



THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR
MEMBER OF THE NJSFWC OF THE GFWC - LIBERTY DISTRICT
CELEBRATING OUR 125TH YEAR!
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025



CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 2025

- 1 - Labor Day!
- 8 - Board Meeting 10 am
- 18 - Book Discussion - 1:30 PM
- 20 - UMBA Sidewalk Sale-Upper Montclair - 9 am - 5 pm
- 23 - First Day of Fall!
- 23 - NJSFWC Liberty Dist Fall Council Meeting
- 26/28 - GFWC Mid Atlantic Region Conference - Delaware
- 27 - GFWC Day of Service at MAR in Delaware

OCTOBER 2025

- 1 - 125th Anniversary Celebration!
- 2 - American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 6 - Board Meeting - 10 am
- 8 - Opening Luncheon
- 15 - Environment Program - 1:30 pm
- 16 - Book Discussion - 1:30 pm
- 20 - NJSFWC Fall Conference
- 22 - Benefit Luncheon - Noon
- 23 - Liberty Dist Past Presidents' Luncheon - 11:30 am
- 29 - Civic Engagement & Outreach Workshop - 1:30 pm
- 30 - HOLLY BERRY SET-UP - All Day!
- 31 - Happy Halloween!

Editor - Sarah Ross

Follow Us!

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LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/company/the-womans-club-of-upper-montclair

Our President's Message

Dear Members,

I hope that you have had a wonderful Summer, and are ready for the start of a new Club year. The Board Members have worked hard putting together fun and informative programs for the 2025-2026 Club year.

Our first event of the year will be our Club's Anniversary, the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair will be celebrating 125 years of service to our community. Please join us to celebrate this milestone on October 1st at 1:30 PM.

The next Club event will be our traditional Opening Luncheon on October 8th. First Vice-President Janet Oscar has planned a lovely afternoon, and we hope you will be able to join us. The new Directory will be handed out at the luncheon. Reminder that the directory contains valuable information, i.e., upcoming programs in the calendar, The Collect, listing of committees and departments, as well as the contact information of all members. It's more than a phone book.

I look forward to seeing you, and am excited for all that has been planned in the coming months.

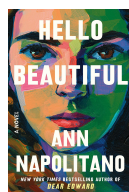
Cyndee



Book Discussion Group

Thursday, September 18, 2025 - 1:30 PM

The next meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be held on Thursday, September 18 at 1:30 pm at the Club House. We will be discussing two books - *Hello Beautiful* by Ann Napolitano and *The Stationery Shop* by Marjan Kamali. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of whether or not you have read the book. The book for October will be decided after September's discussion.



UMBA Sidewalk Sale Sat., Sept 20, 2025

The Club will once again have a table at the Upper Montclair Business Association's Sidewalk Sale from 9 AM to 5 PM on Saturday, September 20. This is a wonderful opportunity to let the community learn about us and all of the wonderful programs and events we have. If you have an hour or so to help out at our table, please call or email the office.



Club Hosting a Blood Drive

Thursday, Oct 2, 2025 - Noon - 6 PM

Welcome back from a long, hot summer! Our much needed Red Cross Blood Drive will be held Thursday, Oct 2 at the Clubhouse. We will need volunteers to greet and register donors. Any amount of time you can donate will be appreciated. Please let me know if you are available to donate time for this worthy cause. Register to give blood online at RedCrossBlood.org. ~ **Celia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair & Vivien Finn**



125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION! Wednesday, October 1, 2025 - 1:30 PM

Please join in the Celebration! Our Club is now 125 years old, and that's not something a lot of other clubs can boast about. There is no charge for this event, but you still need to fill out the RSVP form at the back of this bulletin to let us know you're attending. Looking forward to seeing you! ~ **Cyndee Rowan, President**

Opening Luncheon Wednesday, October 8, 2025 - Noon

Please save the date for our Opening Luncheon on Wednesday October 8th. The Montclair House Grill will be catering. Menu: Greek Salad, Chicken Francaise, Mashed Potatoes, Mixed Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee/Tea. Cost \$42 per person. Please RSVP by Thursday, October 2. Looking forward to seeing you at the Luncheon.
~ **Janet Oscar, 1st Vice President**



Environment Program Wednesday, October 15, 2025 - 1:30 PM

Plans are in the works for this program. More information to follow. ~ **Carylmead Eggleston, Chair**



Benefit Luncheon: Human Needs & MESH

Wednesday, October 22, 2025 - 12 Noon

All members and their guests are cordially invited to attend our annual benefit luncheon which will be held on Wednesday, October 22, at the Club House beginning at 12 Noon. All proceeds from this year's event will be given to support the work of two nonprofits in our immediate community. They are: MESH (Montclair Emergency Services for Hope, Inc.) and

Human Needs Food Pantry. The menu for this year's luncheon will include: a savory chicken dish, tossed salad, rolls and butter, and a scrumptious dessert. The cost is \$40 per person, and the reservation deadline is Wednesday, October 15. As the need for services provided by these two organizations continues to grow, members and their guests are also encouraged to bring items of nonperishable foods such as peanut butter, rice, soups, and feminine and baby products to donate. We hope to see you at this worthwhile event. **Thank you! ~ Trautie Becker, Barbara Hyland and Caroline Johnson, Co-Chairs**



Civic Engagement & Outreach Workshop

Wednesday, October 29, 2025 - 1: 30 PM

Please join us to write thank you notes to Veterans to be delivered to the East Orange VA Medical Center. The notes will be delivered with a sweet treat just in time for Veterans Day. It is a fun meeting with lots of chatter and a good time. We are still collecting thank you notes and individual wrapped hard candy. We will also be signing Christmas cards to be delivered in December with candy canes attached. Finally, we are participating in Operation Jersey Care in support of our troops. We have a list of items to purchase to fill the stockings. We will take monetary donations at the opening luncheon. Thank you!



Caroline Johnson CEO Chair & Barbara Hyland CEO Vice Chair

Save the Date: Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show

Set-Up Day: Thursday, October 30

Show Dates: Saturday, Nov 1 & Sunday, Nov 2

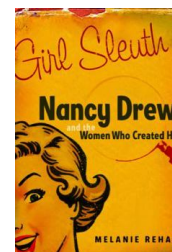


Holly Berry is the Club's annual main fundraiser, and to be a success we really need the help of our members. Please save these dates, and plan to give a hand for as much time you have to spare, either with the setting up, or on the days of the show. A sign-up sheet will be at the Opening Luncheon, and at other meetings prior to the show. Thank you! ~ **The Holly Berry Committee**

A Peak Ahead Into November...

A Special Treat is in Store for You!

On Wednesday, Nov 5, 2025, at 1:30 PM, the Education & Libraries Department is sponsoring the program, "Nancy Drew. Female Super Sleuth." We are privileged to host Melanie Rehak, author of the New York Times bestseller, and Chicago Tribune winner of the Best Book of the Year award for her book, "Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her." Of course coffee, tea and goodies will be available after Melanie's delightful, interactive talk. This promises to be a sure-fire, don't-miss program by a renowned author. Come. Bring your friends, and share a delightful afternoon with Melanie Rehak. ~ **Arlene Onnembo, Chair of Education & Libraries**



When, In the Course of Human Events...

On Wednesday, Nov 12, 2025, at 1:30 PM, the Arts Performing program will be in celebration of America's 250th. We will host a live, interactive reading of The Declaration of Independence at our clubhouse. Mark your calendars! Plan on joining us! More details to come!

~ **Mary Sellitto-Curcio, Chair of Arts Performing**

Spotlight Series: Marie Tuosto & Joanne Davey

In this issue of The Bulletin, we are continuing our Spotlight series, and are delighted to feature two, long-time members—Marie Tuosto & Joanne Davey—who have kept our Telephone Committee active, alive and well-connected throughout the years.



Though email has become the preferred communication method for the majority of our members, several of our older members still prefer a telephone call, and Marie and Joanne are happy to comply. In the past, the Telephone Committee served as the heart of the Club's communication network, and dozens of members served as captains, lieutenants and "foot soldiers," relating information several times a week about Club events and activities to several hundred members. Both Marie and Joanne served as captains for many years, and though the pace and number of calls have subsided considerably, they still enjoy talking with members "the old-fashioned way," and we are so fortunate to have them!



Historical Nugget: Mrs. Ezra DeForest: A WCUM Founder & Longtime Treasurer

On October 4, 2025, the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair will be 125 years old. During this quasiquicentennial year, I will be writing about the founders of our club. Given our current economic times, it is appropriate to begin this article series with the DeForests. Mrs. Ezra DeForest (Mary Gordon Wilbur), was born on August 25, 1854, in Boston, Massachusetts, the daughter of Dr. Joshua G. Wilbur, a former Civil War surgeon, and Martha E. Plummer Wilbur. She served 25 years as WCUM Treasurer until stepping down in 1926 to be succeeded by Mrs. William H. Areson. Some interesting WCUM club financial trivia from the 1924 - 1925 Treasurer's Report ... Electricity & Gas: \$360.77 (club year); Heating (Coal): \$1, 601.12 (club year); Insurance: \$3, 339.23 (club year); Taxes & Assessments: \$1, 299.20 (club year); Telephone: \$88.03 (club year); Montclair Bureau of Water Supply: \$34.78 (club year).

In 1880 Mary married Colonel Ezra DeForest. Her husband was born February 7, 1851, in Bridgeport, Connecticut. Colonel DeForest served with distinction for 25 years in the 23rd Regiment of the NY National Guard, and was honorably discharged in April 1898. For many years he was a Trustee of the Penn Mutual (insurance) Association.

In the latter 1880s the DeForest family moved from Brooklyn, NY, to Montclair to live on property purchased by her father as the family summer residence. The DeForest home was located at 465 Valley Road which in 1925 included 8 acres bounded by Valley Rd, Northview Ave, Park St & Gordonhurst Ave. This house was adjacent to the former 1685 "Dutch" homestead (no longer extant). Joseph Sigler is reputed to have purchased the 1685 land for 10 cows and 3 horses. The DeForests settled into community life with Colonel DeForest being elected as a Trustee of the Christian Union Congregation Church in 1899.

On April 5, 1921, Colonel DeForest died by suicide (jumped from 3rd floor window) at his Montclair home. The Rev. Jay T. Stocking presided at his funeral, and spoke eloquently about Ezra's gentleness, kind spirit, and his uprightness. Penn Mutual colleagues and others spoke well of him, including his old-school manners. Family mentioned that he was mentally challenged by health problems and a bad business venture. Mrs. DeForest died at her home on November 20, 1944, aged 90 years. She was survived by two daughters, Miss Helen DeForest and Mrs. Charles E. Cole of Montclair, and four grandchildren. ~ **Pat Piermatti, Historian**

Sources for this article: The Montclair Times in the [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) database and the [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) database.

Corrections to the November Calendar:

Please make note of the following date corrections to the calendar in the back of your 2025-2026 Yearbook (aka "Blue Book" or "Directory") after you receive it at the Opening Luncheon:

Nov **3** - Board Meeting
Nov **5** - Education & Libraries Program
Nov **12** - Arts Performing Program
Nov **19** - Arts & Culture Program

Did You Know...?

MEDICARE OPEN ENROLLMENT

October marks the beginning of Open Enrollment for those whose medical benefits are provided through the Medicare program. If you have questions or concerns about your medical coverage The [State Health Insurance Assistance Program \(SHIP\)](#) in Essex County, New Jersey, provides free, objective, and confidential help to Medicare beneficiaries with questions or problems about their health insurance, including Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage plans, Part D, and long-term care insurance. The Essex County Division of Senior Services is the primary point of contact for services related to seniors and adults with disabilities, but SHIP counselors are available throughout the county and also offer virtual services.

Key Points about SHIP in Essex County:

- **Free and Objective Help:**

SHIP counselors do not sell or recommend specific insurance products, agents, or companies.

- **Wide Range of Information:**

SHIP counselors assist with questions about Medicare, Medigap, Medicare Advantage, Part D, and long-term care insurance.

- **Community Access:**

SHIP counselors are available at various locations throughout Essex County, including libraries and community centers.

To find specific location information or contact information, call the New Jersey SHIP office: 1-800-678-SHIP (7447).

NJSFWC News

Report Writing Workshop

Register for an in-person or Zoom Report Writing workshop on Tuesday, Sept 16, 10 AM to 11:30 am, or on Tuesday, Sept 23, 10 AM to 11:30 am, OR Zoom Only 7 PM to 8:30 PM. Workshop is open to all members, and all of your questions will be answered!

Liberty District Fall Council Meeting

The Liberty District Fall Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept 23, at the Henrietta Benstead Senior Citizen Center in Kearny. Registration is at 6 PM. Details for speakers will be sent via email when finalized. Contact Vivien Finn to sign up.

NJSFWC State Fall Conference

The NJSFWC State Fall Conference will take place on Monday, October 20, at the Lobster Shanty in Point Pleasant. Registration begins at 9:30 AM with coffee and breakfast treats. The meeting begins at 10:30 AM. The cost is \$60 with a choice of Chicken Florentine, Broiled Seafood, or Penne Vodka for lunch. If you are interested in attending, please call me, or send a check to the Club's office. Deadline for registration is Friday, September 26. - **Vivien Finn**

NJSFWC eConnection

The NJSFWC has a weekly email newsletter called the "eConnection." If you would like to be on the mailing list to receive this fact-filled newsletter email your name and email address to: njsfwc@njsfwc.org. Be sure to mention you're a member of the WCUM!

125TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

OCTOBER 1, 2025 - 1:30 PM



Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at no charge.

Reservations due by Monday, September 29, latest!**OPENING LUNCHEON**

OCTOBER 8, 2025 - NOON

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at **\$42** per person.

I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation of: \$ _____

Reservations due by Thursday, October 2nd, latest!

Make check payable to WCUM. Mail to: 200 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

**BENEFIT LUNCHEON**

OCTOBER 22, 2025 - NOON

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at **\$40** per person.

I cannot attend, but would like to make a donation of: \$ _____

Reservations due by Wednesday, Oct 15, latest!

Make check payable to WCUM. Mail to: 200 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043



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