



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

November 2025
VOLUME LXIV No. 3

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

We welcome November with its comfortable weather and some of the most dazzling colors in nature. November also generates an awareness of gratitude for all we have and for all that is to come. We are grateful for each of you and your supportive energy during this transitional year. You may have noticed several subtle changes being made*.

In September, we had our first meeting with the new format, shortening the meeting time and enabling the tea committee to hear the speaker whose presentation begins at 11:30 and concludes at noon with lunch. The meeting should adjourn by 1pm, thereby giving you the remainder of the afternoon to enjoy.

*ORCTV will be recording our speakers so that if you miss a meeting, you will not miss the program. And we certainly have a good selection of speakers and their topics.

*We are happy to announce that Sharon Doyon has stepped forward to lead our Fundraising efforts. Robbin Peach will be joining her in these endeavors. Many hands and minds make for light work so your ideas as well as your time and talents are most welcome. Fundraising is certainly a key component of our Club activities and affords us the opportunity to award scholarships to local students and donate funds to worthwhile organizations (see Blue Book p.10).

*Our holiday luncheon will be held this year at the Century House in Acushnet. As always, it will be festive and fun with the details included in this edition of Ladies Choice.

Together, our small steady steps will lead us forward to continue to thrive and maintain the integrity of the club. We wish you a wonderful Thanksgiving surrounded by loved ones and enjoying good food.

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford

NOVEMBER LUNCHEON MEETING

NOVEMBER 20TH • 11 AM

REYNARD HALL, MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I am a very recent resident of Mattapoisett; my husband Andrew, my daughter Stella, and I moved into his childhood home in June 2023. We feel very lucky to live in a multigenerational household with my mother-in-law, Elizabeth, and my brother-in-law, Ryan. While I am new resident, I spent a great deal of time here over the course of my childhood because my mother grew up here and most of her family still reside off North Street.

I joined the Woman's Club in part because my cousin and friend Bethany said it was a wonderful organization and, in part, because I have long admired the beautiful gardens of the town and wanted a chance to meet the artists who created them! I consider myself a lover of all things living, but my real passion is teaching children to understand, appreciate and care for the natural world. I received my Bachelors and a M.S. degree at Northeastern University in Biology and Philosophy and also hold a Master of Arts in teaching degree in middle school education. Before having Stella, I ran the science department at Our Sisters' School in New Bedford and ran the school gardens there.

For the time being I am loving being a work-from-home mother because it gives me the opportunity to instill a sense of wonder and curiosity in Stella but also because it allows me to join organizations like the Mattapoisett Woman's Club that I never would have been able to be a part of if I were still working full time in the classroom. Through the Club I have been able to meet so many wonderful new people, listen to engaging speakers, beautify the town with spring flowers, and create a new MWC Instagram page. Thanks for being a caring community for me and my little human.

~ *Jocelyn Mitchell Chin*



MWC News & Information

GET A SMALL GIFT FOR THE GOLFER ON YOUR CHRISTMAS LIST!!

Lightly Used Golf Balls, \$10 for a dozen, packed in egg cartons will be sold by Robin Lepore at the monthly luncheon. She collects the stray balls in her yard next to the Reservation Golf Club and is donating ALL the money to our Scholarship Fund.

A Total Profit fundraiser for the MWC!!

Robin Lepore

NOVEMBER 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING TEA COMMITTEE

Hostesses: Myra Hart, Candee Seeley

Committee: Katherine Gaudet, Aina Holden, Jane Howard, Diane Hudis, Beth Inglis, Patricia King, Anne Layton, Eileen Marum, Juliet O'Donnell, Alice Openshaw, Barbara Poznysz, Gloria Solano

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

MWC News & Information

NOVEMBER 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING SPEAKER: ROSEMARY GILL, PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE ZEITERION

THE ZEITERION: A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS

For generations, The Zeiterion has been a cherished gathering place in New Bedford—a stage where memories were made and stories came to life. Now, as it undergoes a transformative renovation, The Z is preparing to reopen as a beacon of creative expression and civic engagement.

This revitalized space will invite the public into a living, breathing hub for connection, dialogue, and shared experience. With a deep commitment to equity and inclusion, The Zeiterion's programming will center diverse voices and lived experiences, fostering learning, storytelling, and artistic exploration that resonate across generations.

Creativity will serve as a catalyst for belonging, sparking meaningful participation and cultivating a culture of justice, collaboration, and reciprocity. As The Zeiterion steps into its next century, it does so with intention—embracing its

role not just as a theater, but as a dynamic civic home where community stories are honored and new ones are born. Visit www.zeiterion.org/renovation/updates to follow the building's construction progress!



SPOTLIGHT: ROSEMARY GILL

Rosemary Gill has dedicated nearly two decades to The Zeiterion, serving in roles that span education, programming, and development. Since becoming President & CEO in 2020, she has led the organization through a visionary transformation, championing the arts as a vehicle for equity, engagement, and civic renewal. A Dartmouth native and longtime advocate for the South-Coast, Rosemary brings deep community roots and a collaborative spirit to her leadership. Her tenure reflects a steadfast commitment to inclusive storytelling and the power of the performing arts to unite and inspire.



"Not only are we transforming the building—literally—but we're also transforming how we interact with the community," says Gill. "It's incredibly rewarding to see this vision take shape and to know that The Z will continue to be a place where everyone feels seen, heard, and welcome."

MWC News & Information

GIFTS TO GIVE CLOTHING DRIVE

At the MWC October Luncheon a brief presentation was made about the dire need for clothing for Gifts to Give, a children's charity. We learned that the organization is 200 orders behind for children's clothing, with the additional pressure of winter coming on. There is an extraordinary increase of need, and the clothes coming in by donations are not sufficient to meet the immediate need.

It was determined that MWC would have a clothing drive for school age children's clothing from Grades 1 through 12. We are asking the Woman's Club members to help the children of our South Coast community by contributing SWEATPANTS and SWEATSHIRTS, sizes 5-6 up to 18 -20, even adults LG-XL. They can be gently used or new. There will be a box at the November 20th luncheon for our donations so children can go to school in warm clothing. Please be as generous as possible; your help is GREATLY needed. If you cannot attend November's meeting, you may still donate by calling Mary O'Keefe at 508-758-2801.

If you would like to learn more about what and how Gifts to Give operates and contributes to the needy, please call Mary to go on a tour, or drop in their facility at One Titleist Drive, Acushnet, and request a tour Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9 to 5, or Wed. 9 to 2. It is totally a come-when-you-can volunteer job. You set your own schedule and there are dozens of different jobs to choose from.

Thank you for your help and support. We have a long-time association with Gifts to Give and are mutually supportive of each other's work. Please contribute generously.

Mary O'Keefe

VETERAN'S DAY, NOVEMBER 11

As we now honor all living and deceased individuals who served in the U.S. Armed Forces, we celebrate their patriotism, courage and sacrifices for our Nation's freedom. It's a tribute to all who have served, both in wartime and peacetime.

This year, along with the Bells tolling eleven times at 11 am from both the Congregational Church and Center School, we will join in the American Legion's ceremony immediately following in the school hall. As usual, we will stand in silence while the bells ring and then go into the school to hear

and participate in their program. We are being asked to welcome and provide water and little snacks to all who join in honoring our veterans.

We all know someone who served, or is serving, our Country. Let's be sure we show our MWC appreciation and respect. Please plan on dedicating an hour on Veteran's Day and join the program. Details will be in the Wanderer over the next few weeks.

Mary O'Keefe and Elaine Botelho
MWC Patriotic Events Committee

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

NOVEMBER 13TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)



**MATTAPOISETT WOMAN'S CLUB
ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

CENTURY HOUSE

107 South Main Street, Acushnet

Gathering at 11:30 am, Lunch served at 12:30 pm

Last day for reservations is **December 7th**

Ladies, we are going to the newly renovated Century House in Acushnet.

It will be a DELIGHTFUL buffet. The cost is \$40.

BUFFET INCLUDES:

Bourbon Tenderloin Steak Tips

Chicken Piccata

(chicken breast sauteed with lemon, white wine butter sauce)

Five Cheese Tortellini

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables

Caesar salad

Focaccia Herb Bread

Chocolate Mousse for Dessert

CASH BAR

Fill in the information below and bring to the November luncheon.

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

If mailing, respond before December 7 and send to:

Mattapoisett Woman's Club Holiday Luncheon,

PO Box1444, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

or drop off in the black box by Lois Ennis' back door at the far end of the driveway.

She will respond upon receipt.

Be sure to include a \$40 check payable to Mattapoisett Woman's Club

October Luncheon Meeting

On a clear, crisp, early autumn day, Co-President Linda Clifford welcomed all in attendance and explained a new format for our monthly meetings. They will open with our featured speaker who will be filmed by an ORCTV associate. The buffet lunch will follow and then end with the business meeting. The aim is to shorten the meetings so that all may enjoy the rest of the day. Look for MWC news in the Wanderer, Sippican News, our Website and Instagram.

Retired professor and author of "Arte Perdida," Jack Matthews enthralled us with how his accounts of travels to Germany, Spain, the Azores and Newfoundland as well as Mattapoissett, were all woven into the plot of this thrilling page turner. If you missed the meeting, don't despair! Thanks to Labby Sivvianakis of ORCTV, you can catch Jack's talk on Comcast Channel 9, Verizon 36 or on Vimeo via a link to their website. You can purchase a copy of Jack's book on Amazon. It's a great read.

Hostess Sherry Hoines and her committee prepared a delicious luncheon with leftovers to take home. Co-President Carol Clifford thanked our photographer Ann Tisdale for stepping in as Recording Secretary to take the minutes of the meeting. Please consider filling this important position.

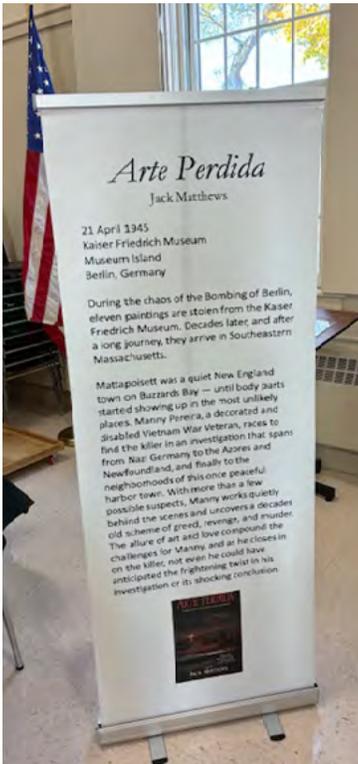
New members in attendance, Gloria Solano and Bonne DeSouza, were welcomed. Elaine Botelho spoke enthusiastically about the upcoming Veteran's Day ceremony at Center School. Details of the event are on page 4.

Mary O'Keefe told of Gifts to Give's immediate need of sweatshirts and sweatpants for grades K - 12. A box for our donations will be at our November 20th meeting. Please see page 4 for more details.

The holiday season will soon be upon us and the Garden Group is gearing up for our annual Greens Sale to be held on Saturday, December 6th. Again, we ask all members to participate in some way to make this sale another success. See page 13.

You won't want to miss our November meeting when Rosemary Gill, CEO of the revered Zeiterion Theater, will be our speaker.





GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Registration is filling up for this year's Great Decisions Program! We have ten enrollees so far with a cap of 30 people. We plan to announce the program in the Wanderer and Sippican Weekly at the end of the month so please sign up soon if you are interested.

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 conversation. Moderators take turns launching the discussion which often includes guest speakers or videos, as well. Materials are provided by the non-partisan Foreign Policy Association.

The program meets every Wednesday for 8 weeks from 1:00-3:00pm at the Mattapoisett Public Library and starts January 14, 2026. 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 Mattapoisett community and surrounding towns.

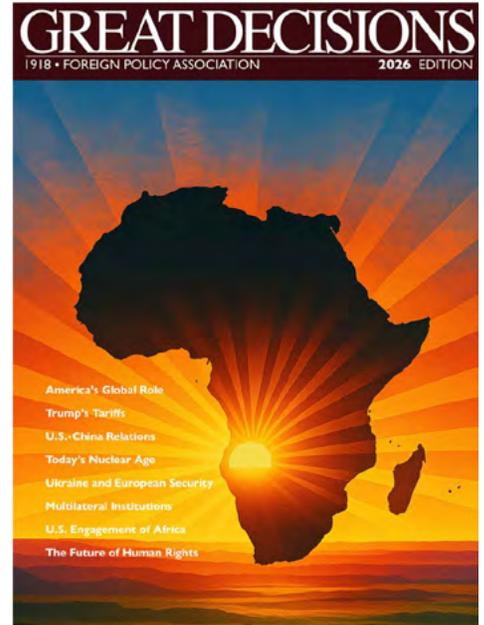
To register please submit your information here: <https://forms.gle/836hn9gX8m6wKyLu9> and send a check made out to the Mattapoisett Woman's Club for \$40.00 to cover text and expenses. If you are two people sharing one book the price is \$50.00. If you prefer not to register online, please include your name, address, email address and phone number on a piece of paper and send it with your check to:

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

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

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

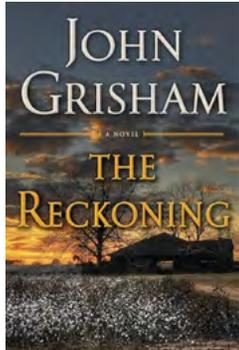


GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, November 12 10:00 am & 1:00 pm

The November book is *The Reckoning*, by John Grisham. Pete Banning was a decorated World War II hero, the patriarch of a prominent family, a farmer, father, neighbor, and a faithful member of the Methodist church. Then one cool October morning in 1946, he rose early, drove into town, walked into the church, and calmly shot and killed his pastor and friend, the Reverend Dexter Bell. As if the murder weren't shocking enough, it was even more baffling that Pete's



only statement about it--to the sheriff, to his lawyers, to the judge, to the jury, and to his family--was: "I have nothing to say."

The discussion will take place on Wednesday, November 12 at 10:00 am at Nancy Holland's house, or at 1:00 pm at Robin Lepore's house.

Please contact Gail Roberts at peggmom@gmail.com if you are interested in joining in.

~ Gail Roberts



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Social Cocktail Group

The winter Social Cocktail gathering will take place on Sunday, January 11, 2026, from 5-7pm at the home of Myra Hart, 115 North St., 832-282-5995, myralhart@gmail.com. You may park in her driveway or on Winter Hill Street which is directly across from her home. Do not park on North Street.

Please bring an appetizer to share and your drink of choice. Guests are always welcome. For this gathering, please RSVP directly to Myra. There will be a sign-up sheet at both the November and December luncheon meetings as well.

Hope to see you there.

~ Linda Clifford
508-207-6572



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Tuesday, November 18 1:00 pm

Our October 21st meeting at Betty Parker's home had only four players enjoying the game. Our "regular" participants number only seven, with "subs" filling in any gaps. Unfortunately, this was one of those times when neither regulars nor subs were available to fill a second table.

Our November meeting will be at Ann Butler's on the 18th.

Please consider joining our group if you have enjoyed the game in the past or would like to learn. All abilities would be welcome. 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

Since the last Wednesday in November is the day before Thanksgiving, Ladies Who Lunch will meet on Wednesday, November 19th at noon at the Inn On Shipyard Park, 13 Water Street in Mattapoissett before it closes for the season.

Please join us for a delicious meal and wonderful fellowship as we enjoy our time in one of New England's oldest, continuously operating inns.

I am happy to answer your questions or give you more information. You can contact me at 508-944-8919 or katherinegaudet52@gmail.com.

~ Katherine Gaudet

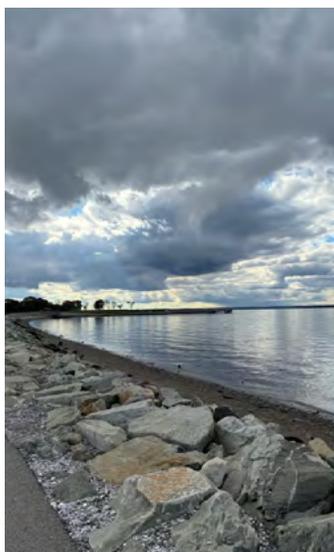
GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

MWC Walking Group

October has been delightful for walking. Several of us recently adventured into Escobar's corn maze in Portsmouth, RI. We breezed through the "difficult" maze, but got lost in the "easy" maze. After about an hour and 2 miles of walking through tall corn stalks we finally found our way out. It was fun and we had many laughs along the way.

On another crisp and sunny October day we walked along woodsy paths leading to a cranberry bog in Washburn Park, Marion. The weather, walkers, and woods were wonderful! And...On October 24 we intended to walk at Mount Hope Farms in Bristol, RI. Upon our arrival that day we learned the farm was closed due to a private event. We quickly resorted to "Plan B" which turned out to be a lovely walk in Colt State Park in Bristol RI. This was a beautiful, paved walk along the harbor, marsh, and fields.

Our final October walk on Halloween will be reported next month. It's on Wolf Island Road in Mattapoissett, called the "scariest road in Massachusetts." Contact Sue Mitchell to join our walks.



Knitting & Crafts

Take a break from the holiday rush to join the MWC Knitting and Crafting group for a relaxing session of knitting, crafting, and conversation with good company.

Please note that this November meeting will happen earlier in the month due to Thanksgiving. We'll meet on Thursday, November 13th from 2 to 4 pm at The Yarn Lady Shop. It's located at 144 Huttleston Ave in Fairhaven. We look forward to seeing you, sharing projects, and getting inspiration for new ones.

Please RSVP "reply all" to Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members and friends. Come give it a try!

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group October Program: A Visit to Frogfoot Farm

Garden Group members toured [Frogfoot Farm](#) and learned how this inspiring local program is helping neighbors feed neighbors.

A brisk wind and chilly air didn't stop Garden Group members from enjoying their October 1st visit to Frogfoot Farm—we bundled up and persevered!

That morning, volunteers harvested over 600 pounds of produce. Chef Dan from Minkle Boys Catering in Wareham, who was there to pick up fresh vegetables for the homeless, shared insights into the critical need for fresh food in our community.

Hannah Travis, Farm Program Manager, and Scott Codey, Frogfoot Farm Manager, shared the farm's mission and vision with enthusiasm. Their knowledge and passion were truly inspiring, offering a deeper appreciation of how the farm brings fresh, locally grown produce to our South Coast communities.

After the tour, members warmed up at the small museum, then enjoyed lunch and lively conversation at the [Makepeace Café](#)—with a few even fitting in a bit of early Christmas shopping in the gift shop.

Frogfoot Farm - Neighbors Feeding Neighbors began as a dream, as did many of the programs of the [Marion Institute](#). Today, that dream is thriving. The Institute's [Grow Education](#) program is also flourishing at Old Hammondtown School, where students are tending fall crops and learning firsthand about sustainable food systems. Stop by and see what they're growing!

~ Cindy Turse



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group Gears Up for the Greens Sale

The Garden Group will meet on Wednesday, November 5, at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room of the library. A brief business meeting will be followed by hands-on crafts and the packaging of the 2025 ornaments for the Greens Sale.

There will also be an opportunity for seven or eight members to take home paperwhite bulbs to force in the weeks leading up to the sale. Participants may bring their own container or choose from those available.

Volunteers are also needed to deliver posters to nearly 50 area businesses beginning in early November. Posters will be available at the November 5 meeting and from Cindy Turse.

The week after Thanksgiving is especially busy with wreath and centerpiece design, as well as the collection of greens. If you have a truck or SUV and can help pick up greens during the weekend after Thanksgiving, please contact Cindy.

On the day of the sale, volunteers are needed to move wreaths and centerpieces from Erin's barn to the What the Taco porch and lot, set up racks and tables, assist customers, and cashier. Every helping hand makes a difference.

All members of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club are encouraged to take part in some way. This cherished fundraiser directly supports the scholarships, programs, and community outreach of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club. See page 14 for sale details.

~ Cindy Turse



**The Mattapoissett Woman's Club
6th Annual Holiday Greens Sale**

December 6th, 2025

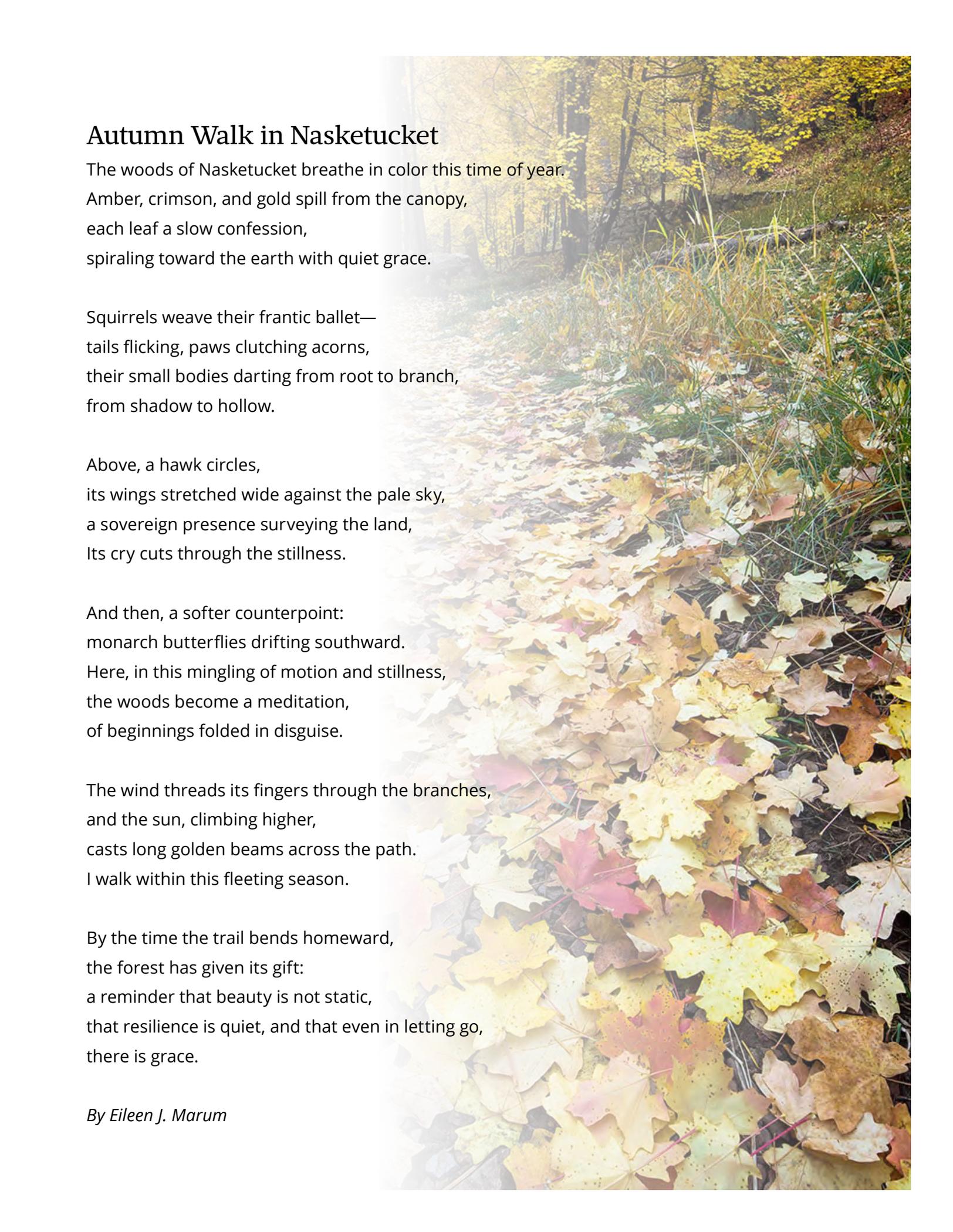
9:00 am - 1:00 pm (unless sold out earlier)

Rain Date: December 7th, 2025



**Featuring
Decorated Fresh Wreaths, Swags & Centerpieces
Bundled Evergreens & Holly Branches
2025 Christmas Ornaments**

**"What the Taco" Porch & Parking Lot
20 County Road/Route 6
Cash, Checks, Credit Cards Accepted**



Autumn Walk in Nasketucket

The woods of Nasketucket breathe in color this time of year.
Amber, crimson, and gold spill from the canopy,
each leaf a slow confession,
spiraling toward the earth with quiet grace.

Squirrels weave their frantic ballet—
tails flicking, paws clutching acorns,
their small bodies darting from root to branch,
from shadow to hollow.

Above, a hawk circles,
its wings stretched wide against the pale sky,
a sovereign presence surveying the land,
Its cry cuts through the stillness.

And then, a softer counterpoint:
monarch butterflies drifting southward.
Here, in this mingling of motion and stillness,
the woods become a meditation,
of beginnings folded in disguise.

The wind threads its fingers through the branches,
and the sun, climbing higher,
casts long golden beams across the path.
I walk within this fleeting season.

By the time the trail bends homeward,
the forest has given its gift:
a reminder that beauty is not static,
that resilience is quiet, and that even in letting go,
there is grace.

By Eileen J. Marum

***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.