



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

April/May 2015

Inside the Porch Door

Calendar

April

- Mon. Apr. 6, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Tues. Apr. 7, Noon**
General Meeting
- Tues. Apr. 7, 7:00pm**
Paint the Porch Pink planning
- Wed. Apr. 8, 11:00am**
Chorus Rehearsal
- Wed. Apr. 8, 3:00-6:00pm**
Rummage Sale setup
- Thurs. Apr. 9, 1:00-7:00pm**
Rummage Sale setup
- Fri. Apr. 10, 6:00-9:00pm**
Rummage Sale
- Sat. Apr. 11, 8:00am-noon**
Rummage Sale
- Mon. Apr. 13, 7:00pm**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Tues. Apr. 14, 10:00am**
Betsy Planning
- Wed. Apr. 15, 11:00am**
Chorus Rehearsal
- Thurs. Apr. 16, All day**
Achievement Day
- Fri. Apr. 17, 11:30am**
Public Issues
- Mon. Apr. 20, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Apr. 20, 11:30am**
Literature
- Mon. Apr. 20, 7:00pm**
Evening Meeting
- Wed. Apr. 22, 11:00am**
Chorus Rehearsal
- Fri. Apr. 24, 7:00pm**
Meet and Greet the Authors
- Mon. Apr. 27, 9:30am**
Stitchery / Crafts
- Tues. Apr. 28, 9:30am**
Board Meeting

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 our President

Dear Ladies,

*A day comes in the springtime when Earth puts forth her power,
casts off the bonds of winter and lights him hence with flowers.*

—Dora Read Goodale

It's hard to believe that our Porch Club year will soon be coming to an end. We have had a great year filled with many accomplishments. From the completion of our Betsy project to taking 1st place at the Philadelphia Flower Show, our group never fails to amaze me. Our board, our department members, and our committees all have done an outstanding job to make us all Porch Club proud.

All the best,

JoAnn



The first place entry at the Philadelphia International Flower Show designed by our amazing members. The theme was Hollywood and the Oscars and this design was a nod to Audrey Hepburn. A fabulous job by Pat McDermott, MaryLou Schofield, Rita Vittese, Donna Van Hoy, and team!



Jan DeVries (center) welcomes new members Meg Grimes and Linda McCormick

Membership

Jan DeVries, membership@theporchclub.org

We are delighted to welcome five new Porch Club Members—
Meg Grimes, Linda McCormick, Elaine Mead, Beth Sawyer, and Cheryl Smekal.

New members bring much appreciated enthusiasm and talent to the club, and we are always pleased to welcome them.

If you would like to propose someone for membership, please contact Jan DeVries at Janet.B.DeVries@comcast.net for an application form.

We also value our long-time members for the perspective they bring to the Club. At the Annual Meeting on May 19, we will honor two long-time members – our “Elder Stateswoman” Elsie Waters and 35-year member Annamarie May. We will also announce the recipient of The Porch Clubwoman of the Year award.

Communications

Amanda Boulton,
agboulton@gmail.com

Our website, www.theporchclub.org has been entered in both the GFWC and NJSFWC website contests. Winners will be announced in June and May. Please continue to send your comments and suggestions as the website is there to serve our members and the public. Your input is needed to continually improve on what we have so that we may become the best in the nation/state.

Calendar *Continued*

Wed. Apr. 29, 11:00am
Chorus Rehearsal

May

Mon. May 4
NJSFWC Convention begins

Mon. May 4, 9:30am
Stitchery/Crafts

Mon. May 4, 11:30am
Chorus Rehearsal

Tues. May 5, 12:30pm
General Meeting

Mon. May 11, 9:30am
Stitchery/Crafts

Programs

Phyllis Rodgers,
partea@comcast.net

In March we were fortunate to welcome speaker Jane Peters Estes as she presented her program on Vintage Wedding customs. Ms. Estes held our interest by explaining the origins of numerous wedding traditions. As we enjoyed our afternoon tea we viewed dozens of vintage wedding photos from Jane’s collection.

We look forward to hosting Chef Joseph Poon next season.

Suggestions for future programs may be sent to Phyllis Rodgers.

Mon. May 11, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting

Sun. May 17, 4:00pm
“Betsy” Cocktail Party

Mon. May 18, 11:30am
Literature

Mon. May 18, 7:00pm
Stitchery/Crafts

Tues. May 19, 12:30pm
Annual Meeting

Fri. May 22, 11:30am
Public Issues

Tues. May 26, 9:30am
Board Meeting

NAMI – State Project

Elizabeth “Betty” Dunn
ecarolldunn@gmail.com

On Saturday, May 16, 2015 the annual 5K NAMI Walks NJ will be held on the boardwalk at Seaside Park, NJ, to raise awareness for mental illness and to raise funds for the education programs that NAMI NJ sponsors.

See Betty if you are interested in walking or pledging.

Spring Rummage Sale in April

Mary Hannah,
Riverton914@aol.com

The Rummage Sale dates were changed to Friday, April 10 from 6:00-9:00pm and Saturday, April 11 from 8:00am-noon, the bag sale from 11:00am-noon. Donations can be dropped off Wednesday, April 8 from 3:00-6:00pm, April 9 from noon-6:00pm or Friday, April 10 from noon-4:00pm. If you need another time, just call me and we will work something out.

The sale is a wonderful way to meet or connect with other members. We can always use help – it doesn’t matter if you need to sit or can’t lift, you will be a huge help in any capacity. We have many needs! All proceeds go to women and children’s charities within Burlington County. Hopefully all this bad weather got you housebound folks cleaning out and ready to go green with the recycling of all of your unneeded items and finds you ready to jump in and have fun with us in April! Thank you all for your support.

June

Mon. June 1, 9:30am
Stitchery/Crafts

Mon. June 1, 7:00pm
Evening Planning

Sun. June 7, All day
Paint the Porch Pink

Mon. June 8, 9:30am
Stitchery/Crafts

Tues. June 9, 9:30am
In/Out Board Meeting

Mon. June 15, 7:30pm
Evening Social

Evening Meetings

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

Thanks to all members and guests who came out to support the Evening Department programs this winter. February's "Historic Gardens of Mount Holly: A Legacy of the Landscape" by Alicia McShulkis, master gardener and author, was attended by many members, guests, and non-members on a very cold night.

In March, the extra 'fitted in program', the long awaited (14 months - cancelled twice due to snow) - "De-Cluttering Your Life: Energy Management 101" by Anne Greco, life coach, taught us ways to clear our environment and energize ourselves - making our lives happier, more spacious, and more effective.

Finally, we had our regularly scheduled March event, "Easter Basket Extravaganza" - making Easter Baskets with the Girl Scouts, always a crowd favorite. Special thanks to all the volunteers who make these programs so successful.

Monday, April 20, 2015 - 7:00pm

*Celebrating Women's History Month and the Porch Club's 125th Anniversary
A Visit from Mary Van Meter Grice,
Founder of the Porch Club, Presented by Pat
Brunker, Past President of the Porch Club*

We are pleased to have the company of Mary Van Meter Grice on this night. Mary was one of eight young women who were Charter Members of The Porch Club in 1890 and who was it's first president from 1895-1897 when the club joined the Federation of Women's clubs. She was also the first president of the NJ State PTA, which was formed through the efforts of the Porch Club, a published author, president of the Home and School League in Philadelphia, and a social activist.

Pat will present a slide show about the life of this remarkable woman who was instrumental in the founding of this "center of thought and action for women" which led to such a rich heritage for Riverton and the community.

This will be a grand way to belatedly celebrate Women's History Month and to shine a bright light on The 125th Anniversary of the Porch Club.

Monday, May 11, 2015 - 7:00pm

"Crash: A Tale of Two Species: Red Knot Birds and Horseshoe Crabs"

Presented by Jim May, Docent, The Delaware Bay for Conserve Wildlife and Environmental Steward for Rutgers

Come watch a 60-minute PBS DVD documentary and participate in a discussion of the story of a journey of a 10,000 mile round trip by Red Knot Birds and their interdependence on the eggs of the Horseshoe Crab (*limulus polyphemus*) - two very special phenomena here in our backyard in Cape May County on the Delaware Bay.

The documentary features three Rutgers professors: Dr. Lawrence Niles, Dr. Amanda Dey, and Dr. Joanna Burger.

Jim will share his passion, dedication, and commitment during this truly environmental story of these prehistoric horseshoe crabs and nature's dance, and bring unique items for display.

Monday, June 1, 2015 - 7:00pm

Evening Department Year End Planning Meeting at the Porch Club

We'll decide the dates for next year's programs as well as discuss, suggest, and select the programs for next year's Evening Department calendar and offerings to meet the June 30 deadline for the executive board of directors for the directory submission.

Monday, June 15, 2015 - 7:00pm

Evening Department Year End Social at Maureen Murray's Home in Riverton

We'll wrap up the year in style and welcome summer at Maureen Murray's home by having finger foods and dessert in the garden (weather permitting) or on the porch at 301 Main Street, Riverton. We'll enjoy healthy snacks, dessert, drinks, and good company.

Please bring a non-perishable item for the Food Pantry to carry them over the summer.

Public Issues

Elizabeth "Betty" Dunn
ecarolldunn@gmail.com

On March 20, The Public Issues Committee hosted a discussion on Medical Identity Theft.

Our speaker was Jennifer Comerford, a member of the Porch Club, who is a Certified Healthcare Compliance Professional and an independent Medical Research Analyst with a Master of Jurisprudence Health Law from Widener University School of Law, a Bachelor of Science degree from Thomas Jefferson University, and a Master Certificate in Pediatric Occupational Therapy from Temple University.

Medical Identity Theft is a new kind of crime. Thieves steal your personal information and file fraudulent claims against your health insurance policy.

These medical thieves steal your health insurance number, Social Security number, and other personal information. Many times the information is stolen by employees at medical facilities and resold on the black market. Thieves also hack into medical databases or break into medical facilities.

Organized theft rings can set up fake clinics to make bogus claims against the health policies of honest consumers. They may use your identity to obtain prescription drugs to sell or feed their own addictions. Some Medical Identity thieves often receive free medical treatment by assuming your identity at a hospital or clinic and your policy receives the bill.

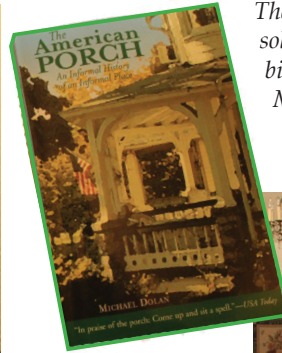
Medical Identity Theft can cause many long lasting problems including ruined credit, loss of health coverage, inaccurate records, legal problems, and higher health premiums.

There are ways to help prevent Medical Identity Theft. Always check the explanation of benefits form (EOB) sent by your health insurer. Notify your insurer and medical provider if you see treatments you never received. Monitor your insurance benefits annually, check your medical records, protect your credit, correct inaccurate medical records immediately, and file a police report to notify law enforcement that a crime may have been committed.

What We've Been Up To Lately



Kit Stahler-Miller with guest speaker Anne Greco



The American Porch to be sold via silent auction. Final bids taken at the Evening Meeting on April 20



February speaker Bob Gleason as Abraham Lincoln.



New members Beth Sawyer, Cheryl Smekal, and Elaine Mead



Core Flower Show design team of Pat McDermott, Donna Van Hoy, MaryLou Schofield, and Rita Vittese.



March speaker Jane Peters Estes



Guest speaker Alicia McShulkis with her book Historic Gardens of Mt. Holly: A Legacy of the Landscape



Mrs. Edward H. (Sarah Morris Perot)
Ogden Porch Club President, 1897-1901

LOOKING BACK:

Honoring Mrs. Edward H. Ogden Porch Club President 1897-1901

Priscilla Taylor, ptaylor93@msn.com, Porch Club Historian

Sarah Morris Perot was born on December 6, 1831 in Philadelphia to Francis Perot and Elizabeth Marshall Morris. Raised a Quaker, she was active in her "work of mercy". She was a member of the Pennsylvania Society of Colonial Dames of America, the Philadelphia Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, and President of the Philadelphia Home for Incurables. She took part in other philanthropic work such as assisting the Pennsylvania Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. She also served as President of the Riverton branch of the Needlework Guild of America for eighteen years.

Sarah Morris Perot married Edward H. Ogden on December 1, 1853, and later moved to Riverton, New Jersey. During the Civil War, Mrs. Ogden was a volunteer and a daily visitor to a Philadelphia military hospital. (Edward H. Ogden served as a Union soldier and became the first Mayor of Riverton in 1894.)

Many of the meetings of the Porch Club (then "Mothers' Circle") were held

on the Ogden's front porch on Bank Avenue from 1890-1902. During the time that Mrs. Ogden served as Porch Club President (1897-1901), the Club formed the "Village Improvement Section" whose purpose was "to beautify Riverton, as Civic Clubs do in Philadelphia." The Section met weekly on Mondays. A "Study Section" was also formed. The club campaigned successfully to have the first woman (Mrs. Mary C. Grice) elected to the school board. The "Musical Section" was formed; the Porch Club membership enlarged to 50 members, and the executive committee was formed of officers and chairwomen, who served one-year terms. The "Mothers' Circle" issued a "Call" which resulted in the organization of the NJ Congress of Mothers (now the New Jersey PTA). The Porch Club joined the NJ Congress in 1901; dues were \$.10 per member. The Porch Club membership grew too large to continue meeting on the Ogden's porch, so a search was conducted to find a more suitable meeting location. In 1908, after Edward H. Ogden's death,

Mrs. Ogden gave the current Riverton Library building to the Library Association in her husband's name.

Mrs. Edward H. Ogden died on July 30, 1912. At her memorial, a Mrs. Mary B. H. Williams of Philadelphia said, "To endeavor to do justice to her great and enduring capacity for work is useless.... her service for others has been untiring...She was fearless where the truth was concerned. So today, we are the richer for her example and the poorer for our loss."

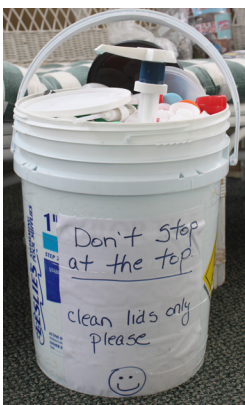
International Outreach

Iris Gaughan,
iggaughan@gmail.com

The focus project for 2015-16 is "What's So Scary About Smart Girls: World Wide Education for Girls". The committee has raised over \$600 thus far with the goal being \$1,000. The Riverton School Language Arts, Social Studies, and Art programs will jointly participate in this project. The teachers involved are very excited about the Riverton School/ Porch Club Project, Change-for-Change. All 8th grade students will be involved.

Change-for-Change will expose students to the plight of girl's education in emerging countries through the school curriculum. It will also have students distribute boxes for the purpose of collecting "change" (much like the UNICEF trick or treat boxes). The money collected will then be given to the PC for our campaign.

Riverton School has asked members from our committee to kick off the project on April 13 when we will introduce segments of the film, "Girl Rising".



Don't Stop at the Top Vicky Basgil, vickybasgil@yahoo.com

So far we have kept 5 five-gallon buckets of plastic lids out of the landfill! This is a huge accomplishment for the ladies of the Porch Club who first climbed on board with this project in the fall. Collected lids are taken to Fran at the Vitamin Store in Cinnaminson. From there a woman comes up bi-monthly from Cape May and takes them. Details are a bit vague, but they are somehow traded for dialysis and possibly recycled into park benches.

Garden/Conservation Department

Carole Lange, Carole.Lange@gmail.com

Sandy Scheer, sscheer506@verizon.net

The Philadelphia Flower Show has ended and we are so pleased to announce that your Porch Club Flower Show committee walked away with First Place! Our Audrey Hepburn won the judges over, stating that the "chandelier" (hanging basket) conveyed the glamour of Audrey Hepburn; the colors had delicacy that is brilliant from a design point of view. The core design team of Pat McDermott, MaryLou Schofield, Rita Vittese, and Donna Van Hoy created two exquisite, gorgeous displays. The entire team's dedication, devotion and creativity played an integral role in our success. Kudos to all who helped for a job very well done! Our beautiful Audrey Hepburn themed raffle basket was raffled off at our March General Meeting. The lucky winner was the Garden District Vice President, Gerri Tabako.

The Garden/Conservation department met on March 18 to discuss Achievement Day entries, the Porch Club's 125th Anniversary, guest speakers, and spring field trips. Two possibilities are tours of Meadowbrook Farm in PA and Cherry Grove Farm in Lawrence Township NJ. Through a member's connection with

Fairmont Park, the Garden/Conservation Committee has been asked to participate in their annual "Rooms in Bloom" in May. More information is forthcoming.

Home/Life Social Services

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

Since the sandwiches made for Cathedral Kitchen in the fall were so enthusiastically received, Home Life and Public Issues decided to do it one more time before summer. Thank you to all who participated.

On Wednesday, April 15, we will be going to the Ronald McDonald House to prepare an evening meal for the families. The time of our assembly and departure is yet to be determined. Additional information will be forthcoming. Also, we are collecting premie clothes, which we will bring to the Ronald McDonald House.

Literature/Education

Cora Lee Page, crpage1@comcast.net

Several members of the Education department read to students for Read Across America day in March in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday. Also, under the direction of Bonnie Higgins, we have collected supplies for the Teacher's Wish List for the Riverton School.

The Literature Department met in March to discuss books by Nicholas Sparks.

Final preparations are underway for the Meet and Greet the Authors Evening to be held at the Porch Club on Friday, April 24 at 7:00pm. We have six exciting authors participating at this event and sharing their books with us. The authors are:

Tina Gabrielle: author of adventurous Regency historical romances.

Nancy B. Kennedy: children's and inspirational book author, newspaper reporter, and financial journalist.

Judith Kristen: author, educator,

motivational speaker, and humane education teacher.

Gail Priest: teacher, adjunct college professor, guidance counselor, actor, director, and writer.

Sujean Rim: footwear and accessories designer, children's book author, and illustrator.

Michele Lynn Seigfried: mystery novelist, children's book author, and illustrator.

There will be assorted beverages and light snacks offered in an informal setting and guests may walk around visiting with the authors and looking at their books. Advance tickets will be available at the April luncheon meeting for \$10. Tickets will be \$12 on the day of the event.

Raffle tickets will also be sold for 3 baskets at \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Come one, come all. Bring your friends, spouses, and kids to this exciting evening!



June 7, 2015

www.painttheporchpink.org

Paint the Porch Pink 2015

Carol McCarthy,
cjmc08@verizon.net

Time to start thinking about and planning for this June's Paint the Porch Pink! The date of this year's walk is June 7. We are looking for volunteers who would like to donate their time, energy, and smiles for the 2015 event.

Our first meeting is open to everyone - committee members and volunteers. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00pm at the Porch Club. The purpose of this meeting is to make assignments for the various tasks. This includes 'Day of' responsibilities like porch hostesses, raffles, registration, publicity, etc. We will need all hands on deck for this meeting! We'll have one more meeting in May as we get closer to the event.

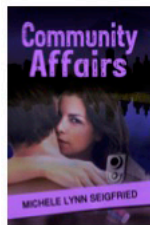
Anyone who participated in the 2011 and 2013 Paint the Porch Pink walks - either as a volunteer, porch home owner, or walker - can tell you how much they enjoyed the day.

Hope to see you all. If you have questions or cannot make the evening meeting but wish to help, please contact me, Carol McCarthy, 856-829-1299 or cjmc08@verizon.net

The Porch Club of Riverton

Presents

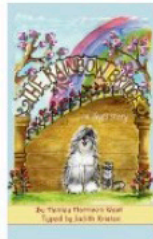
Meet and Greet the Authors



Featuring:

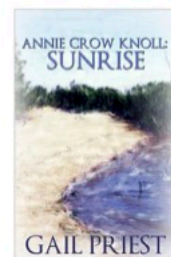
Michele Lynn Seigfried, mystery novelist and children's book author/illustrator.

Sujean Rim, footwear and accessories designer, children's book author and illustrator.



Gail Priest, teacher, adjunct college professor, guidance counselor, actor, director, and writer.

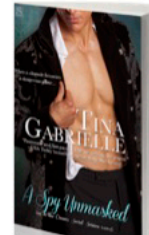
Judith Kristen, author, educator, motivational speaker and humane education teacher.



Tina Gabrielle, author of adventurous Regency historical romances.



Nancy B. Kennedy, children's and inspirational book author, newspaper reporter, financial journalist.



When: Friday, April 24, 2015

Where: Porch Club of Riverton

4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ 08077

Time: 7:00 PM

Cost: \$10 in advance, \$12 "day of" tickets

Beverages and light refreshments will be served.

For reservations and information, call Sandi, 856-461-3080 or Cora Lee 609-932-1787 or email crpage1@comcast.net

Proceeds benefit The Literacy Volunteers of Burlington Co and the annual Carmel Fischer Scholarship Award at Cinnaminson HS. Visit our web site - <http://theporchclub.org/>.

Arts Creative, Stitchery, and Crafts

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

April and May are busy and exciting months for Arts Creative/Stitchery; especially with many of our stitchers returning from warmer climates. On April 16 we'll be delivering the Porch Club's "creative and delicious" Achievement Day entries. Gold Ribbon winners will also be displayed in Atlantic City in early May for the state competition. Our members usually do very well representing our club.

In April too, our stitchers will be needlepointing or cross-stitching what we call "Helene's Creation". Helene Lilholt has designed a beautiful piece for us to stitch of the Porch Club itself. We'll be using new and interesting threads, learning a few new stitches, and creating a lasting keepsake.

May brings us to the long awaited "Betsy" unveiling. On Sunday, May 17, we'll be celebrating together as we hang our flag in our clubhouse. At our April and May general and evening meetings, we'll be passing sign up sheets for volunteers. We'll need help with decorating the Porch Club, set-up, and cleanup. Members attending the celebration will be asked to bring an appetizer. We will not be selling tickets. It's for all of us, but charitable donations will be collected. Lots of plans to be made with all hands needed. Please try to attend the planning meetings as they're scheduled over the next few weeks.

Always busy, Monday mornings are open to anyone wanting to stitch, knit, or crochet together, chat a bit, and enjoy spending a morning with friends.

Art Performing/Music/Drama

Susan Fay, Chorus Director, suefay56@gmail.com

The Porch Club Chorus welcomes all women who love to sing - our talent ranges from inability to read music to church choir veterans. The only qualification is a love of singing and performing. Our practices are tentatively set as follows:

April 8, 15, 22, 29 at 11:00am

May 4 at 11:30am

Naomi and I have put together a nice mix of show tunes, gospel, and old time favorites for our Spring Concert on May 5 at the Tea.

Please contact me if you are interested in singing in the Spring Concert and are not on my list for this year. Love to see some new members!

The Porch Club of Riverton
Fourth & Howard Streets
P.O. Box 49
Riverton, NJ 08077
www.theporchclub.org