



Co-President Susie Slack



Co-President Kris Evans

MESSAGE FROM WOOSTER BRANCH AAUW CO-PRESIDENTS

It's hard to believe that we're nearly eight months into staying-at-home-during-Coronavirus. We hope that everyone is staying healthy (we fortunately haven't heard of any cases of COVID among our members) and finding things to occupy your time.

AAUW activities continue, albeit in different formats. Literary continues to have interesting book discussions via ZOOM and we're at least able to see one another even if we can't gather in groups to visit.

Our first program of this year was "Self-Care in Times of a Pandemic" and was shown on Facebook Live—we're all learning new technologies!

This is the first time in 63 years that we haven't had our annual book sale. Volunteers from AAUW and Kiwanis had cleaned, sorted, priced, and boxed approximately 1000 boxes of books since the 2019 sale. When it became evident that Coronavirus would prevent us from holding the sale, there were several options discussed, none of them particularly attractive. But thanks to Goodwill, there was another option, one that benefits both AAUW/Kiwanis and Goodwill. Goodwill has purchased the books collected over the past year for \$10,000 and



Goodwill trucks loaded with AAUW/Kiwanis books

will sell them in a GoodReads Corner of their Wooster store and in their other locations. A win-win for sure!

We owe a huge thank you to Kiwanian Ed McKiernan who did an incredible job of coordinating the sale and continues to do amazing work keeping the book processing organized and compliant with COVID restrictions. THANK YOU, ED!

Karen Armstrong has started a Facebook page for the Wooster Branch. Please be sure to go to AAUW Wooster Branch and "like" it.

Please stay healthy, everyone. Wear your mask, maintain social distancing, wash your hands frequently—you know the drill. We want to see all of you in person one day soon.

FIRST AAUW PROGRAM OF THE YEAR – A BIT DIFFERENT!

“Self-Care in Times of a Pandemic” was presented by Brooke Winkler, owner of Engaging the Spirit, on Tuesday, October 27, at Westminster Presbyterian Church with five people in attendance. The presentation was also available and recorded via Facebook Live with 87 people viewing. This was the first time doing a program with Facebook Live and although there were a few glitches we hope to use this media again for our next presentation in January 2021. For those who missed the program, the recorded version is available on the AAUW Wooster Branch Facebook page. Just go to: <https://www.facebook.com/AAUW.Wooster/live/> and click on the video to start watching.

UPCOMING BOOKS TO BE READ FOR LITERARY

Carol McKiernan and Stefani Koorhan, Co-Chairs for the Literary Group, have listed the books to be read through February 2021. The group will continue to meet via ZOOM. Reminders are sent to members and the ZOOM link sent prior to the meeting. If you know of anyone not receiving these emails or having trouble with the ZOOM link, please let Carol McKiernan or Stefani Koorhan know. All meetings are at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

November 17, 2020 - **The Bookwoman of Troublesome Creek** by *Kim Michele Richardson* will be reviewed by Letty Nault. Note: Letty suggests that it would be helpful to read a book with similar subject matter entitled *The Giver of Stars* by JoJo Moyes. There has been litigation involving the authors of the two books. Reading both books should enhance the discussion.

January 19, 2021 - With no Literary meeting in December, **The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History** by *Elizabeth Kolbert* will be reviewed by Lee Peart.

February 16, 2021 - **The Last Days of Night** by *Graham Moore* will be reviewed by Sue Olive.

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 2021

Susie Slack, Co-President, wants to bring everyone up to date on the status of Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) 2021. As members may recall, the event last year was cancelled due to COVID-19 and the closing of The College of Wooster campus. At the same time, EYH was undergoing operational changes. It is no longer a stand-alone entity but now operates under The College of Wooster outreach programs.

The 2021 event is in the planning process with the committee being chaired by Missy Schen, a member of the COW faculty. The event will be an all-virtual experience. Although the date and details are still in the planning stages, it will likely be a hybrid of the 2020 Cornell University virtual event content utilizing a variety of local presenters or panels via live stream or YouTube videos. Given our young audience, it will be important to have interactive sessions and breakout rooms. Students will select their choices of sessions on line, thus eliminating the need for the brochure. Registration will be handled on line using the Techbridge EYH website. The donation made last year for the event by AAUW Wooster Branch has been held in a COW account to use for EYH 2021.

Thanks to Anita Greene for organizing the 2020 brochure distribution. We are not yet sure what our involvement will entail; however, members will be informed as plans move forward.

If you are interested, check out the YouTube channel for Cornell EYH: <https://www.youtube.com/channel>.

WOOSTER BRANCH ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Thursday, December 3, 2020, Mackey Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pine Street

This year's Holiday Luncheon Charitable Giving is to the Wooster Salvation Army's new day center, **The Living Room**, serving Wooster area's homeless population. The Living Room recently opened and is a place to go during the day for those struggling with homelessness. It is a collaborative effort of The Wayne County Housing Coalition, The City of Wooster, and the Wayne County Commissioners. This past winter just shy of 300 residents (24 unsheltered adults, 97 sheltered adults and 178 students) were identified as homeless.

For information on the luncheon see the following form. A small portion of your luncheon cost will be donated to the Living Room Project. Wherever you receive your lunch (Mackey Hall or your own home) we will also collect any new or gently used items you would like to donate – warm socks, gloves, long underwear, hats, coats, etc.).

For more information on The Living Room, please read the recent article in The Daily Record: [the-daily-record.com: https://the-daily-record.com/story/news/2020-10-25/wooster-salvation-armys-living-room-offers-resources-homeless/3725614001/](https://the-daily-record.com/story/news/2020-10-25/wooster-salvation-armys-living-room-offers-resources-homeless/3725614001/).

AAUW Wooster Branch Holiday Luncheon Thursday, December 3, 2020

Because of COVID-19 the Holiday Luncheon Committee (Lee Peart, Mary Ann Merchant, Bev McCoy, Julie Smith, Judy Taylor, and Judy Mallonn) is offering several ways to participate. Please check your choice.

- ☐ Dine in-person at Mackey Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pine Street.
First seating (ten participants permitted) 11:00 a.m. (Masks required.)
- ☐ Dine in-person at Mackey Hall, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Pine Street.
Second seating (ten participants) 12:30 p.m. (Masks required.)
- ☐ Lunch delivered to your home. Payment upon delivery and donations to the Salvation Army's **Living Room Project** will be picked up.
- ☐ Sorry, but I will be unable to participate at this time.

Mackey Hall is a very large facility (allowing social distancing) with complete attached kitchen. A box lunch will be furnished by Quince Café and Bakery from Kidron. Hot coffee and tea will be furnished at Mackey Hall.

For those opting to have lunch(es) at home, deliveries will be made between 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m., depending upon your location. The cost of the luncheon is \$15 per person (whether dine-in or at home) and you will have the opportunity to donate items for the Living Room Project at the time of delivery.

PLEASE LET US KNOW WHAT YOUR PLANS ARE! Contact Mary Ann Merchant by returning this completed form to her (332 Blair Boulevard, Wooster), by emailing her (mahmerch@aol.com), or by phoning her (330-264-9371) so that we will have an accurate count of members to order the lunches from Quince. **We wish to have a response from all members by November 20!**

WANT MORE TO READ?

AAUW members recently received an email from AAUW of Ohio outlining opportunities for upcoming reading and discussion groups via ZOOM. Members can register for the discussion via the link on the email or on their website at AAUW-oh.aauw.net.

Saturday, November 14, 2020, 10 - 11 a.m.: - Topic: Racism. **The Vanishing Half: A Novel** by *Brit Bennett*.

Note: No times were given for the following two discussions so check their website as the date approaches.

Saturday, January 16, 2021: - Topic: The ways that race, class, motherhood, and belonging intersect to shape each individual. **Little Fires Everywhere** by *Celeste Ng*.

Saturday, February 20, 2021: - Topic: Women and Leadership. **Invisible Women, Data Bias in a World Designed for Men** by *Caroline Criado Perez*.

19TH AMENDMENT ANNIVERSARY by Nicholette Rogers

The year 2020 is the 100th Anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution which granted women the right of universal suffrage, i.e., women could now vote in all local and federal elections.

The 19th Amendment is brief, composed of only 39 words:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

The 19th Amendment passed by a 2/3 vote in the House of Representatives and Senate in 1910. It was then “proposed” to the states for ratification. For the Amendment to become law, 3/4 of the states needed to ratify the Amendment. This meant that at least 36 states needed to approve the Amendment. As soon as the Amendment was sent to the states for ratification, Alice Paul, president of the National Woman’s Party (NWP), began sewing a star on the NWP’s suffrage flag when each state passed the Amendment. It became known as the Ratification Banner. Aided by her assistants, she continued that process from June 10, 1919 (when Illinois, Wisconsin and Michigan became the first states to ratify the 19th Amendment) until August 18, 1919, when Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the Amendment. As soon as she received a telegram confirming the Tennessee’s legislature’s affirmative vote, Paul, who was in Washington DC at the time, quickly sewed on the last star.

What the colors on the Ratification Banner represent: Purple is the color of loyalty, constancy to purpose, and unswerving steadfastness to a cause. White, the emblem of purity, “symbolizes the quality of their purpose” (white was also used to counter the belief that suffragists were masculine, vulgar and promiscuous). Gold, the color of light and life, was a symbol of the torch that guided their purpose, “pure and unswerving.”

Nicholette Rogers’ chalk drawing of the NWP banner celebrating ratification of the 19th Amendment.



IMPACT OF WOOSTER AAUW SCHOLARSHIPS ON WAYNE COUNTY WOMEN

The Scholarship Committee would like your input for their January 26, 2021, 7 p.m. meeting, on the **Impact of AAUW on Wayne County Women**.

They have compiled a history of 30 years of Scholarship Recipients (1990 - 2020). An amazing number of local women have benefitted from Wooster AAUW scholarships. **Did an AAUW Scholarship help you or someone you know achieve the dream of a college education?** If so, please tell us now as we plan our January 26 meeting. Call or email Lee Peart at 330-624-7506 or lwmn@bright.net.

This year's Scholarship Committee members are Chair Karen Armstrong, Barb Friedhoff, and Lee Peart. Their tentative plans are to have a small panel of women tell their stories on Facebook Live with a very limited number of members in attendance while others watch from the comfort of their homes. They are also considering other ways for past scholarship recipients to share their stories.

This is the kick-off to AAUW Wooster's 2021-2022 Scholarship Application period and an opportunity to perhaps honor someone, to give in memory of someone, or just to make a donation to the Scholarship Fund.

Please mark this date on your calendars now! More information to come.

MESSAGE FROM JULIA BROWN, ESQ. AAUW NATIONAL BOARD CHAIR

At its October 16, 2020, meeting, the AAUW Board of Directors voted to increase individual Member dues for the next three years. The dues will rise by \$3 (6¢ per week) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022, \$5 (10¢ per week) for FY 2023, and \$5 (10¢ per week) for FY 2024, making the total dues amount for those years \$62, \$67, and \$72 respectively. All but \$3 of your annual dues remains tax deductible.

This decision wasn't made lightly. The board members couldn't be more grateful for our members – or prouder of the work you've done this year. We also recognize that all of us are navigating numerous challenges in these uncertain times. However, in order to preserve the viability of this organization we all love, the board needed to take action. Simply put, this measure is essential for AAUW to continue our mission to achieve gender equity.

Most nonprofits adjust their dues annually or every other year to keep pace with inflation and rising expenses. However, due to prudent budgetary management, AAUW has been able to keep its dues flat since July 2018. That means that, by the time the first scheduled increase takes effect, we will have maintained three years of dues stability.

Current life members will not be affected by this change. New life memberships acquired after July 1, 2020, will reflect the higher dues amounts. College and university membership fees will remain unchanged.

Please reach out to us with any feedback or concerns.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to AAUW and our mission. On behalf of the AAUW Board, we are grateful for your understanding and look forward to continuing our work together.

WOOSTER BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Anita Greene, Membership Vice President, reminds us that current members may renew beginning in February and new members may join in February. We are pleased and honored to have 70 members in our Wooster Branch this year!

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Tuesday, November 17	Literary Review by Letty Nault (ZOOM), 7 p.m.
Thursday, November 26	HAPPY THANKSGIVING to all!
Thursday, December 3	AAUW Wooster's Annual Holiday Luncheon
Friday, December 25	HAPPY HOLIDAYS!
Friday, January 1	HAPPY NEW YEAR!
Tuesday, January 19	Literary Review by Lee Peart (ZOOM), 7 p.m.
Tuesday, January 26	General Meeting on The Impact of Wooster AAUW Scholarships on Wayne County Women , 7 p.m.
Thursday, January 28	AAUW Board Meeting, 6:30 p.m. (ZOOM)
Tuesday, February 16	Literary Review by Sue Olive (ZOOM) 7 p.m.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17, 11:30 a.m. at The Wooster Country Club for our annual meeting and spring luncheon!



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.

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