



THE BULLETIN

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



JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 *New Year's Day*
- 6 Board Meeting, 10am
- 15 Hodge Podge Holiday Party, Business Meeting, 1:30pm
- 16 Book Discussion Group, 1:30pm
- 20 *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day*
- 20 NJSFWC Liberty District Day of Service
- 28 NJSFWC Liberty District Council Meeting
- 29 Civic Engagement & Outreach Workshop

FEBRUARY

- 3 Board Meeting, 10am
- 5 Health & Wellness Program, 1:30pm
- 12 Valentine's Day Luncheon 12:00pm
- 14 *Valentine's Day*
- 17 *President's Day*
- 19 Arts Performing Program, 1:30pm
- 20 Book Discussion Group, 1:30pm
- 26 Education & Libraries Program, 1:30pm

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you well and that you enjoyed wonderful moments with family and friends during the holidays. As we step into the New Year, I am excited to see many of you at our weekly programs and scheduled events.

We have an exciting lineup of activities planned, including the Hodge Podge Party, Valentines for Veterans Workshop, Valentines Luncheon, Arts Performing Program, and The Goulash Luncheon, just to name a few. Please be sure to check the calendar to stay up to date!

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the Co-Chairs, Trautie Becker and Caroline Johnson, for their exceptional leadership at the Benefit Luncheon in October. It was a great success, allowing us to donate \$1,150 to both Montclair Emergency Services for Hope (MESH) and the Human Needs Food Pantry. Additionally, our annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show was tremendously successful, raising \$11,048 for our Club and our Philanthropic Charities. A huge thank you to all the members and volunteers who contributed to these achievements.

Our Christmas Tea was a delightful and festive afternoon, thanks to Chair Janet Oscar and her committee. This beloved Club tradition brought holiday cheer to us all.

Looking ahead, please mark your calendars for our Day of Service on January 20th. Details for this and all other events can be found in The Bulletin. May the New Year bring each of you good health and happiness.



Follow Us:

Facebook:

www.facebook.com/WCUM1900

Instagram: www.instagram.com/womansclubuppermontclair/

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

Fondly, Cyndee



SPOTLIGHT SERIES: CELIA McALLISTER

In this issue of The Bulletin, we are resuming our Spotlight Series which highlights a member of our Club, and we are delighted to feature Celia McAllister.

When Celia McAllister, was nominated to chair the Health and Wellness Committee, she brought with her a unique skillset which included problem-solving, computer expertise, customer service, hotel management, and a spirit of teamwork. A resident of North Arlington, she joined the Club in 2023, after raising two children, and having worked at Westinghouse Electric Corporation in Newark; St. Stephen's School in Kearny; Good Shepherd Academy in Nutley; and McAllister Contracting Company, LLC.



She received her bachelor's degree cum laude from Fairleigh University in Rutherford where she majored in business management, and minored in hotel and restaurant management. She enjoys socializing at the Club along with sharing common interests, learning new skills, and making a difference in helping others.

Thank you! Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

RECAP OF BERRY PATCH CAFE



Many thanks to Kathy Carney, Anita James, and the three girls from Lacordaire Academy who worked at the Café. The Café sold baked products that were made and donated by Carla Helb, Dorothy Meissner, Heather Zises, Rosemary DiTrani, Jeanne Scott, Kathy Carney, Beverly Rose, Phyllis Torianni, and Joanne Carratura. Thanks also to all members who bought items and had lunch with us. New items were added to the Lunch Menu this year which proved to be very popular.

The profit from the Café was \$1,343 (almost \$300 more than last year) and the money will be donated to our Philanthropic Charities.

Thank you! Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

HODGE PODGE HOLIDAY PARTY

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 15, 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, 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, First Vice President & Ways and Means Chair



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY JANUARY 16, 1:30PM, THURSDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1:30PM

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, January 16 at 1:30 pm (barring any weather-related emergency). Our book is ***The Dutch House***, a novel by Ann Patchett. Published in 2019, the book tells the story of siblings Danny and Maeve Conroy and their lives over five decades. It was a finalist for the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, and a shout-out to Caroline Johnson for her recommendation. February's book will be decided at our January meeting. Thank you! Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

NJSFWC DAY OF SERVICE

MONDAY JANUARY 20, 10:00AM

The NJSFWC Day of Service will be held on Monday, January 20th which is Martin Luther King Day and the National Day of Service. Clubs from the Liberty District will get together at our Clubhouse at 10 am. This year the items donated will be given to The Center For Family Services. WCUM has chosen Welcome Baskets which will be filled with household products and will be for the Domestic Violence Program. We are looking for as many of the following

items (all in new condition) to help the women: Dish Soap; Cleaning Supplies; Pots/Pans; Silverware; Towels; Sponges; Dust Buster; Dishes. Bedding. These items can be dropped off at the club prior to the event or brought that day. Don't want to shop? Mail or drop off a check and we will do the shopping. Hope to see as many of you who can assist that day. Let us not forget the victims of Domestic Violence!

Thank you! Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH: VALENTINES FOR VETS

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 29, 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! Caroline Johnson Chair & Coco Kenny Vice-Chair

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1:30PM

Join Us for an Insightful Health & Wellness Program on Food Sustainability with Guest Speaker Tucker Lynch, Trainer and Nutritional Coach, Montclair State University. Discover the crucial role of food sustainability in our lives and its impact on future generations. Lynch will explore how sustainable food production helps minimize environmental damage, preserves biodiversity, and ensures access to nutritious food. Learn how making sustainable dietary choices can enhance your health and well-being while also fostering a sense of personal responsibility toward our planet. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights into a healthier lifestyle and its environmental benefits.



Thank you! Celia McCallister, Health & Wellness Chair

LET'S GET MOVING!

As a followup to our Health & Wellness program, we are gathering information on your cardiovascular activities to better understand and support your health initiatives. Please share details of any activity that helps elevate your heart rate, such as walking, exercise classes, or gym workouts. This data will help us develop programs that combat heart disease and promote overall wellness.

Please provide the following information:

- Member Name
- Type of Exercise
- Number of Days Per Week
- Total Hours Per Week

Kindly submit your responses to the details below at your earliest convenience: memac230@gmail.com

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to a healthier lifestyle!

Celia McCallister, Health & Wellness Chair

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 12, 12:30PM

Please save the date for our annual W&M Valentine's Day Luncheon on Wednesday February 12th. 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 and Means Chair



ARTS PERFORMING

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 19, 1:30PM

Please save the date for our annual Arts Performing program. Arrangements are in the making and details will follow soon via email.

Thank you!

Mary Selitto-Curcio, Arts Performing Chair

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 26, 1:30PM



Have you ever wondered what forensics experts can tell you about you from your own handwriting? What do fingerprints reveal? What stories can be told from bone analysis? Caroline Johnson, a long time, now retired forensics teacher at Glen Ridge High School and former adjunct professor of forensics at William Paterson University will reveal these secrets to you in an exciting program "Forensics and You" at the WCUM Clubhouse on Wednesday, February 26 at 1:30 PM. You can discuss her findings during refreshments after the meeting. Don't miss this exciting meeting. You are in for a real treat!

Thank you! Arlene Onnembo, Education & Libraries Chair



SAVE THE DATE: GOULASH LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT NJSFWC SPECIAL STATE PROJECT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 12:00PM

Mark your calendars for our much-anticipated Goulash Luncheon on March 12th! Trautie will be back from Brazil to delight us once again in the Club kitchen. She'll be serving her signature beef goulash along with her delectable homemade rum raisin ice cream. Please join us for this special luncheon to support a very worthy cause, The New Jersey Children's Alliance. The menu will also include a tossed salad. The cost is \$38 per person. Kindly send your paid reservation by March 6th to secure your spot. We look forward to seeing you there and supporting a great cause together.

Thanks for your support! The Goulash Luncheon Committee

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Starting in January 2025, the Nominating Committee will begin to meet to discuss nominations for the 2025-2025 Board of Trustees. Please contact Committee members, Arlene Onnembo, 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 dmei1@verizon.net

Thank you!

Dorothy Meissner, Arts Performing Chair

HISTORICAL NUGGET: “DRAMA AND THE MONTCLAIR PLAYERS”

On Tuesday evening, January 13, 1925 George Kelly's play, "The Torch Bearers", was performed on the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair stage. This play which had a long run on Broadway a few years prior, included the leading actors Miss Louise Hawkes and Harvey Mansfield. Formed in 1916, the Montclair Players drama group strove to encourage dramatic literature reading and performance as a public good. At its founding in 1916, Mrs. Chauncey Marsh, chairman of the WCUM Literature Department served on the Montclair Players Producing Committee. The stage scenery and other properties for this 1925 production

remained in storage at WCUM. In the Fall of 1927 after the Montclair Players group had disbanded, said scenery and properties were donated to the WCUM Drama Department, chaired by Mrs. J.D. Cone, who also served on the Montclair Players Executive Committee. Over the years there were many dramatic and musical performances in the WCUM auditorium which could seat 1,000.

[My sources: Newspapers.com database; 1916 to 1927 articles from the Montclair Times]

Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary

NEWS & NOTES

The Arts and Culture Committee sponsored a delightful art event in November, which featured a conversation and presentation with club members Heather Zises and Jo Guscott. The gathering was well-attended, with 40 club members enjoying the festivities. Everyone is eagerly anticipating Jo's return at the end of March for a hands-on workshop. The highlight for many will be the opportunity to take their creations home. We look forward to welcoming you in March! To round out our Winter calendar, **Marietta Bartlett**--back by popular demand-- will present her **annual flower arranging demonstration** on **March 19th**.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Membership Chair, I would like to welcome the following members. They include: **Rose Kochenash, Joan Moriarty, Elizabeth Ruvo, and Donna Shelichach.**

Rose is a resident of Totowa, and has joined as an active member. She is interested in learning about all of our committees and may be reached at RKConsulting77@yahoo.com.

A resident of Montclair, **Joan** has joined as a professional member. She is interested in participating in Advocates for Children / Domestic Violence; Book Discussion Group; Education and Libraries; and Health and Wellness. She may be reached at joanmmoriarty@gmail.com.

Elizabeth "Liz", a resident of Upper Montclair, has joined as a professional member. She is interested in participating in Civic Engagement and Outreach and the Holly Berry Craft Show. She may be reached at lizruvo@gmail.com.

Donna is a resident of Totowa, and has joined as an active member. She is interested in learning about all of our committees. She may be reached at shelich@optonline.net.

Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

VALENTINE'S DAY LUNCHEON, FEBRUARY 5, 12:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS AT \$32 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE BY JANUARY 31.

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

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR
200 COOPER AVENUE
UPPER MONTCLAIR, NJ 07043-1813
973-744-9138
WOMANSClubNEW@AOL.COM
WWW.WOMANSClUBOFUPPERMONTCLAIR.ORG

THE BULLETIN
JANUARY/FEBRUARY EDITION 2025