

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



The Porch Club of Riverton

The Garden District

Oct. - Nov. 2025

Inside the Porch Door

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

OCTOBER

Wed., Oct. 1, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Mon., Oct. 6, 10:00 - 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Oct. 6, 11:30am - 12:30pm

Hospitality set up

Tues., Oct. 7, 12:30 – 2:00pm

General meeting Opening luncheon

Wed., Oct. 8, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Mon., Oct. 13, 10:00 - 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Oct. 13, 7:30 – 9:00pm

Environmental Commission

Meeting

Wed., Oct. 15, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Wed., Oct. 15, 1:30am – 12:30pm

Civic Engagement

Thurs., Oct. 16, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Evening Literature

Sun., Oct. 19, 2:00 - 3:30pm

Community Plant Swap

Mon., Oct. 20, 10:00 - 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Tues., Wed., Oct. 20, 21, 22,

10:00am – 3:00pm

Closet Clean out drop off

Wed., Oct. 22, 8:00am - 11:00pm

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends

Wed., Oct. 22, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

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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 you have all enjoyed your summer and that your days were filled with many travel adventures, beach days, and quiet blissful moments in your garden. I would like to begin my message with much gratitude for all the Executive Board officers that spent many days throughout the summer months working to finish business for the Porch Club's upcoming 2025-2026 year.

Department and committee chairs have been creating events to provide an exciting and interesting year. This will keep our club a vibrant and enjoyable place to visit.

Civic Engagement chairs Betty Dunn and Karen Sulocks are energetic and dedicated to serving many charities in need from October to June.

Rita Vittese and her Charitable Giving committee also dispense the funds raised all year to charities. I commend our treasurer, Wendy Sitzler, who always keeps our club finances available and organized. Bobbie Beck works with Wendy to create our yearly budget, keeping all of our needs and expenses in proper order for the year.

Environmental Department Chairs Pat Bruner and Madeleine Nist have worked over the summer to create wonderful programs that are scheduled for daytime or evening events.

Arts Performing Department Chairs Charlene Thellman and MaryLouise Bianco Smith have created an evening program featuring an Elvis impersonator for this Fall. I am sure these events will be very entertaining, so please watch for your weekly E-blast that our skillful coordinator Liz Beech organizes and emails to all of our Porch Club members.

Publicity team: Communications, Pat Bruner, Editor/ Art Director: Mindy Ryan, and Assistant Editor, Kit Stahler-Miller who bring together this bi-monthly newsletter.

I would like to express my appreciation for all of the amazing officers, department, and committee members who are the principal organizers and have a purpose in life: to serve others and better their lives with love and generosity.

All of our board members are so efficient that they make my job as president a pleasure. Thank you all.

I am also delighted to have had the support of past Porch Club presidents. In entering my third year as president, all the years behind me have been a wonderful learning experience. I am blessed for the next two years with all the wisdom of these incredible women.

*Best Wishes Always,
Beth Kowalchick*

International Outreach

Iris Gaughan, iggaughan@gmail.com

Maggie Auer, maggieamsw@gmail.com

There was an International Outreach meeting on Sept. 19 at Maggie Auer's house to plan for the coming year.

The Committee will be meeting twice in early fall to plan the UNICEF Trick/Treat boxes and discuss the January International Luncheon.



Calendar

Continued from Page 1

Thurs., Oct. 23, 10:00 – Noon

Bargain Thrift pick up

Mon., Oct. 27, 10:00 – 11:30am

Stitchery

Tues., Oct. 28, 10:00 – Noon

Board meeting

Wed., Oct. 29, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

NOVEMBER

Mon., Nov. 3, 10:00 – 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Nov. 3, 11:30am – 12:30pm

Hospitality set up

Tues., Nov. 4, 12:30 – 2:00pm

General meeting Covered dish

Wed., Nov. 5, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Thurs., Nov. 6, 10:30 – 11:30am

Dance w /Joey DeMarco

Mon., Nov. 10, 10:00 – 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Nov. 10, 5:00 – 8:00pm

Shopping Spree

Wed., Nov. 12, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Wed., Nov. 12, 11:30am – 12:00pm

Arts and Culture, Make Ahead Desserts

Thurs., Nov. 13, 10:30 – 11:30am

Dance w /Joey DeMarco

Fri., Nov. 14, 7:00 – 9:00pm

Viva Las Vegas w /Elvis

Mon., Nov. 17, 10:00 – 11:30am

Stitchery

Mon., Nov. 17, 11:45am – 1:30pm

Daytime Literature

Wed., Nov. 19, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Wed., Nov. 19, 11:30am – 12:30pm

Civic Engagement

Thurs., Nov. 20, 13:00 – 11:30am

Dance w /Joey DeMarco

Thurs., Nov. 20, 6:30 – 8:00pm

Evening Literature

Mon., Nov. 24, 10:00 – 11:30am

Stitchery

Tues., Nov. 25, 10:00 – Noon

Board meeting

Tues., Nov. 25, 12:00 – 2:00pm

Decorating for holidays

Wed., Nov. 26, 9:30 – 11:00am

Tai Chi

Membership

JoAnn DiNoia, Chair,

jaydinoia2@gmail.com

The Porch Club added 11 new woman to our roll of Membership, and welcomed back 3 recent members. Please reach out to me if you have a friend who may be interested in becoming a member and I will give you a form to start the process.

Also, we're going to start taking roll at our club meetings, this just insures that if a situation should occur that we have an accurate account of who was present that day.

Looking forward to a Great Porch Club year.



Jennifer Janes was installed in May.

Please note:

Directory changes

The following membership updates have come in since the Directory was published. If you have not received your Directory yet, it will be available for pick-up at the October general meeting or delivered to you thereafter.

Betty Allen, new email
bjtallen3@gmail.com

Ginny Hillwig, new email
Vhillwig1@aol.com

Maureen Murray, new address
607 Cinnaminson Street,
Riverton, NJ 08077

May General Meeting



Guest speaker, Alisa Dupuy, talked about the Titanic. Lots of costumes set the mood.



Carol Hoinsky, Phyllis Rodgers, JoAnn DiNoia, Elaine Faunce, Kim Parente, Charlene Thellmann, MaryLouise Bianco, and Wenrong Zao



Phyllis Rodgers, JoAnn DiNoia, Charlene Thellmann



Beth Kowalchick and Tica Simpson



Charlene Thellmann and MaryLouise Bianco Smith

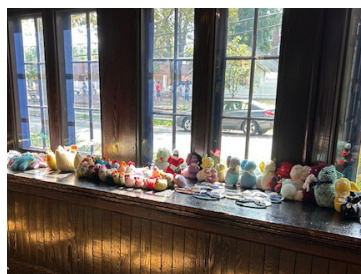
Stitchery Committee

Lorraine Domask, LMDomask@comcast.net
Judy Zapisek, craftylady502@aol.com

The Stitchery Committee is busy making lots of things for the Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree including bunnies, chickens, quilts, blankets, and sweaters. All proceeds will go to our charity Newborns in Need.



Ladies of Stitchery diligently working on projects for the Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree. The proceeds will be donated to Newborns in Need.



Some of the adorable creations that will be for sale in November at the Pre-Holiday Shopping Spree.

Rentals

Kay Kling, kaykling52@gmail.com

Cindy Drissel, cindydrissel@yahoo.com

Rentals Department had a busy summer greeting renters for their parties! We had 23 rentals during June, July, and August. The picture shows our stage decorated for an August baby shower. We have at least 15 rentals booked for the fall months. Rental income provides operating funds for the clubhouse.

We are looking for volunteers and would welcome your support! Please contact Cindy Drissel or Kay Kling if you can help us. We will have a Rentals meeting this fall; please watch the email blast for details. Come meet our group of dedicated volunteers!

Our department members oversee renting our clubhouse to club members and the general public for private parties. Rentals Department members answer rental questions, tour prospective renters through the clubhouse, manage paperwork required for rentals, and welcome renters on their party days.



Women Moving Forward

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

Lynne Hammette, lynnehammette@hotmail.com

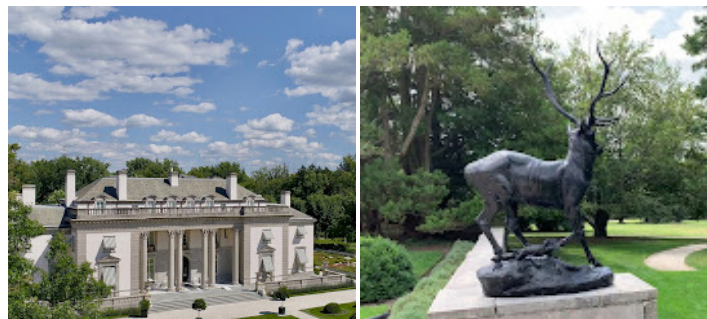
Women moving forward took a great trip to Nemours Estate in Wilmington, Delaware. They explored the elegant 77-room Mansion, a Chauffeur's Garage with vintage automobiles, and took a bus trip through the 200 acres of French-inspired formal gardens, grounds and woodlands, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. The Committee also went to visit the Pearl Buck house in Doylestown followed by a lunch out last June. They had a private tour of the home and gardens of the famous local author who spent a large part of her life in China where she wrote "The Good Earth," her most famous novel.



Ladies ready for the private tour of the Pearl Buck house left to right: Pat Brunner, Judy Evans, Lynne Hammette, Eileen DellaPenna, Jeanne Giles, Denni Foster, Barbara Lucasi.



Nemours picture - Pat Brunner, Lynne Hammette, Jeanne Giles, Barbara Lucasi



Picture of the mansion and a photo of the grounds and one of the many sculptures.

The Porch Club of Riverton

Community Plant Swap

Sunday,
October 19th
2pm-3:30pm

Bring a plant,
take home
a plant!

Plus, swap garden
accessories,
pots, books, etc.

Light refreshments
served. Swapping
starts at 2:15pm

Plants should be labeled: indoor
or outdoor, plant name, care info.

All plants must be healthy
and in a container. No bags.

All are welcome!

The Porch Club, 4th & Howard St, Riverton, NJ

Education and Literature

Denni Foster, denni.foster@gmail.com

Tica Simson, tica-s@hotmail.com

Maryann Taft, thetaftfamily@msn.com

We welcomed all who were interested in joining us for The Day Book Club Meeting on Monday, September 15, at 11:45 am at the Porch Club. A discussion of a book of choice took place. The Evening Book Club Meeting was held on Thursday, September 18, at 6:30 pm at the home of Diane Calesnik. The book discussed was "Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman.

The opening meeting of the Education and Literature Committee took place on Tuesday, September 16, at 11:00 am at the Porch Club. The committee is looking for local authors who are willing to participate in our Authors' Night in the Spring of 2026. Please email denni.foster@gmail.com or tica-s@hotmail.com with any recommendations and suggestions.

We are looking forward to an ex-

citing year of possibilities in an effort to extend our support to the community in the areas of education and literature.

The ongoing Day Book Club meetings will be held on the third Monday of each month at 11:45 am at the Porch Club and the Evening Book Club meetings will be held on the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 pm (location to be designated).

Arts Performing

Charlene Thellmann, charleneactor@aol.com

MaryLouise Bianco Smith, mlgbs3@comcast.net

Calling all bobby soxers and cool cats. Get ready to shake, rattle and roll because ELVIS will be in the building - that is the Porch Club building on Friday, November 14.

Join us for Mark Reno's award-winning tribute to the King of Rock & Roll. Beginning in 1995, Mark Reno has been performing his amazing tribute to Elvis Presley all over the United States and around the world. Mark has over a dozen costumes made by the same designers

that Elvis used. Mark has a style all his own, while at the same time, he likes to make the audience feel like they really are at an Elvis concert. His look, sound, and performance has earned him rave reviews through the years, and his fans appreciate his dedication to his craft.

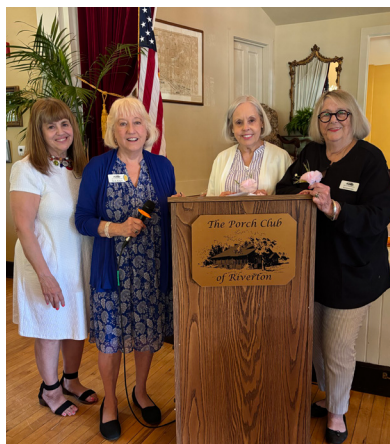
There will be a raffle basket plus beverages and lite fare.

Tickets \$25 in advance and available at the monthly teas and online at: www.theporchclub.org



2024 - 2025 Season Ends with an Ice Cream Social in June

Our June meeting was a sweet treat; an Ice Cream Social, ending a very busy year. Woman of the Year was announced - Sally Degler, deceased. The Riverton School Chorus sang for us.



Left to right: JoAnn DiNoia, Phyllis Rodgers, Betty Cutler, Beth Kowalchick.



Live entertainment at the Ice Cream Social in May was the chorus from the Riverton School led by teacher Mrs. Frankenfield.



Carol Hoinsky and raffle basket.

Civic Engagement and Outreach

Betty Dunn, ejcarrolldunn@gmail.com

Thanks to all of you and your generosity. Our Civic Engagement Department had a great season from September 2024 to June 2025.

We earned \$1,200 from the Closet Cleanout and \$1,804 was donated to the Bread of Life Food Pantry.

You donated \$720 worth of hats and mittens to the Angel Tree Fund and 66 sets of baby clothing to the Ronald McDonald House.

Your donations and volunteering helped to make last Christmas very special for the residents of Riverview Estates and the families at Providence House.

Preparing sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen, setting up a food pantry, and toy store for Providence House,

preparing food for the St.Vincent de Paul Society, and writing Spring greeting cards for the Arbor Terrace Nursing Home kept us all very busy last season.



Making greeting cards the Arborview Terrace Nursing Home residents.



Members making 16 pounds of turkey and beef chili for the St.Vincent de Paul Society.

Left: Sue Jeney, Judy Fuhrer, Barbara Lucasi, Lynne Hammette

Center: Lots of cornbread

Right: Barbara Lucasi and Sue Jeney



Environment/Garden Committee

Pat Brunker, patebrunk@comcast.net

Madeline Nist, mnist_99@yahoo.com

Last May's Garden tour was a success! By my accounting, we had \$12,935.92 in income and \$3,538.85 in expenses, mainly the luncheon, giving us a profit of \$9,397.07. This money went to our building fund for clubhouse maintenance expenses.

In August, we took a tour of the Riverton crape myrtle trees with Barry Emens, head of our Shade Tree Commission and husband of our member June Emens. It was informative and it was a nice day for a walk.

Our luncheon to start the season was held at Pat Brunker's house on September 11. Twenty of us enjoyed an afternoon of catching up with each other and talking about improvements to the Garden Tour and our schedule for this coming year.

In September we had a joint pro-

gram with the Environmental Commission about installing solar panels. Riverton neighbor Dan Reed gave a talk about solar panels and renewable energy and how you can integrate this technology into your home.

Coming up on Monday, October 13, at 7:00pm, in a joint meeting with the Riverton Environmental Commission is "Building a Backyard Habitat" presented by Gina DiMaio, Park Naturalist for the Burlington County Parks System. Plants are the foundations of our ecosystems and with the alarming rates of biodiversity loss, now is the time to join the native gardening movement. Whether you are removing large areas of lawn or container gardening in a small space, everyone can contribute. Learn about some of the most popular native plants in our area, the wildlife that benefit (with an

emphasis on pollinators), and the best resources to help make your backyard habitat a success.

On Sunday, October 19 from 2:00 to 3:30pm we will hold a Community Plant Swap.

Come and bring a plant and/or get a plant at the Porch Club. Two long tables will be set up indoors. Sections are labeled "Indoor Plants" and "Outdoor Plants" plus an area for garden accessories such as pots, books, etc. Please identify the plant (name, picture, culture, etc.). Ground rules include "All plants must be healthy and in a container. Sorry, no bags." Swapping begins at 2:15. Light refreshments will be served. Come and get something new for your garden.

The Greens Sales for December has been cancelled for this year.

Arts and Culture

Donna VanHoy, artdvh@gmail.com

Carol Hoinsky, cihhun@aol.com

Arts and Culture made 3 delicious fillings for our Easter Egg event. The eggs were rolled and dipped in chocolate then decorated with fondant flowers. The ladies made these fondant flowers themselves. We all had some laughs and some good messy fun. It was a nice treat to serve for Easter with family and friends.

Special thanks to Phyllis Rodgers and JoAnn DiNoia for their invaluable help in making this event a success.



Members of Arts and Culture with their beautiful and yummy creations.

Achievement Day at the Pennsauken Country Club

On April 17, 2025, five ladies from The Porch Club attended the luncheon at the Pennsauken Country Club for Achievement Day. The entries were brought to the luncheon for judging and collected at the end of the event.

We had a District Grand Prize winner, Phyllis Rodgers and six entries that were awarded Second Prizes. These pieces represent numerous hours of hard work for our members and we are so proud of them.



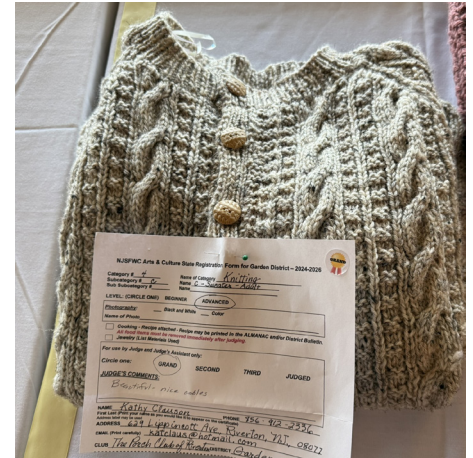
Representing The Porch Club, left to right, Phyllis Rodgers, Carol Hoinsky, Beth Kowalchick, Donna VanHoy, and Sharon Kvist



Phyllis Rodgers - Teacup Arrangement



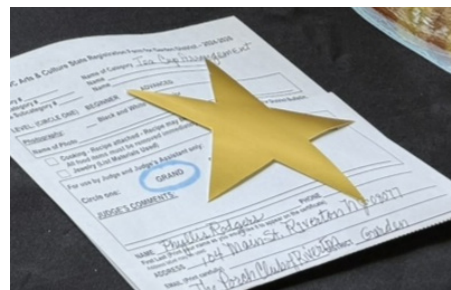
Judy Zapisek - Embroidery and Needlepoint



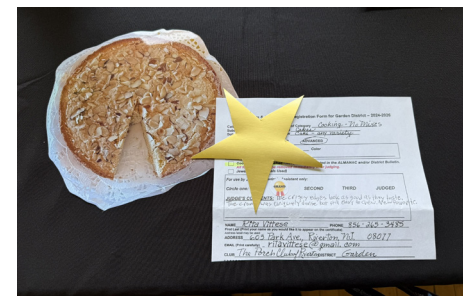
Kathy Clauson - Knitting Sweater



Mickey Ipri for a drawing and a painting



Achievement Day District Grand Prize winner, Phyllis Rodgers Decorated Teacup



Rita Vittese - Swedish Visiting Cake

History Corner

Pat Brunker, Porch Club Historian

If you look at the first page of the Directory, you will see that The Porch Club was a member of the General Federation from 1908 to 1928, then there is a gap from 1928 to 1934. These were the years of the great Depression in the US. In 1928, the Porch Club withdrew from the General Federation in protest of their dues being increased to 25 cents per person per year. With approximately 150 members at the time, that cost would have been \$37.50.

This protest seems a bit misplaced

because also in 1928/1929 the clubhouse was refurnished with: "One dozen Windsor chairs, a davenport, end tables, lamps, a tea table, two formal chairs, one mirror, glass curtains and \$150 for kitchen items including a gas hot water heater, 'range dishes' and cooking utensils. In 1929, the Porch Club furnished a room in Burlington County Hospital in memory of Mrs. Alexander Marcy. Lights were added on the side porch that same year and in 1930, a contract was awarded to

George Shaner for \$2031.50 to enclose the porch facing Howard Street and enlarge the clubroom by removing the balcony. A lot of improvements and expenses took place during these years.

The slight increase in the General Federation dues seems minor by comparison. In 1934, the Porch Club re-joined the General Foundation and has continued to belong until today. Our current dues to the General Federation are \$15 per person per year.

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Fourth & Howard Streets
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