

# The Women's College Club of Princeton Newsletter

## March 2025

### President's Message

It's March - National Women's History Month and the arrival of Spring!

During the month of March, we particularly note the amazing accomplishments of women. The origin of National Women's History Month is March 8, 1957 when women from New York City factories staged a protest over poor working conditions.

The National Women's History Alliance selects and publishes the yearly theme for this formally recognized designation. The theme for Women's History Month 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating and Inspiring Generations." This theme certainly mirrors the mission of the Women's College Club of Princeton! At our meeting in May, we will be awarding scholarships to local high school women. At the June meeting we will hear from three women who are past recipients of scholarships from the WCCPNJ.

We had a great turnout for the luncheon in February. I hope to see many of you at the meeting at Morven on March 17<sup>th</sup>!

*Jan Stout*

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### BOARD MEETING

Our next board meeting will be on **Thursday, March 13 at 10 AM** at the West Windsor library.

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### GENERAL MEETING

**Monday, March 17, at 1 PM**  
**Stockton Education Center at Morven**

**Education for Community and the  
Common Good**

**Speaker: Dr. Pamela Barnett, Dean of  
the School of Arts and Communication at  
The College of New Jersey**

The value of a college education is in hot debate as tuitions continue to skyrocket and return on investment is the name of the game. Pamela Barnett, the newest Dean at The College of New Jersey, will address this debate head-on. She will share her vision and related new initiatives at TCNJ for how education in the arts and communication matters for democracy and advancing the common good.

Dr. Barnett was supposed to speak to us in January, but due to inclement weather, we cancelled our meeting. Luckily, Dr. Barnett is able to speak to us this month.



Dr. Pamela Barnett received her BA from Barnard College and her PhD from Emory University. Dr. Barnett's career has spanned serving as a professor of English and African American Studies at the University of South Carolina to serving as Dean of Arts and Sciences at LaSalle University.

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### MEMBERSHIP

New members are always welcome. If you know someone who wishes to join the Women's College Club of Princeton, please contact Alyce Conlon, [alymar@comcast.net](mailto:alymar@comcast.net) or 609-448-7064 or LuAnn Wood, [luannwood16@gmail.com](mailto:luannwood16@gmail.com), 609-731-6680.

We welcome three new members which makes our total membership this year **103**!

Joyce Schwarz  
30 Stillwells Corner Rd  
Freehold, NJ 07728  
732-598-5028  
[Jms903@optline.net](mailto:Jms903@optline.net)  
Georgian Court College  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Maureen Rhodes-Rogers  
20 Westcott Avenue  
Hamilton, NJ 08610  
609-888-2068  
609-439-3546 (cell)  
[Maureenrr@hotmail.com](mailto:Maureenrr@hotmail.com)  
Gwynedd-Mercy University  
Mercer County Community College  
Biscayne College

Melanie Goldstein  
1 Riverwalk  
Apt 444  
Plainsboro, NJ 08536  
301-275-9540  
[melgold@aol.com](mailto:melgold@aol.com)  
University of Maryland  
Boston University

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### BOOK GROUP



For those who enjoy reading a book each month, we will meet at 11:00 PM. on **Friday, March 28** in the Barnhart Room at Windrows.

We will be discussing ***Winter Garden*** by Kristin Hannah. After a lively discussion, we go upstairs to have lunch in the Café.

If you are interested in joining this group, please contact Joan Goodman, [joan2larry@aol.com](mailto:joan2larry@aol.com) or 609-799-4433.

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### LUNCHING OUT GROUP

On **Friday, March 14**, members will meet at **The Stone Terrace by John Henry's** at **12:00**. The restaurant is at 2275 Kuser Rd, Hamilton.

If you would like to carpool from City Streets, we will leave at 11:15.

Please let Bonnie Larson know by Monday, March 10, if you would like to join us by calling 609-655-2663, or email [bonniejarson63@comcast.net](mailto:bonniejarson63@comcast.net).

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### TRIPS

The **March 26** trip is a tour of the Amazon warehouse in Robbinsville. Those who signed up should have received a confirmation.

To carpool, let's meet at the ShopRite in E. Windsor, parking by the TGI Fridays. If you would like to carpool, please let me know by the meeting on March 17.

Thank you. Barbara Rinaldo, [Barbe017@aol.com](mailto:Barbe017@aol.com)  
732-743-2827

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### HISTORY GROUP

The WCCP History Interest Group will now be meeting on the second Monday morning each month. The next meeting is **March 10**, 9:30 to 11:30 in Windrows' Barnhart Room. Doris Ju: 917-520-8653.

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### NEW INTEREST GROUPS

Do you have an interest that you think other members would like to participate in? We are open to forming new groups and we will publicize them in our newsletter. If you have any group that you would like to form, please contact Bonnie Larson at [bonniejarson63@comcast.net](mailto:bonniejarson63@comcast.net).

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## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...

**Joyce Usiskin** recently joined the Women's College Club of Princeton. She received her BA from Barnard College, her Masters from Boston University and her JD from Rutgers University School of Law.



Joyce began her career as a Deputy Attorney General of NJ. After that, she went into private practice in Princeton. Joyce was a Special Master for all mass tort litigation for the State of NJ.

Besides being busy with work, Joyce was very active in the community. She was President of the League of Women Voters of Lawrence Twp., President of the Mercer County Women Lawyers Caucus, Chair of the Princeton Community Democratic Organization, Chair of the Religious School Community Princeton Jewish Center, Chair of the Condemnation Commission, and Chair of the NJ Professional and Supreme Court Committees.

Joyce is married and has four children, 11 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

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### **WCCP – what Princeton was like when our club was founded.**

Part 1 of our history that Joyce Usiskin distilled from our history files. Next month, I will publish part 2 of our history.

First Year -1916

*The Princeton of 1916 was not like any other American small town of 7,000 residents. It was the hometown of the then incumbent President of the United States, Woodrow Wilson and drew national attention. It was the home of a prestigious university and the location of a decisive battle of the Revolutionary War. The Continental Congress had even met there in 1783.*

*Yet despite its formidable history, Princeton in 1916 maintained a patriarchal society which restricted the role of its women residents. Women were not permitted to vote or to serve on juries. Married women were treated as appendages of their*

*husbands. Newspapers never identified a woman by her given name but by the given name and surname of her spouse. Titles to real estate were conveyed to the husband with the wife commonly added as “et ux” on the deed. Rarely was credit extended to women except for widows who had been generously provided for and even then, male trustees or institutions generally administered the funds.*

*Within the town, there were buildings including university buildings which women were not allowed to enter. The university had only male students and an all-male faculty, The private Nassau Club, founded in 1889 as a men's dining and social club denied membership for women but also refused women access to its premises after it acquired its clubhouse in 1903. Widows of members were permitted to retain membership so long as they didn't remarry a nonmember of the club.*

*The socially aware women of Princeton reacted to this treatment by forming their own club, the Present Day Club in January 1898. This was the first community-wide women's organization which was not an auxiliary of a men's organization or sponsored by a church or government body.*

*By 1916 a second organization of independent women took root and the Women's College Club of Princeton was born.*

*The new College Club was more egalitarian than its predecessor, The Present Day Club and more elitist at the same time. It was more equalitarian in that there was an objective standard for admission to the club. An applicant had to have been graduated from a college, studied there for some indeterminate time or at the very least been admitted to the college. The Present Day Club selected its members by vote of the existing membership. Though these women may be socially prominent, they weren't all college educated. About a third of Present Day membership was not eligible for membership in the new College Club of Princeton.*

*In 1916 college educated women represented a small minority. By requiring at least college admission for membership, the founding mothers narrowed eligibility much further. The club was named to exclude business and professional women, even teachers, nurses, medical doctors and lawyers.*

*The word “college” referred to an educational institution which awarded a degree to its graduates. It did not apply to training schools for teachers or to hospital programs which trained*

nurses, the two most populous professions open to women in the early years of the twentieth century. These schools offered diplomas and preparation for licensing exams or registration requirements. Licensing of teachers and registration of nurses was a state requirement for practice in that state.

Licensing requirements applied to beauticians, plumbers, electricians and to medical providers and lawyers as well. Many had apprenticeship requirements as well, some of which still exist in the form of clerkships for lawyers, internships for doctors and student teaching for teachers.

To practice law in any state requires membership in that state's Bar Association which could only be attained by passing that state's bar Exam. Similarly medical doctors were licensed after successfully passing boards in their specialty. In the 19th century one could prepare for these licensing exams by apprenticeship or by formal study.

By 1916 there were still professionals in practice without formal study. By 1916 most universities offered advanced degrees for professional studies. But Princeton never did. To this day, 2025 Princeton does not have a law school or a medical school, or a school of education for training teachers.

Clearly, in 1916 membership was confined to those few privileged women who had attended a degree granting institution.

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### **A note from a scholarship recipient**

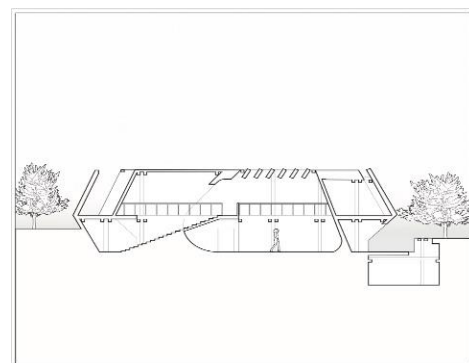
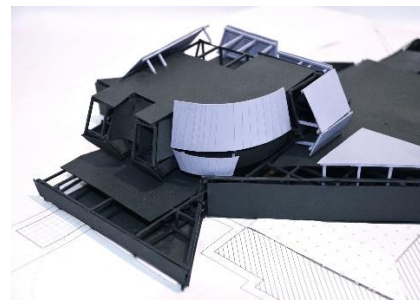
Below is a note that Chris Greges, our Scholarship Chair, received from Michaela Pestano, a scholarship recipient in 2024. Michaela graduated from Hun and is currently attending Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

*Happy New Year! Sorry for the late response to your letter, I've been so caught up with school the past few weeks. I'm really loving RPI so far, and I wanted to share some pictures from my projects last semester. I was chosen for the Honors Review during finals week where I presented my work to the dean, outside critics, and the entire first year class (included some pictures of the review below). I've learned so much about architecture and am so grateful for the scholarship that the Women's*

*College and Mr. Hillier rewarded to me. I put the scholarship towards purchasing my laptop and other necessary (albeit expensive) technology. I couldn't have done any of my work without your generosity.*

*If there's any way for you to help me get in contact with Mr. Hillier, I'd like to personally thank him for the scholarship and give him an update on my progress in school. With that, I'd also like to confirm my attendance for the June 16th luncheon. I'm looking forward to share more about my college experience with you and the other ladies!*

Warmest Regards,  
Michaela







### **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

History Group	Mon. Mar. 10, 9:30-11:30
Board Meeting	Thurs. March 13, 10 AM
Luncheon	Fri. March 14, Noon
General Meeting	Monday, March 17, 1 PM
Trip	Wed. March 26, 10 AM
Book Discussion	Friday, March 28, 11 AM

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### **Pictures from our February Meeting**



### **IS THE WOMEN'S COLLEGE CLUB OF PRINCETON in YOUR ESTATE PLAN?**

Please consider leaving a legacy for future generations by including The Women's College Club of Princeton in your estate planning gift.

#### **Sample Language for Your Will:**

"I give and bequeath the sum of \$----- (or --  
-----% of my residuary estate) to the  
Women's College Club of Princeton, to be  
used in support of its scholarships.

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)



## *The Women's College Club of Princeton*

*"Enriching and empowering women since 1916"*

Come join us on Monday, **March 17, 2025**  
from **1 PM to 3 PM** at  
*the Stockton Education Center at the Morven Museum*

**Speaker:**

**Dr. Pamela Barnett**

Dean of the School of Arts and  
Communication at TCNJ



**Topic:**

"Education for  
Community and the  
Common Good"

The value of a college education is in hot debate as tuitions continue to skyrocket and return on investment is the name of the game. Pamela Barnett, the newest Dean at The College of New Jersey, will address this debate head-on. She will share her vision and related new initiatives at TCNJ for how education in the arts and communication matters for democracy and advancing the common good.

Dr. Pamela Barnett received her BA from Barnard College and her PhD from Emory University. Dr. Barnett's career has spanned serving as a professor of English and African American Studies at the University of South Carolina to serving as Dean of Arts and Sciences at LaSalle University.

*For further information about WCCPNJ, visit our club website at:*  
**wccpnj.org**