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Fortnightly Flash

A publication of the Evening Membership Department of The Haddon Fortnightly



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NJSFWC of GFWC EMD and Garden Districts

March 2024



Chairman's Report- Kim Otto

Did you know that March is designated as Women's History Month? Women's History Month is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture and society and has been observed annually in the month of March in the United States since 1987. The 2024 theme celebrates "Women Who Advocate for Equity, Diversity and Inclusion." This theme recognizes women who understand the need to eliminate bias and discrimination from individuals' lives and institutions.

One such woman was Jane Cunningham Croly (1828-1901), a professional New York journalist who wrote under the pen name of Jennie June. The General Federation of Women's Club's (GFWC) roots can be traced back to when Jane Cunningham Croly attempted to attend a dinner at an all-male press club honoring British novelist Charles Dickens. Croly was denied admittance based upon her gender, and, in response, she formed a club for women. She chose the name Sorosis, a Greek word meaning "an aggregation; a sweet flavor of many fruits."

In 1890, Croly extended an invitation to women's clubs throughout the United States to attend a ratification convention in New York City. Sixty-three clubs attended and took action to form the GFWC, of which the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs and The Haddon Fortnightly are members.

Financial Secretary - Ann Gallagher

Annual Dues are due April 1st.

The dues for the 2024-2025 club year will be \$65. Please make your check payable to EMD of Haddon Fortnightly and send it to Ann Gallagher, 406 Avondale Avenue, Haddonfield, NJ 08033 or bring your check to an upcoming meeting.

Also, the Finance Committee will be meeting to determine which charities should receive contributions at our fiscal year-end in April. Please let Ann know which charities you believe the EMD should continue to make a donation to as part of our year-end donations.

Thank you everyone!

First Vice-Chairman - Marianne Fisher

Joanne Tarditi has advised her email address is incorrect in the yearbook. The correct address is jgtarditi@verizon.net.

Achievement Day and Garden District Spring Conference is April 18th at Pennsauken Country Club. I have forms for Arts and Culture entries. They are due to Garden District Arts & Culture Chairman Joelle Wentz by March 31st. See me for forms and questions.

Civic Engagement & Outreach Day will be on March 7th in Manalapan at the Battleground Country Club from 10am-3pm. Cost is \$55.00 and includes luncheon. RSVP by February 20th. Learn how to avoid scams; learn about Operation Jersey Cares; be introduced to a slate of officers running for state board of directors. There will be no District level Civic Engagement & Outreach days.

Garden District Arts Performing Day is March 22nd at 10:30am at Salem Community College. Contact Gerri Tabako to RSVP.

The 130th NJSFWC Conventions is scheduled for May 6 – 8, 2024 at the Hard Rock Hotel in Atlantic City. If you are interested, please save the date.

Thanks to all Committee Chairmen who submitted year-end reports. The NJSFWC 2023 reports have been completed! The summary will be in March Flash and Forecaster.

Susan Chambers, NJSFWC First Vice President believes we are underestimating the number or volumes of items we donate or events we conduct. I have some ideas to share with each chair which might help our reporting efforts. I plan to talk to each of you individually since we may need to tweet the forms after getting your input.

Arts - Cinema - Marianne Fisher

Come see Argyle at the Cinemark Theater in Somerdale at 12:30 on February 21st.

Bridge and Games - Carol McConville

YAY! Bridge is back! **Couples Bridge** hostess is Pat Underwood on Sat., 3/16. **Women's Bridge** hostess is Ann Frost on Wed., 3/20. We welcome new members, also! Please contact the hostesses or Carol McConville if you can play! Looking forward to seeing you!

Arts Literature - Mary Louise Lavery

Our selection for March is The Lemon Tree: An Arab, A Jew, and The Heart of the Middle East by Sandy Tolan. If you are hearing about the current warfare in the Middle East, and you feel you don't know enough about the history of the area, this is the book for you. It was published in 2006, but it reveals the past history of the area from the eyes of both an Arab and a Jew. The book contains maps which are helpful, and it tells the true story of the dialogue between two people over the decades.

Nominations Chairman - Mary Louise Lavery

The Nominations Committee is proud to report the following members are proposed for officers for the next 2 years.

Treasurer: Ann Gallagher

Corresponding Secretary: Charlotte Hartman

2nd Vice Chairman: Mary Holben



Project and Community Improvement Project(CIP) - Tina Novak

We are collecting nutritious food for a local food bank. Please bring your donations to a Board or Business meeting. In April we will be collecting items for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation – please stay tuned for details.

We are collecting sandwiches between 9 and 9:30 AM at the clubhouse on Wednesday, March 20th for Cathedral Kitchen. Did you know? “Cathedral Kitchen provides over 100,000 meals per year, in addition to providing meals to local after school programs and other organizations.” Please contact Tina (gwd3333@aol.com) if you will be making sandwiches or if you have any questions. Thank you.

Food Pantry - Joanne Morris

"Remember the Pantry"

Ways and Means - Tina Novak

Our **One Pound Auction** was a lot of fun and we raised a bunch of money! Thank you Lois.

By the time you read this, we will have already enjoyed our delicious and entertaining **Progressive Dinner**. Debbe will share the details at our March Board and Business Meetings.

Our annual **Flea Market** will be held on Saturday, March 9th from 9 AM to 2 PM. We will be collecting donations and setting up during the preceding week. We could use a little help! Please contact Mary Ann McMahon to see where we need you the most.

Progressive Dinner - Debbe Mervine

The party's over. It's time to call it a day 🎵.

What a delightful evening we had. It was Greek all the way - from the tajiki to the pasticcio all the way to the baklava.

I thank ev 🎵 everyone who participated. It takes our EMD village to make this happen. 🥰💕💕

Joint Ventures - Susan Dewey

Stay at Home Tea - Kim Otto

This is your friendly reminder to please send in your donation for The Stay at Home Tea! Any donation is greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Spelling Bee - Marie DiMatties

The Haddon Fortnightly Spelling Bee took place February 1st. Thank you to the members of the EMD and the General Club who volunteered their time to make this year's Spelling Bee another success: Denise Sellers, Marie Balotin, Betty Eastwick, Liz Olson, Charlotte Hartman, Fran Miller and of course, my Co-Chairman Susan Schmidt.

The Bee ended after 14 rounds with the word **January** and the following winners.

1st place Justin Mayro - Elizabeth Haddon School

2nd place Zoya Orme - Elizabeth Haddon School

3rd place Brandon Schwenk - Central School

Alternate Jack Crookshank - Central School



The winners will go on to the Garden District Spelling Bee on February 25th at The Haddon Fortnightly.

Second Vice-Chairman - Barbara Valentino

April Showers Bring May Flowers and our Speaker, Hazel Cerra. As a United States Secret Service Agent / Assistant to the Special Agent in Charge (ATSAIC), Hazel will share about her fascinating and extensive 22 year path to the top as a leader in the most prestigious federal law enforcement in the United States. Raised in NJ as a Cuban immigrant, Hazel will expand upon her background, career, struggles and personal hobbies. including her volunteer time coaching a CyberPatriot team in the Civil Air Patrol. Guests are welcomed for this inspiring and insightful evening. Speaker Suggestion: Pat Barnes

*Change in Program: Reschedule from January.



Luncheon/Fashion Show - Debbe Mervine

It's later than we think!

APRIL 13TH is just around the corner. It's time to get your table reservations in to Cheryl Walmsley and your donations over to the McMahon's back porch.

Your postal cancellation date puts you in the queue for preferential seating.

I'm looking forward to

the spring fashions 🌻🌺🦋🐰🏠👗🌸🌴🌻.

Actually, I'm looking forward to SPRING in all it's glory. I'll bet you are too!

Interesting Information - Marianne Fisher

I came across the following in “The Old Farmer’s Almanac” by Robert B. Thomas. Every month there is a description of how the month was named and a story based on an event in the month. I found it interesting and wanted to share it with all of you.

I would like your feedback whether you like it or not and if you want me to continue putting it in the Flash.

February comes from the Latin word februa, which means “to cleanse”. The month was named after the Roman Februalia, which was a month long festival of purification and atonement.

WAS VALENTINE’S DAY ONCE WARMER?

When Valentine’s Day became popular in the Middle Ages, the climate was warmer than it is now. Birds mated. Flowers bloomed. And love blossomed. If it had been wintry weather, would this holiday still be the same today?

Identifying past weather patterns is always controversial, but history seems to show that a thousand years ago, the weather was very warm in Europe compared to today.

Greenland really has some green pastures, and Vikings ran cattle. During this period, springtime in Italy frequently began in mid-February.

And ever notice that poems describing the weather in England sound like sunny Italy?

Chaucer, widely considered the greatest poet of the Middle Ages, associated the feast of St. Valentine with the mating impulses of birds – which were thought to be looking for their mates on February 14.

Indeed, the feast of St. Valentine has been associated with love since the Middle Ages.

The Medieval Warm Period

The Medieval Warm Period (MWP), which roughly coincided with the Middle Ages in Europe, lasted from c.950 to c.1250. It was a time of relatively warm conditions said to have prevailed in various parts of the world, though predominantly in the Northern Hemisphere from Greenland eastward through Europe and parts of Asia.

Possible causes of the MWP included solar activity, decreased volcanic activity, and changes to ocean circulation.

This warm period was followed by a decline in temperature levels. This was called “The Little Ice Age” because it was the coldest phase since the last ice age occurred.

Originally, the Romans had a mid-February fertility festival, Lupercalia, to celebrate the change of seasons. In A.D. 496, Pope Gelasius I replaced the raunchy affair with a saint’s day: St. Valentine Day.

That should have ended everything. St. Valentine was a nice guy who was kind to children, helped the early Christians, and was executed on February 14. There was nothing lusty about him. However, some legends say he healed and befriended his

Jailkeeper’s daughter and sent her a farewell note “From your Valentine”.

So, what do you get when you combine a romantic saint and the beginning of spring? A mushy mid-February holiday!

By the MWP, societies from England to Italy cheerfully celebrated this saint’s day with villages pairing up young men and women for dances and dalliances.

What is Solar Winter?

Technically, solar winter ends on February 5. This is the (darkest) quarter of the year with the least amount of daylight for the Northern Hemisphere. It lasts from November 5 to February.

After the end of solar winter, the Northern Hemisphere enters the time of year when the sun's rays are getting stronger. Until April, day length across the Northern Hemisphere will grow at its quickest rate.

Of course, with both our air and ocean temperatures, there is always a phenomenon called "seasonal lag". The warmth from the summer and fall months carries into the first part of winter, just like the cold from winter will carry into the first part of spring.

Even in the Little Ice Age, people noticed that the days were becoming sunnier. It might have been hard to gather flowers, but romance continued to bloom on February 14.



IMPORTANT DATES

Sunday, March 1 - Garden District Spelling Bee Snow date - 1:00pm

Monday, March 4 - General Club Reading Circle, 12:30pm

Tuesday, March 5 - EMD Executive Board Meeting, 7:30pm clubhouse

Wednesday - Friday, March 6-8 - EMD Flea Market Set-Up

Thursday, March 7 - Garden District Civic Engagement and Outreach Day

Saturday, March 9 - EMD Flea Market, 9:00am-2:00pm, clubhouse

Sunday, March 10 - Forecaster Deadline

Daylight Savings Time Begins

Tuesday, March 12 - EMD Business Meeting, 7:30pm, clubhouse

Friday, March 15 - April Flash Deadline

General Club Business Meeting, 1:00pm, clubhouse

Saturday, March 16 - EMD Partner's Bridge - 7:30pm, Pat Underwood's home

Wednesday, March 20 - Open House - Membership Meeting and Greeting

Women's Bridge - 7:30 pm, Ann Frost's home

Sandwich Drop-off, 9-9:30am, clubhouse

Friday, March 22 - Garden District Performing Arts Day Festival

Sunday, March 31 - Easter

The Haddon Fortnightly

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