



THE BULLETIN

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



MAY/JUNE 2025

CALENDAR

MAY 2025

- 4-7 – NJSFWC Convention
- 11 – HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!
- 12 – **Board Meeting 10 am**
- 14 – Closing Luncheon - Noon
- 14 - Upper Montclair Ladies' Night Out - 6-9 PM
- 15 - Book Discussion - **Cancelled**
- 26 – MEMORIAL DAY!

JUNE 2025

- 1-4 - Girls' Career Institute, Douglass College
- 2 – **Board Meeting - 10 am**
- 4 & 11 – Organizational Mtg for Departments & Committees
- 6-9 – GFWC Convention in GA
- 14 – FLAG DAY!
- 15 - FATHER'S DAY!
- 19 - JUNETEENTH!
- 19 - Book Discussion - 1:30 pm
- 21 - First Day of Summer
- 24 - NJSFWC Liberty District Council Meeting

Editor: Sarah Ross

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Our President's Message

Dear Members,

When this officer looks back over this Club year, I'm reminded of one of Maya Angelou's famous quotes. *"I have learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."* After reviewing our activities this past calendar year, all of you have made me feel proud, grateful and appreciative to all of you.



We had a very busy, very productive year, beginning with the Upper Montclair sidewalk sale. Held by the Upper Montclair Business Association (UMBA). Hosted several Meet & Greets for both new, old and prospective members. Welcomed 11 new members to the Club. Hosted a successful Blood Drive, held a Benefit Luncheon for Human Needs Food Pantry and Montclair Emergency Services for Hope. The Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show and the Grand Flea Market were very successful, and our biggest fundraising events.

Thank you to our hardworking department and committee chairmen who throughout the year hosted a variety of environmental, educational, civic engagement, arts performing, arts and culture, health and wellness programs and workshops. The monthly book discussion group is always full of lively conversations. Historical Nuggets keep alive the Club's proud legacy.

The Christmas Tea, Hodge Podge Party and Valentine's Luncheon were a great success. This year's Goulash Luncheon benefited the Special State Project: NJ Alliance for Children. The many emails and The Bulletins are full of information about all upcoming events.

None of this would have been possible without all of you. I am grateful for your support. Reflecting upon this past year I am reminded of a second quote by Helen Keller, another famous woman in American history: *"Alone we can do so little, but together we can do so much."*

Fondly, Cyndee

Spotlight Series: Barbara Hyland

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 Barbara Hyland.

Chances are if you shopped at our annual Holly Berry Craft & Gift Show, or scoured our tables at our annual Grand Flea Market, you were assisted by Barbara Hyland, a relatively new member of our Club who has volunteered her time, expertise, and service to our organization since joining in 2023. By her own admission, she views her special skills as common sense and the ability to help out wherever needed. A retired financial professional, Barbara spent over thirty years working in the International Divisions of The Bank of New York and Rabobank Nederland as a Managing Director and Head of Structured Trade and Commodity Finance. She has been a consultant for Australian and European clients, and has also been a guest lecturer in China, Australia and the Americas on trade and agricultural policies. Not surprisingly, she is an avid traveler who enjoys exploring different cultures and cuisines, but also enjoys reading mystery novels and binging on BritBox and Masterpiece Theater.



New Members!



A warm welcome to our new members who include: **Charlene Castello** (active member), **Alice Dodd Sellitto** (active member), **Barbara J. McCarty** (professional member), **Patricia Paolucci** (professional member), and **Bonnie Sharkey** (professional member).

Charlene is a resident of Fairfield, and is interested in the Arts and Culture Committee, the Arts Performing Committee, and the Health and Wellness Committee. **Alice** is a Verona resident, and is interested in the Arts Performing Committee. She may be reached

through her daughter's email.

Barbara is a resident of Montclair, and is interested in the Arts & Culture Committee, the Environmental Committee, Health & Wellness and the Holly Berry Craft Show.

Patricia is a resident of Clifton, and is interested in lending her expertise to the Health & Wellness Committee.

Bonnie is a resident of Cedar Grove, and is interested in Arts & Culture Committee Education & Libraries, and the Holly Berry Craft Show.

~ Barbara Davey, Membership Chair

Delegates for NJSFWC Convention - May 4-7, 2025

The following members of the WCUM will be delegates at the NJSFWC Convention in May: Waltraut Becker, Anita James, Coco Kenny, Sarah Ross, Cynthia Rowan, Heather Zises.

Closing Luncheon & Installation of Officers Wed., May 14, 2025 - Noon

Please reserve the date for our Closing Luncheon when we will join with members and friends for the installation of the new WCUM Officers and Board Members. We look forward to sharing punch and conversation with you all before a delicious luncheon prepared by The Montclair House Grill. Menu: Salad, Chicken Françoise, Mashed Potatoes, Medley of Vegetables, Dessert, and Coffee/Tea. Please send in your reservation form with a check for \$42 by Friday, May 9th. Look forward to seeing you at the Luncheon! ~Janet Oscar, 1st Vice President



Book Discussion Group

What a lively and enlightening discussion for the April Book Discussion, which rivaled the brilliance of *Starry, Starry Night*! Our book, ***The Secret Life of Sunflowers***, by Mara Molnar, provided an insider view of the van Gogh family. Your comments and insights related to Vincent van Gogh; his brother, Theo van Gogh; sister-in-law, Johanna Bonger (van Gogh); and even Emsley "auctioneer" Wilson were perceptive, discerning, and humorous.

I sincerely appreciated every part of our discussion. I'll never look at the *Starry Night* or *Potato Eater* paintings again without remembering your wise words!



A shout-out to Fran Maccia, who provided our group with information about the van Gogh Flower Exhibit at the NY Botanical Garden which will run through October 26.

That said, our next meeting will be on **Thurs., June 19 at 1:30 PM.** **(There will be NO meeting during the month of May.)**

Our June book is ***The Quest***, a novel by Nelson DeMille. The book is described as a sweeping adventure that is equal parts thriller and love story, which takes the reader from the war-torn jungles of Ethiopia to the magical city of Rome. I cannot wait to hear your comments on this one!

~ Barbara Davey, Moderator

Grand Flea Market!

A very special thank-you to all members and friends who donated all the wonderful merchandise that was for sale, making the Club's Grand Flea Market a great success. The Club raised over \$8,500.

Another very special "thank you" to the following members who worked uncountable hours unpacking, cleaning, pricing, setting up tables, arranging and rearranging the items onto their proper places and/or working two days non-stop at the sale: Trautie Becker, JoAnn Carratura, Fay Conley, Kim Constantine, Marguerite Giustina, Barbara Hyland, Anita James, Caroline Johnson, Coco Kenny, Dorothy Meissner, Arlene Onnembo, Janet Oscar, Pat Piermatti, Roberta Rohleder, Sarah Ross, Liz Ruvo, Pat Sanders, Mary Sellitto-Curcio, Sonyia Woloshyn, Sue Yu. Together we can accomplish anything! ~ With true appreciation, Cyndee

Advocates for Children/Domestic Violence

Many thanks to the following ladies who generously donated money to purchase all the goodies that were placed in the Easter Baskets that were given to the Safe House: Rosanne DeNiscia, Arlene Onnembo, Dorothy Meissner, Beverly Rose, Phyllis Torrioni, Diana Soriano, JoAnn Aponte, Mary Sellitto-Curcio, Geri Helou, Sonya Woloshyn, Fran Maccia, Marie Tuosto, Roberta Rohleder, Carla Helb, and Celia McAllister. Also, thanks to all who helped assemble the baskets for delivery. Your generosity helped to make Easter a little brighter for 12 women, 2 men, and 17 children. Thank you so much!! ~ Vivien Finn



NJSFWC News

LEADS Candidate Selected

Congratulations to **Heather Zises**, who will be representing New Jersey as the LEADS Candidate at the General Federation of Women's Clubs Annual Convention in Atlanta in June. Heather was selected by the President Elect of NJSFWC, and will be attending the Leadership Workshops led by a member of the Executive Committee of GFWC. This is quite an honor for Heather as well as the WCUM. ~ Vivien Finn, Federation Secretary

Performing Arts at NJSFWC Convention

Congratulations to four of our members who were selected by the Liberty District to entertain those attending the convention this year during the Arts Performing session in Atlantic City. **Barbara Davey, Sarah Ross, Cyndee Rowan** and **Mary Sellitto-Curcio** will share an essay, "Silver Linings on Growing Older."

Barbara wrote the piece which was published in the Spring Issue 2025 of **Bella Grace** magazine, much to the delight of the over 60-year-old crowd. Good luck, ladies!

NJSFWC - Liberty District Achievement Day

The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair is pleased to announce the following winning certificates in Liberty District Annual Report Writing: Arts & Culture, Arts Performing, Civic Engagement & Outreach, Education & Libraries, Health & Wellness, Mem-

bership, Communications, Domestic Violence, Women's History, and Leadership.

The following Club members won individual Gold Ribbons in the "Environment" category, and will be competing at the NJSFWC Convention: **Caroline Johnson** for Seasonal Flower Arrangement-Fall, **Dorothy Meissner**, for Violet-Single Flower, and **Janet Oscar** for Dollhouse Flower Arrangement, and for Floral Arrangement in a Teapot, with a third for Upcycle.

These Club members won individual Gold Ribbons in the "Arts & Culture" category, and their pieces will also be competing at the NJSFWC Convention: **Vivien Finn** for Cooking-Cookies, **Carla Helb** for Drawing-Seascape, **Dorothy Meissner** for Paper Art-Cover, and **Sarah Ross** for Knitting-Hat and Crochet-Holiday. Congratulations, ladies, and good luck in Atlantic City!

NJSFWC 60th Anniversary Picnic

Join in celebrating the kick-off of Headquarters 60th Anniversary on Sunday, Jun 22, 1-4 PM. The cost is \$10 per person, and \$25 for a family of 3 or more. Contact Vivian Finn for more information.

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!

Nominating News:

The WCUM unanimously confirmed this slate of new and continuing Officers, Board Members and Chairpersons at their Membership Tea on April 9th, 2025. Having dedicated volunteers such as these will ensure that the Programs and Services that they will provide for our membership will be better than ever!

Respectfully, Dorothy T. Meissner, Nominating Committee Chair



Nominating Committee Report

In Accordance with Article B, Section 4, of the WCUM Bylaws, the following Members have been Nominated to Serve on the Board of Trustees:

Officers to Serve One Year, 2025 - 2026

President.....Cynthia Rowan
Second Vice-President.....Waltraut Becker
Corresponding Secretary.....Rosanne DeNiscia
Treasurer.....Sonyia Woloshyn

Officers to Serve Two Years 2025 - 2027

First Vice-President.....Janet Oscar
Recording Secretary.....Pat Piermatti
Federation Secretary.....Vivien Finn

Department Chairs Continuing to Serve

One Year, 2025 - 2026

Advocates for Children/Domestic
Violence.....Cathy McCarthy

Arts & Culture.....Carla Helb
Arts Performing.....Mary Sellito-Curcio
Civic Engagement & Outreach.....Caroline Johnson
Education & Libraries.....Arlene Onnembo
Environment.....Carylmead Eggleston
Health & Wellness.....Celia McAllister

Committee Chairs to Serve Two Years, 2025 - 2027

Bylaws.....Anita James
Communications.....Patricia Park Connell
Membership.....Linda Kenyon
Nominating.....Dorothy T. Meissner
Committee.....Pat Piermatti, Arlene Onnembo
Telephone.....JoAnn Davey & Marie Tuosto
Ways & Means.....Sarah Ross

CLOSING LUNCHEON & INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

May 14, 2025 – Noon

Name: _____

Telephone #: _____

Please reserve _____ seat(s) at **\$42** per person.

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

Reservations due by FRI., May 9, latest!

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



Congratulations to Cyndee for all of her hard, non-stop work at the Grand Flea Market! It has paid off by raising much-needed funds for the Clubhouse. A well-deserved, *BIG* thank you to her. ~ The Flea Market Committee



*Photos by WCUM Member
Sue Yu*

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