

Advancing Equity for Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

Dec 2016/Jan 2017

Women in Politics focus for December Program

“Women in Politics” is the topic of the December 5th meeting at First United Methodist Church across from the MidPointe Library. Our speaker will be Margaret Conditt, State Representative to the Ohio House for District 52, which includes Liberty, West Chester, and Fairfield Townships. Representative Conditt earned her bachelor’s degree in chemistry from the University of Alabama, and her Ph.D. in analytical environmental chemistry from the University of Colorado. Prior to joining the Ohio House, Representative Conditt worked as a Procter and Gamble manager for 22 years. During her career, Representative Conditt worked in the Food, Paper and Pharmaceutical Divisions, as well as in Corporate Environmental Safety and technical external relations. The meeting will begin at 6:30 pm.

January Program to highlight STEM

On January 9th we will meet at 7:00 pm with a panel of STEM teachers to learn more about STEM education in area schools. STEM is a curriculum that emphasizes science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Our meeting will take place on the 4th floor of 1 Donham Plaza in the offices of the Middletown City Schools Administration, in what was formerly a meeting room for Midfest International.



Light Up Middletown just around the Corner

Volunteers are still desperately needed for Light Up Middletown. Shifts available include: 7:45-10 pm on Thursday, December 8, Saturday, December 10 and Wednesday, December 14, as well as 5:45-8:00 pm on

Saturday, December 10. Check the schedule on page 3. If you can volunteer, please email Cari Hillman at chillman@midpointelibrary.org or call (513)705-8511.

“Thank you” to everyone who has volunteered already. For those working the early shift (5:45-8:00 pm), a Light Up Middletown representative will be on site to give you access to the gatehouse. After the late shift (7:45-10:00 pm) ends, please wait until a collector from Light Up Middletown arrives to take the donations. As a bit of general information for everyone, please stay close to the gate house and do not keep money out to make change as a safety precaution.

AAUW Educational Foundation Named Gifts

The nominations for AAUW Educational Foundation Named Gifts have been submitted and this year’s honorees have been selected by the Board. Honorees will be acknowledged and celebrated at the January branch meeting.

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 5, 6:30 pm
Branch Program & Meeting
First United Methodist Church
120 S Broad Street, Middletown

December 8 - 14
Light Up Middletown

Thursday, December 15, 7pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Japanese Lover
by Isabel Allende
Marianne Zsiska’s Home

Saturday, December 17
AAUW Member & Friends
Holiday Gathering
Miami University Art Museum
White Garden Inn, Oxford

Monday, January 9, 7pm
Branch Program & Meeting
4th Floor City Building
Middletown City School District

Tuesday, January 17, 7pm
Voluntary Simplicity
Betty Elworth’s Home

Thursday, January 19, 7 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter
by Carson McCullers

Thursday, January 26, 7pm
Great Decisions
MidPointe Library Middletown



stay connected

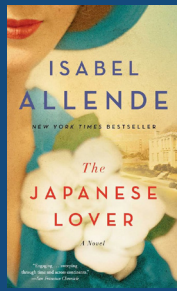
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middletown-oh.aauw.net

“Joy Luck” Book Club

December 15 at 7 pm
The Japanese Lover
 by Isabel Allende
 Marianne Zsiska’s
 home

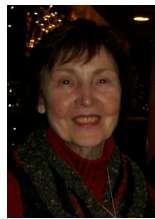


Bestselling author Isabel Allende has written “a magical and sweeping” (Publishers Weekly, starred review) love story and multigenerational epic that stretches from San Francisco to Poland and blends time from past decades to present day.

Next Month’s Book Club

January 19 at 7 pm
The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter
 by Carson McCullers

To satisfy our group’s request for something “vintage,” we’ll be reading this classic from a master who helped define the “Southern Gothic” genre. *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter*, written in 1940, is the debut novel of Carson McCullers. Published when she was just 23, it made McCullers an overnight literary sensation. With its profound sense of moral isolation and its compassionate glimpses into its characters’ inner lives, the novel is considered McCullers’ finest work.



Nita Driscoll, Middletown Branch President

Happy Holidays! Can you believe 2016 is ending and we will begin a new year?

A nominating committee will be meeting in January to come up with a slate of officers for next year. So be thinking about how you could best serve our organization with your time and talent. The elected offices to be filled for 2017-18 are: President, Program VP and/or co-VP, Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary.

A special Thank You to Ed and Rose Grau for hosting another successful Holiday Bazaar sale. Thank you to Linda Evers for volunteering to revise the revision of the branch bylaws as required by AAUW National.

Our November program, Silent Witness Project helped create more awareness about the impact of domestic violence in our society. I had 2 visitors (interns) from the Family Abuse Shelter of Miami County in Xenia, Ohio. I am looking forward to the December 5th program when Margaret Conditt, State Representative from Liberty Township will speak about Women in Politics.

There will not be a Board meeting December so you can enjoy the Holidays with your family and friends. Our next Board meeting will be Monday, January 23, 2017 7pm location tbd.

If you are planning to attend the AAUW National Convention in Washington D.C., June 14-17, 2017 you have until January 15, 2017 to register in order to receive a reduced rate.

Thank You for Another Holiday Bazaar Success

The Bazaar was a successful event, we made \$2,465.55 which will be used to further the mission of our branch. The event was successful because 42 members and friends donated new/gently used holiday items and 16 members made goodies for The Sweet Shop. The Bazaar provides an opportunity for the membership to work together for a common goal and have some quality time for fellowship; as well as, be visible in the community. The items that were not sold were donated to the Clothing Depot and the Senior Connections.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The branch members have generously contributed to this event in the past and to the point that many have given their all. Therefore, if we want to continue this tradition we need to find friends NOW and solicit their unwanted holiday items for next year. The 20 friends who contributed this year were the ones who brought the large donations. So please speak to your family, friends and neighbors NOW and jot down their names so we can contact them next year.

THANKS to all who helped in any way: contributors, bakers, workers, and encouragers. This event is truly a group effort and all help is appreciated.



Light Up Middletown Schedule

Thursday, December 8

5:45 - 8:00 Tina Whitaker & Nita Driscoll
7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Friday, December 9

5:45 - 8:00 Paula Lindon & Sharon Dowden
7:45 - 10:00 Scott & Suzy Tadych

Saturday, December 10

5:45 - 8:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!
7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Sunday, December 11

5:45 - 8:00 Robin & Paul Becker
7:45 - 10:00 Anita & J.C. Shew

Monday, December 12

5:45 - 8:00 Betty Elworth & Debbie Worbis
7:45 - 10:00 Katie & Michael McNeil

Tuesday, December 13

5:45 - 8:00 Judy & Dale Florence
7:45 - 10:00 Cari Hillman & Josh Ward

Wednesday, December 14

5:45 - 8:00 Carolyn & Ron Smith
7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Four people are needed each evening to serve in two hour shifts to pass out brochures, count the people, and ask where each car is coming from. We appreciate your willingness to help. Thank you!

January Voluntary Simplicity

Voluntary Simplicity will meet on Tuesday, January 17, 2017. We will meet at 7:00 pm at the home of Betty Elworth, 4306 Rosedale Road, Middletown. Please RSVP to Betty bjelworth@yahoo.com or 513/422-0114.

The topic for our January meeting is Habits. If you would like to participate as a discussion leader for our January meeting, please contact Becky Ward (424-8409 or beckward@gmail.com) or Carolyn Smith (513/360-0128 or csrsmith48@gmail.com).

Mission of Voluntary Simplicity: To serve as a support group to continue exploring ways to move toward a sustainable lifestyle, simplify life, being sensitive to our families, the environment, and the world around us.

Great Decisions 2017 (www.fpa.org)

Join others for learning and discussion on international topics and then add your thoughts about U.S. foreign policy on these topics. The discussions begin following the election of a new U.S. President. Background reading on each topic is in a book that can be purchased. There is a PBS produced CD shown at each meeting with additional background on the topic.



Call Katie McNeil (513-470-9031) or the MidPointe Library in Middletown if you would like to know more and if you want a book. (\$22.00)

The following eight Thursday night meetings are from 7-8:30pm at the MidPointe Library, Middletown.

- January 26** **The Future of Europe**
- February 9** **Trade and Politics**
- February 23** **Conflict in the South China Sea**
- March 9** **Saudi Arabia in Transition**
- March 23** **U.S. Foreign Policy and Petroleum**
- April 13** **Latin America's Political Pendulum**
- April 27** **Prospects for Afghanistan and Pakistan**
- May 11** **Nuclear Security**



AAUW Member and Friends Holiday Gathering Saturday, December 17, 2016

The Miami University Art Museum has an energetic schedule of changing exhibitions in its five beautiful triangular galleries. These shows feature important art from around the world in a range of media and styles for the benefit of the university community and the surrounding region. Varied programming accompanies these exhibitions. Dedicated to the exhibition, interpretation, and preservation of works of art, the MUAM is one of several major public institutions in the Tristate area.

Completed in 1978, the Art Museum houses a growing permanent collection of more than 16,000 works. Exhibitions span both historic and contemporary art periods. These exhibitions draw from other U.S. and international museums, private and corporate collections, as well as from works in the museum's permanent collections. The museum has been accredited by the American Association of Museums since 1984, indicating that the highest standards have been achieved in the care of collections and the development of public programs.

Location: Rt 27 801 S. Patterson Ave., Oxford, OH 4505
Open Saturday noon-5pm. Free admission.
Two exhibits closing on December 17



Winter in Jeju-do (Douglass Gallery)

In the winter of 2012, photographer Caroline Philippone traveled to the southernmost point of South Korea, to an island called Jeju. Intrigued by the culture and the landscape she had heard about, Philippone set out to document the island's mountainous region, coastal towns and temples in winter time over a two week period.



Welcome to America (Mckie Gallery)

Created from wedding gowns, dresses, waist skirts, various undergarments and adorned with stories told to artist Carol Hamoy by women émigrés (and their descendants). Welcome

to America documents the long, arduous journeys of many courageous women. The narratives (dating from the nineteenth century through 1992) bear similarity to

experiences shared by all despite economic status, ethnicity or even gender.

As a first-generation American, New York artist Carol Hamoy grappled with the clash of old-world traditions instilled by her parents and her progressive ideals that support increased opportunities for women. This challenge ultimately led Hamoy to develop *Welcome to America*, a body of work that documents the difficult journeys made by many women who courageously departed their homelands in search of freedom and opportunity. *Welcome to America* not only documents women venturing forth in support of themselves and their families, but also provides a vehicle through which Hamoy feels she is able to help women tell their stories of struggles and triumphs. Hamoy recognized that so many women never had, nor were given, a chance to express themselves. Hamoy's "dresses" are works of art, never intended to be worn. The 150 garments, roughly 70 of which are on display, stitched together from an assortment of materials, are the canvas she uses to tell 200 stories gleaned from interviews she conducted over several years. On the front of each dress, and some on the reverse side, Hamoy applies the name, year of arrival, place of origin and a brief quote about the woman that captures the essence of her immigration experience and her life in America. The narratives illustrate a universal experience despite differences in economic status and ethnicity.

For more information visit: <http://miamioh.edu/cca/art-museum/visitors/index.html>



At 2:30 pm Christmas Tea will be served at the White Garden Inn owned by Middletown Branch member, Katie McNeil.

Purchased in November, 2015, the Bed and Breakfast and Special Event Center is a family business. Laura McNeil Desmond and husband Quinn Desmond are the inn keepers. Michael McNeil is the maintenance man and Katie works in the gardens. Extensive renovations and an inn keeper addition have been completed in the last year.

Location: 6194 Brown Rd Oxford OH (note: College Ave becomes Brown Rd at the Post Office- the Inn is on your right as you go towards Hueston Woods State Park.) 2 miles from the Post Office.

If interested, contact Katie McNeil for details on carpooling. \$6.00 will confirm your reservation. Payable to Katie McNeil