

# The Breeze



August 2024

Newsletter 24-25 #2

Wooster, Ohio Branch

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

### From the President's Desk



Message from the President

Welcome to a new year with AAUW as we begin the 102nd year of the Wooster Branch. The Board has been working hard this summer planning another year of wonderful programs and insightful book discussions. Please remember when you speak with your friends to invite them to join our great organization. We're always looking for new members!

This fall will mark our 67th annual used book sale. Clean out your bookshelves, closets, and basements now as we are in need of more books for the sale. You may recall that we suspended collection for a few months after the last sale because we needed to move processing operations to a new location. As a result, we are not on track to collect our usual volume of 45,000 books. Please spread the word to friends and family that we are in need of their books. Books may be dropped off each Saturday morning between 10 a.m. and noon at the red outbuilding behind Zion Lutheran Church. This year's sale is September 24-28.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, please get out and vote on November 5. This is an historic election already, and our democracy works best when all are involved! Watch for more information from the League of Women Voters about candidates' night so that you can learn about local candidates and get your questions answered. It is our right and responsibility to be involved in the process. Let's do this!

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Armstrong  
President

### Contents

President's Message	1
Meet the Board	2
Hidden Treasures	3-4
Scholarship Recipients	5
Booksale	6
Member Tidbit	7
Membership	7
Words of Wisdom	7
Scholarship	8
Expanding Your Horizons	8
Historian	8
Literary	9
Program	10
Upcoming Events	10

# Meet Your 2024-2025 Board

## **Board Officers**

<i>President</i>	<b>Karen Armstrong</b>
<i>VP/ President Elect</i>	<b>Anne White Strauss</b>
<i>VP/ Membership</i>	<b>Anita Green</b>
<i>Secretary</i>	<b>Donna Connolly</b>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<b>Sarah Miles</b>

## **Board Members**

<i>Scholarship</i>	<b>Sue Herman</b>
<i>Programs</i>	<b>Carole Erdos Joyce Burdno</b>

## **Committees**

<i>Sunshine</i>	<b>Mimi Lewellen</b>
<i>Expanding Your Horizons</i>	<b>Sue Herman</b>
<i>By-Laws</i>	<b>Judy Taylor</b>
<i>Book Sale</i>	<b>Kris Evans Anne White Strauss</b>
<i>Literary</i>	<b>Donna Connolly Don Ackerman</b>
<i>Historian</i>	<b>Mary Hetrick</b>
<i>Membership/ Program Booklet</i>	<b>Maggie Spriggs</b>
<i>Newsletter</i>	<b>Pat Mathews Nancy Grace</b>

## Hidden Treasures

You never know what you'll find in a used book. Annotations, authors' signatures, bookmarks, grocery slips, and the owner's name, address, and date of purchase—all are relatively common and can be pleasure-filled windows into fragments of our shared histories. But at times, something more unusual appears. And as Wooster AAUW board members can attest, that "something" can turn readers into amateur sleuths.



While recently looking through donated books for the AAUW book sale, Anne Strauss unexpectedly discovered four black and white photographs. One was a formal portrait of an adult woman. The other three captured the cherubic nature of several young children, with one photo featuring two who could be twins. The three were clearly early twentieth-century photographs, the other probably from the seventies or eighties. But who were they of? Who had owned them? Strauss couldn't find any identifying information.

She was hesitant to throw them away, perhaps thinking of the time she had found a note from a "soon to be family member" praising the book owner for being welcoming and "raising a wonderful son." Recognizing the family name, she had returned the note and received a "thank you" and a hug in return. But since these photos remained enigmas, she contacted Pat Mathews, suggesting putting them in the newsletter to see if an AAUW member might recognize them.

Pat, however, was reluctant to publish without first identifying their owner. So she took the photos to an AAUW board meeting to share with the group.

Barb Friedhoff thought they might be pictures from books a team had gathered from an older home in the downtown area. Then Sarah Miles, noting that the woman looked familiar, volunteered two names. A quick online search for a match at first drew a blank. But the second was a hit—Doris Stammer, who in her eighties had recently moved from her family home on E. Wayne Avenue.



Kris Evans volunteered to return the photos to Doris Stammer at an upcoming luncheon, but when she didn't attend, Kris went the extra mile, meeting her in Stammer's new home to return the photos and gather more information about them.

In what Kris called “a delightful visit,” Doris speculated that the portrait was most likely taken when she received a promotion at the bank where she had been employed, then People’s National and eventually FirstMerit, from which she retired. Beginning as a mail clerk right out of Millersburg High School (now West Holmes), she remained at FirstMerit for 41 years, rising through the ranks to become senior vice president and corporate secretary.



She also told Kris that one of the children in the photos was her late husband, Harold L. Stammer, a native of New York.

Doris has given generously to Wayne County through her volunteer work with Quota International of Wooster, the Women's Committee for the Wooster Symphony, the Wayne County Republican Party, and the Muskingum Valley Presbytery.

In 2014, her volunteer service was showcased when she received the biennial Women of Achievement award from the Wooster Community Hospital Auxiliary. In 2016, Wooster’s Quota club honored her as their first 50-year member, and in 2019, the Wayne County Republican Party presented her with their Chairman Award.



So, the mystery of the photos had been solved, but only partially. We still don’t know which child is Harold L. Stammer. Could he be one of the “twins”? Were these two truly twins? Who are the two little boys in sailor suits? Who is the older child? Can the date of Stammer’s formal photo be determined by dress, hair style, and jewelry? Fortunately, Kris had the foresight to scan the photos before she returned them to Doris so we can continue sleuthing, if we so wish. And who knows, as Anne Strauss jokingly said, an allusive \$20 or \$50 bill may turn up in another book along the way.

### **Do you have a bit of Miss Marple in you?**

Join us on Tuesdays at 1:30 p.m. or Saturday mornings at 10 a.m. at our new location in the red barn behind Zion Lutheran Church. We are cleaning, sorting, and pricing the newly collected books.

Who knows...You may be the one to find the next TREASURE.

*Submitted by Nancy Grace*

## Introducing Your 2024-2025 Scholarship Recipients

**Asharia Irby** is enrolled in the Licensed Practical Nurse program at the Wayne County Career Center and currently works as a certified nursing assistant at Danbury in Wooster. Her aspiration is to be a hospice or psychiatric nurse. She has a passion for helping people in less fortunate situations access appropriate health care. Those with mental setbacks call to her heart, and she hopes to be their supplemental family when others cannot. She says that finishing her program is the most important thing to her for her future.

Asharia is a first-generation college student and the only person of color in her class. In addition to nursing skills, she hopes to learn more about providing health services to those from different back grounds. Asharia indicated that this scholarship will help remove the financial obstacles in her path.

**Joanna Swartzentruber**, a second time recipient of an AAUW scholarship, will be finishing her final semester this fall at the University of Akron. After earning her undergraduate degree in psychology, she plans to enroll in a graduate program next fall, eventually earning a doctorate in counseling. She loves working for non-profits and wants to bring mental health care to those who cannot afford it.

Joanna is particularly aware of the lack of diverse options when one is seeking mental health care in Wayne County. She believes that everyone deserves to be able to find a mental health provider who makes them feel comfortable. She wants to be one of their options.

Joanna works as an administrator at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County and also volunteers as guardian ad litem for the Wayne County District Attorney's office.

**Amanda Myers** is pursuing a bachelor of science in nursing degree at the University of Akron, Wayne College. She has worked for 10 years as a nursing assistant, most recently at West View Healthy Living in Wooster. Her nursing assistant career has included being a mentor to other State Tested Nurse Aids. She is currently a full-time college student and a single parent to a six-year-old boy.

Amanda wants to work as an emergency room nurse or a traveling nurse. The BSN will give her many options. She particularly enjoys being a student with some life experiences behind her because she is able to help and share with the younger students useful advice or information. This scholarship will help her achieve her dream by providing her family some financial security as she continues her journey.

*Submitted by Pat Mathews*

The AAUW/Kiwanis  
Used Book Sale supports  
various projects  
throughout our  
community.

AAUW uses the  
proceeds it receives to  
fund college  
scholarships for adult  
women who have had  
their education  
interrupted by life  
circumstances.



For more information  
about AAUW  
Scholarships and how to  
apply go to:  
[https://wooster-  
oh.aauw.net/](https://wooster-oh.aauw.net/)  
Thank you so much for  
your support.



## *What do these women have in common?*

MARIE CURIE

NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

WILMA MANKILLER

PATSY MINK

RACHEL CARSON

They were either supported by the AAUW, received the AAUW Achievement Award (presented to an individual whose record of achievement in any scholarly or professional field spans 20 or more years), or received the AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award (presented to a past recipient of an AAUW fellowship or grant and has attained outstanding success in their chosen profession).

You can learn more about AAUW award winners at <https://www.aauw.org/about/faces/>

Check out page 8 for details about these women.

## AAUW/KIWANIS BOOKSALE

It's hard to believe that this year's book sale is just around the corner! Dates this year are **September 24-28**. Admission the first night is \$10; all other days are free.

We're pleased to welcome Anne White Strauss and Sue Herman who will help with this year's sale, then take over as co-chairs after the sale.

Book collection, cleaning, sorting, and pricing continues at our new location in the red barn behind Zion Lutheran Church.



The exciting news is that construction of the doors has begun, with funding provided by the Wayne County Community Foundation. The doors are necessary to allow a forklift access to all

the pallets of books which have been boxed and shrink wrapped so that they can be moved to the sale location at the fairgrounds.



Again, this year we'll be using SignUpGenius to schedule workers for the sale. As always, we ask that every member sign up for at least one shift at the sale unless she is physically unable to work or will be out of town. And we hope that everyone who is unable to work will instead make a contribution to our scholarship fund.

<https://www.waynecountycommunityfoundation.org/giving>

Looking forward to seeing all of you in September!

Submitted by Kris Evans

## Member Tidbit: Donna Connolly

My husband, Ted, and I moved to Wooster from Evergreen, Colorado, in the summer of 2020 in the midst of the pandemic. How crazy is that! We had been planning this move for a while in order to be closer to our daughter's family.

We have always been music lovers. In Colorado, we were very involved with the Colorado Symphony. We regularly attended concerts, were members of the Colorado Symphony Guild, participated in and organized special events with musicians and other music lovers. During our last year there, I was president of the Guild. Now in Ohio, we have switched our allegiance to the Cleveland Orchestra and are starting to get involved with volunteer activities and supporting them in other ways.

We also love that right here in Wooster we have the Wayne Center for the Arts. Their concert series brings outstanding musicians to the local stage. Earlier this year we had the pleasure of hosting the Escher String Quartet for a small concert in our home. That was an awesome experience! I really enjoy getting to know musicians in a more personal way.

*Submitted by Donna Connolly*

## Membership News

The Wooster Branch currently has 62 members. Thank you for all the renewals.

AAUW members might not know that association membership includes benefits listed on <https://www.aauw.org/>. Just click on membership and scroll down to "Discounts and Perks."

One benefit offers up to 35% off Avis car rental with the AAUW Budget Discount number (B079581).

A Budget car rental discount also appears on the list.

UPS (members only discount) and the Travel Saving Center are also listed.

Have any of you tried these discounts? If they worked for you, please let other members know.

*Submitted by Anita Greene and Anne White Strauss*

## Words of Wisdom

*"Empower yourselves with a good education, then get out there and use that education to build a country worthy of your boundless promise".*

*Michelle Obama*

*"We in America do not have government by the majority. We have government by the majority who participate."*

*Thomas Jefferson*

*Submitted by Nancy Grace*

*"Only those who vote have the privilege of complaining about the outcome. VOTE."*

*Pat Mathews*

### AAUW

#### Diversity Statement

*In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team, 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.*

## MARIE CURIE

In 1920, AAUW joined a national campaign to raise funds to help Marie Curie purchase radium to further her research, raising \$154,413.5. Curie won two Nobel Prizes, the prize in physics in 1903 and the prize in chemistry in 1911.

## NGOZI OKONJO-IWEALA

Director-General of the World Trade Organization and one of Time magazine's 100 most influential people of 2021. She was awarded the Alumnae Recognition Award in 2021.

## JUSTICE SANDRA DAY O'CONNOR

First woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1981-2006). She received the Achievement Award.

## WILMA MANKILLER

First woman chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-1995). She received the Achievement Award in 1993.

## PATSY MINK

Member of U.S. Congress (1965-77) and co-author of Title IX. She received the Achievement Award in 1992.

## RACHEL CARSON

Author of the Award-winning book *Silent Spring*. Received the Achievement Award in 1956.

## Scholarship Committee

This year we had 16 applicants who met the expanded criteria for consideration. We gave priority to those working on undergraduate degrees and vocational programs such as the LPN. After consulting with the Foundation regarding scholarships awarded our applicants, we recommended awarding three scholarships. To meet our recipients, see page 5.

The committee will be meeting with the Wayne County Community Foundation director later this month to review the new on-line application process.

There is a vacancy on the Scholarship Committee. This is a very rewarding committee on which to serve. Contact Sue Herman for additional information.

*Submitted by Sue Herman and Pat Mathews*

## Expanding Your Horizons

The Expanding Your Horizons is a workshop held at The College of Wooster for 5th and 6th grade girls to promote STEM fields. The College is very appreciative of the support the program receives from AAUW. We will be seeking help from four to six of our members in March to distribute fliers to schools in the Tri-County area. More information will be coming in late February or early March.

*Submitted by Sue Herman*

## Historian

Nicholette Rogers, chairwoman of the 100th anniversary celebration for AAUW Wooster Branch with Irma Villarreal, and I have worked for many months to prepare the accumulated 100-year memorabilia we have collected for donation to an appropriate historical repository.

At the June meeting, the AAUW board approved our plan to place these items in the Special Collections of The College of Wooster Library.

Nicholette and I have some work ahead of us to complete the project, but we are excited to report the very positive comments about the collection we have received from COW staff in the Special Collections of the library and educators in the Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies and Museum Studies programs. One final effort this fall is to collect personal stories from branch members to add to this collection.

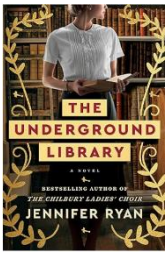
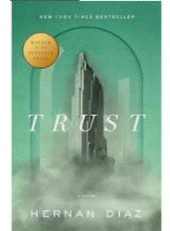
*Submitted by Mary Hedrick*



## Literary

Our annual book selection meeting, held on Tuesday, May 21, met at the First Presbyterian Church where attendees enjoyed a carry-in dinner brought by chapter members, welcomed new-member Shannon Kahle, and selected the 10 books for the 2024-25 season. (See below.)

At our June 18 meeting, Don Ackerman led a lively discussion about *Trust*, a postmodern novel by Hernan Diaz, sharing a video of an informative interview with the author. Our members had mixed reactions to the narrative and the author's style, giving the book a rating of 4.3.



Sue Herman reviewed *The Underground Library* by Jennifer Ryan at the July 16 meeting. This historical novel tells the story of libraries that developed in the London Underground during the Blitz of WWII. Many members shared their early memories of libraries and bookmobiles and how much those experiences have meant to them.

### Calendar for the Literary

- Aug 20: *The River We Remember* (fiction) by William Kent Krueger. Reviewer Stefani Koorhan
- Sept 17: *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett (fiction). Reviewer Diana Rice
- Oct 15: *Out Stealing Horses* (fiction) by Per Petterson. Reviewer Carol McKiernan
- Nov 19: *The Heaven and Earth Grocery Store* (fiction) by James McBride. Reviewer Beth Krieder
- Dec: **No Meeting**
- Jan 21: *One Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot* (fiction) by Marianne Cronin. Reviewer Donna Connolly
- Feb 18: *Inheriting Edith* (fiction) by Zoe Fishman. Reviewer Karen Armstrong
- Mar 18: *The Women* (fiction) by Kristin Hannah. Reviewer Julie Mennes
- Apr 15: *The Cape Doctor* (fiction) by E.J. Levy. Reviewer Pat Mathews
- May 20: **Book selection meeting**
- June 17: *Wanderers: A History of Women Walkers* (nonfiction) by Kerri Andrews. Reviewer Mary Beth Henthorne

**All meetings except the May Book Selection meeting will be held at Community Action, 905 Pittsburgh Avenue.** Wi-Fi and video capability are available, so reviewers can share videos to enhance their reviews. Contact Don in advance, so he can set up.

Note: The group decided to no longer rate books with a numerical value, since ranking standards vary so much within the group. Members are encouraged to enjoy the discussions and learn from each other's comments.

## Programs and Events

Our first gathering will be held on October 17 with a presentation from Deb Mosier, Lions Club International Foundation Coordinator for Ohio. Thank you to Joyce Burdno for selecting this intriguing and interesting program.

Our next gathering will be held on November 14 featuring Sara Starr Brink as our speaker. She is the Director of the Wayne Center for the Arts.

There will be an additional five programs this year ranging from entertainment to health and wellness. We look forward to increased participation with all members.

**Deb Mosier, Lions Club International Foundation Coordinator for Ohio**  
Oct. 17, 7 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Wayne County  
3186 Burbank Road, Wooster

The Lions are the largest membership-based service organization in the world, and Deb Mosier's talk will focus on various services that it provides for the local, state, and international communities—with emphasis on regional activities.

In addition to being a past district governor, Mosier has held several offices including president, membership chair, director, newsletter editor, zone chairperson, and region chairperson. At the state level, Mosier served as a member of the Constitution and By-laws Committee.

Her community service to the Lions has been recognized with many awards, such as the International Presidential Medal, International Presidential Leadership Medal, PDG Association Leadership Award, Region Chairperson Award, and Lion of the Year.



More information about Mosier can be found at <https://www.ohiolions.org/2021-2022-md13-cog/450-2021-2022-md13-oh> and about the Lions at <http://www.lions.org>.

**Sara Starr Brink, Director, Wayne Center for Arts**  
Nov 14, 2 p.m. Wayne Center for the Arts  
237 S Walnut Street, Wooster



Sara Brink brings a unique combination of talents, experiences, and a commitment for arts and arts education. Her involvement in arts programs and activities in high school and college prepared her for highly-successful administrative roles with Chicago's Ravinia Festival and The Cleveland Orchestra. Brink brings a genuine, life-long passion for the arts which began early on as a student in the Triway school system. Since returning to

Wooster to raise her family with husband Jake, Sara has been in leadership roles at The Wilderness Center in Wilmot and most recently as director of its Foxfield Preserve.



Brink will speak about the mission and history of the Arts Center and how it seeks to improve community life through the arts. She will also address the relationships WCA has with Wooster's economic development. A tour of the facility will follow.

More information is available at <https://wayneartscenter.org/>

Submitted by Carole Erdos and Pat Mathews

## Upcoming Events

### Literary

August 20  
September 17  
October 15

### Book Sale

September 24-28

### Candidate's Night

October 10

### Deb Mosier

October 17

### Branch Mtgs

Aug 22  
October 24

### Arts Center

November 14

### Holiday Gathering

December 14

### Future Programs

Jan 9 2 pm  
Mar 13 7 pm  
Apr 10 6:30 pm.