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Subject: Start the New Year with These Great WCA Events
Date: January 1, 2024 at 10:31 AM
To: [REDACTED]



The Woman's Club of Albany

United in Service to Our Community Since 1910

This is the Jan. 1, 2024, newsletter for The Woman's Club of Albany, with news about our events and ways you can help us meet our mission.

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A Message from Our President





Midway through the fiscal year, I like to look back at how the WCA has accomplished its mission of providing a center where women can come together for community service and stewardship of our historic building.

- Members donated children's books and personal items to those in need, provided hands-on service at multiple locations including food pantries and raised funds for a school library and cancer research.
- The club opened its doors to the community for a musical instrument collection, Together Women Rise, an educational program on local history, a writing event and as a rental venue.
- Members gathered on the porch, in the parlor and at the club picnic. At Member Monday they learned about community partners and heard author talks. The New Member Mixer welcomed new women to the club, and "Out and About" activities provided opportunities to attend other events together.
- Fundraising efforts to support WCA programming have been very successful thanks to a grant, the garage sale, Giving Tuesday, the Holiday Tea and individual donations.
- Major projects on the property included restoration of the signature pillars, repair and painting of the porch ceiling and windows, new front Rose Garden, driveway paving, repair of the attic lift and basement cleanout. In addition, members pitched in for deep cleaning, yardwork, gardening and decorating.

All that in the past six months thanks to dedicated volunteers!

The club has much to be proud of in its long history and recent past. The Board has designated 2024 as a year of celebration. Keep reading to learn how you can participate.

--Monica Trabold

WCA Board News

At its December meeting, the Board of Directors took the following actions:

- Approved installation of vibration springs to reduce vibrations from the furnace power venter.
- Renewed membership in NY Council of Nonprofits for 2024.

Online Membership Payment Convenience Fee Starts March 1, 2024

Did you know that there are costs associated with credit card payments to the club? Card payment fees add up and are costly to businesses and nonprofits. When dining out, for example, you may receive a discount for paying with cash rather than card.

Committees and the Board continue to discuss best practices for the WCA. In an effort to balance the convenience of online payments with fiscal management efforts, ***effective March 1, 2024, membership dues paid online will include a convenience fee to cover the cost to the club.***

Please note that membership fees are NOT increasing. You may join or renew by check at the same rate. If you join or renew online, you'll pay a small fee.

Annual Dues (cash/check)

Student \$25
New Member \$50
Renewal \$90

Annual Dues (card payment) as of March 1, 2024

Student \$26
New Member \$52
Renewal \$93

Winter Wellness Theme

During January and February, several committees are sponsoring events related to wellness. Read the details in the monthly newsletters.



Let's Celebrate Our 20th

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR 20TH

2024 marks an important anniversary for the WCA: 20 years of revival of the club.

We begin in January by celebrating past presidents who are active members: Fran Altshuler, Pattie Beeler, Susan Hannon, Patti Kopach, Charlotte Prior and Mary Thackeray. Their club nametags feature ribbons identifying them. Please thank them when we gather at club events and ask about the achievements and challenges of these recent years.

On April 11, we plan a festive awards reception at the Italian American Community Center. Mark your calendar and watch for further information. If you own, or know of, a business that may want to sponsor the event, please contact [Janet Nardolillo](#).

Community Service at Work



Florence Abrams, Shelley Malone Walsh, Carol Raabe, Susanna Martin and Pat Glennon distributed items donated by WCA members at a recent Street Soldiers event in downtown Albany to assist the homeless. Thanks to everyone who donated to this collection.

Community Service Card Crafting Day

Saturday, Feb. 3 -- 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Let's get crafty and show some love to our community partners!

We'll meet at the WCA to create Valentine's Day cards for our friends at the Damian Center and for residents of Shaker Place (Albany County Nursing Home).

Bring paper, markers and fun decorations for the cards.

Treats provided, as well as good company and laughs!

Sign up [here](#). Questions? Contact [Pat Glennon](#) or [Shelley Malone Walsh](#).

Sign up [here](#). Questions? Contact [Pat Gleason](#) or [Shelley Malone Walsh](#).

Upcoming Events

Help Us Plan Ahead

Planning Committee Meeting via Zoom

Wednesday, Jan. 3 -- 6:30 p.m.

Help plan fun events for springtime! Come to the Program Committee meeting to share your ideas and plan to lend a hand at an event.

Contact [Monica](#) or [Sara](#) for more information and the Zoom link.



One Last Holiday Blast

2sDay in the Parlor

Jan. 9 -- 6:30 p.m.

Don't miss our annual Worst Gift/Ugly Sweater party. If this is your first time, get ready for a lot of laughs.

Bring a wrapped gift that you can't wait to get rid of -- you know the one -- another pair of cat socks, a pair of earrings you couldn't be paid to wear, the gift that screams, "Do they even know me?" You get the picture.

they even know me! You get the picture.

While you're at it, put on that holiday sweater you got on sale five years ago. It's still good!

A nip or a nosh to share, please.

Get ready for a good time! Remember: You don't have to be a WCA member to join us in the fun! There is always room for one more around the tree.



Thursday, Jan. 11 -- 6:30 p.m.



(Together Women Rise Photo)

The focus in January is on Shared Interest: Investing in South Africa, which works to change a financial system that makes it difficult for women to obtain capital for small businesses. Together Women Rise's planning grant allows Shared Interest to collect data in Malawi for identifying the best interventions to drive change in the financial system.

We'll meet for a potluck supper with a small educational component. Money that otherwise would be spent on dining out is donated to the designated project.

For more information, contact [Rosemary Revoir](#).





Saturday, Jan. 13 -- 9:45 a.m.

Cathedral of All Saints -- 62 S. Swan St., Albany 12210

Cathedral in Bloom is the area's premier flower show. Enjoy the glorious architecture of the Cathedral of All Saints and the talents of floral artists from the Capital Region and the rest of the Northeast. Regardless of the weather outside, it will be spring inside the Cathedral.

Our visit begins promptly at 10 with a guided tour by John Roger Murman, a Cathedral historian, to learn about the architecture and history of the building. We'll also have free time to enjoy the floral arrangements and then will go on to lunch, if you wish.

We'll meet at the Cathedral at 9:45 a.m. When you arrive, please purchase your own ticket -- \$15 for general admission; \$10 for seniors.

Let us know you're attending by registering [here](#) or contact [Paula Hennessy](#).

WCA Book Group Meets

Tuesday, Jan. 16 -- 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

The WCA Book Group will discuss "The Women in the Castle" by Jessica Shattuck.

The Zoom link will be sent to those already on the Book Group email list. If you do not receive it or would like to join the group, contact [Diana Pane](#).

Home Away from Home

Wednesday, Jan. 17 -- 5:30 p.m.

If you are a sociable introvert like our hostess Janet Nardolillo, come have some quiet conversations with just a few other members. There will be coffee, treats, and comfy parlor chairs.

Cabin Fever Self-Care Day Returns

Saturday, Jan. 20 -- 12 to 4 p.m.

Members Only

Cabin Fever Self-Care Day: For members, by members. Lunch will be served. Sessions will be facilitated by WCA members who will guide us in a variety of relaxation and self-care workshops. You also will have time to socialize with other members.

[REGISTER HERE to attend.](#)

January Member Monday

Monday -- Jan. 22

Happy Half Hour - 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Potluck Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Program and Announcements - 7 p.m.

This month we will hear from the Albany County Crime Victim and Sexual Violence Center, whose mission is to provide direct and comprehensive services to all individuals affected by sexual assault and other crimes of personal violence.

Utilizing therapy, advocacy, community mobilization, prevention education and bystander engagement, the center seeks to change societal conditions that allow and perpetuate oppression.

The center will be the beneficiary of an amazing event happening at the club in February, the staged performance of A.R. Gurney's "Love Letters" starring our own Maryhelen Lounello and her husband Rich. (See details below.)

Welcome Our New Members

Welcome to our new members, **Sara Durkacs, Hahn Lotz and Helen Spiro.** We look forward to seeing you at our meetings and events.

Join Us for a Special Fundraiser

Does anyone still write love letters?

Celebrate the written language of love
with a special performance of

Love Letters

by A.R. Gurney

Featuring: Maryhelen Lounello and Richard Lounello
Directed by: Barbara Maggio

Saturday, Feb. 10 -- 7 p.m.
(Snow Date: Saturday, Feb. 17 -- 7 p.m.)

The Woman's Club of Albany
725 Madison Ave., Albany

Tickets: \$35

All proceeds will be donated to the
Community Education Programs for Teens
at the
Albany County Crime Victim and
Sexual Violence Center.

Dessert reception following the
performance



Tickets available at
Womansclubofalbany.com
RSVP by Feb. 3




Note: The upstairs ballroom is not ADA accessible.



[Click HERE](#) to purchase your tickets to Love Letters
or scan the QR code.

Ten Broeck Mansion Says Thanks



Albany County Historical Association
Ten Broeck Mansion

Would like to express our thanks to the
Woman's Club of Albany

For a beautiful collaborative decorating effort with a
"Gilded Age" theme at the
**TEN BROECK MANSION'S
HOLIDAY HOUSE 2023.**

The Albany County Historical Association wants to
acknowledge and thank you for the generous donation of your
time, enthusiasm, and talents to create a an elegant and
beautiful space for our community to enjoy and
learn during this holiday season.

*With warmest wishes for this holiday season,
from our house to yours.*

Presented on behalf of the Albany County Historical Association,
November 30, 2023

Kathryn Kosto
Kathryn Kosto
Executive Director

The Woman's Club of Albany

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