



# LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

APRIL 2020  
VOLUME LVIII No. 8

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Dear Club Members,

It is with a saddened heart that I write my final letter as president to you all. As I have stated many times in the past, it has been my honor and a privilege to be your president and to represent the Mattapoissett Woman's Club for the past two years. The present circumstances that we are living under prevent me from stepping down at our Annual Meeting where I was preparing to address you all in person and for that I am extremely unhappy.

This year, 2019 - 2020, our Club has been highlighting women in our monthly programs and we have been treated to some informative and educational programs. We were prepared to sponsor a free program for our town, and the surrounding communities, on Sunday, April 26th highlighting a performance by Sheryl Faye as Susan B. Anthony, one of the strong supporters of the suffrage movement. This program has been cancelled with hopes of rescheduling at a later date.

Our Club has accomplished so much in the past two years. In looking back at my letter of last year our Club has been very busy and has earned more than ever before, allowing us to award three \$2,500.00 scholarships to deserving high school graduates! We are also offering a \$1,000.00 scholarship to a returning student.

Some of our other accomplishments include earning an all-time high profit at our **Taste of the Town event**, the completion of the planting at the **Suzanne Sylvester Memorial Garden**, the placement of a memorial granite brick for our Club at Ned's Point and a more successful **Bells of Remembrance** attendance on November 11th. Another accomplishment was receiving the **"2019 Most Traditional Tree Award"** for our participation in the **Heidrea for Heroes** fund



Roxanne Bungert  
MWC President  
2018-2020

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## Cancellations

Due to the sharp restriction on daily life, the Mattapoissett Woman's Club and its Board of Directors voted to **cancel the Annual Meeting on April 16, 2020, the Sheryl Faye performance.**

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club regrets to inform you that the 20/20 Perfect Vision Garden Tour scheduled for this June is canceled. In order to be in compliance with the Federal, State and C.D.C. guidelines and in keeping everyone safe, the garden tour will be scheduled for June 2021, date to be determined.

The Garden Tour committee wishes to thank the home owners who volunteered their gardens to be displayed in this year's tour and hope they will join in for the 2021 tour. We also want to thank the members who volunteered to be a captain for an assigned garden and all the members who volunteer on the day of the tour greeting our hundreds of visitors to each of the gardens. Your show of enthusiasm and vigor is what makes the tour such a great success.

We wish you a Healthy and Safe summer.

The Garden Tour Committee

*Kathy McAuliffe, Mary O'Keefe, Marie Rottler, Karen Gardner, Kathy Saunders, Carolyn Price, Erin Burlinson, Sue Mitchell, Marianne Hickey*

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

*Continued from page 1*

raising project at the Hyannis Cape Cod Mall and also **placing third in our floral contribution to the Newport Flower Show** last June to which we have been invited to participate this year. **Great Decisions** was held this winter and, by all accounts, was as successful as in past years. Thank you, **Ellen Flynn**, for heading up this worthwhile contribution for the participants of this program for the past 13 years!

Our Club has created a new position for three auditors and, through those volunteers, an audit was completed and our "books" were found to be in order! Also, a grateful thank you to **Jan Hubley for volunteering to become the Club historian**, a position that has been re-instated.

Our **Assistant Treasurer, Lois Ennis, received the annual Keel Award** which is sponsored by the Wanderer, our local newspaper. Congratulations, Lois, on this well-deserved distinction.

Thanks to our member, Cindy Turse, for creating our Facebook page and for seeing that all pertinent information regarding our Club is posted for all to see throughout the year.

Last year was the first year that the **"PATHWAY TO PLANTING"** passport project was started. We are still considering making this our "second annual" of this fundraiser but are waiting to see if we will be able to shop at the designated garden centers come May.

The **CARE PACKAGE Project** was introduced at the October meeting with a rousing response. So far this calendar year we have sent numerous boxes of requested items to our military women serving in far off lands. I have products waiting to be sent once this pandemic has passed. I would like to send a huge thank you to those of you who answered the call and donated those items requested.

I am forever grateful for and to the entire Board of Officers and Board of Directors for their undying support during the past two years. Whatever the request, each and every member was supportive and willing to give constructive or supportive criticism toward any suggestion made. Thank you, Ladies, for your support and for making my job as your president easier. I knew that I could always count on you to have my back. A great big thank you to all of the chairmen of the standing committees and groups. (You can find their individual names on page 8 of our Blue Book). All of these women have contributed to the smooth running of the Club and we would not be the same without them. Lastly, I would like to thank those ladies who volunteered to be **Tea Chairwomen** of our monthly meetings. Through their endeavors of organizing those teas we were treated to delicious luncheons where we were able to enjoy each other's company and friendships. Not forgetting **Madeline Reid and her committee, (and Santa)**, for making our **Holiday Luncheon** a most enjoyable beginning to our individual holiday celebrations. My sincere thank you to all of you.

In closing, I would like to single out **Charlie Dupont and crew** and **members of our Garden Group** for helping to make the **Suzanne Sylvester Memorial Garden** a reality. Thanks to **Jim Stevens from Gifts to Give** for being so supportive of our Club for not only donating mugs for the containers of our



*2019 Scholarship Awardees.*

*L to R: Julia Cabral, Roxanne Bungert, president  
Mattapoisett Woman's Club, and Rosemary Loer.*

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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individual table decorations at our Holiday Luncheon but for also donating a carton of 20 boxes of 125 each disposable face masks for our **CARE PACKAGE Project**. As all of those face masks were not distributed to the CARE

PACKAGE Project, I took it upon myself to donate them, through a doctor in my neighborhood, to the medical profession during this extreme dire need for medical equipment. I am sure that Jim would be most supportive and understanding of my decision.

Last, but by no means least, I would like to mention my appreciation to all who supported my **Daffodil Project**. Through the efforts of many we were able to plant over **1500 King Alfred daffodil bulbs** in various locations around our beautiful seaside town! My starting point was approaching **Mr. Gagne, the Town Administrator**, to obtain the support and permission of the Town to plant on Town property. Overwhelming permission and support were received and the next person to approach was **Barry Denham, our town Highway Surveyor**. Barry was instantly supportive and, when the time came, he and his crew prepared the sites for planting and mulched those designated areas after planting! **The Lion's Club** was most generous with a monetary contribution when approached for their support as well as the generosity of **Mahoney's Building Supply** for donating 10 bags of soil to be used in planting the bulbs. Thanks to our **Barb VanInwegen** for being my driving force for the project and for purchasing and selling bulbs to our Club members to further the spring display of these daffodils. When this project was just an idea, back in the spring of 2019, who could have known that this spring, when some of the first signs of spring are pushing their way out of the earth, that our world would be in this turmoil. All of our personal lives have been turned upside down and we are being tested as to the strength of our wills. My wish is that the commitment to each other of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club will help us to wage the war of this virus and that you all remain safe and healthy through this entire pandemic and in the days to follow.

At the risk of having left anyone out of my appreciation listing, I would like to thank each and every member of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club for their support in keeping the Club true to the original goals of the founders back in October of 1941. Our new, very colorful logo (thank you Deb Nettles for the design of the logo and for our monthly, very colorful, Ladies Choice) highlights the four rays of our organization and the reasons why we exist. Remember that we are here performing civic, social, educational and philanthropic endeavors. Here's to keeping those four rays of light burning!

In appreciation and  
with fondness,

Roxanne Bungert  
*President, MWC*



*Our Garden Group made the Suzanne Sylvester Memorial Garden a reality.*

***“There can never be peace between nations until it is first known that true peace is within the souls of men.”***  
Native American Proverb



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Garden Group

April is here, the Garden Group has cancelled the meeting where Chef Colby Rottler, husband of member Marie Rottler was to cook a delicious lunch for us and talk about cooking with a variety of vegetables and herbs. He has offered to answer any cooking questions for us, so as we each await the end of our individual isolations, send any questions to me, (Sandy) or send them from the MWC website where they will be forwarded to Chef Colby.

It is so good to see the efforts of the MWC last fall with the Daffodils around town. In other years we have had trips to Parsons Reserve in Dartmouth to see the displays, but this year, along with so many other events, the Reserve is closed.

Yet there are so many other things to keep gardeners happy during these times. You will notice the library planters have been cleaned up by Sharon Doyon, who kept her social distancing by doing them herself. Barb Van Inwegen and I cleaned and planted the Post Office window boxes at the end of March by doing it after hours and keeping our social distance. Soon the triangle garden can be cleaned up by any volunteers, avoiding the beautiful daffodil foliage, and once the daffodils around town have completed their flowering, the flowers need to be deadheaded, leaving the foliage intact to preserve their life for next year.

And then we have our gardens surrounding our homes to tend to. As I try to find a silver lining to the Corona virus, I am imagining our lawns and gardens looking spectacular this



Sandy Hering  
Garden Group  
Co-Chair



*Sandy Hering's Solitary Bee house*

late spring and into summer. Easy to keep our social distancing by working in our yards!

A new project that I would like to share with all is my solitary bee house that I just installed in my backyard. Solitary bees are the native bees that do not live in colonies like the European Honey Bee. They are great pollinators and are not prone to stinging us as they do their work. I found a great website on the subject: <https://joegardener.com/podcast/solitary-bees/>

Here's a picture of my bee house in which I hope the bees will find in my backyard this year:

Until May, stay home, stay healthy and enjoy your gardens!

Sandy Hering

## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Literature Group

The planned meeting on Wednesday, April 8 has been cancelled.  
The discussion book is "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles.

The trip to The Cape Cod Museum in Dennis on Wednesday, May 13  
will be determined closer to date.

The first meeting in the Fall will be in September with the discussion book  
"The Lonesome Dove" by Larry McMurtry.

If you are looking for something to do while you are at home, read a book!  
Here are some book suggestions that were not chosen for our meetings  
this year.

*"First"* by Sandra Day O'Connor

*"The Ruthless River"* by Holly Fitzgerald

*"Into the Raging Sea"* by Rachel Slade

*"The Only Woman in the Room"* by Hedy Lamar

*"The Reluctant Fundamentalist"* by Mohsin Hamid



Peg Olney  
*Literature Group Chair,*  
*Ladies Choice Editor*  
1998 - 2018



*Daffodils in front of the Town Hall.*

*The signs were made by Village Signs with Jim Bungert attaching the aluminium posts and helping to install them in the ground. Photo by Roxanne Bungert.*



## Daffodils Illuminate Mattapoissett

The dancing, fluttering flowers seem to stretch endlessly along Mattapoissett's roads, fields, historic buildings and intersections. Daffodils are everywhere filling hearts with pleasure.

To bring her vision of beauty and joy to Mattapoissett, Roxanne Bungert, president of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club, embarked on a colossal project; the planting of more than 1,500 daffodil bulbs across Town.

Many club members and their husbands helped in the endeavor, Barry Denham's DPW crew softened the ground to receive the daffodil bulbs, Mahony's Building Supply generously provided countless bags of soil and the Lions Club generous financial support was immensely appreciated.

The principle Ms. Bungert's daffodil plantings teach is to move toward our goals and desires, one step at a time. When we multiply tiny pieces of time with small increments of effort, we too will find we can accomplish magnificent things. Ms. Bungert's idea created something of indescribable magnificence, beauty and inspiration.

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club invites everyone to enjoy the dancing flowers especially during this sharp restriction on our daily life, and we wish everyone health and safety during this unprecedented and challenging time managing the coronavirus pandemic.

*Photos by Karen Gardner and Richard Van Inwegen*



*Daffodils at Aucoot Road March 2020*



*Planting bulbs in Oct 2019 Aucoot Cove*



*Planting daffodil bulbs at the Mattapoissett Library October 2019*



*Daffodils at Mattapoissett Library March 2020*





*Daffodils blooming around town!*

*Top left: Outside Mattapoissett Library.*

*Top right: Median at River Road and Acushnet Road*

*Middle left: Gazebo at Shipyard Park*

*Middle right: Aucoot Road*

*Bottom left: Daffodils and daylilies*

*Bottom right:*





## Treasurer Report

Since our Annual Meeting will most likely be cancelled this year due to the corona virus, I want to share some of the financial highlights of the year. (My full annual report will be on file if anyone wants to review our finances in greater detail.)

Here's our "fun" financial story of the year:

- We raised almost \$18,000.00 (gross) this year. This is especially notable since we did not have a Garden Tour this past summer. (As you know, the Garden Tour can bring in an additional \$5,000.00 or more every other year.)
- We spent about \$19,500. (Final report will be done by mid-April.)
- **TASTE OF THE TOWN** - raised \$5473.56 net profit thanks to Lois Ennis, Eileen Marum, and the MWC crew that set up, cleaned up, arranged floral arrangements, planned, and staffed the event.
- **PIE SALE** - raised \$1092.00 net profit thanks to Lois Ennis, and all the ladies who hosted pie parties including Peg Olney/Kathy McAuliffe, Barb VanInwegen, Betty Parker, Sharon Doyon, and all who sliced, rolled, crimped, baked, stored, sold, and bought the pies.
- **PATHWAYS TO PLANTING** - raised \$437.64 net profit with this 2019 spring fundraiser thanks to Barb VanInwegen, Roxanne Bungert, Sue Mitchell and everyone else who bought, sold, and distributed the discounted garden "passports".
- **100 YEARS VOTING RIGHTS CANVAS BAGS** - we have sold 76 totes (donated 1 to our troops) and raised 250.00 net profit thus far. We still have 23 totes left which should bring in an additional \$345.00. Thanks to Roxanne Bungert for the inspiration.
- **MWC DUES** - we have brought in \$2175.00. Thanks to Lois Ennis for keeping track of our members and compiling all the information that goes into the blue book.
- **MEETINGS** - we raised about \$2780.00. Most of this went to self-funded Christmas and Annual luncheons for our members. How fun! Thanks to Madeleine Reid, Barb Van Inwegen, Marianne Hickey, and Karen Gardner for organizing these events.
- **GREAT DECISIONS** - raised \$976.00, spent \$858 to date and plans to make a donation to the Mattapoissett Library with any leftover funds. Thanks to Ellen Flynn and Barb Van Inwegen for coordinating this informative program.
- **BELLS OF REMEMBRANCE** still has \$743 left which will be used to support our Troops and/or Veterans next year. Thanks to Mary O'Keefe for obtaining these donations.
- **SCHOLARSHIPS** - \$6000.00 in scholarships were awarded this year to Julia Cabral (\$2500.), Rosemary Loer (\$2500.), and Tory Saltmarsh (\$1000.). Thanks to our Scholarship Committee consisting of RuthAnn Walega, Myra Hart, and Carole Clifford for making this happen.
- **TOWN BEAUTIFICATION** - \$726.61 was spent on spring, summer, fall, and winter floral arrangements for the Town. Thanks go to the Garden Group headed by Sandy Hering and Karen Gardner. The PO window boxes, Library, Historical Museum, Logo, and Town Hall were seasonally decorated. A commemorative garden was also completed this year at Center School in memory of Suzanne Sylvester, a former MWC member and teacher.



- **LITERATURE GROUP** donated \$77.00 to the Library. Special thanks to Peg Olney and the Literature Group for their donation year after year.
- **GARDEN GROUP** donated \$100.00 to Friends Meeting House for use of their Community Hall. Thanks gardeners!
- **NEWPORT FLOWER SHOW** - \$182.19 was donated to purchase plantings for this show. Garden Group members Susan Perkins, Sharon Doyon, Kathy McAuliffe, and Elaine Botelho worked together and earned 3rd place for their arrangement. You make us proud!
- **HEIDREAS FOR HEROES** - \$171.34 was donated to decorate a Christmas tree and wreath for this organization's fundraiser. Special thanks to Sharon Doyon, Susan Perkins, Kathy McAuliffe, Roxanne Bungert, Sue Mitchell, and Gifts to Give for donating supplies.
- **DONATIONS TO VARIOUS NON-PROFITS** ranged from \$50.00- \$200 totaling \$3229.00 this year. Special thanks to ALL our MWC members for paying your dues, working on programs, sharing your ideas, donating your time, and making our Club prosper in spirit and soul.

**THANKS also to Lois Ennis and Elaine Grant** for handling the mail, keeping track of dues and other deposits, and mailing out donation letters. You make my job easier.

I am sure there are many more names of members whose talents I have forgotten to mention. Please forgive me. Your deeds are equally valued. **It was another remarkable year thanks to YOU!**

### A note from the Treasurer:

First of all, I want to thank all our MWC members for their warm thoughts, emails, acts of kindness, and notes of encouragement during this difficult time. The corona virus has brought our activities to a standstill, yet our members remain strong in spirit and (most) of our daffodils are blooming!

Although the national economy is spiraling downward, the MWC's finances remain stable. At this time, we don't know if we can hold our spring and summer fundraisers. However, even if we receive no further funds, we will still have enough money to pay out \$8500.00 in scholarships in August. We have 3 CD's totaling approximately \$11,500.00 and approximately \$5300.00 in our checking account now.

In March we made donations of \$1875.00 to 14 non-profits. These donations were approved by our membership at the February meeting and

brings our total donations to non-profits to \$3229.00 this year. I am sure these organizations need the money now more than ever.

Lastly, I'll agree to stay on as Treasurer for another year since no one else has volunteered or been nominated. As always, if you have any questions or concerns about our finances, feel free to contact me.

Working with the club has been a pleasure. There are so many kind-hearted, smart, ambitious women here. Together, at a social distance, we will get through this.

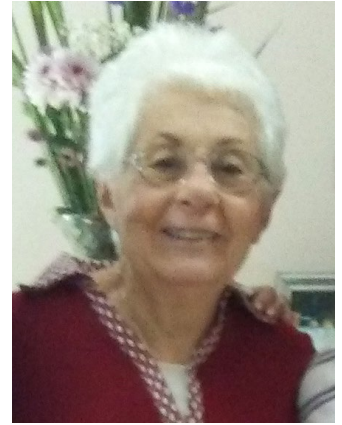
Stay well.  
Sue Mitchell



Suzan Mitchell  
*Treasurer*

## Corresponding Secretary Report March 2020

- A thank you letter was sent to our February speaker, Luana Josvold of the Southcoast League of Women Voters.
- Received a donation from Club member Alice Williams for the Tea Committee.
- A welcome letter was sent to our March speaker, Diane Gilbert of the Dartmouth Heritage Preservation Trust.
- The March meeting has been canceled due to the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Newsletter was received from Mattapoissett Land Trust.



Elaine Grant  
*Corresponding Secretary*

Our annual donations were sent out, as follows:

- \$200 Mattapoissett Historical Museum
- \$150 Gifts to Give, The Women's Center, Sister 2 Sister and YWCA Southeastern MA
- \$125 Child & Family Services, Mattapoissett COA, Mattapoissett Land Trust, Mattapoissett Library Trust, ORCTV, Veterans Transition House, YMCA Southcoast and Showstoppers
- \$75 Fairhaven Neighborhood News

Respectfully Submitted,  
Elaine Grant, Corresponding Secretary.

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## Spring has sprung at the Mattapoissett Post Office





## Open letter from Eileen J. Marum

With the coronavirus pandemic accelerating, the recent stay at home advisory, and the overnight evaporation of traffic congestion, many of us took advantage of the free time for the comforting experience of grocery shopping. Despite all the lockdowns and social-distancing measures across SouthCoast, people still need food.

On a sunny Monday, I embarked upon the big box grocery store in Fairhaven and mingled among the many gloved, goggled, masked and gowned shoppers. We practiced the new dance step social distancing amidst vegetables, pastries, dairy products and greeting cards.

Except now, as I take in the broader view of this “new normal” shopping and dancing experience, it morphed into a kind of unsettling event, bordering on the apocalyptic—shopping in personal protective gear!

Driving home, I mused over the “new normal” shopping experience, the grocery-store workers, the enhanced daily cleanliness and sanitation protocols, the safety and quantity of our food supply, the safety of merely shopping, climate change, future pandemics and the empty store shelves.

At this point, there is no reason to believe food supplies are limited. The Department of Agriculture in February projected record meat and dairy production in 2020, and the production of feed grains and oilseeds were projected to increase over prior-year levels. The major challenge over the next few weeks is ensuring an adequate labor force. Not only is the coronavirus pandemic impacting businesses that process and distribute food, but farmers too would be impacted by labor shortages as consulates suspend or limit services to only certain H-2 workers for an unknown amount of time. If there are not enough farmworkers to plant the crop now, we will not see a harvest in a few months.

What could the SouthCoast be in for, exactly, urban farming perhaps? Could all flower gardens become thriving areas of food production? Who knows?

Eileen J. Marum



Eileen J. Marum  
*Publicity Chairperson,  
Program Director*



## Ladies Choice Contributors



Marie Rottler  
*Recording Secretary  
Website Manager,  
Ladies Choice Manager*



Karen Gardner  
*Garden Group Co-Chair,  
Photographer*



Cindy Turse  
*Social Cocktail Group,  
Facebook Manager,  
Photographer*

## MWC Scholarships

Due to school closings, the Scholarship Committee has changed the deadline for applications to April 30, 2020.

Applications are available at  
[mattapoissettwomens-club.org](http://mattapoissettwomens-club.org)

The updated information has been relayed to newspapers, guidance counselors and Facebook.

### Officers

#### President

Roxanne Bungert

#### Vice President

Carole Clifford

#### Recording Secretary

Marie Rottler

#### Corresponding Secretary

Elaine Grant

#### Treasurer

Suzan Mitchell

#### Assistant Treasurer

Lois K. Ennis

#### Membership, Dues

Lois K. Ennis

### Board of Directors

2020 Marianne Hickey

2021 Kathy McAuliffe

2022 Judy Livolsi

### Committee Chairpersons

#### Publicity

Eileen Marum

#### Photographer

Karen Gardner

#### Ladies' Choice

Debra Nettles

#### Hospitality

Erin Burlinson

#### Program Director

Eileen Marum

#### Remembrances

Lea Yeaton

#### Devotions

Carole Clifford

#### Historian

Jan Hubley

### Conservation & Community Service

#### Garden Group

Karen Gardner

Sandy Hering

#### Great Decisions

Ellen Flynn

#### Arts Chairman

Peg Olney

### Education Chairperson

2020 Ruth Ann Walega

2021 Myra Hart

2022 Linda Clifford

### Social Activities Chairpersons

#### Bridge 1

Betty Parker

#### Bridge 2

Jackie Slade

#### Knitting

Marie Rottler

#### Literature Group

Peg Olney

#### Social Cocktail Group

Cindy Turse

#### Welcome New Members

Marianne Hickey

Judy Livolsi

Madeline Reid

Join our FACEBOOK Group to keep informed of all MWC news & events!



**JOIN NOW!**



## Special announcement for Mattapoisett Woman's Club Members



**Pansies and Violas for sale starting April 4th**  
*Other annuals and vegetable plants will be available soon!*

All plants for sale will be out in front and priced.  
*The back area will not available to public. Appointment only at this time.*  
A **red self-serve payment box** is out front for cash and local checks.

If you would like **to place an order** and/or **use a credit card**  
for payment call **Jilly** at **508.758.4409** **Venmo\*** also accepted.

Orders will be left for curbside pickup.  
*For those who are unable to go out delivery is available for MWC Members.*

*In order to supply our customers in a safe and responsible manner  
we ask that you observe all distancing recommendations when visiting.  
And remember... wash your hands!*

Thank you.  
Jilly & Paul

[Jilly@greatscapesnursery.com](mailto:Jilly@greatscapesnursery.com)    [Paul@greatscapesnursery.com](mailto:Paul@greatscapesnursery.com)



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\*The Venmo app is available from the  
App Store or Google Play.  
[Learn more about Venmo](#)