

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Apr. - May 2025

Inside the Porch Door

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

APRIL

Tues., Apr. 1, 12:30pm

Charter Luncheon

Wed., Apr. 2, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Apr. 2, 1:00pm

Rummage Sale Drop Off/Set Up

Thurs., Apr. 3, 1:00pm

Rummage Sale Drop Off/Set Up

Fri., Apr. 4, 6:00pm

Spring Rummage Sale

Sat., Apr. 5, 8:00am

Spring Rummage Sale

Mon., Apr. 7, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues., Apr. 8, 11:00am

Fondant Flowers

Wed., Apr. 9, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Apr. 9, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Thurs., Apr. 10, 11:00am

Easter Egg Workshop

Mon., Apr. 14, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 14, 7:30m

Environmental Commission Meeting

Tues., Apr. 15, 10:00am

Garden Tour Status Meeting

Wed., Apr. 16, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Continued on Page 2

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 am so happy to be in the season and landscape of spring. Everywhere I look I see marvelous beauty springing up from the earth. These miracles of nature are creating masterpieces of beautiful colors that blossom on the trees and flowers making this an easy segway to talk about our upcoming Garden Tour.

I am so delighted that this is our year to hold the fabulous tour May 16 and May 17. Pat Bruner and Ginny Pucket are asking every Porch Club member to support this important event. Many members have been working very hard to help make this a successful tour. Rosemary Kay has already been able to sign sponsors to help support the garden tour. There are many Porch Club members serving as hostesses for the eight house gardens – we need 64 hostesses to cover this task. Please contact Pam Bowen or Diane Calesnick to help. You need not be a garden expert to do this.

Bobby Beck enlisted Early Bird Cafe to provide lunch at the Porch Club on Saturday. JoAnn DiNoia is engaging vendors and arranging baskets for a raffle so be sure and stop by the club to purchase some tickets. Phyllis Rogers is managing the boutique inside the Porch Club, Wendy Sitzler is doing our signage, Carol Mc Carthy has done the gorgeous poster, ticket, and handout designs. The list goes on and on of all the generous and caring Porch Club members that are giving of their time and talents to make this Garden Tour fabulous.

Special thanks to Pat and Ginny for all their dedication and organized creative talents.

I know it will be a great day the Porch Club and community will enjoy and remember. I still hear praises from guests that attended the last Garden Tour.

We also have the delicious Ice Cream Social to look forward to in June. Phyllis Rogers and JoAnn Di Noia always lead the way for this social event they always make it something special to remember and appreciate. It's a great way to meet new members and rekindle friendships with members that have been absent or on vacation.

I also feel I must mention Robin Brown. Robin always cut her garden flowers to beautify our events, almost all the daffodils in her garden, then generously helped to arrange them. I rode past her home to see the flowers in bloom to honor Robin and my eyes filled with tears. I will always miss her as I will always miss Sally Degler who always made me laugh and always had a beautiful smile on her face. Life at the Porch Club will never be the same without these two women as well as the wonderful members we have lost over the past years. God bless them all.

Again, I thank you all for being such beautiful women and friends, I am grateful for your loving support and care.

*My Best Wishes Always,
Beth Kowalchick*

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

Maggie Auer, maggieamsw@gmail.com

International Outreach will be donating used clothing to the organization, Forgotten Children Worldwide, this spring. We will be working with the spring Rummage Sale to gather this clothing. International Outreach will start with one box of clothing this year, perhaps increasing boxes next year.

Forgotten Children Worldwide began by collecting, packing and shipping clothing to partner organizations around the globe. The clothing distribution program is still one of the largest part of this organization.

To learn more, visit forgottenchildren.org

Membership

JoAnn DiNoia, jaydinoia2@gmail.com

Please welcome Donna Watts and Jane Phillips who will be initiated at our April meeting.

☞ *In Memoriam* ☜
Sallie Degler



Calendar

Continued from Page 1

Wed., Apr. 16, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Thurs., Apr. 17, 9:00am

Achievement Day

Mon., Apr. 21, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Apr. 21, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Wed., Apr. 23, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., Apr. 28, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues., Apr. 29, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Apr. 30, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

MAY

Mon., May 5, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., May 5, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., May 6, 12:30pm

General Meeting

Wed., May 7, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., May 7, 10:00am

Trip to Philadelphia Museum of Art

Fri., May 9, 10:30am

Abstract Craft

Mon., May 12, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., May 12, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Tues., May 13, 10:00am

Garden Tour Status Meeting

Wed., May 14, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., May 14, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Fri., May 16, 10:00am

Garden Tour Walk Through PC

Fri., May 16, 3:00pm

Garden Tour 2025

Sat., May 17, 10:00am

Garden Tour 2025

Mon., May 19, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., May 19, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club Meeting

Wed., May 21, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., May 21, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Tues., May 27, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., May 28, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

JUNE

Mon., June 2, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., June 3, 12:30pm

General Meeting

Wed., June 4, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., June 9, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Wed., June 11, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., June 11, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Mon., June 16, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club Meeting

Tues., June 17, 9:00am

Incoming/Outgoing Board Meeting

Wed., June 18, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Thurs., June 19, 12:00pm

Garden Party Lunch

Wed., June 25, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class **Wed., Mar. 19, 9:30am**

Tai Chi Class

Arts and Culture

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

Carol Hoinsky and Donna VanHoy went to the Philadelphia International Flower Show 2025.

The two things they like best were:

First: "Welcoming Wildlife Home"

They received Best of Show Cup for a Floral Display. This whimsical floral exhibit features large animals and insects made from plant materials. They were gathered around a dining room table with flowers and plants everywhere. This exhibit is about the human interaction with nature and creating a healthy environment for both.

Second: "Tomorrow's Eden"

They received several silver trophies for landscape. This exhibit displayed multi level landscape with numerous moss layers, smoking bogs and ponds, mysterious twisted trees, stone pathways and trickling water falls all meticulously arranged.

In February ten ladies met for lunch at Tres Yan and Wu Chinese Restaurant in Mount Laurel. We all enjoyed the food and each other's company. Some of the ladies said they had found a new Chinese restaurant to go to.

April 8, 11:00am, "Fondant Flowers Workshop"

We are getting things ready for making our own fondant cut-out candy decorations for our Easter Eggs.

April 10, 11:00 am, Easter Egg Workshop

We will have three delicious fillings ready for rolling into Easter Eggs. We then dip them into melted chocolate and add some decorations. We will be sharing them with family and friends. Hopefully, we don't eat them all ourselves. We will have a sign-up sheet at the next meeting on April 1 or call Donna VanHoy 609-744-2724 or Carol Hoinsky 609-238-8500.

"Hammering Flowers Workshop", date and time forthcoming

This spring we will also be hammering flowers and transferring their image onto paper. We had so much fun last year. It was kind of addicting. We don't have a date yet so look for a sign-up sheet soon.

April 17, 9:00am, Achievement Day

Achievement Day will be held at the Pennsauken Country Club. Our club will be entering about 10 pieces for Achievement Day. These participants have put many hours of hard work into their entries. Five ladies will be delivering the entries and attending the luncheon, we will then wait for the results. Hopefully we get some awards to bring back with us.



Clockwise, top left: Carol Hoinsky and Donna VanHoy at the Philadelphia International Flower Show

Top right: The squirrel at the "Welcoming Wildlife Home" exhibit.

Bottom right: Delicious chocolate Easter eggs.

Bottom left: Some of the many awards for the "Tomorrow's Eden" exhibit.



Arts Performing

Charlene Thellmann, charleneactor@aol.com

On March 8, the Porch Club “went to the dogs” when the Arts Performing Department stepped back in time to host the east coast debut of the radio play “Sparky Goes to Doris Day’s Hotel”. The play was originally performed and broadcast in San Francisco. Written by author and Porch Club member Donna Marie Nowak, it’s based on a story from her Miss Bell Mystery Series book and features amateur sleuth Miss Bell and her spunky dog Sparky who are staying at the Cypress Inn in Carmel, when a champion dog gets napped. The cast was comprised of regional actors and their stuffed dogs, plus one Siamese cat. Original commercials were presented along with Foley sound effects. Proceeds from the evening benefited the Porch Club.



Cast photo, left to right: Tracy Brobyn, Karen Goldfarb, Kori Rife, Donna Marie Nowak, Dan Drechsler, Andie Drechsler, Alex Kiernan, Charlene Thellmann, and Chris Noyes.
Not pictured: Georgeann Catanella.

House

Phyllis Rodgers, partea@comcast.net

The Porch Club’s beautifully maintained clubhouse is a source of pride for us all and keeping up with our high standards of maintenance is an ongoing endeavor. Perhaps consider becoming part of the House team that helps to manage and maintain our iconic historic building.

We oversee repairs and services, purchase household supplies and make recommendations to the Board concerning major repairs. Although most of the maintenance is fulfilled by contracted services, there are many small jobs that could use an extra pair of hands to help. Please consider signing up for the House Department on Wufoo.

A special thank you goes to member Jackie Greco and her

In February, members of Arts Performing and Art & Culture Departments met the first President and First Lady of the United States, George and Martha Washington, when they attended a fundraising event at Tavistock Country Club for The Questers, who’s mission is to keep history alive through historic preservation and restoration of properties and objects.



Charlene Thellmann with Martha and George Washington.



Left to right: Charlene Thellmann, Betty DeMarco, Georgeann Catanella, Donna Marie Nowak, Carole Hoinsky, Diane Currao, and Betty Cutler

late husband Rick who volunteered their services to take our trash and recycling cans to the curb each week. We thank Kathy McEntee for volunteering to take over that position.

The club’s fire system is overseen by a monitoring station that will dispatch the fire company in the event that the fire alarm sounds. If the alarm goes off during one of the club’s gatherings, the Fire Marshall has ordered that all persons must exit the building and wait outside until instructed to return inside. The club will be fined if this rule is not observed. A Knox Box was recently installed outside the clubhouse so that the fire company and police could easily gain access to the building in the event of an emergency.

March Tea was Hosted the by Stitchery Committee

The March Tea was hosted by the Stitchery Committee with the spotlight on the charity, Newborns in Need (NIN) of Burlington County. Our guest speaker, Erika Estok, gave a wonderful talk about the bags they fill and distribute with necessary items for underprivileged new mothers whose names are sent to them by local Emergency Centers and Virtua Hospital.



Tables of the beautiful quilts, blankets, and clothing displayed.

Our Stitchery members displayed many handmade baby blankets they crocheted, knitted, or quilted.

Stitchery would like to give a big thank you to all of the Porch Club members who donated a tremendous amount of essential items for NiN to use in their bags. Our raffle basket made \$275 which was also donated to Newborns in Need.



Loraine and Judy showing off some of the quilts that the women of Stitchery made.

History Corner

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

The Mother's Council

The Mother's Council was one of the first departments to be organized at The Porch Club. Headed by Mary Grice, past President, in 1900, the department had 16 members. They sent out 500 hand-written letters ("calls") for a meeting at Calvary Presbyterian Church on October 20, 1900.

The result of the meeting was the formation of the New Jersey Congress of

Mothers, the forerunner of the NJ State Parent Teacher's Association (PTA).

The original call was presented to the Riverton School PTA in 1956. It went from there to the state PTA, where it is now lost.

Mary VanMeter Grice was the first elected President of the NJPTA from 1900 to 1904. She was followed by Mary Ann Mecray Marcy from 1904 to 1908,



Lela Slater Bowen from 1935 to 1938, and Charlotte Arr from 2012 to 2014.

All the women were Porch Club members.



Mary Grice



Mary Ann Marcy



Lela Bowen

New Historical Marker

A new, updated Historic Marker will be installed near the clubhouse entrance in the near future. It will acknowledge the Porch Club's significant contributions to Riverton History. This marker, created by the Historical Society of Riverton with the Club's input, is made possible by the estate of third generation member Cynthia Cammarota who passed earlier this year.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarrolldunn@gmail.com

Tica Simpson, tica_s@hotmail.com

Karen Sulock, kmjsulock@gmail.com

Civic Engagement members will be working with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, in April, to help those in need. We will be preparing and filling containers provided by Our Lady of Good Counsel church with hearty stews, soups and casseroles. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society will then distribute the meals to individuals as needed.

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society is all about providing person to person services to those individuals in need. By working person to person with their neighbors in need to help with the basic necessities - food, shelter, transportation and emotional comfort - they hopefully transform their lives and those they serve.

In May, Civic Engagement members will be writing greeting cards to send messages of good cheer and joy to residents in our local assisted living and nursing homes. Everyone enjoys opening a greeting card.

We will also meet for our annual May luncheon at Due Amici's to have fun and plan for next year.

We want to thank every member of

the Porch Club for generously donating your time and money this year to help make our communities a better place to live.



Civic Engagement organized the collection of baby clothes at our February meeting. Our members generously donated these outfits for Ronald McDonald house.



Many members of Civic Engagement showed up in force to make sandwiches for the Cathedral Kitchen.





The Porch Club of Riverton Presents

Garden Tour 2025

Tour 8 Beautiful Private Gardens
Shopping! Plants, Books, Gift & Garden Items

May 16th & 17th

Friday, May 16th 3:00pm to 8:00pm
Saturday, May 17th 10:00am to 4:00pm

Rain or Shine

Tour \$20

Tour & Lunch \$35

Lunch, Saturday, 11am-2pm at The Porch Club
Purchase tickets at www.theporchclub.org

And at following locations - *cash or check only*:

Brewery Thirty-Three, 601 Lippincott St., Riverton
Home Off Main, 523 Howard St., Riverton
New Leaf Tea Room, 606 Main St., Riverton
Revive Café, 531 Main St., Riverton

Information: 856-630-5356 or 856-938-5861

The Porch Club is a registered 501(c)3 organization. All proceeds support our charitable initiatives.

The Porch Club of Riverton

Presents our **SPRING**

Rummage Sale

The ladies are cleaning out their closets just for you. Hundreds of bargains!



Selling clothing, household items, jewelry, children's toys and clothing, seasonal items, linens, furniture, etc.

ALL proceeds benefit local charities.

**When: Friday, April 4, 2025 -
6 to 9 PM and**

**Saturday, April 5, 2025 - 8 AM
to 12 Noon**

Bag Sale will be 11:00 to 12:00 on Saturday

Where: The Porch Club of Riverton

Fourth and Howard Streets, Riverton, NJ 08077

Donations accepted on Wednesday, April 2 and Thursday, April 3, from 1 to 7PM. Call Mary at 856-304-4434 for more information.

The Porch Club is a certified 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to women and children's causes in the community. Thank you for your support.