



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

January 2025
VOLUME LXIII No. 5

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

New Year, New Month, New Beginnings

As the clock strikes midnight and a new year unfolds, it brings with it a sense of hope and endless possibilities. The first month of the year, January, symbolizes fresh starts and new opportunities. It's a chance to reset, to let go of the past, and to embrace the future with enthusiasm and determination.

A new year often inspires resolutions, whether it's improving health, cultivating relationships, pursuing career goals, or simply finding more joy in everyday life. These aspirations are fueled by the energy of starting anew, a reminder that change is not only possible but also within our grasp. Each day of January serves as a stepping stone toward these goals, a reminder that progress, no matter how small, is meaningful.

The month of January also carries a unique charm. Winter's chill often invites reflection and quiet moments. This introspection can be powerful, encouraging us to evaluate where we've been and where we're headed. It's a time to set intentions, dream big, and plan purposefully. The symbolism of January's blank slate reminds us that the future is unwritten, and we are the authors of our stories.

Yet, as we embark on this journey, it's important to remember that perfection isn't the goal—progress is. Life's unexpected twists and turns may challenge us, but resilience and adaptability can transform these obstacles into opportunities for growth.

In this new year and new month, let's embrace the possibilities ahead. Let's celebrate the small victories, learn from setbacks, and remain steadfast in our commitment to personal growth. Together, let's make this chapter one filled with courage, kindness, and a renewed sense of purpose. The year is yours to shape—make it extraordinary.

Kate Brown
MWC President



Kate Brown
President, MWC



HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I arrived in Mattapoisett with my husband, Philip, and our son, Justin, in the spring of 1981. I was pregnant with our second son and living on Rte 6 in an apartment next to Mahoney Oil. I could not have been more delighted to be back in the States and close to our families!

Philip had just finished his four year veterinary education at L'école Nationale Vétérinaire de Toulouse in France. I taught English in two French schools during this time. With his internship and boards under his belt, he was hired to be the veterinarian at Capeway Veterinary Hospital in Fairhaven. As I searched for an apartment, my father suggested that I check out Mattapoisett. He rhapsodized about the Mattapoisett Inn, the village and the wonderful sea shore views. I drove through the town and fell in love with it.

Looking around for ways to meet people, I saw an announcement in the Presto Press for the next meeting of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club AND they offered babysitting. It was daunting to walk into a room of women I did not know, but I was immediately warmly welcomed and introduced around. I relaxed into the group and savored the conversation, good food (then, we brought our own plate and tableware) and a delightful program.

Within a week, I received a telephone call inviting me to a new member tea at Roxanne Bungert's home. About eight of us newbies arrived and were grateful for the tea, cookies and information. Current members gave the history of the MWC and talked about the different committees we could join, how they fundraised, and how we could become involved. I chose to be on the Scholarship Committee. I was involved with the Club until I filled up the babysitting room with 4 sons!

When I went back to work, I could not attend meetings or events as they were during the day so I regretfully left. Kate Brown called me in September of 2023 after I retired and invited me to go to a meeting with her. I did not hesitate to join. It is so good to be back

~Katherine Gaudet



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 Mattapoisett 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

MWC News & Information

JANUARY 16 LUNCHEON MEETING PROGRAM: JENNIFER SMITH, SUPERINTENDENT OF NEW BEDFORD WHALING NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Jennifer Smith is a proud, lifelong New Bedford resident. She has served as the Superintendent of New Bedford Whaling National Historical Park since 2019, but her association with the park goes back to the mid '90s. Jen received a BA in English Literature from UMass Dartmouth in 2000 and a Masters of Community Planning from the University of Rhode Island in 2004. She has interests in people, local history, the outdoors, native plants, and enjoys spending time with her pack. She will tell us about the National Park and how she came to work there.

~ Gail Roberts



Jennifer Smith with Charles Sams, the Director of the National Parks system.

JANUARY 16TH MEETING HOSTESS COMMITTEE:

Hostess: Sharon Doyon

Committee: Rosemary Barrow, Lizanne Capper Cambell, Sandra Dawson, Allyson Dedrick, Natalie Darman, Pat Goss, Pamela Haznar, Mary Jackson, Cindy Johnson, Lizabeth Lynch, Connie McGrath, Laura Von Zweck, Christine Voss, Chrystal Walsh.

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

GREETINGS AND REMEMBRANCES

Thank you to all who have informed me of various notable happenings in our members' lives. Without your input, these important communications would not happen. A card, short note and most often both can make a difficult day a little brighter. So, I ask that you continue to be aware of other MWC members and the occasions of good or bad that should be acknowledged. As always, confidentiality is of the utmost importance.

Linda Clifford Cell: 508-207-6572

Email: tilly_ralph@hotmail.com

JANUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

JANUARY 16TH • 11 AM • REYNARD HALL, MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

MWC News & Information

Report of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Mission Statement and Goals of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club

*Submitted on December 19, 2024 by
Katherine Gaudet, Chair; Kate Brown; Sandra Hering; Cindy Johnson; and Gail Roberts*

At the October Executive Board meeting, a Mission Committee was formed to review the Club's four Goals and prepare a Mission Statement. This would define the Club's identity, guide its purpose, give it focus and direction forward, and hopefully attract, motivate, and engage new members.

Seven meetings and countless hours later, the mission statement and goals were presented to the Executive Board. On December 19, 2024, the Executive Board voted to share a copy of the mission statement and goals with the membership on January 10, 2025, through its usual print communication channels so that they could familiarize themselves with the documents' substance.

The mission statement and first two goals will be presented in person at the general meeting on January 16, 2025, and the last three goals will be discussed at the meeting on February 20, 2025. The final draft will be discussed and put up for a vote by the general membership to adopt as the official mission statement and goals in March.

Please watch your email and Ladies Choice for further developments as this exciting and necessary endeavor progresses.

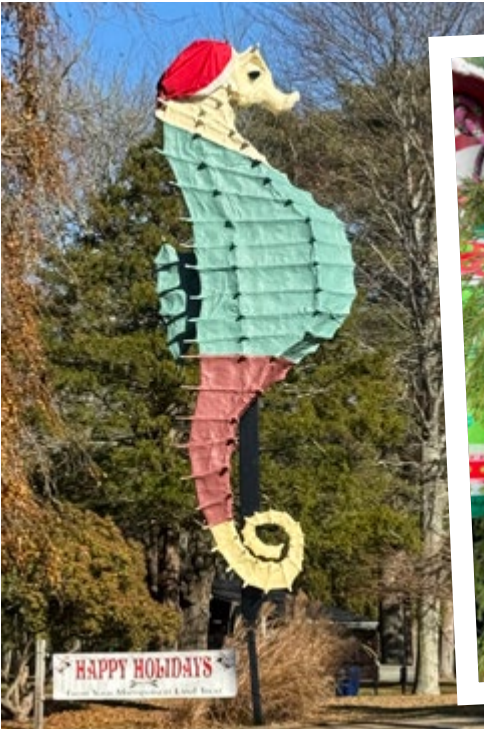
The MISSION STATEMENT of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club

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

The GOALS of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club

- Social:** To provide opportunities to connect with each other in a warm, friendly, kind and caring atmosphere
- Civic:** To support and participate in civic activities and responsibilities
- Philanthropic:** To promote the welfare of others through gifts of time, talent and money
- Education:** To offer entertaining activities and educational programs to encourage lifelong learning
- Community Outreach:** To work in the community to build relationships and cultivate participation, access, equity and joy

DECEMBER IN MATTAPOISETT

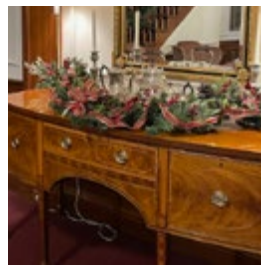
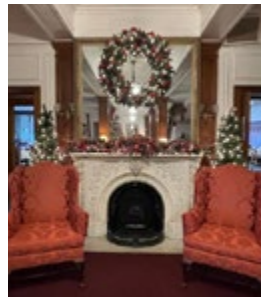


December Luncheon Meeting

On Thursday, December 12, over 50 of our members gathered for a festive luncheon beautifully arranged by Roxane Bungert. Thanks also to Lois Ennis for making sure we each had our chosen meal of salmon, roast pork or beef tips, all deliciously prepared.

President Kate Brown welcomed us at New Bedford's Wamsutta Club which was beautifully decorated with stately Christmas trees, wreaths and lovely floral arrangements. This was a perfect way to spread the holiday spirit. *More photos on page 7.*

~ Cindy Johnson





GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

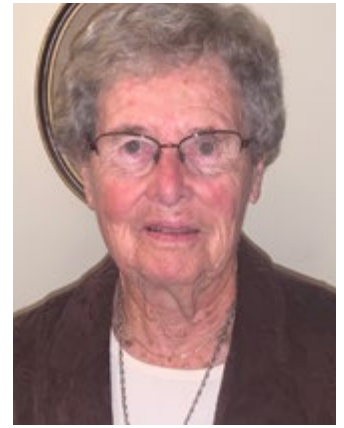
Literature Group

For our first meetings of the New Year on January 8, 2025 we will be discussing "The History of Sound" by Ben Shattuck. The Morning group will meet in the Marine Room at the Library at 10 am and the afternoon Group will meet at the home of Robin Lepore, 6 Seabreeze Lane at 1:00 pm.

Happy New Year to all!

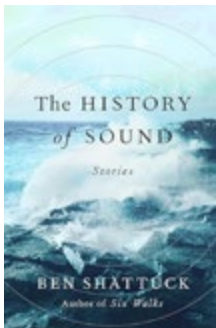
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

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



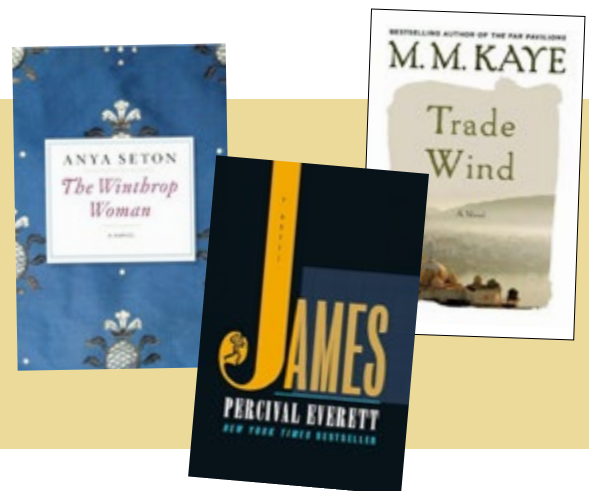
In twelve luminous stories set across three centuries, The History of Sound examines the unexpected ways the past returns to us and how love and loss are entwined and transformed over generations. In Ben Shattuck's ingenious collection, each story has a companion story, which contains a revelation about the previous, paired story. Mysteries and murders are revealed, history is refracted, and deep emotional connections are woven through characters and families.

The haunting title story recalls the journey of two men who meet around a piano in a smoky, dim bar, only to spend a summer walking the Maine woods collecting folk songs in the shadow of the First World War, forever marked by the odyssey. Decades later, in another story, a woman discovers the wax cylinders recorded that fateful summer while cleaning out her new house in Maine. Shattuck's inventive, exquisite stories transport readers from 1700s Nantucket to the contemporary woods of New Hampshire and beyond—into landscapes both enduring and unmistakably modern. Memories, artifacts, paintings, and journals resurface in surprising and poignant ways among evocative beaches, forests, and orchards, revealing the secrets, misunderstandings, and love that linger across centuries.

Written with breathtaking humanity and humor, The History of Sound is a love letter to New England, a radiant conversation between past and present, and a moving meditation on the abiding search for home.

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

We hope all had a joyful December. We're looking forward to starting the New Year at Aina Holden's home on Tuesday, January 26 at 1 pm.

If you've been away from the game for a while, consider joining us for a refresher session. All levels of play are welcome. Contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant

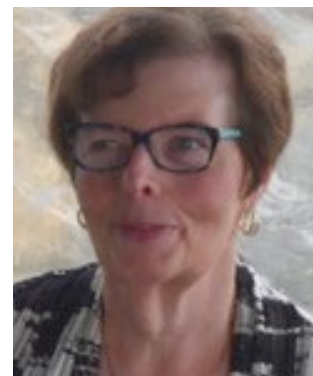


Knitting & Hand Crafts

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft Group will meet on Thursday, January 23rd from 2-4pm. This month's location will be announced to the group at a later date via email. If you are not on the list and would like to join us, please contact Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net.

We will review the success of our knitted holiday card project and make plans to expand to other themed cards. Bring your own projects and join us for a pleasant, creative, and conversational afternoon. We welcome new members, give it a try!

~ Marie Rottler & Bobbie Oakley



Marie Rottler
Knitting & Hand Crafts Chair

Novel Greeting Cards

The club rolled out a new line of special greeting cards at the Wreath Sale. They are perfect to send to loved ones who knit, as each card has a special hand knit feature on the front of it. Bobbie Oakley and Sandy Hering came up with the concept of the cards, the layout and design, and much of the knitting. Gail Roberts was an additional knitter, Christine Voss did assembly of the cards, and Barb Van Inwegen was the printer of the cards. Great coordination of efforts! We will continue to sell the cards at the new knitting store, Yarn Lady, on Rte. 6 in Fairhaven. We would like to make an everyday selection to sell beginning in January, so if you have a clever brain for cute messages in Birthday, Get Well or New Baby Greeting cards or would like to help with the knitting or assembly, please contact Bobbie Oakley or Sandy Hering.



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

December has been slow for walking. In the beginning of the month we cancelled all walks to help prepare for our annual wreath and greens sale. Instead, we “walked” as we cut greens, delivered wreaths to and from the barn, and strolled around Ying Dynasty parking lot while selling swags. Although we sacrificed our nature walks, the wreath sale was a fine success.

Between rainy December Fridays we did manage to go on one nice woodsy walk at the Oliver Wendell Holmes preserve, managed by the Mattapoisett Land Trust. It was a great December day as we walked and talked. Hopefully, the weather will cooperate in January and we can again resume our casual walking.

All are welcome.

~ Sue Mitchell



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 Mattapoisett Woman's Club and the Mattapoisett COA



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Social Cocktail Group

A good time was had by all who attended the Social Cocktail Gathering on Sunday, December 8. About 30 members and guests enjoyed not only the varied and delicious appetizers, but the festive décor at the home of Myra Hart. Thank you, Myra, for being such a gracious hostess. And, of course, there was no shortage of hearty laughter and good conversation.

These gatherings are held 3-4 times per year. The next one is scheduled for early March at the home of Robin Lepore. The host/hostess provides the space and tableware, and guests bring an appetizer to share and their beverage of choice. It is a great way to socialize and get to know MWC members in a smaller, more intimate setting.

Of course you should attend; but also please consider hosting one of these events so they can continue. Need more information? Call Linda Clifford, 508-207-6572 or email tilly_ralph@hotmail.com

Good tidings to all for the coming New Year,

~ Linda Clifford



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

We did it again! The 5th Annual Greens Sale is history. Our wreaths, centerpieces, swags, boxwood trees, and one-of-a-kind 2024 ornaments were scooped up on a bright and chilly December 7th in the Ying's parking lot. It was heartwarming to see so many friends return this year and to make new acquaintances as folks found something new for their door, table, or a special gift.

We thank all of our MWC Elves, and their spouses. For the 5th year, Matt Buckley and the Mattapoissett Land Trust provided racks for the wreaths and swags. Each year when we ask to use the lot next to Ying's the owner says "YES". Her name is Susan Paolini and we have yet to meet her.

There are many people who make this event a success and I will not try to mention everyone, but beg forgiveness for omissions. Our lead designers Sharon Doyon and Susan Perkins are the sparkplugs. Sherry & Karl Hoines allow us to meet in their heated barn to perform the magic; Erin & Peter Burlinson provide the cold storage area in their barn; Jim Turse brings his red truck with the sale sign to the parking lot; Bob & Carole Clifford transported and erected the cashiers' tent; Susan Mitchell and Sherry Hoines cut and collected the greens; many other members distributed posters around Mattapoissett, Marion and Fairhaven; worked in the barn; and Uber'd the items from one barn to another or to the parking lot. This was a team effort and we are grateful!

As always, the proceeds from your purchases will support scholarships and local charities!

The next meeting of the Garden Group will be in the Mattapoissett Free Public Library Meeting Room, February 5th at 10:00 AM.

~ Cindy Turse



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

In it's 51st year the Mattapoisett Woman's Club is sponsoring the 2025 Great Decisions Program starting January 15, 2025 on Wednesdays for eight consecutive weeks to meet at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, located at 7 Barstow Street from 1:00PM-3:00PM, in the Community room downstairs. The side door of the building is handicap accessible and inside has an elevator to the lower level.

The program uses the Foreign Policy Association Text and DVD that consists of eight chapters of topics ranging from U. S. Foreign Policy, to the future of NATO, to International Cooperation on Climate Change and AI and the American National Security, with more very challenging topics.



To register, please send a check to cover texts and expenses to the address below.

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
Box 1444
Mattapoisett, MA 02739
Attn: Treasurer

The registration is on a first come first serve basis for the first 30 members. We still have available space. The program is open to all members of the community of all area towns. We offer the ZOOM Platform also.

We offer light refreshments with coffee, tea and a beverage.

Each year the program proves to be a great way for members to explore the workings of International Relations, Current events and how to make a difference in solutions for U.S. and Foreign Policy, through investigative readings and discussions. *View Great Decisions 2025 topics on page 14.*

Thank you for your interest in our organization.

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

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JOIN NOW!

