



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

December 2024
VOLUME LXIII No. 4

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Christmas traditions around the world are surprising, hilarious, and heart-warming ways to celebrate. Here are some of the quirkiest and most delightful ways people celebrate the holiday across the globe.

In Germany, Christmas markets are an essential part of the holiday season. Imagine strolling through festive stalls, sipping mulled wine (Glühwein) and nibbling bratwurst. But the surprise? Santa Claus doesn't come alone—he's joined by Knecht Ruprecht, his grumpy helper who punishes naughty kids!

In Mexico, Christmas begins with Las Posadas, a reenactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter. Over nine days, people go from house to house singing traditional carols. Each house says, "no room!" until the final stop where they're welcomed in. The night culminates in a piñata bash—where kids take a swing at a star-shaped piñata filled with sweets. It's a fun, chaotic way to wrap up the night!

In Japan, Christmas is not a public holiday, but many celebrate it with...KFC! Yes, you read that right. The tradition of eating fried chicken for Christmas began in the 1970s as a marketing campaign by KFC and has since become a beloved custom. Families line up for weeks to order their Christmas bucket, which is somehow more iconic than a turkey dinner. It's a Christmas tradition with a surprising twist—and a crispy one at that!

In Finland, it's believed that Santa Claus truly lives in Rovaniemi, located on the Arctic Circle. Finnish children don't just write letters to Santa—they may also visit him in person in his village. Before the holiday festivities, families unwind with a quiet sauna session (yes, in the winter), then feast on Christmas ham and root vegetables. It's a serene, laid-back Christmas with a dash of magic—especially when you consider the idea of an Arctic Santa!

Down under, Christmas falls in summer, so celebrations are a little different. Australians celebrate with barbecues and beach parties. Forget the snowy scene—Christmas in Australia is about sun, seafood, and festive parades. Just imagine the jolly old elf trading in his sleigh for a surfboard.

In Spain, Christmas is a month-long celebration. It starts with El Gordo, the world's largest lottery on December 22nd, where everyone eagerly watches children sing the winning numbers. Then, on January 5th, the Three Kings arrive with a parade, throwing gifts and sweets to the crowd. For many, it's the highlight of the holiday season. It's like Christmas and New Year's rolled into one big, festive extravaganza!

Christmas is a holiday that transcends national borders. As people come together to celebrate in their unique ways, the spirit of Christmas remains universal: it is a time for love, reflection, and connection. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all!

Kate Brown
MWC President



Kate Brown
President, MWC

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

My dad was a soldier during WW2 and met my mother while stationed in the Atlanta area. They married at the end of the war and moved to Troy, NY where I was born. Two years later we moved to Atlanta to be near my mother's family. I was raised in Atlanta, attended Catholic parochial schools and then went on to Georgia State College/University where I joined a sorority and became a member of the cheerleading squad.

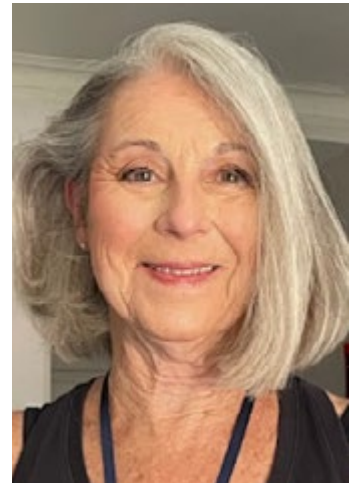
1966 was the year I joined the NFL Atlanta Falcons cheerleaders and also the year that I married my college sweetheart, Michael. Upon graduation he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army and we embarked on a military life for more than 20 years. Four children were raised while moving more than 20 times to addresses in 10 states plus two tours in Germany. I had the opportunity to volunteer in many ways helping our Army community and am grateful for the joy it gave to me.

After Michael retired from the Army in 1988 we relocated to Massachusetts where I returned to college earning degrees in education from Bridgewater State College and Cambridge College and then taught for 18 years in the Whitman Hanson Regional School District.

Mike came to work in Mattapoisett in 2003 as the town's first town administrator. I have been volunteering here ever since. I was the publicity chairman for the town's sesquicentennial in 2007 and after retirement in 2012 joined the Woman's Club. As President of the MWC from 2014-2016, I set up a committee to create a DVD of the club's 45-year history by researching so many scrapbooks!

Faith and family are my central values. Enjoying time with my 9 grandchildren is my greatest joy! NFL Alumni Cheerleader reunions, travel, winter snowbird time in Florida and exercise are my secret passions. For 12 years Deanne Girouard and I have planted and maintained the flower boxes at the Town Beach house. This fall I volunteered to head daffodil plantings around town. Mattapoisett is my favorite home, and I will always volunteer!

~Elaine Botelho



MWC News & Information

5TH ANNUAL GREENS SALE

It's time for the 5th Annual Greens Sale, December 7th at 9:00 AM (Rain date: December 8th). Location: Parking lot between Ying Dynasty and What the Taco.

This event is organized by the Garden Group as a fundraiser for our club. There will be wreaths, swags, centerpieces, boxwood trees, and exclusive MWC 2024 ornaments designed and crafted by our members.

We look forward to seeing you, your family, and your friends! Look for the red truck and lots of happy people!

Please bring your reusable bags to carry your purchases or maybe even your red wagon. Be early or be disappointed! Cash, checks, and cards accepted. See you there!

This fundraiser directly supports the scholarships, programs, and community outreach of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club.

~ *Cindy Turse*

VETERANS DAY CEREMONY

Veterans Day, November 11, 2024, dawned gray, cloudy and cool but the sun broke through at the tolling of the bells at precisely 11:00 AM. Ray Andrews tolled the bells twenty-one times at Center School and, simultaneously, Lisa Hill at the Mattapoissett Congregational Church. Approximately twenty-five people attended the ceremony which took place on the Church lawn. The pledge of allegiance was recited; retired Colonel Nancy Sousa read the Oath of Enlistment; Cindy Johnson offered a prayer and, in closing, the "Star Spangled Banner" was sung. It was an emotional ceremony.

Cindy Johnson

HOLIDAY MEETING OF THE MATTAPOISETT WOMAN'S CLUB

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024
at the lovely Wamsutta Club in New Bedford
Gathering at 11:30 Lunch served at 12:30 pm
Last day to reserve your lunch December 7, 2024

All meals include a salad, starch, vegetable, tea, coffee, and rolls.
Desert is Brownie ala Mode. CASH BAR. The cost for a meal is \$35.

Your choice of entrée follows:

- 1) Broiled Salmon with dill sauce
- 2) Stuffed Pork Tenderloin with apple stuffing
- 3) Black Diamond Beef tips

Name: _____ Telephone # _____

If mailing, send to Lois K Ennis, 5 Pine Island Road, Mattapoissett, MA, 02739
Be sure to include a \$35 check and meal choice.

November Luncheon Meeting

Over 60 of us gathered to enjoy a delicious luncheon prepared by Linda Clifford and her hostess team. We were happy to welcome new members and visitors to our monthly meeting. Vice President Cindy Johnson ably conducted the business meeting for President Kate Brown who was in attendance but not in full voice.

Sandy Hering introduced our program speakers from the Mattapoissett Land Trust. Wendy Cops and Mary Cabral became the new co-chairs of the Education Committee of the MLT when Ellen Flynn stepped down as chair after 16 years in this role. Also speaking was newly retired ORRHs teacher Lynn Connor, who taught Environmental Science at the High School for many years.

The speakers surprised our Woman's Club audience with pictures of many of the activities that they sponsor for our students, such as the Cuttyhunk Trip for 6th Graders and the Nantucket Trip for Juniors and Seniors. The mission of the MLT Education Committee is to enhance students' environmental awareness and encourage stewardship through field trips, scientific exploration, and environmental research. They accomplish so much with their many programs. We congratulate this committee, as well as Ellen Flynn for many years of service, and the Mattapoissett Land Trust as they celebrate their 50th Birthday this year!

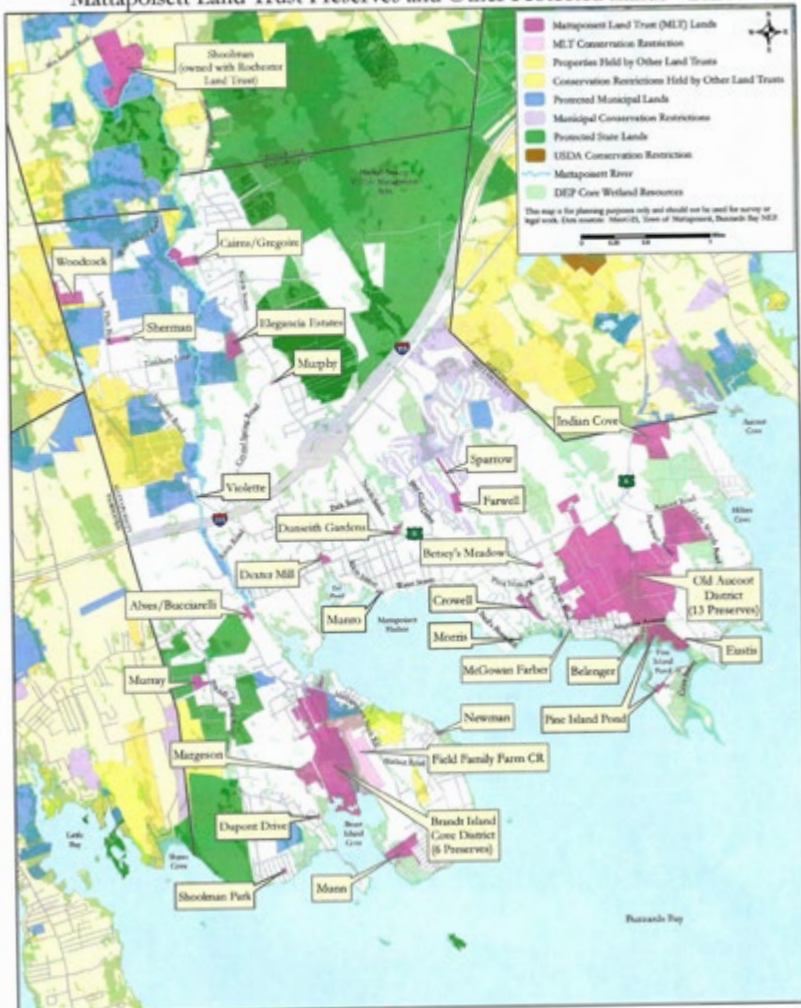
More photos on page 5.

~ Cindy Johnson





Mattapoisett Land Trust Preserves and Other Protected Lands - 2024



**The Mattapoisett Woman's Club
5th Annual Holiday Greens Sale
December 7th, 2024**

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

Rain Date: December 8th, 2024



**Featuring
Decorated Fresh Wreaths, Swags & Centerpieces
Bundled Evergreens & Holly Branches
2024 Christmas Ornaments**

**22 County Road/Route 6
Ying's Parking Lot
Cash, Checks, Credit Cards**

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

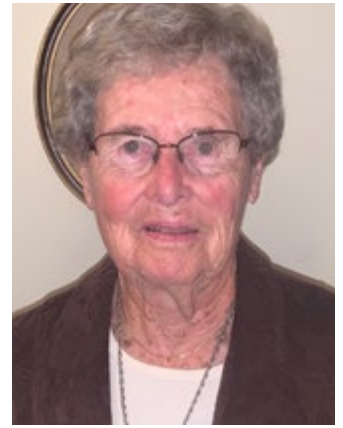
Literature Group

In November we enjoyed reading and discussing “*West With Giraffes*” by Lynda Rutledge. For December our discussion book is “*North Woods*” by Daniel Mason. Both Morning and Afternoon groups will be hosted by Alice Openshaw at her home, 3 Channing Road. The Morning group will gather at 9:30 am and the Afternoon at 1:00 pm.

Hope everyone will be able to come.

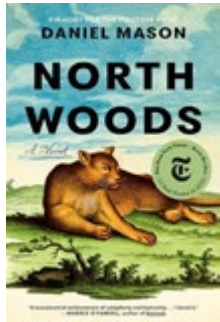
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

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



When two young lovers abscond from a Puritan colony, little do they know that their humble cabin in the woods will become the home of an extraordinary succession of human and nonhuman characters alike. An English soldier, destined for glory, abandons the battlefields of the New World to devote himself to growing apples. A pair of spinster twins navigate war and famine, envy and desire. A crime reporter unearths an ancient mass grave—only to discover that the earth refuse to give up their secrets. A lovelorn painter, a sinister con man, a stalking panther, a lusty beetle: As the inhabitants confront the wonder and mystery around them, they begin to realize that the dark, raucous, beautiful past is very much alive.

This magisterial and highly inventive novel from Pulitzer Prize finalist Daniel Mason brims with love and madness, humor and hope. Following the cycles of history, nature, and even language, North Woods shows the myriad, magical ways in which we're connected to our environment, to history, and to one another. It is not just an unforgettable novel about secrets and destinies, but a way of looking at the world that asks the timeless question: How do we live on, even after we're gone?

2024-25 Literature Group Book List

- | | |
|----------|--|
| January | “The History of Sound” by Ben Shattuck |
| February | “James” by Percival Everett |
| March | “The Winthrop Woman” by Anya Seton |
| April | “Trade Wind” by M.M. Kaye |



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday, our group gathered on November 12th at the home of Elaine Grant with two substitute players completing two tables. Thanks, Pat and Beth! Our next gathering will be the fourth Tuesday in January, the 26th, at Aina Holden's.

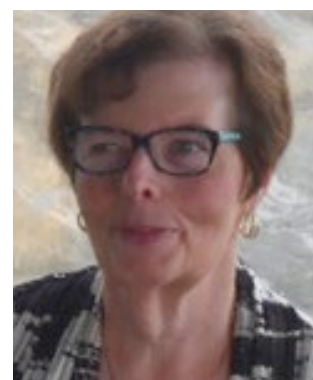


For those of you who've been away from the game for a while, consider joining our group. All levels are welcome. Please contact Elaine Grant at grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant

Knitting & Hand Crafts

The MWC knitters are busy making holiday greeting cards! The cards will have a small hand-knitted feature with a warm seasonal greeting. They will be for sale at the MWC Wreath Sale on December 7th. Come by Ying's parking lot and pick up some cards for the knitters in your life.



Marie Rottler

Knitting & Hand Crafts Chair



The knitting and craft group will be taking time off for the holidays. Our next group meeting will be on Thursday January 23rd. If you are not on the list and would like to join us, please contact Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members; give it a try! Bring your projects and join us for a pleasant, creative and conversational afternoon.

~ Marie Rottler & Bobbie Oakley

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

November has been full of fun and woody walks. The day after Halloween we walked “the most haunted road in Massachusetts” which happens to be Wolf Island Rd. in Mattapoisett.

Legend has it that several men died on this road and that their ghosts still hang from the branches. Some drivers have reported seeing these specters glare at them after dark. There were no ghost sightings on the day we walked, but we did enjoy a neighbor’s Halloween display.

The following week we walked the Land Trust property known as “The Bogs”. This area has been re-developed and now provides great walking trails and quaint bridges over the river. The perfect fall day was also a joy.

We took another woody walk on the bike path beginning on Industrial Drive in Mattapoisett heading toward Marion. It was another great day. Not all our walks are woody though, and we will most likely be walking paved surfaces when colder weather arrives. If you would like to join us, please contact Sue Mitchell. We’d love to see you!

~ Sue Mitchell



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Our November Workshop was convivially noisy as we created accessories for centerpieces, wreaths, and swags, and packaged unique original ornaments. The ten days following Thanksgiving will find the Elves cutting and delivering greens to the Hoines' barn, then carefully creating wreaths, centerpieces, and swags for the 5th Annual Greens Sale, December 7th. We hope to see many members shopping or volunteering with us for the sale. ~ *Cindy Turse*



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

The Daffodil Planting Project Continues

Many members of the Garden Group enthusiastically planted approximately 250 daffodil bulbs in public spaces as a heartfelt “Thank You” to Colby Rottler for his wonderful food presentation last spring. These bright blossoms will beautify many spots around town, including the River Road intersection at Acushnet Road, the Mattapoisett Museum, various locations along the Rail Trail, the entrance to Ned’s Point, and the Florence Eastman Memorial on the grounds of the Mattapoisett Free Public Library. The effort, led by Elaine Botelho, included Garden Group members, their supportive spouses, and a tiny cheerleader. This project is a labor of love that will bring a splash of beauty to the community for years to come. ~ *Cindy Turse*



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Social Cocktail Group

Sunday, December 8 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

On Sunday, December 8 from 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm a festive Cocktail Social will be held at the home of Myra Hart, 115 North Street in Mattapoissett.

Please bring your beverage of choice, an appetizer to share and spouse/guest, if you wish.

For this event, please RSVP directly to Myra by email: Myralhart@gmail.com, cell: 1-832-282-5995 or home: 1-508-758-4703. Please do not park on North Street but rather in the driveway or across the street on Winter Hill Road.



We also invite our new members to join in the fun. This is a smaller gathering of MWC members and a wonderful informal way of meeting more new people. Hope to see you there.

~ Linda Clifford

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm

Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street

Our partnership with the Council on Aging continues to thrive. The lessons we've provided have brought more players into the game. We've had three tables of players, all enjoying the game. We're happy to schedule more lessons if there are at least three people who are interested. So, give me a call. We play non-competitively and there are never any partners to disappoint.



Contact Mary Dermody, marydermody@me.com (610) 937-7455

NOTE: The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend. Sponsored by Mattapoissett Woman's Club and the Mattapoissett COA

MWC VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

[**VOLUNTEER:** a person who freely offers to take part in an enterprise or undertake a task.]

Do you know someone who is handy with tools and is available for a great volunteer opportunity?

The Friends of the Mattapoissett Rail Trail have developed a wonderful initiative called Bikes for All. They collect, repair and refurbish bikes, giving them to kids, families and adults across the greater Southcoast area. They are looking for volunteers to help fix donated bikes. No experience? No worries! We are looking into a training class this winter! Please email Jane Finnerty at Jane.mattrail@gmail.com or call 631.312.2560 for more information!

NOTE for MWC members: this is a 'gender-neutral' volunteer opportunity, so if you, your husband, son or cousin are tool-handy and interested, please contact Jane. THANKS!

Robin LePore

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Ladies Who Lunch

This month, the Ladies Who Lunch became the Ladies Who Brunch for a second time. On Sunday, November 17, we met at 12:15 at Bocca, one of our favorite spots so far, but this time we enjoyed their Sunday Brunch offerings, all of which were fantastic and inventive, not to mention delicious!

Between the laughs and bits of conversation, eight of us feasted on choices ranging from the Classic Breakfast of bacon and eggs to Very Berry French Toast to Egg Benedicts to Brunch Parmigiano and Bananas Foster Waffles. (Note: We all gasped as we watched the Chicken and Waffle Tower—use your best imagination for this one—being served at another table. Suffice it to say that it was prepped on a skewer.)

We decided that in deference to everyone's busy calendars in December, our next get-together would be at Noon on Wednesday, January 22, at Nuno's, a new Portuguese restaurant on Belleville Avenue in New Bedford. This announcement drew a rave review from Kristen Langhoff-Henriques, who had eaten there recently.

We're looking forward to our new dining experiences in the new year, and we sure hope you'll make it a new habit to join us as we continue our dining adventures!

~ Kate Brown



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

How to register:

We have 30 Textbooks, along with the DVD and Teacher's Electronic Edition.

Members are on a first come first served basis.

Please send a check for \$40.00 to cover text and expenses. If two people are sharing one book, the price is \$50.00. On check's memo line, write Great Decisions. On a separate piece of paper, please print your Name, Address, Email Address, Phone Numbers (Landline and Mobile) for our records. Mail to:

Mattapoisett Woman's Club
Box1444
Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Attn: Treasurer

Classes begin the 3rd Wednesday, January 15, 2025, and meet for a total of eight consecutive Wednesdays. The program takes place at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett MA. We meet from 1:00PM- 3:00PM in the downstairs Community Room. The side door is handicap accessible with an elevator to the lower level. We offer light refreshments with coffee and tea.

This program is open to all members of the community in Mattapoisett and various surrounding towns. Each week we discuss the chapters in the Text supplied by the Foreign Policy Association.

John Ikenberry will serve as Guest Editor of Great Decisions 2025. Professor Ikenberry is the Albert G. Milbank Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University. He is ranked among the top Scholars of International Relations scholars.

View Great Decisions 2025 topics on page 15.

Thank you for your interest in our organization. We look forward to your participation.

Co-Chairs:

Ellen P. Flynn

Ellen O. Stone

Ann and Art Layton



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions 2025 Topics

American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads

This chapter will explore the contours of the U.S. foreign policy debate as it plays out in a world of multiple and escalating crises and domestic polarization.

Author: G. John Ikenberry

U.S. Changing Leadership of the World Economy

What are America's options and opportunities as a leader of the world economy? How will America's "foreign policy for the middle class" and strategic competition with China impact its leadership role? How can the postwar rules and institutions of the world economy be made safe for economic nationalism and great power competition?

Author: Daniel Drezner

U.S.-China Relations

Washington's relations with Beijing. China is the U. S.' preeminent geopolitical challenger and a threat. What are America's strategic options in the face of Chinese power and ambition?

Author: Thomas J. Christensen

International Cooperation on Climate Change

The 2015 Paris Agreement established a UN-sponsored framework for negotiations on climate change and global warming. What is the U.S. role in fostering cooperation on climate change? In a divided country, what are the possible futures for American policy leadership?

Author: Josh Busby

The Future of NATO and European Security

The Uncertainty of European security. Putin's Russia has launched a war with Ukraine on its doorstep, and America's uncertain role as leader of NATO and security provider has been called into question. What are America's stakes in NATO and Europe's strategic dilemmas?

Author: Kori Schake

AI and American National Security

The AI revolution is the leading edge of a larger high-tech revolution which promises to transform the world. How will the AI revolution impact American national security? What are its policy options to secure the benefits of AI and guard against its dangers?

Author: Julie George

India: Between China, the West, and the Global South

India is an emerging major power in world affairs, occupying a pivotal position between China, the United States, and the Global South. What are India's choices and opportunities for regional and global leadership? What opportunities exist for Washington to work with India?

Author: Leslie Vinjamuri

After Gaza: American Policy in the Middle East

The war in Gaza has brought the region to a crossroads. What are the possible outcomes of the war, and how might the United States use its influence to shape a long-term settlement that leaves both Israel and the Palestinians in a better position? How might Arab states in the wider region be brought into a settlement? What are America's interests in the Middle East and how can it advance them?

Author: Daniel Kurtzer

RECIPE CORNER

Christmas is a time for special cookies. Here's one from Peg Olney for you to enjoy. We would love for you to send your favorite recipe to Elaine Grant grant5687@comcast.net for publication in Ladies Choice.

Cranberry-Orange Cookies

Recipe makes 4 dozen cookies.

Preheat oven to 375 degrees

COOKIES:

1 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
1 cup white sugar
1 egg
1 teaspoon grated orange zest
2 tablespoons orange juice
2 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon baking soda
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
2 cups chopped cranberries



In a large bowl, cream together the butter, white sugar and brown sugar until smooth. Beat in the egg until well blended. Mix in orange zest and orange juice. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt. Stir into the orange mixture. Mix in cranberries and, if using, walnuts until evenly distributed. Drop dough by rounded tablespoons onto ungreased cookie sheets, spaced 2 inches apart.

Bake for 12 to 14 minutes until the edges are golden. Remove from cookie sheets and cool on wire racks.

GLAZE:

Mix in small bowl

1/2 teaspoon orange zest
3 tablespoons orange juice and sifted confectioners sugar until smooth.

Spread over tops of cooled cookies.
Let stand until set

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JOIN NOW!

