



THE BULLETIN

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



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 *Happy New Year!*
- 4 No Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 9 MONDAY GAMES, 12:00pm
- 11 HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY, Business Meeting, 1:30pm
- 16 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- 16 NJSFWC Liberty District Day of Service at WCUM
- 18 ARTS & CULTURE, 1:30pm
- 19 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 24 NJSFWC Liberty District Council Meeting
- 25 Program TBA by email and/or phone call
- 30 Board Meeting, 10:00am

FEBRUARY

- 1 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH Workshop, Business Meeting, 1:30pm
- 6 MONDAY GAMES, 12:00pm
- 8 GOULASH LUNCHEON for NJSFWC SSP Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, 12:00pm
- 14 *Happy Valentine's Day!*
- 15 HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 20 *President's Day!*
- 22 ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM, 1:30pm

OUR CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

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

After an absence of three years, it was nice to be back at the Club among friends. Many thanks to Sylvia Contessa and Carla Helb who Co-Chaired a successful Benefit Luncheon in November 2022. Through their hard work and the support of our members, we were able to send \$1,270 to both the Human Needs Pantry and MESH. Our Annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show was very prosperous; it yielded \$11,002 for our Club and our Philanthropic Charities.

Our Christmas Tea was both fun and fruitful thanks to Chairman Janet Oscar and her committee. Thanks to our members generosity at the Tea, \$505 was donated to our adopted family of five. Cyndee Rowan, CEO Chairman, collected the money, purchased the gifts and delivered them to a very happy family. One of the highlights of the afternoon was the presentation of a painting done by the late Wanda Kucinski by her cousin Lorraine Kucinski. Wanda was a long-time member of the Club and won many awards at our Achievement Days. The framed water color of Iris will be hung in the Lounge.

We look forward to seeing you at our Hodge Podge Party on January 11th and our Day of Service on January 16th. Details are in the Bulletin. May the New Year bring each of you Good Health and Happiness!

Fondly,
Vivien & Trautie

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SPOTLIGHT SERIES FEATURING HEATHER ZISES

For this issue of The Bulletin, we are pleased to introduce Spotlight Series, a new column which will highlight a member of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM). This initiative is an effort made by the Membership Committee for club members to learn more about each other, grow our membership and support camaraderie amongst our members. For this issue, it is a pleasure to feature Heather Zises.

We would like to showcase the creative talents of Heather Zises, the new editor of our newsletter. Heather joined our club last year as a Professional Member. She is an accomplished marketing executive, curator and writer with a passion for promoting equality and social change.

A resident of Upper Montclair, Heather is founder of **Avril Media Group**, a boutique communications firm where she provides public relations and marketing strategies for estate sale companies, law firms, politicians, film companies, television programs, musicians and visual artists. In July of 2022, Heather was featured in *Marquis Who's Who* for excellence in Public Relations, Media and The Arts.

Heather is the Marketing Director for The Magnusson Group, New Jersey's luxury estate sale, auction and appraisal firm based in Morristown. Additionally, Heather is a Founding Member of Ninth Street Collective, where she brings her marketing expertise to artists through educational workshops and one-on-one consultations.

Among her career highlights is Heather's multi-award-winning book, **50 Contemporary Women Artists** (Schiffer), which is available at leading art institutions, university libraries and boutique hotels. Her book was recently acquired by The MC Hotel here in Montclair, where it will be part of the "rotating library" in each of the guest rooms, as well as in the main lobby. If you would like to purchase a signed copy of Heather's book, please email your request to avrilmediagroup@gmail.com

Raised in Boston, Heather received her MA in Contemporary Art and Connoisseurship from Christie's Education and her BA in English from Cornell University.

We are thrilled to count Heather as a member of our organization, as she continues to share her time, talent and expertise with WCUM!

Barbara A. Davey
Membership Chair



50
**CONTEMPORARY
WOMEN ARTISTS**

JOHN GOSSLEE & HEATHER ZISES, EDITORS
FOREWORD BY ELIZABETH SACKLER

GAME DAY

MONDAY JANUARY 9, 12:00-3:00PM

Monday Game Day resumes January 9, 12:00-3:00pm. Coffee, tea, and cookies provided. \$3 per person. Bring friends and any games you would like to play. We may have a jigsaw puzzle, or bring your own that we will wrap up each month and bring out for the next month. Celia McAlliter will run January's program on behalf of Linda Kenyon.

Linda Kenyon

Monday Games Chair

HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11, 1:30PM

Our Hodge Podge Holiday Party will be held at the Club on Wednesday, January 11, 1:30pm. This event is an opportunity to get together and celebrate birthdays and year-round holidays in one afternoon. To make it very special, you have to attend! Please bring a beautifully wrapped gift (minimum value \$15.00) to be auctioned, while we have cake and coffee/tea. Tables will be decorated in different holiday themes with special cakes, candy, favors, etc. Seating will be at random, inviting an organic way to socialize with other members. Send in the reservation form and/or call the office to reserve a seat. Please do not miss it! It is an afternoon filled with enjoyment, laughter, and good company, a wonderful way to blow away the winter blues.

Janet Oscar

Ways and Means Chair

DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY JANUARY 16, 10:00AM

Please join us on Monday, January 16th, for the NJSFWC Day of Service. WCUM will be the host for the Liberty District Clubs and our own club member, JoAnn Aponte, is serving as the District Chair. The beneficiary of the day is the Community Food Bank of NJ. Clubs from all across the state will be filling bags with food to benefit those in need.

Our Club will be filling two types of bags; Healthy Lifestyle Meal in a Bag and Dinner in a Bag. The cost of each completed bag is approximately \$20.00. If you would like to help, please send any small donation to the club and we will purchase the items. If you have any questions, please contact Vivien at vfinn89@verizon.net. We hope to see you at 10 am on the 16th to help assemble the bags. Thanks so much!

Vivien & Trautie

Co-Presidents

VALENTINES FOR VETERANS

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 1, 1:30PM

Please join us to write thank you 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 Valentine's Day. We have cards and candy please bring a pair of socks for Men or Women.

Cyndee Rowan & Fay Conley

Civic Engagement & Outreach Co-Chairs



“OLD BAGS” GOULASH LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT NJSFWC SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 12:00PM

Please plan to attend this benefit luncheon to support the NJSFWC Special State Project, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF). The ECF is committed to being a beacon of light for New Jersey families facing pediatric cancer. Through trained professionals and dedicated volunteers, ECF provides a variety of free supportive services to help families replace fear with hope and confusion with balance.

Enjoy a delicious homemade goulash luncheon accompanied by rice, salad and punch, and for dessert, our homemade rum-raisin ice cream. Yum! We are bringing back our celebrated “old bags” sale, consisting of old handbags and purses, all of which are in great condition/gently used. If you did a ‘pandemic cleanse’ of your closets in the last few years, or feel like embracing the Marie Kondo approach, this is your chance to offload collections of old/unused hand bags for a very worthy cause! Please invite your husbands, friends, neighbors, etc, to support this project. Price is \$35.00 per person. If you are unable to attend, but wish to have a take-out portion (please bring containers) for \$15.00, or make a donation, please mark accordingly on the reservation form. We hope to see you all on February 8th!



The Goulash Lunch Committee



February is
Heart Health
Awareness Month



HEART MONTH PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1:30PM

February is Heart Month! Please wear red to all club programs this month. We will have a special event on heart health on the 15th. Details will be sent by e-mail and phone calls. Please plan to attend this event.

ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 1:30PM

The Arts Performing Committee is calling on all club members to participate in the Arts Performing Program on February 22nd, either by recounting a funny story, singing a song, reading an essay or a poem, or participating in a skit. This would be a rehearsal to later take part in the NJSFWC Liberty District Arts Performing Day, scheduled for Thursday March 9, when all clubs from the District present different kinds of entertainment. Please let Vivien (973-857-2039) or Trautie (973-783-8523) know of your interest in participating.

HISTORICAL NUGGET:

“100 YEARS AGO: CHRISTMAS ACITIVITIES AT WCUM”

As I am writing this column in early December, I thought a look back to 1922 and Christmas events at our Club might be of interest. Montclair Times articles within the newspapers.com database provided my research material.

On Wednesday afternoon, November 22, 1922 “La Belle Maison” fair opened at the Christian Union Congregational Church on Cooper Avenue. This 3 day fair offered visitors decorated rooms: a lady’s boudoir, a kitchen, and an attic room. Each room had WCUM members in appropriate dress to give historical interpretations and to act as salespersons of the Christmas gifts offered for sale. Tea and refreshments were provided in a central location. From this early Holly Berry predecessor, WCUM netted \$4,700.00 which was added to the new club house fund.

In mid-December 1922, Girls’ Club members participated in exhibits of 100 handmade dolls at both the Bellevue Theatre building and at I. Seymour Crane’s store. These dolls were made to be Christmas gifts. A quote from the Saturday, December 9, 1922 issue of the Montclair Times says much ... “Mothers cannot but take pride in the handiwork of these daughters ... of High School age ... have found time and pleasure in making ... exquisite gifts to gladden the hearts of children this Christmastide....”

These High School girls later celebrated at a Christmas dance held on December 22 at the Commonwealth Club Hall. WCUM Madrigal Singers gave a December 1922 concert at the Montclair Women’s Club. Quoting from the Saturday, December 23, 1922 issue of the Montclair Times, “... singers, under the direction of ... Mrs. E.W. Hellig, evidenced careful training and sincere musical feeling ... the Christmas carols ... were characterized by delightful smoothness, verve of execution and a gratifying sense of tonal values.”

Another historical note concerns the Social Service Committee of WCUM, which on Saturday, December 23, 1922 set up tables, from 8:30 am to 6:30 pm, by the community trees in Upper Montclair and Watchung Plaza, for gifts of groceries, fruits, vegetables and jellies to be donated to town charities. Lastly, at 7:15 pm on Christmas Eve, the chimes of St. James church were played, followed by carol singing at 7:30 pm around the Watchung Plaza and St. James community trees. A Montclair Times article noted “Afterwards bands of singers will go about the North End of the town to sing to the sick, and before the homes where lighted candles are displayed.”

Best Wishes,
Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A warm welcome is extended to four new members: Roberta A. Rohleder, Wendy Lacey, Florence Sinofsky and Reine Williams. Roberta Rohleder is a resident of Nutley, and has expressed interest in the Book Discussion Group and the Education and Libraries area. Her email is r.roberta8@verizon.net. Wendy Lacey is a resident of Upper Montclair, and has expressed in the Arts and Culture Committee and Civic Engagement and Outreach. Her email is teamlacey@aol.com. Florence Sinofsky is a resident of Montclair and is interested in Advocates for Children / Domestic Violence; Arts and Culture; Book Discussion Group; Health and Wellness; Holly Berry Craft Show; and the Needlework Group. Her email is florencesinofsky@aol.com. Reine Williams is a resident of Clifton, and is interested in Arts and Culture; Arts Performing; Environment; Health and Wellness; and Holly Berry Craft Show. Her email is reimance41@optimum.net. Please join us in welcoming these new voices to our Club!

Barbara A. Davey
Membership Chair

THANK YOU

Thank you to Janet Oscar and the Oscar family for opening up their beautiful home to the attendees at the Cooking Demonstration Program in November 2022. We shared conversation, information and sampled everything from Soup to Nuts!

Thank you,
Dorothy Meissner, Arts & Culture

FEDERATION NEWS

As the Chairman of the NJSFWC Liberty District ENVIRONMENT COMMUNITY SERVICE, I would like to remind you that the Liberty District Achievement Day will be held at WCUM on March 24th, 2023, when club members enter a variety of Artistic Designs and Houseplants to compete with members of all Liberty District Clubs. I would like to urge our club's talented members do consider entering items, either under Artistic Designs, where you may choose from 19 different pieces of flower arrangements, etc. and/or under Houseplants - 15 varieties. The outline of these entries will be available at the club in January. For additional information please call me 973-783-8523, Trautie.

FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

The Club's Financial Statements were audited and are at the club members' disposal. Please talk to Trautie Becker or Diane Esty if you wish to review them.

A reminder to our members that the following expenses are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law:

- * Club dues
- * Cash donations to fundraisers, memorials, etc
- * Value of in-kind donations (jewelry to Tiffany Corner, items for Flea Market, raffle items, etc)
- * Travel to and from club events or service projects (14 cents a mile)
- * A portion of fundraiser luncheon tickets (usually \$5.00 to \$15.00 per ticket)

Thank you,
Trautie Becker & Diane Esty, Finance Committee

HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 11, 1:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ COMPLIMENTARY SEATS. RESERVATIONS CLOSE JANUARY 4.

PLEASE BRING A \$15 GIFT.

"OLD BAGS" GOULASH LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 8, 12:00PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS AT \$35 PER PERSON. TAKE-OUT _____ \$15 EACH.

INCOME TAX DEDUCTIBLE \$15 OF \$35. RESERVATIONS CLOSE FEBRUARY 2ND.

I WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TO ECF OF \$ _____ (WHOLE TAX DEDUCTIBLE)

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

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