



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

March 2024
VOLUME LXII No. 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

At our February meeting we had a wonderful speaker, a Park Ranger from the Cape Cod Canal, who talked about the initiative to plant wildflowers at the visitor center and along both sides of the Cape Cod Canal. Her presentation included a video of many of the wildflowers that they have planted for a variety of seasons, soil types, and sun levels. A great presentation and very educational.

To follow up on this, I am going to write about a great "grass roots" organization that is available to us to help us improve the survival of our pollinators: the butterflies, bees, insects, and hummingbirds that pollinate our wildflowers, and cultivated trees and plants that bring us joy and food. The organization is called Pollinator-Pathways.

What began in New York on the Connecticut border is a nonprofit volunteer organization with the goal of creating plots of land planted with pollinator-friendly native plants which, when put together, become a 'pathway' for the pollinators to travel and thrive. The plots of land can be small postage size lots such as mine, or larger plots of conservation land, or botanical gardens or public lands. Anyone can submit their property to the organization for inclusion in their lists of properties and it's relatively simple to do: you calculate your total square footage, you list all the plants that are planted and estimate the square footage of native and pollinator-friendly plants.

Since it's beginning in 2017, the organization has grown to over 300 communities in 18 states; and since I registered my property, Cape Cod has become a large contributor to Pollinator-Pathways with 8 towns and numerous garden clubs and conservation organizations involved. Massachusetts has 12 additional towns in the program in addition to the Cape Cod group, but alas, Mattapoissett is not listed as Barb Van Inwegen and I are the only participants in our town.

There are several requirements to participate but they are simple, whether you do your own gardening or use a landscaper:

- No pesticides or chemical fertilizers should be used on lawns
- No chemical insecticides or herbicides should be used on gardens
- Invasives should be removed manually, with exceptions for the most noxious and/or extensive, large-scale invasives.

The website, www.pollinator-pathway.org is filled with useful information of how to do this: what native plants to plant and where to buy them, and even how to talk to your neighbors about what they are using on their property. Please check it out. I'd like to see Mattapoissett get on the map and join a growing group of communities taking small steps that can yield big results. The Mattapoissett Land Trust is interested in starting to put several of their properties on the program, and perhaps some of you will do the same. 2024 can be a great year for our pollinator friends.

Thank you,

Sandra Hering
MWC President



Sandra Hering
President, MWC



HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I grew up in Needham, Massachusetts and my two brothers still live there today. Summers were spent at our family cottage on Great Neck in Wareham, where we filled our days with sailing on Onset Bay, swimming at Little Harbor Beach and playing on the town tennis courts where the Wareham Library sits today.

After studying biology at Wellesley college and a stint at Bank of New England in Boston, I headed to Philadelphia to study finance for an MBA from the Wharton School at UPenn. I then went to work at Merck Pharmaceuticals, where I was able to combine my interests in biology and business. There, I met my husband, Larry Kupferschmidt, another biologist who had migrated over to business. When we married, I became the step-mother to three wonderful girls, Bethany, Erica and Denise. We lived in Westfield, New Jersey, for about 10 years while we had two daughters, Darcy and Courtney, and I worked my way through various Merck finance jobs, the last being the Controller for the Research Laboratories. However, without any family nearby and both of us working hard, we found it hard raising our two daughters. Luckily, I had the chance to take a marketing executive position at Merck's location near Valley Forge, just a few miles from Larry's family. So, off to Pennsylvania we went. My one complaint was that we were far from the ocean (100 miles), and much too far from Buzzard Bay (350 miles). Nonetheless, we made the long drive twice every summer to have a least a week or two by the Bay.

Fast forward to retirement. Unlike most people, we decided to head north. As someone with multiple sclerosis, I craved cooler temperatures, since heat causes MS symptoms to emerge. So, after taking a 30-year detour, my husband suggested it was time for me to come home to Massachusetts and be closer to my family. Plus, four of our daughters, had also moved north: Courtney and Denise to New York, Erica to Providence and Darcy to Sharon. We hoped to have easy access to our family cottage in Wareham, and still be near the Bay, but in a smaller town. Mattapoissett fit the bill perfectly!

Retiring here has let me focus on my favorite activities...watching the Red Sox, biking, walking, swimming in the bay and my most favorite... spending time with family. Mattapoissett has also given me new experiences. I can now say I'm a golfer, a tenor in my church choir, an active Town Meeting member, a contributor to the town's Master Plan, as well as a player, turned instructor, of Mah Jongg. As an avid reader, I joined a neighborhood book club, but it then dissolved. Robin Lepore, whom I had met when we worked together on the Mattapoissett Master Plan, suggested I try going with her to the MWC's Literature Group meeting. So, I attended the last book discussion of the year and joined the club on the spot, as Lois Ennis was conveniently sitting right next to me, ready to collect my dues. Even though I didn't really know anyone, I had lots of fun even before the first monthly luncheon in September...going on group walks, prepping and ticket selling for Taste of the Town, baking pies and making new friends. I've even started a new interest group for Mah Jongg. It hasn't taken long for me to feel as if I've known many of the women for much longer than it's actually been. I'm thrilled to be part of a group that has so much fun, while accomplishing so much!

~ Mary Dermody



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

MARCH 14TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT LIBRARY

MWC News & Information

MARCH 21 MEETING PROGRAM

Do you know what it takes to be a firefighter? It takes courage, dedication, and a willingness to help those in need. Firefighters respond to a variety of emergency calls, including fires, vehicle accidents, and medical emergencies. They spend their days main-



taining the fire station, fire engines, and equipment, while also training their bodies and practicing fire safety and prevention techniques. When responding to an emergency call, firefighters face dangerous situations and put their lives on the line to help others. They work long shifts, with some working several days in a row at the fire station and sleeping there. Fire Chief Andrew Murray is a prime example of what it means to be a firefighter.

Mary O'Keefe has played a pivotal role in securing Fire Chief Murray as our guest speaker, and without her tireless efforts, this event would not have been possible. Mary's remarkable organizational skills and coordination abilities have been instrumental in bringing this program to fruition. We are incredibly grateful for Mary's contributions to our Club, and we want to give her full credit for this outstanding program.

~ Eileen Marum, Chair
Gail Roberts, Vice Chair

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

MARCH 21 • 11 AM
MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL
CHURCH, REYNARD HALL

SOCIAL COCKTAIL NEWS HOSTESSES NEEDED!

Many of you have attended these social affairs and enjoyed them immensely. Your help is now needed in order for these events to continue.

These social gatherings are held 3-4 times (January/February, April/May, September/October and early December) during the year. The hostess chooses the date, a weekend day, 5-7PM, providing the space, glassware, and paper goods. Those attending bring their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. It is a relaxed informal way to gather and enjoy the company of other club members and their guests.

Please consider hosting an evening so these gatherings can continue.

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

GREETINGS AND REMEMBRANCES

Please continue to make me aware of members who might need a greeting of get well, sympathy or just plain cheer! I rely on YOU to help me provide a member with this important gesture. Thank you.

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

MARCH 21 MEETING TEA COMMITTEE

Hostess: Kathleen Saunders

Committee: Liz Ackerman, Lillian Dowling, Nicole Dowling, Ellen Flynn, Nancy Keyes, Janet Liljedahl, Caroline Marcoux, Sue Mitchell, Anne Price, Deborah Ruel, Mary Schubert, Ann Tisdale, Cindy Turse, Laura Van Zweck and Lori Woodacre

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

MWC News & Information

MWC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

I'm a serial career volunteer starting from childhood when I helped my Dad with counting dimes for the March of Dimes, then separating new donated espadrilles for the Salvation Army, and in my teenage years assisting with fundraisers and floats for the Mystic (CT) Lions Club.

I volunteered for various organizations wherever my husband and I were stationed during 27 itinerant years of moving with the Marine Corps.

When I retired (final retirement 2016), I made a series of five-year plans for volunteering. The plans haven't worked and I find myself unable to say "No" to new opportunities. After moving from Kailua, HI, to Mattapoisett, I joined five organizations and volunteered wherever needed. Now, in addition to fundraisers for the MWC, I volunteer for the [Mattapoisett Land Trust Education Committee](#), the [Buzzards Bay Coalition](#), and the Voter Services Committee of the [League of Women Voters South Coast](#).

Since Massachusetts allows 16 year-olds to pre-register and automatically become active voters when they reach age 18, there will be opportunities for in-person registration at ORR, Old Colony, and our library over the next few months. The League of Women Voters also sponsors [Vote411](#) where anyone can check their voter registration status or register online to vote.

Volunteers are welcome in all of these organizations. Come find your niche!

~ *Cindy Turse*

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

NATIONAL SLAM THE SCAM DAY - MARCH 7, 2024

On National Slam the Scam Day and throughout the year, we give you the tools to recognize Social Security-related scams and stop scammers from stealing your money and personal information.



Help protect your loved ones and people in your community this Slam the Scam Day by:

- Educating them about government imposter scams. Let them know they shouldn't be embarrassed to report if they shared personal information or suffered a financial loss. It is important to report the scam as quickly as possible.
- Sharing our Scam Alert fact sheet (see page 5) and helping educate others about how to protect themselves.
- Report Social Security-related scams to the Social Security Office of the Inspector General (OIG).

Visit www.ssa.gov/scam for more information.

SCAM ALERT

Watch out! Scammers target everyone.



Recognize scammers. They may:

- **PRETEND** to be from an agency or organization you know.
- Say there's a **PROBLEM** or promise a prize.
- **PRESSURE** you to act immediately.
- Tell you to **PAY** in a specific way.



Do not give scammers money or personal information – Ignore them!

How to avoid a scam:

- **Remain calm.** Talk to someone you trust.
- **Hang up or ignore** the message. **DO NOT** click on links or attachments.
- **Protect your money.** Criminals will insist that you pay in a hard-to-trace manner, such as with a gift card, prepaid debit card, cryptocurrency, wire transfer, money transfer, or by mailing cash.
- **Protect your personal information.** Be skeptical of a contact you didn't initiate.
- **Spread the word.** Share your knowledge of Social Security-related scams. Post on social media using the hashtag #SlamtheScam to share your experience and warn others. Visit ssa.gov/scam for more information. Please also share with your friends and family.

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

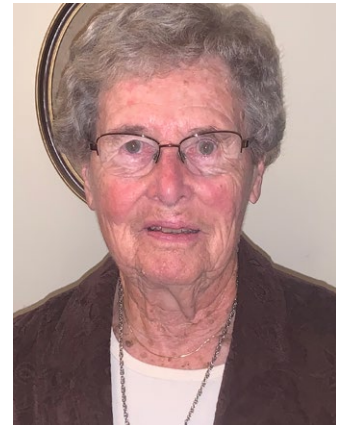
Literature Group

Wednesday, March 13, 9:30 am & 1:00 pm (please see details below)

The March meetings of the Literature Group will be held on Wednesday, March 13. The book we will be discussing is *"Tom Lake"* by Ann Patchett. The Morning group will meet at the home of Carole Clifford, 87 North Street at 9:30 am. The Afternoon group will be at the home of Alice Openshaw, 3 Channing Road at 1:00 pm. Please let your hostess know if you are coming. The discussions at our February meetings were lively—let's keep it up!

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

~ Peg Olney

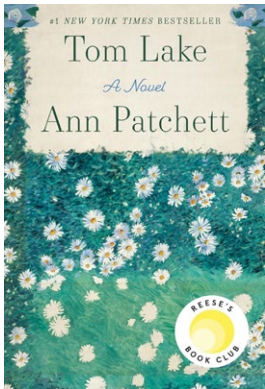


Peg Olney

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

2023-24 Literature Group Book List

April: *"The Postcard"* by Anne Berest



In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. While picking cherries, they beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.

Tom Lake is a meditation on youthful love, married love, and the lives parents have led before their children were born. Both hopeful and elegiac, it explores what it means to be happy even when the world is falling apart. As in all of her novels, Ann Patchett combines compelling narrative artistry with piercing insights into family dynamics. The result is a rich and luminous story, told with profound intelligence and emotional subtlety, that demonstrates once again why she is one of the most revered and acclaimed literary talents working today.

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. We are working on planning some beginner lessons in April. So, stay tuned.

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

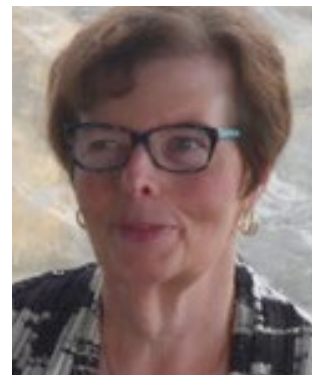
Knitting & Hand Crafts

Thursday, March 28, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft Group will meet on Thursday, March 28th from 2-4pm. This month's location will be at Caroline Marcoux's home, 118 Laurel Street in Fairhaven. We look forward to seeing you to share ideas and projects. You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members, give it a try!

Bring your projects and join us for a pleasant, creative, and conversational afternoon.

~ Marie Rottler & Bobbie Oakley



Marie Rottler
Knitting Chair

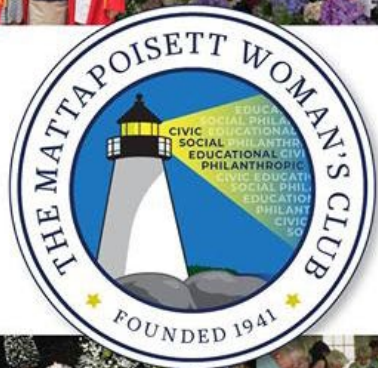
Bridge Group

Second and fourth Tuesdays, 1:00 pm

The nor'easter on February 12th prevented four bridge players from traveling. But three of us neighbors were able to trudge through the snow to Aina Holden's house for an enjoyable afternoon. Along with bridge, we celebrated "Fat Tuesday" with a delectable, decadent Mardi Gras cake shipped from New Orleans, and colorful beads to wear.

The games for March are at Ann Butler's on the 12th and Aina Holden's on the 26th. Please contact Elaine Grant.

~ Elaine Grant



volunteer gardens and conservation
civic gourmet cooking educational music
knowledge social philanthropic
speakers fine arts literature scholarships friendship health international relations
scholarships philanthropic Great Decisions activism discussion



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

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Fridays, 1:30 pm

BUNDLE UP - WE'RE WALKING OUTSIDE!

February can be great for cool weather walking. Add a little sunshine and you've got some happy winter MWC Walkers. We are fortunate that our hometown offers so many scenic areas to walk in any season.

In February we walked from Nasketucket State Reservation area to Brandt Cove Marina. It would have been tempting to walk the causeway to Brandt Island, but as you probably know, it is a private island. Instead, we posed for a photo op by the entrance.

The following week we walked along Aucoot Road from the beach at Hiller's Cove (also known as Aucoot Town Beach) to the end of Aucoot Road and back. We also walked by Harbor Beach where several of us reminisced about the old Harbor Beach Club (a dining/event venue with a fantastic ocean view that burned down many years ago).

We have scheduled several more walks which will include the Mattapoissett Bike Path, Stone Estate in Marion, and Fort Taber in New Bedford. An historic walk along downtown New Bedford (led by the National Park Service) is also being planned for the spring. All are welcome to join us. Please contact Sue Mitchell for further info.

~ Sue Mitchell



Top photo: Deb Ward, Roxanne Bungert, Erin Burlinson, Sharon Doyon, Cindy Turse

Middle photo: Sharon Doyon, Sue Mitchell, Cindy Johnson

Bottom photo: Cindy Turse, Ellen Flynn, Erin Burlinson, Sharon Doyon, Cindy Johnson

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

For February's adventure-of-the-month, the Ladies took a trip to Saffron by the Sea, the new Indian restaurant in Fairhaven. Aside from it being a cold day, nine of us agreed that the trip had been unexpectedly warm, delightful and well worth taking.

The interior decor, waitstaff and menu were done with a strong nod toward India, as well as that ever-so-slight touch of British that one can sense in things Indian or Hindi. As we flipped through the many pages of the menu, Ros Barrow and Diane Brown-Couture helped us to order several selections from among the long list of appetizers. We were soon presented with steaming platters of delicious choices, accompanied by Naan garlic and cheese breads, and baskets of native spiced crackers. For these, we each had two bowls of dipping sauces.

Then it was back to deciding what to have for lunch, which was no easy trick. One dish was as popular with our group as it is worldwide: Chicken Tikka Masala, which turned out to be the hit of the afternoon. To her great surprise, Carolyn Price enjoyed it down to the last little bit.

With meals that ranged from chicken, lamb, shrimp, calamari and vegetables that could have come from our own gardens, first tastes soon had us realizing that each dish was so unique because of the mixture of exotic and staple spices, and the hand of a professional chef!

Prices were very reasonable, especially considering the splendid taste and quantity of the dishes. We all decided that the waiters had earned a good tip for all their language assistance and suggestions. What we ordered was tremendously enjoyable, both as a learning and eating experience, as was the company and the many laughs we shared during the meal.

We decided to try an American restaurant for our February 28th outing. As Ladies Choice goes to press before that date, look for our review of New Bedford's Freestone City Grill in next month's issue. To join in the fun and share in the spirit of Ladies Who Lunch, contact Kate Brown.

~Kate Brown



Top photo: Diane Brown-Couture, Katherine Gaudet, Carolyn Price, Peg Olney. Bottom: Candee Seeley, Kate Brown, Sherry Hoines. Geneva Woodruff is at back table on the phone.

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group Happenings

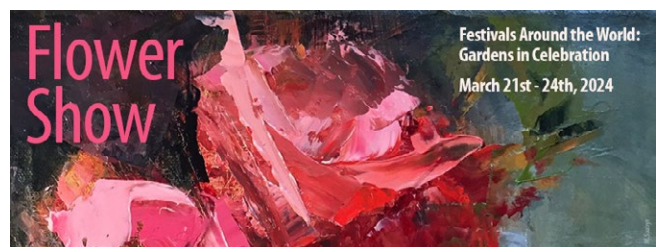
More than 20 members attended the Garden Group meeting on February 7th. Following the business meeting, members selected from a varied assortment of flowers and fillers to create small arrangements for home or donation.

The March 7th meeting is cancelled due to no pressing business.

Our March field trip will take us to the **Attleboro Arts Museum Flower Show**. The event is Thursday, March 21st – Sunday, March 24th, 2024. Admission: Adults/seniors/students/museum members: \$3 each day.) A sign-up sheet for carpooling was available at the February luncheon. Our visit to the museum will be followed by lunch and shopping at Briggs Nursery and Café.

On March 23rd, Sharon Doyon and Sandy Hering will conduct a **Growing Cannas Workshop** at 10 AM in Karl and Sherry Hoines' barn, 150 North Street. This will include all you need to know to grow cannas and you'll have a canna to take home with you. The barn is heated, but there is no bathroom. Parking is limited and carpooling is recommended. Contact Cindy Turse if you are attending.

Chef Colby Rottler will be our guest speaker/chef on Thursday, April 4th. He will create some wonderful dishes for us to devour. Last year we tasted an assortment of appetizers and desserts. What will it be this year?



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Wednesdays beginning January 17, 2024 ending March 13, 2024

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Great Decisions Program has had a great six weeks so far. Recently we discussed Indonesia, and many of us realized that we knew very little about the country. The Foreign Policy Association 2024 Edition text refers to it as an "Invisible Indonesia." Ellen Stone, of Marion, a retired Interbank Foreign Exchange trader and a Global Treasury Management Consultant, started off the discussion with the history, the different ethnic groups, and the many religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism and Islam, the 2nd largest religion after Christianity. Ellen talked about how the military was always in politics and now with the New Order election on February 14th, with President-elect Prabowo Subianto, we will see if he makes good on his campaign promises of continuity with the current administration.

Our continued discussion was lively and upbeat with a lot of enthusiasm for a positive future, unlike some of our previous discussions which at times seem to be not too positive, especially finding that 43% of the world population gets their news from TikTok! U.S. intellectual Property has been stolen by China, and Taiwan is under constant threat from China. We have found that climate change may be the cause of half of the world's coral reefs disappearing. Immigration and refugee displacement is a direct result of climate change. "Whales, dolphins, porpoises and sea lions all suffer from bycatch from global fishing."

The next topic we will discuss is the High Seas Treaty, with a former Great Decisions member, Brad Smith, retired captain of the Coast Guard.

Before retirement in 2014, he held command of thirteen different vessels, including oilers, dry cargo stores ships and ocean-going towing and salvage vessels. He specialized In ocean-towing and salvage. Brad is married to Kay Smith, a former Mattapoissett Woman's Club member and garden club member.

Chapter eight will be a discussion on the Pandemic and I hope to have a guest speaker in the field of medicine. Our group has decided to continue the sessions until March 13th, when we will visit the New Bedford Art Museum. I arranged a tour of the current exhibition on "Envision Resilience." The Executive Director, Suzanne DeVegh, will offer us a guided tour and we will have a short discussion and bring our refreshments.

This 2024 Great Decisions program has been one of the most rewarding and dynamic groups I have had the pleasure of leading. Thank you all for your support.

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*



February Luncheon

Once again we had an outstanding speaker at our monthly luncheon attended by 47 members. Samantha Gray, a Park Ranger from the U.S. Corps of Army Engineers gave us an interesting and educational presentation about wildflowers along the Cape Cod Canal. Jen Shepley and her committee provided an excellent, delicious meal with plenty of leftovers.

A short business meeting followed, with the announcement of two \$2500 scholarships to high school seniors and one \$1500 scholarship for continuing education. Our notecards and postcards are still available for sale. Volunteers are needed to host the popular seasonal Social Gatherings, as well as workers for the May Tag Sale. The newly re-opened position of Corresponding Secretary will be filled by Jen Shepley.





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!

