

## PENN STATE NOTES

## SPRING 2021



Dear Members,

Congratulations! The Penn State University Women's Club has survived a year that will definitely go down in the history books. I am so proud and grateful for the efforts of our dedicated membership and the creative leadership of our Board during these past twelve months. Even though we faced a pandemic, our donations to our endowed scholarships are up; our membership is strong; and our interest groups are thriving!

With the arrival of April, we can now look forward to longer periods of daylight, warmer weather, and all of the additional blessings provided by a much-awaited SPRING! My fervent hope is that we will soon be able to return to our normal activities. Remember...we get closer to "normal" with each passing day. And I am happy to hear that many of you have already received your second COVID vaccine shots (me too!). However, I urge you to be patient; we do not want to risk the health of a single member due to a hasty decision. Thus, to ensure the safety of all members, the Board has once again found it necessary to cancel our Spring Luncheon and Business Meeting. In fact, we found that the other Big Ten clubs are doing the same with their spring events.

We will be voting for our 2021-2022 slate of officers online as we did last year. Please take the time to review the bios found within this newsletter, and you will realize we have a wonderful group of women who have stepped up to the plate to serve as leaders of our club. I congratulate and thank Teddy Nicholas and her Nominating Committee for a great job preparing this year's slate of officers. Please note the voting information on page 4!

Until that time when we reach "safe ground," our club continues with its policy of not sponsoring any face-to-face meetings or activities. I hope you understand and will continue to virtually join in your interest group activities and stay connected to our wonderful club community where possible. The Board continues to monitor the State of Pennsylvania's announcements, as well as those of Penn State University. We will keep you abreast of any changes to this policy via email and our website. *(continued on page 2)*

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

#### 2021-2021 Executive Board

Honorary President .....	Molly Barron
President .....	Teddy Nicholas
President-Elect .....	Ingrid Blood
Past President .....	Bev Mullen
Program VP .....	Julie Breuninger
Program Asst. VP* .....	JoLaine Teyssier
Membership VP .....	Joan Weidman
Membership Asst. VP* .....	Claire Whiteman
Interest Groups VP .....	Pat Weaver
Interest Groups Asst. VP .....	Patty Garthe
Communications VP .....	Diane Twomley
Communications Asst. VP .....	Sue Miller
Scholarship VP .....	Charlene Harrison
Treasurer .....	Sue Stephenson
Secretary .....	Betz Hanley
Newsletter Editor** .....	Laurel Zydney
Website Editor** .....	Jane Stanton
Development Coordinator** .....	Casey Goodall

\*New to Board. \*\*Appointed by the President.

#### **OTHER NOMINATIONS FOR EXECUTIVE BOARD.**

During the annual business meeting, additional nominations can be made from the floor. Since we are not able to hold the meeting in person, if you would like to nominate someone who was *not* nominated by the committee, please contact President Bev Mullen by April 12. You will need to provide the name of another member who will second the nomination. Nominations received and seconded by April 12 will be included in the online ballot.

THANK YOU

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Teddy Nicholas, chair  
 Ingrid Blood Marilyn Gouran  
 Joan Weidman Pat Williams

#### OUTGOING BOARD MEMBERS

Joan Grant, Past President,  
 Marilyn Mitinger, Program Asst. VP  
 Jeanne Weber, Membership VP  
 Nancy Weinreb, Program VP

THANK YOU



*In Our Thoughts*

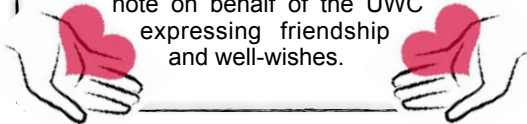
Marie Leath  
Trudy Lipowski  
Carol Shapiro  
Sukie Woodruff

*Remembering*

Jean Gotolski  
Carol Stokes

*Keeping In Touch*

If you know of a club member who has reached a milestone, received an award, suffered a loss, is ill or recovering from surgery, or otherwise should be remembered, please contact Betz Hanley, UWC Secretary by email at [eah3@psu.edu](mailto:eah3@psu.edu). Betz will send a note on behalf of the UWC expressing friendship and well-wishes.



Given these unprecedented circumstances, I wish to thank the Interest Group Leaders for their dedicated efforts and creativity in using ZOOM to allow their members to connect with one another, as appropriate. Also keep in mind that if you have an idea for forming a NEW interest group (ex.: Scrabble? Tea Time?, Geneology?), Pat Weaver and Pat Garthe would love to hear from you! I am right there with you when I say I am anxiously waiting for the time when we all can gather, share stories, and meet with long-time members as well as our NEW members. It has been too long! I believe this past year has proven to us how very important our friendships are and how much they contribute to our overall happiness. Let us hope the 2021 Fall Kick-off Reception becomes a reality -- planning discussions are already taking place; and I am certain this one will be EXTRA special.

This is my final letter as your 2020-21 President, and I want you to know it has been such an honor for me to serve this great club. It certainly was not the year I expected; but with YOUR help and the assistance of a hard-working, conscientious board, our club has survived. What an exceptional group of women you are! I would also like to give a special "thank you" to Jane Stanton and Joan Grant, two of our Past Presidents, for their guidance and help when I sought it. Please know the University Women's Club will be in great hands this coming year -- a new board and a new President, Teddy Nicholas! Just remember.....a new year has begun and the possibilities are endless!

My Best,

*Bev Mullen*, UWC President 2020-2021

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE: THE FOCUS IS ON US!**

While the focus of these scholarship articles is usually our scholarship and book awardees, this time the focus is on US. A portion of every member's annual dues goes to support the annual SCAHS University Women's Club Award. Each of us plays a part in acknowledging and celebrating the high school accomplishments of State High senior who is entering Penn State. And we've had the pleasure of meeting and continuing to celebrate the achievements of several outstanding State High graduates over the years.



A huge shout out goes to members, both long-term and new, who voluntarily donate to the UWC Endowed Scholarship. Whether you contribute in response to the year-end appeal letter or in the summer and early fall as club activities ramp up for another year, you make a tremendous difference in the lives of our scholarship recipients and their family members! Whether you donate an amount each year or were among those who pledged hundreds or thousands of dollars over five-years to endow the scholarship initially, your generosity makes our club's financial support of Penn State students possible. Several members' dedicated financial support over time also has made it possible to increase the amounts awarded to our undergraduate and graduate scholarship recipients. A list of Endowed Scholarship donors is published each year in the Winter Newsletter.

Were it not for our UWC member donors, we would not be able to celebrate and help some exceptional Penn State students! Thank you for your ongoing generosity and your dedication to helping those who want to achieve a Penn State education! This time the focus is on YOU!



After much discussion, the UWC Board regrettably voted to cancel this year's Spring Luncheon, which had been scheduled for April 29<sup>th</sup> at Centre Hills Country Club. There are still limits on gathering size, and our overriding concern is the continued safety of our members, many of whom are in high-risk categories. The annual business meeting and election of officers for next year will take place via on-line and paper ballots. We will continue to monitor the situation and base decisions on guidance from elected and university officials and public health experts. A decision will be made this summer about whether we can hold our Fall Kickoff in person. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.



The end is in sight. What a year. So many changes. One highlight has been seeing how we can help each other. Some have bought local gift certificates. Others ensured their regular hairdressers got tips even when they stayed home. Many switched to take out when they couldn't eat in favorite restaurants. Friend to friend, UWC members helped each other learn to Zoom -- and we know learning new skills is so important to keeping vital as we get older.

One example of reaching out to help those hit hard by the many changes the pandemic wrought was carried out by our very own Betz Hanley. As many know, she has strong personal connections in Greece from many years involvement with dance and the Olympics. On her visits there, she'd become friendly with a family that has cultivated olive trees and vineyards in Olympia, Greece, for over a century. When cruise ships docked, tourists would flock to the farm to learn more about the culture, enjoy Greek dancing and music, and of course, savor the wonderful local olive oil. Realizing the impact when all cruising suddenly stopped, Betz organized an effort to get the word out about the delicious olive oil and together with friends ordered several boxes. What an innovative way to reach out and help out during these tough times!



Another example of a member who has gone above and beyond is Nilima Kumar who has contributed her talent and been extraordinarily generous with her time sewing and donating masks to help keep Happy Valley residents safe. As UWC member Alice Clark wrote in sharing word of Nilima's act of kindness:



*"With our ability to soon tuck our masks away, I wanted to make sure everyone knew that she sewed a number (probably hundreds) of double sided masks during COVID, one side with flannel and one side cotton and made to safety specs. Rather than getting paid for her materials and efforts, she asked that anyone who received masks from her make a donation to our food bank."*



Nilima began making masks on March 30, 2020, for two nieces who were in medical residencies, after watching the video [How To Sew a Reusable Face Mask](#), produced by The Turban Project. As word of mouth spread about Nilima's masks, more friends and family in the medical field sent word that they too needed protective masks. Her mask making efforts snowballed and eventually Nilima joined the local group State College Mask Makers and continued to produce masks in response to area needs. Along the way, she mailed masks all over the country and as far away as London, when it was under lockdown; her masks reached India packed in suitcases of relatives who were traveling there. After Nilima was put in contact with a doctor who was a friend of a friend and sent him a few masks, he forwarded Nilima's instructions to his Burmese community which started its own mask-making project. Truly, people all over the world have benefited from Nilima's caring, talent, and great heart!



***We salute all of our members who have looked out for each other near and far.  
Together we are making it through!***

 *Beginning in mid-January, members of the UWC Board shared through weekly emails some wonderful moments of joy and hope submitted by our members. The project lasted six weeks. We hope that the words, photos, and videos helped to brighten your long winter days. Thank you to everyone who participated.*



**FINGERS ARE CROSSED....  
THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO MEET IN  
PERSON FOR OUR FALL KICKOFF.  
PLEASE WATCH FOR YOUR FALL  
NEWSLETTER IN MID-AUGUST!**

**University Women's Club  
PO Box 341  
State College PA 16804**

## **IMPORTANT VOTING INFORMATION**

Due to the continuing pandemic, the UWC will be conducting the election for the 2021/22 Executive Board online. Members will receive an email with a list of nominees and an individual voting link on April 19. Please be sure to cast your vote no later than **April 30**.

**IF YOU REQUIRE A PAPER BALLOT** due to lack of online access, please contact President Bev Mullen as soon as possible, no later than **April 16**. Your ballot will be mailed on April 19. You will need to mail in your completed ballot; it must be received in the UWC post box **by April 30**.

*Remember to check the UWC website and Facebook page for the most recent updates.*

# Nominee Slate for 2021-22 Executive Board



**Ingrid Blood**, nominated for President-Elect, joined the UWC after retiring from Penn State as Professor Emerita of Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2017. She also became a docent at the Palmer Art Museum and enjoyed traveling the world with her husband — criss-crossing Europe, cruising the Nile, exploring marketplaces in Casablanca. With the pandemic, she's found more time for reading, knitting, cooking, and gardening while continuing Zoom meetings as a member of the Government Affairs/Public Policy Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Even in these masked times, Ingrid is excited about making new memories with the fascinating, funny and caring women in the Club and feels privileged to be President-Elect.

**Julie Breuninger**, Program VP nominee, moved to State College in the spring of 2019. Thirty years ago, Julie and her husband moved to California from Pennsylvania. It took them this long to make it back! Julie has a BA in Psychology from Drew University, MA in Psychology from West Chester University, and MS in Counseling from Butler University. She worked as a school counselor for the 18 years in Indianapolis, IN. Julie is thrilled that Teddy Nicholas invited her to the UWC. It's been a life saver during the shutdown and she looks forward to meeting members "in person" and making many new friends for this next stage of life.



**Patty Garthe**, nominee for Assistant Interest Groups VP, has reverted to a former nickname to avoid confusion with Pat Weaver, nominee for Interest Groups VP! Patty is a long time resident of Huntingdon County, having moved there in 1978. She was born and raised in West Orange, New Jersey, and holds a BS in Business Management from Fairleigh Dickinson University. She is currently enjoying being an active grandparent to four kids she is lucky to see frequently as they live nearby. Some of her interests are hiking, piano, gardening and reading. Patty has chosen to stay on the Board in the role of Assistant Interest Groups VP, working with the Interest Groups VP and assuring a smooth transition. She looks forward to seeing UWC members in person next year!

**Casey Goodall**, appointed as Development Coordinator, is a graduate of Wilson College with a BA in Economics. She and her husband have lived in State College for 45 years. Casey retired from Penn State where she worked as the Director of Donor Relations for twenty years. She keeps busy being a grandmother to three grandchildren and volunteering with Out of the Cold, and likes to read, travel, knit, and take educational trips with the UWC. This is her third year on the UWC board.



**Elizabeth "Betz" Hanley**, continuing as Secretary, has served the UWC in several capacities over the years: Interest Groups VP, President, Cooking with Friends leader, Garden Group communicator, and member of Speaking Of Art, Wine Group, and Around the World Interest Groups. She retired from Penn State in 2004 after a 40 year career as Associate Professor of Kinesiology. She founded the Penn State International Dance Ensemble, which she directed for 20 years, and activities with the Olympics remain part of her life. Tennis is her activity of choice!

**Charlene Harrison**, continuing as Scholarship VP, is also a Past President of the UWC and was the long-time appointed Scholarship Advisor. During her Board service, the Club established The University Women's Club Endowed Scholarship and activated the endowment. In addition to the UWC, Charlene holds leadership positions in the AAUW State College Branch, P.E.O. Chapter S, and the local Mortar Board Alumni Group.



**Sue Miller**, nominated for Communications Assistant VP, has been a resident of State College for 23 years. She worked for several local nonprofits, including the American Red Cross, Centre Volunteers in Medicine, and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at Penn State. She retired in 2017 and quickly joined UWC. She enjoys biking, hiking and EATING with fellow club members.

**Bev Mullen**, Past President, moved to State College in 2007 after retiring from Tyco Electronics (now TE) in Harrisburg. Bev is a graduate of Penn Hall in Chambersburg and holds Bachelor's and Master's Degrees from Shippensburg University. Since moving to State College, she has been a member of the Women's Welcome Club (past president), and has volunteered for Centre Volunteers in Medicine. Her passions are travel, entertaining, reading, and taking care of her senior cats Teeba and Tailor. Among others, she enjoys the FUN WITH FOOD and ALL ABOUT BOOKS interest groups.







**Theodora "Teddy" Nicholas**, incoming President, hails from Pittsburgh, PA, and Silver Spring, MD, where she raised her four children. She enjoyed a long career in the business world, achieving national sales awards, and in the arts world as a performer, including puppeteering, singing, and acting. She moved to State College in 2001 and has enjoyed serving the UWC in different capacities, both on the Board and as long-time chair of Dinners For Eight and hostess for Fun with Food Luncheons.

**Jane Stanton**, our Website Editor, is a Penn State alumna, a retired teacher, and a Past President of the UWC. During the last year, she has most missed lunches with friends, traveling, and playing with and hugging her granddaughters in New Orleans. On the plus side, she has renewed her dedication to life-long learning by participating in dozens of wonderful webinars (many of them offered by Penn State) and has stayed in touch with family and friends through Zoom and video chats.



**Sue Stephenson**, Treasurer, moved to State College in 1978 and soon joined the Hiking group. She is a member of the Biking, Gardening, and Literary Supper groups and co-chairs the Hatha Yoga Interest Group. Sue is a member of the Nittany Valley Symphony, where she plays the cello (look for her in the back...), and is the longtime treasurer for St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.

**JoLaine Teyssier**, nominee for Program Assistant VP, is a life-long resident of State College, having earned a BS and MBA from Penn State and retired from the University after a 30+ year career in Human Resources. She enjoys a variety of interests and activities including travel, sports, and knitting. JoLaine served a two-year term as president of the Penn State Alumni Association's Centre County Chapter and currently volunteers with the American Red Cross.



**Diane Twomley**, nominated for Communications VP, made State College home in 1977. Originally from the suburbs of NYC, in 2016, she retired from the State College Area School District after 23 years in the Library and IT departments at Mount Nittany Middle School. Besides loving reading, photography, and the theater, quilting has become a new pursuit (thanks to the Quilting Interest Group). Her favorite activity, by far, is being with her two-year-old grandson, Harper. Diane joined UWC to meet new people after retirement and has truly enjoyed all the interesting and talented women she has had the pleasure to get to know.

**Pat Weaver**, Interest Groups VP nominee, has been substituting in the State College Area School District for the past five years, after retiring following forty years with the district. Her career included advising debate students and teaching students how to write articles in middle/high school yearbooks and newspaper productions. In addition to serving as on the UWC Board previously as Assistant Interest Groups VP, she is Co-President of Beta Xi, chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma Society.



**Joan Weidman**, nominated for Membership VP, relocated to Boalsburg with her husband Steve when they retired. Joan received her BA in Economics and German at Bucknell University and met Steve, a PSU MBA, while working as a commercial lender. After raising their children and serving as a volunteer leader in various charitable organizations, Joan taught German in Berks County. Joan enjoys reading, hiking, dance, paper arts, and travel. She thanks UWC for easing her transition after moving to Centre County.

**Claire Whiteman**, Membership Assistant VP nominee, moved to State College from Iowa City in 2012 when her husband took a position at Penn State. She was born and raised in the Midwest, had a career as a clinical child psychologist, and taught at Penn State for several years. Favorite activities are hiking, bicycling, reading, playing golf, and doing crosswords and jigsaw puzzles. Pre-pandemic, she and her husband traveled frequently to visit their children and extended families in the Midwest and enjoyed taking in historical tours, entertainment, and good food in larger cities and international locations. She is looking forward to resuming her tradition of a week at the beach each summer with her children.



**Laurel Zydny**, Newsletter Editor, moved to State College with two teenagers and a newborn in 2002. She first met incoming President Teddy Nicholas when she joined the Walking Interest Group to get in shape to chase the baby and thinks the ability to form warm friendships through shared activities is the UWC's greatest gift to its members. She had also been a member of the Hiking and Knitting Interest Groups and was excited to join the Cooking With Friends this past year. Laurel's other passions are folk music and the importance of public education. She is a host of the WPSU Folk Show and is on the State College Area School Board.