



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

February 2023
VOLUME LXI No. 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

As an all volunteer member club, the Woman's Club is often asking you and all members to once again, volunteer. We ask that every member who is physically able, to volunteer at their assigned hostess committee to prepare our monthly meeting luncheon. We ask for volunteers to decorate the town, plant daffodils, sell garden tour tickets and Passports for Planting, serve food at Taste of the Town, bake pies and the list keeps on going. We ask for your donations of time, energy and money. And as we keep asking, our members keep giving. People smarter than me have put their thoughts about volunteering into words better than I can:

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." ~ Margaret Mead

Just before the pandemic began, we added a page to the MWC website called "Volunteer Opportunities," with the intent to list new and different volunteer ideas for all to view and decide what works for you and your ongoing commitments. Well, we know how effective that was during lockdown and the continuing isolation of the pandemic. But now, through the efforts of member Mary O'Keefe, an outstanding volunteer herself, we will look to populate this monthly newsletter and the website with new and different ideas for volunteering in our communities. No one can do them all, but we can look often for new ideas and needs to see what fits with each of our own skills and availabilities. Better yet, if you have an idea to post for volunteers to consider, pass it along to Mary for her to add it to our publications. Look for Mary's article on page 4 of this newsletter and in future editions.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." ~ Helen Keller

Finally, this month we have a very interesting speaker at our luncheon, talking about a fine organization, the Buzzards Bay Coalition. See article on page 4. The Coalition, as it is known to many of us, is doing good work that affects all of us. Not just the water that we swim in and enjoy for recreation, but the water which we drink is kept cleaner because of the work the Coalition does. I hope you can join us as we meet on the 16th of February.

Best wishes,
Sandra Hering
MWC President



Sandra Hering
President, MWC

Mark your calendars!

Garden Group

Wednesday, February 1
10:00am

Literature Group

Wednesday, February 8
9:30am

Bridge Group

Tuesday, February 14 & 28
1:00pm

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9
10:00am

HOW DID I GET TO THE MWC?

My name is Christine Voss, I co-chair membership with Sharon Doyon and I was asked to introduce myself for February's newsletter.

My first home is London, England but I am lucky enough to say my second home is Mattapoissett, MA. Michael, my husband of 49 yrs and I moved from London to New York and then to Rowayton, CT where we raised our daughter, Johanna and son, Douglas. Johanna, 43 yrs old, lives in Denver, CO and owns a Talent Agency for female, Latino influencers and Douglas, 41 yrs old, lives in Rye, NH when he is not shipping out or deployed as a Merchant Marine Captain/Chief Mate or USCGR Commander.

So how did we find Mattapoissett and the MWC you might wonder? In 1999 looking to down-size and recognizing health issues looming we decided to move to Mattapoissett to be closer to Michael's family, who are scattered around Massachusetts and New Hampshire. It was one of our best decisions; the second best was joining Mattapoissett Woman's Club after I retired in 2015. Although I was a guest many times at the MWC through my job responsibilities, there was never a time when I felt "just a guest." I can truly say besides old friendships from England and CT, the majority of my Massachusetts women friendships originated from the MWC. The diversity of their membership combined with life experiences and their zest to live life to the fullest is the jewel of the club.

Pre covid I was an active member in the garden club, evening socials, trips, Taste of the Town, Garden Tours, walking group and pickle ball group. But now as a full time caregiver my free time is limited. So I jumped at the chance to co-chair membership with Sharon as I love meeting new people, connecting with the membership and spreading the word about MWC.

If you see me around town, walking my rescue dog, riding my bike or launching my kayak, please stop and say hello. And if you have a friend or neighbor who is interested in the MWC, call me or drop me a text. 508 717 9454.

I am looking forward to seeing you at the next luncheon.

Christine Voss





Marion Natural History Museum

—NATURALLY CURIOUS—

Marion Museum of Natural History Upcoming Programs

Marion Museum of Natural History is offering interesting, thought-provoking, educational programs this winter.

8 Spring Street, Marion, MA

508-748-2098 info@marionmuseum.org

Hours: Wednesday 12:00 - 4:00 pm Friday 12:00 - 2:00 pm

Winter Walk at Washburn Park

February 15, 2023 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Marion Natural History Museum

Plan to meet at Washburn Park where we will join the Marion Natural History Museum and **Service Forester James Rassman** for a walk around Washburn Park and learn to identify various tree and shrub species using their bark and buds.

We will be walking through fields and forest habitat so please dress accordingly.

Please go online to register for this program:

marionmuseum.org/event/winter-walk-at-washburn-with-the-marion-natural-history-museum



MWC News & Information

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering is a way to meet our Club's commitment to Civic involvement. One opportunity is to serve as a companion at the Marion COA's Memory Cafe which meets every Wednesday, from 11:30 am to 2 pm at their Community Center on Route 6. Lunch is followed by entertainment or a project from 1 to 2. You would stay with a participant during lunch and socialization. This gives the caretaker a chance to chat with others, or take a break, if at home.

If a small group of us could sign up to take a Wednesday when able, we could make a difference. A CORI is required.

Fairhaven also offers the same program once a month at their COA.

The Mattapoissett COA has a need for visitors and callers to our elderly.

For more details contact the town's COA or Mary O'Keefe at 758-2801.

FEBRUARY 16 MEMBER LUNCHEON

Mark your calendars for February 16th when our featured speaker will be Ms. Korinn Peterson, Esq., who will discuss her advocacy work on behalf of the Buzzards Bay Coalition to SAVE BUZZARDS BAY.



FEBRUARY 16 TEA COMMITTEE

The February 16 Tea Committee is as follows:

Jen Shepley, Hostess, Ann Butler, Jan Campos, Bethany Couto, Betty Dawson, Alison Henderson, Maureen Kelly, Debra Ketner, Corine Marlow, Pat McCarthy, Peg Olney, Laura Von Zweck, Maureen Welsh and Lorri Woodacre. The duties of the committee are found on page 48 of our handbook.

Please note that if you are unable to assist it is your responsibility to get a substitute or make a \$10 donation.

Two ways to donate to the MWC Scholarship Fund.

[Click here to donate online](#) OR mail this form with your check

payable to MWC to: MWC Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box Box 1444, Mattapoissett, MA 02739

For over 80 years MWC has been helping young people pursue their educational goals by awarding scholarships to high school seniors from Mattapoissett.

Please help keep this community tradition alive.

Any amount is greatly appreciated.

\$10 \$25 \$50 \$100 Other _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

MWC News & Information

REMINDER: START YOUR SPRING CLEANING EARLY

This year's TAG SALE will be held on Saturday, May 6, 2023 (raindate May 7) from 9:00am -12:00pm at the parking lot next to Ying Dynasty. All proceeds will benefit the Scholarship Fund as well as other local charitable organizations supported by the Club.

Items needed:

- Kitchen and housewares
- Outdoor camping and sports equipment
- Books (limit 10)
- Collectibles
- Gardening tools
- Pots
- Tools
- Beach chairs and small rafts as well as sand toys
- Framed art prints
- There will be a Christmas Decor table.

All items should be clean, in good condition and priced by you. Items will be accepted from MWC members only. MWC reserves the right to refuse unsuitable items. All unsold items, unless specified by you, will be donated.

If you will be providing items, do you need a table and will you manage that table during the sale?

Volunteers will be needed for various tasks during the sale and sign-up sheets will be available at the monthly meetings.

Questions/concerns? Contact Linda Clifford at 508-758-5306 or tilly_ralph@hotmail.com.

~ Linda Clifford

Executive Board Meeting
at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9 • 10:00AM

GIFTS TO GIVE

MWC member Mary O'Keefe volunteers regularly at Gifts to Give and tells us that the need for children's clothing is so acute that they are behind in putting orders together. Currently, they are over 200 orders behind! In fact, as she volunteered last week, there were NO clothing pieces at all in 3T sizes for the orders which she was trying to fill. When asked what any of us can do to help, she had great ideas.

1. Donate clothing in any children's sizes, which many of us have done. There is a box for your donations at each of our monthly meetings.
2. Here's a new idea: Come to Gifts to Give and take a tour of the facility to see if you might wish to spend several hours volunteering. They can accommodate tours almost anytime, (see hours listed below), but Tuesday at 10 AM is especially a good time for a tour. Maybe you have a friend who would like to come with you, or come by yourself, but Mary wants everyone to know that there are two flights of stairs to climb up to get to the volunteer areas.

If you have questions, Mary is happy to take your calls to answer them. The volunteer activities might be selecting orders as she does, sorting clothing, or cleaning toys and dolls, to name a few. If you have a few hours to spare it is a worthwhile cause that helps many families in our towns.

Gifts to Give hours of operation:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9am - 5pm
Wednesday and Saturday 9am - 2pm
Closed Sunday



OUR SUPER HERO

Mac Martin Couto joined our family on 10/11/22, at 1:36am weighing 8lbs 6oz! Labor was only 2 hours and 4 minutes and with 10 minutes to go on our drive to the hospital Mac started coming out! The nurses were outside waiting for us when we arrived and as soon as they got me into a room out popped the baby. I'm still laughing about it 3.5 months later!



Big brother Leo adjusted well and seems to really love his little brother except for the occasional poke or squeeze. Mac has been a pretty easy baby (like Leo!) and has also been a champion sleeper. He first slept through the night at 8 weeks old!

Just like when I was pregnant with Leo, I was able to continue running with Mac right up until he was born. I was able to resume running a couple weeks later. Mac experienced his first trip to Disney World at just 12 weeks old because mommy had to go keep her "Goofy's Challenge" half and full marathon streak alive. Goofy's Challenge takes place during Disney's Marathon Weekend and is the half marathon on Saturday, followed by the full marathon on Sunday. I'm one of 56 people who have completed all 18 Goofy's Challenges. It's something I have done every January since I was 20. Of course, running a marathon at 12 weeks postpartum is not recommended but I wanted to keep my streak alive. My husband also ran the marathon (I beat him by almost an hour). Both Leo and Mac were excellent travelers and we all had a wonderful time. If you see me in the center of town running with the stroller, or just walking around with the boys, feel free to come say hello and meet Mac!



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

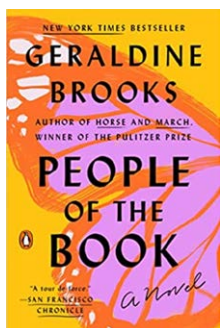
Wednesday, February 8 9:30 am

The February meeting of the Literature Group will be on Wednesday, February 8, 9:30 am, at the home of Alice Openshaw, 3 Channing Road. Note that this is a change of location from that announced at the last meeting. Please contact Alice if you are planning to attend. The discussion book for February is "People of the Book" by Geraldine Brooks. We are looking forward to another lively discussion! Questions? Contact **Peg Olney** for more information at pegolney@verizon.net or call 508-758-2531.



Peg Olney

Literature Group Chair,
Ladies Choice Publisher
1998 - 2018
& Current Editor



Inspired by a true story, People of the Book is a novel of sweeping historical grandeur and intimate emotional intensity by an acclaimed and beloved author. Called "a tour de force" by the San Francisco Chronicle, this ambitious, electrifying work traces the harrowing journey of the famed Sarajevo Haggadah, a beautifully illuminated Hebrew manuscript created in fifteenth-century Spain. When it falls to Hanna Heath, an Australian rare-book expert, to conserve this priceless work, the series of tiny artifacts she discovers in its ancient binding—an insect wing fragment, wine stains, salt crystals, a white hair—only begin to unlock its deep mysteries and unexpectedly plunges Hanna into the intrigues of fine art forgers and ultranationalist fanatics.



March "The Wedding Veil" by Kristy Woodson Harvey
April "The Last White Man" by Mohsin Hamid

Bridge Group Tuesday, February 14 & 28, 1:00pm

The February hostesses for Bridge are Betty Parker on the 14th and Ann Butler on the 28th. We look forward to Carol Atkinson re-joining our sessions. Please contact Elaine Grant if you are interested in being a sub.

Interest in starting an evening bridge group has been expressed. If this appeals to you, please call Elaine Grant.



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Wednesday, February 1, 10:00 am

Mattapoisett Public Library Community Room

After a brief business meeting, Librarian Michelle Skaar, Adult Services and Reference, will share some background on the library's seed catalog. Our group will help her by packing seeds for this year.

Visitors and new members are always welcome.

The GG is open to all Mattapoisett Woman's Club members. If you would like to join the Garden Group, please contact Cindy Turse or Karen Brackett. Dues are \$10/year.

Social Cocktail Group

On Saturday, January 21, over thirty people gathered for our Winter Social at Robin Lepore's. Food contributions were wonderful and conversation flowed. Those of us who don't migrate south enjoyed having a social event to anticipate following December's frenzies. We welcomed some new club members and appreciated the time to talk with many of the "veterans." It was also fun to see the men in sufficient numbers enjoying the evening as well.

Be sure to be on the lookout for the date of the Spring Social so you can mark your calendars!



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Woman's Club Walks

Fridays 1:30 pm

At last, after too many weeks of rain on Fridays, the Walking Group was able to get out on January 27th. Let's hope that February will bring better weather on Fridays.

Our lead Walker, Erin Burlinson, communicates via email to those who have requested to be on her list. If you are interested in joining the fun, please contact Erin to be added to the list.



Knitting & Hand Crafts

Thursday, February 23 2:00- 4:00 pm

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club Knitting Group has expanded to include any sort of creative hand crafts. At past meetings we have seen crocheting, knitting embroidery and jewelry design.

Knitting & Hand Crafts is held on the 4th Thursday of the month from 2-4pm. Please look for an email from Marie Rottler for the location in February.

Questions? Contact **Marie Rottler** for more information about the group at mjrottler@comcast.net or call 508-828-8091



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair, Website

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Wednesdays 1:00pm - 3:00pm until March 8, 2023

This year is a banner year for interest and registration for The Great Decisions Program. We have members representing Mattapoisett and Marion and many outlying areas: from Acushnet, Buzzards Bay, New Bedford, Rochester, South Dartmouth, Wareham, even Bedford, MA. Each week this diverse group adds vibrant conversations to the topics during our discussions.

So far we have covered "Energy Geopolitics," "War Crimes (including Ukraine)" and "China and the U.S.," with a member chosen to lead the discussion with their synopsis of the chapter and any other outside readings they have discovered to share. Every person has an opportunity to speak; we allow three minutes per person. Group members offer diverse backgrounds, from educators to engineers, foreign service representatives, a pilot, and many well-traveled, extremely intelligent individuals. We are very fortunate to have such an energetic and enthusiastic quality group.

Topics to be covered are "Economic Warfare," "Politics in Latin America," "Global Famine," "Iran at a Crossroads," and "Climate Migration." We hope to have a guest speaker from Woodwell Climate Research Center (formerly Woods Hole Research Center, located in Woods Hole, MA.)

There are two ways to attend: either in person at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library or the Zoom platform. Jennifer Jones, Library Director, collaborates with us each week to provide the viewing of the 25-minute video film which corresponds with each topic, and the Zoom platform which consists of high technology with an immersive hybrid meeting with a 360-degree camera called an Owl, allowing all people to view each other on the screen. Jennifer and her helpful staff assist with any materials for each topic, room availability and any questions or concerns.

MWC member Marianne Hickey has been a fabulous help in offering the refreshments to share with the group each week.

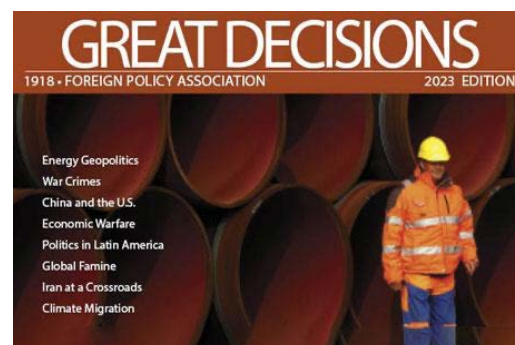
As you can see, we are in progress, and our MWC program offers a first-rate eight-week, two hours per week Educational and Community service covering Foreign Policy and International Relations. We work toward the goals of reaching informed decisions and having the opportunity to express opinions regarding the topics in our text, along with outside research.

Although MWC Great Decisions was started in the 1970s by Bobbie Ketchel and a handful of members, we have managed to run consecutively even during Covid, and I have enjoyed the pleasure of facilitating this program as Chair and Moderator since 2006.



Ellen Flynn

*Chair of Great Decisions,
Past MWC President,
and Director & Chair of
the Education Committee,
Mattapoisett Land Trust*



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Sharon Doyon

Christine Voss

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Bridge

Jackie Slade

Knitting

Marie Rottler

Literature Group

Peg Olney

Social Cocktail Group

Linda Clifford

Welcome

New Members

Marianne Hickey

Walking Group

Sandra Hering

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JOIN NOW!

