

The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



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September-October 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,

I hope you have had lots of joyful, peaceful, and satisfying moments this summer amid the stresses, sometimes huge, that attend our daily lives. It was wonderful seeing many of you at the Scholarship Dinner, the Ice Cream Social, and the Summer Social in May, June, and July, respectively. A nice part of that was the ability to see our annual scholarship and high school scholarship awardees at those events. I hope you enjoyed that.



The kickoff event for September for our branch is the annual Walk-a-Thon in Wayne (please see the enclosed information). We will have a speaker, refreshments, and a non-stressful walk - keeping up our mobility without killing our knees and backs. Please walk or donate with us.

The Executive Board will be finalizing our plans for speaker events during the year soon. One that is already on the schedule is a presentation and discussion by a Rutgers University professor who leads an initiative on misinformation and disinformation. This is a topic that is particularly important in this world of social media and facts vs. opinions vs. information designed purely to persuade, true or false.

Other AAUW National and State news and/or webcasts will be coming your way; please be sure to look for it.

Please read the articles enclosed within this issue as you choose and put some dates on your calendar.

Thank you again for your continued support, and thank you in advance for any suggestions you choose to send our way.

With my very best regards and wishes,

Linda Nardone



Scholarship Dinner Photos



Scholarship winners l-r) Destinee A. Silva, Raodot Ebrahim, Jenierose Mendoze



See last page for more photos



ANNUAL WALK-A-THON SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER



For the past four years, our branch has held a Walk-A-Thon at the David Waks Fields Complex, located on Barbour Pond Road in Wayne. These fundraising events raised over \$4000 last year for our scholarship fund. This success is due to your enthusiasm and generosity.

We're doing it again this year!

The 2025 Walk-A-Thon will be held on Wednesday, September 17, with a rain date of September 18. Please support this activity by participating in the walk and asking family and friends to sponsor you.

The walk is relatively easy, but those with mobility issues can piggyback on someone who will be walking the track. If you are unable to attend, you can donate and ask your friends and relatives to contribute to this worthy cause.

In addition to walking, we will have a great time together.

Lunch in the gazebo will be provided, followed by the first general meeting of the year. Please bring your beverage of choice and a folding chair if you prefer not to sit on a bench.

Here's how you can participate:

1. Ask your family and friends to sponsor you.
2. Collect checks made out to **GWCF** (Greater Wayne Charitable Fund) and mail them to Ruth Liston. Write your name in the memo area.
3. Donations can also be made through Venmo and note Walk-a-Thon. Text your name, the name of the person you are sponsoring, and the amount to Ruth.
4. All donations must be received by September 17.

Thank you for your support of education for women. Your donation can change a life.

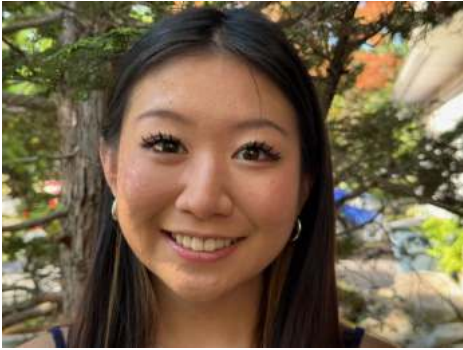
GWCF is a 501(c)3. Donations are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Joan London

AAUW GWA Selects Three High School Scholarship Winners

During the month of June, our AAUW branch awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an individual chosen at Wayne Hills, Wayne Valley, and PCTI high schools. We attended each awards assembly and personally presented the awards. These awards, sponsored by Linda Nardone, were given to a graduating female senior who is planning to go into a STEM field in college. Here are their responses:



**Wayne Hills -
Luna Han**
"I am truly honored and deeply grateful to have been selected by the American Association of University

Women as a recipient of the \$1,000 college scholarship. Coming from a modest financial background, this generous support means a great deal to me and will be used meaningfully as I begin my college journey.

Starting this fall, I will be studying biomedical engineering at Stevens Institute of Technology. I am excited to pursue a path of continuous research and innovation to better understand what enhances human life and dignity. I hope to grow into a proud young woman in the field of biomedical engineering, keeping pace with its rapid development and contributing meaningfully to its progress. Thank you again for your generous support.

Luna Han

**Wayne Valley -
Reese Antonio**

I want to thank you so much for supporting my education and choosing me to receive this scholarship. Your belief in my future is inspiring and truly means so much! I am so grateful and promise to use this award effectively towards my education.

Reese Antonio

(will be attending University of Michigan, biomedical engineering major)



**PCTI -
Kristy Hernando**

I would like to thank you once again for your consideration in awarding me this scholarship. It is truly an honor to be selected.

Kirsty Hernando

(will be attending NJIT studying Computer Science)

We were pleased that Kristy Hernando was able to join us at the Summer Social.

Joan London & Linda Nardone

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Many thanks for the wonderful donations to Oasis for back to school!

Diane Ricart
Social Concerns



SUMMER SOCIAL

We gathered for our fabulous Annual Summer Social on July 16 at the Senior Center in Pequannock. We were pleased to welcome Kristy Hernando, the PCTI Scholarship winner, as our special guest.

As usual, food was plentiful, and contributed by the attendees. We enjoyed the food and conversation and were led in a craft exercise by Carol Palmer Yomtov to create sweet flower pots and plant flower seeds, to celebrate the growing season.

Thank you to Joan London and Carol Palmer Yomtov for their hard work in arranging this delightful event.



CURRENT EVENTS

Current Events is back in the swing of things again after a brief hiatus over the summer months. The meeting was held at Barbara O'Connor's home on Friday, August 15, and was attended by a dozen regulars, along with a new member, Alice Parks. Presentations by Lorraine LaShell, Ruth Liston, and Linda Nardone included DOGE and the Department of Education, Social Security and The Department of the Interior, interspersed with lively and thoughtful discussion throughout.

Next month, we meet again, this time to discuss the Ukraine. We'll learn about its history, an update on the peace process, and its economic and political status.

No matter what we hear or see on the news or read through a myriad of sources, there is always something new to be learned from our well-informed AAUW Current Events members. We look forward to our next meeting on September 19 where we will meet at Ada Liggett's home.

Barbara Stomber

Barbara O'Connor

MEMBERSHIP

It is my extreme pleasure to welcome all of our new members; Ellen, Alice, Jeanne, Karen, Nadia, Maureen, Tina, Edvie and Sheryl.

Many of you were at the Summer Social so you were able to meet some of us and hear a little about what we are doing.

Just as a reminder, we play bridge Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and play canasta and maj jongg on Tuesday. If these games are new to you come and watch and maybe join us. Do you have a different game you would like to play? Just let us know.

Remember the Book Club, Current Events, etc.

We are planning a "New Member" gathering after Labor Day. It would be great if you could put together a program for the Branch. Give it some thought. We need to be better at telling the "woman" story. You would get lots of help. Any ideas?

Again, WELCOME!!

Ruth Liston

Membership Chair

WALKING GROUP

In June, on a walk at Laurelwood Arboretum with the Walking Group, we came across this Sculpture by Elaine Lorenzo. The title of the piece is **Rejuvenation**.

Weekly walk attendance had decreased, and a



survey was emailed to members. The consensus appeared to be that we should hold a monthly or bi-monthly walk to a park or nature center dependent on members' availability. More to follow.

Ann Sheridan

Walking Group

Happy Birthday

SEPTEMBER

Abby Schwartz	5
Maureen Marra	17
Marianne Ritter	29

OCTOBER

Karen Heald	15
Mary Querrazzi	20
Elaine Dolsky	21
Dot Anton	25
Karen Wertheimer	27
Peggy Gardner	31

CULTURAL OUTING



TED ROSENTHAL TRIO PLAYS GERSHWIN SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19 • 3:00 PM

The Cultural Events Committee is organizing a trip to the WPU Shea Center Jazz Room to see Ted Rosenthal who has collaborated, toured, and worked with some of the jazz greats of the past 40 years. This concert will showcase his trio's versions of the compositions of one of the greatest American composers of any genre, George Gershwin, including Rosenthal's unique version of Gershwin's iconic "Rhapsody in Blue."

Senior Tickets are \$22 per person including fees.

Those wishing to attend the concert should email aauwgwa@gmail.com by September 10, 2025. Parking for the Jazz Room at WPU Shea Center is in Lot 3 or 4. Carpooling can be arranged. Those interested can have dinner at a local restaurant after the show.

CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group got together for a barbecue at Carol Palmer Yomtov's home. Summer favorites such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and Jersey sweet corn were enjoyed by all. Thank you for Georgette for being our grill master and photographer.



A great big thank you to our members Arna, Peggy, Jeanne, Carolyn, Ada, Joan, Lorraine, and guest Marsha for bring those delicious side dishes. Dinner was topped off with Carolyn's delicious brownies and Carol's chocolate dipped pineapple and strawberries. No one went away hungry!!

Carolyn Noble
Culinary Group Chair

MONTHLY SCHEDULE

Monday **Bridge** (Ruth Liston)
 Tuesday: 2:00 **Mah Jongh** (Ruth Liston)
 First Tuesday **Canasta** 12:00 (Ruth Liston)
 Second Tuesday 2:00 **Coctails and Conversation (1)** (Ruth Liston)
 Third Tuesday 12:00 **Canasta** (Ruth Liston)
 Fourth Tuesday 2:00 **Coctails and Conversation (2)** (Jean Billings)
 First Wednesday 1:00 **Book Club** (Randi Galinowski)
 Thursday 12:30 **Bridge** (Ruth Liston)
 Second Thursday **Lunch Bunch** (Ann Sheridan)
 First Friday **Walking** (Ann Sheridan)
 Third Friday **Current Events** (Barbara O'Connor / Barbara Stomber)
 Fourth Friday **Culinary** (Carolyn Noble)
Poetry discussion to be determined (Jean Billings)
Movie Group meets 4 times a year (Julie Tiso)

LUNCH BUNCH

Our Lunch Bunch group continues to gather at new (to the group) restaurants. In May we dined at Fat Cactus in Parsippany, in June we enjoyed eating at Kervan's Mediterranean grill in Lincoln Park, and July's destination was Tiff's Grill and Ale house in Morris Plains. And August called for some Irish fare at the Grasshopper Irish pub and restaurant in Newfoundland. New dining adventures await us in the fall months and will be announced.

Ann Sheridan Lunch Bunch Chair



Kervan Mediterranean Grill, Linclon Park

MOVIE GROUP

Downton Abbey 3 will open in September, and we are all excited to view it at the Cinemark Theater in Wayne on Sunday, September 14. I will let everyone know the time, but as it will probably be late afternoon, we can have a light dinner and discussion after.

If you're like me, you want to know what's going on behind the scenes of movies TV & Cable shows/ Netflix and Prime series. There is a FREE app...**IMDb**. Download it on your phone and you can enjoy all the trivia while watching your favorite show. From the 1920's to the present, it's all there! Enjoy!

Julie Tiso Movie Club

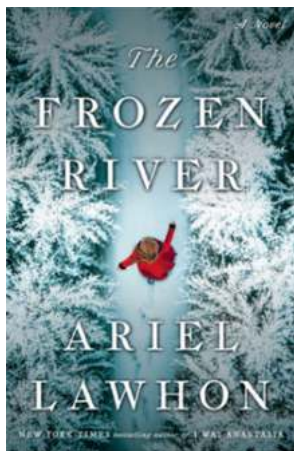
COCKTAILS & CONVO 2

C&C (2) invites new members to join the group on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. Please contact Jean Billings at crimlaw4@optimum.net if you would like to join.

Jean Billings

LIT GROUP

The Lit Group meets (usually) the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm. We have discussed several books over the summer, the most recent being Remarkably Bright Creatures, by Shelby Van Sant, a



charming and different book about the relationship between a widowed cleaning lady and a giant Pacific octopus in an aquarium in the Pacific Northwest. Highly recommend!

Going forward, on September 10 Ruth Liston will be hosting and leading a discussion of

The Frozen River by Ariel Lawhon, a historical fiction tale set in 1789 Maine.

In September, several group members have registered to attend a Staged Reading: Jane Austen: "Manydown," presented by the Ridgewood Public Library. Of course, this means we must have a Jane Austen novel to read and discuss for October. Details will follow.

As more selections are made, we will notify all participants. And if you would like to join this group, please contact me to be put on the mailing list.

Randi Galanowsky
Lit Group Chair

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On July 13 an ice cream social was held at Arna's. This event, a way to thank our membership for their participation and support throughout the year, was attended by 25 people. Given all the rain we have experienced this spring, we were fortunate that the weather was picture perfect. Members of the committee included Arna, Carol, Elaine Kirsh, and myself.

All the "fixings" were available for make-your-own-sundaes. Everyone enjoyed the treats and some even went back for seconds and thirds.

In addition to the food, everyone participated in the game "two truths and a lie." It was fun figuring out the "lie" about each participant. Other games such as corn hole, hula hoop, and yo-yos were also available.

A drawing was held for all who contributed to the ASK letter this spring. Carolyn Noble won a free membership for the 26/27 year.

The event was enjoyed by all.

Joan London



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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.



Greater Wayne Area Branch

MEMBER TOWNS

Bloomington
Cedar Grove
Englewood
Franconia, NH
Hamburg
Kinnelon
Little Falls
Morristown
Montville
Mt. Pleasant, SC
Newfoundland
North Haledon
Nutley
Parsippany
Pompton Lakes
Pompton Plains
Riverdale
Teaneck
Wanaque

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

