

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Dec. 2024-Jan. 2025

Inside the Porch Door

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

December 2024

Mon., Tues., Dec 2-3,
10:00am-4:00pm
Greens Sale Workshop
Wed., Dec. 4, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class
Wed., Dec. 4, 10:00-6:00pm
Greens Sale and Pickup
Thurs., Dec. 5, 10:00am-1:00pm
Greens Sale and Pickup
Thurs., Dec. 5, 10:30am
Dance with Joe DeMarco
Sat., Dec. 7, 4:00-8:00pm
Candlelight House Tour and Reception
Mon., Dec. 9, 10:00am
Stitchery
Mon., Dec. 9, 11:30am
Hospitality Set Up
Tues., Dec. 10, 12:30pm
Holiday Tea General Meeting
Wed., Dec. 11, 9:30am
Tai Chi Class
Wed., Dec. 11, 11:30am
Civic Engagement Meeting
Wed., Dec 11, 7:00pm
Evening Book Club
Fri., Dec 13, 10:00am
Toy Store Set Up
Mon., Dec. 16, 10:00am
Stitchery
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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

Hello ladies of the Porch Club,

I am starting this newsletter with an attitude of gratitude for all the wonderful cards I received during and after my surgery for cancer.

I am so happy to be on the road for chemo treatments only as a preventative measure for any radical cells that may surface in the future. I feel so fortunate and grateful to be in this position of healing. Thank you for all your kindness, loving support, and prayers. I am forever appreciative

Thank you so very much.

On a lighter note, the rest of the Porch Club year looks like we are moving forward with a lot of entertaining and interesting events.

Our Shopping Spree event held on November 11, and chaired by JoAnn DiNoia, was a successful event! Joanne invited 24 vendors

Thank you JoAnn, chair of this wonderful event, and the kitchen team, Mary Hannah, Bobbie Beck, and Cathy McEntee, for all of your dedicated and hard work to make this event so successful year after year. This year the proceeds from the Shopping Spree are going to the State Project: the Children's Alliance Program.

The Green Sale Team was also in attendance signing up pre-sale orders for wreaths, holiday arrangements, and Christmas balls, all custom made from fresh greens and florals, for pick-up on December 5.

I would like to thank Phyllis Rogers and Sally Degler for all their hard work setting up and selling all the great Christmas items at the Shopping Spree. The foyer looked very festive.

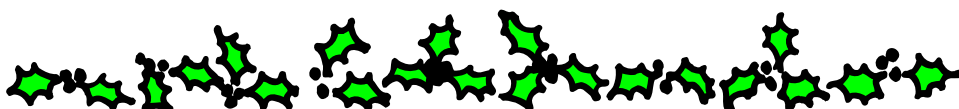
The month of November was filled with wonderful events! On November 15, The Arts Performing Evening department hosted an evening with Billy Terrill, a renowned comedian. This was a very entertaining and lovely evening. Thank you, Mary Lou Bianco Smith, Charlene Thellman, and Maryanne Taft.

I also want to thank Civic Engagement's Betty Dunn, Tica Simpson, and Karen Sulock for all their hard work and the work of their wonderful team members. These members organize and separate the many donations of all items from closet cleanout. This was to get donations ready for Bargain Thrift to pick up from Porch Club.

Thank you to an amazing group of women all working together from all of the departments and committees and representing the Porch Club with flying colors.

Best Wishes to you all for a beautiful and blessed holiday season.

*My Best Wishes,
Beth Kowalchick*



Membership

JoAnn DiNoia, Chair,
jaydinoia2@gmail.com

The Membership Department would like to welcome our newest members.

Please meet Dori Myers, Mary Ann Powers, Judie Collins, and Georgeann Cantanella

We would also like to welcome back to membership Julie Piper.

Rentals

Kay Kling
kaykling52@gmail.com
Diane Calesnick,
DCal2220@yahoo.com

Rentals Department is booking rentals for 2025! We hope to have a busy year. Please consider renting if your family is celebrating a graduation, new baby, or bride-to-be. Porch Club members get a discount! It is only \$300 to rent for an entire 10-hour day or \$425 for an evening rental.

The Rental Department oversees renting our clubhouse to club members and the general public for private parties. We welcome new volunteers! Our department answers rental questions submitted to our website, tours prospective renters through the clubhouse, manages paperwork required for rentals, and welcomes the renter the day of her event. We also inspect after rentals to ensure the club has been restored to order. Rental income provides operating and maintenance funds for our building. Thanks for considering membership on our committee.

In Memorium

It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing of Robin Brown after a short illness. Robin was head of the Literature Department for many years, put together the Read Across America programs with Riverton School, and was an active member of the Garden Department and Board of Directors. She was always willing to help with any project and brought her lively personality to all she did. She will be missed."



New members left to right: Judie Collins, Georgeann Contanella, Maryann Powers, Dori Myers with JoAnn DiNoia, Membership Chairman.

Calendar

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Mon., Dec. 16, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Tues., Dec. 17, 11:00am

Make Ahead Desserts

Wed., Dec. 18, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Thurs., Dec. 19, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Mon., Dec. 30, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

January 2025

Mon., Jan. 6, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Jan 6, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Jan. 7, 12:30pm

International Luncheon General Meeting

Wed., Jan. 8, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Jan. 8, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 9, 10:00am

Make Art Cards

Fri., Jan. 10, 10:00am

Trip to Recycling Plant

Mon., Jan. 13, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Jan. 15, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Jan. 15, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Wed., Jan. 15, 1:00pm

Set up for District Council Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 16, 9:00am

District Council Meeting

Thurs., Jan. 16, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Mon., Jan. 20, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Jan. 20, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Wed., Jan. 22, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., Jan., 27, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues, Jan. 28, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Jan. 29, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarolldunn@gmail.com

Tica Simpson, tica_s@hotmail.com

Karen Sulock, kmjsulock@gmail.com

October was the perfect month to have our "Great Closet Clean Out".

Our Porch Club volunteers and Interact students from Palmyra High School collected and sorted through 4,800 pounds of clothing and household goods. We received \$1106.00 dollars from Bargain Thrift which will be used to support several charitable events this year.

Hats and mittens for the Angel Tree at the Epworth Methodist Church were collected at our November general meeting. You generously donated \$720.00 worth of hats and mittens for needy children in our area.

It felt strange to not purchase groceries for the Bread of Life Food Pantry this year, however, your generous cash donations of \$1,084.00 more than made up for it.

The food pantry will be giving their clients ShopRite gift cards to purchase what they need for Thanksgiving. You have helped many families to have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Also, at our November general meeting, we featured speakers from charities we support. This allows us to see how our donations are being used.

Nicole Gambardello and Rosemary Cummings represented Contact, the crisis and suicide hotline for our local communities. Contact has been helping those in need for 50 years.

Barbara Katz from Providence House discussed the problems of domestic abuse and their mission to protect women and children.

Debbie Riveros from the Children's Alliance, our special state project this

year, talked about providing hope, healing, and justice for child abuse victims in New Jersey.

Civic Engagement volunteers will be traveling to Providence House in Westampton, New Jersey on November 21 to set up a Thanksgiving food pantry.

Seeing all of those donations makes you really appreciate the generosity of the people in our communities.



Taking a well deserved rest after sorting through thousands of pounds of donated goods are, left to right, Tica Simpson, Betty Dunn, and Karen Sulock.



Speakers at the November General Meeting, clockwise from top left: Nicole Gambardello holding the microphone and Rosemary Cummings from Contact. Barbara Katz from Providence House. Debbie Riveros from the Children's Alliance. And our own Beth Kowalchick.

A Joint Evening Program with the Historical Society

Pat Brunker, patebrunk@comcast.net

A joint Evening program with the Historical Society of Riverton was held on October 28 at the Porch Club.

The subject was "Growing Up in Riverton: A Wright Family Portrait". 68 people attended for this program.

The speaker in the picture on the left is former member of the Porch Club, Le-

nore Layton. Her sister and cousin Doris MacKenzie and Barbara Meyer also presented stories about growing up in Riverton. All are Great-granddaughters of Charles A. Wright who built the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge. The bridge replaced the Tacony-Palmyra Ferry and opened on August 14, 1929.



Photos from left to right: Presenter, Lenore Layton, the captivated audience, promotional poster for this joint event, and a family sail on the Delaware River.

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee, led by Pam Bowen, did their usual great job in arranging our set-up and food for the

luncheon in October and meeting in November.



Sallie Degler with the Girls' Career Institute attendees.



Hospitality left to right: Phyllis Rodgers, Sallie Degler, Betty Cutler, Pam Bowen, Karen Sulock, Pat Russell, Judy Fuhrer, Maureen O'Reilly, and Linda Rinaldi.



New members Donna Novak, Carol McGonigal, JoAnn DiNoia, membership chairman, and Elaine Faunce being installed at the meeting.

Stitchery Committee

Lorraine Domask, LMDomask@comcast.net

Judy Zapisek, craftylady502@aol.com

At right is the letter of thanks that Newborns in Need sent to the members of the Porch Club for the donations that were dropped off last week.

Photos below are of members of Stitchery working on quilts for Newborns in Need. Fabric and sewing machines were generously donated by our members and then members were given creative freedom to design beautiful quilts using a supplied pattern or one of their own for Newborns in Need. This is an ongoing project so please feel free to join us in this worthwhile endeavour.



Pat Bruncker, Chris Jander, Carol McGonigal, Diane Calesnick.



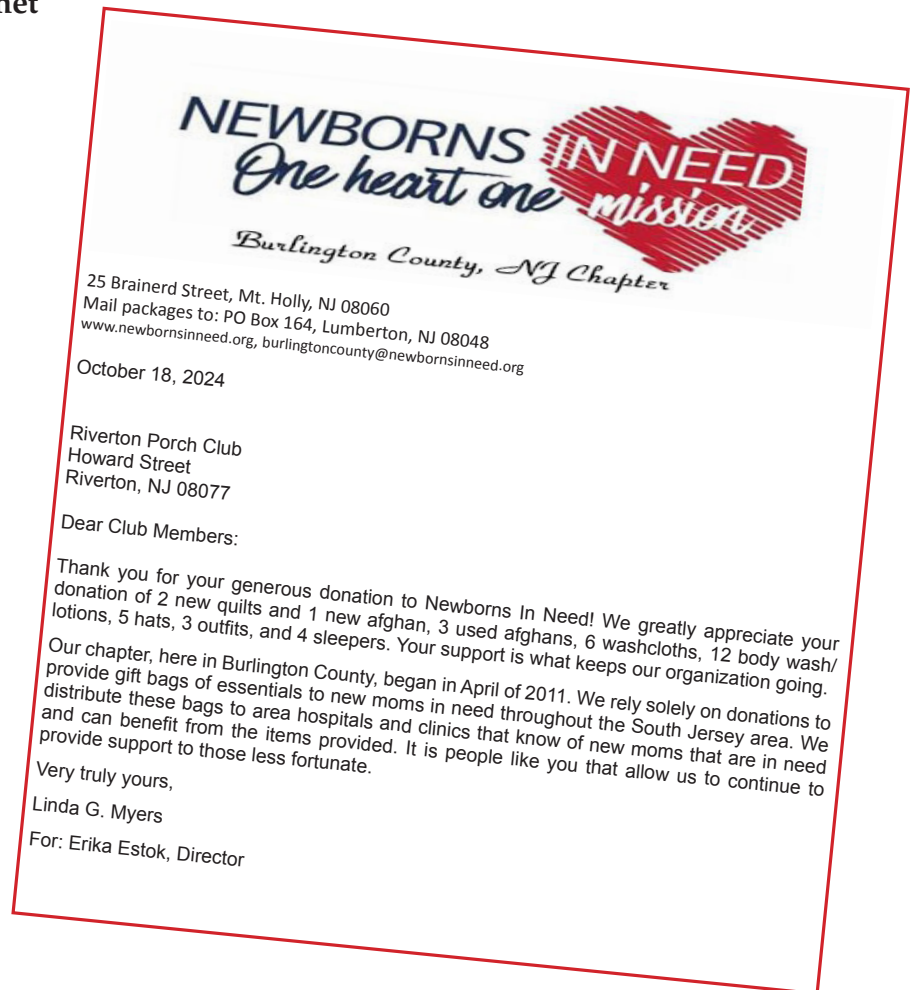
Doris Downes with adorable fabric to start her first quilt.



Patty Parker with her finished quilt top.



Hilary DeMezza chain piecing her creation.



Arts and Culture

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

13 ladies participated in pumpkin painting at the Porch Club on October 18. We painted large and small pumpkins and delivered 20 small pumpkins to the Riverview Estates to spread some Halloween cheer.



Pictured above are: Elaine Faunce, Carol McGonigal, Dianne Currao, Karen Sulock, Donna VanHoy, Mary Sweeney, Mickey Ipri, Lisa Kvist, Carol Hoinsky, Sharon Kvist (participants not pictured are Lynne Hammette, Ginny Puckett, and Sandy Torres Suarez), Donna Van Hoy and Carol Hoinsky with their creations, and some of the decorated pumpkins that were given to Riverview Estates to decorate for the holiday.

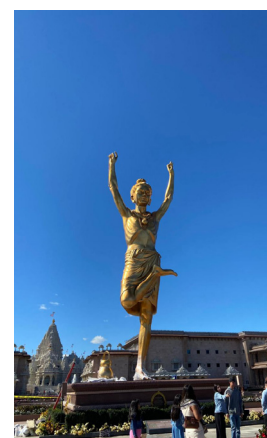
Arts and Culture Hosts Trip to Temple

Arts and Culture hosted a trip on October 10 to the Baps Swaminarayan Akshardham Mandir Hindu Temple in Robbinsville, NJ. It is an architectural masterpiece mixed with spiritual harmony. It was an amazing day.



Above: Ladies on the trip left to right: Donna VanHoy, Ginny Puckett, Carol McGonigal, Karen Sulock, Maryann Taft, Pat Russell, Diane Currao, Carol Hoinsky, Pat Brunker, Lynne Hammett, Yvette Marshall, Karen Healey, Lorraine Domask, Tica Simpson, Jeanne Giles.

Right: This is a beautiful group of elephant statues. In the Hindu culture elephants are known for 3 qualities, strength, wisdom, and nobility.



Above left: The main temple. Right: A 49 foot statue of the revered Nilkanth Varni, known for his acts of kindness and the spreading of spiritual teachings which emphasized moral purity, devotion to God, and social service.



Porch Club History Corner

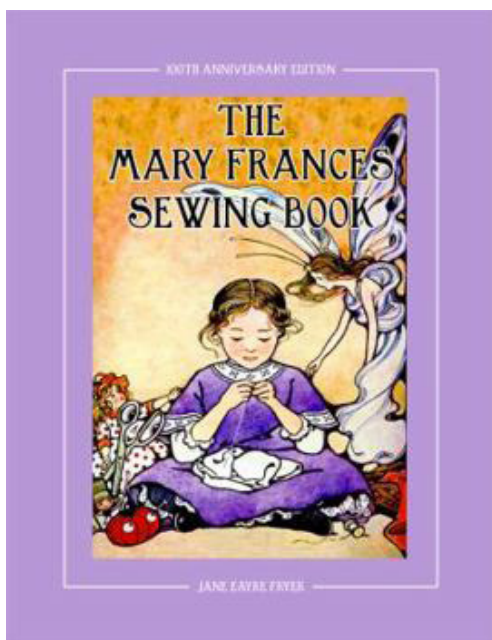
Pat Brunker, Porch Club Historian, patebrunk@comcast.net

The Porch Club recently received a painting done by Riverton artist Jane Boyer. She was a book illustrator, prize-winning artist, and President of the Porch Club twice - from 1919 to 1923 and from 1933 to 1935. She taught many art classes while at The Porch Club. An email about the painting came through the Historical Society website and was forwarded to us.

I was happy to know her full name of Jane Hovey Allen Boyer. She is always referred to in our records as Mrs. Murray C.

Boyer as was the fashion at the time. She was born in 1875 and died in 1940. Jane lived for many years at 304 8th Street in Riverton (now former Mayor Suzanne Cairns Wells' home). Jane had no children of her own.

We have been unable to determine what house is in the picture. Please take a look at the picture and let me know if you recognize its location.



The Mary Frances Sewing Book published in 1913 beautifully illustrated by Riverton artist Jane Boyer.



This beautiful painting by Jane Boyer of a home in Riverton was recently donated to the Porch Club. Do you know the location of this house?

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