

Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

September 2014

Kick Off New Program Year of Global Issues

Our year of examining 'Global Issues for Women and Girls' begins on September 15, 2014 at 6 pm with a potluck dinner at the Verity Lodge, Miami University, Middletown. Please bring a dish of your choice and your own silverware. Beverages will be provided.



The speaker for the event is Shakila Ahmad, President of the Board of Directors at the Islamic Center. She is a woman of firsts. She was the youngest and first woman named to the Islamic Center board of directors. She is now the first woman to be named President of the board of directors at the Islamic Center.

Shakila is a graduate of the University of Cincinnati and now serves as the business manager at the Allergy and Asthma Speciality Center where her husband, Dr. Masood Ahmad is the Director.

October Brunch Program Highlights Author

October 11 will offer members a chance to meet and listen to author Katrina Kittle as she discusses her journey as a writer. The catered brunch held at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum costs \$15 and is payable in advance. Please sign up for the brunch at the September branch meeting. If you cannot sign up at the branch meeting and wish to attend, email Carolyn Smith and plan to pay at the door (check or exact change) to treasurer Karen Jones at the October brunch.

A Big Welcome to our Newest Members!

AAUW Middletown Branch welcomed 9 new members at our July Membership event (pictured below). As our program year begins with our September potluck, let's all greet these new members: Kathryn Farmer, Dr. Virginia Draa (Ginny), Barbara McLean, Lynn Zollett, Barbara Ballard, Amanda Burkholder, Christine Lohr, Janie McCauley, Paulette McCandless.



Calendar of Events

Saturday, September 13

11:00 am-9:00 pm

Middletown Arts Festival

Monday, September 15, 6:00 pm

Branch Program & Potluck

Verity Lodge, MUM

Tuesday, September 16, 7:00 pm

Voluntary Simplicity

Chris Buchert's Home

Thursday, September 18, 7:00 pm

Joy Luck Book Club

Blessing of the Animals

by Katrina Kittle

Location TBD

Monday, September 29, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Midpointe Library

Saturday, October 11, 11:00 am

Branch Program & Brunch

Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum

Monday, October 27, 7:00 pm

Board Meeting

Midpointe Library

stay connected

aauw.org

aauwoh.org

middletown-oh.aauw.net



“Joy Luck” Book Club

Date: Sept. 18

Book: *Blessing of the Animals*
Katrina Kittle

Venue: Need a host!



Katrina Kittle is a nationally known local (Dayton) author who will be speaking at our chapter meeting (a book brunch) on October 11.

In *Blessings of the Animals*, a vet shaken by a recent divorce is on a quest to unravel the secret ingredient of a happy, long-lasting marriage. As her parents celebrate their 50th anniversary, her brother and his partner are legally blocked from marriage. The Washington Post calls it an “entertaining novel about forgiveness and the four-footed.” Boston Globe says it’s “an unpretentious, well-written, emotionally authentic story.”

Survey

Finally, I’d like your input on some books that sound interesting to read in the coming year. Some of you have already shared your input. But if you haven’t, now is your chance. Email Sharon Williamson your thoughts at Sharon.Williamson@standardregister.com.



*On August 21 at Katie McNeil’s home, the Joy Luck Book Club enjoyed a potluck dinner before watching the movie, *The Book Thief*, which had been August’s book club selection.*



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

Even though the official anniversary is a year away, AAUW Middletown enters its 90th year 90+ members strong! Committees have worked this summer on programs and membership and the coming year promises to be another busy and informative one. Here are some highlights from Summer, 2014:

The garage sale, again, was a huge success as described in Rose’s report. Thank you to her and to Ed for opening their home for this event and to all the members who contributed, worked, and shopped.

On August 5, AAUW Middletown exhibited at the National Night Out community event at Sunset Park. We were proud to tell members of our community about our organization, our fundraisers (everybody knows the book sale!) - and our scholarships and other philanthropies.



Special thanks to Carolyn Smith for the canopy that provided much-needed shade and to all the members who staffed and visited the display.

Nita Driscoll, Betty Elworth, and Beth Miller represented our branch at the AAUW Ohio Leadership Workshop on August 9. Their report appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

Also reproduced here is the thank-you letter we received for our donation to the GED program. This is one of several initiatives supported from book sale proceeds. I received such a warm welcome in the local office when I delivered the check and wanted to share the appreciation with everyone who helps make these gifts possible.

Book Sale Location Still Up in the Air

As of this writing we are still at the Bank One building in downtown Middletown. Although the building has been sold by the City of Middletown, the actual purchase has not been finalized. Our rent is paid until the end of September and we have not officially been told to vacate. However, this could happen at any time!

Please take any books that come your way !!! If you have books or know of anyone who wants to donate, please store them until we have a place secured for the 2015 sale. We will certainly inform all of you as soon as we have definite information !!! Any questions, please call Libby Abele, Chris Buchert, Tina Newlin or Sharon Dowden.

Supporting Community @ Middletown Arts Festival

Our AAUW branch has been given an opportunity to man two booths at the first Middletown Arts Festival. The booths will be located between the City Building and the Pendleton Art Center. Several members have already agreed to help serving two hour shifts from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. If you’re interested, please email Sue Wittman (sue@artcentralfoundation.org) or call or email Betty Elworth at bjelworth@yahoo.com, 422-0014.



Garage Sale Report

The 2014 Garage Sale proved to be a big success, our profits totaled \$3,200.00 which is the most we have ever made on a Garage Sale. These funds will be used to support the mission

and programs of our branch.

A big THANK YOU to the forty-three members and friends who contributed to and/or assisted with the sale. And special thanks to the fifteen members who came to the work days and priced the merchandise and tended to the last minute preparations. This is a group effort which provides us with some time to get together with fellow members and work in a different setting. Also thank you to Karen Jones for donating the handmade afghan to raffle off.

We had a wonderful inventory of items to offer and the loyal Garage Sale folks appreciated our efforts. The Garage Sale is a great fund raiser but also provides members and friends an opportunity to “simplify, clear out and recycle”, which supports our Voluntary Simplicity Interest Group. This event also provides an opportunity to be visible in the community and continue to spread the word about AAUW.

The items that did not sell were sorted and dispersed accordingly:

- some items were kept for future sales.
- very generous donation was made to the Clothing Depot.
- fabric donated to women who sew for newborns in the area.
- items donated to Roosevelt Thrift which partners with Abilities First.

Voluntary Simplicity

The new program year for Voluntary Simplicity will begin Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at Chris Buchert’s home 4816 Ronald Drive in Middletown. The topic for discussion will be: Taking Steps to Voluntary Simplicity - D.O.T.

A special invitation to new comers to the group who might be interested in finding out more about Voluntary Simplicity. And we look forward to seeing folks who have attended previous meetings and hear about the personal progress they have made. This is a support group for folks who are interested in simplifying their life; as well as, move toward a sustainable lifestyle. Please join us and RSVP to Chris at: 424-5458 or tcbuch@yahoo.com.

New T-Shirts Available

Please contact Laura Desmond if you’d like a new AAUW t-shirt. They are \$12 for small-XL sizes, \$14 for XXL and \$16 for 3XL. ldesmond@miamimachine.com is the best way to reach her. Or you can pick them up at the first AAUW meeting on September 15 from Katie McNeil.



June 30, 2014

American Association of University Women
Middletown Branch
% Virginia E. Palmer, President
PO Box 118
Middletown, OH 45042


Dear AAUW Members,

On behalf of all the students who will be taking the GED test this coming year, due to your generosity, we thank you. Our whole community will benefit.

Your gift of \$1,000 will make a difference in female Middletown resident lives who need assistance with the testing fees.

We will accommodate your request for a report on the outcomes of those recipients at the end of the year. We will make sure they demonstrate a readiness for success on the test.

I recognize that there are many community groups that your organization could choose to support, so your decision to continue to selecting this opportunity for ABLE is even more appreciated. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Terri Bennett
Butler Tech Director, ABLE/ESOL

hm

Butler Technology and Career Development Schools
3603 Hamilton-Middletown Road • Hamilton, Ohio 45011
(p) 513.868.1911 (f) 513.868.9348

Serving Edgewood • Fairfield • Lakota • Madison • Middletown • Monroe • New Miami • Northwest • Ross • Talawanda

Getting to Know You - Some of our Newest Members

Paula Cohen attended Stevens and Marietta Colleges earning a degree in public relations. After her children left home, she earned a masters degree from Miami in education. She is a loyal Reds fan and enjoys hockey. In the summer she has a vegetable garden and waits eagerly for her first crop. She likes being involved in the community and believes that AAUW is a valuable link between the community and the needs of the Middletonians. She is a published author: Bok: A Memoir of a Disfunctional Dog and is currently working on two other books, one which is ready to be published.

Peggy Kramer graduated from Hamlin University in St. Paul, Minnesota with a degree in nursing. She and her husband moved to Middletown only recently and have been busy remodeling their home and are now starting on the landscaping. She wonders if it will it never end. They chose to move to Middletown and think of it as an undiscovered jewel in the Miami Valley. She joined AAUW because she likes the divisiveness and intellectual interests of the women she meets in our local branch.

Beth Miller, our new Co-Membership Vice-President, has degrees from Miami University and the University of Dayton. She lives in a historic home on South Main Street, enjoys her gardening and especially her pond, which has her looking for ways to make it more beautiful. She enjoys meeting AAUW women, learning about them and their interests. She believes that Middletown branch women are movers and shakers of our community.

Sue Wittman graduated from the University of Kentucky with degrees in English literature and art history. She has two sons, one a sophomore at Dennison and at one at the University of Toledo. She devotes much of her time to the Art Central Foundation when she isn't running her framing business, Artique, of 25 years. She enjoys traveling and staying in historic bed and breakfasts.

Highlights of Ohio Leadership Conference

The opening speaker, Dr. Penny Larson spoke about Diversity and Inclusion. I was impressed by one statement she made, "perception IS reality". Attending the Breakout session, Connecting to Politics Using 21st Century Technology offered a lot of good information for resources.

The Breakout session on Programming consisted learning some new acronyms, what the Circleville Branch is doing, and most important-when and where the state convention will be in 2015. The date is May 2&3 at the Embassy Suites. Networking with members from other Branches is always interesting and informative.

Beth Miller and enjoyed some unplanned sightseeing on the way. We got lost, but were rescued by two firemen. We did enjoy some historic sites on our way back home. Overall, the workshop was a good learning experience.

—Nita Driscoll

Diversity is the condition of having or being composed of differing elements; the inclusion of different types of people, as people of different races, cultures, or conditions. Dr. Penny Larsen, Vice President of the AAUW National Diversity Committee, spoke on "Diversity and Inclusion" at the recent Ohio Leadership Conference and how it pertains to Ohio AAUW. A recent survey conducted by Ohio AAUW illustrated that we need: (1) Clear diversity and inclusion goals to be set; (2) Push for diversity and inclusion at all levels; (3) Clear mandates on diversity and inclusion from the state to the branches; (4).Educate members about the diversity committee and make it an important part of the local branches. Dr. Larsen emphasized that programming and education are vital in educating the members about diversity and inclusion. She stressed the need to find ways to accommodate members with disabilities, women from other countries, younger women, different socio-economic groups, and racial backgrounds. Since AAUW is the largest women's organization in the United States, AAUW Ohio believes we can find ways to fulfill about these goals.

—Betty Elworth