

Making the AAUW CONNECTION

JANUARY 2013

Middletown AAUW Newsletter

January Program Focuses on a STEM Career Woman

Middletown AAUW branch will meet on Saturday, January 11 at MidPointe Library in Middletown at 10:30 a.m. Following our monthly meeting, Dr. Lisa Mannix, Butler County Coroner, will offer a program discussing women in STEM careers and her own path through a career in medicine.



Dr. Mannix was appointed Butler County Coroner in April 2012. On November 6, 2012, she was elected to this office. She is Butler County's first woman coroner. Prior to her election to the office of coroner, Dr. Mannix was director of Headache Associates, a West Chester neurology office that specialized in the treatment of patients with headache.

Dr. Mannix's medical experience includes an internship and residency at The Cleveland Clinic Foundation where she was chief resident in neurology. Prior to returning to Cincinnati, she was on the staff of the Headache Wellness Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. She and her husband served in Hyderabad, India in 2009 as directors of Back2Back, an international humanitarian outreach to poor and orphaned children. Dr. Mannix is board certified in Neurology and Headache Medicine.

Dr. Mannix has strong local ties. She is a graduate of Lakota High School and earned her medical degree from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1992. She opened her private practice here and has affiliations with several local hospitals.

A highly published medical researcher, Dr. Mannix is easily found in a variety of media forms. Youtube offers her comments on menstrual migraine in Interview with Dr. Lisa K. Mannix. ReachMD and IHeart Radio have offered Understanding Menstrual Migraine. The article Neurologist Lisa Mannix Explains What You Need to Know About the Pain in Your Head was published in Health Magazine. A variety of medical journals have published her studies of drugs in the treatment of migraine. WebMD offers her biography. One can even find pdf lesson plans, such as The Comorbidities of Migraine published by the National Headache Foundation, written by Dr. Mannix.



Dr. O'dell Owens, MD, MPH, President of Cincinnati State (pictured with Co-Program VP, Nita Driscoll) spoke on Nov. 21 to the branch and several guests including 3 generations of AAUW members; Katie Stueck McNeil, Maurita Stueck, Laura McNeil Desmond.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, January 11, 10:30am

Jan. Speaker & Branch Meeting
MidPointe Library Community
Room

Thursday, January 16, 7:00 pm

Joy Luck Book Club
Dear Life by Alice Munro
Sharon Williamson's Home

Tuesday, January 21, 7:00 pm

Voluntary Simplicity
Becky Ward's Home

Monday, January 27, 7:00pm

Board Meeting
MidPointe Library
Conference Room A

Thursday, February, 20, 7:00pm

Joy Luck Book Club
Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand
Location TBA

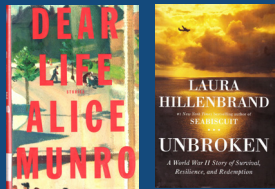


Educational Foundation Named Gift honorees Sharon Dowden, left, and Anita Shew, right, with AAUW Middletown EF chair Jan Runkle, center.

Jan/Feb Book Club News

At our next Book Club meeting in January we will be reading *Dear Life*, a collection of short stories by Alice Munro. Munro is an 82-year-old Canadian author who won the Nobel Prize for Literature this fall. The Nobel Committee declared her to be “a master of the contemporary short story.” Since winning the prize, her book sales have skyrocketed. Weekly sales for a previous book of short stories were 400, but sales of *Dear Life* are coming in at 4,500 per week. *Dear Life* was named best book of the year by The Atlantic, NPR, San Francisco Chronicle and Vogue.

Date: January 16 at 7 pm
 Book: *Dear Life* by Alice Munro
 Venue: Sharon Williamson’s
 210 Alamo Road



In February, we’ll be reading *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by best-selling author Laura Hillenbrand. This was #1 on the New York Times bestseller list, hailed as the top nonfiction book of the year by Time magazine, and winner of the Los Angeles Times Book Prize for biography.

Date: February 20 at 7 pm
 Book: *Unbroken*
 by Laura Hillenbrand
 Venue: Need a host!

Both books are available in hardcover, paperback and electronic formats.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

Although we are halfway through our program year, the calendar says it’s time to say, “Happy New Year!” 2014 promises to be an eventful year for AAUW Middletown, with our book sale in a brand new (to us) venue and the Ohio AAUW convention right in our back yard in Springfield.

Continuing our theme of “Making the AAUW Connection,” our January and February programs will focus our attention on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education and careers for women. AAUW believes in the value of educational programs that encourage girls to succeed in these traditionally male-dominated fields and introduce girls to female role models. We will meet such a role model when Dr. Lisa Mannix, Butler County Coroner, speaks to our branch in January.

AAUW creates programs that offer girls the opportunity for hands-on activities while also exposing them to a multitude of educational and professional options. Our branch is a strong supporter of Ohio AAUW’s renowned Be WISE Camp which this summer will be held for the 25th year at Denison University in Granville. Rising 7th and 8th grade girls spend a week engaging in hands-on activities and we are challenged to recruit 3 campers for this year’s experience. AAUW Middletown Scholarship Chair Laura Desmond will soon be distributing materials and leading our recruitment effort.

Saturdays Added for Book Sale Volunteering

The Book Sale Committee is pleased to announce that beginning Saturday, January 4, 2014 we will begin collecting, sorting, and pricing. We will be adding Saturday mornings to our already established Tuesday morning schedule. We will be working from 10:00-12:00 on all Tuesdays and Saturdays. We would encourage people who have books to deliver them by 11:30 on those days. If books need to be picked up, please call either Chris, Sharon, Tina or Libby so that we can make arrangements. Also, if you need to make special arrangements to drop books, then call one of the four of us so that we will have someone there to collect them. We also encourage all of you to check your schedules to work when you can !!!! The sale will be here before you know it !!!!

Voluntary Simplicity to Discuss “Stuff”

The meeting will be held Tuesday, January 21, 7:00 PM at the home of Becky Ward, 618 Cambridge Dr., Middletown. Betty Patterson will lead the discussion and our topic will be: “Stuff 2.0” Managing the Stages of Stuff. The focus will be to move beyond clutter into intentional advances in prioritizing, organizing, executing, and celebrating life.

We invite YOU to join us for this meeting and to RSVP your intention to Becky at beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409.

Local Opportunity to Continue Learning

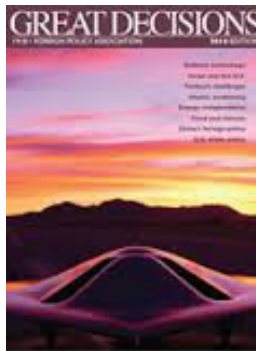
A study group open to any interested citizen is forming for an 8 week study of the Foreign Policy Association- Great Decisions. This is a national, grassroots discussion program with study materials and viewing of the PBS Television series which is America's longest running television program on U.S. foreign policy.

Following group discussion questions, individuals are invited to then share their opinion with the FPA which shares with policymakers and leaders across government and industry each year.

2014 Topics include: Defense Technology; Israel and the U.S.; Turkey's challenges; Islamic awakening; Energy Independence; Food and Climate; China's foreign policy; U.S. trade policy.

Meetings will be held at the MidPointe Library in Middletown on the second and fourth Thursday evenings from January through April, 2014 from 7-8:30 pm. The first meeting will be Jan. 9th, 2014.

For more information contact: AAUW Middletown Public Policy chair, Katie McNeil 513-424-4725. Ten study books and the DVD for watching have been ordered for the first ten people interested. Cost is \$20.00.



Now is the Time! Holiday Bazaar Reminder from Rose

NOW is the time to sort through and clear out your holiday items that you no longer have need and save them for our bazaar in 2014. Also, invite your family, friends and neighbors to join us in our effort, they will probably be happy to have a place to donate their unwanted holiday items.

Chance to Support Local Schools

Middletown City Schools is having a bond issue campaign meeting on Monday, Jan. 13, at Miami University Middletown. Help is needed to register voters and conduct the educational campaign for the May 6 school bond issue to build a new Middle School and upgrade the High School. Let Katie McNeil know if you would like to be involved.

“YOU ARE BRILLIANT AND THE EARTH IS HIRING” (Do something for yourself this year)

Is the New Year finding you looking for a unique resolution or a new way to envision the world? Why not take the opportunity to join an active discussion group that will explore our choices for sustainable living! This discussion group is a collaborative effort between AAUW Middletown and Bull's Run Arboretum.

What: Choices for sustainable living - A Call To Sustainability

When: Beginning Tuesday January 28, 2014

1:30pm to 3:00pm every other week for 7 sessions.

Where: Middletown Public Library Conference room B

Additional Information: "Northwest Earth Institute" www.nwei.org

Guidebook and readings: "Choices for Sustainable Living" \$25.00

Contact: Marjorie Kochunas margekochunas@hotmail.com or 513-422-1270 to sign up or for any questions you have.



Participants in this 7-session discussion group will:

- Develop a deeper understanding of the meaning of sustainability
- Consider the ties between lifestyle choices and their impact on the Earth
- Learn about steps that can be taken to move toward ecologically sustainable organizations, lifestyles, and communities.

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How to Write a Letter to the Editor

Writing letters to the editor is a great way to energize branch members, promote AAUW visibility in the community, and spread the word about important issues. Letters to the editor can be used to correct and clarify facts in a previous news story, oppose or support the actions of an elected official or agency, direct attention to a problem, spur news editors to cover an issue that is being overlooked, or urge readers to support your cause. Letters to the editor are especially effective in local, community papers.

Tips on Effective Letters to the Editor

- **Research the guidelines.** Most papers have a length limit on letters to the editor. It is usually around 250 words, but be sure to find out before you begin writing. You should also find out where to submit your letter (typically via email).
- **Pick a timely topic.**
- **Find a local angle.** Readers are more interested in an issue when they see how it affects their lives and communities.
- **Assume nothing.** Do not assume that your readers are informed on your topic. Give a concise but informative background before plunging into the main issue. Refer to any newspaper article or editorial to which you are responding by date and title.
- **Identify yourself as part of AAUW.** Most papers prefer printing letters to the editor written by a local authority or community leader. Signing your letter as an AAUW office holder or member with expertise on the topic can make it more likely to be chosen.
- **What makes someone an expert?** Someone with a closer-than-normal perspective on the issue is an expert. This may include a local lawyer discussing the impact of a Supreme Court nomination, or a teacher discussing how cuts in education translate into the day-to-day situation in her classroom. You should submit your letter not only as an AAUW member, but also according to your personal experience.
- **Avoid form letters.** Do not send the same letter to two competing papers in the same circulation area, or many copies of an identical letter to a single paper.
- **Edit your document:** Have some fresh eyes look it over for the requirements above. Finalize your draft. AAUW policy staff is available to help proof your op-ed if requested via advocacy@aauw.org.

Get Creative

- Throw a letter-to-the-editor party! Gather branch members to learn about an issue and write letters to the editor to your local paper. This way, you'll be able to support one another through the writing process and increase the likelihood that several letters will be published.
- Incorporate letters to the editor in your existing activities. For example, if you are having a speaker on school vouchers, ask everyone to write a letter to the editor about a state school voucher bill after the presentation.

Key points

- Letters to the editor should be brief, preferably 250 words or less.
- AAUW policy staff is available to help proof your letter if requested via advocacy@aauw.org.
- Make your letter stand out with a local angle and by identifying yourself as an AAUW member.
- Consider gathering your fellow branch members to write letters to the editor together, either as a separate "letter to the editor party" or as part of an existing activity.

2013-2014 Branch Officers & Contact Information

President: Virginia Palmer
 Co-Program VP: Nita Driscoll, Carolyn Smith
 Co-Membership VP: Betty Elworth, Lois Wood
 Recording Secretary: Marge Kochunas
 Corresponding Secretary: Barb Balsmeyer
 Treasurer: Judy Florence

Association: <http://www.aauw.org>
AAUW/Ohio: <http://www.aauwoh.org>

Middletown Branch:
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