



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Dec. 2014/Jan. 2015

Inside the Porch Door

Calendar

December

- Mon. Dec. 1, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Dec. 1, 1:00pm**
Chorus Practice
- Tues. Dec. 2, 9:30am**
Board Meeting
- Fri. Dec. 5, 10:00am**
Decorate the Clubhouse
- Mon. Dec. 8, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Dec. 8, 1:00pm**
Chorus Practice
- Tues. Dec. 9, 12:30pm**
General Meeting
Chorus Performs
- Wed. Dec. 10, 10:00am**
Wreath Making Workshop
- Mon. Dec. 15, 9:30am**
Arts Creative, Cookie Swap

HAPPY NEW YEAR

January

- Fri. Jan. 2, 9:00am**
Undecorate Clubhouse
- Mon. Jan. 5, 9:30am**
Board Meeting
- Tues. Jan. 6, Noon**
General Meeting, Int'l Lunch
- Mon. Jan. 12, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Jan. 19, 9:30am**
Arts Creative
- Mon. Jan. 19, 11:30am**
Literature
- Wed. Jan. 21, 11:30am**
Public Issues

Continued on Page 2

The Porch Club of Riverton
CLUB PRESIDENT: JoAnn DiNoia,
EMAIL: jaydinoia@verizon.net
NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Mindy Ryan,
EMAIL: mindymryan@yahoo.com

Letter from Your President

Dear Ladies,

I'll never forget the day my son Steven came home from school and asked me the notorious question, "Mom is there really such a thing as Santa Claus?" As I looked into his big brown eyes I knew I would have to choose my words wisely. So I began by telling him that Christmas was about much more than just about receiving gifts. It was about the spirit and the kindness of the season, the giving and doing, and the kindness of people during this time of the year. It a special feeling that can be felt deep from within. If you can remember the way you feel at this time of year, then you will always believe in the magic of the season.

As the holiday approaches I wish you all the magic and the beauty of the season. Let us remember those less fortunate, let us do a kind act, send a card, or just a friendly "hello" to a stranger. But let the spirit remain in our hearts through out the coming year. On behalf of our Executive Board and myself we wish you a joyous holiday and a healthy and happy New Year.

Please join in the festivities on Tuesday, December 9, as we celebrate our Annual Christmas Tea at 12:30 pm. It is always a delightful afternoon welcoming in the season together. Naomi Horn, Sue Fay, and the entire chorus will get us in the spirit for a lovely holiday season.

Enjoy your time spent with your family, friends, and those you hold most dear. Relax, restore, and get ready for a busy year ahead.

January starts us off with our General Meeting and our International Luncheon on Tuesday, January 6 at noon.

At our Evening Meeting on Monday, January 26, we will learn how to declutter our lives.

From my family to your family, I wish you peace, joy, and love.

Warmly,
JoAnn



Membership

Jan DeVries, membership@theporchclub.org

Two new members have joined the Porch Club this fall—Susan Zebrowski and Kathy Kull. We are truly delighted to welcome them.

Congratulations to Eleanor Miles and Elaine Marvel, who have been named Honorary Members in recognition of their many years of participation and contributions to the Club. And a BIG THANK YOU to everyone who helped to make our Open House on November 13 a success! In addition to Porch Club members, eighteen guests attended and enthusiastically enjoyed the excellent displays, delicious food, and engaging conversations.

Calendar *Continued*

Mon. Jan. 26, 9:30am
Stitchery/Crafts

Mon. Jan. 26, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting

Tues. Jan. 27, 9:30am
Board Meeting

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan,
iggaughan@gmail.com

The International Luncheon will be on January 6, 2015, at 12:00. The focus charity this Porch Club year is "What's So Scary About Smart Girls?" under the umbrella of Half the Sky Organization. Malala Yousafzai recently received the Noble Prize and Philadelphia Freedom Award for her fight for the right to education for all girls. We in the Porch Club will do our small part to bring awareness and funds to this very worthy cause.

In October \$235.00 was collected for UNICEF through the Trick or Treat Boxes. Eleven tri-boro businesses and Porch Club individuals contributed to this drive. During the PC Evening meeting in October \$90.00+ was graciously given.

Rentals

Anne Wrede, rentals@theporchclub.org

It is always a pleasure to show off our clubhouse to prospective renters. The clubhouse is so lovely simply because we, as volunteers, keep it that way. The efforts of every member of the club are deeply appreciated when you each help after every club meeting and event with clean up chores: folding up tables, cleaning the kitchen sink and checking the bathrooms etc. Yes it is extra work, still, we feel an extra measure of fellowship and mutual care when we all pitch in at the end of every meeting.

It is possible to raise as much as \$3,500 per month from rentals alone during this busy season. Additions to the rental calendar occur almost every day for weekday and weekend events. The dates that the Porch Club is rented are posted on the website calendar. Club activities are given priority over rentals, but only if they are already on the calendar before the rental deposit and fees are paid. To get a club activity posted on the calendar contact Amanda Boulton, our First Vice President, right away please. And please check the calendar before planning an activity at the Porch Club.

While non-members pay up to \$550 to rent the clubhouse, our Executive Board approved the following rates for members which became effective in September 2014:

Porch Club members (6 months or longer and immediate family) pay \$225 for up to 12 continuous hours. After 6:00 pm there is a \$50 premium (\$275 total.) Rental contract must be signed by the member, rental payment is paid by the member, and the member must be present at the Porch Club during the rental time.

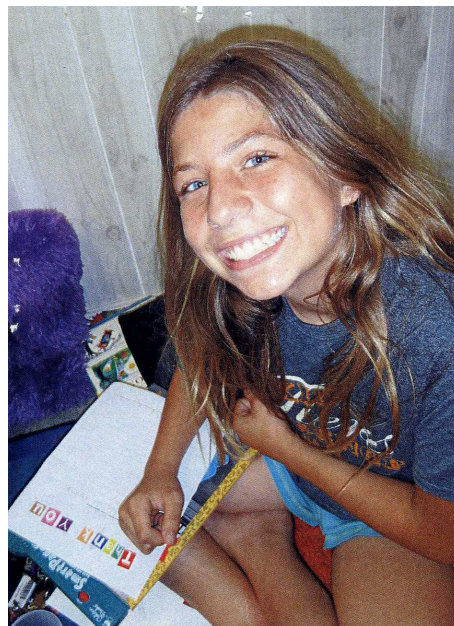
Exception to ALL RATES: New Year's Eve, \$500 for 12 continuous hours.

ALL RENTALS require:

1. a \$250.00 refundable security deposit returnable after the rental upon inspection of the clubhouse
2. a certificate of insurance
3. the rental fee
4. a signed rental agreement (contract obtainable from Anne Wrede at rentals@theporchclub.org)

Additional procedures and rules are listed on the rental agreement.

I have found that our renters are from our own community and are all very nice and appreciative people. Our clubhouse has seen many joyful events this past season including: weddings, bridal and baby showers, and homecoming surprise parties for veterans returning from active duty in the Middle East.



Kimberley, who is sponsored by the club, through Child Fund International.

Yearbook Corrections

B. Susan Crowe:
bsgcrowe@optonline.net

Carolyn Brann
235 Siena Drive
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

Eileen Della Penn:
609-313-0441

Bonnie Higgins:
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What Members Have Been Up To Lately **Evening Meetings**

Kit Stahler-Miller, 856/261-0251
kitsmiller200@comcast.net

Monday, January 26, 2015, 7:00 pm
"Decluttering Your Life: Energy
Management 101"

by Anne Greco, Life Coach

Clutter can make us feel flawed, overwhelmed, unfulfilled, inefficient and downright unhappy. It drains us of our energy.

Come hear Anne Greco present a slide show with handouts and discuss:

What's cluttering our lives, by taking inventory of our physical spaces (purse, car, home, yard, office) and our emotional lives (obligations, relationships).

Some unknown clutter culprits like bookcases and sound!

Ways to say "no" without feeling guilty and examine why certain obligations are on our plates.

Tips to physically de-clutter and cleanse our living and working spaces.

Bring your questions to this interactive de-clutter program which promises to help us feel better about ourselves and restore our energy. Guests welcome.



Karen Healey and Sandi Scheer greet a guest at the Open House.



Vicky Basgil, Grace Campbell, and Donna Van Hoy show off a fruit tart made during an Arts Creative workshop.



Betty Dunn converses with a resident of Riverview Estates during the annual tea with Public Issues.



Garden/Conservation Department

Carole Lange, Carole.Lange@gmail.com
Sandy Scheer, sscheer506@verizon.net

The Garden/Conservation Department and 2015 Flower Show Committee have been busy this fall. We cleaned up the Porch Club gardens, and took a boat

Art Performing/ Music/Drama

Susan Fay Chorus co-Director,
suefay56@gmail.com,
856-234-4031

The Porch Club chorus has been diligently practicing for weeks to bring you some lively entertainment. We will be performing our Christmas Tea Concert on December 9 featuring many fun holiday songs.

We are blessed and grateful to have Naomi Horn working with us and accompanying our chorus.

ride tour to Bartram's Garden in Philadelphia.

Arts Creative and Garden/Conservation will be decorating the Porch Club for the holidays on December 5. This year's theme is Candy Land. We will hold a Holiday Wreath Workshop on December 10 at 10:00 am facilitated by Burlington County Gardener's Association.

The Flower Show Committee has been working diligently and meeting frequently to prepare for next year's Flower Show exhibit. The 2015 Philadelphia Flower Show theme is "Lights, Camera, Bloom!" Hollywood is the focus. We were very excited when we learned that Pennsylvania Horticultural Society had approved Audrey Hepburn and the classic movie: "Breakfast at Tiffany's" as the subject of our exhibit. The committee will soon be selling raffle tickets for a "Breakfast at Tiffany's" themed gift basket. Here's your chance to experience the posh lifestyle of Holly Golightly!

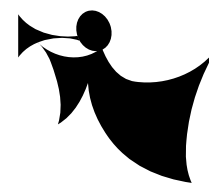
Home/Life Social Services

Jill Croft, jillyc@verizon.net,
Gerri Dietrich,
gadietrich@msn.com

Twelve awesome ladies prepared 160 plus sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen in a little more than one hour. Many thanks to MaryLou Shcofield for delivering the sandwiches to Cathedral Kitchen in Camden.

We will be partnering with Public Issue/Betty Dunn in collecting food items for the Bread Of Life Food Pantry at Epworth United Methodist church. Additional details will be provided at our December General Meeting.

Keep collecting "Box Tops for Education" for Charles Street school and soda tabs for Ronald McDonald House.



Over 160 sandwiches were prepared for Cathedral Kitchen. Jill Croft, Lynn Horan, Sheila Hines, Vicky Gordon, Carol Meade, Eleanor Sklar, Karen Kelly, Janet Karrmann, Leslie Dickinson, Gerri Dietrich, and Grace Edelson had fun while making the sandwiches.



Looking Back: First Christmas Tea

Carol J. McCarthy, cjmc08@verizon.net

The Porch Club's first Christmas Tea was held in 1933. Previously, there had been Christmas entertainment and programs, as well as a Christmas children's party. But, 1933 marked the first formal holiday tea. If the notes are accurate there were 150 were in attendance, club members and townsfolk. THAT was a packed house. Interestingly enough, for you football buffs, this is the same year the Philadelphia Eagles were founded. While we can't say for certain what the Porch Club ladies ate that day, (or the tailgaters), the tea menus of the day included jellied meats, boiled fish, and tongue.

Here is an example of suggested home tea menus from 1933:

Breads: These are sometimes hot, buttered rolls, but the thin-sliced English bread-and-butter is preferred, provided there is a skilled cutter.

Assorted Sandwiches: These may be open or closed, toasted or plain, and the shapes and fillings as novel as possible. Examples are: Pimiento Butter and Brie Cheese, Lemon Butter and Fig Paste, Horse radish and Tongue, Sifted Nectarines, Chicken Livers and Tomato, Maple Cream and Chopped Nuts.

Cakes: The most convenient are cookies or very small cakes, richly frosted and in paper cases.

Beverages: Tea alone is served at such a simple and homey affair, and choice of weak or strong, with or without cream, etc., provides sufficient variety. Nuts and bonbons may or may not be provided.

One of my favorite menus for such an occasion is this: Scalloped Oysters (host serving), Baked Stuffed Potatoes, Jellied Fruit Salad, Onion Juice Sandwiches, Fruit Meringues, and Coffee. Another simple menu that has only one last-minute dish is this: Jellied Veal, Stuffed Baked Potatoes, Hot Rolls, Currant Jelly, Fruit and Ginger Ale Salad, Angel Food Cake Stuffed with Strawberry Ice Cream, and Coffee — *American Cookery, 1933*

Whether or not the Porch Club ladies nibbled on Onion Juice sandwiches or Sifted Nectarines, we can be sure the conversation was lively and the women enjoyed each other's company just like we do today.

Literature / Education

Cora Lee Page, crpage1@comcast.net

We are planning for our Book and Author Event scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 24. It will be a little different from our usual luncheon as we plan to showcase some local authors from New Jersey. Some of you have already given me some names. If anyone knows any local authors who might be interested in this evening event, please let me know.

The Literature part of our group will not meet in December. However, I would like to have a short informational meeting with the Education division of our group at the end of our Porch Club Meeting on December 9.

Public Issues

Elizabeth "Betty" Dunn
ecarolldunn@gmail.com

On October 29, we shipped 145 pairs of socks to Delaware for the Stockings for Soldiers campaign. The socks will become part of a Christmas package for our men and women in the armed forces. Thanks again, for your generous participation.

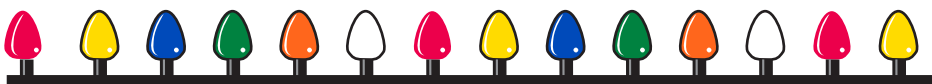
Public Issues hosted a speaker, Ruth Stotsenburg, president of the Burlington County chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness on October 24.

Founded in 1979, NAMI is a nationwide, non-profit group of volunteers that support and advocate for the mentally ill and their families. Good mental health is the ability to work, love and play. When that ability is disrupted, mental illness can occur and the stigma of mental illness can be very difficult to overcome.

One in four people are affected directly or indirectly by mental illness and one in five children is affected. Good medical health care is becoming harder to find for the mentally ill. Due to lack of funding, hospitals are closing and patients are given less time with their physicians and counselors.

In our area, NAMI provides help with monthly support meetings at the First Presbyterian Church in Moorestown for patients and their families. They run a Crisis Intervention training program for police. They also run a statewide program called "In Our Voice" for patients and their families to discuss mental illness and how they can function. They also advocate with our legislators to increase funding and recognition of the problems faced by the mentally ill.

NAMI needs help in providing transportation to appointments and also answering phones in their office in Moorestown. Contact NAMI at 856-222-9400, Moorestown Community House, 16 East Main St. #5, Moorestown, NJ 08057.



Arts Creative, Stitchery, Crafts



Jeanne Bianchini jxstitch@gmail.com, MaryLou Schofield mlscho@verizon.net

Lots to do in December and January. We've already started to make Lollipops for Candy Land at the Porch Club, with decorating planned for December 5.

Pull out your Christmas cookie recipes and join us for a Cookie Swap on Monday, December 15, at 9:30am. Be sure to contact MaryLou or Jeanne for details. You do need to sign up for this event.

Stitchery continues Beginner's Knitting under the guidance of Karen Healey and her team of helpers. If you'd like to join the group, please contact Karen. In December, Stitchery will be meeting on the 1, 8, and 15 at 9:30am. Any form of stitching is welcome. Please come out and start your week with us.

In the New Year, mark your calendar for January 19. Maureen Murray, designer extraordinaire, will be teaching us to make Valentines. As we get closer, more information will follow.

In January 12 we'll resume our regular Monday morning meetings. We'd also like to return to a monthly evening meeting in January, date and details will be provided at a later time.

The Betsy project is nearing completion. We expect that she will go to the framer at the beginning of December and be ready for presentation to the club in January. Hope you all can make it to see what a beautiful piece of art this is.



The Porch Club of Riverton
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