



LADIES CHOICE

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

December 2023
VOLUME LXII No. 4



**Visit our
4th Annual
Holiday Greens Sale**

**DECEMBER 2
9:00 AM**

We sell out early!

See page 5
for details

*T'was a month before Christmas, in the year '23,
The elves were all busy, not just sipping tea.
They glued and they tied, bows, jingles and bells,
In hopes that the wreaths and arrangements would sell.
They gathered the greens, wreaths, trinkets and more,
Cleaned out all their attics, cellars; Such Chores!
Many days in the barn, many elves all did gather,
In hopes that their work would certainly matter.*

*When what to my wondering eyes did appear,
A blessing from Town: An Old Fire Station!
Our worries were gone, we shed all our fear,
And we all hope our efforts will sell out this year!*

*C. C. Moore I am not, so I'll quit about now,
With hopes for good health, world peace, nothing less.
But before this poem ends, we offer our thanks,
TO OUR ELVES: we are grateful so please take a bow!*

Happy Holidays!

Sandra Hering
MWC President



HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I am one of those lucky ones who grew up in Mattapoisett and for 20 years lived two doors north of the church where we hold our MWC meetings. Needless to say, I have seen many changes in the town!

Growing up here was an idealistic existence, especially in the summer. I never had to go to summer camp because camp was right here! Going to the beach every day, riding my bike around town, attending band concerts and square dances on Saturday nights were activities that were taken for granted. Since my mother was the oldest girl in a family of ten children, with grandparents living in Fairhaven, there were always family members around during my young life. I was "happiest when" we had family time!

I attended Center School (back when it was grades 1-9) and, upon graduation, went on to Fairhaven High School where, at fifteen, I met my future husband, Jim. After graduation I worked at Sippican Corporation, transferring to Francis Associates, the parent company, becoming their "print girl." I enrolled in night classes for business skills at Kinyon Campbell School in New Bedford, not knowing that I was learning life skills.

Jim and I married in June of 1961, moving to Boston so that Jim could finish his education at Wentworth Institute. The saying, "the best laid plans of mice and men," took on a whole new meaning for Jim and me. I took a job at an insurance firm in downtown Boston, becoming pregnant almost immediately and gave birth to our son, Daniel, nine months later! Not the plan we had envisioned.

We moved to Hyannis and, after a year, we purchased a lot of land in Yarmouth Port. Every spare moment away from Jim's job was spent building our new home. In 1965 our daughter, Lori, was born and I was definitely a "stay at home mom." Jim couldn't wait to be a self-employed building contractor and, in 1967 I convinced him to move back to my beloved Mattapoisett in time for Dan to go to school. I became the "go for" and interior designer for Jim's business, as well as the secretary. (No pay, but the benefits have been beyond my imagination!) Soon after, we built our home on Holly Lane, living there for 14 memorable years. Two more sons, Jason and Ethan, and then building and moving to the incredible property at the end of Winnatuxett Beach Road. The 35 years there were beyond anything I could have dreamed. We entertained endlessly, having Lori's wedding reception in the garden, hosting two wedding rehearsal dinners, anniversary, birthday and dinner parties, clambakes on the beach, watching fireworks around fires on the beach and numerous other events.

During the years, I have had many interests and taken many classes. Some hobbies included decorative arts and basket making, taking classes from MWC member Gladys Ellis, mother of Carole Clifford.

We now live in Tinkhamtown, having two of our sons as neighbors, and loving it. My interests today lie in gardening and spending time with family which includes our three sons and their wives, our daughter and



HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

Continued from page 2

our seven grandchildren. Next spring our family will have a new member which will make us GREATgrandparents for the first time.

In the 1970's I joined the Club and became an active participant in the Gourmet Dinner Group. We hosted the entire group at our home for a Texas BBQ, a Lobster Boil, and a Hawaiian Luau where I cooked a whole pig in my oven! This group lasted many happy years with many delightful dinners enjoyed at individual homes. I was instrumental in starting the Social Cocktail Group after a failed attempt at reinstating the dinner group.

In the past I was the Remembrance person, helped on the 75th Anniversary Celebration, then became Vice President and was President from 2018-2020, the year that Covid changed all of our lives. I am most proud of instituting the Daffodil Project, which I refer to as "my legacy." I remain as a member of the Board of Directors and am a member of the Garden Group and the Walking Group.

The MWC plays an important part of my life today and I value the many friendships and acquaintances I have gathered along the way. This is a group of women from all walks of life, working toward a common goal, and I am proud to be a member of the MWC.

~ Roxanne Bungert

MWC News & Information



MWC HOLIDAY PARTY

DECEMBER 14, 2023 • REYNARD HALL • 11 AM

Joy to the World, and many other Christmas Carols will be a part of our 2023 Holiday Party! We will be entertained with live music from Gail Roberts on the piano and/or keyboard, and Kristen Henriques on flute. And, of course, we will be joining them with our voices, good or bad, and the Tinkham Chapel Christmas songbook to help us remember the words. Yes, Gail has been a volunteer at the Tinkham Chapel for years, having taken over playing the organ from her Grandmother and Kristen has played there with her in recent years. They both have offered their talents as our entertainment this year.

Our hostesses for the event have worked out an excellent menu for the luncheon, catered by Mattapoissett's best, On the Go. They will provide everything from their famous strawberry tossed salad to multiple choices of entrees including steak tips and salmon, chicken and a meat-

free entrée, along with vegetables and dessert. And all we need from you is to notify us that you will be coming and a check for \$30 made out to the MWC. The deadline for us to receive payment is December 7th, so please mark your calendars for this chance to dress in holiday sparkle, enjoy the social times with members, see the beautiful holiday arrangements designed by our Garden Group and enjoy the music and festivities. The party is at Reynard Hall on December 14th, beginning with social time at 11 AM.

No business meeting, just a fun event filled with joy. Any questions, please contact Bobbie Ketchel, Roxanne Bungert, or Sandy Hering.

Hostess: Bobbie Ketchel

Tea Committee: Roxanne Bungert,
Kathryn Dinneen, Lois Ennis, Deborah Ward

MWC News & Information

NOVEMBER MEETING

On an unusually mild day, 48 members enjoyed a delicious buffet presented by Linda Clifford and her tea committee. Our featured speaker was Mark Munkacsy, an amateur astronomer whose passion for astronomy stemmed from childhood. His mind-boggling presentation focused on an 800 lb. iron and nickel meteorite found 200 years ago in the Mexican desert, and is currently at Marion's Taber Library, on loan from Harvard University. He gladly answered questions from our members.

The business meeting that followed saluted Luice Moncevitich's 92nd birthday. President Sandy Hering announced Honorary Memberships to Barbara Thommen, Roxanne Bungert and Peg Olney.

Cindy Turse of the Garden Group happily proclaimed the December 2nd wreath sale will be housed at the old fire station. A dwindling supply of daffodil bulbs and note cards are still for sale. Lois Ennis reminded us that reservations for the December 14th Christmas luncheon must be received by December 7th. The buffet provided by On the Go is \$30. See page 4 for more information.

Of the three open positions on the Executive Board, two remain to be filled: Vice President and Recording Secretary. Kristen Henriques graciously volunteered to be the next Corresponding Secretary.

See pages 6 and 7 for photos.

CLARIFICATION TO PAGE 9 OF NOVEMBER LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Land Trust bought 100 bulbs from the Woman's Club and donated them to Ben Squire, ORR School District Science Coordinator, for use in the science program.

HOLIDAY IN THE PARK: DECEMBER 9, 2023

Mattapoissett sponsors the 'Holiday in the Park' on December 9th with a special visit from Santa! Each year the Town asks the Woman's Club to bring cookies to the tent between 12 and 1 PM that will be available to the kids in the afternoon. Please help us say Thank You to our town for letting us use the Old Fire Station for our Wreath Sale once again this year and make some delicious cookies for the kids!

GIFTS TO GIVE

This is a reminder that at every MWC luncheon there will be a carton to receive your donated items for this very worthy charity that hundreds of families rel on. New and gently used clothing, especially for children, is always needed. School supplies and toys are especially welcomed. Gifts to Give will happily accept drop-offs at their facility at One Titleist Drive, Acushnet. It's also a great place to volunteer a few hours of your time which you'll find very satisfying.

COMING JANUARY: MEMBER BOOK SWAP!

Have a favorite book that you have read and wish to bring to our January meeting to give to another club member? Save it for our January meeting where we invite all to bring 2-3 books and find books to take home. Children's books are welcome as well as books that you have enjoyed reading. More details to come.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING
DECEMBER 7TH • 10 AM
MATTAPOISETT LIBRARY

**The Mattapoisett Woman's Club
4th Annual Holiday Greens Sale
Old Mattapoisett Fire Station**



A Pop-Up Event - December 2nd
9:00 – 1:00 (unless sold out earlier)
Featuring
Decorated Fresh Wreaths, Swags &
Centerpieces
Bundled Evergreens & Holly Branches
Ornaments & Notecards
26 County Road/Route 6
Cash, Checks, Credit Cards

November Program

It was a terrific showing when approximately 50 of our members enjoyed lunch on November 16th followed by a fascinating, dynamic presentation from Mark Munkacsy, a local amateur astronomer and President of the Astronomical Society of Southern New England. He tantalized us with the story of "where did it come from and where has it been?" The Coahuila Meteorite was found in Mexico in 1837 but predates the birth of our earth by 200-250 million years. The meteorite weighs more than 800 pounds and is solid metal - nickel and iron. It's currently on loan to Marion's Taber Library.

More pictures page 7

Cindy Turse





MWC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

By Mary O'Keefe

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

The Mattapoisett 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.

My Brothers Keeper

My Brothers Keeper is asking for volunteers to wrap toys at their facility at 1015 Reed Road, Dartmouth, Exit 19 off 195. Go right about 1/2 mile and it's on the right.

Starting December 2nd they wrap Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, 3 to 10 pm.
Saturdays, 10 to 5 pm.

Call 774 305 4577 if interested in signing up to volunteer.

Gifts to Give

Gifts to Give is desperate for children's clothes. Sizes 2 to 16.

Drop off is on the deck behind their facility on 4 Slocum Road, Acushnet.

Or text Mary O'Keefe 978-314-9206 for pick up. She will see that they reach the Children's Charity. The need has never been greater.

Imagine ..
.. thousands of SouthCoast children who don't have the basic things they need.

NEEDED

Children's Clothes Sneakers and Coats
(In Good Condition!)

WHO?
Thousands of SouthCoast children.

WHEN?
Now!

WHERE?
24/7
at our **DROP-OFF**
4 Slocum Street Acushnet.

WHY?
On the SouthCoast
80,000 children live in poverty.
Over 8,000 local children are homeless.

We all have gifts to give

Recycle redistribute repurpose Reuse

GiftsToGive™ is a magical place. Thousands of SouthCoast children actively engage in giving and service. We call it **Gifts to Give**, **Gifts to Give** **Philanthropy** and **Big Citizenship**. Kids donate their "gently-used" clothes, books, toys and all the good stuff they no longer need or use and volunteer at our huge factory in Acushnet to process, organize and package these donations. We then transform these donations into thousands of individual gift packages that are ordered by hundreds of agencies, for the children in their care. 100% volunteer staffed, no payroll! **ADULT volunteers ALWAYS NEEDED**

GiftsToGive Philanthropy Factory 4 Slocum Street Acushnet MA 0274
508.717.8715 www.giftstogive.org
GiftsToGive™ is a 501c3 Nonprofit, Student Powered, Volunteer Managed, NGO

[Join our FACEBOOK Group to keep informed of all MWC news & events!](#)



JOIN NOW!

Veterans Day Remembrance

On a clear and sunny November 11th, Club members and townsfolk gathered in front of the Mattapoisett Congregational Church to honor our active, retired and deceased military men and women who committed themselves to preserve our democracy and freedom.

Mattapoisett resident Nancy Souza, a retired member of the Massachusetts Army National Guard, who attained the rank of Colonel and served from 1984 to 2014, was our featured speaker.

At 11 o'clock the church and Center School bells tolled 21 times in memory of those who fought and died in World War I, "the war to end all wars."

A solemn silence followed before Cindy Johnson led the crowd in the singing of "God Bless America."



Bringing a friend to the January Meeting?

Please let our membership team know in advance by contacting Christine Voss or use our membership email at membership@mattapoisettwomensclub.org

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, December 9:30 am & 1:00 pm (please details below)

In November the Literature Group enjoyed our first meetings as the newly morning and afternoon groups.

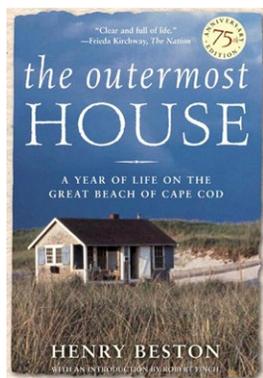
Our discussion book was "*Lessons in Chemistry*" and Gail Roberts has sent some further reading suggestions for anyone who liked the book and is interested in reading more. They are: *Where'd You Go, Bernadette?*, by Maria Semple, *The Kitchen Front*, by Jennifer Ryan and *Kitchenwise: Essential Food Science for Home Cooks*, by Shirley O. Corriher. For more books, check out this list from the New York Public Library: <https://www.nypl.org/blog/2023/10/30/fiction-nonfiction-readalikes-lessons-chemistry>

In December, due to unforeseen circumstances, the date of the Morning Group meeting has to be changed. They will meet on Wednesday, December 6, 9:30 am, at the home of Myra Hart, 115 North Street. The Afternoon group will meet on Wednesday, December 13, at 1:00 pm at the home of Alice Openshaw, 3 Channing Road. Please contact the hostess to let her know that you are coming. The discussion book for both groups is "*The Outermost House*" by Henry Beston. Happy Holidays to all! 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



A chronicle of a solitary year spent on a Cape Cod beach, The Outermost House has long been recognized as a classic of American nature writing. Henry Beston had originally planned to spend just two weeks in his seaside home, but was so possessed by the mysterious beauty of his surroundings that he found he "could not go."

Instead, he sat down to try and capture in words the wonders of the magical landscape he found himself in thrall to: the migrations of seabirds, the rhythms of the tide, the windblown dunes, and the scatter of stars in the changing summer sky. Beston argued that, "The world today is sick to its thin blood for the lack of elemental things, for fire before the hands, for water, for air, for the dear earth itself underfoot." Seventy-five years after they were first published, Beston's words are more true than ever.

2023-24 Literature Group Book List

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

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays 1:00 pm Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street

Mary Dermody conducted two Mah Jongg instruction sessions at the COA in November, with 13 people attending, including six MWC members. Anyone who attended or is interested in learning more should plan to come to one of the regular weekly Mah Jongg sessions at the Council on Aging (COA). We play non-competitively and there are never any partners to disappoint. If you've missed the instructions sessions, watch for more information or contact Mary, as she plans to hold some smaller sessions in January. Contact Mary Dermody, marydermody@me.com (610) 937-7455



NOTE: The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Sponsored by Mattapoisett Woman's Club and the Mattapoisett COA

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

GARDEN GROUP

It's time for the 4th Annual Greens Sale, a fundraiser for our club. There will be wreaths, swags, centerpieces, boxwood trees, and the one-of-a-kind 2023 ornaments designed and created by our members. We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your friends on December 2nd inside the Old Mat-tapoisett Firehouse at 9 am, a change of location of what was previously advertised. The truck will be at Ying's, directing all to the fire station.



Please bring your reusable bags to carry your purchases. Be early or be disappointed. Cash, check, or charge. This fundraiser directly supports the scholarships, programs, and community outreach of the Mat-tapoisett Woman's Club.

~ Cindy Turse



Bridge Group

Second and fourth Tuesdays 1:00 pm

November bridge games were at Elaine Grant's and Pat Goss'. Lots of good conversation and bridge playing made for nice Fall afternoons.

December 12th we'll be at Betty Parker's then take a break to enjoy the holidays with family and friends.

Substitute player Marianne Mattison is planning to host a table of players at her home on an off-date to be announced later.



~ Elaine Grant

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Fridays, 1:30 pm

November has been great for walking! Several members have enjoyed various walks around our community. Inevitably we always mention how lucky we are to live in this beautiful area. Below are photos from our walks in the Stone Estate in Marion, Walega-Livingstone Preserve/Mattapoissett Land Trust, and Buttonwood Park in New Bedford. Our next walk is scheduled for 1:30 Friday, December 8, in Marion Village. We will start at the library where we can touch and view the meteorite that was the topic of our program at our last MWC meeting. From there we will walk around the village admiring Christmas trimmings.

For further info, please contact Sue Mitchell.

~ Sue Mitchell



Top photo: L to R: Anne Kimball, Susan Perkins, Sharon Doyon, Cindy Turse, Erin Burlinson at the Stone Estate.

Photo left: Barb Van Inwegan, Sue Mitchell, Erin Burlinson, Cindy Johnson, and Sandy Hering stand under the Buttonwood Tree in Buttonwood Park, NB. Photo right: Robin LePore identifies a tree using the app on her phone on a walk at the Walega-Livingstone/Mattapoissett Land Trust property.

Knitting & Hand Crafts

Thursday, January 25 2:00 - 4:00 pm

With the busyness of the Christmas season there will be no December meeting. Best wishes to all. We'll start the New Year by meeting on Thursday, January 25th at my home, 23 Channel Street, in the Crescent Beach section of Mattapoissett. We will begin at 2 pm and break up around 4 pm. If you like to create different items using a variety of methods, you might want to join us.

Please call me at 508-828-8091 by Wednesday, January 24, if you are coming so I can set up enough seating for everyone. Looking forward to connecting.

~ Marie Rottler



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

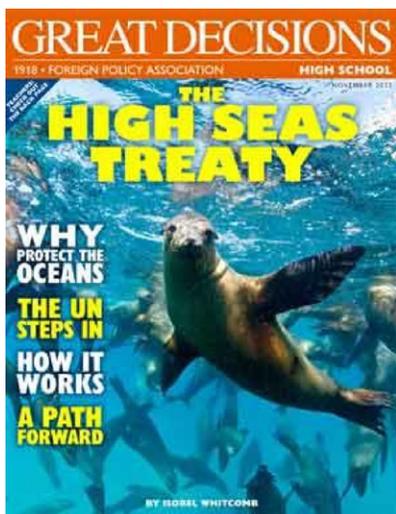
Great Decisions

Wednesdays beginning January 17, 2024 ending March 6, 2024

1:00PM-3:00PM

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club is ready to start the Great Decisions 2024 Program. The program begins the 17th of January, the third Wednesday in January 2024. We have three Wednesdays in January, four Wednesdays in February and the last meeting is Wednesday, March 6, 2024.

The topics are very current and full of global affairs based on ripe international issues and will challenge us to find ways that we can strategize to find solutions. We meet in the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, on 7 Barstow Street, downstairs in the Community Room, where you will enter at the side door and the area is accessible with an elevator.



Topics From the 2024 Great Decisions Textbook:

Mideast Realignment

by Marc Lynch

Climate technology and competition

by Bud Ward

Science across borders

by Mila Rosenthal

U.S. -China trade rivalry

by Jonathan Chanis

NATO's future

by Sarwar Kashmeri

Understanding Indonesia

by Charles Sullivan

High Seas Treaty

by FPA editors

Pandemic preparedness

by Carolyn Reynolds



Ellen Flynn

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

During each week of discussions we have a volunteer facilitator to start off the readings of the chapters. There are times that we will have guest speakers also. We watch a 20 minute DVD session that corresponds with the reading.

The Great Decisions program is open to all members of the community and has been an educational arm of the MWC for over 45 years. There is an option to Zoom during times when you may be away or not able to attend in person.

Here is how you can join as a participant. I have ordered 30 Textbooks, along with the DVD and Teacher's Electronic Edition.

I also have sent notices to prior participants for their registration, who have first preference.

To Register:

Please send a check for \$40.00 to:

Mattapoissett Woman's Club

Box1444, Mattapoissett MA 02739, Attn: Treasurer

(Memo on check Great Decisions) on a separate paper please print with your Name, Address, Email address, Phone Number (both landline & cell # if available) for the records.

Thank you for your interest in our organization.

Happy Holidays to you and your families and Friends!

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ellen P. Flynn

Past President and Chair of Great Decisions

elflynn@vassar.edu

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

On October 25th, we traveled to Italy with a trip to Fay's Restaurant in South Dartmouth, an old-time favorite. The teen-age Fay Costa learned her cooking skills by helping her mother, Raffaella, a renowned cook who eventually opened her own restaurants, Pa Raffa's and Ma Raffa's in New Bedford.

Several years later, a grown up Fay married Alexander DiPiro, a great chef from a family of great chefs, and together they polished their crafts until finally founding their own Italian family restaurant, Fay's, where the aroma starts your mouth watering from the moment you open the car door. The atmosphere -- and the food -- is all old-time Italian that is family loved and created.

Big baskets of their famous garlic bread got us through that important time when menu selections were made. Once ordered, out came the soups, followed by big steaming plates of freshly made pasta covered by succulent combinations of meats, cheeses, and "gravy" (or sauce, depending on where you were raised).

A glass of each of our favorite beverages topped off our meals that ranged from Betty Parker's choice of Fettuccine Faedra, or grilled chicken covered with sun-dried tomatoes, broccoli, kalamata olives and fettuccine in white wine and garlic & olive oil sauce; to Parmigiana, or crispy fried baked chicken or veal, both with Parmesan and aged Cheddar cheese and marinara sauce served over spaghetti that several of us enjoyed; to Seafood Al Forno, or shrimp, sea scallops, and native haddock tossed with a garlic parmesan cheese sauce and served over penne pasta then baked with seasoned bread crumbs and topped with scallions that Sue Mitchell chose and enjoyed; and other wonderful entrees, each of which delighted their selectors! Tell me your mouth isn't watering for real Italian food right about now!

Remember, there is no "membership" in this group! It's a matter of calling and getting your name on the list of ladies who will be "lunching" that month. Period. It's that simple. We go to a different nationality restaurant each month and those who go depends entirely on who calls Kate and gets their name on the list in time to make the 12-Ladies cut.

This event is open to everyone in the club . . . young, not so young, new, not so new. The only requirements are that you like to talk and laugh, eat and try new restaurants, and are looking for a break from another solitary lunch at home to a fun lunch out with other ladies who share your sentiments! So, here's hoping you joined us on November 30, as we traveled around the country and the world with lunch at Joe's Original with its multinational menu of old -- and sure to be new -- favorites, but more about that outing in the next issue of Ladies Choice.

We'll be taking a break over the holidays and, due to a change in plans, will resume our travels on January 31, 2024 with a trip to the new Indian restaurant in Fairhaven called Saffron by the Sea. It's located in the old Seaport Motel, now the new Seaport Conference Center. Everyone you talk to who has been there has rave reviews of both the menu and the food, and has nothing but the highest compliments for the staff.

So put that date -- January 31, 2024 -- on your calendar right now and plan to join friends at the monthly meeting of Ladies Who Lunch at Saffron by the Sea, in Fairhaven!

~Kate Brown

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

COCKTAIL SOCIAL GROUP

Sunday, January 14 5 - 7 pm

Mark your calendars for the first Cocktail Social of 2024! The Social will be held on Sunday, January 14 from 5 - 7 pm. It will be co-hosted by Beth Inglis and Robin Lepore and held at Robin's home at 6 Seabreeze Lane in Mattapoisett.



For this event please RSVP directly to Robin at 617-584-2795 or email thomaslepore@yahoo.com. Please bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice. Spouses, partners and guests are welcome.

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Recording Secretary

Sherry Hoines

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2024 Carole Clifford
2025 Linda Clifford
2026 Roxanne Bungert

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2025 Sherry Hoines
2026 Sue Mitchell

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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

**Executive Board*