

The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume T No.4

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

May-Summer 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 and happy spring. This is my chance to speak to you as AAUW members over the next four months. And I truly hope to see you soon.

The first event that is upcoming after your receipt of this is our Scholarship Dinner on May 21 at Il Palazzo (the restaurant where we held it last year), at

5:30 pm. I think of this dinner as the most relevant event of the year in that it DIRECTLY reflects our mission. I am begging you to come and see the fruits of your labors and donations. We expect to have our scholarship winners at the dinner. It is interesting to hear their varied stories and goals. For me, it is a pleasure knowing that we collectively help women along in their educational paths. Some of our sponsors may also attend.

A June event is planned as a thank you -- an ice cream social! Come and we will prepare ice cream for you as our thanks over the summer. And of course, we have our annual Summer Social in July to look forward to as well. See more details in this newsletter.

I mentioned at the Annual Meeting that we, as an executive board, want to inform you of the activities, programs, and meetings (by zoom) of AAUW National and AAUW State. We'll keep that promise over the next four months.

This is, as you realize, my shortest letter to you. That is not because there is nothing to talk about. It is because there are numerous interest groups with fun activities (games, discussions, culinary adventures, outings), and I really WANT you to read the remainder of The Advance. There are also a number of articles that we hope you find interesting.

Let me close, however, with my continued thanks to you for your participation in AAUW, financial and/or otherwise. You are the engine driving this branch. I applaud you and I hope to see you at many of our activities over these next months.

With my very best regards and wishes,

Linda Nardone



We have 3 very special events coming up, so be sure to mark your calendars!

**Scholarship Dinner - May 21
Ice Cream Social - June 13
Summer Social - July 16**

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce three winners of the GWA 2025 scholarship awards. Thanks to Joan London, Fundraising Chair, and the generosity of our members, each winner will receive \$3,500. All our recipients are pursuing degrees in the health field, which is both commendable and necessary.

Introducing Raodat Ibrahim, Jenierose Mendoza and Destinee A. Silva.



Raodat Ibrahim is a student at William Paterson University, studying to be a nurse and plans to graduate in December 2026. She manages on-going health problems, is responsible for four younger siblings, works full-time, carries 14 credits and

pays out-of-pocket for her schooling. We honor and admire her determination and resilience and are pleased to award her this scholarship.



Jenierose Mendoza is studying for a BA in Environmental and Biological Science at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, with a graduation date of May 2026. After a slow start in her academic career, serious family problems and a

cryptic pregnancy, Jenierose is on her way to a career in public health. She is passionate about making changes to public health so that everyone has access to resources. We are happy to support her in achieving her academic and life goals.



Destinee A. Silva is drawn to caring for others. As a full-time student at Felician University working towards her BS in nursing, she is on her way to making that a reality. Destinee scaled back her job at a medical center to devote herself to

her academic studies. Her true passions are patient care and educating fellow staff. Our scholarship will help Destinee make her dream a reality.

— HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS —

In addition to the three scholarships for women over 25 returning to college, this year our branch will present \$1000 awards to three high school seniors going on to study for careers in STEM. The recipients will be announced following the completion of the selection process.

Our branch can be very proud of the work we do to support other women and girls.

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



May

Darlene Renzulli	May 6	Carolyn Noble	June 22
Cindy Orosy	May 16	MaryAnn Morrison	June 28
Ann Raynor	May 16	Caroline Mossip	June 29
Aviva Sanders	May 23		

June

Jan Rutherford	June 10	Ada Liggett	July 13
Joyce Jacobson	June 11	Kamala Anupindi	July 23
Alice Hessinger	June 14	Ann Sheridan	July 28
Arna Taraporevala	June 14	Win Reinhardt	July 30

August

Marlys Huss	June 16	Sandy Lazzara	Aug 18
Merrill Crowell	June 17		

AAUW NJ POLICY UPDATE

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Our nonpartisan, nonprofit organization has more than 170,000 members and supporters across the United States, as well as 1,000 local branches and more than 800 college and university members. AAUW of New Jersey is the state affiliate representing approximately 1,200 members in 20 branches throughout New Jersey.

State Assembly elections in 2025

Alongside the Governor, all 80 seats in New Jersey's State Assembly are up for election this year. Many of the incumbents are facing challengers from their own party in this year's primary, which will be held on June 10. With the new ballot design in place for the primary, with no clear demarcation for party endorsement, it is even more critical that voters stay engaged and research the candidates in their district.

New Jersey ranks in the middle of the pack

AAUW has published an update to their pay equity research. The 2025 version titled [The Not So Simple](#)

[Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) dives deeper into the issue. It breaks down the data by state acknowledging that with gridlock at the federal level, states have taken the lead in closing the pay gap. New Jersey ranks 24 among the 50 states with an earnings ratio of 82.7%, just slightly below the national average of 83%. Further breakdowns by congressional district reveals significant disparities within the state with more than half of districts (7) lagging behind the state average. (See chart below)

One way to reduce the wage gap is to support higher education for women and girls. Reducing barriers to obtaining a degree and making higher education more affordable increases earning potential and lowers the risk of unemployment for women. Policymakers should protect and expand Pell Grants and Work Study programs for lower-income students, support income-driven student loan repayment options, and allow for expanded public service loan forgiveness programs. Take action today to tell Congress to oppose attacks on higher education.

Karen Wertheimer
Public Policy

Pay Equity Data by New Jersey's Congressional Districts

Congressional District	Women full-time (2023)	Men full-time (2023)	Earnings Ratio
New Jersey	\$65,181	\$78,841	82.70%
District 5	\$72,946	\$93,695	77.85%
District 12	\$65,563	\$82,366	79.60%

DUES ARE DUE !!!

AAUW Greater Wayne Area Branch
2025-2026 Dues are due and payable now

Name _____ Amount Due \$100.

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone #: _____

Please send a copy of this form and your check made payable to
AAUW GWA for \$100 to Elaine Kirsh

Remembering Pope Francis



We will remember Pope Francis for many things, but I would be remiss in light of his recent passing if I did

not focus on his historic contribution to the global environmental movement. With the release of his second Encyclical in 2015, *Laudato Si*, often referred to as “On Care for our Common Home,” he urged humanity to take action to confront the growing crisis of climate change and environmental degradation.

Francis became the first pope to devote an entire encyclical to environmental issues, framing the care for the Earth as a moral and spiritual imperative. He emphasized that the Earth is a gift from God and that humanity has a responsibility to be its steward. Drawing from the teachings of Saint Francis of Assisi, the Pope portrays nature as a sister and a mother, intimately connected with the human family. He condemns the exploitation of natural resources, the pollution of the planet, and the culture of consumerism that prioritizes profits over people in the

planet. Francis frames environmental responsibility, not simply as a political or scientific issue, but as a profoundly ethical one. He emphasizes that the effects of climate change – rising sea levels, extreme weather, food and water insecurity – disproportionately affect the poor and the vulnerable, connecting the degradation of the environment with social injustice.

His encyclical and subsequent public statements contributed to the momentum leading up to the Paris Agreement imploring world leaders to take meaningful action, amplifying the urgency of climate action and calls for climate justice to a global audience.

Pope Francis continued to speak about climate issues in speeches, addresses to the United Nations, and in his more recent apostolic exhortation, *Laudate Deum* in 2023, where he critiques the insufficient progress made since the Paris Agreement and urges immediate action. He played a pivotal role in reshaping climate change as a human and ethical issue, shifting the global discourse toward responsibility, justice, and solidarity. Pope Francis, often the lone moral compass of our times, will be dearly missed.

Barbara Stomber

Environmental Issues

MEMBERSHIP

April has been a great month for membership with two new members. One was brought on board by Elaine Dolsky and the other by Lorraine LaShell.

We met Tina Woiski from Ringwood at a gathering at Carol Palmer Yomtov's home. Elaine struck up a conversation with her and discovered that Tina shared Elaine's love of music. Tina not only joined the Greater Wayne Branch but she also joined the Mountain Lakes Branch chorale with Elaine.

Lorraine met Edvie Canavan at the Arboretum and invited her to join us at the Tea. Edvie submitted her application then. When I looked at it, I commented that I had graduated from high school with a friend with the name Edvie--turns out my friend is Edvie Canavan's mother.

I am in the process of putting together a Membership Committee in order to get some additional ideas about spreading the word regarding joining AAUW. It will involve only one meeting at my home and I'm hoping to get some good input and perhaps hold sporadic meetings with potential members. Kim Fitzpatrick came with me last week to meet a candidate. I am sure Kim would share her experience with you if you are interested.

Therefore, I am going to begin making a few phone calls; please answer the phone. It will be only ONE evening meeting--just to get your input. It seems to me the Tea was a great venue to introduce potential members to the Branch. What ideas do you have?

Ruth Liston Membership Chair

THE JOURNEY FOR EQUAL TERMS

Marion Talbot, Founder of the AAUW

by Dorothy Quinn

In recent times we often speak about women breaking the glass ceiling as if this were a new effort by contemporary women. But women's long and persistent journey started centuries ago after those early gatherers worked harmoniously with those hunters for survival of the species. However, wars, religion, nationhood, and lust for power became



dominated by the male of the species, and thus began the rising voice of women who started to poke, prod and sometimes fight for their worth. Joan of Arc, Elizabeth I, Sojourner Truth, and Harriet Tubman were just a few of those early role models.

The AAUW's founder, Marion Talbot, was one of those women who organized and advocated for women in educational institutions. Women were often slighted, diminished, and even thought to be unfit for higher education during the 19th century until this ambitious and confident woman "stepped up to the plate" to advocate for women in higher education and career advancement.

Marion Talbot, who grew up in Boston, was born in Thun, Switzerland on July 31, 1858, while her parents were on an extended European tour. She was the eldest of six children born to Emily Fairbanks Talbot and Israel Talbot, dean of the Boston School of Medicine. Her mother was an activist and former teacher; the lack of college preparatory opportunities for her daughters led her to establish the Boston Latin Academy, the first all-girls' college preparatory academy in the United States.

Marion was the eldest and, through her mother's tenacity, secured admission to Boston University. She earned an AB in 1880 and an AM in 1882 and went on to earn her BS from MIT. She temporarily had to drop out due to the deplorable housing conditions for women, but completed her degree in 1888. At MIT Marion studied under Ellen Swallow Richards, who established her own laboratory. In Marion's first year at MIT, she and Richardson co-founded the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, which started out as a monthly gathering to support women, share their research, and discuss "general problems" facing women in education. In 1921 this group became the American Association of University Women. Marion was secretary of the association from its founding to 1895 and president from 1895 to 1897.



From 1890 to 1892, Talbot taught at Wellesley College until the former president of Wellesley, Alice

Freeman Palmer, sought her out to initiate a co-educational program at the University of Chicago. She became Dean of Women at the university and a beacon for modernity and educational equality and inclusion. Talbot served as Dean until her retirement in 1925.



MARION TALBOT, 1892

continued on next page

continued from previous page

Talbot became a magnet for the nine young women who first enrolled in the university's co-educational program and expanded the membership in the Association of Collegiate Alumnae and its goals. These young women delighted in joining this small but vibrant group of scholars and the support the association provided. Talbot set out to assure that women were given the same opportunities, housing, and quality of education as their male counterparts. She was the first to establish dorms for women at the university, and other higher institutions followed.

In her career of three decades at the University of Chicago she established the Department of Household Administration, continued as director of the AAUW, and authored many publications including *The Education of Women* (1911), *The Modern Household* (1912), and *More Than Lore* (1936), a memoir of her long career at the University of Chicago. Inspired by their role model, many of Talbot's early

students went on to take similar positions directing the education of women in Chicago and other American colleges and universities.

Marion Talbot was a role model for women, and her organization continues to be a path for women to find equality in the workplace, encouraging continued higher education for women through scholarship, and supporting women in the workplace. In recent decades, The AAUW expanded its mission to include girls since the support and training offered through the organization gives them the incentive and confidence to make their dreams a reality.



FUNDRAISING

I NEED YOUR HELP!!

I am looking to reach organizations, corporations, and foundations that may be interested in helping us fund future scholarships. Do you have a friend/relative/neighbor who is involved or was involved in an organization/corporation/foundation that supports charitable endeavors?

Do you personally have contacts which I can explore? Be assured that I won't pressure individuals but would use them to get in touch with the "right" people.

For many years we have funded scholarships for women who have returned to college to complete their undergraduate studies. These scholarships have been supported by your generous contributions, participation in specific events, and community donations.

This year we have added a \$1,000 scholarship to one

student each at Wayne Valley, Wayne Hills, and PCTI.

Criteria for scholarships:

- * Graduating female student,
- * Planning to go into a STEM field,
- * At least a B average
- * Has financial need

Linda Nardone is funding this scholarship this year.

In the future, I am hoping to maintain the high school scholarships and possibly expand these awards through corporate and other donations.

Put on your thinking caps and try to identify people you know who might be of assistance. I would be happy to pursue any "leads" you might offer.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Joan London Fundraising Chair

CULINARY GROUP

Seven members of the Culinary Group attended a presentation at the Wayne Shop-Rite on April 25. Dietician Kamryn Convertino informed the group about the benefits of plant based diets. The group then enjoyed a plant-based healthy luncheon.

A brunch will be held at Carolyn's home on Friday, May 23 at 11 a.m. The details of future get-togethers will be announced, but we meet on the fourth Friday of each month.

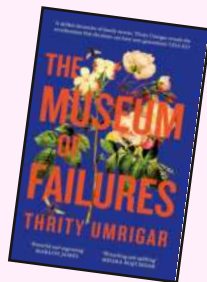
Carolyn Noble
Culinary Group

LIT GROUP

As we wrap up this season of the Lit Group, here are the next two selections:

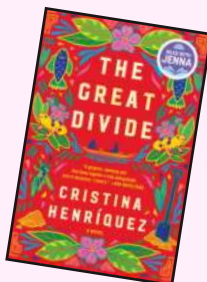
Wednesday, May 7 1:00 p.m.

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



Wednesday, June 4 1:00 p.m.

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



There are no further meetings/books scheduled, but I'll be handing over the reins of this great group to Randi Galanowsky to coordinate in the future, and she will be contacting the group regulars requesting suggestions for new books going forward. It has been my pleasure to serve as the leader of this great group for the past few years.

Diane Snyder Ricart
Chairperson

CURRENT EVENTS

The Current Events group gathers on the third Friday of each month. Our next meeting is May 16, 1 p.m., at Arna's house. The topic will be on DOGE. Ruth Liston - Social Security, Lorraine LaShell - Education, and Linda Nardone - Dept. of Interior will be the discussion leaders.

Marlys Huss Current Events

GAMES

Games continue to be played on a regular basis. Bridge is played every Monday morning and every Thursday at noon. Mahjong is played every Tuesday afternoon online.

Now that spring is here and Joan London has returned from Florida, canasta will be played on the first and third Tuesdays of the month.

Please feel free to join us at any time. Come and just watch and join in the conversation. We would love to have you.

Ruth Liston Games Chair

WALKING GROUP

The Walking Group is back outdoors again every Friday at 10 a.m. We have been mainly walking the Rail Trail in Pequannock but will be extending our walks to Laurelwood Arboretum and Goffle Brook Park. If anyone has any other locations to suggest, please let us know.

Jeanne Pisatowski Ann Sheridan
Walking & Wellness

LUNCH BUNCH

The Lunch Bunch meets on the second Thursday of each month. Our next gathering will be at Fat Cactus, 707 US 46, Parsippany, Thursday May 8.

Ann Sheridan Lunch Bunch Chair

CREATIVE CIRCLE

Our newest interest group, the Creative Circle, has been slow getting started, but there is interest, so we will continue on the second

Monday of each month (except May, when it will be the third Monday) at 1 p.m. at Randi Galanowsky's home. We are working on crochet and needlework at this time. Please advise if you plan to join us!

Randi Galanowsky
Creative Circle



SUMMER SOCIALS

We have two social gatherings planned for this summer. The first will be an ice cream social on June 13 (raindate June 19) at Arna's. The second will be our fabulous Summer Social on July 16 at the Senior Center in Pequannock. More details will be forthcoming. We look forward to seeing you all!

Joan London
Carol Palmer Yomtov



MOVIE GROUP

Our group is currently planning to see *Another Simple Favor*. We will discuss it at our next meeting. The Movie Group meets several times a year at my house. Upcoming movies and dates TBD but will be announced when confirmed.

July Tiso
Movie Group Chair

FUNDRAISING - ROTARY

The Wayne Rotary Club has been our sponsor for the past several years, and its donations have been used to support women who have returned to college to complete their undergraduate degrees. Pictured below is the presentation of their most recent donation of \$500 at the Rotary meeting on April 16 at Vila Verde. Along with AAUW's Linda Nardone and Lorraine LaShell are Cindy Saypol and Joe Graziano of Rotary.

Joan London
Fundraising
Chair



WOMEN'S HISTORY EVENT

Despite the rainy spring day, our Wayne Area Branch gathered at the Pequannock Senior Center on April 16 for high tea with First Lady Dolley Madison. After enjoying tea sandwiches, scones, and sweets, we were charmed by Carol McKinney, First Lady reenactor, as she introduced us to Dolley, the wife of President James Madison. Costumed in the fashions of the time, McKinney shared both historic and personal details of Dolley's life including that the ice cream first served at the White House was oyster flavored. The presentation was instructional as well as much fun.

Jean Billings



CULTURAL EVENTS



Carol Palmer Yomtov, Arline Lowe, Ada Liggett, Lorraine LaShell, Ruth Liston

On Friday, April 18, a group of us visited the Morgan Museum/Library in New York City to mark the 2024 centenary of its life as a public institution whose success is largely due to the its inaugural director, Belle da Costa Greene (1879 - 1950).

Greene is widely recognized as an authority on illuminated manuscripts and deeply respected as a cultural heritage executive. She is one of the most prominent librarians in American history. The exhibition shows many of her exceptional artifacts, rare books, and manuscripts collected by American financier J. Pierpont Morgan, who hired her as his personal librarian in 1905.

The exhibition traces Greene's storied life from her roots in a predominantly Black community in Washington, DC, to her distinguished career at the helm of one of the world's great research libraries. The exhibition shows her confidence in acquiring works through auctions and her knowledge of what she thought would be suitable for this museum, from medieval manuscripts and rare printed books, portraits, and other works, many of non-western origin.

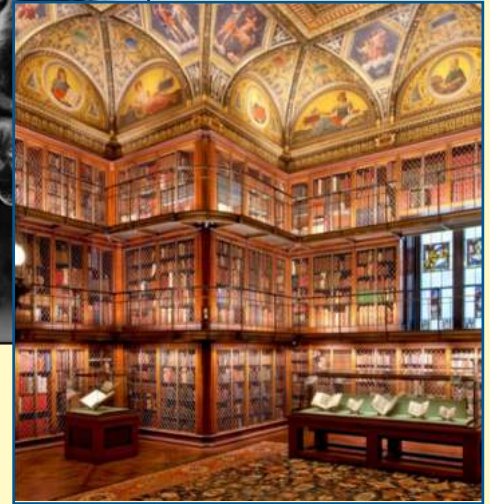
Her achievements in the time of Jim Crow are also notable, as she "passed" as white.

Arline Lowe
Cultural Events chairperson



*Belle da Costa Greene,
inaugural director of
J. Pierpont Morgan Library*

*below: J. Pierpont Morgan
Library/Museum*



COCKTAILS & CONVO 1

C&C 1 continues to meet with almost perfect attendance--we are all so anxious to share our stories. In April we shared hobby stories which included political junkies and lessons in line dancing. Something for everyone. We will meet again on May 13 to discuss "Agencies In our lives."

Ruth Liston

COCKTAILS & CONVO 2

On Wednesday, April 23, C&C (2) shared high school pictures and memories and the paths of our lives since. The group found we had much in common and we are looking forward to future discoveries together. Food and drink was enjoyed!

Now that we have two C&C groups, please let me know if you would like to join us. We would love to have you, and I promise you will enjoy.

Jean Billings
Cocktails & Conversation (2)



Please Join Us at the
**AAUW-GWA Scholarship and
Installation of Officers Dinner!**

When: Wednesday, May 21 at 5:30 p.m.

Where: Il Palazzo Restaurant
600 Ringwood Ave.
Wanaque

Price: \$50 made payable to AAUW- GWA

Our sit-down dinner includes:

Fresh Mozzarella & Tomato
Fried Calamari, Fried Shrimp
Fresh Garden Salad
Penne Vodka
Choice of 3 dinner selections
Fresh Vegetables & Potatoes
Fresh Baked Rolls
Sheet Cake Served with Ice Cream & Cookies
Unlimited soda, coffee, & tea

At this meeting the Scholarship Recipients will be honored, and the new Board Officers will be installed.



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.



empowering women since 1881

Greater Wayne Area Branch

MEMBER TOWNS

Bloomingtondale
Englewood
Florham Park
Franconia, NH
Hewitt
Kinnelon
Little Falls
Mt. Pleasant, SC
Montville
Newfoundland
North Haledon
Nutley
Parsippany
Pompton Lakes
Pompton Plains
Ringwood
Riverdale
Teaneck
Wayne

GREATER WAYNE AREA BRANCH OFFICERS 2025-2026

ELECTED OFFICERS

POSITION	OFFICER
President	Linda Nardone
Vice President	Jean Billings
Treasurer	Elaine Kirsh
Secretary	Jan Rutherford
Membership/Sunshine	Ruth Liston/ Kim Fitzpatrick
Program VPs	Arna Taraporevala/ Carol Palmer Yomtov
Communications VP	Lorraine LaShell

APPOINTED OFFICERS

Advance Design	Peggy Gardner
Advance Editor	Randi Galanowsky
Advance Special Feature	Dorothy Quinn
Environmental Issues	Barbara Stomber
Fundraising	Joan London/ Karen Wertheimer
Public Policy	Karen Wertheimer
Scholarship	Lorraine LaShell
Social Concerns	Diane Ricart
STEM	Linda Nardone/ Barbara O'Connor
Website	Lorraine LaShell

INTEREST GROUP CHAIRS

Cocktails & Conversation	Ruth Liston/ Joan London/ Jean Billings
Creative Circle	Randi Galanowsky
Culinary Group	Carolyn Noble
Cultural Event	Arline Lowe
Current Events	Barbara O'Connor/ Barbara Stomber
Games	Ruth Liston
Lit Group	Randi Galanowsky
Lunch Bunch	Ann Sheridan/ Pat Durante
Movies	Julie Tiso
Walking & Wellness	Ann Sheridan