



THE BULLETIN

NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF UPPER MONTCLAIR
MEMBER OF THE NJSFWC OF THE GFWC - LIBERTY DISTRICT
CELEBRATING OUR 125TH YEAR!
APRIL/MAY 2026



CALENDAR

APRIL 2026

- 1 - NJSFWC Liberty District Spring Conference - 10 AM
- 1-8 - Passover
- 3 - Good Friday
- 5 - Happy Easter!
- 8 - Game Day - 1:30 PM
- 13 - **Board Meeting - 10 AM**
- 15 - Annual Meeting & New Member Tea - 1:30 PM
- 16 - Book Discussion Gp - 1:30 PM
- 22 - Environment Program - 1:30 PM
- 24 & 25 - GRAND FLEA MARKET
- 29 - Health & Wellness Prog - 1:30 PM

MAY 2026

- 3 - 6 - NJSFWC Convention in Atlantic City
- 10 - Happy Mother's Day!
- 11 - **Board Meeting - 10 AM'**
- 13 - Closing Luncheon - Noon
- 21 - Book Discussion Gp - 1:30 PM
- 25 - Memorial Day

Editor - Sarah Ross

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

Our President's Message

Dear Members,

Even though this winter has had a *lot* of snow and cold temperatures, there have been many fun and informative events at the Clubhouse.

The Hodge Podge Party was enjoyed by all. Civic Engagement & Outreach hosted a great "Valentines for Veterans" workshop. Arts Performing had many members entertaining us with their performances. Health & Wellness gave two great programs: "Healthy Eating," and "Understanding Memory Loss." The Valentine's Day Tea & Desserts was a huge success; an afternoon full of sweet treats and a lot of fun. Education & Libraries hosted our own Heather Zises, who delighted us with her book, "50 Contemporary Women Artists." The St. Patrick's Day Luncheon was a delicious afternoon thanks to our chef, Trautie Becker. Arts & Culture arranged a trip to the newly re-opened Lambert Castle.

There are more activities planned: Achievement Day on March 31, and Spring Conference on April 1 will be held at the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. A Game Day is being planned for April 8. The Annual Meeting and New Members' Tea on April 15. Marietta Bartlett will be joining us for the Environment Program on April 22, where she will amaze us with her beautiful floral arrangements. The Grand Flea Market on April 24 and 25 is not to be missed. Health & Wellness has another program on April 29. Then there will be the Closing Luncheon and Installation of Officers on May 13 for a very enjoyable afternoon. Information for all of these events can be found in this Bulletin. This officer looks forward to seeing you at all of these upcoming events.

Wishing you a Happy Spring!

~ Cyndee





Game Day!

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 - 1:30 PM

Come with a brown bag lunch at noon, and then join in an afternoon of games starting at 1:30 p.m. It might be board games, or cards, or even puzzles! Plans are still in the works, but we will keep you posted via email. Hope to see you there! ~ **Game Day Committee**

Annual Meeting/New Member Tea/50-Year Member

Wednesday, April 15, 2026 - 1:30 PM

Please join us for our Annual Meeting where we will honor Vivien Finn for her 50 years of service as well as new members. To date, we will be honoring six new members who include: Radwa Ali, Marjorie Jameson, Sanum Kahn, Aja Ann Mauceri, Lisa Petruzzelli and Clara Salvai. We may even be extending this list of new members after our April 13 board meeting. Stay tuned! There is no charge for this event, but your RSVP is still required. Please use the reservation form at the back of this Bulletin. ~ **Barbara Davey, Membership Chair**



Book Discussion Group

Thursday, April 16, 2026 - 1:30 PM



Our April book will be **"The Book Club for Troublesome Women,"** by Marie Bostwick. For more information please contact me. Everyone is welcome to attend whether you have read the book or not. Come hear what your fellow readers have to say about the book they've just read. The May book will be voted on after the April discussion. ~ **Barbara Davey, Moderator**

Environment Program

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 - 1:30 PM

Marietta Bartlett Downing will be returning to the Club on April 22 to show us how to create 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 "Masterpiece by Marietta" this year? Guests are encouraged to attend! See you there! ~ **Carylmead Eggleston, Environment Chair**



"Let's Get Moving!"

Please continue participating in your physical activities to support good cardiovascular and mental health! At the end of 2026 we will calculate total activity hours of all members, and submit them to the NJSFWC Health & Wellness Chair, Katie Chambers. ~ **Celia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair**





Grand Flea Market

Friday, April 24, 10 AM to 4 PM &
Saturday, April 25, 10 AM to 3 PM

Do you have things you don't need anymore, but are still in good condition? You can donate them to the Club's Grand Flea Market! To donate items please bring them to the Club starting on Sunday, April 19, through Wednesday, April 22, 10 AM to 2 PM, when we will begin setting up. No more drop-off's after Wednesday, April 22! 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, just let Cyndee and Trautie know when you can lend a hand. Thank you! ~ **Cyndee & Trautie, Flea Market Co-Chairs**

Health & Wellness Program

Wednesday, April 29, 2026 - 1:30 PM

A guest speaker from the Montclair Police Department will educate us about the latest scams affecting our community. Learning how these scams work—and what steps to take to protect yourself—can help reduce anxiety and stress while strengthening personal safety. ~ **Celia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair**



NJSFWC Annual Convention

Sunday, May 3 - Wednesday, May 5

This year's convention will be held at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino in Atlantic City from Sun, May 3, through Wed, May 6. Sunday night's dinner will honor our state president and the three vice presidents. Monday morning winners of the Arts and Culture and Environment Achievement Days will check in their entries to be judged. There will be vendors there for your shopping pleasure. Monday night five Women of Achievement will be honored. Tuesday afternoon following the Business Session, there will be Lunch & Learn Workshops to attend followed by the District winners of the Arts Performing Days.

Tuesday night all club presidents are honored when they process into the ballroom led by their DVP. After the keynote address given by the GFWC First Vice President, Jolie Frankfurt, the installation of a new president and officers takes place. It marks the end of the 2024-2026 administration, and the beginning of the 2026-2028 administration. Wednesday morning there will be an In Memoriam Ceremony followed by a presentation of the 2026-2028 Special State Project. Report Writing awards are presented each day at the Business Sessions. There is something for everyone at this Convention "When Friends Gather," which is our theme. If you have any questions please contact me. ~ **Vivien Finn, Convention Chairman**

Closing Luncheon & Installation of Officers

Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 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. This year we will be honoring Vivien Finn for her 50 years of service. We will look forward to sharing punch and conversation with you all before a delicious luncheon prepared by The Montclair House Grill. The menu will be Greek salad, chicken piccata, mashed potatoes, veggies and dessert. Please send in your reservation form with a check for \$38 by Friday, May 8. We look forward to seeing you! ~ **Janet Oscar, 1st Vice President**



Membership News!



The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest active members: Radwa Ali of Butler; Marjorie Jameson of Essex Fells; Aja Ann Mauceri of Caldwell; and Clara Salvai of West Orange. All were approved at our March board meeting.

Radwa is interested in Civic Engagement and Outreach, and Education and Libraries.

Marjorie is interested in Advocates for Children/Domestic Violence, Arts and Culture, Environment, Health and Wellness, and the Holly Berry Craft Show.

Aja Ann is interested in every committee.

Clara is interested in Advocates for Children/Domestic Violence, Arts and Culture, Environment, Health and Wellness, and the Holly Berry Craft Show.

Thank You!

Each year the WCUM donates the proceeds from Tiffany Corner toward two nursing scholarships. Thanks to the generous donations of jewelry given to us by Pat Piermatti and Charlene Costello, a jewelry dealer gave us a check for \$975. This money will go a long way toward helping two nursing students. ~ Vivien Finn

REMINDER:



Please bring old eyeglasses you no longer want (prescription, reading, sunglasses) to our next event, or any event, so that we may deliver the glasses to the Lion's Club "Cycle for Sight" program. Regional volunteers clean, sort and distribute the glasses to people of low-income areas who are unable to afford them, helping millions to see clearly. Even broken glasses are accepted! ~ **Celia McAllister, Health & Wellness Chair**

Historical Nugget: WCUM Founder Mrs. Melville M. Merrell

This article continues the series on WCUM founders.

Mrs. Mary E. Merrell was one of the eight founders of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM). On December 23, 1878, in New York City, Mary E. Brown and Melville M. Merrell were married by Presbyterian minister the Rev. Henry M. Booth. At the third meeting of the Thursday Club (original club name) held on November 1, 1900, Mrs. Merrell read a paper on the topic of sleep. In this paper, she quoted the work of Dr. Cyrus Edson, which had been cited in the October 1900 issue of *Cosmopolitan* magazine. At the third meeting of the Literary Department of WCUM held Thursday afternoon, November 8, 1906, Mrs. Merrell presided in the absence of the club president. Mrs. Merrell spoke about the Cummers League of New Jersey, an anti-child labor league. These leagues emerged in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the purpose of reforming labor laws and improving the working conditions for minors. The Cummers League promoted the idea of shopping early for Christmas, in order to avoid shopping during late

hours when children as well as adults would be on duty to serve customers. Mrs. Merrell died October 31, 1916, at her home in Upper Montclair and is buried in Mount Hebron Cemetery. She was survived by her mother and her children, Mabel and Howard B. Merrell.

Mr. Merrell was born in 1832 in Richmond, Ontario County, New York. He began his professional career as a teacher at various schools in Matawan, NJ; Norristown, PA; Naples, NY (Western NY); and Watertown, NY. Mr. Merrell was the first principal of Naples Academy (Naples, NY) founded in 1859. He also served as Superintendent of Schools in Elmira, NY, 1878-1882. Other professional activities included literary and business pursuits. Mr. Merrell died January 9, 1913, at his home, 184 Bellevue Avenue, Upper Montclair and is buried in Mount Hebron Cemetery.

Pat Piermatti, Historian

Sources for this article:

1. **The Montclair Times** in the [newspapers.com](https://www.newspapers.com) database, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and the **Internet**

NJSFWC News

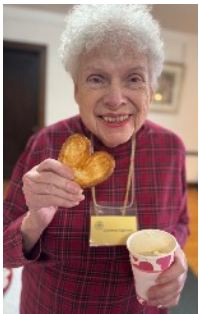
Wear Blue Day - April 10

Every April, on Wear Blue Day, we wear blue to demonstrate our support for children's well-being. Simply take a photo of yourself, your family, your colleagues, your friends, your volunteer group—or even your puppy—wearing blue, and tag PCA-NJ on social media with the message: I'm wearing blue to support happy and healthy childhoods for all children. #WearBlueDay2026. Or email Prevent Child Abuse NJ at pstalcup@preventchildabuse.nj.org your photos by April 6, and they'll post for you and acknowledge your participation.

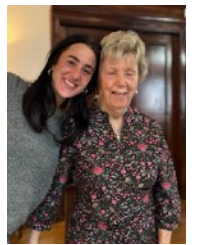
NJSFWC eConnection

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!

Valentine's Day Tea & Desserts!



St. Patrick's Day Luncheon!



NOMINATING NEWS:

The Woman’s Club of Upper Montclair is proud to announce the following list of Officers, Board Members and Chairpersons to its members. Each individual named has taken on a very special role in our Leadership Community. Let it be known that we value your time, your dedication and your leadership. God bless you every one! ~ **Dorothy Meissner, Nominating 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 Two Years, 2026 - 2028

President.....Cynthia Rowan
Second Vice-President.....Waltraut Becker
Corresponding Secretary.....Arlene Onnembo
Treasurer..... Marguerite Guistina

Officers to Serve One Year, 2026 - 2027

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

Department Chairs to Serve Two Years, 2026 - 2028

Advocates for Children/Domestic
Violence.....Cathy McCarthy
Arts & Culture.....Charlene Costello

Arts Performing.....Sonyia Woloshyn
Civic Engagement & Outreach.....Caroline Johnson
Education & Libraries.....Mary Sellitto-Curcio
Environment.....Carylmead Eggleston
Health & Wellness.....Celia McAllister

Committee Chairs to Serve One Year, 2026 - 2027

Bylaws.....Anita James
Communications.....Heather Zises
Membership.....Barbara Davey
Nominating.....Dorothy T. Meissner
Committee.....Pat Piermatti, Arlene Onnembo
Telephone.....Joanne Davey & Marie Tuosto
Ways & Means.....Sarah Ross



Annual Meeting & New Members’ Tea
Wednesday, April 15 - 1:30 PM

Name: _____
Telephone #: _____
Please reserve _____ seat(s) at no charge

Reservations due by Wednesday, April 8, latest!

Send this reservation form to the WCUM, 200 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043

Closing Luncheon & Installation of Officers
Wednesday, May 13 - Noon

Name: _____
Telephone #: _____
Please reserve _____ seat(s) at \$38 per person

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

Reservations due by Friday, May 8, 2026, latest!

Send this reservation with your check to the WCUM, 200 Cooper Avenue, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043



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