

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Feb. - Mar. 2025

Inside the Porch Door

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

FEBRUARY

Mon., Feb. 3, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Feb. 3, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Feb. 4, 12:30pm

General Meeting

Wed., Feb. 5, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Mon., Feb. 10, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Feb. 12, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Feb. 12, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Fri., Feb. 14, 12:00pm

Galentine Luncheon

Mon., Feb. 17, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon. Feb. 17, 11:30am

Daytime Book Club

Tues., Feb. 18, 11:00am

Chinese Luncheon

Wed., Feb. 19, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Feb. 19, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Thurs., Feb. 20, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Mon, Feb. 24, 10:00am

Stitchery

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The Porch Club of Riverton

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Hello Porch Club ladies,

I want to first thank all the Departments and Committees for all the fine work they have all done these past months. I have seen all the hard work that has been done to make our Porch Club shine not only with the communities we serve and support, but also all the dedicated accomplishments our members in the Porch Club have achieved.

This year has been a very busy year for me as well. My health issues have been somewhat complicated, never knowing how I am going to feel from day to day. So having said that I am grateful for all the help and support I have received from you all. All the kindness and love shown to me by all the Porch Club members have lifted my spirits and have made an otherwise difficult situation an easier road to travel. Thank you all for your continued support.

The Porch Club again hosted the Garden District Council Meeting on January 16. I was unable to attend as I had my infusion and was not feeling up to the task that day.

It was a successful meeting because Porch Club members Phyllis Rogers, JoAnn Di-Noia, Bobbie Beck, and Diane Calesnick were all present setting up for the meeting and helping out in my absence. Phyllis prepared soup for 60 people and JoAnn and Phyllis prepared salad and rolls for 60 people - not an easy task for them to set up and also prepare the delicious luncheon. Thank you, JoAnn, also for stepping up to represent the Porch Club in my absence, read my reports, and welcome the group in such a gracious manner. Thank you all so very much!

What an amazing group of women. I am proud and honored as your President to represent the Porch Club.

I will always appreciate all the Porch Club members and all you do to make the Porch Club an exceptional club. As members, please try your best to support the events at the club. This will help the club to continue to support all of our charities and keep the building funds available. These funds are always needed to keep our building in tip top shape.

Thank you to the endless and tedious work you do Phyllis Rogers, our 3rd VP and building/house manager. We all appreciate you so much.

Also, Kay Kling, Diane Calesnick, and the Porch Club Rentals Department have worked very hard to bring \$25,000 dollars into the building fund this past year. Congratulations and thank you so much for all you have done to make Rentals so successful. I would also like to thank Cindy Drissel for stepping up to join this Rental Department. More members are needed. Please contact Kay Kling or Diane Calesnick for information regarding Rentals.

I am also looking forward to all the great events in the days ahead, and value all the memories of all our past days and events together. I am grateful for you all in my life.

*My Best Wishes Always,
Beth Kowalchick*

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

Maggie Auer, maggieamsw@gmail.com

The International Outreach Committee hosted the International Luncheon on January 7, 2025. Many brave Porch Club members attended despite the cold and icy weather. The focus of this year's luncheon was International ChildFund. The Porch Club has sponsored a child from this organization for the past 50 years. A

power point presentation was prepared by Carol McCarthy and Pat Brunner. It was presented at the luncheon by Maggie Auer.

An incredible raffle basket filled with donations from member of the International Outreach Committee raised almost \$400.00 for a young boy from

the Dominican Republic urgently in need of colostomy supplies.

Money was also collected for the Porch Club's current sponsored child, Absalat Habtamu from Ethiopia.

Members of the Porch Club donated international delicious dishes for this special luncheon.



Co-chairs Iris Gaughan and Maggie Auer.



Our current ChildFund child from Ethiopia is Absalat Habtamu, shown here with her mother. She is 5 years old



Members of the club graciously donated delicious international dishes for this special luncheon.

Calendar

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Tues, Feb. 25, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Feb. 26, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

MARCH

Mon., Mar. 3, 10:00am

Stitchery

Mon., Mar. 3, 11:30am

Hospitality Set-up

Tues., Mar. 4, 12:30pm

General Meeting

Wed., Mar. 5, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Fri., Mar. 7, 10:00am

Trip to Philadelphia Museum of Art

Sat., Mar. 8, 10:00am

Garden Tour Kick-Off Meeting

Sat., Mar. 8, 7:00pm

Radio play "Sparky Goes to Doris Day's Hotel"

Mon., Mar. 10, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Mar. 12, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Mar. 12, 7:00pm

Evening Book Club Meeting

Mon., Mar. 17, 10:00am

Stitchery

Wed., Mar. 19, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Wed., Mar. 19, 11:30am

Civic Engagement Meeting

Thurs., Mar. 20, 7:30pm

Environmental Commission Meeting

Mon., Mar. 24, 10:00am

Stitchery

Tues., Mar. 25, 10:00am

Executive Board Meeting

Wed., Mar. 26, 9:30am

Tai Chi Class

Fri., Mar. 28, 11:00am

Fondant Flowers



Arts and Culture

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

Arts and Culture asked members to donate their old unused Christmas cards. We wanted to send some cards to the residents of Riverview Estates. We received more than enough for this year and next year. We got together and wrote out 110 cards. Betty Dunn delivered the cards. Three members participated, Betty Dunn, Donna VanHoy, and Hilliary DeMezza.



Beautiful Christmas cards brought cheer to the residents of Riverview Estates.

"Make Ahead Desserts"

On December 12, Arts and Culture made 3 dessert suggestions for the event; Fruit Tart, Flourless Chocolate Cake with Raspberries and Whipped Cream, and English Toffee. Recipes were provided for each dessert. We had a taste test and discussed how easy or difficult each one was to make. We then demonstrated how to make English Toffee. Everyone helped stir the toffee.

We all had a good time sitting around eating sweets. It was required that everyone take a doggie bag home with them. Members who participated were, Marsha Slimm, Bernie Pantano, Betty Cutler, Cindy Drissel, Mary Leese, and Donna VanHoy.



Left to Right - Lynne Hammette, Donna VanHoy, and Cindy Drissel



The three Make Ahead Desserts were as beautiful as they were delicious.

Trip to "Monuments and Myths" show at the Michener Museum, Doylestown, PA

On November 14, 2024, three members, Lynne Hammette, Donna VanHoy, and Cindy Drissel, carpooled to this show.

The two prominent and incredibly talented sculptors were Daniel Chester French and Augustus Saint-Gaudens. These two men were friends and rivals who created many of the country's most famous public artwork. We were amazed at the quality and quantity of these pieces in this show. There were so many beautiful examples of their monuments and memorial pieces. We enjoyed this show so much and were so lucky that the museum was within driving distance.



Two of the many sculptures at the "Monuments and Myths" show.

Stitchery Committee

Lorraine Domask, LMDomask@comcast.net

Judy Zapisek, craftylady502@aol.com

The Stitchery Committee will be hosting the March Tea. The guest speaker will be from our charity's local chapter of Newborns in Need which the Porch Club Stitchery Committee has been supporting this year. We will be displaying some of our handywork which will be donated to the newborns and have a basket for any donations you would like to bring e.g. baby wash, wipes, newborn diapers, burp cloths, etc.

Our Raffle Basket's proceeds will also go to help Newborns in Need.

We hope to see you there.



Above is one of many quilts created by Stitchery members.

At left are some of the baby blankets crocheted by members for Newborns in Need.

Rentals

Kay Kling, kaykling52@gmail.com

Diane Calesnick, DCal2220@yahoo.com

Rental Department is booking 2025 weekends. We are off to a great start with February and March almost sold out. Celebrate your family events at The Porch Club! Remember that members get a discount – member daytime rentals are \$300 and evening rentals are \$425.

This month's picture shows a festive December 2024 birthday party at the club.

The Rental Department oversees renting our clubhouse to club members and the general public for private parties. Our department answers rental questions submitted to our website, tours prospective renters through the clubhouse, manages paperwork required for rentals, and welcomes renters on their party day. We also inspect after rentals. Rental income provides operating and maintenance funds for our building. Rentals made \$25,000 for the club in 2024. We welcome new volunteers!



The Porch Club looking beautiful set up for a December birthday party.

Environment/Garden Committee

Ginny Puckett, puckettfam375@gmail.com

Pat Brunker, patebrunk@comcast.net

Garden Tour 2025 Kick-Off Meeting

Save the date! This year's Garden Tour will be held on Friday, May 16 and Saturday, May 17. We are still looking for gardens to be on the tour. If your own garden is pretty, interesting, or just different or you have a suggestion for someone else's to be on the tour, please let us know. We are still looking for a few more gardens.

The first meeting for Garden Tour will take place on Saturday, March 8, at 10:00am. This is the meeting where we iron out the details and assistance is requested for a myriad of jobs. As our big fundraiser for the year, we need all hands on deck. Hope to see you there.

Riverton Environmental Commission and Green Team

Riverton's Environmental Commission and Green Team hold a joint meeting in-person every third Thursday of the month at The Porch Club at 7:30pm. They always thank the Porch Club for sharing their space. Everyone is welcome.

You do not need to be on the Environmental Commission or Green Team to join them. This is part of our outreach to the surrounding community.

Women Moving Forward

Barbara Lucasi, barbara.jean.lucasi@gmail.com

Lynne Hammette, lynnehammette@hotmail.com

Women Moving Forward Committee's Chairperson Barbara Lucasi co-hosted the outing for afternoon tea at the Prince Tea House in Evesham. A lovely time was had by all.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025, 2:00 PM

Please join Women Moving Forward for an afternoon of bowling at Pinsetter Bar and Bowl on Thursday, February 6, at 2:00 pm, Maple Avenue, Merchantville. Six players allowed per lane. Afterwards Women Moving Forward will meet at Blue Monkey for dinner, 2 S. Center Street, Merchantville. Please text Barbara Lucasi at 856-904-1474 if you can join the group.



Enjoying an afternoon at The Prince Tea House in Evesham. Left to right: Lynne Hammett, Domenica Foster, Jeanne Giles, Judy Evans, and Pat Brunker.

Arts Performing

Charlene Thellmann, charleneactor@aol.com



Please join us at the Porch Club on Saturday, March 8, 7:00pm for Donna Marie Nowak's "Sparky Goes to Doris Day's Hotel" a vintage, live radio mystery play featuring costumed actors, sound effects, original commercials and more. The play revolves around the amateur sleuth Miss Bell and Sparky her beloved poodle. The play was produced and broadcast in San Francisco by Shoestring Radio Theatre.

Donna (pictured at left) is a new Porch Club member and the author of the Miss Bell Mysteries, the book "Just Joan - Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Joan Crawford", and other publications. She is also a cartoonist.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and can be purchased at the February and March teas and online at the Porch Club website. Proceeds to benefit the Porch Club. Light refreshments and a raffle basket round out the evening.



SATURDAY, MARCH 8
7pm – LIVE RADIO SHOW - \$15
(Doors open 6:30pm)

Donna Marie Nowak's
SPARKY GOES TO DORIS DAY'S HOTEL





Join us for an evening of family-friendly fun with this live radio mystery recreation complete with sound effects and original commercials. Featuring the indomitable amateur sleuth Miss Iodine Bell and her feisty poodle Sparky.

***Proceeds to benefit the Porch Club**
THE PORCH CLUB OF RIVERTON ♦ 213 HOWARD STREET ♦ RIVERTON NJ
WWW.THEPORCHCLUB.ORG
TICKETS IN ADVANCE: \$15 * ♦ \$20 AT THE DOOR
Starring: Andrea Drechsler, Tracy Brobyn, Charlene Chamberlain, Dan Drechsler, Karen Goldfarb, Alex Kiernan, Kori Rife and Mark Thellmann

December Holiday Tea and Entertainment

On December 7, our annual Holiday Tea was held and we were entertained by the Porch Club Dancers and young singer Ivan Denissov. The clubhouse was decorated by the Arts

Creative Department and looked lovely and festive. Everyone brought great food to share. This is always a wonderful get together to usher in the holidays."



Left to right: Ivan Denissov, Tina Bell, Phyllis Rodgers, Charlene Thellmann, Maryann Taft, and Geri Dietrich
Not pictured: Jane Phillips and Sharon Kvist.



Carol Hoinsky and Diane Currao.



The tree on the stage added to the festive holiday ambience.



Arts Creative Department members did a wonderful job with the holiday decorations.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarolldunn@gmail.com

We helped unpack and arrange donations at Providence House last month. This became the Christmas store where the women came and got new clothes and toys for their children for Christmas.

February

For over 40 years The Ronald McDonald Home of Camden, New Jersey has been a "home away from home" for families whose children require life saving treatment for critical illness or traumatic injuries.

For several years Porch Club members have been purchasing and donating preemie baby clothes to the Ronald McDonald Home. Last year they requested donations of preemie to toddler clothing and you generously donated 84 baby outfits.

This year let's see what we can accomplish.

Your caring and generosity provides medically fragile children and their families with a sense of comfort and healing.

March

The Cathedral Kitchen uses food to change lives. They are the largest emergency food provider in Camden, New

Jersey serving more than 300,000 meals a year.

They serve a hot meal every evening and give their clients a sandwich for the next day.

Porch Club members have been taking time from their busy schedules to help feed the homeless by preparing 240 sandwiches every March.

It's always a fun project with every-

one working together to prepare and pack the sandwiches.

ShopRite and Sam's Club help to make this project a success with donations of 25 loaves of bread and a \$50.00 gift certificate for the meat and cheese.

Thanks to all of you for your generous donation of time and money and a big thanks to Marylou Schofield for delivering the sandwiches every year.



Above: Unpacking and arranging donations at Providence House, left to right: Lynn Hammette, Karen Sulock, Nancy Meyers, Judy Evans (peeking out from behind), Marci Needleman, Cindi Drissel, Judy Fuhrer, Betty Dunn, and Betty Magjuka.

At left: The group set up the food pantry for Providence House women's shelter in December. Left to right: Betty Cutler, Nancy Meyers, Karen Sulock, Lynne Hammett, Tica Simpson, Kathy McEntee, Barbara Lucasi and Hilary DeMezza.



The Porch Club of Riverton

Stock's Poundcake Fundraiser



Flavors

Vanilla icing/vanilla cake
Chocolate icing/vanilla cake
Vanilla icing/marble cake
Chocolate icing/marble cake
\$18 each

Stock's Bakery Poundcake
Everyone's favorite!
Delicious, buttery, moist
Freezes well

Monies due at time of order. Cash or check.

Ordering begins on January 7th

Ends on March 4th

Pick up cakes on March 14th (time TBD)

theporchclub.riverton@gmail.com

Questions? Contact Bobbie 609-410-1808

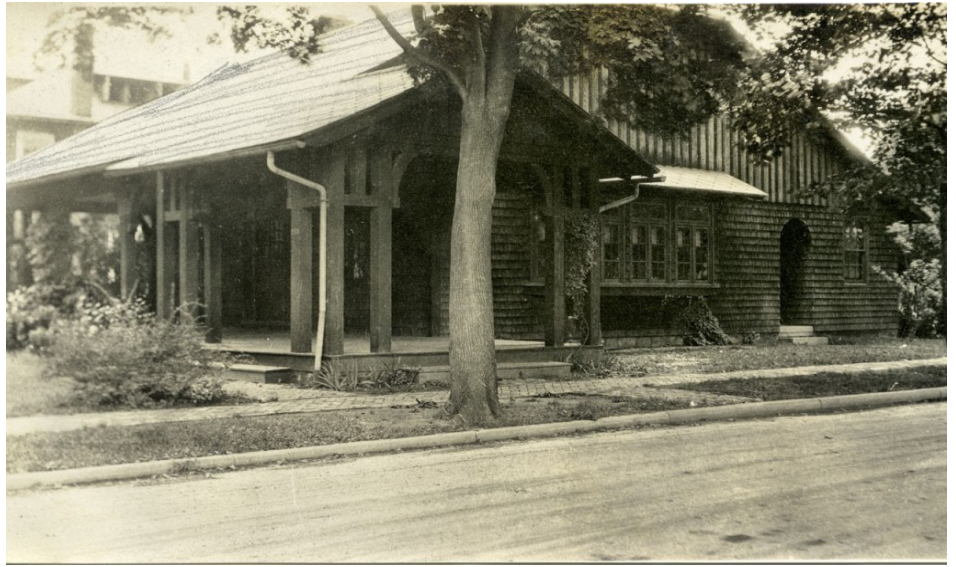
Or JoAnn 856-287-5648

History Corner

Pat Brunker, Porch Club Historian

This is an early picture of The Porch Club as it originally looked when built in 1909. The front porch wasn't closed in until 1931 in order to enlarge the space inside. The lovely brackets holding the roof are indicative of the Adirondack style of the original plan, popular at the time. The architect was Robeson Perot, nephew of our second President, Sarah Morris Perot Ogden.

The front door was in the middle of the Howard Street side on the front of the building. The bay windows on the Fourth Street side are the same as today with possibly curtains in the windows? Behind that is the back door which led to a meeting room with a large window behind it. We have the original plans in the archives. The kitchen, stage, and board room were later additions after an additional purchase of 15 feet in the back.



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