

The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume T No.2

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

January-February 2025

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.



Happy Holidays - Happy Winter, I don't know about you, but as an individual and as your president, I am reflecting on the year 2024 and planning for the year 2025. AAUW GWA has a lot to say on both of those areas.

The year 2024 was a stellar one for us. As you know, as of April, we are an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) entity under the name Greater Wayne Charitable Fund (GWCF). That has tax deductible ramifications to individuals and businesses/corporations that we may reach out to. I hope YOU are happy about that. Whenever I talk about reaching out, I need to thank all of you for your monetary and non-monetary contributions to this branch and therefore to our cause of supporting education of women. You have been generous in 2024, and we continue to need your help in 2025. Thank you.

Speaking of 2024, however, our track record is more than that designation. We have held events for the membership and public, educational sessions like the abbreviated CPR course and the computer/smartphone technical support session, and our interest groups have been very, very active (these oh-so-very important interest group meetings are a real opportunity for us to support each other in fun, learning, and wellness environments and life-supporting camaraderie.) Arna Taraporevala has given us a wonderful recap for 2024, and you can see it in this copy of The Advance.

Plans for 2025 are exciting. We will always have our major initiative of supporting women going back to school to finish up this step in their education, and we will be giving scholarships this year, as we have done for more than 60 years. You can meet those winners at our scholarship dinner in May 2025. But we have christened a second education initiative; we are providing 3 scholarships to high school students. These are for female high school students who are pursuing college educations in STEM (science, technology, engineering). It is totally funded for 2025. See details in this copy of The Advance.

You need to read this Advance; I can't mention everything that is important, but I will choose one thing. AAUW GWA will co-host an event with the League of Women Voters in January. This event aims to provide a public information session on Affordable Housing (usually called Mt. Laurel housing). This is a huge issue for many of our municipalities. Please come to the Wayne Public Library on Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. for a presentation of crucial issues on this topic. You can also join online. A flyer is part of this Advance; online details will be provided separately.

Please see all the articles on socials, events, informational topics, and schedules.

Lastly, my thanks again for your support of this wonderful organization and for your personal support of me. It is winter: Stay Warm, Stay Safe, Be Well.

Linda Nardone
President

2-28 Remote Discussion on C. J. Walker (the first self-made African-American woman)

3-3 Understanding Race and Religion in American Presentation by Khyati Joshi (educator and author) at the Wayne Public Library, Wayne

3-14 Remote Discussion on Women's History Month: Patsy Mink

4-17 AAUW GWA Annual Meeting at the Pequannock Library

5-15 Scholarship Dinner at Il Palazzo Restaurant in Wanaque

6-17 Transitional Board Meeting (Host: Ruth Liston)

7-17 Summer Social at the Senior House in Pequannock

9-18 Walkathon, David Waks Park, Barbour Pond Road, Wayne

9-22 Wayne Day (a booth), Wayne Valley High School, Wayne

10-6 Second Annual Art Expo at the Wayne Public Library, Wayne

10-22 Instructions on the Heimlich Maneuver and CPR measures

Presentation by David Sera (First Aid Squad) at Show Me CPR.

11-6 Technical assistance (for computers, tablets and smart phones) provided to AAUW GWA members by students and their professor from Caldwell College

12-8 Holiday Social at the Rock Creek Clubhouse

FUNDRAISING AND CHARITABLE OUTREACH

Every year we hold a walkathon in the month of September, a major scholarship fundraising event. Members solicit sponsors to support their walk. This event contributes a significant amount towards our scholarship fundraising initiative. Scholarships are awarded to women over age 25 years who are working

towards their first Bachelor's degree. The scholarship winners receive their checks at a dinner that is held in the month of May. Twice a year, in the summer and before the yearend holidays, members donate to OASIS, a haven for women and children located in Paterson. In summer we donate back to school supplies and in the winter, we donate toys and gifts.

We are a diverse, active group with many interests and our special interest groups reflect that. The following will give you a taste of our group activities in 2024.

COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

This group meets once a month at a member's home on the second Tuesday of the month and has a lively conversation on a specific topic. Topics for 2024 included:

- What volunteer activities have given you the most fulfillment
- Best vacation
- Choosing someone with whom to have a conversation
- Why did you choose your college major
- What is the most challenging thing about aging
- Trait or ability you don't have but you wish you had

CULINARY GROUP

This group meets on the fourth Friday of each month. Themes for 2024 included:

- Hot Bowl of Soup
- Veg Up
- Pizza Party
- Pick Up Sticks (this featured everything on a skewer)
- Spring Brunch
- Met with the Nutritionist at the Shoprite of Wayne
- Lunch at Double Ai, Wayne
- Retro Recipes
- Finger Foods
- Celebrate Citrus

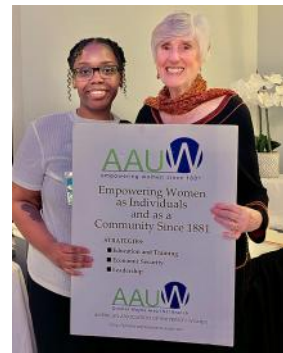
CURRENT EVENTS

This group meets on the third Friday of each month. Some of the topics of discussion for 2024 were:

- The Middle East



Scholarship winner Erica Williams with Linda Trongone



Scholarship winner Lakai Thompson with Barbara Stomber



Scholarship winner Oscaterin Bautista with Diane Ricart



Linda Nardone is honored for making the 501(c)(3) happen

continued from previous page

- The Status of ERA
- Information and Misinformation
- Work in Today’s World concerning our 5-day work week and shifting patterns of full-time employment
- Countries in the Middle East
- Immigration and various laws over time regarding quotas and multiple areas of acceptance and exclusion
- Gerrymandering, poll workers, history of the Electoral College

LITERARY GROUP

This group meets on the first Wednesday of each month. The discussions were held online for the months of January, February and March and then in person for the rest of the year. A meet and greet session was held in July. Books for the year 2024 were:

- *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks
- *Summer Water* by Sarah Moss
- *Trust* by Hernan Diaz
- *Only the Beautiful* by Susan Meissner
- *Lady Tan’s Circle of Women* by Lisa See
- *Absolution* by Alice McDermont
- *The Women* by Kristin Hannah
- *Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese
- *Apeirogon* by Colum McGann

MOVIE GROUP

This group meets a few times a year. Some of the movies discussed in 2024 were:

- Cabrini
- The Miracle Club
- Ordinary Angels
- Conclave

GAMES

This group meets both in person and online very regularly every week. The games played are bridge and mahjong.

CULTURAL EVENTS

There were two cultural events held this year. They were:

- Second Annual Art Expo at the Wayne Public Library, Wayne
- The Hunchback of Notre Dame at William Paterson University, Wayne

LUNCH BUNCH

This group meets on the second Thursday of the



Lunch Bunch at Portobello Restaurant

month. The restaurants at which the lunches were held were:

- Maggie’s Town Tavern, Wayne
- Barka’s Mediterranean Restaurant, Mountain Lakes
- Portobello, Oakland
- Double Ai, Wayne
- Fasil Mediterranean Restaurant, Boonton
- Segovia, Oakland

WALKING & WELLNESS

This group meets every Friday at 10:00 am, weather permitting. Some of the places they walked were:

- Willowbrook Mall in Wayne when it was very cold and icy
- Rail Trail in Pompton Plains
- Laurelwood Arboretum in Wayne
- Ramapo Valley Reservation in Mahwah
- Silas Condict Park in Kinnelon
- Pascack Brook County Park in Westwood
- De Korte Park in Lyndhurst
- Goffle Brook Park in Hawthorne
- A “pop-up” visit to Ringwood Manor to view the Victorian Holiday House.

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The Culinary Group will meet at Carolyn's home on Friday, January 24, 12:30 PM. The theme will be Celebrate Citrus - recipes made with either lemons, oranges, or limes.

Carolyn Noble
Culinary Group



Several members attended an excellent production of "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at William Paterson University on November 3. We are fortunate to have these events right in our own backyard.

We are planning a visit to a Morris County museum for an art exhibition in January. Further details will be announced.

Arline Lowe
Cultural Events



The search for recipients of the GWA 2025 scholarship(s) has begun. The application is posted on our website, and colleges are being contacted and asked to disseminate the information to students. The committee will be busy working over the next few months reading applications. The deadline to submit applications is Wednesday, April 9. The awards will be presented at a dinner on May 21.

Once again, this year we will work to select the most worthy and needy recipient(s). Your donations and hard work at fundraising events make this possible, and we thank you.

The Scholarship Team
Lorraine LaShell
Linda Trongone
Diane Ricart
Barbara Stomber
Mary Anne Lund



Our branch is co-hosting an event with the League of Women Voters on January 16, 2025, at 7 p.m. at the Wayne Public Library. The meeting can be attended in person or virtually.

There are numerous positive aspects to affordable housing, and these will be discussed. However, it also affects the size of the municipality's population, open space, land development and all infrastructure ramifications (taxes, schools, all volunteer services such as ambulance and first aid squads, traffic, road safety, stormwater management, to mention only a few).

A local League of Women Voters Affordable Housing committee, comprised of members from three towns, developed this presentation. It is based on their research and discussions with experts. The Power Point will include a brief review of the history of affordable housing in New Jersey, as well as information on our state's new affordable housing legislation and best practices some municipalities are already implementing. A question-and-answer session for audience members will follow the presentation.

I invite you to join the conversation. Don't miss this opportunity to learn and engage in meaningful discussions about affordable housing solutions that can benefit our communities.

See the attached flyer for instructions on how to sign up including a link for those attending virtually.

Linda Nardone President



Thank you for the generous donation of toys and \$350 of gift cards to Oasis. You have brought smiles to many families holiday celebrations!

Diane Ricart



In One Woman's Opinion:



by Dorothy Quinn

I always face a bit of uncertainty with each new year. What will 2025 hold for me, my family, my community, and, most of all, my country? Besides my health, my life is pretty much in my control; my family not so much, but for now and the foreseeable future, things look positive. In my community, I can volunteer and participate to make life aesthetically better and socially warming. However, when it comes to our country, I canvassed and voted, and that is pretty much where my control ends.

The news and social media are full of dire warnings or hopeful promises depending on where you listen, read, or watch. That divided hope or hopelessness, depending on which side of the divide you find yourself, can be stressful. Whether you are anticipating brighter days or dreading doom, the idea that some are jubilant and others are up at night imagining the worst is cause enough to ask, "Have I missed the point"? The result is self doubt.

To the hopeful, you are most likely approaching 2025 with anticipation. You look forward to relief from the stressors of your life to be answered with the choices and direction of the next administration. However, for those on the other side of the divide, the fear mounts with every news broadcast and every social media post. However, to those on either side, I offer some suggestions.

First and foremost, one cannot believe everything we hear. (Isn't that a sad statement, but an inevitable truth for the present!) Promises and dreams of others are sometimes broken. As citizens relying on our country's history, it has been proven that our Republic will prevail. It has survived the division of the Civil War, the McCarthy era, the social upheaval of the Vietnam war and race riots in the 60s, and countless other challenges. Democracy is never neat; at best, it's messy, and our three-pronged checks and balances of our representative government

should give cause for reasonable hopefulness.

Also, spending more time improving your life and the lives of others is helpful. It creates a positive feeling of accomplishment. It's something that one has control over, and it curbs the desire to check out what's happening in our 24-hour news cycle! One hour on an objective broadcast once a day is probably what most of us need to stay informed. Leave all the commentary and echo chambers behind.

But most of all, think of yourself as part of a greater community of citizens who voted their conscience, be it for better or for worse. This certainly helps with the sentiment of "the divide." All have survived. Every election cycle has winners and losers. That is the beauty of a democracy. We have tried it all, and officials have tweaked their policies from the response of the voters, be it by our ballots or our letters to respective representatives. Remember, the disappointed from the last cycle made it through four years, and the disappointed of this cycle will make it through the next four years (or perhaps the next two years). We vote, we hope, we continue to learn that the campaign rhetoric of each party is intended to instill fear, and to give in to that fear is to be manipulated. Having trust in our democracy and its long history can give us peace of mind. It is our decision. We have control of how we live our daily lives with trust in ourselves, in our community, and in our government to do the right thing, eventually.

Happy New Year and Peace of Mind for 2025!





- Expanding opportunities in education
- Training women in financial literacy and salary negotiation
- Fighting for laws that uplift and empower women

Last month, AAUW celebrated its 143rd anniversary. We wouldn't be able to stay in the fight for women and girls without you.

Audited financial statements for 2023 are available on the national website.

Send a letter to the White House urging President Biden to do everything he can to publish the ERA to the Constitution before his presidency ends.

As we look ahead to 2025, tax-smart giving options can help empower women and girls while also reducing your tax burden if you own stock or cryptocurrency or have an IRA or a Donor-Advised Fund (DAF).

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The problem: Bill S.5384 was introduced last month to the 118th Congress calling for the Department of Education's abolishment. Be on the lookout for opportunities to express your opinions on this topic.

Why it matters: The department plays a critical role in protecting civil rights, providing financial aid, and supporting students with the greatest needs. Its elimination would jeopardize funding for low-income schools, special education programs, and make higher education a riskier bet for students.

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- Work Smart & Start Smart Salary Negotiation
- Boost Your Career
- Fellowships & Grants
- Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative
- Legal Advocacy Fund
- AAUW Webinars

Sign up for a Women's Economic Empowerment webinar. Whether you're a student, working professional, or higher-ed faculty, our salary negotiation and financial literacy webinars offer essential tools for every career stage.

Look for AAUW NJ's mission-focused newsletter – equi{tea}, published periodically, to stay up-to-date with actions to be taken in NJ.

Karen Wertheimer
Public Policy



Wednesday, January 8 at 1 p.m.

ZOOM MEETING. Information to join will be sent out prior to meeting
 TOPIC OF MEETING: A book share to discuss favorite books you have read. We can then choose books for the April, July, and August meetings.

Wednesday, February 5 at 1 p.m.

ZOOM MEETING: Information to join will be sent out prior to meeting.
 Book: *The Demon of Unrest: A Saga of Hubris, Heartbreak, and Heroism* at the Dawn of the Civil War by Erik Larson
 Leader: Dorothy Quinn

Wednesday, March 5 at 1 p.m.

ZOOM meeting
 Book: *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty
 Leader: Nancy Ferer

Wednesday, April 2 at 1 p.m.

We will choose a book prior to the meeting.

Wednesday, May 7 1 p.m.

Book: *The Museum of Failures* by Thrity Umrigar
 Leader & Host: Jan Rutherford,

Wednesday, June 4 1 p.m.

Book: *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henríquez





Our ASK letter, requesting financial assistance from our membership to scholarship recipients, will be sent out in February. 100% of the money collected will be awarded to recipients selected by our scholarship committee. If you have contributed to this fund in the past, I hope you will continue your support. If you are able, consider increasing your donation. Those who have not, in the past, participated in this drive, please rethink your position. The women selected greatly appreciate the money we provide and use it in meaningful ways to advance their educational goals.

Thank you.

Joan London
Fundraising Chair



Now that we have a 501(c)(3) status, a fundraising committee has been established. Members of the committee are Joan, Lorraine, Ruth, Linda Nardone, and Elaine Kirsh. It was decided that this year, we will give a \$1,000 scholarship to a graduating female student at Wayne Hills HS, Wayne Valley HS, and PCTI (STEM). Recipients will demonstrate a financial need and an interest in pursuing science/math fields. Each school will select their candidate. We will present the scholarships at the awards assembly at each school. Linda Nardone is personally funding this initiative this year.

THANK YOU, LINDA FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!!!

What Does 501(c)(3) Status mean?

If you itemize on your tax returns, contributions to AAUW can be deductible. Are you involved in or know of an organization/corporation that makes charitable contributions? If so, contact me.



Don't forget to use tributes to recognize "life events."

Joan London
Fundraising Chair



Following their participation in a technology workshop for AAUW members at the Wayne library, we sent a letter to Caldwell University in recognition of the students and professor who participated. We received a request to meet with them. The VP of Academic Affairs and the Fundraising Chair were present.

Discussion items included:

- ◆ Caldwell University to join AAUW
- ◆ Increased publicity of available AAUW scholarships
- ◆ Auditing of classes at Caldwell by AAUW members
- ◆ Use of Caldwell professors for workshops/lectures
- ◆ Use of Caldwell facilities for summer one day/ week long workshops for high school/middle school students (Tech Trek)
- ◆ Use of Caldwell facilities for joint workshops

It is too early to tell which ideas may come to fruition. However; this is an exciting new avenue to explore.

Joan London and Lorraine LaShell



Because we're all shivering right now, the walking group will meet at Willowbrook Mall, by the Cheesecake Factory, each Friday at 10 a.m. under Jeanne's leadership. Should we be gifted with unusually nice weather, we can adjust plans accordingly. Here's to an early spring!

Jeanne Pisatowski Ann Sheridan
Walking & Wellness



January		February	
Nancy Ferer	1/10	Maryann Davidson	2/8
Barbara Stomber	1/17	Joan London	2/8
Lorraine LaShell	1/25	Barbara O'Connor	2/9
Jean Billings	1/26	Dorothy Quinn	2/13
		Ann Raynor	2/13
		Ruth Liston	2/16
		Julie Tiso	2/19



The C and C December meeting was held at Ruth Liston's. Everyone brought an appetizer/dessert and a "white elephant gift." The food was delicious, and the gifts were "interesting."

We have limited participation in this group since at each meeting, everyone is given an opportunity to express their views. If you are not a member of this group but wish to participate, let us know and we will form a new group if enough people are interested.

Joan London
Ruth Liston



You are invited to watch "Paper Clips," a documentary that tells the story of a small rural middle school in Whitwell, Tennessee, and how its students, under the guidance of their teachers, took on the ambitious project of collecting 6 million paper clips to represent the 6 million Jews murdered during the Holocaust. What starts as a class project soon grows into an international movement, bringing the community together and inspiring people around the world to learn more about the Holocaust and its lasting impact.

January 16 at 1 p.m.

Carol Palmer Yomtov



Our AAUW group gathered for another festive Holiday Party on December 8 at Carol Yomtov's lovely clubhouse. We enjoyed a buffet of Mediterranean dishes like chicken schwarma, gyro meat, shrimp, rice, salads, hummus, baba ganoush, and pita bread provided by Gyro Grill of Wayne, along with a cheese and fruit platter. Joan London provided an array of fantastically delicious desserts! As usual, we sang and played games and had a fabulous time. Thank you to Carol and her helpers for being the "hostess with the mostest!"

Here are a few pictures of our Holiday Party.

Carol Palmer Yom-Tov

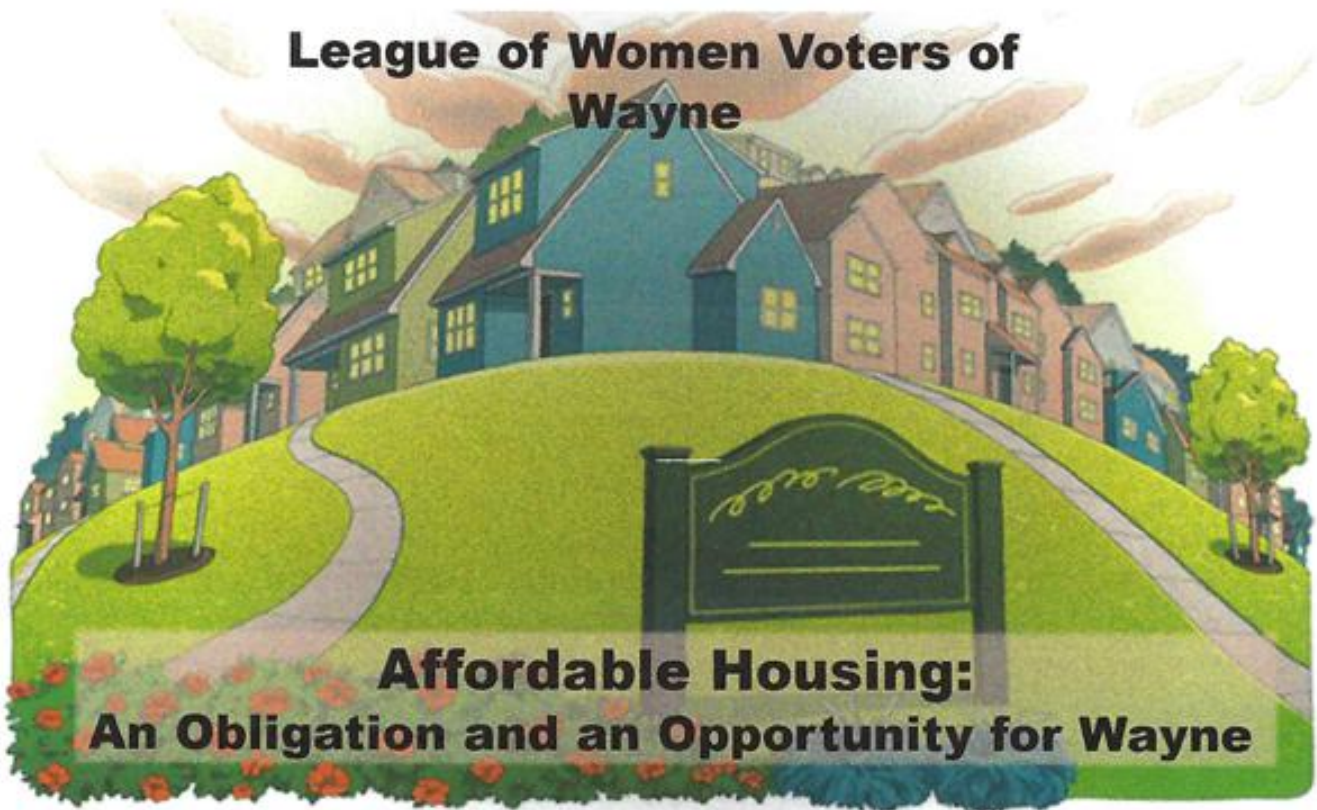


Carol Palmer-Yom Tov photographer





League of Women Voters of Wayne



**A Public Meeting Sponsored by
the American Association of University Women
Greater Wayne Area Branch
and the League of Women Voters of Wayne Township**

Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 7:00 PM

**Wayne Public Library Meeting Room
461 Valley Road, Wayne**

**We invite you to join us in person or virtually to gain insights
into this issue. To sign up, please go to**

www.mobilize.us/nj11thforchange/event/746473/

January

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
29	30	31	1	2	3
				12 PM: Bridge in person	10 AM Walking group
5	6	7	8	9	10
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online. 7PM Bridge online	1 PM Lit Group 3:30 Bridge online	12:30 Lunch Bunch 12:30 PM: Bridge in-person 1 pm Movie Club	10 AM Walking group	
12	13	14	15	16	17
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online 2PM Cocktails & Conversation 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM: Bridge in-person	10 AM Walking group 1PM Current Events	
19	20	21	22	23	24
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM: Bridge in person	10 AM Walking group. 12 PM Culinary Group	
26	27	28	29	30	31
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online. 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM: Bridge in person	10 AM Walking group	

February

2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2PM MJ online 7PM Bridge online	1 PM Lit Group 3:30 PM Bridge online	12 PM Bridge in person	10 AM Walking Group		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online 2 PM Cocktails & Conversation 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM Bridge in person 12:30 Lunch Bunch 1PM Movie Club	10 AM Walking Group		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2PM MJ online. 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM Bridge in person	10 AM Walking Group 1PM Current Events		
23	24	25	26	27	28	1
12:30 PM Bridge in-person	2 PM MJ online 7PM Bridge online	3:30 Bridge online	12:30 PM Bridge in person	10 AM Walking Group 12 PM Culinary Group		
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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.

empowering women since 1881

Greater Wayne Area Branch

MEMBER TOWNS

- Bloomington
- Englewood
- Franconia, NH
- Kinnelon
- Little Falls
- Mt. Pleasant, SC
- Montville
- New Foundland
- North Haledon
- Nutley
- Old Tappan
- Parsippany
- Pompton Lakes
- Pompton Plains
- Riverdale
- Teaneck
- Wayne



ELECTED OFFICERS

President	Linda Nardone
Treasurer	Elaine Kirsh
Secretary	Jan Rutherford
Membership/Sunshine Program VP	Ruth Liston
Related Programming	Carol Palmer Yomtov
Communications VP	Arna Taraporevala
	Lorraine LaShell

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Advance Design	Peggy Gardner
Advance Editor	Randi Galanowsky
Advance Special Feature	Dorothy Quinn
Cocktails & Convo	Joan London & Ruth Liston
Culinary	Carolyn Noble
Cultural Events	Arline Lowe
Current Events	Marlys Huss
Environment Issues	Barbara Stomber
Fundraising	Joan London
Games	Ruth Liston
Hospitality	Pat Durante & Jeanne Pisatowski
Lit Group	Diane Ricart
Lunch Bunch	Ann Sheridan
Movies	Julie Tiso
Public Policy	Karen Wertheimer
Scholarship	Lorraine LaShell
Social Concerns	Diane Ricart
Website	Lorraine LaShell
Walking & Wellness	Jeanne Pisatowski & Ann Sheridan