

Fourth & Howard Streets
Post Office Box 49
Riverton, New Jersey 08077



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Apr./May 2018

Inside the Porch Door

Dates and meetings are subject to change. Please visit our website for updates.

May

Tues., May 1, 12:30 pm
General Meeting/ Tea

Thurs., May 3, 7:00 pm
Garden Tour planning

Mon., May 7, 9:30 am
Stitchery

Mon., May 7, 11:30 am
Chorus Rehearsal

Mon. May 14, 9:30 am
Stitchery

Mon., May 14, 11:30 am
Chorus Rehearsal

Tues., May 15, 12:30 pm
Annual Meeting/ Ice Cream Social

Mon., May 21, 9:30 am
Stitchery

Mon., May 21, 11:30 am
Literature Luncheon

Fri., May 25, 1:00 pm
Garden Tour Planning

Mon., May 29, 9:30 am
Stitchery

Thurs., May 31, 1:00 pm
Garden Tour Planning

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The Porch Club of Riverton

CLUB PRESIDENT: Phyllis Rodgers,
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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Carole Lange,
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ART DIRECTOR: Mindy Ryan,
EMAIL: mindymryan@yahoo.com

From the Desk of the President

Spring at last!! I am so glad that you all had a chance to rest up a bit during this long dreary winter because our Porch Club in the springtime is super-charged with great events.

Many thanks go to our Evening Department for a most rewarding Easter Basket Extravaganza where 214 baskets were assembled for children in need.

Thanks to our member's culinary skills, our Charter Luncheon covered dish produced a variety of delicious entrees that were enjoyed by all. Thank you to our retiring Luncheon Committee Chairs, Helene Lilholt and Megan Grimes for the past years they spent coordinating these memorable luncheons.

Our spring Rummage sale, under the guidance of Mary Hannah, raised \$2,400 for our charitable causes. With the Porch Club overflowing with treasures and bargain shoppers, this proved to be a most successful event.

The smell of chocolate permeated our clubhouse with the Evening Department's Chocolate Bake Off under the direction of Aylin Bucci and Lois Robinson. Four teams skillfully showcased their sinfully decadent chocolate treats with the Bon Bon Girls winning the coveted prizes. Chocolate lovers also had a chance to test their culinary talents by making professional quality butter cream and peanut butter Easter eggs at the Arts Creative Department's annual workshop spearheaded by Donna Van Hoy.

The Literature Department produced a most interesting and entertaining Meet the Authors Night that raised money for literacy and scholarships thanks to Annamarie May and Sallie Degler.

Thanks to our very generous club members, over 100 items of baby clothes were donated through the Home Life Department. Thank you Gerri Dietrich for coordinating this effort.

Our Garden District Spring Conference also known as Achievement Day showcased the many creative talents of our members and brought us many deserved prize ribbons. Many thanks and congratulations to all who submitted an entry.

Our May meetings are not to be missed! The "Broadway Divas" will take center stage at the May 1 meeting. Under the direction of Sue Fay, Naomi Horn, Iris Gaughan and Lynn Johnson, our dedicated Chorus and "the Divas" will surely entertain. At this meeting the membership will vote to adopt the amended Bylaws. Remember there are two meetings this month. May 15 will be the Annual Meeting where we will install our new officers, give out awards and enjoy ice cream sundaes! (I promise I won't forget to make the hot fudge sauce.)

Spring is about to get even busier as the Porch Club ramps up efforts for our biggest fundraiser of the year. The Garden Tour under the leadership of Pat Bruncker requires an all out effort by our entire membership to make this a fabulous event featuring nine gardens.

Ladies, rest up a bit and then it's all hands on deck for The Garden Tour!!

The very best to all,

Phyllis

Literature/Education Department

Sallie Degler, Co-chair, sdegler@msn.com

Annamarie May, Co-chair, peony1940@icloud.com

The Literature/Education Department held our annual "Meet the Author" event on Friday, April 20. What an evening! We had a tremendous turnout, amazing speakers, and an abundance of fantastic food. The authors included J.R. Bale, whose book topics included one of political intrigue, and Donna Marie Nowak, who had written an illustrated compilation of the life of Joan Crawford. Also heavily researched was the story of an unwed mother in Philadelphia in 1883 by Janet Benton who talked about the sexism of Victorian times. Sally Friedman, a respected and widely read local columnist who writes and speaks from the soul, shared stories of love and laughter and life.

Four beautiful baskets, filled with "goodies" which included spa and restaurant gift cards, tickets to our upcoming Garden Tour, assorted wines and garden, kitchen and luxury items were raffled.

"Meet the Authors" benefits Literacy

New Jersey/Burlington County. Rebecca Powers, Program Coordinator, was a guest and spoke of their mission to provide free instruction to adults who need

help with reading, writing, math and speaking English. The Carmel Fischer Scholarship Award is also funded by the proceeds from this event.



Front row, left to right: Sallie Degler, Janet Benton, and Sally Friedman. Back row, J.R. Bale and Annamarie May at "Meet the Authors" evening at the club.

Department Sign Up for the Upcoming Porch Club Year

Porch Club members will have the opportunity to sign up for the Departments and Committees that interest them for the 2018-19 season. The signup sheets will be out at a number of Porch Club gatherings throughout May. By signing up, your name will be listed under that Department or Committee in our Directory. An email was also recently sent to all members allowing them for the first time to sign up electronically. This we hope will be extremely helpful to those who have daytime commitments or can't make it to meetings in May.

Luncheon Chairs Needed

The Porch Club traditionally has two catered luncheons (the Opening Luncheon in October and the April Charter) that are coordinated by the Luncheon Committee. We need two members to volunteer as chairpersons so that we are able to keep this lovely tradition. Please contact Phyllis if you're interested.

Department Chairs

Many, many thanks to Kit Stahler-Miller (Membership), Terri Budroe (Corresponding Secretary) and Sue Haddon (Public Issues) for their great service and dedication as Department Chairs towards Porch Club efforts.

We do still need two positions filled: a Co-Chair for Home Life/Social Services and a Co-Chair for the House Department. Please consider volunteering.

Calendar *Continued*

June

Fri., June 1, 6:00-9:00 pm

Garden Tour

Sat., June 2, 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Garden Tour

Tues., June 5, 9:30 am

In/Out Board Meeting

House

Carol McCarthy, Chair, cjmc08@verizon.net

The interior of our clubhouse has been painted and the woodwork refreshed. It looks beautiful! With each building improvement, we take another positive step toward the preservation of our historic building and also increase its attractiveness to potential renters (a major source of PC income). We ask that no one uses tape of any kind on any surfaces within the building as we want the fin-

ishes to last for years.

The new foyer floor, chimney cap and damper, and powder room sink were all worthwhile projects and even a more significant improvement is to come this spring.

The project will involve removing the steep brick basement stairs and replacing them with more accessible concrete steps.

Evening Department

Aylin Bucci, Co-chair, asbucci@gmail.com

Lois Robinson, Co-chair, lorobin99@aol.com

The May evening program (next year's planning meeting) has been postponed and will be held in June. Information about this event will be sent out later via email.

Easter Basket Extravaganza

Co-chairs: Kit Stahler-Miller, Erica Polaneczky, Carol Sewter

Through an unprecedented rain, sleet, and snow storm on March 20, our 2018 Easter Basket Extravaganza event persevered and was a huge success! 15 people helped set-up during the day. That night, 42 people helped, including former Scout Leaders and Scouts who asked to return as 'civilians'.

We made 214 Easter baskets, one more than last year. The total 'In-Kind-Donation Value' was \$3,545. In 12 years, we have made and delivered over 1,691 baskets to Catholic Charities Emergency Services in Delanco for them to distribute to children and families in need. We are told that we donate 25% of their Easter baskets.



Former Scouts and civilians with all 214 of the baskets they assembled.



Members of the Porch Club proudly display their handiwork.

Chocolate Bake Off

On April 11, members showed their unmatched creativity and vision displaying their Chocolate Masterpieces. Our judging team consisted of Riverton Mayor, Suzanne Cairn Wells, Culinary Institute of America trained and member Helene Liholt's daughter, Julianne Liholt and Aunt Charlotte's of Merchantville very own Randy Oakford. Teams BonBons, Coco Berries, Hot Chocolates, and Chockettes competed fiercely. By a very slight margin, The Bon Bons won the competition. Everyone had a fun time while raising money for charities the Porch Club supports.



The winners of the 2018 Chocolate Bake Off, the Bon Bons! Phyllis Rodgers, Vicky Basgil, Johanna Rooney, and JoAnn DiNoia.



Second place went to the Hot Chocolates. Back row: Pat Brunker, Karen Healey. Front Row: Pam Bowen, Carol McCarthy, and Sue Haddon.



There was a tie for third place with the Coco Berries: Bobbie Beck, Mindy Ryan, Jean Grazel, Donna VanHoy, and Gerri Dietrich. The Chockettes: Cathy Morris, Maryann Taft, Barbara Zimmerman, Rosemary Kay, Bernie Holmes, and Kathy Remetta (Missing: Sheila Hines).

Membership

Kit Stahler-Miller, Chair, membership@theporchclub.org

We were happy to welcome nine new members so far this year: Valerie Still, Rosemary Kay, Sharon Stokes (re-instated), Becky Hack, Lydia Kenkel-en, Kyle Mattmuller, Jean Grazel, Mary-ann Taft, and Christine Kenkel-en.

We expect to initiate three more members in May. 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 wonderful reputation continues to attract prospective members and inquiries via our website. Thank you for reaching out to friends and neighbors and inviting them to be part of the Porch Club. You are 'beacons



Phyllis Rodgers and Kit Stahler-Miller flank new members Jean Grazel and Maryann Taft.

New member Chris Kenkel-en with Phyllis and Kit.

of light'. Keep up the great work!
At our Annual Meeting on May 15,

we will announce the recipient of the Porch Club Woman of the Year Award.

International Outreach

Maggie Auer, Co-chair, maggiamsw@gmail.com

Iris Gaughan, Co-chair, iggaughan@gmail.com

The International Outreach Department is concluding this year with a shoe drive. We are working with the organization, Soles4Souls. Soles4Souls is a non-profit social enterprise that creates sustainable jobs and provides relief through the distribution of shoes and

clothing around the world. This organization's aim is to disrupt the cycle of poverty by serving those in need, creating opportunities and protecting the environment.

At the end of this year's rummage sale, we collected all the unsold shoes

and brought them to a drop off location in Bordentown.

International Outreach will be collecting gently used shoes at the May 1 General/Tea meeting. All shoes are needed; men, women, and children's in all sizes.

Porch Club History Corner – What Dates?

Pat Bruner, Porch Club Historian, patebrunk@comcast

If you open your yearbook to the first page, you will see several dates listed. The first, 1890, is the date the club was founded. It was founded by eight young women in their 20's and early 30's. It was primarily a reading club that met on various porches throughout town – hence the name "The Porch Club." There was a Presiding Officer and a Secretary. Mary Van Meter Grice most often presided.

The next date, 1895, is when the club was formally organized. The club had 12 members at the time. In April of that year, the women passed and adopted a constitution and by-laws. They elected Mrs. Grice as the first president, had the first regular business meeting on May 2, 1895

and the first Annual Meeting in October. Charter membership in the newly formed State Federation of Women's Clubs ended in March of 1895, with 36 clubs. The Porch Club joined just a few weeks later.

In 1908, the club was incorporated in New Jersey and the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs (see certificate hanging next to the kitchen door). Today, membership in the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs (NJS-FWC) automatically includes membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). In 1908, The Porch Club was renting temporary quarters in Adolph's building, over a cigar store. This was probably a strong impetus to

build a clubhouse the following year.

The last dates show our membership in the GFWC from 1908 until 1928 and 1934 to the present. In 1928 the Porch Club withdrew from the General Federation in protest of their dues being increased to an outrageous \$.25 per person! In 1929, the Stock Market crashed, sending the country into the Great Depression. By 1934, the country and the Porch Club had recovered and rejoined the GFWC. We have been a member in good standing every since.

Source: Betty Hahle's binder done for the Club's 100th Anniversary.

2018 Garden Tour

Pat Brunker, Chair, patebrunk@comcast.net

Our semi-annual Garden Tour will be held this year on Friday, June 1, from 3:00-8:00 pm and Saturday, June 2, from 10:00 am-4:00 pm. This year's theme is Enchanted Gardens.

Hostesses are needed! If you can sit in a garden for a few hours, check people in, and give them directions (you don't need to know about the plants), please let Pam Bowen, Johanna Rooney, or Kit Stahler-Miller know and they will schedule you for a shift.

If you can volunteer your time and talents in another as-

pect of the tour such as; the luncheon, selling tickets at the Porch Club, setting up the appreciation reception, selling at the boutique, plant sale or book sale, or helping set up other attractions, please let Pat Brunker know.

The next Garden Tour planning meeting will be held on May 2 at 7:00 pm at the Porch Club. This is the big fundraiser for the club for this year and it takes lots of hands to make it a success. If you're a new member, it's a great way to get involved, meet other members, and help to raise money for your club.



The Porch Club of Riverton Presents

GARDEN TOUR 2018

Visit 9 Private Enchanted Gardens

Friday, June 1st 3PM-8PM
Saturday, June 2nd 10AM-4PM

Shop Plants,
Books &
Garden
Items

Meet
Garden
Experts

Tour only \$15
Tour and lunch \$25
Children (6 to 12) \$8
All tickets valid for both days

Hot & Cold Buffet Luncheon
catered by Georgetti's
served Saturday, 11AM to 2PM

Purchase tickets on the Porch Club website or at:
Riverton Library, 306 Main St, Riverton
The New Leaf Gift Shop, 606 Main St, Riverton
Orange Blossom Cafe, 308 Broad St, Riverton

Rain or Shine

Information: 856-630-5356 or www.theporchclub.org

The Porch Club is a registered 501©3 organization. All proceeds support their charitable initiatives.

Home Life / Public Issues

Gerri Dietrich, Co-chair, gadietrich@msn.com

Sue Hadden, Co-chair,

susanhadden904@icloud.com

Cathy Morris, Co-chair, cathymorisc@yahoo.com

Once again our Porch Club ladies overwhelmingly came through for us for our annual Ronald McDonald House Preenie Clothes Drive. These beautiful outfits were displayed at our April 3, General Meeting/Tea. We've been told that the Porch Club donates the prettiest clothes. The Ronald McDonald House very much appreciates your generosity.



Barbara Zimmerman, Gerri Dietrich, and Julie Luciano with all of the preenie clothes that were donated to the Ronald McDonald House.

Programs

Bobbie Beck, Chair, paul062@verizon.net

You won't want to miss our last program of the year. It's entitled 'Broadway Divas'. We have brought some of the most outstanding actresses from New York and Hollywood to perform for you on our Porch Club stage. The Porch Club Chorus will lend their voices to some of the best known songs of Broadway. Mark your calendars now for May 1.

Arts Performing

Sue Fay, Co-chair, suefay56@gmail.com

Naomi Horn, Co-chair

Chorus is looking forward to a Broadway collaboration with Drama for the May concert. Chorus and Drama will be performing together at the May 1 General Meeting in "Broadway Babes!" We will be singing and reenacting selections from Mary Poppins, South Pacific and more - should be lots of fun!

Member's Corner: Honoring Elsie and Maya

Commemorating our eldest and youngest members: Elsie Waters and Maya Alkateb-Chami. Elsie was presented with her 25 Year Member award shortly before her recent passing.

Maya recently became the Managing Director, Human Rights Institute, Columbia University in New York City.



Maya Alkateb-Chami and Elsie Waters at a Porch Club event.

Arts Creative, Stitchery, and Crafts

MaryLou Schofield, Co-chair, mlscho@verizon.net,

Donna VanHoy, Co-chair, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, Co-chair, cihhun@aol.com

Arts Creative projects are coming to an end for the year. April 19 was Achievement Day and we had many entries along with entries for Conservation. We did very well as we have many talented ladies who entered their projects.

Arts Creative won 12 gold ribbons and those projects will move on to the

state level competition next month. Additionally, eighteen 1st place ribbons, two 2nd place ribbons, and one 3rd place ribbon was won for various entries.

Garden Conservation won four gold ribbons that will move on to the state level as well, one 1st place ribbon, and one 2nd place ribbon.

Also, we will be busy supporting the Garden Tour for items which can be sold the day of the tour. Thank you for coming out and supporting the Arts Creative Department this past year in our workshops. It's always fun seeing everyone. See you in September.

Stitchery

Dottie Landolt, Co-chair, dlandolt@aol.com, Mindy Ryan, Co-chair, mindymryan@yahoo.com,

Karen Sulock, Co-chair, kmsulock@aol.com

The women of Stitchery had a great showing at this year's Achievement Day at the Pennsauken Country Club. Gold and blue ribbons were awarded and will be announced at the meeting on May 1. Kudos to all who participated. I hope everyone can come out to cheer their success and wish them well at the state level.

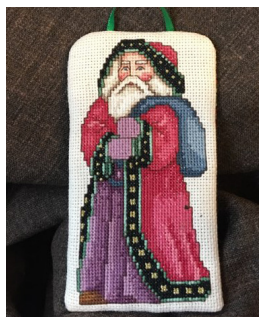
Many members of the Stitchery

group knitted a square from the book, "Building Blocks" to create an afghan that will be raffled off at the Garden Tour in June.

We're wrapping up the Porch Club year, finishing our projects, and our tenure as co-chairs. We are passing the baton to three talented women, Karen Healey,

Pat Bruncker, and Jan Devries. We're sure everyone will come out and support them and enjoy the interesting and creative projects they have in store for the group in the future.

We thank you all for hanging in there for the past two years and staying Stitchery Strong.



Some of the winning entries at the 2018 District Achievement Day. Clockwise from top left: Donna VanHoy pencil drawing, Eleanor Paladino needlepoint ornament, Karen Healey framed needlepoint, Eleanor Paladino cross stitched pillow, Carol Hoinsky flower arrangement, and Linda Koslowski keepsake of her mother's jewelry in a circular frame of her lace.



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