

Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

April 2015

Calendar of Events

Monday, April 13, 7pm
April Meeting & Program
First United Methodist Church

Thursday, April 16, 7pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Rosie Project by Graeme Simsion
Nita Driscoll's Home

Saturday, April 18, 10am-2pm
Let Imagination Bloom Luncheon
Miami University-Middletown

Monday, April 27, 7-8:45pm
Board Meeting
MidPointe Library Middletown
Conference Room A



*Barb Balsmeyer & Judy Florence
were honored with EF Named Gifts.*

Middletown Branch Welcomes National Grant Recipient



Our April branch meeting will take place Monday, April 13, 2015, at 7pm, at First United Methodist Church, 120 South Broad Street. In addition to election of officers and other branch business, we are pleased to welcome a local recipient of an AAUW national campus action grant. Dr. Victoria Appatova will be here to tell us about "Matching Students with Student Mentors," a project for which she and Dr. Bernadette Dietz received funding from AAUW in 2013-14.

Dr. Appatova is Associate Professor of Reading/English at the University of Cincinnati-Clermont College and Academic Coordinator of the College Success Program. She has more than twenty years of experience in literacy instruction and research and has an extensive publication record in this area. She is Fellow of the Academy for Teaching and Learning at the University of Cincinnati, Associate Editor of the *Journal of College Literacy and Learning*, Co-Director of the Teaching Academic Survival Skills national conference, and Past Chair of the College Literacy and Learning Special Interest Group of the International Reading Association. Her current research is focused on college success, effective learning environments for different populations of students, integrating academic courses in the first-year curriculum, and widening access and participation in global higher education.

Your Invitation to Celebrate in May

Plan to sign up at the April meeting for the 2015 Annual Scholarship & Installation Dinner/Catered Meet and Greet to be held at 6:30pm on May 11 at Forest Hills Country Club. The \$18 cost is payable at the April meeting and includes a variety of pita pizzas, fruit, vegetables, brownies, cheesecakes, and beverages. A cash bar is available.

Members are urged to attend this meeting to socialize, review the year, celebrate scholarship recipients, and install a new slate of officers. If you cannot sign up and pay at the April meeting, contact Carolyn Smith, program co-chair, or send a check to financial officer Karen Jones. Caterers need numbers no later than April 27.

Carolyn Smith: 513-360-0128, csrsmith48@aol.com. **Karen Jones:** 937-657-5642, kljones1947@yahoo.com.

Slate of Officers for the 2015-2016 AAUW Year

The nominating committee of Barb Balsmeyer, Suzy Tadych, and Becky Ward met several times and spoke to many members over the last couple months. We are pleased to have a couple of our newer members who have agreed to accept one of the open positions.

The proposed slate of officers for the 2015-2016 AAUW year are:

President – Nita Driscoll

Program VPs – Debbie Worbis and Michelle Piepgrass

Recording Secretary – Robin Becker

Corresponding Secretary – Paula Cohen

Officers who are continuing in their role are:

Membership VPs – Anita Shew and Beth Miller

Finance Officer – Karen Jones

“Joy Luck” Book Club

Thursday, April 16

The Rosie Project

by Graeme Simsion

Nita Driscoll’s Home

This international bestselling romantic comedy is said to burst with warmth, emotional depth, and humor. It features an the oddly charming, socially challenged genetics professor, Don, as he seeks true love. It was selected as The Big Read in Dayton, which is scheduled for March 1 – April 16. I was thinking we needed something lighter for the spring!



Next Month’s Book Club

Thursday, May 21

A Star For Mrs. Blake by April Smith

In the month of Mother’s Day, we’ll be reading an emotionally charged novel that tells of five Gold Star Mothers who travel to France to visit the graves of their sons, fallen soldiers in WWI. The U.S. Congress passed legislation in 1929 to fund such travel, and over the next three years, 6,693 Gold Star Mothers made the trip. You may know the author from her thrillers starring FBI Special Agent Ana Grey. This is



a departure, a heartfelt glimpse into a little-known episode in U.S. history.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

Members who regularly attend branch meetings know that we do a lot of “business by clipboard,” but there are two opportunities for participation that have come into focus too recently and have deadlines too soon for us to employ sign-up clipboards at the April meeting. So this column, along with the email you received last week, are my virtual clipboards seeking member interest in two upcoming activities.

As you read in my March 25 email, our branch is a Literacy Corporate Sponsor of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which (among other things) entitles us to 4 seats (valued at \$30 each) at the “Let Imagination Bloom” luncheon on Saturday, April 18, 2015, 10am-2pm. The event will take at Miami University-Middletown and will include a gift basket raffle, a live auction, a meet & greet with children’s book authors, a children’s art exhibit, lunch catered by Two Women in a Kitchen, and presentations by Judge Kathleen Dobroszi-Romans, Butler County Juvenile Division, and Ms. Chris Schultz, Butler County CASA/PARACHUTE.

I’m gathering names of Middletown Branch members who would like to attend. When we have a full count, we will pro-rate the cost to each person and you will then pay the branch an amount somewhat less than \$30. The exact amount will depend on how many people sign up in our group. If you would like to be added to the AAUW Middletown contingent, please email me at palmerve@umich.edu or call or text my cell phone, 937-545-4974, no later than 5pm on Monday, April 6.

I am also seeking members to attend one or both days of the AAUW/ Ohio Annual Equity Day and Convention, May 2 & 3, 2015, in Dublin, OH. You should have received, via email, the latest state newsletter, ORBIT, with full event details. Our board voted to reimburse the registration fees for members at the rates in effect until April 10 (\$65 for Saturday, including dinner, and \$45 for Sunday, including lunch). Please contact me as described above if you would like to represent our branch at this stimulating annual event.

Finally, I’ve received 2 delightful pieces of news from Scholarship Chair Laura Desmond. She and Jessica Chandler selected the promising students who will attend BeWISE summer camp with scholarships from AAUW Middletown. Madelyn, currently a 6th grader at Central Academy, is interested in doing a science fail project on midwifery. Thalia, a 7th grader at Middletown Middle School, says STEM is her favorite subject and has a great teacher recommendation. We’ll look forward to meeting them in the fall to hear about their camp experiences.



Laura became a mom on Sunday, March, 22, when she and husband Quinn welcomed Iris into their family. Congratulations to them and to Grandma Katie McNeil!

Book Sale Report

What a wonderful book sale! Buyers and browsers filled the aisles with just enough room for others to squeeze through. Wheel chairs and walkers fit although we had personal shoppers on hand to help. Shoppers commented on the great organization and ease in finding books they wanted. Book sellers used their scanners Thursday evening to find bargains. Friday was crowded with buyers and Saturday was more for relaxing browsers. Sunday shoppers returned in full force to fill their bags full of books. One lady bought fourteen bags.

Many of our branch members worked before, during and after the sale to help make it a huge success as a community gathering time, book recycling event and as a fundraiser for college scholarships. The book sale brought in approximately \$8600. We are still adding up expenses as we wait for the final electric and water bills. Expenses are estimated as being between \$2000 and \$2500.

The goal of the book sale is to provide money for area scholarships. Money will go towards one renewable \$1000 scholarship to a high school senior. We provide \$4000 for those scholarships yearly. We award two non-traditional college scholarships for \$800 each. At the book sale follow up financial meeting, the committee will look at the proceeds to recommend further scholarship spending to the AAUW Board. The final scholarship report will be announced later.

Unfortunately we had to move out of our space on Marie Drive. It is possible we will be there next year but the owners would like the space empty to show to other potential renters. Katie and Mike McNeil offered to store the tables and supplies this year at Miami Machine in Overpeck. Their offer was much appreciated. Please use your contacts to help the book sale find a more permanent home or a home for the next sale. People are already asking if they can drop off books for us. Our AAUW Used Book Sale is an integral part of Middletown.



Time to Spring Clean for the Garage Sale

The annual AAUW Garage Sale will be Friday and Saturday, June 12 & 13 from 8:00am-4:00pm.

PLEASE start collecting your items now and be ready to deliver them to 4312 Walton Court – Middletown starting Monday, May 11.

WE NEED: Small appliances and kitchen items, linens of all kinds, dishes and cooking utensils, costume jewelry, purses and shoes, CD's, records, DVD's, games and puzzles, bikes and toys, small furniture, tools and gardening items, buttons and fabric and any other miscellaneous items you have. We do not take adult clothing.

This is a great way to "clear out" and recycle items you no longer need or want. The proceeds from this event are used to further the mission and program of our branch. For questions or additional information contact: Rose Grau – 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com.



We were honored to have AAUW Ohio President Christine Siebeneck spend Saturday with us at our 59th Annual Used Book Sale!

Register for AAUW Ohio Equity Day & Convention 2015

Dates: May 1-3, 2015

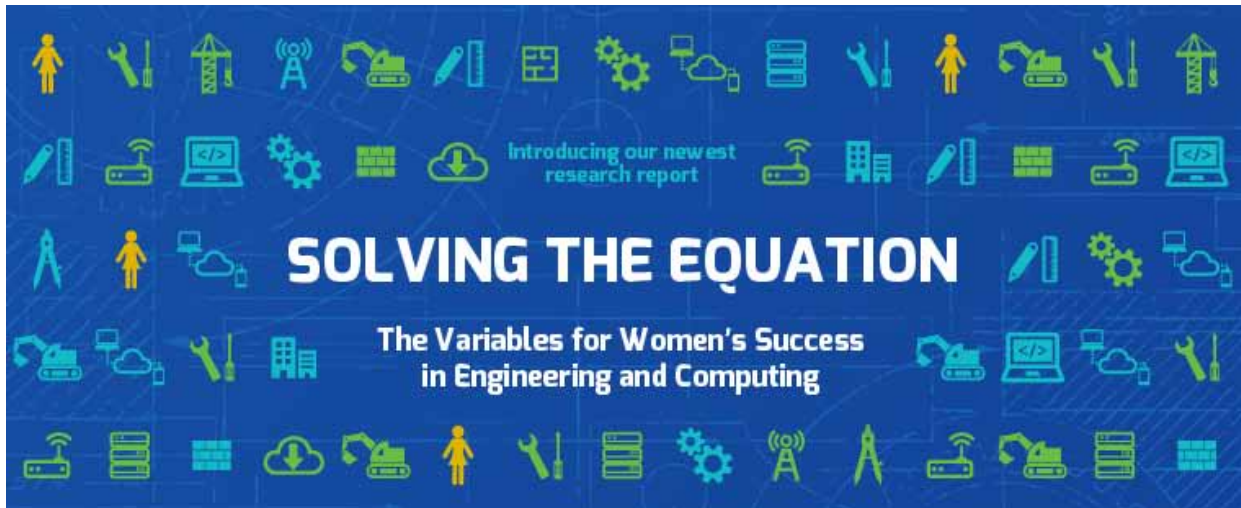
Location: Embassy Suites Hotel, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, Ohio, just off I-270.

Phone: 1-614-790-9000

Hosts: Central District Branches of AAUW Ohio

News: The branch with the highest percentage of members attending will receive a new award.

Deadlines: Deadline for the pre-event rate is May 1. Deadline for hotel reservations is April 10.



Check out the newest national research report at: <http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/>

At the April meeting, you will also receive this dues renewal with envelope. Please return to Treasurer Karen Jones or mail to our P.O. Box 118, Middletown, OH 45042. By listing your interests, this assists the Branch leadership in planning for next year.

AAUW Middletown Branch Membership Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

Home phone _____ Cell _____

Email _____

I am especially interested in learning more about & participating in the following Branch projects and activities:

Advocacy & Programming

- Programs - Monthly
- Cultural Outings
- Public Policy - AAUW
- Diversity Awareness

Fundraising Projects

- Holiday Bazaar - Nov.
- Light Up Middletown - Dec.
- Used Book Sale - Mar.
- Garage Sale - June

Community Activities

- Dolly Parton Imagination Lib. Brunch - April
- National Night Out - July
- Middletown Arts Festival - Sept.

Special Interest Groups

- Joy Luck Book Club - monthly
- Voluntary Simplicity - bi-monthly
- Great Decisions - Jan. - April

Dues for the 2015-2016 are as follows:

National: \$49.00 (\$46.00 is tax deductible)

State: \$11.00 (paid lifetime members only pay state, local)

Local: \$10.00

(used for our Middletown branch)

TOTAL: \$70.00 due by June 1, 2015

PAYABLE AT THE MAY MEETING OR MAIL TO:

AAUW Middletown Branch
P.O. Box 118
Middletown, OH 45042

