



## Spring Luncheon and Changeover Meeting

The Spring Salad luncheon and changeover meeting will be

**Saturday, May 22, 2021**

beginning with a brief business/board meeting at 11:15 a.m.  
followed by the luncheon at Noon.

The luncheon will be catered by Little City Grill in Kent.  
The menu — croissants, wraps, salad, fruit salad and dessert.  
Coffee, tea, wine and Mimosas will be served.

Hostess will be Penny Marquette.

**Please contact Jane Gwinn**

(330) 678-2239; (330) 603-3598 or via email to  
janeagwinn@gmail.com

**by May 17, 2021 for your reservation.**

Luncheon Location:

**Crossings at Golden Pond Clubhouse**  
184 Shaw Drive, Kent, OH 44240

**Directions from the west:** Take I-76 east to Exit 33 (Hartville/Kent). Turn left and follow for 1-1/2 miles, turn left onto Meloy Rd. Turn next Left onto Sunnybrook Rd. Immediate right turn onto Shaw Dr. Follow to clubhouse on right (172). Park in the lot.

**Directions off Rte 8:** Exit- Tallmadge Road; Follow for several miles to the Tallmadge circle. Exit at Rte. 261. Follow to round about and stay on Rt 261. Follow to Sunnybrook Rd. Turn right, go to next street- Shaw Drive just past Kent Ridge Assisted Living. Follow road to Clubhouse on the right. Park in lot,

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## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



### Carrie Tomko (Valentin)

Our very own UAWC President, Carrie Tomko is featured in this edition of the Newsletter.

Carrie currently resides in Wadsworth, Ohio. She grew up in Grafton and was a resident of UA's Sisler-McFawn Hall from 1986-89 and later off-campus on Sumner Street.

After attending a Welcome Back hosted at President Proenza's home, Carrie knew she wanted to become a UAWC member. She was sold after being greeted so warmly by Martha Vye and Carolyn Cox.

Carrie is currently a faculty member in the Williams Honors College. Through her education she graduated with Honors from UA with a degree in Business Administration, Accounting in 1989, because her parents stated there was money and careers with numbers. However, Carrie always preferred letters to numbers as she still enjoys reading. But following her parents footsteps, she continued with a career in numbers at The J.M. Smucker Company as an international account, then starting her MBA at UA in 2001, only to decide to start a family. Carrie became a stay-at-home mom for 8 years raising her lovely daughter Liz. She did a stint with a newspaper as the first female editor of the news, and then went back to UA and graduated in 2008 with a Master's Degree in Communication (finally letters!). After writing for the newspaper and deciding to pursue and "official" communications education.

Carrie enjoys academia so much that she went on to pursue a PhD in Health Communication at Kent State University, only to become a PhD ABD (all but dissertation). Since she encountered someone special—Ken Boersma, who invited to her his farm, as much as she missed academia pursuits, she took a pause with a lighter academic route for a Certification in Gerontology connecting to dementia communication, since Ken has Parkinson's disease. Ken then encouraged Carrie to pursue a degree in Horticulture, connecting education to farming. She recently graduated from KSU in December 2020. Carrie also teaches at KSU at the Salem regional campus where she was named Faculty Member of the Year in 2019. In addition to teaching at KSU and UA, she also teaches at Ashland University in their Corrections facilities education program, a.k.a. prisons, where she actually has the opportunity to teach in higher education in her hometown of Grafton, since the town has three State of Ohio Correction Facilities.



Carrie has held several positions in the UAWC. She is currently President, but has also served as Corresponding Secretary and is a member of the Gourmet Group. She loves attending the Book Review, but with limited time she has only had a chance to attend four reviews. In addition, she participated in the Tour Group and loved the experiences at the Women's First Lady Museum in Canton, as well as the tour of the Art Rehabilitation facility in Cleveland. Carrie mostly enjoys our spring and fall general meetings and the Holiday luncheons with all the great food and games.

Carrie's biggest voyage was taking her daughter Liz to Europe for her high school graduation gift. They went to Germany, Holland, and France. She has also traveled to 17 of our states where she confirms Michigan along the Great Lakes was her favorite, as well as Wisconsin for the clean water and beautiful farmland. Since farming is a big part of Carrie's life, travel means going to Tractor Supply Company, not Europe these days.

If asked if she has a favorite activity in the club, Carrie states, not really. She notes that the ladies are her favorites. Their enthusiasm for learning and growth, life-long learners at any and every age, who have mentored and shaped her. She admires all



for guiding her. Some days she would like to be Leslie Bain or Susan Colville-Hall for the inner strength that they project, and Peggy Walchalk has such publication talent! When Carrie is feeling feisty, but wants to be eloquent in the process, she mirrors Sharon Gandee. Carrie states those are compliments to the ladies since they and all the UAWC members are an inspiration to her.

*(continued on next page)*



## In the Spotlight *(Continued)*

As for music, Carrie states she has no musical talent whatsoever. She does not play an instrument, she plays the radio. In all honesty, Carrie is a self-taught harmonica player. Her dad, who is deceased had a career as a dentist but always wanted to be a country music artist so he purchased a harmonica for Carrie and told her to learn to play. She learned out of spite, just to prove to him that she could play an instrument. As a child, Carrie was required to select one musical instrument to take a summer's worth of lessons. She practiced guitar for three dreadful months and quit as soon as the obligation was met. Later in life, Carrie's ex-husband who was a developed guitar player, requested that she learn to play the drums, so that they could have their own little band (like the White Stripes couple). Unfortunately, Carrie got TMJ, a sore jaw from clenching her teeth too tightly while playing the drums so she quit that instrument too.



As for other activities, Carrie states "I farm". It is her absolute passion outside of teaching. From 2012 to 2017, Ken Boersma and Carrie had a herd of 80 head of grass-fed beef cattle, where they sold their beef to Heinen's Grocery Store. A farmer as a child, Ken, with an IQ of 176, never attended college, but is a self-taught farmer and has presented epic roles in the recycled plastics industry, holding three patents. Although farming is a joy for both Ken and Carrie, it is also a lot of work and stress. After much debate, Ken decided it was best that he sell the big farm due to his bout with Parkinson's. Missing the farm lifestyle, Ken and Carrie got back into farming on a smaller scale, less than two years later. Currently, Ken has 20 acres, which ties into Carrie's 2.5 acres, located in Norton. Ken has the micro-miniature donkeys and hay field on his farm, and Carrie has the miniature cattle on her farm. The couple 'team farm' each with shared animals and shared space. All-in-all the last 9 years Ken and Carrie have raised cattle, horses, donkeys, peacocks, swans ... and cats. Carrie is a big fan of her cats, Peanutbutter and Infinity are her apartment fur babies.



Other accolades, mostly women directed for Carrie include being named Medina County Woman of Distinction in 2004; first female member of the Lions Club of Wadsworth (2004), after 60+ year of all males; first female Editor and Writer for *The Trading Post Newspaper*, winning one mid-Atlantic writing honor for her Mother's Day Column; authored one book pro bono, for the Wadsworth City School District ... a historical fiction piece, used as a "textbook called *The Magical Journey into Wadsworth History* for third graders; and finally for Carrie's writing career, she had her dream jobs collide, when she landed her own column in *Ohio Farm Magazine*, where she was given the ink to share her love of writing and farm stories! Sadly, she lost her high school boyfriend to a tragic accident, when he was struck and killed in a car accident, which taught Carrie deep down not to depend on men for happiness and well-being, but to be a strong, independent woman, ensuring that she possesses the education, energy, and determination to take care of her needs and the needs of others ... when ever she can use her talents and treasures to do so ... and can spare the time, as she is a woman work-aholic! While she admires many women, she finds herself quoting her own mother more than anyone, so after a long day's work and exhaustion, saying to herself, "Sleep on it .. that is what tomorrow is for."

Concluding comments for Carrie about the UAWC—she is so proud to be a member of the organization of educated, fun, and enriching women, whom she respects and admires ... with the club's rich history ... the endowment legacy ... the scholarship offering ... the ladies are the reason! Truly, these inspiring ladies are mentors to Carrie and to each other .. What a GIFT of a club! Her heart is filled with joy with every interaction with the UAWC.



***"Life is a Collection of Experiences ... collect as many as you can! I am ...!"***

- Carrie Tomko (Valentin)

## Book Review

Wednesday, April 21, 2021

Sixteen members and guests attended Book Review via Zoom for Isabel Allende's *A Long Petal of the Sea*.

### Book Summary:

This historical novel covers a 50-year span. We are first introduced to our protagonists, Victor Dalmau and Roser Bruguera, three years into the Spanish Civil War. Victor is a medic, his brother a soldier, both serving the Republican side, along with Victor's Basque friend, Aitor Ibarra. We also meet Elisabeth Eidenbenz, the Swiss nurse, who will reappear in later chapters to connect characters to one another. When the Republicans fall to Franco's forces, for their safety Roser and Victor make their way to France independently. Along the way Carme, the mother of Guillem (killed in the final battle) and Victor, refuses to continue. Roser, pregnant with Guillem Dalmau's child, is accompanied by Aitor. After horrendous and challenging experiences in the mountains and refugee camps, Victor and Roser find each other and sign up for the transport arranged by Chilean consulate, Pablo Neruda, to Chile. But to do so, they must marry.

In Chile they are welcomed and find hope for building a new home. Initially, they stay with the prominent del Solar family, who is interested in their talents and potential, Roser as a musician and Victor, as a medical student. The new contact also brings possibilities for diverse and complex relationships. The readers follow the protagonists through this period of adjustment in their migration to a new country, but Victor and Roser learn that the struggle for a homeland doesn't end in Chile. A "non-political" Victor begins his friendship with Salvatore Allende through the chess games they play. Victor befriends the poet Pablo Neruda (who chartered the Winnipeg for the passage of Spanish refugees) while Roser resumes her music activity. Their marriage seems stable after Victor's affair with Ofelia del Solar, and they seem at home until they are not. As in Spain, politics play a heavy role in the landscape of this Chilean saga when a coup puts an end to the government of Salvatore Allende. Punishment, refugee camps and exile again come into play. Victor and Roser are forced to seek asylum again.

# ISABEL ALLENDE

## A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA

Newly exiled to Venezuela where their son Marcel works in the oil industry, Victor and Roser adjust to their displacement until years later in late middle age when they can return to Chile. This brings up the question, "Who am I if I have no home?" Returning "home" to Chile brings new (and some welcome) surprises that reflect Neruda's words, "Here are the roots of my dream. This is the harsh light we love."

### The Review:

Patricia Schorr presented a short biography of Isabel Allende, a well-known Chilean-American writer who lives in California, and the background on Chilean poet and diplomat, Pablo Neruda. Ginny Ballinger, guest panelist, presented the history of the Spanish Civil War. Susan Colville-Hall gave a summary and led the discussion. Many members liked the author's style in this historical fiction framework and were amazed by what they learned about conflicts in this reading, while others sought greater character development. It is easy to compare the odyssey in this story to that of many who are at the Mexican-American border. What would Isabel Allende's next book be like if she took up this content?



Author, Isabel Allende

Let's talk  
about it

## Discussion Group

The group met on April 1, 2021 to discuss DeWine, Portman, Wornock, Cordray and Cuomo. There were ten members in attendance. Members met again on April 29th to discuss President Biden's presidential address aired the previous evening.

Discussion Group will meet again Thursday, May 13, 2021. **This will be an in-person gathering** as everyone in the group has been vaccinated. CDC guidelines will still be in place as the group will meet outside. See the Special Activities section of this newsletter for details.





# HIKING OHIO

## UAWC - HIKING SCHEDULE 2021

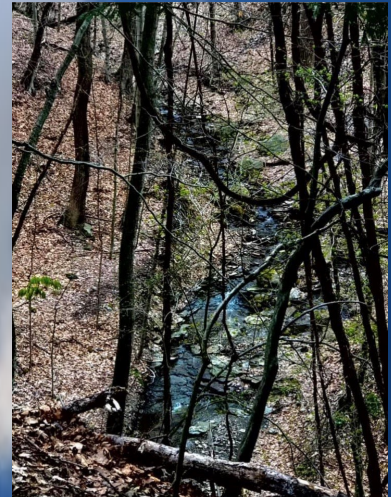
Date	Trail	Contact
15-Apr	Furnace Run & Daffodills - Richfield	Diana K. & Bev C.
29-Apr	River Styx / Hubbard Valley (Trilliums) - Medina Co.	Eileen S. & Bev C.
6-May	Adell Durbin Park - Stow	Rita D. & Susan C-H.
27-May	Gorge Metro Park - Cuy. Falls	Jane G. & Leslie B.
10-Jun	Deep Lock Quarry - Peninsula (lunch at Linda Littler's ???)	Denise B.
24-Jun	Copley Community Park	Martha V. & Therese S.
15-Jul	Partage Lakes State Park	Martha V. & Therese S.
29-Jul	Kent Kyaking - Burning River Boat Livery in Cuy Falls	Jane G. & Leslie B.
Friday, August 6	Boettler Park - Green	Susan Pritchard
19-Aug	Richfield Heritage (Crowell Hilaka) - Richfield	Susan C-H & Eileen S.
2-Sep	Towpath Memorial Park	Diana K. & Diane W.
16-Sep	Beech Creek Park - Alliance	Sue Yoder
30-Sep	Springfield Bog Metropark	Betty M. & Linda S.
7-Oct	Liberty Park - Twinsburg	Rita D. & Denise B.
21-Oct	Silver Creek Metropark - Norton	Leslie B.



# You know it's spring when...



Our UAWC hikers started the season off on April 15th with a hike at Furnace Run Trail Head in Richfield, a 1.3 mile loop. Hikers then carpoled to nearby Daffodil Trail to hike a 1-mile loop trail loaded with many varieties of daffodils, all in bloom this day. Twelve members participated on a very chilly spring day. Hikers were bundled up but warmed a bit as they walked. All participants were happy to be getting back to a little normalcy. There were many hugs as good-byes were shared.



## Hiking at Hubbard Park

Trilliums, trilliums, trilliums and other wildflowers. That's what we saw at Hubbard Valley Park in Medina County! Gorgeous! No other words can describe the outing! We also saw Jacob's Ladder, Wild Geraniums, wild cabbage and onion, etc. Thank you UAWC for this opportunity - Eileen Simon and Bev Cinovec, co-leaders. Eleven hikers (four were guests) made the 2-mile trek. **Pictures below.**







## Women's Club News and Notes

In light of the current COVID 19 situation, Special Activities will be scheduled as conditions permit. Please check with your Special Activity Chair to make sure your program is taking place on the scheduled date. At this time there are no plans to participate in the Shaw 2021 Festival.

**Note:** If you have any news to share, contact our Secretary, Sue Yoder at (330) 666-5238 or email to [sby17@roadrunner.com](mailto:sby17@roadrunner.com). Sue will send appropriate card on behalf of the club.

## THINGS TO DO

### Discussion Group

- May 13, 2021

### Evening Book Review

- May 19, 2021

### Hiking Group

- May 6, 2021
- May 27, 2021

*(Schedule enclosed)*

### Bridge Group

*On hold due to COVID*

### Gourmet Dinner

*On hold due to COVID*

### Performing Arts Group

*On hold due to COVID*

### Tour Group

*On hold due to COVID*



## Special Activities

**Chair:** Jane DeLuca, (330) 968-9887 ([delucajane12@gmail.com](mailto:delucajane12@gmail.com))

### Evening Book Review

**Co-Chairs:** Susan Coville-Hall

[colvillehall@uakron.edu](mailto:colvillehall@uakron.edu)

H: 330-686-1860

C: 330-714-3765

Betty Miller

[bmiller@uakron.edu](mailto:bmiller@uakron.edu)

H: 330869-8193

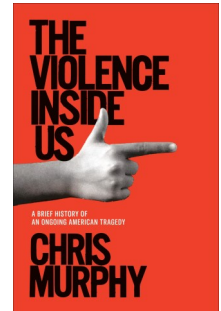
C: 330-696-7921

The group regularly meets on the third Wednesday of each month from September through May at 7 p.m. Because of COVID 19, meetings are currently being held virtually.

If you have a suggested date for a summer book discussion; especially if you are willing to host, please let the co-chairs know.

**Wednesday, May 19, 2021** "The Violence Inside Us"

by Christopher Murphy; Reviewer Diana Kunze



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### Gourmet Dinner

**Chair:** Jane Gwinn (330) 678-2239

[janeagwinn@gmail.com](mailto:janeagwinn@gmail.com)

The Gourmet Dinner Group meets four times a year: September, October, April & May. Couples or singles are welcome. A different theme for each dinner is set by the hostess (for instance, Italian night using all Italian recipes). Hostess will research and send recipes to each participant to make a different dish to share. All costs are shared equally (bring receipts). Bring your own beverage as well.

**Dinners are currently on hold due to COVID 19**



## MORE FUN THINGS TO DO

### Bridge Group

**Co-Chair:** Leslie Bain - H: (330) 485-4252 / C: (330) 658-1965 [lbain220@gmail.com](mailto:lbain220@gmail.com)

**Co-Chair:** Bev Brockett - C: (330) 618-6256 [alnbev.bb@gmail.com](mailto:alnbev.bb@gmail.com)

This group meets the fourth Thursday of each month. Before playing, participants enjoy lunch at noon in the Rockynol Dining Room with Bridge beginning at 1 p.m. Announcements of upcoming monthly dates will be sent out to participants to make sure there are enough players to fill bridge tables (multiples of 4).

**Schedule:** [Bridge dates are currently on hold because of COVID 19](#)

## DISCUSSION GROUP

**Co-Chairs:** Denise Beck (330) 322-2942  
[beck490@gmail.com](mailto:beck490@gmail.com)

Sylvia Johnson (330) 644-3090  
[Sylvia5@uakron.edu](mailto:Sylvia5@uakron.edu)

The Discussion Group meets on the third Thursday of the month.

**Schedule:** **Thursday, May 13, 2021** at 3:30 p.m. *In person!*

Topics to be determined. This will be the first in-person meeting in over a year! Discussion Group participants have been vaccinated. However, still following CDC guidelines so the group will meet outside at Lorene Reed's home. (Everyone should bring their own lawn chair.) For more information and directions to Lorene's home, please contact Denise Beck.



### Hiking Group

**Chair:** Leslie Bain (330) 819-2846  
[lbain220@gmail.com](mailto:lbain220@gmail.com)

This group hikes at various locations throughout the area in late spring, summer and fall.

See enclosed hiking schedule.



# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON WOMEN'S CLUB

c/o: Peggy Walchalk  
517 Hilbish Avenue  
Akron, OH 44312



We're on the Web at [www.uakron.edu/uawc/](http://www.uakron.edu/uawc/)



## Membership form for 2020-21

Regardless of your anniversary date, please pay your annual dues in June or July if possible.

Please send this completed form, along with a check made payable to UA Women's Club, to **Penny Marquette, PO Box 707, Bath, OH 44210.**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Your Department \_\_\_\_\_ and Department (If appropriate) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address (Street) \_\_\_\_\_ Email address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Status     Active \$20     New Member \$20     Associate\* \$10

\*Associates are those who have been active dues paying members and are now in retirement status. Associates or sponsored members who are regular participants in special activities **are encouraged** to become active members by paying full dues.

*Sponsored Membership \$10*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Sponsoring Club Member*

Please check here if you wish to receive newsletter via U.S. Mail

Scholarship Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know what special activities you might be interested in (check as many as you like):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Afternoon Bridge    \_\_\_\_\_ Book Review    \_\_\_\_\_ Discussion Group    \_\_\_\_\_ Performing Arts Group  
\_\_\_\_\_ Gourmet Dinner    \_\_\_\_\_ Hiking    \_\_\_\_\_ Tour Group