

# Making the AAUW CONNECTION

October 2013

## Middletown AAUW Newsletter

### October Program Offered by Area Educator



Dr. Elizabeth Lolli, Senior Director of PreK-12 Curriculum and Instruction for Middletown City Schools will update AAUW members on The Common Core State Standards Initiative at our luncheon on October 12. Lolli has a strong background in leading change for student achievement. As a superintendent in Barberton, OH, she was a member of the Greater Ohio Chamber and worked to earn a \$20,000 grant in the Knowledge Works Initiative to develop understanding of educational gaps that hampered student achievement. She worked with Akron University to bring local university courses to Barberton area high school students and also brought cohort programs for training future administrators and Superintendents to Barberton from Kent State University, where she served as an Associate Adjunct Professor.

Locally, in a fiscally stressed Monroe School District, Dr. Lolli oversaw the difficult cuts necessary to move toward fiscal security without lowering academic achievement. Now, Lolli is leading Middletown through the newest effort to improve student achievement, The Common Core Standards Initiatives. In a Journal News article on August 25, Hannah Poturalski quotes Lolli about the purpose of the new initiative, "to pump up rigor and text complexity by level."

Come hear Dr. Lolli and bring a friend interested in education to our 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. If you have not already paid, send your \$12 check to Judy Florence or have the right change at the door October 12. Please RSVP no later than October 3 to [csrsmith48@aol.com](mailto:csrsmith48@aol.com).

Set your sights for another interesting discussion of local education November 21 at 7:00 p.m. when Dr. O'Dell Owens, President of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College will present "Advantages of a Community College" and offer a tour of the Middletown campus at 1 North Main Street.

### Calendar of Events

**Saturday, October 5, 12-7pm**

**Sunday, October 6, 12-6pm**

Host Middfest Sponsor Lounge

**Monday, October 7**

Last day to register to vote in November election

**Saturday, October 12, 11am**

Oct. Program & Branch Meeting

*Luncheon & Speaker*

Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum

**Thursday, October 17, 7pm**

Joy Luck Book Club

*The Things They Carried*

by Tim O'Brien

Pam Pearson's Home



**Monday, November 4, 7pm**

Board Meeting, Location TBA

**Friday, November 8, 9am-3pm**

**Saturday, November 9, 9am-3pm**

Holiday Bazaar

Rose Grau's Home

*Below left to right: Branch President, Ginny Palmer, addressing branch and with guest speaker, Teresa Fadden. Membership VP, Lois Wood, with new members: Kathy Jonas, Emily Pheanis, Beth Miller and Co-Membership VP, Betty Elworth.*



## JOY LUCK BOOK CLUB NEWS

The book club selection for October 17 will be *The Things They Carried*, by Tim O'Brien. This book was chosen for The Big Read in Middletown, which will be hosted by Miami University Middletown's Gardner-Harvey Library.

The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts, designed to revitalize the role of literature in American culture and to encourage citizens to read for pleasure and enlightenment.

The Big Read is managed by Arts Midwest. The MUM library won a \$15,600 grant to host this community-wide event in collaboration with Middletown High School, MidPointe Library System, the Robert "Sonny" Hill Community Center, Middletown Area Senior Center, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College Middletown Campus, and the Middletown City Council.

Beginning October 1, free copies of the book, along with a reading guide, will be available at Gardner-Harvey Library and Midpointe Library Middletown. For links to each library's business hours and for a schedule of community events relating to *The Things They Carried*, visit [http://www.neabigread.org/communities/?community\\_id=2174](http://www.neabigread.org/communities/?community_id=2174)

Next meeting: Thursday, December 5, 7pm, Ginny Palmer's home, Book TBA



## Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

As students and teachers are settling into the 2013-14 academic year, our branch will focus for a couple of months on one of the major elements of the AAUW mission statement - Education. From the AAUW's earliest days arguing against research studies that "proved" higher education harmful to

women's delicate nature to more recently when the Middletown Branch was instrumental in bringing a Miami University campus to our local community, our organization has been at the forefront of education policy and activism. Our October program on the Common Core Curriculum Initiative and our November visit to Cincinnati State-Middletown will further our knowledge about elementary, secondary, and higher education.

On Saturday, September 21, Lynne Rentschler and I accompanied members of the Mason-Lebanon Branch on a tour of Sinclair Community College's Courseview Campus Center. Offering associate degrees and certificate programs, the campus currently occupies two buildings and is expected to grow to ten. It is a vibrant addition to the southwest Ohio higher education landscape and the first permanent campus in Warren County.



*Middletown branch member Lynne Rentschler learning about Sinclair Community College's presence in Warren County from Associate Dean DeAnn Hurtado, Courseview Campus Center.*

By the time you read this, many AAUW Middletown branch members will be volunteering for Middfest 2013 at Miami University-Middletown. Thank you to all who are working and/or contributing to the AAUW-hosted Sponsor Lounge. If you are volunteering elsewhere during Middfest, or attending with family and friends, please stop by the Balcony Lounge in Johnston Hall to greet our guests and tell them why you love AAUW.

## BREAKING BOOK SALE NEWS!!!

The Book Sale Committee is excited to announce that we are officially back in business at our new location, 2 South Main Street, Middletown (the former Barnitz/Bank One building). Turn off Main Street into the parking lot at the side of the building and enter the door beside our neighbors, Miami University Applied Research Center. We are working on Tuesdays from 10:00 to 12:00 and welcome all help. We will also work on Saturdays after the first of the year. Bookmarks will be available at the October meeting !!! To all of you who helped with our storage situation over the last few months....thank you !!! So let's get the word out, bring in the books you have collected and let's make this our best sale ever !!!!! This is our 58th annual sale !!!!!



**HOLIDAY BAZAAR**  
**November 8 and 9 - 9:00-3:00**  
**4312 Walton Ct. - Middletown**

The profit from the Holiday Bazaar is used to further the program and mission of our branch and we are doing great things. You can support our efforts by donating items to this event. Also, invite your friends and neighbors to donate items.

**NEED HELP** - Sign up sheets will be available at the October meeting, please bring your calendar.

**WORKDAY** on Monday, November 4, which will focus on last minute sorting, display and pricing.

**WORKERS** the days of the sale - two hour shifts

**DONATIONS for the Sweet Shop** such as: HOMEMADE cookies, breads, snack mix, pie, jam/jelly, candy, etc.

**NEED DONATIONS** - We are hoping to have a nice inventory of items to sell, especially since we have committed to a two day sale.

**SUGGESTIONS:**

- New and/or gently used holiday decorations: trees, garland, wreaths, centerpieces, lights that work, candles, ornaments, etc.
- Holiday Linens: tablecloths, placemats, towels, etc.
- Holiday books, games, puzzles, cards, CD's, DVD's gift bags
- "Re-gift" items; jewelry, new lotions, candles, etc.
- Holiday dishes, baskets and tins.
- Holiday craft items.

**BRANCH PREVIEW SALE** will be held Thursday evening, November 7 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Come by to see what we have, shop if you like and chat with fellow branch members.

**QUESTIONS?** Call Rose at 513-424-1969 or [edrosegrau@equivoice.com](mailto:edrosegrau@equivoice.com).



**State Public Policy**  
**Protect Reproductive Health**

AAUW Ohio and the Ohio Women's Action Network, along with a coalition of organizations, rallied at the Ohio Statehouse on October 2 in response to measures in the 2014-15 state budget that are detrimental to women's health. Speakers included Ellie Smeal, President of the Feminist Majority Foundation; Terry O'Neill, President of the National Organization for Women; and Stephanie Kight, President of Planned Parenthood of Ohio. Their rally cry was "Keep Women's Health Care from being Pushed back to the 1950's!"

Here is what the 2014-2015 budget does to limit women's reproductive choice in Ohio:

- Defunds Planned Parenthood and a number of free-standing, non-abortion clinics that provide mainly poor, often rural, women with health services such as contraception, pregnancy care, and cancer testing.
- Forbids publicly-funded hospitals from signing transfer agreements (required by the Ohio Department of Health) with abortion providers.
- Requires doctors to do an external ultrasound before an abortion to look for a fetal heartbeat and estimate the probability of bringing the fetus to term.
- Permits TANF (welfare) funds to be funneled to unregulated "crisis pregnancy centers."
- Funds rape crisis centers for the first time, but prohibits them from talking about abortion as a way to deal with pregnancy resulting from rape.



## Congratulations to Middletown Branch member Beth Crout!

She and four other members of the AGLOW International ministry at the Presbyterian Church of Hamilton were recently named Women of the Year by the Hamilton YWCA. Their nomination said they are "a group of dedicated and prayerful women...who visit with the residents of the YWCA Hamilton and provide lunch to them on a regular basis." The Women of the Year and several other 2013 Women of Achievement will be honored at a dinner reception on October 15, 2013.

### Mission

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, 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/>

[middletownaauw@gmail.com](mailto:middletownaauw@gmail.com)

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