



December 2025 Newsletter

NJSWFC of GFWC

MEWC - College District



A letter from
Laurel Dobalo,
President, MEWC
(ldobalo@gmail.com)

I'm so excited to welcome you to our very first NEWSLETTER! Communication is a critical part of

the success of any organization and to that end, we have embarked upon this endeavor. We plan to publish 4 times a year highlighting our successes and future plans. Carol Wludyka and her committee worked hard to make this happen. A big THANKS to all of you!

The Holiday Season is upon us. I'm excited to spend time with my friends and family and especially with all of the wonderful women in the Metuchen Edison Women's Club! You have done so much to help those in need in our community including Holiday Stockings for the troops, Toys for Tots, Blankets for Operation Smile, coat collection, multiple food collections and Hands of Hope Thanksgiving food boxes just to name a few.

Plus we have successfully raised over \$12,000 this year to donate to various charities. Thanks to our Financial Secretary, Carol August, and all those who have helped her. And let's not forget the times we spent together just enjoying each other's company at our lunches and dinners, outings, book club, mahjonn group, walking group and our knitting and crocheting group. I hope we are all making lifelong friends through our times together.

I wish you a wonderful holiday season. You've all done a great job this year helping our community. It's your time to Eat, Drink and be Merry! (We can all start our diet and exercise programs in January!)

Mahjonn Tournament

November 14, 2025 was our 7th Mahjonn

Tournament which has gained quite a following, with players coming from New Jersey, Pennsylvania and New York. We raised over \$3,000 which will be donated to Covenant House NJ, whose mission is to help young people experiencing homelessness including survivors of human trafficking. Every young person receives a warm bed, food, health and wellness services, a case manager, and, most important of all, unconditional love and absolute respect.



2025 Comedy Night

A great time was had by all at our 4th Annual Comedy Night on October 15, 2025! Bobby Gonzo and his comedy team were hilarious! We raised nearly \$3,000 which will be used to provide scholarships to local high school seniors.



Friends Helping Friends



Carol August and her team raised \$1,440 during Bosco's "Friends Helping Friends" fundraising opportunity. We donated funds raised to the Pediatric Hydrocephalus Foundation dedicated to finding a cure for Hydrocephalus. The check was awarded to the Foundation during our November meeting.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



Maryanna Alfano - September Member

Sharon Mason - September Member

Interested in Health & Wellness, Education & Libraries, Arts & Culture, Advocates for Children, Fundraising, Membership, Programs

Leann Eccleston - October Member

Interested in Health & Wellness, Education & Libraries, Arts & Culture

Lauren Haas – November Member

Katey Harrington - November Member

Interested in Health & Wellness, Legislation, Programs

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

MEWC started with just a handful of like-minded women looking to make a difference in the world. We have grown to a total of 73 members. Some members say that one of reason they joined us is because we are a volunteer organization that enables them to not just support various charities but, gives them the opportunity to volunteer in a hands-on type of way. Our members also enjoy our various social activities like our lunches and dinners program. We meet every month for lunch and every other month for dinner. Members recommend various restaurants they like in the area and the details are communicated to all members. RSVP is required. If you would like to join us and recommend a restaurant, contact Adrienne R. Fowler, Second Vice President – Responsible for Membership.



**Group Dinner at
La Rosa Pizzeria
October 6, 2025**

HEALTH & WELLNESS



Our Health and Wellness Committee offers:
*Walks on the Greenway in Metuchen every Saturday morning at 8am. We meet at the trailhead across from Starbucks, near Whole Foods. In the colder months, we walk in Menlo Mall, Saturdays at 8am. We meet in the mall, near Nordstrom's.

*Supports Operation Smile – This year our members completed 15 blankets and 10 goodie bags filled with everyday necessities

*Other projects are in the works.

If you are interested in joining our committee, please contact Dawn DeHart or Vinnie Eccleston.

EDUCATION & LIBRARIES



This year the book club is in full swing. It is a great time to get together with other women in our club to discuss the book of the month and anything else we feel like discussing. The books are picked from those suggested by the members.

We meet in Panera on Route 1 near Menlo Park Mall from 6 to 8pm every six weeks with about 8 to 12 people, sometimes more. All participants are encouraged to express their views. We are currently reading Great Big Beautiful Life by Emily Henry for our January meeting. Come join us. It is a fun time for all.

Upcoming books for 2026:

- o Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid
- o Borrowed Life of Frederick Fife by Anna Johnston
- o The Inmate by Freida McFadden

This committee is starting a new project, "Education Live." Once a month committee members will read to children at a preschool in Metuchen. We have 4 to 6 committee members who volunteered to read. Our next reading is December 10 at 10 am. We are looking for additional preschools to participate in the program.

Anyone who would like to get involved in this committee please see Annette Klimerman.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE UPDATE



The latest endeavor of this committee was the floral boxes at the Metuchen Train Station.

We decorated the flower boxes at the train station on Saturday, November 8. Florence, Vinnie, Lynn, Beverley, Trena and Judy Garni, Chairman, had fun. Thanks for your help, ladies!

Thank you also to Trena, Laurel and Chris (and Gene) for providing greenery. If you are interested in joining this group please contact Judi Garni.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Civic Engagement and Outreach span many programs dedicated to active military and veterans, food insecurity, clothing the needy, economic security through empowerment, emergency preparedness and safety and crime prevention. Most recently we have made Holiday Stockings for our active military, conducted a winter coat drive for the needy, supported our local food pantries by working and donating to them, created Thanksgiving Baskets for those in need, entertaining and caring for veterans at the New Jersey Veterans Memorial Home at Menlo Park through our Bingo for Vets program and supporting disabled through our volunteer efforts at Hartwyck Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

Other organizations that we support include Operation Chillout, Wreaths Across America, American Legion, CASA NJ, Elijah's Promise and Heifer International.



Thanksgiving Boxes

for the food pantry

KEY DATES in 2026

DAY - DATE - TIME - EVENT

Wed - 1/7/2026 - 6pm
Book Club Meeting @ Panera, Edison

Wed - 1/14/2026 - 7pm
January Monthly Meeting

Thurs - 1/18/2026 - 2-4pm
Knitting/Crocheting Group

Mon - 1/19/2026 - 10am
NJSFWC Day of Service

Thurs - 1/22/2026 - 10:30am
College District Council Meeting

Mon - 1/26/2026 - 9:30am
Make lunch bags for Elijah's Promise

Wed - 2/11/2026 - 7pm
February Monthly Meeting

Wed - 2/18/2026 - 2-4pm
Make a Meal at Ronald McDonald House

Thurs - 2/19/2026 - 2-4pm
Knitting/Crocheting Group

Wed - 3/11/2026 - 7pm
March Monthly Meeting

Thurs - 3/19/2026 - 2-4pm
Knitting/Crocheting Group

Thurs - 3/26/2026 - 1:30-3pm
Bingo for Veterans

NOTE: Walking Group will meet every Saturday at 8:00 on the Metuchen Greenway until the weather gets too cold then it will move to Menlo Mall. Contact Laurel with questions 732-742-6946 or ldobalo@gmail.com



Making ornaments in preparation
for St Luke's Holiday Faire

PROGRAMS & OUTINGS

Programs and outings are the responsibility of our First Vice President, Jane Becker. As Programs Chairman, she is in charge of organizing speakers or activities for the monthly meetings. As Social Activities Chairman, she organizes outings for club members. Her committee tries to plan a variety of outings that appeal to our members including plays, museum/historical places, and other fun group activities, such as whale watches, and painting.

Our last activity was the very popular Amazon tour. In December, we will be touring Drumthwacket (the Governor's mansion) to see the holiday decorations. Possible upcoming outings include a play, East Jersey Old Town Village, and a trip to the Hindu temple, BAPS Shri Swaminarayan Mandir (the 2nd largest temple in the world!) We are still working on dates for these activities.

If you have an idea for a speaker or an outing, please contact me at: beckerjanea@outlook.com or (732) 404-7040.



Bingo at the Veteran's Home in Menlo Park

The Club donates the prize money and members volunteer to help the residents.

Holiday Stockings for Our Troops



Happy Holidays!
Best Wishes for 2026!

New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC News

December 10 – GFWC Open House, Washington D.C.

December 23- through January 1 – NJSFWC Headquarters closed

Don't forget to read the NJSFWC ALMANAC and view the flyers. The ALMANAC the states Newsletter will give you updated information on all the NJSFWC news, workshops and events. Go to njsfwc.org > Materials > ALMANAC



If you have an idea, activity or recognition you would like to recommend, please send us a note. You can contact Carol Wludyka or any of the officers in the Metuchen Edison Women's Club.