



Bits & Pieces

GFWC Vernon Township Woman's Club

March 2026

Volume 17 Issue 3

Next Meeting: March 26, 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fran Gialanella

Greetings to all in this blustery and unpredictable month. Thanks to all who helped out with our cookie project in February and I was happy to learn that the folks at the Homestead were thrilled with all the wonderful cookie bags they received so that is a win for us. On the negative side, as many of you know, we are not going to be doing our Easter fundraiser at Heaven Hill this year and I am not sure how that bodes for the fall and the Halloween fest there either. Hopefully, we can keep it, since it is our biggest fundraiser, but we do need to try and come up with some new ideas on how to raise money for our many projects.

Maria Dorsey is willing to lead the charge for a raffle and that is appreciated. In addition, we are scheduled to convene a budget meeting to discuss next year and get a budget in place by May. More to come on that and, hopefully, some ideas will come from that effort as well. I know that our Nominating Committee is also hard at work to come up with a new slate of officers for the next two years and, as I mentioned last month, if anyone is interested in being a part of the Board, please let the Committee know.

I hope to see as many of you as possible for our monthly meeting on the 26th for what promises to be a great program as well as a vote on our amended By-Laws. The other important thing to remember for the March meeting is that Judy Phillips will be collecting dues for the 2026-2027 year at the new rate of \$50 and money must be submitted to the state by May 1. We hope that everyone will rejoin the club for another year.

See you soon.

Fran

2026 EVENTS CALENDAR

*** Contact Maria Dorsey, Federation Secretary, if interested in any of the NJSFWC or District events**

- March 26 VTWC Meeting—The Weekend Bag Program -
Donations Gently Requested
- April 8 * Highlands District Spring Conference & Achievement Day,
Hanover Manor, East Hanover, NJ
- April 13 * GCI Orientation, Roxbury Senior Center, 1:30 pm
- April 23 VTWC Meeting—Rutgers Cooperative Extension
Master Gardeners Presentation
- April 27 Taste of Vernon 2026, Red Tail Lodge, Mountain Creek, NJ
- May 3-6 * NJSFWC 132nd Annual Convention, Hard Rock Hotel,
Atlantic City, NJ—Theme: “When Friends Gather”
- May 28 VTWC Meeting—Presentation related to Mental Health
(May is national Mental Health Month)
- June 1-4 * Girls’ Career Institute, Douglass Residential College at
Rutgers University
- June 11 * Highlands District Council Meeting—Vernon Township
Woman’s Club, 21 Church Street, Vernon, New Jersey
- June 25 VTWC Meeting—Summer Sendoff

2025-2026 VTWC Leadership

Executive Board

President	Fran Gialanella
First Vice President	MJ Palmer (Programs)
Second Vice President	Fran Janusko (Fundraising)
Treasurer	Judy Phillips (Ways & Means)
Recording Secretary	Donna Maher
Corresponding Secretary	Linda Hibbert
Federation Secretary	Maria Dorsey (traditionally outgoing President)

Committee Chairs

Communications	Maria Dorsey (Facebook and Media)
Internal Communications	Karen Breese (Newsletter “Bits & Pieces”)
Webmaster	Deborah Fagnan
Membership	Joan Danaher

Department Chairs

Advocates for Children	Fran Gialanella
Birth Haven	Rosetta Peterson
Dulce Esperanza	Meg Gleason
Ginnie’s House	Donna Maher
Arts Performing & Arts & Culture	Dee Garbarino
Civic Engagement & Outreach	Debra Piccirillo
Veterans & Military Support	Debra Piccirillo
International Affairs	Lisa Mills
Birthday Bags	Lisa Thomas, Judy Phillips
Benny’s Bodega	Lisa Murphy
DASI	Lisa Murphy
Market Street Mission	Pat Berls, Joanne Matthes
Project Self-Sufficiency	Joan Danaher, Dee Garbarino
WAFO (Warwick Area Farmworkers Organization)	Meg Gleason
Education & Libraries	Valerie Seufert
Environment & Conservation	Maria Dorsey
Health & Wellness	Karen Szepietowski
Blankets with Care	Karen Szepietowski
Comfort Pillows	Reba Burrell
Vial of Life	Rosemarie Guidice
Special State Project (The NJ Children’s Alliance)	Fran Gialanella
President’s Scrapbook	Nancy Speruta and Maryann DiCola



The Origin Story of the General Federation of Women's Clubs

Randi Quilici, NJSFWC Historian, was unavailable to speak at our March meeting, so she sent the speech inserted below, which she presented at the district meeting last Fall. Enjoy!

Today, I'd like to take you on a journey, a story of vision, determination, and the women who turned an idea into a lasting legacy. It's the story of how the **General Federation of Women's Clubs**, our parent organization, was born, and how our beautiful **Headquarters in New Brunswick** came to be.

Let's start back in **1868**, when a pioneering journalist named **Jane Cunningham Croly** founded *Sorosis*, a women's literary club. At the time, women had very few places to gather, share ideas, or influence change. But Jane Cunningham Croly believed in the power of women's voices.

Twenty-two years later, in **1890**, she invited **63 women's literary clubs** from around the country to a convention in New York City. That gathering gave birth to the **General Federation of Women's Clubs**, with a mission to help local clubs get organized and work together to push for real reform, in health, education, conservation, and government.

At that first convention, **Charlotte Emerson Brown** of Orange, New Jersey, was chosen as the very first National President. Just three years later, in **1893**, the General Federation of Women's Clubs was officially incorporated in Newark.

The movement caught fire. Within four years, **26 state Federations** had formed, and on **November 16, 1894**, **New Jersey** became the **eighth** to join.

From **1894 to 1964**, we grew steadily, but members didn't have a home base. Meetings rotated across the state, from members' homes to YMCAs, hotels, and even at a President's home in Plainfield.

For decades, the club women discussed the idea of building a headquarters, which would be centrally located for the convenience of all members in NJ, and would provide adequate facilities for the operation of Federation affairs.

How many of you have visited the Headquarters in New Brunswick?
Perhaps the rest of you might visit soon.

In **1964**, a woman of courage and clear vision, **Levenia Taylor**, was installed as our 29th State Federation President. And in her acceptance speech at Convention, she made a bold promise that the primary project of her administration would be to build a truly permanent State Federation Headquarters. She was given a standing ovation, a vote of confidence which lasted for several minutes. Her dream had struck a chord with the members.

President Taylor began working closely with **Elizabeth Alton**, a past State President and member of the Rutgers University Board of Governors. Past President Alton arranged a meeting with **Dr. Mason Gross**, President of Rutgers. He was familiar with the work of Federation and its strong support for Douglas College, which had been founded by NJSFWC. Dr. Gross was moved by our work and had a deep respect and affection for the Federation, which he exhibited by showing Mrs. Alton the 2 acres of land on Rutgers property which the current Headquarters building stands today.

Elizabeth Alton then connected with **Philip Levin**, a Rutgers Board member, lawyer, contractor, and entrepreneur. He had an architect draft up plans, free of charge, for a beautiful **colonial-style building**. The estimated cost was over **\$100,000**. Remember, this was 1964 when an average home in NJ was \$20,000.

During the discussion of fundraisers, the trading stamp idea was popular with members and approved to raise money. How many of you remember using trading stamps?

It was very popular at the time.

The fundraising campaign was called the “**Stamp of Approval**” Project. Every one of the **44,000 Federation members** in New Jersey was asked to donate one filled S&H Green Stamp book, or two dollars in cash. Arrangements were made to redeem the S&H green stamp filled books for cash. The Evening and Junior Membership Departments joined in enthusiastically.

On May 14, 1965, the 50-year lease was officially signed by NJSFWC President Levenia Taylor with a renewal clause and an annual rental fee of \$880. The actual cost of this building was nearly \$145,000. By July 1965, club women raised over \$53,000 from trading stamps alone. President Taylor selected a qualified contractor whose wife was a member of a woman’s club, and she wanted it built right.

Support poured in from every direction.

General Electric offered to install the kitchen appliances free of charge. The Headquarters Committee did not know that a prominent and influential member of Rutgers University Board of Governors was a top-ranking Vice President of General Electric.

The Headquarters Committee learned that Public Service Gas and Electric Company would install the gas free of charge, courtesy of the efforts of Frederick Holman, husband of a committee member. However, there was a setback, the Federation learned that the cost of connecting the sewer system to the street would be an additional \$10,000. Everyone was in a state of shock but continued to move forward.

The parking lot that holds more than 50 cars was finished by April 1966, and the very next day the Federation moved into the building. The accumulated records and equipment were moved to the new building from Newark. A steel flagpole and a flag, which had flown over the Nation’s Capital in Washington, DC were presented by a New Jersey congressman.

Our Headquarters building includes 3,735 square feet on the main floor, along with a partial basement. The board and meeting room measures 83 feet by 45 feet, features a folding partition, and accommodates up to 150 people.

President Levenia Taylor kept her word, and two years later before her administration ended, May 1, 1966, the Headquarters Building was formally dedicated and the cornerstone laid with appropriate ceremonies. Over 300 people attended this dedication and learned that \$134,228.46 had been raised for the Headquarters fund. The dream of nearly 45,000 club women had become a reality.

One year later in April 1967, the Trading Stamp Institute of America presented the Federation with the first “American Homemakers Achievement Award” for raising more than half the funds for the Federation Headquarters by collecting trading stamps. A gift to Federation of one million trading stamps was used to purchase the Sarouk oriental rug still in the foyer today.

If you haven’t been to Headquarters, it’s more than a building. It’s a **symbol** of what we can accomplish when we work together toward a common goal.

As we celebrate our **130th anniversary**, we honor the visionary leaders who came before us, while also recognizing those leading us today.

That includes our current President, **Barbara McCloskey**, who recently created the commemorative **S&H Green Stamp pin**, a nod to the very project that helped build our Federation home. The pins are available to all members and information is on the state website, or you can ask your DVP, Karen Jeisi.

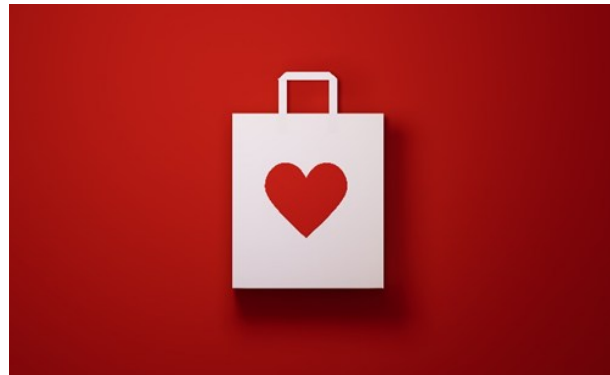
And finally, I want to thank all of you, our NJSFWC members, not only for being here today, but for being part of this incredible legacy.

Whether you've just joined or you’ve been a member for decades, *you* are the continuation of the work that began over 130 years ago. *You* are the reason our Federation still stands strong. And *you* are the future of this organization.

Thank you for everything you do and thank you for the opportunity to share this history with you today.

Randi Quilici, NJSFWC Historian

MARCH MEETING
March 26, 2026 6:30 p.m.
MJ Palmer, First Vice-President
The Weekend Bag Program



I recently had the pleasure of connecting with Dawn from **The Weekend Bag Program**. She is the mother of the young lady who started the program ten years ago. Dawn and her daughter, Magdalen, will be at our March meeting to tell us more about this program. There are currently six schools in Vernon where weekend bags of meals, snacks and hygiene products are available.

If you can donate items for the program, the **most needed** items are:

- Chef Boyardee (any flavor)
- Mac N Cheese (like blue box but could be any brand)
- Tuna (can or pouch)
- Pasta Noodles
- Applesauce Cups

The program is always collecting **non-perishables** such as:

- Soup (Cup/Can)
- Cereal (Box/Cup)
- Fruit Snacks
- Juice and Water Bottles
- Granola Bars
- Ramen

Hygiene items can also be donated:

- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Travel-size tissues
- Deodorant
- Body soap
- Single rolls of toilet paper
- Laundry soap

In addition to donations of goods, there are opportunities to volunteer to help assemble the bags. If you would like to know more now about this organization, you can visit <https://weekendbagprogram.org/>

UPCOMING APRIL MEETING

April 23, 2026 6:30 p.m.

MJ Palmer, First Vice-President

Rutgers Cooperative Extension

Master Gardeners

Born to Bloom



I must admit I am not an outdoor person and am known in the family as the “black thumb” when it comes to taking care of plants. So it was helpful, when thinking about the April meeting, that Maria Dorsey mentioned during the month of April we observe two important “outdoorsy” days, Earth Day and Arbor Day.

Master Gardener Volunteer, Lynn Persico, will speak at our April meeting to enlighten us about assorted topics related to soil and planting. One of our own members, Maureen Blandino, who is also a Master Gardener, will provide support to Lynn. Those of you who have been in the club for many years know we can always count on Maureen to share fun and interesting stories about her work with planting gardens, especially when children assist her.

If you are a gardener of any sort, you will not want to miss our April meeting.

UPCOMING MAY MEETING
May 28, 2026 6:30 p.m.
MJ Palmer, First Vice-President
County of Sussex
Department of Health & Human Services
May is Mental Health Awareness Month



May is recognized as Mental Health Awareness Month in the United States, an annual observance since 1949. The focus aims to reduce stigma, educate the public, provide support resources and highlight the importance of mental well-being for everyone.

Key Goals and Focus Areas:

- **Reducing stigma:** Open conversations to normalize seeking help
- **Education & Resources:** Sharing information on mental health conditions
- **Support & Community:** Highlighting tools like 988 and community support
- **Mental well-being:** Encouraging, self-care, exercise and social connection.

Cindy Armstrong, Sussex County OFR Coordinator in Behavioral Health Services, will be our guest speaker. She will inform us about access to care and help us learn to promote understanding of mental health as an essential part of overall health.

FUNDRAISING
Fran Janusko
Second Vice-President

I am still hopeful that Heaven Hill may call us for the end of March, early April Eggstravaganza. The Easter season is early this year so Kathy at Heaven Hill is unsure of ticket sales. I would, however, like to have a few members on call in the event that she calls for help. Dates are:

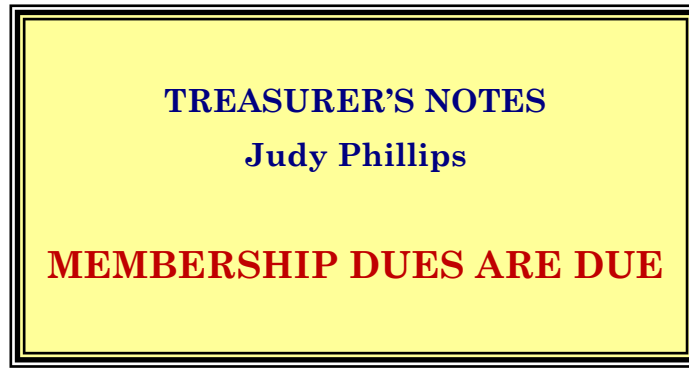
March 28 and March 29
April 3 and April 4
April 11

Tickets for the Taste of Vernon will be available at the meeting. Price is \$55 per ticket or two tickets for \$100. It is an enjoyable evening and one in which the Woman's Club benefits. Please see Kathy VanDerSluys, Maria Dorsey or me for tickets.

50/50 tickets will be available at the meeting. Price is \$5.00 for 8 tickets.

Thank you,
Fran





Hi All:

As noted in the February newsletter, membership dues are due!

All dues must be submitted to Headquarters by May 1, 2026, along with the Yearbook data sheet. This means I only have the meetings in March and April to collect dues from all members.

If you will not be able to attend the meetings, please mail your check for \$50 made payable to the Vernon Township Woman's Club, to the following address:

Judy Phillips
128 Lake Pochung Road
Sussex, NJ 07461

Our club also accepts **VENMO**:

The Club's username is **@VernonTownship-WomansClub**

Thank you,

Judy

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Maria Dorsey

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Donna Maher, Karen Szepietowski and myself, met recently over lunch and we will be contacting members in order to present a slate of officers at the April meeting for the 2026-2028 term. Elections will take place at the May meeting and installation at the June meeting.

The following positions are open to nominations and need to be filled:

- **President**—presides at all meetings
- **First Vice-President**—(Programs)
- **Second Vice-President**—(Ways and Means or Fundraising)
- **Treasurer**—shall receive and deposit all Club funds and make disbursements on approval of the Executive Board and/or General Membership
- **Recording Secretary**—shall keep minutes of the Club
- **Corresponding Secretary**—shall prepare correspondence as directed by the President; retrieve Club's mail from post office.

If you are willing to be nominated to any of these positions, please contact one of us and let us know.

Thank you!
Maria Dorsey
Donna Maher
Karen Szepietowski

FEDERATION SECRETARY

Maria Dorsey

**2026 HIGHLANDS DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE
AND ACHIEVEMENT DAY**

A reminder the Highlands District Spring Conference and Achievement Day is being held on Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at Hanover Manor in East Hanover, New Jersey. We encourage our members to participate in the categories for Achievement Day Entries and showcase their talents.

You don't have to attend the conference to enter the contests. **Dee Garbarino, Arts & Culture Chairperson, will need you to return your entry forms to her no later than March 25 so that they are postmarked no later than March 26.** If you would like form(s) emailed to you, please contact Dee Garbarino at garbarino.dee@gmail.com.

Main categories for Achievement Day Entries

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Jewelry | 2. Door Decoration | 3. Glass Work |
| 4. Paper Art | 5. Holiday | 6. Favors |
| 7. Embroidery/Needlework | 8. Knitting | 9. Crocheting |
| 10. Sewing | 11. Quilting | 12. Cooking |
| 13. Painting-Oil | 14. Painting-Watercolors | 15. Painting-Acrylic |
| 16. Painting on other material or mixed media | | |
| 17. Drawing | | |

PHOTOGRAPHY

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| 18. Our World Up Close | 19. Natural Wonders | 20. Reflections |
| 21. GFWC Living the Volunteer Spirit | | |

FEDERATION SECRETARY

Maria Dorsey

2026 HIGHLANDS DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE

AND ACHIEVEMENT DAY

APRIL 8, 2026

ENVIRONMENT

(continued from Page 14)

Please note that the Achievement Day Entries in the Environment category are judged separately. As this club's Environment Chairperson, I am happy to answer any questions you may have in the Environmental category. Please contact me at [***mariapls@aol.com***](mailto:mariapls@aol.com). Note, the deadline for entries in this category is no later than March 25 so the entries can be postmarked by March 26.

The Environmental entries are divided into divisions:

1. Artistic Design Division
2. Houseplant Division
3. Upcycle

Any questions you may have, I am happy to guide you.

Thank you,
Maria

DOMESTIC & SEXUAL VIOLENCE AWARENESS & PREVENTION

PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION Maria Dorsey

April is the national observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month when Women's Clubs throughout the State launch our Pinwheels for Prevention campaign. The pinwheel is joyful and evokes childlike notions, symbolizing our desire for all children to have happy and healthy childhoods.

It has been the custom of our Club for the past several years to support this campaign during the month of April. We are scheduled to "plant" our Pinwheel Gardens on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at 10:00 am at Vernon Town Hall, the Vernon PAL building and the entrance to Maple Grange Park. Please wear your t-shirts or sweatshirts.

If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Maria Dorsey at mariapls@aol.com to sign up. This activity usually takes about two (2) hours total and members usually gather for an informal lunch afterwards.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

BIRTHDAY BAGS

Lisa Thomas and Judy Phillips

We have 2 birthdays in April and 4 in May for the Homestead Nursing Home residents in Newton. **Please see email from Adriane at the Homestead:**

Good morning!!

Hope you are enjoying this beautiful weather today!!

I am attaching April and May birthday list. We had one birthday last month, Diane, who was in tears when she opened her bag from you all! She was just so pleased and overwhelmed with your generosity!! Thank you so much for all you do for our residents!!!

Adriane Leyman, CTRS, CDP
Director of Recreation

Thank you to all the members for their continued support and donations in making the bags special for the birthday recipients.

Stay well.

Lisa and Judy

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

Domestic Abuse & Sexual Assault Intervention Services (DASI)

Lisa Murphy

It is that time of year again when we will be filling Easter baskets for the residents of the Safe House in Newton, New Jersey. Currently, there are six (6) women and one (1) man at the facility as well as a seven (7) year old girl and a two (2) year old girl. If you are able to make a donation for the Easter baskets, please bring the item(s) to the March meeting. Suggestions provided by DASI include:

For women, wallet or small purse; candy and snacks; puzzle books.

For men, plain (with no writing) baseball cap; candy and snacks; playing cards; puzzle books.

For children, mini-backpack or small purse; age-appropriate crafts or activities; candy and snacks.

For the pantry, items that can be used:

Chef Boyardee (canned and microwavable)
Brand name canned tuna

Thank you,
Lisa

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY

Joan Danaher and Dee Garbarino

Thank you to all who contributed prom gowns as well as wedding gowns and mother-of-the-bride gowns. We also want to extend another thank you for those who contributed shoes, purses and accessories appropriate for formal wear.

As previously advised, we will not be collecting gowns and/or accessories at our March meeting since Project Self-Sufficiency needs these items before that date. The Sister-to-Sister Prom Shop at Project Self-Sufficiency opens to the public on March 21 through March 28.

This shop is open to all girls and women in the county to shop for a gown and accessories for their prom or wedding free of charge regardless of income. It is a wonderful program.

Thank you,
Joan and Dee



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

ANNUAL COOKIE BAKING PROJECT

Valerie Seufert and Barbara Fimia

COOKIES, COOKIES, COOKIES!!!

A big THANK YOU to all our fellow members for shopping, baking and packing such a wonderful variety of cookies that we provide each February for people at the Homestead Nursing Home, DASI and, this year, we also treated our Police Department. After our meeting, all our busy members packed up 147 bags of regular cookies, 12 of sugar-free and 11 of gluten-free cookies. Thank you also to Maureen Blandino and Lisa Murphy, who delivered these goodies to the Homestead and DASI, and MJ Palmer, for delivering some to our Police Department. I am sure they all enjoyed our treats!

There is no need for members to complete a project report for this activity as Valerie will complete one for the project and forward it to Deb Piccirillo.

Thanks again,
Barbara and Valerie



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

MARKET STREET MISSION

Pat Berls and Joanne Matthes



Newton Update

We regret to share some disappointing news. Jeff Lukawski, Site Manager of the Newton Market Street Mission, informed us on March 11 that the Mission will be closing its doors effective April 6, 2026. This decision was not made lightly but follows the increased level of ongoing challenges in the utilization of services necessary to sustain operations at the Newton location.

Jeff and the staff of Market Street Mission have expressed their sincere gratitude for the support provided by our club over the last several months. Your generosity enabled their ministry to serve men in need in the Sussex County area and your assistance was greatly appreciated.

Joanne and Pat

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

WAFO
Warwick Area Farmworker Organization
Meg Gleason

HOMEWORK CLUB

The Homework Club is underway! This program takes place on Tuesday afternoons at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 70 Little York Avenue, Warwick, New York from 4:30—5:30. Tutors work one-on-one with students to complete homework, read together and then wrap up the hour with a board game or puzzle. If you are interested in volunteering your time to this program, please contact Kathy Brieger at kbrieger@sunriver.org or JoBeth Leon at jleon@sunriver.org. You can also reach out to me for more information. You can email me at mmgleason98@yahoo.com or call/text me at 201-906-9814.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

WAFO
Warwick Area Farmworker Organization
Meg Gleason

UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- WAFO will **not** be doing the safety backpacks this year.
- The WAFO food pantry is in need of donations. Items needed include chicken, Masa Harina, canned jalapeno peppers, canned cactus, corn tortillas and small bottles of vegetable oil.
- Volunteers are needed for community health worker practice sessions Monday evenings from 6-8 pm. The CHWs need to practice giving small programs on diabetes. This will be mostly in English or some in Spanish. The person will need to listen and complete papers as if they are a student and will be asked to complete evaluations. These sessions are located at the Alamo and will continue through April.
- Help is needed with giving kids a healthy mini-meal on Wednesdays and Thursdays while school is in session. They are looking for help with getting foods that are healthy. Donations of meat lasagna from Shop Rite are appreciated. There is an oven downstairs that can be used to heat the food up, Groups begin at 5 pm and run to 7 pm usually. If someone is able to provide this food, it would be much appreciated. Generally, about 10 students join the girls' sessions on Wednesday and 10 on Thursday. If school is not in session, no food is needed. This takes place at the Alamo.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT & OUTREACH

WAFO
Warwick Area Farmworker Organization
Meg Gleason

UPDATES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Transportation is needed for outreach programs. This is a paid position and it would be ideal for a college student or someone who has children and cannot work during the day. Please contact Kathy Brieger at kbrieger@sunriver.org directly for more information.
- The women's group needs assistance Tuesday evenings from 6-8. They are looking for someone who can do any of the following: Tai Chi, Yoga, Zumba. They are also looking for someone who knows how to connect with the school systems on Google. The mothers want to know how to use the system that most schools use. They are also looking for small prizes to use at the women's group such as towel sets, perfume, etc. Help is also needed with this group on Sundays for their ESL group—setting up coffee and hot water, serving a meal at 12 and cleaning up. They are also looking for anyone who would be interested in teaching crochet, knitting or any kind of arts/crafts during these meetings.

ENVIRONMENT

VERNON TOWNSHIP CLEAN COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

Maria Dorsey



Once again, our Club will be participating in the Vernon Township Clean Communities Program. I know, that those of you who volunteered for the Litter Crew last year, had so much fun that you would love to do it again! We did get rained out after only two hours, but we earned our Club \$375. This is another opportunity for members to help with fundraising.

I have spoken to Jane Tutolo at the Township of Vernon Department of Public Works and she will notify us when the grant funding comes through so that we can submit an application. We are looking for some time in May and we don't know what street we will be assigned to.

If you would like to volunteer for this project, please contact Maria Dorsey at **(201) 400-4671** or email: **mariapls@aol.com**.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

BLANKETS WITH CARE Karen Szepietowski

Below are the measurements for the blankets we donate to local organizations:

Chemo & Dialysis	28 wide by 45 long	(maximum 30 wide by 50 long)
DASI	36 wide by 60 long	(for beds)
Lap Robes	26 wide by 26 long	
Baby Blankets	29 wide by 29 long	
Rectangles	7 inches by 9 inches	

Hi All:

Just a brief reminder, I continue to collect blankets made by our members. The sizes of the blankets are set forth above. I am happy to collect the blankets from you at the club's monthly meetings. If you cannot attend the meetings, please contact me at karen_szep@yahoo.com to make arrangements for pick-up or drop off.

Thank you,
Karen Szepietowski
Health & Wellness Chair

HEALTH & WELLNESS

OPERATION SMILE Lisa Mills

We donated 48 coloring books, 48 boxes of crayons, 192 sticker sheets and 2,400 sheets of construction paper to Operation Smile to help entertain the children who are undergoing facial surgery. Since its founding in 1982, Operation Smile has performed more than 350,000 surgeries in 60+ countries for children and young adults born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities, all at no cost to the patients.

Lisa

COMFORT PILLOWS Reba Burrell

Things are in the works for donating Pillows and Chemo Port Pillows next week. The auxiliary person for Newton Medical Center will be accepting at least 30 pillows to be given to children and adults. Along with the pillows, I will be donating 35 Chemo Port Pillows. The Port Pillows will be donated to Sparta Cancer Center, Sparta, New Jersey. Their representative will let me know if there is a need for monthly or bi-monthly donations of the Port Pillows.

Making the Port Pillows is a new task for me. It is a warm feeling and exciting to sew something that gives comfort to someone that needs a pillow and will benefit from my efforts.

Reba

Margaret Conti

Margaret is our special friend and likes to receive cards and small “gifts” from us. Any time you would like, send her a card to say “HI”.

Margaret Conti
PafaCom, Inc.
543 East Garden Road
Vineland, NJ 08360

**Reminder: The cost for Margaret’s cards, gifts, etc. each month is the responsibility of the “friend” member. Our budget does not have any monies allocated to reimburse for postage, etc.



Friendly Reminder

If you haven’t already done so, please be sure to review the NJSFWC Website at your leisure (information below). The Vernon Township Woman’s Club Website is now available. Please review at your leisure.

NJSFWC Website

**The New Jersey State Federation of Woman’s Clubs’ website is packed full of information.
www.njsfwc.org**

No log in is necessary.

VTWC Website

**The Vernon Township Woman’s Club website is here for you.
www.vtwc.org**

No log in is necessary.

PLEASE KEEP SAVING

Ongoing Collections

POP TABS—*found on soda cans, pet food, soup cans, etc.*

CHILDREN'S DVDs FOR DASI

GREETING CARDS—*Valerie Seufert volunteers for the Senior Earth Angels in Sussex County. Each December, Valerie and her team put together packages of assorted greeting cards (except Christmas), puzzle books, calendars and note pads for each homebound senior for them to use throughout the year. We often get cards and note pads in the mail from organizations—these are great.*

JUST FOR YOU BAGS—*Items are needed for clients who come into one of the DASI programs and for clients who transition out of the programs. Some items requested are bath towel; body lotion; body wash; brush; ChapStick; comb; shampoo/conditioner; deodorant; face cloth; hand/kitchen towel; oven mitt; pillow case; pillows; potholder; sheet set (twin); soap; socks; sponge; toothbrush/toothpaste.*

Donations are collected through the year. These projects are ongoing.

Thank you all for your donations to these ongoing collections.