



## connection

Volume 28, No. 3, October 2023

### Letter From the President

Dear EUWC Friends,

As leaves changed colors to welcome fall, 22 of us welcomed Patti Siegel, Executive Director of Arts Atlanta. She presented a brief history of performing and visual arts in our fair city as well as the current state of the arts in Atlanta. We were chagrined to learn that the state of Georgia is dead last in state funding of the Arts. Despite the challenges, Atlanta has a multitude of performing and visual arts inside and outside the perimeter. Arts are crucial to our well-being. The Arts Atlanta website is [www.artsatl.org](http://www.artsatl.org) and you can subscribe to their weekly newsletter there.

I thought the streamlined Business meeting went pretty well and definitely need to hear what you thought. I've always suffered from 'agenda anxiety' and hope I wasn't too heavy handed with the gavel. Seriously, do let me know that you think.

Refreshments were delicious, as usual.

Here is some really good news! Judy Michna and I met with conference center staff, and there is a plan for repairs to the attic. At last we will have safe storage for our documents and artifacts.

Looking forward to seeing you November 14 when our featured speaker, Paul Wolpe of Emory University, presents on "Ethics in the Age of Moral Machines".

*Alma*

## 25 Resilient Women in the Amani Sewing Academy Class of 2023



Dee Zesiger Accepts Amani Acknowledgement of EUWC Support from Doris Mukangu

In honor of International Day of Peace, Amani Women Center (AWC) held their Graduation and Recognition Ceremony on September 30 at the Memorial Drive Presbyterian Church in Stone Mountain. This ceremony celebrated the graduation from the Amani Sewing Academy of 25 refugee women from ten different countries, including Afghanistan, Burma, Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Burundi, Nepal, Pakistan, and Rwanda. For those of us who remember the first graduating class of two, seeing 25 graduates was phenomenal and represents the growth of AWC, its programs, and its impact on the community it serves. Enrollees for the coming year total 58.

AWC serves refugee women from at least 20 countries. The Amani Sewing Academy provides opportunities to refugee women living in Clarkston and surrounding cities in DeKalb County. At the most basic level participants learn skills that lead to an income. Beyond that they develop a sense of empowerment, accomplishment, and self-sufficiency.

We have proudly watched this organization grow and flourish into a first-class training program and retail sales business under the guidance of Doris Mukangu. It was not so very long ago that Doris was the recipient of the Rollins EUWC Scholarship while a student at Emory University. We have seen her work with DeKalb County, the city of Clarkston, and a host of countries abroad to make the transition to living in the U.S. easier for many families. Our organization has hosted bazaars for and encouraged purchases from Amani fabrics, jewelry, and decorations. We thank Dee for being at the graduation to accept this recognition.

---

### SHARE THE CARE

Our Share the Care for November is **The Amani Sewing Academy**, a component of the Amani Women Center, a 501(c)(3) organization. As you can see from the above article, the organization is growing rapidly and is in need our help now more than ever. For more information, visit their website at [amaniwomencenter.org/sewingacademy/](http://amaniwomencenter.org/sewingacademy/).

Make checks payable to: Amani Sewing Center.

---

### ***New Members in 2023***

You're in for a treat...no tricks at all!! Eight interesting, fun new members have joined us since last January!

If you have not met them yet, be sure to come to the next meeting and make a point of getting acquainted! Be on the look-out for **Deborah Slover, Patty Higgins, Bonnie Schaude, Joan Kraft, Lindsay Paroczai, Alison Mawle, Mollie Jelks, and Anne Teddlie!**

Please help us make these great new members feel welcome!



## Friday AM Book Club

Due to avoiding the holidays in November and December, the Friday book club meets early in December for that once a year change. On Friday, December 8, at 10 am we will meet on Zoom to discuss ***Lessons in Chemistry*** by Bonnie Garmus with Barbara leading the discussion.

There is room for new members. For any questions contact Margaret Foust at 404-633-9932 or [margaretfoust@yahoo.com](mailto:margaretfoust@yahoo.com).

## First Thursday PM Book Club

Our club will meet on Thursday, November 2, at 1:00 pm to discuss ***The Last Town on Earth*** by Thomas Mullen.

Our December 7 selection is ***South to America*** by Imani Perry.

For further information or to join our great discussion group, contact Joanie Edmondson at 404-325-1432.

---

## May We Deal You In?

A new EUWC interest group is developing as a result of some reminiscing at the Scrumptious Saturday brunch. Teri Hopkin and Dee Zesiger are proposing a **Canasta Club**. Several of us played when we were younger, finding the game a source of fun and friendship. Anyone interested in sitting in with this group can contact Teri ([thopkin@aol.com](mailto:thopkin@aol.com)) or Dee ([dszesiger@gmail.com](mailto:dszesiger@gmail.com)).

---

## PLEASE HELP – Standing Committee Positions Still Available

We still have two open standing committee positions that need to be filled – Achievement Award and Graduate Fellowship/Scholarships. Serving in one of these positions is a great way to become more involved with EUWC. If you would like more information or would be interested in helping with one of these positions, please email Alma Owens at [alma@owensemail.com](mailto:alma@owensemail.com).

---

## Spotlight on Kay Nicolaysen

Kay Nicolaysen is a long-time member of EUWC having joined in 1974. She is originally from Galesburg, Illinois, and is a graduate of Badley University in Peoria, Illinois. Like many other wives, she worked while her husband was in graduate school at Coe College in Iowa. They have lived in Iowa; Oklahoma; and Annapolis, Maryland. In 1974 her husband, Charles, took the position of Registrar at Emory University. Kay reared their two children, played bridge, and became involved with the Woman's Club when invited by Harriet King. She volunteered at the Egleston gift shop for almost 50 years, until the pandemic. Kay and her friend Betty Ricks received the EUWC Achievement Award in 2005 because of their commitment to Egleston. Though her health no longer allows her to attend meetings, Kay faithfully makes a contribution to Share the Care each month. She enjoys the Newsletter and likes to keep up with Club activities. Shout out to Kay Nicolayesen!!!

## October Meeting Photos



Speaker Patti Daniels



Susan Todd-Raque with speaker Patti Daniels



Martha Catherwood with Bonnie Schaude



Mary Reed, Debbie Seligman, Alma Owens



Patty Higgins with Dee Zesiger



President Alma Owens holding down the fort



Dee Zesiger with Judy Michna



Margaret Foust with Becky Conover



Debbie Seligman with Cheryl Murphy



Missy Cody, Linda Size, Lindsay Paroczai

## Tuesday Tastings/Field Trip at Amani Women Center

Members of EUWC enjoyed a combined Tuesday Tastings and Field Trip recently at the Amani Women Center in Clarkston. Doris Mukangu provided an update on Amani which was followed by a lovely luncheon with foods prepared by refugee women who introduced the group to their various ethnic specialties. During lunch, members reflected that they learned so much more about AWC's all-encompassing and sensitive approach to the needs of refugee women. Afterwards, they enjoyed shopping in the showroom. Women left the experience with warm hearts.



## A Tribute to Debbie Wagner



Debbie Wagner, former first lady of Emory, passed away October 7, 2023. She will be remembered by all of us in EUWC as the warm and gracious hostess at our Lullwater Welcomes each September. She served as an *ex officio* member of EUWC and always had a good story to tell about her adventures hosting the Dalai Lama, who was a frequent visitor on campus; President and Mrs. Carter; a host of world figures; and, of course, Emory's own illustrious professors and leaders. Her recognition of our small organization meant a great deal to us. We mourn her passing.

---

### Remembering Ada Almering

Ada Almering, an EUWC member since 2009, passed away on October 17, 2023. Ada graduated from Emory University with an M.A. in Romance Languages as a Phi Beta Kappa. Ada was known for her larger-than-life personality, her whip-smart intelligence, and her encompassing kindness. She had an uncanny eye for art and a passion for human connection, which led her to become fluent in five languages. She will be remembered by EUWC members as having empathy for people in need and keeping up to date on their condition. Ada attended the Fall Welcome at Lullwater House with her usual brightness, conversation and humor.

---

### EUWC Hostess Update

A gracious thank you to our October 24<sup>th</sup> hostesses: Carolyn Arthur for the lovely cheese and cracker tray, Margaret Foust for her tasty coffee cake, and Bonnie Schaudé for the decadent cheesecakes and fruit bowl. Thank you, ladies, for adding to the hospitality we shared during our meeting.

Serving as a hostess requires bringing a simple refreshment such as cheese/crackers, mini muffins, cookies etc. to our meeting. Everything else is provide by Houston Mill House (serving utensils, plates, forks, napkins and coffee/tea).

We are still in need of 2 additional hostesses for our upcoming November 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. Please consider joining Susan Neel who has already signed up for this meeting.

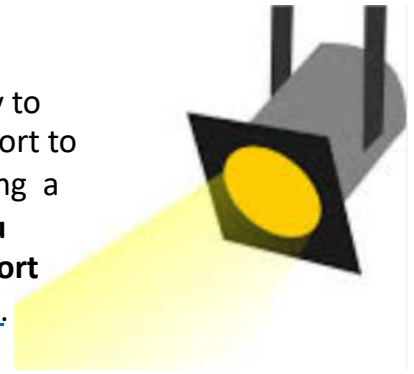
In addition to November 14, hostess opportunities are still available for:

Jan 30 (need 2)	March 26
Feb 27 (need 1)	April 23

Please contact your hostess leaders, Patty Higgins ([pattyhiggins@bellsouth.net](mailto:pattyhiggins@bellsouth.net) or 678- 910-4639), or Bonnie Schaudé ([bschaude@att.net](mailto:bschaude@att.net) or 404-863-0717).

## Member Spotlight

One of the benefits of being a member of EUWC is the opportunity to meet new people with diverse backgrounds and interests. In an effort to help members get to know more about each other, we are including a short bio on various members in the newsletter each month. **If you would like to be included in a future newsletter, please send a short writeup about yourself to Becky Conover at [bky0612@gmail.com](mailto:bky0612@gmail.com).**



### Lindsay Paroczai

I am from Redondo Beach, CA. I moved to Atlanta after playing 4 years of volleyball at Davidson College. I have worked at Emory for 14 years in web and project management roles. I played adult volleyball tournaments in Atlanta and the surrounding areas (traveling the southeast and even as far as Utah and Arizona for adult nationals). I am also a Fox Theatre subscriber if any members have Tuesday tickets!

### Susan Ford Neel

Retirement came early to me in 2008 after my husband (who had retired a few years earlier) convinced me to quit my Director of Testing job at GSU and to experience something we had both wanted to do for a long time, which was to join the Peace Corps. Thus, in 2011, off we went to South Africa for two years to work in the local schools in a rural community called Nchabaling. We both embraced the Peace Corps motto of "It's the toughest job you will ever love" and made the best of living in a 2-room building with no heat/AC, nor indoor plumbing. Since returning to Atlanta in 2013, much of my time is now taken up with traveling (63 countries and counting), visiting our three grandchildren, volunteering with various groups, reading, and of course, participating with EUWC programs and activities. I joined EUWC in 2016, thanks to the encouragement of Margaret Foust, and am continually amazed at the friendliness and passion of the members, as well as the variety and depth of topics that the speakers bring to each meeting.

### Carolyn Natsuko Arakaki

I am a kama'aina, which is the Hawaiian language word for a person born in Hawaii. I grew up and went to school in Pearl City (next door to Pearl Harbor). By the time I got to the University of Hawaii, the Territory of Hawaii had been admitted to the Union as the 50<sup>th</sup> State. I graduated with a degree in education and took a job as an elementary school teacher in Redondo Beach, California. While there, I began working toward my master's degree in early childhood education at California State University at Dominguez Hills; but the 1978 passage of a radical statewide referendum resulted in both sharply reduced property taxes and school budgets. The collateral damage was that I got laid off. So in rapid succession I adapted and changed course: I took a 1 year job at an elementary school in Watts, married my boyfriend (Dr. Peter Drotman, who was a recent graduate of USC Med School and UCLA Public Health School), and relocated with him to Atlanta where we have lived happily in Morningside for 44 years. I am presently retired from teaching after careers as a 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher in Cobb County and later as adult school literacy teacher in Marietta. I still use my skills in retirement, volunteering with the Amani Center mentoring immigrant and refugee women as they adapt to their new lives in our community.

## Member Spotlight (continued)

### Sharon Gunn

Family has always been the center of my life. My eldest daughter, a child-adolescent psychiatrist, was born in Boston and is the mom to my two grandsons. My second daughter was born in Bethesda, Maryland, and she has been an actress, a SAT tutor, an emergency physician and currently is a romance novel writer. My third daughter was born in Atlanta and has been in the food business and now is “dabbling” in several various enterprises. My fourth child, a son, born in Atlanta also, is a “designer” for Google and lives in Sydney, AU. The three daughters all live in Atlanta; lucky me! My husband was chair of the physiology department at Emory’s medical school for 24 years until he passed away in 2005. I have an undergraduate degree in history and a master’s degree in library science; both from the University of Michigan. I have worked in schools and public libraries. I have to thank Linda Size for introducing me to EUWC in late 2003. I enjoyed the speaker so much that I was compelled to join in order to get the “intellectual stimulation” again and again! Of course, the side effects have been the delight in meeting and enjoying so many wonderful women!!

### Joan Kraft

Joan Kraft recently retired from the CDC, after 27 years of working to develop and evaluate public health programs to improve reproductive health globally and domestically. During her career she worked with partners in the United States and Africa on community-based, mass media and clinic based programs to help people make and act on decisions to improve health outcomes. During retirement Joan is continuing volunteer activities in Atlanta, hiking and knitting and crocheting. She also spends time with her extended family, and is planning trips to explore the US and other parts of the world.

---

## Scrumptious Saturday at Dee Zesiger’s



Hostess Dee Zesiger with daughter Heather



Bonnie Schaude, Patty Higgins, Michiyo Allen



Carolyn Arakaki, Margaret Foust, Mollie Jelks



Judy Michna, Teri Hopkin, Joanie Edmondson, Dee Zesiger



Mollie Jelks, Teri Hopkin



Margaret Foust, Patty Higgins, Bonnie Schaude





Have you seen our fledgling website? At **euwc.emory.edu** you will find information, helpful tools, and heaps of club pictures. Do you need to contact our current officers or committee chairs? Want to see the dates or speakers for our upcoming programs? Need to see what our interest groups are doing? Or just have to find a registration form? All that information is as close as your computer or tablet.

An invaluable resource for anyone helping with an event or program is the Newsletter collection from 2017 to the present. If you need to write an article, create an invitation, or announce an event, you will find samples of graphics, models for wording, and other ideas from past notices spread abundantly through these newsletters. (It helps to know the month your event normally occurs.)

Finally, let me recommend the *Events* section for a wonderful collection of photos from the Lullwater Welcome, Scrumptious Saturday, etc. These are the photos that greatly expand our memories of the events but were too plentiful to include in the *Connection Newsletter*. Susan Neel has done a wonderful job as our Webmaster, and we thank her for that.

## Officers 2023 – 2024

President	Alma Owens
Vice Presidents, Membership	Joanie Edmondson, Dee Zesiger
Vice President, Yearbook	Missy Cody
Vice President, Newsletter	Becky Conover
Recording Secretary	Jackie Walker
Treasurer	Bette Walton
Parliamentarian	Cheryl Murphy

---

## Standing Committees

Achievement Award	TBA
Archives	Judy Michna, Carol Penn, Barbara Hund, Terry Hurst
Corresponding Secretary	Teri Hopkin
Field Trips	Jackie Walker, Carolyn Arakaki
Finance	Martha Catherwood, Bette Walton, Terry Hurst, Alma Owens, Judy Michna
Graduate Fellowship/Scholarships	TBA
Hostesses	Patty Higgins
Long Range Planning	Linda Size
Member Communications	Martha Catherwood
Memorial Library Fund	Cheryl Murphy
Oxford Liaison	Carol Penn
Past Presidents' Luncheon	Cheryl Murphy
Photography	Joanie Edmondson, Sharon Gunn
Programs	Teri Hopkin
Share the Care	Cheryl Murphy
Spring Luncheon	Mary Reed
Tuesday Tastings	Michiyo Allen
Webmaster	Susan Neel

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please mark your calendar with these upcoming EUWC events. Hope to see you there!

---

November 14	Membership Meeting	HMH, 10 am – noon
December 12	Holiday Lunch	HMH, 11 am – 2 pm
January 16	Tuesday Tastings	TBA
January 23	Membership Meeting	HMH, 10am-noon
January 30	Executive Board Meeting	HMH, 10am-noon

---

HMH – Houston Mill House, 849 Houston Mill Road, Atlanta, GA 30329

---

## Corresponding Secretary Request

Do you know of a member who is ill? Injured? In need of a little cheering up? Death in a member's family? Please contact Teri Hopkin so that she may correspond with them on behalf of the membership. Phone or text Teri at 404-617-5172 or email at [thopkin@aol.com](mailto:thopkin@aol.com).

---

## EUWC Membership Form 2023 – 2024

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address, including PO Box \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Partner Name (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Emory Community Affiliation (if any) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you want to be listed in the yearbook? **Y / N**

If you are a new member, may we list your address and phone number in the newsletter? **Y / N**

Please complete and return this form, along with a check made out to **EUWC** for \$20, to:

*Bette Walton, 867 Castle Falls Drive NE, Atlanta, GA 30329*

*[Learn more about EUWC on our website at euwc.emory.edu](http://euwc.emory.edu)*