



LADIES CHOICE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club Newsletter

www.MattapoissettWomansClub.org

April 2026
VOLUME LXIV No. 8

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Club Members,

Our Annual Meeting will end the 2025-26 year of the Mattapoissett Woman's Club. And what a year it has been! As we think back and reflect on the changes that have taken place: the schedule adjustment providing socializing opportunities for the monthly meetings, a reduction in the number of Ladies Choice editions from eight to four thus reducing the cost to produce and after 20 years, the raising of the dues from \$25 to \$50 so as to more effectively cover our operating expenses, we can be proud of coming together as a cohesive group to make all of this happen.

Carole and I have enjoyed our time as Co-Presidents and are grateful to each of you for sharing your time and talent in making this Club a caring and cooperative group of women.

Thank you for your support and encouragement during this year.

"When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully everyone is blessed. "

~ Maya Angelou

Carole Clifford & Linda Clifford
Co-Presidents



Carole Clifford



Linda Clifford



APRIL LUNCHEON

THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2026 • 11:30 AM
CENTURY HOUSE, ACUSHNET, MA

HOW I GOT TO THE MWC

I fell in love with New England while at Boston University. After college, I married and began my life as a minister's wife. We spent our early years in Massachusetts in Brookline, Essex, and Holyoke, before we finally settled in Durham, New Hampshire. To make ends meet, I took a few required education courses so I could work as a substitute teacher. I had no idea these courses would lead to two master's degrees, a Ph.D., and a 47-year career in education.

The early part of my career was spent in public education as a teacher, learning specialist, principal, director of programs for children with emotional challenges, director of special education, director of elementary curriculum, and college professor. After years of witnessing the cracks and fissures in public education, I took a position on a government-funded project that tested the effectiveness of a new service model for young children with cerebral palsy. At the time, there were no public programs for children with disabilities until they entered school at age five. The parents in this first program taught me that the daily therapy and learning exercises provided by the family had the greatest impact on a child's developmental and learning gains. This idea of a family-centered service approach became the cornerstone of the programs I designed and the teaching I provided to infant teams across the country over the next 30 years. The highlight of my career was writing the infant program standards for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which was passed in 1986. The law guaranteed all children with disabilities, from birth to 18, a free and appropriate education. Since then, over 280 million children have received services required by IDEA.

After a long, demanding, and fulfilling career, I was ready to retire and begin the next phase of my life. In 2010, I bought a small, weekend cottage on Poverty Point in Fairhaven. However, three years later, when I saw the Dawson real estate sign in front of the house built by Captain Winsor of the Flying Cloud, in the center of Fairhaven, it was a life-changer. After a tour of the house, I decided on the spot to buy it and sell my houses in Brookline and Poverty Point. Moving to the south coast was one of the best decisions of my life. It allowed me to enjoy two passions: gardening and dogs. The house was beautifully restored, but the garden sorely needed tending. So, along with a gardener, we set out to create a garden that was worthy of the house. Sixteen years later we are still at. But best of all was adopting Frankie, a little grey schnoodle. Besides being my buddy and travel companion, she was also my inspiration. During Covid, I began writing the Dear Frankie Dog Advice Column, akin to Dear Abby, for the Fairhaven Neighborhood News. Since then, the column has been syndicated, published in several magazines and became a book series entitled "Dear Frankie: What Dogs Really Think." Presently, I'm working on a Dear Frankie video series.

On a personal level, I feel blessed to live in such a lovely town, to have made so many wonderful friends, and to become acquainted with so many interesting and lovely women at the MWC.

~ Geneva Woodruff



MWC News & Information

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee presents the following slate of officers for 2026-2027:

President - Linda Clifford (one year)
Vice-President - Gail Roberts
Recording Secretary - TBD*
Corresponding Secretary - Diane Brown-Couture
Treasurer - Jane Howard
Assistant Treasurer - Lois Ennis
Director - Cindy Turse

**We are putting together a team to record the meeting minutes. Please contact a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested in being a member of this team.*

The Slate was approved at the March 19 member's meeting. The officers will be sworn in at the April Annual Meeting.

Nominating Committee:

Gail Roberts, Chair
Sandra Dawson
Katherine Gaudet
Ann Tisdale
Barbara Van Inwegen

APRIL 16TH LUNCHEON COMMITTEE

Committee: Roxanne Bungert, Sandy Hering, Ann Tisdale, Lois Ennis, Mary O'Keefe and Barbara Van Inwegen

IN MEMORIAM

We are sad to announce the passing on March 9th of past member Leona Mansfield, age 94. Condolences may be sent to her daughter, Lori Briggs who recently joined our Club. Lori is at 3 North Street.

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

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club is pleased to offer a continuing education scholarship of \$1500 to a Mattapoissett resident who is reentering the academic world after graduation and is in pursuit of a postsecondary degree, certificate, or career advancing coursework. The application is available online at www.mattapoissettwomansclub.org. All applications must be postmarked by May 31, 2026. Submissions received after the deadline will not be considered.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

APRIL 9TH • 10 AM • MATTAPOISETT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY
(Downstairs meeting room of the Library)

MWC News & Information

MWC TAG SALE - SATURDAY, MAY 2

We are very excited that our Tag Sale on Saturday, May 2nd from 9am to Noon, will be held indoors at the Congregational Church. Set up is on Friday, May 1, from 4 to 6pm. We are grateful to be able to use this space and want it to be our best-ever sale as it is an important fundraiser for our charitable donations and scholarships.

Continue gathering your treasures and keep in mind that it takes many hands, hearts and tables to pull this off. There are multiple ways to be involved:

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

All items must be clean, priced and in working order. We reserve the right to refuse inappropriate items. Bring plastic or paper bags and newspaper for the sold items to be transported by the buyer.

Acceptable items include collectibles, artwork, decorative items, kitchen items, small electric items, clothing (limit 5), books (limit 10), jewelry, gardening tools, beach chairs, small rafts and sand toys, etc.

More specific information will be e-mailed to the sellers as we get closer to the sale. Questions, call Linda Clifford 508-207-6572 or any of the team: Carole Clifford, Christine Voss, Marianne Hickey or Mary O'Keefe.

BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

The 250th Committee is planning a small-town America celebration of our country. It will tentatively include a Family Picnic, Children's Games, Tour of the Town, Bonfire and Field of Flags.

The MWC is sponsoring the visual display "Field of Flags" at Dunseith Garden (Seahorse Park). The Tri-Town Veterans Services is donating the flags. To date the set-up days will be July 2nd & 3rd and take down will be Monday July 6th. We are offering to attach a ribbon with the names of someone who has made or makes living in the USA the blessing it is.

We will need our members and many families to help write names on ribbons, place the flags in the ground and then remove them. We will also be on site in the Garden for at least four hours on both the 2nd and 3rd of July and perhaps some on July 4th.

MWC members can email me with any names they would like to attach to a flag. All names will be listed in a book and put in remembrance for future celebrations. You can volunteer to help by contacting Elaine Botelho or Mary O'Keefe. We will be in touch closer to the event. Contact details are in the Blue Book.

We hope the Town and our visitors will enjoy our display and I'm sure the MWC will step up as always.

Mary O'Keefe
MWC Patriotic Committee

ANNUAL APRIL LUNCHEON
OF THE MATTAPOISETT WOMAN'S CLUB

April 16, 2026

CENTURY HOUSE

107 South Main Street, Acushnet, MA

\$40 per person • Cash Bar

Gathering at 11:30

Lunch served at 12:00 pm

***There is still time to sign up for our April luncheon at the Century House
by using this form. Get your check to Lois Ennis by April 9th.***

This is the last meeting of MWC year where we can socialize and enjoy a delicious meal.
It's also an important one as our new officers are installed and the Club's objectives
are revealed. Hope to see you there!

BUFFET INCLUDES:

Grilled Chicken Caprese • Lemon Herb Salmon

Bell Pepper Confetti Rice • Herbed Fingerling Potatoes

Roasted Seasonal Vegetables

Toasted Focaccia Herb Bread

Mixed Salad Greens with craisins and zinfandel vinaigrette

Ice Cream with Chocolate Sauce for Dessert

Coffee - Tea

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

If mailing send to:

Mattapoisett Woman's Club APRIL MEETING, PO Box1444, Mattapoisett 02739

or mail to:

Lois Ennis, 5 Pine Island Road, Mattapoisett 02739

or drop off in the black box by Lois's back door at the end of the driveway.

I'll respond upon receipt.

Be sure to include a \$40 check payable to MWC

March Luncheon Meeting

Sue Mitchell and her hostess committee set a French-themed ambience with French and Canadian flags on every table to honor our featured speaker, Dr. Alfred H. Saulniers. Through years of extensive research for his book, "The French of New Bedford: the Early Years," Dr. Saulniers traced the origins of the French people in Europe and Canada who settled and contributed greatly to New Bedford.

The French theme was continued in the sumptuous buffet offerings of various meat pies, quiches and salads which we greatly enjoyed.

Co-President Linda Clifford conducted the business meeting and introduced our newest member, Andrea Yelle. Linda reminded us of the SPREDD meeting at the Library on March 28th at 1pm where all may voice their opinions on how our open lands can be used for recreation. Mary O'Keefe of the Patriotic Committee is asking for volunteers to help plant 400 flags at Dunseith Garden for the town's Bicentennial Celebration. Linda mentioned that no Spring Social is scheduled but urged a volunteer to host one. The May 2nd Tag Sale will be held indoors at Reynard Hall. Contact Linda to participate.

A new Garden Group Chair is needed to replace Cindy Turse. Bonne DeSousa and Robin Lepore spoke of volunteers needed at the newly renovated American Legion Post on Depot St. adjacent to the start of the Bike Path. A staff would cover a few hours while the building is open for walkers and bikers to use the facilities. Contact Robin LePore for golf balls for sale at \$10 a dozen. Lois Ennis happily reported that members of the Highway Department will set up the tables for Taste of the Town. All members are urged to participate in this great event.

Treasurer Beth Inglis gave a presentation of the Club's financial picture and welcomed comments from the members before a vote was passed to increase the dues to \$50. Suggestions were made to set up a separate category for voluntary contributions and to offer new members the \$25 rate for the first year. Our annual charitable contributions have been cut to \$1,600 vs \$2,000. \$400 will sponsor a participant to Girls' State.

The new officers will be sworn in at the April 16th Annual Meeting. Lois reminded us that reservations for the luncheon at the Century House should reach her by April 9th. See page 5 for the buffet menu.

Hope to see you all at our final meeting of the Club year. More meeting photos on page 7.

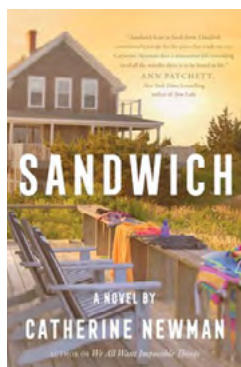




GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Literature Group

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



The Woman's Club Literature Group will be reading "Sandwich" by Catherine Newman. "Sandwich" is a poignant and humorous story about a woman named Rocky navigating a family vacation on Cape Cod while dealing with the challenges of menopause, family secrets, and being part of the "sandwich" generation.

We will meet on Wednesday, April 8. The morning group will meet at 10:00 at the Marine Room at the Mattapoisett Library; the afternoon group will meet at 1:00 at Robin Lepore's house. Please contact Gail Roberts with any questions.



Gail Roberts
Literature Group Chair

Email Gail Roberts at peggmom@gmail.com if you are interested in joining in.

Ladies Who Lunch

Wednesday, April 29, 12:00 pm

A congenial group of MWC diners enjoyed our March outing at Brewfish in Marion.

On Wednesday, April 29th, Ladies Who Lunch will head to Fairhaven at noon to try the Indian restaurant, Saffron by the Sea, located at 110 Middle Street. This modern Indian restaurant has a menu of traditional fare and nautical decor set within the Seaport Resort and Marina.



We hope you will join us as we enjoy delicious food and warm fellowship together! To reserve your spot, please contact Katherine Gaudet by April 27th at 508-944-8919 or at katherinegaudet52@gmail.com. Thank you so much!

~ Katherine Gaudet

Social Cocktail Gathering

A Social Cocktail gathering will be held on Sunday, May 3 from 3-5pm at the home of Robin Lepore, 6 Seabreeze Lane. Please RSVP directly to Robin. Robin.lepore@gmail.com or 617-584-2795.

Bring an appetizer to share, your drink of choice and a guest if you wish. This is an informal gathering and a wonderful way to get to know other members. And we hope we will be celebrating a successful Tag Sale which is taking place the day before.

Interested in being a hostess and keeping these gatherings going? Please call Linda Clifford, 508-207-6572

Hope to hear from you.

~ Linda Clifford

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

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

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.nationalmahjong-league.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 Tuesday Bridge Group was reduced to four players due to seasonal illnesses and other commitments. Regular players, Carolyn Price and Elaine Grant, along with subs Bobbie Ketchel and Barb Van Inwegen, enjoyed a lovely afternoon hosted by Bobbie.



As you can see, the games are in peril unless we have more players. Give Elaine a call if you'd like to join us

~ Elaine Grant

MWC Walking Group

Fridays at 1:30 pm

Blizzards, ice, and huge snowbanks prevented us from walking this winter. However, I hope to start up again in April. For those of you who are new to the MWC, we usually walk on Fridays at 1:30 pm.

All are welcome and our walks are quite casual. It's a fun way to get to know members while you explore our local community. Contact Sue Mitchell if you'd like to join us.

~ Sue Mitchell

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Garden Group

Landscaping for Native Pollinators

The Garden Group welcomed an engaging speaker this March to discuss "Landscaping for Native Pollinators." Gary Bowden, a Master Gardener, led an interactive session on how even small garden spaces in our community can support pollinators, whose populations are declining despite their essential role in our ecosystem.

Mr. Bowden also encouraged members to adopt "lazy gardening" practices, explaining that leaving leaves and plant stems throughout the fall and winter provides critical habitat for these species.

The presentation was very well received by all members and guests in attendance.

~ Cindy Turse



April: A Whisper of Renewal

April drifts in like a whisper of renewal, carrying the cool freshness of morning air and the faint warmth of sunlight.

Blossoms—lilacs, tulips, and cherry trees—perfume the world with their sweet, heady scent, while damp earth exhales the rich aroma of spring's awakening.

Gentle breezes stir tender green leaves, lift petals into swirling dances, and carry the cheerful songs of returning birds across parks and quiet streets.

Soft rains patter on rooftops and puddles, each droplet glinting like a tiny promise, while the golden light of long afternoons spills across glistening leaves and wet paths.

April is touch and scent and sound, a world vibrating with quiet hope, a tender unfolding where every breeze, every bloom, every note of birdcall whispers that life, after winter's stillness, begins again.

By Eileen J. Marum

GROUPS SCHEDULES & INFORMATION

Knitting & Crafts

Thursday, April 23 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

The MWC Knitting and Handicraft Group will be meeting at The Yarn Lady knitting shop on Thursday, April 23rd from 2-4pm. Bring your projects or get inspiration for a new one from the shop's owner and knitting expert, Diane.

The Yarn Lady is located at 144 Huttleston Avenue in Fairhaven. You can RSVP or direct any inquiries to Bobbie Oakley at oakleyr@comcast.net. We welcome new members and friends; come give it a try.

~ Bobbie Oakley & Sandy Hering



Great Decisions

The Mattapoissett Woman's Club "Great Decisions" discussion group has concluded its 2026 winter series with exceptional success, bringing together a dedicated group of over 25 community members every week from January through March. Held at the Mattapoissett Public Library, the meetings provided a lively, nonpartisan forum for residents to discuss critical global issues. Following the viewing of the 2026 briefing videos, the conversation was invariably energetic, with members sharing insights and perspectives on the year's topics, including: Trade Policy, US/China Relations, Nuclear Proliferation, European Security and more.

This year several members brought their extensive global and diplomatic experience into the conversation which made for a truly stimulating environment. Attendance remained consistently high, highlighting the community's keen interest in the topics as well as each other's good company. Toward the end of the season the group gathered at Co-Chair Kristen McCormack's home for an informal cocktail party to continue getting to know each other.

Co-Chairs Kristen McCormack and Ellen Stone were supported by volunteers Marianne Hickey, Donald Bamberger and Anne Leyton who helped coordinate refreshments, assisted with room set-up and stepped in to facilitate when needed. Thank you to everyone who made this year's program an overwhelming success!

~ Kristen McCormack

***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.