

# The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume P No.1

<https://www.greaterwaynearea-nj.aauw.net>

May-Summer 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

I am writing this on a rainy, spring morning. I am very happy to see the rain--for my garden, and the spring--for my soul. It has truly been a wonderful year being your president, and I know I am leaving you in VERY GOOD hands with Lorraine LaShell assuming the presidency for the next fiscal year, along with very talented officers. I am excitedly looking forward to new horizons as we exit, hopefully, the full onslaught of the virus. Just using the enthusiastic attendance at Lunch Bunch and the beginning of in-person bridge as a gauge, I think we all are looking forward to being together as the year develops.

Looking forward to continuing the wonderful work of the AAUW with all of you.

**Ruth Liston**

### CALENDAR

May 6	Skylands Tour 1:30
May 13	Lunch Bunch 12:00
May 14	Cooking Group Carolyn Noble's 2:00
May 21	Current Events 1:00 Ruth Liston's The topic is 'Voting'
May 27	Lit Group Zoom 7:00
<i>Coming up...</i>	
June 24	Lit Group Zoom 7:00

### Coming soon...

We hope to be collecting Back-To-School items. More information to come. (Maybe at an in person event!!) We will keep you posted.

**Ada & Diane**



### TREASURER'S NOTE

At our recent Board meeting, the Greater Wayne annual dues were discussed. Here is an overview of the details.

<u>2020-2021 dues were:</u>		<u>Approved 2021-2022 Dues</u>	
National	\$59	National	\$62
State	\$10	State	\$10
Greater Wayne	\$11	Greater Wayne	\$18
TOTAL	\$80	TOTAL	\$90

As you can see from the above, National is raising their dues to the Branch by \$3 to \$62 and Greater

Wayne is increasing their portion by \$7 to \$18. Greater Wayne has not increased their dues for several years, and we are playing catch-up. Our annual expenses; i.e., zoom registration, insurance and internet maintenance amount to at least \$500 annually in addition to other expenses as they occur. Please look for the Dues notice here in the Advance. The deadline for payment is June 30, 2021, but an earlier payment would be greatly appreciated.

**Ann Raynor**

## Tribute to Donna Persh by Dorothy Quinn

Donna Persh was one of the remarkable and gifted women in our GWA Branch of the AAUW. In addition she was a perceptive, warm and generous friend. She joined the branch in 1962 and in her tenure she served on many committees as well as Secretary and Historian. She received her BA at California State University and her MS in Speech/Language Pathology at West Virginia University. That career was well-suited to not only an articulate woman, but also a nurturing and life-giving guide to many of the challenged children with whom she worked. Notwithstanding her career accomplishments, she will best be remembered as a friend. She always gave an attentive ear to anyone she spoke with and had a secret knack of returning compliments and surprising deeds when one of her many friends tried to do something nice for her. Donna braved her fatal diagnosis with grace, cheerfulness and a serene sense of strength. Truly a role model for acceptance.

Below are some of the tributes to Donna from her friends in the GWA Branch. They are a testament to a life well-lived!

When I was preparing for my retirement, I planned on joining AAUW to become part of the Lit Group and to join the Scholarship Committee. Somehow I got so much more along the way--a special friendship that I will always treasure. At my first AAUW meeting at the Wayne Library, I sat next to a woman with dark hair, sparkling eyes, and a BIG friendly personality. It was Donna Persh. We clicked immediately and before I knew it she was saving a seat for me at Lunch Bunch, the Holiday Luncheon, and meetings. In a short time we began meeting for a few hours of conversation at the Outback. Donna and I shared our love of cats, our teaching



experiences and heart-to-heart conversations that were meaningful to both of us--but most of all I shared a love and bond with this wonderful friend. Donna was a gift and I will truly miss her. -- *Diane Ricart*

Meeting Donna for the first time was like reconnecting with a favorite cousin. I felt like we had known each other for years. Because we were both Speech Pathologists, we had even more in common than just our friendship in AAUW. Donna was always warm, friendly and down-to-earth. She could instantly connect with anyone. She was probably the only woman who would ever agree to let her garage and home be overtaken by a fundraiser. I was privileged to be able to visit her in the last weeks and she expressed that during the pandemic we had never been able to deepen our friendship. In hindsight, the regret

is mine. -- *Carolyn Noble*

One memorable experience I've had was to hear Donna as the liturgist at the Packanack Community Church. Donna had a lovely voice - well-spoken and perfectly enunciated. Her reading brought meaning and feeling to the Scripture. Donna was a living example of a speech teacher. Because of her talent, she was in high demand and thankfully the congregation heard her often. She was a dear. When I was sick, she brought me several meals. Thoughtful and caring -- what more can one look for in a friend. Rest in Peace -- *Ada Liggett*

Donna's upbeat personality and willingness to give of herself were hallmarks of who she was. Volunteering to host the AAUW Garage Sale was an example of how she extended herself for others. She took on this massive job without a complaint and always with a smile on her face. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.--*Joan London*

*continued on next page*

On April 18th I found a planter filled with beautiful flowers on my front porch. There was no indication of who it was from. The next day I received a reply to the email request that I had sent out for articles for the *Advance*. This is what I received from Donna..."For the advance: Does anyone know about the lady in Nutley who found something on her front porch? " I was so tickled I started to laugh. I sent



Donna's 10 year old cats, Mouse and Spider.  
Painting by Peggy Gardner

back a message saying, "Lololol!!!! It was a mystery to me! How nice to find the lovely flowers on my porch! Thank you so much, Donna!!!

Hugs, Peggy."

Her response

was, "Hugs back at you, lovely talented special lady!" I believe it was her way of thanking me for the painting I did of her cats. She retained her sense of humor and kindness to the end. Although this outcome was expected, it doesn't lessen the sadness of losing our friend, Donna. Such a very special person. -- *Peggy Gardner*

Donna was one fine, fine lady! -- *Bea Kettlewood*

Donna made it possible for our branch to hold its one, and to date, only garage sale. She donated her garage and her driveway and her basement. Basically we took over her whole house and her life! It didn't matter that she was having trouble using her hands. She figured out ways to get things done, making sure we were all fed besides! It was hard work, but we all had a lot of fun and raised money for the scholarship! -- *Lorraine LaShell*

My most vivid recollections of Donna are of a woman who worked tirelessly for things that were most important to her and would benefit others. For many years Donna and I both attended Packanack Community Church in Wayne, and I was on the church's outreach committee. When I was asked to suggest the name of a new member for that committee, I immediately thought of asking Donna.

Of course she said she would join. She worked very hard year after year on rummage sales, square dances and bake sales to raise money for worthy charities supported by the church. I don't know what we would have done without her. Donna worked just as hard for the GWA branch and our fundraisers, too. In October 2019 Donna volunteered her home so that we could hold a garage sale there to help fund scholarships for women in Northern NJ. What a success that garage sale was! Donna's willingness to take charge and to pitch in and help others will be sorely missed.-- *Marianne Ritter*

Donna was so special to us because she always made us feel special. She always made a point to chat with everyone at our get togethers and took a sincere interest in what was happening in our lives. She was truly a thoughtful and compassionate person and is dearly missed. -- *Janice Rutherford*

What more can I say. I even enjoyed reading the testimonials to Donna because they so tell of the wonderful woman she was. And—to her credit—if Donna saw something with which she disagreed, she let us know. A woman before her time. -- *Ruth Liston*

Disclosure:

When I asked Lorraine LaShell a few weeks back if she would grace *The Advance* with a focus piece on her as our new and returning President of the branch, she recommended that I interview Donna 'sooner rather than later.' I regret that I did not act upon it immediately. Last week I sent Donna a list of questions to review and set a tentative date of Sunday afternoon to either call or respond through email. Not being in state and somewhat out of the loop, I was not aware of Donna's critical state. Another regret -- that Sunday afternoon I called with no response. Later that afternoon I received the sad news of her passing. This was my very humble attempt to fulfill my obligation to Donna, and speaking for her and the way she will be remembered I chose to ask the sisters in our branch to fulfill that obligation.

Respectfully,  
Dorothy E. Quinn



## Welcome to new member Linda Nardone

Linda Nardone, Ph.D.: I am a 32- year resident of Wayne, having moved here upon marrying my second husband Robert. Between us we have 4 children, all of whom attended the Wayne schools, and 5 grandchildren.

My academic career includes receiving a B.S. degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University, a M.S. and Ph.D. degree from Pennsylvania State University, post-doctoral research, and Teaching and Research faculty appointments at Yale University School of Medicine and New York Medical College. Following my academic career, I enjoyed a lengthy pharmaceutical career. I was a founding member of 2 biotechnology start-up companies (still in existence) and held high-ranking executive positions (Vice President, Chief Scientific Officer, General Manager, and Chief Operating Officer) of start-up, small, mid and large sized companies. I am essentially retired but still hold a Chief Regulatory Officer position in another start up biotechnology company.

During my academic and pharmaceutical career, I secured grant funding from National Institutes of Health, Private Foundations, and Department of Defense. I have been on Scientific Advisory Boards, the most recent of which was the Fairleigh Dickinson University School of Pharmacy (as a founding board from 2010-2017). I have had peer reviewed articles

and abstracts published and was the first book editor of "Fundamentals of Regulatory Affairs".

At this point I spend most of my involvement in the community. I have been a founder or leader of 4 not-for-profit entities in the animal care field over the last 30 years and participated in the founding and operation of a mobile surgical suite for spay/neuter of dogs and cats. I am currently President of the Board of People For Animals, a large not-for profit entity for affordable animal care.

I have been a lector at Immaculate Heart of Mary for the last ten years. I have served on the Wayne Environmental Commission in 2019-2020 and have been active in community outreach during the COVID-19 pandemic, including volunteering at the Passaic County COVID-19 testing site at the William Paterson site.

I look forward to meeting other university-related women and the encouragement of other women in their dreams.



## DONATION CARDS FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

### *Lorraine LaShell*

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.

Individual Cards can be purchased for a minimum \$10 donation. Packets of five cards cost \$25. Call or email Lorraine LaShell with your request. 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*) and the

amount of the donation.

Checks should be mailed to Ann Raynor. Write "Donation Card" in the check memo section.

### DONATION CARD FUNDRAISER

**Ruth Liston** - in memory of Meryl Becker

**Ruth Liston** - in memory of Judy Zichelli

## PROGRAM

### APRIL PROGRAM

At the April meeting, the proposed slate of officers were elected. In addition, there was a virtual scavenger hunt. Winners of the scavenger hunt held at the April meeting were:

- **Merrill Crowell**-most sentimental-her first book read at age 4
- **Abby Schwartz**-ugliest-salt shaker
- **Marlys Huss**-oldest-whimsy pocket

Prizes will be delivered to the winners.

### MAY PROGRAM

The newly elected officers will be installed at the May meeting. Additionally the scholarship winners will be announced and each will be introduced.

#### Newly elected officers:

President: **Lorraine LaShell**  
Vice President: **Arline Lowe**  
Treasurer/Finance: **Ann Raynor**  
Secretary: **Dorothy Quinn**  
Membership VP: **Ruth Liston**  
Program VP: **Carolyn Noble**  
Interest Group Coord: **Arline Lowe**

The outgoing president (Ruth Liston) and the incoming president (Lorraine La Shell) will each make some remarks.

Carolyn Noble, the new program chair will lead a discussion regarding plans for the summer social. Your input will determine how to move forward with this event.

***Joan London, Ada Liggett, Esther Flower***

## SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE

### SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Two women from Northern New Jersey have won our Greater Wayne Area scholarships for 2021-2022!



*Hannah Retamero Cid*

The winners are Rutgers Newark student **Hannah Retamero Cid** and **Michele Bodden**, a student from Ramapo College.

Hannah is a resident of Newark and is majoring in Biology and Medical Lab Services at Rutgers. She is originally from Caracas, Venezuela, and expects to earn a joint Bachelor's degree in 2022.

Michele, who resides in Clifton, is studying for a Bachelors Degree in social science at Ramapo. She will also graduate in 2022 and aspires to be a social worker. Michele is the mother of two daughters and is originally from the Dominican Republic.

Our Greater Wayne Area members will have a chance to see and hear from these two women at a Zoom meeting or at an in - person branch meeting soon.

A big thank you to our members who contributed to our scholarship fund with their generous donations last winter and who supported our other scholarship fundraisers.

***Lorraine LaShell Marianne Ritter***  
***Scholarship Team Co-chairs***

## FUNDRAISING

As the new fundraising chair, I am looking for creative ways to raise money for our scholarship recipients. In addition to specific events, I would like to reach out to any of our members who might have contacts with businesses/corporations. This could be a family member or a friend with ties to a specific organization. Businesses/ corporations often contribute to organizations such as ours,

when someone from the group has a connection to them. As you know, our scholarships are greatly appreciated by the recipients. The more money we can raise, the more we can help women in need. Please contact me if you can be of assistance.

***Joan London***

## LUNCH BUNCH

**At the Gazebo Thursday, May 13 @ 12:00**

Bring your own food and beverage. The gazebo has perimeter seating, but you may be more comfortable if you bring a folding chair.

The Lunch Bunch meeting in April was well attended and lively. Let's have fun again on May 13!

**Lois Wickham**

## WOMENS' ISSUES GROUP

This new interest group will begin in May. Upon my return from Florida, I will contact those who have expressed an interest joining in order to establish when and where we will meet as well as the initial topic. If you haven't signed up and wish to be included, please contact me.

**Joan London**

## COOKING GROUP

The cooking group will meet on Carolyn's deck, on May 14th, 2:00 pm for conversation and coffee. June gathering will take place at Ada's home, date and activity to be determined.

**Carolyn Noble**

## CULTURAL ARTS

On May 6th we will do a walking tour of Skylands talking about what's in bloom. Skylands is a large botanical garden covering over 1000 acres: we won't be covering all of that, but wear appropriate footwear and dress appropriately. Temperatures could reach 70 degrees. As with the Laurelwood and the Van Vleck tours, I'll be concentrating on trees.

For more information visit the Skyland's web site: <https://www.njbg.org> or Book entitled *Skylands: the Garden of the Garden State*.

Rain cancels.

Meet at 1:30 in front of manor.  
2 Morris Rd, Ringwood, NJ 07456

**Merrill and John Crowell**

## 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 7pm. Please notify Win so she can send you the Zooming information if you plan on attending.

**May 27, 2021 *Amnesty: A Novel*** by Arvin Adiga  
A man has knowledge about a murder. If he come forward he risks being deported. Or say nothing, and let justice go undone. What does he do and why will be discussed.

**June 24, 2021 *The Guest Book*** by Sarah Blake  
The story of three generations that illuminates the great divide: the gulf that separates the rich and poor, black and white, Protestant and Jews.

\*\*\* **July 22, 2021 *The Authenticity Project: A Novel***  
by Clare Pooley  
It's is a story about being brave and putting your real self forward-and finding out that it's not as scary as it seems.

\*\*\* If conditions allow, the July 22 meeting will be changed into a picnic where we will discuss and vote on future books.

**Win Reinhardt**

Happy Birthday

Ann Raynor	5/16
Aviva Sander	5/23
Carol Brown	6/1
Bea Kettlewood	6/7
Jan Rutherford	6/10
Alice Hessinger	6/14
Marlys Huss	6/16
Merrill Crowell	6/17
Carolyn Noble	6/22
Carolyn Mossip	6/29
Mary Bunstead	7/5
Ada Liggett	7/13
Ann Wheeler	7/20

## DUES ARE DUE!!!

Please complete the information below. If there are no changes from last year, just fill in your name and telephone number for reference purposes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate of \_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Degree(s) \_\_\_\_\_

(Optional)

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Employed by \_\_\_\_\_ Position \_\_\_\_\_

Business Tel. # \_\_\_\_\_

### ***Greater Wayne Area Branch AAUW***

**2021-2022 DUES ARE DUE and PAYABLE NOW.**

**The amount of \$90 includes National dues (\$62), State dues (\$10),  
& Branch dues (\$18).**

**Please send your check for \$90.00, made out to  
Greater Wayne Area AAUW**

**Please print and return this form to:**

**Ann T. Raynor**

**BEFORE JULY 1, 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.

## 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