

Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

May 2015

Meet and Greet in May to Celebrate Program Year

Our May meeting takes place Monday, May 11, 2015, at 6:30pm, at Forest Hills Country Club, 791 Fourth Avenue, Middletown. This year's event is a Catered Meet and Greet featuring a buffet of pita pizzas, fruit, vegetables, brownies, cheesecakes, and beverages. A cash bar will be available. Members are invited to attend this event to socialize, review the year, celebrate our scholarship recipients, and install our 2015-16 officers.



Cost: \$18, including gratuity. Although our catering deadline has passed, you may call Carolyn Smith at 513-360-0128 to check availability. We'll probably have room for YOU!

May Voluntary Simplicity Gathering

Tuesday, May 19 will be the Voluntary Simplicity meeting at the home of Barb Balsmeyer, 4641 Wicklow Drive – Middletown. Betty Patterson will facilitate a discussion on how a support group with common goals of voluntary simplicity/sustainability facilitates the success of members. This is the last meeting of our program year and we give you a special invitation as we wrap up our year and plan for a new adventure. Please RSVP to Barb at: barbbalsmeyer@cinci.rr.com or 513-422-8928.

Keep Thinking – 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 are looking for good and CLEAN items for this sale which supports the program and mission of our branch such as: 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.

WORKERS will be needed and signup sheets will be available at the May Branch meeting.

This is a great way to "clear out" and recycle items you no longer need or want. For questions or additional information contact: Rose Grau – 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com.



Calendar of Events

Monday, May 11, 6:30pm

May Meeting

Forest Hills Country Club

Thursday, May 14, 7pm

Great Decisions-Brazil

MidPointe Library Middletown

Tuesday, May 19, 7pm

Voluntary Simplicity

Barb Balsmeyer's Home

Thursday, May 21, 7pm

Joy Luck Book Club

A Star For Mrs. Blake

by April Smith

Lynne Rentschler's Home

Friday & Saturday, June 12 & 13

8am-4pm

Garage Sale

4312 Walton Court, Middletown

Thursday, June 18, 7pm

Joy Luck Book Club

The Book of Unknown Americas

by Cristina Henriquez

Jan Runkle's home



“Joy Luck” Book Club

Thursday, May 21, 7pm
A Star For Mrs. Blake by April Smith
 Lynne Rentschler’s Home

Right around 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.

Next Month’s Book Club

Thursday, June 18
The Book of Unknown Americas
 by Cristina Henriquez
 Jan Runkle’s home

June is National Hispanic Heritage Month, and last year this title was selected as an Amazon Best Book of the Month for June. Described as “inspiring, tragic, brave, and above all, unforgettable,” this novel tells the story of nine families who immigrate to the U.S. from South and Central America, each looking to better the lives of the next generation. In alternating chapters,



the cast of men and women (the “unknown Americans”) share how their new home is leaving its mark on their lives.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

Although our 2014-15 schedule of monthly meetings will draw to a close after May 11, AAUW Middletown remains busy with discussion groups, our final fundraiser of the fiscal year, planning for our participation in National Nite Out on August 4, and - of course - program planning for 2015-16, our 90th anniversary year. Read elsewhere in this newsletter about upcoming gatherings of the Voluntary Simplicity and Joy Luck Book Discussion Groups, the final meeting of Great Decisions on May 14, and Rose’s article about our June 12 & 13 garage sale.

By the time you receive this newsletter, president-elect Nita Driscoll, Betty Elworth, and I will be back from Dublin (Ohio, not Ireland) and the AAUW Ohio state convention. As in previous years, branches were asked to donate items for the silent auction and Robin Becker created this beautiful Gift Card Planter.



Thank you to the board members who contributed gift cards and to Robin for the plant, basket, and creative touch. This year the silent auction proceeds will be distributed equally among the STEM camps in Ohio. By participating in this year’s philanthropic event, we supported one of AAUW’s and AAUW Ohio’s important missions: getting more girls involved in STEM fields. At our May meeting I will announce the results of the silent auction.

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the support you all have extended during my two years as branch president. It is an honor to lead such a thriving organization and I have been proud to represent AAUW Middletown in our community.

SWEEP! AAUW Middletown received awards in all 6 possible categories at the AAUW Ohio 20th Annual Equity Day and 91st Annual Convention, held May 1-3, 2015, in Dublin, Ohio. Nita Driscoll, Betty Elworth, and I were proud to represent our branch and accept recognition for our efforts in communications, diversity, membership, philanthropy, and programming. The sixth award is STARZ, the AAUW Ohio branch “best practices,” for which we’ve already begun to qualify for next



year by having representation in Dublin. Come to our end-of-year celebration on May 11 to hear more about these fantastic honors!



Book Sale Report

The 59th annual AAUW Book Sale is officially over. The sale took in \$8597.48. The money is counted and is ready to be distributed for scholarships. \$4000 goes to the Middletown Community Foundation for the \$1000 graduating high school senior scholarship, the three \$1000 returning college scholarships and the \$800 non-traditional college student scholarship. The second \$800 non-traditional scholarship comes from the interest on our foundation account. \$1000 was dispersed to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library for books for young children in our community. \$800 was given for 2 scholarships to the AAUW Be Wise STEM camp. Two middle school students will spend a week at camp this summer. Money is also being held for next year's expenses. Of course, the hope is that next year we will make even more money so we can fund more scholarships.



Clockwise from left: Michelle Piepgrass, Ginny Palmer, Paula Lindon, Anita Shew, Nita Driscoll, Rose Grau, Libby Abele & Betty Elworth were some of our branch members who attended the WEL luncheon fundraiser for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library.

Membership Renewal 2015-16

Join Us! We hope you join us to continue supporting women and girls both locally and nationally. A dues renewal notice was in the April Newsletter, and at our April meeting the notice with envelope was distributed to all. You can pick one up at the May meeting, too. Bring your dues to the May meeting at Forest Hills next Monday May 11 or send to Branch treasurer Karen Jones at the branch box, P.O. Box 118, Middletown 45042. Remember—\$46.00 of your national dues are tax deductible! We value your participation. See you soon! Anita Shew and Beth Miller, Membership VP.

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

Community Activities

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

Fundraising Projects

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

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 MAY MEETING OR MAIL TO:

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

