



# Golden Girls

HONORING OF 50 - 75 YEAR MEMBERS

Presiding: Rosemary Seghatoleslami, AK

## 50 years

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Initiated</u>
Jan Spoerl	A-B	6/7/1971
Amy Scott	C	5/4/1971
Diane Ford	G	4/6/1971
Mary M. Tripodi	R	5/6/1971
Barbara Newland	R	12/9/1971
Elizabeth Modenhauer	S	1/21/1971
Jane Siebert	Y	12/13/1971

## 55 years

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Initiated</u>
Linda Woodbury	A-B	3/14/1966
Judith Brown	P	12/19/1966
Janice Dowd	R	6/23/1966
Terry Lynn Bright	AL	6/6/1966
Wendy K. Baker	AL	11/12/1966
Roberta Billings	AW	11/19/1966

## 60 years

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Initiated</u>
Judy Voccola	Q	8/25/1961
Susan Brooks	AC	3/27/1961
Betty Blaine	AE	2/20/1961
Catherine Byers	AN	12/28/1961

## 65 years

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Initiated</u>
Barbara Kluthe	AA	3/17/1956
Ann Erikson	AL	1/17/1956

## 75 years

<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Initiated</u>
Helen M. Cushman	AE	6/21/1946

## **Jan Spoerl - Chapter A-B**

### **50 years**



Jan Spoerl attended Iowa Wesleyan College in Mount Pleasant Iowa, and was curious about the locked room in Old Main – the P.E.O. room. While attending, Jan worked as a secretary in the English Department, where her main task was typing a history of P.E.O., where she learned about the seven founders. In 1971, while teaching in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, she was asked to join newly formed Chapter MG, where she held every office except Treasurer and served on every committee. In 1986, Jan moved to New Jersey and transferred to Chapter B in Montclair. She held many offices in the Chapter and was President at the time the decision was made to merge with Chapter A.

Jan taught in Montclair from 1987 through 2013, designing a new magnet school and engaging in social justice work. Besides family, teaching and P.E.O., church has always been important. For 40 years, she was a United Methodist, but upon moving to New Jersey, she has been affiliated with the Glen Ridge Congregational Church, where she has served in many positions.

Both Jan's mother and sister joined P.E.O after Jan became a member. Since she has no daughters, she has shared the joy of P.E.O. with 'adopted' daughters.

Her most unusual memory of P.E.O. was trying to find her mother's pin after she had passed away. It turns out that Jan's mom had dropped it down the air vent and quietly borrowed someone's pin while she served as president when she was 94. It was a P.E.O secret.

## **Diane Ford - Chapter G**

### **50 years**



Diane Ford was initiated into Chapter R in New York City on April 6, 1971. Diane says, "Many of us who lived in Leonia, NJ spent many years traveling to NYC for P.E.O. meetings. We finally found Chapter G, a failing chapter. We young ones decided we could demit to Chapter G and revitalize it, which we did."

Diane was Chapter President from 1981-1983 and treasurer for many years.

Diane received a B.S. degree from Buffalo State University and a Masters from Columbia University Teachers College. She has taught in Leonia, New York City and Kabul, Afghanistan. She is a Master Gardener and has volunteered at Garretson Forge Farm in Fairlawn.

She has been married since 1956 to her husband Thomas, and has three daughters, five grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. Her favorite P.E.O. memories are of the garage sales held by Chapter G to fund the projects to which the Chapter gave generously.

### **Barbara Newland, Chapter R**

#### **50 years**



Barbara Newland was initiated into Chapter R, Teaneck, NJ on December 9, 1971. During her 50-year membership, she has served as each of the seven officers. None of her family members has become a member of P.E.O.

Barbara has one daughter and two granddaughters.

She graduated from Oberlin College Conservatory of Music and has taught public school music, been the assistant manager of a religious bookstore and served as administrative assistant at the Second Reformed Church in Hackensack where she have been an active member for over 60 years.

Barbara writes, "All P.E.O. meetings are special but one in particular stands out in my mind. The meeting took place at least 25 years ago at a sister's home. During the presentation of the program, a squirrel found its way into the house and was spotted sitting in the kitchen eating the snacks from the meeting. The members of Chapter R, armed with brooms, mops, and fireplace tools, yelled and stamped their feet as they took off after the poor squirrel. It disappeared for two days and was eventually sent flying out the back door with the help of a neighbor. "

Barbara values the love and support received from all of these special ladies these past 50 years and is very proud of the work done to insure a good education for thousands of young women.

### **Elizabeth Moltenhauer, Chapter S**

#### **50 years**



Liz was proposed into Chapter S in 1971 by her mother, Peggy Nesbitt , prior to marrying Chuck Moldenhauer in 1973. She was initiated into Chapter S on January 21,1971. Her sister, Martha Moriarty, was also a member of Chapter S and her mother-in-law, Dorothy Moldenhauer, was a member of a chapter in Eau Claire, Wisconsin.

Joining at a young age kept Liz from being totally involved. She served the chapter in many smaller positions plus Ways and Means, Guard and Cottey Chair. as she was working in NYC and later had two children. She continued her involvement in the NYC and Short Hills Junior Leagues and later the Short Hills

Home Garden Club, and she held a number of board positions and committee positions in these organizations.

Liz went back to work when her daughter entered kindergarten, selling real estate. She is now retired and remarried. She enjoys spending time with her children and 5 grandchildren. She and her husband live in Vero Beach, FL and Buck Hill Falls, PA.

Her special P.E.O. memories are of knowing so many of the members for so many, many years!

**Jane Siebert, Chapter Y**  
**50 years**



Jane Siebert was initiated into her mother's Chapter - Chapter AI, Metuchen at their Christmas celebration on December 13, 1971. Two of her daughters are also P.E.O.s. One is a recent president of Chapter AI.

Jane has held every office except Guard.

She thinks very fondly of the initiations of her daughters and when she transferred to Chapter Y, Princeton. At that vulnerable time in her life with changing life circumstances, she was thankful for the love and support of Chapter Y sisters and knowing that meetings were just like Chapter AI. P.E.O. is a constant in her life for which she is very thankful.

**Linda Woodbury, Chapter A-B**  
**55 years**



Linda Woodbury was initiated into her mother's Chapter, GZ, in Prairie Village, Kansas on March 14, 1966, while she was a student at Kansas State University. Two years later, she graduated from college and her family had moved to New Jersey. She followed along and began her career in retailing with a job at Lord and Taylor, where she eventually became a buyer and did much international travel.

Linda met her husband, Chris, through mutual friends at a bridge game. They were married in 1972 and have one son. This is the time when PEO reentered her life. She was invited to visit and ultimately demit to Chapter A, NJ. Linda realized how lucky she was to have supportive parents who valued education for women and how many women don't have that advantage. This made her appreciate the P.E.O Scholarships for all women.

Linda is again an international traveler, having been to Africa and South America and seen the problems women face in societies where their education is not valued. This awareness on her part encourages her support of the IPS scholarship, but, her favorite scholarship of all is the Continuing Education Award. P.E.O.'s ability to help women who find that they need to support their families by themselves is a vital part of her commitment to P.E.O.

Chapter A has now merged with Chapter B, NJ. Linda has enjoyed her 55 years of PEO and looks forward to effecting more changes through upcoming decades.

### **Janice Dowd, Chapter R**

**55 years**



Janice Dowd was initiated into Chapter R on June 23, 1966. She has been Chapter President (2002-2004, 2010-2015, 2016-present), vice president, guard, and chaplain. Twenty years ago, Janice volunteered to put the yearbook together to save the cost of professional printing and has been doing it ever since.

Janice attended Marietta College in Marietta, Ohio, and earned a B.A. in Spanish and French. She has a master's degree in Spanish and a Master of Education degree in Teaching English as a Second Language. Janice also has a doctorate in applied linguistics and TESOL. She was a language teacher in the Teaneck School district for 29 years before becoming an administrator, eventually becoming the Executive Supervisor. She taught as an adjunct assistant professor at Queens College, CUNY, and at Teachers College, Columbia University. She has lectured at the Beijing Language and Culture University in China on methods of teaching foreign languages. For the past 15 years, Janice has been the director of the Glastonbury, CT, summer STARTALK program for language learning. Janice has co-authored three textbooks for teaching Chinese.

Janice enjoys music, gardening, traveling, and studying other languages. She is a member of various organizations (for example, American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages, New Jersey Teachers of Foreign Languages, the Chinese Language Association for Secondary-Elementary Schools).

About what makes Chapter R special, Janice says, "I treasure the diversity that Chapter R represents. I love how Chapter R has developed the practice of sharing a meal before each meeting. That tradition has given us the opportunity to get to know each other better and to spend quality time together."

### **Terry Lynn Bright, PSP, Chapter AL**

**55 years**



Terry Lynn Parker Bright was initiated on June 6, 1966 into Chapter D, West Lafayette, Indiana. She has been a member in seven chapters across the US, but active/ participated in/ attended meetings in chapters wherever she moved during the 20 years her husband was in the Navy. P.E.O. was part of the foundation of Terry Lynn's life, a stabilizing force and grounding during those many moves.

Terry Lynn has been President of local chapters at least three times, Vice President at least twice, Guard, Corr. Sec., Treasurer, Recording Secretary and served seven years on the NJ State Chapter Executive Board (1989-1996). She has also served on several state committees and served as Auditor for NJ State Chapter for 15 years (1997-2012).

Terry Lynn's mother was the first in her family to become a P.E.O. and it was into her mother's chapter she was initiated. Her daughters Peggy Bright and Wendy Bright-Fallon are P.E.O. sisters. Daughter Wendy also served on the NJ State Ch Executive Board for seven years, 2000 – 2007, and she has a sister-in-law who is a P.E.O.

Terry Lynn has been married to her husband Graham for 55 years. He has been a major supporter of her P.E.O. life.



Terry Lynn graduated from Purdue University in 1966 from the School of Nursing; worked for several months in a local hospital until she married, then began moving every 6-9 months for most of the next 20 years due to her husband's Naval responsibilities. Terry Lynn has been a Stephen Leader for almost 20 years serving the congregation of The Presbyterian Church of Toms River; choir member, past Deacon and former Elder and served on at least two Pastor Nominating Committees. She is a Master Gardener, which followed her State President's theme: *P.E.O., Plant for the Future*.

Some of Terry Lynn's P.E.O. memories are when her first chapter away from home threw her a surprise baby shower with all the presents hidden under the sofa on which she was sitting. At the State Convention that she was leading, her husband Graham serenaded her during the BIL banquet with **You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings**. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

**Wendy Baker, PSP, Chapter AL**  
**55 years**



Wendy Knight Baker was initiated into Chapter M in Syracuse, NY on November 12, 1966. She has also belonged to Chapters BJ and CM in Ohio. She has held all Chapter offices except treasurer, and all NJ State Board offices except treasurer. She has also chaired the Membership, Cottey and Nominating State committees.

Wendy's mother was a 60-year P.E.O. member. Her sister Merrie is a 57-year member and her daughter is also a member. Wendy and her husband John have 5 children and 12 grandchildren.

Wendy has a BS from Baldwin Wallace College and two M.Ed. in Curriculum & Instruction, and Administration. She retired in 2007 as a Middle School principal. Her hobbies are quilting and reading. Wendy's special P.E.O. memory is that she went into labor with her last child at a P.E.O. meeting.

**Roberta 'Bobbi' Billings, Chapter AW**  
**55 years**



Roberta 'Bobbi' Billings was initiated into Chapter AL in Pittsburgh, PA on November 19, 1966. She has also belonged to Chapter L, Virginia Beach, Chapter AL, Toms River and is presently a member of Chapter AW in Toms River. She has been President, Chaplain, Treasurer, Recording Secretary and Guard, as well as serving on ELF, Star Scholarship, and Budget & Auditing Committees.

Bobbi graduated from Penn State University with a BS in Education with a major in Biology, and Monmouth University with a BS in Medical Technology. She worked in the Medical Technology field and at CMC Continuing Education Department educating nurses on lab tests.

Bobbi has 3 children and 4 grandchildren. She has a 37-foot boat and says the best thing about boating is having her NJ grandchildren for the summer. Her hobbies are quilting, embroidery and lots of reading.

Her favorite P.E.O. memories are from the P.E.O.s in her family. An entry in the journal that her grandmother kept in her senior year in college states that she "went to P.E.O. with Mother" and was initiated that night. She feels that the values, ideals and principles that are a part of her came directly from her P.E.O. foremothers.

### **Judy Voccola, Chapter Q**

**60 years**



Judy Bowen Voccola was initiated on August 25, 1961 into Chapter BH in Sweetwater, Texas. Her cousin Sally Cox is also a member of BH/TX. She has been married to her husband Robert for 55 years. They have 2 daughters and 2 grandsons.

Judy graduated from Upsala College and worked as a reporter. She has served as Guard and Vice President in her Chapter.

### **Susan Brooks, Chapter AC**

**60 years**



Susan Tallman Brooks was initiated into Chapter AC in Fargo, North Dakota on March 27, 1961. She also belonged to Chapters in Pittsburgh, PA, San Francisco, CA and New Jersey. P.E.O. runs in Susan's family, with her grandmother, mother and sister also being members. She was Guard and Recording Secretary many times in her Chapter.

She and her husband Clark have been married for 54 years. They have a daughter and a son, and one granddaughter.

Susan graduated from Fargo High School, and received a BS from Northwestern University and an MS from University of Michigan. She was employed by Oxford University in England, University of Toronto, University of Pittsburgh, and was a drama critic for Independent Press Paper, NJ.

Susan loves to travel and has been all over Europe, Asia, North America and North Africa. A favorite P.E.O. memory is that her chapter in Pittsburgh had not had a member young enough to have a baby in over 20 years, so they found it necessary to have a shower for her when she appeared pregnant.

### **Betty Blaine, Chapter AE**

**60 years**



Betty Blaine was initiated into Chapter E, Philadelphia PA on February 20, 1961. She transferred to Chapter AL in Rochester NY in 1963; and organized Chapter CB, Rochester in May 1984.

Betty transferred to Chapter AE, Princeton, NJ in 2007. She has been Vice President and President many times Rochester AL and CB, President of Rochester Reciprocity, delegate from Rochester area to International Convention, Detroit MI., and Chairman of the New York State Convention in 1973.

Other family members who are P.E.O.s are Carole Blaine and Ginny Roemhild, both sisters-in-law, as well as nieces Kristen Curtis, Heidi Hooper, and Claire Hackbarth.

Betty was married 64 years to James T. Blaine, II. She was widowed in 2017. As a BIL, he loved to initiate new BILs at Chapter socials! Betty had 1 year of business school and worked as a private secretary in Philadelphia. After marriage in 1951, she was a full time wife and mother of one

daughter and three sons. After putting all four through college, she and her husband enjoyed traveling worldwide. She has 6 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren.

Starting at age 16, Betty has continuously volunteered in every phase of Church activities and is able to continue to do so. Prior to becoming a PEO, she attended the BIL banquet of then Supreme Convention in 1951 in Philadelphia as her future mother-in-law was Chairman of Convention. Betty met all the members of Supreme Board.

**Barbara Kluthe, Chapter AA**  
**65 years**



Barbara Hultman Kluthe was initiated into Chapter AT, Garden City, NY on March 17, 1956. She is presently a member of Chapter AA, Wyckoff, NJ.

Barbara has planned 15 fund raiser Chapter bus trips, has served as Hostess, Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-Chairman of Reciprocity Board, and other positions too numerous to mention including many State Convention Committees and has been chapter newsletter editor for 40 years. While her mother and grandmother have both entered Chapter Eternal, Barbara shares P.E.O. with her daughter, Laura Iwanski, who is also in Chapter AA.

She has been married to her husband Robert for 59 years and they have a son and a daughter and two grandchildren.

Barbara is a graduate of Green Mountain College in Poultney, VT and worked for 5 years as a Secretary at Sperry Rand Corporation. She served as Administrative Secretary of Grace Church Nursery School in Wyckoff for 14 years and was the Editor of the Church Newsletter for 7 years. Her hobbies include flower arranging and activities with her family, P.E.O. and Church.

One of Barbara's funny experiences with P.E.O. was before she was a member. She became a P.E.O. by chance. A new chapter was being formed on Long Island and her Grandmother, Helen Lindemann Chapter J suggested the name of my mother, Elinor Lindemann. But when it was discovered that Elinor had a daughter, she was told to bring her along. They both thought it was to "look them over!" The Chapter was founded by Alice Downs, who became NY State P.E.O. President and later moved to New Jersey. Barbara attended all NY State Conventions for ten years before moving to New Jersey,



**Ann Erickson, Chapter AL**  
**65 years**



Ann Erickson was initiated on January 15, 1956 into Chapter EA, Clear Lake, Iowa. She has also belonged to Chapter X, Tempe, AZ; Chapter BE, Mankato, MN and Chapter CY, Hot Springs Village, AR, as well as her present Chapter AL, Toms River. Ann's mother became a P.E.O. when Ann was four. Her mother said that Ann knew the letters P.E.O. before ABC.

Ann has a B.A. from Arizona State, a Masters in Reading from Mankato State University. Her life has revolved around reading, working as a reading teacher, Reading Director for Minnesota State Department of Education, President of Minnesota Reading Association and Chairman of International Reading Association Parents and Reading Committee.

She and her husband Sam enjoyed hosting events and stops at Cottey when going from Arkansas to Minnesota. They travelled through all the states and backpacked through Europe 8 times. Ann has four children, 9 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

She says that her whole family has benefitted from the loving P.E.O. support system for newcomers. A special P.E.O. highlight for Ann was her last meeting as President of Chapter BE, Minnesota. It was held at P.E.O. Headquarters in Des Moines. P.E.O. family members and friends joined them on the bus ride, and the meeting was preceded by a tour and lunch by a local chapter.

**Helen Cushman, Chapter AE**  
**75 years**



Helen M. Cushman was initiated on June 21, 1946 into Chapter J, Staten Island. She has also belonged: to Chapter AH, New York, NY 1948-1951 of which she was a charter member, Chapter E Westfield, NJ 1951- 1975, and 1988-2000; Chapter J Ridgewood, NJ 1975-1988 and Chapter AE Princeton, NJ, 2000-present. Helen has been Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President, President and held various committee positions. Her daughter, Lucinda Tufts is President of Chapter AE and is a 4th generation P.E.O.

Her husband of 58 years, Robert Arnold Cushman, passed away in 2003. They had two children, and she now has 6 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren.

Helen graduated from Barnard College, Columbia University. She did post-graduate study in archives management. For 35 years, she ran a consulting service in archives and history. She has been active in community and church organizations including as a PTA president, and president of her college alumnae chapter. After retirement in 1993, Helen continued, as a volunteer, to write, edit, and consult in archives management and history. Helen's special memory of P.E.O. is the love of her P.E.O. sisters over these 75 years.