CLUB DIAL



April 2024



Funding Future Female Leaders

Honoring Noel D'Allacco-Ammirati

Founder of The Operation Prom National Network, Inc.

Presenting a look at Prom Fashions over the decades.

Saturday, April 20, 2024 11:30am - 2:30pm

Tickets: www.womansclubofwhiteplains.org

The Foundation will use the proceeds of this event to continue the Club's leg<mark>acy of gran</mark>ting scholarships to young women graduates from White Plains High School.



The Woman's Club of White Plains Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. For those attending the luncheon, \$40 of your donation is tax deductible. Volume 102 April 2024 Number 7 Issue Editor: Angela Tobin Managing Editor: Elizabeth Kurth Print Layout Designer: Minuteman Press White Plains Advertising Manager: Helise Harrington Consulting Editor: Katie Serra

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The Club Dial staff appreciates contributions from Club Members and their families. Submissions may be edited for clarity and space at the Managing Editor's discretion.



CLUB DAY

Wednesday April 3, 2024 at 12 pm

Do You Know What Your Local Library Can Do For?



We all know our local library is a great resource for books and reference materials. Although, with the advent of downloadable books, how many of us actually get to the library anymore? The library is not just a place to go find a book; it offers so much more to the community in so many ways.

Mariel Perez, Kathlyn Carroll, and Raquel Cavalcanti from the White Plains Public Library will let us know about all the amazing programs the library has to offer for all ages.

Mariel is an Adult Librarian who also does Community Outreach. She began her career in NYPL and has been working with WPPL for 19 years. She enjoys what she does and loves that her job allows her to meet and help so many people in the community.

Kathlyn is a YA librarian, working with teens in the Edge. Originally from Atlanta, she began her library career as an undergrad working in a college library. She earned her MLIS degree in 2012 from Florida State and joined the Edge team in December 2013, one week after the Edge's grand opening. She feels lucky to have fun at work and still can't quite believe that her job involves coaching book trivia teams, sewing, playing card games and joking with teens!

Raquel Cavalcanti received her MLS from Rutger's University eons ago. She started her career in Children's Services at NYPL working at various branches in Staten Island and the Bronx. She loves interacting with the littlest librarygoers in Mother Goose and Trove Time, and really enjoys finding that "perfect book" for the kids in the Trove.

Join us for lunch and find out what the library has to offer you and all your family members, whatever their age.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

April 2024

Dear Friends,

I am pleased that spring is finally upon us and that flowers will be blooming shortly. My husband, who is an avid gardener, doesn't have time for flowers. He is more of a fruit and vegetable guy: tomatoes – yeah, roses – nay. He will make an exception for beneficial plants like marigolds.

As we continue our journey through the history of the Club as reflected in Club Dial, it is apparent that gardens were important to the members of the Woman's Club in the early 1930s. There was an article about gardening and plants in nearly every edition. At the same time, the Club Dials of this period reflect that the city and the nation were dealing with the fallout from the Depression. There seem to be more ads for services where individuals are leveraging their skills to make money: French lessons, catering, laundry, dressmaking, bridge lessons using the Culbertson Method, etc. The home economic articles focus on making full use of the food purchased and minimizing waste – all the while preparing delicious meals. The 1933 White Plains mayoral election coverage featured policy statements from the Republican, Democratic and Socialist candidates. An article in a subsequent month discussed the financial problems the city was having meeting its \$4 million budget. This problem was linked to the high rate of non-payment of property taxes. There are articles from Avrill Harriman and other government officials summoning the Club members to take action to address poverty and touting F.D. Roosevelt's accomplishments.

The Club Dials weren't full of doom and gloom. There are still plenty of articles about the arts, books, history, and travel, including pieces about traveling by ocean liner. The pictures accompanying this article show ladies in skirts and pumps playing shipboard sports. Also described are trips to Edinburgh, Scotland; Liberia, Ankor Wat (now Cambodia, then Siam); New Guinea. How exotic and far away these destinations must have seemed.

There are more than a few interesting articles. One article was about the psychiatric hospital on Bloomingdale Road – now New York

Presbyterian Behavioral Health Center. According to the article, the history of this hospital pre-dates the Revolutionary War – though it was moved to its current location in the late 1800s. In another edition, there is a letter from a young adult who was studying in Germany; he tells of his experience attending a Nazi rally where Hitler was the featured speaker. I was intrigued by another item which is reprinted in this edition. It discusses the then proposed legislation to regulate the food and cosmetics industries. More about the efforts to pass this legislation can be found at: https://www.fda.gov/about-fda/fda-history-exhibits/80-years-federal-food-drug-and-cosmetic-act

One of the things I've come to appreciate as I flip through these editions of Club Dial is what a revolutionary time these ladies lived through. In addition to the social upheaval of the Depression, there was the introduction of new technologies (electric appliances, heat regulators, and a switch from coal, wood and coke to electricity), more professional women (doctors, businesswomen) and a more urban lifestyle. Despite all that, they took the time to serve the community and appreciate the books, theater, art, and poetry they were able to access. They made time to smell the roses. I encourage you to do the same.

See you at the Club!

Your President, Mary Helmsworth-Hamby

Club Notes

HOSPITALITY

Cost of the Club Day Luncheon is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. Be sure to make reservations for Club Day by the FRIDAY prior to Club Day. RSVP to **Janet Younkin** at *younkin@yahoo.com* or (914) 328-9636. If you must cancel your reservation, please notify Janet, not the club. You can also go to the website *womansclubofwhiteplains.org* events area where you can reserve and make payment. A small handling fee is charged for the convenience of paying online.

AFTERNOON BOOK CLUB Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2 p.m. – the Clubhouse Living Room

APRIL SELECTION: The Mitford Affair by Marie Benedict is advertised as "An explosive novel of history's most notorious sisters, one of whom will have to choose: her country or her family." (from the book jacket) – "Between the World Wars, the six Mitford sisters—each more beautiful, brilliant, and eccentric than the next—dominate the English political, literary, and social scenes. Though they've weathered scandals before, the family falls into disarray when Diana divorces her wealthy husband to marry a fascist leader and Unity follows her sister's lead all the way to Munich, inciting rumors that she's become Hitler's mistress."

"As the Nazis rise in power, novelist Nancy Mitford grows suspicious of her sisters' constant visits to Germany and the high-ranking fascist company they keep. When she overhears alarming conversations and uncovers disturbing documents, Nancy must make excruciating choices."

"Probing the torrid political climate in the lead-up to World War II and the ways that seemingly sensible people can be swept up into radical action, The Mitford Affair follows Nancy's valiant efforts to stop the Nazis from winning in whatever way she can. As she navigates loyalty to her country and allegiance to her family—questioning herself in the process—Nancy learns exactly how personal is the political."

As Allison Pataki states on the back cover, "Benedict plunges readers into a world of glamorous, charismatic young British debutantes and then turns that shiny world on its head." She continues to state, "I was blown away—learning this true story of the Mitford sisters and the roles they played for and against the Nazis, was nothing short of astonishing. Benedict delivers with all that readers have come to love and expect from her: nuance, elan, and the most delicious storytelling."

MAY SELECTION:

Elub Notes

EVENING BOOK CLUB Tuesday, April 9 7:00 p.m. – the Clubhouse Living Room APRIL SELECTION: The Women by Kristin Hannah

BRIDGE & GAMES Wednesdays, April 17 Noon in the Club's Tea Room

If you are interested in playing bridge, please call **Barbara Dannenberg** at 914-948-1747 or **Joan O'Shea** at 914-946-6141 for more information.

WICS – WOMEN IN COMMUNITY SERVICE Wednesday, April 10 10 a.m. in the Sun Room

The club received a lovely thank you note from Jeremy Kasman, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of White Plains along with a copy of the article he wrote for their broadcast email describing napkin holders WICS provides for them each month. Hope you have seen it. Join us for the next meeting where we will be working on another Meals on Wheels project. It's fun and easy.

CONTRIBUTE TO CLUB DIAL

We would love (and need) to have an article, a work of fiction or simply a submission for Member's Notes from you. Simply e-mail it to **Elizabeth Kurth** and she will see that the appropriate editor receives it. All submissions are due the first of the MONTH BEFORE the article will appear. Thank you in advance.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

A message to new and newish members:

The Membership Committee launched "We'll Save a Seat for You" at the fall dinner, with great success. New members sat together with Membership Committee members to get to know each other and hear more about the Club. If you'd like us to save a seat for you at Club Events email us at *wcwpmembership@gmail.com*. We look forward to seeing you.

RIDE SHARE

Anyone who needs a ride to a Club Event, day or evening, please contact *womansclubofwhiteplains@gmail.com*

FOUNDATION REPORT A MESSAGE FROM MARYANN MARTIN

There are always flowers for those who want to see them —Henri Matisse.

When I see the daffodils pop up all along Mamaroneck Avenue, I know Spring is officially here. Their glorious shades of yellow remind me of all the happy occasions we celebrate during this time of year. Our annual Scholarship Luncheon is one such occasion and it's just around the corner. In keeping with this year's theme of all things PROM not only are we honoring **Noel D'Allacco Ammiriti** founder of Operation Prom we are asking you to dig out your PROM photo for a fun display. Another highlight of the day will be an exhibit of actual PROM dresses so if you can locate yours in the back of the closet we'd love to see it.

This is always an enjoyable day, I URGE YOU to invite your friends and put together a table. We have a delicious lunch and fantastic raffle prizes. If you haven't already done so, please get your ticket TODAY. As this is a seated luncheon, we will be unable to accommodate last minute RSVP's and walk-ins. Please do not delay. DELAY = DISAPPOINTMENT.

Do vou know about our KINDNESS CARDS ?

This is a great opportunity to send someone a greeting and let them know that you have made a donation to our Acts of Kindness projects in their honor. Our work in the community such as Sandwiches for the Shelter, Welcome to Your Home Kits, We Care Toiletry Kits, and Birthday Boxes are all supported by contributions to this fund.

Please contact **Angela Tobin** if you would like to send one of these beautiful KINDNESS CARDS. They make a great gift idea for Mother's Day, Birthdays or upcoming Graduations.

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR PROM PHOTO

Ksavarin@optonline.net If you don't have a digital version handy – let us know and we will help you.

PROM DRESS DISPLAY

We would love to see yours featured in our collection. Contact: Susan Doherty (914) 523 3209



to Our Generous Membership Drive Donors

Thank you to our members who renewed their membership and to the generosity of the following members who included a donation to the house and grounds when they remitted their 2024 dues:

> Jean Bello Dona Burke* Diane Couzens Linda Cuono Mary D'Amico Beth daSilva* Gina Dempsey Ruth Doehring Susan Doherty* Ann Edwards











*Special thanks to these members who contributed \$100 or more

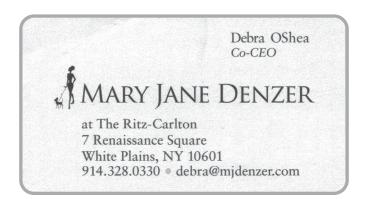
We are collecting Dresses and Tuxedos for



Bring your fancy wear to our THRIFT STORE on TUESDAYS from 9:30am 'til 12 Noon

If that time is not convenient – please text Judy at 914-643-1031 to arrange delivery

Operation Prom National Network, Inc., is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that helps students attend their prom by providing free dresses and tuxedos. Each school year, they collect and distribute prom formal wear as well as accessory items such as shoes, undergarments, jewelry, and bowties. The goal is to ensure that each student we serve receives the perfect prom attire allowing them to feel confident and empowered.



We were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Marie McMahon

in November. Marie has been a member of the Woman's Club since 1977. Marie was born and raised in White Plains. She attended St. Bernard's Grammar School. In 1974, she joined her father in the family business, McMahon, Lyon and Hartnett Funeral Home, an advertiser in Club Dial for over 80 years. According to her niece Carly, "Marie loved supporting the Woman's Club and it meant so much to her." We always enjoyed seeing Marie at the Scholarship Luncheon and the many events she supported. She will be dearly missed.





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Being the leading funeral provider in the area is not only a challenge, but it is an honor. Our professional staff is the finest in the area, able to assist in all aspects of funeral and pre-funeral planning. Please stop in or call our office for a free consultation regarding funeral plans for yourself or a loved one.

Proud supporters of the Woman's Club of White Plains

McMahon, Lyon & Hartnett Funeral Home, Inc. 491 Mamaroneck Avenue White Plains, NY 10605 www.mcmahonfuneralhome.com

CLUB DIAL April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 9:30 a.m. Thrift	3 12 p.m. Club Day	4	5	6
	7 pm Club Dial Meeting					
7	8	9 9:30 a.m. Thrift	10 10 a.m. WICS meeting	11	12	13
		7 p.m. Evening Book Club		7 p.m. Making Sandwiches for LUW		
14	15	16 9:30 a.m. Thrift 2 p.m. Daytime Book Club	17 12 p.m. Bridge & Games	18	19	20 11:30 a.m. Scholarship Luncheon
21	7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting	23 9:30 a.m. Thrift PASSOVER	24 7 p.m. Packing "Welcome to Your Home" Kits	25	26	27
28	29	30 9:30 a.m.				
31	7 p.m. Joint Club/Foundatior Board of Directors Meeting (Outgoing & Incoming Board)			COMING SOON: Spring Dinner, Wednesday, May 15, 2024, 6:30 p.m.		

THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW

by Harriet R. Howe

This article appeared in the March 1934 Club Dial. The article is edited for length.

When you read in the newspaper that young and beautiful woman have been permanently blinded by a single application of an eyebrow cosmetic, or that scores of others have been sent to the hospital with paralysis or impaired vision from using a "safe" depilatory which is really rat poison, do you exclaim, "There ought to be a law!"?

It is true that cosmetics have hitherto eluded any sort of government control except in those rare instances where their labels make curative claims for disease. And in those cases, all the manufacturer needs to do to become entirely safe from regulation is to shift those claims from his label to his other advertising, and the Government can do nothing about it, even if his product is highly dangerous.

The reason for this amazing situation is simply this: when Dr. Wiley's famous pure food law was passed in 1906, neither cosmetics nor advertising had achieved the importance they enjoy today. Indeed, cosmetics were hardly important at all, while advertising was confined chiefly to labels. Gorgeous color pages were rare, and radio was still undreamed of. Hence it seemed to Dr. Wiley and his co-workers that consumers would be amply protected if the manufacturers of foods and drugs were required to tell the truth in their labeling. Cosmetics, strange as it may seem, were not considered drugs – at least within the meaning of the food and drugs act.

Today, however, cosmetics constitute a billion-dollar industry, affecting the health and pocketbooks of millions of consumers. It is only fair to add that most of them are safe and legitimate products. Advertising, too, has grown – with no restrictions whatever on the claims that may be made in newspaper, magazines, or radio ballyhoos.

But these are not the only changes which have made Dr. Wiley's valiant law an obsolescent weapon against the abuses in the food and drug industries today. New modes of living, which could not have possibly have been anticipated in 1906, have brought about new problems in the control of foods and drugs. At the time Dr. Wiley forced his pure food low through Congress (and against terrific opposition, it must be remembered!) most foods were prepared in the housewife's own kitchen and produced comparatively nearby. But this, as some has said, is a "delicatessen age." More and more foods are produced outside the home. Thanks to scientific mass production, modern refrigeration, and other improved methods, such foods are often better and cheaper than the housewife, whatever her culinary accomplishments, could prepare. In the production of other, however, there are abuses which the Government has no legal authority under the present law to correct, Except for butter and a few canned foods there are no legal authority by which to measure the quality and composition of foodstuffs; nor is there any legal authority for government supervision, despite frequent serious hazards to health.

To correct these deficiencies in the existing law, as well as other revealed by the courts during the twenty-seven years it has been in force, President Roosevelt has authorized a complete new revision of the act. The new bill, which was drawn by the Department of Agriculture, was introduced in Congress by Senator Royal S. Copeland of New York, distinguished physician and one of the greatest health commissioners in history of the country.

The Copeland bill retains all the tried-and-proved provisions of Dr. Wiley's law, revitalized to meet modern conditions, plus specially designed stoppers for the loopholes in that act.

First of all, the Copeland bill brings cosmetics and so-called curative devices – everything from arsenic hair tonics and mercury freckle removers to orthopedic shoes – under government control. In the past, devices, even such palpable fakes as stretching machines for increasing the heights and whistles for developing lungs in tuberculosis (one of the worst things you can do, by the way) have escaped regulation. Another group of products which have gone scot-free up to now, but which are brought with the jurisdiction of the are the so-called "reducing" agents. These are highly dangerous thyroid preparations which should never be taken except under the watchful eye of a physician, various purgative salts and hot teas, and ordinary Epsom salts for the bath put out under esoteric names – all worthless or potentially harmful, and all sold at fancy prices.

False advertising of foods, drugs, and cosmetics through any medium is absolutely prohibited. This means, for one thing, that horse lineament can no longer be sold as effective cures for human tuberculosis, or horsetail weed for diabetes. So far as the curative claims for patent medicines are concerned, it will be enough for the Government to prove that such claims are false without having to show also, as at present, that the manufacturer knows his stuff is no good. As for labels, they must not only tell the truth but the whole truth, if the public health interests require it. This is to say, there must be enough information on the label for the buyer to know exactly what he is getting, whether or not it can possibly hurt him (as in the case of habit-forming drugs, or foods, or drugs likely to cause allergic reactions) and how he can use it safely. Any other information necessary to protect his health or his purse can be required at the discretion of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The proposed new law goes a long way to insure the safety and efficacy of self-medication. Recognizing that people will treat their own ailments, it gives the self-doctor the same opportunity as any physician of knowing the drugs he is administering. Only where self-medication is especially dangerous does it forbid the sale of packaged medicines, banning quack "cures" for diseases known to be incurable. Likewise, it restricts the sale of such dangerously potent drugs as the radium-charged water responsible for the death of a prominent Pittsburgh business man a year or two ago. Post-mortem examination showed that the victim's skull bones had actually disintegrated as a result of radium deposits, causing a horrible death. Yet the Government could not legally prohibit the sale of this stuff under existing law, for it was not adulterated, nor was it falsely and fraudulently labeled. What put it out of business was the publicity due to the prominence of its victim. Other dangerous drugs, however are still on sale, with the Government powerless under the law to do anything about them.

In the case of foods, informative labels, as provided for in the Copeland bill, would give the woman who does her own marketing all the information she needs in order to shop wisely, From the moment she picks up a package, can, or bottle of food to examine its label, she will be given as much protection from chicanery as if Uncle Sam in person stood at her elbow to advise her. The very container, says the bill, must be so made, shaped, and filled, as well as labeled, that there can be no misunderstanding as to the quantity of food she s buying. The food itself must not masquerade under the name of another food; if it is an imitation - of jam say - it must be conspicuously labeled as such and not fobbed off as the original article. In this way, the proposed law would do away with those petty cheats - so irritating to the housewife - that are perpetrated by some food manufacturers; the big bottle of vanilla containing no more extract than one half its size; plain noodles wrapped in yellow cellophane to look rich in eggs; or ice cream so full of air it deflates instead of melting like a self-respecting confection.

The Federal Government is authorized by the Copeland bill to set up standards of composition and quality for all food products, and to establish safe tolerances for poisons in foods. Where food may become contaminated because of unsanitary methods of production, the Government can, under certain circumstances, put the manufacturer under a license that will insure a wholesome product. Let me give you an example. A few years ago, when a disastrous epidemic of the disease known as botulism was traced to the consumption of ripe olives, the industry was threatened with extinction. Danaer has since been eliminated through painstaking study and rigid manufacturing control. But during those years when the industry was seeking a way out of its difficulties, surely it would have been to the public interest had the Government been able to step in and supervise production. The olive canners themselves would have welcomed such supervision, but there was no statutory authority.

Since the light fines now provided for violations of the law seem to be regarded by many chronic offenders as no more than license fees for continuing a profitable, if illegitimate, business, the Copeland bill provides for substantially heavier penalties, which promise more faithful observance of the law and correspondingly better protection for consumers. The bill also provides for administrative responsibility to meet new conditions that cannot be foreseen in the wording of the act. Such decisions or rulings by administrative officials, however, will always be subject t review by the courts, thus protecting well-intentioned manufacturers against possible capricious or arbitrary actions on the part of zealous officials.

Though woman suffrage was still no more than a dream when Dr. Wiley's historic law was passed, it is generally conceded that the embattled women's clubs throughout the country were responsible for its enactment. Today, opponents of the Copeland bill seem to think that history will repeat itself, for they have not hesitated to invade even the conventions of women's clubs. But just as some of the most bitter opponents of Dr. Wiley's law became its most ardent champions, when the realized that their own best interests were identical with those of consumers, so too will honest manufacturers support the Copeland Bill for the protection it affords them against the unfair practices of "chiseling" competitors. The fate of the measure, however, ultimately rests with the consumers whom it is designed to protect.



NEW MEMBER

Germaine (Gerry) Jacquette

55 Grasslands Road, Apt 303, Valhalla, NY 10595 (M) 914-649-5025, (H) 914-422-1537

gmjmd@aol.com

Gerry was a nurse for 10 years prior to embarking on a career in medicine for 40 years. She was an infectious disease specialist and worked in public health with a focus on tuberculosis toward the end of her career. A long time White Plains resident, Gerry now lives in Valhalla in an independent living facility. She is single and does not have children. At the Club, Gerry is interested in philanthropy, the arts, gardening, and community awareness.





THE 2024 DANCE PARTY



The 2024 Dance Party was a lot of fun and a great success! This casual evening was a great way to spend a cold winter night while raising funds for two important programs run by the Foundation.

On February 10th, over 115 guests danced the night away in our fabulous ballroom. We had talented karoake singers, enthusiastic dancers and a fun Name That Tune Game. Food was donated by Caperberry Events and Roosters Market.

Over \$5,400 was netted to support the Welcome to Your Home kits and We Care Personal Kits for families at the Coachman Family Services Center.

Thanks to all who volunteered the night of the event and a big thank you to a great committee; **Susan Monaco**, **Rosemary Farucci**, **Phyllis O'Keefe**, **Judy Schulz**, **Heather Spadaro**, **Janet Di Iorio**, **Raffaela Sgobbo**, **Colleen Fay**, **Susan Doherty** and **Chris Roithmayr**. Special thank you to Dave Scholz, Mark Roithmayr and Luke O'Keefe for helping behind the bar.

Missed the Dance Party but still want to support the Welcome to Your Home and We Care Personal Kits??? Visit our website to make a donation.

Chris Roithmayr

TAG SALE



The Indoor Vendor & Tag Sale on March 2nd was a success! So happy that we were able to hold it, and the ballroom was full with tables of amazing finds! The Side Door Thrift Store being open also helped the flow of people coming through – so we also thank the Down Under Crew for hosting a pop-up that day. What a great way to spend a rainy Saturday with friends!

Heather Adessa Spadaro



Need some place to put all that stuff?

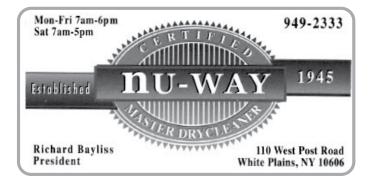
The Side Door Thrift Store welcomes your donations: clothing, household items,

Open Tuesdays 10:00am to 12 noon

seasonal decor and bric-a- brac







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White Plains, New York



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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Club Dial Guide to Advertisers and Telephone Directory. For information on advertising, rates and placements, contact Helise Harrington 478-5878

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Fashion Retail

Funeral Homes

Printing

Rug Sales, Cleaning & Repairing *Kanter's.....949-6517

We appreciate our advertisers' continued support of CLUB DIAL. Please consult our Guide to Advertisers when looking for a merchant to serve your need...and don't forget to mention CLUB DIAL when patronizing an advertiser.

*This advertiser has appeared in CLUB DIAL for over 60 years.

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Residential * Industrial * Commercial *



Woman's Club of White Plains Helps Meals-on-Wheels Clients to Celebrate Holidays



Every holiday and season, for as long as we can remember, the Woman's Club of White Plains has been helping the clients of Meals-on-Wheels to celebrate holidays and mark the passing of seasons with a gift. Beautiful handmade napkin holders and napkins are assembled with caring by Woman's Club members and then dropped off for our volunteers to deliver. This gift is always well-received.

Thank you very much to the Woman's Club.



305 Ridgeway White Plains, NY 10605

PERIODICAL



The Woman's Club of White Plains, Inc. - Main Facade - E. Wagner