Newsletter

A member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

February 2024

From our Co-Presidents

Happy New Year to all our MWC members! This year, we thought it would be fun to turn the spotlight on some of our own members. This way you can get to know them and what they're up to in a more casual way. If you have something to share, wish to promote yourself, have a new business where we can help you gain some traction, perhaps you'd like to send in a paragraph or two about yourself. Provide us with a short bio or blurb—one or two sentences, tops—provide your contact information and we will include it in our new Member Spotlight section of our monthly newsletter.

We thought Ann Forstenzer would be a great choice to kick this off. Ann joined the Club last year, and she's graciously agreed to take over managing this section of the newsletter. If you want to submit a short piece for our member spotlight, please send an email to Ann at ann@magicfamilygetaways.com with the subject MWC Member Spotlight.

While February is our shortest month (even this year's extra Leap Day!), we have a full calendar of events, including True Crime and Dumpling Diplomacy programs as well as the Montclair Swap for those of us taking this period of "wintroverting" to clear out some closets and re-home usable clothes and small household items, serving the community while reducing waste.

Finally, we'd like to extend a special thanks to Barbara Litwinka who helped us with our club's 1099's. There are lots of ways to contribute to our healthy and vibrant club—whether you want to coordinate a program, a social event, help with administrative tasks or to make sure our new (and current!) members feel welcome. Reach out to either us with your suggestions!

Carol Schain and Melissa Feinberg
MWC Co-Presidents

Mark Your Calendars and JOIN US

As a reminder, **please RSVP at the included links for our MWC programs**. All programs are free for MWC members, unless indicated otherwise. For non-members, we recommend a $10 donation.

Friday, February 9, 1:30pm

TRUE CRIME: Tales of the Robert Durst Murders

with Charles Bagli, the NY Times Reporter who covered the story for 23 years

Charles Bagli will bring tales of murder to the Montclair Women's Club!! Durst (1943-2022), one of the heirs to real estate magnate Seymour Durst, was a suspect in three murders in three states and was finally brought to justice in 2021 after he made the fateful decision to speak with the filmmakers of HBO's *The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst*. With Season 2 of the Jinx coming soon, join us to get an inside take on the fascinating story.

RSVP HERE

Friday, February 23, 1:30pm

Making Dumplings to Taste, Take, and Donate

with member Nancy Loo

Nancy Loo is the founder of Dumpling Diplomacy, an organization that builds community around our shared joy in food, and she has started the Pay It Forward Café at the Salvation Army. She will join us to talk about the story of dumplings, and of her work, while leading us as we roll up our sleeves and learn to make our own dumplings. We can taste them, take some home, and donate some.

RSVP HERE

Friday, March 8th, 1:30pm

Montclair Author Suzanne Moyers on Writing, Family Research and Her Book

Join us for a book talk afternoon with local author Suzanne Moyers. Her novel, *"Til All These Things Be Done*, started with Suzanne's drive to learn more about a mysterious chapter of her family history. The pursuit led to her beautifully researched and page-turning novel, set mostly in Texas in the early 1900's.

RSVP HERE

SAVE THE DATE: Liberty District Performing Arts Day
March 14th (begins at 11am)
at our club

If you like to perform, we want you! Whether you recite poetry, act, sing, dance or play music, we'd love to have you participate as the Liberty District Women's Clubs come together to celebrate and enjoy the performing arts achievements of members. Interested? Contact Fran DePalma-Lozzi at depco@comcast.net. See below for categories and standard time for each category and let us know if you want to join in the fun as an individual or join a group (we hear there may be a kazoo chorus brewing…).

Festival Presentation Time Allotment:

5 mins. Solo Vocalists
5 mins. Individual Musical Performance
10 mins. Reading Creative Writings (300 words)
10 mins. Individual Dance Performance
15 mins. Monologues and Skits
20 mins. Group Readings
20 mins. Musicals and Plays

Serving Our Communities

Montclair Winter Swap

Friday, February 9th (drop off between 5-7pm)*
Saturday, February 10th (9am-11am): open "shopping" for free items

Wondering what to do with those holiday gifts that missed the mark? Or the things that your are looking to "rehome" as you clear out some closets? Bring them to the **Winter Swap**!

MWC is once again hosting this incredible initiative at our clubhouse. ALL are welcomed to donate items on Friday Feb. 9th and/or come to "shop" for free items on Saturday Feb. 10th (see above times). *MWC members who are attending the February 9th program earlier in the day can bring items with them to leave at the club house. All public donations are ONLY during the hours of 5-7pm.*

Accepted Items--these are the ONLY items accepted:

- Women's, men's, children's and baby's clothing, and footwear (help our volunteers by labeling bags by size)
- Household Goods
- Toys and games - should be taped shut, or rubber-banded, and must have all the parts.

All donations should be in **good condition** (i.e. something you would want in your home.
Not accepted items include: anything not in above category, including torn, stained clothes, books, stuffed animals, sports equipment, baby equipment, DVD's, CD's, bikes, hangers, helmets, large pieces of furniture, and any other large items.

Want to volunteer to help either Friday night (sorting) or Saturday morning (helping as people shop)? Reach out to montclairswap@gmail.com

See here for the event flier for more details and/or to share with your network.

Member Spotlight

Ann Forstenzer, member

Ann and her family have lived in Montclair for over 20 years. She divides her time between two passions: selling children's books as a special sales/new business development consultant and booking travel. She works with **Magic Family Getaways** here in town. (The agency just won the first Best of Essex Gold Medal for Excellence. So you're in good hands!). Writes Ann:

"Hi Everyone! I'll be happy to whisk you away on the vacation of your dreams! I book ocean and river cruises, spa vacations, all-inclusive resorts in the Caribbean and Mexico, as well as luxury hotels and tours throughout Europe, including Tauck, Amo Waterways and Viking. I am an Authorized Disney Vacation Planner (think Disney theme parks/tickets, Disney cruises, Adventures By Disney, National Geographic/Lindblad, etc.). So I can definitely help you with all the details involved in planning a more involved trip. Feel free to reach out. All trip quotes are free of charge! My contact info is: Ann@MagicFamilyGetaways.com, or by calling 973-744-2835. You can also follow me on Facebook here. Now's the time to be planning your next great trip!"

Membership Corner

Happy birthday member **Alice Ruggieri**, our sole February birthday on record this month with a birthday on February 27th. And Happy Leap Year to ALL MWC members! Thanks for traveling around the sun with us.

Know someone who could use some MWC cheer? Drop a note to our new corresponding secretary Susan Feitman at sjfeitman@verizon.net.

Know someone who would benefit from the supportive community that MWC offers? Please forward this email and invite them to an upcoming program as your guest! All are welcome (and yes that means guys too!

News from the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs

MWC is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC) and the NJ State Federation of Women's Club (NJSFWC). For a full listing of the Federation dates for the year, so you can mark them on your calendar, click here.

All district and state activities are open to any MWC member who wishes to attend and consist of several district meetings across the year as well as participation in the MLK Day of Service, Fall and Spring State Conventions, and the various Arts Achievement Days. A great way to network and explore what other clubs in the state are doing!

For more info on what the Federation is up to across the state and how you can get involved, access the Almanac and other materials at the links below:
NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs Monthly Almanac and Newsletters
General Federation of Women's Clubs

Montclair Women's Club
90 Union Street, Montclair NJ 07042
MWC is a dedicated to helping members achieve their full potential through active engagement and service in the community. For info on membership, programs, and club house rentals, visit www.montclairwomensclub.org

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