

## The President's Welcome Note

### The Haddon Fortnightly

Welcome to The Haddon Fortnightly Clubhouse, an iconic Haddonfield building and a proud National Historic Landmark. I am honored to serve as the current President of The Haddon Fortnightly, a women's club that is approaching its 130th anniversary.

### What is a Women's Club?

Many people imagine a women's club as a group of prim and proper ladies in hats and gloves, sitting around drinking tea. While I'm not sure that was ever true, it certainly was not the case at the founding of The Haddon Fortnightly, and it could not be farther from the truth today!

Founded in 1894, The Haddon Fortnightly was among the earliest of the women's clubs that later formed the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, and eventually became part of the General Federation of Women's Clubs—the largest women's organization in the world.

### A Legacy of Impact

The contributions of women's clubs are extraordinary. Over the past century, clubwomen in New Jersey have:

Founded libraries and Douglass College.

Purchased ambulances.

Bought and maintained their own clubhouses—at a time when women securing mortgages was almost unheard of!

Nationally, members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs exhibited at World's Fairs, raised money to purchase fighter planes during WWII, and were instrumental in ending child labor, creating child care centers, saving the Palisades, and advancing countless social reforms. You don't raise those kinds of funds—or create that kind of impact—by sitting quietly in gloves and hats!

### What We Do Today

At The Haddon Fortnightly, we continue that legacy of service and leadership. We meet monthly from September through May, with some committees working year-round. Meetings often feature engaging speakers and always include updates from our many committees, reflecting the diversity of our activities:

Fundraising for charities and community needs.

Social services and advocacy for important causes.

Arts, literature, and education programs.

Support for schools through scholarships and mentoring.

Philanthropy, including donations to over 50 organizations annually, from childhood cancer programs to domestic violence prevention and suicide awareness.

We also remain committed to maintaining our beautiful clubhouse, a designated National Historic Landmark, which continues to serve as both our meeting place and a testament to our enduring mission.

### Honoring Our Founders

In 1894, twelve visionary women came together with a belief that women's intelligence, talents, and determination could make a powerful difference—not only for themselves, but for their community. This building, bought and paid for by clubwomen in the 1930s and lovingly maintained ever since, stands as living proof of their vision.

Inside these walls, generations of women have listened, learned, brainstormed, planned, worked hard—and yes, occasionally enjoyed a cup of tea or even a glass of wine—while building a better community and honoring the dreams of our founders.

As we celebrate nearly 130 years of service, The Haddon Fortnightly continues to embody the power and potential of women working together for the greater good.

Warmly,  
Sue Sheehan  
President, The Haddon Fortnightly