

STONEBRIDGE EXCHANGE - MAY/JUNE 2021

Women's Club Presidents' Message

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ENGAGEMENT + EDUCATION + ENRICHMENT = EMPOWERMENT

As we prepare to transition out of a year's long period of separation and constraints into an environment of connectivity and associations, we begin to reflect upon those things that have been meaningful in our lives. Restrictions have impacted our interactions with family and friends, entertainment, learning, and involvement in civic life. As we look to revive connections that have been interrupted by the pandemic, resuming activities in our community and its clubs and committees will provide considerable benefits. The Mission Statement of the Stonebridge Women's Club is threefold: "Social" allowing us opportunities for *engagement* and relaxation, "*Educational*" promoting our development and growth and "Charitable" demonstrating our compassion and granting personal *enrichment*.

Social Engagement

The monthly general meetings of our Women's Club have served as a social oasis. A communal atmosphere permeates the Ballroom as members are welcomed with a sea of familiar faces and inviting smiles. Drawn into conversations, members quickly recognize they are surrounded by women who are friendly, sincere, comforting, encouraging and uplifting! They realize a sense of belonging, a strong support system and prospects to build lifelong friendships. Extraordinary camaraderie is apparent at Women's Club programs, i.e., holiday brunches, birthday bashes, cocktail parties, ice cream celebrations, dance parties and during performances delivered by ventriloquists, comedians, singers, pianists and dance troupes. Additionally, attendance at fashion shows, horse races, trivia nights and vendor fairs are prospects to further expand social networks.

Educational Experiences

Women's Club members are presented with interesting and diverse learning experiences through an exchange of unique ideas, the pursuit of fresh interests or attendance at formal presentations.

Informational programs have included addresses by an estate-planning lawyer on wills and powers of attorney, an investment advisor on protecting and distributing personal assets, the Division of Consumer Affairs safeguarding against phone, email and identity theft scams, and the Princeton Ballet School outlining projects of the American Repertory Ballet.

Personal Enrichment

Finally, our Women's Club is passionate about fulfilling the charitable tenet of its mission, which has been accomplished through volunteerism, direct donations and fundraisers. Some fundraising events have included a Pocketbook Bingo benefiting Make-A-Wish children, Vendor Fairs supporting cancer patients through Partners in Healing and helping needy families via the Joshua Harr Shane Foundation, as well as Trivia Nights aiding individuals struggling with cystic fibrosis and pediatric brain cancer. All of this has been possible because of dedicated Women's Club volunteers who enrich their own lives as they help others.

As a result of the generosity of residents in our community, the Women's Club March Food Drive was a tremendous success in assisting food insecure clients of NJRise Food Pantry. Also, our Walmart and Target Gift Card Collection is scheduled for June 1 through July 2 to help NJRise supply disadvantaged students with school supplies as they return to the classroom in the fall.

We invite all women in the Stonebridge community to join the Women's Club when our new membership campaign is announced and discover a reservoir of *engagement, entertainment, educational experiences, enrichment and empowerment!*

