



THE BULLETIN

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

CELEBRATING OUR 125TH YEAR!

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER/JANUARY 2025-2026



CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2025

- 1 - Holly Berry Show: 10 AM - 5 PM
- 2 - Holly Berry Show: 11AM - 4 PM
- 2 - *Daylight Savings Ends*
- 5 - Educ & Libraries Prog - 1:30 PM
- 9-15 - NJSFWC Membership Week
- 10 - **Board Meeting 10 AM**
- 10 - Decorate the Club
- 11 - Veterans' Day
- 12 - Arts Performing Prog (w/Business Meeting) - 1:30 PM
- 13 & 15 - NJSFWC Open House
- 19 - Arts & Culture Prog - 1:30 PM
- 20 - Book Discussion - 1:30 PM
- 26 - NO MEETING
- 20 - **Happy Thanksgiving!**

DECEMBER 2025

- 1 - **Board Meeting - 10 AM**
- 3 - *To be announced...*
- 4 - GFWC, DC Open House
- 10 - Christmas Tea - Noon
(w/Business Meeting)
- 14-22 **Hanukkah**
- 17 - NO MEETING
- 21 - *First Day of Winter!*
- 24 - NO MEETING
- 25 - **Merry Christmas!**

JANUARY 2026

- 1 - **Happy New Year!**
- 7 - NO MEETING
- 12 - **Board Meeting - 10 AM**
(w/Report Writing)
- 14 - Hodge Podge Party (w/Business Mtg) - 1:30 PM
- 15 - Book Discussion - 1:30 PM
- 19 - **Marting Luther King Day**
- 21 - *To be announced...*
- 27 - NJSFWC Liberty Dist Council Meeting & Program Assistance
- 28 - Civic Engagement & Outreach Workshop - 1:30 PM

Editor - Sarah Ross

Our President's Message

Dear Members,

Our Club year kicked off beautifully with the 125th Anniversary Celebration of The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. The Club was founded on October 4, 1900. Thank you to everyone who attended this milestone celebration. Thank you Janet Oscar for chairing a delightful Opening Luncheon. It was a wonderful afternoon.



Thank you to everyone who attended the Benefit Luncheon. Your support and donations were appreciated by Human Needs Food Pantry and Montclair Emergency Services for Hope (MESH)—two nonprofits in our community, and worthy causes. Thank you to our co-chairs, Caroline Johnson and Barbara Hyland. A special thank you to Trautie Becker for planning and preparing a delicious lunch.

Our annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show will be November 1st and 2nd. This is a great way to begin your holiday shopping! Please stop by with friends and family to shop, and enjoy lunch or a sweet treat in the Holly Berry Café.

On November 5th, Education & Libraries is hosting a wonderful program. Author Melanie Rehak will be discussing her book, *"Girl Sleuth: Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her."* Please join us at 1:30 PM for a fun, informative afternoon.

December 10th will be our annual Christmas Tea. This is a Club tradition you won't want to miss. The afternoon is sure to put you in the holiday spirit.

Have a Blessed Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Enjoy time with family and friends. I look forward to seeing you next year for all of the events planned in the coming months.

~ Cyndee

Follow Us!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/WCUM1900

Instagram: www.instagram.com/womansclubuppermontclair/

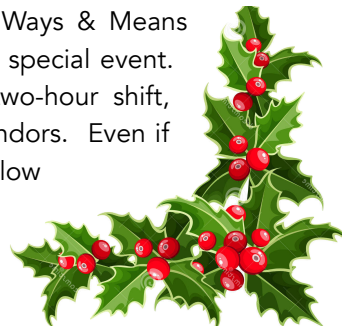
LinkedIn:

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

Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show

Saturday, Nov 1, 10 AM - 5 PM | Sunday, Nov 2, 11 AM - 4 PM

As the Club's major fundraiser we need your support! All members are on the Ways & Means Committee, and a dedicated group of volunteers work year-round preparing for this special event. We encourage everyone to participate, whether it's through volunteering for a two-hour shift, enjoying a cup of coffee in the Café, or shopping for holiday gifts from our many vendors. Even if you haven't attended before, this is the perfect opportunity to get involved, meet fellow members and contribute to our community. If you're able to volunteer please contact Trautie Becker, or simply stop by and say hello! *Ways to Support: Shop ~ Bake or Cook for the Café ~ Spread the Word to Friends and Family! ~ Thank you!*
The Holly Berry Committee



Holly Berry Café

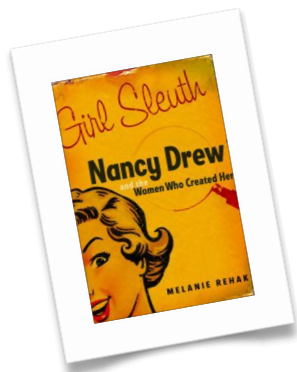
Saturday, Nov 1, 10 AM - 5 PM | Sunday, Nov 2, 11 AM - 4 PM



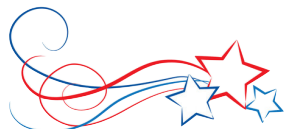
The Berry Patch Café is open during the hours of the Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show. The Cafe will provide bagels, croissants, and coffee cake for breakfast. Lunch includes homemade vegetable soup, quiche, meatball sandwiches, hot dogs, and chicken salad sandwiches. There will be many homemade desserts to munch on as well as to take home. All proceeds for the Cafe will benefit the WCUM's philanthropic charities. Thank you! ~ **Vivien Finn**,

Education & Libraries Program

Wednesday, Nov 5, 2025 - 1:30 PM

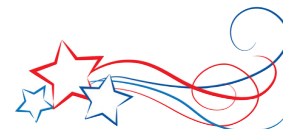


The Education & Libraries Department is sponsoring the program, **"Nancy Drew. Female Super Sleuth."** We are privileged to host Melanie Rehak, author of the New York Times bestseller, and Chicago Tribune winner of the Best Book of the Year award for her book, *"Nancy Drew and the Women Who Created Her."* 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



Arts Performing Program

Wednesday, November 12, 2025 - 1:30 PM



Join in the celebration of the 250th anniversary of founding of the United States of America with a live, interactive reading of The Declaration of Independence with Thomas Winslow, Park Ranger and Education Specialist with the National Park Service in Morristown, NJ. He will be assisted by Rosemary Hilbert, Administrator at the Washington Association of New Jersey. ~ **Mary Sellito-Curcio**, **Chair of Arts Performing**

Arts & Culture Program

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 - 1:30 PM

The Arts & Culture Committee is pleased to announce our November program will again feature artist Voyo Woo, who came last year, and gave us an amazing hands-on project. What will she be up to this time? Come to the program to find out! Looking forward to seeing everyone! ~ **Carla Helb, Arts & Culture Chair**



Book Discussion Group

Thursday, November 20, 2025 - 1:30 PM



The November book will be decided after the October 16 discussion. The book for the January 15 discussion will also be chosen at the November group meeting. Everyone is welcome to attend regardless of whether or not you have read the book. Hear what your fellow readers have to say about the book they've just read. ~ **Barbara Davey, Moderator**

Ways & Means Christmas Tea

Wednesday, December 10, 2025 - Noon

Please join us to celebrate the start of the holiday season with a lovely Christmas Tea. As in the past members volunteer to hostess a table, bringing in their own china and table decorations. You will be served an assortment of tea sandwiches made by a team of "Sandwich Elves," followed by dessert. To make sure there is enough food and seating, your paid reservation must be made by Wednesday, December 3, using the reservation coupon at the back of this Bulletin. The cost is \$32 per person. I look forward to seeing you there! ~ **Sarah Ross, Ways & Means Chair**



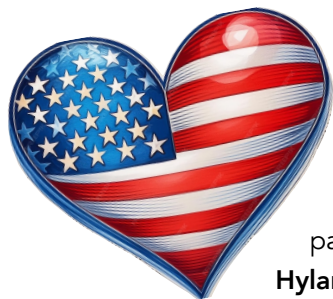
Hodge Podge Party

Wednesday, January 14, 2026 - 1:30 PM



Come celebrate a year's worth of holidays in just one afternoon! Volunteer hostesses will decorate their tables with holiday themes—Halloween, Forth of July, Easter, Thanksgiving, Mardi Gras or St. Patrick's Day—and provide dessert for their table. Please come, and bring a wrapped gift with a minimum value of \$20. It will be auctioned off while we enjoy our "holiday" treats. The proceeds from the auction will be used for an upcoming project at the Club. There is no cost for this event, however, your reservation is a must in order to accommodate all who wish to attend. Please send in the reservation form at the back of this Bulletin. Reservation deadline is Wednesday, January 7. You'll want to join in on this afternoon of bidding, laughter and good company! ~ **Sarah Ross, Ways & Means Chair**





Civic Engagement & Outreach Workshop

Wednesday, January 28, 2026 - 1:30 PM

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 Valentine's Day. We have cards and candy, please bring a pair of socks for Men or Women. Thank you! ~ **Caroline Johnson, CEO Chair & Barbara Hyland, CEO Vice Chair**

Membership News

Please join me in welcoming the following new members!

Lisa Petruzzelli (Professional Member) is a resident of Fairfield. She is interested in the Arts & Culture Committee, Book Discussion Group, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Environment, and the Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show.

Sanum Khan (Professional Member) is a resident of Bergenfield. She is interested in the Arts & Culture Committee, Civic Engagement & Outreach, the Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show, and Ways & Means. ~ **Barbara Davey, Membership Chair**



Spotlight Series: Arlene Onnembo

In this issue of The Bulletin, we continue our Spotlight series, and are delighted to feature one of our esteemed board members—Arlene Onnembo.

If any of our members have ever attended a program sponsored by our Education and Libraries Committee, you've witnessed first-hand the care, diligence and expertise that create such memorable experiences. Whether it's listening to an historical reenactment of the woman behind the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge, or participating in a forensic experiment as demonstrated by our own Caroline Johnson, Arlene, as chairman has organized these state-of-the-art presentations for our members through this committee. Recently, she has also lent her expertise to the Nominating Committee, and we are so fortunate to have her on our board! ~ **Barbara Davey, Membership Chair**

Historical Nugget: Mrs. Horace W. Calef - WCUM Founder

Continuing our quasiquicentennial (125 years) celebration of The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair founders, I would now like to highlight Mrs. Horace W. Calef. On August 2, 1872, Emily Howells married Horace Webster Calef at the home of her brother in Flushing, Long Island, NY. Mr. Calef was born in 1842 and became an importer/exporter, and a member of the New York Produce Exchange. Today gambling is pervasive, and either avoided by some, or blessed by those who want the tax revenues. In 1900 an embezzler, a Mr. Deering, stole \$4,000 from Mr. Calef. The stolen funds were presumed to be needed to cover Mr. Deering's gambling debts.

During the first decade of the 20th Century, many of The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair members were active Literary Department members. As one, Mrs. Emily Howells Calef often hosted meetings at her home at 217 Lorraine Avenue. On Thursday morning April 13, 1905, a meeting at her home entertained a presentation and discussion of "The English Drama After Shakespeare." In late January 1906, another Literary Department meeting at Mrs. Calef's home concerned the "Development of the English Novel."

One morning in mid December of 1921, Mr. Calef of 32 Oakwood Avenue, thought he was going to be late to catch the 8:17 a.m. Erie Railroad train at the Bellevue Avenue station. He began running, and at about 100 feet from the station fell dead of a heart attack, which was later confirmed by the Deputy County Physician. Horace Webster Calef is buried at Mt. Hebron Cemetery.

In early February 1926, Mrs. Calef, 32 Oakwood Avenue, died. She had been a resident of Montclair for 31 years. The Rev. Robert W. Trenbath, Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, conducted the funeral service at her home on February 10, 1926. Mrs. Calef is buried at Mt. Hebron Cemetery. ~ **Pat Piermatti, Historian**

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

REMINDER:**Corrections to the November 2025 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")

Nov **1** & **2** - Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show

November **5** - Education & Libraries Program

Nov **10** - Board Meeting

Nov **12** - Arts Performing Program

Nov **19** - Arts & Culture Program

Nov **20** - Book Discussion

Our 125th Anniversary Celebration!

A million "Thank You's" to Cyndee Rowan and Trautie Becker for all of their hard work putting together this milestone marker for The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. All who attended experienced the warmth and welcome of our Club, and that is thanks to *you!* Photos courtesy of Sue Yu.



NJSFWC News

Membership Week

November 9-15, 2025

60th Anniversary Open House

Come celebrate the 60th Anniversary of our Headquarters Building at 55 Labor Center Way, New Brunswick, either Thursday, Nov 13, or Saturday, Nov 15, 2025. Limited space, so please register soon. This event is free, and we invite all members to attend. Please let us know which session you will be attending. To register email: openhouse@njsfwc.org.

Liberty District Council Meeting & Program Assistance

January 27, 2026

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!



WAYS & MEANS CHRISTMAS TEA

DECEMBER 10, 2025 - NOON

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at **\$32** per person.

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

Reservations due by Wednesday, December 3, latest!

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



HODGE PODGE PARTY

JANUARY 14, 2026 - NOON

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s). *There is no charge for this event.*

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

Reservations due by Wednesday, Jan 7, 2026, latest!

Send this reservation to the WCUM. Mail to: 200 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043



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