



THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR
MEMBER OF THE NJSFWC OF THE GFWC-LIBERTY DISTRICT



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 *New Year's Day*
- 3 No Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 10 HODGE PUDGE HOLIDAY PARTY,
Business Meeting, 1:30pm
- 15 *Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
- 15 NJSFWC Liberty District Day of Service
- 17 ARTS & CULTURE, 1:30pm
- 18 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 23 NJSFWC Liberty District Council Meeting
& Program Assistance
- 24 W&M GOULASH LUNCHEON, 12:00pm
- 31 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH
PROGRAM, 1:30pm

FEBRUARY

- 5 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 7 HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 14 *Ash Wednesday*
- 14 *Valentine's Day*
- 14 W&M VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON
12:00pm
- 15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 19 *President's Day*
- 21 ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 28 TBA

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY

- 2 Geri Helou
- 15 Carylmead Eggleston, Margueite Giustina
- 18 Carol Cipolla
- 20 Florence Sinofsky
- 24 Carla Helb
- 27 Patricia Park Connell

FEBRUARY

- 2 Penny Weber
- 6 Barbara Zingaro
- 21 Mieke Wiggin
- 27 Sylvia Contessa, Janice Mariniello

OUR CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

We hope this message finds you all well and you were able to spend some time with Family and Friends during the Holiday Season. We look forward to seeing many of you at our weekly programs as we begin the New Year.

There are so many great events planned, the Hodge Podge Party, Goulash Luncheon, Valentines for Veterans Workshop and the Valentines Luncheon to name a few. Please check the calendar to stay up to date!

Many thanks to Karen Bell and Linda Kenyon who Co-Chaired a successful Benefit Luncheon in October 2023. Through their hard work and the support of our members we were able to send \$1,200 to both the Human Needs Food Pantry and MESH. Our Annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show yielded \$11,295 for our Club and our Philanthropic Charities. Thank you to all the members and volunteers who helped make this a huge success.

We look forward to seeing you at many of the events this season. Our Day of Service is on January 15th. Details for the events are in the Bulletin. May the New Year bring each of you good Health and Happiness!

Fondly,
Trautie & Cyndee

Like us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/WCUM1900>

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

FEATURING VIVIEN FINN, CYNDEE ROWAN & TRAUTIE BECKER

For this issue of The Bulletin, we are pleased to resume our Spotlight Series with a new format. Rather than highlighting a single club member, we will focus on several, and what better way to kickoff the New Year than featuring our past and current presidents – Vivien Finn, Cyndee Rowan and Trautie Becker.



Having served as club president and co-president during four separate administrations (1986-1988, 2002-2004, 2017-2018, and 2020-2023), **Vivien Finn** has the first-hand knowledge, experience, and expertise of Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM). She joined the organization in 1976, and soon assumed leadership positions in both the WCUM and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC). While she enjoyed working on virtually every committee, program, and

event, throughout four decades, her favorite activities have been working on projects for those in dire need – especially the women and children at the Safe House at Easter. She also finds deep satisfaction in filling stockings for the Military and purchasing gifts for the Club's adopted family at Christmas. Vivien is completing her 17th year of serving on the NJSFWC State Board, where she is currently serving as State Fall Chairman / Program Assistance Chairman.

If you've ever attended a Holly Berry Craft Fair, shopped at the annual Flea Market, or volunteered at a civic engagement event sponsored by the WCUM, you've seen first-hand the organizational skills of our newly installed co-president, **Cyndee Rowan**. A resident of Montclair, Cyndee joined WCUM in 2017, and was soon named chair of the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee. While she enjoys many events sponsored by our organization, activities that support veterans, stock the human needs food pantry, and provide assistance to families served by the Montclair Emergency Services for Hope (MESH) are close to her heart. We look forward to working with our new co-president in the new year.

When it comes to unsung heroes, **Trautie Becker** is the penultimate poster girl. While luncheons, special events, and other activities claim center stage, there is endless back-office work that is vital to keeping WCUM running, and there you will find Trautie. She joined WCUM in 1989, just three years after arriving from Brazil. After heading up numerous committees, she served as president and co-president of the Club during five separate administrations (1998-2000, 2002-2004, 2017-2018, 2018-2020, and 2020-2024). She has also handled all of the responsibilities related to the accounting and finance issues, maintenance of the building and grounds, reporting annually to the Federation, and numerous other responsibilities. A resident of Upper Montclair, Trautie embraces all of the ideals and principles upon which the Club was founded. We look forward to continue working with her in the new year.

If you would like to nominate a club member to be featured in a future Spotlight, please contact Barbara Davey, Membership Chair, at BarbaraADavey@aol.com or 973-432-5282.

HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 1:30PM

A nice way to forget about the winter blues is by attending the Hodge Podge Party. Let us have fun celebrating, in just one day, year-round holidays – Mardi Gras, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving Day.... Hostesses will decorate tables in holiday themes with special cakes. Your presence is important to make it special. Please come and bring a wrapped gift, minimum value \$20.00, which will be auctioned while we enjoy delicious treats. The proceeds will be used for an important project to be decided. There is no cost for the event, however, for proper arrangements your reservation is a must. Please send in the reservation form or leave a message at 973-744-9138. Do not miss it! It is an afternoon filled with enjoyment, laughter and good company.

Thank you!

Janet Oscar, Ways and Means Chair

NJSFWC DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY JANUARY 15

All Districts will be collecting items for local Domestic Shelters on the National Day of Service on January 15, 2024. The Liberty District event will be held at our Club House. We are partnering with the Safe House in Belleville and Sylvia's Place, maintained by Access Family Services. Members will be asked to join together that day for a hands-on experience to sort and package the items for pickup by the agencies. As soon as we know what the needs of these agencies are, we will inform you via email.

Thank you!

Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

ARTS & CULTURE PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 17, 1:30PM



Photo credit: Gary Heller

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes of an award-winning theatrical production? Well, listen up! The Arts and Culture Committee has commissioned the Mosaic Dance Theater Company to present a program that will both educate and entertain you! The company will introduce you to the creation of costumes, the origin of customs and the intriguing world of folklore and dance of the Middle East, North Africa and Southern Europe. It will be a once in a lifetime opportunity that no one should miss! Come to the club and bring your friends. We promise that you will go home with a smile on your face, a lilt to your step and a new lease on life.

Thank you!

Dorothy Meissner, Arts & Culture Chair

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY JANUARY 18, 1:30PM

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be held on at 1:30 pm on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at the Club House. At that meeting we will be discussing An American Beauty, a novel of the Gilded Age, by Shana Abe. For those industrious readers, our second book is The Lioness of Boston, a novel about the life of Isabella Stewart Gardner, by Emily Franklin. Again, no pressure, but both books received accolades this past year. Any questions or concerns, please contact Barbara Davey at BarbaraADavey@aol.com or 973-432-5282.

Thank you!

Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair

LIBERTY DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY JANUARY 23, 9:30AM

The Liberty District January Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 23rd at the Woman's Club of Little Falls. Registration will be at 9:30am and the Meeting will begin at 10:00am. Speakers include the State Convention Chairman and the Health and Wellness Chairman. Following a soup lunch, Presidents will report on their Club's three best programs. Further details will be sent via email.

Thank you!

Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

W&M GOULASH LUNCHEON & BAGS SALE

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 12:00PM

Hope you all are ready for another Goulash Luncheon. Everything is home made from scratch, even the rum-raisin ice cream dessert. This year the proceeds will go the club's own needs to cover part of the cost of the necessary building repairs. Please come, we appreciate your support. We also are going to have the sale of slightly used and even never used handbags. If you have some you would like to donate, please bring them to the club any time before January 24th. The cost per person is \$30.00. If you are unable to attend but wish to have a take-out portion for \$15.00 or make a donation, please mark accordingly on the reservation form. Deadline is January 19th. We hope to see you all at lunch!

Thank you!

The Goulash Lunch Committee



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH PROGRAM VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 31, 1:30PM

Please join us to write Valentine cards for our Veterans. We will be putting the cards together with candy and a pair of socks. The Valentines will be delivered to East Orange VA Medical Center in time for Valentines Day. We have cards and candy please bring a pair of socks for Men or Women.

Thank you!

Cyndee Rowan & Linda Kenyon, Committee Co-Chairs



THE SECRET OF A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 7, 1:30PM

Janette Large is a resident of Rutherford who is an aerobics instructor at Kip Senior Center, Rutherford, for more than eighteen years. Janette has spent many years instructing seniors in chair aerobics and dance aerobics. Her philosophy for "Successful Aging" embodies lifestyle through activity level, strength training, and socialization. Come join Janette for a fun afternoon moving to music at your own pace by stretching, sitting or standing exercises, and dance exercise which will make you feel euphoric, energized, and hopeful!

Thank you!

Celia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair

W&M VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 12:00PM



Please save the date for our annual W&M Valentine's Day Luncheon on Wednesday February 14th. Arrangements are in the making for a delicious meal and yummy dessert. Details will follow soon via e-mail.

Thank you!

Janet Oscar, First Vice President & Ways & Means Chair

ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 21, 1:30PM

The Arts Performing Committee is calling on all club members to participate in the Arts Performing Program on February 21st at 1:30 pm, either by recounting a funny story, singing a song, reading an essay or a poem of your own creation or by any other author, or participating in a skit. This would be a rehearsal to later take part in the NJSFWC Liberty District Arts Performing Day scheduled for March 14, 2024, when all clubs from the District present different kinds of entertainment. If you are interested in participating, please email marellitto@earthlink.net. Either way, your presence is important, therefore please plan to attend this program and join in the fun!

Thank you!

Mary Sellitto- Curcio, Arts Performing Chair

HISTORICAL NUGGET: "WHEN WCUM HAD 1,000 MEMBERS"

'Tis the season to celebrate holiday traditions with family and friends. Familiar words from Christmas carols and holiday songs fill our homes and the airwaves. In the December 7, 2023 issue of The Guardian author Alexis Petridis provides a list of the 20 greatest Christmas carols. Number 2 on the list is "In the Bleak Midwinter." Fortunately for WCUM, our membership is growing and we do not need to sing this carol. In January 1921, WCUM announced that membership had reached 1,000 members. The January 8, 1921 issue of The Montclair Times reported "while numbers may be a mere adumbration of the worth of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, its growth since its inception has been a pleasing reflection of the community's interest in all that tends toward the culture and uplift of Montclair... neither have its energies been applied solely for the advantage of the [north end of town]... Anything that is of Montclair always arouses its beneficent interest..." May we current members continue assisting in the growth of our club and performing those activities which benefit many. *[Article information obtained from digital archives of The Montclair Times as found in the newspapers.com database and the Historian's digital only subscription to The Guardian.]*

Best Wishes, Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Membership Chair, I would like to welcome our newest members. They include: **Bertha Andre, Karen Jung, Nicole Jacqueline "Coco" Kenny, Victoria Monte, William L. Hurlock, Esq.,** and **Maureen Scandiffio.**

Bertha, a resident of Verona, has joined as a professional member. She is interested in Arts and Culture; the Book Discussion Group; Education and Libraries; and Environment. She may be reached at Berthandy47@gmail.com. **Karen** is also a resident of Verona, and has joined as a professional member. She has expressed interest in the Health and Wellness Committee and the Ways & Means Committee. She may be reached at KarenJung1@gmail.com. **Coco** is a resident of Montclair, and has joined as an active member. She is interested in participating in the following committees and groups: Arts and Culture; Arts Performing; Book Discussion; Civic Engagement and Outreach; Education and Libraries; and the Holly Berry Craft Show. She may be reached at cammykenny@aol.com. **Victoria** is a resident of Upper Montclair, and has joined as an active member. She is interested in the Book Discussion Group; Domestic Violence Awareness; Education and Libraries; and Women's History. Her email is vm324@nyu.edu. **William "Bill" Hurlock** is a familiar face to many of our club members. He is a resident of Upper Montclair, as well as our Deputy Mayor. Bill has joined as an associate member, and is interested in Civic Engagement and Outreach. His email is billh66us@yahoo.com. **Maureen** is a resident of Verona, and has joined as an active member. She is interested in the Book Discussion Group and the Holly Berry Craft Show. She may be reached at jmscandiffio@msn.com.

Thank you!

Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Starting in January, the Nominating Committee will begin to meet to discuss nominations for the 2024-2026 Board of Trustees. Please contact Committee members, Arlene Onembo, Pat Piermatti, or myself if you are interested in a position or would like to recommend someone. If you have any questions regarding the duties associated with any position, please email me at vfinn89@verizon.net.

Thank you!

Vivien Finn, Nominating Chair

HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 10, 1:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ COMPLIMENTARY SEATS. RESERVATIONS CLOSE JANUARY 6. PLEASE BRING \$20 WRAPPED GIFT.

W & M GOULASH LUNCHEON, WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 12:00PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS AT \$30 PER PERSON. TAKE-OUT _____ \$15 PER PERSON.

RESERVATIONS CLOSE JANUARY 19.

KINDLY MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO WCUM. MAIL OR BRING IT TO 200 COOPER AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043

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