

GREETINGS FROM WOOSTER BRANCH AAUW PRESIDENT



We had a very busy 2019 and are looking forward to another engaging year in 2020.

December's Holiday Soup Luncheon and clothing collection for Rittman Elementary School's clothes closet ended the 2019 program year. Kris Evans and I delivered two overflowing baskets to the school following our luncheon. Principal Shawna Devoe commented in a thank-you note that the items would meet a "challenging need and be utilized immediately." Thanks to everyone for their generosity!

As we welcome the new year – and now decade 2020 – Wooster Branch will be engaging in two new endeavors. First, in order to easily maintain its nonprofit status, Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) is now an outreach program of The College of Wooster under the leadership of Missy Schen, Director of Educational Assessment. Anita Greene has stepped down from EYH and Judy Kastelan has agreed to take over the responsibility to call districts for an estimated number of attendees. However, we will still need volunteers to help deliver applications to school districts. If this is something you are willing to do, please let me know. The event will take place April 18, 2020.

A second exciting project, pending approval by National AAUW, is a new StartSmart/WorkSmart collaboration with the Medina AAUW Branch to be offered for women ATI students and OARDC graduate students in the late spring.

The nominating committee, consisting of Susie Slack, Sarah Miles and Carol McKiernan, is seeking candidates for the offices of President and Program Vice President. The slate will be announced prior to the April 18 Spring Luncheon

So we now have EYH, Wooster Branch Spring Luncheon, and the State AAUW Convention in Columbus on April 18. It will be a busy day!

As a reminder, our next Board meeting is scheduled for January 23 at 6:30 p.m. in Milltown Buehler's Community Room. Our guest will be Missy Schen from Expanding Your Horizons.

Thanks to each of you for your support of our AAUW programs and projects. Best wishes for the New Year ahead!

AAUW PROGRAMS

More than thirty AAUW members and guests enjoyed the annual holiday luncheon on December 5 in Bruch Hall of First Presbyterian Church. At tables decorated for the holidays, attendees enjoyed a variety of soups from Zoup as well as home-made desserts. Chairpersons Karen Armstrong and Mickey Asleson deserve a large thank you!

Rittman Elementary School was chosen to receive our gift offering this year. Susie Slack and Kris Evans have had a close relationship with the school and have a very high regard for the Principal, Dr. Shawna Devoe, and the work that goes on in the school. We were pleased to be able to spread our giving across Wayne County.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

“Honduras: The Country, The Culture, and Making a Difference”

Thursday, January 23, 2020, 1:30 p.m., Wooster Public Library

Kathy Tschiegg, Executive Director/Founder of Central American Medical Outreach (CAMO) will provide an overview of the current situation in Central America and the ways in which local-based CAMO is attempting to make a difference.

Hostesses: Anne Strauss and Mary Hetrick.

“The Challenges of a College Admissions Department When Their Job Depends on Predicting the Behavior of Eighteen Year Olds”

Monday, March 2, 2020, 1:00 p.m., Wooster United Methodist Church

Scott Friedhoff, Vice President for Enrollment and College Relations, Admissions at The College of Wooster (and husband of our own Barb Friedhoff), will discuss how colleges build and shape their new-student classes. Colleges like Wooster typically communicate with over 100,000 high school students to create an applicant pool of thousands to enroll a class of hundreds. Also included will be a short overview of how financial aid is determined and awarded.

Hostesses: Sue Olive and Nancy Danby

AAUW Wooster Branch Annual Spring Luncheon

Saturday, April 18, 11:30 a.m., The Wooster Country Club

We are pleased to have as our speaker for this luncheon Dr. Ivonne Garcia who is the inaugural Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer at The College of Wooster. Her topic will be “Building a vision for a diverse, equitable and inclusive community at The College of Wooster.” She will talk about her charge to lead the college in realizing its commitment to become more diverse, and to create a truly welcoming, equitable and inclusive campus culture.

Hostesses: Clara Ann Fain, Gwen Bayless, Susan Buchwalter and Kay Rowekamp

Don't forget that guests are always welcome at our programs!

LITERARY READING FOR WINTER 2020

Co-Facilitators Carol McKiernan and Stefani Koorhan Hinden have announced the books to be read through April 2020. All reviews are Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. unless noted otherwise. The Book Selection Meeting is May 19.

January 21 - **My Beloved World** by *Sonia Sotomayor* will be reviewed by Barb Friedhoff following the 6:00 p.m. dinner held at TJ's Restaurant. Serving as Co-Hostess is Karen Armstrong.

February 18 - **All But My Life** by *Gerda Weismann Klein* will be reviewed by Sue Herman at the Wayne Center for the Arts, 237 S. Walnut Street, with Co-Hostesses Carolyn Kearney and Helen Atchison.

March 17 - **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine** by *Gail Honeyman* will be reviewed by Jan Steinbrenner at her home, 470 Meadow Lane, with Lee Peart and Inell Keller serving as Co-Hostesses.

April 21 - **Where the Crawdads Sing** by *Della Owens* will be reviewed by Don Ackerman at the Community Action Board Room, 905 Pittsburgh Avenue, with Co-Hostesses Nicholette Rogers and Bev McCoy.

May 19 - **Book Selection Meeting**, 6:00 p.m., Hunter's Chase Clubhouse with Co-Hostesses Bev McCoy, Mimi Lewellen, and Bev Crafton. Food will be provided by members attending.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Scholarship Committee members Lee Peart (chair), Karen Armstrong, and Clara Ann Fain are working on procedures for the AAUW scholarship awards of \$500 - \$2500. The application form can be found on the AAUW website as well as the Wayne County Community Foundation website beginning February 1 and application forms must be received by May 1. Lee will be happy to answer any questions concerning the scholarships.

BEGINNING BRIDGE CLASSES

Beginning bridge classes taught by Mary Ann Merchant in her home are continuing starting Thursday, January 9. Held from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays, Mary Ann will welcome any new people who wish to join the class. Contact Mary Ann at mahmerch@aol.com or 330-264-9371 if interested.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating committee is meeting to select candidates for President and Program Vice President. Candidates names will be approved by the Board in March and the membership notified of the candidates prior to the annual meeting April 18.

AAUW/KIWANIS USED BOOK SALE

Preparations for the 2020 Used Book Sale are in full swing. Cleaning, pricing, and sorting are scheduled on Thursdays from 1 to 3 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. Book donations are accepted during the Saturday time. Remember that book sale volunteers get first choice on purchasing books before the sale. All this activity takes place at Illusions Screen-Printing. Also, our work space has benefitted from updated heating.

A memo from Ed McKiernan notes that there will be no cleaning or pricing books on January 9 or January 16 due to a lack of inventory and the installation of a new roof which should fix the “leaking roof” problem. Normal operations should resume on Saturday, January 18.

OUT-AND-ABOUT ACTIVITIES

Although no Out-and-About trips are planned for the foreseeable future, it should be noted that the ten members who made the trip to Akron to see the Perkins Mansion on November 21 were very surprised to learn of the family’s background (at one time owning 1/3 of the State of Ohio) including establishing a sheep farm at the Mansion which was run and operated by John Brown for many years before he became an activist. The family later became greatly involved in the education of students and established a school nearby, and started one of Akron’s tire companies. Having only one child as the family started to build this mansion, they eventually ended up with ten children, and members got to see the “birthing” bed. Of note, Mimi Lewellen’s parents wrote the book “At Home on the Hill” about the mansion—and it is still sold at the gift shop! Attendees ate lunch at the new Mustard Seed Café and think we all enjoyed the variety of meals chosen!

Twenty-three members and husbands attended the Holiday Concert dinner on December 5 at The Wooster Country Club under the sponsorship of Linda McFalls. A marvelous buffet was followed by Wooster Transit taking guests to the Wooster Symphony “Charlie Brown’s Christmas” concert at McGaw Chapel and returning them to the Country Club following the performance to pick up their cars. Good comments were received on both the dinner and concert.

Facilitator Mary Ann Merchant is considering an Out-and-About to Worthington, Ohio, in April. The Assistance League of Metro Columbus will hold its annual Spring Luncheon and Fashion Show—Flowers, Fashion and Fun—beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 25. There will be a cash bar, luncheon, silent auction and fashion show by a Columbus boutique, featuring spring and summer fashions, to raise funds for the chapter’s philanthropic programs. Tickets are \$40 and need to be purchased by April 1. Is there enough interest for Mary Ann to continue working on this trip? Please let her know: mahmerch@aol.com or 330-264-9371.

We did it once before and the event was well received! Mary Ann is tentatively planning on attending Severance Hall and the Cleveland Orchestra performance of Mozart’s Symphony No. 39 and Dvorak’s Cello Concert at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, May 8, followed by lunch at the Severance Hall Restaurant. Keep this in mind!

Mary Ann (with the help of Carolyn Kearney) encourages as many of you who can to attend these trips. They never seem to disappoint!

NATIONAL AAUW’S ART CONTEST

If you are a passionate painter, skillful artist, or have a great eye for photography, your artistic talents can be shown off by submitting your entry for AAUW’s 11th annual art contest to the AAUW website by January 28, 2020. All entries are accepted, and AAUW members then vote for the artwork they would like to see featured on a collection of note cards mailed in the spring

Monday, January 20	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Leslie Breeden
Tuesday, January 21	Literary meets at 6:00 p.m. for dinner at TJ's Restaurant before the book review by Barb Friedhoff
Thursday, January 23	General membership program on CAMO's situation in Honduras, 1:30 p.m., Wayne County Public Library
Thursday, January 23	AAUW Wooster Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Buehler's
Monday February 17	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Sue Olive
Tuesday, February 18	Literary meets at Wayne Center for the Arts, 7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 2	General membership program examining The College of Wooster's admission process, 1:00 p.m., Wooster United Methodist Church
Monday, March 16	AAUW Social Bridge; Hostess is Helen Wright
Tuesday, March 17	Literary meets at home of Jan Steinbrenner, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, March 26	AAUW Wooster Board meeting, 6:30 p.m., Buehler's



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 an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership time, and board of directors.

There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status.

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