

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Feb. - Mar. 2024

Inside the Porch Door

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

FEBRUARY

Thurs., Feb. 1, 10:30am

Dance Class

Mon., Feb. 5, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Feb. 5, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Feb. 6, 12:30pm

General Meeting/

International Luncheon

Wed., Feb. 7, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Thurs., Feb. 8, 10:30am

Dance Class

Thurs., Feb. 8, 7:00pm

Evening Meeting/

Saving the Yacht Club

Mon., Feb. 12, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Feb. 14, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Feb. 14, 7:00pm

Evening Meeting Book Club

Thurs., Feb. 15, 10:30am

Dance Class

Mon., Feb. 19, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Feb. 19, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Wed., Feb. 21, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Feb. 21, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

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The Porch Club of Riverton

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

COMMUNICATIONS: Pat Bruner,
email: patebrun@comcast.net

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

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

Hello Porch Club ladies,

I hope everyone has fared well during these erratic storms passing through our area, many tree limbs down in our yard and holly berries scattered about our lawn and driveway. We have been lucky regarding trees as we just removed 4 ash trees in November that were diseased and surely (with the high winds) would have been lying across our lawn after the storm.

I am pleased to say that our Porch Club departments and committees have been working hard and planning some wonderful programs and events that will educate you and add entertainment to all the members that wish to be part of these interesting and lively events coming up soon.

Our programs certainly are fascinating; from December's "Dickens" evening that the Porch Club shared with the Riverton Historical Society to our most recent program "Evolution of the Tea Table" presented by Linda Boyd.

Thank you, Phyllis and our 1st VP Betty Cutler, for these wonderful programs.

Coming up:

February 6 at 12:30pm is our General Meeting and International Luncheon where we ask members to bring a covered dish. Please label your dish with the name of the dish and what country it represents.

Speaker Lori Greenwalt will be presenting a slide show about Peru — "Medical Ministry International".

"Some Enchanted Evening", a Broadway and Opera show and dinner will be held at the Riverton Country Club, February 23, at 6:00. A 50/50 and a silent auction will also be available for those who wish to participate. Please try your best to support this event as it will be our major event for the year. Porch Club members still pay \$65.00.

District News

The Porch Club appreciates Marie Dimattis Garden District 1st Vice President's visit to our general meeting in December. Marie was happy to be present for all of our festivities that day.

I thank you all for your hard work, your dedication to the Porch Club, and your kindness to me always.

There is an uplifting quote I heard sometime in the past that I think applies to all of our lives here at the Porch Club:

"Life is a journey of experiences, growth, connections, and gratitude."

I have had experiences as your president; growth and learning as I go along, wonderful loving connections, and I am grateful for this opportunity to embellish my life.

Thank you.

My Best Wishes for you all in this New Year.

Beth Kowalchick

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

Maggie Auer, maggieamsw@gmail.com

The UNICEF Trick or Treat drive was a great success. A total of \$730.00 was collected. UNICEF now allows you to earmark the destination of your donated funds. The International Outreach Committee decided that the funds collected in 2023 would be donated to the earthquake victims in Morocco.

The International Luncheon to be held on February 6 will focus its fundraising for the organization Peru—Medical Ministry International (mmi.org). Speaker Lori Greenawalt will present a slide presentation about MMI.

2024 marks the 50th year that the Porch Club has sponsored a child through Child-Fund International. The International Outreach Committee is in discussion for a way to celebrate this milestone. This year we will be supporting a new International child as Kevin, our boy from Mexico, has aged out of the program. It should be noted that he is now going to university to further his studies.

Evening Meetings

Diane Calesnick, dcal2220@yahoo.com

Cindy Drissel, cindydrissel@yahoo.com

A new Evening Committee Weight Loss Group is forming now. On the fourth Wednesday of every month, the Evening Committee will meet to hold a weight loss support group meeting at the club at 6:30pm. Diane and Cindy will host the group. After the holidays, with New Year's resolutions in place, is a popular time for Weight Watchers, Jenny Craig, NutriSystem, and other programs. We're not here to promote any one particular program, but for all of us to help each other on our healthy weight loss journey. The group is called "Take the Weigh Off." We will meet every month to start, but it could be more often if people like the idea and think it would be helpful. If you have vowed to be healthier in 2024, come join us!

Calendar

Continued from Page 1

Thurs., Feb. 22, 10:30am

Dance Class

Thurs., Feb. 22, 11:30am

Soup's On

Fri., Feb. 23, 6:00pm

Some Enchanted Evening Fundraiser

Mon., Feb. 26, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues., Feb. 27, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Feb. 28, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Feb. 28, 6:30pm

Evening Meeting/Take the Weight Off

MARCH

Mon., Mar. 4, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Mar. 4, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Mar. 5, 12:30pm

General Meeting

Wed., Mar. 6, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., Mar. 11, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Mar. 13, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Mar. 13, 7:00pm

Evening Meeting Book Club

Mon., Mar. 18, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Mar. 18, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Tues., Mar. 19, 10:30am

Fondant Flowers

Wed., Mar. 20, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Mar. 20, 11:30am

Sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen

Thurs., Mar. 21, 10:30am

Make Easter Eggs

Mon., Mar. 25, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues., Mar. 26, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Mar. 27, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Membership

JoAnn DiNoia, Chair,

jaydinoia2@gmail.com

In December, 2023, we welcomed Marci Needleman to the club. In January, 2024 Betty Magjuka, Pat Russell, Dominica Foster, Judie Collings, Marsha Cavender, Diane Curran, and Lauren Soss joined the club. Welcome all! We look forward to getting to know you.



New members from left to right: Marsha Cavendar, Betty Magjuka, Lauren Soss, and Dominica Foster. (The others inductees were not present at this meeting.)

Historical Society

In December, the Porch Club along with the Historical Society hosted a presentation of "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and performed by Alysa DuPuy as Scrooge's sister.



Left to right: Beth Kowalchick, Phyllis Rodgers, Alysa DuPuy (speaker), Pat Brunner, Iris Gaughan

Historical Society of Riverton and the Porch Club of Riverton

Present

Riverton Yacht Club:

Its History and Renewal



Presented by Roger Prichard, Riverton Borough Historian

Thursday, February 8, 2024

7:00 Porch Club, 4th and Howard Streets

Free ... open to the public

Arts Creative

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com
Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

In November, Arts Creative held a Toffee Making Demonstration and Taste Testing event at the Porch Club. Our demonstration was meant to take the fear out of making toffee and show that just a few simple ingredients can be turned into something amazing. Some of the attendees made it for Christmas. A fun and delicious time was had by all. Carol Hoinsky took these pictures.



Above: the yummy toffee.

Left: toffee making class held by Arts Creative from left to right are Maryann Taft, Donna VanHoy, Charlene Thellmann, Pam Bowen, and Lynne Hammett

Arts Performing

Charlene Thellmann
charleneactor@aol.com

Shake off those winter blues and let's dance!

Join us Thursday mornings from 10:30-11:30 for dance with Joe DeMarco. Classes run Feb. 8, 15, 22, and 29, and the cost is \$55 total. Wear comfortable clothes with sneakers and be prepared for a fun hour of burning calories while expanding flexibility and balance.

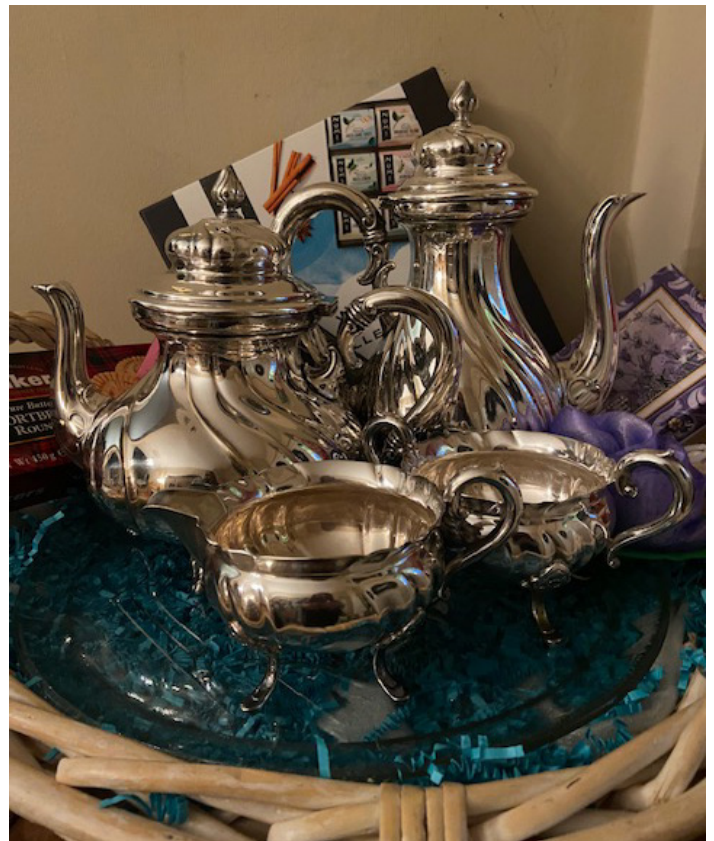
Pre-registration is appreciated. Call or email Charlene Thellmann. charleneactor@aol.com or 609-923-4295.

CORRECTION FROM LAST ISSUE

Morgan Coates, who was our Local Girl's Career Institute attendee, is from Cinnaminson High School, not Palmyra as stated in the previous issue. We apologize for the error.



Our Christmas Tree and decorations were gorgeous. The decorating was led by Donna VanHoy and Carol Hoinsky, the Arts Creative people, and assisted by the Board.



After winning this stunning tea set at our raffle, Diane Calesnick generously donated it to the Porch Club. Thank You, Diane

Rentals

Kay Kling

kaykling52@gmail.com

Rentals Department is booking spring 2024 parties at The Porch Club! We already have 15 rentals booked for the new year. The pictures show a baby shower in December with a "Baby It's Cold Outside" theme.

Would you be interested in helping the Rentals Department? Our rental volunteers have been working for sever-

al years now and are ready to move on to other volunteer positions at the club. We would like to build our department to help with rentals. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Kay Kling at kaykling52@gmail.com or 267-210-1655. Thanks in advance!

It's fun to meet renters who are excited to celebrate a family occasion. Volunteers welcome renters the day of their event, review the clean-up procedures, and hand over the key to the club. A seasoned volunteer will accompany you a few times until you are comfortable

greeting renters on your own.

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 the 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.



"Baby It's Cold Outside" was the theme of a recent party held during the holidays.



House

Phyllis Rodgers

partea@comcast.net

Our clubhouse recently had its annual fire inspection. In order to meet fire regulations, we were required to have the accessible ramp exterior entrance door swing out instead of into the building. The work has been completed and we are now in compliance.

Many thanks to our membership for faithfully supporting the many needs and updates that our beautiful clubhouse continually needs.

Environment/Garden Committee

Ginny Puckett, pucketfam375@gmail.com

The Porch Club Holiday Greens sale was a success thanks to the help of many volunteers who created the lovely greens to sell as well as terrific helpers on the day of the sale. We were blessed with beautiful weather, buyers who visited our historic club to pick up their pre-

ordered items, and folks who dropped by to visit and buy our greens in conjunction with the Riverton Christmas Village.

We sold both fresh and faux wreaths, mini trees, fresh holiday table décor, and beautiful kissing balls. Our visitors also enjoyed hot cider and cookies while they

admired our holiday offerings. Net profits after expenses were estimated to be about \$1,200. We sold nearly 100 items.

Many thanks to everyone who participated and purchased items to make the sale a big success.



Left to right on a chilly day: Betty Cutler, Kim Parente, Beth Kowalchick



And warm inside were, left to right: Kim Parente, Ginny Puckett, Diane Calesnick, Beth Kowalchick



Irene Longo and Cindy Drissel manning the table outside

Holiday Tea in December



Charlene Thellmann leading a dance on stage with surprise visitor Elvis shakin' it up in the back row.
Left to right: Donna Froio, Sharon Kvist, Charlene Thellmann, "Elvis" (Joe DiMarco), Tina Bell, and Gerri Dietrich.



Maureen Reilly



Pam Bowen



Tina Bell, Joe DiMarco, MaryLouise Bianco Smith, Charlene Thellmann, Gerri Dietrich

History Corner

Pat Brunner, Porch Club Historian

Charles Goren – Teaching Bridge at The Porch Club

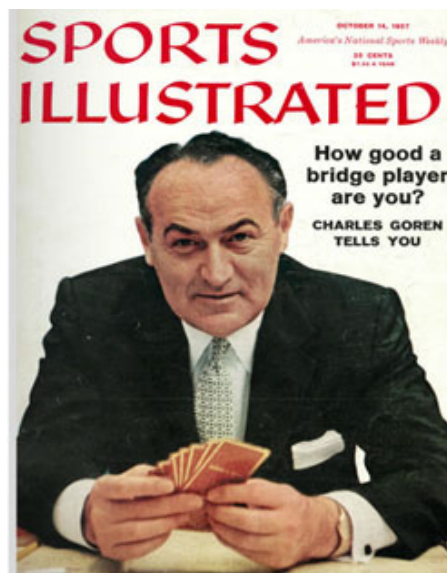
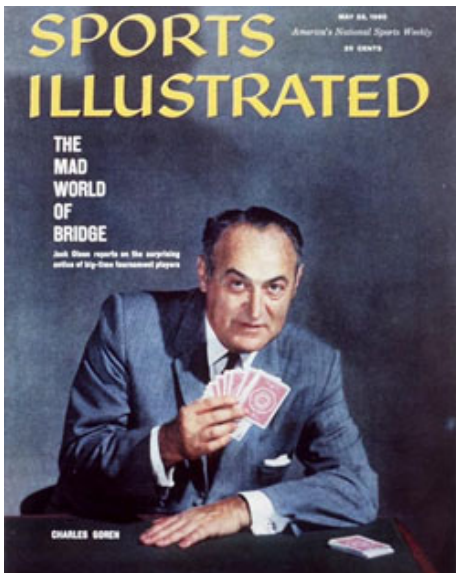
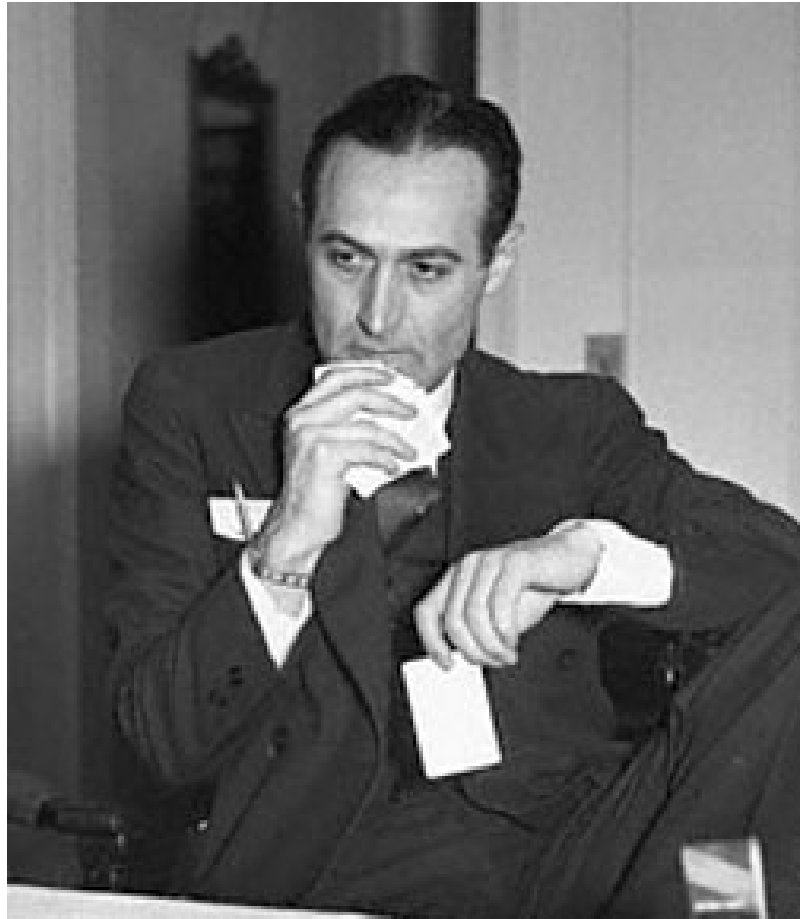
Charles H. Goren, Life Master of the American Contract Bridge League, began to give lessons at the Porch Club in 1936. What a thrill it must have been for the Porch Club ladies to learn Bridge from the world champion authority!

Born March 1, 1901 in Khityn, Ukraine, he practiced law for 13 years in Philadelphia. In 1934, Goren began his own Bridge writing career and published the first of his many books on playing bridge, "Winning Bridge Made Easy", in 1936. In 1935, he quit practicing law to focus entirely on Bridge.

Goren quickly became popular as an instructor and lecturer. He was the inventor of point count bidding which is still used today. He became the premier American Bridge authority and authored numerous bestselling books on the subject.

Goren dominated the competitive Bridge circuit, ultimately becoming the world champion at the Bermuda Bowl in 1950 and remained a competitive player until about 1962 after which he focused on writing and teaching Bridge.

His books have sold millions of copies and by 1958 his daily bridge column was appearing in 194 American newspapers. He also appeared on the Groucho Marx radio and television game show "You Bet Your Life" in 1958 and the television game show "What's My Line" in 1961.



January General Meeting

The January General Meeting was a busy and exciting start to the new year.

We enjoyed listening to our guest speaker, Linda Boyd, who delighted us

with "The History of Tea".

There was an outpouring of donations of premie and baby clothes collected by the Civic Engagement Department

with items for the Ronald McDonald House in Camden.

And four new members were installed. Way to kick off 2024!



Linda Boyd and Betty Cutler with Linda's tea table.



Betty Dunn with baby clothes for Ronald McDonald House in Camden.



Pat Bruncker with new members Marsha Cavender, Betty Magjuka, Lauren Soss, and Domenica Foster.



Linda and Betty



Flowers in teapots centerpieces done by Pat McDermott (picture) and Jan DeVries



Lois Janney, Suzanne Hill, Betty Cutler, and our guest speaker Linda Boyd.

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
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.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarrolldunn@gmail.com

December was a very busy month for Civic Engagement.

At December's general meeting, we collected \$429 worth of hats and mittens for children and donated them to the Angel Tree run by the Epworth Methodist Church in Palmyra.

Toys worth \$709 were collected and delivered to Providence House and we also collected gifts for our friends at Riverview Estates totaling \$385 ensuring that every resident had Christmas presents.

On December 13, Civic Engagement held our annual Christmas Tea at Riverview Estates. It was a fun afternoon with lots of

Christmas songs, trivia games, tea and cake, and plenty of good conversations with our friends.

Seven Civic Engagement volunteers visited Providence House on December 15 to set up and organize a toy store for their clients. We had a lot of fun checking out all of the new toys and putting them on the shelves. We felt like Santa's elves.

January started off with a bang. Eighty four baby outfits were donated to the Ronald McDonald House in Camden

Your kindness and generosity make all of this good work possible. Many thanks for your help.



Toy store for the holidays at Providence House.



Festive Christmas Tea at Riverview Estates.

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Riverton, NJ 08077
www.theporchclub.org