

**New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs
Arts Creative and Arts Performing
Top Ten Projects 2024**

1. The **Suburban Woman's Club of South Plainfield** (College District) launched a new project called "***HE'ARTS CREATIVE***," designed, created and distributed handmade items to enrich the lives of people in health care facilities or living with disabilities. They partnered with the **GFWC Central Valley Contemporary Club**, church knitting groups, and other civic organizations to expand the program and increase the variety of handmade items of various creative mediums. Their two objectives were to 1) use the talent of members; and 2) offer individuals and local organizations a way to share their talents with those who will benefit from them. They met with potential facilities and community groups to discuss their needs. They continue to collect and make lap robes, shawls, stuffed hearts, and flat stuffed animals. The creative "***HE'ARTS CREATIVE***," themed title and their partnerships with other Clubs and community organizations make for a remarkable project.

2. The **Woman's Club of Pitman** (Garden District) held a **Scavenger Hunt in the Historical Museum of Pitman**. With the museum curators they identified notable women of Pitman, women's careers/businesses, and events or clubs run or participated in by local women. Fourteen clues were created and distributed to members, who used to the clues to walk through the museum and find items. This was a contest that created interest, pride, and fun in the cultural environment of the museum. Winners enjoyed a Dunkin' Donuts and Chick-Fil-A gift cards and certificates.

3. **The Porch Club of Riverton** (Garden District) held two demonstrations and workshops on **Flower Hammering**. This art medium transfer "ink" from flowers onto paper. They coupled this with an Ice Cream Social. Members were quick to learn and went home with their results and ideas for summer projects. This is a rare and interesting artistic technique, which uses natural pigments to create botanical prints.

4. The **Junior Woman's Club of Jefferson** (Highlands District) offered a **Second Grade Art Event**. They provided second graders from two elementary schools in town with three shapes on an entry form. Students were asked to use their imaginations to create an original work of art using these three shapes. The members voted on all the entries. Many students participated and the children did an incredible job. Three winners were chosen from each school, and received certificates and prizes. This event merged community, art, and geometry for very young children.

5. The 61 members of the **Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River** (Ramapo District) celebrated their club's signature program now in its 38th year, an **Essay and Poetry contest for grades K -8**. For two days, six judges spent over 50 hours reading through the 242 submissions based on the prompt, "What memory do you have that still makes you laugh to this day?" The ten top winners and their families, school administrators and teachers were invited to attend the club's December meeting where each winner read his/her entry and was presented a certificate from the club along with \$50. Each winner's name and submission title was etched onto school plaques, keeping their legacy as an inspiration for future creative writers.

6. The **Greater Pascack Valley Woman's Club** (Palisades District) gave special emphasis on creative children's projects by incorporating children's crafts tables at many of their fundraisers.

Those attending Breakfast with the Easter Bunny painted egg-shaped sugar cookies with edible frosting and food-safe brushes. Cookies and Cocoa with Santa gave the children the opportunity to paint ornament-shaped cookies with the same safety techniques, as well as, make Christmas tree decorations with pompoms and large pinecones on to a toilet paper roll. Holding crafting events for children instills an appreciation of art that may lead to a life-long appreciation of the arts.

7. The Woman's Club of Upper Saddle River's Arts and Culture Committee (Ramapo District) partnered with the Health and Wellness Committee to host a **NeuroArt** Session, led by one of their members. NeuroArt is a field that combines art, science, and technology to study how the arts can impact the brain, body, and behavior. After some mediation, members were guided through creating an 8x10 canvas art creating organic, neuro-like lines and shapes. Members left relaxed and with a lovely piece of artwork. This is a great example of cooperative committees merging the power of mind, body and spirit through art.
8. The Woman's Club of Spring Lake (Shore District) blended several methods of art and the community to honor Veterans. While handing out candy in the center of town on Halloween the Civic Engagement Committee asked trick-or-treaters to write messages of gratitude and pride on cards that had been handmade by members of the Arts and Culture Committee. The cards, along with handcrafted gift tags were included in Goodie Bags given to **Veterans' Day Luncheon** jointly hosted by the Borough Council and served by the Club members. Members baked than 40 desserts. This represents a multi-generational, patriotic project that incorporated several holidays, two committees, the municipality, and cooking and artistic talents.
9. The Woman's Club of Vineland (Southern) held a year-ending **Evening in Paris Summer Salad Social**. Posters of famous French posters greeted members as they entered. Plaster pedestals held silk ferns, giving a museum-like feel. In the main room, members were suddenly transported to Paris. A wall-sized backdrop of the Eiffel Tower with a fireworks display gave the illusion of actual bursting fireworks. A side wall boasted a life-sized can-can dancer created by two Club members. Her shirt was a hand decorated gathered plastic tablecloth and she wore a curly wig with feathers. Her limbs were flesh colored poster board and she wore fancy little boots. The tables were dressed in pink and black satin with centerpieces of glass globe candleholders adorned with a miniature Eiffel Tower. One area of the room was converted into a French Café. The menu, music of France, and a Paris Trivia Game capped off an amazing event.
10. Members of the Woman's Club of Bellville (Liberty District) sponsored a district poetry contest in November. Directions were sent out electronically to five elementary, one middle and one parochial school for grades 4,5,6 and 7. One hundred and ten (110) entries were received electronically for judging this year's theme "What Does Climate Change Mean to Me." Eight members volunteered 95 hours judging and preparing certificates for the 12 winners. Letters were sent to winners, parents and teachers inviting them to a December celebration. Sixty students, parents, guests and members attended. Each of the winners read his/her poem to the audience. All winners received cash prizes totaling \$300 from the club. Additional expenses for certificates, printing, postage, and refreshments were \$100. First-place poems were submitted to the NJSFWC Youth Poetry Contest and both won first place.