

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Apr. - May 2024

Inside the Porch Door

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

APRIL

Mon., Apr. 1, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Apr. 3, 1:00-7:00pm

Rummage Sale Drop Off

Thurs., Apr. 4, 1:00-7:00pm

Rummage Sale Drop Off

Fri., Apr. 5, 12:00-4:00pm

Rummage Sale Drop Off

Fri., Apr. 5, 6:00-9:00pm

Spring Rummage Sale

Sat., Apr. 6, 8:00am-12:00pm

Spring Rummage Sale

Mon., Apr. 8, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 8, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Apr. 9, 12:30pm

Charter Luncheon/
General Meeting

Wed., Apr. 10, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., Apr. 15, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Apr. 17, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Apr. 17, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Wed., Apr. 17, 7:00pm

Book Club Evening Meeting

Thurs., Apr. 18, 9:00am

Achievement Day

Fri., Apr. 19, 7:00pm

Meet the Authors Fundraiser

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The Porch Club of Riverton

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Hello Porch Club ladies,

Spring has sprung and new life begins. We are surrounded by the beauty of beautiful blossoming trees and flowers everywhere. We are all so lucky to be able to experience this wonderful new fresh season.

As this Porch Club year begins to wind down, I feel most fortunate and thankful that I was able to be your Porch Club President this past year. I have spent a year learning and am grateful for all of your kindness and gentle teachings. It has been a great year for me. I have been part of the generosity and giving nature of all the ladies of the Porch Club whether it was of your time or energy or your kind words and comfort for those in need. I am blessed to know you all.

This has been a busy year for the club with great and informative speakers. Thanks to our 1st Vice President Betty Cutler and to the other department and committee chairs that provided speakers for our meetings.

I also cannot say enough about our great Hospitality team headed by Pam Bowen. What a wonderful dedicated group of women! They work very hard and do a fabulous job for every meeting - thank you, thank you, thank you to you all! These ladies usually sit at the first row of tables so they have clear access to the kitchen. Please stop and thank them for their kindness and hard work.

On another note, I am looking forward to the rest of this year's events. In April we will have our Charter Luncheon. Please be sure you sign up for this luncheon. At May's general meeting Betty has arranged for Actor/Presenter Marie Antionette to entertain us. Everything French is in the air. Our Annual Rummage Sale is coming up on April 5 and 6 to support our charitable outreach to the community and Sally Degler and Robin Brown invite us to attend "Meet the Authors" on April 19 at 7:00pm. Please be sure to reserve your spot for this wonderful evening as well.

A sincere thank you, ladies, for a wonderful year from the Shopping Spree, Holiday Greens Sale, Dickens holiday presenter to the fabulous opera performance at "Some Enchanted Evening." I look forward to activities such as the Easter egg workshop by the Arts and Culture Department that Donna VanHoy and Carole Hoinsky chair and our North Wind Schooner sail on the Delaware River. Thank you to Ginny Puckett Chair of the Garden and Environmental Department.

So much to look forward to.

District News

Garden District Spring Conference and Achievement Day

Thursday April 18, 2024

Marcos Restaurant, Pennsauken Country Club

Please let Donna Von Hoy or Carole Hoinsky know if you wish to attend or submit a design or a piece for another category.

See you all at the Porch Club at our next general meeting on April 9.

Best Wishes always

Beth Kowalchick

North Wind Sailing Trip Rescheduled

Ahoy Maties!

The tall ship sailing experience on the North Wind Schooner has been rescheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2024. Sail time is from 5:00 pm until 7:00pm. The boat will depart from the pier at 101 S. King Street, Gloucester City, NJ. Your ticket to sail has been paid in full with your previous October 2023 reservation. If you have a guest attending this event with you, they will not receive this email so please inform your guest of the new date and timing.

Hope you can join us on this new date.
Ginny Puckett

Charter Luncheon / General Meeting

The new date for the Charter Luncheon / General Meeting is Tuesday, April 9, 12:30pm at The Porch Club. There is a \$20 cost for this event.

Due to the popularity of this luncheon, reservations are required. Your \$20 check will be your reservation. Please make your check out to "The Porch Club" and send to Diane Calesnick, 700 Foxcroft Drive, Cinnaminson, NJ 08077. Checks must be received by Friday, April 6. Please do NOT make your check out to Diane.

The menu for the luncheon will be salad, rolls, filet of beef, pasta, 2 vegetables and dessert. Please advise Diane of any food allergy such as gluten-free.

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com
Maggie Auer, maggiemsw@gmail.com

The International luncheon raised \$1000+ for Medical Ministry International (MMI) – Peru. The raffle basket amount was \$300.

It was a wonderful Porch Club cooperative afternoon. Special thanks for all those who so generously gave of their time and their contributions.

HAIKU

Two haiku entered in the Haiku/Poetry NJSFWC contest for writing by Pat McDermott. This has been a hobby of hers since we had the "Scribblers" Writing Committee at The Porch Club several years ago. She is a previous national winner of this contest. Hope she repeats again this year!

WINTER

...a winter tribute... bare branches
cross-stitch the blue, cloudless sky...the
echo of a lone woodpecker...great walk,
inspiration and gratitude...a cross-stitch
collector

winter silence:

branches cross-stitch the sky

a woodpecker echoes

Rummage Sale

Mary Hannah, Chair,
[Riverton 914@aol.com](mailto:Riverton914@aol.com)

The 2024 Annual Rummage Sale will be held at the Porch Club on Friday, April 5, 6:00pm-9:00pm and Saturday, April 6, 8:00 am-12:00pm.

We will be setting up and taking donations on Wednesday, April 3 and Thursday, April 4, from 1:00pm to 7:00pm, and again, if necessary, on Friday, April 5, from 12:00pm-4:00pm. Please call if a donation drop off is necessary on this date.

The sale starts on Friday, April 5, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and Saturday, April 6, from 8:00am to 12:00pm.

Please note: clean up on Saturday starts at 11:00am.

Contact Mary Hannah with questions - 856-304-4434.

Calendar

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

Mon., Apr. 22, 11:30am
Daytime Book Club

Tues., Apr. 23, 10:00am
Trip to Penn Museum

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

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

Tues., Apr. 30, 10:00pa
Executive Board Meeting

MAY

Wed., May 1, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class

Mon., May 6, 10:00am
Stitchery

Mon., May 6, 11:30am
Hospitality Set-up

Tues., May 7, 12:30pm
General Meeting

Wed., May 8, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class

Wed., May 8, 7:00pm
Evening Book Club Meeting

Mon., May 13, 10:00am
Stitchery

Wed., May 15, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class

Wed., May 15, 11:30am
Civic Engagement Meeting

Thurs., May 16, 10:00am
Trip to Pennsylvania Academy Fine Arts

Mon., May 20, 10:00am
Stitchery

Mon., May 20, 11:30am
Daytime Book Club

Wed., May 22, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class

Fri., May 24, 10:00am
Trip to Andalusia

Tues., May 28, 10:00am
Executive Board Meeting

Wed., May 29, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class

JUNE

Mon., June 3, 11:30am
Hospitality Set-up

Tues., June 4, 12:30pm
Annual General Meeting

Sun., June 9, 5:00-7:00pm
North Wind Sailing Trip

Wed., June 12, 11:30am
Set-up Incoming/Outgoing Board

Thurs., June 13, 10:00am
Incoming/Outgoing Board Meeting

Environment/Garden Committee

Ginny Puckett, puckettfam375@gmail.com

Garden/Environment - Achievement Day - Thursday, April 18

The Porch Club is participating in the annual NJSFWC (NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs) Achievement Day Contest for 2024.

The initial Achievement Day event is April 18 at the Pennsauken Country Club. As in previous years, the club can participate in several areas of competition. Ginny Puckett is soliciting Porch Club entries for the Garden Environmental Division. There are specific requirements for entering.

If your entry wins a Gold medal at the district level, it will then advance to the contest at the NJSFWC of GFWC Annual Convention in Atlantic City on May 6-8, 2024.

Time is of the essence as pre-registration must be completed by April 3. So, look over the categories. If you are interested in this area of competition, reach out to Ginny Puckett by March 29 at 856-938-5861 or Puckettfam375@gmail.com.

Categories for the competition are as follows:

1. Pressed flowers under glass
2. Seasonal flower arrangements less than 18" tall
3. Flower arrangement in tea cup; total height from table top to be 7" tall or less
4. Flower arrangement in a tea pot; total height from table top to be 10" tall or less
5. Door Wreath; small size, must have a diameter of 11" or less
6. Door Wreath; large size, must have a diameter of 22" or less
7. Potpourri in container that is in container 6" or less
8. Fresh flower arrangement for foyer; Not larger than 16"
9. Flower arrangement in recycled container; Not larger than 18"
10. Terrarium not larger than 18"
11. African violet
12. Cacti or succulent
13. Fern not larger than 24"
14. Orchid
15. Pothos
16. Dish Garden

Note that the sizes for items are very specific.

Please Note: I cannot manage any entry that weighs over 10 pounds.

Garden/Environmental and Women Moving Forward

The Garden/Environmental and Women Moving Forward Trip to Andalusia, will be held on Friday, May 17, 10:00am

The Garden/Environmental Department along with the Women Moving Forward Department are sponsoring a Porch Club trip to Andalusia for Friday, May 17, 2024.

The ancestral home of the Biddle family. The mansion at the center of the property—called the Big House—is one of the finest examples of Greek Revival architecture in the United States. Placed on the National Register of Historic Landmarks in 1966, it provides an unparalleled look into the nation's past, while offering a glimpse into the lives of the influential family that lived there. You will have a chance to explore the historic house, gardens and arboretum. Tour times for the house are 10:00am and 1:00pm. The cost is \$30 and includes the house, gardens, and arboretum.

We will carpool from the Porch Club at 9:30am to arrive for the 10:00am house tour which will last for 1 hour to be followed with a walk through the Gardens



Photo courtesy of the Andalusia website.

and Arboretum. There are no formal lunch facilities at Andalusia so you are asked to bring your own picnic lunch to enjoy along the Delaware River.

All are welcome. Please consider signing up for this outing by reaching out to Ginny Puckett, 856 938 5861, or

Linda Rinaldi, 856 261 8439. Also, let us know if you would be willing to drive for this outing. Deadline to RSVP is May 14, 2024.

Hope you can join us for this lovely event.

Rentals

Kay Kling

kaykling52@gmail.com

Rentals Department is booking Summer 2024 parties at The Porch Club! We have 35 rentals booked so far this year. We are on track to have a profitable season.

Enjoy these pictures from a beautiful baby shower held in the club on a Saturday in March. Look how they transformed the space! Many of the guests asked for info about how to rent.

Our rental volunteers have been working this spring to greet the renters on weekends. We enjoy meeting the excited hosts who are ready to decorate the club to celebrate a family occasion. Rentals Department welcomes new volunteers!

The Rental Committee oversees renting our clubhouse to club members and the general public for private parties. Our

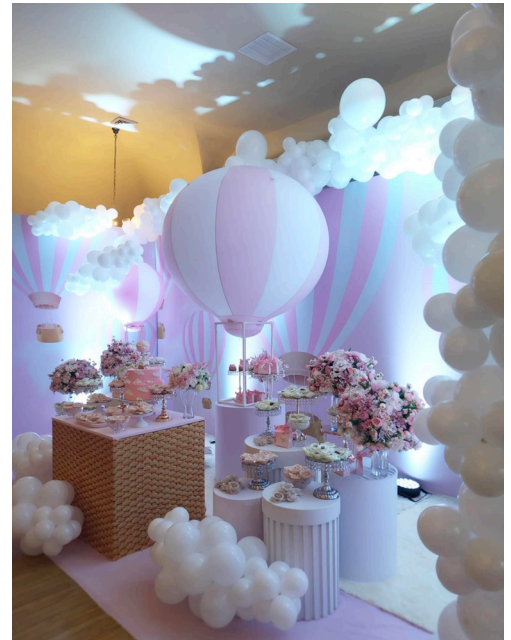
department answers rental requests from our website, tours prospective renters through the clubhouse, manages paperwork required for rentals, and welcomes the renter at the club the day of her event. We also inspect after rentals to ensure the club has been restored to order after the renter's occupancy. Rental income provides operating and maintenance funds for our building.



Renters bring their own individual vision when they rent our beautiful club to celebrate their events.

Top two photos, left to right: baby shower showing beautiful table settings and an enchanting display table.

Bottom two photos: beautiful table settings and floral arrangements for a bridal shower.



House

Phyllis Rodgers partea@comcast.net

Our clubhouse now has a new Hobart commercial dishwasher, an expensive but necessary purchase.

With the replacement of our 26 year old unit, we can continue to clean and sanitize our luncheon dishes.

You will also notice a new, convenient knob and lock on our accessible bathroom door.

If you have any suggestions for repairs or upgrades to the clubhouse as we prepare next year's budget or if you would like to be part of the House Department team to help keep our building beautiful, please call Phyllis at 609-922-4245.

Some Enchanted Evening

The stars were shining brightly last month as members of Boheme Opera NJ performed a selection of popular songs from Opera and Broadway, to a sold out audience at "Some Enchanted Evening"

at the Riverton Country Club. Arts Department chairs Charlene Thellmann and Mary Louise Bianco-Smith with the help of the Porch Club, produced the event to raise funds for the Breast Cancer

Research Foundation and the Porch Club of Riverton. Thank you to all who donated their time, energy and talents to support this effort.



Boheme Opera NJ performers with event Chairmen Charlene Thellmann and MaryLouise Bianco Smith (both in pink).



A final song from all three singers from Boheme Opera NJ.



Three lovely ladies attending the Some Enchanted Evening event: are from left to right: Nina DeLuca (daughter), Diane Ewing (sister) and Suzanne Hill (Recording Secretary).



Charlene Thellmann and MaryLouise Bianco Smith welcome visitors to the Enchanted Evening.

Arts Creative

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

February 14 - Arts and Culture wanted to do a good deed for Valentines Day so we donated goody bags filled with candy and mini stuffed animals to the residents of Riverview Estates Nursing Home. We were hoping to brighten their day.



Goody bags filled with candies and mini stuffed animals for the residents at Riverview Estates.



Delicious and beautiful Easter eggs.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarolldunn@gmail.com

On March 20, the Civic Engagement Department prepared sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen in Camden to help feed the homeless.

We have been doing this project for several years and really appreciate the bread donations received from ShopRite of Cinnaminson and this year a \$50,000 gift certificate from Sam's Club.

Thanks to everyone who volunteered to make sandwiches and help with the cleanup.



Assembling sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, left to right: Hilary De Mezza, Lynne Hammett, Micky Ipri, Lauren Soss, Betty Cutler, Judy Evans, Maryann Taft, Barbara Lucas.

On April 17, we will be meeting at the Porch Club at 11:30am to start planning for next fall. Civic Engagement will have two new co-chairs this year, Tica Simpson and Karen Sulock. Congratulations to both of them.

We hope to have a fundraiser for Urban Promise at our general meeting in May to honor Nancy Hall. Urban Promise of Camden, New Jersey welcomes each individual with care, dignity and a sense of belonging and was a very special charity to Nancy. It will be a great way to remember her.



More volunteers assembling sandwiches, from left to right: Karen Sulock, Jessie Heinze, Shelley Tippenhauer, Robin Brown, Cindy Drissel, Pat Russell, Sue Jenny.

The Porch Club of Riverton presents

Meet the Authors



Becky Diamond - "The Gilded Age Cookbook"

More than a cookbook, there are details of lavish banquets and entertaining stories of the celebrities of the time (the Rockefellers, Astors and Vanderbilts). This is melded with historic menus and recipes updated for modern kitchens....some of which will be available for tasting.

Joan M. Scharff - "The Muse in Ordinary Living"

The author's beautiful photographs are poetic moments in nature and are connected to inspirational, uplifting messages. We are reminded that inspiration need not always be obvious and grand.



Billy Terrell - "The Other Side of Rock and War"

One man's battle to save his life, his career, his country and the Vietnamese orphans he left behind. Along the way, he becomes a successful songwriter, producer and standup comedian working with the likes of Adam Sandler, Drew Carey, Frankie Avalon and Helen Reddy.

Friday, April 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

Where: The Porch Club of Riverton

4th and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ 08077

Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door

Beverages and light refreshments will be served — **plus** Raffle Baskets

Purchase tickets at www.theporchclub.org with PayPal - **or** - Venmo @porch-club-of-riverton - **or** - Scan QR code - **or**- Mail checks to Meet the Authors, The Porch Club of Riverton, PO Box 49, Riverton, NJ 08077 (Checks payable to: The Porch Club of Riverton). For more info: porchclubriverton@gmail.com.

Proceeds benefit award scholarships at local high schools and Literacy New Jersey.



A Memorial Tribute to Nancy Hall



Anne "Nancy" Ritschard Hall, age 93, lifelong resident of Riverton and 50-year member of The Porch Club, passed peacefully at her home on January 28, 2024 surrounded by her family.

A niece of Helen Lippincott, a founding member of The Porch Club, she followed her to Swarthmore College and obtained her teaching credentials from Vassar College. She was a proud fourth generation member of The Porch Club where she was very active and had received recognition as Woman of the Year in 2016.

Nancy served on the luncheon committee and sang in the Porch Club chorus. She portrayed Abigail Adams during our Women's History Month celebration as part of the Arts Performing Department and was part of the Garden Department for many years. She made sure that friends got to and from meetings who were unable to drive. She consistently throughout the years supported everything that the Porch Club did.

Nancy applied her teaching skills by establishing and operating the Hobby Horse Nursery School from her home in Riverton from 1961 to 2006. She had a positive impact on generations of children from Riverton, Palmyra, Cinnaminson and surrounding areas. In 2006, she and her husband Bill were the Grand Marshalls of Riverton's beloved Fourth of July

Children's Parade. At that time, they had a float depicting the fifty years of their nursery school with many of her ex-students marching with them.

She was a Deacon for Calvary Presbyterian Church, caring for the membership, and was part of the team that keeps Calvary's Thrift Shop running. Nancy and Bill were also very involved in helping establish and support Urban Promise, a Christian-based charter school in Camden, NJ, where they not only volunteered their time, but were honored with the establishment of the Bill & Nancy Hall Scholarship Fund to foster education for youth in the community.

She was also a Board member of the Riverton Historical Society for many years, donating many family treasures to be preserved. A plaque honoring her has been installed on the historical sign at Riverview estates where her Great, Great Grandfather Ezra Lippincott made his home.

She goes to Switzerland often to tend to her family's home and has rented it to numerous local families over the years. Nancy and Bill were also instrumental in introducing the Bernese Mountain Dog breed to the United States when they brought their first dog from Switzerland and raised litters that spread this beautiful breed throughout the U.S.

Nancy Hall was an incredible, loving woman, giving of her time, talents and energy to so many in a quiet unassuming way. She will be missed.

History Corner

Pat Brunner, Porch Club Historian

One of the first departments to be organized in The Porch Club was the Mother's Circle. The women felt that many conditions in the schools needed correcting – overcrowding, sanitation, ventilation – yet the women met with indifference from the all-male School Board.

The women of The Porch Club believed that mothers knew best what their children needed and would support their mission to eliminate conditions that endangered their children.

The Circle campaigned to have a woman elected to the Riverton School Board. It took several years, but in 1889, on her second try, Mary VanMeter Grice (the club's first president) was the first woman elected to a Board of Education in Burlington County. Other communities soon followed.



Riverton's first school was a brick, one-room schoolhouse, built in 1822, at the corner of Elm and Broad Streets, referred to as the "riverfront school".

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