



Par - Troy Matter January 2026



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www.parsippanywomansclub.org

"Together in Service; United in Friendship"
Barbara McCloskey, NJSFWC President

A Message from Our Club President Cathy Haney

We've been having a busy January, conducting our annual Spelling Bee and providing the refreshments for the Highlands District Council at Madison, our hand-knitting craft lesson and our MLK Day assistance at the Nourish NJ facility in Dover. Please come to our meeting on January 26 to learn about more plans and activities and to hear the speaker from the Sharing Network about organ donations and transplants.

Soon we'll get started on our 2026 huge fundraiser, mostly for our Education Fund. Stay tuned for an announcement about a kick-off meeting.

Cathy H

UPCOMING EVENTS

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| Dine to Donate at Annabella's | January 21-22 |
| WCPTH General Meeting | January 26 |
| Last plastics collection | January 26 |
| Literature Club Meeting | February 3 |
| Galentine's Day Luncheon | February 12 |
| Highlands District Performing Arts Day | March 11 |
| St Patrick's Day Luncheon | March 19 |
| Highlands District Spring Conference | April 8 |
| Parsippany Shred Day | April 18 |
| Highlands District GCI Orientation | April 19 |
| Barn Theatre Spamalot play | May 17 |
| Highlands District Council Mtg | June 10 |

Education & Library: Betty Lagitch

Donations: Our club gave with great pride the following donations:

The PHS STEM Program: \$500 for a piece of equipment they requested. We are excited to assist and inspire the next generation of innovators and problem solvers.

Spectrum 360: \$500 to purchase gym equipment to this adult day program which helps to enrich adults with autism and related disabilities offering a comprehensive habilitation program, prevocational and vocation services.

Library Donations: \$2,000 to the three Childrens and one Teen Libraries. They were very appreciative of the many activities, games, educational and creative play things our donation would provide.

Thank you to the members who donated a total of 51 books this year.

And thank you to the Library volunteers who volunteered 510 hours to help the Library. I know that Melissa and staff are very thankful for your help.

Friends of the Parsippany Library: \$100 to support as many "free programs" as possible for the community.

Women of Achievement GFWC: \$25 toward a scholarship for a non-traditional student enrolled at Douglass College.

Literacy Volunteers of Morris County: \$100 - last year more than 350 tutors helped almost 700 students improve their lives.

Success for Survivor Scholarship GFWC: \$100 - Recipients have been Intimate Partners of Violence survivors.

Girls Career Institute GCI: \$800 - One Junior student from each High School is chosen to attend a 4 day "mini college" exploration experience at Douglass College.

You should all be very proud of yourselves for the fund raising you have done this past year to enable us to give so much to these various community organizations.

Plastics Collection: Addie Ruffino

I will be collecting plastic at the meeting on the 26th. Club members can also drop off plastic to my house **ON or BEFORE January 26th**. I will no longer be accepting plastic at my house or at the meetings after the 26th.

Federation: Marilyn Marion

Happy New Year to all!

The General Federation of Women's Clubs launched a Learning Academy. This is an online training site, offering numerous courses to meet our members' needs. Members seeking insight and training to advance their skill set and knowledge will find the training videos helpful as they continue their journey as club members. You can go to the GFWC web site to learn more. If you would like to receive newsletters from GFWC contact Joan Garbarino for specifics. We are members of this wonderful organization and should take advantage of what is offered to us. I am assuming you all receive the NJSFWC eConnect for state information, if not Joan can also help you with that too.

Please mark the following very important Highland District dates on your calendar, this way you are sure not to schedule anything else on those days and stand a chance of missing out on attending.

March 11 – Highlands District Performing Arts Day 10:00am This will be held at the Thursday Morning Club, Maison Community House, Madison

April 8 – Highlands District Spring Conference – Arts and Culture Day 10:00am. This will be held at Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Ave. East Hanover

April 19 – Highlands District GCI Orientation 1:30pm. The host club is Roxbury Woman's Club, Roxbury Senior Center, 72 Eyland Ave, Succasunna

June 10 - Highlands District Council Mtg 8pm, Host Vernon Twp Woman's Club – Vernon Senior Center 21 Church St, Vernon

On another note, I am writing the Carol Sas Award year-end report, and I need to know how many of you donated to the 1894 Society. I have ten names so far. They are Cathy Haney, Betty Lagitch, Joan Garbarino, Susan Byrne, Janice Carrubba, Lee Maddocks, Marilyn Marion, Lois Preis White, Janet Reilly and Ginny Scala. This is for the 2025-2026 Club year (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026). If you sent your donation to Headquarters, please let me know. If you have any questions, please contact me directly, do not reply to all.

Membership: 2nd Vice Presidents Janice Carrubba & Ginny Scala

Welcome back ladies. We hope you all had a wonderful Holiday season and are ready to start an exciting 2026 Club year. Why not start the year off right by sitting next to a member that you have never sat next to before, make a new friend. Our Club is growing with so many new members and we don't always have time during the meetings to chat with someone new. If anyone has ideas for an Ice Breaker, we would love to hear them. Hope to see you at our **January 26th** meeting.

"EACH NEW FRIENDSHIP CAN MAKE YOU A NEW PERSON, BECAUSE IT OPENS UP NEW DOORS INSIDE OF YOU."

Domestic Violence: Terry Gerber

Many thanks to everyone for the donations for the Cookie Making Packages. It was a great hit! We will have to remember this for next year!

JBWS is always in need of snacks and drinks for the clients and children. I will have a large tote at the meeting for your contributions!

Valentine's Day is right around the corner. We will distribute a bag of wellness items. I have lip gloss and nail polish, etc. from our distribution day. Jayne has requested toothpaste and shampoo as well (regular size, not the small travel size). You can put these in the tote at the meeting too! Look for an email from me if you would like to help fill the bags (I already have 35 bags to fill!)

Thank you all for your generosity. Domestic abuse is such a frightening state to be in. I want to do whatever I can for them!

Environment: Janet Reilly

The next town-wide shredding event is scheduled for **April 18th** at Parsippany town hall.

Recycling doesn't mean only separating your cans and bottles. It can mean using things a second (or a third) time. That nice padded envelope you got in the mail, for example - instead of throwing it away, scratch out the address, tear off the stamps and use it again.

I am still collecting athletic shoes for recycling.

Advocates for Children: Karen Landrigan

Kathy Schroeder, Janice Carrubba and I collected and delivered 89 gift bags of pajamas to the children at Head Start. Janice will display the thank you notes the children made for the Club at the next meeting.

Ways & Means: First Vice Presidents Chris Sinner and Mary Ann Coyne

Gathering for a social time and enjoying delicious food at Annabella's Pizza & Restaurant has always been a celebrated time. And, here we go again! The flyer was sent out and all of the information is listed. So mark your calendar and choose your dining night-or do both – **Wednesday, January 21st and Thursday, January 22nd.**

Our last Dine to Donate was at the Bonefish; our proceeds amounted to \$137.92.

Cash for Causes continues to draw great proceeds. You purchase gift cards for Stop & Shop or ShopRite from the Club at list price, and we earn a 5% profit from the sales. Our profits for this month amounted to \$130. You made this possible! Thanks a bunch.

Spelling Bee Event: Mary Ann Coyne

Our Spelling Bee was held Friday, January 9th, at the PHHS auditorium. We had the pleasure of seeing hard working, determined and dedicated Fifth Grade contestants. They were so happy and excited to be there along with their parents, family and Club members. There were 14 rounds and the winning word was option. Winners are pictured in the Gallery

Literature: Janet Reilly

The current book we are reading is "Carnegie's Maid" by Marie Benedict. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, **February 3** at Marilyn Marion's home at 1:00 PM. We will discuss our current read and a new book will be given out.

Civic Engagement and Outreach: Susan Byrne

I Support the Girls - At the District Conference, we learned that a fellow member in Verona is collecting for I Support the Girls! We did this a while back and thought we might do a one-time collection. If you have ANY gently used bras (including training bras), menstrual products (open boxes accepted if products are individually wrapped) and NEW women and girls' underwear. Clean out your closets and bring anything you have to our January 26th meeting. Please give the items to Marianne Burke. She will deliver the items to Verona.

NourishNJ - Eight members volunteered at the NourishNJ kitchen in Dover on January 19th for a Day of Service related to food insecurity. We helped in the kitchen peeling and seasoning very large quantities of zucchini and sweet potatoes. NourishNJ provides approx. 750 meals per day. Please let me know if you are interested in volunteering as a group or individually. I will get another date scheduled for February or March.

Arts and Culture: Ivy Ertle

Happy New Year Ladies.

December 4th was our annual wreath making workshop. We had a festive time making holiday items. Afterwards, most of us enjoyed a nice meal together at Jeffrey's.

On January 15th we tried out a new craft -- handknitting scarves. It was a big hit.

On **February 12th** we will have an American Pub luncheon for Galentine's Day at Tommy's Tap and Tavern at 12:30. This is a members only event. Please let me know if you will be attending by February 8th.

March 19th we are planning our annual St Patty's dinner at Auld Shebeen at 6:30. Please let me know by March 14th if you will be attending. Significant others are welcome to join in.

In April we will probably have a crafting event. Further details to follow.

May 17th is the Barn Theater's presentation of SPAMALOT. This is a Sunday afternoon matinee at 2 pm. The tickets are \$25.00 each. Significant others are welcome. Please let me know as soon as possible if you are coming and how many are in your party, so if I need to reserve more tickets I can. I will need the check made out to WCPTH by April 17th. Information regarding dinner after the show will follow.

Suggestions for future events are always welcome. Feel free to email me at ivyertle@gmail.com or text at 917-364-1607. Please remember to sign your texts so I know who made the suggestions.

Historian Scrapbook: Janice Carrubba

Our 2025 Scrapbook is on its way to being completed. Thank you for all the hands that helped. A special thank you once again to Ivy for doing another wonderful job on the cover. The Scrapbook will be displayed at our February General Meeting so don't forget to take a look at it and see some of the marvelous things our Club has done and has been a part of in 2025. The book will then be headed down to NJSFWC Headquarters to be voted on.

Continue to send pictures and items to me for our 2026 Scrapbook. When I have enough events, I will send an email and let you know about a cropping.

Legislation: Cathy Cerbo

In reading this month's NJSFWC Almanac, I learned our new Governor, Mikie Sherrill's, top priorities align with that of our state federation. Her platform includes gun safety with stricter gun laws, advocacy for women's healthcare and stewardship of the environment. Perhaps this is a good time for us to see our federation's areas of focus come into fruition.

In Parsippany, we have a new Mayor and two new Council members. At some point this year I would like to coordinate a group outing to a Council meeting to see our town leaders in action. While the ordinances and resolutions may seem more boring than getting a proclamation, they are meaningful! Maybe we can attend a Board of Education meeting too. That is the largest portion of our local property taxes and it will be good to see those elected leaders in-person and listen to the business of that evening. More details to follow.

We are reminded to sign-up for the GFWC Legislation Action Center (LAC) to ensure our voices are heard on a number of important issues. It just takes a click or two! It is soooo easy! If you haven't already, please sign up at: www.gfwc.org/get-involved. You'll get periodic e-mails with how to address areas of interest for our federation.

Communication: Joan Garbarino

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays. Since I am running for Highlands DVP, I've decided to step down from my role as Communication Chair at the end of this club year. I will continue to update the website for now, but all press releases and posts to social media (i.e., Facebook, Instagram and forwarding to NJSFWC for their website) will be passed on to my successor. I am hoping someone will step up now so I can transition this key responsibility for club communication.

Have you looked at our website recently? If not please visit parsippanywomansclub.org. On the first page you can find out when our next meeting is and flyers for upcoming fundraisers. Need some info from the latest issue of the Patter? Look under Newsletters you can find issues of the Patter for the past few years. Or you can even look at our press releases under News.

As always, I look forward to receiving pictures and details of club events for use in press releases and social media posts. Don't forget to share our club posts on your personal Facebook and or Instagram accounts. You never know what will attract our next new member.

NOVEMBER - JANUARY GALLERY



Packing Cookies for the Nursing Homes Nov 24th



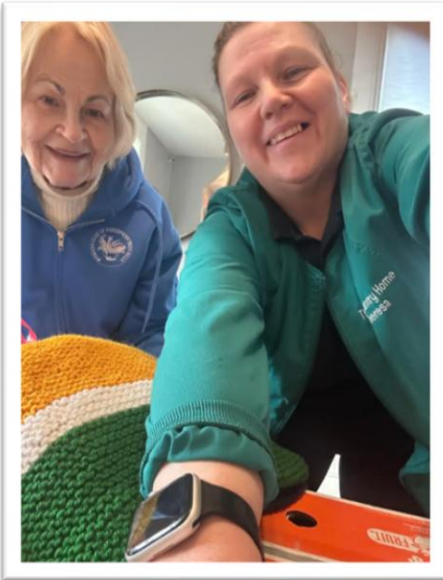
Club Cookie Swap at the Library Dec 3rd



Literature Club Holiday lunch at Suppas, Dec 2nd



Wreath making at Cerbos, Dec 4th



Cathy Haney delivered oranges to the Country Home, along with 6 lap robes and 2 shawls made by Lee Maddocks and friends.



Karen, Janice and Kathleen delivered pajamas to the Parsippany Head Start kids – Dec 19th

NOVEMBER - JANUARY GALLERY



Holiday party at Caffe Navona's, Dec 12, 2025



MaryAnn Coyne with winners of the 5th Grade Spelling Bee
1st Place: Aishani Pandey – Eastlake School; 2nd Place:
Jasmika Nayak – Littleton School; 3rdPlace: Ava Ng



Betty, Addie and Cathy Cerbo visited the Spectrum 360 Program and donated \$500 for gym equipment.



Literature Club Meeting at iHOP, January 6



Members attended the District Highlands Council Meeting January 14th



Members attended the MLK Day of Service at NourishNJ January 19th