

Spotlight on the Women's Club

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“In the arena of life, the honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action.”
Aristotle

What does it mean to be a woman in Stonebridge? For most, it means to be evenly divided seeking moments with family, social, charitable and educational activities. It means that, with living in an active 55+ community, our free time includes camaraderie with women seeking joy and positivity. This was the premise, in the spring of 2007 for the design of a Women's Club, supporting ideas for community, benevolence and learning, under the dedicated leadership of Gwen Erlich. What started with a small feminine group, as the Stonebridge Community has grown, so also has the Women's Club. The Stonebridge Women's Club website, created in large part by Bonnie Silleck and Jean Katarsky, chronicles activities and efforts through the years.

Fun social gatherings in the Clubhouse has brought us all together, as well as at Freehold Raceway, Doolan's Spring Lake, Forsgate Country Club, the Grand Marquis, Eagle Oaks Golf and Country Club, Grape Escape and Renault Winery. Birthdays, fashion fun, entertainers, trivia, bingo, and ice cream celebrated our party personalities.

Blossoming into a substantial group of women, enthusiastically dedicated to paying it forward for a multitude of charitable and humanitarian endeavors, Stonebridge women have continued to make a difference in the lives of others. Being a strong influence with boundless energy, the Club has rallied the Community for these fifteen years, and an astounding myriad of organizations have benefitted from this committed, empathetic lot. From 2017 to 2022, fundraising donations topped \$200,944, showcasing an environment of communal spirit for influencing helpful change. Comfortable benches and picnic tables have been added to our landscape through Women's Club efforts. Ongoing ventures include the Brenda Belgard Memorial Scholarship, Caring Cooks and pop tabs for Ronald McDonald House, Breast Cancer fundraising, Transition to Adult Program with Monroe High School students, RAVE (Read Aloud Volunteer Ensemble) sponsored by the library, volunteering in the hospital and supporting humanitarian causes.

Currently, with so many Clubs and Social Committee activities vying for our attention, we wonder if the Women's Club has an expiration date. For the 2022-2023 season, a restructuring was necessitated by a lack of volunteers in major categories. Currently, we have four wonderful facilitators leading a small enthusiastic band of members who complete all the tasks needed to keep our traditional programs going. This structure cannot be sustained beyond May 2023. We are hopeful there are inspired female residents who want to make a difference and take a turn helping out in a small way. An appeal for interested participants went out to the Community late September. The emailed 9/27 flyer had a link to use to indicate interest or anyone can always click the "Contact" tab on the Stonebridge Women's Club website at www.stonebridgewomensclub.com. Together we can do anything!

Upcoming: December 15 Holiday Party – Come with your dancing shoes on!
February 5, 2023 – Annual Brunch, Forsgate Country Club