



THE BULLETIN

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



MARCH/APRIL 2025 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

CALENDAR

MARCH

- 3 Board Meeting, 10am
- 3 Read Across America (after Board Meeting)
- 5 *Ash Wednesday*, No Meeting
- 12 Goulash Luncheon for SSP NJ Alliance for Children, 12pm
- 13 NJSFWC Liberty District Performing Arts Day
- 17 *St. Patrick's Day*
- 19 Environment Program, 1:30pm
- 20 *First Day of Spring*
- 20 Book Discussion Group, 1:30pm
- 26 Arts & Culture Program, 1:30pm
- 31 Board Meeting, 10am
- 31 Easter Baskets Workshop, after Board Meeting

APRIL

- 1 NJSFWC Liberty District Achievement Day
- 2 NJSFWC Liberty District Spring Conference
- 7 Board Meeting, 10am
- 9 Annual Meeting, New Members Tea 1:30pm
- 11/12 Grand Flea Market
- 12 *Passover begins at sundown*
- 16 No Meeting
- 17 Book Discussion Group, 1:30pm
- 18 *Good Friday*
- 20 *Easter*
- 22 *Earth Day*
- 23 Bunco Party, 12pm
- 30 Health & Wellness Program, 1:30pm

OUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Hopefully soon the cold days will be over and Spring brings us sunny, warm days. I look forward to seeing you at our Wednesday meetings for informative programs and fun events.

There are many activities planned including the Goulash Luncheon to benefit NJSFWC Special State Project. Marietta Bartlett will be joining us again to amaze us with her beautiful floral arrangements. Arts & Culture is hosting a hands-on art project with our own member Jo Guscott. In April, we look forward to our annual meeting and New Members Tea, Grand Flea Market and a Bunco Party. Details for these and all other events can be found in The Bulletin.

In January, fun was had by all at The Hodge Podge party. It was a festive afternoon with a benefit auction too. Thank you to Janet Oscar and all of the table hostesses. A special thank you to Club Members who gave donations/volunteered for Day of Service. Donations supported the Center For Family Services. They were very grateful.

Also plan to enter your arts & crafts, baked goods, plants/floral arrangements for the Liberty District Achievement Day which will held at our Clubhouse April 2nd. More information about this event has been previously sent to your emails.

Wishing you a Happy Spring and Happy Easter.

Fondly, Cyndee



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SPOTLIGHT SERIES: CAROLINE MCGOVERN JOHNSON

In this issue of The Bulletin, we are continuing our Spotlight Series which highlights a member of our Club, and we are delighted to feature Caroline McGovern Johnson.

Anyone who attended the February 26 program on forensic science can attest to the expertise, knowledge and skill of **Caroline McGovern Johnson**, who was the guest speaker. Caroline currently serves as Chairman of the Civic Engagement and Outreach Committee, and also participates on the Holly Berry Committee, Arts and Culture Committee, Arts Performing Committee, Education and Libraries Committee, Health and Wellness Committee, serves on the Benefit Luncheon, and participates in the Book Discussion Group. Caroline joined our club in 2023, and is the daughter-in-law of long-time member Barbara Johnson. A newly retired secondary education teacher, Caroline taught chemistry for 35 years at both Bloomfield and Glen Ridge high schools. She received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Seton Hall University where she majored in education with a concentration in chemistry. While her professional expertise is centered on the sciences, she also enjoys the creative arts such as baking, arts & crafts, and reading historical fiction. She is a dedicated member of the Book Discussion Group, where her scientific knowledge and educational experience always contributes to the discussion. A resident of Upper Montclair, she and her husband, Peter, have three daughters.



THE GOULASH LUNCHEON TO BENEFIT THE NJSFWC SPECIAL PROJECT

WEDNESDAY MARCH 12, 12:00PM

Trautie will be back from Brazil, and jumping right into the Club's kitchen to create her delicious beef goulash, tossed salad, and as if that wasn't enough, her homemade rum raisin ice cream! Please join in support for The New Jersey Children's Alliance, the NJSFWC's Special State Project. The cost per person is \$38. Please use the coupon in this Bulletin to send in your paid reservation by Wednesday, March 5. No walk-ins, please. We look forward to seeing you there to support a great cause together, and to welcome Trautie back too!

Thank you for your support, The Goulash Luncheon Committee



NJSFWC LIBERTY PERFORMING ARTS DAY

MARCH 13, 2025



Please join us for the annual Liberty District Performing Arts Day! The event will be held at the Belleville Senior Center, 125 Franklin Avenue, Belleville NJ 07109. Registration begins at 9:45am and the fee is \$5. Please bring a bagged lunch. Light refreshments will be served.

Thank you! Arts Performing Committee

DID SOMEONE SAY FLOWERS?

WEDNESDAY MARCH 19, 1:30PM

Marietta Bartlett Downing will be performing her “floral magic” at the Club by creating stunning arrangements while offering tips and fun stories. This is one of the Club’s most popular programs, and it is not to be missed. Will you be one of the lucky ones going home with a “Marietta Masterpiece” this year? Guests are encouraged to attend, and will pay just \$5 at the door. See you there!

Carylmead Eggleston, Environment Chair



BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY MARCH 20, 1:30PM, THURSDAY APRIL 17, 1:30PM

The March meeting of the Book Discussion Group will be held on Thursday, March 20 at 1:30 pm at the Clubhouse. Our selection is *The Stolen Queen*, the newest novel by Fiona Davis. Ms. Davis, a New York Times bestselling author of several historical fiction novels, sets her stories in iconic New York City buildings. This latest book features The Metropolitan Museum of Art. Everyone is welcome to attend -- regardless of whether or not you have read the book. For more information, please call Barbara Davey at 973-432-5282.

Thank you! Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

JO GUSCOTT PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

MARCH 26, 1:30PM,

The March meeting of Arts and Culture is honored to have Jo Guscott return to the Woman’s Club to present a hands on program on painting and printmaking. Each club member who is present will be able to actually work on their own print and bring it home! I’m sure this program will be very fun and a great learning experience for all who attend!! Looking forward to seeing you all!

Thank you! Carla Helb, Arts & Culture Chair



NJSFWC LIBERTY DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT DAY

WEDNESDAY APRIL 2, 9:00AM-11:00AM

Achievement Day will be held at our Clubhouse on April 2. It’s the day when club members enter a variety of items, either for Arts & Culture, Environment and/or Photography to compete with members of all Liberty District Clubs. The winners will go to the NJSFWC State Convention in May to compete with all New Jersey state clubs. Please start planning on all the items you might enter in these art, environment and photography competitions. There are lots of categories for you to choose from. You may enter one item from each category. The registration forms (which were sent out in an email on February 20) have to be sent to the respective District Chairs (names and addresses are on the bottom of the form) by March 19. *The items have to be delivered to the Clubhouse on April 2, 9 AM - 11 AM.* As Environment Chair of Liberty District, I would like to urge our Club’s talented members to consider entering items, either under Artistic Designs and/or Houseplants, where you may choose from 17 different pieces of flower arrangements, etc., or under Houseplants, 15 varieties. For any additional, information, please contact me via email WaltrautBecker@aol.com.

Thank you! Trautie Becker

NJSFWC SPRING CONFERENCE

THURSDAY APRIL 3

The Liberty District Spring Conference will be held at the Clubhouse on Thursday, April 3rd. NJSFWC President, Barbara McCloskey, will be the keynote speaker. Awards for the Achievement Day entries will be awarded as well Report Writing winners. Details will be emailed when finalized.

Thank you! Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary



ANNUAL NEW MEMBERS TEA

WEDNESDAY APRIL 9, 1:30PM

Please join us on Wednesday, April 9 at 1:30 pm as we honor long-time member JoAnn Aponte as she celebrates 50 years of membership in various clubs affiliated with the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs. We will also be saluting our new members who include: Kim Constantine, Rose Kochenash, Joan Moriarty, Donna Shelicbach, Sarah Ross and Elizabeth Ruvo.

Thank You! Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

GRAND FLEA MARKET

FRIDAY APRIL 11, 10AM-4PM | SATURDAY APRIL 12, 10AM-3PM

Have you started your spring cleaning? Do you have things you don't need anymore, but they are still in good condition? You can donate them to the Club's Flea Market! To donate items please bring them to the Club starting on Friday, April 4, 10 AM - 4 PM, when we will begin setting up. No more drop-off's after Wednesday, April 9! We could sure use your help setting things up and pricing items. If you have some time during the week before and during the Flea Market itself, come and help us set up! Just let Cyndee and Trautie know when you can lend a hand.

Thank you! Cyndee & Trautie, Flea Market Co-Chairs



BUNCO! BUNCO! BUNCO!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 23, 12:00PM

Come and invite your friends to join us on April 23 to have fun playing Bunco while enjoying each other's company! Don't know how to play? Not to worry! Bunco is very easy to learn, and you'll be playing like a pro in no time at all. Small prizes will be awarded to the winners. We hope to see you there!

Thank You! Bunco Day Committee

HEALTH & WELLNESS PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY APRIL 30, 1:30PM

Please mark your calendars for Wednesday, April 30 at 1:30 pm for an educational program sponsored by our Health and Wellness Committee. Representatives from the Alzheimer's New Jersey will deliver a special presentation entitled Understanding Memory Loss. In addition to understanding this medical condition, the program will also provide information to caregivers.

Thank You! Ceilia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair & Barbara Zingaro Vice-Chair

LET'S GET MOVING!

You will see that a "Let's Get Moving" Log is enclosed with this Bulletin. This follows up on my article last month about supporting your health initiatives. Please log in any walks you take, exercise classes, gym workouts or physical therapy! This data will help us develop programs that combat heart disease and promote overall wellness.

Thank you! Celia McAllister, Health and Wellness Chair



SAVE THE DATE: NJSFWC ANNUAL CONVENTION

The NJSFWC Convention will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino from Sunday, May 4 through Wednesday, May 7. International President, Suellen Brazil, will be in attendance and will be the keynote speaker on Tuesday night. There are many choices of Workshops to sign up for as well as guest speakers. Gold winners from Achievement Days from each District will be judged and awarded prizes. Cyndee Rowan has received the CALL to Convention and has all the details of each day. Hope that some of you will join us as we "Celebrate Good Times!"

Thank you! Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

CONGRATULATIONS, JOANN APONTE!

JoAnn Aponte will be honored by the NJSFWC for her years of services to various clubs within the Liberty District. This year marks her 50th anniversary of serving as a volunteer. While she has received many awards and recognitions throughout the years, perhaps the most prestigious was the Cecilia Gaines Holland Award, the highest honor bestowed upon a New Jersey Clubwoman. Named after the second president of the NJSFWC, the award is presented annually to one clubwoman who demonstrates her commitment by performing outstanding civic and volunteer work that extended above and beyond her service to her club. JoAnn received that award in 2011 when she was nominated by the Woman's Club of Maplewood, Liberty District where she was a member. Throughout the years, JoAnn has held many positions, served on numerous committees, but those closest to her heart are those dedicated to women, children and veterans. Thank you, JoAnn!



HISTORICAL NUGGET: “JOHN CHARLES THOMAS & MADELEINE BRARD 1925 RECITAL AT WCUM”

One hundred years ago, on January 6, 1925 at 8:15 p.m. the famous baritone, John Charles Thomas performed at our clubhouse in a joint recital with pianist Madeleine Brard, the prix d'honneur artist of the Paris Conservatory. This affair was the second in a series of entertainments given by WCUM to benefit the clubhouse building fund. The auditorium of the new clubhouse with its near perfect acoustics enhanced audience appreciation of Mr. Thomas's vocal range from falsetto notes to powerful lower tones.

Born September 6, 1891 in Meyersdale, PA, Thomas was a successful opera, operetta and concert baritone. His father was a Methodist minister of Welsh descent and his mother of German descent had been an amateur singer. Thomas studied at the Peabody Institute in Baltimore, spent some time in Europe improving his singing technique and in 1934 made his Metropolitan Opera debut playing Germont in Verdi's La Traviata. His performance at WCUM was well received by those fortunate enough to have navigated their way through bad traffic conditions. He died December 13, 1960 in Apple Valley, CA.

Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary

Sources for this article:

1. The Montclair Times in the newspapers.com database
2. Wikipedia article: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Charles_Thomas
3. YouTube link to John Charles Thomas, Baritone videos <https://www.youtube.com/>
4. Thomas made his Metropolitan Opera debut in 1934 playing the aging Germont and he sang the memorable aria, “Di Provenza il mar, il suol “ which can be heard at the following link found on the Medicine & Opera website administered by Neil Kurtzman:
<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qqn4xnihjd41cr22nx63w/Thomas-Di-Provenza-il-mar-il-suol.mp3?rlkey=v9yws0cycxked5c44lfk6j8r4&e=1&dl=0>
[playlist?list=PLAOFn7BQqIKCFVgVpXq3QyFA62LAs1fyD](https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qqn4xnihjd41cr22nx63w/Thomas-Di-Provenza-il-mar-il-suol.playlist?list=PLAOFn7BQqIKCFVgVpXq3QyFA62LAs1fyD)
5. The Medicine & Opera website by Neil Kurtzman includes a biography and Internet links and is found at:
<https://medicine-opera.com/2024/10/john-charles-thomas/>

MEMBERSHIP DUES

The annual membership dues notices have been mailed or personally delivered to all members last month. Please send your completed form, along with your check, to the office as soon as possible. If you did not receive your notice, please contact the office at 973-744-9138. If you have any questions on the various types of memberships, committees, or departments, please call Barbara Davey, Membership Chair at 973-432-5282.

Thank you! Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

GOULASH LUNCHEON, MARCH 12, 12:00PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS AT \$38 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE MARCH 5.

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

ANNUAL NEW MEMBERS TEA, APRIL 9, 1:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS. RESERVATIONS CLOSE APRIL 2.

BUNCO DAY, APRIL 23, 12:00PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ TICKETS. RESERVATIONS CLOSE APRIL 16.

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