

# Making the AAUW CONNECTION



APRIL 2014  
**Middletown  
AAUW  
Newsletter**

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## How does the Ohio Supreme Court Work?

Justice Sharon Kennedy of the Ohio Supreme Court will speak about "How the Ohio Supreme Court Works" on Monday April 14, 2014 7PM at Midpointe Library, 125 S. broad Street.

Justice Kennedy graduated from The University of Cincinnati School of Social Work with a Bachelor's Degree in 1984 and the University of Cincinnati College of Law in 1991. She began her legal career as a police officer in the Hamilton, Ohio Police Department from 1985-1989. She served as a law clerk and director of the victim/witness division of the Butler County Court of Common Pleas from 1989-1991.

Justice Kennedy served as an Administrative Judge of the Butler County Court of Common Pleas, Domestic Relations Division for 13 years prior to being elected in 2012 to the Ohio Supreme Court. She has been active in many community activities and received numerous awards of recognition. In 2013 she was named one of 13 professional women to watch by the Cincinnati Enquirer. She was considered worth watching because she is the first Butler County resident in 150 years to hold a seat on the state's highest court. She also has the distinction of being only the 9th woman to serve in the state's highest court.



## Slate of Officers for 2014-2015

The nominating committee is pleased to announce the slate of officers for 2014-2015. Many thanks to the following members for accepting the nomination for these offices:

Branch President - Virginia Palmer

Co-Program Vice-presidents - Nita Driscoll and Carolyn Smith

Co-Membership Vice-presidents - Beth Miller and Anita Shew

Recording Secretary - Marjorie Kochunas

Financial Officer - Karen Jones

Corresponding Secretary - Jan Runkle

## Welcome our Newest Members

We enthusiastically welcome ten new members: Stella Combs, Phyllis Cox, Katie Erb, Carol Friedman, Lois LaFayette, Marcia Miller, Patty Pratt, Jess Rowland, DeAnna Shores, and Deborah Turner. Be sure to look them up at the next meeting. Thanks to all of our members, we now have over eighty members to help fulfill the goals of our local branch, as well as that of national AAUW.

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, April 5, 10am-2pm**

Imagination Library Luncheon

Miami University Middletown

**Friday, April 11- Sunday, April 13**

AAUW Ohio Convention

Springfield, OH

**Monday, April 14, 7:00 pm**

April Program and Meeting

MidPointe Library

**Tuesday, April 15, 7:00 pm**

**Joy Luck Book Club**

*Mad Women: The Other Side of Life on Madison Avenue in the '60's and Beyond* by Jane Maas

Location TBD

**Monday, April 28, 7:00 pm**

Board Meeting

Ginny Palmer's Home

**Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 pm**

Branch Meeting/Installation

Brown's Run Country Club

**Thursday, May 15, 7:00 pm**

**Joy Luck Book Club**

*What My Mother Gave Me: Thirty-One Women On the Gifts That Mattered Most* – an anthology by Elizabeth Benedict

## Looking Ahead to May

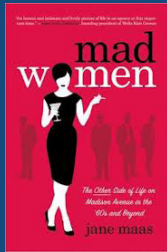
The Middletown AAUW May meeting is Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 pm for dinner at Browns Run Country Club. Member Michelle Piepgrass will speak to the topic Cyber Security. The meeting also includes installation of officers and recognition of scholarship recipients. Please sign up for the meeting at the April 14 meeting or soon after. You may pay Judy Florence the dinner cost (\$22) in advance or have exact change at the door in May.

## "Joy Luck" Book Club

*Due to the fact that our normally scheduled book club is on Maundy Thursday, we are changing the date this month to a Tuesday.*

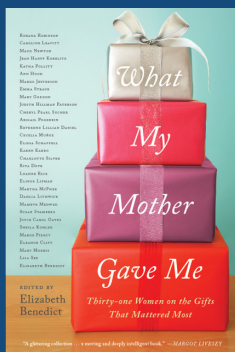
New Date: Tues., April 15 at 7 pm  
*Mad Women: The Other Side of Life on Madison Avenue in the '60's and Beyond* by Jane Maas

Are you a fan of the show *Mad Men*? This is your chance to learn how life really was in advertising for women during this seminal period. Maas writes a humorous and at times poignant view of life as a career woman, wife and mother. Her choice of priorities was unusual, her success unimpeachable. ("I Love New York" was just one of her memorable campaigns.) Maas' book is based on her own experiences and countless interviews with her peers on Madison Avenue.



Coming in time for Mother's Day is our selection for May 15: *What My Mother Gave Me: Thirty-One Women On the Gifts That Mattered Most* – an anthology by Elizabeth Benedict.

This book looks at the relationships between mothers and daughters through the lens of 31 Pulitzer Prize winners, perennial bestselling novelists, and celebrated broadcast journalists.



## Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

Reviewing AAUW's Mission statement - AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research - I see it's time to talk about that first element, advocacy. Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW uses lobbying and grassroots efforts to push forward policies that break through educational and economic barriers for women.

By the time a woman, Sandra Day O'Connor, was finally appointed to the U. S. Supreme Court in 1981, AAUW had been working toward that goal for more than half a century. "AAUW's Original Binders Full of Women," at <http://www.aauw.org/2013/09/25/original-binders-of-women/>, is a fascinating account of AAUW advocacy at work. It's great background reading in preparation for our April program about the Ohio Supreme Court.

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find the final report from the Nominating Committee in the form of your 2014-15 slate of officers. Please come to the April meeting prepared to vote and to give your hearty thanks to Committee chair Debbie Worbis and members Robin Becker and Paula Lindon.

When we meet on April 14, several branch members will have just returned from the AAUW Ohio convention in Springfield. Thank you to all branch members who contributed items for our silent auction basket and soda for the President's Reception and to Flowers by Roger for contributing the centerpiece our branch will provide for one of the banquet tables.

## AAUW Be Wise Camp Scholarship

The scholarship chair, Laura Desmond, received 7 BeWise Camp applications for 6th and 7th graders from Middletown schools, Highview and Middletown Middle School. Ginny Palmer and Debbie Worbis assisted in narrowing it down to 2 girls who will be attending the BeWise camp this summer at Denison University. Congratulations to Jasmine and Kylie from Highview 6th Grade Center. Both girls are excited and their parents are excited too. The students will be invited to a meeting next fall to share their camp experience with us.





## Another Successful Book Sale

The first weekend in March was a busy one for many members and their friends. AAUW successfully held their annual Book Sale in a new location. Shoppers found us and bought lots of books! We met our budgeted income of \$9,000.00 and have since taken in a bit over \$100.00 more. The best part of the Book Sale was the involvement of many members, including our newest members. We all enjoyed getting to know each other better - as well as making money for a good cause. As soon as the committee can meet, we will be announcing allocations from this year's proceeds. Thanks to everyone who helped, in one way or another! Stay tuned. TN



You are invited to the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual *Invest in Tomorrow*

# Candy Land Dance



Ladies in grades Kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, bring your best guy to a Father/Daughter Dance.

**Where:** Middletown High School Gym

**When:** Saturday, April 12, 2014

**Time:** 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

**Cost:** Presale - \$5/child; \$10/adult – available for purchase from student's teacher –  
CASH ONLY  
At the Door - \$7/child; \$13/adult

**Enjoy a candy bar and other concessions;  
Pictures will be available for sale.  
Children must be accompanied by a paying adult.**

**Proceeds to support the May 6 Bond Issue for Middletown City Schools**

[www.votemiddies.com](http://www.votemiddies.com)

**Paid for by Invest in Tomorrow Committee, Dave Sauter-Treasurer**

## Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

## Vision

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

## AAUW Diversity Statement

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

## Value Promise

As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

## 2013-2014 Branch Officers

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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