

The Breeze

February 2024

Newsletter 23-24 #3



Wooster, Ohio Branch

Inform...Invite...Recruit...Retain

From the President's Desk



We have had the opportunity to enjoy several programs, read and discuss some great books, and enjoy our Holiday luncheon thanks to our Program Committee and Literary Chairs. Thanks to Carole Erdos, Donna Connolly and Anne Strauss on the program committee for setting up a movie viewing in November and a program on Notable Ohio Women in January. These women also did a great job with the Holiday Luncheon in December, it was fun to see everyone and we couldn't have asked for a better speaker. Thank you everyone for your generosity!

This is the time of year where our Scholarship Committee is busy advertising our AAUW scholarships. They have posted our flyer all over town but if you have an idea for a good location, please reach out to Pat Mathews for a flyer you can post. She can also send an electronic version to post on social media or share with friends via email. Please note that the deadline this year is March 15, 2024 which is coming up fast.

As you are aware, our lease on the warehouse space to sort, clean and store books is up on March 1. We have secured a new location which is the red barn owned by Zion Lutheran Church on Market Street. We have negotiated the lease and will be moving in this month. We will let you know when book drop off and processing will begin again. We are always looking for more volunteers so let me know if you are interested.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend our Annual Meeting and Spring Luncheon on Saturday April 20, 2024, at Wooster Country Club. Guests are always welcome, please feel free to bring a friend. During the meeting we will be presenting our new slate of officers. Think about how you would like to use your talents to best serve our organization. We have several positions open and I would love to discuss where you might best fit.

In the newsletter you will read more about our many upcoming events and I hope you will be able to attend. Please feel free to invite a friend to join you, we are always looking for new members!

Respectfully submitted,
Karen Armstrong
armstrongkaren93@gmail.com

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New Members

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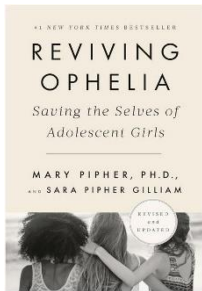
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Dianna Rice (cell)330-472-7199

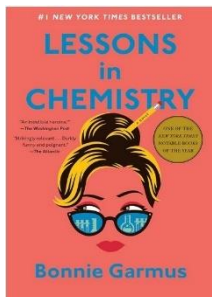
The Story of Literary

The AAUW Literary Group is one of the oldest and most popular study groups in our branch. At one point the membership had grown so large that two literary groups were formed. Presently, there is one group and it meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm. The membership numbers over twenty people and meetings are held in various locations.

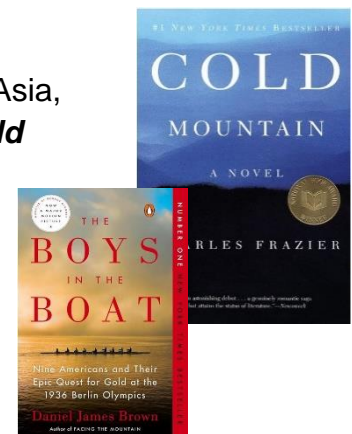
Book selections for the year are done at the May meeting. "I might not have read that book, but I am so glad I did." That statement has been made time and again. Of course, twenty plus people will not always agree on a book, but that simply makes discussions more interesting when we hear differing viewpoints. Historical fiction, murder, adventure, mystery, and humor are but a few of the many diverse topics that have been covered. Essays and non-fiction books have also been examined over the years. Reviews are given by members, and an occasional guest might speak if the subject warrants it.



Recently, we read ***Reviving Ophelia 25th Anniversary Edition: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls***. This was an in-depth look at 21st century adolescent girls through fresh eyes, with insights and ideas that will help new generations of readers. Because the information covered could have been a bit overwhelming, we had a guest speaker to help us understand the material.



Some years it seems that we feature a topic like WWII, Asia, the Middle East or the Civil War. An old favorite was ***Cold Mountain*** which became an academy award contender and a current book is ***Lessons in Chemistry*** which is featured in a television series. Many of our favorites have been made into movies such as ***A Man Called Ove*** and ***The Boys in the Boat***.



If you are a person who likes to research, read, or give reviews, you might be interested in exploring the literary group. For more information call either of the co-chairs: Roni Mellon (330-347-9741) or Jan Steinbrenner (518-929-3460).

If you have any interest in chairing this group next year, please let Roni or Jan know.

Submitted by Julie Mennes

How to break through when your teen tunes you out

Many parents lament that their once-chatty child starts shutting them out when they hit the teen years.

You can still get through to them, you just have to change the way you communicate.

Limit your lectures

The temptation for parents to lecture their teen is strong. Instead, take time to listen, it turns a monologue into a conversation

If you're caught off-guard by a question, get curious

If your teenager asks you something tough or surprising, you might try saying "What makes you ask that?" Their answer will probably give you helpful context.

If it's a weighty topic, keeping your answer short and specific gives them time to process everything, and they can come back later with follow-up questions.

Stay in conversation

Allow the conversation to become so routine that it's a nothingburger. When difficult topics become routine, conversations can become enlightening.

Excerpts from October 5, 2023 New York Times interview with Cara Natterson, a Los Angeles pediatrician and Dylan Gee, an associate professor at the Yale Child Study Center. They are the co-authors of "This Is So Awkward: Modern Puberty Explained"

Recommended by Anne Strauss

In responses to our November selection

Reviving Ophelia: Saving the lives of adolescent girls

Literary

In November Julie Mennes skillfully reviewed **Reviving Ophelia: saving the lives of adolescent girls**. While this was a book that would be difficult to review in a more traditional way, she carefully went through the different time periods described in the book and what adolescent girls experienced during these times. Julie distributed copies of sources one could explore on this topic. She then introduced Dr. Mary Hall, a Senior Attending Physician in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center. Dr. Hall elaborated on the problems female adolescents face today, with the advent of social media and cell phones having the largest impact on their lives.

Julie and Dr. Hall then responded to the questions submitted by members prior to the meeting. Personally, I'm sorry this meeting could not have been recorded. It was difficult to capture the importance of all that was covered. At the end, Julie shared that Dr. Hall was her daughter-in-law, and we all benefited from that relationship. Whether to rate this book as usual was discussed. Ultimately, twelve members voted and the book was given a rating of 3.75.

Literary did not meet in December, giving members an extra month to begin thinking about the books to be enjoyed in the coming year.

The selected book for January was **The Alice Network**, written by Kate Quinn. Barb Friedhoff facilitated the discussion, as well as providing access to Zoom for the meeting. She presented a short video interview with Kate Quinn, and also talked about the results of the survey she had previously sent out. The book was based on the actual lives of two of the main characters, and their roles as spies during WW1, and the later story line during war-torn WW2 when they were searching for a French collaborator. Most liked the WW1 story line more. The book was rated 4.3.

The next meeting will also be via Zoom, on February 20, 7:00. Cathy Frame Stone will be leading the discussion of **Clark and Division**, by Naomi Hirahara. Its main character is a young Japanese woman searching for the truth about her revered older sister's death. This book brings to focus the struggles of one Japanese-American family released from mass incarceration in a camp during World War 2.

Members were reminded that it's not too early to think about books for 2024-25.

Submitted by Jan Steinbrenner and Roni Mellon, Co-Chairs

Member Spotlight Table Games

Due to lack of interest the Table Games group has been disbanded and the Member Spotlight in the Newsletter will no longer be included.

Submitted by Pat Mathews

Report from the Treasurer

The finances have been quiet for the last couple of months. One thing to note is that the board made a decision to invest some of our reserves in CDs. We now have 3 CDs with maturity dates of 7 months (4.94%), 11 months (4.84%) and 25 months (4.31%). Each one was opened with \$5000. The board will revisit on what to do with said CDs when they come up on maturity. We still have enough monies in the Money Market Savings account to fund the day-to-day operations.

Submitted by Sarah Miles

Scholarship Committee

It's that time of the year again. The scholarship committee has been busy disseminating information to local schools, churches, agencies, and various organizations around town. Several AAUW members have also shared our flyer in hair salons, doctor's offices, retail outlets, and other locations. This year we also have a digital presence downtown near the square...check it out. If you have a location that "needs" a flyer you can get one from Pat.

The Foundation changed the scholarship application process so that students only need to complete one application in order to be considered for all the scholarships they facilitate. The new application deadline is March 15. Once we receive the completed applications, we will review the applications and make recommendations to the Board for this year's scholarship recipients.

Submitted by Pat Mathews

Words of Wisdom

"It's not so much how busy you are, but WHY you are busy. The bee is praised. The mosquito is swatted."

-Mary Flannery O'Connor

Submitted by Anne Strauss

"I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them".

-Phyllis Diller

Submitted by Barb Friedhoff

"Nothing changes the gender equation more significantly than women's economic freedom."

-Gloria Steinem

*Submitted by Barb Friedhoff
and Pat Mathews*

"It takes a lot of courage to show your dreams to someone else."

-Erma Bombeck

*Submitted by Barb Friedhoff
and Pat Mathews*



Wooster Branch AAUW Scholarship Awards

Application deadline March 15

- Additional information is available on the [Wooster AAUW website](#)
- Application is available on the [Wayne County Community Foundation website](#)



American Association of University Women

If you meet these
criteria:

*A female resident of
Wayne County, OH*

*Life circumstances
interrupted your
education*

Not for recent high school graduates

*Enrolled/enrolling in
qualified, accredited
program*

*Priority is given to women pursuing
associate or bachelor degree.
Women pursuing graduate degree or
certification/licensure needed for
employment may also be considered.*

You are eligible to
apply for an AAUW
Scholarship

Annual awards of
\$500 - \$2,500

Contact Scholarship
Committee at

aauscholarships@gmail.com

Membership news

Welcome to Our New Members

Nancy Grace

I retired as the Virginia Myers Professor of English from The College of Wooster, where I taught for 32 years. During that time, I served 13 years as director of the Writing Center and 3 years as Director of the Center for Diversity and Global Engagement (now Diversity and Inclusion). I chaired the English Department and the Women, Gender, and Sexuality Department as well, and served on numerous faculty committees throughout that time.

I went into higher education after working as a certified paralegal and then freelance writer for seven years, owning a small women's newspaper in central Ohio. I chose to pursue a doctorate in English at The Ohio State University because I loved writing and thinking about the complexities of the English language. I also discovered that I loved teaching, and Ohio State provided excellent training for me in that field.

Through a great group of mentors at The College of Wooster, including Susan Figge of this AAUW chapter, I have been able to teach transformative classes in both English and Women's Studies (including classes on news writing and on James Joyce's *Ulysses*) and have been gifted with tremendous support for my feminist research and scholarship.

I specialize in the field of Beat Studies, which focuses on the U.S. avantgarde Beat literary and cultural movement in the mid-twentieth century. I've published extensively on Jack Kerouac as well as interviewed and written about many of the women artists associated with the movement. Along with my writing partner, Ronna C. Johnson from Tufts University, I co-founded the Beat Studies Association and the *Journal of Beat Studies* (Pace UP). Johnson and I edited the first scholarly book on women Beat writers and the first collection of interviews with them, the latter winning the Choice Top 100 Book award for 2004.

Shannon Kahle

I appreciate the opportunity to join the AAUW. Here is a little information about me.

My education:

I have a BA in Philosophy, a Masters in Cultural Studies, and a PhD in Communications and Social Theory. I have spent most of my career as an analyst in higher education and several years ago returned to graduate school to earn a Masters in Counseling Psychology.

My work:

I chose to work in higher education as a result of my and my late husband's pursuit of education. As we continued our graduate studies, I noticed that very few of our fellow students had origins in lower-income families. I began looking at the data on higher education and low-income students and concluded that higher education was often reinforcing socioeconomic hierarchy rather than promoting social mobility. As a result, I decided to become an analyst focusing on 2-year schools and the academic readiness and educational outcomes for low-income, first-generation, and underrepresented students in higher ed. That work has been rewarding as I believe I have helped schools better understand the challenges these students face and create programs that support them.

My work as a counselor is the result of loss, and as such my focus is on grief counseling. The work of counseling is a different type of reward and is very important to me. Thanks for reading. I look forward to learning more about the AAUW and getting to know its members.

Submitted by Anita Greene

Program News

Our December Holiday Gathering at the Connection Center was enjoyable and successful as 34 members attended this year's event. Our generous donations were presented to Jackie Wynn, Family Support Services Supervisor from the Wayne County Children Services. Jackie spoke to us regarding the "Closet of Hope" and many other aspects of the importance of support services for their clients.



"Find your voice and speak."

In January we focused on Notable Women of Ohio. Sixteen members came together to view a few short documentaries and briefly discuss two well-known Ohio women. Erma Bombeck was a humorist and writer who achieved great success in her newspaper column beginning in the 1960s and Gloria Steinem is a writer and social-political activist in the 1960s and 1970s.



"Knowledge is imagination and creativity "



The February program is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 at 2:00pm at the First Presbyterian Church in the Parlor Room. Our special guest is Susan Shie, a talented and recognized painter from Wooster, Ohio. Her work reflects social justice through art and narratives. Susan will present her process of creating and philosophy of expression. We are very much looking forward to many of you coming together for this program.

"Be sure to be yourself."

In March, Meredith Hope, a professor at College of Wooster, will address and affirm the emotional and mental challenges for women in today's society. This program is scheduled for March 27 at the Wayne County Library at 6:30 pm.

"From the corner of a garden, herbs can offer aromas that bring smiles."

We will celebrate our year at the annual luncheon on Saturday, April 20, 11:30 am at the Wooster Country Club. There will be a brief business meeting followed by introductions of the current scholarship recipients, friendly conversation, and an enjoyable lunch. The program will be a presentation by Herbalist Susan Heady, a local Master Gardener Volunteer.

Submitted by Carole Erdos

Upcoming Events

February 20

Literary
Clark and Division
Zoom
7pm

February 27

Program
Personal Expression
Artist Susie Shie
First Presbyterian Church
2pm

March 27

Program
Challenges for women in
today's society
Speaker Meredith Hope
Wayne County Library
6:30 pm

April 20

Annual Luncheon
Wooster Country Club
11:30 am
Guest Speaker
Susan Heady
Master Gardener
Volunteer

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