included!

CALENDAR.

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
January			
5	Bridge I	Home of Betty Parker	1:00 PM
6	Garden Group	Mattapoissett Library	10:00 AM
12	Bridge II	Home of Lois Murray	12:00 PM
13	Literature Group	Home of Dorothy Ross	9:30 AM
14	Executive Board	Mattapoissett Library	1:00 PM
20	Great Decisions	Mattapoissett Library	1:30 PM
21	Monthly Meeting	Mattapoissett Cong. Church	Noon
26	Bridge II	Home of Alice Williams	12:00 PM
27	Great Decisions	Mattapoissett Library	1:30 PM
28	Knitting Group	Home of Sandy Hering	2:00 PM

**ARTICLES FOR THE NEXT LADIES CHOICE DUE BY
JANUARY 22 TO PEG OLNEY**