



Co-President Susie Slack



Co-President Kris Evans

MESSAGE FROM WOOSTER BRANCH AAUW CO-PRESIDENTS

“There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort.” Jane Austen. But did she do so for 10 months in a row?

Last January we wrote that Wooster AAUW was looking forward to another engaging year. Looking back on 2020, we’d have to add “and challenging.” Despite quick pivots in planning events, all in all it was a successful 97th year.

A canceled Annual Meeting in April led to an efficient email election of officers. Even though the book sale was canceled, the sale of the inventory to Goodwill still reached readers’ hands. Literary has robustly continued via ZOOM. Our first program, “Self-Care in Times of a Pandemic,” was presented via Facebook live. The Holiday luncheon quickly became a delightful box lunch delivered to our homes.

Looking forward to 2021 we will continue many of our planned events described in other articles in the newsletter including:

- An update on book processing for the 2021 sale from Ed McKiernan
- A program featuring a panel of past scholarship recipients and an opportunity to donate directly to the AAUW Scholarship Fund at the Wayne County Community Foundation
- Continued Literary Group Selections
- Membership Renewal information

We are a resilient and creative group! Our New Year wishes for a better and brighter year ahead go to all our members as we hope for an opportunity to venture away from home now and then to meet in person!

FIRST AAUW PROGRAM OF THE 2021 YEAR The Impact of Wooster AAUW Scholarships on Wayne County Women Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7 p.m.

Wooster AAUW began awarding scholarships to Wayne County women in 1978. Since then over 200 local women have received AAUW scholarships—some two, three, or four times—while working on their degrees. Our panel of past recipients will share their stories of how AAUW scholarships helped to change their lives. Many of you know one or more of our panel members, or at least recognize their names. Two of these women have contributed to their communities in many valuable ways, and two recently completed their degrees and have embarked on their chosen career path.

Panel members are:

- **Helen Walkerly** (1986 scholarship recipient) – The University of Akron, BA in Social Work, 1987, and The Ohio State University, Master of Social Work, 1988
- **Dr. Shannyn Fowl-Allen** (2003 scholarship recipient plus AAUW Michigan scholarship) Wayne College, The University of Akron; Western Michigan University, BS 2006, National University of Natural Medicine, ND, 2010, Portland, Oregon
- **Jennifer Warden** (2014 scholarship recipient) – Wayne College, The University of Akron, Bachelor of Marketing Management, 2020
- **Ashlie Pethtel** (2015, 2016, 2017 scholarship recipient) – Wayne College and The University of Akron, BA in Social Work, 2020

Be sure to mark your calendar for our **Tuesday, January 26, 2021, 7 p.m. meeting on ZOOM**. You can watch from the comfort of your home and join in a lively Q&A or—if your schedule doesn't permit—you can view the recorded program on our new AAUW Facebook page: AAUW Wooster Branch. You are welcome to invite your friends to join us. The week before the program you will receive an email with more details and a link to the ZOOM meeting from Barb Friedhoff and Nicholette Rogers, our moderators for this evening program.

ANNUAL HOLIDAY LUNCHEON



Our Wooster Branch members didn't let COVID-19 stop them from enjoying a virtual holiday lunch together in December. A committee consisting of Chair Mary Ann Merchant along with Bev McCoy, Julie Runnels-Smith, Lee Peart, and Judy Mallonn, delivered delicious lunches from Quince Bakery in Kidron to all 30 "attendees." And once again the Wooster members demonstrated their generosity by donating to this year's gift recipient, the Salvation Army's new Living Room Project, a day center to aid Wooster's homeless population.

Bev McCoy presents four large Bags of new, warm clothing as well as checks totaling over \$700 to Major Connie Higgins of the Wooster Salvation Army.

AAUW WOOSTER SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Are you stumped when trying to decide on a gift for a friend? Why not make a donation to the Wooster Branch Scholarship Fund in her name? Simply make a check payable to The Wayne County Community Foundation (WCCF) with AAUW in the memo line and mail to WCCF, 517 N. Market Street, Wooster, OH 44691. And it's guaranteed to be the right size and color!

BOOK SALE UPDATE

Book Sale Chair Ed McKiernan offers this update:

Drop-offs and book processing was halted before Thanksgiving due to the upsurge in the number of COVID-19 cases reported locally. The public was informed via articles in the Daily Record and Wooster Weekly newspapers which indicated that drop-offs could still be made by appointment. To date, we have had three or four donors who made arrangements to leave donations. To make an appointment, donors can leave a message at (330) 439-2093 and Walt Kearney, Ed McKiernan or Don Ackerman will get back with them to set up a convenient time to come by the warehouse.

We are very grateful to Goodwill of Wayne and Holmes Counties for purchasing the entire inventory of books (less vintage) that had been accumulated for the 2020 sale. Treasurer Sarah Miles has closed the books on the 2020 book sale and, after rent and expenses, AAUW and Kiwanis will split slightly less than \$3,600.

Given the current situation with the COVID pandemic, we cannot predict when normal drop-offs and book processing will resume. We are hopeful that by spring the worst will be over and we can get back to work.

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 May 2021. The group will continue to meet via ZOOM for the foreseeable future. Reminders are sent to members and the ZOOM link sent prior to the meeting. All meetings are at 7 p.m. unless noted otherwise. The Literary Group will meet in May via ZOOM for selection of books to be read in 2021-2022.

January 19, 2021 - *The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History*, a Pulitzer Prize winning book by *Elizabeth Kolbert*, will be reviewed by Lee Peart. The author is a visiting fellow at Williams College in Massachusetts where Sarah Bolton served as Dean prior to becoming President at The College of Wooster.

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

March 16, 2021 - *The Dutch House* by *Ann Patchett* will be reviewed by Julie Mennes.

April 20, 2021 - *The Silent Patient* by *Alex Michaelides* will be reviewed by Betty Raber.

May 18, 2021 - Book Selection Meeting.

BOOK SALE HISTORY

About six years ago Letty Nault prepared a history of our Book Sale and we thought in this year when so much is topsy-turvy that members might enjoy reading about a constant in the life of AAUW Wooster Branch. As you can see, the history goes just as far as 2015; we'll have to watch for Volume II at a later date! This history has been re-typed and edited slightly for length; any errors are the fault of the editor, Kris Evans!

The AAUW Book Fair sputtered to a start in 1957. Legend has it that Geri Burden and Nancy Slaydon originated the idea. At the time, the membership numbered about 125 and included what later became College Circle. The first book sale netted \$26. The meager profit from the sale did not improve the next year and so the effort was abandoned in 1959.

A Book-Art-Record Fair was organized in 1960 by Sue Retzler and held in the American Hotel Lobby. In May 1965, the sale was held in the Wooster Shopping Center. In the meantime, the books were still being stored in Geri Burden's basement. The '69 sale was held at St. James Episcopal Church. The Book Fair was held one year in the Methodist Church but records for this period are sketchy.

The '80s brought a move to Zion Lutheran Church where it remained until 2002. The time of the sale was also changed to the fall and the House Tour became the Spring Event. In the mid-'80s, Judy Bonk, the Book Fair guru, became involved and individual pricing began.

The number of books being collected had grown considerably and storage was a challenge. Over the years, books were stored in these places (that we remember)!

- The Dix Garage (bats included)
- The basement of the Board of Education Building
- A yellow house near the old library
- A dungeon in a building at the corner of Palmer and Bowman
- Judy Bonk's storage shed
- The old Lyric Theater (with waterfalls down the walls)
- The warehouse by the railroad tracks on Spruce Street
- G&S Titanium Building
- Funky building on Branstetter (Wooster Office and Litho)
- Space behind the old Collier's Printing Building (current)

The fall of 1993 brought some special excitement. The movie THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION was being filmed at the Mansfield Reformatory and lots of old books were needed for the library scenes. Wooster Branch was contacted and some of us gathered at Judy Bonk's shed and selected about 5000 older books for which we received \$500. More books were requested and another \$250 made. In 1994, a record \$12,000 was reported and profits continued to rise. Cleaning and sorting of books became a year-round endeavor.

In 2002 a big move was made to the fairgrounds for the sale and the name adjusted from Book Fair to Used Book Sale. The event had become overwhelming for our diminishing membership and a partnership with Kiwanis was formed in 2008. The sale continued at the fairgrounds until 2014 when the opportunity to store, sort and sell from the same location was presented and accepted. Our 2015 Used Book Sale to be held in the space behind what had been Collier's Printing did not come to fruition as logistics (parking, sale space, etc.) necessitated a return to the fairgrounds although cleaning, sorting and pricing remained at the new location.

IT'S AAUW'S ART CONTEST TIME!

Tyremayne A. Parquet, Deputy Director of Advancement & Partnerships, has again invited AAUW artists to enter the 12th annual art contest which opened January 6.

To enter, submit your photography or a digital photo of your painting, drawing, sculpture, collage, or other form of art through the AAUW website. All entries are accepted but artists are encouraged to select entries that speak to AAUW's mission.

Winners will be selected by ranked-choice voting and their entries will be featured on a collection of notecards sent to members in the spring. The back of the cards will include the winner's biography and a highlight of their local branch affiliation.

Need more information? See last year's art gallery by visiting the [AAUW Art Contest](#) page.

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, 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*.

Saturday, March 20, 2021: - Topic: **OK Boomer, Let's Talk: How My Generation Got Left Behind** by *Jill Filipovic*.

WOOSTER BRANCH MEMBERSHIP

Anita Greene, Membership Vice President, reminds us that dues collection will begin March 15, 2021. A membership form will be attached to the March 15 Breeze and will also be available on our Branch website. We hope to have renewals returned by May 31.

Dues for the coming year will be \$83 (\$62 National, \$11 State, and \$10 Wooster Branch) Note: \$59 of National dues are tax deductible.

CALENDAR OF MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday, January 19 | Literary Review by Lee Peart (ZOOM), 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, January 26 | First program of 2021! Impact of Wooster Branch's Scholarships on Recipients and Our Community (ZOOM), 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, January 28 | AAUW Board Meeting (ZOOM), 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, February 16 | Literary Review (ZOOM) by Sue Olive, 7 p.m. |
| Tuesday, March 16 | Literary Review (ZOOM) by Julie Mennes, 7 p.m. |
| Thursday, March 25 | AAUW Board Meeting (ZOOM), 6:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, April 20 | Literary Review (ZOOM) by Betty Raber |
| Tuesday, May 18 | Literary Book Selections for 2021-2022 |

The Annual Spring Luncheon is on the schedule for April 17 at The Wooster Country Club. The AAUW Board will be discussing the advisability of an in-person luncheon as well as all other options.



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
Newsletter Editor
Wooster Branch AAUW
P.O. Box 1191
Wooster, OH 44691