

The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume O No.5

<https://www.facebook.com/AAUWGreaterWayneArea/>

March-April 2021

AAUW GREATER WAYNE AREA BRANCH PURPOSE

The purpose of this branch shall be to further AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

February should be an exciting month for me--my birthday, Valentine's Day, and it was the date of my wedding anniversary. All things to be happy about. Covid kind of tempered the happiness this year. During a sermon I listened to this month, the priest mentioned that we have "clean hands but heavy hearts." Isn't it true? I think we need to loosen our hearts--nice to think of since this is the month in which we celebrate hearts. In this time of heavier hearts and less contact, the importance of the wonderful friends I have made through the Greater Wayne Branch looms so bright. It's so easy to enter a friendlier world when I talk with one of you. Of course, everything has a brighter side--Covid pretty much means we will be home--to take a phone call, play on-line bridge and/or mah jongg or participate in one of our zoom meetings. Let's try to spread the Good News of Greater Wayne--the latest membership flyer designed by Peggy is attached. Many of you who are more active on social media than I am might meet someone who is looking for something new. THAT COULD BE US.

Please review the listing of candidates for the 2021-2022 Branch year--also attached. The election will be held at the April meeting.

Good health and warmer weather to all of you.

Ruth Liston

CALENDAR

Mar 12	Cooking Group Zoom 3:00
Mar 19	Current Events 1:00
Mar 25	Lit Group Zoom 7:00
<i>Coming up...</i>	
Apr 8	Lunch Bunch 12:00
Apr 21	Annual Meeting Zoom 4:00
Apr 22	Lit Group Zoom 7:00
May 19	Installation of Officers Zoom 4:00

PROGRAM

The program, originally scheduled for January was postponed. In February, Beverly Margolis shared her family's ordeal during the Holocaust from Germany to Paris to Ceyroux. Their desperate journey detailed how one family experienced assistance and acts of courage which allowed for their survival. It was a very meaningful personal account and appreciated by all who attended.

There will be no program in March.

- **April 21 - Annual meeting, on zoom 4pm**
 - Election of officers
 - Virtual scavenger hunt
- **May 19 - On zoom, 4pm**
 - Installation of officers
 - Scholarship Presentation to winners
 - Feedback from previous winners

Joan London Ada Liggett Esther Flower

GREATER WAYNE BRANCH OF THE AAUW PROPOSED 2021-2022 OFFICERS

PRESENT		PROPOSED
<i>ELECTED OFFICERS</i>		
<i>President</i>	Ruth Liston	Lorraine LaShell
<i>Vice President</i>		Arline Lowe
<i>Treasurer/Finance</i>	Ann Raynor	Ann Raynor
<i>Secretary</i>	Dorothy Quinn	Dorothy Quinn
<i>Membership VP</i>	Ruth Liston	Ruth Liston
<i>Program VP</i>	London, Liggett, Flower	Carolyn Noble
<i>Interest Group Coord</i>		Arline Lowe
<i>APPOINTED OFFICERS</i>		
<i>Cultural Event</i>	Merrill Crowell	Merrill Crowell
<i>Diversity & Inclusion</i>	Beth Marmolejos	Beth Marmolejos
<i>Fundraising</i>	Lorraine LaShell	Joan London
<i>Parliamentarian</i>	Bea Kettlewood	Bea Kettlewood
<i>Media: Print</i>	Abby Schwartz	Abby Schwartz
<i>Media: Online</i>	Ann Raynor	Ruth Liston
<i>Public Policy</i>		Jan Rutherford
<i>Scholarship</i>	LaShell, Ritter	LaShell, Ritter
<i>Social Concerns</i>	Liggett, Ricart	Liggett, Ricart
<i>Sunshine</i>	Liggett, Persh	Liggett
<i>Advance</i>	Peggy Gardner	Peggy Gardner
<i>Membership Profiles</i>	Dorothy Quinn	Dorothy Quinn
<i>Lunch Bunch</i>		Lois Wickham
<i>Lit</i>		Win Reinhardt
<i>Current Events</i>		Arline Lowe
<i>Women's Discussion</i>		Joan London
<i>Volunteerism</i>		Joan London
<i>Cooking</i>		Carolyn Noble

Ruth Liston, A Success In Her Own Right by Dorothy Quinn



Ruth and Dorothy Women's March '17

If anyone ever thought that Ruth's self-confidence, direct speech and resilient nature was home-grown in Pompton Plains, they are sadly mistaken! Ruth Liston's ease with herself is the byproduct of her

transient Mid-Western youth supported by a close-knit extended family. These roots made it possible for her to feel comfortable in any situation and in any place. Her life is a testament to these roots.

Ruth was the eldest of four siblings. She was six years old when her parents, younger brother, aunt and uncle, and grandparents moved from Pittsburg, PA. They went to join the prosperous and well-connected Uncle Nick, to work in his construction company in Cleveland, OH. Ruth remembers Uncle Nick Giordano, who changed his surname to Gordon for ease, as a formidable man. The family lived as a unit in Cleveland for nearly seven years. Ruth's mother had two more children and was often sickly. Her grandmother's strength and outgoing nature became a maternal role model for Ruth. Their family departure was precipitated Uncle Nick's death.

At thirteen Ruth found herself in a very different culture in Brooklyn, NY. After a short stay in the city, the family moved to Fair Lawn, NJ. She attended St Joseph's High School in Paterson where she met Jack Liston. After high school Jack went to serve in the Army and Ruth went to Katharine Gibbs in Montclair. Upon reflection, she realized at the time she could have gone to college and most likely tuition free. However, she was graduating at a time when boys were raised to succeed and girls were to mark time as either a secretary or nurse. Given her choices, Ruth chose secretary and learned "to serve the boss." After graduating from Katharine Gibbs, Ruth was employed by ITT. She was a single woman in a very corporate male world and Gibbs' Girls were trained well and in fact were in high demand. Jack came back from the service and in

1959 they were married and made a home in Bloomingdale.

Ruth embraced the role of wife and mother; she had four children in four years! It wasn't until Debbie, her youngest, was 13 that Ruth decided that she needed to educate these four children so she returned to work. She remembered Katharine Gibbs' promise that every graduate has a lifetime assurance for job placement and returned for a two-week refresher course and landed a position with American Cyanamid.

In essence, this was the beginning of Ruth's career!? She worked 40 hours a week and came home to do the same things she did before working with less time. This was 1975, the height of the Women's Movement, and Ruth believed that Gloria Steinham was a radical. Ruth



Graduation celebration with family

was a woman and proud, but her mid-western spirit did not find anything liberating or glamorous about her job. She looked around her office and felt "I could do more!" Ruth, with tenacity, four children, a household and a 40-hour a week job went to evening classes at WPU two nights a week (which AC paid for) and graduated in 10 years!

Now that Ruth held a college degree, with her natural confidence and spunk she went to her boss to declare, "You should be paying me more money!" and she not only received a sizable raise, but also a promotion as Manager in the Chemical Light Dept. The department which she managed was bought out by Omniglow Corporation which was located in California. Her boss asked her if she was ready to move. That request was impossible to accept; however, they knew she was best to organize a team with her product knowledge and they stipend her to work in CA one week a month and work from home for the remainder of the month. Ruth jumped at the opportunity. Relocating was not foreign to this woman. She was the voice of reason and maturity among the young yuppies who worked for

continued on next page

her. With her direct manner she gave these 20-somethings a work ethic. As it is in corporate



Ruth and Jack

America, Omniglow then relocated to Springfield, MA. She is no stranger to movement and she makes herself comfortable wherever she is placed. So, Ruth agreed to follow her job. The corporation paid for her apartment and every early Monday morning she reported for work and left late Thursday to return home. Again, faced with a young staff, she needed to model what she expected. She needed to set perimeters for dress code and work ethic. She mused that only this time, society was changing and she needed to alter her direct manner with her staff and practice flexibility.

Jack retired and Ruth realized she needed to be back with him. It was time to enjoy each other and travel. Nevertheless, retirement was something she dreaded. In 1999 she left a career she loved and

begin to worry about how she would replace her fulfilling work life. However, change was never difficult for Ruth - she relied on her roots and her resilience. In retirement, Ruth became a Financial Mentor for families in Habitat for Humanity, interviewed families for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and volunteers to this day at Dial-A-Ride in Pequannock.

In 2011 we were fortunate to have Ruth join our Greater Wayne Area Branch and she embraced us with the gusto and confidence that she had demonstrated throughout her life. At her first meeting Ann Raynor announced that if anyone did not take over *The Advance*, it would no longer be published. Ruth raised her hand. She did not stop there. Her good-speaking and organizational skills made her a perfect candidate for Presidency. She has served us well for three years and has brought more diversity and excitement into our branch, in spite of the Covid lockdown. Ironically, the AAUW encourages the advancement of women; Ruth did not need the encouragement of any organization to succeed. She succeeded by her own internal strength, fortitude and personal vitality.

We thank you, Ruth for a job well-done!

FUNDRAISING for SCHOLARSHIPS

Lorraine LaShell

■ **New Fundraising Committee**

Joan London is heading up a newly-formed Fundraising Committee. Other committee members are Lorraine LaShell, Barbara Stomber and Karen Wertheimer. The committee will explore ways to raise money from sources outside our membership. Put on your thinking caps and share with us any relationships you or your family/friends have with businesses or organizations we can contact to see if Support Women's Education fits with their philanthropic and marketing goals. Feel free to contact Joan to share your ideas, 973-220-7049, jrlondon@optimum.net.

■ **Donation Cards**

The Donation Card fundraiser is ongoing. Consider sending a donation card designed by Peggy Gardner the next time you need a card to remember, honor or celebrate someone. The cost is modest and the cause is worthy. Tell your friends.

■ **Individual Cards**

Send a check made out to AAUW GWA with your donation (\$10 minimum; amount will not be disclosed) to Lorraine LaShell. Include the name and address of the party to receive the card and the reason for the donation (In Honor Of, In Memory Of, Get Well, Happy Birthday).

■ **Card Packets**

Have cards on hand to send at your convenience by purchasing card packets (In Honor Of, In Memory Of, Happy Birthday, or a combination). Each packet will contain five (5) cards and cost \$25 per packet. When you send out a card, notify Lorraine as to the recipient's name and the purpose of the card.

■ **Order Form**

You can call or email Lorraine Lashell with your request or use the Order Form in this issue to purchase packs or individual cards.

DONATION CARD FUNDRAISER

Barbara Stomber – Pack of five Remembrance cards

Peggy Gardner - to Amy Grund in memory of her father

Peggy Gardner - to Sara Chwatt in memory of her father

Peggy Gardner - in memory of Carole Lane

Sheila Rosko - in memory of Carole Lane

Lorraine LaShell – Happy Birthday to Stella Hyman

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES

Would You Like to Volunteer Some Time to a Worthy Cause?

I have compiled a list of possible volunteer opportunities in and around Wayne. Some may require a weekly commitment while others could require less time. I will coordinate with each participating organization and as a volunteer, your job would be to provide the time and willing hands.

Possible Volunteer Activities:

- **AARP in Wayne**
shopping for a older or infirm neighbor
providing hospice for an individual
- **Library literacy volunteer**
- **Working in the public schools**
- **Laurelwood Arboretum**
Indoor and outdoor opportunities
- **Jersey battered women's services**

If you are interested in any of those listed or know of an organization in need of assistance, please contact me to discuss this further.

Obviously, nothing will begin until the pandemic is contained and it is safe to participate.

Joan London

SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

A big and sincere thank you to all our members who contributed to our branch's annual no fuss no muss fundraiser this winter. Most women in our branch contributed generously in support of the scholarships we award to undergraduate women who live in Northern New Jersey.

If the recent deadline for your donation for scholarships happened to slip by you, it is not too late to contribute. Please mail a check with your donation to Lorraine La Shell.

Your contribution will help to change the life of a woman.

Members of the scholarship team have been busy receiving and reviewing scholarship applications since January. The deadline for applying is April 9, and the awardees will be announced in early May. Branch members will have an opportunity to meet the winners at a date to be determined. Stay tuned for more details.

Lorraine LaShell & Marianne Ritter
Scholarship Team Co-chairs

CURRENT EVENTS

At our last meeting, following the January 6th assault on our capitol, we discussed "FRINGE GROUPS: LEFT AND RIGHT and had very diverse topics addressed, such as:

Oath Keepers, Fashion and Fringes, QAnon, Christian Nationalism, White Suprematism, Antifa and Marjorie Taylor Green. There was a very comprehensive coverage of these groups.

Our next meeting on the third Friday of the month (March 19 at 1pm) will cover THE MEDIA, and will include traditional media as well as digital and how it affects our lives.

Arline Lowe
Current Events

LUNCH BUNCH

The groundhog has predicted an early Spring! If (s)he is correct, Lunch Bunch will meet at the gazebo on Thursday, April 8 at 12:00. (Yes we are changing the day to the second Thursday of the month.)

I suggest we all order from the same restaurant. I can pick up all the orders, and bring them to the gazebo. That way, we can patronize our local restaurants and still stay safe.

Lois Wickham

COOKING GROUP

The cooking group will be having a fun, food gift exchange in March. Each member has been randomly assigned a gift recipient. Gifts can be a favorite food product, a cooking utensil, a home made food, or something funny.

At the Zoom meeting, each member will start by challenging the group to guess their gift after three clues are presented. The gift will then be shown and the recipient's name will be revealed. Gifts will be given out in April when the weather permits getting together outdoors.

Carolyn Noble

MEMBERSHIP BIRTHDAYS



Lois Wickham	3/16
Beth Marmolejos	4/12
Esther Flower	4/25
Nancy Freiler	4/30

WOMENS' ISSUES GROUP

This new group will begin in the spring when we can communicate and congregate outside. Date, time and topics to be determined by the group. Currently there are seven people who have expressed an interest in participating. Others are welcome.

If interested contact Joan London.

LITERATURE GROUP

All are welcome to attend. The books are recommended and voted on by the attendees. The meeting currently - Zooms - are held on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm. Please notify Win so she can send you the Zooming information if you plan on attending.

Date: March 25, 2021

Book: *Anxious People*

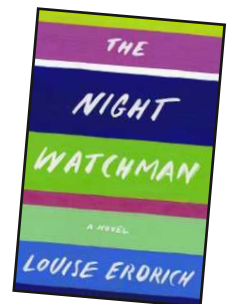
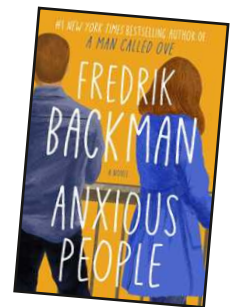
Author: Fredrik Backman

Date: April 22, 2021

Book: *The Night Watchman*

Author: Louise Erdrich

If any member wishes to be put on the mailing list please contact Win Reinhardt.



BRIDGE



If you are interested in joining us for online bridge or Maj jongg, please give Ruth Liston a call. Bridge meets on Monday 3:00 and Wednesday 1:00 and Maj jongg on Tuesday 2:00. Presently we have two groups playing. Lots of room for more.

Ruth



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN GREATER WAYNE AREA BRANCH

Who are we?

We are a group of educated, fun and interesting women who support education for all women.

What do we do?

WE AWARD ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO WOMEN RETURNING TO COLLEGE.

What else do we do?

- ~We discuss Current Events—we have a group for that
 - ~We participate in Cultural Events—we have a group who goes out and discovers Museums, Hiking trails, and other Special points of interest
 - ~We do Luncheons
 - ~We have a Lit group for book lovers
 - ~We have a Cooking group for members who like to cook and share recipes
 - ~We play Games, like Bridge and Maj Jongg
- AND--We keep our meetings infrequent, interesting and fun

ASK TO SEE OUR BRANCH BULLETIN TO
FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH OUR ACTIVITIES

Contact Ruth Liston and she'll send you a copy.

Visit us online at <http://greaterwaynearea-nj.aauw.net>



AAUW GWA SCHOLARSHIP FUND REMEMBRANCE DONATION ORDER FORM

Fill out this order form and send it to Lorraine with your check made out to AAUW GWA. You may also order by sending Lorraine an email including all the information below. Then send a check via mail or online banking to **Lorraine LaShell**. For help contact Lorraine.

Your name: _____

Your phone number: _____

Your email: _____

Individual Cards (Minimum donation \$10 per card)

Amount of donation: \$ _____

Name of the person to receive the card as an acknowledgment of your donation (please print):

Address of person to receive the card (please print):

Reason for the donation:

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Happy Birthday to _____

Card Sets (Minimum donation \$25 per pack of five cards)

In Honor Of Remembrance Cards _____ (# of sets of five)

In Memory Of Remembrance Cards _____ (# of sets of five)

Happy Birthday Cards _____ (# of sets of five)

Mixed sets _____ (# of sets of five)

Amount enclosed: _____

Thank you for supporting the Scholarship Fund!

AAUW GREATER WAYNE AREA BRANCH

PURPOSE

The purpose of this branch shall be to further AAUW's mission to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

VALUE PROMISE

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.



Greater Wayne Area Branch
428 Boulevard
Pompton Plains, NJ 07444

MEMBER TOWNS

Bloomingtondale
Englewood
Kinnelon
Mt. Pleasant, SC
North Haledon
Nutley
Pompton Lakes
Pompton Plains
Teaneck
Wayne
West Milford