In case you've ever wondered about the beginning of the Fantastic 50s, here's the front page article from the very first newsletter, October, 2000. It was written by Den DiMarco recounting his experience at the first meeting.

**Fantastic Turnout for Fantastic 50's!!**
Laurie warned us!
Be prepared with calendars, sign-up sheets, complimentary newsletter coupons - the works, she said. So we prepared. The planning committee met. We produced schedules, descriptions, selected contacts, provided phone numbers, had business cards printed.

We were ready…

"By the way", Laurie added, "Don't be concerned if turnout is low at the first meeting. At Singles on the Move's first meeting, we only had 12 people."

To be on the safe side, we assumed 15-20 people. We made enough activity calendars for 40 people. We were set. We were clever.

We were ready...

The planning committee met at 7 PM, an hour before the general meeting, in order to discuss the meeting agenda and other important meeting stuff. The first "general meeting" person arrived at 7PM; we had to request that he wait outside in the library. A few minutes later, a few women arrived. We explained to them that the general meeting would start at 8 PM, gave them some handouts and continued. A few minutes later another person walked in. Seemed like single folks 50 and over were eager to meet!

At 7:45 I checked outside the meeting room doors to see how things were going. I wanted to assure the people that we weren't ignoring them - just trying to finish up our planning meeting. When I opened the door, I was amazed to see a group of 20-25 people!! One of them cheerfully shouted that there were more in another part of the library. I told them we would be only a few more minutes.

Good thing we had 40 calendars. We were ready…

At 7:50 we opened the doors to the meeting room. The number of people had increased. A long line had formed. We set up more sign-up sheets and helped people move in. We had extra pens. The people kept coming and coming. We started setting up extra chairs. Every chair in the room was occupied. People were standing.

Were we ready???

I asked the Librarian if there were any more chairs available. She said there were 75 chairs in the room. And that 75 was the maximum number of people allowed in the room.

75??
40 Calendars??

Uh oh.

We weren't ready!!

We found 8 more chairs from another room. It still wasn't enough. We were breaking the fire code - too many people, but the librarian let it slide - probably had other things to worry about…

We definitely weren't ready.

Fortunately, we were prepared, if short on materials. The people were gracious. Everyone was cooperative. The meeting was successful and many compliments were passed around at the end. We picked up 10 volunteers; 70 signatures for newsletters and 28 fully paid members on the spot. My thanks to the planning committee: Susan, Denise, Alice, Joan, Bob and Gail for helping to prepare for the meeting, Frank for his contribution and Laurie for her help in multiple areas. Thanks to these folks the problem we had was the best possible problem - an unexpected huge turnout!

Wait until the next one. We'll be ready!
**Bird Walk**  
**Clayton, NJ**  
Join us for a pleasant, morning, guided walk where we search for and observe some of the interesting birds of Gloucester County. Location is Scotland Run Park Nature Center, 980 E Academy Street, 08312. Register by calling Jill at 856.881.0845 or email Jill at LTaylor@co.gloucester.nj.us. To join an 8:30 AM Turnersville car pool, call Den at 856.842.1790.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>4/1</th>
<th>Bird Walk</th>
<th>9 - 11 AM</th>
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**Dance Party**  
**Barrington, NJ**  
No Cover Charge  
Join Jack Peacock at Time Out Entertainment & Grill 241 White Horse Pike. Host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>4/1</th>
<th>Dance Party</th>
<th>5 – 8 PM</th>
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**Stitch & Bitch**  
**Cherry Hill**  
Looking for something to do on a Sunday afternoon? Ellie P invites you to join her for a fun afternoon of S & B. Bring a snack to share. Call Ellie at 856.428.2783 for directions and to reserve your spot. Members only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>4/2</th>
<th>Stitch &amp; Bitch</th>
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**Canasta**  
**Mount Laurel, NJ**  
S2  
Canasta is played at the Mount Laurel Community Center, 100 Mount Laurel Road (large white building behind the Police Station on Walt Whitman Ave). Come and join us for an evening of fun. Call Dot Crowe at 856.608.1068 to reserve your spot.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>4/12</th>
<th>Canasta</th>
<th>6:30 PM</th>
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**Dance Party**  
**Sewell, NJ**  
No Cover Charge  
Enjoy the entertainment of Jack Peacock at the Seven Star Diner from 6 to 10 PM. Your host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>4/6</th>
<th>Dance Party</th>
<th>6 – 10 PM</th>
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**Friday**  
**Happy Hour**  
**Barrington, NJ**  
No Cover Charge  
Join Jack Peacock for Happy Hour Specials at Time Out Entertainment & Grill 241 White Horse Pike. Host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>4/7</th>
<th>Happy Hour</th>
<th>5 - 8 PM</th>
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**Thursday**  
**Birds of Gloucester Co. & Tips on Photographing Them**  
**Wenonah, NJ**  
Free  
Gloucester County supports many species of birds, both year round and during migration. With advice from a

(Continued on page 3)
knowledgeable photographer and an avid birder, learn useful tips for finding birds and capturing that perfect photograph. The Gloucester County Nature Club’s April presenters are Den DiMarco and Marilyn Henry. Location is Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, 3 Lenape Trail, 08090. Please call or email host Den DiMarco if you’ll be going - 856.842.1790 or DDM444@Comcast.net. Prizes awarded to the winning team. The $10 includes admission, food buffet, and soft drinks from the bar. You can BYOB if you wish or buy drinks from the VFW. The bar offers a full selection of drinks starting at $2. Don’t miss an enjoyable night out with your FanFifty friends. Doors open at 6:00 pm.

Saturday 4/22
Dance Party 7:30 – 11:30 PM
Sewell No Cover Charge
Dance to the oldies with Jack Peacock at Bogey’s Club & Café, 501 Pitman Road. Call Bogey’s for reservations 856.582.0160. Your host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

Sunday 4/23
Cooper House Luncheon 1 PM
Pennsauken, NJ Cost approx. $20
Back to the Cooper House on the lake in Camden County Park. Here’s your opportunity to enjoy the newly refurbished "Lobster Trap" if you missed it in September. The new menu does not lend itself to a single price, so individual orders must be placed. Please send a check for $10 as your reservation, to Don Nelson 408 Lucas Ln. Voorhees, NJ 08043 as soon as possible for a count. The check should be made out to "Fantastic 50’s." It will be returned at the restaurant. Cooper House is located at 5300 N. Park Drive, Pennsauken. Don may be reached at 856.772.9270 or donnels@yahoo.com.

Wednesday 4/26
Dance Party 6 - 9 PM
Runnemede, NJ No Cover Charge
Join Jack Peacock at the Vault Bar and Restaurant, 810 E Clements Bridge Rd, Runnemede, NJ. Now on Wednesday nights 6 to 9 PM. Food, drinks, and room for dancing. Your host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

Wednesday 4/26
Canasta 6:30 PM
Mount Laurel, NJ $2
Canasta is played at the Mount Laurel Community Center, 100 Mount Laurel Road (large white building behind the Police Station on Walt Whitman Ave). Come and join us for an evening of fun. Call Dot Crowe at 856.608.1068 to reserve your spot.
Planning Ahead

The Philly POPS 2016-17 Season
Hello Everyone,
We look forward to a wonderful line up of shows during the 2016-17 season. Betty G. is the host and can be contacted at 856.787.8611. Call Betty if you’re interested in attending a particular show as she may have tickets available. Shows are Sundays, 3 PM at the Kimmel Center, Phila Pa. It’s a GREAT way to spend a Sunday afternoon with friends, and hear the Fabulous Philly Pops!!
April 2, 2017 @ 3PM Ella, Louis & All That Jazz
May 7, 2017 @ 3PM POPS ROCKS: Eagles, Fleetwood Mac and Journey.

Saturday 4/29
Dance Party 7:30 – 11:30 PM
Sewell No Cover Charge
Dance to the oldies with Jack Peacock at Bogey’s Club & Café, 501 Pitman Road. Call Bogey’s for reservations 856.582.0160. Your host is Toni 856.340.5473 or email CToni4Travel@aol.com.

Saturday 5/6
OLDIES NIGHT 7 PM – 12 AM
Pennsauken $40
Join your Fan 50’s friend for Oldies Night with Jerry Blavat, “The Geator with the Heater”, at St. Cecilia's School Hall, 4851 Camden Avenue, Pennsauken, NJ. The cost includes dinner (beer and soda included, BYOB), and dancing. There is also a 50/50 & Silent Auction. Checks should be made payable to St. Cecilia School, c/o Jo Howard, 1548 49th Street, Pennsauken, NJ 08110. Note with the check that you are with the Fantastic 50’s. Mary S. is again hosting for the Fantastic 50’s. When you purchase a ticket, please advise Mary at 856.489.5850, she will reserve a table so that our club members can sit together. Tickets go quickly so reserve yours early.

Payment

Treasurer’s report
Balance as of 02/01/17 . $ 1,365.89
Deposits ................................ 930.05
Expenses ............................... 650.40
Balance as of 02/28/17 .. $1,645.54

Meeting/Social Location:
81 S. Lowell Avenue
Bellmawr, NJ 08031
From Route 295, take exit 28 for State Hwy 168 S toward NJ Tpke/Runnemede/ Bellmawr, then Black Horse Pike south a few blocks to a right on Browning Road, then left on S. Lowell.
April 2017

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<td>Gloucester Cty Nature Club</td>
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Joining and Renewing!

To join, or to renew your membership, send a check made payable to “Fantastic 50’s” for $25 and mail to Fantastic 50’s, 521 Whitman Drive, Turnersville, NJ 08012. Write Membership on the check and include your email address and phone number so that we may update our membership records. If you’re a member of Fantastic 50’s, and you’d like to know when to renew, check the address label on your newsletter. There you’ll see “Your membership expires mm/dd/yyyy” (where mm/dd/yyyy is your date of expiration.) Renew a month before then!

Our Club—A Quick View

When we started this club in October of 2000, our goal was to provide interesting social activities for people over 50 years of age.

Since that time we’ve sponsored thousands of activities from free concerts in local parks to trips to Hong Kong.

While not intended to be a partnership meeting place, many of us have found lasting friendships. We’ve noticed that the more involved you are, the more satisfying the friendships become. As you might expect, we’ve seen our share of marriages as well.

Some other events include dance parties at local clubs, pinochle games, Kimmel Center concerts, dinners, trips and special interest groups like photography and birding.

We have no limit as to what adventure might be sponsored. Belonging is lots of fun. Lonely nights tend to disappear.

We provide descriptions of events and current information by way of a monthly newsletter, a web site and a weekly email. We email special changes as needed.

The basis of our club is members hosting events for other members. That is what keeps the club vibrant and moving forward. So think of something you would like to do or attend, and host it as a club event. We need your participation.