



College District – NJSFWC of GFWC, P.O. Box 5793, Somerset, NJ 08875
 Email - franklinwomansclub@gmail.com, Website - <http://franklinwomansclub.com>
 Newsletter Editor - Nancy Gale, NancLG@aol.com, 848-702-9714 (cell)



May 4, 2022 Newsletter



FWC Calendar

May 10 – FWC End of Year Dinner, Chimney Rock Inn @6:30pm
 May 17 – FWC Spring trip to Cross Estate Gardens (see Environment section)
 May 21 – Flower planting at township gazebo @10am

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

Franklin Woman's Club is approaching the end of its club year, and yet there are more opportunities to take advantage of, and you can read about them here in this NJSFWC award-winning newsletter.

Congratulations to Nancy Gale, editor, for taking 2nd place for newsletters.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all members who have supported the club this past year, whether you renewed your membership or you contributed in small or large ways. As this officer's term of office begins to wind down, I am so grateful for the support and team effort of all of you alongside, behind, ahead leading a path for whatever needed to get done. In February 2020 I was honored to submit my name to serve as president, and I am equally honored to have worked, laughed, (cried a little) as your president during these "somewhat" challenging times.

Geri Krassowski and Mary Lou Bak will be co-presidents for the coming club year! Please volunteer in any capacity to keep the good works, donations, advocacy and camaraderie growing. They need your participation and help, so even if you don't know how you might assist, just let one of them know you are willing to assist, and they will find a spot for you on the team.

LOOK FOR NJSWC CONVENTION NOTES INSIDE!

Mary Lou Bak, Geri Krassowski and this officer just returned from the NJSFWC convention on Tuesday. Look for our article about our experiences and observations, and why you might want to attend the convention some year.

MAY 10 FWC CLUB DINNER IS A GO!

The May 10 dinner at Chimney Rock Inn starting at 6 pm is proceeding. There are still open places at the table! Our college scholarship winners will be introduced and officers for the 2022-2023 club year will be installed. A short memoriam for Irene Calafiore, FWC past president, who passed in late 2021 will take place. Please contact this officer as soon as possible if you would like to attend or if you have a friend who might want to learn about our club and attend the dinner. Guests of club members will also only pay \$30, a bargain for such a nice time and meal.



Federation News from Immediate Past College District VP, Mary Lou Bak, marylb656@cs.com

Achievement Day was a success and I'd like to thank Phyllis Beals, Stephanie Carr, Nancy Gale, and Pat Kaufhold for greeting and checking in attendees, and preparing and delivering the registration report. Thanks also to Carolyn Lance for managing the registration fees. With this event being my last District responsibility as my DVP term came to an end, I knew that it would go smoothly with FWC members' capable assistance. I know that everyone there enjoyed hearing from other District Club Presidents and the new NJSFWC President, Shirley Holly. The Arts and Culture and Environment entries were all interesting expressions of the many creative skills that our District members have. I'm so proud that we have FWC members whose beautiful entries won Gold at Achievement Day and went on to the state Convention competition:



Mary Lou receiving acknowledgement at Achievement Day for her role as District VP



- Nancy Gale had 3 out of her 5 photos receive Gold
- Kathy Deily's dollhouse floral arrangement received Gold
- Pat Kaufhold's crocheted hat won Gold
- Phyllis Beals's pressed flowers under glass won Gold

I would like to sincerely thank all of you for nominating me for the very moving Honor Roll award given me at Convention. I was thoroughly surprised, very honored, and lost my composure at the announcement. The FWC has given me the opportunity to be part of a vibrant group of talented and caring women that I cherish deeply. Thank you again so very much for the Honor Roll award as well as for the Tribute Ad in the Convention Journal, another moving surprise!



Mary Lou named to NJSFWC Honor Roll (with Phyllis Beals and Geri Krassowski)

Happy Mother's Day and looking forward to seeing you at the May Dinner!

Franklin Woman's Club members go to NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs' Convention in Atlantic City April 24-26!

Convention Title: The Power of Excellent Women

Phyllis shared:

This was my first in-person convention for NJSFWC. Among the most memorable and moving events, for me, was the Women of Achievement Awards evening and hearing General Federation of Women's Clubs' president Marian St. Clair speak on the "power of many" as she focused on our ability to advocate for legislation that particularly benefits women and children at the national level. She was humble, well-spoken, and very personable.

Four women (none of whom are club members) were honored for their incredible service and careers. The 2022 Women of Achievement are:

- Phyllis Worrell, Emergency Preparedness Developer, Educator, and Volunteer
- Francine "Fran" Conway, Ph D, Illustrious Scholar, Administrator and Clinical Psychologist; now Chancellor-Provost of Rutgers University as of July 1, 2021
- Mondana Sepahi Yazdi, MD Pediatrician, Owner of Wyckoff Pediatrics, Consummate Volunteer
- Pamela "Pam" Crum, Indefatigable Advocate and Champion for Adults with Disabilities

Their stories of how they came to serve and lead were particularly moving.

Meeting other club presidents and members, talking with them about their clubs' challenges and accomplishments was great. I am now friends with Janet and Pat from Bridgewater Women's Club, Sue from North Brunswick Women's Club, and Linda from East Brunswick Women's Club.

Mary Lou adds:

Among the many topics covered at the state Convention were the totals of project hours and project statistics reported by all clubs in the state: **405,296 Projects, 360,952 Hours Volunteered, \$790,722 Dollars Donated, and \$1,072,288 In Kind Donations.**

Please consider attending the next NJSFWC Convention, to see the powerful effect women working together can have.



Programs – Amy Manifest, 1st VP, Programs, shantimanifest@gmail.com

Join us for our May 10th end-of-year club dinner and look forward to more exciting programs next year!

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

2021-2022 Membership Dues

So far, we have 33 active and lifetime members that have renewed their membership for 2022-2023 club year, and 4 booster members! If you have not already renewed your club dues for the 2022-2023 club year., please consider staying active. The cost remains at \$38 for the General Membership and \$28 for Life Members with 25+ years of service.

For record keeping purposes, we are only accepting personal checks (made payable to Franklin Woman's Club).

You can bring it to our May 10th club dinner or mail it to Stephanie Carr or the club's PO Box.

If any of your information (address, email, phone #) has changed in the past year, please let us know, as we will be working on the new yearbook over the summer.

Mail your check to:

Stephanie Carr
155 Emerson Rd
Somerset, NJ 08873

Stephanie will email you that your check has been received.

Although there are no formal club meetings in June-August, there can be club events and info emails, so renew your membership and stay informed of all our clubs' activities. The summer is also a good time to talk about the club to any interested woman, so they can look over our website and plan on coming to our next meeting/social event.

As I say farewell to my two-year position as Membership Chair, I'd like to thank the Membership Committee (Mary Ann Renzulli, Sharon Coney, Diane Forino and Ellen Junas) for all their help and support. These last two years were certainly different and challenging, but we retained members, gained new ones and used the telephone to stay connected. Thank you everyone and stay healthy.

Arts and Culture - Geri Krassowski, Chair, gerik2@gmail.com

Read about the Arts and Culture District Achievement Day and State Convention winners in the Members' Corner section.

Arts Performing – Delores Still, Chair, gvxm33a@prodigy.net

Education & Libraries – Cheray Wright, Chair, cright_1993@comcast.net, 732-208-9576

➤ **Girls Career Institute (GCI)**

The Education and Library Committee selected three Delegates and two Alternates for the 74th Annual Girls' Career Institute. GCI will be held June 6-9, 2022, at Douglass Residential College on the Rutgers University campus in New Brunswick. The three selected Delegates for the FWC -College District are Amy Reyes, Isabel Pomerantz O'Brien, and Akeira Faulknor; and the two alternates are Ariel Richards and Miyanni Alford. All the students are from Franklin High School. The delegates will experience four days of college life, discuss today's challenges, network with delegates from all areas of New Jersey and will have the opportunity to form new friendships. We will

have the pleasure of meeting our delegates at our monthly meeting in September, or October, to hear about their GCI experiences.

- **GCI is collecting donations of the following items and can be brought to the May 10 dinner** or dropped off at NJSFWC Headquarters in New Brunswick by June 5th.
 - Individual size snacks, juice boxes, and small bottles of water
 - Materials for Vision Boards - A Vision Board is a collage of images and words representing a person's wishes or goals, intended to serve as inspiration or motivation.
 - Science Fair Backboards (cut in half for vision boards)
 - Magazines that can be cut-up for pictures and words
 - Stick on decorations, bling, etc. to decorate the boards.
 - Materials for other GCI Projects:
 - some fleece for no-sew blankets
 - Blank Greeting Card Envelopes (5x7) for homemade cards (they already have card-making supplies)
 - Some bags of candy, sugar and sugar free, to fill tray favors.
 - Sheets/books/rolls of stickers to decorate cards / envelopes / tray favors

Please feel free to contact myself, or GCI Director, Mary Kay Tokar at: tokar@njsfwc.org or 201-320-8403.

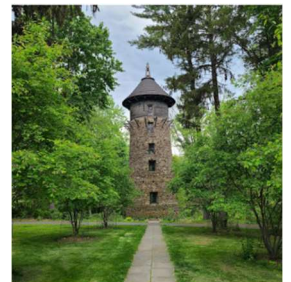
➤ **Scholarship**

Senior Scholarship Applications were sent out to nine schools in Somerset County in January. I want to thank all our committee members for their assistance with the FWC Scholarship Senior program and in helping to review all twelve applications that were received. We are proud to announce that we have four \$1,000.00 Scholarship Award winners this year. The four award recipients are: Liyanna Hopkins (FHS), Taviyani Johnson (FHS), Dhruva Mehta (Somerset Vo-Tech), and Jeevika Sivasubramnonian (FHS). I will have the honor of introducing the award recipients to the club at our **May 10th FWC Annual Dinner Meeting** and will present them with their award certificates at **Franklin High School's Annual Senior Awards Night** event on **Thursday, June 16th**.



Environment – Nancy Gale, Co-Chair, NanclG@aol.com; Geri Krassowski, Co-Chair, gerik2@gmail.com

➤ **Spring Garden Tour** – Tues, May 17 - Please join club members on our trip to the Cross Estate Gardens, part of Morristown National Historical Park in Bernardsville. The early twentieth-century landscape of the Cross Estate, characteristic of the Arts and Crafts period, includes a formal perennial garden, a wisteria-covered pergola, a mountain laurel allee, and a garden of native plants. Other gardens include the lawn garden, with its native rhododendrons, primroses, and perennials lining the spring border; the fern garden, site of a dawn redwood, and pachysandra beds. The Cross Estate is also known for its five-story stone water tower. If you're interested in attending, please contact Nancy or Geri.



<https://www.crossestategardens.org/>

➤ **Gazebo Flower Planting** – Sat, May 21, 10am. "Many hands make light work." We will once again be planting flowers at the township gazebo and need volunteers to assist with the light gardening. Bring a water bottle and any hand gardening tools you may have. Contact Nancy or Geri if you can help, for even just an hour. Rain date Sun, May 22.



Thanks to all the FWC members who volunteered time, along with Franklin Township Environmental Committee members, to help distribute reusable bags and literature about NJ's new **Plastic Reduction Act**, effective May 4th. The law prohibits provision or sale of single-use plastic carryout bags and polystyrene foam food service products; limits provision of single-use plastic straws and single-use paper carryout bags; and appropriates moneys from Clean Communities Program Fund for public education.

(Left photo, FWC member Alice Beals; Right photo, FWC member Susan Carroll)



Health and Wellness - Valerie Buckner, Chair, vabuckner@comcast.net, 732-859-4327 (cell)

➤ **May is Mental Health Awareness Month** - We will inform the community about the new **988 Suicide Prevention lifeline/hotline number** by posting flyers with the information. If you can post one or more (place of business, work location, church, etc.) please contact me and I will get some to you.

Come to the Somerset County Mental Health Stigma Free conference on Friday May 13 at 10 am with other FWC club members. This is a free community event to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health and substance use disorders through education and resources. This is such an important cause and opportunity to learn how we may make a difference in the lives of people we know or do not know who deal with mental illness. Phyllis Beals will be attending and expect we can carpool to the event which only lasts a couple hours. Please contact her if you would like to do so. Please see the **flyer** sent with this email for more information and SHARE this flyer with other organizations, houses of worship, civic groups so we may multiply the impact of this initiative.

[Register here!](#)

➤ **Shot@Life** - Thank you for your donation of \$20 given at the April meeting!



Legislation and Political Involvement - Sue Carroll, Chair, scarroll@rutgers.edu, 732-690-0916

It is not too early to begin thinking about voting in the upcoming New Jersey primary elections. June 7 is Primary Election Day. We will be voting for Democratic and Republican US House candidates who will face each other in the November general election. As with last November's general election, you can vote three different ways: by mail (absentee ballot), by in-person early voting, and by in-person voting on Election Day. The relevant dates are:

May 17 Voter Registration Deadline

May 31 Deadline to Apply for Mail-in Ballot

June 3-5 Early Voting

June 7 Primary Election Day



You will not receive a mail-in ballot unless you previously applied for Vote by Mail for “all future elections” or you specifically request a mail-in ballot for the 2022 primary election.

New Jersey has a closed primary system, so you must be registered as a Republican or a Democrat in order to vote in the primary. However, if you are registered to vote but not affiliated with either party, you can declare a party affiliation (Democrat or Republican) at the polls on June 7. Tell the poll workers which primary you wish to vote in, and they will give you a Political Party Declaration Form to complete. Alternatively, you can print the form here--[party-affiliation-form.pdf \(nj.gov\)](#)—and submit it to the Franklin Township Municipal Clerk's office or take it to the polling place with you.

The following two sites provide more useful information about voting in the 2022 NJ Primary Elections:

[June Elections - VoteByMailNJ.org](https://www.votebymailnj.org)

[Voting Information | Township of Franklin, NJ \(franklintwpnj.org\)](https://www.franklintwpnj.org)

****Notes from the President****

Franklin Woman's Club has developed a positive reputation for our work in Legislation and Political Activism! In fact at the NJSFWC convention we received two awards in this area. One for best committee work in 2021 and one for most creative project in this area when we changed the name of our committee (thank you Susan Carroll) to Legislation and Political Activism!

Our research and position opposing the Anti-choking devices bill (and NJSFWC resolution supporting same) was heard loudly and clearly at convention, and it generated more questions from other club members. Due to this officer's lack of knowledge about parliamentary procedures that resolution was voted on with three other resolutions rather than voting on them one at a time! The resolution passed but there is little movement at this time in the legislature to even bring it back as a bill in 2022-23 session.

The motion to amend the Auto Insurance Rating Factors to include gender as a factor to NOT be considered when determining auto insurance rates was favorably received and letters advocating for this will be encouraged by the NJSFWC Legislation & Resolutions Committee.

This process of speaking out about a resolution and moving to amend resolutions was a huge learning process for me, personally. If I should be in that situation again, I will study up more on parliamentary procedures and which questions to ask of the Parliamentarian to the board or to convention.

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



Our April book was “Anxious People” by Fredrik Backman. The story starts with a bank robbery at a cashless bank which leaves the bank robber with nothing to rob. The would-be bank robber runs into a nearby apartment building and interrupts an open house, causing the potential buyers to assume they're being held hostage. After the situation has ended with an absent bank robber and blood on the carpet, a father-and-son police pair work through maddening interviews with the witnesses

NEW Daytime Book Club Forming! Exciting news, we are forming a second book club, that will meet daytime starting in May. Ellen Junas will be leading it, and it will be either Monday or Wednesday, 3-4 PM, the third week of the month. It will probably start out as a zoom get together, and future meeting options will be discussed with the participants. It will be limited to 8-10 women, so if you are interested, please let Ellen know. Also, specify if a Monday or Wednesday is best for you. ellen.junas.att@icloud.com or text or call at 732-208-7123.


Community Services - Lisa Andreini, Chair, lisa-andreini@comcast.net, 732-692-3309.

Rutgers Student Food Pantry - Food Drive- (Stephanie Carr, stephpto@comcast.net, 732-668-5430)
We donated another 90 lbs of food in April, for a two-month total of over \$350 worth of food to the Rutgers Student Food Pantry! Thanks to all who participated and gave so generously. You can continue to make food and monetary donations via their website <http://ruoffcampus.rutgers.edu/food>



Fundraising – Chair needed

Shop Rite Gift Cards – Stephanie Carr, 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”. You can contact Stephanie to purchase cards, and yes, we can arrange to get them to you. **Cards** 
will be available at our May dinner!

Special State Project – Bonnie Martin, queenbonne@yahoo.com 732-476-8863 (cell)

Operation Chillout at the NJSFWC Convention – Mary Lou Bak - Present at the state convention was Ray Chimileski, Founder of Operation Chillout, who was presented with a check for **\$63,795.97**, raised over the last two years and which doesn't include in-kind donations. Thank you for all your support of projects both in our community, and for state, national, and international projects. Working together reaps tremendous results!

The new Special State Project was announced: **Emmanuel Cancer Foundation**, a 40-year-old organization whose mission is to provide emotional and material support to a family when it receives a cancer diagnosis for a child. Our new NJSFWC President, Shirley Holly, and her family have volunteered with this organization for twenty years, in work that meets each family's needs directly. With several locations around the state, the one in Clark is the closest to our District. Their website is <https://www.emmanuelcancer.org>

Sunshine – Kathy Deily, kdeily142@yahoo.com



If anyone need sunshine--sympathy/get well/thinking-of-you, contact Kathy Deily at kdeily142@yahoo.com

\$ Notes from the Treasurer \$

Carolyn Lance, Treasurer – kcmlance@verizon.net; (732) 491-1318 (text only);
(732) 383-9126 (voice calls); Pat Kaufhold, Asst. Treasurer – 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>



May Birthdays

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|--------|----------------------|
| May 20 | Karen Hagerman |
| May 21 | Doreen Sirjue |
| May 23 | Dolores Giovanniello |

CONGRATULATIONS! (Submitted by Phyllis Beals)

College District Spring Conference and Achievement Day was an enjoyable time, and it was great fun to see the array of house plants, floral arrangements, photography, crocheted and knitted items, artwork, baked goods and more. They can use your exhibit next year as the number of entries was lower than some past years. Our club members who entered any exhibit whether in Arts or Environment categories are Kathy Deily, Nancy Gale, Patricia Kaufhold and Phyllis Beals. Each of us won Gold (the highest level) awards.

Kathy - dollhouse floral arrangement (adorable about 2" high and Kathy used coffee creamer cups to create the vase)

Pat – a lovely blue crocheted hat with the most beautiful crochet stitch pattern

Phyllis - pressed flowers under glass

Nancy - 3 of her 5 photographs (Scenes, Color; Still Life, Color; Still Life, Black & White)

Gold award entries travel to NJSFWC convention. At the State convention, Nancy's Black & White photo took Gold, and it will be entered into the national GFWC level photography contest. Phyllis's pressed flowers under glass also won Gold. Thank you, Mary Lou Bak, for transporting the entries to Atlantic City. Phyllis and Geri safely transported items back to Somerset.



Pressed flowers under glass
by Phyllis Beals

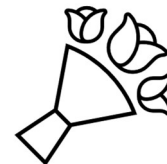


“Shadows” Black & White Still Life
photo by Nancy Gale

College District Awards for reporting on Committee service programs were announced at the Spring Conference. Our club was recognized for its work and reports in a few areas. Many thanks to the club chairwomen who have faithfully done report work over the years! Valerie Buckner for Health and Wellness, Tracy Muse, and now this year Cheray Wright, for Education & Libraries, Nancy Gale for Environment, Geri Krassowski for Arts & Culture, Stephanie Carr for Membership. When you hear the totals at NJSFWCF for the hours of volunteer work and the dollars both real and “in-kind” you understand why our reports matter, especially for grant writing at the state and national GFWC levels.

➤ **College District Report Awards to Franklin Woman’s Club**

- Civic Engagement & Outreach
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Leadership
- Legislation
- Women’s History
- Environment



➤ **NJSFWC Report Awards to Franklin Woman’s Club**

- Legislation/ Resolutions
- Legislation/Resolutions Most Creative was the renaming & the work done by our Legislation & Political Activism Committee
- Second Place award for Newsletter

Congratulations to all!

Note These Dates:

Franklin Project Graduation Used Clothing Drive – Saturday, May 14, 2022
Drop Off at Franklin Middle School -SGS Campus, Amwell Rd, 8 AM- 1 PM.



Bridgewater Woman's Club- Somerset Patriots Baseball & BBQ Outing- June 12, 1:05 PM Game

The Bridgewater Woman's Club has reserved BBQ section A at the Somerset Patriots Ballpark for June 12 game. Doors open at 12 noon. Tickets are \$33 (under 3 is free) and includes all-you-can eat buffet of burgers, hot dogs, pulled pork, veggie burgers, cole slaw, macaroni & cheese, chips, David's fresh baked cookies and soft drinks.



If you would like to go with other FWC women, please contact Stephanie Carr, 732-668-5430. Payment due May 20.

If your family would like to purchase tickets contact Janet Etsch, Bridgewater Woman's Club, 732-718-7278, jeetsch603@gmail.com

Members' Corner is a way to share information about what our club members and what they have been doing to keep busy, fun on-line programs you've attended or are aware of, and any other items that may be of interest to the FWC, such as awards, or family celebrations. Please email the newsletter editor, Nancy Gale, NanCLG@aol.com, with anything that you'd like to share. We'll include it in our next issue.

Contact Us

Mail - Franklin Woman's Club
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>

If you'd like more information on what's happening with other Woman's Clubs around the state, check out this link to the NJSFWC's April Almanac – <https://njsfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/April2022-ALMANAC.pdf>