

Light the Way



Echo

Yvonne Shimssock, Editor
13 Banor Drive
Hillsborough, NJ 08844

New Jersey State Columbiettes
Spring 2015



New Jersey State Columbiettes

Message from State President Lorraine Noger



Morning Consecration to Mary

My Queen, My Mother, I offer
Myself entirely to thee.
And to show my devotion to thee,
I offer thee this day, my eyes,
My ears, my mouth, my heart,
My whole being without reserve.
Wherefore, good Mother, as I am thine own,
Keep me, guard me as thy property and possession.
Amen

As our Columbian year is winding down. I cannot believe my term as your State President will be ending in June. I would like to thank all who graciously said YES in volunteering for the many chairmanships of programs and District Deputies; it has made my job so much easier.

I would like to thank our Expansion Community for all the hard work and would like to welcome our new auxiliary, Leisure Village West into our family.

Even though we had a really nasty winter, I know it did not stop my Sister Columbiettes giving and doing their best during the past Lenten Season, we all gave up something, did something for someone less fortunate, forgave someone and turn their hearts to God.

In January, I received great news from our Supreme Council that New Jersey is entitled to ten (10) Delegates at the Supreme Convention! A huge thank you to not only our Expansion Committee but to all our

Auxiliaries. We could not have achieved this goal without everyone's help.

I hope to see many of my Sister Columbiettes at San Alfonso Retreat House the weekend of April 17-19. This is a most spiritual and relaxing weekend. You also get to renew friendships and meet new Sister Columbiettes.

Soon, our State Convention will be here. Our Convention Committee has been working extremely hard to make it a most memorable one. I am anxiously waiting to hear all of the great works and accomplishments of our Auxiliaries this year. Please remember to meet all of the deadline dates and complete all of the forms required.

To all my fellow Sister Columbiettes and their families, I hope you all had a very Blessed Easter. To my Sister Columbiettes, I wish you all a Happy Mother's Day. May we continue to "*Light the Way*".
—Lorraine



A Special Thanks from State President Lorraine Noger

To my Sister Columbiettes – I want to thank you for all of the notes, Mass cards, memorial cards and sympathy cards on the passing of my dear husband Frank. I and his family really appreciate it. Also, I would like to thank all who came to the wake, funeral and memorial mass we had for Frank. I cannot tell you how much his family and I appreciated the donations and attendance at these functions. He will sorely be missed.

Message from Immediate Past State President—Susan Kadar

My Dear Sister Columbiettes, it is that time of year again when everyone is getting ready for spring planting and yard work, but also we need to get ready for State Convention in June. I am asking every Auxiliary President to make sure to send

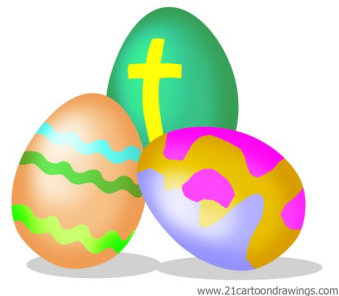
me their forms for Light the Way and the Founders Award. Both of these are due by June 1st.

I hope all of my sister Columbiettes had a Blessed Easter and wishing all mothers a very Happy Mothers Day.
— Susan

State Vice President—RoseMarie Nafus

It has been a wonderful time of my life as an Officer on the State Board. I enjoyed meeting all my sister Columbiettes and working with you.

May the Columbiettes continue to grow and prosper.
— RoseMarie



www.21cartoondrawings.com



State Secretary—Lisa Roberts

Say Hello to Spring!!! The winter of 2014/2015 was harsh but alas new growth, inspiration and warmth is finally here. I hope this message finds all my sister Columbiettes, family and friends well and refreshed.

A simple prayer for spring...
Lord of the springtime, Father of flower, field and fruit, smile on us in these earnest days when the work is heavy and the toil wearisome; lift up our hearts, O God, to the things worthwhile-sunshine and night, the dripping rain, the song of the birds, books and music, and the voices of our friends. Lift up our hearts to these this night and grant us Thy peace. Amen.
W.E.B. DuBois

And now to business...
It is that time of the Columbian year to make the necessary preparations for the Annual State Convention.

*Requests were sent to all auxiliaries to provide me with your delegates and alternates to the convention.

*Please return the information to me no later than May 1st.

*This is critical to the next step of sending the credential letters for entrance to the state

convention.

*Ladies that are State Officers, Chapter Presidents and Committee Chairladies have been asked to send the report of your office/chapter/committee to me no later than May 15th. Please adhere to these deadlines. Feel free to call me if you have any questions.

One last reminder to Chapter and Auxiliary Presidents – you will be receiving on or about May 22nd the State Directory form. I am sending this separate from the credential forms as this caused some confusion last year. It is extremely important that you complete this form and turn it over at the state convention when registering for convention. This information is necessary to prepare and print the state directory for the next Columbian year. My best wishes for a Happy Mother’s Day, Happy Father’s Day and I look forward to seeing many of you at the State Convention in June.
— Lisa



State Financial Secretary—Vicki Bird

Once again we are winding down another busy Columbiette year. As we prepare for the upcoming convention where we will share with each other our accomplishments of this past year, I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention in June.

I hope that all my Sister Columbiettes had a Blessed and Happy Easter! May our Risen Lord bless you and your families throughout the year.

Happy Mother's Day to all! May our Blessed Mother continue to 'Light the way'!
— Vicki

State Treasurer—Elena McFarland

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Spring is finally here!!! After a long snowy winter it is wonderfully uplifting to see the flowers in bloom. I am looking forward to seeing all of my sister Columbiettes at Convention and hearing all the wonderful works of charity you have done throughout 2014-2015.

Order your Columbiettes shirts now and have them for convention!!!

Be sure to show your Columbiette pride by wearing one of our beautiful logo wear items while volunteering around the state! Check out

our Columbiette Logo Wear Shop online at <http://njcolumbiettes.promoshop.com> there is something for everyone. Remember we can do custom T-shirts if your auxiliary or chapter is attending an event as a group. Just give me a call!! 908-428-7203.

May you have a Wonderful Spring!
—Elena



State Advocate—Nadine Lecorchick

I hope you and your family had a very Joyous and Blessed Easter. May this season fill you heart with hope and bring you joy!
— Nadine

State Sentinel—Frances Corcione

Dear Sister Columbiettes, It has been a privilege to represent you as the New Jersey State Sentinel. I hope that each of your Auxiliaries had a rewarding year. I wish you all a very Happy Easter and a warm spring. May God continue to light your way and watch over you.
—Frances





NJ State Committee Chairpersons

Vocations

I would like to thank all my Sister Columbiettes who have purchased Angel pins. If you or your Auxiliary would like to have a sale it is not too late and would greatly help our program. Sales large or small help our program to succeed.

Also remember to keep saving your pennies for our "Pennies from Heaven" program and send me one check before June 1st. Your check will be combined with the profit from Angel pins and

the Memorial Fund.

If you have never been to the State Convention in June you are really missing out. It is when all your hard efforts pay off as we present the Seminarians/Postulants selected by your Chapters with monetary gifts. I look forward to seeing everyone at Convention.

Thank you so much,
—Barbara Lasek
Chairperson

Memorial Fund

Please support the Memorial fund. This project is so worthwhile. How better to insure the future of our religion by supporting Seminarians and Postulants. Thank you all for your past support and please continue the Memorial Fund.

— RoseMarie Nafus
Chairperson



New Jersey State Charity Raffle

The Charity Raffle tickets have been given to all the Chapter Presidents so they can distribute them among their auxiliaries. The charities, selected by each Chapter, will be receiving the proceeds of this raffle at the 2015 State Convention on June 27th.

The Charity Raffle drawing will be held on Tuesday, May 12th at 9PM at Saint Anthony of Padua Church Hall in Port Reading, New Jersey . Please make sure you follow the instructions

regarding the ticket stubs, tally sheet and check. I must receive your envelope no later than Friday, May 8th so it can be included in the drawing. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at (732-225-0194) or email me at pzellner07@comcast.net

In advance, I thank all of you for your assistance and co-operation in making this raffle a success. Good Luck to all!!!
—Patricia Zellner
Chairperson

Jewelry

I am happy to announce that we are carrying a new item – a Columbiette charm. If you look at an officer's jewel, it is the Columbiette logo on the jewel. That means if you're missing this part, you can now purchase it separately instead of having to buy a whole new jewel. You could also add it to a necklace, bracelet, etc. to create your own Columbiette jewelry. I will have samples at the State Convention in June.

Speaking of the convention, I'm looking forward to seeing all of you then. Stop by and say hello while checking out the variety of necklaces, pins, travel card cases and other items available for you to purchase. If you wish to get in touch with me before then, you may call me at 732-826-3881 or e-mail me at columbietteskathy@yahoo.com.
—Kathy Donahue
Chairperson



Expansion

The Expansion Committee had a very busy year this year. In November we instituted Leisure Village West in Manchester. St. Maximilian Kolbe in Toms River have their twenty women and will soon be sending their by-laws to Supreme for approval. We've met with the women from Sacred Heart in Mount Holly and they are working to get their twenty women. A few weeks ago we traveled to Cape May and they have been busy

passing out A100's. Please keep the Committee in your prayers so all these committees may come to fruition. Please remember you won't know is a family, friend, co-worker or acquaintance would like to join unless you ask them.

- Sandra Bohinski
- Barbara Lasek
- Nadine Lecorchick
- Rose Nafus
- Marion Tallia
- Vicki Bird
- Anna Misajet

Tab Tops for Ronald McDonald House

Once a year we make the staff of the Ronald Mc Donald house very happy when we pull up with all of the tab tops that you have collected. We have donated millions of tab tops to help those who are in need. It takes no money, a second or two of your time to remove them and very little space to collect them. The cost to stay at the house is only \$10.00 a night and if a parent cannot afford it they pay nothing. The

Ronald Mc Donald House in New Brunswick always has a waiting list to get a room. The tabs we collect are recycled and the money earned is used to buy bread, eggs, milk and other staples for the families that stay there. So I ask you to keep drinking your drinks, eating soup, feeding your pets and any other thing that has a tab top you can save.

- Sandra Bohinski
Chairperson



News From Our Chapters

Central

March 20nd, 2005 St. John's Council Columbiettes #1345 was instituted in Dumont, NJ. March 22nd, 2015. They celebrated the 10th Anniversary with a beautiful Mass accompanied by our brother Knights, Color Corp and our Chapter Seminarian Ernesto Betancourt served as an altar server.

Afterwards there was a lovely afternoon of fellowship, we listened and sang with our sister Lesa Rossman and watched a delightful video "10 Years in 10 Minutes" created by our sister Laura Labetti. We were honored to have with us our Supreme President Barbara Anne Luccarell, her husband Michael, our State President Lorraine Noger, State Secretary Lisa Roberts, her husband Bill and our District Deputy Barbara Anne Lissi. Also in attendance were 3 past presidents of the auxiliary and many of the original chartered members.

Congratulations to Sharon Festa President of St. Philip the Apostle #11671, who was honored by her Brother Knights of #11671. Working together Works!

Congratulations to all of our sisters in Central Chapter for all of your charitable works especially those who are sponsoring baby showers for those brave woman who have choose LIFE for their babies and those of you who are dressing a little girl for her First Holy Communion.

At Easter the beauty and the promise of the Resurrection are reflected now in nature as spring awakes in glory. For all the times your warmth and kindness have made days happy for others, may the Lord make your Easter Season especially happy and blessed. Happy Easter Season! Love from Central Chapter Columbiettes.

- Mattea Truppe
President Central Chapter



South East

Greetings from South East Chapter!

Everyone had a great time at our Christmas Party/Tricky Tray held at Our Lady of Victory auxiliary in Parlin on November 20th. Chairpersons Nancy Fallon and Meg Zadlock did their usual fantastic job. The food was delicious and everything ran smoothly. In the first picture, State Vice



President Rose Marie Nafus is selling tickets for our Christmas specials. In the second, you can see some of



our members putting their tickets in the bags hoping to win one of the donated prizes.

Our Charity Baby Shower was held at our February 19th meeting at the VFW hall on



Cranbury Rd. in East Brunswick. Pictured with the many items donated by South East Chapter members are Vice President Diane Kulbcki (l), who organized the baby shower, our guest Martine Mayo (c) from Life Choices Resource Center and President Kathy Distefano (r). Ms. Mayo is a volunteer at the center in Metuchen who explained the work they do to prevent abortions and assist mothers who decide to keep their child. President Kathy thanked everyone for their generosity and St.



Bart's for their hospitality and dinner.

Our April 16th meeting will take place at the South Amboy auxiliary. Chapter Charity resumes will be read and voted on.

The joint South East/South West First and Major Degrees will take place on Sunday, April 26, 2015 at St. Bernadette's in Parlin. We hope that many new members will join the Columbiettes that day.

The members are looking forward to the Mass before our May 21st meeting held at St. Lawrence in Laurence Harbor.

Western

Western Chapter Columbiettes would like to wish Mary Jane Wisneski good luck and congratulations on her upcoming move to Carolina Beach, NC. Western Chapter has been very lucky to have Mary Jane as their Ceremonial Chairperson for 25+ years! Our First and Major Degrees are beautiful and so detail oriented because of her and many

We will also hold our May Crowning that evening.

We'll close out this Columbiette year with the Election of Officers at the June 18th meeting at Our Lady of Peace Parish Center in Fords.

We enjoy getting together with all our Sister Columbiettes at the State Convention in June. South East Chapter is the host this year.

The South East Chapter Officers and members wish you a Happy Mother's Day and a fun-filled sunny summer.

—Kathy Donahue
Publicity Chairperson

people have been blessed to have experienced these degrees with Mary Jane at the forefront. Mary Jane is also the Past President for Western Chapter. From 1997-1999 she ran our Chapter with the utmost pride which radiated throughout the meetings and something that still continues today. The membership of



Western Chapter thanks Mary Jane...Carolina Beach, North Carolina is lucky to have her moving to their town.



Western Chapters' largest fundraiser, Comedy Night, will be held on Saturday, May 2nd at the St. Anthony's Knights of Columbus hall. After the cold & dreary winter we all experienced, we are all looking for-

Mid West

September started our Mid West Chapter Columbiettes year with the installation of Officers and District Deputies. It was an honor to have State President Lorraine Noger install our Officers and District Deputies for the coming year. Union Columbiettes hosted the evening.

South Plainfield hosted our November meeting. The program was donating non-perishable food for St. Mary's

ward to a night out filled with laughter and comradery with our friends. Why don't you come and laugh with us?

Our next meetings will be held at Long Valley Auxiliary on May 6th with our May Crowning and June 3rd at Queen of the Lakes where we will have Election of Officers.

Western Chapter Columbiettes' wishes everyone a very Happy Mother's Day and an enjoyable spring and summer. See you at the Convention!

—Cathe Nicholson
VP Western Chapter

Soup Kitchen. Our sister Columbiettes from South Plainfield volunteer/sponsor the soup kitchen once a month.

The February meeting was hosted by Millstone Valley. We had our annual baby shower. Mid West Chapter auxiliaries are also taking turns of sending our Seminarian care packages throughout the year.

We had a First and Major Degree on April 12, 2015 at



Mary, Mother of God Church in Hillsborough. The Degree was in honor of Fr. Sean Broderick, on the occasion of his 50 YEAR Anniversary of Ordination. We had 30 ladies receive a Major Degree.

Warren auxiliary hosted our April meeting we held a tricky tray and present our slate of officers for 2015-2016. In June, we'll be meeting at Sgt. John Basilone; activity is brown bag raffle.

The Mid West Chapter has been a big supporter of a local high school student who is spreading a message of compassion and care among youth who have aged-out of the foster care system. The student has been involved over the past couple of years in fundraising projects that benefit the Project MYSELF program at Rutgers University. This program helps aged-out youth improve academic performance, complete post-secondary education, and develop essential life skills and competencies. Many of these youth have never

experienced the simple things like having their own Christmas stocking or a handmade blanket. Members of Midwest Chapter partnered with the high school student by donating money and self-care products and making over 100 hand-knit scarves and hats to fill the Christmas stockings. This spring we are partnering again and spending countless hours making blankets for 50 youth.



I want to thank my Board of Officers for their support this year. To all my sister Columbiettes, May God Light Your Way .

—Frances Corcione
President Mid West Chapter



South West

We started this year with the installation of our Officers and District Deputies at Leisure Knoll in Manchester, NJ, on September 18, 2014. We were very happy to have everyone join us in South Jersey.

Carol Bohinski our new Ceremonial chairperson was very busy during the month of October organizing our new Degree Team. On November 9th, 2014, we had the Institution of Leisure Village West Columbiettes. We are all waiting for the call for a few more institutions in the coming months. Southwest is really growing.

We were happy to participate in the 40th anniversary celebration of St. James Columbiettes.

Congratulations!!

At our November meeting, we enjoyed a Tricky Tray hosted by St. David's. A good time was had by all. Our other Auxiliaries were busy with, cook book sales, fashion shows, Teas', and Pasta dinners. Keep up the good work girls. We are proud of all you do.

The winter really hit us hard this year. Our February meeting had to be cancelled do to snowy weather and cold temperatures. The warm temperatures of spring were gladly welcomed.

We are all looking forward to the Convention. Hope to see all of you there. Enjoy the summer, and stay safe and well.
—Barbara Liona
President South West Chapter



News From Our Auxiliaries

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Jersey City

OLPH#11459 here in Jersey City just finished our Baby Shower for the needy expectant parents and those with newborns. A good crowd came with toddlers after the Mass for the Unborn last March 23, 2015 at St. Aedan's Church. The remainder of the baby items were donated to the Women's Shelter with newborns.



Last Saturday, March 28, the Columbiettes served as ministers of hospitality for a concert organized by the St. Peter's Prep and SPC Campus ministry. We wore our green vests with Columbiette Logo. The organizers appreciated the

presence of the Columbiettes. Performers of the concert were 99 choir members, students from Dublin Ireland, the Filipino American Chorale Group, the Vox, the Dominoes from St. Dominic and SPC Schola.

At this concert I had the privilege of meeting and chatting with Archbishop Bernard Hebda, Bishop Donato and Fr. Alex Santora, Pastor of Our Lady of Grace and St. Joseph Church in Hoboken, NJ. He is the Columnist of "Faith Matters" in the Jersey Journal, a local newspaper. It was his first time to hear about the Columbiettes so I gave him a bit of history. I am hoping that he will print something about the Columbiettes in the near future.

Happy Spring everyone. See you all at the upcoming Annual Convention in June.
—Naty Caballero
President



Queen of the Lakes

In September, Queen of the Lakes Columbiettes joined with our brother Knights for the installation of new officers. Our Chaplain Father O'Connor, our new District Deputy Catherine Nicholson and State Secretary Lisa Roberts were in attendance. A First Degree was held for two new sisters, Maryann Goodman and Judy Scott. Our annual "Altar Server Sunday Luncheon", which celebrates the religious commitment of our parish youth, was also a great success.

October brought Sister Lois from Mount Saint Joseph's Home for Boys to our meeting. Sister brought us updates on the new changes taking place at Mount Saint Joseph's. We provided Sister with an assortment of school supplies for the boys and sent Halloween Decorations as well as candy so the boys could have a Halloween Party. All items were donated by the members. In addition, the annual fall membership drive was

held and we have some ladies interested in joining. Our Fall Rummage Sale was also a great success!

In November, we held our annual Memorial Prayer Service for deceased members of the Columbiettes, Knights, spouses, parents and children. Our Chaplain Fr. O'Connor and our Vice President Jacqueline Scillia presided at the service. We attended the First and Major Degree at St. Francis De Sales on November 2, 2014. We welcomed another new member Martha Korovich. For Veteran's Day, we displayed a beautiful tribute to the veterans of our parish in our Church. We collected unused Christmas cards, pens and stamps to be brought to the Felician Sisters in Lodi, N.J. and the Sisters of Saint John the Baptist in Purchase, N.Y. We also celebrated our 15th year anniversary. On November 30, 2014 we had an Anniversary/Christmas Party with our Brother Knights at



Cinders Restaurant. Our Pastor Fr. Hugh Murphy, our Chaplain Fr. O'Connor and spouses were in attendance. Fr. O'Connor paid a very nice tribute to the Columbiettes thanking us for all the things we do for our parish.

December was a *flurry* of activity! We held our annual Christmas cactus sale along with "Photos with Santa." Santa and two very special Christmas Elves created an enchanted day for all the children of our parish. Santa's helpers purchased, wrapped and delivered all Christmas gifts for families in need, Mount Saint Joseph's Home for Boys, and the Sisters in Lodi, N.J. as well as Purchase, N.Y.

On January 19, 2015, we held our annual pasta dinner. Although the January weather was not the best, a great time was had by all. I would like to thank each of our members for your continued support. During Lent, we joined with the

Knights for our annual "Soup n Sermon" during which we served a light meal of soup and artisan bread followed by a sermon given by our chaplain Father O'Connor.

During Mass on March 8, the Columbiettes and Knights will present the Confirmation Candidates with a stole which will be worn at their Confirmation. Following Mass, both groups will host a luncheon for the candidates, their families and sponsors in the parish center. Our Spring Rummage Sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 21 in the Parish Center.

On April 19, we will host a jewelry party for members, their family and friends. A great way to spend a sunny Sunday afternoon socializing with your sisters!

May begins our layette drive for Birth Haven in Newton, N.J. We will attend our Parish May Crowning during which we will present our First Communicants with a certificate and a small gift. On June 3, we will host the



Western Chapter Meeting at our Parish Center.

With all the excitement and activity in our auxiliary, this remains a very special year for us...fifteen years ago a small group of women joined together because they felt they could do more, serve more, reach out and directly touch lives in their community. A huge debt of gratitude is owed

Bishop Navagh

The Bishop Navagh Columbiettes have been busy this winter warming the lives of others. We made food baskets and gave gift cards to two local needy families to bring joy to them at Christmas. We also sent coats, scarves, mittens and snacks for children the SOLT sisters serve in Colorado.

On Jan. 10 we went to the Little Sisters of the Poor home in Totowa and played bingo with the residents. We gave all the residents gifts and refreshments.



to those women who *believed* they could make a difference. They set a high standard. We can never repay them but we can pay it forward...right here right now. Together!

Many blessings to all for happy and holy Easter season enriched with a fuller life in Christ.

—Roseleen LaVigne
President

On Jan. 15th, we enjoyed an after-Christmas dinner at Lina's Restaurant.

On Jan. 28 we welcomed four new members to our group. Congratulations to Kathleen Grotto, Vicki Pignone, Kathleen Piller and Bonnie Pohan. These four ladies took their First Degree that evening.



We had a Baked Potato Night the first Friday in Lent, Feb. 20.

On Feb. 24, we surprised one of our own Columbiettes, Tori Budesheim, with a baby shower. Tori had her fourth child, a girl, on March 30.



The Knights and Columbiettes led the Stations of the Cross on Feb. 27th.

On Sunday, March 22, we joined in a community packing event called Grains of Hope. We helped produce 153,618 meals for the hungry in Haiti and New Jersey.



We hosted a Fish and Chips the fifth Friday in Lent,

March 27. Now that spring is here we are having our annual flower sale. The delivery will be the day before Mother's Day.

On Memorial Day we will march in our town parade with the Knights, followed by the selection of our big 50/50 raffle winner. We will enjoy a picnic together.

At our May meeting we will have our May Crowning outdoors by our Mary statue. We will also read essays to select a scholarship winner to be announced at graduation. On Sunday, May 31, we will host our second Altar Server Appreciation Party. We will honor our boys and girls who serve as altar servers at the three area churches.

In June we will gather up all of our backpacks, can tab tops, gallon bags for the homeless, pennies and angel pin proceeds for convention. We are looking forward to State Convention, June 26-28. Hope to see you there!

—Barbara Hill
President



St. John's

2015 is a **BIG** year for St. John's Council Columbiettes!

The year, of course started off with a post-holiday party and **SNOWSTORM!**

February and March we hosted a "Cod and God" Fish Fry. This event was so popular last year, so, this year, we had to have two!

March 22, 2015 was our 10th Anniversary! We had a special mass at St. Mary's Church in Dumont, NJ, which was officiated by Rev. Dominic Ciriaco, who is also the chaplain of our Brother Knights. The Knights of Columbus Color Guard Corps did the honor of escorting the Columbiettes into the church.

our sister Columbiettes, Brother Knights, Past Grand Knights, District Deputies, current and past officers and 3 of our 5 Past Presidents.



April brings out the white gloves and fancy hats for our annual Spring Garden Tea Party. This is our most popular event of the year and is always well attended! We have finger foods, desserts, and, of course... **TEA!**

The lovely month of May is the time we vote on the charities that we will support with the money we have raised during the year. May is also the time we have our nominations for new officers. We take this time to thank President Joan Winant for her two years of service to our organization and are sure that



A luncheon followed at a local restaurant and well attended by



she, as Past President, will help our new President and Officers in the upcoming year.

June we all get ready for our annual convention and see all the wonderful things our Sister Columbiettes have done during the year.

We end our Columbiette year, the way we started it, with a party and plan to enjoy the

fast approaching lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer!

On behalf of myself, my sister Columbiettes and all of the officers of St John's Council, we wish everyone a happy, safe and fun summer. See you in September! Peace.
—Roberta Elwell
Past President

Long Valley

We are continuing to sell our cookbooks at a sale price of \$10 each. They make wonderful gifts at a bargain price or treat yourself to one and start cooking up something new.



We had a very busy December, starting on Dec. 6 helping our brother Knights at their annual community benefit auction and dinner which is always fun and successful. Then we held our annual

Homemade Christmas cookie sale at 2 parishes, again another success.

On Dec.14 we went to visit the international students of the Sisters of Christian Charity at Mallinckrodt Convent in Mendham. When I asked the president of the college what we can gift the nuns with, she told me "bed sheets". So members had fun buying and wrapping these, we also gifted them with necessities they needed along with treats and cheer. We left that Sunday afternoon as happy as they were with the generosity and companionship we brought to them. The students are from



foreign lands and they shared their Christmas customs with us.

Despite the weather over 2 weekends in February we held an “UNDY SUNDAY”. The parishioners were so generous in donating packages of under garments for women-men-children, that we collected 950 pieces for the Fr. English



Center in Paterson. The director Deacon Bob Head, told me that is the least donated item to the center; he was overwhelmed with the

donations.

We shared a warm breakfast with the Knights on Feb. 15 and again, despite the weather, had wonderful turnout.

Members are anxiously waiting for the arrival of spring to attend the state retreat again in April.

We are looking forward to hosting the next Western Chapter Meeting on May 6 at St. Mark’s in Long Valley. And again this year in May we are going to cook dinner on the Saturday night of the confirmation candidates’ 2-night Antioch retreat.

Until next time, Blessings to All

—Cindy Jones
President



Parsippany

Dear Sister Columbiettes,
Trying to look on the positive side of Mother Nature – we got through December and January without much difficulty – February and March she got even!!! Even with the grueling winter we kept happily busy. In February we were able to have our regular Tuesday meeting after a wonderful Shrove Dinner before Ash Wednesday. We had a great Cakeless Cake Sale and were able to outfit a young girl for First Communion – and give her family enough for a celebration as well. Our cards to shut-ins continues for every holiday and in between as well. In March we decided to “Go Green” for St. Patrick’s night and a photo of our ladies is attached. April finds us preparing for a baby shower for birthright. An Ice Cream Party for the men at the Firemen’s Home in Boonton is an annual event in May. Of course we look forward to a beautiful May Crowning. We assist our Knights as needed all through

the year as well as have our pillow sales to raise money for our various charities. The State programs are part of our ongoing goals every year. Since our 60th anniversary was January, 2015 we decided to have a quiet luncheon celebration when the weather was not so “iffy”. We are so very proud of our 60 years and thank all our sister Columbiettes who have been so supportive to us. We pray for ongoing success so that we can help those in need in the future.



To everyone - May God bless you and your family. Have a wonderful summer.

—Lily Freid
President



Msgr. James F. Gacquin

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

What a winter.....HUH!!!
Glad it is over and here comes the warm weather.

January was a quiet month, spent mostly in doors.

February we held a mini fundraiser with the Knights of Columbus...Adult Knight at the Races.....wow, we had so much fun. We had a winner's circle and the loser's circle; yours truly was a loser! Lent was close behind our race and we planned to have many soup suppers for our Friday Stations of the Cross, but due to weather most were cancelled, better try next year. Easter we were blessed with celebrating Good Friday with the youth, soon to be Confirmed, and provided a meatless dinner prior to Living Stations of the Cross. We also

were happy to help decorate our church for the beautiful Easter Season; what a great honor.

April brings preparations for convention and upcoming Tricky tray that we will help our churches' sister organization hold.

May, we look forward to our Chapter fundraiser and attending the Comedy Knight we have planned, we could use a few good laughs, along with preparations for officer elections. Can't wait for June and convention and August for Supreme Convention. Wow what a great year.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Obtain Peace for the World,
—Donna Lewandowski
President



Don Bosco

The Don Bosco Columbiettes went to see An Irish Christmas in Blairstown Theater after dinner at Bella Italia in December. On Sunday, December 14th, we held our annual Santa's Ice Cream Parlor Social. There were top-your-own sundaes and visits with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There was also a bake sale and Mrs. Claus' flea market. Between donations and the sales, we were able to donate \$330 to St. Joseph's Youth Mission Trip and many new toys to underprivileged children. The next weekend, we went Christmas caroling at three area nursing homes. It was fun to see the residents singing along and enjoying themselves. We gave each of them a little ornament and a card.

Don Bosco opened February with an auxiliary meeting. It was supposed to be on February 2nd, but it got snowed-out so we rescheduled for the next day. On February 9th, we were supposed to cook

dinner for the Migrant Ministry. It, too, was snowed out.

The weather was not much better for our March meeting, but we still managed to meet. The Migrant Ministry dinner was held on March 9th after the Spanish Mass. The people enjoyed the chicken, mashed potatoes and vegetables. On March 21st, there was snow on the ground, but after Mass and an Irish breakfast, the Columbiettes marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade along with



the Squirettes, the Knights, and the Squires. On March 27th, we had a pizza fund-raiser at Villa Capri in the Hampton Mall and made \$235.00.

Our April meeting, which was held on March 30 due to



our meeting place being closed for Easter vacation, was preceded by a First Degree ceremony, chaired by Susan Kadar, Past State President. We welcomed three new members.

On April 26th, we are planning



to have our first brunch for St. Joseph's Children's Choir after they sing for the 9:30 Mass.

Our May meeting will be for our "baby shower." We will be donating diapers, wipes, formula, bathing products, etc., along with some cute little outfits to Birth Haven. We will have a May Crowning on

May 10th after the 9:30 Mass at St. Joseph's in Mary's Garden. Also coming up, we are looking forward to our annual Flea Market, held at St. Paul's Abby, on Saturday, May 16th. There will be many assorted vendors and the Columbiettes will be selling baked goods.

Please remember to visit our auxiliary website for an update on activities and related events. www.donboscocolumbiettes.weebly.com.

Don't forget to stop by the K of C food booth at the Sussex County Farm & Horse Show/New Jersey State Fair in Augusta from July 31st to August 9th, where you will find Columbiettes working side-by-side with our Knights of Columbus. We have good food and the prices are great! The Don Bosco Columbiettes #7784 and I would like to wish all our sister Columbiettes a blessed, healthy, and happy summer.

—Rosemary Hoffmann
President



St. Philip the Apostle

We ended 2014 by collecting clothes for the Philippines. Clothes were dropped off or picked up by one of our members and shipped to Most Holy Name of Jesus Missionaries. We also were busy collecting T-Shirts for the veterans and crocheting and knitting blankets for St Mary's Group. We are still collecting school supplies and filling backpacks and collecting pajamas and toiletries for the Women's Shelter for Mother's day. Two important events happened, our president Sharon Festa was honored as Woman of the Year at St Philip Council Knights of Columbus 11671 Annual Breakfast held in St.

Philip's auditorium. We also celebrated our 5th year in existence. May all our Patronesses Guide all these last couple of months as we prepare for convention. Happy Mother's Day to all our sister Columbiettes! Happy Father's Day to all our brother Knights!
—Barbara Ann Lisi



St. Cecilia's

We are finishing our second year as St. Cecilia's Columbiettes and part of the South-west Chapter. We are so proud of what we have achieved as a united sisterhood.

This year we have helped our Knights of Columbus with

our Lenten dinners feeding our Parish family every Friday for six weeks, we held a bake sale for the South a Brunswick Food Bank, we shopped at Charmed by Claire's and we enjoyed dinner at Confectionately Yours.



We have so much to be thankful for with our wonderful membership at St. Cecilia's. Look for our next year fund raisers...we have a lot of fun ahead!

I would like to welcome our

St. Anthony's

Christmas dinner for the Columbiettes was held on December 16, 2014 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Jane Lee and Barbara Schounnot was chairman for this fun night. Thank you to Barbara Ann Lucarelli for running the games and Lisa Roberts for the decor. It was a relaxing and joyful event.

On January 30, 2015, we held a souper bowl. The attendees were given a ceramic bowl as they left the event. Minestrone soup, beef barley soup, chicken noodle soup, seafood corn chowder. Soda, coffee, tea, and dessert were offered after. A special thank you to Antoinette Moralisvili, for running this, and all those who contributed to a successful night.

new incoming executive board, may you all be blessed with wonderful years to come...

God Bless.

—Patty Christian
President

Western Chapter's meeting was held on March 4, 2015. Our members cooked up a storm and supplied a Pot luck dinner along with desserts.

Country Night with the Farmer Phil band had to be rescheduled due to good ol' Mother Nature. Phil and his band performed on March 6, 2015. The hall was decorated in a western theme and the night was a huge success.

On February 21st and 22nd, Palm Crosses were offered for sale after all St Anthony's Church masses. Crosses sold for \$10.00 with a pick up date of March 21, 2015 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Kim Bellantoni brought this terrific fundraising idea to our organization and was the chairwoman. As with all our other



functions, many people helped or supported to make it a profitable event.

Joan Taggart & Lisa Roberts invited all First Holy Communion candidates and their families to enjoy a breakfast on March 29, 2015 at the Knights monthly breakfast.

Future events to look forward to are:
Pocketbook Bingo on June 5, 2015. The cost is \$15.00 per person. There will be a small tricky tray with 20-25 baskets valued up to a \$100 along with seasonal baskets. The proceeds for the seasonal basket will go towards some of our many charities - such as Local Food Pantries, Breast Cancer, Jason and Justin's Journey, and the Wounded Warrior Project. If interested, contact one of our members. The tickets sell out

Sgt. John Basilone

The **Sgt. John Basilone Columbiettes #13264** have worked together to provide several works of charity this Columbian year. We adopted a family of three this past Christ-

quickly.

Pot O' Luck drawing - Winning tickets will be drawn at the awards dinner on June 16, 2015. One ticket is for \$10 and 3 tickets are for \$25.

Donations were made to the NJ State Memorial Fund in the memory of Frank Noger (Lorraine Noger's husband); St. Anthony's Youth Group for their souper bowl; and a family with a young child needing brain surgery.

We sadly said goodbye to our former chaplain, Father Jim Czerwinski, OFM. May God bless you as you rest eternally in Heaven.

We would like to welcome all our new members. It is exciting to have such terrific women join us. You will surely enjoy such a great organization.
—Geri Nolan

mas and were able to provide clothing, toys, household items, and a grocery store gift card. The family was overwhelmed with the abundance of gifts they received. For



Easter, we provided a local family a complete Easter meal and baskets that included extra food, candy, goodies, and a palm cross. We have continued to support our Knights by assisting them with their monthly Parish Community Pancake Breakfast, including a shoebox drive for the Vets and a Breakfast with Santa. We also assisted with their Shake-a-Can

St. James

At our January meeting, St. James began a New Year of activities with a presentation by a podiatrist. It was a lively and informative talk on the care of feet. So, with a renewed spring in our step, we continue to “care and share” with our Auxiliary’s focus on Veterans.

In February, we and Brother Knights of Columbus attended our Corporate Communion Mass at Holy Trinity Church. This tradition was followed with a continental breakfast.

During Lent, we assisted our Knights by helping with

initiative to raise funds for the Somerset County ARC. We wish all auxiliaries a successful close to the Columbian year and a wonderful summer! We look forward to the opportunity to share faith, love, and fellowship in the new season!

—Karen Melander
President

their Lenten Dinners. We set tables and provided desserts.

Then, in keeping with “The Year of the Vet”, on March 29th, we and our Knights hosted a Family Breakfast. All profits were donated to Final Salute Inc. whose mission is to assist homeless women Veterans. The Easter Bunny hopped by and we raffled an Easter basket.

At our April meeting, we hosted a “Showers of Love for Baby”, a baby shower to benefit the Action Pregnancy Center in New Brunswick.

Seven members will attend the State Weekend Retreat at



San Alfonso’s Retreat House. Each looks forward to this time of bonding in prayer and friendship.

No one wants to be late for our Annual Tea Party which will be held on May 3rd. Tea, crumpets and a raffle are on the agenda.

Gifts to our parishes’ First Communicants are wrapped and ready. This is a cooperative Knights and Columbiette activity as are Baptismal gifts.

At our May Meeting, we will honor the Blessed Mother with our May Crowning Ceremony. Immediately following will be our “Pot Luck Supper” when members serve their culinary delights.

To culminate our year dedicated to Veterans, we will march in Jamesburg’s Memorial Day Parade. Some members will march and others will ride but all will remember and honor.

We are sponsoring a Holy Hour for Vocations at St. James Church on May 28th. Then, after each Mass on May 30th and 31st, we will have a

collection for the “Pennies for Heaven” fund.

In June, we will honor a Monroe Township High School Senior at their 20th Annual Senior Awards Night. At our meeting, we will award our Good Student and Humanitarian honorees.

We continue our efforts in providing non-perishable food goods to the Deacon’s Food Pantry and collecting personal items, school supplies and tab tops for our Diocesan Charities.

Plans are underway to host, together with our Brother Knights, a party for our parishes’ Altar Servers in September. Also, we are organizing a prayer group – each to pray every night at 9:00PM for the safety of our nation and people, for a return of a godly nation and for good to end evil in the world.

On behalf of St. James Columbiettes, I wish you a summer full of laughter, love and sunshine.
Carol Bohinski
President



Vincent T. Lombardi

The Vincent T. Lombardi Columbiettes Council #6552 have progressed to our 5th year and continues to serve the parishes of St. Mary's, New Monmouth, NJ and OLPH/St. Agnes, Atlantic Highlands, NJ. We ended 2014 with a concert of *The American Songbook*, as a fundraiser for our scholarship fund which was held at Arbor Terrace Senior Living Facility, Middletown, NJ and raised a small amount which was a nice boost into our Treasury.



2015 came in with a chilly, snowy winter. It slowed down our Brother Knights because the boiler at their Council House flooded thereby closing down the house. That did not stop us. Our chaplain, Deacon Bob Scharen got us space at the Bullman Center at St. Mary's for our meeting in Feb-

ruary. In March, our current Grand Knight, John Condon, allowed us his establishment, Condon Funeral Home for our March meeting and our sister Columbiettes at Bayshore allowed us to use their Knights Council House for the April meeting.



On February 28, the Columbiettes assisted the Lombardi Knights with the annual Italian Night at Mother Teresa Regional School, part of the St. Agnes/OLPH parish. This annual fundraiser, a favorite of the Lombardi Councils, brought in \$2,300 towards the Mother Teresa Scholarship Fund with grateful thanks from Principal Sorce.

The Columbiettes held a membership drive at St Mary's and were able to round up



some possible new members. We have been following up with them to see if they still want to become a Lombardi Columbiette. So far we have "yes" from 3. Once we get signed applications we can move along. It will be nice to see some new faces among our members.

This year we concentrated our fundraising efforts toward helping Mater Dei Prep stay open in lieu of offering scholarships to the various grammar schools in our area. It was all over the news and the radio that Mater Dei Prep, part of St. Mary's would be closing due to lack of funds. Mater Dei needed to raise \$1,000,000 in order to remain open after June 2015. Thanks to our secretary, Jan Flanagan, the Lombardi Columbiettes hosted a "Dine to Donate" on March 18, 2015 fundraiser at Houlihan's, Holmdel, NJ and raised \$800 officially. That evening brought in over \$5,000 for Houlihan's and they are still thanking Jan every time she goes back there for dinner. Bravo, Jan! As of this

newsletter, Mater Dei Prep has reached its goals and will become a private school run by a board of trustees. Our Blessed Mother, our patroness has been watching over all.

It was also inspirational and pleasant to participate in the evening of recollection at St Anthony's in Port Reading back on March 19 in commemoration of the Feast of St. Joseph.

We will be working with our brother Knights and for ourselves on more fundraisers for both St. Mary's and for the Knights. 2015 has had its moments, but every cloud has a silver lining.

Blessings to all from all of us at Vincent T. Lombardi # 6552 to all of you. Pray for us. www.vtlcolumbiettes6552.com – Gilda F. Healy
President





Millstone Valley

We, at Millstone Valley kept very busy throughout the winter with the following activities:

We planned and attended a Mass for the deceased members of the Columbiettes & Knight of Columbus.

We sold Angel pins and magnets at the K of C Pancake breakfast with Santa, and some members helped with setup and clean-up of the event.

Our December Christmas Charity donation was for the Women's Resource Center and we collected and gifted them with new pajamas for women & children. We also made a donation to Francesca Sena and her Christmas Cheer project.

In January, we assisted with the Knights of Columbus Pasta Night with many of us pre-cooking the pasta. In addition, we made a monetary donation to the family of a child in our parish undergoing cancer treatment.

In February, we hosted our Mid-west Chapter meeting which was the Baby Shower.

Many blankets, clothing, diapers and a stroller were gratefully received by The Center for Great Expectations Home for Women & Children in Somerset.

On February 25th, we held our first Gold & Silver Sale fundraiser. And since we did so well we are holding another one on April 29th. It's amazing how quickly a single earring or broken chain can add up to cash. If anyone has jewelry, silverware or candlesticks to sell, come on over to St Joseph's Church in Hillsborough. The event is in the Hospitality Room and starts at 5:30. We will go until around 9:00...basically, as long as it takes. Our Auxiliary receives 10% of the total taken in and checks are written to each person on the spot.

In March we gathered prior to the start of our meeting for a Pizza Party. At the end of the meeting we had a Book Swap, and the night concluded with our group attending a Lenten Prayer session offered by our



parish priest in the church.

The K of C also hosted their Annual Fish Buffet dinner in March. And once again, we held our Frozen Soup Sale at the event. We made 45 containers of soup and despite the Friday snow storm, the people came and we sold out!! 100% of our Soup Sale pro-



ceeds were donated to The Christina S. Walsh Breast Cancer Foundation. Angel pins were also sold at the Fish Dinner.

At April's Mid-West Chapter, First & Major Degree Ceremonies, we welcomed three new members (adding to

the three we welcomed in the Fall)! And three current members also received their Major at this event.

In May, we will once again be gifting our First Holy Communicants with Book marks. We attend the rehearsal and hand deliver them to each child individually.

We continue to collect State project items for Convention and have at least 25 filled backpacks and about 25 toiletry bags so far.

We look forward to our Annual Summer Social with a BBQ picnic. And wish everyone the May flowers we've all been waiting for over this long and cold winter.

May you all keep our Blessed Mother Mary close to your heart, and she yours.

—Erin Gerberville
Past President

Somerville

Dear Sister Columbiettes,

Happy Spring! I hope this newsletter finds you well.

We've continued our "Day of Meals" program by

collecting peanut butter, canned fruit, and canned protein at the Feb., Mar., and April meetings.

In February, we held our



annual Baby Shower for Catholic Charities. We also visited Bridgewater Senior Knitting & Crocheting Club, who support our shower by providing beautiful hand-knitted baby hats, sweaters, and blankets.



We sold Mary Night Lights, Car Rosaries, and Note Cards as Spring fundraiser items. We also held a 'shake-a-can' at St. Joseph's Parish in Raritan to support the NJSCC Pennies from Heaven campaign. Our Sunshine Chair reports very positive feedback from the birthday / get-well / thinking-of-you notes that she sends to the membership on a regular basis.

Our auxiliary has been actively supporting a local high school student who is working on the Project MYSELF program at Rutgers University.

Handmade hats and scarves were donated to foster care youth in the Winter, and we are currently making/collecting blankets for the Summer.

Somerville was happy to host Mid West Chapter's Degree in April, which honored Fr. Sean Broderick on the occasion of his 50th Anniversary of Ordination. We were pleased to have one new member join the auxiliary at that ceremony, and are also excited to report that we have recently reinstated a member (after a 25 year 'vacation' from Somerville!).

Besides our own activities, we have also been working closely with our Brother Knights. Our members participated in their Breakfast with Easter Bunny and Comedy Night, and we marched together in the Somerville Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade.

We are winding down the year with a Living Rosary at the Somerville KOC Hall at 2:00pm on Sunday, May 3. All are welcome!

Blessings from Somerville.
—Yvonne Shimshock
President



Updates to State Directory as of 4/2015

PAGE	CHANGE
19	Naty Caballero Correct address is Apt 422, ZIP is 07304, phone is 201-401-7243
24	Joanne Chiamonte Correct address is PO Box 1042, Bloomfield, NJ 07003
34	Joan Campisano Correct email is jac.wb4@gmail.com
36	OLP, Jersey City Meets 2nd Sunday of the month—St. Aedan's Stewardship Hall, 11AM

A Note from the Editor

Thank you for all your submissions to this edition of the ECHO Newsletter. What amazing things you are doing in His name. Sharing them is a wonderful gift! If you haven't submitted anything recently, I'd encourage you to submit something for the Fall issue. Submissions can be mailed to me at **13 Banor Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844** or emailed to echonewsletter@hotmail.com. If I don't see you at Convention, have a wonderful summer!
— Yvonne Shimshock

ECHO Subscriptions

Subscriptions to the ECHO can be purchased at a cost of \$9.00 per year by sending the completed form, along with a check payable to **NJ State Council Columbiettes** to Yvonne Shimshock, 13 Banor Drive, Hillsborough, NJ 08844. You may request an electronic version (PDF) of the newsletter at no cost by emailing echonewsletter@hotmail.com.

Name: _____
 Auxiliary: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Phone: _____
 E-Mail: _____