

# The Women's College Club of Princeton Newsletter

## February 2024

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello all! The days are getting longer! We're more than half way through the coldest days of the year! I'm glad to see the turnout we're



seeing at the general meetings, trips, book discussions and lunches despite the colder temperatures. Nineteen members signed up for the January 24th Trip. We have four new members as of the January 15th meeting - that's great!

Looking ahead - We'll be installing officers for 2024-2025 at the June luncheon. We need a new chair of the Nominating Committee. Kathy Hutchins has asked to step down. Please let Jan Stout know if you are interested in chairing or helping with the Nominating Committee.

Helen Ju does a great job posting photos on the club website and keeping it current. Please be sure to check it out at [wccpnj.org](http://wccpnj.org).

**Jan Stout**

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### BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be on **Thursday, February 8 at 10 AM** at the West Windsor library.

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### FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

*Centurion – Righting the wrongly convicted*

**February 19, 1:00 PM**

**Stockton Education Center at Morven**

Our speakers for our February meeting are representatives of Centurion, a national non-profit organization dedicated to the vindication of the wrongly convicted.



Since its founding in 1983, Centurion has freed 70 men and women who were serving life sentences for crimes they did not commit. Every new claim of innocence is evaluated by Centurion's fifteen full and part-time member team. Based on obtainable evidence decisions are made regarding next steps.

Paul Casteleiro, Legal Director of Centurion is one of our speakers today. He specialized in wrongful convictions. He became Centurion's first Legal Director in 2014 and has been instrumental in freeing 30 wrongly convicted individuals. He has contributed to the establishment of New Jersey's compensation laws for the wrongly convicted. Paul is the foremost post-conviction attorney in the country.

Christina Francois, Assistant Legal Director, joined Centurion in 2021. Her objective is to seek changes in laws and policies that contribute to wrongful convictions. She also serves communities that have been marginalized under the law. As a public defender for the Legal Aid Society, she supports poor clients who struggle with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Christina received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers and her law degree from Washington University. She brings passion to all aspects of her work.

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### MEMBERSHIP

If you know of women who would like to join our club, please contact Membership Chair, Alyce Conlon, [alymar@comcast.net](mailto:alymar@comcast.net) or 609-448-7064.

We would like to welcome the following new members to our group.

**Susan Strober**  
4 Galileo Drive  
East Windsor, NJ 08512  
609-582-1697 (cell)  
[susanstrober@comcast.net](mailto:susanstrober@comcast.net)  
SUNY-Binghamton  
School of Visual Arts

**Cheryl Clarke**  
19 Cranbury Neck Road  
Cranbury, NJ 08512  
609-529-0321 (cell)  
[clarkecheryl@comcast.net](mailto:clarkecheryl@comcast.net)  
Douglass College  
Seton Hall Law School

**Joyce Usiskin**  
2424 Windrow Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
732-355-0915  
732-991-4619 (cell)  
[joyceusiskin@gmail.com](mailto:joyceusiskin@gmail.com)  
Barnard College  
Boston University  
Rutgers Law School

**Susan Chermak**  
169 Sayre Drive  
Princeton, NJ 08540  
609-240-4878 (cell)  
[chermaksusan@gmail.com](mailto:chermaksusan@gmail.com)  
New York University  
Columbia University

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## LUNCHEON GROUP



Weston Hotel in Princeton Forestal Village.

If you would like to join us, please contact Bonnie Larson, [bonniejarson63@comcast.net](mailto:bonniejarson63@comcast.net).

On **Monday, February 12 at noon**, we will be going to Salt Creek Grill located behind the

## CLUB HISTORY INTEREST GROUP

The Barnhart Room in Windrows has been booked for the same time 9:30-11:30 --January to June for 2024 for the Mondays that are NOT our General Meetings. The February dates are **Feb 5, 12, 26**.

Join us as we continue to sort through the club's history for the past 100+ years.

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### A Look Back

Over the past year, the "History Committee", shepherded by Doris Ju, has been sifting through boxes of records accumulated throughout the 108 years that the Women's College Club of Princeton has been in existence, the object being to create an extensive written history of the Club. In addition to the nuts-and-bolts papers of organization, committee reports, news clippings and other official documents, we're uncovering some interesting stories and anecdotes that we thought we would share with you. Look for our discoveries in this space in the months to come.

*Chris Greges*

## TRIPS

On Wednesday, February 28, 2024, we are going to visit the official residence of the governor of the state of New Jersey at 354 Stockton Street in Princeton .....Drumthwacket.

Our docent led tour will begin at 1:00 p.m. and last between 45 minutes to one hour. Lunch will be on your own, if you wish.

If you are interested, please e-mail me or call me by February 21, 2024, Barbara Rinaldo, [barbe017@aol.com](mailto:barbe017@aol.com), 732-742-2827. I hope you can join us.

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## BOOK GROUP

The book group will meet at Windrows in the Barnhart Room on the lower level at 11 AM on **Friday, February 23**, to discuss *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver.

In March we will be reading *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell.

All members are welcome to come to this meeting. If you would like to participate in this group, please contact Joan Goodman, [joan2larry@aol.com](mailto:joan2larry@aol.com).

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## HOSPITALITY

The January meeting was well attended. Thankfully ample refreshments were provided by following members:

Sharon Morgan, Patrish Shalestik, Barbara Rinaldo, Lorraine Haucke, Nancy Duff, Suellen Wexler, Shie-Fong Sun, Myra Slatoff, Dulcie Ball, Mary Hulme

Appreciation also goes to Betty Ann Clayton and Marilyn Gonyo for assisting Chris and me.

*Lorraine Haucke*

*Chris Greges*

Hospitality

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

This month we will be highlighting **Tanya Shaparin** who joined our club last year.



Tanya was born in Lviv, Ukraine. She met and married her husband Alex in Lviv. She was a student of Veterinary Medicine at the time when she and her husband had to escape from the former-Soviet Union.

Tanya was pregnant with her older son when they left Ukraine on December 3, 1977 as refugees.

Her son was born on a train in the beautiful mountain town of Klagenfurt in Austria on December 14, 1977. They are very lucky that everything turned out so well.

At the time that they left, they were considered traitors and had to pay the Soviet government for them to take away their Soviet citizenships. They could not get in touch with any of their friends as they would get the friends in trouble.

Most of their small family also left at about the same time she and her husband did. They lived in Israel for 2.5 years, then 1.5 in Vienna, Austria while processing immigration paperwork to be able to enter USA legally. They came to the United States in September 1981.

With the help of the American government, Tanya and her husband studied English, and she was offered a bookkeeping course, which she gladly took since they needed to find work as soon as possible. Tanya was always very good with numbers, so it was easy for her. She worked in the accounting field till the day she retired in 2023.

Tanya's husband was able to work as an engineer until he decided to change his profession and do something he always loved – cars. He has worked for Princeton Mercedes for the past 20 years and is planning to work another 20! 😊

Tanya tried and tried to become a Vet, but it did not work out. Instead, when her younger son left for college, she went to college also. Tanya graduated from Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine college in Montclair in 2011.

Her older son, Dr Naum Shaparin is a successful doctor. He is married and has three wonderful sons! Tanya's younger son graduated from Johnson and Wales, lives in Richmond VA and works in the energy field.

Tanya considers herself very blessed in so many ways, but mainly by being able to live in the best country in the world - the United States of America, with endless opportunities, where only the sky is the limit!

### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

History Group	Mon. Feb. 5, 12, 26 9:30 – 11:30
Board Meeting	Thurs. Feb 8, 10 AM
Luncheon	Mon. Feb. 12, noon
General Meeting	Monday, Feb. 19, 1 PM
Book Discussion	Friday, Feb 23, 11 AM
Trip	Wed. Feb. 28, 1 PM

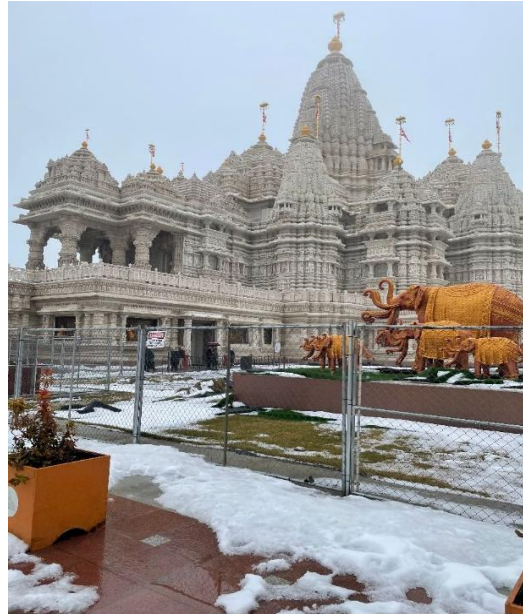
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Club Email: [wccpnj@gmail.com](mailto:wccpnj@gmail.com)

Website: [www.wccpnj.org](http://www.wccpnj.org)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/Womens-College-Club-of-Princeton-111458471467151](https://www.facebook.com/Womens-College-Club-of-Princeton-111458471467151)



### **PICTURES FROM THE JAN. TRIP**





# *The Women's College Club of Princeton*

*"Enriching and empowering women since 1916"*

Come join us on Monday, **February 19, 2024**  
from **1 PM to 3 PM** at  
*the Stockton Education Center at the Morven Museum*

## **Speakers:**

Paul Casteleiro and Christina Francois

## **Topic:**

# **"Centurion Ministries Innocence Project"**



At this talk, the speakers will focus on the root causes of wrongful conviction including issues inherent to the criminal legal system; advice for protecting yourself from wrongful conviction; ways to improve awareness about the issue and offer help.

Centurion is a national non-profit organization dedicated to the vindication of the wrongly convicted. Since its founding in 1983, Centurion has freed 70 men and women who were serving life sentences for crimes they did not commit.

**Paul Casteleiro**, Legal Director of Centurion, is a graduate of NYU and Rutgers Law School. In his private law practice he specialized in wrongful convictions. He became Centurion's first Legal Director in 2014 and has been instrumental in freeing 30 wrongly convicted individuals. He has contributed to the establishment of New Jersey's compensation laws for the wrongly convicted.

**Christina Francois**, Assistant Legal Director, joined Centurion in 2021. Her objective is to seek changes in laws and policies that contribute to wrongful convictions. She also serves communities that have been marginalized under the law. As a public defender for the Legal Aid Society, she supports poor clients who struggle with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Christina received her undergraduate degree from Rutgers and her law degree from Washington University.

*For further information, visit our club website at:*

**wccpnj.org**