



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

March 2026
VOLUME LXIV No. 7

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

We welcome March, after a rather intense winter, with its increased daylight and warmer sun. A time during which winter and spring struggle with each other for dominance. It also brings some necessary changes to the Club.

Ladies Choice will be published quarterly. Each edition will contain relevant information for your continued involvement in the various activities. This will cut down on the expense of production and the stress for those involved in putting it together.

In addition, at the March General Meeting, you will again receive information on the dues increase to \$50. The Executive Board voted for the increase at their last meeting and now we are asking for a 2/3 vote of approval from the membership. The By-Laws state this information must be presented to members twice and the vote follows. As you look at the Treasurer's report which you received prior to February meeting, we appear to be in a good place financially. We would like to maintain that while still contributing to various charities and offering scholarships. Fundraising has become increasingly difficult over the years for organizations and for multiple reasons. Take the time to give this your consideration and also to check our donations, pages 10&11 in the Blue Book.

Stay well and we look forward to seeing you at the March meeting. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call or email one or both of us.

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford

MARCH LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2026 • 11:30 AM

REYNARD HALL • MATTAPOISETT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC



Listen, my friends, and you shall hear

My life story, year by year

Year by year?? Have no fear!

If I did that you'd be out'a here!

I was born about a hundred years ago

Brought up in Melrose so my story goes.

It was an outdoor life right from the start,

Skiing, skating, tennis and kick-the-can

In the street, 'cuz we could then.

High school days I was leading the cheers

For our football team...aah, those years.

On to college, then working as a secretary.

My husband Greg soon to marry.

Three daughters later,

along with nine moves (phew!),

Greenwich, Pittsburgh, Chicago, to name a few.

Volunteering along the way took up my day.

Enjoying our Woman's Club, needless to say.

Grandkids arrived, that number is seven

Now six "greats," a blessing I've been given.

By the way, we retired here in '97

And isn't this place a bit of heaven?

It's where I continue doing my usual stuff,

Adding bridge to my days which are full of fluff.

End of story--and that's good enough.

~ Betty Parker, Past President

MWC News & Information

MWC TAG SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2

We are very excited for the Tag Sale on Saturday, May 2 from 9-12 (set up 8 am) at the Congregational Church. No rain date and no moving of tables!!! We are grateful to be able to be in this space and want to make it our best-ever sale. That said we need You, your energy and your stuff.

There are multiple ways to be involved:

1. Be a volunteer for setting up, cleaning up and/or roaming the hall for what may be needed.
2. You have items to sell and will set up and stay with your table. Remember, whatever does not sell returns to your garage.
3. You have items to sell but cannot stay at a table for the sale.

In addition, start saving your bags, plastic or paper and newspaper for sold items to safely be transported home.

Items to sell include:

- Dishes, cups, saucers, glasses
- Art pictures, decorative items
- Clothing, 5 item limit. Books, limit 10
- Jewelry
- Beach items: chairs/sand toys
- Small electric kitchen items in working order.

All items must be clean, priced and working. We reserve the right to refuse items that are not appropriate.

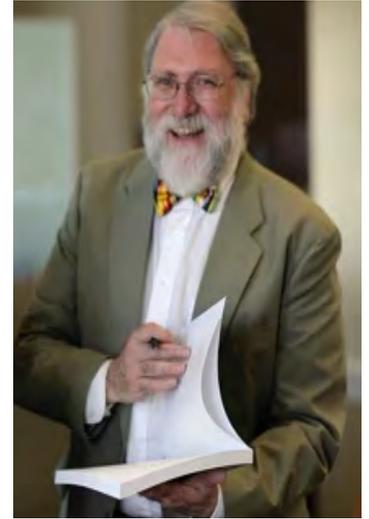
Success of this event relies on all of us working together and having fun doing it!! Questions, please call Linda Clifford 508-207-6572 or any of the team: Carole Clifford, Christine Voss, Marianne Hickey, Mary O'Keefe.

MWC News & Information

MARCH 19TH LUNCHEON MEETING SPEAKER: DR. ALFRED H. SAULNIERS

Dr. Alfred H. Saulniers, a native of Acushnet, focuses on the history of Franco-American communities in New Bedford from the 1600s through the 1930s, highlighting their resilience and influence as the city transformed from a vibrant whaling port to a textile manufacturing center, despite facing challenges such as immigration restrictions and the Great Depression. The French speaking community played a crucial role in shaping the social and political landscape of the city and ultimately achieved greater representation and citizenship rights.

*Eileen Marum and Gail Roberts
Program Committee*



MARCH 19TH LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Hostess: Sue Mitchell

Committee: Alex Ablon, Liz Ackerman, Jocelyn Mitchell Chin, Bonne DeSousa, Ellen Flynn, Jeanne Hopkins, Andrea Jaillet, Nancy Keyes, Janet Liljedahl, Caroline Marcoux, Kathleen Saunders, Ellen Schneider, Ann Tisdale, and Lori Woodacre

Ladies, please refer to pages 39-41 in your Blue Book for helpful information.

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce the passing on February 21st of Betty Dawson, Club member since 1988. Condolences to the family may be sent through sisters-in-law Sandy Dawson or Janet Liljedahl.

GET READY FOR APRIL FOOL'S DAY AND SPRING GOLF

Surprise your favorite golfer with a dozen golf balls neatly boxed in an egg carton inside your fridge on April 1st!

We'll be selling them again for \$10 at the March meeting, just in time for a bit of a surprise! They are recycled from Reservation members who hit them into my yard. All profits go to the MWC!

Robin LePore

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

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

MWC News & Information



CARING FOR ANTIQUE AND VINTAGE TEXTILES

At our February meeting, textile conservator Kate Tarleton shared practical advice for preserving antique and vintage textiles at home.

She emphasized the importance of stable temperature and humidity, noting that attics and basements are rarely suitable storage areas. Light damage is cumulative and irreversible, so textiles should be kept out of direct sunlight and, when framed, protected with ultraviolet-filtering glass or acrylic.

Proper materials also matter. Wood and cardboard can transfer acids and cause staining; acid-free storage materials or clean cotton barriers are safer alternatives. Textiles should be well supported—stored flat with padded folds, rolled when appropriate, or hung only if sturdy enough to bear their weight.

Finally, Kate reminded us that preserving a textile's story is as important as preserving the object itself. Recording names, dates, and family history ensures these treasured pieces remain meaningful for generations.

See page 5 for Textile Conservation Resources sheet.



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.

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

Kate Tarleton, textile conservator

Mattapoissett Woman's Club, February 19, 2026

Textile Conservation Resources

PUBLICATIONS and INTERNET RESOURCES

American Institute for Conservation. *Caring for Belongings: Textiles*. Online Guide.

<https://www.culturalheritage.org/resources/public/caring>

Canadian Conservation Institute (CCI): *CCI Notes*: Online publications which deal with topics of interest to those who care for cultural objects, including textiles:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/conservation-institute/services/conservation-preservation-publications/canadian-conservation-institute-notes.html>

Mailand, Harold F., and Dorothy Stites Alig. *Preserving Textiles: a Guide for the Nonspecialist*. Indianapolis: Indianapolis Museum of Art, 1999.

Minnesota Historical Society: *Conservation* page on MNHS website offers many resources for textile & costume collections care. <http://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/>

National Parks Service Conserve-O-Grams are short, focused technical leaflets that provide practical and easy-to-use guidance on the care of museum collections.

See *Identifying Museum Insect Pest Damage 3/11* under the Agents of Deterioration category
<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/museums/conserv-o-grams.htm>

Ordoñez, Margaret T. *Your Vintage Keepsake: A CSA Guide to Costume Storage and Display*. Lubbock, TX: Texas Tech University Press, 2001.

Smithsonian Museum Conservation Institute: "*Textile Conservation*" Online guide to caring for historic textiles, costume and other media

<https://mci.si.edu/textile-conservation>

The Textile Museum. Online information about caring for and displaying your textile collection.

<https://museum.gwu.edu/textile-care>

<https://museum.gwu.edu/textile-display>

CONSERVATION SUPPLY SOURCES

Gaylord: <http://www.gaylord.com> 1-800-962-9580

Hollinger Metal Edge: <http://www.hollingermetalede.com> 1-800-634-0491

Talas: <http://www.talasonline.com/> 212-219-0770

University Products: <http://www.universityproducts.com/> 1-800-628-1912

February Luncheon Meeting

The warming sun brought 43 members out to enjoy our monthly meeting. All welcomed new member, Lori Briggs. The featured speaker, Kate Tarleton, a professional textile conservator, gave a wealth of information as to what causes fabric deterioration and the correct ways of preserving treasured items. She gave advice to those members who brought in items for recommendations.

Thanks to Jen Shepley and her able Tea Committee for the delicious lunch we all enjoyed. Co-Presidents Carol and Linda Clifford conducted the business meeting at which the Recording Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were accepted. Linda was glad to report that the Tag Sale of May 2nd will be held indoors at MCC's Reynard Hall. Watch for more details in Ladies Choice.

Gail Roberts of the Nominating Committee offered that the open position of Recording Secretary could be shared. Mary O'Keefe reported that volunteers would be needed to place flags around town for the Bicentennial celebration.

The March meeting will cover some important topics to be voted upon, such as increasing the dues and authorizing charitable contributions. Refer to your Blue Book to see the list of organizations we help. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

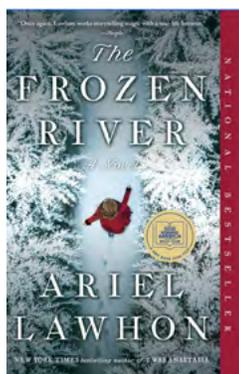




GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

Wednesday, March 11 10:00 am & 1:00 pm



The Literature Group's March book is "Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon. In 1789 Maine, midwife Martha Ballard investigates the death of a man found in the frozen Kennebec River, a person she once accused of raping a woman in her care. Based on a real person, Martha Ballard's journal informs this novel. "A Midwife's Tale" is the true story of her journal and the archivist who found it.

We will discuss this book on Wednesday, March 11 at the Mattapoissett Library. The morning group will meet at 10:00; the afternoon group will meet at 1:00.



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Any questions? Email Gail Roberts at peggsmom@gmail.com if you are interested in joining in.

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, March 25, 12:00 pm

Ladies Who Lunch will meet Wednesday, March 25 at 12:00 pm at Brew Fish Bar and Eatery found at 210 Spring St. in Marion to make up for our February cancellation due to the blizzard. Everyone is welcome to join the revelry! If you would like to come, please contact Katherine Gaudet at 508-944-8919 or katherine-gaudet52@gmail.com Thank you!

You can find more information at www.brewfish.net.

~ Katherine Gaudet

Febuary Social Cocktail Gathering

Mother Nature had her say once again and due to unplowed snow, our gathering was cancelled in February. Not to be daunted by such things, let's look forward to April or May for a gathering... we need a hostess to choose a date and gathering place of your home. Guests bring an appetizer to share and a beverage of your choice and of course spouse/guest. Will you hostess another successful gathering? Look forward to hearing from you! Call Linda Clifford 508-207-6572

Hope to hear from you.

~ Linda Clifford 508-207-6572

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Mah Jongg

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

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club partners with the Mattapoisett 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

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

Sponsored by Mattapoisett Woman's Club and the Mattapoisett 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

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

~ Phyllis Bannon

Bridge Group

Tuesday, March 17 1:00 pm

The MWC Bridge Group gathered at Carolyn Price's home for our monthly meeting. On these cold, wintry days, it is nice to look forward to seeing friends for an afternoon of bridge. Thank you to our subs who make our playing possible.

Bobbie Ketchel, a reliable sub, graciously offered to host our March 17th meeting at her home. Good opportunity for the wearing of the green!

We wish fellow bridge player Ann Butler our very best wishes as she takes up residency at Adelaide of Newton Centre. She will be greatly missed by many.

We're very sad to report that Betty Dawson, a past member of the group for many years, passed away on February 21st. May she rest in peace.

We welcome new players of any level, beginners as well, so if you'd like to join our group or be a substitute player, please contact Elaine Grant, grant5687@comcast.net.

~ Elaine Grant



GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Wednesday, 10:00 AM on March 4th, Mattapoissett Free Public Library

Growing Knowledge: School Gardens & Seed Sharing

Our guest speaker for the Garden Group meeting on February 4th was Nate Sander, Program Director for the Marion Institute's Grow Education Initiative. In partnership with local school districts, this initiative builds equitable food programs that promote ecological literacy, health, and sustainability.

Nate provided an update on school gardens across six districts and 24 schools on the South Coast, including Old Hammond-town Elementary, which is currently in its first year. He also requested support for two bills in the legislature: Farm-to-School (S.311/H.575) and Food Literacy (S.392/H.735). [The Marion Institute](#) needs volunteers for programs that include Frogfoot Farm, Fields to Families, the Southcoast Food Policy Council, and Grow Education.

Following the presentation, members packed seeds for the MFPL Seed Catalog. If you are looking for free seeds for your garden, please visit the catalog located inside the front doors of the library.

Our next meeting will be held on March 4th. Gary Bowden, [Master Gardener and President of the Master Gardeners of Cape Cod](#), will discuss planning and maintaining gardens that support natural habitats and attract pollinators. As always, our meetings begin at 10 AM with fifteen minutes to socialize while the speaker sets up. Please join us on March 4th to learn more about pollinator-friendly gardens.

~ Cindy Turse



Knitting & Crafts

Thursday, March 26 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Handcrafts, knitting and crocheting will accompany most of us who meet on the 4th Thursday of the month at the Yarn Lady. But if you wish to come to sit and chat without your hand sewing, knitting or other projects, that is just fine. We are a friendly group who like to converse and talk about many topics, not just our handcraft projects.

We will meet on March 26 at 2 -4 PM at 144 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven. Call Sandy Hering or Roberta Oakley if you need a ride. It's a pleasant way to socialize with a small and lovely group.

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

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering

Let winter play its final card

Of all the birds, the earliest risers—
the bright-breasted American Robin—
stitch the hem of night to morning
with threads of liquid song.
Before the sun has fully gathered
its golden courage over the hills,
they are awake,
cheerfully flinging silver notes
into the tender blue of dawn's first light.

Quickly, as if summoned by some ancient score
written in the margins of the wind,
their nesting neighbors join—
the fluted, forest-deep hymn of the Wood Thrush,
the bright clarion of the Northern Cardinal,
wrens bubbling like small brown springs,
the quick, bright chatter of the Chipping Sparrow,
and the clear, chiming syllables
of the nimble Black-capped Chickadee.

One by one, they gather their voices
like musicians lifting bows in unison,
until the air itself seems strung with melody.
They serenade the sleeping town
in perfect, effortless harmony—
a rehearsal older than memory,
a chorus conducted by the slow turning of the earth.
Windows glow. Curtains stir.
Hearts, still heavy with winter,
lean toward the sound.

The crescendo swells now that March
gingerly opens spring's long-locked door.
Light lingers. Snowbanks shrink at the edges.
Beneath the crusted fields,
green intentions whisper.
The ground softens its frozen grip;
streams loosen their silver laughter.
Hope, cautious but persistent,
walks barefoot across the thawing lawn.

And yet,
is it truly spring?
Or late winter, lingering like a sly magician,
palming one last trick behind its icy sleeve?
Might it yet summon thick-bellied clouds
to hurl a sudden storm
upon a weary town still dressed in white,
rooftops bowed beneath old drifts,
boots lined faithfully by the door?

How cruel it would seem
to hush the birds mid-anthem,
to veil the budding branches,
to silence the promise of bursting gold.
When forsythia waits at the threshold,
their bright bells poised to ring.

And still,
children press their noses to cold glass,
eyes wide with wonder,
as white flakes wander down
like soft confetti from the sky.
Their laughter rises,
a counterpoint to the robin's song,
proof that joy is not so easily fooled.

So let the snow fall, if it must.
Let winter play its final card.
For beneath the hush, beneath the white,
the music has already begun.
The birds have spoken.
Morning has answered.
And somewhere, just beyond the frost,
spring is clearing her throat.

By Eileen J. Marum



Open Space and Recreation Plan

FINAL PUBLIC FEEDBACK SESSION

DROP-IN INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP

RSVP (OPTIONAL):



bit.ly/410IHNS

READ THE DRAFT:



bit.ly/4rG2pRh



DATE:

MARCH 28, 2026



TIME:

1:00 PM - 4:00 PM



LOCATION:

MATTAPOISETT LIBRARY
7 BARSTOW ST, MATTAPOISETT, MA
02739

WHAT IS AN OSRP?

The Town of Mattapoissett is seeking residential input for their 2026 OSRP (Open Spaces and Recreation Plan) to guide priorities for future conservation, recreational, and open space preservation efforts for the next 10 years. This plan will serve as the official blueprint for maintaining our natural resources and public spaces and is necessary to qualify the Town for state funding to acquire conservation land and improve recreational facilities.

The Town is in the final stages of drafting this plan. Before finalization, we need residents to verify that our goals match the community's needs. We encourage residents to attend to express their thoughts, ideas, and concerns for the future of Mattapoissett's public amenities.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: srpedd.org/environment/open-space-planning

[REGISTER FOR THE OSRP EVENT HERE](#)

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



JOIN NOW!



***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.