



## September 7, 2020 Newsletter

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

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

The first general members' meeting will be on **Tuesday September 15@7 pm via zoom & phone dial-in** attendance. If you are unfamiliar with using zoom or need help, please contact me ahead of time by phone 732-331-3416 or [awpbeals@comcast.net](mailto:awpbeals@comcast.net). The zoom invitation will be sent out on Sunday & again on Monday. All members are encouraged to attend.

We have a new Arts & Culture chairperson! Sherice McQueen volunteered to chair this committee. She is open to co-chairing if you're interested in being co-chair let me know. She definitely hopes some members will join the committee. Thank you Sherice.

I strongly encourage you to become familiar with the NJSFWC website (the materials section is quite helpful) and the GFWC website Club manual (requires a login; GFWC will quickly assist if you need help). [Editor's note – see links at end of newsletter.]

The Yearbook is in the works! Thank you, Maria Hudak.

You will receive an email Wednesday from the Executive Board with the recommended budget for 2020-2021. Please review it ahead of our membership meeting.

I've received a couple suggestions about how we may make our zoom meetings fun and interactive. If you have any suggestions, please share them with me or our Vice-President for Programs, Ellen Junas. Ellen has some great programs lined up.

Looking forward to a great year with all of you.

Your president,

Phyllis Beals

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Below are the new GFWC program names and their Chairperson(s). Further in this newsletter, you will find updates from several committees.

### **Community Service Programs:**

**Arts and Culture** (formerly Arts Creative) - Sherice McQueen. Sherice would like a co-chair or new committee members to join her.

**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.

**Civic Engagement and Outreach** (formerly Home Life) – Irene Fisler  
**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)  
**Environment** (formerly Conservation) - Nancy Gale & Geri Krassowski  
**Health and Wellness** - Valerie Buckner  
**Legislation & Resolutions Committee** - Susan Carroll

### **Standing Committees:**

**Book Club** - Maria Hudak

**Communications** - VACANT - Facebook Administrator - Sharon Coney; Website- Missy Holzer; Press Releases- Alicia Swift. *A chairperson for Communications Committee is greatly needed.*

**Community Services** - Lisa Andreini (looking for a co-chairperson)

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

**Hospitality** – VACANT

**Membership** – Stephanie Carr; Assistant to Membership, MaryAnn Renzulli

**Special State Project** Operation Chillout – Bonnie Martin

**Sunshine** - Kathy Deily

**Yearbook** - Maria Hudak

## **Federation News from College District VP, Mary Lou Bak**

The September District Council will be another Zoom meeting on Sept. 24th, at 10 AM. Our Speakers will be the NJSFWC Chairmen of the State Fall Conference, Legislation, and Historian. The State Fall Conference will be on Oct. 19th, 1-4 PM, and is a webinar. Following our Club's successful legislative projects, I am hoping other District Clubs will be inspired to grow their advocacy efforts in Legislation and find that there are many issues in which to become involved, as they will hear. The Historian will focus on the role of the GFWC and the NJSFWC in winning Women's Right to Vote, since the Centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment was recently celebrated.

Many clubs are wondering how to fundraise, since many fundraisers have had to be cancelled earlier in the year or won't be held this Fall as previously scheduled due to restrictions on large gatherings. The NJSFWC will be holding a workshop--Fundraising in a Pandemic--for clubs to share ideas and learn about new avenues for raising money including online. The workshop will be on Sept. 29th, 10 AM-12 PM. To register contact Chris Burlew, [burlew@njsfwc.org](mailto:burlew@njsfwc.org), and you will receive log-in information a few days before the event.

**Membership** - Stephanie Carr, Chair, [stephpto@comcast.net](mailto:stephpto@comcast.net), (cell) 732-668-5430 (Assistant: Mary Ann Renzulli)

Welcome Back, FWC Members! We currently have 60 members.

Our August meet-up at Colonial Park was attended by 12 club members, and we had a chance to catch up with each other, play bocce ball and corn hole toss during a lovely summer evening. It was so enjoyed, that **we will have another one Sunday Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 3 -4:30 PM, same place (Colonial Park Parking Lot F/ Bocce courts), so save the date.** Those that could not make the August meet-up and any member comfortable with an outdoor meet-up (masks, social distancing, bring a chair and drink) is welcomed (no guests). Details will be sent in a separate email shortly.

Even though we need to continue to be physically distant, we don't need to be socially distant. The membership committee is working on ways we can stay connected and provide community support even in these times of uncertainty. More to come, but for now, consider checking up on a club member with a

quick phone call, email or note. This can brighten someone's day and ensure them that we are all in this together.

#### **-Guests**

If you would like us to invite a guest(s) to the September virtual meeting, please let Stephanie know by September 13th so she can contact them with the zoom information.

#### **-Dues**

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 the end of September.

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

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

**Civic Engagement and Outreach** – Irene Fisler, Chair, [ifisler@comcast.net](mailto:ifisler@comcast.net)

**Education & Libraries** – Tracy Coney-Muse, Chair, [tracygcm7@gmail.com](mailto:tracygcm7@gmail.com)

The Education committee collects books for school age children. New or gently used books, with the spine intact, are accepted. We have donated to SCAP (a community program) in the past but are open to donating to other local programs in Franklin Township at members' suggestions. Please hold on to any books until we confirm delivery.

**Environment** - Nancy Gale, Chair, [NancLG@aol.com](mailto:NancLG@aol.com); Geri Krassowski, Co-Chair, [gerik2@gmail.com](mailto:gerik2@gmail.com)

Over the summer, under the initiative of FWC President Phyllis Beals, members of the Environment committee met with two Somerset County Master Gardeners (Anna Merritt & Lauren Randolph) at the gazebo in the community complex, to share ideas about creating a possible pollinator garden next to the library. Benefits of this type of garden include education for the community, especially children, regarding protection of wildlife populations and their habitats. Children's Library Services may be able to conduct outdoor reading programs that relate to pollinators, and bring children outdoors to enjoy reading, gardening and native pollinators. It is possible that youth under the auspices of the Youth Services Commission might be able to provide community service for maintenance of the garden, and also provide a source of pride and hands-on education for these same youth. This garden would no doubt be an additional source of pride and beauty for our community, with its location next to the gazebo.

The idea has been presented to the Franklin Township Library Board and was positively received. It is currently being reviewed by the Township Manager. There is a lot of interest on the part of Master Gardeners to take this on as one of their return to the community service projects. It was agreed that the Master Gardeners would take the lead on this project, and Franklin Woman's Club would continue as a supporting partner, assisting as we are able. We have already purchased a rain barrel awaiting installation, to supplement watering needs at the site, which will have the added advantage of demonstrating water conservation and the benefits of that for our environment.

If anyone is interested in working on this initiative with the Environment committee, please contact Nancy or Geri.

As we enjoy the last few weeks of summer, we are already looking ahead to having our annual fall walk for members to enjoy the changing leaf colors. Planning will include safety procedures, as well as the where and when. Any suggestions of places to visit, be sure to share!

**Health and Wellness** - Valerie Buckner, [vabuckner@comcast.net](mailto:vabuckner@comcast.net)

**Legislation and Resolutions**—Sue Carroll, Chair, [scarroll@rutgers.edu](mailto:scarroll@rutgers.edu), 732-690-0916

Recent activities have focused on voting related to the upcoming presidential year election. This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. We drafted a proclamation on behalf of the FWC honoring the centennial of women's suffrage and encouraging all residents of Franklin Township, women and men, to vote in the upcoming election on November 3. The proclamation was read at the August 11 meeting of the Franklin Township Council.

We also encourage all of our FWC members to register and vote in the upcoming election. Voting in New Jersey this year will take place primarily by mail. All registered voters will receive a postage-paid ballot through the mail in early October. Voters are encouraged to fill out and return their ballots well before **Election Day, November 3**.

The Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers has a fabulous website that very clearly describes procedures for registering and voting in 2020. Here's the link: <https://cyp.rutgers.edu/ru-voting/>. Although this website was designed for Rutgers students, much of the information applies to everyone. The section on Voter Information, <https://cyp.rutgers.edu/voter-information/>, is particularly helpful.

To be eligible to vote in the upcoming election, you must register to vote by **Tuesday, October 13**. If you are not already registered, here is the voter registration form for Somerset County in English: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/forms-voter-registration/68-voter-registration-english-somerset.pdf>

and in Spanish: <https://nj.gov/state/elections/assets/pdf/forms-voter-registration/68-voter-registration-espanol-somerset.pdf>

**Book Club** – Maria Hudak, Chair, [mhudak0414@yahoo.com](mailto:mhudak0414@yahoo.com)

The evening book club continued to meet over the summer via Zoom.

In June we read “Ella Minnow Pea” by Mark Dunn. A creative epistolary novel about the fictional island of Nollop where letter writing is the main form of communication. Ella must save her family, friends and fellow Nollopians from the island's totalitarian Council who is banning the use of certain letters. As the available alphabet gets smaller the letters they write become increasingly creative and Ella is the town's only hope.

In July we read “Me Before You” by Jojo Moyes. A funny, heartwarming and, at the same time, heartbreaking love story about two people with nothing in common. Louisa is quirky and fun but lives an ordinary life never having left her small English town. Will closed multi-million dollar deals and led an adventurous life until an accident left him paralyzed. They are brought together when Will's mother hires Louisa to keep him company. When Louisa learns that Will plans on ending his life, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

In August we read “The Unexpected Mrs. Pollifax” by Dorothy Gilman. The first book in the Mrs. Pollifax series was published in 1966. Mrs. Pollifax is a widow with married children who grows tired of volunteering and attending Garden Club meetings. Her doctor suggests she do something that she always wanted to do but did not have the time or freedom until now. She decides to help her country and become a CIA Agent!

This month we're reading “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng and looking forward to discussing it at our October meeting.

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.

### **Community Services** - Lisa Andreini

**Fundraising/Ways & Means** – Joanne Murset, Chair, [JMurset@hotmail.com](mailto:JMurset@hotmail.com) 732-220-8617(h), 908-227-7278 (c)

This club year is the last in which I will 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. If you might consider taking over one or both of these roles for the 2021-2022 club year, please let me know so that I can share more information with you.

### **-Exciting New Wine Label Fundraiser with Old York Cellars**

Due to the pandemic, we will not be able to have our usual fall Wine Tasting fundraiser. However, our friends at Old York Cellars (OYC) have offered us another fun way to raise money. They will be selling select bottles of wine (a red, a white, and a blush) with specialty labels to benefit FWC! I'd like to thank my husband and the club members that helped come up with catchy sayings over the summer, and to my daughter and son-in-law for creating the label graphics! Want to see them? Participate in our general Meeting Zoom on 9/15 for an unveiling!

How does it work? Anyone can go on OYC's website and order one or more bottles of our charity wines for \$20 (plus tax). The winery asks for 24-hour's notice before you go to their Quakerbridge or Ringoes location to pick up the wine. (Bridgewater location is currently closed due to the pandemic.) You can also pay to have the wine shipped. For every bottle sold, FWC will receive \$3.80!

Note: I am likely to go to OYC on 9/16, the day after our Zoom, so I can pick orders up for you if you are then willing to come to my home to pick them up!

### **-Tricky Tray Update**

At the time of our last club newsletter, we had submitted a building use request to Franklin High School in hopes of holding the Tricky Tray there on Friday, October 2. Since then, Franklin Township Public Schools has announced that they will not be allowing use of any of their buildings by outside groups.

Upon learning this, Phyllis Beals and I looked into a number of other venues, from houses of worship and catering halls to firehouses and even a Jiu Jitsu center, and found very few options. The plan was to hold an indoor/outdoor Tricky Tray in which prizes are set up indoors and attendees cycle through in groups to put their tickets in, and then wait in the parking lot while the winning numbers are called. Other charities successfully held events like this in July. However, in early August the limit on the number of people allowed at an indoor gathering in NJ was reduced from 50 to 25, further complicating our planning.

At this time, we hope to have our Tricky Tray in the spring, possibly using the indoor/outdoor model. I am in the process of drafting updates to be emailed to Tricky Tray ticket holders and to be posted on Eventbrite and our website and FB page. For those not wishing to hold on to their tickets, the updates will include information about how to request a refund (email Karen at [fwctrickytray@yahoo.com](mailto:fwctrickytray@yahoo.com)). We will also give them the opportunity to donate the cost of their admission ticket to the club. FYI, it is likely that when we are finally able to hold this Tricky Tray that we will NOT open sales up again, so that we have a less crowded event.

### **-New Online Silent Auction**

At the suggestion of some Executive Board members, I am now investigating options for an online silent auction of select Tricky Tray prizes in October/November. The purpose is to

- award gift certificate prizes and baskets with perishable items prior to their expiration dates
- monetize some or all of our Christmas themed baskets when people are looking forward to Christmas
- provide some relief to members storing baskets in their homes
- raise funds

The Tricky Tray committee will be able to wrap new baskets with prize items previously purchased or donated but not yet used to “backfill” these prizes, so that we will still have an abundance of prizes at our eventual Tricky Tray.

If you would like to help with the Online Silent Auction (researching websites, photographing baskets, etc.) please let me know. [JMurset@hotmail.com](mailto:JMurset@hotmail.com) (h) 732-220-8617 (c) 908-227-7278

### **-Basket Storage**

Please reach out to me if you are willing to store any completed Tricky Tray prize baskets at your home. **Some club members have been storing baskets since January when we started the basket wrapping sessions!**

**Shop Rite Gift Cards** – Stephanie Carr, [stephpto@comcast.net](mailto:stephpto@comcast.net) (732 668-5430)

The Club offers Shop Rite gift cards for personal use or gift-giving. Gift cards in several amounts (\$100, \$50, \$25) are available for purchase. You can purchase them with cash or a check payable to “Franklin Woman's Club”.

The club earns 5% on your purchase, so if you shop there regularly, consider buying the gift cards to use for your regular shopping. They also make a great and practical gift for family and friends.

Please contact Stephanie to purchase cards, and yes, we can still arrange to get them to you.

**Boscov's Department Store Fundraiser** – Stephanie Carr, Chair (732-668-5430)

Boscov's 'Friends Helping Friends' Fundraiser is on for this October, albeit operating somewhat differently this Covid pandemic year.

Two Big Days: **October 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM - 9 PM at the Woodbridge NJ store or online.**

For the fourth year, our club will participate in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Day! Not familiar with Boscov's? Think of it as a department store with discount store pricing. The nearest one to us is located in Woodbridge Center Mall, off of Route 1.

**How it Works this Year:** When you (and your friends, family, anyone so spread the word) shops with Boscov's online or in-Woodbridge NJ store, you get 20% off almost everything on these 2 days. At the store register or online check-out pick **Franklin Woman's Club** as your non-profit organization.

Our club will get back 5% of the total purchase. After the Friends Helping Friends event concludes, Boscov's will write us/FWC a check for the amount our supporters raised, so spread the word. A flyer on this is included with this newsletter.

**Special State Project** – Bonnie Martin, [queenbonne@yahoo.com](mailto:queenbonne@yahoo.com)

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

**Sunshine** – Kathy Deily, [kdeily142@yahoo.com](mailto:kdeily142@yahoo.com)

If anyone needs any SUNSINE -- get well, thinking-of-you, or sympathy, please e-mail  
Kathy Deily



August and September Birthdays:

8/4           Christina Zambri  
8/6           Phyllis Beals  
8/14          Susan Carroll  
8/20          Kathy Deily  
8/23          Jigna Dave  
8/26          Nancy Gale  
8/28          Irene Calafiore

9/6           Sharon Coney  
9/10          Lisa Andreini  
9/10          Heidi Hanson  
9/16          Sandra Cox  
9/16          Missy Holzer  
9/19          Joy Baptist

### **Notes from the Treasurer**

Carolyn Lance, Treasurer – [kcmlance@verizon.net](mailto:kcmlance@verizon.net); (732) 491-1318 (text only);  
(732) 383-9126 (voice calls)

Pat Kaufhold, Asst. Treasurer – [daffodilpat@gmail.com](mailto:daffodilpat@gmail.com)

Please remember to use the appropriate form(s) when:

- Submitting monies to be deposited
- Requesting reimbursement of club expenses
- Requesting a check be cut or a bill paid

**(No blank checks will be issued, no exceptions)**

Forms are available at all meetings and can also be found online on the Franklin Woman's Club website  
at <https://www.franklinwomansclub.com/treasurer-s-page>.

A copy of the approved budget is also available on the Club's website

at <https://www.franklinwomansclub.com/2018%20-%202019%20Budget.pdf>



## **Contact Us**

Mail - Franklin Woman's Club, College District – NJSFWC

P. O. Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875

Email - [franklinwomansclub@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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>