



THE BULLETIN

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



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022 ISSUE

EDITOR: HEATHER ZISES

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

- 2 DELECTABLE DISHES, 1:30pm
- 2-4 HOLLY BERRY: Set Up All Day
- 5/6 HOLLY BERRY CRAFT & GIFT SHOW:
Sat. 10:00am-5:00pm, Sun. 11:00am-4:00pm
- 6 *Daylight Savings Ends*
- 9 CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH
WORKSHOP, 1:30pm
- 11 *Veterans Day*
- 14 MONDAY GAMES, 12:00pm
- 16 BUNCO DAY, 1:30pm
- 17 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 23 No Meeting
- 24 *Happy Thanksgiving!*
- 30 TBA
- 30 NJSFWC Holiday Open House

DECEMBER

- 5 Board Meeting, 10:00am; After Board
Meeting Decorate Club for Christmas
- 7 W&M SPECIAL CHRISTMAS TEA, 12:00pm
- 7 GFWC, Washington DC, Open House
- 12 MONDAY GAMES, 12:00pm
- 14 ARTS PERFORMING PROGRAM, 1:30pm
- 15 BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP, 1:30pm
- 14 BUNCO DAY, 1:30pm
- 19 *Happy Hanukkah!*
- 21 No Meeting
- 21 *First Day of Winter!*
- 25 *Merry Christmas!*
- 28 No Meeting

OUR CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Our Club year began with a bang, courtesy of our Opening Luncheon chaired by Janet Oscar. It was so nice to see everyone together after three years of social distancing due to the pandemic.

In September, WCUM participated in the Upper Montclair Sidewalk Sale and got a great turn out! Additionally, we hosted an UMBA Reception at our Club.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our Benefit Luncheon on October 26th. If you are unable to join us, please consider sending a donation to the Club which will be given to the Montclair Human Needs Ministry and MESH, both of which are very worthy causes.

Our Annual Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show will take place on November 5th and 6th and is the perfect way to begin your Holiday Shopping. Please stop by with friends and family to have lunch at our Café and purchase baked goods.

On December 7th we will host our annual Christmas Tea and on December 14th we will feature a delightful Holiday Musical Program. We hope you can join us for both events! This is also the perfect opportunity to embrace the spirit of giving by inviting a prospective member to attend.

We hope that you and your families and friends will gather in person this year for Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holidays. May you all have a Blessed Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Fondly,
Trautie and Vivien

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the-woman-s-club-of-upper-montclair/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-woman-s-club-of-upper-montclair/)

SPOTLIGHT SERIES

FEATURING THERESA RUFFO

For this issue of The Bulletin, we are pleased to introduce Spotlight Series, a new column which will highlight a member of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM). This initiative is an effort made by the Membership Committee for club members to learn more about each other, grow our membership, and support camaraderie amongst our members. In this debut issue, it is a pleasure to feature Theresa Paradise Ruffo.

When Theresa Ruffo joined the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM) last year, she brought with her a vast array of creative talents. A retired elementary school teacher, whose career spanned from teaching kindergartners at Saint Mary's School in Nutley, to educating prospective teachers at Caldwell University, Theresa learned about WCUM from Dorothy Meissner, a fellow member and chairman of the Arts and Culture Committee.

"I knew Dorothy from the Nutley Public Library," says Theresa. "Both of us are painters, and Dorothy told me about the members of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. She thought that I would enjoy spending my time and sharing my talents with the Club, and she was absolutely right!"

As a new member, Theresa has hit the proverbial ground running. Her expertise in knitting and painting will be showcased in the upcoming Holly Berry Craft and Gift Show next month, and her handmade knit baby hats and hand-painted greeting cards will be for sale. She is also lending her musical expertise to the Holiday Musical Event on December 14 in a holiday sing-along. Theresa is an active participant in the WCUM Book Club, and has shared her insights as an educator, mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother with members by adding to various discussions.

A trained vocalist, Theresa was featured on television as a teenage singer, was a frequent patron of the Metropolitan Opera House, and was accepted at the Julliard School in New York. "That was indeed an honor, but I did not pursue it," she recalls.



Like so many young women in the 1950's, Theresa opted to marry her high-school sweetheart, after completing her studies at the Berkeley School. After a brief stint as an administrative assistant, she worked with her husband to establish a family business – all while welcoming three children into the world. Years later, she returned back to school, and completed both her bachelor's and master's degrees. "That was a difficult balancing act, and when I graduated, no one was more proud of me than my husband."

Armed with her degrees in education, Theresa embarked on a second career, and worked as a teacher and educator for nearly 30 years.

Now, as a grandmother of five, and great-grandmother of two, Theresa is adamant about pursuing her own interests, and helping others along the way. "I enjoy my painting, knitting, and music. If I can help others along the way, and share my talents, while I'm pursuing these past times, so much the better." And as for the WCUM, we are so thankful that our paths crossed!

DELECTABLE DISHES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 1:30-2:30PM

The Arts and Culture Committee has planned a culinary demonstration that will be presented by our very own wizard of cookery, Janet Oscar, on November 2. Her delectable dishes for the day will include Winter Squash Soup and Pumpkin Bread. If you haven't experienced the genius of Janet's talents, you are in for a treat! If you have had the pleasure of tasting her delicacies, you won't want to miss this event. The tasting will take place in the Club's kitchen. \$10 per person. Number of attendees limited to 15 people. Make your reservations ASAP!

Dorothy T. Meissner & Janet Oscar
Arts and Culture Co-Chairs



Mmm Mmm Good!

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH WORKSHOP

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 9, 1:30PM

This workshop is November 9th at 1:30 we will be working on three different projects.

1. Prepare small bags of cookies for the patients of Essex County Hospital in Cedar Grove. Please bring packaged store bought cookies, some sugar free. The patients look forward to the cookie bags we prepare.
2. Thank you notes to Veterans to be delivered to the East Orange VA Medical Center. The notes will be delivered just in time for Veterans Day.
3. Making floral tray favors for a Nursing Homes, the flowers will really brighten someone's day.

Please join us-it is a fun meeting-casual, 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. Please save and cut out manufacturers' coupons including expired ones for the military. Sort into four categories: food, non-food, baby and pets.

Cyndee Rowan & Fay Conley, Civic Enagagement & Outreach Co-Chairs





HOLLY BERRY CRAFT AND GIFT SHOW

SET UP: NOVEMBER 2 - 4

SHOW: SATURDAY NOVEMBER 5, 10:00AM-5:00PM

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 6, 11:00AM-4:00PM

As this is WCUM'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. We also need a member to volunteer as a cashier. Many of our members have never visited this exciting fundraiser and we are appealing to you! Please come and help or have a cup of coffee in the Cafe or shop for your Holiday Gifts from the many fantastic 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.
*-VOLUNTEER! SHOP! BAKE OR COOK FOR THE CAFÉ!
-SPREAD THE WORD TO YOU FRIENDS AND FAMILY!*

Thank you,
The Holly Berry Committee



MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A warm welcome is extended to our newest member, Margaret (Maggie) Gavin. She is a resident of Upper Montclair and has expressed interest in the following committees: Arts and Culture; Arts Performing; Book Discussion Group; and Civic Engagement and Outreach. You may reach out to Maggie via email: maggiegavin122@yahoo.com

Welcome Maggie!

Barbara A. Davey
Membership Chair

HISTORICAL NUGGET: “HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, HAPPY BIRTHDAY WCUM!”

On October 4, 2022, the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM) commemorates 122 years of education, fellowship and service. For this article, I have selected a few trivia facts from our history.

1900 Our club was known as the “Thursday Club” during its first year of operation. Meetings were held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

1901 The club name was changed to The Woman's Club of Upper Montclair. Dues were \$1.00. WCUM joined the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJSFWC).

1905 The Choral Society of WCUM completed second year of work under the direction of Mr. Isaac Rosenblatt. WCUM member, Mrs. Fetterolf was in charge of a girls basketball team which played at the Commonwealth Club.

1920 WCUM incorporated and dues were raised to \$15.00. Miss Caroline B. Payson was hired as the first paid Executive Secretary. WCUM Board of Trustees was organized and held its first meeting on June 9.

1921 WCUM joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC).

1922 On Valentine's Day, WCUM purchased a lot, 206 feet on Northview Avenue by 150 feet along Cooper Avenue, for the price of \$7, 500 from Miss Harriet J. Cooper.

1923 In July, ground was broken for WCUM club house.

1924 On March 25, official opening and dedication of the WCUM lounge. Our Founder, Mrs. Robert Hoe Dodd was present and officiated at a new hearth fire lighting ceremony (modeled after one performed by Camp Fire Girls). On October 14, official opening and dedication of the auditorium was held.

1928 On March 21, the last club house note from First National Bank & Trust Co. was burned in a ceremony held in the club lounge. Our club house mortgage had been paid off.

Best Wishes,
Pat Piermatti
Historian, Recording Secretary



GAME DAY

MONDAY NOVEMBER 14, 12:00-3:00PM

Monday Game Day begins November 14, 12:00-3:00pm. Coffee, tea, and cookies provided. \$3 per person. Bring friends and any games you would like to play. We may have a jigsaw puzzle, or bring your own that we will wrap up each month and bring out for the next month.

Linda Kenyon

Monday Games Chair

BUNCO DAY

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1:30PM

Come and invite your friends to join us on November 16 and let's just have fun playing Bunco, while enjoying a cup of coffee/tea and cookies. Small prizes will be awarded to the winners. The cost is \$5 per person. We hope to see you there!

Thank You,

The Bunco Day Committee

CHRISTMAS TEA

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7, 12:30PM

Our Christmas Tea will be held at the Club on Wednesday, December 7.

Menu: Homemade Tea Sandwiches and Desserts. \$28 per person. **Reservation deadline November 30th.**

At our Opening Luncheon, a sign-up sheet was circulated and I thank Arlene Onnembo, Katherine Wahlert and Trautie Becker for signing up to make Tea Sandwiches and Nancy Charnee, Marie Tuosto and Trautie Becker for signing up to make Desserts. To our members that enjoy baking or making tea sandwiches I would love to hear from you. Together we will make the Christmas Tea a beautiful event. I also want to thank the following members who signed up to decorate a table with the Christmas theme: JoAnn Carratura, Barbara Davey, Joanne Davey, Trautie Becker, Vivien Finn and Dorothy Meissner. As Ways and Means Chairman I am reminding you to check your Blue Book and you will see that all WCUM members are included on the Ways and Means Committee.

Janet Oscar

Ways and Means Chair

HOLIDAY MUSICAL EVENT

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 14, 1:30PM

The Performing Arts Committee is pleased to announce a not-to-be-missed holiday musical extravaganza on Wednesday, December 14 at 1:30 pm at the Club. Plan on spending the afternoon with club members and sit back to enjoy the holiday season with Larry Hunt, an internationally renowned musician, signer, entertainer, composer, and actor. Mr. Hunt will entertain our members and guests with a collection of holiday songs, along with his repertoire of jazz, blues, funk, rock, swing, and classical piano. His depth and breadth of musical talents promise to have something to delight everyone. Coffee, tea and holiday treats will be served. A special thank you to Theresa Ruffo for her assistance in arranging this performance.

Barbara A. Davey

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE TELEPHONE COMMITTEE

In this age of technology, electronic communication -- specifically email -- has become the predominant means of communication among the members of the Woman's Club of Upper Montclair (WCUM). For that reason, the Telephone Committee has redesigned its method of communication with its members. Going forward, email will be the predominant way members of the WCUM will receive information about the club.

Those who wish to opt out of email can still receive a telephone call from the Telephone Committee for specific events and announcements, but those members **MUST** provide one and only one telephone number to the Telephone Committee: Marie Tuosto 201-572-2461 or Joanne Davey 973-746-4770. Those members will then receive a telephone call. This will not affect the general mailings of the bulletin, newsletters, flyers, etc.

Thank you,

Marie Tuosto & Joanne Davey, Telephone Committee

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE EDITOR

Following suit with the Telephone Committee, it is my goal to extend the Club's digital reach in the new millennium. Social Media is another means of widespread electronic communication, and platforms like Facebook, Instagram and LinkedIn are effective ways to stay connected among our club members as well as with our sister organizations like GFWC, NJSFWC and more.

As a complement to our Facebook Page, I have created a page for WCUM on LinkedIn, a business networking site. You may have noticed the blue LinkedIn logo in the lower lefthand corner of the front page of this newsletter which invites you to please follow our page: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/the-woman-s-club-of-upper-montclair/> I encourage each of you to share our page with friends and family members so we may continue to grow our online presence. As one of the most established clubs in the federation, I look forward to watching our numbers rise!

Thank you,

Heather Zises, The Bulletin Editor

DELECTABLE DISHES

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 2, 1:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE ____ TICKETS AT \$10 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE OCTOBER 26TH.

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

CHRISTMAS TEA

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 7, 12:30PM

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

PLEASE RESERVE ____ TICKETS AT \$28 PER PERSON. RESERVATIONS CLOSE NOVEMBER 30TH.

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

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