

***45th Annual  
New Jersey  
Women of Achievement  
Awards***

***May 4, 2026***

Sponsored by

New Jersey State Federation of  
Women's Clubs of GFWC



and



Douglass Residential College  
of Rutgers,  
The State University of New Jersey

## ***The New Jersey Women of Achievement Award***

The Women of Achievement Award was initiated in 1981 and is co-sponsored by New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs of GFWC and Douglass College. The Federation and Douglass College have been partners in encouraging women to achieve since 1918, with the opening of the College, the first public institution of higher learning in the State to admit women. First known as the New Jersey College for Women, the college was renamed in 1955 in honor of Mabel Smith Douglass, the dynamic College Chairman of the Federation who became the College's first Dean. Since those days, the largest women's volunteer organization in the State and the only women's residential college in the nation that is part of a public research university have maintained close ties, and are proud to honor New Jersey's Women of Achievement.

**2026**  
***Women of Achievement***

***Mary Beth Iannarella***

Founder, Girl Talk Marlton

***Deborah Perminto***

Founder & Leader, Millville Woman's Club Chorus

***Lisa Dorio Ruch***

President, Associate Alumnae of Douglass College

***Jeanne E. Martin***

Consultant on Age-Friendly Initiatives

Retired Executive Director,  
Meals on Wheels North Jersey

***Ann Quinn***

Registered Parliamentarian  
NJSFWC President 2002-2004

# ***Mary Beth Iannarella***

## **Founder, Girl Talk Marlton**

Mary Beth Iannarella is the founder of *Girl Talk Marlton*, a nonprofit organization that mentors and empowers girls in grades 5-12. This program provides leadership opportunities, service projects, and fun social events. Through *Girl Talk Marlton*, teen volunteers create blessing bags for the homeless, host lemonade stands as fundraising events, and participate in National Night Out.

Mary Beth is also involved with the local *Elks Lodge*. She started the Ladies of the Lodge, which is a women's group associated with the Lodge that combines community service with camaraderie. From raising funds for South Jersey Breast Cancer Coalition to supporting causes like the Alice Paul Foundation and Mothers Matter, this group believes that giving back should be fun.

In addition, Mary Beth is the Alliance Coordinator for the *Evesham Municipal Alliance*, a community-based volunteer organization dedicated to preventing substance abuse, promoting mental health, and supporting families through education, resources, and local partnerships. The Alliance works collaboratively with schools, law enforcement officers, and community groups to reduce the impact of substance abuse and strengthen protective factors among residents and the youth of the community. She has expanded partnerships, increased visibility, and strengthened outreach efforts across Evesham Township using her background in community engagement and volunteer leadership. Her volunteer efforts impact many young women and families in Evesham Township.

When people think of Mary Beth, they know she extends kindness to many, gets involved, wants to make a difference, and celebrates the people around her.

Mary Beth was nominated by the Marlton Woman's Club, Linda Magee, President.

# ***Deborah Perminto***

## **Founder & Leader, Millville Woman's Club Chorus**

Debbi Perminto joined the Millville Woman's Club after her retirement from the Millville School District. Due to her love of music, she asked the Club President if she could form a chorus from interested club members. The chorus began in 2016 with 12 members and now includes 42 singers as well as a talented group of members who play different musical instruments. This group calls themselves "*The Bella Bells.*" This diverse group, under Debbi's leadership, shares their instrumental talents as well as their singing abilities.

The Millville Woman's Club Chorus shares its love for music with many outside groups including churches, nursing homes, and community organizations. Debbi and her chorus group save the donations they receive in order to present a scholarship to a Millville graduating senior who plans to further their education in the field of music. Debbi also makes and sells CDs of the arrangements she has put together of the ladies performing when entertaining. Debbi and her chorus are well known throughout the area and are often asked to perform.

Debbi and the Millville Woman's Club Chorus have a very busy schedule. In addition to their performances, they have weekly practices. Debbi prepared a new musical arrangement which previewed at the Millville Woman's Club's Thanksgiving Tea. The Town of Millville enjoys the talents that Debbi and her chorus bring to the community.

Debbi was nominated by the Millville Woman's Club, Pamela McNamee, President.

# ***Lisa Dorio Ruch***

## **President, Associate Alumnae of Douglass College**

Lisa Dorio Ruch has served the women of our State as a public servant in her professional roles within the Office of the State Attorney General. She has devoted countless, impactful, pro bono hours of service and leadership to the Associate Alumnae of Douglass College in numerous roles, culminating in her current position as President of the organization. As a mother of an autistic child, she has been a role model and mentor to other special needs parents. Lisa's primary motivation is to serve others.

Lisa has devoted her career to serving the public interest. For over two decades, she has held roles within the office of the State Attorney General, first as Deputy Attorney General within the department of Law and Public Safety, then as an instructor in the Attorney Generals' Advocacy Institute. Now she is a Hearing Officer for the Employment Relations Commission.

For the Associate Alumnae, Lisa has been a devoted volunteer for 36 years. Lisa has served as a class officer, a member of the Board of Directors, and Vice President of Administration, to name a few. In 2003, she was honored with the Alumnae Recognition Award for her selfless support. Now as AADC President, Lisa represents the interest of over 40,000 alumnae worldwide. Lisa also serves as volunteer Trustee of the Douglass Fund, assuring sound stewardship of a trust that provides significant scholarship support for students and program support for Douglass College.

Under Lisa's leadership, the Associate Alumnae has expanded mentorship, lifelong learning and community building programs. Lisa is truly selfless in her service. She builds self-confidence in emerging leaders by always shining the spotlight on their volunteerism, never her own.

Lisa was nominated by Eileen Cotter, Executive Director, Associate Alumnae of Douglass College.

# ***Jeanne E. Martin***

## **Consultant on Age-Friendly Initiatives**

### **Retired Executive Director, Meals on Wheels North Jersey**

Jeanne E. Martin is a respected nonprofit executive, community leader, and advocate with more than three decades of experience serving vulnerable populations across Bergen County. After retiring as Executive Director of *Meals on Wheels North Jersey*, where she expanded the organization's reach and strengthened community partnerships, Jeanne now works as a private consultant on Age-Friendly Initiatives, helping communities implement programs that support seniors and people with disabilities, and promote healthy, inclusive living environments.

Jeanne's career has been defined by service, compassion, and collaborative leadership. In addition to her work in senior nutrition, she is a committed advocate for people in recovery from addiction. As a founding Trustee of New Jersey Recovery Advocates, she has helped elevate public awareness, reduce stigma and advance community-based support for individuals and families affected by substance use disorders.

Her dedication to service also extends through the Rotary. She is currently President of the Rotary Club of Oradell and Emerson and has been a founding member of the Rotary Club of Greater Westwood. Through Rotary, she has led local and international service initiatives, promoted volunteerism, and strengthened community engagement. Jeanne's work has earned recognition throughout the region, including being named a Fifth District Hometown Hero by Congressman Josh Gottheimer, Citizen of the Year by the Pascack Valley Chamber of Commerce, and one of North Jersey Media Group's "17 People to Watch in New Jersey."

Driven by compassion and a deep commitment to improving lives, Jeanne continues to inspire positive change through leadership, advocacy, and unwavering community service.

Jeanne was nominated by Susan Chambers.

# *Ann Quinn*

**Registered Parliamentarian  
NJSFWC President 2002-2004**

Ann Quinn began her career as a teacher. She became an assistant Cub Scout leader and started a recycling truck at the Marlboro Library to provide funds for the program. She was part of the Morganville Environmental Protectors, attending board meetings, rallies, and court appearances, and succeeded in saving one of the Beacon Hills from development. Ann worked with the Edison Paper Company to develop a program to teach recycling in elementary schools and was the visiting teacher in many schools in Monmouth and Middlesex Counties.

Ann joined the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs as a Matawan Junior in 1972. She went on to serve as NJSFWC Director of Junior Clubs from 1982-1984. In 1994, Ann helped found the Bayshore Woman's Club. In 2002-2004, Ann served as NJSFWC President and among her accomplishments were working to save the Highlands Watershed from commercial development and partnering with The Governor's Book Club, a reading program for Elementary School children. This partnership led to recognition with a Library Champions Award presented by the New Jersey Library Association. Ann is a registered Parliamentarian serving the NJSFWC as Consultant to the Board for 16 years. In addition, Ann is a multi-term President of the Matawan Woman's Club.

The Keyport Yacht Club also has Ann as a member. She was installed as Commodore of the Keyport Yacht Club immediately after Superstorm Sandy in 2012. She was very involved in the rebuilding of the Yacht Club and served a two-year term. A 20-year member of the Yacht Club Race Committee, she served as the "on the water" Race Officer. Ann continues to serve as the Yacht Secretary, assuring efficient meetings.

Ann was nominated by Mary Pat Marcello and Patricia Dahl.