



# LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

[www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org](http://www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org)

February 2026  
VOLUME LXIV No. 6

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Well, that snow was a change! Hope everyone was safe and warm. We may get more which will certainly be the coldest and snowiest winter in a while.

Hopefully you had a chance to think about stepping up to a leadership role in the Woman's Club. Since the founding of this Club, women have taken that step and the Club has flourished.

Please consider a role as President, Vice President, Recording Secretary and possibly Treasurer. New voices, new ideas. All are something to look forward to in 2026/27. Gail Roberts and her committee will be asking folks to take on these roles. When she approaches you, say, YES!!"

HAVE A WONDERFUL AND FUN FEBRUARY!

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford  
*Co-Presidents*



**Carole Clifford**



**Linda Clifford**



### **FEBRUARY LUNCHEON**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2026 • 11:30 AM  
REYNARD HALL • MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

## HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I grew up in Fairhaven and graduated from Fairhaven High School at a time when students from Mattapoissett and Acushnet were eligible to attend FHS. This began the start of friendships and ties to Mattapoissett in the years to come. Except for college and a job in NYC for a few years, I never strayed far from home.

After moving to Mattapoissett in 1971, I was a stay-at-home mom with my two girls. For nine years I developed many interests, especially my love for horticulture, hands-on gardening (aka, playing in the dirt) and all things "flowers!"

I was honored to be chosen to display my garden as part of the MWC Garden Tour twice over the years. Being part of these tours inspired me to create gardens which would have year-round interest and change with each season. It was a labor of love.

Professionally, over 25+ years, I had to manage a busy real estate career and my "obsessive hobby!" Fortunately, I was able to manage both successfully. In 2017, retired and looking to make new friends with like-interests and to contribute to our town, I joined the MWC. Immediately, I got involved in the Garden Group! It is extremely rewarding to know how much our activities and contributions to the community are appreciated.

The Club's strong and talented women and personal friendships I have made are priceless.

~ Sharon Doyon



## MWC News & Information

### **MWC TAG SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2**

Just a reminder that the Tag Sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 2nd from 9-noonish. Continue gathering your treasures and keep in mind that it takes many hands, hearts and tables to pull this off. It is an important fundraiser to continue our charitable donations and scholarships.

Acceptable items include collectibles, gardening tools, pots, beach chairs, small rafts and sand toys, framed art prints, etc. Stay tuned for specifics and (many) volunteer needs.

More specific information will follow in March.

Questions, call Linda Clifford 508-207-6572.



## MWC News & Information

### **FEBRUARY 19TH LUNCHEON MEETING SPEAKER KATE TARLETON, PROFESSIONAL TEXTILE CONSERVATOR**

#### **Caring for Your Antique and Vintage Textiles: Advice from a Conservator**

Whether it is a family christening gown handed down from generation to generation, or a quilt recently purchased at an antique shop, the heirloom textiles in your possession require special care. Join professional textile conservator Kate Tarleton to learn about the best methods for preserving, exhibiting and caring for your precious textile treasures at home.

Participants are encouraged to bring a textile about which they need conservation advice for the Q&A session following the lecture.

Kathryn began her textile education at Boston University where she studied theatrical costume design and construction and received a BFA in Fibers from the Program in Artisanry. She later earned an MS in Historic Costume and Textiles from the University of Rhode Island. She has lectured on textile conservation and textile history and led workshops on collections care throughout New England. Recently retired, Kate lives in Rochester.

*Eileen Marum, Gail Roberts*  
*Program Committee*



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### **FEBRUARY 19TH LUNCHEON COMMITTEE**

**Hostess:** Jennifer Shepley

**Committee:** Ann Butler, Bethany Cuoto, Betty Dawson, Deanne Girouard, Marianne Hickey, Nancy Holland, Maureen Kelly, Judy Livolsi, Corinne Marlow, Betty Parker, Gail Roberts, Deborah Smiley, Peggy Totten and Geneva Woodruff

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*

### **EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING**

FEBRUARY 12TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)

## MWC News & Information

### THE Z'S REOPENING

The New Bedford Light newspaper featured Club member Sue Mitchell in its coverage of the recent reopening of the historic Zeiterion Theater. Sue has volunteered as an usher for 14 years. Her favorite parts of the dazzling new renovation are the restored ceiling and the new seats. "The new seats are beautiful and very comfy, too," she said.

Also ushering are Club members Maureen St Armand and Roberta Oakley. Past volunteers are Mary O'Keefe, Marianne Hickey and Rosemary Barrow.

We are very lucky to have such an artistic and cultural venue just a few miles away.

~ Sue Mitchell



### 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.

## MWC News & Information

### HELP WANTED

The Nominating Committee is looking for people who would like to fill the following positions:

**President:** a two-year term. The President leads both the monthly members meetings (September-April), and the Executive Board meetings (September-April, maybe more if needed). If she cannot attend the meetings, the Vice-President will stand in.

**Vice-President:** also a two-year term. The VP supports the President as needed and conducts the meetings if the President cannot attend.

**Recording Secretary:** a one-year term. The RS takes notes at the monthly members' and Executive Board meetings. The minutes are sent to the President. If the meeting is recorded and transcribed by AI, the Secretary will correct and edit the transcription before sending the notes out.

**Treasurer:** the Treasurer should be good with numbers and tech. Transition assistance will be available.

**Historian:** This is a great job for a new member! The Historian oversees the archive, currently housed at the Mattapoissett Library. She writes an annual report to send to the President.

If you are interested in any of these positions, or for more details, contact Gail Roberts at [peggsmom@gmail.com](mailto:peggsmom@gmail.com).

~ Gail Roberts

## *Winter's Quiet Gift*

Snow drifts down in whispered light,

Soft as breath on a winter night.

It gathers on branches, patient  
and slow,

Turning each limb into a pale,  
bowed bow.

Stonewalls fade beneath the white,

Their rugged lines now blurred  
from sight.

A fox steps through with careful grace,

Rust-red fur in a world erased.

Birds hop lightly, feathered and small,

Leaving tiny prints that stitch  
and sprawl.

Across the hush, their patterns weave,

A fleeting script they'll soon leave.

And still the snow keeps falling round,

Layer by layer, sound by sound,

Until the world, transformed below,

Glows with the quiet gift of snow.

*By Eileen J. Marum*

## January Luncheon Meeting

Jenny Martin, Director of the Mattapoisett Free Public Library, was our featured speaker. An author of two books, she gave a summary of her past experiences before coming to Mattapoisett from Texas. She appreciates how warmly she's been accepted in the community. Ms. Martin enthusiastically spoke about sharing your gifts and living your best creative life.

In mid-winter, Hostess Sharon Doyon and her team set the scene for warmth by having lovely arrangements of blue hydrangea and white flowers as centerpieces at each table. The theme was continued in the four amazing soup offerings, various sandwiches and decadent desserts which were gratefully enjoyed by the 45 attendees.

Co-President Linda Clifford conducted the short business meeting, emphasizing the need for members to step into the various officers' positions that need to be filled by April. (See page 5.)







## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Bridge Group

**Tuesday, February 17 1:00 pm**

The MWC Bridge group gathered at Aina Holden's home on a frosty winter's day. The warmth of the fireplace and the camaraderie of players helped to raise our spirits. Once again, thanks to our subs who make our playing possible. Please contact Elaine Grant, [grant5687@comcast.net](mailto:grant5687@comcast.net), if you'd like to join our group or be a substitute player.



The next meeting will be at Carolyn Price's home on Tuesday, February 17 at 1 pm.

We send our good wishes to Ann Butler who is currently at the New Bedford Jewish Convalescent Home.

~ Elaine Grant

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### Mah Jongg

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

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club partners with the Mattapoissett 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](mailto:Phyllis.bn@gmail.com)

*NOTE: The general public is welcome and encouraged to attend.*

*Sponsored by Mattapoissett Woman's Club and the Mattapoissett COA.*

It is time to order your 2026 Mah Jongg card! Order now and the card will be delivered by April 1, 2026. Starting in April, Mah Jongg play will utilize the new 2026 card. Order your card at [www.nationalmahjonggleague.org](http://www.nationalmahjonggleague.org)

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

~ Phyllis Bannon

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### MWC Walking Group

The Walking Group has been taking a hiatus recently due to cold weather, ice, and of course, the holiday season. I hope to begin scheduling walks again in March. Meanwhile, let the snowbirds fly and the "Mattapoissettians" burrow!

~ Sue Mitchell

## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Garden Group

Wednesday, 10:00 AM on February 4th, Mattapoisett Free Public Library

#### Growing Knowledge: School Gardens & Seed Sharing

The Garden Group will meet at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library at 10:00 AM on February 4th.

Our speaker, Nate Sanders, Program Manager for "Grow Education," will provide an update on this Marion Institute initiative. "Grow Education" offers students hands-on opportunities to plant and harvest crops while learning STEM concepts in the classroom. In Mattapoisett, the first school garden is located at Old Hammondtown Elementary School.

This fall students planted and harvested winter crops, and they will soon begin preparing the soil for spring and summer vegetables and herbs.

Following Nate's presentation, we will pack seeds for the library seed catalog, as we did last year. Amanda Lawrence, the librarian, will provide all necessary supplies, including seeds, envelopes, labels, and tools. All are welcome to join the group for this informative and hands-on meeting.

~ Cindy Turse



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### Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, February 25, 12:00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch will meet Wednesday, February 25, at 12:00 pm at Brew Fish Bar and Eatery at 210 Spring St. in Marion. We will stay close to home during these snowy months! Please find more information at [www.brewfish.net](http://www.brewfish.net).

Here is a picture of our hardy Ladies Who Lunch enjoying a delicious repast at Ying Dynasty. Many thanks to Diane Couture-Brown for hosting this month!

Please alert Katherine Gaudet by text or email at 508-944-8919 or [katherinegaudet52@gmail.com](mailto:katherinegaudet52@gmail.com) if you will be joining us so she can include you in the reservation.

~ Katherine Gaudet



## GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

### Knitting & Crafts

**Thursday, February 26 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm**

The Knitting and Crafts group had a pleasant meeting in January where we shared ideas on current and future projects.

Our next monthly gathering will be on Thursday, February 26th from 2-4pm. We continue to meet at The Yarn Lady, located on Rte. 6 in Fairhaven. Diane, the store's delightful owner, is available to share her knitting wisdom as needs arise. The Yarn Lady shop is located at 144 Huttleston Ave in Fairhaven.

We look forward to hearing more about you and your projects.

You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie Oakley at [oakleyr@comcast.net](mailto:oakleyr@comcast.net). All MWC members are welcome, give it a try!

~ *Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering*

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### Winter's Magic

I walked in the 248-acre White Eagle woods this morning, just after the snow had finished falling. Everything was covered in a soft, untouched blanket of white, the kind that makes the whole world feel hushed and new. With each step, the snow crunches satisfyingly beneath my boots, a sound that somehow makes me feel both grounded and completely free.

The air was cold enough to sting my cheeks, but in a way that felt refreshing, almost cleansing. Every breath came out in a little cloud, drifting away into the stillness.

Wandering deeper into the trees, the forest slowly woke around me. Bright chirps filled the air from cardinals, goldfinches, chickadees, and the ubiquitous tufted titmouse, their calls cheerful against the stillness. Now and then, a branch would crack sharply under the weight of the fresh snow, echoing through the woods like a gentle reminder that even in stillness, the forest is alive.

I noticed fresh animal tracks scattered across the trail, delicate prints from rabbits, and a few deeper ones that might have been a deer. They wove in and out of the trees, little stories written in the snow, hinting at all the life that had passed through before me.

It was one of those walks that makes you slow down without even trying, where the world feels simple and peaceful. I hope you appreciate this moment as much as I did.

Warmly,  
*Eileen J. Marum*



# Curry Pumpkin Soup

*Contributed by Sharon Doyon*

Prep: 20 mins. Cook: 30 mins

## 1. Recipe Orange-Cranberry Topper

In small bowl combine 1/2 cup dried cranberries chopped, 1 tbsp grated orange peel and 2 tbsps of chopped parsley. Set aside.

2 Tbsp butter

2 medium onions, chopped (1 cup)

1 medium carrot, chopped (1/2 cup)

1 stalk of celery, chopped (1/2 cup)

1 tsp curry powder

1 tsp pumpkin pie spice

2 15oz cans of pumpkin

2 14oz cans reduced sodium chicken broth

2/3 cup water

1 cup half and half or light cream

1/2 tsp salt

1/4 tsp ground black pepper

I usually double this soup, using two 32oz boxes of chicken broth and doubling other ingredients.

In large stock pot melt butter over medium heat. Add onions, carrot and celery. Cook 10 minutes, stirring occasionally until softened. Add curry powder and pumpkin spice. Cook and stir one minute. Add pumpkin, broth and water. Increase heat to medium-high; bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer covered, 15 minutes. Remove from heat; cool slightly.

In food processor or blender, adding one third mixture at a time; process mixture until smooth.

Return to stock pot. Stir cream, salt and pepper into pumpkin mixture; heat through. Sprinkle each serving with orange-cranberry topper.

Serves 8 (1 cup servings).

**\*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:

Gail Roberts, Chair

Sandra Dawson

Katherine Gaudet

Ann Tisdale

Barbara Van Inwegen

Refer to By-Laws Article V Sec 2 and Article VII regarding Committees.