



*The Porch Club of Riverton*

The Garden District

**Dec. 2023-Jan. 2024**

# *Inside the Porch Door*

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

## **DECEMBER**

**Mon., Dec. 4, 10:00am**

Stitchery

**Mon., Dec. 4, 11:30am**

Hospitality Set-up

**Tues., Dec. 5, 12:30pm**

General Meeting / Holiday Party

**Wed., Thurs., Fri.,**

**Dec. 6, 7, and 8, 10:00am**

Greens Sale Workshop

**Sat., Dec. 9, 10:00am**

Trip to Christmas Village  
in Philadelphia

**Sat., Dec. 9, 2:00pm**

Riverton Christmas Village Sale

**Mon., Dec. 11, 10:00am**

Stitchery

**Tues., Dec. 12, 11:30am**

Civic Engagement Meeting

**Wed., Dec. 13, 9:30am**

Tai Chi Class

**Wed., Dec. 13, 1:00pm**

Riverview Estates Holiday Party

**Wed., Dec. 13, 7:00pm**

Dickens Christmas Carol Evening  
Meeting

**Mon., Dec. 18, 10:00am**

Stitchery

**Mon., Dec. 18, 11:30am**

Daytime Book Club

**Wed., Dec. 20 9:30am**

Tai Chi Class

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## **The Porch Club of Riverton**

CLUB PRESIDENT: Beth Kowalchick,  
email: bethkowalchick@gmail.com

COMMUNICATIONS: Pat Brunker,  
email: patebrunk@comcast.net

EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR:  
Mindy Ryan,  
email: mindymryan@yahoo.com

ASSISTANT EDITOR:  
Kit Stahler-Miller,  
email: kitsmiller200@comcast.net

## *Dear ladies of the Porch Club,*

This is my second president's letter written for the Porch Club newsletter. Our Porch Club newsletter is only possible because Mindy Ryan creates a wonderful and interesting format for our newsletter. Pat Brunker collects from our 12 Departments and our 7 Committees photos and written articles, including Porch Club Executive Board information. Mindy then places articles and photos throughout the newsletter. And Kit Stahler-Miller's keen eye for detail, proofreads the entire newsletter before it's mailed out to the membership. This keeps our newsletter interesting and updated with essential communication for you all as PC members.

Thank you, Mindy, Pat, and Kit for all the time (behind the scenes) required to create our beautiful and informative Porch Club Newsletter.

On a sadder note:

Those PC members that were unable to attend the November General meeting may not know we announced the passing of two long time Porch Club members. *Annamarie May*, a past Triboro Women's Club President. After the Triboro Womens Club closed, Annamarie brought the members of that club to the Porch Club. She was Chairman of the Literature Department at the Porch Club for many years. Enclosed in this newsletter, I included an article that was sent to me from Annamarie's daughter Vicky Basgil. I read this article at the general meeting and I want to share it again for those that have not heard it before. It is labeled "Whose job is it?" Please look for this at the end of my message. *Lois Robinson*, another long-time member, was chair of the Evening Department and created evening programs that were enjoyed by our PC members. It is always sad for our club members to endure such losses. These members displayed selfless service for our members and our communities. Rest in Peace dear friends.

As we move forward, I wanted to note all the charitable service to others and outside communities the Porch Club women support.

We raise funds for 30 different charities and surrounding communities.

I am so proud of representing and being part of such an amazing group of members. I appreciate you all and look forward to many more years as a member of this wonderful club of women. I support the values and traditions that have long been established by many past-presidents and past members. We should all share our accomplishments with pride. Service is what life is all about, I have added a wonderful quote below:

*"Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless,  
but because they're priceless".*

*- Sherry Anderson*

Isn't this the truth? This priceless volunteerism was just displayed at the Shopping Spree. Tremendous work was required to put this together. Thank you to all the ladies working and serving food in the kitchen and to JoAnn DiNoia, the event chair responsible for this successful evening. Our Christmas Boutique was a beautiful creation - almost every item sold. Great job everyone!

Please check our website for upcoming events. The departments and committees are working hard to offer you all lots of fun.

*Wishing everyone happy holidays,  
Beth Kowalchick*

## Membership

JoAnn DiNoia, Chair,  
jaydinoia2@gmail.com

The Porch Club would like to welcome Nancy Myers and Marci Needleman as our newest members.

We also had seven first readings for the following ladies:

- Betty Magjuka
- Patricia Russell
- Domenica Foster
- Judie Colin's
- Marsha Covender
- Diane Currao
- Lauren Soss



Nancy Myers with JoAnn

All 7 will be initiated in January, and are looking forward to participating in our many club activities and charitable



Marci Needleman with JoAnn

endeavors.

Thanks to all who proposed and Endorsed all for Membership.

## Calendar

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Wed., Dec. 27, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

### JANUARY

Tues, Jan 2, 10:00am  
Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Jan. 3, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

Thurs., Jan. 4, 10:30am  
International Outreach Meeting

Mon., Jan. 8, 10:00am  
Stitchery

Mon., Jan. 8, 11:30am  
Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Jan. 9, 12:30pm  
General Meeting

Wed., Jan. 10, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

Wed., Jan. 10, 7:00pm  
Book Club Evening Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 11, 11:30am  
Civic Engagement Meeting

Mon., Jan. 15, 10:00am  
Stitchery

Mon., Jan. 15, 11:30am  
Daytime Book Club

Tues., Jan. 16, 10:30am  
Abstract Acrylic Painting

Wed., Jan. 17, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

Wed., Jan. 17, 1:00pm  
Set-up for District Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 18, 10:00am  
Garden District Council Meeting

Mon., Jan. 22, 10:00am  
Stitchery

Wed., Jan. 24, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

Fri., Jan. 26, 10:30am  
Terrarium Making

Mon., Jan. 29, 10:00am  
Stitchery

Tues., Jan. 30, 10:00am  
Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Jan. 31, 9:30am  
Tai Chi Class

## Holiday Shopping Spree Thank You

A very special thank you to all who came out to support our Shopping Spree!  
Over \$700.00 was raised for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, our Special State Project for this year.



The mission of the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation is to provide New Jersey families faced with children with cancer a place to turn for comfort and relief through free supportive services uniquely tailored to each family. Professional in-home counseling is available even after business hours and includes advocacy help with insurance companies, medical providers, and landlords, etc. We also provide material support such as food, clothing, toys, household items, and birthday and holiday gifts, and emergency financial assistance for urgent needs.

Through our four Regional Centers, we work with volunteers to collect and distribute groceries, toys, clothing, household items, and birthday and holiday gifts.

Our emergency financial assistance can help families with urgent needs such as paying rent, utility, phone and insurance bills.

## Arts Creative

Donna VanHoy

artdvh@gmail.com

Arts Creative had a Picasso portrait painting class in September. We all kept wondering, "What was he thinking!" Five people were able to finish their Picasso-esque paintings. Still, it was a lot of fun.



Left to right: Pat McDermott, Carol Hoinsky, and Jeanne Oczkowski



Sandra Torres Saurez



Lisa Kvist

# JOY

## Two Upcoming Events to Mark Your Calendars

### *Holiday Tea and General Meeting*

**Tuesday December 5, 2023 12:30pm**

Seating is limited to Porch Club members.

Please RSVP to Phyllis Rodgers - partea@comcast.net or 609-922-4245 by Friday, December 1.

Please bring a holiday sweet or savory to share with everyone.

Special collections that day:

- Toys for Providence House
- Children's hats and mittens
- Gifts for Riverview Estates

*The Historical Society of Riverton and The Porch Club Proudly Sponsor:*

### **A Dickens Christmas Carol**

**Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 7:00pm**

Presented by Alysa Dupuy who portrays Charles Dickens' sister.

Please join us for this special performance at the Porch Club.

Seating is limited to HSR and Porch Club members.

Please RSVP to Susan Dechnik - oceanat55@yahoo.com or 267-257-0940 by Friday, December 8.

There is no charge for this program, but donations are always appreciated.



*Alysa Dupuy as Charles Dickens' sister.*

## Rentals

Kay Kling

kaykling52@gmail.com

The Rentals Department is having a good fall season and looks forward to a busy winter! The pictures show a Roaring 20s-themed Sweet 16 party held in the club in September.

We have an unusually busy November; only one weekend day is not rented. We have 9 rentals already booked for 2024. The winter months usually sell out on weekends so pass the word if you know someone planning to rent.

I'm asking for more volunteers if you can spare the time. It's fun to meet renters who are excited to celebrate a family occasion. You just welcome them the day of their rental, review the clean-up procedures, and give them the key to the



A Roaring 20's themed birthday party was one event held at the Porch Club. More ideas can be seen in the Idea Book created by the department.

club. A seasoned volunteer will accompany you a few times. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Kay Kling at kaykling52@gmail.com or 267-210-1655. Thanks in advance!

The Rental Committee oversees renting our clubhouse to club members and the general public for private parties. We respond to rental requests on our website, tour prospective renters through the clubhouse, manage paperwork required for rentals, and welcome the renter at the club the day of her event. We also inspect after rentals to ensure the club has been restored to order after the renter's occupancy. Rental income provides operating and maintenance funds for our building.



## Ladies Moving Forward

Pat Brunker,

patebrunk@comcast.net

The "Women Moving Forward" ladies enjoyed a nice trip to Doylestown - Fonthill Castle, the Mercer Museum, and a Peruvian restaurant for dinner.



Left to right - Pat Brunker, Eileen Della Penna, Jeanne Giles, Lynn Hammette, Barbara Lucasi, Judy Evans, Linda Rinaldi.

## Some Enchanted Evening

Charlene Thellmann,

charleneactor@aol.com

We hope you will join us on Friday, February 23, as The Porch Club presents the 2024 fundraiser "Some Enchanted Evening" at the Riverton Country Club. Members from Boheme Opera NJ will delight us with a musical performance of Broadway gems and opera favorites.

The event includes buffet dinner, cash bar, raffle baskets. Monies raised will support both The Porch Club and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. Porch Club members pay \$65 per person to attend and cost for non-members is \$75 per person. Reservations and payment can be made on the Porch Club website.



Left to right: Charlene Thellman, Betty Dunn, Maryann Taft, Beth Kowalchick, MaryLouise Bianco Smith, Wendrong Zao, and Phyllis Rodgers.

## Local Girls Career Institute Delegate

Every year, young women who are Juniors in high school are selected by their schools to attend a weekend at Rutgers in New Brunswick.

This year, Morgan Coates was our delegate from Palmyra High School to Girls Career Institute with other young women from all over the state. They hear about career paths they can take and are able to talk to other girls who are planning their careers.

Morgan came to speak to The Porch Club at the October opening meeting and was poised and interesting while talking about her experiences. It was a pleasure to hear her speak and hopefully her time at GCI will be meaningful to her future.

# SEASON'S GREETINGS

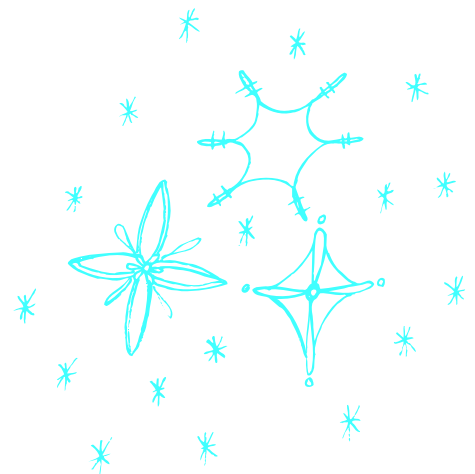


Left to right: Palmyra High School's Morgan Coates, Sallie Degler and Robin Brown.

## Day of Service at Providence House



Left to right: Nancy Meyers, Kathy McEntee, Judy Evans, Karen Sulock, Jackie Greco, Judy Fuhrer, Barbara Lucasi, Susan Dechnik, and Betty Dunn.



## Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, [ejcarrolldunn@gmail.com](mailto:ejcarrolldunn@gmail.com)

Nine members set up the food pantry at Providence House on November 17.

Civic Engagement will be collecting toys for Providence House, hats and mittens for the angel tree at Epworth Methodist Church and gifts for the residents at Riverview at the general meeting on December 5.

We are currently preparing for the annual Christmas Tea at Riverview scheduled for Wednesday, December 13 and we will be returning to Providence House on Friday, December 15 to help set up their toy store for clients.

Our Civic Engagement team collected 3,800 pounds of clothing and household goods for the Great Closet Clean Out in October. We earned \$818.40 for our local charities.

In November, we held the Bread of Life Food Pantry drive and delivered \$1,199.00 worth of groceries and \$429.00 in cash donations for turkeys to the pantry. Many families in our communities had a better Thanksgiving because of you.

Your generous donations and volunteer work make all of this possible.

Ladies of the Porch Club "YOU Rock".



Above, left to right: Hilary DeMezza, Robin Brown, Tica Simpson, Betty Dunn, and Diane Calesnick



Left: Civic Engagement's food donations with Judy Evans, Jessie Heinz, Nancy Meyers, Barbara Lucasi, Kathy McEntee, Betty Dunn, Jackie, Greco, and Lynne Hammett.

### Whose job is it?

**This is a story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. Everybody was sure Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it but Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.**

*This was forwarded to Beth Kowalchick from Vicky Basgil. Vicky found it among her mother Annamarie May's effects and sent it along.*

Join the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs:

## Come for the Membership, Stay for the Journey, Make an Impact

All of our members - whether they have been with you for many years, or are relatively new to your club - are on a journey with you and the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs.

We hope you will find ways to celebrate each of their journeys and recognize their accomplishments.

Your events can take place throughout November, December, and January, but also think about other ways you can honor your members throughout the year.

Here are some ideas:

- Organize a thank-a-thon. Enlist some of your members to directly thank other members for their work. They can send notes, emails, or call them... just to say thank you!
- Spotlight your members' efforts on Facebook, your website, and in your newsletter.
- Put some money in your budget for membership and buy some \$5.00 gift cards.
- NJSFWC items (like pens, notecards, etc.) or seasonal items like scarves and gloves.
- Be inclusive: you may have the same people doing many hours in your club but never fail to recognize the member who may only be able to give a small amount of time.

Please send me pictures of your events and stories of how you celebrate your members. Please email me, Chris Sienkielewski: sienkielewski@njsfwc.org

### Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF) Wish List

As the holidays approach, many clubs look to fulfill Wish Lists for children. To make things easier for everyone throughout the state, Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF) made up Amazon Wish Lists.

The 4 regional offices of Emmanuel Cancer Foundation have separate Amazon Wish Lists, so the wish you choose to grant can be sent directly to the Regional Center that supports that child or family.

Once you select your items, simply choose the ECF region at the top of the list and the address will populate in your Amazon cart. If there is a child or family name in the Comments section, please include that as well. You are more than welcome to shop from any of the lists - by selecting the ECF address on the list you choose; the elves will help the gift find its way to the correct family.

#### **Southern Regional Center:**

Paige DeYoung  
856-853-4803  
451 Beech Avenue  
Woodbury Heights, NJ 08097  
SOUTHERN Region - <https://a.co/2Fj84NH>

#### **Northern Regional Center:**

Inessa Rome 201-612-8118  
174 Patterson Avenue, P.O. Box212  
Midland Park, NJ 07432  
NORTHERN Region: <https://a.co/2K3Ohpc>

#### **Central Regional Center:**

Barbara Kopel 908-322-4323  
77 Brant Street, Suite 304  
Clark, NJ 07066  
CENTRAL Region - <https://a.co/193qin3>

#### **Eastern Regional Center:**

Rose Contreras 732-282-2324  
1710 Highway 71, Suite 2  
Wall, NJ 07719  
EASTERN Region: <https://a.co/bgN9wM>

Thank you so much for all your support - YOU are truly the Magic of the Season!

Marie Sullivan 201-314-7945  
[sullivan@njsfwc.org](mailto:sullivan@njsfwc.org)

# Some Enchanted Evening!



Dinner followed by a Musical Performance  
of Broadway and Opera Favorites  
by Boheme Opera NJ

IN SUPPORT OF THE BREAST CANCER RESEARCH FOUNDATION  
AND THE PORCH CLUB OF RIVERTON\*



FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

BUFFET. DINNER. . CASH. BAR. . 6-10. PM. . TICKETS. \$75

RIVERTON. COUNTRY. CLUB

1416. HIGHLAND. AVENUE. . CINNAMINSON, NJ. 08077

Find tickets/info at: [theporchclub.org](http://theporchclub.org)  
PINK ATTIRE OPTIONAL



THEPORCHCLUB.ORG



\*Both BCRF and The Porch Club of Riverton are 501(c)(3) nonprofits supporting the needs of women and children.