



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

September 2025
VOLUME LXIV No. 1

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Summers on the South Coast, we love them! So much to do and suddenly it's September. But wait, that means our MWC luncheon meetings are about to begin. It's a great time to see friends who don't live in our neighborhoods, whom perhaps we haven't seen since the Taste of the Town.

So, it's September 18th at 11:00 am and we all have a role in bringing a salad or a dessert to share at our annual September potluck luncheon. Bring a friend who might be interested in our Club; there has always been plenty of food by very good cooks.

Yes, the Taste of the Town was the last time I saw several of you, thanks for volunteering at the Taste, and a very special thanks to Lois Ennis for once again organizing the event. She knows all the details after doing this every year since it began, 21 years ago! The Taste was welcomed by the presence of many patrons, and our 7 restaurants did an excellent job of keeping up with the demand. Say "Thank you" to any of the restaurants you visit, as we hope they all return next year.

And this year was also a year of our Mattapoissett Garden Tour. Although cloudy skies and an occasional drizzle greeted us in the morning, the Tour was a great successful fundraiser which helps us with our Town Beautification, Scholarships and other charitable donations. A special thank you to co-chairs Sharon Doyon, Susan Perkins and Cindy Turse, plus other ladies who made this happen: Erin Burlinson, Jocelyn Chin, Linda Clifford, Bethany Couto, Sherry Hoines, Beth Inglis, Kathy Saunders, Maureen St. Amand and Ann Tisdale. And very special thanks go to Natalie Dorman, Kris Brammer and Jane Howard, who worked so hard to make their gardens sparkle as they volunteered to put them on the Tour! All three gardens were spectacular, and most appreciated by all our visitors. Finally, the Tour would not be a success without the many of you who sold or bought tickets, staffed the tables at each garden, volunteered to be a garden captain, put up posters, or worked a garden. Many thanks to all!

Another thanks for work performed behind the scenes as always, goes to the Garden Group. This largest group in our Club planted and watered 28 planters and window boxes, plus cared for four gardens around town. Especially in the drought months of July and August, this is no small task! Your work is appreciated by so many of our Town!

I am grateful that I was able to step back into the role as your President for the time between our April meeting and the September Meeting. At our September meeting, we will officially turn the Presidency over to our new Co-Presidents Carole Clifford and Linda Clifford. Please read more from them about plans for the upcoming year in this Ladies Choice on page 2. And thank you all for your membership in a wonderful Club and organization!

Sandy Hering
Temp-President, MWC



Sandy Hering

Temp-President, MWC



PRESIDENT'S CORNER *Continued*

As Co-Presidents we are happy to greet you for this transitional year of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club. We are fortunate to have a full complement of Officers and Committee Chairs to facilitate the current, very full calendar of opportunities for meeting and sharing with other members.

The activities of the Club will appeal to a variety of interests and, hopefully, there is something for each member. We are looking forward to our monthly meetings which are held on the 3rd Thursday of the months of September to April. Our members enjoy interesting, varied programs, good food and friendship. With all of us working together, the MWC will continue to be a social, civic, philanthropic, educational and community outreach organization.

We look forward to seeing you at the September 18th general meeting at eleven o'clock.

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford



Mission Statement

In its quest to uplift women, the Mattapoissett Woman's Club inspires, empowers and challenges all to grow.

GOALS

Social:

To provide opportunities to connect with others in a warm, friendly, kind and caring atmosphere.

Civic:

To support and participate in local civic responsibilities and activities.

Philanthropic:

To promote the well-being of others through gifts of time, money and talent.

Education:

To offer entertaining activities and educational programs to encourage lifelong learning.

Community Outreach:

To work in the community to build relationships, cultivate participation, access, equality and joy.

MWC News & Information

SOCIAL COCKTAIL GATHERING

The first Social Cocktail Gathering of the 2025-26 season will be held on Sunday, September 28, from 5:30-7:30 pm at the home of Blaise Simpson, 6R North St. Members are asked to bring their beverage of choice and an appetizer to share. The gathering will take place outside on the porch and in the yard. Bring a guest if you wish.

Parking is available on the right side of North Street (please do not block driveways) or in the Town Beach lot. For those with limited mobility, parking is also available for about 6 cars on the right side of Blaise's driveway and in her neighbor's driveway at 4 North St. (4 cars). To reach the house, walk the length of the driveway next to 6 North. For this event RSVP directly to Blaise, 415-367-5362 or blaises@yahoo.com

These social gatherings are held 3-4 times during the year: January/February, April/May, September/October and early December. Please consider hosting an evening so that these gatherings can continue. They are certainly a casual opportunity to become acquainted with other Club members.

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

GREETINGS AND REMEMBRANCES

It is good to be mindful of our Club members and their needs. Just a reminder to all that, if there is a member who needs a call or a short note, be it sick, grieving, or just would enjoy a call, please let me know.

Linda Clifford 508-207-6572

TAG SALE

In consideration of the sadness and void presented by the recent deaths of our President Kate Brown and valued member Peg Olney, our annual Tag Sale, originally scheduled for October has been postponed. The new date is Saturday, May 2, 2026. In the meantime, continue to accumulate your treasures and look forward to a sunny Spring Saturday!

We regret any inconvenience this may cause but feel it is in the best interest of the Club and its members. Thank you for your understanding.

Linda Clifford, Christine Voss, Mary O'Keefe, Carole Clifford and Marianne Hickey

SEPTEMBER 18TH LUNCHEON MEETING

The first meeting of the Club Year will be Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Reynard Hall at the Mattapoisett Congregational Church at 11 am. Members are invited to bring their favorite dish for a potluck luncheon, to welcome new members and re-connect with each other.

SEPTEMBER 18TH LUNCHEON MEETING HOSTESS COMMITTEE

Hostess: Susan Perkins

Committee: Carol Barnewolt, Kris Brammer, Erin Burleson, Joanella Deery, Paula Hammerick, Vanessa Neeley, Robbin Peach, Carolyn Price, Marie Rottler, Blaise Simpson, Barbara Smith

Ladies, please refer to pages 40-43 in your Blue Book for helpful information.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

SEPTEMBER 11TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)

April Luncheon Meeting

This year's final luncheon meeting was once again held at the historic Wamsutta Club. Arriving members soon learned with sadness of the untimely death of our beloved President Kate Brown who loved the enthusiastic camaraderie this yearly event offered. Kate's guidance will be sorely missed.

After a delicious meal and lively conversation, Past President Roxanne Bungert assumed the role of Acting President and deftly presided over the business portion of the meeting. She announced that Past President Sandy Hering would be our Temporary President for the summer months.

Congratulations to the Nominating Committee for filling the full slate of officers who were inducted to the 2025-2026 Club year. Please see the last page of Ladies Choice for the full listing.





21st Annual Taste of the Town

Ladies, another glorious day was there to greet all who attended the 21st Taste. Even though attendance was less than the past 2 years everyone was enjoying the delicious creations of our restaurants, the Show Stopper music and the comradeship of their friends and neighbors old and new. The air was electric with the laughter and conversations of the many in attendance. It was hot but as usual we have the beautiful Mattapoissett Harbor and a breeze to offset the heat.

The annual event is only successful because of all the members who stepped up to do the many chores that make the Taste possible. We started with setting up all the tables and chairs under the tent and on the lawn. Restaurant signage was next on the agenda. Day 2 am brought about creating the delightful atmosphere under the big white tent. Preparing all the tables with table covers etc while the Garden Group ladies created bouquets for each table. Those bouquets were available for a small donation later on.

The Drinks ladies were busy preparing all the soda and seltzer that would be sold later in the day.

Come 4:15 Club members began coming in to take their place as needed. Tellers to sell tickets, members at each restaurant to take and store all the ticket sales and others to do whatever had to be done during and after the Taste, ie trash cans emptied as they filled, replacing members working a table so they can take a break and at the end of the day packing up everything that had to be stored at either Erin Burlinson's barn or Lois's car. We left the tent as it was before we came. Most important was the members who were sorting the tickets in each restaurant jar. These jars were counted later in the week to determine exactly how much money each restaurant made for the club.

As they say "It takes a Village" the village being the hearty and faithful members of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club. Thank you all, we added \$4,447.19 to the Scholarship Fund.

Heartful thanks again to all,

~ Lois Ennis



Mattapoisett Woman's Club 2025 Scholarship Recipients

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce the recipients of the MWC 2025 scholarships. Caitlin O'Donnell and Meredith Cameron have each been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship for graduating high school seniors. Desmond Sinnott is the recipient of the \$1,500 Continuing Education Scholarship.

Caitlin O'Donnell, a graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School, will be attending the University of Michigan to pursue an undergraduate degree in psychology. In addition to her outstanding academic performance, Caitlin is the editor of the school newspaper and has demonstrated a strong commitment to community service through her involvement in numerous projects.

Meredith Cameron, a graduate of Tabor Academy, will be attending American University, where she plans to major in political science. Meredith has achieved academic honors, is the captain of the debate team, a member of the soccer and lacrosse teams, and has actively participated in many extracurricular and community activities.

Desmond Sinnott, a 2022 graduate of Old Rochester Regional High School, will be attending Bridgewater State University to obtain a degree in Physical Education with a focus on elementary education. Additionally, he plans to work with the ORR soccer team as a coaching intern for the Varsity team this Fall.

Serving on the scholarship committee for the past three years has been a very gratifying experience.

The scholarship application process provides the committee an opportunity to learn about the remarkable academic and extracurricular accomplishments, community involvement and inspiring aspirations of our Mattapoisett students.

The 2025-26 Scholarship Committee members are Alice Openshaw (Chair), Diane Brown-Couture and Jen Shepley.

~Jan Hubley



From left: Caitlin O'Donnell, Robbin Peach, Meredith Cameron

Wings Over Nasketucket

The morning sun filtered through a soft veil of mist as I stepped onto the trail at Nasketucket Bay State Reservation. A hush lingered in the air, broken only by the distant calls of vireos, warblers, finches, and the whisper of wind brushing against the treetops. It was the sort of day made for moving slowly—for pausing, watching, and remembering how to breathe.

The dirt path beneath my feet was soft from the night's dew, textured with the memory of passing footsteps and dotted with fallen pine needles. Each step released the earthy scent of damp soil and sweet moss. The trail meandered gently, curving through open fields and shady woodlands, bordered by low stone walls laced with lichen and time.

It wasn't long before the butterflies appeared.

They danced like flickering petals in the sun—sulphurs in lemony yellows, swallowtails trailing black and blue elegance behind them, and tiny azures that shimmered like sky come to earth. They rose in clouds from patches of milkweed and goldenrod, hovered lazily over Queen Anne's lace, and darted between the dappled light of the forest canopy. The quiet beauty of it all felt like a secret the world had kept just for me.

The scent of wildflowers drifted on the breeze—sweet clover, peppery yarrow, and the heady perfume of honeysuckle tangled along the edges of the trail. In the distance, the bay glittered through a break in the trees, a slip of silver against the horizon. A heron lifted from the marsh with an elegant beat of wings, its cry haunting and solitary.

Further along the trail, the landscape opened into wide meadows where the grass swayed like green waves. Here, the path narrowed, pressed close by tall grasses that tickled the legs and whispered their secrets as you passed. The sun climbed higher, painting the trail in golden light as a monarch floated past, its wings slow and purposeful, like a thought mid-formed.

In that place, time softened. There was no urgency. Only the rhythm of footsteps on earth, the sound of wind stroking the leaves, and the fleeting brush of butterfly wings.

And for a while, walking beneath the open sky, I felt not like a visitor—but like something native to the quiet, woven gently into the fabric of Nasketucket's meadows and woods.

~ Eileen J. Marum



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

The Woman's Club Literature Group will meet on Wednesday, September 10, at 10:00 am in the downstairs meeting room at the Mattapoissett Library. All are welcome to attend.

Please bring a copy of a book that you will be recommending for our 2025-2026 season. If you can't find or bring a copy, please bring the title and a brief description. If you can't attend, please email your recommendation to Gail Roberts at peggsmom@gmail.com. Titles will be chosen at random. We will also be scheduling the meetings and any hosts at this meeting. If you have any questions, please email me.

~ Gail Roberts



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Great Decisions

Mattapoissett Woman's Club to host The Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions Program at The Mattapoissett Free Public Library In January 2026.

Do you have plans on Wednesday afternoons this winter? Get out of the house and join a spirited group of tri-town residents who seek to learn more about the world we live in. Each week members of the "Great Decisions" group study historical foreign policy decisions and engage in conversation regarding how that history impacts world affairs today. The conversation is friendly and welcoming of all perspectives. And refreshments are served!

The eight week Great Decisions Program is hosted in partnership with the Foreign Policy Association which provides materials to read before each session as well as a video which we watch at the beginning of each meeting at the Library. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers as well. You don't have to be a foreign policy expert to participate—just someone who wants to become an informed global citizen!

This year's Co-Chairs Kristen McCormack and Ellen Stone are deeply grateful for the leadership and on-going counsel of Ellen Flynn who Chaired Great Decisions for 16 years and will continue to participate this year. Thank you, Ellen, for your continued guidance.

The 2026 topics have not yet been announced and meeting dates are being finalized but if you want to be kept informed of registration details or if you have any questions please reach out to Co-Chair, Kristen McCormack at kmac@bu.edu.

~ Kristen McCormack & Ellen Stone, Co-Chairs

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Our first gathering of the Bridge Group will be Tuesday, September 16, at 1:00 pm at the home of Elaine Grant.

If you are interested in playing bridge, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant



Knitting & Handicrafts

It's about time to start thinking about those handmade holiday gifts. The MWC Knitting and Handicrafts group will hold its' monthly gathering on Thursday, September 25th from 2-4 pm. We will meet at The Yarn Lady shop in Fairhaven, located at 144 Huttleston Ave. You will see their big pink sign in front, and there are lots of parking spaces in the back. The store has a lovely room in the rear with comfy seats at a large table with great lighting for knitting, crafting, and conversation

We look forward to sharing projects and hearing about your summer. You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members and friends; give it a try!

Looking forward to seeing you,

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering

Mah Jongg

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

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club partners with the Mattapoissett Council on Aging (COA) to offer Mah Jongg play year-round on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM at the COA building. This is a very active group, with enough participants each week to make up at least a couple of tables with 3-4 players. We play non-competitively and without partners. If you have played Mah Jongg before, please join us! If you have never played and would like to learn, the group occasionally offers instructional classes. Please reach out if you would like more info or would like to be notified when classes are offered.

Contact: Phyllis Bannon (217) 493-7807 or Phyllis.bn@gmail.com

NOTE: The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by Mattapoissett Woman's Club and the Mattapoissett COA.

If you do not have your 2025 Mah Jongg card, you can order one at www.nationalmahjonggleague.org
The official arbitrator and source of all things Mah Jongg!

- STANDARD size card is \$14 (including shipping and handling).
- LARGE size card is \$15 (including shipping and handling).

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

MWC Walking Group

It's that time of year again when some brave members of the MWC Walking Group walked to Ram Island via the sandbar off Antassawamock's Main Beach. Yes, at low tide it is possible to wade about a quarter mile through Buzzards Bay out to a small island off the tip of Mattapoissett Neck. We joined neighbors and friends (age range about 7 - 90!) and had a refreshing afternoon in the water. There were some stumbles and splashes, but everyone was able to complete the walk.

In September we will resume our regular walking group (on dry land!). We usually walk for an hour or two at a normal pace. If you would like to join us, please contact Sue Mitchell.



Ladies Who Lunch

Kate Brown loved the exchange of ideas and pursuing them in conversation. Early in her term as President, she began a new tradition, "Ladies Who Lunch," where a group of members enjoyed congenial fellowship, great conversation and experiencing new restaurants across the South Coast.

In her honor and fond remembrance, we will continue this fine tradition. Ladies Who Lunch invites everyone to remember the last Wednesday of each month as the time we will gather to break bread at noon.

Our first lunch this year will be on Wednesday, September 24th at 12:00 where those who are interested will visit one of Kate's favorite restaurants, Bocca at 100 Alden Road in Fairhaven. Please let me know by text, email or telephone call (508-944-8919 or katherinegaudet52@gmail.com) by September 20th if you will join us so I can send in the reservation ahead of time to procure enough space. Thank you so much!

We will raise a glass to Kate and enjoy each others' company as well as a delicious meal!

~ Katherine Gaudet

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Tuesday, September 3, 10:00 am Mattapoisett Free Public Library

Garden Group Wraps Up Busy Summer, Announces September Program

The Garden Group has had a full and productive summer season, highlighted by the success of its "June in Bloom" Garden Tour. In addition to welcoming visitors to a variety of private gardens, members have been busy planting, watering, and weeding in several public locations around town.

The group also contributed to the community's summertime celebrations by creating special bouquets for sale at the Taste of Mattapoisett, adding a touch of beauty to the popular event.

With summer winding down, the Garden Group is preparing to resume it's regular meetings. The first gathering will be held on **Tuesday, September 2, at 10:00 am** at the Mattapoisett Library. The program will feature "*Grow Education*", a partnership between the Marion Institute and Mattapoisett Schools. Presenters will include **Liz Wiley**, Executive Director of the Marion Institute, and **Carly Lavin**, Chairperson of the Mattapoisett School Committee.

A short business meeting will follow the presentation.

Members and guests are invited to bring their favorite beverage and enjoy this informative program. New members are always welcome to join this active and creative group.

~ *Cindy Turse*

Garden Group April Luncheon

The Garden Group met last April 2nd for our eagerly anticipated annual food event with Chef Colby Rottler, a private chef and graduate of the Johnson & Wales culinary program. He prepared delicious dishes for us to sample while demonstrating cooking techniques and discussing the ingredients he uses to create the special dishes for our meeting.

Two of his delicious dessert recipes are on page 13!

~ *Cindy Turse*



Chef Colby Rottler's Delicious Desserts!

See Garden Group Article on page 12.

Butter apple crumble

Serves 9

Ingredients

- ¾ Cup whole wheat flour
- 1 ¼ Cups regular oats
- ½ Cup packed brown sugar
- 1 Tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ Tsp salt
- ½ Cup melted butter
- 2 Tsp vanilla extract divided
- ½ Cup apple cider
- ¼ Cup granulated sugar
- 1 ½ Tsp cornstarch
- Dash of salt
- 10 Cups sliced peeled baking apples
- Cooking spray
- 1 Quart vanilla ice cream

Method of preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375°
2. Lightly spoon flour into a dry measuring cup, and level with a knife.
3. Combine flour, oats, brown sugar, cinnamon, and ½ tsp salt in a bowl. Add butter and 1 tsp vanilla, stir with a fork until moist and crumbly.
4. Combine 1 tsp vanilla, cider, granulated sugar, cornstarch, and dash of salt in a bowl, stir with a whisk until sugar dissolves and mixture is smooth. Add apples. Tossing to coat.
5. Spoon apple mixture into a 13 x 9 inch baking dish coated with cooking spray. Sprinkle with oat mixture. Cover with foil and bake at 375° for 30 minutes.
6. Uncover and bake 30 minutes until browned and bubbly.
7. Serve with a scoop of vanilla ice cream



Ginger snaps

Makes 50 cookies

Ingredients

- 2 Cups wheat flour
- 1 Tsp baking soda
- 1 Tsp ground cinnamon
- ½ Tsp salt
- ½ Tsp ground nutmeg
- ½ Tsp ground ginger
- ¼ Tsp ground cloves
- 1 Stick butter
- 1 Cup brown sugar
- 1 Large egg
- ¼ Cup molasses
- 2 Tbls oil

Method of preparation

1. Heat oven to 350°
2. In bowl mix flour, baking soda, cinnamon, salt, nutmeg, ginger and cloves.
3. Mix butter and egg add egg and molasses and oil. Low speed add flour mixture and combine.
4. Take mixture and roll into log and cut off 1 inch pieces and place apart on baking sheet.
5. Bake for 16 minutes. Cool and serve.

***The Executive Board consists of Officers and Chairs of Standing Committees**

***OFFICERS - 2025-2026**

Co-Presidents

Carole Clifford
Linda Clifford

Vice President

Robbin Peach

Recording Secretary

TBA

Corresponding Secretary

Diane Brown-Couture

Treasurer

Beth Inglis

Assistant Treasurer

Lois K. Ennis

***STANDING COMMITTEES**

Media

Chair, Cindy Turse

Includes Publicity (Bethany Couto);
Facebook (Cindy Turse); Instagram (Jocelyn Chin);
Website (Gail Roberts);
Ladies Choice Editor (Elaine Grant);
and Proofreader (Pat Goss)

Membership

Chair, Sharon Doyon

Garden Group

Chair, Cindy Turse
1st Wed., 10 am, Library

CHAIR, SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Bridge

Elaine Grant
3rd Tues., 1 pm, Hostess' home

Great Decisions

Co-Chairs, Kristen McCormack, Ellen Stone
8 Weeks last week in January onward

Greetings & Remembrances

Linda Clifford

Historian

Gail Roberts

Hospitality

Erin Burlinson

Knitting & Handicrafts

Bobbie Oakley, Sandy Hering

Ladies Choice Publisher

Debra Nettles Design

Ladies Who Lunch

Katherine Gaudet

Literature Club

Gail Roberts
2nd Wed., 9:30

Mah Jongg

Phyllis Bannon
Every Wed. 1 PM, COA

Patriotic Celebrations

Mary O'Keefe

Photographer

Ann Tisdale

Programs

Co-Chairs, Eileen Marum, Gail Roberts

Social Cocktail

Linda Clifford

Walking Group

Sue Mitchell

Scholarship (Term ends 6/30)

2026 Chair, Alice Openshaw
2027 Diane Brown-Couture
2028 Jen Shepley

Auditors

2026 Chair, Sue Mitchell
2027 Jan Hubley
2028 Deb Ward

Directors

2026 Roxanne Bungert
2027 Sandra Hering
2028 Ann Tisdale

Refer to By-Laws Article V Sec 2 and Article VII regarding Committees.