



July 1, 2020 Newsletter

Newsletter Editor - Nancy Gale, NancLG@aol.com, 848-702-9714 (cell)

A Message from the FWC President, Phyllis Beals, awpbeals@comcast.net, (732) 331-3416 (cell)

Summer greetings to all Franklin Woman's Club Members on behalf of the Executive Board. I hope you and your families are well. If you know of a club member who is in need of any cheer, please reach out to me or to Cathy Deily, our Sunshine Chairwoman.

Thank you for taking time to read this newsletter. The newsletter is where you will find important information about upcoming plans, service activities that have occurred or will happen, as well as fun events for members. If you miss the newsletter, you may miss out on something.

Wanting to keep our members informed of accomplishments and ongoing planning for the fall despite the challenges of COVID-19, this unusual summer newsletter is being disseminated. Regarding where and how we may meet this fall, with safety protocols in place, safe distancing, masks worn upon entering a meeting, it is likely that we will be able to meet in the Franklin High School cafeteria. This is subject to change, but we have received word from the BOE superintendent's office that this may be possible.

Please be on the lookout for an email notice late July or early August with specific information about a summer social event.

Thank you for your ongoing support, community service and involvement.

Your president, Phyllis Beals

HELP WANTED!

Your club needs your help to continue the great service, advocacy, and philanthropic projects we have done in the past. Please consider volunteering to serve on the FWC

Executive Board. Below you will see where there are vacancies. If you want to be part of a committee, please reach out to the chairperson or to Phyllis. On that note....

Greater Federation of Women's Clubs (the national/international organization) has renamed and realigned the Community Service Programs for the 2020-2022 Administration. This will not affect what projects or programs our club completes. The changes will determine where they are placed for reporting purposes. Although the International Outreach Community Service Program has been discontinued, all the projects still exist! They have just been relocated into other Community Service program departments. Below are the new GFWC program names and their Chairperson(s). Our club will transition over to the new committees by the fall. Further in this newsletter, you will find updates from several committees.

Community Service Programs:

Arts and Culture (formerly Arts Creative) - NEEDS A NEW CHAIRPERSON

Environment (formerly Conservation) - Nancy Gale & Geri Krassowski

Education and Libraries (formerly Education) - Tracy Coney-Muse (would like someone to work with her this year in anticipation of becoming Chair in 2021-2022)

Health and Wellness (formerly Home Life) - Irene Fisler

Civic Engagement and Outreach (formerly Public Issues) - NEEDS A NEW CHAIRPERSON

Arts Performing - VACANT- College District will hold an Arts Performing event next winter or spring. Get your literary readings, songs and/or play ready to roll.

Standing Committees:

Book Club - Maria Hudak

Communications - VACANT - Alicia Swift is doing press releases

Facebook Administrator - Sharon Coney

Community Service & Activities - Lisa Andreini

Hospitality – VACANT

Membership – Stephanie Carr

Special State Project Operation Chillout – Bonnie Martin

Sunshine - Kathy Deily

Ways & Means /Fundraising - Joanne Murset (we need someone to work with Joanne to learn the ropes as this is her last year for Chairing Ways & Means)

Yearbook - Maria Hudak

Legislation & Resolutions Committee - Susan Carroll has agreed to chair this committee and she has identified increasing voter participation as a high priority interest. Legislation to allow for a national vote-by-mail option has been developed. Will our club want to support such an initiative? Also, do we as Franklin Woman's Club members, in our role as advocates, wish to engage in learning more about systemic racism, safe police practices, and related legislative initiatives? As individuals or as a collective body, what should we be doing? Our Collect gives us directives but what more should we do? Stay tuned for more to come in this area over the coming months.

Why do we file reports on our service activities?

This excerpt from the NJSFWC website captures it well. Most of our volunteers care little about honors and fame. The work done by our many clubs and individuals is its own reward. However, honoring achievements is important for our own members and for women in general. We reward outstanding effort in order to build confidence, to create a positive learning environment, and to increase club and individual motivation.

The Franklin Woman's Club did very well at the College District Spring Achievement Awards level, receiving first place for a 36+ member size club for end of the year reports in Arts Creative, Conservation, Education, Leadership, Legislation & Resolutions and Women's History. NJSFWC State Chairmen nominated Franklin Woman's Club for a GFWC Club Creativity Award entry in three categories: Women of Distinction, Leadership Training, and Current Issues in Trenton. If chosen, the club will receive a \$50 award.

An Update on Charitable Giving by our Club

At the May FWC Executive Board meeting, held via telephone conference call, the Board voted to donate an additional \$500 to the Franklin Township Food Bank in light of the increase in numbers of families and individuals turning to the food bank in the aftermath of COVID-19 related financial hardships. For 2019-2020 club year the total donated by our club to the Food Bank therefore came to \$1,500. Also, we donated \$500 to the East Millstone Rescue Squad, as they incurred increased costs for PPE due to Covid-19.

Federation News from College District VP, Mary Lou Bak

The first virtual College District June Council on Zoom was attended by several Franklin Club Members. It was a delight to see and hear you there! Except for a few technical issues it went well. Many clubs have been supporting Front Line Workers just as we have, while still working on some of their traditional projects. They are also wondering where and how they will meet going forward when updated safety protocols are made known.

NJSFWC President Jan Hanson announced State Reporting and Creative Awards. Congratulations to the Franklin Club winners! Special State Project Chair, Patricia Dahl, announced a workshop for Operation Chillout at NJSFWC Headquarters on Tuesday, July 28 from 10-12. Registration is required by reaching out to Headquarters since seating is limited: phone 732-249-05474 email njsfwc@njsfwc.org

Special State Project – Bonnie Martin, queenbonne@yahoo.com

Our Special State Project 2020-2022 is Operation CHILLOUT, a program for homeless veterans.

This is New Jersey's oldest (and only) all-volunteer mobile outreach for homeless veterans, women, and men, since December 21, 2000. Its motto is 'no borders- no boundaries'. Its mission is to respond to the crises of homelessness with direct compassionate actions.

During their summer outreach they would appreciate purchases of bottled water, caps, and t-shirts. Please go to their website <https://operationchillout.org> to make a donation. (\$30 will purchase all 3 items)

We may be able to have someone come and speak to our group later this year. More information to come!

I encourage continued donations to both the CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and Prevent Child Abuse campaigns. I can collect donations of school items for CASA for the fall. I can pick things up, or items can be dropped at my house (non-contact, of course). If you were making purple caps for 'Prevent Child Abuse', I can also arrange to deliver them.

Membership - Stephanie Carr, Chair, stephpto@comcast.net, (732)-668-5430 (cell)

This is a reminder if you have not renewed your membership in the Franklin Woman's Club for the 2020-2021 club year, you can still do so without a late fee through September (and be included in the club yearbook if you join by August 1st).

The cost is \$38 for the general membership and \$28 for life members with 25 or more years of service. Please mail your check (made payable to **Franklin Woman's Club**) directly to our Treasurer:

Carolyn Lance
24 Susan Dr.
Somerset, NJ 08873

We are also starting to plan an appropriate type of August club social, keeping with whatever the federal and state guidelines for gatherings will be in August, so stay tuned for more information in the coming month.

If you have any questions regarding dues or membership, feel free to contact Stephanie Carr.

Ways & Means – Joanne Murset, Chair, JMurset@hotmail.com 732-220-8617(h), 908-227-7278 (c)

Fundraising

The 2020-2021 club year will be the last one in which I serve as Fundraising Chair and as Tricky Tray Chair. While I have served in both roles simultaneously, the positions do not need to be held by the same club member. I invite my fellow club members to consider taking over one or both of these roles for the 2021-2022 club year and to "shadow" me during this upcoming club year. Please let me know if you are interested in learning more. Here's some background information:

The role of the Fundraising Chair is to oversee fundraising efforts by identifying potential fundraisers, identifying and working with chairs of specific fundraisers (such as the Wine Tasting, Tricky Tray, ShopRite cards, candy/nut sales, etc.), running select fundraisers, and making sure fundraisers are scheduled appropriately (e.g., not all held at the same time).

There are many club members that have been handling important aspects of the Tricky Tray who can continue doing so under a new Chair. Tasks that can be continued by experienced club volunteers include soliciting ads and prizes; shopping for prizes and refreshments; shrink-wrapping prize baskets; ticket sales; scheduling volunteers; setting up tables, prizes and refreshments; and pulling tickets, calling numbers, and supervising the runners at the event. We mainly need a Chair to manage the Tricky Tray budget and to be the glue that keeps everything together. I have been typing much of the Tricky Tray program and providing a space for assembling the prize baskets; the new Chair could do those things or identify someone else to do those tasks. If you are willing to take over as Tricky Tray or Fundraising Chair, or if you are willing to help a new Chair with the Tricky Tray program or a space for basket making, please let me know.

2020 Tricky Tray

The club has submitted a building use request to Franklin High School in the hopes that we will be able to hold the Tricky Tray on Friday, October 2. We do not expect to hear from FHS unless/until the school building reopens in September. When a new date is finalized (10/2 or other), we will email all that purchased tickets to inform them of the new date, and, if they cannot or choose not to attend, will give them the opportunity to donate the cost of their admission ticket to the club or request a refund. Given current news on the continued spread of the coronavirus in the US, I am not optimistic about October.

Thank you to the following club members that are storing completed Tricky Tray prize baskets at their homes: Mary Ann Vetter, Geri Krassowski, Diane Forino, Alycia Swift, Ellen Junas, Phyllis Beals, Stephanie Carr, Sarah Melvin, and Maria Hudak. Please extend our thanks to your families as well. In addition, the club is paying \$150 a month to store approximately 100 completed prize baskets at a self-storage facility.

Shop Rite Gift Cards - Stephanie Carr, 732-668-5439, stephpto@comcast.net

The Club offers Shop Rite gift cards for your personal use or gift-giving. Gift cards are available in \$100, \$50, and \$25 denominations. You can purchase them with cash or a check payable to "Franklin Woman's Club".

The club earns 5% on your purchase. If you regularly shop at Shop Rite, consider buying the gift cards to use for your routine shopping. They also make a great gift for family and friends.

Please contact Stephanie Carr to purchase cards. Arrangements for purchase can be made even in these challenging times.

Book Club - Maria Hudak, Chair, mhudak0414@yahoo.com

For May, we read "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine" by Gail Honeyman. The story of a quirky loner who struggles with social skills and says what's on her mind which makes for some very humorous situations. From her weekends of frozen pizza and vodka to her weekly chats with Mummy we learn that Eleanor has experienced heart-breaking tragedy. Her unexpected friendship with the IT guy from her office, Raymond, helps her see there's more to life than the isolated world she created.

For June we're reading "Ella Minnow Pea:" by Mark Dunn. A novel in letters that tells the story of the fictional island of Nollop. We're looking forward to our meeting in July to share our thoughts about the book.

If anyone is interested in forming a second Book Club, please contact Maria Hudak and she'll help connect another group. A good size is 8 – 10 members but less than 8 works well too.

Home Life – Irene Fisler, Chair, ifisler@comcast.net

Club members put together 100 chocolate and hard candy tray favors at our March Service Project night. The tray favors, and beautiful hand-made paper flowers and cards, were delivered to Spring Hills nursing center in the end of May.

Conservation & Garden - Nancy Gale, Chair, NancLG@aol.com; Geri Krassowski, Co-Chair, gerik2@gmail.com

Have you noticed the pops of yellow and purple in the garden surrounding the township gazebo at the municipal complex? Almost 200 marigold and vinca flowers were recently planted by FWC members in May. This is the second spring that club members have dedicated their time and labor to help to beautify this garden, by picking up litter, raking, weeding, planting perennials and annuals, and watering. This year, the township is very lucky and extremely thankful that all the flowers were donated by

Fama's Nursery, of Somerset. Our next project will be to install a rain barrel at the gazebo, to assist with keeping the plantings watered.

Education – Tracy Coney-Muse, Chair, tracygcm7@gmail.com

The scholarship award certificates are being delivered to the 10 recipients. The award ceremony can be viewed on the [high school website](#) for those who would like to watch the video and celebrate the students who earned scholarships and award recognitions. Books collected for children at the last meetings were donated to a teacher for students' summer reading!

Sunshine – Kathy Deily, kdeily142@yahoo.com

If you have any Sunshine requests for thinking of you/ get well / or sympathy, please e-mail Kathy to send cards.



June and July Birthdays:

MaryAnn Renzulli	6/6
Toni Alston	6/9
Mary Lou Bak	6/20
Tracy Coney-Muse	6/30
Pat Kaufhold	7/1
Amy Manifase	7/6
Kathleen Williamson	7/12
Pat Calvo	7/25

Contact Us

Mail - Franklin Woman's Club, College District – NJSFWC
P. O. Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875
Email - franklinwomansclub@gmail.com
Website - <http://franklinwomansclub.com>

General Federation of Women's Clubs website - <http://www.gfwc.org>

To obtain a Member ID contact the webmaster at webmaster@njsfwc.org. In your e-mail include our club name (Franklin Woman's Club), district (College), and preferred username. You will receive an email with a temporary password. This individual member login gives you access to a lot of additional information not available to the general public.

New Jersey State Federation Women's Club website- <http://www.njsfwc.org>