



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

January 2026
VOLUME LXIV No. 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

***"And now, we welcome
the New Year full of things
that have never been."***

~ Rilke

Carole and I wish you a New Year of peace, gratitude, and new beginnings. As we look forward, we are reminded of what it takes to make the MWC

what it is, a warm welcoming gathering of women doing remarkable things. With that comes the responsibility of guiding the Club to its future. It is necessary that each of us takes a moment to think about how you can be part of the solution toward sustaining the future of this wonderful Club we all enjoy.

You might ask, "What does the Club need?" As of April, leadership positions/officers will be vacant, including the Presidency. Over the next month, a Nominating Committee will be created to lead the search in this task of creating leadership. During this recent year of transition, some changes were made to better enhance the workings of this Club. Many came forward to maintain what we all appreciate and cherish, The Mattapoissett Woman's Club.

It is time for more leaders to emerge and assume the reins in a myriad of ways. We are confident in the talent evident in each member. Will you be part of the solution?

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford



JANUARY LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2026 • 11:30 AM

REYNARD HALL • MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

After living in northern Maine for thirty years where I was a librarian and adult literacy teacher and my husband, Tom, was an oncologist, we decided thirty Maine winters were enough. We looked to "move south," and since our three daughters and all our grandchildren live in Massachusetts and Connecticut, and Tom grew up in New Bedford, we set our sights on the South Coast. We wanted a small town and we loved Mattapoisett. We attended a service at Mattapoisett Congregational Church before we moved in, and Mary and Phil Jackson were especially welcoming. Mary suggested that I join MWC to meet people.



We moved into our new home in January 2020. Only a few weeks later, the pandemic hit, putting a stop to many of my efforts to get involved in the community. Eventually, I joined some committees at church and became a volunteer on foster care review panels for DCF. I volunteer at Gifts to Give and I'm on the Library Trust board. I also help maintain Tri-Town Against Racism's Little Free Diverse Library. At MWC, I have enjoyed the Book Group, Knitting/Crafts, and Walking Group. I am currently the chair of the Scholarship Committee which is very rewarding.

While the pandemic made meeting people difficult, it gave me time to finally start writing the novel I had been thinking about for years. That novel, a mystery set in New England, will be published in 2026!

~ Alice Openshaw

MWC News & Information

MWC TAG SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2

Mark Your Calendars--- and start gathering your gently used treasures for the MWC TAG SALE to be held on Saturday, May 2 (rain date Sunday, May 3) from 9am to Noon in the Ying Dynasty Parking Lot. All proceeds from this event will benefit the Scholarship Fund and other charitable organizations.

Much more information to follow in the coming months. It is particularly important for us to know who will participate. Stay tuned for more upcoming details.

~ Linda Clifford
508-207-6572



MWC News & Information

JANUARY 15TH LUNCHEON MEETING SPEAKER JENNY MARTIN, DIRECTOR, MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Presentation:

The Magic is You: Finding Your Creative Voice

Have you ever marveled at the power of a story? A painting? A garden? A poem? Want to know where the magic comes from, how artists channel it, or even how you might conjure up your own? If so, join Jenny Martin for an inspiring talk on sharing your gifts and living (your best) creative life.

Jenny Martin, the new director of Mattapoisett Free Public Library, has been a librarian for almost twenty years. Outside of the library, she is also the author of two novels from Penguin-Random House, an experienced teacher and presenter who's appeared at conferences such as TLA and San Diego Comic Con, and the former Director of Outreach for DFW Writers' Workshop, one of the largest and oldest professional workshops in the southwest region. Jenny loves serving her patrons, collaborating with colleagues, devouring genre-bending books, and spending time with her husband and their son.



*Eileen Marum, Gail Roberts
Program Committee*

JANUARY 15 LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Hostess: Sharon Doyon

Committee: Rosemary Barrow, Kate Beeby, Lizanne Capper Campbell, Sandra Dawson, Mary Dermody, Natalie Dorman, Pat Goss, Mary Jackson, Kay Lindsay, Elizabeth Lynch, Christine Voss, Chrystal Walsh

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

CORRECTION

In last month's Ladies Choice, it was incorrectly stated that our Club's IRS status was 501C3. The correct classification is 501 (c) (4) which means donations to our Club are NOT tax-deductible. We are not a charity itself, but an organization that conducts charitable activities. We regret the error.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

JANUARY 8TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)

MWC News & Information

STELLA'S RECOVERY

Stella is on the mend! Her mom, Jocelyn Chin, is so grateful for all the support from MWC members. As you may recall, 2-year-old Stella had extensive surgery in December and is now in an almost full body cast for several more weeks. MWC members have been donating meals and gift certificates during Stella's recovery so that her family can devote maximum time to caring for Stella.

Although Stella's body cast vastly restricts her movements, she has joyfully participated in many activities including music classes and "jogging" with Mom in her new adaptive stroller.

It has been said "It takes a village..." and our MWC village has shown tremendous support! THANK YOU! If you would like further info please contact Sue Mitchell to be added to Stella's online "Care Calendar."

~ Sue Mitchell



"80 FOR 80": AN IDEA FOR A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Recently, a cousin-in-law of mine who turned 80 at the end of December was searching around to find a way to make this birthday special when she stumbled on an article in the AARP magazine from October, 2019, where the author gave 80 people in her life \$80 each, telling them to "give the money to anyone they chose. Find someone who least expects it. Then write and tell me about your experience."

My cousin expanded on this concept a bit and called her project "80 for 100" (since grown to 110). She has given her family and friends \$80 each with the goal of making a difference in our world through small acts of kindness. "My intention is for you to be observant and mindful of the needs of people and organizations around you in your community." We cannot spend the money on ourselves or our family, or use it for large non-profits, hoping to keep our donations local. She also included a self-addressed stamped postcard so that we can let her know what we have done. We all have until June 30, 2026, to complete our assignments.

This has become the proverbial "ripple in the pond," where her idea is the stone dropped into a pond, and we are all the ripples it causes. I have used some of this money to donate a little to help Jocelyn Chin and her family. Since, inspired by my cousin's actions, I have matched the amount she gave us, I will have a little more money to cause more ripples in the pond. If you'd like more details on how my cousin did this, let me know.

~ Gail Roberts

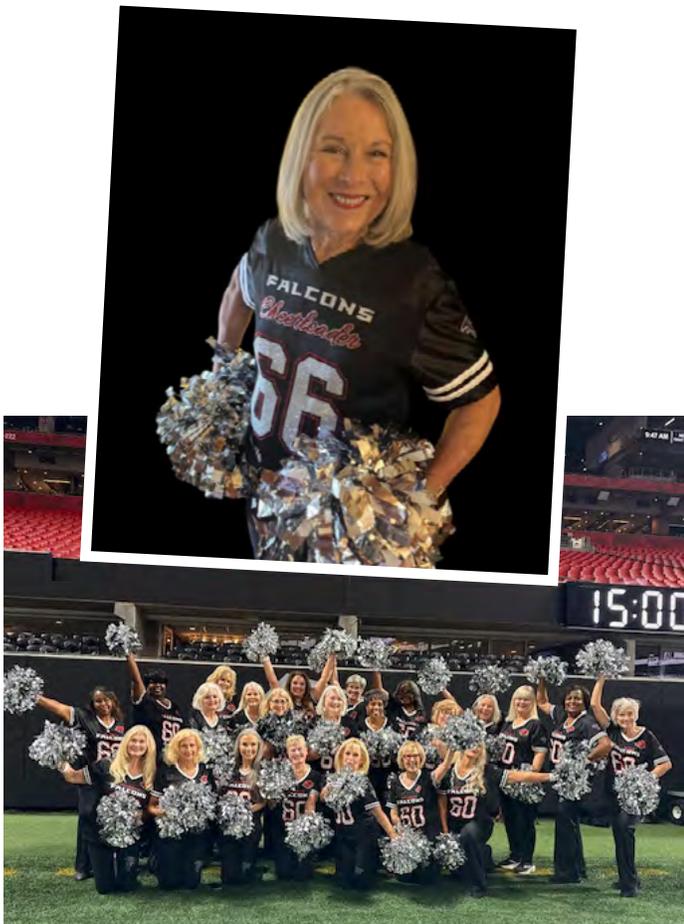
MWC News & Information

ELAINE BOTELHO IS STILL CHEERING

There were eight original cheerleaders in 1966 and four of us were able to perform in December at the Falcon's 60th anniversary game between Atlanta and Seattle at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. It was a wonderful time to cheer with 250 Falcon Alumni Cheerleaders which was videotaped amidst all the fans, including eight family members, cheering especially for the 1960's - 70's finale!!

I practiced every day for two months at the Gleason Y using You Tube videos. The only practice times with my '60 s cheerleaders in person were Saturday and Sunday before the game. It was a memorable experience that I'll cherish forever! Once a NFL cheerleader, always a NFL cheerleader!!

~ Elaine Bothelo



Song of January 2026

January opens the door,
Two-faced Janus guards the floor.
One eye back on yesterday,
One eye forward, lights the way.

Snowflakes fall, the world is still,
Dreams take root with quiet will.
Fields of summer blaze with fire,
Hope and promise lift us higher.

Cold winds whisper in the North,
Warm sun dances in the South.
New beginnings call us forth,
Resolutions find their mouth.

Past and future hand in hand,
Lessons learned, a year to plan.
Seeds of courage, vows of heart,
Every ending sparks a start.

January sings, January shines,
Keeper of the gates of time.

By Eileen J. Marum

December Luncheon Meeting

Joy was in the air as over 50 members enjoyed our Holiday Luncheon at the newly renovated Century House in Acushnet. We were happy to see a few long-time members join us.

Each dining table in the spacious room had a beautiful centerpiece that was from the Wreath sale, and they all were eagerly purchased by some attendees. Thank you to Roxanne Bungert who hosted the affair which included a delicious buffet of steak tips, chicken picatta, tortellini pasta, vegetable medley, and Caesar salad, followed by chocolate mousse with whipped cream. Our meals were enjoyed amid lively conversation.

Vanessa Neely, Liz Lynch and Kris Brammer conducted Bingo games which awarded the winners with Garden Group ornaments. A good time was had by all.
More photos on page 7





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.

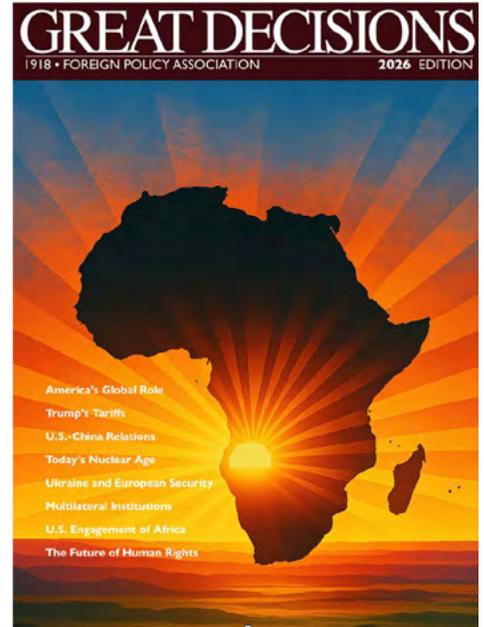
Community Outreach:

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

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Last chance to register for this year's Great Decisions Program! We have ten spots left so please sign up soon if you plan to join us. 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 1:00-3:00 pm at the Mattapoissett 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 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.

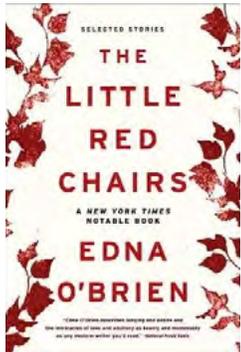
If you have any questions, please email Co-Chair, Kristen McCormack at kmac@bu.edu or Ellen Stone at ellenostone@gmail.com. We look forward to your participation!

~ Kristen McCormack & Ellen Stone, Co-Chairs

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, January 14 9:30 am & 1:00 pm



The January book is *"The Little Red Chairs"* by Edna O'Brien. One night, a mysterious stranger arrives in the small Irish town of Cloonoila. Before long, the beautiful Fidelma McBride falls under his spell and turns to him to cure her of her deepest pains.

We will discuss this book on Wednesday, January 14 at Diane Brown-Couture's house at 9:30 am, and at 1:00 pm at Robin Lepore's house. Any questions? Email Gail Roberts at peggmom@gmail.com if you are interested in joining in.



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Literature Group Holiday Meeting

The Literature Group met at Myra Hart's house for our holiday meeting. We enjoyed some tasty snacks, discussed Claire Keegan's novella, "Foster," and held a scarf exchange. Thank you, Myra, for hosting us!

~ Gail Roberts



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Tuesday, January 20 1:00 pm

Our December meeting at Marianne Mattison's was very festive among the numerous, beautiful decorations in keeping with the Christmas season. Thank you to our three subs who were needed to fill our two tables for play. Please consider joining our group if you have any interest in Bridge. Our next meeting will be held at Aina Holden's home on January 20th at 1 pm. Please contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant



Mah Jongg

Wednesdays, 1:00-3:00 pm Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street

The Mattapoietts Woman's Club partners with the Mattapoietts Council on Aging (COA) to offer Mah Jongg play year-round on Wednesdays from 1:00-3:00 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 Mattapoietts Woman's Club and the Mattapoietts COA.

If you do not have your 2025 Mah Jongg card, you can order one at www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

In January, you can begin ordering the new 2026 card, which should be delivered to you by April 1st. Starting in April, Mah Jongg play uses the new 2026 card. More info on this in the next newsletter!

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

PLEASE NOTE: Date Change for January Social Cocktail Gathering

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Myra Hart has had to change the date for the Social. It is now scheduled for Sunday, January 18 from 3-5 pm at her home. Some parking is available in the driveway, but for overflow please park on Winter Hill Rd. Do not park on North Street.

For this event RSVP to myralhart@gmail.com or 832-282-5995. Remember to bring an appetizer to share and your beverage of choice.

Thanks for your understanding.

~ Linda Clifford 508-207-6572



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, January 28, 12:00 pm

Please mark your calendars for the next Ladies Who Lunch outing on Wednesday, January 28, at Noon. In acknowledgment that January weather might not be the greatest, we will be dining close by at Ying Dynasty on Rte.6 in Mattapoisett. We invite you to join us! All are welcome!

Please alert Katherine Gaudet by text or email at 508-944-8919 or katherinegaudet52@gmail.com by January 25th if you will be joining us so she can include you in the reservation. If you would like to join us but need a ride, please let Katherine know and she will arrange it.

This past week, we lunched at the marvelous National Club in New Bedford, truly enjoying their Mexican fare!

~ Katherine Gaudet



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

We Did It Again!

The 6th Annual Greens Sale is officially in the books! On a bright and chilly December 6, our wreaths, centerpieces, swags, boxwood trees, and one-of-a-kind 2025 ornaments flew off the tables at What the Taco. It was heartwarming to welcome so many familiar faces—and to meet new friends—as shoppers found just the right touch for a door, a table, or a special holiday gift.

This event wouldn't happen without our amazing MWC elves (and their very supportive spouses!). For the sixth year in a row, Matt Buckley and the Mattapoissett Land Trust generously provided the racks for our wreaths and swags—thank you!

So many hands made this sale a success, and while it's impossible to name everyone, we are deeply grateful to all. Special thanks to our lead designers—Sharon Doyon, Susan Perkins, and Jane Howard—whose creativity set the tone for the season. Sherry and Karl Hoines once again opened their heated barn so the magic could happen, while Erin and Peter Burlinson provided cold storage in theirs. Jim Turse arrived, as always, with his red truck and the sale sign, and Suzan Mitchell and Sherry Hoines gathered and cut the beautiful greens. Cindy Turse kept everyone on the move with schedules, logistics, email communication, and constant encouragement. Countless members helped by hanging posters around Mattapoissett, Marion, and Fairhaven; working in the barn; and shuttling items from place to place. Truly, this was a team effort—and we're thankful for every bit of it!

As always, proceeds from the Greens Sale support scholarships and local charities, making all that hard work even more meaningful! *More pictures on page 13!*

Save the Date:

The next Garden Group meeting will be held at the Mattapoissett Free Public Library on February 4, 2026.

Wishing everyone a happy, healthy, and joyful New Year!

~ Cindy Turse





GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Knitting & Crafts

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

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft group had our December meeting at the Yarn Lady shop. We discussed our handmade holiday gifts and projects. Nancy impressed us with her skillfully handmade copy of a designer handbag.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 22nd from 2-4 pm. We will meet at The Yarn Lady shop. It's located at 144 Huttleston Ave in Fairhaven. We look forward to seeing you and your projects for the new year. 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



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



JOIN NOW!



***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.