



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

March 2025
VOLUME LXIII No. 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Finally, it's March when New Englanders' faith in the seasons is tested as this month captures the transition from winter's end to spring's blossoming. It's a time when nature awakens and our spirits are often lifted by the promise of renewal and growth. Said Emily Dickinson, "March is the month of expectation."

This month is filled with anticipation as the days become longer and warmer, daring us to step outside and embrace the fresh air. March has its own dynamic character, beginning with the lingering chill of winter and gently transitioning into the mildness of spring. That change, though sometimes challenging, leads to growth. We are encouraged to embark on new projects and set fresh goals. It's a time to harness the revitalizing energy of the season and channel it into personal growth. For like the forthcoming change of seasons, we are at the beginning of a new part of our Club's history, with the much-hoped-for adoption of the revised Mission Statement and expanded Goals. This is our opportunity to celebrate our resilience as we embrace new beginnings with enthusiasm and hope.

Through a splendid introduction to and discussion of the Club's newly revised documents, we have learned that transitioning to the expanded contents is akin to the welcome change from winter to spring. We began our transition with a chapter of the Club's life, which included typically sound and not-so-sound spots. We can now move into even better times as we find new energy that will come from incorporating a brighter, more defined, and more robust Mission Statement and set of Goals. Having them in place to lead the way to even better-operating parameters, as well as a stronger financial platform, will undoubtedly lead to exciting new times, adventures, and events for the Mattapoissett Woman's Club and its members in the same way that March leads from winter into spring!

A quorum vote is needed at our March 20th meeting to adopt these changes, so please plan on attending!

Kate Brown
MWC President



Kate Brown
President, MWC



HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I followed my father into the insurance and financial planning business and my mother into the Mattapoisett Woman's Club in 1997. I returned to my home town of Mattapoisett following my eight years teaching English and Gender Issues originally in NH, then CA, and back to MA.

One priority for my parents was in giving back to the community. My mom chose to help run the garden group within the Woman's Club and I found upon joining that she was extremely well loved by the members, and I had had a LOT to live up to.

Diving right in, I volunteered to captain a garden for each garden tour fundraiser. I helped her with any May Day garden group meeting or Taste of the Town: any need for flowers, vases, or floral foam. I chose to host February tea as my commitment to the Club meetings in Reynard Hall.

With her passing, I decided to carry on in her footsteps doing the best I could to live up to the standards she set. I teach in the evenings now in adult education (ESOL) and as moderator for the Leadership in Life Institute for my professional group NAIFA. I keep involved in government relations for state and national politics, representing and protecting my clients and the small businesses and families we serve, just like my father did.

I really do appreciate the community of women here in the Club and hope to see our numbers grow in 2025!

~ Jen Shepley



MWC News & Information

MARCH 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING HOSTESS COMMITTEE:

Hostess: Sue Mitchell

Committee: Liz Ackerman, Jocelyn Mitchell Chin, Ellen Flynn, Nancy Keyes, Janet Liljedahl, Caroline Marcoux, Anne Price, Deborah Ruel, Ellen Schneider, Mary Shubert, Ann Tisdale, Cindy Turse, Lori Woodacre

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

TAG SALE SAVE THE DATE!

With your help and your treasures, MWC will hold a Tag Sale at the Ying Parking Lot on Saturday, October 4, 2025, from 9-1. We will need your help in making this a successful fundraiser for the Club. Stay tuned for more upcoming details.



MARCH LUNCHEON MEETING

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

MWC News & Information

MARCH 20TH LUNCHEON MEETING PROGRAM: MAGICAL LUNCHEON WITH DENNIS BLANCHARD

This month's program will integrate a magical luncheon into our club meeting providing a unique and unforgettable experience transcending conventional programs. We believe witnessing incredible mind-bending tricks can inspire thinking outside the box and help Club members approach challenges with a fresh perspective.

Magic encourages lateral thinking, which can spark innovative ideas and solutions in one's life.

Prepare to be amazed! Join us for a Magical Luncheon with Dennis Blanchard on March 20th at Reynard Hall. Expect an afternoon of wonder, laughter, and delicious food!

~ Eileen Marum



MWC NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The MWC wants YOU! The Nominating Committee has been meeting to recommend nominations for various administrative positions for our Club. Committee members included Sharon Doyon, Jan Hubley, Christine Voss, Geneva Woodruff, and Sue Mitchell. As you may know, Cindy Johnson, Vice President, has resigned from the Club. We will miss her enthusiasm and smile. Also, Deb Ward has resigned from the position of Recording Secretary, but we are very happy to know that Deb will remain in the Club. We will miss her very thorough meeting minutes, though. Thank you to both women for all your contributions to the Mattapoissett Woman's Club. The following nominations will be presented at the General Meeting in March for the terms that begin in April 2025.

Recording Secretary: Rosemary Barrow

Director (for Board of Directors): Ann Tisdale

Auditor (To be appointed by President - no vote necessary): Jan Hubley 2025-2027

*Mary Dermody has agreed to consult with and advise the 3 auditors (on a temporary basis). Mary has vast experience in business and finance.

Vice - President: Currently open

We are seeking a VP to fulfill the remaining term beginning April, 2025 to March 31, 2026. The current Board of Directors have readily agreed to assist our President, Kate Brown, at the following meetings:

Acting VP for March 20 meeting - Sandy Hering

Acting VP for April 24 meeting - Roxanne Bungert

Ideally, the next VP would be willing to step up to be President for 2026-2028. If you would like to get more involved with the day-to-day operations of the MWC, WE NEED YOU!

Past Presidents have remarked how fulfilling these positions have been. Please consider becoming a member of our Executive Committee. This is an opportunity to work with a great group of women in a supportive environment. If you would like more information, please contact Sue Mitchell.

February Luncheon Meeting

It was a beautiful cold, clear day on Thursday, February 20, as members of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club gathered at Reynard Hall for the monthly meeting. The hall was adorned in red, white and blue to celebrate February birthdays of President Washington and President Lincoln. As about 40 women gathered, the echo of warm and friendly conversation could be heard throughout the hall.

President Kate Brown called the meeting to order and proceeded with a brief business meeting. Gail Roberts and Katherine Gaudet, members of the committee charged with the task of updating the Mission Statement, presented the last three tenets of the document. These were received favorably by the members with no discussion. The final vote will be held at the March 20 meeting when a quorum vote will be necessary.

A lovely lunch was then presented by Jen Shepley and her tea committee with a wonderful variety of sandwiches and sweets. Our Guest Speaker was Curator/Administrator of the Mattapoissett Museum Connor Gaudet who presented an unsolved mystery about a murder that took place in a house on Acushnet Road in Mattapoissett. This house was a speakeasy during Prohibition. A policeman was killed but no one was convicted even though there were many theories. The recounting of this murder mystery was enjoyed by our members.

The meeting was then adjourned.





GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

The Literature Group will meet in March on Wednesday, March 12. The discussion book is "James" by Percival Everett. The Morning Group will be hosted by Linda Clifford at 143 Brandt Island Road at 9:30 am. The Afternoon Group will be hosted by Mary Dermody at 17 Fieldstone Drive at 1:00 pm. Let's hope the snow and winter illness will be finished for the season!

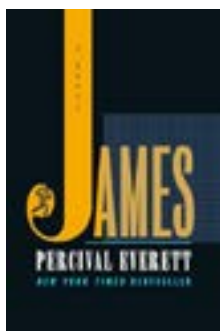
Questions? Contact Peg Olney, pegolney@verizon.net or 508-758-2531

~ Peg Olney



Peg Olney

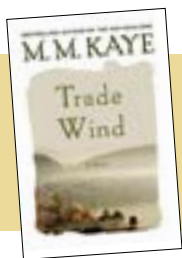
*Literature Group Chair,
Ladies Choice Publisher
1998 - 2018 & Current Editor*



When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

Brimming with the electrifying humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a "literary icon" (Oprah Daily), and one of the most decorated writers of our lifetime, James is destined to be a cornerstone of twenty-first century American literature.



2024-25 Literature Group Book List

April "Trade Wind" by M.M. Kaye

Social Cocktail Group

Hostesses needed...

Many of you have enjoyed the Social Cocktail gatherings that have been held at various club member's homes. The hostess provides the location, paper products and the ambiance. Guests provide an appetizer to share and their beverage of choice. Voila, a lovely evening had by all.

The next gathering will occur in May or early June. But we need a hostess/location. Please consider hosting so these fun gatherings can continue. Thank you for your consideration. Questions, call Linda Clifford 508-207-6572.

~ Linda Clifford

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Bridge Group

Marianne Mattison was our hostess for the February meeting. We all enjoyed her delicious desert offerings and lots of conversation along with our bridge games. Thank you to Pat Goss and Robin LePore for subbing.



This month's hostess will be Carolyn Price on March 25th. If you'd like to be on our list of substitute players, please contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net

~ Elaine Grant

Knitting & Hand Crafts

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft group will hold their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 27th from 2-4pm. We will gather at the new yarn shop in Fairhaven, The Yarn Lady. It's located at 144 Huttleston Ave in Fairhaven, between Gene's Seafood and Palace Pizza. You will see the big pink sign in front, and 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 and friends; give it a try! Bring your projects and join us for a pleasant, creative, and conversational afternoon.



Marie Rottler

Knitting & Hand Crafts Chair

~ Marie Rottler & Bobbie Oakley

Ladies Who Lunch

Winter certainly put a damper on the doings of Ladies Who Lunch! Nuno's in New Bedford was to have been the site for our January outing but the weather was bad, and with fewer than the usual number of attendees, we canceled. Then, for our pizza outing in February, we were foiled by a political event that asked citizens not to spend money on that day. Several of our usual joiners chose to support this endeavor, leaving us with few attendees so that a cancelation seemed to be in order.

Now we're up to March and it's time to break out of the winter trend and take a big step forward. How about going to the newest restaurant in New Bedford? Its name is Candela Cucina, or Candle Kitchen, and it occupies what was the Candleworks building in downtown New Bedford. Reliable media reviews and firsthand experiences report that the hottest spot in town has a new, dressed-up interior décor and a menu that stimulates your salivary glands. The lunch menu is appealing and very reasonably priced with a wide range of Italian favorites, at least one of which is sure to catch your fancy as you peruse the menu. Google Candela Cucina to view the well-tuned offerings of what is poised to become one of the best, most authentic Italian restaurants in our area.

So put Wednesday, March 26, on your calendar today, and get in touch with me to reserve a place at the table NO LATER THAN Friday, March 21. Seats for this outing are limited, so if you'd like to come along on this eating-out adventure, be sure to make your reservation as soon as possible. The phone number is (508) 758-3229 and the email address is lmkateb@gmail.com

~ Kate Brown

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

On February 5th, the Garden Group held its first meeting of 2025. We engaged in lively conversations, ate delicious snacks, and planned our calendar for the next several months. Our tiniest, most charming gardener, Stella, joined us for the meeting. She loves playing with car keys and eyeglass cases and we love having her at our meetings.

Sharon Doyon announced June 28th as the date for our garden tour, "June in Bloom." A committee of Garden Group members will lead the event, but other MWC members are welcome to volunteer as garden hosts. Sign-up sheets will be available at the March luncheon. As always, this is a rain-or-shine event.

Our March 5th meeting will be hands-on to pot canna tubers. In May, we'll transplant them into barrels and gardens around town. All MWC members are invited to "foster" cannas for two months.

~ Cindy Turse



Mah Jongg

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

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, marydermody@me.com (610) 937-7455 to enroll in New Simpler Lessons. *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

Great Decisions

Our Mattapoisett Woman's Club Great Decisions program is approaching the final weeks of the eight-week schedule. Our 30-member group of very motivated in-person and Zoom attendees dedicate each week to sharing opinions, experiences and possible solutions. All of the group from diverse backgrounds and a wide range of careers pepper the discussion with loads of questions.

We had two vitally important discussions on NATO and on Artificial Intelligence.

After sending us a variety of materials outsourced and researched on his own, Richard Van Inwegen, husband of MWC member Barb, discussed the importance of the finances and costs and titled his handout "Buckets of Money to Support NATO." NATO has offered 75 years' worth of alliances with 32 member countries. We all enjoyed an active discussion about responsibilities to our allies and our solidarity with the government of Ukraine. Many of the group expressed their concern about how the U.S. would exist without NATO members' economic and military support.

Our discussion on Artificial Intelligence was led by new member Jack Dean and son Greg with guest speaker Anatoly Lezhen who Zoomed in from Spain. Anatoly has worked for 20 years developing strategies to drive business growth and reimagining customer experience operations for AI driven industries. He told us that AI affects education, healthcare, manufacturing, retail and transportation. Jack, an electrical consulting and facilities engineer, told us how it all started about 30 years ago with computer scientist Raymond Kurzweil and explained the current and future prospects of AI. Kurzweil's new book is "Singularity is Nearer." Both Greg, who has followed AI developments for a number of years, and Anatoly talked about ChatGPT and possibilities in education and building faster, smarter systems. We had an engaging dialog covering many issues of positive and negative effects and if the information data used will be ethical. This fascinating topic challenged our regular way of learning, and we all had some laughs, not just heavy thinking. Anatoly recommended we read Nick Bostrom's "Deep Utopia: Life and Meaning in a Solved World."

Our last topic is "International Cooperation on Climate Change" and we hope to have a guest speaker join us.

I would like to again personally thank the Co-Chairs Ellen Stone, Anne and Art Layton for their assistance and support in keeping Great Decisions afloat this year. Many thanks go out to Marianne Hickey and Nancy Holland for their continued supply of coffee, tea and refreshments which are an added plus to our sometimes-heavy hearts while discussing current affairs along with foreign and domestic policy. I also extend our gratefulness to the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, Susan Pizzolato, Interim Director; and her caring staff who assist us each week. The Mattapoisett Woman's Club has kept this program alive for over 50 years. We follow a text of eight topic chapters with references, suggested readings and resources for each chapter along with a companioned DVD.

Ellen P. Flynn

Co-chair and Past President MWC



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Mah Jongg

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JOIN NOW!

