



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

October 2025
VOLUME LXIV No. 2

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

We all have accepted the challenge this year to keep the Mattapoissett Woman's Club moving forward. This challenge's main goal is to encourage members to take the leap and volunteer to accept officer positions.

Many over the years have taken this challenge and found it to be rewarding. The results of this action finds participants discovering new strengths and abilities in themselves.

September's meeting ushered in new energy and enthusiasm among the attendees. It was very inspiring to hear how happy everyone was to be back, greeting old and new friends and planning for the year ahead. Now is the time to consider taking the challenge and to become an officer in this much-loved organization. All of us will support and guide you in this decision.

CHALLENGES ARE WHAT MAKE LIFE INTERESTING

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford



Caption?

OCTOBER LUNCHEON MEETING

OCTOBER 16TH • 11 AM

REYNARD HALL, MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

“Sure, why not?” That was the response to both Elaine Grant when she asked me to write a brief introduction of myself for Ladies Choice, and to Sue Mitchell, of the Nominating Committee when she asked (begged) for a Vice-President volunteer. Why not? But, actually, a more appropriate question would be “Why?”.

I believe the Mattapoissett Woman’s Club is a great organization and platform for both engaging and highlighting females in Mattapoissett. I embrace our mission statement. Our wonderful community benefits beyond belief from women, both in and out of the Club. One of my personal goals as VP will be to expand membership and activity opportunities, and recognize contributions of our gender.

I joined the Club less than a year ago, at the encouragement of a fellow member. I have lived in Mattapoissett for over 30 years but had not been a member, although benefiting from the Club’s many activities – Taste of the Town, Garden Tours, Holiday sales, etc. I worked full-time in Boston and was a single parent raising a son. I had time for little else. Since retiring six years ago, I have returned to landscape and garden design with the founding of Boutique Gardens and I also volunteer at other organizations.

My professional background, working exclusively in Boston had been “an inch deep and a mile wide” – ranging from landscape and urban design, managing an environmental philanthropy, launching ocean management policy, and designing climate resilient environments such as at Logan Airport and Boston Harbor.

As Vice-President, I hope to bring to MWC my enthusiasm for the Club (and women in general) while contributing skills and my experience, when appropriate, to benefit Mattapoissett. I appreciate the opportunity.

~ *Robbin Peach*

MWC Vice President



MWC News & Information

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

OCTOBER 16TH LUNCHEON MEETING TEA COMMITTEE

Hostess: Sherry Hoines

Committee: Elaine Botelho, Diane Brown-Couture, Elaine Grant, Paula Hammerick, Kristen Henriques, Jan Hubley, Barbara Jasmin, Robin Lepore, Kathy McAuliffe, Kristen J. McCormack, Roberta Oakley, Maureen St. Amand, Ruth Ann Walega

Ladies, please refer to pages 39-41 in your Blue Book for helpful information.

MWC News & Information

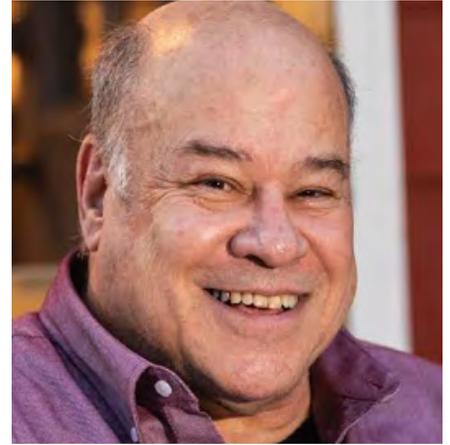
OCTOBER 16 LUNCHEON MEETING SPEAKER

Jack Matthews grew up in Mattapoisett where he sailed and fished on Buzzards Bay, the setting for his novel "Ars Perdida." Jack, a retired professor, spent seven years working on the novel.

The novel takes place in Mattapoisett, a quiet town on Buzzards Bay, until body parts start showing up in the most unlikely places. Manny Pereira races to find the killer as he gets caught up in a challenging mystery with a frightening twist.

Books will be available for purchase and signing.

Eileen Marum and Gail Roberts



EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

OCTOBER 9TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)



Mission Statement

*In its quest to uplift women, the Mattapoisett 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.

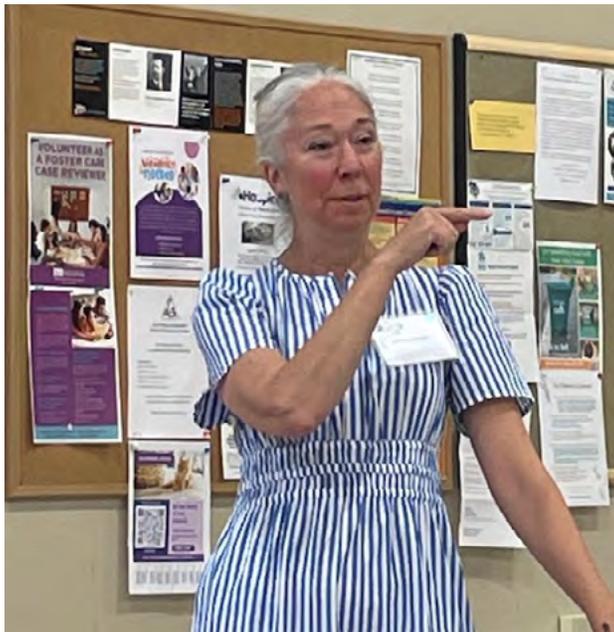
April Luncheon Meeting

Old and new members were warmly welcomed by Sue Perkins' beautifully decorated table settings abundant with glorious floral arrangements. The buffet table was laden with our members' favorite dishes which we all devoured.

Temporary President Sandy Hering made a plea for someone to fill the positions of President and Recording Secretary for the coming year. Lois Ennis swore in co-Presidents Carole Clifford and Linda Clifford who will serve until next April.

Co-President Linda Clifford conducted the business meeting and called upon the Chairs of the various groups to speak. Vice President Robbin Peach's aim is to increase membership and promote new activities. The year ahead promises to be busy with our involvement of town-wide ventures such as the up-coming ringing of the bells for Veteran's Day and participating in the Memorial Day commemorations. Elaine Botelho enthusiastically promoted participating in our country's 250th Anniversary celebrations on June 12, 13 and 14. Ideas are most welcome.



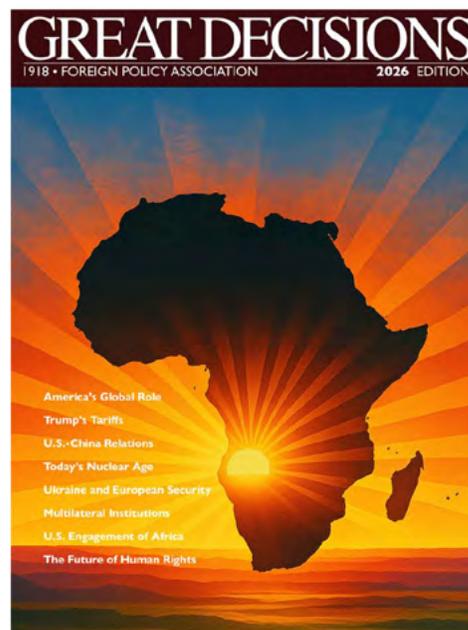


GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Registration is now open for this year's Great Decisions Program sponsored by the Mattapoissett Woman's Club in partnership with the nonprofit Foreign Policy Association. For those of you who are new to the Club, Great Decisions is a weekly in-person gathering where local residents meet to discuss foreign policy topics in a structured environment. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos, as well. Materials are provided by the Foreign Policy Association. The conversation is friendly and welcoming of all perspectives. And refreshments are served!

Meetings begin Wednesday, January 14, 2026, and meet for a total of eight consecutive Wednesdays. The program takes place in person from 1:00-3:00pm in the downstairs Community Room at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoissett. The side door is accessible with an elevator to the lower level. We offer light refreshments with coffee and tea.



How to register:

Registration is limited to 30 people and is available on a first come, first served basis. This program is open to all members of the Mattapoissett community and surrounding towns.

To register please submit your information here: <https://forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9>

and send a check made out to the Mattapoissett Woman's Club for \$40.00 to cover text and expenses. If you are two people sharing one book the price is \$50.00. If you prefer not to register online, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and send it with your check to:

Mattapoissett Woman's Club
Box 1444 Mattapoissett MA 02739
Attn: Treasurer
(memo on check Great Decisions)

The texts will be available in early January and can be picked up at the Mattapoissett Public Library. We will notify you by email when they arrive. Your registration is pending receipt of payment.

Planned Topics for 2026 include:

America and the World: Trump 2.0 Foreign Policy, Tariffs and Future of the World Economy, US/China Relations, Ruptured Alliances and the Risk of Nuclear Proliferation, Ukraine and the Future of European Security, Multilateral Institutions in a Changing World Order, US Engagement of Africa and the Future of Human Rights and International Law.

If you have any questions, please email Co-Chair, Kristen McCormack at kmac@bu.edu or Ellen Stone at ellenstone@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation!

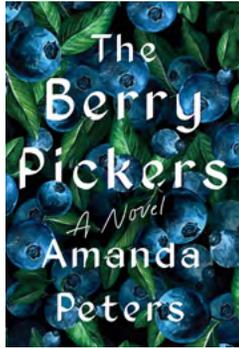
~ Kristen McCormack & Ellen Stone, Co-Chairs

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, October 8 9:30 pm & 1:00 pm

The October book is *The Berry Pickers*, by Amanda Peters. A four-year-old Mi'kmaq girl goes missing from the blueberry fields in Maine, sparking a tragic mystery that haunts the survivors, unravels a community, and remains unsolved for 50 years.



The discussion will take place on Wednesday, October 8, at 9:30 am at Marianne Hickey's house, or at 1:00 pm at Diane Brown-Couture's house. RSVP to the hosts or to Gail Roberts at peggmom@gmail.com.

~ Gail Roberts



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Social Cocktail Group

A lovely group of MWC ladies and guests gathered on Sunday, September 28, at the home of Blaise Simpson for a very pleasant Social gathering. Conversation was lively, laughing echoed and the food quite pleasing to many tastes. A good time was had by all.

Never attended one of these evenings? Myra Hart will host the next gathering on Sunday, January 11, from 5-7 pm at her home, 115 North St. A great way to spend a winter evening. More information to follow as we get closer, but please do mark your calendar!

Want to be a hostess? Call me and I shall fill you in on the very simple details.

~ Linda Clifford 508-207-6572



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Tuesday, October 21 1:00 pm

Tuesday, September 16, was the first meeting of the Bridge Group at Elaine Grant's home. Naturally, there was a lot of catching up chatter. We thank our two subs, Bobbie Ketchel and Pat Goss, for joining us. Unfortunately, we were only seven players so a lot of filling in kept us moving.



Our next meeting will be at Betty Parker's on Tuesday, October 21st. We hope to have more players join our group. You don't have to be a Bridge Master; we play on a more social level. If you are interested in playing bridge, we'd love to have you join us. Please contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant

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).
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Ladies Who Lunch

On September 24, we had our "First Ladies Who Lunch" gathering. Eleven of us met at Bocca in Fairhaven where we enjoyed a delicious meal, but the even nicer treat was getting together for lively conversation and comraderie. We began by toasting Kate Brown, our former President, who passed away this past spring. It was her idea to start this group and Bocca was a favorite restaurant of hers. We also remembered Peg Olney who frequently joined this group. They will be missed.

We plan to meet every 4th Wednesday at noon for lunch. All are free to join in. We started a list of potential restaurants so stay tuned. This is a lively, fun group where all are welcome. Please contact Katherine Gaudet for further info.

~ Katherine Gaudet

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

MWC Walking Group

The Walking Group is Back! We have been greatly enjoying our fall walks. This month we walked both woody and paved areas. All walks have been in Mattapoisett where the scenery is lovely. As we have said before, we are so lucky to live in such a beautiful and "walk friendly" community.

On September 12 we walked throughout the Antassawamock beach community. On September 19 the group enjoyed Nasketucket State Reservation and Sept 26 a walk along the Mattapoisett Rail Trail is planned. All are welcome to join our email list and explore our community. Contact Sue Mitchell for details.



Knitting & Crafts

The Knitting and Crafts group met in September at our new favorite local yarn store in Fairhaven, The Yarn Lady. The owner, Diane Hardin is in our photo, center back. Left to right are MWC members Bobbie Oakley, Mary Jackson, Nancy Keyes and Sandy Hering. Gail Roberts was taking the picture.

We meet once a month from 2:00 - 4:00 pm at the Yarn Lady, with or without our projects, to socialize, look at one another's projects and enjoy seeing the samples in the shop. Our next meeting will be on October 23rd.

You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members and friends; give it a try!

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group October Program: A Visit to Frogfoot Farm

Our September meeting sparked tremendous enthusiasm for the innovative work of The Marion Institute. Members were especially inspired by the presentation of Executive Director Liz Wiley, who shared how the Institute connects people and ideas to promote a healthier, more resilient community.

To build on that excitement, our October program will take us out into the field—literally. On Wednesday, October 1st, we'll enjoy a guided visit to Frogfoot Farm in Wareham. Liz Wiley will be joined by Hannah Traggis, the farm's Program Manager, to lead us on a tour beginning at the Makepeace Farms Café. Together, they'll highlight the farm's innovative practices and the role it plays in the Institute's mission.

Frogfoot Farm Mission

To increase the availability of fresh, local produce in emergency food relief programs and reduce farm crop loss in the region through farming and gleaning efforts.

Frogfoot Farm Vision

A resilient and equitable regional food system where farmers and ecosystems thrive and everyone has access to healthy, nutritious produce.

We'll meet at the Mattapoisett Park 'n Ride at 9:30 am to carpool to the farm, located at 146 Tihonet Road, Wareham. Following the tour, members and guests are invited to gather for lunch at the café—a chance to continue the conversation in a relaxed setting.

This promises to be an enjoyable and informative program, offering a deeper look at the inspiring work happening right in our community. New members are always welcome to join our active and creative group—so bring a friend along for the adventure!

The website for the Marion Institute is www.marioninstitute.org

~ Cindy Turse



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Our September Garden Club meeting featured a wonderful presentation by Liz Wiley, Executive Director of the Marion Institute. She shared their newest outdoor learning garden at Old Hammondtown School, part of their Grow Education Farm-to-School Program. Currently, this program is active in six districts and 24 schools on the Southcoast. Its goal is to support teachers, engage families, and educate students to build a more equitable food system that promotes ecological literacy, health and sustainability.

When I would visit our home in Mattapoisett, I would drive by the Marion Institute and assume it was a school or something similar. It wasn't until we moved here temporarily at the start of the pandemic that I noticed a Facebook post about a class I was interested in and attended. When we relocated here full time the following year, I began volunteering with the Southcoast Food Policy Council (SFPC) and joined their Community Advisory Board as a "consumer." Most members represent organizations working directly with food insecurity or have lived experience with food pantry support. The Marion Institute has built a vast network across the Southcoast and beyond to keep food flowing where it's needed most. One of our committee's advocacy efforts is for the state HIP (Healthy Incentives Program), which provides SNAP recipients with additional funds to buy fresh produce from local farms and farmers' markets. This program also benefits the more than 1,500 small farms in our region--a true win. In addition to my role with SFPC, I volunteer at Marion Institute's Frogfoot Farm, powered largely by volunteers who grow fresh produce for food pantries.

The Garden Group is having their October meeting exploring the farm and having lunch at the Makepeace Café. I've also helped with their new Fields to Families program, which gleans (harvests) surplus crops from nearby farms to donate. Together, these programs have donated and distributed over 10,000 pounds of food just this year. My commitment to this work stems from the fact that I cannot imagine having a family I couldn't feed. Food waste is the #1 contributor to landfills, yet millions of families still face food insecurity every day. Beyond access, there is also the urgent need for healthier food to reach those in need. While the Marion Institute is based in Marion, their programs serve Mattapoisett and the entire Southcoast. I'm especially excited about Old Hammondtown School's Grow Education garden and being part of the effort.

If you're interested, there are so many ways to volunteer, and if you have the means, you can donate to this amazing non-profit. For more information on how to get involved with the Marion Institute, visit www.marioninstitute.org.

~ Jane Howard



***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

Open

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., 1:00 Pm, Hostess' home

Great Decisions

Co-Chairs, Kristen McCormack,
Ellen Stone

8 Wednesdays 1 - 3 pm starting Jan. 14

Greetings & Remembrances

Linda Clifford

Historian

Gail Roberts

Hospitality

Erin Burlinson

Knitting & Crafts

Bobbie Oakley, Sandy Hering

Ladies Choice Publisher

Debra Nettles Design

Ladies Who Lunch

Katherine Gaudet

Literature Club

Gail Roberts

2nd Wed., 9:30 AM & 1:00 Pm

Mah Jongg

Phyllis Bannon

Every Wed. 1 Pm, COA

Patriotic Celebrations

Mary O'Keefe

Photographer

Ann Tisdale

Programs

Chair, 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

Appointed Committee

(each January)

Nominating Committee:

Sue Mitchell, Chair

Sharon Doyon

Jan Hubley

Christine Voss

Geneva Woodruff

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