

Making the AAUW CONNECTION

May 2014

Middletown AAUW Newsletter

Wrapping Up the Program Year

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. Email Judy Florence (jscoflo@gmail.com) **no later than Monday, May 5** for the Middletown AAUW May meeting at 6 PM at Brown's Run Country Club. You may pay Judy Florence the dinner cost (\$22) in advance or have exact change at the door May 13. See you on the 13th.



Butterflies at the Krohn Conservatory

Let's get together for a trip to the Krohn Conservatory. On Wednesday, May 21 we will be traveling to Cincinnati to see the Butterflies of Costa Rica. There will be 16,000 butterflies to see and some may even land on your hand. Seasonal flowers and trees will be in bloom to

add to the beauty of our day. The cost of the exhibit is \$7. We will leave from Meijer's parking lot at 9:00 am and return to Middletown after lunch.

Please contact Sharon Dowden 424-1363 and leave a message or Email sharonkdowden@aol.com. Please let me know if you can drive or if you need transportation.

Clear your Clutter: Garage Sale in June

The annual Garage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday, June 13 & 14 from 8:00 am-4:00 pm.

PROCEEDS from the sale are used to support the mission and program of our branch. **START NOW** by sorting through the things you no longer can use, a great way to recycle and clear the clutter.

ITEMS TO CONSIDER DONATING: Small kitchen appliances, dishes, linens, towels, bikes, sporting items, tools, buttons, fabric, purses, shoes, children's clothing, games, toys and books, records, videos, DVD's, CD's, jewelry, etc. No adult clothing. **SIGN UP** at the May branch meeting or call Rose to volunteer your help on the work day or on sale days.

BRING YOUR ITEMS starting Monday, May 12. A planned **DROP OFF DAY** will be Saturday, May 17 from 9:00 am-3:00 pm. **CONTACT ROSE** 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@equivoice.com.

Calendar of Events

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

Saturday, May 17, 9 am-3 pm
Garage Sale **DROP OFF DAY**
Rose Grau's Home

Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 pm
Voluntary Simplicity "Stuff 2.0"
Rose Grau's Home

Wednesday, May 21, 9:00 am
Krohn Conservatory Outing
Meet in Meijer parking lot

Saturday, May 31, 10:30am
Board Transition Brunch
Ginny's Home

**Friday & Saturday,
June 13 & 14, 8:00 am-4:00 pm**
Garage Sale - Rose Grau's Home



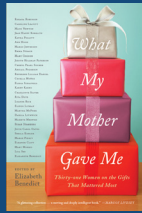
*Justice Sharon Kennedy of the Ohio
Supreme Court with Nita Driscoll at
April's Branch Meeting.*

**Learn more about some of our
newest members on page 4.**

“Joy Luck” Book Club

Just in time for Mother’s Day, 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.



VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

You are cordially invited to attend the Voluntary Simplicity meeting which will be held Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 pm at the home of Rose Grau, 4312 Walton Ct. Middletown. Betty Patterson will lead the discussion on the topic: “Stuff 2.0” Managing the stages of stuff. We will also celebrate our program year by reviewing and setting future goals. If you have a program idea or subject you would like covered next year, please bring your suggestions to this meeting. We look forward to this meeting and hope you will join us as we wrap up the program year. Please RSVP to Rose 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@equivoice.com.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

It’s hard to believe that I’m writing my last column of the 2013-14 program year for our branch! I can think of no better way to re-cap our year than to explain the awards that AAUW Middletown received at last month’s state convention in Springfield. While we don’t do all the wonderful programs, services, and activities to win prizes, it’s nice to have our efforts recognized and rewarded.

Best Newsletter for a Branch with More than 50 Members: Our newsletter was judged on both appearance and content. The reviewer commented, “The newsletter is laid out in a professional, clean, two-column format. Its use of color, photographs, and graphics work nicely to break up the text. Color boxes with reverse text are pleasing to the eye...The newsletter covers much branch news, along with a variety of state and national AAUW news.” Thank you to everyone who contributes each month to our newsletter and, especially, to Suzy Tadych for her skill and dedication to this important task.

Certificate of Recognition for Excellence in Mission-Based Programming (Local Issues Focus): As dedicated readers of this column are well aware, this year’s Program Vice-Presidents Nita Driscoll and Carolyn Smith worked very hard to connect our meeting topics to the mission of AAUW. Mission-based programming is what distinguishes us as an AAUW branch and not just any other club.

STARZ Award: This is a “best practices” award designed to increase communication between branches and with the State Board. It also helps branch leaders and members become aware of and contribute to the goals of AAUW. There are 4 basic requirements and, then, the opportunity to earn 9-14 “glitter points.” By having representatives at both the 2013 state convention and leadership conference and by submitting our branch dues and officer lists on time, we were eligible to compete for “glitter points.” AAUW Middletown earned 11 of the maximum 14 for being represented at the 2013 national convention, having a minimum of 5 meetings/programs during the year, having at least 2 meetings on AAUW issues, submitting our branch program book to state Program VP, having a Public Policy chair, publishing 3 or more newsletters, collaborating in a state project (Be WISE Camp scholarship), collaborating in a community-based project (local scholarships, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Light Up Middletown), having a website and Facebook page, increasing membership, and participating in local arrangements for the 2014 state convention. As you read through this list, think of where and when YOU helped AAUW Middletown reach for the STARZ - and thank you!



Saying farewell to our Main Street Book Sale site at this month’s Moving Sale.



Several members enjoyed Women Enriching Lives’ Luncheon supporting Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library.

Highlights of the 90th AAUW Ohio State Convention

Our branch was represented at the 2014 AAUW Ohio 19th Annual Equity Day and 90th State Convention by Nita Driscoll, Betty Elworth, Anita Shew, and branch president Virginia Palmer. From beginning to end the event, held in Springfield, April 11-13, was intense, interesting, and enjoyable.

Using the image of a pipeline, opening keynote speaker Jaime Bryant, editor of *Kiki* magazine, explained how her magazine pursues integration of girls' development, not segmentation. Where other teen magazines cater to just fashion, raunch culture, and celebrities, *Kiki* magazine for girls ages 7-16 strives to be a pipeline (along with parents, school, other media) "sparking girls' creativity without compromising their self-worth." Presented as a teen fashion magazine, *Kiki* incorporates ways for girls to expand their interest, knowledge, and skills in areas of math, chemistry, finance, business as well as music, art, etc. Her magazine seeks to be one of the "pumping stations" along with parents, teachers, school, and activities to provide opportunities for girls to develop confidence through their own resourcefulness, efforts, and even failures. ("Very upbeat, I'm getting a subscription for my granddaughter"-Anita). Jamie distributed sample copies of her publication and left us with this memorable quote: "The frivolous don't own style and the serious don't own substance."

Of the 11 break-out sessions offered, AAUW Middletown attended nine. Jamie Bryant and her creative director presented "Wearable Technology," a make-and-take like they would do for middle school girls. Ginny learned a lot about circuitry while making her "Michigan Wolverines Dot the I, too!" light-up name tag. Most of the other sessions were of a much more serious nature, including "Women & Violence: Responding to THE Question," which made a lasting impression on Nita because of the visual displays. Presenter Dr. Mary Kruger, Director of the Women's Center at Bowling Green State University, unveiled life sized silhouette cut outs of women and teen age girls who had been murdered as a result of domestic violence. Each one had a name and a personal story attached. The display is called "The Silent Witness." The Silent Witness initiative began in 1990 by a Minnesota group Arts Action Against Domestic Violence which has since spread to all 50 states and 20 foreign countries. Dr. Kruger discussed how to recognize signs of domestic violence and where to find a safe haven for victims.

AAUW state and national leaders were on hand throughout the weekend. In "STEM Ohio: BeWISE Camp and Tech Trek," JoAnn Benseler, BeWISE director discussed the camp's 25 years of success and suggested inviting a former camper to present at a branch meeting (remember when Middletown's 2011 campers visited our branch in November of that year?).

Beth Pinhero from the Bowling Green branch talked about their ten thousand dollar grant from Tech Trek for camp participants.

AAUW national board member Malinda Gaul presented both an AAUW Update as the Saturday luncheon address and break-out sessions on pay equity and leadership development. In her update Malinda discussed the Legal Advocacy Fund, new AAUW research reports, the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL-say, "nick whistle"). She also unveiled the new AAUW recruitment video, which you can see on our branch website.



In her break-out, "Tackling Burn-Out: Filling your Board with Fresh Faces," Malinda gave tips on rejuvenating general membership and board membership by asking if branch leaders had ever held boring, long unproductive meetings, micromanaged every project, given a board member too much to do without support, and refused to entertain new ideas. Of course no one wanted to admit to any of this. Referencing the management book, the *Lazy Leader's Guide to Outrageous Results* by Cynthia D'Amour, she suggested the following steps for fostering a positive atmosphere and energetic new leaders:

- Ask members to do specific jobs; provide orientation, info
- Praise members for the skills they bring
- Mentor new members and leaders in unfamiliar jobs
- Reassure members they can do a particular job
- Keep AAUW goals at forefront of all activities
- Lead by example

AAUW national staffer, Deepti Gudapati, Director of Member Leadership Programs, gave a keynote on leadership at Sunday's lunch, followed by a break-out on "How to Market your Branch." She said marketing is telling people WHO you are, WHAT you do, WHY they should care, and WHAT YOU WANT them to do with that information (call to action). Deepti talked about branding your branch to showcase what makes it unique and she gave very practical tips on designing and writing for your website.

Attending the convention provided the opportunity to meet the newly-installed state officers, including Middletown's Betty Elworth, who's now serving as Ohio Membership Vice-President. Meeting members from branches throughout the state and learning about their activities is another highlight. Anita, Betty, Ginny, and Nita encourage branch members to consider attending next year's state meetings, which will be hosted by the branches of the central district.

Getting to Know You - Some of our Newest Members

CAROL FRIEDMAN Carol and her husband have returned to the Miami Valley after living in California for many years but returned to be close to family and old friends. She has grandchildren and great grandchildren living in the area. A great-grandbaby was born only this month! Carol has joined a Red Hat club and is pleased to be involved in AAUW activities, especially the book club, which she has already hosted. She hopes to volunteer at an elementary school helping children with their reading skills. We're glad you're back in the area, Carol.

ANNE FRANTZ Anne is a retired librarian from Wright Memorial Public Library in Oakwood and still volunteers there one day a week. She has one little dog Ben who is the world's cutest Bichon according to her. Anne is a returning member of Middletown AAUW and was president of the branch at one time. She enjoys knitting, yoga, reading, and her church work. We're glad you've returned, Anne.

WANDA CAMPBELL Wanda is married to Will, has two sons, five grandchildren, and misses her beloved cat that had to be given away because of grandson's severe allergies. Wanda is on the Volunteers' Auxiliary Board at Atrium Hospital and volunteers there as well. She supports the Middletown Lyric Theatre, the Middletown Art Center, and other local organizations. She enjoys knitting, reading non-fiction, and walking. She likes to keep busy.

JESSICA CHANDLER Jessica is married to Lee, has one daughter Jordan, a dog named Olive, and enthusiastically teaches blind students of all ages in the Middletown school system. Last year, Jessica was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Recently, she took part in a MS money-raising walk/run in Oxford with her 30 of her friends and relatives, who raised over \$1300.00 for MS. She believes in the AAUW goals and has already recruited three new members: Katherine Bock, Katie Erb, and Deborah Turner, all looking forward to AAUW activities.

DONNA HALE Donna is married to Chuck, has two children who live on the opposite sides of the country, five grandchildren, and is a retired Middletown High School mathematics teacher. Much to her surprise she loved tutoring math to the ESL elementary kids after retiring. Donna enjoys needle work, reading, and looks forward to working at the holiday bazaars, June garage sale, and book sales.



Give a Grad a Gift

Share the Message and Power of AAUW

Know a female student graduating from college this year?

An absolutely FREE membership can be given to a grad through AAUW's Give a Grad a Gift initiative.

Forms were distributed at the convention and will be available at the May meeting

or you can download one from the AAUW website

<http://www.aauw.org>



Now give your grad the gift of AAUW membership.

(It's free!)

