



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Feb./Mar. 2015

Inside the Porch Door

Calendar

February

- Mon. Feb. 2, 9:30am*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Tues. Feb. 3, 12:30pm*
General Meeting
- Mon. Feb. 9, 7:00pm*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Thurs. Feb. 12, 10:00am*
Membership Committee
- Mon. Feb. 16, 9:30am*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Feb. 16, 11:30am*
Literature
- Mon. Feb. 23, 9:30am*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Mon. Feb. 23, 11:30am*
Soup's On!
- Mon. Feb. 23, 7:00pm*
Evening Meeting
- Tues. Feb. 24, 9:30am*
Board Meeting

March

- Mon. Mar. 2, 9:30am*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Tues. Mar. 3, 12:30pm*
General Meeting
- Mon. Mar. 9, 9:30am*
Stitchery / Crafts
- Wed. Mar. 11, 3:00pm – 6:00pm*
Rummage Sale Set Up
- Thurs. Mar. 12, 1:00pm – 7:00pm*
Rummage Sale Set Up
- Fri. Mar. 13, 6:00pm – 9:00pm*
Rummage Sale
- Sat. Mar. 14, 8:00am – noon*
Rummage Sale
- Mon. Mar. 16, 9:30am*
Literature
- Mon. Mar. 16, 7:00pm*
Stitchery / Crafts

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

Valentines Smiles

“On Valentine’s Day we think of those who make our lives worthwhile, Those gracious, friendly people who we think of with a smile. I am fortunate to know you, that’s why I want to say, To rare and special people... Happy Valentine’s Day!”

After our last board meeting I took a few minutes to simply sit and observe. I watched the ladies talking and laughing amongst each other. I thought to myself, how lucky I am to be surrounded by such wonderful women and to be part of such a loving, caring and giving group. Kit Miller announced how the evening members also wanted to help Betty and Gerri by donating food to the Bread of Life Food Pantry, while Sue Fay said that she and the chorus would like to visit and sing for the women at Riverview Estates.

Our meeting truly captured the words of our state president, Jill Passaretti, whose theme is “Volunteer... Work From the Heart “. February is about “LOVE”; the love of others and the love of our wonderful club. As stated in our Collect, “it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are as one. And may we strive to touch, and to know the great common human heart of us all”. I believe that we truly have.

In the month of February we will be welcoming President Abraham Lincoln to speak at our Tea, while our evening meeting will greet Master Gardener Alicia McShulkis who will present a slide show of the Historic Gardens of Mount Holly.

Stitchery will be carrying on as usual (and I do mean carrying on) with their wonderful projects. Even if you are not a stitcher, Jeanne and MaryLou encourage you just to come for the camaraderie, not to mention the goodies.

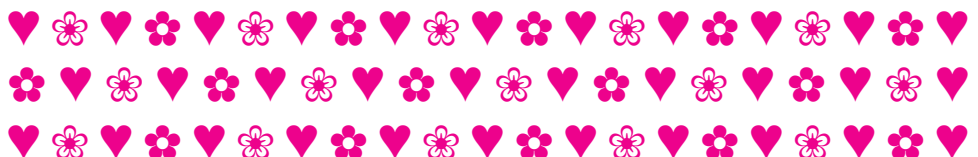
Membership, Public Issues, and Literature will be meeting to discuss future plans.

Also, Carol McCarthy will be gearing up for our famous Paint the Porch Pink Breast Cancer Walk.

So if you need to fill the days or evenings with some great things to do, check your calendars and newsletters and join in the fun.

Stay warm,

JoAnn



Membership

Jan DeVries, membership@
theporchclub.org

A very warm welcome is extended to our newest member – Renie Crowder. We are delighted that you have joined us! And a warm welcome, as well, to two reinstated members-- Mary Jo Laux and Karen Wolaniuk-Kelly. We are so glad you are with us again!

Congratulations to June Geiss, Ra-chael Klabe, and Carolyn Laning, who have been named Honorary Members in recognition of their many years of participation in the club.

If you would like to suggest a name for "The Clubwoman of the Year Award" for 2014-2015, please contact Jan DeVries at Janet.B.DeVries@comcast.net for a nomination form. This award was established in 1987 to recognize one of our own outstanding women, and is based on the individual's volunteer service to the club.

Spring Rummage Sale in March

Mary Hannah,
Riverton 914@aol.com

Our Spring Rummage Sale will be Friday, 3/13 from 6 to 9 and Saturday, 3/14 from 8 to 12. Our "Bag Sale" will be from 11 to 12 on Saturday. How about some early spring cleaning for some items that would help our sale? What a wonderful way to help the environment to recycle some gently used items. Remember, one person's trash is another's treasure. We really find some treasures at our sales! As I have said before, each sale has it's own personality. I could really use some assistance with the sale. If you like people, if you like Yard Sales, if you just want to be a part of a wonderful endeavor that assists women and children, please call and let me know your availability. New members, what a great way to meet members!

As a reminder, 100% of our proceeds go to women and children's charities of Burlington County. You can drop off donations Wednesday, Thursday or Friday afternoon.

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan,
iggaughan@gmail.com

The ChildFund International young girl that we sponsor, Kimberley Jones, was sent a combined birthday and Christmas gift. This was Kimberley's 14th birthday. The gift was a \$100 Visa gift card. A thank you note was received from Kimberley stating that she would use the money for "stuff" she needs for school.

The International Luncheon was held this past Tuesday, January 6. Many brave PC ladies snubbed the cold and snowy weather to attend this gathering. The focus of this year's fundraiser is "What's So Scary About Smart Girls: Promoting Girls' Education Worldwide". (<http://www.halftheskymovement.org/pages/smartgirls>) The goal of the Committee is to raise \$1,000 for this very worthy project. At the luncheon \$340 was collected — thank you members of the Porch Club for your continued generosity.

To further raise funds and awareness on the topic of girls' education worldwide, the committee has submitted a proposal to the Riverton School asking that we do a joint school and community project. The school is very interested in participating. We are now in the planning stage for some type of combined venture.

Communications

Amanda Boulton,
agboulton@gmail.com

Our website, www.theporchclub.org, has been upgraded to provide increased speed in accessing our pages. This should make checking the calendar and perusing the many pictures a more pleasant experience. Speaking of which, be sure to check the website frequently. We strive to keep the calendar current so you will always know what is going on and when. We are also adding new pictures all the time of the club's numerous activities.

Our Facebook page has become an excellent outreach tool. We are up to 104 'likes' and often receive rental and membership requests through this medium. If you haven't already, 'like' us – Porch Club of Riverton – and get regular updates on what is going on.

Programs

Phyllis Rodgers,
partea@comcast.net

Our February 3 meeting will bring to the Porch Club the unique opportunity to meet with one of our nation's most honored and admired historical figures. President Abraham Lincoln will be dramatized by renowned actor and historian Bob Gleason.

This program will focus on the formative years of our 16th president, through his courtship and marriage to Mary Todd, the beginnings and development of his abolitionist viewpoint, his first trip to Congress and how he raised himself up from humble beginnings to become the man who heroically issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Mr. Gleason has portrayed Lincoln, as well as nearly 150 other historical figures, at venues public and private from coast to coast since 1980. An inspirational and must see performance!

Looking ahead to the March 3 meeting:

The nationally recognized, energetic and animated Chef Joseph Poon will delight and dazzle us with his very talented culinary carving skills.

Special note of thanks to our November speaker, Sally Friedman, who donated her time with us. Her special insights were greatly received by all who attended and Sally had nothing but raves and praise for all the Porch Club's accomplishments.

Calendar *Continued*

Fri. Mar. 20, 11:30am
Public Issues

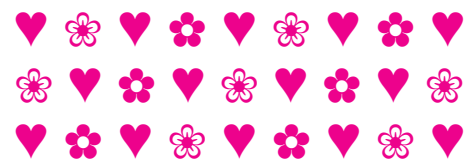
Mon. Mar. 23, 9:30am
Stitchery / Crafts

Mon. Mar. 23, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting

Tues. Mar. 24, 10:00am
Deliver Easter Baskets

Mon. Mar. 30, 9:30am
Arts Creative

Tues. Mar. 31, 9:30am
Board Meeting



Evening Meetings

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

Thanks to all members and guests who came out to support the Evening Department programs in the fall. We started our year with two wonderful food related programs: "Eat! Eat! Mangia! Mangia! Easy Answers to What's to Eat?" a slide show and food demonstration and tastings by our own Kathy Simon from Cherry Grove Farm in Lawrenceville with Fabio Auguardo from A Taste of Olive in Haddonfield. Our own Morgan Leone was an exemplary sous chef that night. The food was inspiring and delicious, and ample 'farmstead cheese', olive oils, vinegars and specialty gifts were purchased that night.

In November, we enjoyed a presentation about French chocolate when Jacques Dahan, president of the American

branch of Michel Cluizel Chocolatier presented a slide show "From Beans to Bars" with three rounds of chocolate tastings. This program was sold out and enjoyed by all.

Monday, February 23 – 7:00pm "Historic Gardens of Mount Holly: A Legacy of the Landscape"

Master Gardener Alicia McShulkis brings the landscape to life as she takes you on a slide show tour of the area's historic homes and gardens, many of which have vanished over time. Her presentation will include Ashurst's secret tunnels used by slaves escaping on the underground railroad, the summerhouse where Washington and Lafayette held councils of war and the ghost that haunts Langstaff's third-floor staircase. From the neatly sculpted Georgian hedgerows to the curved and meandering lines of Capability Brown, the history of Mount Holly is written in the landscape.

Members Free, guests and non-members \$5 admission

Monday, March 23 – 7:00pm Easter Basket Extravaganza

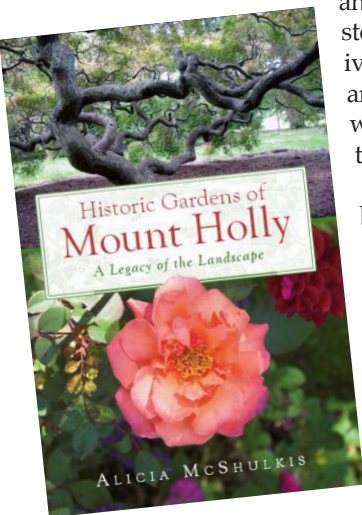
We will do our annual whirlwind making of Easter Baskets for families and children in need with help again from the Cadet Girl Scouts and Mothers from Palmyra Troop 23972. Please bring any of the following to the Porch Club to the March 3 General Meeting or drop off at other times and let Kit Miller know about the drop-offs:

- ♥ baskets with handles, grass, clear wrap, ribbon, pipe cleaners,
- ♥ candy, lollipops, gum, snacks – Gold Fish, Pringles chips, pretzels, chips, fruit snacks, snack drink boxes,
- ♥ games, cards, stickers, books, puzzles, sidewalk chalk, small stuffed animals, toy cars, and dolls etc.

We will deliver the Easter Baskets to Catholic Charities Emergency Services in Delanco on Tuesday, March 24h at 10am for distribution. We will need drivers and helpers to load and unload the vehicles in Delanco. Please let Kit know if you can help or drive.

As always, thanks for your generosity and creativity. This event is a favorite among the girl scouts and volunteers.

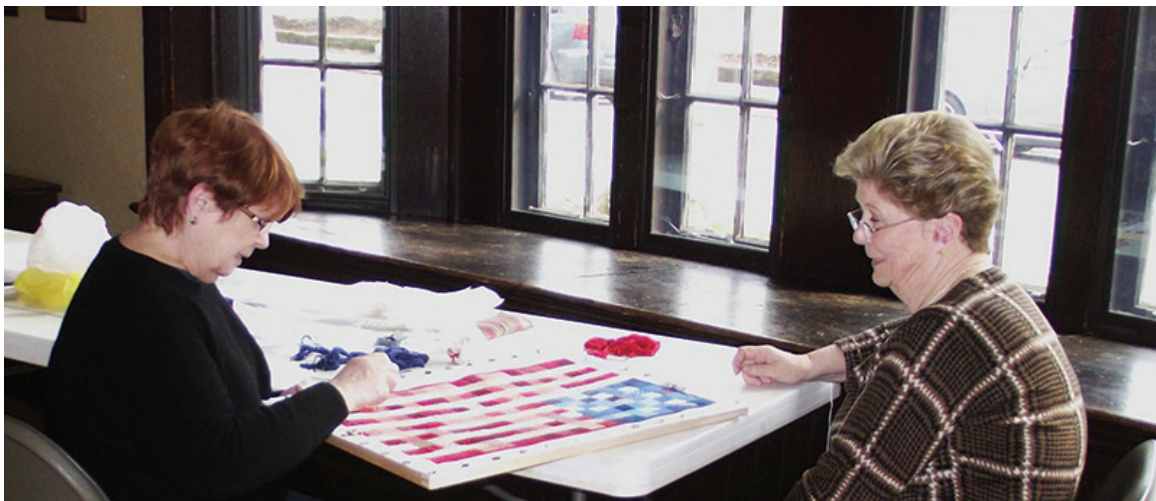
We cannot use bulk candy and snack items, like multiple Peeps and M&Ms bags. Please bring items that are pre-packaged or individually wrapped.



Our very own Easter Bunnies, Bonnie Higgins, Carol Sewter, and Kit Stahler-Miller deliver last year's Easter baskets.

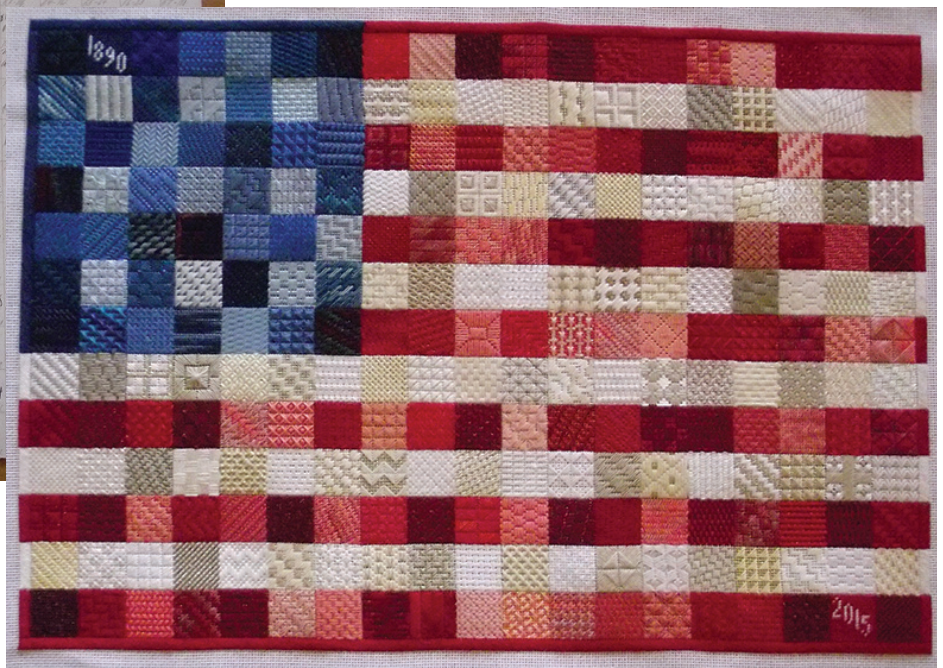
♥ What We've Been Up To Lately ♥

Kit Stahler-Miller with Jacques Dahan of Michel Cluizel's Chocolatrium at the "Beans to Bars" presentation.



Photos of The Betsy by Maureen G. Murray

Jeanne working with Mary Murphy in the final stages of stitching before The Betsy is sent to the framer.



*Above: The sign up sheet for each square. Johanna Rooney kept the finances straight.
Right: The Betsy finished and ready to go to the framer.*



Rita Vittese gets creative at the wreath-making workshop sponsored by the Conservation Department.



The chorus performs at the Christmas Tea.



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



Cookie Swap sponsored by Arts Creative.



Betty Dunn visits with Riverview Estates residents at a tea sponsored by Public Issues.



Garden/Conservation Department

Carole Lange, Carole.Lange@gmail.com

Sandy Scheer, sscheer506@verizon.net

Lights, Camera, Bloom!

The PHS Philadelphia Flower Show

The Garden/Conservation Department is dormant this time of year as are our gardens. But the Flower Show Committee is busy preparing their exhibit for the 2015 Philadelphia Flower Show held from February 28 – March 8 at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. The committee has been meeting frequently, brainstorming designs, and determining which plants will be included in this year's submission - determined to add

*Porch Club entry on display
March 4-8
At the PHS Philadelphia
Flower Show*

another to award to many that the Porch Club has won through the years at this most prestigious of flower shows. It takes a village and everyone on the committee is contributing in one way or another from plant design, managing finances, fund raising, transportation, and maintenance to a host of other responsibilities. The demands are many. We are very pleased to see many new faces (including mine!) on the committee this year. The exuberance, generosity, creativity and camaraderie of the committee members is such a joy to experience! We encourage all members to join us, at least once, to experience the beauty and excitement that is the PHS Flower Show. You will learn so much – and

Literature/Education

Cora Lee Page,

crpage1@comcast.net

Literature Department will meet on Monday, February 16 at Cora Lee's home in Lumberton at 11:30. Bring a lunch. Beverages and dessert will be provided and we will discuss books we've read since meeting January 19 at Betty Dunn's home.

The March 16 meeting will be at Sandi Scheer's home in Riverside and we will talk about a book by an author chosen at the January meeting. We will also finalize plans for our Authors' event Friday evening April 24.

The Education part of our department is working with local teachers on preparing a Wish List for their students. Members are asked to bring their donations to the March meeting. This list will be available at the general meeting in February.

not just about plants and flowers.

We wanted to share this recent announcement with you:

"When the prizes were handed out at The International Festivals & Events Association awards ceremony in Kansas City in October, the 2014 PHS Philadelphia Flower Show received 17 international awards for excellence, including the top prize, the Grand Pinnacle Gold Award, the world's best show. The competition included entries such as the Kentucky Derby Festival,

The Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade, the City of Dublin Irish Festival, and the Word Gourmet Summit in Singapore."

It is such an honor for our small little group to be asked to be a part of this every year. To offset the costs associated with our exhibit, we have created an Audrey Hepburn/Breakfast at Tiffany's themed basket full of some wonderful goodies! Raffle tickets are \$3 for one and \$5 for two. Drawing will be held March 3.

Public Issues

Elizabeth "Betty" Dunn

ecarrolldunn@gmail.com

January is a long cold month and for many people with a limited income it must seem even longer and colder.

The Bread of Life Food Pantry always needs help restocking their shelves after ensuring a happy holiday for many of our neighbors in need. This year our Public Issues and Home Life committees joined together to collect much needed nonperishable food items and cleaning supplies for the pantry. We also asked all of the members of the Porch Club for their help and as usual your response was overwhelming.

On January 21 after enjoying lunch at Red Lobster, the Public Issues and Home Life committees delivered approximately \$500 worth of groceries and cleaning supplies to the pantry. Because of your generosity, many of our neighbors won't have to worry about their next meal. Thank you for your support.

There will be no meeting for the Public Issues Committee in February.



June 7, 2015

www.painttheporchpink.org

Paint the Porch Pink 2015

Carol McCarthy,

cjmc08@verizon.net

It's 2015 and that means it is time to Paint the Porch Pink! The date for this year's walk is June 7. For those of you that are new, Paint the Porch Pink Breast Cancer Walk is a fundraising event that involves porches, pink treats, live music and FUN!

(see www.painttheporchpink.org)

Our past two walks have raised over \$34,000. Once again this year, the proceeds will go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Planning for Paint the Porch Pink began in January. We are always looking for more volunteers. If you are new to the club, this is a great way to meet lots of fellow members and to have a wonderful time while making a difference. We are also interested in more porches.

If you'd like to become a part of this big, crazy, pink extravaganza or if you'd like to volunteer your porch, contact Carol McCarthy cjmc08@verizon.net or Pat Bruner patebrunck@comcast.net





LOOKING BACK:

Honoring Mary Van Meter Grice

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

Honoring Mary Van Meter Grice (Mrs. Edwin C. Grice), 1858-1936

Mrs. Edwin C. Grice was:

- An original member of the Porch Club (1890)
- The first elected president of the Porch Club when it became formally organized in 1895

■ The first woman in Burlington County elected to a Board of Education (Riverton, 1897)

■ The head of the Mother's Section, which in 1900 sent out a "Call" that resulted in the Riverton formation of the New Jersey Congress of Mothers, the forerunner of the New Jersey State PTA

■ The first elected president of the NJ Congress (now PTA)

Mrs. Grice, after moving to Philadelphia in 1903, continued her interest in the Porch Club and its work, especially with children and education, by visiting and speaking at the Porch Club and bringing other speakers on the behalf of children. She later became an influential member of the Advisory Council of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage.

"The very most important event in the life of an organization, as in that of an individual, is the event of 'being born'. The New Jersey Congress was born in Riverton, NJ, in the Sunday School room of the Presbyterian Church, October 20th, 1900. It is impossible in that simple announcement to convey any idea of the weeks of work or the fluttering days of anxiety that preceded the event. The winter before, several women who afterwards became workers in the Congress, had heard the story of the remarkable gathering in Washington, when women from all over the country had met at the Nation's Capital in response to a summons to the 'Motherhood of the Nation'," Mary V. Grice, 25th Anniversary Speech,

NJ State Congress of Mothers.

The following excerpt credited to the New Jersey State PTA:

"Mary Van Meter was born in Philadelphia to Joseph E. and Katherine B. Van Meter. After her marriage to Edwin C. Grice, she became a resident of Riverton, New Jersey. [The Grices resided at 204 Broad Street.] Long before the official birth of the state congress, the impulse to do for children had been a living, moving force in the life of Mrs. Grice. In 1890, she was instrumental in organizing the Riverton Porch Club.

She was an active member of the Riverton school board. The first time she ran for a position on the board she was defeated. Undaunted, she ran a second time and was elected. This was about 1895. [Today], it is the customary procedure to have women members of boards of education, but at the beginning of the [20th] century this recognition had not come to women except in rare instances. The reason Mrs. Grice wanted to be a board member was that she believed mothers should be represented in the law making body which had to do with the education of children.

She attended the organization meeting of the National Congress of Mothers in Washington, DC, February 17, 1897.

Pioneer work calls for high courage and absolute devotion. These qualities were dominant in Mrs. Grice, and her co-workers caught the fire of her spirit. It is impossible to measure the credit due these early workers. All succeeding generations of parent-teacher leaders owe them more than will ever be computed.

Emphasis in the early years [of the Mothers Congress] was placed on the home in the program of most meetings, but realization of children's needs in school and community brought about in-



PHOTO CREDIT: Gutekunst, F. Mrs. Edwin Grice. 1910. Photograph. Records of the National Woman's Party. Lib. of Cong., Washington DC.

creased organization of mothers' circles and school associations.

Folders were distributed on 'How to Organize Child Study Circles,' 'Lists of Helpful Books for Mothers,' and 'The Need of Women on School Boards.'

At the close of Mrs. Grice's administration, she was chosen honorary president of the New Jersey Congress, and in 1905 she was elected corresponding secretary of the National Congress. In 1907 she was appointed by the National President, Mrs. Frederick Schoff, to be superintendent of the Mothers' Building at the Jamestown Exposition. This building was used for the care of children whose parents were attending the fair. A kindergarten teacher and a trained nurse were in attendance. In another section of the building, daily classes for mothers were held on child care. The furnishings of this house were provided by the congresses of different states.

Mary Grice was a gifted woman and an inspired leader. At the time of her death on May 9, 1936, she had nearly completed the manuscript for a new book, *Tunnels to the Light*. She etched new patterns of responsibility for parenthood and was untiring in her efforts to get mothers to build by them. New Jersey may well be proud of its first president. Her integrity and zealous leadership were shining lights as New Jersey began its climb up the ladder of service to children."

Arts Creative, Stitchery, and Crafts

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

About to be given, are the beautiful handmade Valentines that we all enjoyed creating with Maureen Murray. If you missed this, we'll hopefully have Maureen back to instruct us on other fabulous creations.

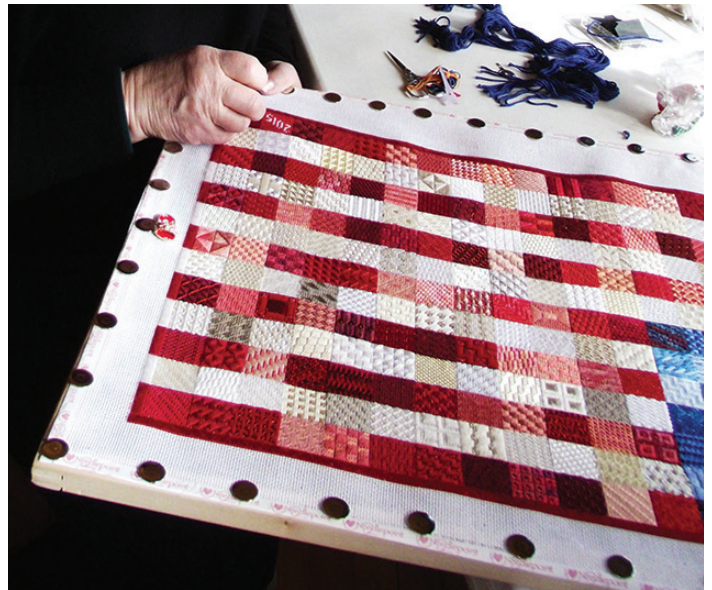
On February 23, at 11:30am at the Porch Club, we'll be repeating SOUPS ON! Since it's President's Day, we're hopeful that many of our Evening members will be able to join in. So get your pots and recipes ready. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

In March we'll again be making those delicious chocolate Easter eggs. In addition, during the first week in April, we'll try our hands at dying a dozen or so of your own hardboiled eggs. Bring any dying techniques your family has enjoyed from year to year and share your ideas with all of us. We'll have a few too.

Weather permitting, in late March, we'd like to visit the Barnes and have lunch together in the city; a not-too-far carpool event.

And, as always, Stitchery & Crafts will continue meeting Monday mornings at 9:30. They too will be coming up with interesting and creative new projects, as well as a few travels for needed supplies and points of interest.

We're also asking our Stitchery & Crafts members to think about a project that we can all participate in and sell at the Holiday Shopping Spree in October 2015. It's never too early to plan and get started.



Jeanne Bianchini stitching the final stitch on The Betsy. The members of the Porch Club can't thank her enough for her vision to choose this project, organizational skills to make sure all of us were included, and her patience teaching each of us how to stitch. For more photos please see page 4.

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