

Making the AAUW CONNECTION

September 2013

Middletown AAUW Newsletter

September Program Middfest Tradition

Our connection with Middfest International continues this year on September 9, 2013, with a 6pm potluck dinner at Verity Lodge, Miami University-Middletown. **Please bring a dish of choice and your own table service.**

The evening's speaker is long-time Middfest volunteer Teresa Fadden. A graduate of Lemon-Monroe High School, Teresa holds a Bachelor's in political science from Miami University. While at Miami, she served as a delegate for the Model United Nations. Teresa is currently a graduate student in community planning at The University of Cincinnati. In keeping with this year's multi-country retrospective, Teresa will discuss "Culture of Peace Programming."



Once again, AAUW Middletown has been invited to host the Middfest Sponsor Lounge in the Johnston Hall Balcony Lounge, Miami University-Middletown. Be thinking

about how you can help on Saturday, October 5, 12noon to 7pm, or on Sunday, October 6, 12noon to 6pm. Details and sign-ups at the September meeting!

Looking ahead to October, Libby Lolli will present information on The Common Core Curriculum Standards Initiative at a luncheon held at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Saturday, October 12. Catered by Number 2 Sons Catering, the lunch will offer a buffet of soup, sandwiches, and salads. We request prepayment of the \$12 cost at the September meeting, or you may bring the right change on October 12. **Please RSVP at the September meeting or to csrsmith48@aol.com by October 1.**

VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

Tuesday, September 17, at 7:00pm

"Continuing the Journey" – personally defining meaning and vision of Voluntary Simplicity will be the topic of discussion. We hope this discussion will energize the group to continue with personal goals for the coming year and/or encourage new members to join our journey. We will look at the programs that we have planned for the coming year. The meeting will be held at Betty Patterson's home at 149 Euclid Street in Middletown. We invite YOU to join us and RSVP to Betty at 513-423-8345 or ewp7231@yahoo.com.

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 9, 6pm

Sept. Program & Branch Meeting
Potluck Dinner & Speaker
Verity Lodge, Miami Univ. Midd.

Tuesday, September 17, 7pm

Voluntary Simplicity Meeting
Continuing the Journey
Betty Patterson's Home

Thursday, September 19, 7pm

Joy Luck Book Club
That Used to be Us
by Thomas Friedman
and Michael Mandelbaum
Emilie Marcikic's Home

Monday, September 23, 7pm

Board Meeting
Ginny Palmer's home

Saturday, October 5, 12-7pm

Sunday, October 6, 12-6pm
Host Middfest Sponsor Lounge

Saturday, October 12, 11am

Oct. Program & Branch Meeting
Luncheon & Speaker
Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum

Friday, November 8, 9am-3pm

Saturday, November 9, 9am-3pm
Holiday Bazaar
Rose Grau's Home

**Big Book Sale
News to be
Announced at
September's
Branch Meeting**

JOY LUCK BOOK CLUB NEWS

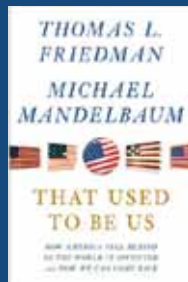
The Joy Luck Book Club will be discussing *That Used To Be Us* by Thomas L. Friedman and Michael Mandelbaum on September 19. The group will meet at 7 pm at Emilie Marcikic's home.

This book was chosen to honor the fact that Middfest is featuring the U.N., peace and the world as our neighborhood in 2013. The group decided to read a book about the role America has played in the global village during the past century and what it will take to maintain our democracy.

According to the New York Times, the authors "join a growing number of foreign policy thinkers warning that America's position abroad cannot endure without a renewal of the domestic sources of American prosperity and strength." Come join us for what will no doubt be a fascinating discussion!

OCTOBER SELECTION

The Things They Carried,
by Tim O'Brien



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

A little birdie from last year's nominating committee told me that several members declined Branch offices because they felt they didn't know enough about AAUW. That's the origin of this year's theme "Making the AAUW Connection" and I first have to thank Program Co-Vice-Presidents Nita Driscoll and Carolyn Smith for allowing me to lean pretty heavily on them this summer to create a Branch agenda with strong ties to AAUW's mission and programs. In this space each month, I will write something about those connections and how we, as AAUW members, can use them to become more familiar with our vibrant state and national organization.

This month, as we open 2013-14 with our traditional potluck dinner and Middfest program, we contribute to AAUW's focus on global connections. From the AAUW website: "AAUW promotes the empowerment of women and girls every day — across the United States and around the world. Leaders in global affairs for more than a century, we've awarded more than 3,300 international fellowships to women from 132 countries. We collaborate with leading international organizations and coalitions and advocate on Capitol Hill and at the United Nations to break through barriers for women and girls."

Our continued affiliation with Middfest International has contributed to the Diversity Awards that AAUW Middletown has received at several recent state conventions. The board position of Diversity Chair is currently available. Would YOU like to lead our Branch's diversity efforts for the coming year? Please contact me at 937-545-4974 or palmerve@umich.edu for more information.

AAUW Ohio Leadership Workshop 2013

On Saturday, August 10, 2013, four AAUW Middletown officers ventured to Westerville, OH, for the AAUW Ohio 2013 Leadership Workshop at Otterbein University. President Virginia Palmer, Co-Membership Vice-Presidents Betty Elworth and Lois Wood, and Co-Program Vice-President Nita Driscoll represented AAUW Middletown and share the following tidbits.

Keynote speaker was State Senator Charleta B. Tavares, Columbus, who is one of 8 women in the 33-member Ohio Senate. Sen. Tavares encouraged constituents to keep in touch with their representatives, because legislators want to know how individuals are impacted by issues. She recommends watching live broadcasts of the Ohio legislature at www.ohiochannel.org. She says, "Follow the money and you'll know how decisions are made."

Middletown was represented in all 6 break-out sessions. "Choreograph Your Next Membership Drive Successfully" was presented by our own Betty Elworth. Lois Wood says, "Betty was a wonderful representative of our Branch. She came prepared, spoke well, and gave very specific guidelines for recruiting new members. Her audience was engaged and appreciative of all the information and handouts. The lady next to me took copious notes and continued to ask Betty questions after the session was over."

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AAUW Ohio President Deborah Wooldridge presented a morning session on screening and discussing the documentary film *The Invisible War* and an afternoon session on "Bringing the AAUW National Agenda Down to the Grassroots Level." Deb's handouts for both sessions will be very helpful as we find ways to incorporate both topics into our Branch agenda.

The breakout session, "Creating a Buzz: Skills and Use of Social Media in State and Branch Advocacy Efforts," sounded almost scary and imposing to Betty Elworth. But, she says, it encouraged her to learn more about social media and to use it positively and actively in the local branches. Paula Maggio, the breakout leader was well prepared, informative, and knowledgeable about social media and how Twitter, Facebook, and LinkedIn could be used.

AAUW Ohio President-Elect Christine Siebeneck's session "Programming Choices and Challenges" provided a lot of insight and ideas for programs.

Nita Driscoll summed up the day: "Attending the AAUW Ohio 2013 Leadership Workshop was a great learning experience for me. I enjoyed meeting members from other branches and the camaraderie of Middletown Branch members who attended."



Left to Right: Nita Driscoll, Lois Wood, Virginia Palmer, Betty Elworth

AAUW Public Policy

Local-State-Federal Updates from Katie McNeil

Nationally, AAUW members have been helping for years with voter registration. Recently at the Middletown Community Night Out, AAUW had an information table and some of our Branch members had the opportunity to talk one on one with women who are not registered to vote. We need to continue to work to reach women to give encouragement and support when they think they are not smart enough or need approval of their husbands to vote! Women worked hard to get the vote for women and we need to continue to work for the woman's vote.

Volunteers are needed for the Middletown School District \$55 million Bond Issue campaign. Thank you to the many AAUW members already assisting with efforts to inform the voters to support the building of a new Middletown Middle School and modernization of the Middletown High School. The vote also includes a small Permanent Improvement levy which is required to capture the \$40 million matching monies from the Ohio Facilities Commission for completion of the master facility plan started 10 years ago with the first phase for 21st century elementary school buildings.

Karen Rainey, Ohio AAUW Public Policy Advocate, reports that the Ohio HB59, the biennial budget, was signed into law by Governor Kasich without any of the line-item vetoes AAUW supported. The budget is intended to be a financial plan and subjects unrelated to expenditures are not to be included; nevertheless, numerous extraneous items were enacted, among them most of the anti-abortion provisions. Karen was in Middletown for a meeting a few years ago when we heard about some of these efforts to attack pro-choice laws.

Also, in the Ohio budget bill were provisions for expansion of EdChoice vouchers, additional funding for charter schools and elimination of the property tax rollback. The 12.5% state property tax is eliminated on all new and replacement property tax levies. (Note: If you are 65 years old you can still apply for property homestead exemption for reduction of your property tax bill. After Jan. 1, 2014, this exemption will be based on income.) These decisions continue to pull financial support for public schools.

Of particular note to AAUW members, United States HB 130, titled End Demand Act, has passed the House. The bill is designed to reduce consumer demand for sex trafficking. AAUW has been very active in helping move this bill.

The AAUW website has more information on this and many other Congressional bills for your understanding. Sign up for Action Alerts for email updates on federal legislation activities.

COMING IN NOVEMBER - HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Mark your calendar now for the Holiday Bazaar which will be Friday and Saturday, November 8 & 9 from 9:00-3:00 at 4312 Walton Ct. in Middletown. Continue saving items and preparing for this annual event. We are looking for new and gently used holiday decorations, linens, dishes, items that can be re-gifted, lotions, candles, holiday books and games, etc. We will also feature a "Sweet Shop" which we will talk about later. Direct your questions to Rose at 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@equivoice.com.

Mission

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

HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR NEW BRANCH WEBSITE YET?

<http://middletown-oh.aauw.net/>

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:

P.O. Box 118, Middletown, OH 45042

<http://middletown-oh.aauw.net/>

Use PEARL to tell what a gem AAUW Middletown Branch is in our community and beyond.

P - Protect - legal rights of women - LAF, public policy

E - Educate - women for a lifetime of success, STEM

A - Advocate - for laws that give women a fair chance, Lobby Corps

R - Research - education and employment studies used by legislators, branches

L - Lead - lead & teach others in our homes, schools, communities