



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Dec./Jan. 2015-16

Inside the Porch Door

December

Tues., Dec. 1, 9:30am
Board Meeting
Wed., Dec. 2, 9:30am
International Outreach Meeting
Thurs., Dec. 3, Time TBD
Fairmount Park Bus Trip
Mon., Dec. 7, 9:30am
Stitchery
Tues., Dec. 8, 12:30pm
General Meeting/Christmas Tea

January

Mon., Jan. 4, 9:30am
Board Meeting
Tues., Jan. 5, Noon
General Meeting;
International Luncheon
Mon., Jan. 11, 9:30am
Stitchery
Wed., Jan. 13, 11:30am
Public Issues
Wed., Jan. 13, 7:00pm
Flower Show Meeting
Mon., Jan. 18, 9:30am
Stitchery
Mon., Jan. 18, 11:30am
Literature
Mon., Jan. 18, 11:30am
Evening Meeting with Arts Creative: Valentine-Making with Maureen Murray
Wed., Jan. 20, 7:00pm
Garden Tour Meeting
Thurs., Jan. 21, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting – International Neighbors
Mon., Jan. 25, 9:30am
Stitchery
Tues., Jan. 26, 9:30am
Board Meeting

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,

Joyous wishes for a happy holiday season.

It's amazing how the time seems to fly by. I feel like it was just yesterday we were bidding farewell to summer, and now we are preparing for warm wishes, festive gatherings, and family cheer. But let us pause for just a moment to remember.

*There's more, much more to Christmas
Than candle-light and cheer;
It's the spirit of sweet friendship,
That brightens all the year;
It's thoughtfulness and kindness,
It's Hope reborn again
For peace, for understanding
And for goodwill towards men.*

However you choose to spend your holiday I hope you are surrounded by family, friends and loved ones. Let us take a moment to reach out to the less fortunate, seek out a forgotten friend, or mend a quarrel. It's the time of year to think of someone else first. Let us laugh a little, smile a little more, and remember to take pleasure in the beauty and wonder that surround us.

Please join in the festivities on Tuesday, December 8, as we celebrate our Annual Christmas Tea at 12:30pm. It's 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.

On behalf of our Executive Board and myself, we wish you a joyous holiday and a healthy and happy New Year.

January starts us off with our General Meeting and our International luncheon on Tuesday, January 5 at noon.

At our Evening Meeting on January 18, Arts Creative and Maureen Murray will once again be making beautiful handmade Valentine's Day cards.

On January 21, our Evening group will have an International Neighbors Night where local shop owners share their stories of where they came from and how they ended up where they are now.

So rest up, and restore as we start our new year together.

So from my family to yours, I wish you peace joy, and love.

Warm regards,

JoAnn



JoAnn with a stunning wreath made from pages of a book. More photos and information on page 8.

Membership

Kit Stahler-Miller, membership@theporchclub.org

Seven new members have joined the Porch Club this fall – Maggie Auer, Terry-Jurglewicz, Beth Croft, Carole Graham, Susan Luczu, Brenda McLaverty, and Barbara Palko. We are delighted to welcome them and look forward to helping them find their ‘perfect places and activities’ with us.

While we have three out-of-state inactive members, Susan Luczu has the distinction of being an active member who travels the farthest to the Porch Club from East Brunswick, NJ. We appreciate her interest, support, and contributions.

Once again, our November 12 Open House for Prospective Members was a great success. Many thanks to everyone who submitted names for invitations to be extended and who came that night to help in various ways to support our committees and share themselves as ambassadors on behalf of the Porch Club.

The Porch Club looked outstanding! The committees outdid themselves in grand fashion. In addition to an impressive attendance by Porch Club officers, committees, and members, 20 guests attended and enthusiastically enjoyed the many excellent displays, delicious food, and engaging conversations. Fourteen women took membership application packets and some already had them. Thank you to all who helped make this such a successful event.



Left to right: Barbara Palko (Jennie Comerford's Mom), Brenda McLaverty, Susan Luczu, Beth Croft, and Kit Stahler-Miller.

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

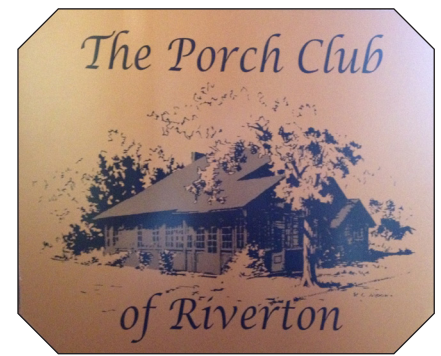
The International Outreach Committee just completed a very successful UNICEF Trick or Treat campaign, collecting over \$300. The boxes were placed in local businesses. The Riverton School and the Riverton Library also participated.

Two big events coming in January... The International Luncheon on January 5 and the Evening Meeting, “International Neighbors” on January 21. The Luncheon will highlight the Riverton School 8th Grade Project, “Change for Change:

Promoting Girl’s Education Worldwide”.

The International Outreach Committee is also promoting the efforts of the Narenj Tree Foundation. This foundation sends full shipping containers of clothes and other needed essentials to help the victims affected by the war in Syria.

In October the IO Committee delivered 12 bags of clothing to the Narenj Tree Foundation. We plan to continue to use our energies in support of this foundation.



Thanks to Ed Rooney, son of Johanna Rooney, for designing and installing the beautiful new plaque on our rostrum.

Ways and Means

Vicky Basgil,
vickybasgil@yahoo.com

Fairmount Bus Trip is Thursday, December 3. The cost is \$75. It includes transportation, the tour of 4 fabulously decorated historic homes, and lunch. Cedar Grove and Strawberry Mansion’s grand staircase are decorated by the Porch Club’s Garden Department and Arts Creative. Family and friends are welcome to join in this holiday event.

Rummage Sale

Mary Hannah,
Riverton914@aol.com

The fall Rummage Sale was held October 16 – 17 and was a resounding success! Our proceeds of \$1,482 will be distributed to various charities throughout Burlington County with the main intent towards women’s and children’s charities. Not bad when you consider we have no overhead, no costs, and our sale items are totally donated. Eleven committee members set up tables, carried and sorted donations, and then sold them over Friday night and Saturday morning, a herculean effort! We had some community assistance with this sale. June Emens’ sister Margie and her Moorestown class came to the rescue in bringing up all the basement donations. Kathy McEntee’s two daughters and families came to help clean up and without them we would still be packing up remnants of the sale. Nothing goes to waste with our Rummage Sale: donations from the remnants went to the Women’s Opportunity Center, Haiti, and Syria, and the balance to the Vietnam Vets. Each sale has its own atmosphere, and this one was a colorful blend of new members, experienced members, and some very interesting items to sell.

Evening Meetings

Pat Brunker, kitsmiller200@comcast.net, Jan DeVries



After a talk about Tai Chi, there was a demonstration then the members of the audience followed along

The Evening Department will not meet in December but will meet twice in January:

January 18 – “Share the Love” - Joint Meeting with Arts Creative featuring the Porch Club’s own highly talented Maureen Murray who will lead us in a workshop to create exquisite hand-made Valentine cards.

January 21 – “Meet Our International Business Neighbors” – what do the Orange Blossom Café, Palmyra Pharmacy, and Fresh Produce Fruits and Vegetables have in common? They are all owned by neighbors who have come from abroad to share their entrepreneurial talents with the Tri-Borough community. Come out and meet them and hear their inspiring stories at this meeting.

Recapping what we’ve done so far this year:

Tai Chi. We kicked off the year on September 15th with a presentation by Tai Chi Instructor Ralph Quinn who introduced us to the concept of Chi and the health benefits associated with this holistic approach to exercise for mind and body. We all had a chance to try a few simple Tai Chi movements. Then we were treated to a performance of a Tai Chi form (group of exercises) by Ralph’s class from Riverton Health and Fitness Center—including our own Porch Club members, Iris Gaughan, Pat McDermott, and Anne Creter. How beautiful they were!

Historic Strawberry Mansion. On October 13, we had a fascinating presentation on the ongoing restoration projects at Strawberry Mansion Program, the largest of the Fairmount Park Historic Houses, filled with antiques, fine art, and collectible treasures from the 18th and 19th century. Beth Kowalchick, president of the Committee of 1926, partners in the restoration, showed us truly horrifying “before” pictures and wonderful “after” pictures, as well as acquainting us with the collections and history of the mansion.

Somethin’ Punkin’ CookOff/Tasting. Thank you fabulous teams for participating in the 2015 Somethin’ Pumpkin Cook Off! You all went above and beyond and it was so much fun.

Congratulations to all the winners:
Pumpkin Spice Girls – Best Drink: Smashed Pumpkin Cocktail. (Yes, indeed there was a lot of alcohol in that!)
The Soup-er Punks – Best Soup: Peanuttty Pumpkin Soup. (Extra credit for actually following the rules AND for growing the pumpkin
The Souppremes - Best Main Dish. (Great pasta dish AND growing the pumpkins);
The Pump-ettes – Best Dessert: Layered Pumpkin Mousse. (Delicious!)
Pumpkin Spice Girls – Best Costume. (Sparkly cat ears and “scarf”)
Pumpkin Patch Kids – Best Presentation. (Lovely, elaborate centerpiece. *Pump-Ettes* were a close second with their over-the-top candelabra.)
Best Sharing Dish - Jeanne Gi Fles for Pumpkin Turkey Chili
The Pumpkin Spice Girls and *Pump-Ettes* tied for the Great Pumpkin Award for Overall Most Pumpkin Entry. Fabulous!



Participants in the Somethin’ Punkin’ CookOff.

Public Issues

Elizabeth "Betty" Dunn, ecarrolldunn@gmail.com

I want to shout out a great big "THANK YOU" to all of you for your generous donations to the Back Pack Project for the mentally ill. Over \$700. was donated. Your overwhelming generosity made it possible to fill 24 back packs that were donated to the River Bank Self Help Center in Burlington City for people with mental disabilities.

The Porch Club always does a fantastic job of supporting and funding projects for those in need.

I also want to thank the members of the Public Issues Committee for donating their time and energy by shopping for all the articles needed and filling each of the back packs.

The Public Issues Committee will not be meeting in December.

For our next project, the Public Issues and Home Life Committees will be collecting nonperishable food items and cleaning supplies for the Bread of Life Food Pantry at the International Luncheon on January 5, 2016. This is the fourth year that we have helped the food

pantry to restock their shelves after the holidays.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry plays a vital role for so many people in our community, so check your kitchen cabinets or buy a few extra cans or boxes of food and bring them with you to our meeting on January 5.

On January 13, 2016, the Public Issues and Home Life Committees will meet for lunch and then deliver all of the groceries donated to the food pantry.

One of our favorite activities this fall was our annual tea with the residents of Riverview Estates. A great time was had by all.



Betty Dunn, Terri Budroe, and Jessie Heinze at Riverview Estates



Grace Edelstein (in tan sweater) visits with Riverview residents



Teresa Larson enjoys refreshments at Riverview

Arts Creative, Stitchery, and Crafts

MaryLou Schofield, mlscho@verizon.net, Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com



MaryLou getting ready to have a bite of cheesecake.

This fall we did some fabulous craft and cooking projects – wreaths made of books taught by Joann Di-Noia. A yummy cheesecake perfect for the holidays was demonstrated by Donna VanHoy – and a pumpkin painting class as well. Some of our committee also coordinated with Garden/Conservation on their Fairmount Park House Decorating. Hope you all enjoy the the Victorian Christmas decorations for the club's holiday season. It was a joint endeavor of Arts Creative and Garden conservation.



A beautiful wreath made from pages of a book.

Stitchery

Jeanne Bianchini, jxstitch@gmail.com

Stitchery Committee will be spending the next few months working on their own projects, many to be finished in time for Achievement Day.

Some of us will also be sharpening our knitting skills in preparation for Meg Grimes' "Sock-Along". And what a time for a warm pair of handmade socks. Yes, we'll be making 2.

A reminder that the Betsy Journal is available to any member wanting to make an entry. Please contact Dottie Landolt to have access to the journal.

And lastly, a thank you to everyone who participated in and supported the NAMI bunnies. Stitchery was able to raise \$500 in support of our state project, NAMI.



Beautiful bunnies sold for a good cause, to support our state project, NAMI.

Garden/Conservation Department

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

Hello Garden/Conservation Members!

November was an exceedingly busy month for our department.

We decorated Cedar Grove and a room at Strawberry Mansion, two of the Fairmont Park "Charms" historic mansions for their annual holiday tours taking



Carole Lange, co-chair of the Garden Department, with Jenny Rose Carey, director of Meadowbrook Farm, who presented the program "Gardens of the Jazz Age" at our November meeting.

place in the month of December. It took a lot of research, shopping (not that that was a hardship!) and time and effort to decorate these beautiful homes incorporating this year's theme "The Twelve Days of Christmas." Kudos to the members who contributed their time and talents to create a truly wonderful holiday event.

We also decorated the foyer of Charles St. School in Palmyra for their Junior PHS Flower Show event in November.

On November 19, Jenny Rose Carey, Director of PHS' Meadowbrook Farm visited the Porch Club and presented a very lively program titled "Gardens in the Jazz Age." She also discussed the PHS Flower Show and Meadowbrook Farm.

On November 30, Garden/Conservation assisted the Arts Creative Department in decorating the Porch Club for the holidays. This year's theme is a Victorian Christmas.

On December 1, we will be holding our very popular Holiday Wreath Workshop. Burlington County Gardener's

Association will once again bring their expertise and greens to help us create gorgeous holiday wreaths for our homes. Cost is \$25.

The Flower Show Committee has continued working on 2016's exhibit. This year's submission is Tiny Treasures. A new category for us. As was mentioned in previous publications, this year's theme is a celebration of the National Parks 100 Year Anniversary.

Last but not least 2016 is a garden tour year, so we hope the members will come out in force to support an event whose proceeds benefit our very own club!

We Made the Papers!

A fabulous article on our club's 125th anniversary appeared in the Monday, November 16 issue of the *Courier Post*. We have Debbie Patras to thank. Thank you!

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