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New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Echo

Winter Edition 2017



Merry Christmas

Spirit of Christmas

*On this Christmas morning
Let thoughts of peace prevail,
As holy bells are ringing,
Across the hills and dales.*

*As we celebrate the birth
Of our Saviour and our King,
Let us live in harmony
Seeing good in everything.*

*When festivities have ended,
And the memories fade away,
Let peace remain within each heart
As it did on Christmas Day.*

~ Marian Jones



New Jersey State Council Columbiettes

Message from State President Victoria Bird

The last few months have gone by very quickly! It will be Thanksgiving next week, as I write this. Then the preparations for the Christmas season will begin in earnest.

As I have been traveling around the state, I have met the most amazing women . . . they are you! The overwhelming support that you have shown to me as your new State President has been humbling. With the help of our Patronesses, Blessed Mother, St. Theresa the Little Flower and St. Joan of Arc, I strive each and every day to live up to your expectations.

Here are just a few highlights of what we accomplished in the last few months:

- In August and September we held our District Deputy and Officers Training Seminars. They each

were very well attended and very informative.

- On October 22nd we had a First and Major Degree with over 50 candidates! This was an impressive site to witness so many new Columbiettes joining our Columbiette family!

- On November 5th, we held a Testimonial Dinner to honor Immediate Past State President Lisa Roberts. The afternoon began with Mass followed by dinner and dancing. It was a lovely afternoon acknowledging Lisa's accomplishments during her two years as New Jersey State President.

- One of our auxiliaries, Bishop Navagh in Pequannock, NJ celebrated their 50th Anniversary! They held a lovely luncheon to mark this milestone on November 12th. Their actual anniversary date is November 29th.



I am looking forward as this Columbian year moves on to meeting many more of my amazing Sister Columbiettes!

Vicki Bird
New Jersey State President

Wishing each of you a Happy Thanksgiving, a spiritual Advent, a very Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!



May the Holy Family bless you and your families.

State Chaplain—Father Bill Smith

My Sister Columbiettes,

As society is preparing for Christmas with huge sales in stores, office parties, houses decorated inside and outside; the Church is celebrating the Season of Advent. In the part of the earth where we live the daylight is shorter and shorter while nighttime is longer and longer.

The season of Advent is a time of waiting, reflection,

stillness and expectation. Let us reflect on the theme of waiting. During the Season of Advent we wait. We wait for the Second Coming of Christ. We wait to celebrate the historical event of the annual celebration of the Birth of Jesus Christ in Bethlehem. We wait to celebrate God becoming man. As we wait for this annual celebration it is appropriate to reflect upon our relationship with Jesus. What can we do with the



grace of God to be more like Jesus in the daily activities of our life? How can we appreciate the members of our family? How can we help to alleviate the suffering of those who are less fortunate than we are? How can we be less judgmental of those who are in a difficult situation? Do we say or think, "if they tried to do something for themselves they wouldn't be in the difficult situation they are in?" How can we overcome prejudice that is in the depth of our hearts? The questions proposed I am asking myself and am reflecting on during Advent 2017. As the Season of Advent comes to a close, light increases and darkness decreases. Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ who is the Light of the World. The words from the beginning of St. John's gospel are appropriate to reflect on as we celebrate Advent and wait for the celebration of Christmas.

"In the beginning was the

Word

*And the Word was with God
And the Word was
God" (John 1:1)*

*Through him was life and
this life was the light of the
human race. The light
shines in the darkness and
the darkness did not over-
come it." (John 1:4-5)*

May Jesus Christ the Light of the world shine in and through your life as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ.

You, your families, and those you love will be remembered during the Masses I celebrate Christmas 2017.

May you and those you love have a PEACEFUL and BLESSED CHRISTMAS. In 2018 be filled with JOY, HEALTH and BLESSINGS.

GOD BLESS!

Father Smith
State Chaplain



A Message from Immediate Past State President— Lisa Roberts



Hello to all my sister
Columbiettes of NJ!!!

It is with a joyful and thankful heart that I extend my overwhelming gratitude to all that shared in the special day of my Testimonial Dinner on November 5th. It means so much to me that so many were able to attend and to those who although were not there in person—thank you for the thoughtful cards and notes as they are so much appreciated. I especially want to thank everyone who extended well wishes with the Memorial Fund cards and donations as well as all the many gifts and cards. Your beautiful gifts, thoughts and prayers will be with me forever.

As the Immediate Past State President, I have the privilege of chairing several State programs: First Degree Honoree program that will honor our own State Chaplain Fr. Bill Smith and Welcome Seed program. Both programs give evidence of the growth and prosperity through membership for NJ. Please remember to send me the forms for both programs when you either host or attend another auxiliary/chapter First Degree. The new member will receive a beautiful certificate to congratulate them for joining along with a seed package of Forget Me Knots. Additionally, their names with the first degree date and sponsor's name will be added to the scrolls for the State and a presentation of all First Degrees conducted in Fr. Bill's name will be given to him at our annual meeting.

As we begin to move into the second half of our



Columbian year, please also remember to complete the Activity Award “Families Working Together” application. I know from experience that all auxiliaries conduct so many events and programs and are deserving of this award. As I always say, “Fill out the form—you will get the award.” I want to give this award on behalf of State President Vicki to every auxiliary in NJ at the convention. Please also remember to review the Founders Award application—if you have had an increase in membership for the 2017-2018 year, submit the application.

Last and certainly not least, consider joining the NJ State Council Columbiettes Tank Pull Team. The Tank Pull will be held on Sunday, June 24th. Additional details can be found in the Leaders Guidebook and on the website. Please notify me directly if you would like to be on the team(s). I will send the waiver form for completion prior to the

event. We need a team minimum of 20 ladies and each lady must provide a donation to the team of \$75 or more. This can be an individual donation or can be collected from faithful sponsors. This is a fun way to support those who served us in the military and have arrived back home needing assistance.

I look forward to seeing many of you at upcoming events throughout the year.

I send warm wishes to you, your family and friends for a very Happy Thanksgiving, Joyous and Blessed Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Please continue to Count Your Blessings—and know that as I count my blessings, I count each of you twice.

Lisa





TESTIMONIAL DINNER HIGHLIGHTS
NOVEMBER 5, 2018
MEADOW WOOD MANOR



Photos by: Maureen O'Brien



A Message from our Prestigious Past State Presidents

The Prestigious Past Presidents wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year!

State Vice President—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes, ance please give me a call.

It is time to be thankful for all that we have and thank others for all they have done...“**Thank You**” to all of my sister Columbiettes for all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2017. Let us focus on the joy and happiness of Christmas and find pleasure in all we do as we prepare for such a joyous event.

After Christmas comes tax time!! IRS filing of the 990N e-postcard is due by January 15, 2018. The 15th day of the 5th month after your fiscal year ends. If your fiscal year is anything other than 9/1 – 8/31, you must correct it with the IRS before filing. If you have any questions or need guid-

Do you want a BLING Shirt?? Wondering how to get one?? Check out our Columbiette Logo Wear Catalog located on the new NJ Columbiette website. You can even print out an order form and mail it to me with payment. We can do custom orders if your auxiliary or chapter is looking for something special.

May you have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Elena McFarland
State Vice President
Club Shirt Chairman





State Secretary—Nadine Lecorchick

Wishing all sister Columbiettes a very blessed Christmas. Looking forward to what the new year will bring us.

May our patron saints, Blessed Mary, St. Joan of Arc and St. Theresa watch over you all and bless you and your families this Christmas season.

Nadine

State Financial Secretary—Frances Corcione

Happy Thanksgiving to all of my sister Columbiettes and your families.

May the Holy Family watch over you.

Sincerely,

Frances Corcione
State Financial Secretary



State Treasurer—Kathleen Donahue

It's hard to believe that 2017 is almost over! The beginning of this Columbi-ette year has been jam packed with so many events—DD and Officer's Seminar, Chapter meetings, Major Degree and Lisa's Past President Luncheon where I've had the opportunity to meet and talk with my Columbi-ette sisters. Al-

ways a pleasure!

If you have a question or problem concerning your duties as a Treasurer, please remember that I am always here to help you.

It's wonderful to have the support and friendship of my fellow officers on the State Board and the Past



State Presidents. Thank you.

We need more love, kindness and respect given to everyone in the world today. I hope that the upcoming Christmas season brings out the best in people. God showed His love for us by giving us the greatest pre-

sent of all—His Son. Let us pray that 2018 becomes a year of peace and harmony.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Kathy Donahue
State Treasurer

State Advocate—Donna Lewandowski

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

As we enter the season of giving please remember why we do what we do.

Webster's dictionary describes an Advocate as . . . a person who speaks or writes in support or defense of a person, cause, etc. . . .

They speak for those who need a voice. As the NJ State Advocate, I am here to help you make the Columbiettes what you believe they should be. I will help you plead your case or make your request for change. I will present your requests at the State Con-

vention; but, as Columbiettes, I feel we are ALL advocates for those who are less fortunate. So this Thanksgiving and Christmas Season, please remember those that may not have an abundance of family, love, food, clothing or housing.

Please, first and foremost, help your fellow man, woman or child.

May God bless you all with His love,

Donna Lewandowski



State Sentinel—Catherine Nicholson



Thank you for electing me as your State Sentinel. It is truly an honor and a privilege to be on the NJ State Board. I look forward to working with all of you this year.

Another year is upon us and I couldn't be happier to see all the great works that our sister Columbiettes are already accomplishing.

I would like to wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year for you, your families and your friends.

Cathe

Thank you to all who assisted with the 2017 Convention. I hope everyone who attended had a fantastic time!





New Jersey State Committees

State Council Columbiettes Website

For those of you who aren't aware, the New Jersey State Council Columbiettes now are online at www.NJColumbiettes.com!

Some of the available resources on the website include the State Directory, a calendar of events happening at different auxiliaries and chapters throughout

the State, the logowear catalog with order form, and information on different State-run programs.

If you haven't done so already, I encourage you to go on and take a look around!

Nicole Markus
Website Administrator

Vocations

Many thanks to all of the auxiliaries and sister Columbiettes who participated in the Vocation Program by buying angel pins or sponsoring sales at your meetings/church events. This program helps us support our Seminarians/Postulants in their studies along with our Memorial Fund program. Also, remember to keep saving those pennies as this will enhance our program and we may then be able to give our Seminarians/Postulants

a large check to help them in their studies.

Remember I am only a phone call away. I will be more than happy to attend an auxiliary, Chapter meeting or any vendor or craft show to show you our selection of pins. We are always looking for new pins.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving and a Holy Blessed Christmas season.

Lorraine Noger



Badges & Jewelry



I wish to thank everyone who has purchased a name badge or Columbiette jewelry this year. As of this date all orders have been filled.

Name badges are available in either magnet or pin backs. You can choose from blue with white lettering, white with blue lettering, red with white lettering or white with red lettering.

Name badges are available to everyone not just officers. Contact me at columbietteskathy@yahoo.com. or call 732-826-3881 if you wish to place an order.

Columbiette jewelry is an attractive way to display that you are a member of a great women's charity organization!

We have a wide variety of items available including pins, necklaces, bracelets, watch, charms, rosaries, pocketbook holders, key rings and embroidered patches.

I have the jewelry at seminars, Major Degrees and State Convention. Contact me to make arrangements for the jewelry to be brought to one of your meetings.

Kathy Donahue
Badge/Jewelry Chairperson





Charity Awards Luncheon



“Catholic women celebrating Catholic women” is the program for The New Jersey State Council Columbi-ettes’ CHARITY AWARDS LUNCH-

EON. It will be held on Sunday, April 29, 2018, at Pierre’s of South Brunswick from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tickets are \$40.00 per person.

This special event will honor and recognize Catholic women who do charitable works in the areas of family unity, business and social welfare. These women volunteer their time and talents to better the lives of others and deserve to be thanked for their accomplishments.

The Committee is gathering information on award candidates. A Selection Committee, comprised of a Columbi-ette from each Chapter, will make the difficult decisions of selecting the honorees and the recipients for honorary recognition.

Nomination and luncheon forms will be e-mailed to Auxiliary Presidents in December.

Also, at the luncheon, the State Charity Raffle drawing will be held. It will be an uplifting and enjoyable afternoon.

Thank you for your support!

With all our best wishes for a Happy Thanksgiving, Blessed Christmas and a Peaceful New Year,

Carol Bohinski, Chairlady
Mary Ann Sweet,
Co-chairlady





State Retreat

San Alfonso Retreat House
“Where God and Sea
Come Together”

have to be a Columbiette to attend, so invite your friends to come.

Next year’s retreat will be April 20 – 22, 2018 and the cost will be \$220.00. A \$50.00 deposit will hold your reservation. Try to attend this beautiful weekend.

Please call me at 973-697-8559 or e-mail at bannlucarelli@aol.com and I will send you a reservation form.

Thank you,

Reservations have been coming in, but there is still a lot of room. You do not

Barbara Ann Lucarelli, PSP
Retreat Chairman

Ronald McDonald House—Tab Tops

Remember to keep saving your tab tops. The Ronald McDonald House is greatly appreciative of our annual visit.

Sandy Bohinski, Chairlady



Website Information

Don’t forget to regularly visit our Columbiette websites to learn about new activities, events and regulations!

Supreme: www.columbiettes.com
NJ State: www.njcolumbiettes.com



News From Our State Chapters

Central

Central Chapter Columbiettes started their Columbi-ette year off with installation of new officers on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 by New Jersey State Columbiettes Council President Victoria Bird.



The new officers installed are: President, Maureen Italiano; Vice-President, Joan Winant; Secretary, Susan Liguori; Financial Secretary, Filomenia Mohr; Treasurer, Eileen Colby; Sentinel, Kathy Mortimer and Past President, Barbara Ann Lissi.

President Italiano is planning a Quarter Auction for the November meeting. All officers of Central Chapter wish one and all a Happy Thanksgiving plus a very Merry Christmas and Blessed New Year filled with lots of good health and happiness.

Southern

Our Columbi-ette year started with the institution of the new Southern Chapter, on June 29, 2017, hosted by Leisure Village West Auxiliary. Fr. Emil J. Kapaun, St. Francis, Our

Lady of Perpetual Help, (Maple Shade), Leisure Village West, Santa Maria, St. Maximilian Kolbe and Fr. Cannon Auxiliaries sadly separated from South West Chapter to form the new



Chapter.



We are on our way to a great year. September 14th, found us in Maple Shade at OLPH for our first meeting. We all attended a very informative Workshop on September 24th. On November 4th and November 19th, we attended the Testimonial Dinners for Lisa Roberts and Patricia Zellner. A good time was had by all. November 9th we were back in Manchester Twp. for our Thanksgiving/Christmas meeting, hosted by Leisure Village West and St. Maximilian Kolbe. Fr. Kapaun

chaired a Tricky Tray where we won some lovely gifts to keep or re-gift for Christmas.

We are busy putting together a new ceremonial team. There will be plenty of practices ahead trying to get ready for our Major Degree. Our auxiliaries are all busy with, pasta dinners, card parties, Breakfasts' with Santa and filling boxes for our Troops. Keep up the good work ladies!

Southern Chapter would like to wish all our sister Columbiettes and their families a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed and Holy Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year. Stay warm!!!

~Barbara Liona, President

South East

Greetings from South East Chapter!

We began the 2017-2018

Columbian year with our Sept. 21st meeting at Father Carey in Carteret. We were pleased to have State



President Vicki Bird join us that evening.

Membership is important to the growth of the Columbiettes. Both St. Bernadette's and Vincent T. Lombardi have held First Degrees. We've welcomed 9 new members who have joined the Columbiettes.



Our annual Christmas party/tricky tray was held at the November meeting at Our Lady of Victory in Parlin. We were happy that President Diane was well enough to join us after her double

knee replacement surgery on Nov. 1st. We continue to keep her in our prayers during her therapy and recovery.



A delicious catered meal was served along with homemade desserts. The tricky tray was a great success thanks to chairlady Nancy Fallon who always does a wonderful job. Thank you to everyone in our 9 auxiliaries who donated the prizes.

Congratulations to our Chaplain Fr. William Smith who celebrated his 36th anniversary of his ordination on Nov. 14th. South East Chapter is fortunate to have his guidance in spiritual matters.



South Amboy will host our Feb. 15th meeting where we will choose our Chapter charity.

Submitted by
Kathy Donahue
Publicity Chairperson

Father Smith will conduct an Evening of Recollection at his church St. Anthony of Padua in Port Reading on March 15th.

The officers and members of South East Chapter wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year!



South West



Hello my sister Columbiettes! South West Chapter has been off to a great start. Elena McFarland installed our new officers at St. Augustine's Church (McGivney Hall) on September 21st. My new Board is Carol Bohinski (Vice-

President), Nadine Lecorchick (Past President), Joann Alfonso (Secretary), Jeanne Bellas (Financial Secretary), Evelyn Pearce (Treasurer) and Joan Campisano (Sentinel). Father Edmund Luciano continues to be our S. W. Chaplain; we are so blessed! Thank you to my Board—you are the greatest!

On June 4th, South West Chapter held a 1st and Major Degree at Father Cannon in Carney's Point. Thank you Carol Bohinski



and the Degree Team for all your hard work and dedication in making this a memorable day.

The NJ State Convention was held in Piscataway on June 23-25. Always nice to meet up again with some of my sister Columbiettes that I haven't seen in a year. Congratulations Convention Committee—what a great job!

I attended the new Southern Chapter installation which was held at Leisure Village West in Manchester on June 29th. Congratulations to Barbara Liona and her Board. We wish God's blessings on all your endeavors.

The Supreme Convention was held in Uniondale, L.I. Aug-18-20. So great to see so many sister Columbiettes from all over the United States and Canada! We are growing!

The District Deputies were installed at St. Anthony's Church in Port Reading on

August 28th. Father Bill celebrated Mass; afterwards the DDs were installed. Thank you Father for your hospitality.

On September 24, I attended the Officers' Seminar which was held at the Diocese of Metuchen in Piscataway. This was so informative; always something new to learn. Thank you Vicki and your committee—so much work and you all did it so well.

I went to Lisa Robert's Testimonial Dinner on November 5th. The venue was beautiful; food delicious and, of course, great friends! Thank you Lisa for your dedication to the Columbiettes and having 2 super successful years.

Looking forward to our next Chapter meeting on November 16. We will be having a "Pound Auction"—should be so much fun. We will share some of our upcoming events that our auxiliaries will be having over the Christmas season, such as



parties, food deliveries to needy families, gifts for families less fortunate, etc.

Wishing all a Happy Thanksgiving, a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Healthy

New Year!

Mary Ann Sweet
South West Chapter President

Western

Western Chapter was honored to begin their year on October 4, 2017 with the installation of officers by our NJ State President Vicki Bird. We were especially honored by the presence of eight other state or state past officers. Our newly-installed officers are: President, Barbara Hill; Past President, Catherine Nicholson; Vice President, Florence Cartagena; Secretary, Ann Taggart; Financial Secretary, Colleen Testa; Treasurer, Mary Hargraves and



Sentinel, Mary Kubisky.

Bishop Navagh provided a wonderful backdrop for the installation, having their hall decorated celebrating their 50th Anniversary on November 29th. The Bishop Navagh ladies prepared a delicious smorgasbord which was enjoyed by all.

Almost all the officers enjoyed the Officer Seminar held on September 24th in Metuchen by our State Officers. We always learn something new that will be helpful. This year the Columbiettes rolled out the new website. Now you can check out what's happening



all over the state. How exciting!

On November 5th many of us gathered to celebrate and honor our own Western Chapter's NJ State Past President, Lisa Roberts, at her Testimonial Dinner.



What a wonderful afternoon it was, beginning with Mass and followed by a superb reception and delicious dinner. We had a delightful time to honor a well-deserved lady. Congratulations, Lisa! We are so proud of you!

Western Chapter will be celebrating many anniversaries this 2017-2018 year. Bishop Navagh celebrated their 50th Anniversary at the Village Inn in Wayne on November 12th. Their actual anniversary is November 29th. Don Bosco will cele-

brate their 25th Anniversary on June 25, 2018. Western Chapter's 60th Anniversary is June 30, 2018. We will be having a BBQ on Sunday, April 22nd at 1:00 p.m. at Glenburn Estates. The Barn and Pavilion are located at 211 Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, Riverdale. The cost of \$30 per person will cover the BBQ, games and dancing. BYOB. Lisa Roberts will be chairing this celebration. For further information you can contact Lisa by March 25th. We hope many of you will join us for a fun family day to celebrate 60 years of charitable work by Western Chapter. On July 15, 2018, St. Anthony's will also celebrate their 60th Anniversary!

On December 6th we will all meet at St. Anthony's hall in Butler for our annual Christmas dinner and tricky tray. This is probably our favorite meeting of the year! It is a great way to start the holiday season. It is always a fun event and we use the profit from the tricky tray to



add to our account, therefore enabling us to fund our charitable endeavors throughout the year.

We all have much to be thankful for here in the United States. Let us enjoy Thanksgiving with our families and friends. Then, as

we begin Advent, let us prepare our hearts and homes for the birth of Jesus. Let us never fail to keep Christ in Christmas.

We wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas!



News From Our State Auxiliaries

Regina Mundi

Regina Mundi has been actively signing up new members this fall. We had nine make their First Degree and four made their Major.

Our Knight's Halloween party was a huge success. Our meetings are

filled with new ideas and interesting topics.

Wishing all of our Columbiettes a blessed Thanksgiving and joyous Christmas.

Regina Mundi Columbiettes



Saint Anthony's

Welcome to another fantastic year for the Columbiettes!

St. Anthony's has been very busy so far this year. Starting with our reorganization meeting in August where we all knew it was going to be a fun year.

On September 9th, together with our Brother Knights, we held our Installation with Grand Knight Michael Sciarra and our District Deputy Mary Ann Stanek installing our 2017-2018 Officers.

All of our Officers enjoyed attending the State Seminar on September 24th. It is always a great opportunity to see our sister Columbiettes from throughout the State.

On October 4th, we attended the first Western Chapter meeting of the New Year. Congratulations to our members who were installed as Chapter Officers: Cathe Nicholson-Past Presi-

dent, Florence Cartagena-Vice President and Ann Taggart-Secretary.

Congratulations to Beth Fournier, Helene Fitzpatrick and Mary Michunovich who made their Major Degree on October 22nd at the Midwest Chapter ceremony. Thank you to all who coordinated the First & Major Degrees.

October continued to be a very busy month for us. On Friday, October 27th we held our 9th Annual Pocketbook Bingo. What a great event! We had approximately 150 in attendance who won Designer Bags when yelling B-I-N-G-O. Our Tricky Trays were a success and we were able to donate a significant amount to a family in Paterson who lost everything in a fire and Blue Line Bears—an organization created by a 15-year-old who makes comfort bears from the uniform shirts of fallen



Police Officers. It's great to have a fun time while helping worthy causes. Thank you to all who attended.

November began just like October, we held our Annual Baked Potato Night on November 2nd. This is a great night of food and camaraderie with the community.

November 5th, we "Counted Our Blessings" as we attended the NJ State Past President Mass & Luncheon for our own Lisa Roberts. Mass was beautiful and the fun times we all had with the many people in attendance was a true testament to the hard work and dedication of Lisa.

November celebrations continued with our sister Columbiettes of Bishop

Navagh on November 12th for their 50th Anniversary. Congrats ladies and wishing many many more years of sisterhood.

St. Anthony's Columbiettes wish all of our sister Columbiettes from New Jersey and their families a Blessed Thanksgiving, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy 2018.





Our Lady of Victory

The OLV Columbiettes are looking forward to a great year! Here are some of the things our auxiliary has been working on or participating in:

On September 16th, our Brother Knights held their Annual Family Picnic which featured plenty of food and also activities for the younger ones. Our auxiliary contributed baked goods for dessert. A good time was had by all those who attended.

Additionally, our auxiliary made a contribution to the victims of Hurricane Harvey along with our Brother Knights to help aid and ease their needs and suffering in the aftermath.

We also made a contribution to the ongoing efforts to replace our beloved grotto.

In October, we held a Harvest Tricky Tray where the

money collected by those who attended was donated to charity.

Additionally, some members of our auxiliary attended the Annual MAVIS Spaghetti dinner on October 22nd. This organization provides free musical instruments and subsidizes lessons for their blind members.

November was a busy month! On November 5th, representatives of our auxiliary attended the State Past President's dinner.

On November 8th, we held a fundraiser at Texas Roadhouse in Parlin. By presenting the flyer to your restaurant server, a percentage of the entire bill was donated to our organization so we can continue our charitable efforts. We had a nice turnout and dinner was enjoyed by all who supported this effort.



On November 10th, members of our auxiliary along with Brother Knights joined students and faculty of St. Stanislaus Kostka school to attend a dedication service honoring the patriotism of the brave men and women of our nation's armed forces. We had the honor of meeting and greeting the Bishop who was also in attendance.

On November 16th, we hosted the South East Chapter's meeting. Those who attended enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner and Tricky Tray as well.

On November 19th, representatives of our auxiliary attended the Supreme Past President Dinner.

On November 21st, we held a Memorial Service Mass to honor and remember our deceased members. We then held our monthly meeting. We had a fun and different event, where our ladies exchanged a 2-lb. wrapped item. It was both

creative and entertaining.

November was wrapped up as our auxiliary purchased and donated groceries towards the Thanksgiving baskets our Brother Knights put together for families in need throughout our community.

In December, we celebrated Christmas with a Christmas Party and a free Tricky Tray for our ladies. We also provided a Christmas dinner for our Brother Knights as well.

Our auxiliary once again participated in the Pajama Program. The Pajama Program serves children throughout the nation. We collected pajamas and bedtime books or collected monetary donations towards the purchase of these items for children newborn to 18 years. These new items are donated to those who were physically or emotionally abused, neglected, traumatized or abandoned. Some of these children have never received new items in their lives. The donations are



made to group homes, shelters or temporary housing facilities. It is our way of letting them know that we care and that they are not forgotten.

We also are continuing our efforts in the Linus Program. This program collects handmade or store bought items for pre-mature babies and donated to St. Peter's and various area hospitals.

Finally, we participated in the Giving Tree, where gifts or

Somerville

Somerville began with an installation at our first meeting. Congratulations to the 2017-18 officers: President, Mary Jo Farmar; Past President, Peggy Comerto; Vice President, JoAnn Shuleski; Secretary, Yvonne Shimshock; Financial Secretary, Michelle Reno; Treasurer, Elena McFarland and Sentinel, Dotty Capra. We are also happy to have Ginger Tornambie as our District Deputy.

donations are made to children in need at two of our local churches and also at Robert Wood Johnson Hospital.

Our Lady of Victory Columbiettes wish our sister Columbiettes a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy and Blessed New Year!

Liza Palestrini
Secretary



We continue our monthly food bank collection at every month, which we had started doing several years ago. So far, we've donated breakfast and lunch items to a local food bank.

We kicked off October with our annual pet collection at Mary, Mother of God Church as celebration of the Feast of St. Francis. The food, bedding, and monetary donations were given to Saint Hubert's Animal Shelter.



Several of us also attended the Somerville KOC Charity Ball, where proceeds were given to Samaritan Homeless Interim Program (SHIP). Our auxiliary raffled 3 “baskets of cheer” at the Ball, which resulted in a generous donation to SHIP on behalf of our group! Petrock’s Liquors of Hillsborough generously donated a basket for our raffle.

In conjunction with National Vocation Awareness Week (Nov.), we held ‘shake a can’ events at Mary, Mother of God, Holy Trinity, and St. Joseph’s of Raritan Parishes. Spare change collected will be sent to NJSCC

“Pennies from Heaven” program. We will wind down 2017 with Adopt a Family for Christmas. At our December meeting, we will write Christmas cards to our senior members and of course . . . party! Several will also be attending the Somerville KOC Breakfast with Santa for the kids and an Adult Christmas Get-Together.

Wishing everyone a Wonderful Thanksgiving, a Joyous Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

— Mary Jo Farmar
President

Bishop Navagh

On September 10th we hosted a baby shower for a Polish couple that have no family here in the United States. Baby Jacob was born on 10/7/17—welcome to the world little one! Congratulations to the whole family. A light lunch was served.

On September 29th we hosted a Fish and Chip Dinner at St. Joseph’s Halloran Hall in Lincoln Park—over 250 Fish and Chips plates where “dished” out. A good time was had by all.

On October 4th, the Western Chapter Meeting was



hosted by our auxiliary which included installation of the new 2017/2018 officers. Barbara Hill, Mary Hargraves and Mary Kubisky of our auxiliary were installed as President, Treasurer and Sentinel—congratulations to all!

November was a busy month for Bishop Navagh—November 3rd was our annual “fall” Baked Potato Night. Our ladies baked 160 potatoes with all the fixin’s. No one left the hall hungry.

November 12th we celebrated Bishop Navagh’s 50th Anniversary. Our auxiliary was formed on November 29, 1967. Since this time we have had 27 presidents of which six (6) past presidents were present including one of the original charter members Mary Jane Wisneski. We celebrated by having a sit-down dinner at The Village Inn in Wayne, NJ. Members and their husbands and various Knights of Columbus men joined in the

festivities including dignitaries and past District Deputies.

On November 16th our auxiliary together with the Knights of Columbus had a Mass for deceased members of the Knights of Columbus and sister Columbiettes at Our Lady of Good Council in Pompton Plains. November was also recruitment weekend which was a success.

During the months of October and November we collected food for our adopt a family providing them with a bountiful Thanksgiving basket with extra food to spare. We are participating in the Pajamas & Book Program and, as of this date, we collected over 200 pajama sets and over 150 books.

Bishop Navagh wishes all sister Columbiettes a Happy Thanksgiving, Joyous and Blessed Christmas and H a p p y New Year!





Saint James

In September, St. James began our Columbian year with a commitment to dedicate our charitable efforts to the needs of food kitchens and pantries; thus we designated 2017-2018 as "The Year of the Hungry." We committed to increase our monthly funding to "St. James Food and Fellowship" charity.

During the Fall Festival at St. James Church, we sold angel pins and recruited for new members.

We recited the rosary at our October meeting in tribute to our Lady of Fatima and assisted our Brother Knights with their Annual Tricky Tray by providing desserts.

After our November meeting and during our social time, gobbling was heard as we did "The Turkey Trot." Fun was had by all. Our Memorial Mass for deceased Knights of Columbus and

Columbiettes was held on November 21st at St. James Church. Together, we will pray for and remember our deceased Brothers and Sisters who built the foundations of the organizations we support and enjoy today.

Columbiette elves are busy in preparations as December will be full of parties and celebrations. On December 10th, we will assist our Brother Knights at their "Christmas Party for Rest Home Residents."

We anticipate angels flying at an "Angel Pin Sale" to be scheduled early December after Masses at St. James and Holy Trinity Churches. Our Christmas Party is scheduled for December 14th at which the State Council Columbiettes' Support Club Raffle will be drawn. Angels are busy in preparation and a heavenly evening is planned. Then, on December 15th, we will join our Knights at their



Christmas Celebration and Awards Night. Many plans for the New Year are underway. We will pray together at our Corporate Communion Mass. We will hold a "Bakeless Cake Sale" and in conjunction with our Knights host a Sunday Family Breakfast. We will assist our Knights with their Friday Lenten Dinners and look forward to the Weekend Retreat at San Alfonso's Retreat House. We will host our popular "Tea Party" in April and "Shake the Can" after all Masses at St. James and Holy Trinity Churches. Lastly, we will march with our Knights in the Jamesburg Memorial

Day Parade to honor those who served our country so well.

To all our sisters, from St. James Columbiettes—Our sincerest wishes and prayers for a Happy Thanksgiving, a Very Merry Christmas and a New Year full of blessings with peace.

Carol Bohinski
Immediate Past President



Don Bosco, Newton

As you will see, the Don Bosco Columbiettes #7784 have been very busy.

From June 23rd to June 25th we attended the NJ State Convention to honor both Lisa Roberts for her years of leadership excel-

lence as a State President and incoming State President, Victoria Bird from Don Bosco #7784. Our auxiliary entertained the convention with a skit from the Wizard of Oz since Vicki is originally from Kansas.



The weekend continued with the Knights of Columbus 8th Annual Tank Pull in Clifton, NJ. Pat Keegan, Amy Keegan and Vicki Bird competed in the tank pull for Veteran Wounded Warriors.

On July 22nd a new slate of Officers was installed by our Chaplain, Fr ST Sutton at St. Joseph Church in Newton. After the installation, we went to a local restaurant for a celebratory dinner.



On July 28th the Knights and Columbiettes gathered together at the Columbian Fair food booth for a barbecue, instructions, and training for the upcoming NJ State Fair. This is an annual fundraiser that runs for 10 consecutive days (August 4th - 13th) and the funds raised go to the various charities of Sussex County. Many hours of labor take place during the 10 days but the bonding between the Knights and Columbiettes is as rewarding as raising the funds for the charities.

On September 23rd, several Columbiettes and a Knight met to build a raised garden for the Bridgeway Rehabilitation Service of Sussex County. Sunday, September 24th found all of our officers at the St. John Neumann Pastoral Center in Piscataway for training.



we donated pet items collected at this meeting to Father John's Animal Shelter in Lafayette. The shelter helped take in the animals from Florida and Texas in the aftermath of the hurricanes.

On Sunday, October 1st (Respect Life Sunday) a group of Knights and Columbiettes gathered at the Newton Green with posters supporting Right-to-Life.



On Monday, October 2nd we had a First Degree where we welcomed 4 new candidates (3 for Don Bosco and 1 from Vernon) followed by our auxiliary meeting. Several days later

On Saturday, October 7th the Columbiettes honored Patricia Keegan, Past Presi-



dent for her two years (2015 -2017) of service.

Pat helped raise funds for the auxiliary, increased membership, participated in a Major Degree where she memorized an entire script in one day for her role as Death. She was involved in many new events including donating duffle bags to



foster children and donating socks to nursing homes.

On Saturday, October 14th we held our first Beefsteak fundraiser at the VFW in Newton. The event included tricky trays and a 50/50. The evening turned out to be a success despite low attendance. Everyone that went enjoyed the food, music, prizes, and camaraderie. Those of us present witnessed the joy on the faces of Billy, Kayleigh, Scott and Doreen (clients of Department of Persons with Disability). They were happy to play a role at the Beefsteak and it was the generosity of the attendees that made them feel special. We were able to donate \$1700 to the Department of Persons with Disabilities through this event.

On Monday, October 16th we assisted in the Migrant Ministry dinner hosted by

the Knights of Columbus at the St Joseph Church Community Center. We were thanked by the migrants for the food we served them. They were genuinely appreciative of our fellowship. The simplest task goes a long way.

On Saturday, November 12th a Mass for deceased Knights and Columbiette members was celebrated at Good Shepherd Church in Andover, NJ followed by a hospitality hosted by the Knights. Then on Friday, November 17th we had our annual wreath making and potluck dinner at the St. Paul's Abbey in Andover. This is a collaboration of Knights, Columbiettes, Squires, Squirettes and confirmation candidates. We made approximately 125 wreaths to be sold during the Christmas season which supports the Benedictine Monk's mission.



On November 20th, a trailer load of food and clothing was delivered to the Catholic Family & Community Services for the replenishing of Father English Food Pantry and Clothing Boutique. A monetary donation was hand delivered to Carlos Roldan, Director. Our Chaplain, Fr. ST Sutton, from St .Joseph Church matched the donation 100% for a total of \$4,000.

South Plainfield

We are a small auxiliary and this year are concentrating on building our membership along with doing charitable works and assisting our Knights.

After our meetings we have a program. Our members are encouraged to bring visitors for the programs. At our September meeting, Dr .Norayr Ozbali, DC, spoke on Spine Health. In October

Giving thanks and giving back to our community is what it's all about. "For it is in giving that we receive."
~Saint Francis of Assisi

Happy Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception & Merry Christmas!

Miriam Montagne
www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com



we had a mammography tech speak to us about breast cancer and its prevention; in November we had a wine specialist lead us in a tasting and pairing for the holidays. We also cooked (thanks to our Grand Knight) and served the St. Mary's food kitchen. December brings our cookie exchange and Christmas Party. We are also caring for a needy family for the



holidays.

In the new year we are looking forward to a Valentine

Fundraiser with our Knights, entertaining at the VA home and possibly a fashion show.

Our Lady of Peace

Our Lady of Peace, North Brunswick, NJ (#11378) kicked off our new 2017-2018 year with a joint installation of officers with our fellow Knights of Columbus and our annual 'Welcome Back' with our sister Columbiettes.



We have many combined activities with the Knights and it shows our Parish Community the cohesiveness between our groups that inspires others to join in our efforts—this has

spread to including/helping the Ministry groups in our Church (Social Ministry, Choir, CCD). In December, we will support our Parish and Brother Knights with the Family Christmas Festival and together with other Ministry groups we will celebrate the joyous season of awaiting Christ.

Throughout the year we enjoy each other socially and in addition hold a festive evening for potential Columbiettes, following our joint Membership Drive with the Knights. This is always successful and lets our future sisters see the bond our group holds and encourages many to join. Not only a fun-filled evening of re-



freshments, we as Columbiettes get to reflect on all we do throughout the years as we share our experiences.

For the upcoming year, we are planning many activities promoting our true mission of fundraising for our community and promoting a Catholic environment for the benefit of Christian unity.



We are very excited about a Health Fair that we will host with St. Peter's Hospital Auxiliary on January 14, 2018. We want to thank Santa Maria, especially Patty Born, for helping us with ideas and sharing their experience and success with the Health Fair that they ran. It is what inspired us!

We will have our 8th Annual Indoor Garage Sale on April 7, 2018. This has in the past been a tremendous fundraiser, with almost 100% of all profits, minus minimal expenses, going to the recipients—this is possible with the support of our Parish and the local business community through their donations that guarantee our success.

We extend a fruitful and 2017 – 2018 year to all our fellow Columbiettes and success in all you do!





Saint Bernadette

We ended our Columbian Year with our Memorial Mass, Installation of Officers by our Chaplain Father Jim Hagerman and Second Annual Scholarship Award Presentation.

August brought out our sisters to “Shake the Can for Vocations” for our second year and Membership Drive which was encouraging. Ten women were interested in joining! Of these, four were available and installed at our First Degree held on Sunday, September 10th! Welcome to Kathleen Farrell, Carla Kay Flores, Mary Alice Maher and Mavis Pozentaa! Our own Kathy Jessen was asked by NJSCC President Vicki Bird to chair the very important “Memorial Card” Ministry for Vocations and she is keeping extremely busy and we want her to continue! She is learning the broad

spectrum of “For Any Occasion”.

This “Shake the Can Ministry” will enable us to donate more to our South East Chapter Seminarian, Gilbert Starcher, as well as to our five state Seminarists and Postulants.

September’s bake sale was a huge success which enables us to continue our many ministries.

Our Brother Knights requested us to once again attend their Memorial Mass in October and prepare a breakfast following. There was a good turnout and our new members also assisted!

Our Parish had us inserting flyers in church bulletins with their monthly calendars and assisting at the 19th Annual Dinner Dance to raise monies for the church Renovation Fund.



Following our October meeting we addressed Christmas cards in English and Spanish and Chanukah cards to be distributed to all the residents of "The Venetian Care and Rehabilitation Center" in South Amboy. This gave us a chance to get to know one another while we visited.

NJSCC PP Lisa Roberts Testimonial Dinner was beautiful and having the Mass made it even more special. Who could forget the bling or color purple! We are looking forward to attending our Supreme PP Patricia Zellner's Testimonial. Pat has been extremely helpful to St Bernadette in delivering supplies from Supreme and always made herself available.

Brother Knight Bill Tanko, Jr. volunteered for the third year to make soup for our "Homemade Soup to Go" Sale which was held on November 12th at which time we also had a smaller version of our "Bake Sale."

Cakes and soup were also delivered to Social Concerns Families and sister Columbiettes who are recuperating at home.

We have many events coming up in the near future: Poinsettia Sale, Pot Luck Christmas Meeting at which time we are collecting funds or food cards for Social Concerns in lieu of doing a Christmas Grab Bag and "St. Bernadette's Women's Organization Christmas Party."

Our BirthRight Baby Shower Chair, Margaret Eicher, is already collecting items for the Annual Baby Shower which is held in April.

Members and non-members are sending in their reservations for the NJSCC Retreat in April and each year word is spread





about this wonderful opportunity to spend time “Where God and Sea Come Together.” It also gives women who are not Columbiettes the opportunity to spend time with us and learn about our wonderful organization.

School supplies and toiletries have already been gathered and our calendar is full!

Our wishes for a Blessed Christmas and a Healthy and most Happy 2018 from ALL your sister Columbiettes in Parlin!

Lois Ann Smith, President

Picture from November 12th “Homemade Soup to Go” and Bake Sale.

Members:

Mary Alice Maher, Lorraine Cioffi, Judy Smith, Bill Tanko, Jr, Lilly Zammit, Lois Ann Smith, Peggy Eicher, Kathleen Farrell and Kathy Jessen showing some of our homemade goodies!



Saint Francis

The St. Francis Columbiettes have been very busy this past year. At the end of April 2017, we had our 4th annual Spaghetti Dinner.

This event brings family and friends from our parish together for a night of dinner

and fun! We hold a basket raffle as well as a 50/50. We normally have about 100 people at this event and it's a parish favorite!

In September 2017, we had our 2nd annual chicken dinner. This event is a takeout



dinner with many sides and homemade desserts made by yours truly. It was a great success, and we've already had people tell us they cannot wait for next year!

In the second week of November 2017, we had a Thanksgiving Community Dinner for churches in our neighboring towns. All were welcome to this event. It was a beautiful way to celebrate God's gifts with each other before we celebrate them with our families later on the actual holiday.

We are currently preparing for our annual bake sale in December 2017. We have been holding this fundraiser since our inception in 2003. We make cookie boxes, breads, cakes, and many other homemade dessert items. This is probably the parish's favorite time of the year. We've always been sold out or nearly sold out by the end of the last Mass on Sunday. Whatever we

do not sell, goes to either the USO or the local kitchen pantry "King's Things."

Throughout the year we donate to many charities local and nationwide. We try to collect supplies for traveling soldiers that come through the local Philadelphia USO branch. We often also bake homemade dinner entrees and desserts for the soldiers.

We are a very blessed auxiliary to have so many opportunities to give back to our community as well as bring them together at our various events. We continue to strive to live God's word and use our time, talent, and treasure where it is needed the most.





Millstone Valley

Millstone Valley started its summer with our Officer Installation along with our Knights. We have a wonderful tradition of having both in the same night, followed by a joint celebration of cake and coffee. It is always fun and inspiring as we get to cheer on the new officers in both organizations!

And we started off fall by helping the Knights who host the Annual Parish Picnic at St. Joseph's. It was a great afternoon.

We held our biggest fund raiser of the year in October—our Vendor Fair. Open to all with no admission, we had a full house of happy vendors and shoppers, who got a jump on Christmas! We raffled off 5 baskets to happy ladies. The basket themes ran from Halloween, Christmas, Fall, Baby, and Lots of Fun! Everyone

also enjoyed the free coffee and sweets all the Columbiettes had made.

St. Joseph Parish held a luncheon in November to honor all our veterans and active military personnel and their families. Our wonderful Knights cooked up a delightful turkey dinner with all the fixings, and the Columbiettes were there helping set up, prep, serve, and clean up the kitchen! We also provided all the desserts! Over 80 veterans and family members were served. They were very grateful, and full! And we are all grateful for their service.

Our December meeting is our Christmas party, full of fun and lots of food (that seems to be a theme with us)! Since it is a social, we are inviting women who have expressed an interest in the Columbiettes to come



and join us for the evening. We are also donating pajamas for children and young men. These will be delivered to Safe & Sound (formerly known as the Women's Resource Cen-

ter). Since many of the families show up there with only the clothes on their backs, this small act of kindness helps the children feel better about the situation.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Jersey City)



The OLPH Auxiliary started off the new fiscal year with the installation of Officers. The new set of Officers are: Elena Saludo, President; Susan Liguori, Past President; Delia Faustino, Secretary; Sagrario Umali, Financial Secretary; Trinidad Taino, Treasurer and Gilda Dalman, Sentinel. Fr. John Hyatt was also installed as Chaplain. Joan Winant was installing Officer and Past President Naty Caballero,

Chairman. Lina Regalado and Dolly Ignacio acted as Guides. We were honored by the presence of our Central Chapter President Maureen Italiano.

The following couple of months were busy ones for the Parish with the Columbiettes helping to organize the 2 big Parish wide events for our departing Pastor Fr. Sullivan and the next couple of months later for our incoming Pastor.

We just finished a Rosary rally held on our Church grounds. All these activities were planned and organized by our Past President Naty Caballero and expertly



executed by the Columbiettes among others. We are looking forward to our food drive, Giving Tree and Simbang Gabi.

A Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Submitted by,
Naty Caballero
Publicity Chair

Saint John's

In September, St John's Columbiettes, along with our Brother Knights held a special fundraiser for one-year-old Addison Palardy, granddaughter of our Past Grand Knight Barry Bernard. Allison was born with a condition that will require her to receive special hormone treatments for her entire life. The evening consisted of a buffet dinner and a tricky tray of 50 baskets, large gifts and a 50/50 cash raffle. All of the proceeds from this evening went directly to the family.

October, it was once again time to "Eat, Drink and Be Scary" as the Columbiettes and Knights co-hosted a Halloween Party. Entertainment was provided by "The Perfect Timing Band" with a Tricky-

Treaty Tray and awards for best costumes! The little ghouls and goblins came the next day for the Children's Halloween party.

In November we had our Spudtacular Event! Dinner consists of a hot, piping baked potato with a fixin' bar to load up your spud with choices of chili, sour cream, broccoli, butter, chives, carrots, onions, etc. A smashing good time was had by all. It is also the month we remember and give thanks. A Memorial Mass was held at our council for all those Columbiettes and Knights who have passed and at our Thanksgiving celebrations; let us always remember to give thanks for all that we have.



December and it's time once again to do the "Jingle Bell Rock" as the Knights and Columbiettes have a children's Christmas Party and of course one for the adults! Both parties are attended by the Santa and the Mrs!

As the new year approaches (and we're always surprised at how fast it comes!) we stop and reflect on the year that has passed and pray for a happy and blessed new year.

Charities we donated to:

- St. Mary's (elevator fund)
- St. John's (Sister Trinity Scholarship Fund)
- Knights of Columbus 1345
- Twinboro Columbian Club
- A.S.C.P.G (American Special Children's Pilgrimage Group)
- Several Sources
- Family Promise of Bergen County
- Arthritis Foundation
- T.A.C..A. (Talking About Curing Autism)

- Thomas J. Riley Senior Center
- Sarah Connor (Good Student Achievement Award)



In response to the Father English community center fire, St John's Council 1345 Columbiettes and the church community of St. Mary's Church in Dumont have collected over 93 coats to be donated. Father Carey, pastor of St Mary's will personally deliver all the coats that we have collected.

Peace, Roberta Elwell





Long Valley

The Long Valley Columbiettes finished off last year marching with our brother Knights in a local Memorial Day Parade, awarding two scholarships to very deserving local high school students that have done much to support our parishes, and with the installation of our new Executive Board.

During the summer several of our members backed and volunteered at the VetsSummerFest at Vasa Park in Mt. Olive, NJ to raise money to help Operation Chillout with their mission of helping over 8,000 homeless veterans in New Jersey and some neighboring states. Close to \$20K was raised at this free-will donation music festival. In October we were honored at a Thank You Dinner for our participation and help. We look forward to our continued support with next year's event on August 11th where we hope to raise even more money and awareness of the

tragedy of Veteran Homelessness.



In October we experimented with a joint membership drive/hospitality event with the Knights, helping to bring to the attention of the congregation the existence and activities of both groups. It was a very successful event with at least 6 women expressing interest in membership. We are hoping to repeat this again in the spring.

As of this writing, we have been busy at work planning and executing several fundraising events for the year. We have already completed an Avon fundraiser in September with another one planned for December. Our Yankee Candle sale so far has been very successful



with our event not ending until January 18th – plenty of time for those Christmas gifts. A Charming Charlie event is planned for December 16th, along with our Annual Christmas Cookie sale for December 16 and 17. In January we start with a Mama's Pizza and Restaurant event on January 8 and 9, our Chocolate Wonderland (our biggest event of the year) full of chocolates, music, and a silent auction.

In December we will be helping our brother Knights with their Annual Charity Auction. Every year we help with set-up, serving, and selling raffle tickets. In January or February, we will be sponsoring one of our local high school students as she puts on a dance-a-thon to raise money for a veteran's organization.

In January we will be collecting PJs and Books for a local annual collection and in April we are planning our second "Undie Sunday" to collect underwear and feminine hy-

giene products to be donated to Father English Center and other local charities.

One of our ongoing activities is the crocheting of scarves to keep the clients of Father English Center warm. As of November 7th, 54 scarves had been made by our members. Any donations of extra yarn for us to continue this mission are always appreciated.



As part of our efforts to keep our membership informed, we have introduced an Auxiliary website. Our website will be live in November. We hope that this will help our members to find answers to any questions they may have and to get more members involved in our activities.



The Long Valley Columbiettes hope that everyone has a Happy Thanksgiving with family and friends. Many wishes also for a Blessed and Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Vincent T. Lombardi

Summer is over and the Christmas season is fast approaching. We here at Vincent T. Lombardi continue our efforts to lend a helping hand wherever and whenever needed in our local communities and Churches.

Over the summer, we volunteered at the St. Mary's Great Fair and helped (along with the Knights) pass out water at the NJ Marathon. Our auxiliary participated in the town-wide Garage Sale in Atlantic Highlands, and several members attended the Annual Rosary Rally at St. Mary's Chapel, a very blessed day for all. We installed our new officers and due to a successful membership drive we have a First Degree on November 15th.

Lucie Cohn , President

Long Valley Columbiettes
#10419



Recently we held a fundraiser at the First Ave. Playhouse, and helped decorate the hall for the OLPH-St. Agnes All Saints Youth Group Spaghetti Dinner, sponsored by the Fr. Donnelly Knights. Coming up we will also aid the Vincent T. Lombardi Knights with their Gift Auction benefitting St. Mary's Life Teen group. On a more solemn note, we attended the Blue Mass held at St. Agnes in honor of Police, Fire, and First Responders.

Our collections continue to grow. Monthly we collect school supplies, coupons for Military families overseas, religious articles, pennies for seminaries, and personal



care items for the homeless.

We are also proud that once again we earned the Margaret Mary Mangan Award.

We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and blessed Christmas.

Mary Vernarelli
Past President



Warren

On a warm September evening, 21 members of our auxiliary gathered for the first meeting of the Columbiette year. The theme for the next two years is performing the Corporal Works of Mercy. Father Leo Salvania attended to offer prayers and blessings upon us as we embarked on the New Year. We actually started a little early by attending a Hispanic cultural event in July hoping to recruit some members and of course, sell angel pins. We only made \$8.00 in sales, but got a great tan that day. In August, we began a church-wide backpack collection for our local needy children. The backpacks

were distributed to all the schools in our local communities. One of the local Girl Scout troops assisted us and donated supplies. We attended the KOC annual summer picnic. Also over the summer, we sold several of our cookbooks, "Heavenly Dishes."

In September, we held our first bake sale at St. Philip and St. James Church and made well over \$600.00. Our parishioners just love sweets! A donation was made to our Parish School for their annual picnic as most of the officers attended officers training the same day the picnic was held.



October was a very busy month. Our meeting featured Deacon Rob Fisher as a guest speaker who read the Gospel reading for the day and a homily that fit perfectly into our role as Columbiettes. We took angel pin orders after all masses on October 14 and 15 and made over \$200.00. Additionally, we attended the Public Square Rosary Crusade in front of our parish on the 14th to say the Rosary for moral and spiritual healing in our country, then went home and baked for the KOC annual roast beef dinner. Not only did we bake, we also served the desserts, did dishes and waited on people. It was just like being at home. We sold 25 percent off coupons for BOSCOV'S Friends and Family day held on October 17.

Working with the PHS INTER-ACTS Club, which is a high school club that gets involved in community activities, we helped collect over four large boxes of non-

perishable food items for our local food pantry. A local hospital had requests for knitted or crocheted baby blankets for the stillborn infants and those infants that were delivered but died shortly after birth. The request was for pale colors. The blankets would be used to wrap the infants in for the parents to view and then the blanket would be given to them. Our Columbiettes purchased and donated the yarn and over 20 baby blankets were made (the corporal works of feeding the hungry, burying the dead).

A spring dance is scheduled for the end of April, so plans are well under way to make this a successful fundraiser.

During November, our month of "thanks" and "souls," many sister Columbiettes attended the All Souls' Mass at our parish and the reception that followed. We remembered our departed Columbiette sisters at our meeting, and then gave



thanks for all we have and for all that we can do. Angel pins were sold after all masses on Saturday and Sunday at our sister parish and we sold over \$150.00 worth. Nametags for our less fortunate children of Catholic Charities were distributed among members at our meeting. Christmas gifts will be purchased and a Christmas party is being held on December 9. At that time the children will meet with Santa, get their gifts, and have refreshments. On December 8, assisting our fellow KOC, we will pack many baskets of food for the less fortunate and then on December 9, we will have a

holiday luncheon and get ready for the most joyous time of the year.

Looking forward to January where we will hold a First Degree ceremony and continue to carry out the corporal works of mercy. More info on that will follow in the Spring Echo.

Wishing all of you a very Merry Christmas, and a Healthy Happy and Prosperous New Year filled with hope and promise.

Judy Leone, President





Saint Cecilia's

St. Cecilia's Ladies Auxiliary is doing a number of fund-raising events this year—Calendar Raffle (which has been very successful), November 1 through January 31, 2018, Wreath and Grave Blanket sale running for three consecutive weekends starting Thanksgiving weekend and a scrapbooking event on February 3, 2018 .

We are looking to use some of the funds raised to help with the lighting of the newly installed flagpole and St. Cecilia's statue on the grounds. Some of the monies raised will go to various charities including the South Brunswick Food Pantry.

We are a very active Auxiliary and are looking forward to a great year.

Leisure Village West

We started this year with a brand-new slate of Officers. Only two of our officers changed jobs from Financial Secretary to President, and President to Past President, everyone else is new to the Board. We are very excited and have lots in store for the coming year. We also were honored to host the installation of the new Southern Chapter in June. It was our honor and pleasure to host this. We are so lucky to have Barbara Lione as our District

Deputy and president of our Chapter. It was great to see all the State officers there, especially since I had just met them at convention the week before.

September started off fast with a huge success for our annual Card Party. Not only did it bring in \$\$ but one of our members was able to bring in 19 gift cards for us to raffle off. Great job!!!

In October, we tried some-



thing new. We had an afternoon tea and invited all Catholic women in the Village (we are in a gated community so our pull is only from the village itself) to join us. We had different kinds of tea and assorted finger sandwiches along with pastries for dessert. What a great time we had. We were also able to sign up 19 new members and held a first degree at our November meeting! Since we only had 40 members to begin with adding 15 members to our membership was great for us. We are hoping the other 4 will be able to take their First Degree after the first of the year.

We decided to donate to "Bring A Soldier Home for Christmas." It was a huge success. At our December meeting we joined our brother Knights for a Christ-

mas Party. We are working with our brother Knights on taking a trip up to New Haven Ct. to the Knights of Columbus Museum.

We will be meeting in January to plan our Soup Dinner in February. In January, we will be attending our Snowball dance with the Knights and February will bring us to our first "Soup" night. Hopefully it will be a huge success and I can tell you all about it and the baby shower we are planning in the next issue of the Echo.

From all of us at Leisure Village West, we would like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas and a safe and Healthy New Year.

Kathleen Robinson
President #9134





Saint Maximilian Kolbe

Our auxiliary is delivering a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings to a local Tom's River family.

We are, in place of a Christmas gift exchange, purchasing Christmas pajamas and

toys for patients at a children's hospital.

We had a carnation flower sale in October and raised \$800 as a donation to Birthright of Tom's River.

Santa Maria

"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few."

The Santa Maria Auxiliary #1179 hosted a Parish Ministry Fair in October. We encouraged all ministries in the Parish to set up a table and be present to discuss the ministry and hopefully give the opportunity to parishioners to plant the seeds of their faith in our parish. There were over 15 ministries represented and a beautiful turnout of parishioners. Many ministries in need of volunteers gained some valuable and faithful servants, including many women interested in the Columbiettes!

Sponsored by the Columbiettes, Santa Maria Auxiliary #1179, Advent by Candlelight in December is a special evening for women to become renewed and refreshed before the Christmas rush begins. This is an opportunity to relax and refocus on the season of Advent, a wonderful time of waiting and anticipation. In an elegant atmosphere, lit only by candlelight, guests are served refreshments and invited by guest speakers to reflect on the season of Advent in preparation for Christmas.





Updates to the State Directory as of December 2017

Page	Correction
7	Louise Welch (South East Chapter DD) Phone Number is 732-397-5601
15	Echo Chair—Mary Ann Stanek e-mail is echonewsletter@hotmail.com
15	Echo Due Date is April 1st
19	Spelling Correction for Joann Risso (State Support Fund) is Joann Rizzo
23	St Anthony's Hall Phone Number is 973-838-5919
25	Don Bosco's Hall Phone Number is 201-230-1373
29	Louise Welch (Father Carey DD) Phone Number is 732-397-5601
34	Elena Saludo e-mail is elenasaludo@yahoo.co.nz
35	Msgr. James F. Gacquin Grand Knight is Michael Milligan
35	Msgr. James F. Gacquin Grand Knight's Phone Number is 973-945-6019
35	Pat Lane (Msgr. Gacquin President) e-mail is donnalew1@optonline.net
39	Judith Leon (Warren President) e-mail is jaleone@verizon.net
46	Louise Welch (South East Chapter Treasurer) Phone Number is 732-397-5601
56	Echo Due Date is April 1st
56	Spelling Correction for Joann Risso (State Support Fund) is Joann Rizzo
68	Echo Due Date is April 1st
Updated State Directories can be found at www.njcolumbiettes.com	



A Note from the Editor

At this most holy time of the year, we should take a moment from our daily and sometimes stressful lives to remember the “reason for the season”—the birth of Jesus Christ. Happy Birthday, sweet Jesus!

Thank you to everyone who submitted an article for this issue of the *Echo*. It always amazes me to read about the wonderful activities the Columbiettes unceasingly do throughout the year. What pure hearts of kindness and generosity you demonstrate while serving the many charities within and out of our State. May God bless you always!

The deadline for the spring issue of this publication will be Sunday, April 1st. Yes, that is Easter Sunday which is another spectacular feast in our Church. I look forward to receiving submissions from all and am excited about once again reading the wonderful actions you have performed.

Submissions can be mailed to me at 104 George Hill Road, Branchville, NJ 07826 or emailed to: echonewsletter@hotmail.com. If you have any questions, you can also call me at (973) 702-7610.

A printed annual subscription costs \$9.00 for both the winter and spring issues of the *Echo*. However, an electronic version (.pdf file) is available free of charge—simply contact me with a subscription request. Additionally, the *Echo* will now be available on our new State website: www.njcolumbiettes.com.

Luke 2:14

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good
will toward men.

Wishing you a blessed Christmas and a happy, new year filled with joy and love.



NJ State Council Columbiettes Present



A 1950's-style
interactive
murder mystery



Professionally
performed by
Without a Cue
Productions, LLC

**Come join us for dinner in a night filled
with suspense, comedy and surprises!**

DATE: March 3, 2018

TIME: Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
Dinner served at 7:00 p.m.
Show to follow

PLACE: Somerville Elk's Lodge
375 Union Avenue (Rt. 28)
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

COST: \$50 (Cash Bar)

For tickets and/or additional information, please
call:

Maureen Fiore (973) 670-3847 or
Miriam Montagne (201) 230-1373

Welcome to the Club BoBoLu! Tonight may be Ricky's big break. With Fred and Ethel brushing off their Vaudeville shtick and a Big Time Producer in the audience, this could lead to the big time—Broadway! As a member of the audience you will get to see the crazy slapstick comedy that everyone has been talking about. But will Lucy's crazy schemes get in the way of Ricky's success? Will Fred and Ethel's constant bickering finally go too far? And who is the new headliner everyone keeps hearing about? When things go awry, Lucy has got some 'splaining' to do! Will Ricky's last words be, "Lucy...I'm Dead?"