

EDUCATION and LIBRARIES

Top 10 Projects

MOST CREATIVE PROJECT

1. GFWC Gloucester County Women's Club (Look for a Book): In an effort to get children to read more, the club created a new project, "Look for a Book". Members placed picture books for elementary school aged children in Ziploc bags with flyers explaining the program. 175 books were "hidden" around the community for children to find. The flyer encourages them to take the book home, read it, and then re-hide it. Books are placed in parks and playgrounds across the county. Members and "finders" even took the books on vacation and placed them in different states. Finders were encouraged to send pictures of themselves reading the books. Some books were new, many were recycled or gently used and collected from the community and was featured on the front page of the local newspaper.

2. The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River (One Book One Borough Program):

Members of the Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River partnered with the Upper Saddle River Library, for the first time, to offer a **One Book One Borough Program** during the month of October. The selected book was *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore which tells the story of Edison, Westinghouse and Tesla's battle to electrify America. Activities were co-planned for the month including a kickoff, an historical fashion show of period clothing of the era which was coordinated with the town Historical Society, weekend events, and coordinated participation of 4 Town Book Groups including the club's own Club Book Group in discussing the book. The project concluded with the showing of the movie, *The Current War* at the Library.

3. Woman's Club of Merchantville (Veterans Day Celebration): The Woman's Club of Merchantville had to cancel their annual Read Across America event due to COVID but was able to schedule a reading on Veterans Day in November. The event took place outside of the school with a performance by the local elementary school students of "You're a Grand Old Flag" and

the reciting of The Pledge of Allegiance. The students separated into class clusters in the school yard and members read patriotic stories to them and shared family memorabilia. One member brought a photo of her father from World War II and another brought current medals from her grandchildren. Students shared their own stories of family members who are or who have served in the military.

4. Woman's Club of West Deptford (150th Anniversary of West Deptford Township History): To celebrate the sesquicentennial year of West Deptford Township, a pictorial and important facts booklet was produced for all elementary classrooms in Oakview, Red Ban, and Greenfields Elementary Schools. The club president authored a booklet called A Brief History, Children's Edition of West Deptford celebrating the town's incorporation and a 30-page activity/coloring book was also produced to review, recall, and reinforce landmarks and special places around the town.

5. Woman's League of Mt. Holly (Grandpals Penpals Program): Members partnered with a local school's third grade teachers on an intergenerational project. "GrandPals" is an email letter writing program that provided a fun way to form unexpected friendships, improve participants' emotional well-being as well as help the students improve their writing skills.

6. The Haddon Fortnightly EMD (Magazine Collections): The club collected 476 magazine and donated them to a local memory care facility specializing in caring for residents with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

7. Branchburg Woman's Club (Tricia Ihde Fund): In the summer of 2021, the club established a fund to honor the memory of a devoted member who passed away that year. Tricia was the publicity and communications chair for many years, so a \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student majoring in communications at Raritan Valley College will be awarded from the fund annually.

8. Woman's Club of Edgewater Park (Mayor's Picnic in the Park): The Township mayor had a summer reading program called "Picnic in the Park". The focus was for Pre-K and

K aged children to read at the park. Members donated 75 new books to be used for this program and volunteered as readers for the event.

9. Woman's Club of Sparta (Safety Village): Safety Village is a safety education project aimed at incoming kindergartners to teach them important safety lessons before starting school. Presenters from the community such as police, fire, and local pediatricians spoke to the students on a variety of topics including school bus safety, what to do if they encounter a fire, how to properly wash their hands, and what to do if they get lost on a hike.

10. Roxbury Women's Club (Roxbury Library Foundation): The club partnered with the newly formed Roxbury Library Foundation to raise funds to enlarge the existing building and enhance programs and services in place at the library. Members also attended a gala in support of this effort.