

of Medina County Branch

April 2021 Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members.

Our fiscal year is almost over. Despite the pandemic AAUW has had a busy year with much more to come. We now have a diversity book club in addition to our regular book club and a new environmental committee.

On April 29th at 7:00 p.m., our Environmental Committee and our partner the Medina Public Library will host a Zoom panel discussion, called The World We Live In, to raise awareness of environmental issues in our area. Please look for the link in this newsletter to make your reservation.

Caught up in the renewal spirit of Spring, my daughter got a 9-week-old kitten which is, adorable, of course. When we introduced kitty Beignet (a hole-less French doughnut eaten in New Orleans) to our dog Tillie (who had been a breeder in a puppy mill), Tillie very slowly leaned forward. Then, Tillie very gently kissed Beignet with the tip of her tongue touched to the kitten's mouth. It was just so sweet and loving. I know Tillie was a good mamma to her many pups.

If only we were all as uncomplicated and pure of heart as animals! The world would be so much nicer. (No lions, tigers, or bears, oh my!)

I wish you all a warm, sunny spring of hope, recovery, and freedom.

Sincerely,

Alanna Arnold

President, AAUW of Medina

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

President's
Message 1
Musical March
Program2
Exercise Right to Vote
3
Local Art Scene and Officers Wanted 4
AAUW Book Club 5
Bragging Corner & Memoriam6-7
One Eye Down8-9
What Can I do for Saving the Earth10
Environment
Committee11
MCHS Yard Sale12
June Program and
National Webinar13
Inquiring Minds14-15
Human Trafficking16
Making a Difference for Women 17-18

MUSICAL MARCH PROGRAM

For our March Zoom program, Joyce Rynearson and her piano took us on a musical journey of her varied experiences with a lifetime love of music. We traveled with her from classical to jazz, to gospel and show tunes. We enjoyed her rendition of "Maple Leaf Rag," a Scott Joplin tune, and "This Little Light of Mine." She also played "What I Did for Love" from "Chorus Line" and "Sea of Love."

Joyce reminded us of the importance of music in our lives by sharing several beautiful quotes about music:

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human society cannot do without." (Confucius)

"There are two means of refuge from the misery of life—music and cats." (Albert Schweitzer)

"A painter paints pictures on canvas, but a musician paints pictures on silence." (Leopold Stokowski)

Joyce will be playing at the Cleveland Clinic in Medina when Covid 19 restrictions are lifted. We will post her schedule when it is available. Thank you for the special program on music that we all enjoyed.







MEDINA COUNTY AAUW BRANCH CONTACTS

PRESIDENT:

Alanna Arnold, 330.721.1510; aswarnold@gmail.com

CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, MEMBERSHIP: Anne Gates, 330.723.1133; agates1107@gmail.com; Kathy Kraus, 330.722.1107; artkathy@zoominternet.net

FINANCE OFFICER: Pieri Levandofsky, 330.461.1945; jpsky2728@aol.com

SECRETARY:

Katherine Baker; 408.410.4636; katydid1000@gmail.com

PUBLIC INFORMATION: Kate Hunko, 330-665-3652; chunko@kent.edu

NEWSLETTER:

Donna Hamilton 330.334.6734; <u>clover725@ymail.com</u> Pieri Levandofsky 330.461.1945; <u>jpsky2728@aol.com</u>

WEBSITE MANAGER Mary Baker, 330.725.3569; liblady 2@yahoo.com

WEBSITE:

http://medinacounty-oh.aauw.net

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK:

http://www.facebook.com/ medinaaauw



This is a significant time in AAUW's history, as it presents an opportunity for members to exercise their right to vote on three key ballot items. The first issue is an amendment to the organization's Bylaws that will eliminate the academic degree requirement for membership. As reported in the February 2021 issue of *The Voice*, the national board is recommending a vote in favor of the proposal. The rationale is that doing so will bring the AAUW membership criteria in line with its mission and values of advancing gender equity. In addition, making this change will promote an inclusive and diverse organization, reflect today's society, and engage all who are interested in furthering AAUW's priorities.

In addition to the Bylaws proposal, the ballot includes amendments to public policy priorities. These are adopted on a biannual basis and serve to guide the national staff and members on advocacy matters. Integrated throughout the proposed amendments is a consistent focus on diversity, inclusion, and equity. Finally, AAUW members are asked to elect four members to the national Board of Directors; board responsibilities and candidate biographies are available for review online.

To access the online ballot and information relevant to the election, please locate the email entitled "Vote now to shape AAUW's future," which arrived on April 7. Here you will find your unique voter ID and pin, along with a link to the National Election page, which provides detailed information on all three ballot initiatives.

Questions may be directed to <u>connect@aauw.org.</u> Please note that voting will remain open until *Monday May 17, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.*

As always, please feel free to contact Kathy Kraus (artkathy@zoominternet.net; 330-722-1107) or me (agates1107@gmail.com; 330-464-4733) with any membership-related questions.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Gates







IMMERSIVE

VAN GOGH

EXHIBIT

COMING TO

CLEVELAND

SEPTEMBER 9

THROUGH

NOVEMBER 28

LOCAL ART SCENE

"Immersive Van Gogh Exhibit" is coming to Cleveland from September 9 through November 28 of 2021. This exhibit is 500,000 cu ft. of monumental projections of Van Gogh's works from the sunny landscapes to the starry nights, portraits, and still life. It is a multisensory exhibit in which you walk through large scale moving images with music. This exhibit will be located at an historic Cleveland venue that is being kept secret for now. Covid 19 safety precautions will be in effect and admission will be managed with advance timed tickets. Go to vangoghcleveland.com to purchase advance tickets. There are several different prices ranging from \$30 to \$100 per ticket. Most of September and weekends in October are already sold out.

This is the type of trip we would have enjoyed as a group pre Covid. We can't do that, but I at least wanted to make sure our members had the information to attend if they choose. Cleveland supports the arts and we are so fortunate to get an exhibit like this.

WANTED: VICE PRESIDENT OF PROGRAMS

Our branch needs a leader who can plan four to five (4-5) programs for year 2021-2022.

That person would attend board meeting on the first Monday of the month and attend general meetings.

You can plan with your committee to help keep us informed of what's going on in our community and surrounding areas.

We Can Do This TOGETHER! You don't have to have "connections." There are 65+members in this branch. Won't you step forward and help us lead in our programming?

All of our members are qualified.

Also WANTED: Secretary

We need a secretary for two years to take minutes at board and general meetings.

Please call Cindy Weisheit at 330-635-0304. Or email at cindygolf3265@gmail.com.

Let's make this coming year a wonderful year after quarantining and distancing in 2020!

AAUW BOOK CLUB

Bernice Goertzen organized a unique and interesting poetry program for the month of April. We shared the following four poems:

Louise Gluck-- "At the end of my suffering there was a door,"

Rhiannon Giddens—"Build a House—Juneteenth Song" (this is the musician we know mostly by her first name only) She performs this selection with YO-Yo Ma.

Billy Collins—"I Go Back to the House for a Book"

Bob Dylan—"The Times They Are a Changin'"

In a podcast by Oliver Fox we examined Billy Collins's *Six Elements of a Poem* comparing poetry to a "museum housing a history of the human heart." These elements are shape (building), title (marquis), first lines (welcome mat), stanzas (rooms), turning toward the abstract (the discovered subject), and the final word (the flagship exhibit).

Poet Amanda Gorman stole the show at President Biden's inauguration, and poet Brandon Leake won last season's <u>America's Got Talent</u> competition. Poetry is alive and well today and is enjoyable reading.

PBS has been showing a really good two part documentary on Hemingway that you may enjoy if you are a fan.

We will be meeting via Zoom at 1:00PM on May 10. The link to join us will be sent out a day ahead of time. We will be selecting this book when we meet in April. Please join us for our last meeting until next September. We need recommendations for a summer reading book. Contact Donna Hamilton if you have any questions or suggestions.





BRAGGING CORNER



Kathy Kraus is proud of son, retired Air Force Colonel Robert Kraus, now working as Dean of the John D, Odegard School of Aerospace at the University of North Dakota.

Donna Hamilton is proud of son, J. Scott Hamilton, who started a new job as principal tech writer with Aviatrix in San Jose, CA. He is a specialist working with startup companies and cloud storage developments.





IN MEMORIAM



Long term Medina AAUW member, Willeane Schrock, passed away on February 26, 2021 in Goshen, Indiana. She leaves her husband, Howard, and two sons and four grandchildren. Willeane was active in book club and many other AAUW activities before moving to Goshen to be closer to her son.

She earned her BSN and PHD in nursing and taught nursing at Presbyterian Hospital, Philadelphia, Goshen

College, the University of Illinois in Chicago, and the University of Akron. There will be a graveside ceremony at Oak Grove Mennonite Cemetery in Smithville, Ohio at a later date.



IN MEMORIAM



Patricia Boyle, one of our Medina Branch founding members, passed away on March13, after a short illness. You may have met Pat at a meeting, and if you had, you would have remembered her for her sophisticated look, her platinum grey bob that turned under, and her honest way of assessing both people and situations.

She was active in the branch since its founding, often in a leadership role in the

early years. Most recently, she participated in the book discussion group on a regular basis.

We miss her and offer condolences to her husband and family.

Below is an excerpt from the Medina Branch newsletter, October, 2014, which includes some of her observations made at the 50th Anniversary luncheon program.

"Katherine Ann Porter made her appearance in a gorgeous, silky green dress that was made more striking by her stylish white hair and a large emerald ring," recalled Pat Boyle, at the 50th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration as she related some highlights from the earliest days of Medina Branch. "It was after the publication of **Ship of Fools** and we had invited her to come to our little city for a book and author fundraising luncheon."

Boyle also noted that a speaker on "ugly towns" at one of the frequent branch dinner programs suggested that the simple act of painting the old firehouse red could engender a spirit of pride in the old building. It did more than that: members picked up on the idea and took the lead in establishing the Community Design Committee that re-created Medina Square and remains an active presence to this day.

At the beginning of the presentation, Membership Vice President Karen Sands awarded Boyle a certificate and recognition from AAUW national for her 50-years of continued membership. Now, as a Life Member, her national dues are waived for as long as she retains her membership.

Before leaving the podium, Boyle posed with two other "charter members" who were in attendance at the luncheon: Linda Kolb Schultz and Nancy Sprowls.

Pat Boyle is forever a part of our branch memory.

----Pat Chaloupek

ONE EYE DOWN

By Donna Hamilton

So the day I had been dreading came—the day my eye doctor said he could at best give me only 20/40 vision which is bare minimum for driving. I had to have cataract surgery. I was frustrated with not being able to read the TV guide or see the clock in the family room. The main thing I tell my doctor is I do not want to be one of these "old ladies" who is always looking for her reading glasses or wearing them on a chain around my neck! I would prefer to wear glasses all the time if necessary. Now I know this is supposed to be **minor routine** surgery. The Egyptians and Greeks were doing this surgery in ancient times. But it is really only routine to the surgeon and his team, not to me. Anything with my eyes is not minor.

The ancients did not have all the choices that I had to make. First, I had to choose a surgeon or a laser cutting the cataract out. I watched a video and saw that the surgeon cut results in a very jagged edge, and the laser cut makes a perfect smooth circle cut. The laser costs \$2200 upfront out-of-pocket that no insurance will cover.

Second, I have to choose a lens for preferential distant vision, or for preferential close vision, with glasses required for the other. Or there is a progressive lens called the Opti Max lens for both close and distance. The progressive lens which costs \$895 upfront out-of-pocket with no insurance reimbursement, probably will provide "functional" vision at all distances without glasses. Whatever "functional" vision is, it doesn't sound that great to me.)

Third, I have to choose after surgery a month of eye drops three or four times a day, or a shot in the eye which will result in seeing "floaters" for a month, but no drops, unless I get an infection. After much research I choose laser, the progressive lens, the shot in the eye, and write my check for \$3100.

Four days before the surgery I get a call that my pre-op tests showed I have a macular pucker which is a wrinkle/scar tissue in the back of the right eye, and therefore I cannot use the Opti Max lens, but must use a different type of a progressive lens, Vivity Toric lens. This lens may result in needing glasses for fine print reading: it may actually be better for night vision. More research and knowing I can adjust the print size when reading on my tablet, and I make this choice.

The dreaded day of surgery arrived. My sister was right on time to drive me to the Summa Surgery Center in Medina. Dr. Chi and his team are fantastic. They could see how nervous I was gripping the railings on the bed, and really tried to put me at ease. I had five eye drops in the right eye for numbing/disinfecting every five minutes for half an hour. Soon I was getting a bitter taste in my mouth from the drops working their way through my sinuses. There were many more eye drops later also. I had an IV for anesthetic, but was aware through the entire procedure. Never any pain.

(continued on page 9)

ONE EYE DOWN

I was taken into the laser room where I had to switch beds. The technician told me I had three rules to follow: no talking, no moving my head, and focusing straight ahead, not moving my eyes. The laser only takes about three minutes, but it is difficult to keep focusing straight ahead because of all the red and green flashing lights. I heard the anesthesiologist say, "Her oxygen level is going down" and then she figured out it was because I was not breathing. I was that intent on following the three rules! Later she was joking about it, and I told her, "Well, no one told me to breathe."

The lens replacement is done in a different room. This took about half an hour, a little longer than usual I think because of this special lens. This was the most uncomfortable part of the procedure because my eye was propped open and the light was unbearably bright. Again it was important for me to keep my focus straight ahead until he told me to move it up or down. Finally, Dr. Chi said he was going to give me the shot in the eye, and I told him, "Just do it; don't tell me." I did feel a little pinch from the shot.

I was there from 8:00AM and home by 11:30AM. I did feel a foreign object in my eye for about one day. Just a little different feeling. The biggest problem was the "floaters" which are not like the small white dot floaters I had before the surgery. They were dark, wide black lines. It was like looking through a chain link fence for about two days. Since then they have diminished although I should still see the smaller dots for about a month. Much better than all those eye drops. My distance vision with the new lens is really good, but I cannot read anything with just that eye. My reading vision should improve after eye number two in three weeks.

If anyone else is facing this routine surgery, I hope this can help you know what to expect. I started this process blindly, pun intended!



WHAT CAN I DO FOR SAVING THE EARTH

Carbon footprints can be reduced through improving energy <u>efficiency</u> and changing lifestyles and purchasing habits. **Reduce, Reuse & Recycle** preferably in that order

Continuing our thoughts around the importance of trees for air quality, what are some ways we can responsibly use paper products? We cut down 23,000 (conservative estimate) trees a day just for toilet paper. Have you ever noticed a package that says in large print "made from 100% recycled materials," and then in small print it says "at least 50% from post-consumer products?" What is going on here? If it's "recycled" doesn't that mean it was already used at least once? Turns out manufacturers purchase new products and then "recycle" them to claim they are using 100% recycled materials. Watch the labels.



How to Reduce Paper Usage

Use tissues and toilet paper made from recycled paper.

Use linen towels instead of paper towels, except for greasy messes or cat puke.

Bamboo paper towels are reusable, really soak up liquids, and bamboo regrows quickly.

Use old towels etc. instead of paper towels.

Use Norwex kitchen cloths for cleaning up spills.

These cloths are carbon neutral and are made of 70% recycled plastic bottles.

Cancel most magazine subscriptions. Share your newspapers and magazines.

Use a permanent filter in our coffee maker. This eliminates paper coffee filters.

Buy loose tea or tea bags in paper to avoid the waste of the wrappings.

Never purchase or use paper dishes or cups or plastic silverware.

--submitted by Lor Breyley

REDUCE

REUSE

&

RECYCLE



ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

SAVE THE DATE

APRIL 29 7:00 PM VIA ZOOM

PLEASE
REGISTER
USING
LINK
IN
ARTICLE

Save April 29, at 7:00PM for our "The World We Live In" event on zoom. The emphasis will be on air, water, and soil quality here in Medina County. Our experts will help us understand the current local situation and how it affects our health, the cost of pollution, and steps we can take to improve the environment here where we live. This event is the first program our Environment Committee has produced for the Medina County Community. Please tell others about our program.

Registration: https://tinyurl.com/aauwmedina

For more information: https://medinacounty-oh.aauw.net/

SAVE THE WORLD WE LIVE IN



The World We Live In - a virtual program Thursday, April 29 7:00 p.m.

Speakers:

- Dr. Ryan Haden, Associate Professor of Soil Science the OSU-ATI
- Abby Costilow Medina County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Dawn Myers Akron Regional Air Quality Management District

Registration: https://tinyurl.com/aauwmedina For more information: Medinacounty-oh.aauw.net

Presented by AAUW

Our Lives Depend on It

MEDINA COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY YARD SALE

SATURDAY
MAY 1ST
9:00 AM
TO
3:00 PM

YARD SALE

The Medina County Historical Society will be having their Spring Yard Sale on the front lawn of the McDowell-Phillips house on Saturday May 1st from 9am-3pm. There will be a rain date of Sunday May 2nd from 9am-3pm. Masks will be required, and the house will not be open for tours at this time.

We will gladly accept donated items for the sale the week of April 11th through the 18th. Please reach out to Andrea Spickler (330.421.6474) to schedule drop off times. Please have items cleaned before dropping off, no clothing or jewelry.

McDowell-Phillips House 205 S. Prospect Medina, OH 44256

Thank you for your continued support!



JUNE MEETING



Save The Date: June 24 Outdoor Meeting / Banquet
Corkscrew Saloon --Medina
Installation of New Officers and Scholarship Award Recipient
additional information to follow in May newsletter

AAUW NATIONAL WEBINAR

Thursday, April 22, 2021 | 4pm ET Diversity Equity and Inclusion Webinar:

How to Have Difficult Conversations

Click here to register

ELIZABETH BLACK

"SHE CREATED
AS MANY AS A
DOZEN
PORTRAITS
A DAY
OF GI'S



INQUIRING MINDS

Do you have to remind yourself to move away from the computer and TV or put down the book that you feel compelled to finish? If so, join the crowd (at a safe distance). Reading and online learning have surged during this past year when we have all been spending more time at home.



I have become enamored of PBS, Amazon TV, National Geographic and even Viking.tv. Videos and streaming, Alexa, YouTube and podcasts are no longer unfamiliar to me. There is always some wonderfully interesting programming, if you know where to look.

Last month, I introduced a vacation resort in Colorado that was operated by and for Black Americans. This month, I share insight into a woman whose efforts were unknown to the world at large, but who made a difference in the memories of many.

By Pat Chaloupek

Portraits for the Home Front: the Story of Elizabeth Black

A young Pittsburgh woman was on her way to becoming a well known portrait artist, accepting commissions and doing historical portraits in public buildings when WWII interrupted her career. **Elizabeth Black** joined the Red Cross. After serving doughnuts and coffee at canteens abroad, she proposed to use her talent in a unique project: to sketch hundreds of soldiers, sailors and airmen throughout Europe and send the treasured portraits to worried families back home.

She created as many as a dozen portraits a day for GIs who were grateful for the chance to talk or even flirt with the blue-eyed, brunette portrait artist from Pittsburgh and who wrote heartfelt notes of appreciation in her notebook. The large sketches, dated and signed and often containing messages to loved ones back home, were mailed to parents, wives and siblings. In an old foot locker, Black saved more than 50 of their heartfelt thank you notes, photos of about 100 sketches and her notebook.

(Continued on page 15)



TO WATCH THE DOCUMENTARY, TAKE A LOOK AT HER SKETCHES, AND VISIT A SIDEBAR ON **DISCOVERIES OF PORTRAITS SHE** MADE FOR THE PITTSBURGH PUBLIC LIBRARY THAT WERE LONG **COVERED BY A** BUILDING RENOVATION. GO TO THE WQED WEBSITE:

HTTPS://
WWW.WQED.ORG/
ELIZABETHBLACK/

INQUIRING MINDS

While in France, she met a naval commander, Julian Black (same last name!) and they were married in Europe before the war was over. In 1945, they returned to the U.S. and settled in Virginia. She stored her wartime memories and led a new life as wife and mother, not pursuing her earlier career.

Fast forward seventy years. In 2013, Black's son finally opened up the foot locker which had been passed around after she died in 1983. He found the photos and notebook notations, scanned them and even tried to make contact with living relatives of the servicemen.

He regrets that he never had a chance to talk with his mother about her wartime experiences, and that she never had recognition for the contributions she made. When he decided to share his discoveries with WQED, the PBS station in Pittsburgh, they researched and ran with the story.

To watch the documentary, take a look at her sketches, and a visit a sidebar on discoveries of portraits she made for the Pittsburgh Public Library that were long covered by a building renovation, go to the WQED website: https://www.wqed.org/elizabethblack.



As far as reading, I would highly recommend another book related to women who made a difference during war: *An Unladylike Profession: American Women War Correspondents in World War I*, by Chris Dubbs. From Mary Roberts Rinehart, to Nellie Bly, Edith Wharton and more than thirty other women who worked as war reporters, the author shows how their narratives offered new understanding of life behind and sometimes on the Front. Through this book we gain a new appreciation for the groundbreaking efforts of these women.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Changes are happening in the Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Rhonda Wurgler has resigned from the Children's Center. Anna Guy Leach is temporarily acting in her place until a new director is found. In the absence of funds for the Coalition, Bailey Ewing and Beth Ewing have both left the Children's Center as employees. They will continue as volunteer co-chairs of the Coalition.

These events are leading to other changes. New by-laws are being written which will include the SOAP Project as well. By-laws for the Coalition are new and including SOAP is a welcome addition. Committees are needed to do the work of the Coalition. Alanna Arnold has stepped up to be "Basket Chair" to find groups to submit baskets for fundraising at HT events.

The next HT event will be a Poker Run that is planned for September or October. AAUW will consider making a basket to produce much needed funds for HT. Please support Alanna in creating the basket and also the event.

Changes are also happening in SOAP. Nine hotels in Wooster and a 5th team to cover them have been added. Flash drives with training for hotel staffs have been created. Our team members have requested these because of the high turnover in hotel staffs and for refreshers for longer term employees.

The NFL Draft will be taking place in Cleveland April 29 through May 1. An event such as this always draws more human trafficking because of attending men with time on their hands and extra cash. We have been asked to cover hotels in Cuyahoga County that do not have SOAP teams. Members of 2 of our SOAP teams have responded to do this. A big hand to them for their commitment and their passion to eliminate human trafficking.

SAVE the Date

Next HT event:

Poker Run
in
September
or
October

Making
a
Difference!

Volunteers Needed

> Union Square

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN

I'm working on a comprehensive project to break the cycle of poverty for a group of individuals who live in Union Square, Medina.

Policy makers do studies on breaking the cycle of poverty and there are classes you can take to learn financial literacy, but more can be done collectively at a grass roots level. We work on individual projects and make a difference a little at a time, but think what we could do if all worked together toward one goal. Breaking the cycle of poverty in Medina County.

With that thought in mind, I reached out to Samantha Harr, who is the resident manager for Union Square, to inquire on what services her community could use to improve their current situation. We discussed the barriers to access education and employment. Some of these barriers are: child care, background checks, transportation, broadband and technology. Here are a few things we've gotten into place:

- Education Project Learn will conduct tutoring for GED's, Civil Service and ASFAB testing for anyone over 18 years of age in the Union Square Community Room.
- 2. Background Checks I reached out to the Medina County Probation Officer and received information on how to seal records for individuals who have up to 5 felonies. I'm putting together information packets for Samantha to hand out when needed. We are advertising this information through a poster on the new jobs board Samantha has installed.
- 3. Technology Samantha was approached by an individual who wants to help get computers and tech in the Union Square Community Room. It's great news for this community! He also has donated a large screen TV that will be installed and can be used as a white board. Continuous WiFi is another subject. The Medina school is paying for WiFi through the end of the school year, but after that we will need to find additional resources. United Methodist Church has promised to pay up to 3 months, and I hope that will cover the summer months. We don't know what will happen when school starts again in the fall.

(continued on page 14)

If you can

help

contact:

Donna

Beheydt

(330)

703-7607

donna.beheydt@gmail.com

MAKING A DIFFERENCE FOR WOMEN

(continued from page 15)

- 4. Library United Methodist Church has put in 2 small bookshelves and books for the children. I have resourced a couple more bookshelves and a hundred books or so to put on them. I plan to install a bookcase for adult learning as well.
- 5. Children Samantha and I met with the new board president of Let's Make A Difference to see where we can work together with the children and parents of Union Square. I'm looking to make a connection with Big Brothers and Big Sisters too. I've heard that Medina County may now have a branch.

What I need from you and other AAUW members is help in filling in the holes.

Some of these young people will need mentors to help them navigate the job market, writing a resume, finding appropriate clothing, learning to dress for an interview, learning good interview skills, etc. These soft skills can be intimidating and overwhelming. Can you help guide someone through this process? These young people just need someone to believe in them and help them up and out of their situation.

I can give individuals information on how to seal their records, but I can't answer any legal questions or give advice, so if you are an attorney could you volunteer an hour or so a week to answer any questions on how to fill out the form and what qualifies, etc.?

We will also be looking for a couple of tutors for tech once the computers get in. In today's work world it's imperative that everyone has good computer and internet skills. Can you tutor in Word, Excel, Google, email, etc.?

When you help with even one of these items listed above you could change someone's life forever. Union Square is only a starting point. Once a few more connections are made, and more barriers are taken down, I'd like to see this project be duplicated across the county.

Let's work together for positive change in Medina County. I hope you will join me!

Donna Beheydt, Community Organizer

If you can help, text Donna at 330-703-7607 or email at donna.beheydt@gmail.com