

# The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume T No.3

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

March-April 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.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello again. Nice to meet you here.

Every year has a “restart” button, and most organizations use January through March to set priorities. That includes AAUW, at the National, the State, and Branch levels. A few (more than a few) words on AAUW National. (<http://www.aauw.org> and <https://aauwnj.org>)

I truly hope all of you are proud of National AAUW. They do a lot while we are not watching them. One of our branch objectives this year is to keep you more informed about them and the value of National AAUW efforts.

So---what is National AAUW trying to do this year?

- \* Support bills to be introduced in the 119th Congress and State legislatures that fight for EQUITY (most notably, for education, equal pay, reproductive health, and against discrimination). This is the most critical national activity. The counterpart is to fight legislation that erodes protections for women.
- \* Prevent erosion of Title IX and Title VII protections.
- \* Equal Rights Amendment support.
- \* Dedicated support and programs for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics).

- \* Provide programs and training for women on financial intelligence in pay, negotiations, benefits, and managing money (Money Smart, Start Smart, Work Smart).

Lastly, do you realize that since 1888 your organization, American Association of University Women, has provided approximately \$146 million to over 15,000 recipients. This is crucial financial support to women of all ages in their journey. I am proud of that metric, a dollar number of which our Branch is a part.

We expect to provide more information on National and State AAUW in 2025, both For Your Information and For Your Action.

Please read this issue of the Advance for our Branch Information and activities---and Join us to whatever extent you choose.

Respectfully,

**Linda Nardone**  
President

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the AAUW-GWA will be held on March 26, 2025. The time and location will be provided shortly. Hope to see you all there.

## THANKSGIVING IN THE SPRING

This year our branch will again participate in the Wayne Rotary "Thanksgiving in the Spring" event which will be held at Edward Sisco Village in Wayne on Sunday, March 23.

The Rotary needs people to cook and/or serve the seniors between the hours of 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Any help we can provide will be greatly appreciated and will serve to deepen our valuable collaboration with Wayne Rotary.

Look for an informative flyer in your email.

**Lorraine LaShell**

## SCHOLARSHIP

The Scholarship Committee is in the process of collecting and reviewing applications for the 2025 award(s). All applications must be submitted by April 9. The winner(s) will be announced by the end of April and honored at the awards dinner on May 21.

You recently received a letter requesting donations to the scholarship fund. (See below). The Greater Wayne Charitable Fund (GWCF) is a 501(c)3, and donations to the fund are fully deductible. Please send your donation, made out to GWCF, to Elaine Kirsh by March 15.

Thank you for your support.

**The Scholarship Committee**

**Lorraine LaShell (Chair)**

**Mary Anne Lund, Diane Ricart,**

**Barbara Stomber, Linda Trongone**



February 1, 2025

Dear GWA Members,

**Your support of the AAUW Wayne Scholarship Program matters now more than ever.**

Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to accomplish so much. Once again, we awarded scholarships to three women returning to college, for a total of \$10,500 in 2024. In 57 years since its founding in 1968, our branch has given 83 scholarships and has awarded over \$91,400.00.

Who can forget meeting scholarship winner Oscaterin Bautista and her son at our 2024 summer social? A single mother of four studying at Montclair University towards a degree in Family Science and Human Development. She wants to ensure that every child abuse is prevented or stopped. She told us how much she appreciated our encouragement and financial support.

And in 2023, Donnette Jones received our scholarship and went on to graduate summa cum laude from Caldwell University. She is now studying for her Master of Nursing at Rutgers University. It's very exciting that we helped Donnette in achieving her dream in nursing.

Since our first scholarship, every step forward has been fueled by supporters like you – but there's more work to do. There are so many worthy women applying. Your donation today doesn't just fund scholarships — it fuels change. It helps us respond to urgent needs, expand our reach and ensure that no woman or girl is left behind.

**Please make a change-making gift today.**

Donations can be made by check to GWCF and mailed to Elaine Kirsh, 16 Hillside Terr., Wayne, NJ 07470 or through PayPal (AAUW Greater Wayne Area). Please be as generous as possible. Remember, unlike the annual dues which fund operations, 100% of your donation goes towards scholarships.

As a special thank you, we will host an ice cream social in June to celebrate our donors. The names of all donors will be entered to win a one-year membership in AAUW GWA. The winning name will be drawn at the social.

Thank you for believing in and supporting our mission of advancing women through education and for being part of our multi-town-county community.

Warmest wishes,

**Joan London Fundraising Chair**

**Lorraine LaShell Scholarship Chair**

GWCF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

All contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent provided by law.

## AAUW IN ACTION

Great information about AAUW can be found at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and <https://aaunwj.org/>. Take a look and get the latest information about all the wonderful things that AAUW is doing. The most recent edition of AAUW NJ's mission-focused newsletter, equi{tea}!, was published 2/18/25. If you didn't get it or deleted it, please send me an email and I'll forward it to you. It starts with a message from the AAUW NJ president Sharon Suber that I find helpful repeating daily.

"The first two months of the new year have brought many changes in the country's landscape, many of which are a threat to women's rights. It is easy to become overwhelmed and anxious, but we cannot afford to lose the strength and drive that has kept AAUW relevant. We must stay focused on our mission. Our actions will ensure that the next generation of women and girls don't lose the rights that we currently have." (I'll add 'or had'.)

Locally, we are also doing many things to advance women -- supporting scholarships, STEM programs, and social justice projects. Please give what you can in terms of money, time, and support. No amount is too little: everything helps. Money isn't everything but it is critical to our ability to do many of these projects.

Stay warm and cozy in this normal but unexpected winter.

**Karen Wertheimer**  
*Public Policy*

Happy Birthday

### March

Nina Del Collo	3/15	Elaine Kirsh	4/1
Lois Wickham	3/16	Kim Fitzpatrick	4/6
Randi Galanowsky	3/29	Jeanne Pisatowski	4/8
Carol Palmer Yomtov	3/29	Esther Flower	4/25

### April

## CULTURAL EVENTS

Our most recent event was on February 28 at the Montclair Museum of Art in Montclair, NJ. We had an opportunity to visit the impressive paintings of an American Landscape painter, George Inness, to view and discuss this famous artist. There was also time to visit other galleries, and we are indeed fortunate to have this wonderful museum in our neighborhood.

**Arline Lowe**

Special interest Chair  
Cultural Events



*On the right: Landscape paintings by George Inness on display at the Montclair Art Museum*

# Is Financial Relief from Extreme Weather-Related Events around the Corner in New Jersey?

During our last Current Events meeting, the discussion regarding the recent California wildfires took center stage. As we know, more extreme weather patterns, i.e., longer and warmer seasons, droughts, and stronger winds, not only increase the scope and intensity of wildfires but the increase in temperatures globally is also responsible for warmer and rising seas, fueling more powerful hurricanes and increased flooding.

With an estimate of \$250 billion in damage for the recent California wildfires alone, wildfires also compromise air and water quality and contaminate the soil because of the chemicals used to extinguish fire. Lives are lost and compromised, while insurance rates rise and homes lose their value. In addition, several major insurance companies have reduced coverage in California or stopped issuing new policies in high-risk areas altogether. The same scenario is true for insurance companies in Florida and North Carolina as a result of the historic hurricanes that struck two months apart in 2024 with damage that exceeded \$120 billion.

As it turns out, New Jersey has something in common with all three states. Forests cover 42% of the state with many experiencing more red alerts due to prolonged drought, its rising seas result in the refurbishing of its many beaches each year, and many areas of the state are victim to more frequent and intense rainfall events resulting in flooding its many rivers and floodplains.

Coming off the most



*Wildfires in Central Jersey force evacuation*



*New Jersey Shore hit hard by winter storm*

destructive wildfire in California's history and, according to NOAA and NASA, the 10 warmest years on record, we are unfortunately looking at more of the same for our future without drastic measures taken to reduce greenhouse gases—and, according to 97% of

climate scientists, burning fossil fuels is the culprit. There is overwhelming evidence that in the 1970s Exxon's own scientists' research predicted the climate problems that would be created by burning fossil fuels. Exxon not only refused to admit this but spent the next 50 years denying the truth and impeding government responses to the crisis while spreading misinformation to the public; 40 other fossil fuel

companies have been taken to court for the same.

In light of the relationship between fossil fuels and a warming world, why are taxpayers burdened with the damage caused by the burning of fossil fuels and not the companies responsible for them?

As a result, New Jersey decided to take action. On December 12, 2024, the New Jersey Senate Environmental Committee passed the Climate Superfund Act and is awaiting passage by the New Jersey Legislature in March and signature of Governor Murphy. This bill is modeled after similar legislation

passed by New York and Vermont and is based on the original EPA Superfund Act, which requires polluters to pay to clean up contaminated sites. However, in this case, the polluters would be accountable in part for damage caused as a result of the burning of fossil fuels and

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the resulting climate crisis, affecting not only wildfires but damage due to historic flooding, excessive hurricane intensity, etc. In addition to NJ, California, Maryland, Massachusetts and Minnesota are pushing for similar legislation.

Extreme climate events cost the United States \$150 billion each year— an estimate that doesn't account for loss of life, healthcare-related costs and damage to the environment. These massive and rapidly increasing costs fall upon our residents and taxpayers. It is not unreasonable to estimate that New Jersey could receive about \$50 billion over 25 years from those companies responsible.

Fossil fuel extractors and refiners that do business in New Jersey and are responsible for more than 1 billion tons of greenhouse gas pollution since 1995 would be liable for damages. This means the law would specifically hold

companies like Exxon, Shell, and BP liable for their part in climate pollution in proportion to their greenhouse gas emissions between 1995 to the present.

If the Climate Superfund Act is successful, the State will collect this money from the major climate polluters and create grants for municipalities to address the costs of projects that range from remediation to adaptation from climate change. The NJ State Treasurer would be in charge of assessing the damage caused by climate change over the last 30 years and the DEP on collecting on those damages.

A sample of costs that could be included, but are not limited to, are infrastructure resiliency (e.g., energy efficiency and weatherization upgrades to



*Severe weather headed to NJ with damaging winds, heavy rain and hail*

schools and municipal buildings); flood protection to those areas known to flood including buyouts; remediation of toxic algae blooms; upgrades to stormwater drainage systems and the electrical grid, cost of dealing with forest fires.

Fossil fuel companies make billions of dollars in profits every year. Exxon alone had global profits in 2023 of \$36 billion while the global oil and gas industry earned record income of more than \$2.4 trillion; all this, while receiving \$7 trillion in government subsidies in 2022.

Should taxpayers continue enduring the financial hardships and pollution caused by fossil fuel companies who knowingly hid the truth, impeded the government, and provided misinformation to the public?

What do you think?

The Climate Superfund Act is considered

nonpartisan since the damages effected by these catastrophic disasters impact all people, regardless of party affiliation, and because it aims to shift some of the financial burden of addressing climate change directly onto the companies deemed most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions. The Act essentially follows a “polluter pays” principle, which should appeal to both sides of the political spectrum even if they may disagree on the extent of climate change itself; it focuses on assigning responsibility based on historical emissions data and this focus on accountability can resonate with both environmentally conscious and fiscally conservative individuals.

***Barbara Stomber***



*Flooding in southern NJ brings state of emergency declaration*

## *In One Woman's Opinion: by Dorothy Quinn* *A Warm Read for a Cold Winter's Night -* **THE FROZEN RIVER**

At a time when I have been keeping my opinions to myself, especially to a general audience, I felt it was safer to keep them close to my heart for as long as I can. However, I must say one month you will open up this page only to find that I have unleashed my silence. Unfortunately, or perhaps fortunately, I am not there yet!!

So to be safe, this month I'm doing something quite different to keep myself in check. I'm sharing a novel, *The Frozen River*, by Ariel Lawhon. This story, a "fictional biography" as described by the author, is set circa 1778-1789 in Hallowell, Maine, on the Kennebec River, which was still a part of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The main character and heroine, Martha Ballard, is an early New England settler who is quite ahead of her time. As a midwife and healer, she is sturdy, resourceful, and self-sufficient, and fights not only for her legal and personal rights, but also for her female neighbors as well.

The author includes the personal entries of Martha in her fiction to substantiate the history and events of colonial life as well as Martha's own perspective. It was highly unusual for a woman at this time in history to be able to read and write, never mind, among her many tasks, to keep a daily journal. Martha feels compelled to do so since she decides this is a way to keep a historical record of the births, deaths, crime, and debacles in this small close-knit community, including the names of mother and child as well as those who miscarried. She also includes the petty struggles and small graces of her life. One exceptional note is that Martha Ballard in her years of practice never lost a mother in the birthing process - something she was quite proud of!

The plot and the diaries provide an interesting look into the difficult and challenging lives of these eighteenth century women homemakers. It gives the reader a perspective on the court system at this time which rarely puts women in a favorable light. Women were to be seen and not heard, and rape,

which becomes a conflict in this story, married or not, finds the man to be innocent due to his prestige or licentious nature rather than seeking justice for the travail, both physical and mental, of the victim.

Lawhon also mirrors the Christian values, the prejudice and social isolation of a single black woman in the community, and the innate hatred towards indigenous people through the characterization of many of these early settlers. Greed and power find their way into Hallowell and Martha continuously refers to the viability of the newly created Constitution.

The American female character could find its roots in the story of Martha Ballard. Her legacy includes being the great aunt of Clara Barton, the founder of the American Red Cross, teacher, humanitarian and civil rights activist, and the great-great grandmother of Mary Hobart, one of the first female physicians in the United States. Martha Ballard's diary was preserved and passed on by her daughter Dolly (Ballard) Lombard and eventually into the hands of Mary Hobart who donated the diary to the Maine State Library.

After many years it was translated into six million bytes of text so that the full transcript could be published by Picton Press. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, a Pulitzer-prize winning historian and biographer, found the text and wrote a scholarly biography about Martha Ballard should anyone in the AAUW be so inclined to read it. The author of *The Frozen River* is not a scholar, but a skilled storyteller who wants to share Martha's story and illustrate that small acts of kindness, done in love, matter every bit as much as those who make the history books. A very memorable read!



## CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group will meet at Carolyn's house at 12:30 p.m. on Friday, March 28. The theme will be VEG UP! Dishes that can be customized to feed both the vegans and meat eaters in your family.

The April 25th theme has not yet been decided.

**Carolyn Noble**  
Culinary Group

## CURRENT EVENTS

The Current Events group gathers on the third Friday of the month, and our next meeting is scheduled for March 21 at 1 p.m., at my home.

We wanted to look forward to spring with a more upbeat topic so will be discussing our gardening and landscaping plans. We are fortunate to have talented gardeners in our group to lend some timely advice.

**Marlys Huss**  
Current Events

## LIT GROUP

All meetings will be held at 1 p.m. unless otherwise indicated.

**Wednesday, March 5** (Zoom)

Information will be sent the morning of March 5 to join our zoom meeting  
Book: *The Rabbit Hutch* by Tess Gunty  
Leader: Nancy Ferer



**Wednesday, April 2**

Leader: Diane Ricart  
Host: Anyone interested?  
Discussion Meeting: We will share names of favorite books or series. They could be old favorites, mysteries, science fiction, teenage hits of children's books that you loved!

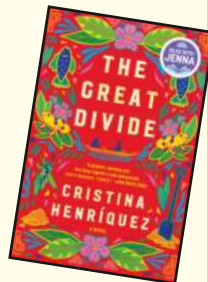
**Wednesday, May 7**

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



**Wednesday, June 4**

Book: *The Great Divide* by Cristina Henríquez  
Host and Leader: Linda Trongone



## WALKING GROUP

The walking group meets at 10 a.m. each Friday. During the cold weather, we are walking around Willowbrook Mall, and Jeanne Pisatowski will coordinate these strolls. Once the weather warms up, we'll be heading outside under Ann's guidance. We will be returning to the Pequannock Rail Trail and Laurelwood Gardens, but hope to add a few more destinations. There will be a meeting in March (date and place to be advised) to determine where we are headed going forward. In the meantime, keep moving!

**Jeanne Pisatowski Ann Sheridan**  
Walking & Wellness

## MEMBERSHIP

The AAUW-GWA now boasts 52 members, and you will find an updated membership list at the end of The Advance.

## LUNCH BUNCH

Our first Lunch Bunch of 2025 was held on February 13 at Cypress Tavern in Kinnelon and was well attended, with good food and a warm fireplace. As we go forward, the location for March 13 will be announced. See you then!

**Ann Sheridan**  
Lunch Bunch

## CREATIVE CIRCLE



There has been quite a lot of interest in our newly formed Creative Circle, which is scheduled to kick off on Monday, March 10 at 1 p.m. at my home, and which we anticipate will meet once a month. The first gathering will be a planning session to determine what projects/activities to undertake. Many of us have expressed a desire to learn (or relearn) to knit or crochet, or to explore other creative endeavors.

It has been suggested that we could create for our personal use or to donate to needy organizations. I certainly have a lot of yarn to share!

The only catch is we need a teacher or mentor (or several in different creative forms) to guide us on this journey. While YouTube tutorials are helpful, having an experienced person or two would be invaluable. If anyone is so willing and able, please reach out to me.

We look forward to hearing from all those who are interested in joining this creative adventure.

**Randi Galanowsky**  
Creative Circle

## SAVE THE DATE

Lit Group	3/5 (Zoom)
Creative Circle	3/10
Lunch Bunch	3/13
Current Events	3/21
Thanksgiving in Spring	3/23
General Meeting	3/26
Culinary Group	3/28
Lit Group	4/2
Movie Group	4/10
Lunch Bunch	4/10
Dolley Madison Tea	4/16
Current Events	4/18
Culinary Group	4/25

## COCKTAILS & CONVERSATION

Because of its popularity, a second group is being formed for Cocktails & Conversation. Jean Billings will be the chair. If you are not part of the original group and would like to join, contact her.

**Joan London**

## MOVIE GROUP

The Movie Group will be talking about the movie "Six Triple Eight," streaming on Netflix. The discussion group will be at my home on April 10 at 1 p.m. Please bring ideas for our next movie!

**Julie Tiso**  
Movie Group







Greater Wayne Area (NJ) Branch



Please join us for  
Tea with Dolley Madison  
Presented by  
Carol McKinney, First Lady Re-enactor

When: Wednesday, April 16 at 2:00 pm  
Where: Senior Center Pequannock Twp  
530 Newark Pompton Tpk  
Pompton Plains, NJ

RSVP: Jean Billings, [crimlaw4@optimum.net](mailto:crimlaw4@optimum.net)

Space is limited. Registration is required.

Please RSVP by April 1.



Carol McKinney, noted First Lady re-enactor portrays First Lady, Dolley Madison for our Meeting on April 16th. She encourages questions as her dialogue progresses.

Dolley Madison was the first President's wife to be referred to as "First Lady." She is credited with being the key figure in Madison's re-election to a second term as well as unofficial social hostess to Washington D.C. society for more than fifty years and personally knew the first twelve presidents.



# 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

## 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

## GWA LEADERSHIP 2024-2025 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