

Honoring and Supporting the



POWER OF WOMEN

Middletown Newsletter

September 2017



September Program Looks at Diversity and Women's Issues in College

Our traditional September Potluck Dinner & Speaker and Business Meeting will be held 6:00 pm September 11 at Zion Lutheran Church, 10 N. Breiel Boulevard, Middletown. **Please bring a dish of your choice.** Coffee, lemonade, water, plates, napkins, and utensils will be provided.

The featured speaker is Dr. Bennyce Hamilton, Regional Director of Diversity & Multicultural Services for Miami University. In this role she coordinates educational, cultural, and social programs for faculty, staff, students and community members. The mission of the Diversity and Multicultural Services at Miami University match many of the goals of AAUW. The website states, "We are dedicated to providing a supportive atmosphere for students, faculty, staff, and local community members about diverse issues as they relate to race, ethnicity, gender, age, ability level, socioeconomic level, sexual orientation, religion, spirituality, and more."

Based at the Hamilton Campus, Dr. Hamilton promotes diversity by encouraging the appreciation of one's self as a first step for opening dialogue with others. She likes to quote poet Nikki Giovanni, "Once you know who you are, you don't have to worry anymore."

To know Dr. Hamilton is to know a multi-talented community leader. She holds degrees in psychology, English education, and literacy. She is a twenty-five year veteran of the Cincinnati Fire Department where she worked as a firefighter and paramedic. She has presented public safety information to local schools. She was a 2016 Keynote speaker for the NAACP. You will have the opportunity to catch up with her again on February 18, 2018 when she presents "Celebrating Self" at the Fitton Center in Hamilton.

Many thanks to Ed and Rose Grau who volunteered to serve as Hospitality Committee for this event.

Looking Ahead:

Our October Program and Branch Meeting will move members down Route 4 to the new Butler Tech Workforce Services office. This new upscale office features work created by Butler Tech student welders, carpenters, artists, and designers. Butler Tech career consultant Jeanette Becker will act as facilitator for a panel of local business women offering entrepreneurial insights.

The October meeting, scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 10:30 am-12:00 pm is in need of a Hospitality Committee. Donuts and coffee or similar morning fare would be appropriate. See Paula Lindon to volunteer as Hospitality Committee member for this or other future programs.

Calendar of Events

Monday, September 11, 6:00 pm
Potluck, Program
& Branch Meeting
Zion Lutheran Church

Tuesday, September 19, 7:00 pm
Voluntary Simplicity
Becky Ward's home *see article*

Thursday, September 21, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
To The Lighthouse
by Virginia Woolf
Carolyn Smith's home

Saturday, October 7, 10:30am
Program & Branch Meeting
Butler Tech Workforce Services office

Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 pm
1984 by George Orwell
Jan Runkle's home in Oakwood

Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 10 9am-3pm
Saturday, November 11 9am-3pm



stay connected

aauw.org

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middletown-oh.aauw.net

“Joy Luck” Book Club

Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 pm
To The Lighthouse – Virginia Woolf
 Carolyn Smith’s house

This classic has been ranked on the list of the 100 best English-language novels of the 20th century by both Modern Library and TIME magazine. Travel along as the Ramsays visit the Isle of Skye in Scotland and share their innermost thoughts in a novel of philosophical introspection.



Thursday, October 19 at 7:00 pm
1984 – George Orwell
 Jan Runkle’s house in Oakwood

Written in 1949, this dystopian novel jumped to the #1 spot on Amazon’s best seller list earlier this year. Dig out your copy from high school or college and join us to revisit the now long past “future.”



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

On my drive May 5 to AAUW Ohio’s 22nd Equity Day and 93rd Annual Convention, I felt unprepared for my new role as Middletown AAUW president and frazzled by a slow drive in the rain. When my cell phone rang, through my Bluetooth connection, I heard my sobbing youngest sister say, “Pull off the road. I have something to tell you.” Soon, on the rainy edge of 71 North, I learned of her breast cancer, in three places, one a lymph node. We talked until she calmed down and I could drive. “It will be okay,” we said to each other. “It’s a journey,” we said. “A project,” we said, tying that monster down to something we could name.



Then I arrived at the convention, thankfully met by friends, Robin Becker, Nita Driscoll, and Lynn Rentschler. I picked up a program brochure and looked at the powerful cover: a silhouette of a wonder woman with powerful comic book speech bubbles. BAM!! POW!! KAPOW. The convention theme was Women: Be the Change!

I have spent the summer thinking about those messages and that theme, first as I took care of my sister. I traveled to her Colorado home the day before her surgery. That day, she, her husband, and I went to see the movie *Wonder Woman*. I found the movie refreshing and motivational. It helped us be ready for anything. During my two weeks in Colorado, I watched another wonder woman, my sister, take the journey that was her lot with super heroic effort. She was amazing and is doing well.

Back home, I began to work with the amazing women in our AAUW branch through important transition committees: financial audit, programming, budget proposals, and luncheons with those who just wanted to help a new president. Thank you, each and every one. I know that the women in our branch can be the change. Our theme for this year is Honoring and Supporting the Power of Women. We will support each other as some go through hard times. We will have programming that honors and supports our local women leaders, entrepreneurs, writers, philanthropists, and problem-solvers. These programs and all our endeavors will help support the AAUW Ohio mission of “advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.”

I encourage all of you to visit and study different areas of the national AAUW website by logging in with your member number. The site hosts news, recommendations, and resources that appeal to every imaginable way you might participate in AAUW. It may seem large and scary at first, but take that journey. Make it a project.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual potluck dinner on Monday, September 11 at 6 pm at Zion Lutheran Church. Dr. Bennyce Hamilton, Miami University Regional Director of Diversity and Multiculturalism, will be our speaker. Thank you for your continued membership and your efforts to improve the lives of women.

AAUW Middletown at National Convention



Our branch made up 1/3 of the entire Ohio delegation to AAUW's 2017 National Convention in Washington, D. C. Thank you to Robin Becker, Nita Driscoll, Linda Evers, and Jackie Lankfer for representing us there! Robin was inspired by what she learned at Convention to assume the role of College/University liaison for our branch; here's a message from her:

Dear Middletown Branch AAUW Members,

Thank you so much for providing funds for me to attend the 2017 National Convention in Washington, D.C. I had an incredible experience finding out more information about our organization and learning ways to improve our branch. I look forward to sharing some of my observations and impressions and new ideas. I really appreciate your support which made this trip possible, and hope many of you get the opportunity to attend a conference in the future!

Sincerely, Robin Becker

AAUW Ohio Summer Leadership Workshop 2017

On Saturday August 5, 2017, president Carolyn Smith attended the AAUW Ohio Summer Leadership Workshop at Otterbein University. The theme, Developing Leadership for Today and Tomorrow, was offered to attendees in five breakout sessions: Digital Communications and Social Media Presentation; Finance; Fundraising; Programming and Diversity; and Membership and ByLaws.

AAUW state public information officer Paula Maggio presented specific information on improving branch websites, using national convention communications resources, and managing Facebook, Twitter, and INSTAGRAM pages. Her presentation and the presentations of other breakout sessions are available to membership online through aauwoh.org.

After breakout sessions, regional teams met to review membership issues. One idea was to review initiatives yearly through SSC. What should the branch start? What should the branch stop? What should the branch continue? Another idea was to be sure programming was both mission-related and fun. The Springfield branch encouraged monthly activities that accomplished these branch goals: study, advocate, collaborate, serve, and play. Regional members in attendance were Kathie Harbaugh, Springfield; Elaine Mishwich, Sidney; and Carolyn Smith, Middletown.

Coming in November

The annual Holiday Bazaar will be held Friday and Saturday, November 10 and 11 from 9:00-3:00 at 4312 Walton Ct., Middletown. Please mark your calendar and start thinking about donations you can make. We will be looking for holiday items and decorations, items that can be re-gifted and your craft items and sweet shop donations. More details later. Questions/concerns: Rose at 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com.

Financial Report

The 2016- 2017 branch financial audit was conducted on July 25, 2017. In summary, our branch awarded \$6,600 in scholarships and contributed \$1,500 to AAUW advocacy funds. This was all possible due to amazing fund-raising by our members!

As the 2017- 2018 years begins, it is a good time to check out the AAUW.org website. Log in to update any changes to your contact information, such as name or address change, or new email address.

To date, dues have been collected from 55 members. Annual dues are as follows:

National: \$49.00
((\$46.00 tax deductible)
State: \$11.00
Branch: \$10.00
Total: \$70.00

It's not too late to send in your membership dues!

Please mail to: AAUW
Middletown, P.O. Box 118,
Middletown, Ohio 45042.

Submitted by Jackie Lankfer,
Finance Officer



September Voluntary Simplicity Gathering

Please join us for the launch of a new Voluntary Simplicity year! We will meet at 7:00 pm Tuesday, September 19, at the home of Becky Ward, 618 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. Betty Patterson will share information and lead us in discussion about September's topic: Intentional Living -- REAL Certification (Responsible Epicurean and Agricultural Leadership) and "Green Living." Please RSVP Becky: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

A Note of Thanks

June 1, 2017

American Association of University Women (AAUW)

American Association of University Women Scholarship for Undergraduates

Dear American Association of University Women,

I am writing to formally thank you for your generous \$4000 American Association of University Women Scholarship for Undergraduates scholarship. I was overjoyed and very grateful to be selected as the recipient of your scholarship.

I am a Chemistry major with a concentration of Biochemistry. I plan to pursue a career as a Biochemist specializing in research upon graduating from Kent State University. Thanks to you, I am one step closer to that goal.

By awarding me the American Association of University Women Scholarship for Undergraduates, you have greatly lightened my financial burden, allowing me to fully focus on the main aspect of school, learning. Your generosity has truly inspired me and I will work my hardest to achieve my goals and put your scholarship and kindness to full use. I will forever be grateful for all that you have done to help me.

Sincerely,

Andrea Flower

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Newsletter

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