

# SIGNPOST

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE

VOL. 64 NO. 1 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023



THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE PRESENTS

**Tricks & Treats**  
Sunday, October 29, 2023  
9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

- WEAR YOUR COSTUME!
- BREAKFAST BUFFET
- CRAFTS & ACTIVITIES
- BOUNCE HOUSE
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ALL CHILDREN MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY A PARENT OR ADULT

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THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE PRESENTS

## Telework and Leisurely Hours

The 2nd Wednesday of each month beginning  
Wednesday, October 11th.  
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy coffee donated by Casa de Flora Bar of Bloomfield. Drop in with a friend or by yourself to work, read, knit, or just enjoy a moment alone.

Free for members  
Non-members: \$10

219 Ridgewood Avenue  
Glen Ridge, NJ 07028  
[www.womensclubglenridge.com](http://www.womensclubglenridge.com)

## WELCOME FALL!

It is Fall and that can only mean one thing -- the start of a new year for The Women's Club. I am one of those people who loves when the weather turns chilly and the colors start to turn on the trees. There's just something about the crisp air and the unique shade of blue in the sky that is reinvigorating. With this new season the Club is offering a variety of activities to interest all of us. The Family Department is hosting **Tricks and Treats** on October 29th. New **Yoga Classes** will begin October 23rd. Beginning October 11th, the Club will be open the second Wednesday of each month for your convenience -- get some work done on your laptop, do some knitting, meet up with friends after school drop-off, just sit quietly for a moment before you start your day's tasks. This open time is called **Telework and Leisurely Hours** and I've been waiting for it to start. The first available Wednesday will be October 11th from 9:00 am - 12:00 pm. The **2023-2024 Glen Ridge Virtual Food Drive** will be starting soon.

Read about all these and more in this edition of *Signpost*, in your emails, on the Club's website, and on the Club's social media. Everything is available at your fingertips.

**Amy Luka**  
Editor

## Highlights in this Issue

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[womensclubglenridge.com](http://womensclubglenridge.com)



@wcgr



@womensclubglenridge



## PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear Members,

The 2023 -2024 Club year is off to a smashing start and I am looking forward to your involvement. We have spent the summer thinking of ways to evoke more member engagement. To this end, we are introducing a few new events.

We began the Club with a series of three CPR training classes hosted by our Club in partnership with the Glen Ridge Volunteer Ambulance Squad.

Starting on Wednesday the 11th October, we are opening the Club house on the second Wednesday morning of each month for members to have coffee while you telework, read, knit/crochet, or speak with friends in a relaxed atmosphere. These **Telework and Leisurely Hours**, from 9:00am - 12:00pm, will feature freshly brewed coffee generously donated by Casa de Flora Bar of 75 Washington Street in Bloomfield.

We are introducing a new yoga class on Monday evenings as a wellness opportunity for you. Some of our successful and favorite events will continue in the new Club year, for example **Winter Wonderland**, the **Annual Doll Tea**, and the **Sweetheart Dance**. We are planning new events in celebration of Women's History Month in March. Mark your calendars for the 15th March 2024 for **Ladies Night Out**. Dust off your dancing shoes and come out to

have fun and connect with other women in the Club.

As we embark on these events, we are appealing to you to get engaged and involved in whatever way you can. Mr. Henry Chapman bequeathed this Club to the women of Glen Ridge. Those women who came before us made this a vibrant center of culture, education, and social connection. We are working hard to continue this tradition. We have a wonderful group of women including several young members who have just joined -- ten from the September cocktail party alone. Thank you to the Membership Committee. With such a diverse age range and rising enthusiasm, we can reinvigorate the membership. Your voice is important and your involvement even more so.

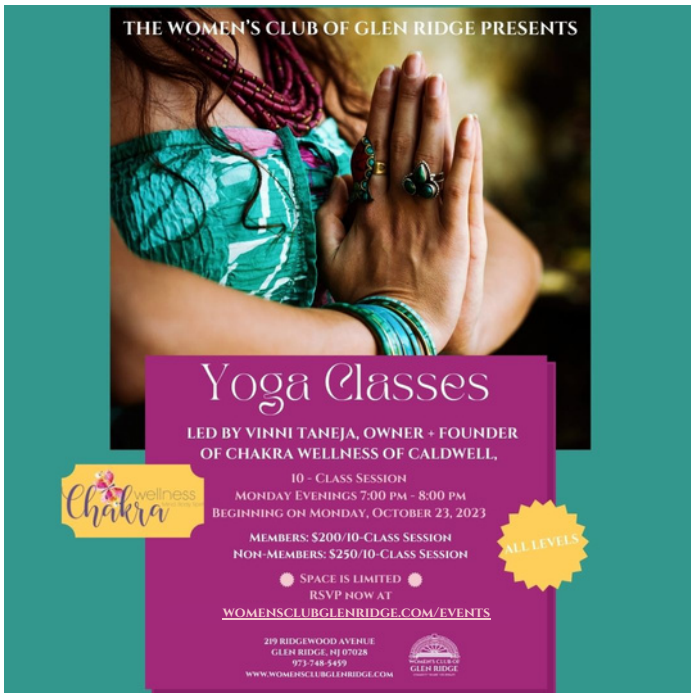
The Clubhouse has never looked better thanks to the House and Grounds Committees, as well as the diligence of Elizabeth Shaw, our Office Manager; and Luis Midon, our Facilities Manager. We are receiving rave reviews from renters. A selection of those reviews can be read throughout this edition of *Signpost*. Others are available on our website. Let's celebrate these accomplishments and work to extend them.

I am excited for this Club year and hope you will be too. Be sure to check the Club's website regularly and read *Signpost* and your emails to keep abreast of it all.

As Kate O'Neill noted in her book *A Future So Bright*, "The best results come about when we not only visualize the best possible future but also make a plan to commit ourselves to achieving it."

Warm regards,

**Sandra C. Lefkovits**  
President



THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE PRESENTS

## Yoga Classes

LED BY VINNI TANEJA, OWNER + FOUNDER OF CHAKRA WELLNESS OF CALDWELL,

10 - CLASS SESSION  
MONDAY EVENINGS 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM  
BEGINNING ON MONDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2023

MEMBERS: \$200 /10-CLASS SESSION  
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ALL LEVELS



THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE  
MUSIC DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

## JAZZY UKULELE CLASS

(previous ukulele experience required)

Our popular ukulele classes continue  
with Instructor Paul Byrne.

For information on our ongoing ukulele  
classes please check the Club's website.

[womensclubglenridge.com](http://womensclubglenridge.com)  
(973) 748-5459

  
WOMEN'S CLUB OF  
GLEN RIDGE  
FOUNDED 1890



# Death By Chocolate

On May 19th, the club hosted Death By Chocolate: An Interactive Murder Mystery. Thirteen of the 60 attendees played murder suspects while the rest questioned them to see who had the motive, means, and opportunity to commit the murder. To conceal secrets, conversations took place in the library, the Mary Raymond room, outside on the patio and in the halls. A mix of members and non-members attended. There were prizes for the best actor (won by member Laura Goldstein) and best sleuth and a raffle. It was a very lively night at the club full of gasps, finger-pointing, and chocolate.



The killer was . . . Omayra Ortiz!



Intense interrogations in the hallway.



Some chose the group approach to interrogating suspects.



# The Return Of Summer Sips & Dips

This Summer welcomed the return of the Summer Sips & Dips series. A casual event meant for the mingling of club members new and old and residents of our surrounding community, Sips & Dips is always a delight. The Social Committee hosted two evenings of light finger foods donated by club members with a variety of refreshments. The Mary Raymond Room was alive with conversation. The weather was great for both days so the doors to the patio were wide open.

If this is the type of activity you would like to be involved in at the Women's Club, please contact the Social Committee Chairwoman, Leslie Convey, at [Social@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Social@womensclubglenridge.com).





**GROUNDS  
COMMITTEE  
NEWS**

The Grounds Committee has been busy mulching the property. I purchased two loads of loose mulch which we laid ourselves to save money. Many thanks to volunteers Trisha Turiano and Laura Cohen. Lots of brush was cleared behind the club house along the border with the Post Office. New hydrangeas were planted in front of Luis's apartment. An assortment of perennials were planted around the club with plenty more to come. Some of our plantings were donated by Branch Brook Park and some came from Laura Cohen's garden. Thank you!

We are awaiting an estimate from Montclair Tree Experts to remove any dead branches hanging on the property. Moving forward will need to address the trees along the side driveway that are growing into the fence.

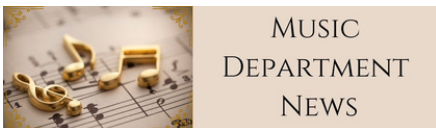
If these kinds of activities are of interest



**Pictured: Margo Garrison, Laura Cohen, Trisha Turiano**

to you we would love to have you on the Grounds Committee. You may reach me at [Grounds@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Grounds@womensclubglenridge.com).

**Margo Garrison**  
Grounds Committee Chairwoman



**MUSIC  
DEPARTMENT  
NEWS**

On May 29th, 13 very excited ukulele players made up of Club members and non-members participated in the Kiwanis Club's 2023 Memorial Day Parade. This marked the first time in the parade's history a float was included in the lineup. As we rolled down Ridgewood Avenue serenading the parade watchers with "This Land Is Your Land", the crowd was visibly delighted and surprised. The sunflowers we created as our theme are now being used in the children's room of the Glen Ridge Public Library. Special thanks to Lyn Vaux for her help.

A new, jazzy session of ukulele classes began Tuesday, Sept 12. This 5-week course focuses on the fundamentals of jazz. Among the tunes this class will tackle are "Fly Me To the Moon", "Summertime", and "Autumn Leaves". Stay tuned for another Intro. To Ukulele class coming this winter.

If you are interested in all things musical



**Pictured: Cheri Preston, Norma Asher, Sue Cali, Susan Krien, Susan Hughes, Jackie Yustein, Cathy Shea, Carla Shaw, Starr Baum, Margo Garrison, Trisha Turiano Elizabeth Shaw, Paul Byrr**

You can watch a fun video of our journey here: [Journey To the Memorial Day Parade.](#)

at the Club and would like to be on our committee, please contact me at [Music@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Music@womensclubglenridge.com).

**Trisha Turiano**  
Music Department Chairwoman



HOUSE COMMITTEE NEWS

The beautiful portico framing the clubhouse's entrance was found to be in a tragic state of disrepair over the summer. The reconstruction effort ultimately involved replacing the columns, roof, and gutters. The short time the entrance was delegated a construction zone was well worth it. Our entrance is once again photo worthy.

Among the many tasks undertaken so far this year to keep our 100+ year old house in working order were: repairing water damage on the ballroom floor, installing a new main water pipe, laying a new floor in the manager's office, and making repairs to the boiler room and attached basement storage room. We also needed to replace all of our old 48" tables and all of our white tablecloths that are available to renters.



From this ...

... to this!



I would like to take this time to welcome our new Facilities Manager, Luis "Ariel" Midon. Luis has immediately made himself an integral part of our club. He is often mentioned in the many positive reviews we get after a rental event. The next time you are in the club, take a moment to introduce yourself. Luis may be helping you with an event in the near future.

If you would like to be involved in keeping our beautiful house in tip-top shape, please reach out to us at [House@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:House@womensclubglenridge.com).

**Laura Cohen**  
House Committee Chairwoman

**STAY CONNECTED WITH THE WOMEN'S CLUB!**

- Have a question about an upcoming event?
- Want to volunteer on a committee?
- The Women's Club is always at your fingertips!

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“  
*We recently decorated this venue for my aunt and uncle's 50th wedding anniversary. The venue itself is absolutely beautiful and spacious. They were gracious enough to allow us to come in and decorate the night before the event. Throughout the whole process from decorating down to the day of the event Luis was extremely accommodating! He went above and beyond to make sure the event went smoothly. I would absolutely recommend this place to anyone who is interested in booking with them.*  
 - Alexandria R.,  
 San Francisco”

Sponsored by The Community Service Department

2023-2024 Glen Ridge  
*Virtual*  
**FOOD DRIVE**



to benefit the  
Community Food  
Bank of New Jersey

**Coming soon!**

Watch your emails  
and the Club's social  
media sites for the  
announcement!

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[CommunityService@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:CommunityService@womensclubglenridge.com)

[WomensClubGlenRidge.com](http://WomensClubGlenRidge.com)



We are pleased to announce that Sharon Harms is the new chair of Community Service as Jackie Yustein has taken a temporary position as a NJ State legislator. Congratulations to Jackie.

The Community Service Department is aiming to have its Fall kick-off meeting in early October. We will be introducing new members and brainstorming fresh ideas for the coming year. Already in the works are the 2023-'24 Glen Ridge Virtual Food Drive to benefit the Community Food Bank of New Jersey and a luncheon in February.

If You would like to be involved with the Community Service Department, please reach out to us at [Communityservice@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Communityservice@womensclubglenridge.com). Thank you.

**Sharon Harms**  
Community Service Chairwoman

THE WOMEN'S CLUB OF GLEN RIDGE  
LITERATURE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS

*The Writer's Workshop*  
An 8-Class Series

Author Judith Lindbergh returns to teach this 8-class program for Club members and non-members who want to learn the art of writing.

If you didn't make it into this session, there will be another Writer's Workshop in Spring 2024.

[literature@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:literature@womensclubglenridge.com)  
[Womensclubglenridge.com](http://Womensclubglenridge.com)





This past May, Women's Club member and bestselling author Laura Lico Albanese discussed her process of writing and researching her latest novel, *Hester*. *Hester* is a beautiful imagining of who the real Hester Prynne, of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter*, might have been. Ms. Albanese kindly stayed after the discussion portion of the event to sign copies of *Hester* for the attendees. Margot Sage-El of Watchung Booksellers was on hand with several offers for the attendees. This in-person event was catered by our members with a wonderful buffet of salmon, vegetarian chili, roasted vegetables, salads, and assorted desserts.

As new co-chairs, we are delighted to continue our Writer's Workshop this fall with returning instructor Judith Lindbergh. Judith is the Founder/Director of The Writers Circle and a teacher of creative writing for all ages. She is also an author of historical fiction. Her latest novel, *Pasture of Heaven*, is forthcoming in the Spring of 2024.

This year, we would love to see the return of a monthly book club, if there is interest. We'll be hosting an author luncheon in the spring. The details are still being worked out. Watch your email and social media for more information.

If events like our author visits, the writing workshop, or book club are of interest to you and you would like to join the Literature Department's committee, feel free to contact us at [Literature@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Literature@womensclubglenridge.com).

**Pam Colledge & Sashy Bogdanovich**  
Literature Department Chairwomen

**“** *This is my go to place for all of my events. The place is beautiful and the staff is Amazing. Elizabeth is patient and kind....Luis Midon is awesome, very thorough, pro-active and has excellent people skills.* **”**  
- M. Longchamp





The Girls' Club of Glen Ridge is very excited for this upcoming school year. We kicked-off September with our annual cupcake social, where our officers welcomed new members into the club. This year's officers are:

- President: Maddie Deluca
- Vice President: Juliette Lipari
- Corresponding Secretary: Lauren Bracken
- Recording Secretary: Ella McNelly
- Treasurer: Laura Preston
- Historian: Ava Blanz
- Social Media Coordinator: Julia Corradi

The focus of our General Membership meeting on September 18th was making handmade cards for a local nursing home. We are proud to say we made over 100 cards! On October 1st, we volunteered at Central School's annual Fall Fest which had an amazing turnout.

We are busy planning for the popular **Scare for the Cure** event on October 20th. This is a night of movies, face painting, manicures, games, treats, raffle tickets, and bake

sale. We have raised hundreds of dollars in past years for Breast Cancer research with this popular event.

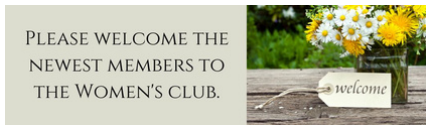
We are looking forward to a very exciting and eventful school year!

**Lauren Bracken**

Girls' Club Correspondence Secretary



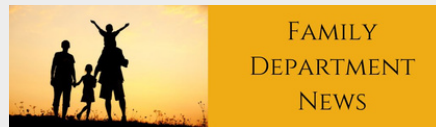
Left to right, Anna Buntrock, Tessa Rothman, and several other girls making cards for senior citizens at the September 18th General Meeting.



We had a LOT of new members join us over the Summer and at the Fall Cocktail Party in September. Please join the signpost staff in a hearty, "Welcome!" to all.

- Andre Acham - Associate
- Danielle Acham
- Melike Ayan
- Melanie Blender
- Christine Brennan
- Yoon Chung
- Megan Coughlin
- Marah Dunn
- Itewari Ekpebu-Bryan
- David Fapohunda
- Craig Feder - Associate
- Andrea Fleitas
- Brianna Garcia
- Keisha Golding
- Kareisha Questel Gordon

- Jackie Grant
- Christine Huang
- Isabelle Jammes
- Robin Jimenez
- Austin Kim - Associate
- Jeremiah Kristal - Associate
- Amir Latifi - Associate
- Claudia LaRue
- Lindsey Donn Mann
- Justin Mann - Associate
- Julian Mercado - Associate
- Stella Okigbo
- Carmen Pence
- Patricia Philip
- Jennifer Place
- William Potter - Associate
- Diane Preston
- Vi Quach
- Melanie Ryan
- Rob Shults - Associate
- Rachel Simon
- Maori Stanton
- Christine Stoll
- Melanie Strepparava
- Danielle Yau



The Family Department is excited to be hosting some tried-and-true favorite events this year. On Sunday, October 29th, we will feature **Tricks and Treats** for the whole family. This morning event will feature a breakfast buffet, crafts, activities, face painting, and more. The popular **Winter Wonderland** will be Saturday, December 2nd. Santa will be back for photographs and there will be a variety of crafts and activities including a bouncy house. We are also planning to have the **Sweetheart Dance** in the Spring.

You can secure your reservation for **Tricks and Treats** on the club's website now at [womensclubglenridge.com/events](http://womensclubglenridge.com/events). The website is also the place to get more information about **Winter Wonderland** and the **Sweetheart Dance** as their dates get closer.

If you would like to be a part of the Family Department's committee and help us plan these types of events, please contact me at [Family@womensclubglenridge.com](mailto:Family@womensclubglenridge.com).

**Tina Payne**

Family Department Chairwoman

# CLUB CALENDAR

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.

## September 2023 \*

<b>Mon., 9/4</b>	<b>Club Closed</b>	<b>Labor Day</b>
Mon., 9/11	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Board Meeting
Tues., 9/12	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Sun., 9/17	4:00 pm	Girls' Club Freshman Social
Mon., 9/18	7:30 pm	Girls' Club General Meeting
Tues., 9/19	7:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Wed., 9/20	7:00 pm	Ways and Means Committee Meeting
Thurs., 9/21	7:00 pm	CPR Training Session
Fri., 9/22	7:00 pm	Membership Cocktail Party
Tues., 9/26	7:00 pm	CPR Training Session

## October 2023 \*

Sun., 10/1	3:00 pm	CPR Training Session
Mon., 10/2	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Board Meeting
Tues., 10/3	7:00 pm	Art Dept. Monthly Mtg. & Open House - <i>Collecting Contemporary Art Demystified w/ Estelle Fournier</i>
<b>Mon., 10/9</b>	<b>Club Closed</b>	<b>Columbus Day</b>
Tues., 10/10	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wed., 10/11	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Telework & Leisurely Hours
Tues., 10/17	7:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
Fri., 10/20	7:00 pm	Girls' Club Scare for a Cure
Mon., 10/23	7:30 pm	Girls' Club General Meeting
Sun., 10/29	9:30 am - 12:30 pm	Tricks & Treats Halloween Event

\* - All events are subject to change. Please check your emails, the Club's website, and social media for up to the minute information.





# CLUB CALENDAR

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.

## November 2023 \*

Mon., 11/6	7:30 pm	Girls' Club Executive Board Meeting
Tues., 11/7	7:30 pm	Finance Committee Meeting
Wed., 11/8	9:00 am - 12:00 pm	Telework & Leisurely Hours
Tues., 11/14	12:00 - 2:00 pm	Monthly Meeting and Religions, Spirituality, and Wellness Open House
Wed., 11/15	7:00 pm	Ways and Means Committee Meeting
Tues., 11/21	7:30 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting
<b>Thurs. - Fri. 11/23-24</b>	<b>Club Closed</b>	<b>Thanksgiving</b>
Mon., 11/27	7:30 pm	Girls' Club General Meeting

\* - All events are subject to change. Please check your emails, the Club's website, and social media for up to the minute information.

“

*I am compelled to sing the praises of the team you have as the face of the Women's Club of Glen Ridge.*

*This afternoon we held the reunion of the Glen Ridge High School Class of 1963 at your facility. Along with laughs and a few tears, we recalled days when we attended a dancing school class at the facility. There were 15 of us in the room -- yes, the ballroom -- but Luis managed to make us feel right at home -- and treated us as though we were his guests.*

*In short, from the first contact with Elizabeth to the final warm handshake -- and hug with Luis -- I cannot say enough for the extraordinary treatment we received.*

*I and the rest of the members of our class are so very grateful that a very dear part of our past is still alive and so able to provide the kind of hospitality we experienced.*

*On behalf of our class -- thank you.*

*Janet Miller Haines, convenor of the 60th Reunion of the Glen Ridge High School Class of 1963.*

”



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