



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

January 2024
VOLUME LXII No. 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Happy New Year!

It's that time of year to both think about the year past and think about the year ahead, contemplating both the best and the worst of each year. I find it a good thing to do each year, and maybe even more as I age, where each year is a little more precious. Certainly, now that we are several years since the pandemic stripped us of our ability to do what we wanted, when we wanted and with whom, reflecting on our favorite moments which brought happiness and joy, and fulfillment too, is a good thing.

So now my letter will do the same for the Mattapoissett Woman's Club.

2023 was a very good year. Our membership is steady, our finances are excellent and the members who are active have smiles on their faces more often than not, if the pictures in Ladies Choice are an indicator. The only things I wish I could change are twofold, and they are related. The first is that we have members that aren't participating very much or at all in our club, and the second is that our tea committees for our monthly meetings have seen a loss of participation from the assigned members. I'm not trying to make anyone feel bad, but it is true that the members who participate are happier with the club because they benefit from getting to know one another and have fun doing the activities. So, here's a list of fun activities that we currently provide that maybe you will decide to try this year. Of course, the details of this list are inside this Ladies Choice, so be sure to read further for the specific fun activities this club has to offer.

- Walk with the Walking Group
- Play Bridge
- Learn to play Mah Jongg
- Learn more about gardening
- Go out to Lunch with the Ladies
- Read books and discuss them
- Socialize in the evening with or without bringing your 'Plus One'
- Knit, crochet, or do any portable crafts with others in their homes
- Discuss world topics via Great Decisions meetings
- Hear good speakers at our monthly group luncheons
- Drink tea, coffee or water while enjoying a freshly prepared lunch with friends and others that you have just recently met

It's a good list, filled with other good people from our communities. I hope you will all join in and find at least one activity to participate in. And while I can mention it, please check your listing in the Membership Blue Book to see the month that you are assigned to help with the luncheon, we need your participation!

May 2024 be a good year for all, filled with good health, happiness and fulfillment.

Sandra Hering
MWC President



Sandra Hering
President, MWC

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I was so lucky to grow up here in Mattapoissett. Think of it...population around 2,500... attending the one school in town 'til graduating from 9th grade... then everyone off to Fairhaven High School. My parents both grew up here and, when I was born, all my grandparents also lived here along with their families. I had 4 great aunts, 15 aunts and uncles and 29 first cousins.. Talk about everyone knowing your name! It was a lot of fun and family gatherings (especially with the Heubergers) were a blast. There was Kick the Can, Scrub Baseball, Croquet, Deck Tennis and Badminton. Then of course there was the beach!

Everyone was involved in the community and looked forward to dances on the wharf, band concerts, dancing school and so much more. However, when it was time to go to college I couldn't wait to go to a BIG school with lots of people. University of Massachusetts was my choice and along came my cousin Nancy. We had been friends since babies and now we were spreading our wings. I chose the teacher path and when faced with finding a job (a lot of choices), I chose Hartford, CT. I thought that its location between Boston and New York was ideal and exciting.

Well, The Land of Steady Habits wasn't even close to the excitement of those two cities. Yet, I desperately wanted to teach in a very poor district and Hartford had those schools. I was going to save the world. So began my journey of 50 years in education in Hartford. My first 5th grade class was all black, and did they have a hard time understanding my south coast accent...New Yawk, hoss, fatha, etc. were on the learning curve. I absolutely loved teaching in the Hartford classrooms learning so much from the community and so stayed there for 37 years. I then went to work at the Hartford Federation of Teachers Local Union and then to the Connecticut Union. I enjoyed those jobs, too, and always thought of my Dad's love of the Teamsters and his labor stories at dinner. All this time I was traveling back and forth to Mattapoissett because my parents and that huge family were here.

When I retired, living in the same house my mother grew up in and me, too, I immediately looked to get involved. My grandmother, Ellen Heuberger, had been a founding member of the Woman's Club, my sister Anne Lima had been President, my Mom, Gladys Sherman Ellis, was always a member and so I joined. Then cousins Nancy (Fletcher), Lois (Ennis) and Ruth Ann (Walega) were also members. I first joined the Book Club and then was asked to be on the Scholarship Committee. From there it led to the Presidency during CoVid, with distribution of the blue books and cookies at Ned's Point Lighthouse, and delivering Christmas cards, New Year fortune cookies and valentines to every member. That was one way to know the locations of streets in Mattapoissett!

Let me insert here a thought about Nancy Fletcher. As I said, we had been together as babies and then went to college together. We had always loved spending our lives together, gossiping and laughing. As a member of the Club, I found myself on the same committees as Nancy. We always happened to be in the same place. In college she had written an essay about the shadow that was always with her...me.

She would be smiling at me writing this. Miss her always.

I married in CT, had my wonderful daughter Sarah Ellen and then, following a divorce; married my second husband, a great choice. Here in Mattapoissett I have served on many town committees including the school committee and am currently on the Historical Commission, the two Scholarship Committees and President of the Mattapoissett Museum Board.

This town was a GREAT PLACE to grow up and being part of the Woman's Club has been so gratifying. How else to meet wonderful people, share activities and be a VITAL PART OF THE FABRIC OF THIS TOWN. How did I get here?--It was DESTINY.

~ Carole Clifford
Past President



MWC News & Information

A GRATEFUL HEART

Many thanks to those of you who reached out to me in so many thoughtful ways as I faced surgery. Your concern and support were overwhelming and greatly appreciated. The future looks bright!

Elaine Grant

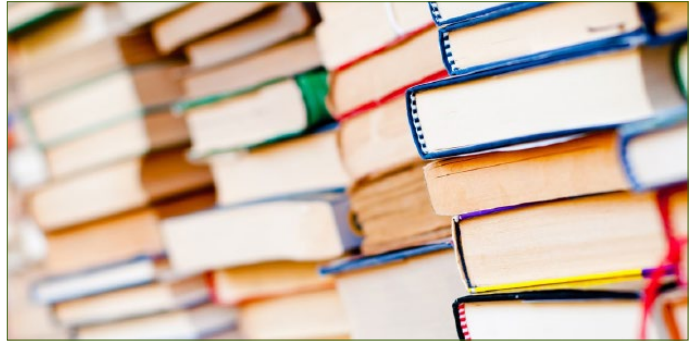
JANUARY MEETING TEA COMMITTEE

Hostess: Sharon Doyon

Committee: Ros Barrow, Lizanne Campbell, Sandra Dawson, Mary Dermody, Pat Goss, Lynn Haugen, Coleen Hughes, Mary Jackson, Cindy Johnson, Liz Lynch, Connie McGrath, Christine Voss, Margaret Wolf

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.



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 (978-314-9206) if you're currently volunteering, or have in the past, we'd love to hear of your experience.

December was a busy month at My Brother's Keeper in Dartmouth. Sorting and wrapping the gifts that would be under the Christmas trees gave a very satisfied feeling. The same thing was true at Gifts to Give on which so many families rely.

Damien's Place will be opening their new facility across from Shaw's in Wareham. Many volunteers are needed to stock groceries for the hundreds of families who rely on them each week.

The need for volunteers will never go away any more than poverty will. Sharing your time and making new friends is a win-win situation; you get back more than you give.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 11TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT LIBRARY

MARTHA STEWART'S SCONES RECIPE FOR A CHILLY JANUARY DAY

From Sandy Hering

These classic bakery treats couldn't be easier to make at home. Simple swaps such as dried cranberries for currants take them in new directions, so try Chocolate-Coconut Scones, Cherry-Hazelnut Scones, Lemon-Ginger Scones, or Blueberry-Almond Scones.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



Ingredients

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup plus 1 tablespoon cold heavy cream

1 large egg

2 cups all-purpose flour (spooned and leveled), plus more for work surface

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup granulated sugar

2 teaspoons baking powder

$\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon fine salt

6 tablespoons ($\frac{3}{4}$ stick) cold unsalted butter, cut into small pieces

$\frac{2}{3}$ cup dried currants

Sanding sugar (optional)

Directions

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Whisk together $\frac{3}{4}$ cup cream and egg. In a large bowl, whisk together flour, granulated sugar, baking powder, and salt.

With a pastry blender or 2 knives, cut butter into flour mixture until it resembles coarse meal, with a few pea-size pieces of butter remaining. Stir in currants. With a fork, stir in cream mixture until just combined. (The dough should be crumbly; do not overwork.)

Transfer dough to a lightly floured work surface and pat into a 6-inch circle. Cut into 6 wedges and transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet. Brush tops with 1 tablespoon cream and sprinkle with sanding sugar, if desired. Bake until golden, 16 to 18 minutes, rotating sheet halfway through.

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, January 10 9:30 am & 1:00 pm (please see details below)

Attendance at the December meetings was small for both the Morning and Afternoon groups but the book discussions were good anyway.

In January, the meetings will be on Wednesday, January 10. The Morning Group will meet at Linda Clifford's home, 143 Brandt Island Road at 9:30 am. The Afternoon Group Will meet in the Marine Room at the Library at 1:00 pm. The discussion book is "The Martian" by Andy Weir.

Two members of the Morning Group have switched to the afternoon so now that group is too large. To even it up again, I will be attending the Morning Group.

Please note: the discussion book for February has been changed. We will now be reading "The Richest Woman in America" by Janet Wallach.

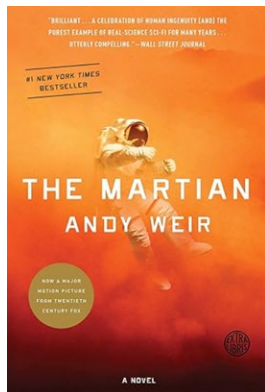
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

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



Six days ago, astronaut Mark Watney became one of the first people to walk on Mars.

Now, he's sure he'll be the first person to die there.

After a dust storm nearly kills him and forces his crew to evacuate while thinking him dead, Mark finds himself stranded and completely alone with no way to even signal Earth that he's alive—and even if he could get word out, his supplies would be gone long before a rescue could arrive.

Chances are, though, he won't have time to starve to death. The damaged machinery, unforgiving environment, or plain-old "human error" are much more likely to kill him first.

But Mark isn't ready to give up yet. Drawing on his ingenuity, his engineering skills—and a relentless, dogged refusal to quit—he steadfastly confronts one seemingly insurmountable obstacle after the next. Will his resourcefulness be enough to overcome the impossible odds against him?

2023-24 Literature Group Book List

February: "The Richest Woman in America" by Janet Wallach

April: "The Postcard" by Anne Berest

March: "Tom Lake" by Ann Patchett

Mah Jongg

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

Mah Jongg will continue throughout the winter. Anyone who attended prior lessons 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. We try to designate some tables for beginners or those who haven't played in a while. Hope to see you there. Contact Mary Dermody, marydermody@me.com (610) 937-7455, as she plans to hold some smaller sessions in January.



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

Wednesday January 3 10:00 am

The 4th Annual MWC Garden Group Greens Sale is now history and the enthusiastic elf workers made it a big success! Each person brought energy, talent, and good humor to the barn sessions and the sale at the firehouse. There were so many opportunities to participate in all aspects from designing and creating to donating & transporting.

The Elves cut and picked up donated greens; made ornaments, wreaths, and centerpieces; moved finished items from barn to barn to firehouse; donated workspaces; loaned tables and table covers; set up displays at the Old Fire Station and constantly re-arranged the displays during the sale to create a welcoming atmosphere for shoppers; and finally, they cleaned up every space where they worked. Thank you!

Big shout-outs go to Susan Perkins and Sharon Doyon for leading and guiding us in our creative efforts, and to Bobbie Oakley for teaching us to make rope wreaths and supplying us with the rope, shells, sea glass, and other trinkets to make them.

Many of you have been asking for the bottom-line results -- the net profits from the sale (including daffodils, notecards, and donations) exceed \$4,200.

The first Garden Group meeting will be on January 3rd, 10 am, at the Library and we'll have a seed packing activity plus a short business meeting. Come and join us!

Happy New Year!

~ Cindy Turse



More pictures on page 7



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Fridays, 1:30 pm

Rocking, Talking, and Walking: The MWC Walking Group That's us! The MWC Walking Group began our Dec. 8 walk at the Elizabeth Taber Public Library in Marion. Here, we viewed and touched the meteorite that was discussed at our last General Meeting. As you may recall, the meteorite was discovered in Coahuila, Mexico in 1837. It was later sent to Harvard University where it was studied and then put into storage. Eventually it made its way to Marion where it is now on full display.

After viewing the meteorite, we strolled around Marion Village enjoying the Christmas decorations and scenery.

Our next walk will be along the Mattapoissett bike path. Watch our website mattapoissettwomansclub.org for info on future walks. Everyone is welcome.

~ Sue Mitchell



Standing L to R: Cindy Turse, Erin Burlinson, Peg Olney, Robbin Peach, Maureen St. Amand
Kneeling L to R: Kristen McCormack, Sue Mitchell, Coahuila Meteorite, Sandy Hering

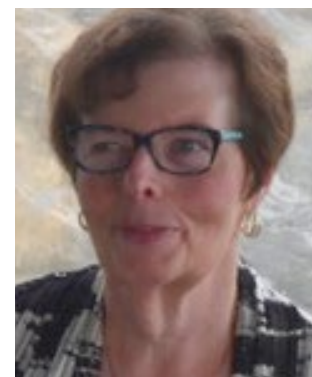
Knitting & Hand Crafts

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

I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas. We'll start the New Year by meeting on Thursday, January 25th from 2pm to 4pm. We are having work done at my house, so we will move the meeting location to Bobbie Oakley's home. She lives at 21 Brandt Beach Avenue in Mattapoissett.

Please RSVP to Bobbie at oakleyr@comcast.net so that we know how many guests to expect.

~ Marie Rottler



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair

Bridge Group

Second and fourth Tuesdays 1:00 pm

Seven "regulars" and one "sub," Beth Inglis, met at Jackie Slade's home on the 12th of December. Buoyed by the Christmas spirit and Christmas cookies, all enjoyed the afternoon. Our next meeting will be in the New Year on January 9th at Betty Parker's.

Wishing all the best of health and happiness for 2024.

~ Elaine Grant



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

On Thursday, November 30, nine of us had the best time so far in our food travels with the Ladies Who Lunch! Everything was delightful—the conversation, food and company.

We ordered everything from a Waldorf Salad with more chicken than apples, to a Sweet Blu' Burger with bacon and caramelized onions, to spicy Ramen with grilled shrimp in a ginger sauce to spicy Shrimp Creole that was declared "the best ever," to Mustard Crusted Chicken BLT to Butternut Squash Flatbread that consisted of pecan-sage pesto, balsamic, brussels sprouts, smoked mozzarella and caramelized onions to Lasagna which was too much to finish!

As if that wasn't enough, we decided to finish off with a sinful dessert called a Dirty Banana that wasn't "dirty" at all (except maybe for the calories). It was a combination of Portuguese sweet bread, bananas and chocolate, soaked in cinnamon custard, and served warm with vanilla ice cream and caramel drizzle, that six separate plates and spoons later, we delightedly shared, down to the last crumb.

Our next outing will be on January 31st to Saffron by the Sea, the new Indian restaurant that is making headlines with their wonderful, if unusual, menu that we all are going to need some help understanding (N.B. read translating). That's how authentic the cuisine is reported to be at Saffron. You just must be in conversation with someone who has been there to know that this is a trip worth taking. So, give Kate Brown a call at 508-758-3229, and sign up to be one of the fortunate ladies to take this adventurous trip to India on January 31, at Noon, to Saffron by the Sea Restaurant in our own Fairhaven. See you then!

~Kate Brown



*Ros Barrow (at head). Going around from left side:
Diane Brown-Couture, Peg Olney, Sue Mitchell,
Geneva Woodruff, Betty Parker, Marianne Mattison,
Kate Brown, Cindy Johnson*

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.

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 before January 10th:

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.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Ellen P. Flynn

Past President and Chair of Great Decisions

elflynn@vassar.edu

December Luncheon

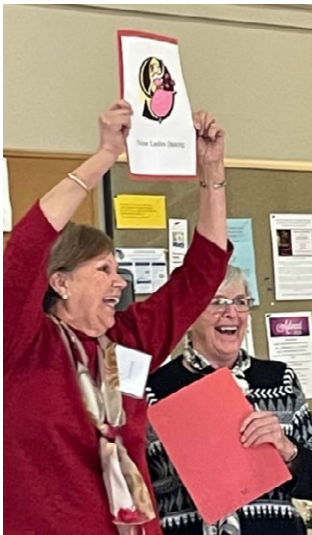
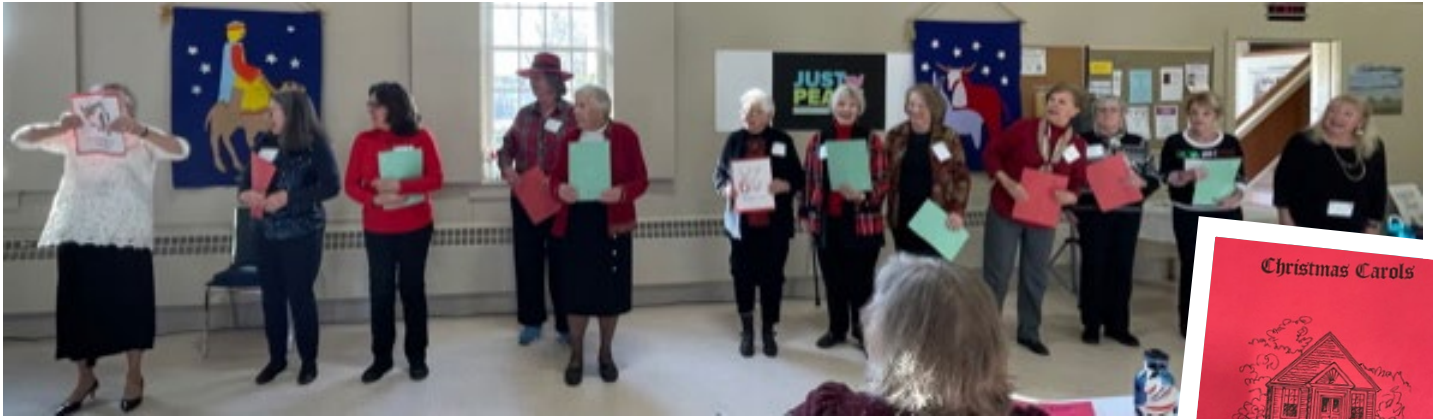
Holiday cheer abounded at our December luncheon. From the beautiful table decorations of our talented Garden Group to the festive garb of our 59 attendees to the seasonal musical performances of Gail Roberts on the piano, Kristen Henriques on the flute and Peg Olney leading us in song, it was a rollicking good time. A warm welcome was given to Past President Lee Yeaton and her daughter, Sandra Doane, who traveled from Franklin to join in the festivities.

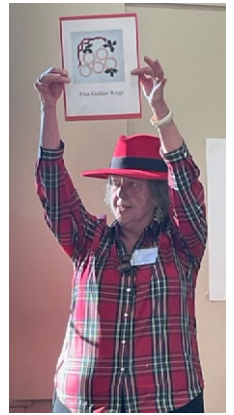
Many thanks to Hostess Bobbie Ketchel and her three team members, Roxie Bungert, Lois Ennis and Debbie Ward. Bobbie gives special thanks to Kathy McAuliffe and Linda Clifford who jumped right in to help with the set up, kitchen and clean-up duties, and thanks other club members who lent a helping hand.

The buffet assortment by On the Go was deliciously outstanding, with "to go" boxes aplenty. As the saying goes, "A good time was had by all."

More pictures on pages 12 and 13







Officers

President
Sandra Hering

Vice President
Kate Brown

Recording Secretary
Sherry Hoines

Corresponding Secretary
Elaine Grant

Treasurer
Beth Inglis

Assistant Treasurer
Lois K. Ennis

Board of Directors
2024 Carole Clifford
2025 Linda Clifford
2026 Roxanne Bungert

Standing Committee Chair

Publicity*
Kate Brown

Facebook Cindy Turse
Ladies' Choice Elaine Grant
Website Kate Brown

Ladies' Choice Publisher
Debra Nettles

Photographer*
Ann Tisdale

Hospitality*
Erin Burlinson

Program*
Eileen Marum
Gail Roberts

Garden Group*
Cindy Turse

Historian*
Gail Roberts

Membership Committee*
Sharon Doyon
Christine Voss
Kate Brown

Special Committee Chair

Great Decisions
Ellen Flynn

Greetings & Remembrances
Linda Clifford

Scholarship Committee
2023-2024 Bethany Cuoto
2024-2025 Jan Hubley
2025-2026 Alice Openshaw

Audit Committee
2024 Marianne Hickey
2025 Sherry Hoines
2026 Sue Mitchell

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

**Executive Board*

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

