

MESSAGE FROM WOOSTER BRANCH AAUW PRESIDENT



Susan Buchwalter

June brings to a close another successful year for our local AAUW Branch.

During the year, we learned of the benefits of chocolate, held an annual business meeting, supported programming at OneEighty with a shower of sheets and towels collected at our Holiday luncheon, learned about domestic violence service in our community, and expanded our understanding of the Muslim religion. More than forty members and guests gathered in April for our annual Spring Luncheon at The Wooster Country Club where we had a chance to learn “Thirty Things You Did Not Know” about Eleanor Roosevelt, presented by Jeri Cusack from Columbus.

Along the way the Literary Group read and discussed ten books; the Branch supported a StartSmart workshop at The College of Wooster and also helped with the “Expanding Your Horizons” science education program for local middle school students. Some members played bridge with fellow members during the year, while others attempted to learn to play bridge. And then there were several outings with the “Dinner and a Movie” group and with the “Out-and-About” contingent. We also found time to run another successful used book sale and to use part of the funds from that sale to support three scholarships for female non-traditional students. A busy time!

Our AAUW efforts were recognized recently at the Ohio AAUW convention which I attended in Columbus on behalf of our branch. At the meeting our local Branch received several awards—in fact we were recognized in every one of the award categories that were noted with the exception of an award for expanding membership. Our membership held constant last year, but did not increase.

The certificates which we received for our work are posted on the Wooster Branch website (www.wooster-oh.aauw.net). They include: a Starz Award in recognition of our participation in activities promoting AAUW, a recognition for Outstanding Giving to the Educational Opportunities Fund, the Daffodil Diversity Award for our efforts in recognizing and promoting diversity, an award for Excellence in Mission-Based Programming among medium-size branches (our support of the StartSmart program), and a third place award for the quality of our overall communications materials among branches with more than 50 members (our newsletter and our website).

Before the year ends, we will once again have the opportunity to support a new crop of scholarship winners, as recommended by our Scholarship Committee consisting of Susie Slack, Judy Mallonn, and Letty Nault. At our recent Board meeting, \$5,000 was budgeted for these scholarships.

A summary of the year would not be complete without thanking and congratulating our new officers for 2017-2018 who were elected at the Spring Luncheon. They include Anita Greene, membership and communications vice president, and Sarah Miles, Treasurer.

A more detailed list of our accomplishments for the year was included in the program for the Spring Luncheon and is included later in this newsletter.

As the year winds down, it is time to start thinking about next year. We will have some challenges. The future of the annual AAUW-Kiwanis Used Book Sale is unclear, we will need to find a new location for our Spring Luncheon, our membership appears to be declining, and several of our members have asked to be relieved of various duties, resulting in a need to find replacements. BUT, I believe we are up to these challenges and more!

If you have not already done so, please return your membership renewal form as soon as possible. I look forward to continuing to work with you all in the coming AAUW year.

The 2017 AAUW Scholarship application and eligibility description was sent to the AAUW Wooster Branch and the Wayne County Community Foundation websites. Five applications were received by the due date of May 1. Now the Scholarship Committee will be selecting those to receive scholarships totaling \$5,000. Questions? Contact Chair Susie Slack at sslack@sssnet.com.

OUT-AND-ABOUT - JUNE TRIP TO HART MANSION MINERVA

A trip to Minerva, Ohio, to enjoy a fabulous lunch (most expensive item is the crab salad for \$12) at the Hart Mansion on Friday, June 16, at 12:30 p.m. As usual we will share rides and depart from Big Lots parking. Since our reservation is for 12:30 p.m. we will leave Wooster around 11:00 a.m. Included in the activities will be a walkthrough of this Victorian home built in 1869 on a hill overlooking the heart of Minerva.

Please let Facilitator Mary Ann Merchant know by Monday, June 12, if you will be able to attend and if you can drive.

LITERARY READING FOR SPRING 2017

The Book Selection potluck dinner of appetizers, entrees, desserts, and wine was well-attended and books successfully selected for the 2017-2018 year. Wendy Zimmerman, retiring facilitator for Wooster Branch Literary, has listed the books to be read through September 2017. All reviews are Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

June 20, **Hillbilly Elegy** by *J. D. Vance* will be reviewed by Carol McKiernan at the home of Julie Mennes with Linda Crouch servings as Co-Hostess.



Literary members Letty Nault, Sally Bernhardt, Susan Buchwalter, and Bev Crafton work diligently to make their proper book selections for 2017-2018.

July 18, **A Spool of Blue Thread** by *Anne Tyler* will be reviewed by Cathy Stone at the home of Helen Atchison. Co-Hostess is Betty Raber.

August 15, **Grandma Gatewood's Walk** by *Ben Montgomery* will be reviewed by Mary Beth Henthorne at her home with Bev McCoy serving as Co-Hostess.

September 19, **Jambusters: The Women's Institute at War, 1939-1945** by *Julie Summers* will be reviewed by Sue Herman at the Wooster Art Center with Susan Buchwalter serving as Co-Hostess.

Please note that Judy Mallonn and Mimi Lewellen will replace Wendy Zimmerman as co-facilitators of our Literary Group. Thanks for stepping up!

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Monday, June 19	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Mary Beth Henthorne
Tuesday, June 20	Literary meets at the home of Julie Mennes, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, June 22	AAUW Board Meeting, Buehler's Milltown
Monday, July 17	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Linda Crouch
Tuesday, July 18	Literary meets at the home of Helen Atchison, 7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, August 15	Literary meets at the home of Mary Beth Henthorne, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 21	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Bev McCoy
Monday, September 18	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Sue Olive
Tuesday, September 19	Literary meets at the Wooster Art Center, 7:00 p.m.
Sun., Mon., Tues.	
September 17, 18, 19,	Setup for the annual AAUW/Kiwanis Used Book Sale
Wed., September 20	Used Book Sale, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Thurs., September 21	Used Book Sale, 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Friday, September 22	Used Book Sale, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m., Half-Price Day
Sat., September 23	Used Book Sale, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m., Bag Day (\$5 each) and sale cleanup.

BRANCH HELP NEEDED

As we gear up for another AAUW year, we have some areas where volunteers are needed. While the final group of committee chairs and such will not be finalized until the end of next month, we already know that people will be needed to help with the following:

- Someone to assist Pam Everett with "Dinner and a Movie"—selecting movies, sending out announcements, and reserving a place for dinner
- Two people are needed to Co-Chair the Spring Luncheon—securing a place, planning the menu, and collecting reservations
- Someone to assist with leading the Used Book Sale in 2018 and taking over the chairperson's role in 2019

If you can do any of these, please let President Susan Buchwalter know as soon as possible at

buchwalter@sssnet.com or phone 330-345-4413.

Finally, a special thanks to Mimi Lewellen and Judy Mallonn from Susan Buchwalter for agreeing to co-chair the Literary Group in the coming year. And to Bev McCoy for offering to host the May 15 Book Selection next year so that we may remain at Hunter's Chase Clubhouse.

AAUW/KIWANIS USED BOOK SALE UPDATE

While things are well under way for this year's book sale in September, the future of the sale remains unclear. While we are making progress in terms of maintaining our current space for the ongoing cleaning and sorting of books, it turns out that we simply may not have the manpower (or women power) to continue this fundraiser. As a result of these concerns, several members met with representatives of Kiwanis recently to discuss the sale. Kiwanis, like us, is struggling with adequate staffing. At the same time, the book sale chairs from both groups have expressed an interest in beginning to disengage after many years of leading the sale and are looking for someone to step up and work with them to take over these duties. So far, neither group has located persons interested in taking this on.

In order to get a better idea of member interest, a member of Kiwanis developed a survey for members of both groups about the future of the sale. To date, about half of the AAUW members have responded. Results indicate that while there are a fair number of people willing to work on the project, about 40% of those who responded to a particular question about the future of the sale noted that they believed the project may have run its course. Specifically, 40% of the respondents indicated that they could not help with the sale, 65% indicated that they would not be able to move books to the sale site, and 74% said that they could not tear down or deliver books to Goodwill after the sale. On the other hand, 21 members said they would be willing to continue to clean and sort books, and 32 were willing to help at least one day at the actual sale. Once we know the results from Kiwanis we will meet again and take a hard look at future directions. If you have ideas, or did not get a copy of the survey, contact Susan Buchwalter at buchwalter@sssnet.com or phone 330-345-4413.

During the summer members will be contacted to see if they are able to work at this year's used book sale, Wednesday, September 26, through Saturday, September 30, and days before with the setup and days after with cleanup. Please help in any way you can.

The annual Ohio AAUW convention and equity day was held Friday and Saturday, May 5 and 6, 2017, at the Doubletree Hotel in Columbus (Worthington). President Susan Buchwalter attended representing Wooster Branch and has commented on many of the happenings and Branch awards in this newsletter.

NOTES FROM TREASURER

At the recent Board meeting, Treasurer Sarah Miles noted that Judy Mallonn would be taking over the duties of Branch bookkeeper in the near future. Sarah also let the Board know that she was moving the AAUW Branch account from First Merit (now Huntington) to CSB (Commercial and Saving Bank), explaining that fees would be less and CSB would more easily meet our needs.

News from Vice President Anita Greene and Sarah is that with membership renewals and a new member our total enrollment is currently at 42. If you have not yet sent in your dues, please complete and fill out the membership renewal form in this newsletter and send to Sarah as soon as possible for easier delivery of the monies to state and national AAUW.

2016-2017 ANNUAL REPORT OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Wooster AAUW Branch:

- Provided an AAUW StartSmart workshop on pay equity and salary negotiation to women at The College of Wooster
- Assisted with the annual daylong Expanding Your Horizons science camp for 5th grade girls sponsored by The College of Wooster.
- Received \$3915 in memorial donations and other gifts to the AAUW Scholarship Fund established in conjunction with The Wayne County Community Foundation.
- Collected two carloads of sheets, towels, and personal care items at the annual holiday luncheon and donated them to One-Eighty in support of their domestic violence shelter.
- Continued dedicated support of the annual AAUW/Kiwanis used book sale earning just more than \$6,000 for each organization to support their various missions.
- Made a donation to the national AAUW Legal Action/Education Advocacy Fund in honor of longtime member Esther Root and her husband Sam.
- Hosted membership programs on domestic violence, understanding radical Islam, and the history of chocolate.
- Updated the bylaws to reflect changes required by National AAUW.
- Recognized three members for achieving significant membership awards from National AAUW: Judy Kastelan and Janice Miller (10 years) and Janet Calhoun (20 years).
- Continued to support interest groups related to Literary, Cinema, Bridge, and Out-and-About.



Young girls work diligently on their projects for Expanding Your Horizons. This program is a favorite of many of the girls as evidenced by their desire to “come back again next year!” In addition to financially supporting this program AAUW Branch members also assist with the flyers and greet the girls and their parent(s) on the day of the event, which this year was Saturday, April 22nd .

AAUW WOOSTER BRANCH MEMBERSHIP DUES FORM

July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018

Membership Dues are \$70.00 (\$49 National, \$11 State, and \$10 Wooster)

NOTE: \$46 of National dues are tax deductible

Student affiliate dues are \$17.00 (National only, with \$16 tax deductible)

Payment Due: June 5, 2017

**Please make checks payable to:
AAUW Wooster Branch**

Mail completed form with your check to

Sarah Miles, Treasurer
AAUW Wooster Branch
P. O. Box 1191
Wooster, OH 44691

Please complete ALL of the information below so that we may better serve you!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Cell or Work Phone: (____) _____

Email: (please print clearly) _____

College(s) / University(ies) _____

Degree(s) _____

Major(s) _____

Please check below ALL activities in which you would like to participate:

- Literary:** Book review discussion group that meets monthly all year
- Bookmarkers:** Used book sorting group works on Saturday mornings and Thursday afternoons at our facility
- Bridge Lessons:** Usually offered during the summer; but also as needed.
- Cinema Date:** Group meets monthly for dinner +/- or a movie; dates and dates rotate.
- "Expanding Your Horizons":** Volunteers work at The College of Wooster for the 5th and 6th grade science/math workshop on a Saturday in April.
- Out-and-About:** Monthly or selected trips to areas of interest, usually including a lunch stop.
- Social Bridge:** Players meet 3rd Monday of each month all year.
- AAUW / KIWANIS USED BOOK SALE:** Wooster Branch's priority project is our scholarship program for Wayne County Women which is supported from the proceeds of this sale held the last week of September. Member participation is necessary for the success of this event.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY: _____ email _____ U. S. Mail (if unable to receive email)

*Please feel free to use the back of this form to add any information or comments, **especially indicating any programs you would like to see added in the 2017-2018 year.** New members are asked to include personal data for our newsletter.*

PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBER!

Rhona (Rhonnie) M. Black
945 Forest Drive
Wooster, OH 44691
(Home) 330-264-3933
(Cell) 330-465-4287
rhonnie@sssnet.com

Rhonnie graduated from Bowling Green State University with a B.S. in Education (Biology and English). She was employed seven years at the Cleveland Clinic as a Medical Technician and then 23 years in finance, retiring in 2008. Celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, she and husband Jim (also retired) have two children, Kelly in Cleveland area and Doug in Wooster.

She is interested in being a Bookmarker, along with enjoying Cinema Date and Out-and-About. An avid bridge player and flower gardener, she currently volunteers at Friendtique and visits her sister often. Sister lives on St. Croix!



AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. AAUW provides funds to advance education, research, and self-development for women, and to foster equity and positive societal change.

AAUW provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

AAUW, in principle and in practice, values and seeks a diverse membership.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability or class.

Mary Ann Merchant
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