

The Advance

The Bulletin of the Greater Wayne Area Branch of the AAUW



Volume T No.2

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

November-December 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.

I am happy to connect with you again in *The Advance*, our newsletter for November/December.

I hope you are enjoying the fall colors. I always seem to start off with the everyday weather, and there is a reason. You and I wake up every day with a chance to appreciate what we have and a chance to make it a good day. Consistent with that, I think it is important to be able to enjoy what nature continues to provide every day - these golden trees that are bountiful and beautiful, the flowers, the sun, your very existence on this planet. And fall is very enjoyable.

I certainly hope to see any/all of you during the next few months. We have the holidays, the social gatherings, and the coming of winter. But we also have two dates for our Speaker Series for AAUW-GWA. The first will be upon you just as you receive this newsletter. It is a seminar, by Zoom, on Misinformation and Disinformation, and will be available on November 10 at 7 p.m. The speaker series presentation in December is on Artificial Intelligence: The Good, the Bad, and the Scary. I hope you will attend. It will be an in-person meeting at the Wayne Public Library and also available by Zoom. Mark your calendars for December 3 at 5 p.m.

Of course, December will also allow us to get together for our Holiday Social, and I hope to see many of you there.

Lastly, we are trying to distill information from National AAUW so that you can see some - and it is



only a small piece - of what the national organization is doing for women. It will be captured in one small box in *The Advance*. We will periodically select some "stuff" from AAUW National in an email to you. Again, it is highly selective, but I hope it gives you some feeling about the value of this organization to which you belong.

Please read on, especially the details about upcoming events and our ever-growing interest groups. And I hope you will enjoy the coming months. I thank you again for your support in whichever way you show it (money, time, or participation).

Linda Nardone

INTEREST GROUP INFO

Monday **Bridge** (Ruth Liston)

Tuesday: 2:00 **Mah Jongh** (Ruth Liston)

First Tuesday **Canasta** 12:00 (Ruth Liston)

Second Tuesday 2:00 **Cocktails 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 **Lit Group** (Randi Galanowsky)

Thursday 12:30 **Bridge** (Ruth Liston)

Second Thursday **Lunch Bunch** (Ann Sheridan)

Third Friday **Current Events** (Barbara O'Connor / Barbara Stomber)

Fourth Friday **Culinary** (Carolyn Noble)

Movie Group 4 times a year (Julie Tiso)

Volunteer Group Every other month (Joan London)

Cultural Events - Ad hoc

Speaker Series



Denise E. Agosto, Ph.D.

Topic: "Identifying and Refuting Misinformation on the Social Web."

Monday, November 10, 2025

7:00 pm

Virtual (zoom) meeting

<https://bit.ly/4o9mP3h>

Free

Denise E. Agosto, Ph.D., is a Professor at Rutgers University in the School of Communication and Information. For the last year, she has been leading an initiative at Rutgers on Misinformation and Disinformation. As the title of her presentation indicates, she will share misinformation aspects on the Social Web.



Eddie Khaytman, MBA

Topic: "The Good, the Bad, and the Scary of AI - A discussion of morals, values, and ethics associated with AI as well as the scams, deepfakes, and intellectual property implications of AI."

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

5:00 pm

This is an in-person event at the Wayne Public Library, and all are welcome. The presentation will be available live via Zoom (link to follow).

Free

AAUW ACTION UPDATES

Tell the EAC: Reject misinformation-driven voter suppression

America First Legal Foundation has petitioned the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) to add documentary proof of citizenship to the federal voter registration form — an intentional tactic opponents of voting rights are deploying nationwide.

Sound familiar? Congress advanced a similar idea in the House-passed Safeguarding American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act, which is now pending in the Senate; this petition tries to force the same result through regulation.

Here's the truth: Voters already affirm citizenship when they register. Adding paperwork hurdles would block eligible voters — especially students, women, people of color, rural and low-income communities — simply for lacking a passport or other documents.

The comment period has passed but keep up with the latest developments by reaching out to advocacy@aauw.org. Use this email to get information about AAUW's advocacy work, which includes topics like gender equity, educational access, and economic security.

Media inquiries: The email can be used for questions related to media outreach or AAUW's messaging on specific issues.

Event support: You can email this address to request materials for advocacy events or to inform the organization about your upcoming activities.

Action network: For specific, time-sensitive actions, you can sign up for the Two-Minute Activist program, which sends alerts about current issues and helps you contact your representatives.

AAUW was at the Supreme Court (Oct 15)

CEO Gloria L. Blackwell stood with our members and partners as the Court heard a redistricting case that could weaken the Voting Rights Act. Listen to live oral arguments on the AAUW website. The case was widely reported on in the press.

November Virtual Events Calendar

Be on the lookout for AAUW webinars and events in November and December in the November virtual events calendar.

AAUW Level Up: Salary Negotiation Program

Although many of us are retired, please pass this info on. This program, made possible with support from The Coca-Cola Foundation, is tailored for recent graduates and early to mid-career professionals who are job hunting, newly employed, recently unemployed, or planning a career change. Please note that to participate in this program, you must be looking for a new job, seeking a raise or a promotion. Through this program, you'll gain access to:

Salary Negotiation Training with AAUW's evidence-based Work Smart curriculum

Coaching & One-on-One Support to reinforce skills and overcome barriers

Practical Sessions like resume writing, financial literacy, and career growth planning

Peer Networking & Community to build connections and stay motivated

\$250 Stipend to support your job search expenses, such as childcare and transportation

Karen Wertheimer
Public Policy

AAUW NATIONAL & AAUWNJ

NATIONAL WEBINAR VIDEOS www.aauw.org.

- ★ Defending Higher Education: Advocacy Strategies for In-District Meetings
- ★ Building a Stronger AAUW: Tips for Branch Fundraising Success
- ★ AAUW: Standing Strong Against Attacks on Equity in Education
- ★ The Power of Women in STEM: AAUW NGOCWSW Parallel Event Innovation & Advancement

AAUWNJ

March 2026 NJEA Celebration of Women

An event honoring influential women who have helped our state's public schools and our union serve as models of excellence in the nation—details to follow.

June 20, 2026 10:00, Virtual, AAUW NJ
Annual Meeting

Annual Committee Reports, Election of Officers, Vote on Bylaw changes

In One Woman's Opinion by Dorothy E. Quinn **Volunteering: A Win-Win for All**



Although I am miles away, I continue to stay informed about all the events, emails, and exciting activities within our AAUW branch. Recently, I was especially grateful for an email suggesting “volunteerism” as a new function for our busy organization. The idea lingered in my mind during a walk, and a bumper sticker saying “Do Good” sparked inspiration.

This idea was first suggested by Joan London, and I wholeheartedly applaud her for it. Volunteerism is truly the gift of giving, offering countless returns to those who participate.

Volunteering promotes personal growth and development by providing opportunities to learn new skills, gain valuable experience, and build confidence. As AAUW women, we constantly seek chances to improve ourselves, and volunteering presents yet another avenue for growth. With so many weekly activities available, it is a worthwhile opportunity not to be missed.

Through volunteerism, we can meet new people and expand our networks. These connections can lead to lasting friendships and even attract new members to our branch. Furthermore, volunteerism helps us connect with potential fundraisers and benefactors who can support our scholarship program.

Engaging in volunteer work has significant benefits for mental and physical health. It is known to reduce stress, combat depression, and increase overall happiness. Committing to volunteer can help fight the winter doldrums and motivate us to stay active.

One of the most rewarding aspects of volunteering is knowing that you are making a tangible and emotional difference in the lives of others. For example, teaching English to non-native speakers can improve their job prospects and empower them to be strong role models as immigrant parents. These actions directly support the mission of our organization.

Volunteering helps build stronger and more cohesive communities. By working together toward common goals, we create unity and shared purpose. In a divided country, volunteering allows us to set aside political differences and focus on helping others, finding our

shared humanity, and supporting those who are vulnerable.

Volunteering offers countless benefits that enrich our lives and the lives of others. Gratitude truly becomes a two-way street. Thank you, Joan, for giving me the motivation. I hope the active and talented women of our branch seize the opportunity to make their community better and take a small step toward creating a kinder, more unified world.

VOLUNTEERING

If you want to impact the lives of others, join us in this new initiative. Whether it is through directly serving individuals or supporting a particular group, volunteering can add another dimension to your life.

Some of the opportunities available are:

Wayne Public Library - ESL instructor

Laurelwood - activities associated with the "garden"

AARP- tutoring primary school children

Foundabilities - workshop setting for adults with disabilities

Hospice - at local facilities - working with end-of-life individuals

Passaic County Department of Senior Services -

Meals on Wheels, serving meals to seniors

CASA volunteer - working with a child or children in foster care

Bristol - helping residents record their life stories

Shepherd's Haven - geriatric day center

Contact me with any questions you may have or to learn how to get involved. A follow-up meeting will be held on December 8 at 3 p.m. at my home. Please let me know if you wish to attend.

If you are interested in participating but cannot make the meeting, contact me. I will personalize your interest with an organization.

Joan London

CURRENT EVENTS

We had another packed house during the month of October for Current Events. This time the session was hosted by Linda Nardone, and the subject was the Nobel Prize. Jean Billings, Cindy Orosy, and Randi Galanowsky covered the origin of the prize, how the process evolved, and how the candidates are selected and chosen. We learned who the winners of the various prizes were and that recipients were overwhelmingly American, with 71% taking the prize to date, many of whom were immigrants.

Next month, we look forward to presentations on some of the Freedoms granted to us in our Constitution. Joan London will cover Unreasonable Search and Seizure by the Government, with Ruth Liston covering Freedom of Speech and Alice Parker speaking to Freedom of Assembly - all hot topics in our country today. Cindy Orosy will host the event on Friday, November 21 at 1 p.m. at 28 Eleron Place, Wayne. Hope to see you there..

Barbara Stomber Barbara O'Connor

TECH TREK

This program will now be a focus for our branch. Tech Trek, an AAUW state and national program, provides a week-long summer residential opportunity for rising 8th graders at Stockton College in Stockton New Jersey. It immerses participants in science, math, and technology.

While girls from Passaic county have been attending, our branch, in recent years, has not been actively involved.

We will now begin to take an active role in interviewing and selecting candidates from Passaic County. We also hope to solicit funds so that we can contribute to the financial continuation of this worthy project.

If you are interested in participating in interviewing candidates (March), please contact me. Furthermore, if you or someone you know would like to make a specific contribution to this endeavor, let's discuss.

Joan London

SUMMER SOCIAL FOLLOW-UP

From the seeds we planted at our summer social Abby Schwartz sent me this photo of the Zinnia seeds she nurtured. Wow!



MEMBERSHIP

Since we have been graced with many new members recently, we thought it would be a good idea to have a "Meet and Greet" activity in which we would bring together the new members with their sponsors. The first meeting was held on Saturday, October 4. We had 11 attendees at the 10 a.m. gathering for coffee and Irish soda bread. Each attendee, new gals along with older members, told us something about themselves. It was great listening to everyone's story. We all left the meeting knowing one another a little bit better.

In fact, it was so successful we are going to continue the process. In January, we will have another meet and greet with a different group of members. In the group there will be some of us who you see all the time, but added to the group will be members we see only occasionally. So nobody can hide - we will find you! In fact, if you would like to participate in the next grouping with another member with whom you are more comfortable, let me know. I am really excited to share this experience with all of you. And maybe you can think of something the Branch could be/should be doing. This is your chance.

Ruth Liston
Membership Chair

Happy Birthday

NOVEMBER

Linda Nardone Nov 21

DECEMBER

Diane Ricart	Dec 6	Pat Durante	Dec 20
Joan London	Dec 18	Bobbi Breslow	Dec 26
Arline Lowe	Dec 18	Linda Trongone	Dec 26

Diving Deeper for Rare Earth Minerals: Assessing the Risks

The subject of mining for rare earth minerals (REM)s is a hot news topic. Besides being discussed at our last Current Events session on Ukraine, I decided to dive even further into the subject by expanding my search to deep-sea mining of REMs and sharing that with you.

The extraction of rare earth minerals (REMs) has become a prominent topic due to their essential role in modern technologies, including consumer electronics, electric vehicles, renewable energy, medical devices, and defense systems.

However, the environmental risks associated with deep-sea mining are significant and warrant careful consideration.

Despite advances in ocean exploration, much of the deep sea remains unknown compared with our current knowledge of outer space. Recent expeditions have revealed unique ecosystems, such as the Mariana snailfish at 27,000 feet and a vast colony of ice fish in Antarctica. These discoveries highlight the biodiversity and fragility of deep ocean habitats.

REM mining is particularly destructive because these minerals are dispersed throughout the earth's crust, making extraction challenging, expensive, and environmentally hazardous. The use of harsh chemicals in processing further exacerbates environmental harm. Deep-sea mining disrupts habitats that have developed over millions of years, destroys sponge and coral communities, and generates sediment plumes that impact filter feeders and photosynthetic organisms. Additionally, noise and light pollution from mining operations can disorient marine species and disrupt migration and communication patterns. The long-term consequences remain uncertain due to limited knowledge of deep-sea environments.

As interest in deep-sea mining grows, scientists



advocate for stricter regulations and comprehensive impact assessments to prevent irreversible damage. The High Seas Treaty is one attempt to protect marine biodiversity in international waters, establishing a legal framework for marine protected areas and conservation measures. As of now, 75 countries have ratified the treaty, with 60 required for it to enter into force by early 2026. Notably, China, India, and Japan have signed but not ratified the treaty, while the United States has neither signed nor ratified it.

To safeguard ocean ecosystems, it is crucial to adopt sustainable alternatives, such as recycling rare earth materials from electronic waste and investing in innovative technologies to reduce dependency on new mineral extraction. The mining industry must prioritize sustainable practices and responsible resource management to mitigate environmental impacts and promote a more sustainable future.

Easier said than done on our already fragile planet.

I think I'll come up for air.

Barbara Stomber
Environmental Issues

CULINARY GROUP

The Culinary Group celebrated Thanksgiving In October with an array of seasonal dishes. Meetings for November and December will not be held due to the proximity of holidays.

Carolyn Noble

Culinary Group Chair



THE MOVIE CLUB

Downton Abbey was a great success. Did you know that “Edith,” the blond daughter is married to the new “butler” in real life??? The film transported us to another time and place...very elegant.

At our last meeting, we discussed our recent viewing of the Netflix movie “*The Woman in Cabin 10*,” starring Keira Knightly and Guy Pearce (one of my favs), plus another funny 5-part Netflix series called “*Cunk on Earth*.”

On a more serious note, there is also a WWII movie coming out in theaters on November 7. “*Nuremberg*” stars Russell Crowe and Rami Malek. I know I would like to see it, so we can meet up sometime the first week of November.

“*Eleanor the Great*” opened in selected theaters recently (probably to be eligible for the Academy Awards), but it will be streaming on Netflix in January, 2026. So we can make that our first movie of the year. It may also be a free movie at the Wayne Library.

Also on Netflix, if you haven’t already seen it...

Thursday Murder Club. Cozy murder!!

Julie Tiso

FUNDRAISING



In September, 25 members participated in the Walk-A-Thon. As we walked, Elaine Dolsky led the group in song and cheer. Thanks to Elaine as well as to Carol, Pat, and Darlene who helped with the event's details and lunch.

Your financial contributions, as well as those of your sponsors, were greatly appreciated. We made over \$4,700. Thanks to all that helped make this event a success!!

Joan London Fundraising Chair

COCKTAILS & CONVO 1 & 2

C and C 1 is going strong. Participation is high, and we have definitely gotten to know each other better. All are motivated to participate.

Joan London

Ruth Liston

C and C 2 invites new members to join the group on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 2 p.m. Please contact me if you would like to join.

Jean Billings

LIT GROUP

The Literary Group meets the first Wednesday of each month. The following are our tentative choices going forward, and there may be some schedule or selection changes. But we are pretty much in agreement through January.

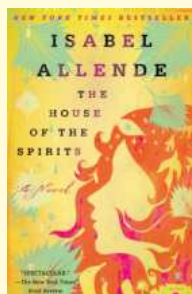
November 5, 2025, 1 p.m.:

The House of Spirits, by Isabel Allende.

Host: Ruth Liston

Leader: Diane Ricart

Please let Ruth know if you will be attending.

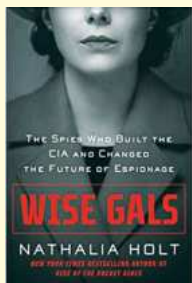


December 3, 2025, 1 p.m.:

Wise Gals: The Spies Who Built the CIA and changed the Future of Espionage, by Nathalia Holt.

Leader: Elaine Kirsh

Host: TBD



January 7, 2026, 1 p.m.

This is Happiness, by Niall Williams.

Leader: Barbara O'Connor

Host: TBD or Zoom

February 4

Fellowship Point, by Alice Elliot Dark.

Leader: Jean Billings

Host: TBD or Zoom

March 4

Never Anyone But You, by Robert Thomson.

Leader: Jean Billings

Host: TBD or Zoom

April 1

My Friends, by Fredrick Blackman (suggested)

Leader: TBD

Host: TBD

May 6

Flashlight, by Susan Choi (suggested)

Leader: TBD

Host: TBD

June 3

What We Can Know, by Ian McEwan. (suggested)

Leader: Jean Billings?

Host: TBD

All book lovers are welcome, and please speak up if you have any comments or suggestions.

Randi Galanowsky

TRAVEL CLUB: New Interest Group Formation

Our branch is excited to announce the formation of a new interest group: the Travel Club. This group aims to bring together members who share a passion for exploring new destinations and experiencing different cultures.

Group Objectives

- ★ **Sharing Travel Experiences:** Members will have the opportunity to discuss places they have visited and share stories about their journeys, including experiences with various travel groups.
- ★ **Providing Travel Resources:** The group will exchange useful travel resources, such as recommended websites and other helpful information for planning trips.
- ★ **Travel with a Purpose:** Discussions will include ways to incorporate meaningful or purposeful travel into our adventures.

- ★ **Group Travel Arrangements:** The club will consider making actual arrangements to travel together as a group.
- ★ **Solo Travel:** Sharing tips and experiences related to solo travel will also be a focus.
- ★ **Open to Other Ideas:** Members are encouraged to suggest additional activities for the group.

First Meeting Details

Logistics, including the frequency and location of future meetings, will be discussed at the first gathering. Please join us on Friday, November 7, at 2:00 PM at Linda Nardone's home, located at 28 Pelham Road in Wayne.

RSVP Information

If you are interested in joining the Travel Club or plan to attend the first meeting, RSVP to Linda Nardone

LUNCH BUNCH

The last gathering for 2025 was held in October at Buonasera in Butler. Fourteen members enjoyed good food and good company. New members Edvie Canavan and Alice Parker were welcomed. We look forward to our gatherings in 2026!

Ann Sheridan

Lunch Bunch Chair

SOCIAL CONCERNS HOLIDAY GIFTS FOR OASIS

Please bring unwrapped new toys, games, and clothing for boys and girls (infant to sixteen year olds). Checks are not accepted unless they are made out to Oasis. Thank you!

HOW TO DELIVER YOUR GIFT

Please bring your gift to the Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7 or drop it off at the bin at my front door by December 7. My address is: 15 Dixon Place, Wayne, NJ 07470.

Diane Snyder Ricart
Social Concerns



FUN & GAMES

We play bridge, mahjong, and canasta almost anytime during the day and early evening in person and/or online. We have approximately 12 members who play regularly--25% of the membership--in one or more of the groups. If you are interested in playing sometimes, that works; if you are interested in learning, that also works; or, the best of all, if you would like to join one of the groups, just give me a call. WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU.

Ruth Liston
Games Chair

CULTURAL EVENTS

Members of the Greater Wayne Area Branch recently attended three cultural events:

September 20: Ridgewood Library. Staged reading – *Jane Austen, Manydown* (see Book Club article below)

October 19: Jazz Room at Shea Center at William Paterson University. The Ted Rosenthal Trio plays Gershwin.

October 24: Speaker Series at William Paterson University. Jordan Klepper.

Arline Lowe Cultural Events Chair



LIT GROUP OUTING

Members of the Lit Group attended a staged reading of Jane Austen “*Manydown*” on September 20 at the Ridgewood Library.

This event was part of the celebration of Jane Austen’s 250th birthday.

Manydown, written by Sarah Rose Kearns, is a 30-minute play imagining the conversation between Jane and her sister Cassandra on the evening of Harrison Bigg-Withers proposal of marriage to Jane. The conversation may have been a turning point in English Literature.





Happy Holidays from AAUW-GWA!

Please join us for our annual holiday party.
This year's menu will be a delicious Italian Dinner:

Assorted Cheese Platter,
Eggplant Parm, Sausage & Peppers, Cavateli & Broccoli, Chicken Francese,
Artichoke Salad & More. Special Desserts

We'll have a holiday sing-a-long and some favorite games.

When: Sunday, December 7, 1:00-4:00

Where: Carol Palmer-Yomtov's Clubhouse
(Carpooling suggested)

RSVP (yes or regrets) by Sunday, November 24 to
Carol Palmer-Yomtov.

Cost: \$35

Make checks payable to AAUWGWA and mail to
Carol Palmer-Yomtov by Friday November 21.

Don't forget our annual Oasis Toy/Gift Drive! Leave gifts unwrapped.

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
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

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
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
Travel	Linda Nardone