



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

February 2024
VOLUME LXII No. 6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

I'm writing today about an issue happening in the Town of Mattapoissett that is near and dear to my heart. I invite you to a presentation about how trees will be impacted by the Town's Road Project on February 28th at the Fire Station Meeting Room at 6:00 PM.

As Chair of the Mattapoissett Tree Committee, I have been involved in a proposed road project in the Village since 2014. This project runs from Acushnet Road across Route 6 to Main Street to Water Street to Beacon Street to Marion Road and ends at Route 6 at the Oxford Creamery. It is a comprehensive plan to replace all underground utilities, repave, set new curbs and sidewalks and improve drainage. It began with a vote to fund engineering design followed by a slate of public input meetings where citizens in small groups learned about the project and voiced their concerns and the features they want to retain. The engineers talked about the exceptions that a historic town such as ours would require to protect the village character, including our tree-lined streets, which were mentioned at many meetings.

Then the pandemic hit and transitions occurred in Town Hall. In 2022 the project resurfaced and the Tree Committee examined a new set of plans. Our concerns were many, as we saw that trees would be sacrificed for roadways and sidewalks, and no new trees were noted for planting. We drew up our own vision for the roadway, with new trees added to compensate for tree removals and tree losses due to construction damages. It attempted to create special zones enhancing pedestrian experiences, slowing traffic and adding shade cover from trees. It was presented to the Select Board but not utilized as far as we ever learned.

In the fall of 2023, the Mattapoissett Select Board used their public Selectboard meetings to have the engineers present their plans. The Tree Committee was in the audience, but was never given a set of plans to review prior to the meeting, so our understanding of the newest proposals and changes made at each meeting was limited. Our concerns were many once we received each session's revised plans. We were pleased that our Town Administrator came to the December Tree Committee meeting where the press and roughly 20 citizens attended to learn more. Most were surprised that the project was again active and to learn that many changes had been made.

It is a recognized fact by our committee that trees will be lost with this road construction. We are sponsoring a public meeting to present to our citizens our understanding of the current plans, since no project-specific public meetings have been held since 2018.

The Tree Committee meeting will be held on February 28 at 6:00 PM in the Mattapoissett Fire Station Meeting Room. Please check our [Friends of Mattapoissett Trees Facebook group](#) for additional information.

Thank you,

Sandra Hering
MWC President



Sandra Hering
President, MWC

This Tree **& 27+ More** to be **REMOVED** for New Road Design



**Learn More About the Road Design Project
Attend the Community Meeting**



**Sponsored by the
Mattapoisett Tree Committee**

**February 28, 2024, 6PM
at the Mattapoisett Fire Station, Route 6**

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I grew up in Rochester, NY. I've always loved digging in the dirt. One of my favorite memories is weeding in my mother's rose garden on both sides of the front door path. She had mulched with cocoa bean shells and I loved the smell when I stirred up the mulch.

Since I've been married, we've lived in New York, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts. In 1999 we moved to Shrewsbury, MA. As we were thinking about retiring in 2011, we decided to move near one of our children and his family and be a "destination" for our other two sons and family to visit.

The Woman's Club popped up when I talked to people at church coffee hour. I joined the Woman's Club in September 2012 and also went to a garden group meeting, which at that time was held in a member's home – maybe Anne Shepley's or Peg Olney's. (The group was much smaller then.)

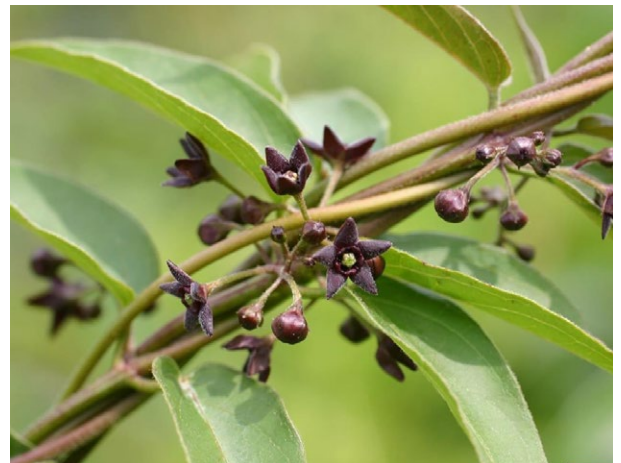
An influx of new members joined around the same time – Mary O'Keefe, Kathy Saunders, Marie Rottler, Suzanne Sylvester, Erin Burlinson, Sue Mitchell, Kathy McAuliffe and me. We all worked on the 2014 garden tour. From there we began to plant and weed at the various plantings around town. Since a group of us live on the eastern side of town, we focused on the Triangle Garden. After we lugged gallons and gallons of water to the garden, we discovered there was water at the site. We negotiated with the Town Manager and Water Dept. to have a pipe and spigot installed which made it much easier to water. We planted the perimeter with annuals but gradually moved to perennials and natives so we didn't have to water at all.

In the fall of 2019, the Woman's Club planted over 1,000 daffodil bulbs around town under the expert leadership of Roxanne Bungert who was president. I was so disappointed when Covid spoiled the plans to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Women's Right to Vote. But, we all celebrated spring with the daffodils that popped up everywhere around town.

Lately I've become more concerned about sustainability and environmental issues –invasives, plastics, recycling, climate change, food waste. You may have noticed the food recycling bin I brought to the January meeting or you may have heard me rant about the Mattapoissett weed – black swallow wort that is attracting monarch butterflies to lay their eggs on it which then kills the larvae because the toxin in the leaves is too strong for them to digest. Or you may have seen me confiscate the coffee grounds for my compost.

The Woman's Club is a great place to share new ideas, learn what others in the community care about, enjoy lunch and a program and, best of all, make new friends.

~ Barb Van Inwegen



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

FEBRUARY 8TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT LIBRARY

MWC News & Information

WILDFLOWERS ALONG THE CANAL

Wildflowers lend a touch of beauty, fragrance, and variety to the local landscape as well as play important ecological roles. People have used wildflowers for centuries as herbs, medicine, clothing and survival food.

At our club meeting on Thursday, February 15, we will take a closer look at these wonders of wildflowers during a 45-minute presentation by a US Army Corps of Engineers Park Ranger from the Cape Cod Canal. The Park Ranger will begin with a brief overview of the Cape Cod Canal's mission and history and transition into a photo & video presentation of Cape Cod Canal Wildflowers through the seasons.

~ Eileen Marum

FEBRUARY MEETING TEA COMMITTEE

Hostess: Jen Shepley

Committee: Ann Butler, Bethany Couto, Betty Dawson, Marianne Hickey, Nancy Holland, Jane Howard, Maureen Kelly, Corinne Marlow, Betty Parker, Peg Olney, Gail Roberts, Peggy Totten, Laura Von Zweck, Geneva Woodruff

Ladies, please refer to your Blue Book, pages 41 to 44. Many hands make light work and we need all hands on deck.

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.

Volunteer Your Sewing Talents!

Do you sew? A small group of "sewists" are making pillowcases for cancer patients who go to St. Luke's for day treatments. Most of the patients are between 3 and 15.

We have a pattern and material to share to get you started. When we have 25 pillowcases, we wash them in special detergent, iron and put them in zip lock bags. The patients use the pillowcases that day and then can take them home. They're a bright spot in their day.

Have questions or would like more information?
Contact Barb Van Inwegen barbvani1@gmail.com.



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

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

Both the Morning and Afternoon sections of the Literature Group will be meeting on Wednesday, February 14. The Morning section will meet at 9:30 am at the home of Marianne Hickey, 52 County Road, Unit 2.

The Afternoon section will meet at 1:00 pm at the home of Mary Dermody, 17 Fieldstone Drive. The discussion book for February is *"The Richest Woman in America"* by Janet Wallach.

Happy Valentine's Day!

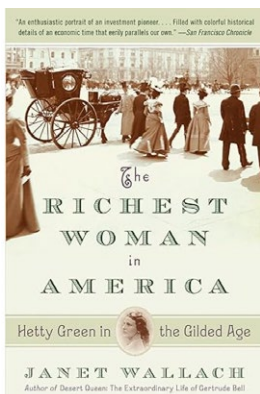
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

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



No woman in the Gilded Age made as much money as Hetty Green. Now the acclaimed author of Desert Queen delivers the definitive biography of America's first female tycoon, "an investment pioneer who matched her male counterparts in ambition and guile, and never backed down from a fight.... Filled with colorful historical details of an economic time that eerily parallels our own." —San Francisco Chronicle

Hetty Green was a strong woman who forged her own path, she was worth at least \$100 million by the end of her life in 1916—equal to about \$2.5 billion today.

Green was mocked for her simple Quaker ways and her unfashionable frugality in an era of opulence and excess; the press even nicknamed her "The Witch of Wall Street." But those who knew her admired her wit and wisdom, and while financiers around her rose and fell as financial bubbles burst, she steadily amassed a fortune that supported businesses, churches, municipalities, and even the city of New York.

Janet Wallach's engrossing biography reveals striking parallels between past financial crises and current recession woes, and speaks not only to history buffs but to today's investors, who just might learn a thing or two from Hetty Green.

2023-24 Literature Group Book List

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

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 February.



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

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Fridays, 1:30 pm

The MWC Walking Group has been trying to keep walking despite the weather. We have been rained out a few days in January but have managed to walk on a couple of Fridays. On January 5, we walked the Fairhaven Bike Path on a cold, but beautiful day. On January 12th we were treated to an absolutely beautiful winter day and walked around Brandt Beach in Mattapoisett. We started at Nasketucket State Reservation Area where we met "Tonto" the mini horse who was about to go for a trot with his owner.

All are welcome to join our group. For further info or to be added to our email list contact Sue Mitchell.

Watch our website mattapoisettwomansclub.org for info on future walks. Everyone is welcome.

~ Sue Mitchell



Top: Peg Olney, Sharon Doyon, Cindy Johnson, Barb Poznysz, Erin Burlinson on the Fairhaven Bike Path.

Bottom: Sharon Doyon, Sue Mitchell, Dottie Schwarz, Cindy Turse, and Tonto at Nasketucket.



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, January 31, 2024

Because of date constraints, Ladies Who Lunch will not have had a January meeting until after the Ladies Choice publication deadline.

However, on January 31, the last Wednesday of the month, we will be headed to Saffron by the Sea, the new Indian restaurant that was recently featured in the Standard Times with an outstanding article about the new dining spot in the area. Here's to a delightful lunch and promises of our reviews in the next issue of Ladies Choice!

Also missing from this issue is a decision about our February outing location. Any suggestions are more than welcome! Please put February 21 – the last Wednesday of the month – on your calendar now so that you'll for sure be free to join the fun wherever it is that we land on the next of our voyages around the food world!

~Kate Brown

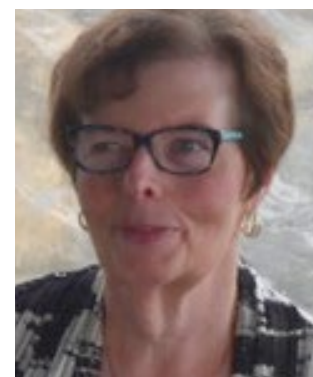
Knitting & Hand Crafts

Thursday, February 22, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

This month's Knitting and Handicraft Group gathering will be on Thursday, February 22nd, from 2-4 pm. We'll meet at Bobbie Oakley's home, 21 Brandt Beach Avenue, Mattapoisett. We look forward to seeing you to share ideas and projects. We welcome new members, so give it a try! Bring your projects and join us for a pleasant, creative, and conversational afternoon.

Please RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie at oakleyr@comcast.net.

~ Marie Rottler & Bobbie Oakley



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair

Bridge Group

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

As the saying goes, "The only thing constant in life is change." That's been true for our Bridge Group as weather and absences have forced us to change locations and players.

One change was that January's meeting on the 9th ended up being hosted by Ann Butler with only 7 players, including a sub, and "dummies" filling in the missing spots. The game on the 23rd at Carolyn Price's home had three absences with only two substitute players. So once again "dummies" went from table to table. We thank substitute players Marianne Mattison and Bobbie Ketchel for filling in.

Our next meeting is February 13 at Aina Holden's home. Betty Parker is scheduled to host on the 27th. New players who wish to sign up are most welcome. Please contact Elaine Grant.

~ Elaine Grant



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Wednesdays beginning January 17, 2024 ending March 6, 2024

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Great Decisions Program is approaching its third session in the 2024 discussion group.

We discuss Foreign Policy and Domestic decision making and action to find strategic solutions to many everyday important worldwide and global issues.

Our group is strong and vital, filled with enthusiasm and leadership. We meet each week at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library for two hours to develop the skills of communicating to the entire group, offering ideas, opinions, and personal experiences, whether it be about traveling to a foreign country or serving our Country.

We consist of thirty members representing all areas of the South Coast, both male and female, with backgrounds ranging from electrical engineers, foreign service officer, a pilot, a journalist, a professional photographer, a global treasury management consultant, a community development financier, a business owner, teachers, US Coast Guard Officer, retired librarian, university professor, entrepreneurs and many other walks of life.

Because the Library offers us the Zoom platform, we are able to bring people together with this forum from Florida, Virginia, Spain, and other local areas like Acushnet, Wareham and Woods Hole, MA.

We have discussed the U.S and Middle East with emphasis on the war between Israel and Palestine and its present day conflicts.

Another topic was "Green Energy and Climate Technology", and we look forward to "Science across the Borders", with the North Sea, the Netherlands, and the Persian Gulf.

All members are sharing skills, techniques, and materials while reading the Foreign Policy Association Text and watching a twenty five minute DVD weekly presentation which corresponds with the text and our outside research.

I love that for the past sixteen years I have Chaired this MWC Great Decisions' Program and have always discovered something new about learning and living in our community.

Sincerely,

Ellen P. Flynn

Past President and Chair of Great Decisions

Mattapoissett Woman's Club

elflynn@vassar.edu



Ellen Flynn

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



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

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group Happenings

The January 3rd Garden Group Meeting was attended by 15-20 members who packed seeds for the January 20th Mattapoisett Land Trust Native Seed Planting Workshop. (See page 11 for photos and article) Sandy Hering and Barb Van Inwegen led the group.

February 7th:

Following a short business meeting we'll feature a flower swap to create "make-and-take" floral arrangements. Members are invited to bring purchased flowers (under \$10), a small vase (not a dozen roses size), and any flower arranging items available (snips, frogs, waterproof tape, decorative accents, sea glass, marbles, stones, twigs).

March 7th: Please note this a Thursday meeting

Chef Colby Rottler will host the group at the library for a cooking demonstration. This has become an annual event and there will be leftovers. Come prepared with your take-home containers.

Upcoming Events & Workshops:



Fieldtrip to the Attleboro Museum Flower Show - March 22nd & March 23rd - carpool options
<https://attleboroartsmuseum.org/flower-show/>

How to Grow Cannas A hands-on workshop – date to be announced

Ikenobo Ikebana demonstration with Ellen Flynn after April 15th.



Cannas



Ikenobo Ikebana

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

COCKTAIL SOCIAL GROUP

On Sunday, January 14, members and their guests attended the Winter Cocktail Social which was co-hosted by Beth Inglis and Robin Lepore and held at Robin's lovely home. The weather was frigid, but warm and welcoming inside. The appetizers were varied and delicious and all who attended had an enjoyable time.

These social gatherings are held 3 to 4 times during the year, seasonally. The host chooses the date and time, usually a weekend day from 5-7 pm, and provides the glassware and paper goods. Those attending bring their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. This event is a relaxed way to gather and enjoy the company of other Club members and their guests.

HOSTESSES NEEDED: Please consider hosting an evening so that these gatherings can continue.

Questions? Please contact Linda Clifford, 508-207-6572 or email tilly_ralph@hotmail.com

Looking forward to hearing from you.

~ Linda Clifford



Top from left to right:
Rob Inglis next to Barb Van Inwegen and Beth Inglis,

2nd row from left to right:
Lori Woodacre and Joanela Deery with others in background,
Peggy Totten and Kristen McCormack.

3rd row from left to right:
Luice Montevitch and Joanela Deery,
Andy Lepore and Rich Van Inwegen.

4th row from left to right: Peg Olney and Marianne Mattison,
Sandy Hering and Ray Totten, Carl and Sherry Hoines and Robin Lepore.



Native Plant Seed Starting workshop

Barb Van Inwegen and Sandy Hering, both Mattapoisett Woman's Club and Mattapoisett Land Trust members, led a Native Plant Seed Starting workshop in January for the public. Several MWC members attended, and our photographer, Ann Tisdale, attended and took the pictures!

The workshop instructed how to give a necessary cold treatment to specific varieties of native plants, as these species of plants require a cold treatment in order to germinate. We were assisted by Colleen Andrews, Manager of Mattapoisett Land Trust, who joined others and sowed seeds in recycled milk jugs which will be put outside for the remainder of the winter, and repotted after they germinate in the spring.

The Land Trust seedlings were chosen to plant at three of the Land Trust properties: Munro property by the town wharves, Dunseith Gardens at the corner of Rte. 6 and North Street, and Betsy's meadow, off Prospect Road. If you missed the program this year, we hope to have another next year.



January Luncheon

Forty four of us gathered on a clear, cold day to the warmth of Hostess Sharon Doyon's welcome to the New Year. Tables were festively decorated with beautiful fresh flowers, yellow roses being the focal feature, gold champagne flutes filled with tasty mints and scattered gold "2024" confetti, with the theme "This is the Year." Her committee offered a bountiful assortment of tasty sandwiches, salads and deserts. Thank you to all.

Member Dottie Schwarz set up a book exchange where members shared books with one another, providing good reading during our winter months. Speaker Richard Van Inwegen took us on a Road Scholar trip with his photos of Australia, New Zealand, Scotland and the Canadian Rockies, offering us pointers on getting the right shot.

Barb Van Inwegen called our attention to the brochure on each table that featured bringing curbside composting to our town. Composting not only helps the environment, but lowers the cost of rubbish pickup which will weigh less. Contact the Board of Health to learn more.

Barb also advised us to look at the expiration dates on all of our canned goods and, if any are close to expiring before you use them, they can be donated after February 5th for the Congregational Church's "Stone Soup" luncheon on February 29th. See Barb's write up on page 14.

A short business meeting followed. President Sandy Herring advised that there is an open spot for a Publicity Chairperson. Volunteers are asked to call Sandy.

More pictures on page 13







Canned Goods and Stone Soup

Winter is a great time for soup. Open the pantry and check what canned soup and vegetables you have on hand. But...have you checked the “best by” dates or expiration dates on your canned goods lately?

How many cans of beans, chicken noodle soup, corn, etc. do you have stocked up? Do you remember what recipe they were bought for?

Here’s an opportunity to use those products before they get tossed in the trash. Donate canned soup, vegetables or fruits that are getting close to their end dates and we will turn them into Stone Soup on February 29th to share with you.

You may not have read the children’s book about Stone Soup. It’s an old folk tale in which hungry travelers come into a town of humble peasants and together they create a warm, delicious meal that each person has contributed to. That’s our goal.

Between February 5 and February 25 you can drop them off at three locations:

1. the Mattapoisett Free Public Library during open hours where there will be a box near the upstairs circulation desk;
2. the Mattapoisett COA Drop Monday-Friday 8 am —3:00 pm; or
3. Mattapoisett Congregational Church on Mondays and Thursdays between 9 am and noon (use the Mechanic Street door and leave them on the big wooden oval table near the kitchen).

The sustainability group will turn the canned goods into stone soup to share with you on February 29th at noon in Reynard Hall at the Congregational Church. It’s part of our continuing effort to find ways to use our environment and resources wisely. In February we are focusing on reducing food waste by buying what we need, using what we have and avoiding tossing unused food in the trash.

The lunch is free, but you must register online at <http://tinyurl.com/m8sfud5r>

We hope you will join us!

If you have questions, please email Barb at barbvani11@gmail.com

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Greetings & Remembrances
Linda Clifford

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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*

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MWC news & events!

