

# The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume S No. 2

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

January-February 2024

## 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.



It is a new calendar year---the holiday portion of this season has just concluded. I wish you a year of happiness, health, and peace. To me, these are the three best wishes I can give to you. At the holiday season and the beginning of the year, there

is a connection to lives lived and shared (joys, especially watching loved ones or little ones open gifts, memories of past holidays, connection with family and friends). And there is a spiritual connection for many of us. I hope this holiday has brought you some joy and peace.

I also hope that the first quarter of 2024 at AAUW brings you some information, some pleasure, and some activity that enriches your life as we proceed on our branch mission. Thank you for all your contributions of time and money and interest. The first two months will feature a preface to AAUW GWA Women's History Month, a celebration that we initiated last year. During January and February, you can participate in viewing a Netflix series on Madam C. J. Walker; February will feature a webinar on C. J. Walker---so if you don't know about this remarkable woman, this is your chance. For Women's History Month, we will have a speaker seminar on "Understanding Race and Religion in America." This event will be on Tuesday, March 5, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library,

2023 marks the 100th anniversary of the original submission of the Equal Rights Amendment, an amendment to the US Constitution. This is STILL not passed, although it has been ratified by 38 states. There will be a concerted effort on the part of National AAUW and hopefully the State AAUW to push for its passage. Perhaps our branch can start an initiative to support its passage or you can lend your own personal support. Going forward we will provide you with ways to get involved.

I am so pleased to be able to write at the beginning of this newsletter, but you must read on. There are articles, calendar dates, information, and interest group updates in this one as in all our previous newsletters.

Thank you again for your monetary support of the mission of AAUW. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf. And the many and varied interest groups provide us with ways to connect with one another and have fun and share information and ideas. Again, I will mention our communication tool, "What's doing this week." Stay in touch.

With my gratitude, my well wishes, and my sincere desire to serve you, please reach out to me if you have any suggestions, issues, or (even) complaints.

*Linda Nardone*



## What's happening and what you can do:



In 2024, AAUW NJ will be looking at the current bylaws for correction or changes. Your input will be needed. Also, branch presidents will be taking a survey of their members to identify the needs for the annual meeting on April 13. Please respond when they do,

AAUW NJ had a booth at the New Jersey Educational Association Convention. Featured was Tech Trek. The booth had information on the weeklong summer STEM camp for rising female eighth graders. It allowed AAUW to connect directly with teachers who can recommend their students for the program. Nominations for the 2024 program are starting to be received. The program will be at Stockton University July 21-27, 2024. If you know any teachers who might be interested in the program, they should contact AAUW Tech Trek ASAP.

The booth also featured postcards about the Menstrual Equity bill championed by AAUW NJ that passed this summer. It included details of the bill and a QR code to a website that will provide updates on plans for implementation.

An easy way to assist with advocacy is to sign up for AAUW's Two Minute Activist. Just go to this link to sign up. Or you can text "AAUW" to 21333 to get AAUW action alerts via text.



You received an email related to the ERA Amendment because December 13, 2023 was the 100th anniversary of the Equal Rights Amendment's first introduction in the House of Representatives. AAUW gathered in solidarity in Washington, DC, and across the country to acknowledge that not one more year should pass without our rights being protected by the Constitution on the basis of sex. Watch for additional alerts concerning this very important subject.

On another subject, according to the National Women's Law Center, Asian American women who work full-time, year-round in the United States are paid 90 cents for every dollar paid to white, non-Hispanic men. However, the sub-group of NHPI (Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islanders) women, working full-time, year-round earned only 65 cents. These wage disparities are hidden in data that bundles NHPIs with Asian Americans. Urge lawmakers to separate this data for a better understanding and to advocate for action.

Thanks for your help. Your input is always welcomed.

*Karen Wertheimer*

**NO PAD? NO PROBLEM**

**FREE ACCESSIBLE MENSTRUAL PRODUCTS COMING TO A SCHOOL NEAR YOU IN 2024**

<b>NEW JERSEY, What should you expect?</b>	Starting in the 2024-25 school year, you should find free menstrual products in at least 50% of female and all-gender bathrooms in public school buildings serving grades 6-12.	<b>What action can you take, NEW JERSEY?</b>	If menstrual products are not available in your school after September 2024, notify your state administration. Tell them they are required by New Jersey law and that the State will pay for them.
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**ABOUT THE LAW**

New Jersey Senate Bill 1221 signed into law in August 2023 requires public school districts to provide free menstrual products in female and all-gender bathrooms in schools serving grades 6-12. The costs will be borne by the state of New Jersey.

**WHY WE NEED IT**

Research shows that students who lack access to menstrual products experience higher rates of absenteeism and are less able to focus in the classroom. New Jersey's best-in-the-nation education system funds all essential items needed for students to be successful in school—now menstrual products will be included on the list. The provision of menstrual products will help ensure New Jersey provides equal access to education and enables its students to reach their full potential, irrespective of gender.

equalityperiodnj.com

girlhelpinggirlperiod.org

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE LAW AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION



Joan London and Linda Nardone accepted a \$500 check from the Leo Club at Wayne Hills High School as part of their candy sale. The club has pledged another \$500 for the 2023-2024 year. Joan's granddaughter, Sienna Kornhaber, is holding the check with her and was instrumental in getting the club associated with our branch. The photo includes the club advisor, Ms. Jessica Fishman, and other Leo Club members.

Don't forget to use donation cards to recognize life events. Cards are available to recognize birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, deaths, and other events. Send your request to me with the name, address, and life event being recognized. I will send a card to the individual recognized and notification to you. This is a great way to honor individuals and also add to our scholarship fund.

**Joan London**  
**Fundraising Chair**



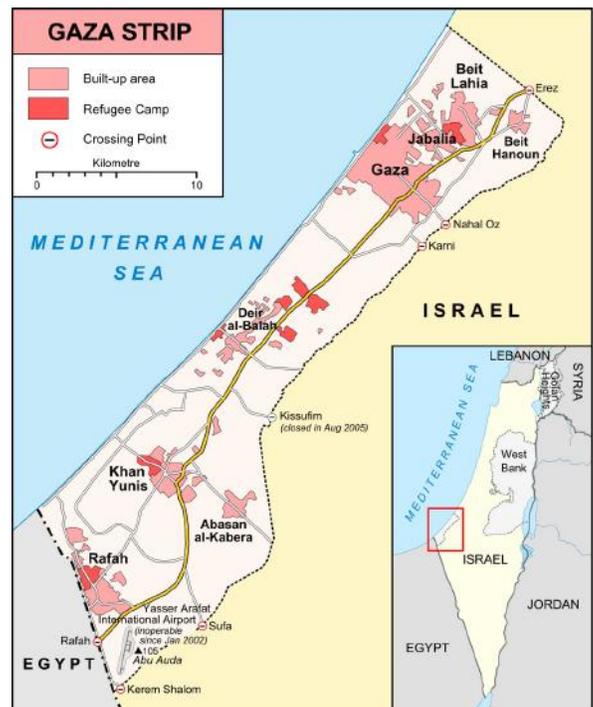
Despite global pressure to end the war in the Mideast, it goes on. Accordingly, our topic for the next Current Events meeting will be a continued discussion on this tragic event's course.

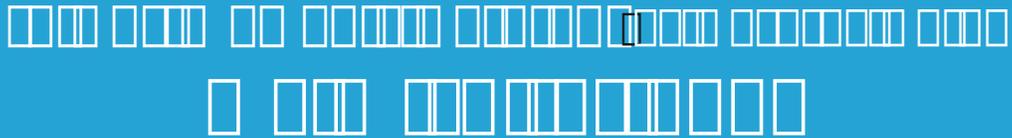
So far, I have not received any topic suggestions, so please send one if you have a specific subject you would like to present to our listeners.

We will meet on January 19, 2024 at 1 p.m.

Happy 2024!

**Arline Lowe**  
**Chairperson**





As the new year dawns, I try to look with optimism at 2024. However, if I ask myself what would make for a better world in the coming year, I would wish for Compromise, since there didn't seem to be much of it around in 2023!

Just think! If Benjamin Netanyahu and the Palestinian Authority could compromise on a two-state solution, the killing of innocent Palestinians would cease since Hamas would not have a rational reason to continue the bloodshed against Israelis. Instead, there is an indiscriminate destruction of lives and infrastructure in the West Bank.

If compromise were possible, Putin and Zelensky could settle on an agreed border for Ukraine, and Zelensky could rebuild a country that has been decimated by war.

If compromise were possible, Congress could pass legislation, the mission for which they were elected. They would find a solution for paths to citizenship, immigration reform, and gun reform and establish a budget instead of grandstanding and politicizing every vote that comes to the floor. Instead, we have gridlock and governing that has basically come to a halt.

If compromise were possible, the Supreme Court would rethink their position on abortion. They could give women the lawful right to make choices about their health and their ability to bring another life into the world with a flexibility that could satisfy both positions.

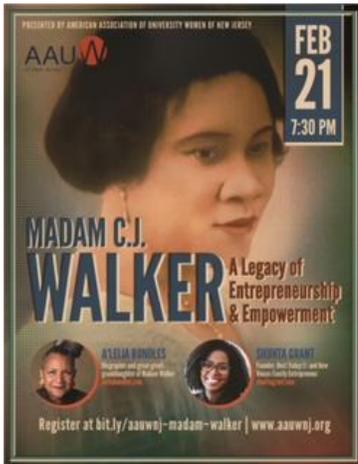
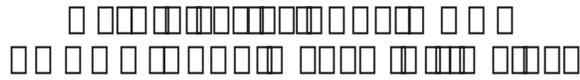
If compromise were possible, bias would not exist. One would not find fault with another's lifestyle, sect, race, or identity since the differences could be looked upon as individual choice rather than as good or bad.

Compromise certainly is not the answer to all the conflicts that plague the world today, but it would bring differences of opinion to the table to find resolution. In fact, compromise is a fundamental aspect of our daily interactions, and it plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy relationships, fostering personal growth, and promoting effective communication. It falls basically into two categories. One is external - an agreement made with a friend or colleague, which entails the sharing of ideas and coming to a conclusion where both parties feel most of their needs are met in order to find resolution. The other type of compromise is internal. These compromises are essentially prioritizations between our wants and what is best for ourselves. Occasionally, the consequences of internal compromises are higher but have the greatest reward.



Well, I know I've given myself a lot to think about, and rather than wish for compromise, I should start with myself. In 2024, I will try to remind myself to choose compromise rather than divisiveness. It means I'll need to listen more, suppress my self-interest, and find understanding rather than opposition. If I want the world to be a kinder and a more diplomatic place in which to thrive, I'll borrow a cliché and "let it begin with me"!

Happy 2024, and may you choose to make your world a bit better by your presence and more peaceful by your actions.



In lieu of our January meeting we are asking our members to watch the Netflix series SELF-MADE. It is a chronicle of the incredible Madam C.J. Walker, who was the first African-American self-made millionaire. This will serve as an introduction to the AAUW-New Jersey Webinar being

offered on February 21, 2024. On February 21 at 7:30 p.m. we will be honoring Black History Month by asking our members to watch the AAUW-New Jersey virtual webinar - Madam C.J. Walker: Her Story and Her Legacy. The guest speaker is A'Lehia Bundles, a biographer and the great-great-granddaughter of Madam Walker. Ms. Bundles is a member of the New Voices Foundation, which supports today's women-of-color entrepreneurs.

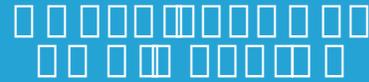
- ★ Please register by going to <https://aauwnj.org>.
- ★ Scroll down to the 21 Feb, 2024 at 7:30 PM, Zoom event.
- ★ Tap on "Register".
- ★ You do not need a password. Complete the form with your name and email.
- ★ Contact Elaine Dolsky if you have difficulty registering.

On February 28 at 7:30 p.m. we will have a ZOOM meeting to discuss Madam C.J. Walker's Story and Legacy. Ruth Liston will be our facilitator. Lorraine LaShell will send a Zoom link as we get closer to the date.

Looking forward, for March Women's History Month, we will host a guest speaker at the Wayne Public Library on Tuesday, March 5, 2024, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Dr. Khyati Y. Joshi will be speaking on Understanding Race and Religion in America. Please see Dr. Joshi's bio included on the right.

**Programming Committee:**

**Elaine Dolsky, Lorraine LaShell, Carol Palmer Yomtov**



Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
6:30 – 8:00 p.m.  
Wayne Public Library  
461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470



Please join the Greater Wayne Area Branch of AAUW for an inspiring presentation given by our guest speaker, Dr. Khyati Y. Joshi, Educator and Author.

Dr. Joshi lives at the intersection of race and religion, personally and professionally. She is a professor at Fairleigh Dickinson University and the co-founder of the Institute for Teaching Diversity and Social Justice, which provides professional development on diversity, equity, and justice. She is the author or editor of seven books, including *"White Christian Privilege: The Illusion of Religious Equality in America," "Envisioning Religion, Race and Asian America,"* and *"Teaching for Diversity and Social Justice."*

Dr. Yoshi will share the difficulties she faced growing up as a brown Hindu girl in Atlanta, Georgia, and how it shaped her scholarly pursuits.

Open to the public.  
Light refreshments will be served.

**RSVP: Elaine Dolsky**



On December 3, 22 members gathered to celebrate the 2023 Holiday Season. We chatted, laughed while playing some games, viewed photos taken at various GWA gatherings, sang holiday songs, and dined from a delicious selection of Italian dishes.

What a fun time we had!

Wishing everyone a Happy 2024!

***The Programming Committee:***

***Carol Palmer YomTov, Lorraine LaShell***

***Elaine Dolsky***



Our mission is to promote equity for women, and one way we do that is by awarding scholarships to those over 25 returning to school to complete a first bachelor's degree. Last year, thanks to the efforts of the Fundraising Committee led by Joan London and your generosity, our branch was able to award scholarships totaling \$9,000 to three exceptional women plus send a donation to National AAUW.

The annual giving campaign is underway. Watch for your letter to arrive in the mail, and please be as generous as possible.

Visit the GWA website <http://greaterwaynearea-nj.aauw.net/Scholarship> to view the scholarship information and application. Please urge anyone you know who qualifies to submit an application.

Thank you for supporting this important cause,

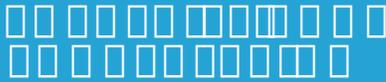
***The Scholarship Committee***

***Lorraine LaShell, Mary Anne Lund,***

***Diane Ricart, Barbara Stomber,***

***Linda Trongone***





Instead of meeting in our homes, the December 12 Cocktails and Conversation gathering was a luncheon which we enjoyed at the Lakeside Restaurant in Wayne. Ten of us gathered to discuss "What the holiday season means to us." Most of the conversation centered around family, festivities, and giving.

Our next gathering will be on Tuesday, January 9 at Linda Nardone's home at 2 p.m. The group has decided that during the winter/darker months we will gather earlier to avoid driving in the dark. As one member mentioned, "We can drink wine equally well at 2 p.m. as at 4 p.m." The group wishes everyone a happy holiday season.

**Ruth Liston**

**Happy Birthday**

JANUARY		FEBRUARY	
Nancy Ferer	1/10	Joan London	2/8
Barbara Stomber	1/17	Maryann Davidson	2/8
Lorraine LaShell	1/25	Dorothy Quinn	2/13
Jean Billings	1/26	Ruth Liston	2/16



Due to weather changes, we are looking for other venues for walking, e.g., mall walking, We will meet for a walk on January 5th at the main mall entrance of Willowbrook at 9:00 am near the Cheesecake Factory. Please RSVP. If you can't make it email your suggestions to Ruth.

We're lucky that Linda Nardone leads walks every Monday, meeting at the Laurelwood Arboretum main entrance at 9 and 11 a.m.. Each walk is approximately 45 minutes to an hour.

Members have shown interest in learning how to help themselves or someone else who is choking. Please see the online first aid courses that are available through the American Heart Associate (AHA) or American Red Cross (ARC). Each online course includes, among other important First aid measures, how to help the 'Choking Adult' (formerly called Heimlich maneuver). This procedure will be demonstrated at two future Lunch Bunch events. In the interim, instructor-led complete first aid classes are available locally through the AHA or ARC

American Red Cross.org  
First Aid Online  
Class ID a6R3o000001vv2T

American Heart Association Shop CPR website  
<https://shopcpr.heart.org/heartsaver-first-aid-online>  
Heartsaver® First Aid Online  
Product Number : 20-1402

In other exciting news, in addition to other community classes, the Pequannock Parks and Recreation Department announced that registration is now open for Adult Chair Yoga with Jaime Ressler. Classes will be held from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Senior House on Mondays on March 13, March 20, March 27, April 3, April 10, and April 17. The cost is \$35.00 for residents and \$45.00 for non-residents. For registration information, contact Pequannock Parks and Recreation at 973-835-5700.

**Lauren Coyle**



Here's to Winter! What's the best way to warm up on a cold day? Soup, of course!

The Culinary Group will meet at Carolyn Noble's home on Friday, January 26, at 12:30 p.m. to enjoy a hot bowl of soup, salad, and crusty bread.

VEG UP for heart-healthy month in February. Culinary members will fill their plates with plant-based foods and learn tips for going vegan. The meeting will take place on Friday, February 23, at 12:30 p.m. at Carolyn Noble's home.

**Carolyn Noble**



*Butternut Squash, Barley and Roasted fall Vegetable Soup*  
Photo and soup by Peggy Gardner

## LITERATURE GROUP

Welcome to 2024 LIT Group!

PLEASE NOTE REMOTE MEETINGS ARE JANUARY THRU MARCH. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO RSVP TO THE REMOTE MEETING. YOU WILL BE SENT A LINK A WEEK BEFORE AND THE MORNING OF THE MEETING TO JOIN THE LIT GROUP DISCUSSION.



Wednesday, January 3: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks  
Discussion Leader: Dorothy Quinn

Wednesday, February 7: *Summerwater*  
by Sarah Moss  
Discussion Leader: Karen Wertheimer

Wednesday, March 6: *Trust* by Hernan Diaz  
Discussion Leader: Mary Ann Lund

Wednesday, April 3: *Only the Beautiful* by Susan Meissner (Please note that this is a new book for April that Carol has highly recommended, and she will lead the discussion.)

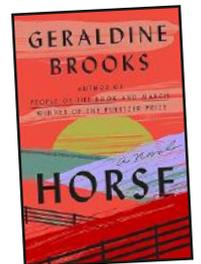
Host: Ada Liggett RSVP Ada if you are attending.  
Discussion Leader: Carol Palmer-Yomtov

Wednesday, May 1: *Lady Tan's Circle of Women*  
by Lisa See

Host: Mary Ann Lund  
Discussion Leader: Dot Anton

I am looking forward to our upcoming Lit Group meetings.

**Diane Snyder Ricart**  
Chairperson



The next Board meeting will be held on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 3 p.m. at the home of Elaine Kirsh.

All current elected and appointed officers and committee chairs are invited to attend.

RSVP to Linda Nardone



WOW!! As you review the brand-new membership listing, you will note we have added five more members. Thanks to all of you who keep spreading the news, we are growing and growing. The new members are:

**Barbara O'Connor** of Wayne. Barbara has attended a couple of Current Events meetings. She is a friend of Joan London's and is presently enjoying the Florida weather.

**Kim Fitzpatrick** of Wayne. Kim is on the verge of retirement and eager to become involved. She also has attended a Current Events meeting, and since she is a friend of Carolyn Noble, she will be joining the Culinary Group.

**Bethany Duane** of Pompton Plains. Several months ago, as I was leaving the Pequannock Library, Bethany was coming in. She and I had worked together at American Cyanamid many years ago and would occasionally see one another. Bethany subsequently joined a Walking Group meeting and submitted her application.

**Jeanne Pisatowski** of Wayne. Jeanne became familiar during a walk at the Arboretum and subsequently joined us on another walk. In addition, she has attended a Current Events meeting. Jeanne is interested in Walking & Wellness, Current Events, and Book Club.

**Debbie Maynard** of Hewitt. Debbie is Director of the Pequannock Library and became familiar with us through our activities at the library. Since Debbie is still employed, she will choose the events she is able to attend.

If you know any of the new members, please reach out to them with a welcome. It is always easier to be in unfamiliar surroundings with a friend.

Happy holidays to all of you, and thank you for making my job so much easier with your outreach. Keep up the good work!!

**Ruth Liston**  
*Membership Chair*



**Take a look at your generous donations to the Oasis Toy Drive. Your kindness was overwhelming!**

*Diane Snyder Ricart, Chairperson*



## LUNCH BUNCH

Hi! First a review of our November lunch:

On Thursday, November 9, 14 members gathered at Nori Sushi in Wayne. The restaurant was featured in the Star Ledger and The Record as one of the best Japanese/Sushi restaurants in our area, and they did not disappoint. We enjoyed their tempura, hibachi, and teriyaki foods, along with each other's company.

LUNCH BUNCH WILL BE ON HIATUS UNTIL MARCH.

Thank you.

**Ann Sheridan**



We continue playing bridge and mahjong in person and online. We need an additional bridge player for our Monday afternoon in-person game. If anyone is interested, please let me know. If you have not played before, we will be happy to teach you. It is such a fun game!! Please check enclosed calendars for dates and times.

**Ruth Liston**

❄️ 🧑‍🎄 **JANUARY 2024** 🧑‍🎄 ❄️

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	<b>1</b> New Year's Day <i>*Some time this month, watch Netflix series, SELF-MADE for discussion in February</i>	<b>2</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>3</b> 1:2:30 (remote) Book Club: Horse by Geraldine Brooks Discussion Leader: Dorothy Quinn	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Walking Group	6
7	<b>8</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person)	<b>9</b> 2PM: MJ online 2PM Cocktails & Conversation@Linda Nardone 7PM Bridge online	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>12</b>	13
14	<b>15 MLKing Day</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person) 3PM Bridge Online	<b>16</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 1 PM Current Events Ruth Liston	20
21	<b>22</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person)	<b>23</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>26</b>	27
28	<b>29</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person) 3PM Bridge Online	<b>30</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	3

😍 🧡 **FEBRUARY 2024** 🧡 😍

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>2</b>	3
4	<b>5</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person) 3 PM Bridge online	<b>6</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>7</b> Book Club (Remote) <i>Summerwater</i> by Sarah Moss Discussion Leader: Karen Wortheimer	<b>8</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>9</b>	10
11	<b>12</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person)	<b>13</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online 4 PM Cocktails & Conversation	<b>14</b> <i>Valentine's Day</i>	<b>15</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>16</b>	17
18	<b>19 Presidents' Day</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person) 3 PM Bridge online 3PM AAUW Board Meeting	<b>20</b> 2PM: MJ online 7PM Bridge online	<b>21</b> 7:30 PM AAUW NJ Virtual webinar, <i>C.J. WALKER</i>	<b>22</b> 12PM: Bridge in-person	<b>23</b>	24
25	<b>26</b> 11:30 AM Bridge (in person)	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 7:30pm Zoom discussion on <i>C.J. Walker</i>	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>	2

# 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 seek 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.

empowering women since 1881

## Greater Wayne Area Branch

### MEMBER TOWNS

Bloomington  
Englewood  
Franconia, NH  
Hewitt  
Kinnelon  
Little Falls  
Montville  
Mt. Pleasant, SC  
Newfoundland  
North Haledon  
Nutley  
Parsippany  
Pompton Lakes  
Pompton Plains  
Riverdale  
Teaneck  
Wanaque  
Wayne  
West Milford



## ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Linda Nardone
Vice President/Program	Elaine Dolsky
Treasurer/Finance	Elaine Kirsh
Secretary	Lauren Coyle
Membership VP	RuthListon
Communications VP	Lorraine LaShell

## APPOINTED OFFICERS

Advance Design	Peggy Gardner
Advance Editor	Randi Galanowsky
Advance Special Features	Dorothy Quinn
Diversity & Inclusion	Elaine Kirsh
Environment Issues	Barbara Stomber
Fundraising	Joan London
Public Policy	Karen Wertheimer
Publicity	Alice Moskowitz
Scholarship	Lorraine LaShell
Social Concerns	Diane Ricart
Sunshine	Ada Liggett
Technology	Bobbi Breslow
Website	Lorraine LaShell

## INTEREST GROUPS CHAIRS

Culinary Group	Carolyn Noble
Cultural Events	Elaine Kirsh
Current Events	Lauren Coyle
Games	Ruth Liston
Lit Group	Diane Ricart
Lunch Bunch	Ann Sheridan

Contact [aauwgwa@gmail.com](mailto:aauwgwa@gmail.com)