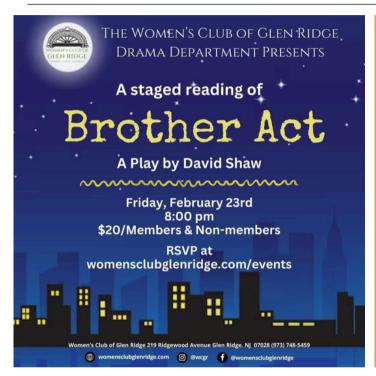
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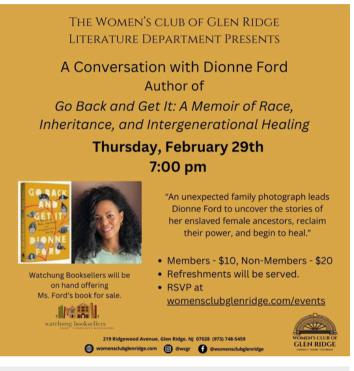
The Newsletter of The Women's Club of Glen Ridge

VOL. 64 NO. 3 FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024









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President's Note

Dear Members,

I hope this message finds you in great spirits! I would like to take a moment to express my gratitude for the incredible diversity and strength that each one of you brings to our Women's Club. Your unique backgrounds, talents, and interests enrich our community, creating a vibrant tapestry that we cherish. Our Club thrives because of the dedication and passion you pour into every initiative, every event, and every moment shared together.

We have expanded our programming to provide you with a variety of events including some very informative, educational, and engaging topics especially for Women's History Month.

Starting on the 29th February, we have planned a special presentation featuring Dionne Ford, the esteemed author of *Go Back* and *Get It: A Memoir of Race, Inheritance, and Intergenerational Healing.* Join us for an insightful conversation that delves into the profound themes of her memoir. This opportunity offers you a chance to engage with Ms. Ford to explore the intricate layers of her narrative and the broader conversations it sparks. From discussions on race and inheritance to the healing power of intergenerational stories, this event promises to be a thought-provoking experience.

In addition, we have several events planned to commemorate Women's History Month:

- 5th March a panel discussion on "The Sandwich Generation: Navigating Perimenopause, Caregiving, and Your Healthcare" - a time of transformation and change; change within ourselves and change in our relationships as we balance caring for our children and our aging parents.
- 16th March Ladies Night Out. Dust off your dancing shoes, put on your party outfit, and gather your girlfriends for a night of revelry -- dancing, drinking and eating.

- 20th March an interactive discussion about women and money management with Kelley Holland, the author of You Are Worthy: Change Your Money Mindset, Build Your Wealth and Fund Your Future.
- 27th March "The Historic Women of Glen Ridge" a presentation by Glen Ridge Historian, Sally Meyer.

Today, I want to invite you to embrace the spirit of involvement, volunteerism, and engagement more than ever before. It's through our collective efforts and unwavering commitment that we can continue to elevate our club to new heights and ensure its longevity for many years to come.

At our women's club, we believe in the power of unity, empowerment, and celebration. We are not just a club; we are a sisterhood that thrives on the collective energy and support of phenomenal women like you. As we look ahead, we're excited about the possibilities that lie in working together for the betterment of our Club and the broader community.

Every volunteer hour, every idea shared, and every connection made contributes to the richness of our club's success. Whether it's organizing fundraisers, leading programmes, or simply lending a helping hand, your contributions matter.

Therefore, I urge you to step forward, to get involved, and to make your mark on our Club's journey. Your involvement is not just a gift to our Club – it is a gift to yourself, offering fulfillment, purpose, and the chance to create lasting memories with incredible women by your side

Thank you for your continued dedication and unwavering support. Together, let's continue to write the next chapter of our Club's extraordinary story—one filled with inspiration, empowerment, and unfolding possibilities.

With gratitude and excitement for the rest of this Club year,

Sandra Lefkovits

President











The winter session of our Writing Workshop on Tuesdays 10am-12pm returned January 16th and will run through March 19th. We are incredibly lucky to welcome back our wonderful instructor and best-selling author, Laurie Lico-Albanese. Please check the Club's website for more detailed information.

New Year, New Book Club! In our first meeting on January 4th, we discussed *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchet. In February we discussed *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman. We will continue meeting the first Thursday of each month at 10:00am. Unfortunately, there was not enough interest to continue the evening meetings. Books to read and discuss are chosen by consensus of the group. On March 7th we will be discussing *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* by Jesse Q. Sutanto. April 4th will be *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride. Please check the Events page on the club's website for more detailed information.

We are very excited to be hosting local author Dionne Ford on February 29th. Ms. Ford is the author of the insightful and moving memoir titled *Go Back and Get It: A Memoir of Race, Inheritance, and Intergenerational Healing.*

This evening event will feature a personal discussion with Ms. Ford; wine, non-alcoholic beverages, and light refreshments; and local bookstore Watchung Booksellers offering her book for sale.

On March 20th you are invited to join us as we learn money management from Kelley Holland, a former New York Times business editor and award-winning financial journalist. Ms. Holland will discuss key concepts from her book You Are Worthy: Change Your Money Mindset, Build Your Wealth, and Fund Your Future. "In this accessible, easy-to-follow resource, Holland leverages her professional experience and more than 100 interviews with women around the country, taking you step by step through the process of transforming your relationship to money." This is a perfect opportunity for mothers to learn alongside their teen-aged daughters. Again, wine and refreshments will be provided as well as copies of her book for purchase.

If events like our author visits, the writing workshop, or book club interest you or you would like to join the Literature Department's committee, feel free to contact us at Literature@womensclubglenridge.com.

Sashy Bogdanovich & Pam Colledge

Co-chairs, Literature Department













Music Department News

On Sunday, December 17 the Music Department hosted Light Up the Night: A Holiday Singalong for Everyone. The ballroom was aglow as 100 attendees were treated to an evening of music, festive bites, and a bit of holiday music trivia. Under the musical direction of Darren Gage, with Paul Byrne on the bass guitar and Zachery Kellogg on piano and flute, revelers belted out their favorite holiday tunes and were introduced to a few new ones, too. There was even a special appearance by the club's own Ukuladies! The Ukuladies gave us a rousing rendition of "Feliz Navidad" as the children played along with egg shakers. The hot chocolate and wassail were flowing all evening at this BYOB event held in the festively decked-out Williamsburg Ballroom. We were pleased that this event could also give Sharon Harms, Community Service Department chairwoman, the opportunity to announce the launch of their new initiatives for 2024. It was a magical night that epitomizes the true essence of the holiday season: coming together as a community through the power of music.

This annual event is traditionally hosted in conjunction with the Glen Ridge Congregational Church. Due to scheduling conflicts this year, the music department hosted this year's Sing-along solo. Thank you to music department members and volunteers Laura Cohen, Margo Garrison, Sayydah Garrett, Kelley Forsyth, Janice Delaporte, and Ann Marie Linke for making this event a joyous success.

If being a part of the Music Department is something that interests you, please contact me at Music@womensclubglenrige.com.

Trisha Turiano

Chair, Music Department



On January 21st, the Community Service Department, in cooperation with the Girls' Club of the Women's Club and the New York Blood Center, hosted a community blood drive. You can see more information and some photos on page 8.

We are happy to announce that the Women's Club is once again partnering with the Community Food Bank of New Jersey (CFBNJ) in a Virtual Food Drive (VFD) as part of our continuing mission to alleviate food insecurity in our community. Your support in the VFD can make a significant difference in the lives of those in need. Every donation counts! Join us in making a positive impact and help ensure no one goes hungry in New Jersey.

The CFBNJ, a member of Feeding America®, is the leading anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in the state. It provides food for more than 90 million meals annually and provides wrap-around services like job training, SNAP outreach, nutrition education, and hygiene product distribution.

You can see our display ad for the VFD on page 2 to donate. You can also donate through the Donate page on the club's website <a href="https://example.com/here.com/h

We have a new and engaging fundraiser happening at the club! **The Only Missing Piece Is You!** was debuted at the Music Department's Holiday Singalong on December 17th and raised \$500 in its debut! Read more about this engaging -- and puzzling! -- fundraiser on age 4.

If you are interested in being a part of the Community Service Department team, please email me at communityservice@womensclubglenridge.com.

Sharon Harms

Chair, Community Service Department

The Sweetheart Dance

was a rousing success!

The 2024 Sweetheart Dance held February 2nd was a rousing success! Guests were greeted upon entry with vibrant Valentine's Day decorations and friendly volunteers at check-in. The night kicked-off right at 6:30pm with guests even arriving early. The fun didn't stop until shortly after 8:30pm. The DJ did a

great job of involving the guests and kids in various activities and keeping the fun steady throughout the evening. The 50/50 raffle awarded one lucky guest with a \$170.00 win and she was thrilled!

We hosted 79 guests, 38 adults and 41 children, dressed in their Valentine's Day finest. They enjoyed dancing, activities, and food and drink to their hearts' content.

A very sincere thank you to the incredible member volunteers and club staff that made this event possible: Carmen Pence, Ann Marie Linke, Jennifer Pine, Kehinde Adewuyi, Amy Bermudez, and Luis Midon. We look forward to doing it again next year!



The entrance hall to the club house was a red carpeted delight.



Is there anything more fun than a conga line?



The dance floor was never empty.



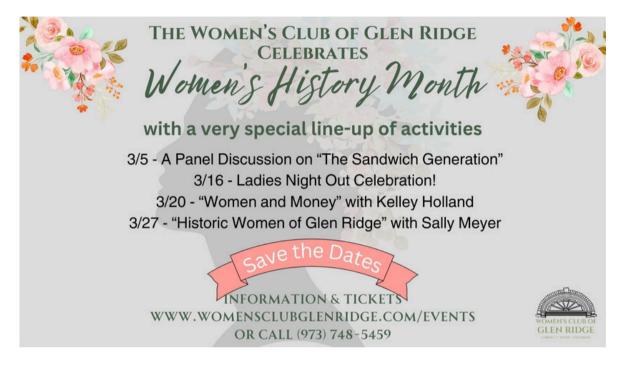




March is

Women's History Month

Celebrate with The Women's Club



Your Women's Club has four special events planned in acknowledgement of Women's History Month this year. Mark your calendars now to save the dates and keep an eye out for when the registrations open on the club's website. Here is a quick rundown of what to expect.

Tuesday, March 5th, 7:00 pm

"The Sandwich Generation: Navigating Perimenopause, Care Giving, and Your Healthcare"

A panel of experts will help you learn to navigate caring for your older parents while still having kids in the home and going through the journey that is menopause and perimenopause.

Saturday, March 16th, 7:00 pm

Ladies Night Out!

Dust off your party dress and hit the Women's Club for a night of celebrating you. Kick up your heels! Have a cocktail or two! Eat some delicious food that you didn't cook. This is a night to have some fun!

Wednesday, March 20th, 7:30 pm **Author visit with Kelley Holland**

Ms. Holland is the author of You Are worthy: Change Your Mindset, Build Your Wealth & Fund Your Future. Ms. Holland will discuss key concepts from her book including: a brief history of women and money, what to know about money and where to start, saving for your retirement and/or other life goals, and more. This is an excellent opportunity for mothers and daughters to learn about money together.

Wednesday, March 27th, 7:00 pm

"Historic Women of Glen Ridge"

The Glen Ridge Town Historian, Sally Meyer, will give us a special presentation on the historic women who hailed from our own Glen Ridge township.







Please join us on March 1st at 7:00 pm for an informative discussion on the transformative power of Generative Al with Dr. $\,$

Anna Feldman of Montclair State University. Generative Al represents a groundbreaking shift in artificial intelligence. It goes beyond simply predicting or classifying things. Instead, it learns the underlying patterns and structures in data to create entirely new content, mirroring human creativity. While ChatGPT is a well-known example of textgenerating Al, this field is much broader. Generative Al now produces captivating images, videos, speech, music, and even



Dr. Anna Feldman, PhD

virtual worlds. Yet, alongside its remarkable abilities, ethical concerns arise. Questions about ownership, authenticity, and the potential misuse of synthesized content demand careful consideration. In this talk, Dr. Feldman will provide a brief overview of Al's history, explain how generative Al works, and showcase some of its impressive creations. She will also explore the potential for humans and machines to collaborate in groundbreaking ways while touching upon the ethical challenges this field presents.

Dr. Anna Feldman is a professor of Linguistics and Computer Science at Montclair State University. She earned her Ph.D. in Computational Linguistics from The Ohio State University and her undergraduate degrees in Linguistics and East-Asian Studies from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Her recent collaborative efforts include projects with ETS and the Center for Healthy Aging at Rutgers University. Her work has been supported by the Department of Defense and the Army Research Lab. She co-organizes the annual workshop on Natural Language Processing for Internet Freedom (NLP4IF) — Censorship, Disinformation, and Propaganda and a series of workshops on figurative language processing. At MSU she directs the Natural Language Processing (NLP) Research Lab and chairs the Linguistics Department. (continued)

As always, Henry Chapman Night events are free to Associate Members of the Women's Club. Reserve your place now for what is surely to be an engaging evening exploring the latest advancements and practical applications for this cutting-edge technology. RSVP at womensclubglenridge.com/events.



Happy New Year to everyone from the Girls' Club of Glen Ridge! We accomplished so much in 2023 and we are very excited to do much more in 2024.

The Girls' Club ended 2023 with our annual Candy Cane Dance. This popular event was full of dancing and fun.

On January 21st, the Girls' Club, in cooperation with the Community Service Department of the Women's Club and the New York Blood Center, hosted a community blood drive. You can see more information and some photos on page 8.

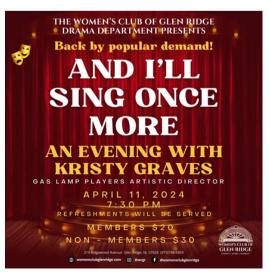
We are very excited to see what 2024 has in store for us.

Lauren Bracken

Girls' Club Corresponding Secretary



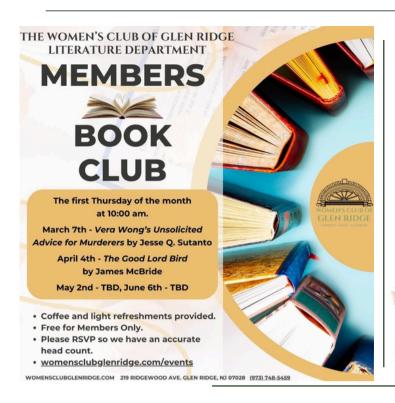
The Girls' Club Officers at the Candy Cane Dance, left to right, Ava Blanz, Julia Corradi, Lauren Bracken, Laura Preston, Maddie Deluca, Juliette Lipari, Ella McNelly

















Left, members of the NJ Mental Health Association Players performing at the Have a Heart Monthly Meeting on February 6th. Right, Paula Peikes, Director of Social Work for Bloomfield Social Services speaking at the same event.











Community Blood Drive a Big Success

The Community Service Department and the Girls' Club along with the New York Blood Center (NYBC) hosted a very successful community blood drive on January 21st. The statistics from the NYBC stated that there were 51 registered donors and they collected 49 units of blood. Each unit collected has the potential to save three lives; therefore, the drive may make a difference to the lives of 147 patients. The NYBC representatives said this was one of the better drives they have participated in. That is something to be very proud of.



Girls' Club President, Madeline DeLuca, front, and her mother, Marlene DeLuca donating blood.





Some of the volunteers at the blood drive. From left to right, Anita Agarwal; Barbara Weston; Carmen Pence, Girls' Club Liaison; Ann Marie Linke; Justine Carson.



The Mary Raymond Room was a welcome spot for the donors to relax.







Our popular, winter, centerpiece building event -- called "The Greens Event" by the regular attendees -- was as big a success as ever.

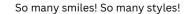


Club President Sandra Lefkovits, left, and Sharon Harms, Community Service Department Chairwoman.



Left to right, Judy Weckenmann, Margo Garrison, Grounds Committee Chairwoman, Kelley Forsyth.











The Women's Club of Glen Ridge is currently a mask optional venue. We respectfully ask that if you are not feeling well, please do not attend an event. Thank you.

February 2024*

•		
Thurs., 2/1	10:00 am	Members Book Club Discussion: Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine by Gail Honeyman
Fri., 2/2	6:30 pm	Sweetheart Dance sponsored by The Family Dept.
Mon. 2/5	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Board Mtg.
Tues., 2/6	12:00 pm	Monthly Mtg. & Community Service Dept. Open House: Have A Heart
Tues., 2/13	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Mtg.
Wed., 2/14	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Telework and Leisurely Hours
Mon., 2/19	Club Closed	Presidents' Day
Mon., 2/19 Wed., 2/21	Club Closed 7:00 pm	Presidents' Day Ways & Means Committee Mtg.
		-
Wed., 2/21	7:00 pm	Ways & Means Committee Mtg. Staged Reading of <i>Brother Act</i>
Wed., 2/21 Fri., 2/23	7:00 pm 8:00 pm	Ways & Means Committee Mtg. Staged Reading of <i>Brother Act</i> sponsored by The Drama Dept.

March 2024*

Fri., 3/1	7:00 pm	Henry Chapman Night – Discussion on Generative AI with Dr. Anna Feldman
Mon., 3/4	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Board Mtg.
Tues, 3/5	7:00 pm	Monthly Mtg. & Women's History Month Presentation on The Sandwich Generation
Thurs., 3/7	10:00 am	Members Book Club Discussion: Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers by Jesse Q. Sutanto

(March 2024 Calendar cont. on next page)

* All events are subject to change.

Please check the club's website, social media, and your email for up-to-the-minute information.









The Women's Club of Glen Ridge is currently a mask optional venue. We respectfully ask that if you are not feeling well, please do not attend an event. Thank you.

March 2024* (March 2024 Calendar cont. from previous page)

Sun., 3/10	3:00 - 5:00 pm	Favorite Doll Tea sponsored by The Family Dept.
Tues., 3/12	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Mtg.
Wed., 3/13	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Telework & Leisurely Hours
Sat., 3/16	7:00 pm	Ladies Night Out
Tues., 3/19	7:30 pm	Board of Trustees Mtg.
Wed., 3/20	7:30 pm	Author Event: Kelley Holland author of You Are Worthy: Change Your Money Mindset, Build Your Wealth, and Fund Your Future
Mon., 3/25	7:30 pm	Girls' Club General Mtg.
Wed., 3/27	7:00 pm	Women's History Month Program on "The Historic Women of Glen Ridge" with Sally Meyer
Fri., 3/29	Club Closed	Good Friday
April 2024*		
April 2024* Mon., 4/1	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Mtg.
	7:30 pm 12:00 pm	Girls' Club Executive Mtg. Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD
Mon., 4/1	·	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2	12:00 pm	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: <i>The</i>
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2 Thurs., 4/4	12:00 pm 10:00 am	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: <i>The</i> Good Lord Bird by James McBride
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2 Thurs., 4/4 Mon., 4/8	12:00 pm 10:00 am 7:30 pm	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: <i>The Good Lord Bird</i> by James McBride Finance Committee Mtg.
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2 Thurs., 4/4 Mon., 4/8 Tues., 4/9	12:00 pm 10:00 am 7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: <i>The Good Lord Bird</i> by James McBride Finance Committee Mtg. Board of Trustees Mtg.
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2 Thurs., 4/4 Mon., 4/8 Tues., 4/9 Wed., 4/10	12:00 pm 10:00 am 7:30 pm 7:30 pm 9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: The Good Lord Bird by James McBride Finance Committee Mtg. Board of Trustees Mtg. Telework & Leisurely Hours The Return of the Drama Dept.'s Presentation "Kristy Graves: And I'll Sing
Mon., 4/1 Tues., 4/2 Thurs., 4/4 Mon., 4/8 Tues., 4/9 Wed., 4/10 Thurs., 4/11	12:00 pm 10:00 am 7:30 pm 7:30 pm 9:00 am - 12:00 pm 7:30 pm	Monthly Mtg. & International Dept. Open House: TBD Members' Book Club Discussion: The Good Lord Bird by James McBride Finance Committee Mtg. Board of Trustees Mtg. Telework & Leisurely Hours The Return of the Drama Dept.'s Presentation "Kristy Graves: And I'll Sing Once More"

^{*} All events are subject to change.

Please check the club's website, social media, and your email for up-to-the-minute information.

















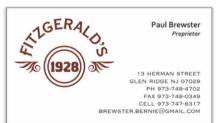






























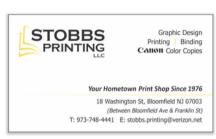




















PLEASE ENJOY SOME RECENT, STELLAR REVIEWS OF OUR CLUB HOUSE, FACILITIES, AND STAFF.

"My experience at the Women's Club of Glen Ridge was phenomenal. Elizabeth (office manager) was so warm and friendly from the beginning to the end. She was very professional and accommodating and made the process seamless. I was immediately sold on the venue for its historic charm and beauty. It was the perfect place for our baby shower. I must say, Luis (building manager) was amazing. He was very helpful and went above and beyond by making our experience great. He was very accommodating and offered excellent advice on seating arrangements and decor. Overall, our experience was exceptional. We couldn't have chosen a better place to have our baby shower. Many thanks to Elizabeth and Luis for making our experience perfect."



"Fabulous! Fabulous! Every part of the experience with the Women's Club of Glen Ridge was lovely for our daughter and son-in-law's wedding!"

Drew W.

"Our local non-profit held a cultural event here for 200 people. Elizabeth responded to all our questions promptly and Luis was amazing the day of. ... They were a pleasure to work with and I would highly recommend this venue to anyone."

Mona S.





