



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

October 2023
VOLUME LXII No. 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Our Woman's Club celebrated our Welcome Back Luncheon in September, see pictures and a write-up on Page 4 of this Ladies Choice. A great day to see friends and meet new ones.

Surprisingly though, many adults and children around the world describe their lives as lonely. According to the Surgeon General, Dr. Vivek Murthy, in his 81 page report titled "[*Our Epidemic of Loneliness and Isolation*](#)", loneliness is as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes a day and more lethal than consuming six alcoholic drinks a day! My conclusion is that our small club of a little more than 100 women in our small community on the south coast of Massachusetts has the ability to improve the lives of each of us, and we can do more to improve the lives of many more.

We are a Club of predominately aged women. Yes, we have several young women in our Club, but the truth is that our younger women seldom attend our Thursday meetings, with their busy schedules of career and child care consuming their time. Yet in one [*recent study*](#), young adults are twice as likely to be lonely than seniors. How can we become a Club that attracts and is of interest to women of all ages to find companionship, knowledge and purpose in their lives by joining the Mattapoissett Woman's Club? A survey that I gave to our members attending our Annual Luncheon last April asked for ideas for additional meeting times that might reach women who can't attend our monthly meetings. The ideas of a Sunday afternoon program during the cold winter months might interest some, or a breakfast meeting or an evening program or two in the fall or spring were suggested. Good ideas for us to toss around and maybe test the waters with. I would love to hear more ideas from you and am looking for a few women of the Club to brainstorm with me and others to meet in October around my kitchen table. Please consider adding your name to the task and email me at hering.sandra@gmail.com.

Until then, each of us can think of someone that we would like to introduce to our great Club and invite them to join us at our meeting on October 19th, or come to other MWC group events such as the Garden Group. Getting out amongst nice, kind people is a great goal for our health and longevity and I look forward to seeing even more of you at our October 19 meeting.

Best wishes,
Sandra Hering
MWC President



Sandra Hering
President, MWC

HOW DID I GET TO THE MWC?

I'm immensely grateful to Nancy Holland, my sister-in-law, for introducing me to both Mattapoissett and the Woman's Club.

I always enjoyed summers here with my late husband, Tom Dugan, his sister Nancy and her husband John and their extended family. John's own family had a home on Crescent Beach that familiarized the Dugan clan with Mattapoissett. Pretty soon many of us were spending time here.

My permanent residence is in lovely Sausalito, California, where it is surprisingly frigid in the summer when the scorching interior of California draws windy, wet fog over the coastal mountains into San Francisco Bay. So, for the past thirty years, Mattapoissett has served as a delightful base to catch up with family and enjoy the beach, clamming, sailing, biking, etc.

Early in our careers, Tom and I could only manage to come for a week or two as renters. Later, as we became more successful (Tom, as an entrepreneur; me as a journalist for W Magazine and Vanity Fair and then as a marketing executive for tech companies —Pixar, Adobe and Yahoo), we were able to buy a large sailboat that we kept in Newport. In the summer we'd sail to Mattapoissett harbor and live on her. Later, after sailing in Europe and selling the boat there, we bought a summer house in Mattapoissett and I retired to care for Tom during his long illness. When the stairs in our California home became impossible for him, we moved here full time and built a ground floor bedroom.

Tom passed away in that room in 2019 and, suddenly, after many years as a caregiver with hardly a moment to myself, I was completely alone. That's when Nancy suggested I come to a meeting of the Woman's Club. Everyone was so welcoming, and I joined on the spot. But soon after, Covid shut everything down and when it became safe to travel, I returned to my home and friends in California.

Summer in Mattapoissett is still very important to me and, as the Club reestablished a regular schedule, I've really enjoyed getting involved: planting daffodils, working on the Garden Tour, baking pies as a "Pie Captain" and staffing the Taste of the Town. Each fall before leaving for California, I also host a social cocktail gathering at my house. The Mattapoissett Woman's Club has introduced me to many, many wonderful people. It has helped me become a part of this community and I am delighted to be a member.

~ *Blaise Simpson*



Bringing a friend to the October Meeting?

Please let our membership team know in advance by contacting

Christine Voss or use our membership email at

membership@mattapoissettwomensclub.org

MWC News & Information

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Our featured speaker for our October 19th meeting will be Frances Feliz-Kearns, Mattapoissett's representative of the ORR District School Committee. She'll shed light on the importance of STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) education in our schools.

Come join us for this enlightening presentation.

We gather at 11am for socialization, followed by lunch and speaker, then business meeting.

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REMINDER: DAFFODIL FUNDRAISER

Our daffodil fundraiser is coming up in October. The order has been placed for 2,900 bulbs, with an expected delivery between September 25 and October 9.

Upon their arrival, we will be asking for volunteers, also known as the "Pistil Packin' Mamas," to package our bulbs at Ned's Point. The order this year consists of Mixed Daffodils—all colors and kinds—as well as our signature Trumpet Daffodil Improved King Alfred bulbs. New are the Mixed Daffodils which are a beautiful mixture of all types for naturalizing, having large and small cups, colors of solid yellows and whites, bi-colors of orange and white, yellow and white, orange and yellow, pink and white and even double-flowered varieties. We are excited to be offering these and will have a special promotion selling them with 16 bulbs in a bag for \$10 and our signature King Alfreds with 12 bulbs in a bag for \$10. Our selling strategy will be forthcoming.

Looking forward to a successful fundraiser to begin our new year!

~ Debbie Ward, Beth Inglis



OCTOBER 19 LUNCHEON TEA COMMITTEE

Ladies, please refer to pages 41 to 44 in your membership Blue Book. There you will find detailed instructions for your duties.

Hostess: Susan Perkins

Committee: Claudia J. Bobseine, Elaine Botelho, Diane Brown-Couture, Karen Gardner, Elaine Grant, Kristen Henriques, Jan Hubley, Barbara Jasmin, Robin Lepore, Kathy McAuliffe, Kristen McCormack, Roberta Oakley, Dottie Schwarz, Maureen St. Armand, Ruth Ann Walega

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September Meeting

More than 50 women enjoyed a sumptuous buffet on Thursday, September 21st at the Club's Annual Welcome Back Luncheon. If you couldn't make it, we missed you and hope to see you at upcoming meetings, which are held on the third Thursday of every month at Reynard Hall at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church on Church Street.

Following a loud and happy social time, present members were welcomed back, new members were recognized as were six Past-Presidents in attendance, and deceased members were remembered. After the Pledge of Allegiance and a few incidental announcements, lunch began at 11:30.

To the hostesses' delight, it took two lines, one down each side of the long buffet table, to allow everyone time to make their selections from a plethora of splendid salads, taste-tempting side dishes and sandwiches, and delicious desserts. Finally, with desserts and second cups of coffee and tea poured, a second mini-social time developed before the meeting was called to order at 12:54pm.

During the meeting, Past-president Carole Clifford graciously agreed to deliver an impromptu talk about the history of the Club and a look into where we are today based on all the groups' varied activities. Following Carole's remarks, individual Group Leaders were invited to introduce themselves and give a brief insight into their group's purpose and recent activities, while several other members spoke about their involvement in Club activities.

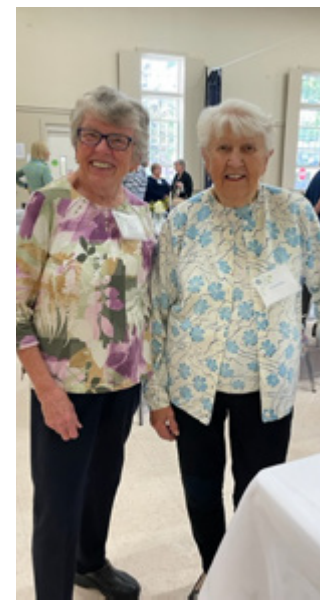
Minutes of existing Secretaries' and Treasurer's reports were passed into the Club's official records of business. Future business was covered under mention of several upcoming activities including bulb packing in late September/early October and a Ladies Who Lunch outing on Wednesday, September 27.

The meeting ended at 1:15 PM and was adjourned with wishes for a good month to come.

~ Kate Brown, Vice President

More meeting pictures on page 5





September Cocktail Social

The first Cocktail Social of the 2023-24 MWC season took place on Sunday, September 17 at the lovely home of Blaise Simpson. The weather was perfect, the food varied and delicious and all who attended had a wonderfully enjoyable time.

These Socials are held 3 or 4 times during the year April/May, September/October and January/February. The host chooses the date (a weekend day), usually 5-7PM. Attendees bring their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. It is a great way to gather and enjoy the company of other Club members and their guests.

Please consider hosting an evening so these gatherings can continue. For more information, please call Linda Clifford at 508-207-6572 or email tilly_ralph@hotmail.com Looking forward to hearing from you.

~ Linda Clifford



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, October 11 9:30 am

The Literature Group held its first meeting of the 2023-2024 year on September 13. Fifteen members were present. There are seventeen active members on our email list. We chose discussion books for the year and also discussed the size of the group. A very large group makes a good book discussion difficult and not everyone can host a meeting with many attendees.

The next meeting of the group will be on Wednesday, October 11, 9:30 am, at the home of Diane Brown-Couture, 8 Perry Avenue. At the meeting we will try to come to a decision on how to divide the group into smaller sections and also discuss our book selection for the month: "Say Nothing" by Patrick Radden Keefe. Until the problem of group size is resolved, we are not accepting any new members to the group.

Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

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



"Masked intruders dragged Jean McConville, a 38-year-old widow and mother of 10, from her Belfast home in 1972. In this meticulously reported book—as finely paced as a novel—Keefe uses McConville's murder as a prism to tell the history of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Interviewing people on both sides of the conflict, he transforms the tragic damage and waste of the era into a searing, utterly gripping saga." —New York Times Book Review

Jean McConville's abduction was one of the most notorious episodes of the vicious conflict known as The Troubles. Everyone in the neighborhood knew the I.R.A. was responsible. But in a climate of fear and paranoia, no one would speak of it. In 2003, five years after an accord brought an uneasy peace to Northern Ireland, a set of human bones was discovered on a beach. McConville's children knew it was their mother when they were told a blue safety pin was attached to the dress—with so many kids, she had always kept it handy for diapers or ripped clothes.

Patrick Radden Keefe's mesmerizing book on the bitter conflict in Northern Ireland and its aftermath uses the McConville case as a starting point for the tale of a society wracked by a violent guerrilla war, a war whose consequences have never been reckoned with. The brutal violence seared not only people like the McConville children, but also I.R.A. members embittered by a peace that fell far short of the goal of a united Ireland, and left them wondering whether the killings they committed were not justified acts of war, but simple murders.

From radical and impetuous I.R.A. terrorists such as Dolours Price, who, when she was barely out of her teens, was already planting bombs in London and targeting informers for execution, to the ferocious I.R.A. mastermind known as The Dark, to the spy games and dirty schemes of the British Army, to Gerry Adams, who negotiated the peace but betrayed his hardcore comrades by denying his I.R.A. past—Say Nothing conjures a world of passion, betrayal, vengeance, and anguish.

2023-24 Literature Group Book List

November: "Lessons in Chemistry" by Bonnie Garmus

December: "Outermost House" by Henry Beston

January: "The Martian" by Andy Weir

February: "The Winthrop Woman" by Anya Seton

March: "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett

April: "The Postcard" by Anne Berest

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Wednesday, October 4, 10:00 am

Mattapoisett Public Library Community Room



*Jennifer Anderson,
Tree Talk Natives*

Jennifer Anderson of "Tree Talk Natives" will be our speaker on October 4th at 10 AM. Her talk will include deer-resistant plants which will interest many of us. This Zoom presentation will be on the big screen in the Community Room at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. All are welcome. Bring your morning beverage and participate in the discussion, followed by a short business meeting. Anyone who's unable to attend the presentation can view at this Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84456857963>. For more information about Jennifer and her nursery check out her website at www.treetalknatives.com.

Debbie Ward has ordered bulbs for "**Daffodil Dreams**," our annual fall MWC Project/Fundraiser. This year we are selling bags of King Alfred bulbs and bags of mixed bulbs. All members are requested to provide support for this project by selling and purchasing bags of bulbs. In addition to making the bulbs available through our members, they will be available for purchase at Pen & Pendulum. We are grateful to Sue Hovasse of Pen & Pendulum for supporting our club in many fundraising endeavors.

Native Plant Seed Starting: Sandy Hering & Barb Van Inwegen have scheduled a workshop in the Library on January 20th from 10 to noon to demonstrate how to sow native perennial seeds in milk jugs. This workshop will underscore the importance of growing native plants for our native insects and birds. This project is done in collaboration with the Mattapoisett Land Trust.

Our **Annual Wreath and Greens Sale** is scheduled for December 2nd in Ying's parking lot. Prior to 12/2, there will be several holiday workshops to create bows and small ornaments for sale. Immediately after Thanksgiving, volunteers will be meeting in barns to make wreaths, swags, centerpieces, and other inspired creations.

Anyone can participate in the workshops, or donate materials and containers. There will be lots of informative emails as the season approaches.

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays 1:00 pm

Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street

Our Mah Jongg partnership with the Council on Aging started off strong in the late spring and has ebbed and flowed like the tides, over the summer. We anticipate active participation as the fall begins. The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Contact Mary Dermody, marydermody@me.com
610-937-7455 for questions or if you are interested in attending instruction sessions, which are held periodically.



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

October Lunch TBD

In August our much enjoyed lunch experience kept us local with a trip to *Fathom's Restaurant* on the waterfront in New Bedford. We chose to eat alfresco on the large porch surrounding the restaurant that allows all diners a breathtaking view of the busy waterfront.

It took our group of nine — Sherry Hoinés, Marianne Mattison, Sue Mitchell, Ann Tisdale, Beth Inglis, Mary Dermody, Elaine Botelho, Kate Brown and Rosemary Barrows (pictured right) — a while to make our selections from an excellent choice of fresh seafood items, many off-loaded directly from New Bedford fishing vessels. None were disappointed in their choice.



Our outing for our September lunch was the *Brazilian Steakhouse* in the Dartmouth Towne Center which offered an adventure in eating! Gauchos (a.k.a. waiters) bearing long, divinely fragrant skewers of perfectly grilled meats carve your choice of steak, chicken or pork and circulate throughout the meal with more delicious offerings. Desserts are awesome. No one leaves hungry!

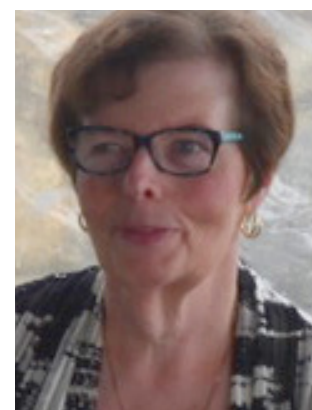
The chatter and laughter at our gatherings enhance our dining experiences and contribute to a really fun time getting to know each other. Plan on joining us on the last Wednesday of October — destination to be announced — and RSVP to Kate Brown.

Knitting & Hand Crafts

Friday, October 20 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Members of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club who enjoy knitting and other hand crafts, are invited to attend the group's monthly meeting on Friday, October 20, 2023, from 1PM to 4PM. The meeting will be held at 23 Channel Street, which is in the Crescent Beach area of Mattapoissett.

There are a couple of things I would like us to discuss at the meeting. Over time we have progressed into a group that has many different hand crafts that the members enjoy. We have members who make jewelry, crochet as well as knit. We should probably change the name, so to be more inclusive. If you have a craft that you enjoy we would love to learn about what you create. I am happy to hold the meetings at my home, but if there is anyone who would also like to host the meeting, we could discuss that change. Usually the group does not meet in November, as I go to visit my daughter in California that month.



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair, Website

I ask that if you are planning to attend, please contact me at 508-828-8091 prior to the meeting, so that I can set up the room for the number attending. Hope to see you on Friday, October 20, 2023.

~ Marie Rottler

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Fridays, 1:30 pm

The Walking Group is in full swing this season. We have already had 4 walks in September (with one more scheduled by the time you read this), and have 33 members on our email list.

We started out with a splash (literally!) when 14 MWC members, spouses, & friends joined up with my Antassawamock neighbors and waded from the shore to Ram Island. In all, there were 49 of us who made the trip. Some of our walkers would argue it wasn't "wading," but more like slogging through 4 feet of seawater when the wind and waves swooped in. All survived--soaked, but satisfied!

Since then, we have walked in drier, more serene locations with equally scenic views. These have included the Mattapoisett bike path, the Mattapoisett Land Trust Prospect Road Yellow Trail in the Old Aucoot District, and the NB Hurricane Dike.

Beginning in October we will be walking on Fridays at 1:30 for an hour or two. All are welcome and we hope you can join us. Feel free to contact Sue Mitchell for further information.

~ Sue Mitchell



Hurricane Dike Walkers (Sept 22): Peg Olney, Erin Burlinson, Robin Lepore, Ellen Flynn, not pictured, Sue Mitchell.



*Ram Island Walkers (Sept 2): Rick Mitchell, Sathaya Gayani, Nate & Sue Mitchell, Beth & Rob Inglis, Andy Thomas & Robin Lepore, Michael Taubenberger & Kristen McCormack, Christine & Michael Voss.
Not shown: Barb VanInwegen and friend, Connie.*

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Second and fourth Tuesdays 1:00 pm

Sadly, we remember our longtime member Carol Atkinson who loved the game.

We'll be starting our new season at Ann Butler's home on Tuesday, October 10th at 1pm.

We're looking for new members to join us for this enjoyable pastime.

Contact Elaine Grant to learn more.



MWC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Mary O'Keefe

[**VOLUNTEER:** a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.]

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club is reaching out to many different entities for volunteering opportunities in our community. Please contact Mary O'Keefe if you're currently volunteering, or have in the past, we'd love to hear of your experience.

Damien's Place

The labor of love that is performed by the volunteers at Damien's Place is outstanding!

Their Pantry is open on Thursday and Saturday mornings for guests food pick up. The need is great and the groceries and the amount provided is very generous. On Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, volunteers fill the bags of food for distribution.

Their Pantry screening system to determine guests' needs is impressive as well. Volunteers who distribute the food do so with joy and respect. It's an uplifting place to work; the closeness and respect for each other is evident.

They have a Pantry truck that goes to stores to pick up donations of food and also offer delivery of food to the home-bound. Confidentiality is a signed commitment.

The program has set times to volunteer to be sure they are sufficiently staffed. You can offer to work according to your availability, but it is a commitment. It takes approximately 160 hours a week of volunteer work to service their guests. 1,000,000 lbs. of food were distributed in 2022.

If you have any interest in putting in a few hours, you need to make contact and go in for an orientation and tour. I think you'll find it as rewarding as I do.

You can phone them at 508-295-3486 or by visiting their site and fill out their online form:

damiensfoodpantry.org

~ Mary O'Keefe

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Social Activities

Bridge
Elaine Grant

Knitting
Marie Rottler

Ladies Who Lunch
Kate Brown

Literature Group
Peg Olney

Mah Jongg
Mary Dermody

Social Cocktail Group
Linda Clifford

Walking Group
Sue Mitchell

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