



**Montclair Womens Club 82 Union Street Montclair NJ 07042 973-744-9552**

Dear Friend,

We are writing to invite you to renew your membership as a member of the Montclair Women's Club for 2023-24. The underlying ethos of *among friends* permeates everything we do. Now that our facilities have been refreshed, including a state-of-the-art conference room and we "raised the roof", we continue to reimagine the Club as our third space—a safe and inspiring women's place to meet friends, pursue projects or just dream. Ongoing member-to-member input continues to shape how the Club and its historic clubhouse can be a life-enhancing benefit for you, as well as our community at large.

Now that we are back in person and fully operational, we are going back to, but not raising, the \$75/ year per membership dues for the membership year July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. In case you didn't know, we pay \$25 per member to the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. Of course, any member interested in adding a donation to help support the club will not be refused!

**You can pay by check with the attached form or use the electronic form and credit card payment option on our website [www.montclairwomensclub.org](http://www.montclairwomensclub.org). Please complete the membership renewal form and return with this year's annual dues of \$75 by July 31, 2023.** If this presents a hardship, please contact Carol or Lois so we can keep you as a member.

**We are excited to introduce our new co-president: Melissa Feinberg.** She has lived in Montclair for 16 years and has been on the Board of the Montclair Women's Club for the last six. She started out organizing a few special events and then stepped in to run the club programs during the pandemic, creating a series of Zoom talks called "Among Friends" that featured neighbors and club members with interesting experiences, travels and passions. She has now been heading up club programs and parties for the last three years. She will continue to focus on programs, but, in her new role, she hopes to honor the club's spirit and traditions, while increasing its membership and current relevance, and grow and nurture the sense of community, connection, and fun. Outgoing, two-term co-president Lois Whipple will be staying on as a vice president, continuing her invaluable role in organizational oversight. Co-President Carol Schlein will work with Melissa, Lois and the rest of the Board to move the Club forward.

**Here's a snapshot of the 2022-23 Club Year:**

- **Programs/Events:** Organized and inspired by Board Member Melissa Feinberg, we reconnected through a series of programs, both in person and on Zoom. We marched and supported S.O.F.I.A. (Start Out Fresh Intervention Advocates); had a pop-up art exhibit; raised \$1,000 at a wine and cheese with filmmaker Julie Cohen for Giffords, an organization dedicated to saving lives from gun violence. We welcomed current and former local business owners including Margot Sage-EL (Watchung Booksellers), Jonathan Echeverry (Paper Plane Coffee) and Robert and Jeanne Johannsen (Watchung Deli) whose businesses are local institutions. We got together to: celebrate Mardi Gras, hike to the Women's Federation Monument in the Palisades, we were coached to recognize how "imposter syndrome" can get in our way, ramped up our mastery of technology, celebrated our club's birthday and were blown away by our amazing 17-piece big band.
- It was a year to bring together friends, old and new. We are planning for both in person meet-ups as well as zoom programs. We'll keep you up to date on all activities through our member newsletters, website and personal communication. Please share your ideas and how you can help on the membership form.



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- **Facility:** Not only has the kitchen been modernized, but the Board Room is now a fully equipped conference /meeting room. On an even more functional but certainly crucial note, we replaced our roof and repaired our Yankee gutters maintaining the detailed historical facade. We are working on being able to livestream our in-person programs.
- **Rentals:** Private and non-profit rentals of the Club continued to pick up over the past year. We are proud to offer this beautiful and historic venue at affordable rates to both sustain the Club and to meet the needs for people to come. So please let your friends and family know about your charming clubhouse!
- **Community Service:** We marched again with SOFIA against domestic violence and hosted their knitting fundraiser. We are now the home for the Montclair Swap where community members can donate clothing and small household items and other community members can take them at no charge. Look for swaps in the fall, winter and spring this year. In addition to monetary contributions to local mission-aligned nonprofits, Club members contributed hundreds of social service and community impact hours. As part of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs\*, MWC supported Statewide community service initiatives.
- **The Club's Community Partnerships** include the Montclair Gateway to Aging in Place Smart Seniors Smart/ Smart Tech Project, which helps seniors to master the technology they need to thrive; a residency by the Teachers' Club of Montclair; our partnership with the Montclair Swap and iWill, a professional women's networking group.
- **History is Herstory:** Genealogist Elizabeth Lynch, our archivist, continues to work on preserving the Club's long and eventful past, and the late Ann McKinstry Micou completed a landmark project that indexed and annotated the entire run of the club's Quest magazine, from 1930-1982. We hope to have this on our new website this fall.

This year, we would like to grow our membership. It's our pleasure to ask you to renew your membership and encourage you to invite your friends to join the club too! We look forward to being ***Among Friends,***

*Lois Whipple*

Lois Whipple  
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*Carol Schlein*

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*\*The Montclair Women's Club is part of the Liberty District, which is one of many New Jersey regional divisions under the umbrella of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. There is also a national affiliation.*



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**2023-2024 Membership Form**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Birthday (Year Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership:** Please check one:  Renewing Member  New Member

**Membership Level:**

Regular Membership \$75.00

Additional Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Year July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024**

**Regular Membership \$75**

You can pay by credit card or PayPal on our website at [www.montclairwomensclub.org](http://www.montclairwomensclub.org)

***Please also consider donating to our Building Restoration Fund!***

If paying by check, make check payable to

Montclair Women's Club

and send this completed form to:

Montclair Women's Club Membership

82 Union Street

Montclair NJ 07042

Do you have a special project, idea, talent, interest or skill that you would like to share or work on as a club member? If so, please share:

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Of course, you don't need a special skill to get involved, just a willingness to join in! Can we call on you to ask if you can bring refreshments? Help check in people at the door? Help spread the word about programs and events? Make new members feel welcome? Or help us with miscellaneous requests? Please specify your interest below:

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