



# THE BULLETIN

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



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

### CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 No Meeting
- 2-3 HOLLY BERRY, Set up all day
- 4 HOLLY BERRY, Sat. 10:00am-5:00pm
- 5 HOLLY BERRY, Sun. 11:00am-4:00pm
- 5 *Daylight Savings ends*
- 6 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 8 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH WORKSHOP, 1:30pm
- 11 *Veterans Day*
- 15 FUN DAY, 1:30pm
- 16 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 22 No Meeting
- 23 *Thanksgiving Day*
- 29 EDU. & LIBRARIES PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 30 NJSFWC Holiday Open House- Festival of Trees

#### DECEMBER

- 4 Board Meeting, 10:00am
- 4 Decorate Club for Christmas (after meeting)
- 6 No Meeting
- 6 GFWC, Washington DC, Open House
- 7 *Hanukkah begins at sundown*
- 13 W&M SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TEA & ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM, 12:00pm
- 20 No Meeting
- 21 *First Day of Winter*
- 21 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, *canceled*
- 25 *Christmas Day*
- 27 No Meeting

### BIRTHDAYS

#### NOVEMBER

- 1 Kathleen Carney
- 6 Jeanne Luliani
- 9 Wendy Lacey
- 17 Irene Cash
- 18 Arlene Onnembo
- 25 Karen Bell, JoAnn Carrtura, Carol Lundquist

#### DECEMBER

- 10 Holly Felber
- 18 Jennifer Cullen
- 19 Anita James
- 28 Fay Hogan Conley, Jeanne Scott
- 30 JoAnn Klimowicz
- 31 Sharon Onnembo

### OUR CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Our Club year has begun with the Opening Luncheon chaired by Janet Oscar. It was a wonderful afternoon, and so nice to see everyone. We also celebrated our 123rd Anniversary of community service.

We look forward to seeing you at the Benefit Luncheon on October 25th. If you are unable to attend, please consider sending a donation to the Club which will be given to Human Needs Food Pantry and MESH, two nonprofits in our community and a worthy cause.

Our annual Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show will be on November 4th & 5th. 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 at our Berry Cafe. Homemade baked goods prepared by some of our members will be available for purchase.

On December 13th we will host our annual Christmas Tea. This is a Club tradition you won't want to miss! There will be a musical performance provided by a local school. The afternoon is sure to put you in the Holiday Spirit.

We hope you have a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Happy Hanukkah, a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year! Enjoy time with family and friends. We look forward to seeing you next year, a full calendar of events has been planned.

Fondly,  
Trautie & Cyndee

## HOLLY BERRY CRAFT & GIFT SHOW

SET UP DAYS: NOVEMBER 2 & 3

SHOW DAYS: NOVEMBER 4, 10:00AM-5:00PM; NOVEMBER 5, 11:00AM-4:00PM

As this is the club's major fundraiser and every member of the club is a member of the Ways & Means Committee, we are asking for your support. A small core group of members work at home and at the club throughout the year in preparations for this event and many others volunteer a two-hour shift on the two days of the show. Many of our members have never come to this exciting fundraiser and we are appealing to you. Please come and either help or have a cup of coffee in the Cafe or shop for your Holiday gift giving at the many vendors who are in attendance. If you can volunteer, please call Trautie at 973-783-8523, or just show up and say hello to your fellow club members.

### Ways to Help:

- VOLUNTEER! SHOP! BAKE OR COOK FOR THE CAFÉ!
- SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

Thank you!  
The Holly Berry Committee



## BERRY PATCH CAFE

NOVEMBER 4, 10:00AM-5:00PM; NOVEMBER 5, 11:00AM-4:00PM



The Berry Patch Café is open during the hours of the Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show. Breakfast food includes bagels, fruit, coffee, tea and pastries. Lunch features home made soup, meatball sandwiches, hot dogs and quiche. Cake, cookies, pie, and various other treats are also available. All proceeds from the Café benefits our philanthropic charities. If you can help by either making a pot of soup (recipe available) or baking treats for purchase during Holly Berry or to take home and freeze for the Holidays, please contact me at vfinn89@verizon.net or at 973-204-0358.

Thank you!  
Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8, 1:30PM

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. In November we are also collecting food for the Human Needs Food Pantry, for Thanksgiving Day. Non-perishable food and free turkeys/hams when possible.

Thank you!  
Cyndee Rowan & Linda Kenyon, Committee Chairs



## FUN DAY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15, 1:30PM

An informal fun day is being planned for this day. Please be on the lookout for an e-mail or phone call that will follow with details on the program.

Thank you!

The Committee for a Fun Day

## BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1:30PM

The Book Discussion Group will meet on Thursday, November 16 at 1:30 pm at the Club House. Due to the printing deadline with the Bulletin, the title of the November book cannot be included at this time, as it will be selected at the October meeting. Please note that everyone is welcome to attend the November meeting, regardless of whether or not you have read the book. Our December meeting is canceled. For additional information, please contact Barbara Davey, 973-432-5282.

Thank you!

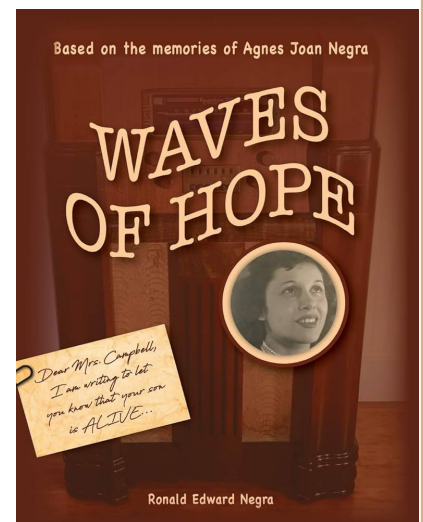
Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair

## EDUCATION & LIBRARIES PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 29, 1:30PM

This is a don't miss program! Our club is pleased to host author **Ron Negra** who will discuss his fascinating book, *Waves of Hope*. Negra's book tells the remarkable story of the author's mother, an inspiring young woman named Agnes Joan (Verdi) Negra and her heroic acts of kindness performed during World War 2. Imagine a time back in 1944 when Agnes sat at her short-wave radio each night listening to broadcasts in which our German enemies read names of American POW's they were holding. As a young bride and mother, her husband, August, had been wounded at The Battle of the Bulge and was missing in action. Yet, Agnes did more than just listen. She wrote down the names of the American POW's and wrote to the soldiers' families. Often, her letters were the first news to the families that their loved ones were still alive.

Ron and his mom, Agnes, have been interviewed and highlighted on CBS News NY as well as News of New Jersey. Copies of the book will be available for purchase and have autographed by the author at the presentation.



Thank you!

Arlene Onnembo, Education & Libraries Chair

## FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS OPEN HOUSE

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 30, 11AM-12:30PM OR 1:00PM-2:30PM

NJSFWC is hosting an open house on Thursday, November 30th from 11:00 am-12:30 pm or 1:00pm-2:30pm. The theme is Festival of Trees and trees and wreaths will be available for anyone to place a bid on them. All proceeds will benefit Headquarters. Light refreshments will be served. We will be carpooling from the club. Indicate your choice of time by contacting me at [vfinn89@verizon.net](mailto:vfinn89@verizon.net). It will be a lovely start to the Holiday Season!

Thank you!

Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

## W&M CHRISTMAS TEA & ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13

12:00PM: LUNCH

Please save the date for our W&M Christmas Tea & Arts Performing Program on Wednesday December 13th. The members on my committee will make Tea Sandwiches and Desserts. Entertainment is TBA. Cost is \$32 per person. Reservation deadline is December 7th. Payment must be included with the reservation form. Please call or email Janet Oscar with additional questions: [joscar@benefitnavigator.com](mailto:joscar@benefitnavigator.com) or (862) 215-0017.



Thank you!

Janet Oscar, First Vice President &  
Mary Sellitto- Curcio, Arts & Culture Committee

## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

As the Membership Chair, I would like to welcome our newest members. They include: **Kathleen Bennett** and **Colleen Kelley-Whitcombe**. Kathleen, a resident of Upper Montclair is an interior decorator and an historic preservationist. She has expressed interest in the Arts and Culture Committee, the Book Discussion Group, and Education and Libraries. She may be reached at [kbennett725@gmail.com](mailto:kbennett725@gmail.com). A professional member, Colleen is a resident of Upper Montclair. She is interested in the Arts and Culture Committee, the Book Discussion Group, fundraising, and the Health and Wellness Committee. She may be reached at [Ckwhitcombe@gmail.com](mailto:Ckwhitcombe@gmail.com). In addition, I would like to welcome back Maggie Gavin as a returning member. She is a resident of Upper Montclair, and may be reached at [maggiiegavin122@yahoo.com](mailto:maggiiegavin122@yahoo.com).

Thank you!

Barbara A. Davey, Membership Chair

## SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 'SPOTLIGHT SERIES' COLUMN

Our *Spotlight Series* column, which highlights the work of a member of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair, will resume in our next edition of The Bulletin. If you are interested in nominating a fellow club member to be featured in an upcoming issue, please contact Barbara Davey, Membership Chair, at 973-432-5282.



## HISTORICAL NUGGET:

### “LOOKING BACK-NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1923 CLUB ACTIVITIES”

At the WCUM business meeting held November 14, 1923 members voted to raise the membership limit from 1,000 to 1,200. It was believed that the new clubhouse under construction would be able to accommodate the increase. Additionally, the new system of study groups (small group meetings) would also help. So, what were our 1,000/1,200 members doing in 1923?

On November 5, the Literature Department met at the home of Mrs. Chauncey H. Marsh. This group decided that the theme of their year's study would be "Prize winning literary masterpieces ... comprehensive study ... of all literary forms, novels, poems, plays." Literature department members would consider "background, period and contemporary work ... foreign and American writing." Two meetings a month were anticipated with each meeting coordinated by different department members.

On November 12, the first study group meeting of the Drama Department met at the home of Mrs. Johnston Davis. Mrs. Moffatt Johnston was to speak about her husband who was playing the character

of Geoffrey March in the Theatre Guild's new play "Windows" by John Galsworthy performed at the Garrick Theater in NYC. Mrs. Johnston's talk included unusual and intimate information about professional production of plays and acting methods.

On November 16, the second meeting of the Music Department was held at the home of Mrs. Frederick Bauer. The topic of the meeting was "From Psalm to Oratorio in the development of music in America."

Successful Fall 1923 programs helped add members to the Music Department.

And, lastly, notwithstanding current sentiment that women appreciate non kitchen related Christmas presents, on Thursday, December 6, 1923 the Home Economics Department held a special meeting with demonstrations of kitchen appliances at the Public Services Building (Newark?). So, early WCUM members kept themselves very busy indeed!

[Article information obtained from digital archives of The Montclair Times and the Daily News as found in the newspapers.com database.]

Best Wishes, Pat Piermatti, Historian, Recording Secretary

W & M CHRISTMAS TEA & ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM, DECEMBER 13, 12:00PM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_\_ TICKETS AT \$32 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7.

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

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