



Franklin Woman's Club

Friendship & Community Service Since 1922



College District – NJFWC of GF WC, 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)



December 6, 2022 Newsletter



FWC Calendar

Dec 6 - Book Club @7 PM, Somerset Diner
Dec 13 - General meeting @6:30 PM, Franklin High School Cafeteria
Dec 19 – First day of Hanukkah
Dec 20 - FWC Exec Board Holiday Dinner, time to be announced
Dec 25 – Christmas
Dec 26 – Kwanzaa begins

FWC Co-Presidents' Report - Mary Lou Bak, marylb656@cs.com, Geri Krassowski, gerik2@gmail.com

Thank you to all who devoted time, talent, and donations to the Service Night projects! The Food Baskets were beautiful as well as plentiful, and creative talent flowed freely as confirmed by the Smile Bags, the greeting cards, ornaments, and Tray Favors. These projects show much needed concern for children, for active military personnel to have greeting cards to send, for residents of veterans' and nursing homes. Participating in advocacy by collecting sneakers for recycling and signing up for GF WC Legislative Alerts, allows us to show concern for and take action on important issues in society. Many thanks to the Hospitality Committee for arranging to bring pizza and many tasty treats to complement our work.

Look for information in this Newsletter to participate in the December Food Baskets and the Tricky Tray projects. There is also information to view Wish Lists for the children and families served by Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, our Special State project. Looking ahead, you can read about the NJFWC Day of Service coming in January. We look forward to seeing you and sharing the Madrigals in concert at the High School on our meeting night!

New service hours in honor of our 100th Anniversary, including receiving a commendation on Nov. 22nd from the Town Council recognizing our founding:

Legislation (Legislative and community research and GF WC alerts) 5 hours
Newsletter (Preparation and editing) 12 hours
Education (Book Club and GCI preparation) 505 hours
Club History (research, presentation, commendation reception) 7 hours
Health and Wellness (Focus Group meeting, 988 work, Smile Bags, NJFWC Day of Service preparation) 12 hours
Civic Engagement and Outreach (Greeting cards and ornaments) 35 hours
Fundraising (Tricky Tray planning, contributions, and baskets) 10 hours
Environment (Sneaker collection and planning)) 5 hours
Community Improvement (Food Baskets preparation and collection) 30 hours
Arts and Culture (Achievement Day projects and Meeting programs) 80 hours

Membership (Outreach, Records, Social, Installations) 70 hours
Leadership (Meeting planning, Officer Installation, District and State Meetings) 85 hours

Total Hours for this Reporting Cycle: 856
Hours from Last Month: + 830

Total Hours So Far Recorded: = 1686

Happy Hannukah, Merry Christmas, and Happy Kwanzaa to you and your loved ones!
Geri and Mary Lou

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



The club is looking forward to welcoming the FHS Madrigal Singers for some holiday cheer at the December meeting. These singers perform a program of carols in costume from the Renaissance period.

Our program for January will be presented by Carol Simon Levin of 'Telling Her Stories' whose presentations "make history come alive"!

Membership – Sarah Melvin, 2nd VP, sarahmelvin@gmail.com, 609-510-5994 (cell)

Carpools

At FWC, we always encourage carpooling to meetings and for outings. If you or a member you know would like to request a ride to a meeting, please contact Sarah Melvin to make arrangements.

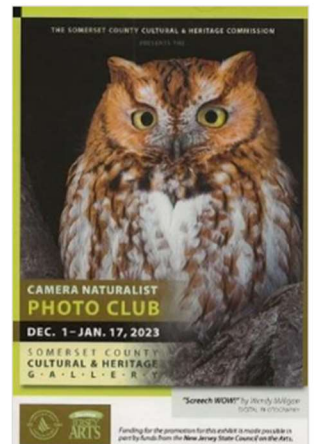
Guests

If you would like to bring a guest to the December or January meeting, please contact Sarah in advance so they can be added to our guest list. We will be making a real push to increase membership in 2023 and guests are always welcome.

Arts and Culture – Chair Needed

Organizing events to theater, music, museums etc is one of the goals that an Arts & Culture chairperson (or co-chairs) does for the club. This position is still vacant, and if interested talk to Mary Lou or Geri. **Here are some upcoming events:**

- **Let's go see a nearby photography exhibit!** The Camera Naturalist Photography Club is having an exhibit at the Somerset County Courthouse Gallery Dec 1-Jan 17 M-F 8:30-4:30 pm. One of the photographers, Jacki Dickert, is a professional (and friend of Phyllis's). Her photos in this exhibit are from her trip to Namibia several years ago. Phyllis will organize a date and time for going as a group to the exhibit. Interested? Talk to or email Phyllis.

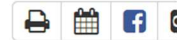


- **Attend a Retelling of Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol** - December 7, Raritan Public Library, 6-7pm

Free! Alisa Dupuy has entertained FWC members several times. Hurry, limited seating available! Registration required – go to <https://raritanlibrary.libcal.com/event/9756633?hs=a> to register



Ladies of History: Dickens - A Christmas Carol In-Person



"And God bless us, everyone!" said Tiny Tim.'

Please join us for a heartfelt and truly entertaining one woman telling of Charles Dickens' classic, [A Christmas Carol](#).

Alisa Dupuy will portray Fan, Ebenezer Scrooge's sister. You will laugh, you will and you will be in the spirit of the season.

This program is funded by the Raritan Historic and Cultural Committee.

Date: Wednesday, December 7, 2022
Time: 6:00pm - 7:00pm
Time Zone: Eastern Time - US & Canada ([change](#))
Location: Community Room
Audience: ■ Adult
Categories: ■ History

Registration is required. There are 6 seats available.

- **Listen to a Victorian Christmas Concert** – December 10, Raritan Public Library, 1-2pm

Free! Registration required – go to <https://raritanlibrary.libcal.com/event/9856450?hs=a>



Victorian Christmas Concert In-Person



Join Anne and Ridley for a joyful celebration of Christmas past, with special emphasis on the Victorian Christmas traditions—Christmas trees, carols, cards, and more. Accompanied with fiddle, dulcimer, and harmony vocals. Join in singing some of your favorite holiday songs and learn about the surprising history of one of our most popular holidays.

Date: Saturday, December 10, 2022
Time: 1:00pm - 2:00pm
Time Zone: Eastern Time - US & Canada ([change](#))
Location: Community Room
Audience: ■ All Ages
Categories: ■ Arts & Culture

Registration is required. There are 20 seats available.

Domestic Violence – Ellen Junas, Chair, ellen.junas.att@icloud.com

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

Hello and Happy Holidays to Everyone.

- **Girls' Career Institute**

The 2023 Girls' Career Institute (GCI) Workshop was held on Saturday, November 19th. GCI will be held this June 5th -8th, 2023 and we are all looking forward to celebrating GCI's 75th anniversary. NJSFWC is searching for FWC members who have participated in GCI – whether it be as a volunteer, housemother, or as a GCI delegate themselves within the past 75 years to help celebrate this wonderful occasion. NJSFWC is looking to have a very

special reunion and celebrate this great program by compiling and sharing all the great experiences they got from the GCI “Mini- College” experience. You may have the opportunity to share your story live, or on a video clip, to help encourage and empower many of our young women today to be a part of this special program. GCI is also looking for full time staff and part-time volunteers. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, or have any questions, please contact Cheray Wright at 732-208-9576.

- **Book Donations.**

For 2023, FWC will be involved in Franklin Township’s Book Projects (Schools – Reading Across America). **We would like to start collecting books from FWC members on a monthly basis starting this month at December’s meeting.** Thanks for your help and donations in advance.

Environment – Nancy Gale, Chair, NancLG@aol.com, 848-702-9714 (cell)

- Haven’t gotten your Christmas tree yet? Or you have, and want to be sure it lasts through the holidays? What about those poinsettias and other flowering plants? You’ll want to view this webinar to learn about locally grown Christmas tree selection and care, as well as indoor plants such as poinsettias and Christmas cactus. [Christmas Tree and Holiday Plant Care and Selection](#)

- And speaking of Christmas trees, here’s an interesting article about the argument **Are Real or Fake Christmas Trees Better for the Environment?** It’s complicated - the answer may surprise you.

<https://blog.nwf.org/2022/11/are-real-or-fake-christmas-trees-better-for-the-environment/>

- **Discover some of the Best Native Berry Plants for Birds** and beautify your yard as well (From the National Wildlife Federation Blog - <https://blog.nwf.org/>)

Food is one of the four essential elements for wildlife habitat, and berry-producing shrubs are one of the best food sources for birds, particularly in the winter when other food sources are scarce. Common bird species that do not migrate, such as northern cardinals, woodpeckers and mockingbirds, depend on berrying shrubs in winter. In addition to providing winter food, berrying shrubs are multi-functional. Shrubs planted densely in a border attract many more birds to your property like cardinals and thrushes seeking cover and nesting places. In the spring, flowers are a nectar source for pollinators.

As a bonus, they also provide year-round benefits for your landscape in color, form and function. Planting a selection of deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen creates a color palette bridging each season. In order to produce berries, deciduous shrubs must flower each spring to soften the garden with white or pastel shades contrasted by the bright green of new growth. Many of these shrubs continue to flower through the summer.

Come fall, shrubs like the **choke cherry**, **staghorn sumac** and **native viburnums**’ leaves turn to warm yellows and reds. In the winter, these shrubs add needed color to a barren landscape. The purple, beaded berries of the **American beautyberry** offer a contrast to the browns and evergreens found in winter. Adding a pop of holiday color, the versatile **winterberry holly** has bright red sprays of berries to ornament your yard.

Long after your native flowering perennials have disappeared, semi-evergreen and evergreen shrubs like **bayberry** and **juniper** provide texture and form to your landscape. Grown as a border they offer screening from wind and enhance privacy.

Songbirds migrating in late fall may stop on your property attracted to the high fat content of the **red-osier dogwood** to fuel their journey. The shrub of this fruit also attracts robins, bluebirds, thrushes, catbirds, vireos, kingbirds, juncos, cardinals, warblers, wild turkey and grouse. Cedar waxwings, wintering tree swallows, bluebirds and catbirds like the food produced by a combination of deciduous, semi evergreen and evergreen shrubs that bear small fruits such as **eastern redcedar** and **northern bayberry**. Deciduous shrubs that also attract a wide variety of many bird species include **nannyberry** and **arrowood viburnums**, **staghorn sumac**, **winterberry holly**, **red and black choke cherry**, **American Washington hawthorn**, and **inkberry**.

Find the plants native to our area at the National Wildlife Federation’s Native Plant Finder: <https://www.nwf.org/nativeplantfinder>

- Don't forget! **We are still collecting sneakers for recycling (and will earn money to boot!)**

All reusable sneakers are recirculated to secondhand markets via the GotSneakers program, so people can access quality, pre-owned footwear at affordable prices. Those pairs that cannot be reused, will be recycled. **The FWC will be collecting old (or new) pairs of sneakers and running shoes at every meeting, shipping them to GotSneakers (in their postage-paid bags) and receiving up to \$7.00 per pair!** (Depending on condition.)

Health and Wellness – Phyllis Beals, Chair, awpbeals@comcast.net, 732-331-3416 (cell)

- **Holiday stress** is a real issue, though suicide attempts and completions actually increase in the March. Which practices help you manage stress whether it is holiday stress or everyday stress? In the issue of the Somerset County Department of Human Services newsletter, there helpful information as it is focused on mental health. County services are also highlighted. Worth a glance or a full read! Here is the link – just click or copy and paste into your browser.

<https://www.co.somerset.nj.us/government/human-services/department-newsletter/december-2022>

- **Shot at Life Tell Congress You Support Vaccines for All** - The Problem: More than 25 million children around the world missed routine immunizations in 2021– almost the population of Texas! This is the largest decline in nearly 30 years, leading to increased spread of viruses around the world, including polio, which was detected for the first time in decades in the U.S. and U.K.

Sign a petition to tell Congress that you support vaccines for all. <https://act.shotatlife.org/a/fy23-petition-shotatlife>

Hospitality Committee – Karen Bauer, Chair, karenteach228@aol.com, 908-265-3279 (cell)

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

Warehouse development is a hot issue in Franklin Township. The Citizens Warehouse Action Group formed last summer in reaction to an application by a developer to build two large warehouses (244,975 square feet in size, with 68 loading docks, 155 parking spaces) at the corner of Schoolhouse and Mettlers Roads across from Canal Walk. Members of the group have been attending Council, Planning Board, and Zoning Board meetings to speak out about the need for stricter regulation and reform regarding warehouse development. Most recently, the Citizens Warehouse Action Group staged a protest rally at the municipal gazebo on November 10 which attracted a good-sized crowd of supporters.

In response to the increased activism of citizens, the Franklin Township Council approved an ordinance which rezoned certain properties in the vicinity of Canal Walk from Industrial to Agricultural or Residential to inhibit the submission of future proposals for warehouses in the area. See [Information Regarding Warehouse Development Ordinance #4371-22 | Township News | Township of Franklin, NJ \(franklintwpnj.org\)](#). However, the application to build two large warehouses at the corner of Schoolhouse and Mettlers is still under consideration. The Franklin Township Planning Board will review the developer's application at its January 4 meeting. The meeting will take place at 7:30 pm at Building 1, Board of Education Campus, 2301 Route 27, and the Citizens Warehouse Action Group is encouraging concerned residents of Franklin Township to attend. They also are accepting donations to support their efforts at <https://gofund.me/c956fc78>.



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

Our November book was “The Turncoat’s Widow” by Mally Becker. A historical fiction novel that takes place in 1780 Revolutionary War NJ. It’s always interesting to read a book that takes place in the state you live in! Rebecca Parcell is recently widowed and too busy managing her Morristown farm to care about who is winning the war. She also has to deal with a rumor spreading that she betrayed her husband to the British. It’s making the town turn against her and she may lose her farm. But there’s a mystery tied to her husband’s death and General Washington agrees to help save her farm if she helps him uncover her husband’s secrets. He partners her with an escaped

prisoner of war, Daniel Alloway, who was the last person to talk to her husband before he died. General Washington sends Rebecca and Daniel to British occupied New York City where they must learn to work together to uncover the mystery before it's too late.

➤ If anyone is interested in forming another Book Club, please contact Maria Hudak. She'll explain how our evening book club is structured and help connect another group. A good size is 8 – 10 members but less than 8 works well too.

Communication - FWC Website – Missy Holzer, missy.holzer@gmail.com

Got Content? The FWC website is as fresh as the items that are posted, and they are posted when content is shared with me! If you have an announcement about an event, or you have content to share about an event or about our organization, please forward the content to me, Missy Holzer, at missy.holzer@gmail.com. In your note, try to be as explicit as possible by providing the following information:

1. Which page and where on the page to post the content (ex: homepage under Current Events)
2. Title of what is being posted
3. Description of what is being posted
4. Photos: caption and names from Left to Right

Visit our website to see other examples of items that have been posted. Of course, if you have suggestions for updating our website, please let me know.

Community Service - Lisa Andreini, Chair, lisa-andreini@comcast.net (732-692-3309),

• **Food Baskets for the Needy** - Thank you to everyone who signed up and donated items for the November baskets and those who helped putting the baskets together at the meeting. The baskets were delivered to the Community Center and delivered to needy families.



We will be collecting items and putting another 5 baskets together for December. You will be receiving a separate email from sign up genius with the list of nonperishable items needed. **Please sign up by picking items from the list to bring to the December 13th meeting.** If you cannot make the meeting you can still participate. Please reach out to me and we can make arrangements for a meet or drop off of the items you are donating. Along with nonperishable items we will also be including a \$25 ShopRite gift card in each basket. I will have these gift cards listed in \$5.00 increments for anyone who wishes to donate towards a portion of a gift card. If you wish to donate the entire \$25 then pick 5 of the \$5 items listed.

If you have any questions or have any difficulties with the sign up genius please reach out to me via email lisa-andreini@comcast.net, or via text or phone at 732-692-3309. Thank you

• **NJSFWC Day Of Service- Monday Jan 16, 2023** : Stephanie Carr, College District Chair, 732-668-5430
The Day of Service honors the founding of the Federation, and this year's event will coincide with the National Day of Service.
The NJSFWC Day of Service, will be an opportunity to work with the **Community Foodbank of NJ**. It is the largest anti-hunger and anti-poverty organization in the state, with more than 800 local community partners distributing needed food items to food pantries, soup kitchens, child and senior feeding centers, emergency shelters, and mobile pantries.



The Day of Service project is to supply food items for a variety of meal kits (clubs can choose from 4 types), that the foodbank partners will distribute. Our club will providing the items to fulfill the **Healthy-Lifestyle- Meal-Kit**. These items, along with those from all other College District clubs, will be brought to the NJSFWC Headquarters on Jan 16 (10AM-1PM) and be packed into bagged meal kits.

You can sign up to provide the items for a complete meal kit (cost approx. \$18) or partial items via Sign Up Genius, later in December (as we do for the Holiday baskets) and bring them to our January meeting. If you'd rather bring items for the meal kit to this month's meeting, the list of what we need for each meal kit is attached in the email with this newsletter. Any of the listed items are needed.

We will also be asking for volunteers (from all clubs in the district) to help set-up and assemble the bags, and a sign-up sheet will also be at the meeting.



Fundraising

- **Tricky Tray – Lisa Andreini**, lisa-andreini@comcast.net (732-692-3309), **Stephanie Carr**, stephpto@comcast.net, (732-668-5430) **Co-Chairs**

Save the Date: FWC Tricky Tray will be held on **Friday March 17th** at the Franklin High School.

We are continuing the gift basket theme **Travel**. ✈ For this month. If you would like, please bring in items related to Travel. Some ideas are luggage tags, travel bottles for liquid, reusable water bottle, travel pillow, think of an item that is helpful to you when you travel. These items must be new/unused items.

Also please consider donating any new/unused gift items you have or any gift cards you may receive that you won't use. These items can be brought to a meeting or contact Stephanie/Lisa.

Another item we are in need of are any extra baskets you may have or receive during the holiday, and we will also need clean newspaper (to use for basket filler) for basket making. Please save any you have to bring to the January meeting.

For those interested in volunteering to help with basket assembly there will be a sign-up sheet at the check in table at the General meeting. If you have any questions regarding the basket assembly, see Stephanie.

We will also be needing some 6 Foot long tables to borrow for January until the tricky tray, to use for basket making and storage of baskets in Stephanie's basement. If you have any tables and can loan them to us, please let Stephanie know as soon as possible.

- **Shop Rite Gift Cards** – Stephanie Carr

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. The Holidays are coming ! Cards will be available at all club meetings and events, and you can also contact Stephanie anytime.

- **Terri Lynn Nuts and Candy** – Delores Still, gvxm33a@prodigy.net

In case you've forgotten about our ongoing Terri Lynn fundraiser, here's a reminder from Joanne Murset!



It is easy to follow our club's link (below) and place an order. During the summer I placed an order on a Monday and received it on Friday! I suspect shipping times are a bit longer during the holidays. What I like best about the fundraiser is the low shipping cost, only \$5; free if your order is \$30 or more.

I just placed another order for \$38 in merchandise. \$7.60 (20%) will be donated back to the club! I ordered a granola I like, pecan halves for baking (I compared to Stop & Shop and Terri Lynn was cheaper) and a box of Dark Chocolate Sea Salt Caramels that I will give as a hostess gift to the cousin hosting Christmas dinner.

With shipping so low, you could even ship something to a faraway friend or relative as a gift! (No gift message option as far as I know, but easy enough to send a card or text to let them know that you've sent them a little gift from Terri Lynn!)

Here's our fundraising link:

<https://franklin-womans-club.terrilynn.com/>

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

Many club members are looking for extra ways they can help Emmanuel Cancer Foundation during the Holidays. Since this will be the first time in three years in-person Holiday Parties will be held, ECF wanted to fulfill the Wish Lists of all the children they support. To make it easier for supporters to help, they have created two Amazon Links that members can select and order from.

The items will be shipped to the ECF offices and the children will receive the gifts for the Holidays. Keep in mind that ECF fulfills wish lists for all the children in the family, so the need is great.



<https://a.co/4ZWQwuu>

<https://a.co/cuHGEp8>

Sunshine – Kathy Deily_



If anyone needs Sunshine, e-mail Kathy Deily at kdeily142@yahoo.com to send a card

\$ 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>



December Birthdays

December 5 - Delores Still
December 10 - Alice Beals
December 12 - Wendy Wright
December 21 - Beate Utz
December 27 – Valerie Buckner

- **An Evening at Carnegie Hall** (submitted by Nancy Gale) - On November 28 my family was excited to attend the world premiere concert of "The Holiday Music of Mary McDonald" at New York City's Carnegie Hall. Even better, my sister-in-law, Betsy Leonard, was part of the Distinguished Concerts International NY choir that

performed in the Isaac Stern Auditorium. The holiday music was joyous, and we were all thrilled and very proud of Betsy!



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 Women's Clubs around the state, check out this link to the NJSFWC's Dec Almanac - <https://njsfwc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/December2022ALMANACWebsite.pdf>