



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

April/May 2016

Inside the Porch Door

April

Mon., Apr. 4, 9:30am
Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 4, 11:30am
Chorus rehearsal

Tues., Apr. 5, 12:00 noon
General Meeting,
Charter Luncheon

Mon., Apr. 11, 9:30am
Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 11, 11:30am
Chorus rehearsal

Wed., Apr. 13, 7:00pm
Garden Tour Planning

Thurs., Apr. 14, 11:30am
Public Issues: Speaker

Fri., Apr. 15, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting:
Dancing to Friends of Classic Rock

Mon., Apr. 18, 9:30am
Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 18, 11:30am
Chorus rehearsal

Mon., Apr. 18, 11:30am
Literature

Wed., Apr. 20, 10:00am
Garden Tour Planning

Wed., Apr. 20, 2:30pm
Home Life Meeting

Thurs., Apr. 21
Achievement Day

Fri., Apr. 22, 7:00pm
Meet and Greet Authors

Mon., Apr. 25, 9:30am
Stitchery

Tues., Apr. 26, 9:30am
Board Meeting

Mon., Apr. 25, 11:30am
Chorus rehearsal

Wed., Apr. 27, 10:00am
Garden Tour Planning

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Letter from the President

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

Hooray, it's spring time! I cannot believe it is now April, and we are almost at the end of our Porch Club year. It has been a very productive and successful year with lots more to come. Achievement Day is right around the corner, and our Garden Tour is waiting in the wings. As I look back over our Porch Club year, I am amazed at our accomplishments, and good deeds. It fills my heart and brings a smile to my face when I think about your many kind acts as members and friends. I am honored to know you all and be part of this amazing group of women who never cease to amaze me. You are all to be applauded for your hard work. As we say goodbye to some board members and welcome the new, I would like you to know that your time and talents were appreciated.

This will be our last newsletter for the year, so my best to you all for a lovely spring and a relaxing summer.

Warmly,

JoAnn



JoAnn with our guests from Riverview Estates at the February Tea.

The Porch Club of Riverton

CLUB PRESIDENT: JoAnn DiNoia,
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Literature/ Education

Cora Lee Page,
crpage1@comcast.net

On Friday April 22, your Education/Literature department will be presenting Meet the Authors at 7:00 pm at the Porch Club. There will be five authors speaking about their lives and their books. The authors are Christina Paul, Patti Sheehy, Janet Stafford, Jillian Greene and Therese Halschied. Tickets are \$10 in advance \$12 at the door. For reservations or information call Annamarie at 829-6725 or Sallie at 786-0067. Beverages and refreshments will be served.

Calendar *Continued*

May

Mon, May 2, 9:30am
Stitchery

Mon., May 2, 11:30am
Chorus rehearsal

Tues., May 3, 12:30pm
General Meeting/ Tea

Mon, May 9, 9:30am
Stitchery

Fri., May 13, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting:
Wine Tasting with
Sommelier John Mahoney

Mon, May 16, 9:30am
Stitchery

Mon, May 16, 11:30am
Literature

Tues., May 17, 12:30pm
Annual Meeting

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

Fri., May 20, 4:00pm
Garden Tour Starts

Sat., May 21, 10:00am
Garden Tour

Mon, May 23, 9:30am
Stitchery

Wed, May 25, 7:00pm
Board Meeting

June

Mon., June 6, 9:30am
Stitchery

Tues., June 7, 9:30am
In/Out Board Meeting

Mon., June 13, 9:30am
Stitchery

Thurs., June 16, 7:00pm
Evening Meeting: Year End Planning

Membership

Kit Stahler-Miller, Kitsmiller200@comcast.net

We are delighted to welcome 11 new Porch Club members, initiated at the January, February and March day and evening meetings: Jane Paone and Leigh West; Charlotte Arr, Dawn Bricker, Donna Lee Conkwright, Gayle Farrell, Jeanne Oczkowski, and Tina Sickler; and, Aylin Bucci, Fran Horn, and Adrienne Sutherland.

Two first readings were done at the March meeting for Cecilia (Ceil) Hazel and Regina Howard, and we are anticipating initiating five more members through May. We also received five more requests to send membership application packets. Please greet our many new faces, welcome them, and invite them into our activities at meetings. They bring many assets and skills to us and want to become active in the Porch Club!

The Porch Club's increasingly wonderful reputation is magnetizing potential members to us from expanding geographical locations. Thank you for reaching out to friends and neighbors and inviting them to be part of the Porch Club. You are 'beacons of light'. Keep up the great work!

We also value our long-time members for the contributions and perspectives they bring to the Porch Club. Congratulations to six women who have been named Honorary Members in recognition of their many years of participation in the club: Frances Braun, Ellie Brenner, Loretta Fratto, Nancy Hall, Teresa Larson, and Elsie Waters.

At the Annual Meeting on May 17, we will honor three 35-year members, Judy Brusca, Susan Crowe, and Betsy Gravatt. We will also announce the recipient of the Porch Club Woman of the Year award.



Membership chair Kit Stahler Miller on right welcomes new members L to R Adrienne Sutherland, Fran Horn, and Aylin Bucci

Rummage Sale

Mary Hannah, Riverton914@aol.com

Our Spring Sale went off in beautiful weather on March 11 and 12. The lines were around the corner when the doors opened at 6:00! Friday was busy, but Saturday was unusual in that we had a steady stream of customers. The committee members were out in force and happily we welcomed many new members who joined us to help with this worthy effort. Three high school "Interact" members assisted with clean up. All items left went to good causes: Goodwill, Vietnam

Vets, International took clothing for Syria. Many smaller donations went to various charities. Our efforts produced \$1,490.00! This is the highest for a spring sale ever! Thank you, thank you to the many workers and a special note of thanks to Kit for her gathering of our new members. We should be very proud of our efforts for the Rummage Sale. Everything from donations to clean up is contributing to help those in need. Sincerely and with appreciation, Mary Hannah

...Come on out and dance away your tax blues...

*at the Porch Club Evening Group's
"Tax Day Celebration & Commiseration"
Friday, April 15th at 7 PM*



Dance Music by

Friends of Classic Rock

featuring the Porch Club's own Helen Mack

*Partners welcome but not required... Come to dance
or just enjoy the music*

BYOB - Light Refreshments Provided

Porch Club Members and Members' Guests welcome!

\$5.00 Donation Requested

Forget the taxes! Put on your Red Shoes and Dance!

Garden/Conservation Department

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

The Porch Club's Garden/Conservation group too 2nd Place in the Philadelphia International Flower Show!

After months and months of planning, members of our Garden/Conservation/Flower Show Committee awoke before dawn on Friday March 4, 2016 to make the annual trek to install our submission to the Philadelphia Flower Show. This year's theme was a salute to the National Park Service which turned 100 years old. Judging took place later that morning and we are pleased that we won Second Place. It should be noted that the judging was close. The First Place winner was awarded 99 points. The Porch Club was awarded 98 points.

For those who have worked on previous years, you know the amount of devotion, time, commitment, labor, hours etc that go into creating the final product that goes on display at this international event. It is truly a labor of love and certainly "takes a village." Our participation at this event and continued wins has given us a great deal of positive publicity and notoriety in the area. For example, it is the reason we were asked, and continue to be invited back, by the Fairmont Park Conservancy, the Philadelphia Art Museum et al to decorate the historic homes in Fairmont Park. We are a very talented, creative group of women. A group of women...a club...that we are all very proud to be a part of!

So, a huge thank you to those who helped make this year's exhibit a success: Carole Lange, Sandi Scheer (Co-chairs of Garden/Conservation), Rita Vittese, MaryLou Schofield, Donna

Van Hoy, Pat Bruncker, Grace Edelstein, Ellen Thomas, Debbie Patras, Pat McDermott (and Bill!) and Maureen Murray. Another big thank you to the ladies who volunteered to take care of our "Tiny Treasures" everyday it was on display.

Please think about joining our Porch Club's Garden/Conservation Department and the Flower Show Committee. From decorating at Fairmont Park Houses to the Philadelphia Flower Show to our fabulous biennial Garden Tour! Great experiences are yours!

So on to our next big project: The 2016 Garden Tour!

The Garden Tour will take place May 20th from 4 pm to 8 pm and May 21st from 10 am to 4 pm. As in past years, we will be selling tickets for just the tour or a tour and lunch. The Lunch Committee is planning another delicious lunch to serve our guests. As this goes to press, we have six gardens committed to the Tour with hopes of adding one or two more. Our theme is the "Birds of New Jersey." We'll be raffling off gift baskets, selling fascinators again and other garden and wild bird related items. We still need garden hostesses and help with the plant and book sale. Please reach out to Sandi Scheer or Sue Fay if you can be a garden hostess. Please contact Carole Lange if you want to donate your time to help in other areas. Remember, this event is a fundraising effort that benefits our club directly. Funds go to preserving our aging building. Come out and support your club and spend an enjoyable day with your fellow members, neighbors and friends. All are welcome.



Flower Show Detail of Porch Club Flower Show Winner, Painting by Donna Van Hoy



Flower Show: New PHS president, Matt Rader, meets from left, MaryLou Schofield, Donna VanHoy, Rita Vittese, and Pat McDermott



Flower Show prep L to R Grace Edelstein, Pat Brunker, Donna Van Hoy, and Debbie Patras.



Flower Show prep, L to R Debbie Patras, Pat McDermott, Charlotte Ahr

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

The Porch Club/Riverton School joint project, "Change for Change: Promoting Girls' Education Worldwide" has raised \$500 for the Malala Fund. Malala Yousafzai, a Nobel Peace Prize recipient and education activist, has set up a foundation committed to providing 12 years of free, safe, quality education for every girl by 2030 — Quite a mandate for a teenage girl.

A note was received from one of the Riverton teachers, Rosemary Allen, who spoke at the January International Luncheon. In thanking the Porch Club for the invitation and hospitality one particular sentence needs to be shared, "... It was inspiring to be in the presence of so many passionate and intelligent women committed to making a difference."

Our sponsored child, Kimberly Jones, sent a lovely thank you note thanking the Porch Club ladies for her combined birthday and Christmas gift (a \$100 gift card).

The International Outreach members continue to work with the Narenj Tree Foundation which helps thousands of displaced Syrian Refugees. We are working with the Rummage Sale group collecting appropriate clothing at the end of the sale to give to this Foundation. We are also going to collect toothbrushes/toothpaste, bar soap, diapers, powdered milk, dry beans at the April and May Evening meetings. If you cannot come to the those meetings and would still like to contribute, feel free to drop off the above items at my home (front foyer) 401 Main Street (one block from the Porch Club) during April or May.



Iris Gaughan and Renata Alkurdi at Narenj Tree Foundation

Evening Meetings

Pat Brunner, patebrunk@comcast.net, Jan DeVries, janet.b.devries@comcast.net

More than fifty Evening Group "Trivia Queens" and their friends and families, engaged in a rousing Trivia Game Night on February 18. It was a bit chaotic, but certainly entertaining. Not only did we stretch our minds in search of trivia, we raised \$120 for Fisher House Foundation. Special thanks go to Rosanne Martin and the Sitting Ducks who donated their winnings to this deserving cause.

Upcoming Evening Group Events at the Porch Club:

Friday, April 15, 7:00 p.m.

Dance Your Tax Day Blues Away at the Porch Club, or just come to watch and enjoy the excellent music of Friends Classic Rock featuring the Porch Club's own Helen Mack. \$5 donation requested

(proceeds to benefit Fisher House Foundation). What better way to get rid of Tax Day Blues? Come on out and bring family and friends!

Friday, May 13, 7:00 p.m.

Wine Tasting with John J. Mahoney, Ph.D., C.W.E. Please join us for a delightful evening and become a one-minute wine expert. Dr. Mahoney is one of only 74 certified wine educators in the world, and teaches courses for both the casual and distinguished wine enthusiast. Chancellor of the Dionysian Society International and president of the South Jersey Chapter of the American Wine Society, he has written books, articles and critiques of wines and restaurants locally and internationally. He is president of Promotional Wine Consultants,

a national teaching and research company, and a former professor of English and Language. Admission: \$22 per person; proceeds to benefit Fisher House Foundation. All Porch Club members and their guests are welcome.

Arts Performing

Sue Fay, suefay56@gmail.com

The Porch Club Chorus will be busy rehearsing every Monday in April at 11:30am as well as May 2 for our May General Meeting/Tea on May 3 at 12:30pm. All are welcome to rehearse with us. We welcome your participation. Looking forward to the May 3 Tea.

The Porch Club of Riverton

Presents

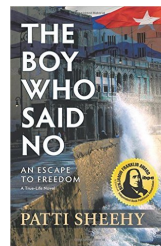


Meet the Authors

Christina Paul - *"Corporate Blues"*



Patti Sheehy - *"The Boy Who Said No: An Escape to Freedom"*



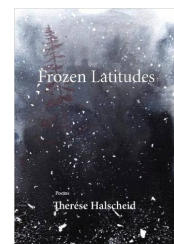
Janet Stafford - *"Saint Maggie"*



Jillian Greene - *"Codename Cupcake"*



Theresa Halschied - *"Frozen Latitudes"*



When: Friday, April 22, 2016

Where: The 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.

Visit our web site - <http://theporchclub.org/>

For reservations and information, call Annamarie at 856-829-6725 or email peony1940@icloud.com.

Proceeds benefit The Literacy Volunteers of Burlington Co and the annual Carmel Fischer Scholarship Award at Cinnaminson HS.

Arts Creative Department

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

April is our opportunity to shine at the Garden District Achievement Day. All our accomplished stitchers, bakers, artists, photographers and plant enthusiasts will be displaying their wares Thursday, April 21. Good luck to all our entrants. We are always so proud of our entries.

Stitchery

Jeanne Bianchini,
jxstitch@gmail.com

The final months of Stitchery are being spent finishing up our entries for Achievement Day, enjoying a cup of coffee and snacks together, and planning next year's Holiday Shopping Spree offering.

We've enjoyed a fun year together filled with bunnies and potholders... and look forward to making plans together for next year. We continue to encourage and invite anyone wanting to start their week off with Porch Club friends, attempt that project you've always wanted to do, or try your hand at something new - come out and join in!

Stitchery members Muriel Stoops and Carol Burns had a great time weaving potholders in Ocean City, NJ.



The Porch Club of Riverton
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