

# Women and Men of Brown

Spring (April/May) 2017

Women and Men of Brown welcomes as members all women and men connected with Brown directly or as spouses or partners, including faculty, visitors, administrators, staff, graduate students, and alums

Email: [womenandmenofbrown@gmail.com](mailto:womenandmenofbrown@gmail.com)

Website: [www.brown.edu/Faculty/WMB](http://www.brown.edu/Faculty/WMB)

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Happy Spring! Or so I HOPE. I am writing on March 24, and it is cold and windy. When we'll finally see sun continuously and get to shake the jackets is anyone's guess. I, personally am getting a head start. Tomorrow morning I am leaving for a visit to Texas. My Atlanta sister and I are meeting up with our Abilene sister for a week of fun, eating, and laughter. I have packed light-weight clothes and sandals. It will be wonderful. Although we'll make the round of shops – the store clerks know us from previous visits. (One even put our group's picture on her facebook page with the heading "They're baaaack!") – eat at our favorite Mexican and Bar-B-Q places, and visit nieces and their adult children. Years back when our fourth sister was alive and joining us, we could go through a case of champagne in our week together. None of us is up to that these days, but we sure drink a lot of coffee and iced tea.

It is my hope that each of you has close family members or good friends with whom you can catch up every so often and reminisce. Those people who have known you long enough to finish your sentences and to put up with your quirks, which might throw a new acquaintance off a bit. We always bring each other kind of silly gifts. This year I found 3X3 inch tiles that say, "More and more when I open my mouth my mother comes out." Since this is an on-going joke among us (AND our daughters) I know they will be thrilled.

This has been a special year for me to be writing these little messages. I think we've had a good year for WMB in spite of weather interruptions. We still have a couple of



coffees where I hope to see you. Attendance has been especially good this year. Be sure they're on your calendars. We also have a final dinner party on April 8. If you want to try it out, Ina is the hostess and would like to hear from you, I'm sure. If you've not heard Berit tell of her year as the woman behind the man, make sure you button-hole her next time you're together. It sounds like a fairy tale. We are preparing for the Annual Meeting and hope many of you will join us. The announcements will be coming your way soon.

We've also had sad news this year and will really miss those women who ate, shared book discussions, spoke French or Italian, read Shakespeare, and laughed with us. These are those of whom I wrote above, people we have loved and enjoyed and will remember forever. Thank goodness for family and friends.

Gwen Guillet

## IMPORTANT

Additional changes to THE BYELAWS will be voted on at the Spring Meeting. Our recommendations are in this newsletter.

Please review them and send us any recommendations or objections **before** the Spring Meeting.

# WOMEN and MEN of BROWN 2016/2017

## OFFICERS

President	Gwen Guillet
Vice-President	Isabelle Jihui Lee
Treasurer	Barbara Blossom
Secretary	Lynn Lichtenbaum/ Elsie Morse
WEB/Facebook Contacts	Corinne Tan Isabelle Jihui Lee
Newsletter Editor	Berit Kosterlitz

## BOARD MEMBERS

## STANDING COMMITTEES

Archivist	Corinne Tan	
Household Leasing	Berit Kosterlitz	351-3526
Membership Secretary	Corinne Tan (acting)	
Members at Large	Barbara D. Feldman Ina Suuberg	
Nominating Committee	Barbara Goldstein Hai-lanne Kang Berit Kosterlitz	
RUE	Nancy Weiss-Fried Barbara Goldstein	

## INTEREST GROUP COORDINATORS

Book Group (Afternoon)	Joseleyne Slade
Book Group (Evening)	Sue Grossman Lynn Lichtenbaum
Daytrippers	
Dinner Group	Berit Kosterlitz
French	Hai-lanne Kang
Morning Coffee	Corinne Tan
Shakespeare	Lynn Lichtenbaum Carla Dowben

## INTEREST GROUPS

### AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Group meets at **1:30 p.m. the first Thursday** of the month.

These are the books we have chosen for this spring:

#### Spring 2017

*The books below for April and May 2017 chosen by those voting on June 9th may be changed if members unable to attend the selection process prefer other choices.*

**April 6:** "Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania" by Erik Larson

**May 4:** "Never Caught: The Washingtons' Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, ONA JUDGE" by Erica Armstrong Dunbar

### EVENING BOOK GROUP

Our meetings are held on the **third Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.** The following are the books chosen for this spring.

#### Spring 2017

**April 17:** "A Confederacy of Dunces" by John Kennedy Toole

**May:** Pot Luck, 2017 – 2018 book selection

### DAYTRIPPERS

If you find an adventure you would like to enjoy with a group of friends, let me know, and I will publicize the plan. How it works is you share with me a location site, and I'll send out an email to the entire group. The car(s) of members and friends leave from a central location, drive to the museum or other interesting destination, share lunch and return all in a few hours of adventure.

**Next newsletter information  
due 20th<sup>th</sup> August 2017**

## DINNER GROUP

The dinner group has continued its tradition of meeting once a month, **usually on the second Saturday**. Usually we meet at someone's home where members contribute a dish to the dinner to make a delicious meal without any one person having to make a lot of different things.

In February we met at the Hope Club hosted by Carla and Bob Dowben. We all had a good time. The food was delicious, the table decorated with flower petals and all ladies received a rose to take home. In March we had a delicious traditional (not TexMex) dinner hosted by Gwen Guillet. Last dinner for this season will be at Ina's –spring is the theme.



## FRENCH GROUP

We meet monthly the **second Thursday at 2 p.m.** to speak French while enjoying coffee and snacks in each other's homes. Our meetings will start in October.

## MORNING COFFEE

Carla and Bob Dowben hosted the Coffee on March 1. Jane Adler from "The Providence Village" spoke about the virtual village that serves members who live on the East Side with support in many areas such as transportation, running errands, technology help, home help and so on. Information can be obtained at [provillage.clubexpress.com](http://provillage.clubexpress.com) or at 401-441-5240.

The March 15 Coffee was cancelled.

Please put these following Coffee dates on your calendar:

**April 5:** Jillian Siqueland  
A board meeting will follow.

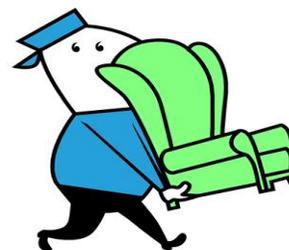
**April 19:** Nancy Weiss-Fried

**May 3:** Gwen Guillet

Spring is here with longer days. It is easier to get out. Come and bring a friend.

## SHAKESPEARE GROUP

We usually meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month. We have been reading his plays aloud for years; some plays we've read several times by now, others we never seem to get to.



## WOMEN AND MEN OF BROWN

### HOUSEHOLD LEASING SERVICES NEW PEMBROKE DORM 4 BASEMENT OPEN BY APPOINTMENT ONLY

We rent furniture at an extremely reasonable price to international graduate students and post docs (our primary mission) and also, as a courtesy, to visiting faculty and RUE students. Anyone who can help is welcome.

Email: [b\\_kosterlitz@hotmail.com](mailto:b_kosterlitz@hotmail.com) or call Berit Kosterlitz 401-351-3526 with any questions or concerns

WOMEN AND MEN OF BROWN UNIVERSITY  
Box 1834  
Providence, RI 02912



**Return service requested**

**WOMEN AND MEN OF BROWN MEMBERSHIP**  
**\$25 one person \$40 two people at the same address**  
*(You may enclose an optional donation to **RUE** award fund.)*

*Make check to **Women and Men of Brown***

*Mail to:*

**Treasurer - WMB**  
**Barbara Blossom**

*You may submit the form below, copy it, or  
write the info on a separate sheet and mail  
with your check.*

*When 2016-2017 dues are paid your address  
will acquire an asterisk on your NL label*

*If your dues are 2 years in arrears, we regret that we will have to terminate your membership.  
To make corrections/changes on your label, or for questions about dues, call/email  
**Barbara Blossom***

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**2016-2017 Membership Form**

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

***If information has not changed, check the box by "Last Name".***

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Office/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

Full Member - Brown Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

Associate Member - WMB Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

# MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The following are the proposed revisions of the ByLaws to be voted on at the General Meeting. (Changes are underlined, material to be omitted is struck through.)

Under the section **Board of Directors**

- 7A. **Membership Secretary** – The Membership Secretary is appointed by the president and shall keep track of membership and work with the treasurer ~~and newcomers committee~~ in all efforts concerning membership.
- 7B. **Archivist**—The Archivist is appointed by the board and shall . . .end of the academic year. The archivist shall keep these records for the organization ~~for 10 years.~~ After that time until they are turned over to the University Archives of Brown University, where records will be accessible for future use and research.
- 7D. **Web/Facebook Contact**—One or more persons shall be appointed by the president to be responsible for the content of the website and Facebook page and monitor the official Women and Men of Brown University email. The two sites will reflect material from the Board.

## Standing Committees

The Newcomers Committee is no longer in existence and 9A. the Newcomers Committee description will be deleted. The following categories in the this section; Newsletter Committee, Nominating Committee, and Household Leasing Service, shall move up and be labeled

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**If you will be unable to attend the ANNUAL Meeting of the general membership on MAY 5th, you may vote by proxy.** Your proxy may be given to any ~~voting member~~ who will be attending the meeting.

Only members who are in good standing, that is, who have paid their dues for the current, 2015-2016 year, are eligible to exercise this right to proxy.

Please submit the following form by US mail to Barbara Blossom, 46 Bagy Wrinkle Cove, Warren, RI 02885.

You must include the name of your designated proxy, your signature and printed name, and your address and telephone.

**Your form must be postmarked April 20, 2017 or earlier.**

## Proxy Form

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I designate as my PROXY at the **2017 ANNUAL Meeting**:

Name of Proxy printed): \_\_\_\_\_

My signature \_\_\_\_\_

My Printed Name \_\_\_\_\_

My Address and telephone \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL Board Meetings

April 5 Jillian's home

May TBA

Board meetings to take place straight after Coffee which finishes at 1 p.m.

### ANNUAL MEETING

We are discussing possible speakers and dates. The venue should be the same as in previous years. Please look for information in the mail and in your e-mails.

**Susan Bump Vancura** lost her fight against ovarian cancer on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017. Susie graduated from Mount Holyoke College in 1963 and had a long career as a biochemist and had led a full and interesting life. She has been a longstanding time member of the Women of Brown Afternoon Book group and a most endearing and pleasant participant in its discussions. Susie was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Pavel Vancura. She leaves behind her children, Lucia of Tokyo, Japan and Peter of Brooklyn, two granddaughters and other close family members.

Many of us were so saddened to hear of the death of the WMB longstanding member, **Ruth Church** on March 13. Here follow some comments:

Ruth was a good friend for many years, both to me and to many other members of WMB. Many of us knew her through her help in finding homes in Providence, others because of her long-time membership in the WMB walking group, afternoon book group and dinner group.

In recent years I have happily shared many activities with Ruth, not only the book group and dinner group but the Brown Learning Community, and RISD. She introduced me to the activities available at the Barrington Library, and we struggled together to write fairy tales that were not too much like the traditional ones. Steve and I were encouraged by her enthusiasm to go to Manhattan for New Yorker Magazine seminars, and Ruth and Russ shared many delightful dinners and lectures at the Review Club with us, as well as with other members of WMB.

I remember enjoying the time we spent together in England, but my happiest memory of how thoughtful Ruth was is that when she learned that Steve and I were going to Japan for an extended stay she wrote to her cousin Stephanie in Tokyo and Stephanie proved a wonderfully enthusiastic guide and friend over many visits. I can hardly believe that Ruth won't be waiting to greet me whenever I return to Providence, eager to hear our adventures, or to share adventures. My memories of her kindness and enthusiasm will always be with me. *Lynn*

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Thank you for letting us know about Ruth. She has always been so enthusiastic and happy with life. John and I bought our house with her as our agent in 2004 - recommended by Berit who was working in the Sociology dept. at the time. She also brought me to my first WMB coffee as I remember. She will be missed. *Gwen*

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I was very surprised and very saddened to learn about Ruth. Although I was aware that her health had been failing I had always been glad to see her at our Book Club meetings. Her presence was faithful and long. We shall miss both her interest in our discussions and her pleasant disposition. *Joseleyne*