



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

February 2025
VOLUME LXIII No. 6

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

There I sat, reading article after article, trying to gather my thoughts about what to write for February, and I loved it when I **hit** upon a piece that I knew immediately I had to share with you. I quite consciously use the word **hit** because **hit** it I did indeed, right in the heart. Please, read it and then let me know -- where did it **hit** you?

300 words on Valentine's Day by *Mary Potter Kenyon*

February 14, 2010

A couple of weeks ago I'd started writing an essay for consideration for a writer's calendar. My first rough draft was 536 words, and I was pleased with my writing. Not only do I love writing and talking about writing, I enjoy penning about the craft itself. Writing is a subject I am passionate about.

Then I checked the guidelines for this particular piece. It had to be 300 words or less. 300 words! This is going to be impossible! I am a wordy person; I like talking. And talking. I revel in regaling others with the most mundane details of my life.

I've had to edit many times before, cutting a 500-word newspaper piece down to 300 and for essay contests that limit submissions to 1,000 words or less when my initial rough draft contained 1,500. Once I get into it, I even enjoy it. But those initial attempts still feel quite painful. Each morning, I looked at this piece and edited it, and each morning, the word count gradually diminished.

This morning, I was down to 364 words. So close, and yet so far. I was sure nothing more could be cut without the essay losing all meaning. I set it aside for a while and talked to my husband about some upsetting events of the past few days. I asked him what he was thinking of it all. Not much for expressing feelings, he nevertheless struggled to vocalize the disappointment and sadness he was dealing with. As he talked, I felt my heart swelling with love for him, an appropriate feeling given that it is Valentine's Day.

I went over to him and hugged him. "I have never felt closer to you than I do right now," I said, and I realized the truth of what I was saying. Each day since his cancer diagnosis on June 28th, 2006, I have felt my love for him deepening. I am amazed and astounded of how it has continued to grow.

My husband went to work this morning knowing he is loved. That is a Valentine's gift all of us yearn for and deserve, genuine love. It isn't the chocolate and flowers or the expensive steak dinners that make us feel loved. It might be the heartfelt hug or the simple words I said as my husband went out the door this morning, "I'm here for you. I love you."

After he left, I returned to my still-wordy essay, those thoughts uppermost in my mind. Sometimes the simple words are the best. I began the arduous task of editing and when I finished, I checked my word count: 297! **HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

Kate Brown
MWC President



Kate Brown
President, MWC

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I was lucky enough to grow up on Mattapoissett Neck. Back then Mattapoissett was a quiet fishing village with a few small summer cottage enclaves like Crescent Beach, Antassawomack and others. Interstate 195 didn't yet exist so Mattapoissett was more remote than it is today. I grew up in an era where you went outside after school and didn't come home until dark. My most vivid memories of growing up here include spending hours exploring the marshes, building tree houses in the woods, climbing the White Pines, putting on plays with the handful of kids that lived in our remote neighborhood, eating wild Concord grapes, blackberries and winterberries, chewing on sassafras leaves, rowing in old row boats, sailing in our little Sunfish and riding our bikes absolutely everywhere—even to Marion as we grew older. Socializing consisted of attending a grade school Bowling League at the Bowl-mor once a week and belonging to the local Brownie Troop. All of us eagerly anticipated the arrival of 'the summer kids' in July when for a few short weeks there would be beach fires, swimming, more kids to ride bikes with and of course the weekly Band Concerts!



My curiosity about what the rest of the world had to offer drew me away after I graduated from high school. I lived in Boston for the next 40 years where I raised a family and led several nonprofit and government organizations. I was the founding Executive Director of the Boston Food Bank—only the second one in the country back then! (I love to recount the stories of food executives who told me that it would never work because there was no waste in the food industry.) I went on to serve as Boston's Deputy Budget Director, Deputy Director of the Redevelopment Authority and Director of the Mayor's Office of Community Services. Returning to my neighborhood roots I continued to lead nonprofit organizations focused on low income youth. Frustrated by the slow progress of education reform, I founded one of the first public charter schools in Massachusetts, the Neighborhood House Charter School in Dorchester. Eager to mentor the next generation of nonprofit leaders, I finished up my career teaching leadership and nonprofit management in Boston University's MBA program.



Once my husband and I retired we yearned to return to the peace and beauty of the outdoors and small town living. I was fortunate that my husband grew up in a similar town to Mattapoissett on the coast of Maine so he felt right at home here! We house hunted during Covid and found the perfect spot where we live today. Joining the Woman's Club was one of the first things I did. I was also looking for a fun activity I could do with my Mom (Luice Moncevitich), a long time resident and retired Mattapoissett school teacher. We were inspired by all that the Woman's Club does for the community and of course there was a Garden Group, Great Decisions and a Walking Group so many of my favorite things! I remember how warmly we were greeted by then President Sandy Hering at the first luncheon my mom and I attended. Since that day I have met so many amazing women and made some terrific new friends. I look forward to continuing my participation this year and in years to come!

~Kristen J. McCormack

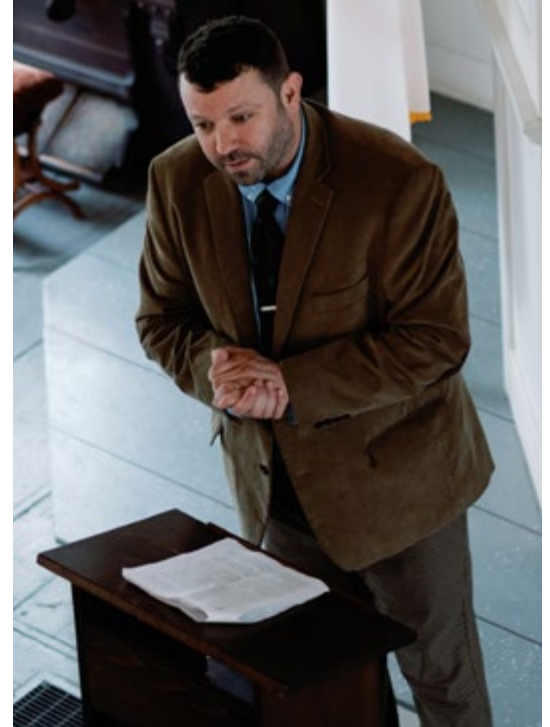
MWC News & Information

FEBRUARY 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING PROGRAM: CONNOR GAUDET, CURATOR & ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MATTAPOISETT MUSEUM AND THE ARCHIVIST FOR THE NEW BEDFORD FISHING HERITAGE CENTER.

Connor Gaudet is the Curator & Administrator of the Mattapoisett Museum and the Archivist for the New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center. After spending several years in videography, post-production and advertising in New York, Connor returned to school, earning an MLIS from Long Island University and an MA in Public History and Archives from New York University. His past professional experience has included working as an Archivist for NYU and the Durst Organization Oral Historian and Associate Curator for the 9/11 Tribute Museum (a project of the September 11th Families' Association), and Curator at Plymouth's Pilgrim Hall Museum before returning to the tri-town area, where he grew up, in Mattapoisett.

He resides in Rochester with his wife and two young children. He enjoys deep dives into historical research and revealing new stories from Mattapoisett's past, disavowing people of the notion that they knew everything there was to know about their town. There is always more, if you just look.

~ Gail Roberts



FEBRUARY 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING HOSTESS COMMITTEE:

Hostess: Jennifer Shepley

Committee: Ann Butler, Bethany Couto, Betty Dawson, Deanne Girouard, Marianne Hickey, Nancy Holland, Maureen Kelly, Judy Livolsi, Corinne Marlow, Peg Olney, Betty Parker, Gail Roberts, Peggy Totten, Geneva Woodruff

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

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON MEETING

FEBRUARY 20TH • 11 AM • REYNARD HALL, MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

January Luncheon Meeting

A cold, wintry January day did not stop Club members and guests, numbering over 60, from attending our January luncheon meeting. The tables were beautifully decorated by hostess extraordinaire Sharon Doyon. All enjoyed her team's delicious luncheon offerings.

President Kate Brown conducted a business meeting which focused on the new mission statement and goals for the Club, prompting discussion and opinions which the committee will review. Future deliberation is scheduled for our February meeting.

Our featured speaker, Jennifer Smith, Superintendent of New Bedford's Whaling National Historical Park, was entertaining and enthusiastic as she spoke about her dream job and all it entails. We're so fortunate to have such an historic gem 15 minutes away.

We're grateful to all the Club members who donated an amazing total of \$918 in cash and checks to the World Central Kitchen which immediately mobilized to help the California wildfire residents and first responders. For those other members who wish to contribute, kindly send your check made payable to World Central Kitchen to our Treasurer, Beth Inglis.

More photos on page 5.



January Luncheon Meeting *Continued from page 4.*



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

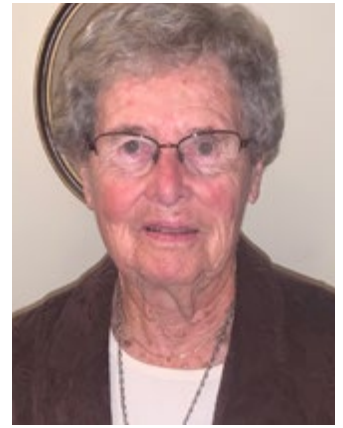
Literature Group

The Literature Group meeting in January turned out to be a combination of both Morning and Afternoon groups. Illness and other circumstances reduced the number of those able to attend so everyone gathered in the afternoon at the home of Robin Lepore for a good discussion of *"The History of Sound"* by Ben Shattuck.

The February meetings will feature a discussion of *"The Winthrop Woman"* by Anya Seton. Both Morning and Afternoon groups will meet at the home of Diane Brown-Couture, 8 Perry Avenue, on Wednesday, February 12, at 9:30 am and 1:00 pm. Hopefully health and the weather will cooperate this time!

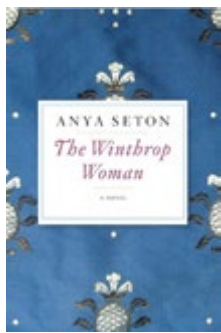
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

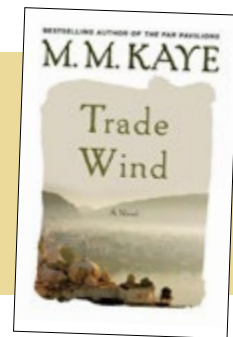
Literature Group Chair,
Ladies Choice Publisher
1998 - 2018 & Current Editor



A novel based on the life of Elizabeth Winthrop, who married into the family of Governor John Winthrop of the Massachusetts Bay Colony and moved to the wild New World, is "that rare literary accomplishment—living history [that] gives closer reality to a period than do factual records" (Chicago Tribune). In 1631, Elizabeth Winthrop, newly widowed with an infant daughter, set sail for the New World. Against a background of rigidity and conformity she dared to befriend Anne Hutchinson at the moment of her banishment from the Massachusetts Bay Colony; challenge a determined army captain bent on the massacre of her friends the Siwanoy Indians; and, above all, love a man as her heart and her whole being commanded. And so, as a response to her almost unmatched courage and vitality, Governor John Winthrop came to refer to Elizabeth as his "unregenerate niece" in the historical records of the time. Anya Seton's riveting historical novel—deemed by The New York Times as "abundant and juicy entertainment"—portrays the fortitude, humiliation, and ultimate triumph of a woman who believed in a concept of happiness transcending that of her own day.

2024-25 Literature Group Book List

March	"James" by Percival Everett
April	"Trade Wind" by M.M. Kaye



Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, February 26

Due to cold and icy conditions, our January visit to Nuno's Restaurant has been re-scheduled to Wednesday, February 26. It is located at 436 Belleville Avenue in New Bedford.

We hope you'll join us to enjoy good food and good conversation at this authentic Portuguese restaurant which offers an enticing menu.

Please give Kate Brown a call to sign up for an enjoyable afternoon: 508-758-3229.

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

On a cold and windy January afternoon our Bridge Group enjoyed the warmth of Aina Holden's home and her hospitality as we gathered to play after a month-long holiday break.



Marianne Mattison will be our next hostess on February 25th 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

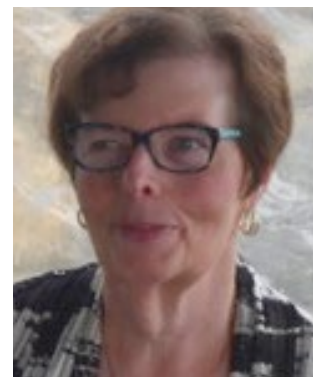
~ Elaine Grant

Knitting & Hand Crafts

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft group will have their monthly gathering on Thursday, February 27th from 2-4 pm. We will meet at the new yarn shop in Fairhaven, The Yarn Lady, located at 144 Huttleston Ave in Fairhaven, between Gene's Seafood and Pizza Palace. There is lots of parking in the back.

The store has a lovely room in the rear with comfy seats at a large table with great lighting for knitting, crafting, and conversation. We hope you can join us. You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to 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



Marie Rottler

Knitting & Hand Crafts Chair

Social Cocktail Group

Come and join other Club members as we say goodbye to February and welcome March and its promise of Spring!!

On Saturday, March 1, 2025 from 4-6 PM, the first 2025 Social Cocktail Gathering will be held at the home of Robin Lepore, 6 Seabreeze Lane, Mattapoisett. Please bring your beverage of choice, an appetizer to share and spouse/guest, if you wish.

For this event, please RSVP directly to Robin, email: thomaslepore@yahoo.com; cell: 1-617-584-2795. Parking is available. It is suggested that since it will be dark when you leave, please bring a flashlight for safety.

Sign-up sheets for this evening gathering will be available at most meetings during the month of February. These events occur 4 times throughout the year and are a wonderful way to interact with other club members in a small, relaxed environment. Of course, hostesses are always needed to continue with these really nice evenings. If you are interested in more information about being a hostess, please call Linda Clifford, 508-207-6572.

~ Linda Clifford

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Mah Jongg

Wednesdays, 1:00 pm

Council On Aging (COA), 17 Barstow Street



New Simpler Lessons continue

Our Mah Jongg lessons provided in partnership with the Council on Aging have helped achieve our goal of more players attending the weekly sessions. Based on feedback we found that some people found the lessons a bit overwhelming.

We have two new teachers, Susan Schenker and Tina Dolan. Over the last year, they have observed many newbies trying to learn and have developed lessons that are much simpler. When starting out, there will be no walls to build, no dealer, no passing decisions to make and a card that contains only the easier hands to win with. The more complicated components will be added as you play more hands... Easing into the whole game.

So, if you've tried Mah Jongg before, but are looking for a simpler way to learn, or you've never tried Mah Jongg, but would like to learn, just reach out to Mary Dermody to enroll in New Simpler Lessons. (See contact info below)

Lessons will be scheduled as soon as we have at least three people who are interested and we will be limiting the class size to six. Of course, anyone who has experience playing Mah Jongg should plan to come to one of the regular weekly Mah Jongg sessions at the Council on Aging (COA). The play is non-competitive 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.

Make sure you have the New Card which will be used starting April 1st!

Go to www.nationalmahjonggleague.org

The official arbitrator and source of all things Mah Jongg!

Your new Mah Jongg Card, should be ordered by February

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



Once ordered, you should receive your new card in March. IF you order after February, you'll still get it, but a bit late.

Remember: Proceeds from the sales of the League's Official Rule Cards go directly to charitable organizations across the country.

Click on this link to see a partial list of groups, both past and present, that the League has supported.

www.nationalmahjonggleague.org/charities.aspx

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Walking Group

Cool and Crisp January Walks

Yes, the MWC Walking Club has been enjoying some bright sunny weather despite the cool temps. It's always a nice day when walking and chatting with friends. This month we walked the Munn Preserve which offers both wooded and sweeping ocean views. Another day we walked down Harbor Rd NK (off Mattapoissett Neck Road). These are some of Mattapoissett's less travelled side roads. It's always a treat to "discover" new places in our familiar town where ocean views abound. We are so fortunate to live here.

All are welcome to walk with us. Contact Sue Mitchell if you would like further information.

~ Sue Mitchell



MWC News & Information



WALT'S MOBILE CLOSET

Here's your chance to do some early spring cleaning! Donations of clean, serviceable purses and unopened toiletries are greatly needed and appreciated by Walt's Mobile Closet. Travel size lotions, shampoos, conditioners and toothpaste can easily be fit into handbags. New and unused toiletries, such as makeup, wet naps, lip balms, body lotion, shaving cream, and nail clippers, for men and women are distributed to the homeless populations they serve. (They have enough bar soap!)

A box for your donations will be at February's luncheon meeting. Or you can drop off your items at the Marion COA and the Gleason YMCA.

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

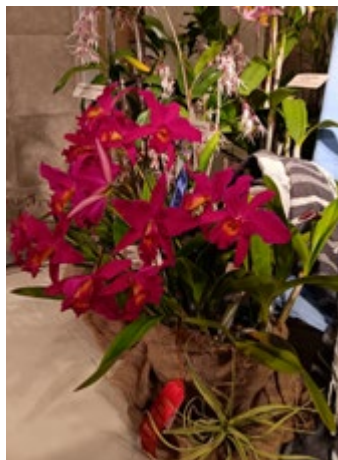
Garden Group

On January 25th, several members of the Garden Group enjoyed a delightful tropical experience at the Cape & Islands Orchid Society's annual "Seaside Orchid Show." The vibrant display of exotic orchids transported attendees to a floral paradise, showcasing the beauty and diversity of these stunning plants.

After immersing themselves in the world of orchids, the group continued their enjoyable day with a delicious lunch at Alberto's Ristorante in Hyannis.

The event offered an ideal blend of natural beauty, camaraderie, and casual dining, leaving members inspired and refreshed.

~ Cindy Turse



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Great Decisions

Twenty-four members met on January 15th at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library for our first session of the Mattapoisett Woman's Club Great Decisions program. Three others joined in on Zoom and three more came to the meeting, asking to join on the spot, bringing our total to 31 registered members

Great Decisions is a national, civic educational program established in 1918 by the Foreign Policy Association and is America's largest discussion group on world affairs. Our Club has kept this program alive for over 50 years. We follow a text of eight Topic chapters with references and suggested readings and resources on each chapter, along with a companion DVD.

One of our Co-chairs, Ellen Stone from Marion, will lead the fourth chapter, *"India Between China, the West and the Global South."* Ellen, a retired Interbank Foreign Exchange Trader and a Global Treasury Management Consultant for Fortune 500 companies is excited to begin the discussion. She has traveled to India and feels strongly about the importance of India's democracy, the largest in the world, with a constitution and a population of over one billion. This topic will offer insight into the relationship the U.S has with India regarding world order.

Our previous discussions were led by Co-chairs Anne and Art Layton who have participated in Great Decisions for the past ten years. Both their backgrounds are from corporate relocation. Anne and Art express the importance and complexity of each topic. They enjoy that our discussions have many opinions and viewpoints from our group with diverse backgrounds and wide range of careers.

In February we will discuss *"International Cooperation on Climate Change"* and hope to have a guest speaker join us from the "Woodwell Climate Research Center" in Falmouth, MA.

I would like to personally thank Ellen, Anne and Art for their assistance and support in keeping Great Decisions afloat this year. Many thanks also to Marianne Hickey and Nancy Holland for their continued coffee, tea, and refreshments that always add to our enjoyment of this program. I would be remiss not to mention how fortunate we are to have Susan Pizzolato, Interim Library Director, and her lovely caring staff who assist us each week with reproduction of materials, technical support and advice. They do this in a kind way, working to help improve our program.

Sincerely,

Ellen P. Flynn

Co-chair and Past President MWC



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Bridge

Elaine Grant

Garden Group

Cindy Turse

Knitting & Hand Crafts

Marie Rottler
Bobbie Oakley

Ladies Who Lunch

Kate Brown

Literature Group

Peg Olney

Mah Jongg

Mary Dermody

Social Cocktail Group

Open

Walking Group

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



JOIN NOW!

