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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 2025



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 2025 theme celebrates "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence of women who have dedicated their lives to education, mentorship and leadership.

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.

NJSFWC Garden District Day of Service - Tina Novak

Seven Garden District Clubs participated and collected 2,418 items valued at \$5,172. As a whole, all the NJSFWC Clubs collected a total of 11,368 items valued at \$55,993. Donations were delivered to the Center for Family Services.



First Vice-Chairman - Marianne Fisher

The NJSFWC is encouraging members to attend the Civic Engagement and Outreach Day on Thursday, February 20, 2025, at the Merchantville Community Center. If interested, please see Marianne Fisher.

NJSFWC Reports

I want to thank everyone for your help in providing information for the reports. By doing the reports, I learned an enormous amount and realized I did not do my due diligence last year. This year I will continue to ask for your information, but I will also read and review your material and may ask for more information if needed. We do an enormous lot of work but do not always give ourselves enough credit. With your help we will change that.

Here are some examples I want to bring to your attention.

1. I need reports on small fundraisers like the one-pound auction. Please provide the number of items being auctioned, number of hours and the net profit.
 2. Hope Pantry – When you give groceries to Joanne also provide her with the number of items, time you spent and the dollar value. We should not expect Joanne to guess these figures. This should also apply to Mother's Matter and Little Hands and Little Feet when donating clothes such as fuzzy socks.
 3. Everyone who does any type of exercise should complete "Let's Get Moving – 2025 Activity Log or provide the date, your name, exercise type and number of hours.
 4. In 2023 we reported 22 pounds of tabs. In 2024 we reported 3 pounds. Please save your tabs off soda, soup, dog/cat food cans. If you cannot get to Marianne Wonson, bring them to our Business meeting and I will get them to her house. Also, if you are having trouble removing the tab, clean the lid and bring it to our Business meeting and I will take care of removing the tabs.
 5. Make sure to list any original activity you add to an event. For example, 3D printer ornament made for the top sponsors in the Haddonfield Snowflake Run.
- If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Community Affairs and Legislation - Tina Novak

We held our EMD Day of Service on MLK Day. We made 38 fleece blankets for Operation Smile. Tina has material for 9 more blankets! Please email Tina (gwd3333@aol.com) if you would like some fabric and directions. We will also be collecting blankets at our March meetings.



Special State Project and Community Improvement Project(CIP) - Tina Novak

We are still making sandwiches for Cathedral Kitchen. Our next collection date is March 19th. Please contact Tina to participate and/or for directions.

The New Jersey Children's Alliance provides assistance to victims of child abuse. We are continuing our collection of UBER gift cards in \$25.00 denominations. The cards will be used to bring families to counseling and other appointments.

We still need food donations for a foodbank in Haddon Township. Please bring your items to our business meetings or contact Joanne Morris to make alternate arrangements.

Membership/Reception/History/Archives - Claressa Walker

Message from membership : An Open house will be held Thursday, March 6, 2025, 7:00pm at The Haddon Fortnightly. Please send names and contact information to Claressa Walker or Kim Otto for submission of invitations.

Second Vice-Chairman - Mary Holben

On March 11th we will welcome Alex Wills as our speaker. She is the Community Relations Director for Cathedral Kitchen. Many of us know some of the great work the Cathedral Kitchen does for the community, but I'm sure we will learn much more. Please come out and join us.





Ways and Means - Tina Novak

One Pound Auction – Lois Edmund: Thanks to Lois, we had lots of fun and we raised \$163. Thank you all for your generosity.

Progressive Dinner – Marianne Fisher: Marianne prepared a delicious dinner and we had a delightful evening. Special thanks to all our hostesses: Mary Louis Lavery, Kim Otto, Lois Edmund, Mary Ann Zaleski, Mary Ann McMahon and Debbe Mervine.

Comedy Night – Sooze Dewey: Comedy Night featured Dena Blizzard and Bob Marsdale. It was a wonderful evening.

Comedy Night - Sooze Dewey

As part of the Ways and Means committee, I want to thank everyone who came out and supported our comedy night. It was such fun. I have to give a shout out to Lois for her table décor as well as a wonderful display of sandwiches, hot and cold appetizers and many desserts. The audience enjoyed them all. Thank you to all the many food donations both colorful and delicious. Thanks to Ann Gallagher and Bob Morris for manning the registration table and Marie Balotin for selling our 50/50 tickets and Dan Holben for the sound system and Haddonfield Plays and Players for lending us 2 lights. To my delight, the winner donated the \$73 back to the club. I don't have the totals yet but given the snowstorm that was expected I'm thrilled that so many people braved the forecast. Thank You All!

Irish Spring Luncheon and Basket Raffle – Ann Gallagher and Mary Ann McMahon: We will be enjoying performances from the Jordan-Hunt School of Irish Dance and from the Paul VI High School Jazz Ensemble. Please join us for an entertaining afternoon on **March 15, 2025** at Tavistock!

Casino Night – Pat Barnes: **April 5, 2025. Denim and Diamonds!** Don't miss this spectacular new event! Pat has more news to share!

MGB BAND - Mary Holben: **April 26, 2025** Once again, the MGB Band will be playing your favorite rock and roll tunes for your listening and dancing pleasure! Come join us on **Saturday, April 26, 7-10pm, BYOB and BYOF. Water and light snacks will be provided. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. See Mary for tickets!**



Arts/Cinema/Literature/Performing - Debbe Mervine



Literature: Debbe Mervine

"On a cold and windy night" the Book Club met at the home of Peggy Taylor expecting some delicious refreshments. We were not disappointed. Coffee, tea and hot chocolate were offered and eagerly accepted. Chocolate cookies and orange cake were also our rewards for braving the elements.

Once fortified, our attention shifted to a thorough discussion of "The Stolen Queen," a book written by the noted author Fiona Davis.

We braved mummy curses, tomb raiders, long lost loves and youthful enthusiasms. We also got a glimpse into Egyptology and the workings of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in NYC. It was a satisfying ride.

Next up we will delve into how we came to know of Van Gogh's artwork.

The date is March 18, at the home of Debbe Mervine - 458 Elm Ave. The book is "The Secret Life of Sunflowers" by Marta Molnar . You won't want to miss it.

Cinema - Marianne Fisher

Come join us on Wednesday, February 19th at 12:15PM to see Love Hurts, an action/comedy at Cinemark in Somerdale.



Performing Arts - Susan Dewey

As part of the ARTS committee I have been asked to continue giving you a local theatre update.
UPCOMING:

South Camden Theatre opens HOLLYWOOD Nebraska Feb 28th plus a new playread one Monday a month at 7PM for free.

Ritz Theatre just opened KINKY BOOTS and it is a winner.

HP&P (Haddonfield Plays & Players) is opening STEEL MAGNOLIAS with the best M'Lynn after Sally Fields.

BCF (Burlington County Footlighters) is getting ready for FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

BToP (Broadway Theatre of Pitman) is opening JERSEY BOYS. If you haven't seen this show, stop everything because you are going to love it and will recognize every song from our youth.

The Walnut Street Theatre opened Noel Coward's Hay Fever.



The Haddon Fortnightly Spelling Bee - Marie DiMatties and Susan Schmidt

Congratulations to ALL the amazing spellers from Central, Elizabeth Haddon, Tatem, Christ the King and Haddonfield Friends schools that participated in The Haddon Fortnightly Spelling Bee this year.

After eighteen nail biting rounds, the winning word was u-n-i-v-e-r-s-i-t-y.

The winners are as follows:

1st place Robbie Abella - Elizabeth Haddon School

2nd place Lilia Mensah - Haddonfield Friends School

3rd place Rohan Khwaja - Central School

Alternate - Jessica Steward - Central School

The top three winners will go on to compete at the Garden District Spelling Bee on Sunday February 23rd at The Haddon Fortnightly. Registration is at 1 pm Bee begins promptly at 2 pm.

Thank you to the volunteers from both the General Club and the EMD for helping to make the Spelling Bee a success. It has been a pleasure!

Photos by: Debbie Troy Photography



The
Spelling
Bee

IMPORTANT DATES



Saturday, March 1 - Your EMD Dues are Due!

**Monday, March 3 - General Club Reading Circle, 12:30 PM
Trustee Meeting, 3:30 PM**

Tuesday, March 4 - EMD Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 PM, clubhouse

Wednesday, March 5 - General Club Executive Board meeting, 10:00 AM

Thursday, March 6 - Open House Membership Meeting & Greeting, 7 - 9 PM

Monday, March 10 - Forecaster Deadline

Tuesday, March 11 - EMD Business Meeting, 7:30 PM, clubhouse

**Saturday, March 15 - EMD Spring Luncheon, Tavistock
April FLASH Deadline**

**Tuesday, March 18 - Arts/Literature Meeting, 7:30 PM, Debbe Mervine's
home**

**Wednesday, March 19 - Cathedral Kitchen Sandwich drop-off, 9:00-9:30 AM
Women's Bridge, 7:30 PM
Movie - Cinemark, Somerdale**

Friday, March 21 - General Club Business Meeting, 1:00 PM

Saturday, March 22 - Partner's Bridge, 7:30 PM

Wednesday, March 26 - International Dinner, 6:30 PM, clubhouse

Friday, March 28 - Garden District Performing Arts Day Festival

The Haddon Fortnightly

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