

# The Woman's Club of Washington University



Dr. Joan Luby, Guest Speaker

*Risa Zwerling  
Wrighton  
Endowed Scholarships  
Awards and Lecture  
January 29, 2021*



Risa Zwerling Wrighton



Elizabeth Lloyd



John Schuler



Sawyer Smith



Birdie Wilde

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, we gathered together via Zoom to celebrate our 2020-2021 Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholars. While we were not able to see each other in person, we were glad to “see” each other virtually and hear from our scholars, Risa Zwerling Wrighton and Dr. Joan Luby, Washington University Professor of Child Psychiatry, who presented a talk on “Early Childhood Experience Shapes Brain Development and Influences Emotional and Physical Health.” Interim Dean of University College and Vice Provost Heather Corcoran and Associate Dean of University College Pat Matthews also made presentations regarding University College and the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship Program and how valuable it is to the non-traditional university student population.

The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Event Committee consisted of Scholarship Director Linda Smith, Event Moderator Elena Maksaeva and Event Co-chairs Betsy Lawlor, and Paulina Conner. They spent many hours and months planning the event and organizing the logistics, and we are grateful for their time and expertise. The event went off without a hitch with over 60 people joining in online.

An audio recording of the talk given by Dr. Luby, is accessible on the Woman's Club website at <https://womansclub.wustl.edu>. Click on *Newsletters and Videos* and scroll down to the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship Event 2021. Many thanks to Elena Maksaeva for creating and editing the recording.

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**Barbara Feiner**  
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(314) 935-7085



The Woman's Club of  
Washington University

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

Happy Spring! This season, especially this year, presents a unique opportunity to look at our world with fresh eyes and new hope. As I complete my tenure as President of the Woman's Club of Washington University, I reflect upon 3 themes that have guided my thoughts these past three years: gratitude, celebration, and hope.



Words cannot adequately express the honor and privilege it has been for me to represent you as President. I have been truly humbled. I am very grateful for your friendship, support, and kind words of encouragement, especially during this challenging year. I would like to highlight Nancy Dunaway, our Executive Board, Board of Directors, and Chairs for their steadfast efforts to creatively sustain, grow, and extend our Club. A special word of gratitude to all of you for your generosity of spirit, kindness, and giving hearts. You have been vigilant, endured, and met each challenge this year for the greater good. With your vision, we did more than survived, we thrived.

Each year, we have had various times to celebrate. First, I celebrate all of you. We celebrate who you are as members, what you value in the Club, and what you have accomplished. In the past three years, we have celebrated many wonderful events. Just to name a few: our Symposium Lunches and Events, the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarship and Scholars, the RZW Game Days, the Elizabeth Gray Danforth Butterfly Garden, Galleries and Sights, Lecture Series, Theater Matinee, Fall Welcome, Connect-4-Success, Orchid Show, Meet the Leaders, and Holiday for Heroes. Our Interest Groups, International Women, and New Member opportunities are landmarks for our diversity, inclusion, and friendship. These celebrations have sustained us and direct our planning for next year.

As we step out into brighter days ahead this spring, we carry with us renewed hope. Each of you is like our WCWU symbol, the butterfly. Butterflies are special and unique. However, their gentle and graceful appearance belies their strength and tenacity. Traveling thousands of miles, they find their destination with quiet confidence and joy. Without fanfare or bravado, they work to serve and contribute beauty, appreciation, and joy to our world.

Each of you brings your own unique talents, personality, experiences, and perspectives that enrich us all. It is your dedication, kindness, and service that makes us who we are individually and what we can accomplish collectively as the Woman's Club.

With sincere thanks,

Judith H. Joerding



## Member Spotlight

### Barbara (Barb) Feiner

by Suzanne Doyle

Despite current Covid restrictions, at 71, Barb Feiner is a contented woman. She is satisfied with her long career mostly focused on finance and pleased with her active retirement these past five years. And she's delighted with her 32-year marriage to Tom, now a warm companionship at home on a wooded Kirkwood lane with their two dogs.



Although Barb has always enjoyed math, she did not begin her professional work in business but in education. After she graduated from St. Louis University in 1971 and taught there briefly, she moved to New Jersey with her first husband and taught there for nine years in special education and the primary grades. She broke with that life then, and perhaps influenced by the family business in truck parts and service (a company founded by her father and now headed by her younger brother), she returned to St. Louis and enrolled in Washington University, where she graduated with her MBA in 1983. She has loved Washington University ever since, even maintaining a strong tie in the 80's as Vice Chair, then Chair, of her alumni group while she worked for Edison Brothers.

Perhaps she would have remained at Edison Brothers, where she met Tom, then an in-house attorney, but a bankruptcy crisis provided her the opportunity to follow the company CFO home to Washington U. Barb beamed with gratitude as she remarked that "they took a chance on me," certainly a chance benefiting both her and the University: She advanced to CFO in 1998, then to Vice Chancellor under Chancellor Mark Wrighton. As Vice Chancellor she assumed stewardship of the University's finances, from accounting, treasury, and investments, to financial planning, assuring the University's ever-new ambitions a solid foundation.

Barb Feiner had no interest when she retired of withdrawing from her active life; she had more to learn and to accomplish. She has served on the Black Repertory Theater Board and on the Investment Committee and Board for MICDS, and, of course, she has become involved in our Woman's Club and now serves on the Executive Board as Director of Service to the University—how fitting for this loyal friend—planning Meet the Leader events with the Gephardt Institute and engaging with members in the care of the Butterfly Garden. And both she and husband Tom, who have relished their home for thirty years, have increasingly devoted themselves to the City of Kirkwood, connecting with fellow citizens they were too busy to meet before retirement and learning how the city works. Barb participates on the Citizens Finance Committee, and Tom serves with the Planning and Zoning Commission. The two also pursue their passion for wildlife and native birds, watching for migrating swans, eagles, and pelicans, at the Audubon Center near the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers; Tom also gives his time to the Wild Bird Rehabilitation facility. Most of this in the last year, sadly, on Zoom.

Barb rejoices, too, in time with family. Tom brought two daughters, Christine, then 11, and Mary Alice, 8, into their marriage. Barb and the girls—"our daughters"—bonded quickly and warmly and remain close today. Barb admires her elder daughter's commitment to non-profit missions, currently as Feeding America's Director of Corporate Partnerships in Chicago, during this time of widespread food insecurity. And she delights in the younger daughter's openness and kindness. Grinning, Barb called Mary Alice "the salt of the earth."

In addition to her daughters, Barb enjoys the company of her three younger siblings: a sister in Vermont, her brother in Richmond Heights, who has four adult children, and the youngest sister with two adult daughters, who lives in Illinois. The whole crew gathered outdoors this past October for a safe and joyous early celebration of Christmas.

While Barb and Tom stay busy with their many pursuits and love spoiling their dogs—one quiet, one exuberant, together a team on their daily jaunts, she dreams of post-pandemic days. Then they can dine at favorite restaurants, attend plays, and go to movies-- "just BE with other people." They often visit the village of Sister Bay in Door County in Wisconsin and many national parks; Barb is not a camper, though—she cherishes indoor showers and vacations from cooking—but both love hiking and kayaking. This contented, lively woman yearns now for company, outdoor beauty, the next adventures she'll share with Tom, and, in the future, maybe a return to mentoring and tutoring children—life's circles.

## Upcoming Events 2021

### VIRTUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM LUNCHTIME LECTURE AND ANNUAL MEETING

Via Zoom

**Thursday, April 29, 2021, 1 – 2:30 p.m.**

Join via Zoom for our Annual Meeting. We will nominate and elect the Executive Board of Directors, and approve changes to the Bylaws. It is important that as many members as possible attend and have their voice heard in the governance of the club.

After the business portion of our meeting we will hear a talk from our invited speaker:

**Will Ross, MD, MPH, Professor of Medicine, Nephrology  
Associate Dean for Diversity**

Dr. Ross is associate dean for diversity and principal officer for community partnerships at Washington University School of Medicine. Over the past two decades, he has recruited and developed a diverse workforce of medical students, residents and faculty while promoting health equity locally, nationally and globally through collaborations with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and public health officials in Ethiopia, Haiti, and South Africa. He has been instrumental in redesigning local access to health care for the underserved as the founder of the Saturday Neighborhood Health Clinic and co-founder of Casa de Salud Latino Health Center. Ross has received numerous honors and awards, including the 2005 State of Missouri Martin Luther King Distinguished Service in Medicine Award, the 2009 Washington University Medical Center Alumni Faculty Achievement Award, the 2011 Health Literacy Missouri Trailblazer Award, and the 2013 Samuel Goldstein Leadership in Medical Education Award. A graduate of Yale University, he completed medical school at Washington University School of Medicine. He completed a master's of science in epidemiology at the Saint Louis University School of Public Health.

**PLEASE RSVP.** Email [womansclub@wustl.edu](mailto:womansclub@wustl.edu) or leave a message at the Woman's Club office: 9314) 935-7085. (Even though all members will be emailed a link to join the meeting via Zoom, it is important for the committee to know the number of people who will be attending to assure a quorum of members). The link will be sent on Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar and plan on joining in for this important annual meeting. If you have questions, please contact:

Carmen Dence: 314-813-0325, [carmensdence413@gmail.com](mailto:carmensdence413@gmail.com), Barb Bindler: 314-432-4324, [bgbindler@aol.com](mailto:bgbindler@aol.com) or Director of Symposium Lunches: Elena Maksaeva: 314-724-1423, [elena.wcwu@icloud.com](mailto:elena.wcwu@icloud.com)

### THE BIG DIG!

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

Two-hour shifts available beginning at 9 a.m.

*Rain Date Wednesday May 5, 2021*

The Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden is located on Forsyth Boulevard directly across from the Danforth University Center (DUC). Parking is available in the DUC's underground parking garage.

**Help us plant the annuals the butterflies love!**

**Masks and social distancing required**

**RSVP to Lee Anne Quatrano (314) 322-3842 or [lquatrano@gmail.com](mailto:lquatrano@gmail.com)**

**Co-Chairs: Lee Anne Quatrano, Elena Maksaeva**



## EVENTS AND NEWS

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS TRANSITION MEETING

**All Current and New Board Members**

**Thursday, May 13, 2021, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**

Final 2020-2021 Board Meeting and First 2021-2022 Board Meeting

**RSVP by May 1, 2021 to**

(314) 935-7085 or [womansclub@wustl.edu](mailto:womansclub@wustl.edu).

**Questions:** contact Judy Joerding at: (314) 961-7988 or [jjoerding@wustl.edu](mailto:jjoerding@wustl.edu).

**This meeting will be held virtually via Zoom. Everyone who RSVPs will receive a Zoom link the day prior to the meeting.**

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### 25th Anniversary Butterfly Garden Party

**Tuesday September 14, 2021 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.**

at the Butterfly Garden on the Danforth Campus

Please join us to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Butterfly Garden. We hope to be able to meet in person, following the Washington University guidelines on mask wearing and social distancing.

More information will be forthcoming via email.



### Saint Louis Story Stitchers Artists Collective

#### Awarded \$500,000 for Youth Arts, Tech Center

Story Stitchers is a nonprofit arts school that was founded in 2013 by a small group of artists who sought to take action against gun violence. It now serves at least 100 St. Louisans ages 16 through 24 each year, helping young people cope with traumatic experiences, share their stories and explore artistic expression. Susan Colangelo, the founding president and executive director of Story Stitchers, is a past Woman's Club President and says the nonprofit's arts programs help reduce youth involvement in criminal activity.

National philanthropic organization The Lewis Prize for Music took notice of Story Stitchers' work and awarded the nonprofit a 2021 Accelerator Award and \$500,000. The Lewis Prize for Music supports arts leaders across the country "to ensure every young person has the opportunity to access transformative music learning, performance and creation that benefits them and their communities," according to its website.



Story Stitchers will use its funding over the next five years to strengthen the organization as it develops a music and technology center at a location to be determined. Susan Colangelo envisions the new center providing a safe place for young people to gather and engage with mentors and the arts for years to come. Congratulations to Susan and the wonderful young people at Story Stitchers who are creating a better world for all of us!

## RISA ZWERLING WRIGHTON SCHOLARS 2020-2021

All of the Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholars are students at University College at Washington University in St. Louis. University College offers undergraduate, graduate, and certificates programs for working adults with part-time, evening, online, and summer courses. The students are chosen for their scholarships by the University College leadership team. All exceptional students, the scholars hold full or part-time jobs, and some have families and other obligations. The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarships are an immense help to these students, and they expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the audience. More information about the scholars is below and on the following page.



### Elizabeth Lloyd

Major: English  
 Hometown: Saint Louis, Missouri  
 Year: Junior

“To the sponsors of The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Woman’s Club Scholarship, I am writing with endless thanks and appreciation for being the recipient of The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Woman’s Club Scholarship. My education at Washington University would simply not be possible if it were not for sponsors like you.

I am a professional ballet dancer with Saint Louis Ballet, and made the decision to return to school, with no college credits, at the age of twenty-four. Ballet is my passion, but is an incredibly short career. My hope is to finish my degree before retirement, so that I am able to make a seamless transition into a new career when the time comes. It is no secret that artists do not do their work for the money, and I am no exception to that. The number of courses that I enroll in each semester, is strictly defined by financial limitations. My receiving of this scholarship meant that I was able to enroll in an additional course this semester, and thus am one step closer to finishing my degree. Your generosity means the world to me, and I am forever grateful.”



### John Schuler

Major: Sustainability: Management & Organizations  
 Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri  
 Year: Junior

“This award helps with my overall educational experience by enhancing each class and by pushing me to ensure I get everything out of the class. Most of the opportunities come as a financial benefit, obviously. What I mean by that is that this award allows me to not have to take on any additional student loan debt therefore allowing me to use that money on other needs, like my family. Thank you.”

**RISA ZWERLING WRIGHTON SCHOLARS 2020-2021, continued****Sawyer Smith**

Major: English  
Minor: Anthropology  
Hometown: St. Louis, Missouri  
Year: Senior

"I want to express gratitude to all the members of the Woman's Club of Washington University. They have supported me through this scholarship, as well as through their friendship and generosity, over the years. I am so honored to be the recipient of this award again, and because of this financial support, I will be able to graduate at the end of this semester as opposed to having to take a class in the spring."

**Birdie Wilde**

Major: Industrial and Organizational Psychology  
Minor: Certificate in Somatic Studies  
Hometown: Bonita, California  
Year: Senior

"I am so honored to receive this award. It was such a surprise to get the notification recently. I am a single mom of two kids under 10, and I have been taking one course per semester to finish my degree because that was all I could afford. Because of your generous scholarship, I was able to sign up for a second class this semester, and begin my Somatic Studies classes for the additional Certificate program. I have been wishing to get this Somatic Studies Certificate for over 15 years when my former teacher and dear friend David Marchant first developed it. Thank you so much for helping my dream begin!"

**The Risa Zwerling Wrighton Endowed Scholarships** are funded by members of the Woman's Club through donations made specifically to the endowed fund. Members can indicate a donation, in addition to their membership contribution, when they renew their membership or at any time during the year. Donations can be made online or by check mailed to the WCWU office. The scholars are also supported by the Connect-4-Success group consisting of Woman's Club members Jennifer Luner, Linda Smith, Judy Joerding and Karen Johnson Fields. They make themselves available to the scholars for mentoring, networking, and support.

## OPPORTUNITIES AND UPDATES

### OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN

Washington University in St. Louis has many opportunities for learning virtually. Please visit the following websites for more information:

Lifelong Learning Department: <https://osher.wustl.edu/>

Virtual Connections: <https://alumni.wustl.edu/alumni/association/>. These events require registration to receive a Zoom link.

The Brown School has a variety of presentations and webinars on the calendar. For a list of upcoming events, and to register, please email [profdev@brownschool.wustl.edu](mailto:profdev@brownschool.wustl.edu) and request a list of upcoming events.

Spring 2021 Public Events at the Sam Fox School: <https://samfoxschool.wustl.edu/news/14363>

For more events, visit <https://atwashington.wustl.edu>

### CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions made since December 2020 to the **Risa Zwerling Wrighton Scholarship Endowment Fund** were made by the following individuals. Thank you for your generosity!

Assimo Azariadis  
Marilyn Levy

Jackie Lipsitz

Charlene Kass  
Patricia Sarantites

Contributions made since December to the **Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden Fund** were made by:

Assimo Azariadis

### Membership Report

The current membership of the Woman's Club stands at 189. This is lower than our normal membership, but given the effects of COVID-19 on activities, it is not surprising.

Membership renewal will begin in early May. *Online renewal is highly recommended this year*, as Washington University staff is rarely on campus at this time due to the University's COVID-19 restrictions. Checks and mail in renewal forms may take a month or so to be processed because of this. Forms to renew can be filled out online and members can pay with a credit card. It is easy and safe and information is protected by the Washington University data processing protocols. You may access the Woman's Club website at <https://womansclub.wustl.edu>.

If a member is hesitant to use the Woman's Club website to renew their membership, renewal forms can be mailed. However, forms must be received by July 1 to have your information in the club directory to be published late July.

Because of COVID restrictions, guest members from this past year, 2020-2021, will have their guest membership extended for the coming year, 2021-2022. If you have any questions regarding membership, please contact our Membership Chair, Nancy Thompson at [bokunancy@gmail.com](mailto:bokunancy@gmail.com).



## MEMBER NEWS

### Did You Know? By Karen Johnson Fields

- The **International Women's Group**, under Pat Sarantites' and Gloria Lubowitz' leadership, occasionally gathers (on Zoom) to visit with one another. Because of the past year's unstable COVID time, however, many of the International Women are no longer in the St. Louis area which has limited the direction for the group.
- The **Writers Group**, led by Suzanne Doyle, now meets on Zoom. This group began its 7<sup>th</sup> year together on January 21st.
- The **Crafts Group** moved inside some time ago from Evie Shucart's deck – where they still socially distance, wear masks, and have fewer than five people gathered at the same time.
- The **Bridge Group** uses the Trickster Book Group to meet virtually. Please contact Linda Smith if interested in participating.
- **Galleries and Sights** joined a December Zoom presentation, *German Expressionism Explained*, presented by Melissa Venator. Later they were able to offer the entire Club an educational video tour given by the St. Louis Art Museum called ART SPEAKS: THE SHOW MUST GO ON. At that time, Curators Simon Kelly and Hannah Klemm narrated "The Storm of Progress: German Art After 1800" which ended on February 28<sup>th</sup>. Thanks, Assimo Azariadis, for helping make these programs accessible to us.
- The **Evening Literature Group** meets monthly by Zoom through May. If interested in joining them, see p. 47 in your handbook for a list of books. Contact Jennifer Luner or Gloria Lubowitz for further information.
- Carol Gronau reports the **Afternoon Literature Group** is still on hold until COVID-19 complications are resolved.
- Sarah Fowler-Dixon spent the day of Epiphany preparing Peking Duck, a very time-consuming task. Delighted with the results, she could only share it with her family remotely (because COVID restrictions would not allow them to gather together.)
- Dr. Anthony Fauci spoke virtually at the WU Medical School in January. His hopeful message was recorded on *YouTube* if you are interested in seeing it.
- The **Executive Committee** continues to meet monthly (by Zoom) and this past month President Judy Joerding asked the group to share what book, movie, video, etc. they had recently experienced and would recommend. These were the responses: **Films, Cinema or TV:** *Afterlife, The Prom, The Queen's Gambit, Virgin River, The Crown, The Durrells in Corfu, The Daily Show, The Intern.* **Books:** *Devotions by poet Mary Oliver, Giver of the Stars by JoJO Lloyd, Destination Casablanca, Born a Crime, A Promised Land, Healing by Design, Run to Overcome, Becoming.*
- The **Website Committee** completed an assessment of our WCWU website, and it is being updated. Committee members include: Sarah Fowler-Dixon, Nancy Dunaway, Elena Maksaeva, and Carmen Dence. We thank them for their hard work!
- The **Bylaws Committee**, under the direction of chair Barb Feiner, met many times by Zoom to revise the Standing Rules and Bylaws of the WCWU. These revisions after being approved by the Executive Board of Directors, will be voted upon by the entire Club Membership at the Annual Meeting/Spring Symposium event.
- Buzz Spector (Njara Stout's husband) had a solo exhibit at the St. Louis Art Museum this winter, and the couple have recently moved to Beacon, New York. We send our sincere best wishes to them.
- The Woman's Club Board of Director's Zoom meeting on March 25<sup>th</sup> had 20 board members in attendance.
- Jennifer Luner recently spent 8 days in Florida where she was able to watch Cardinals spring training games.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- April 29, 2021** Virtual Annual Meeting and Spring Symposium Lecture
- May 4, 2021** The Big Dig (May 5 if rain)
- May 6, 2021** Virtual Executive Board Meeting
- May 13, 2021** Virtual Transition Board Meeting
- September 14, 2021** **SAVE THE DATE!** Elizabeth Danforth Butterfly Garden 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

In following the in-person meetings set by Washington University in St. Louis, the Woman's Club will not host any in-person meetings at this time. This protocol may change and the membership will be informed as to when we can meet together again.

womansclub.wustl.edu



Washington University in St. Louis

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