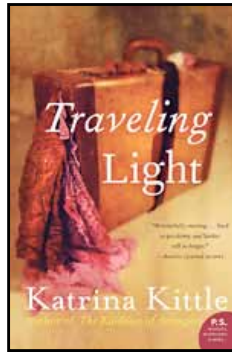
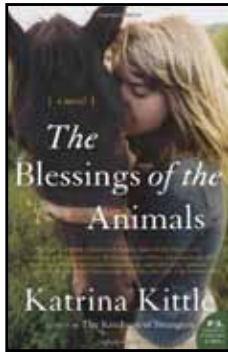


Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

October 2014



October Brunch Program Highlights Author

AAUW Middletown's October meeting will be a brunch with author Katrina Kittle in the community room at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum this Saturday, October 11, at 11:00 am. **Contact Carolyn Smith (513-360-0128) if you plan to attend ASAP.** You may also email to csrsmith48@aol.com. The brunch is \$15 cash or check at the door for members who have not paid in advance.

Katrina Kittle is the author of four books for adults: *Traveling Light*, *Two Truths and a Lie*, *The Kindness of Strangers*, *The Blessings of the Animals*, and a tween novel, *Reasons to be Happy*. Born in Illinois, Kittle moved to Dayton in first grade and has mostly lived in Ohio since. She graduated Ohio University as Outstanding Graduating Senior in both the English and Education departments and earned her MFA in Creative Writing at Spaulding University in Louisville. College developed Kittle's interest in writing and a career in teaching. She taught English and theatre for eleven years, first at Centerville High School and later at Miami Valley School. She has also worked as a house cleaner, a veterinary assistant, a children's theatre director, a costumer, and as case management support for the AIDS Resource Center. The success of her books has allowed her to travel, one of her great hobbies, and to now earn her living as a writer.

Kittle has a varied presence in the Dayton community. Last October she was the John E. Nance Writer-in-Residence at The Thurber House. Last winter her performance in *100 Saints You Should Know* at the Dayton Theatre Guild won her a DayTony for Outstanding Performance in a Leading Role. Kittle offers a wide variety of online workshops through her website *OnLiten: Online Enlightenment—Unlock Your Potential!*

Kittle's books throw light on numerous topics she has studied in depth: animal behavior, marriage, child abuse, AIDS, eating disorders, and deception. For the Middletown AAUW meeting, Kittle will discuss her journey as a writer and take audience questions about her books and that journey.

Calendar of Events

Saturday, October 11, 11:00 am
Branch Program & Brunch
Woodside Cemetery & Arboretum

Thursday, October 16, 7:00 pm
The Husband's Secret
by Liane Moriarty
Emilie Marcikic's Home

Monday, October 27, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
Ginny Palmer's Home

Friday, November 7
Saturday, November 8
9:00am to 3:00pm
Holiday Bazaar



September speaker
Shakila Ahmad,
President of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Center

Thank you to member Jessica Long for donating her use of the Verity Lodge for September's Branch Program.



“Joy Luck” Book Club

Date: October 16
 Book: *The Husband’s Secret*
 Liane Moriarty
 Venue: Emilie Marcikic’s home

Rated one of the best books of the Year by People magazine and Entertainment Weekly, this New York Times best-selling novel was suggested several months ago by member Lynne Rentschler. The Amazon synopsis says: “Imagine that your husband wrote you a letter, to be opened after his death. Imagine, too, that the letter contains his deepest, darkest secret—something with the potential to destroy not just the life you built



together, but the lives of others as well. Imagine, then, that you stumble across that letter while your husband is still very much alive. . . .”



Last month’s discussion of Katrina Kittle’s *The Blessings of the Animals*.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

What does AAUW Middletown have in common with selected branches in Wisconsin, North Carolina, Idaho, California, and Maryland? We are the top six branches - **NATIONALLY** - in membership growth for the past year! Here’s how we stack up:

- West Suburban Milwaukee (WI) - 21 new members
- Greensboro (NC) - 17 new members
- Boise Area (ID) - 16 new members
- San Jose (CA) - 13 new members
- Howard County (MD) - 11 new members
- Middletown (OH) - 11 new members

That means we’re tied for 5th place in a line-up that includes branches in much bigger cities or regional areas. Congratulations to past Membership VPs Betty Elworth and Lois Wood, and to all branch members who recruited new members! And thank you to current Finance Officer Karen Jones for bringing this distinction to my attention.

AAUW Middletown was well-represented when Middfest presented “Waging Peace,” a lecture by Paul K. Chappell on October 4. There are 2 more opportunities this fall to explore international topics at Middfest-sponsored programs: Saturday, October 18, 2014, 9am-6pm, Islamic Center of Greater Cincinnati, “Our Newest Neighbors: Focus on Refugee/Asylee” and Tuesday, November 11-Thursday, November 13, 2014, The Chamber of Commerce serving Middletown, Monroe, and Trenton, “At the Crossroads: Transformation from 20th Century Carbon-Based to 21st Century Renewable Global Economy” For further information on these programs, contact Middfest International at 513-422-7710.

November Meeting Focus: Youth

Middletown AAUW will meet November 10 at 7:00 pm at the First United Methodist Church of Middletown. BeWise Camp participants sponsored by our local AAUW are invited to share their experiences. The featured speaker is teenager Bailey Webber, writer, journalist, and co-director of The Student Body: I Am Not a Number. In the documentary, Webber investigates state- mandated BMI letters students receive and explores the controversies related to the issues of childhood obesity.



Holiday Bazaar Just Around the Corner

It is time for the annual bazaar and we need your help to ensure that we have a successful event. Invite your friends and family to donate items. What do we need?

DONATIONS of new/gently used holiday items including:

- holiday decorations of all kinds
- items that can be “regifted”
- hand crafted items
- holiday linens and dishes
- holiday books, games, puzzles and toys

SWEET SHOP DONATIONS - HOMEMADE

- candy
 - cookies, brownies and bar cookies
 - specialty breads and muffins
 - snack mix and caramel corn
 - pie and cake
 - jam/jelly or other homemade items
 - specialty items; gluten free, no eggs and items for diabetic diet.
- NOTE: Mark items with the name and specify if there are nuts and/or fruit.*

Share the recipe and/or ingredient list if you want.

Package items in clear wrap or bags so they can be seen.

PLEASE bring your homemade sweet shop items on Thursday, November 6. The door will be open at 9:00 am.

WORK DAYS will be Monday and Tuesday, November 3 and 4. Door open at 9:00 am. We will be pricing and preparing for the sale, let me know when you can help.

DAYS OF SALE we will need two workers at the check out table and some folks to circulate, helping customers and just being visible.

Call me and bring your items at your convenience or **DROP OFF SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18 FROM 9:00 - 2:00.**

BRANCH PREVIEW will be Thursday evening, November 6, from 6:00-8:00 pm.

PROCEEDS ARE USED to further the mission and program of our branch.

QUESTIONS and/or CONCERNS: Rose Grau at 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com



Thank You Members!

Arts Festival

AAUW and the Middletown Arts Festival thank the AAUW volunteers/ members for their participation in the celebration of Middletown and the arts with enthusiasm. We were a great help with making it a success.

Margie Homan, Sue Wittman, Laura Desmond, Lori Lockard, Emily Pheanis, Anita Shew, Diane Norton, Stella Combs, Donna Hale, Peggy Kramer, Katie McNeil, Betty Elworth, Wanda Campbell, Deborah Bennett, Anne Frantz, Myra Hahn, Lois Wood, Betty Patterson, Libby Abele, Nannette Hess, Belinda Martindell, Paulette McCandless, Barb McLean, Carol Friedman, Kathy Wilson, Marcia Miller, Tina Newlin, Joyce Lehman, as well as several members’ husbands.

Book Sale

Many thanks to all AAUW members who have been working the last couple of weeks to re-price, sort, and box books for movement to our new location. It is wonderful to know that when a “call to arms” goes out so many willing members show up and work so diligently to complete a task. We are in great shape to make a move.....we just have no idea where we are going! However, the Book Sale Committee has been working hard to find a place to re-locate and we have several possibilities, but nothing is definite yet. We hope to be able to announce in the next couple of weeks where we are having the sale! We will let all of you know as soon as possible so that we can resume our weekly working and eating schedules!

GREAT DECISIONS
DISCUSSION PROGRAM

FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION
1918

BRING FOREIGN POLICY DISCUSSION TO YOUR COMMUNITY

GREAT DECISIONS DVD VIDEO

PHOTO: A group of people engaged in a discussion at a community event.

Public Policy

Great Decisions 2015

Save the dates for Great Decisions in 2015. Come as you can on the Second and Fourth Thursdays of the months Jan-April. 7-8:30 pm at the MidPointe Library.

See the new year topics at their website. http://www.fpa.org/news/index.cfm?act=show_announcement&announcement_id=380
Let me know if you want me to order you a booklet to read.

Educational Presentation

Attached on page 5 is a flyer about a public presentation by Jamie Vollmer who wrote *Schools Cannot Do It Alone: Increasing Public Support for America's Public Schools*. Feel free to print and share the flyer and bring some friends to hear this program about a very important topic. Reservations are needed to attend the free program at the Butler County Educational Service Center in Hamilton at two different times on Dec. 11. register@bcesc.org

State Board of Ed Candidates Backed by AAUW

Also attached to this newsletter is a copy of Katie McNeil's Letter to the Editor of the Journal News about the AAUW endorsement of State Board of Education candidates from area districts 3, 4 and 10. If you want info on other candidates for the 7 districts with elections, let Katie know.

Please copy and share with others for voting information on these little known candidates that can make a big difference for public education in Ohio.

Help get out the vote! Take a friend to the polls or encourage mail in ballots (Contact Butler County or Warren County Board of Elections to order one) or early voting!

Charter Schools vs. Public Schools

Please take a look and share this new tool which is designed to help the citizens of Ohio better understand how publicly-funded charter schools are faring and how they compare to traditional public schools. This website provides data from the Ohio Department of Education on how schools are performing, the percentage of money spent in the classroom, and how much money is deducted from state aid to public school districts and transferred to charter schools. Additional data can also be found by clicking on the name of the district and the name of a charter school.

http://knowyourcharter.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=kyc

Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date! Save the Date!

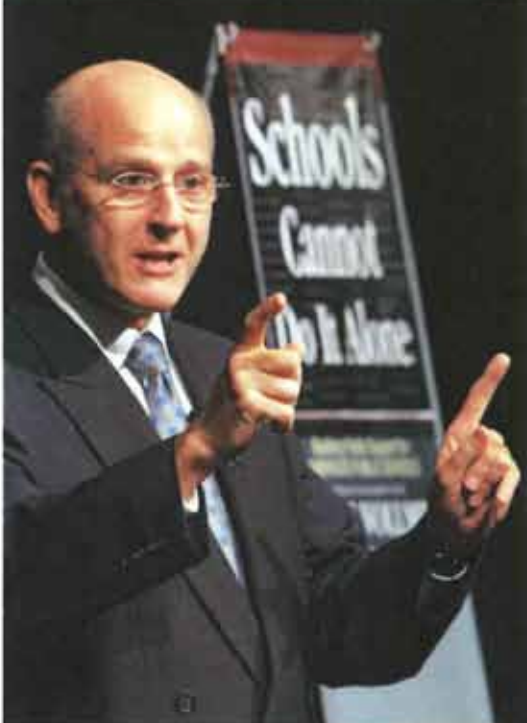
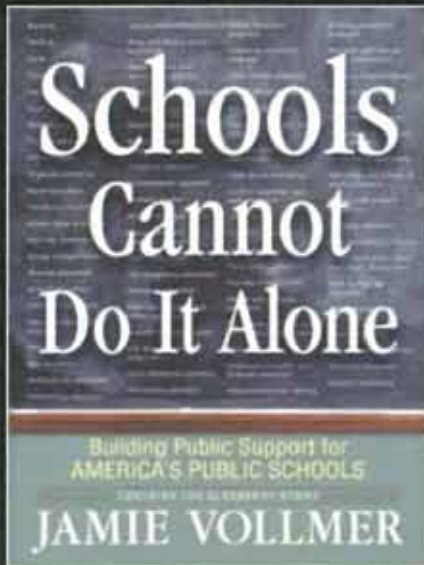
AAUW Ohio Annual Convention
May 1-3, 2015

"Women & Girls Getting Real!"
Please join AAUW members at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Dublin, Ohio. Discuss women's issues, stay connected, and have fun!

Embassy Suites Hotel
5100 Upper Metro Pl.
Dublin, OH 43017

All Convention Read:
Overwhelmed: Work, Love, and Play When No One Has the Time
By Brigid Schulte

AAUW
empowering women since 1881



Save the date:

Jamie Vollmer

Schools Cannot Do It Alone

Increasing Public Support for America's Public Schools

Date: **December 11, 2014**

Location: Butler County Educational Service Center
400 N. Erie Blvd. Hamilton, OH 45011

Presenter: **Jamie Vollmer**

Jamie Vollmer is an award-winning champion of public education, and the author of the highly acclaimed book, *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*. He has spent the last twenty-five years working with school districts, education associations, foundations, and chambers of commerce across the nation to halt the erosion of public trust and build support for America's public schools. His primary goal is to help educators and their allies remove the obstacles to progress and create schools that unfold the full potential of every child.

Description: In this interactive workshop, Jamie builds on the themes presented in his book, *Schools Cannot Do It Alone*, and makes the case that this is public education's most hopeful time. He acknowledges the threats arising from multiplying mandates, shifting demographics, media hype, and a changing economy. But he demonstrates how all districts can marshal the tremendous resources at their disposal to initiate a conversation that produces the Four Prerequisites of Progress: community understanding, trust, permission, and support. This presentation introduces the two tracks of The Great Conversation, and includes a discussion of "Nostesia," the mental affliction that prevents Americans from appreciating the progress made by their local schools.

**This presentation is for Superintendents, Treasurers,
Board and Community Members**

To Register: Visit our website at www.bcesc.org to register online or email register@bcesc.org.

Dear Editor,

One of the elections on the state ballot this year that does not receive much press is the State Board of Education. Many people don't even vote for this position because they don't know the individuals and never heard anything about them. This is a 19 member board with 8 at large positions appointed by the Governor and 11 districts where members are elected. The State Board creates policy and makes recommendations for K-12 education in Ohio.

The American Association of University Women of Ohio endorses candidates only for nonpartisan races, of which the state board of education is one. The Middletown Branch since 1925 has been in the forefront of educational policy and activism in our communities. The following individuals were selected because they are highly committed to supporting public education in Ohio. Currently the majority of the State Board is supportive of privatizing education through charter schools and vouchers that are unaccountable to the public.

District 3 covers much of Western and Southwestern Ohio surrounding the Dayton area including Middletown. AAUW endorses the former Montgomery County Auditor and Common Pleas Judge **A.J. Wagner**. A.J. taught 3rd grade before beginning his career in law and public service. He is also a published children's author.

District 4 includes Hamilton and Warren Counties. AAUW endorses **Pat Bruns**, a retired art teacher and OEA leader from the Cincinnati area. Pat was narrowly defeated four years ago but is well positioned to win in a three-way race this year. Pat has committed her career to expanding opportunities for a well-rounded education for ALL students.

District 10 covers a 17-county area in Southern Ohio from the Ohio River to Springfield. AAUW endorses **Ron Rudduck**, a former teacher, principal and local superintendent from Clinton County who was appointed to fill a vacancy on the State Board last year. He also happens to be an expert on Ohio's unconstitutional school funding system and teaches school finance at Xavier University.

One of the benefits of early voting and mail in ballot voting is that citizens have the opportunity to take time to study the qualifications and platform of candidates. The endorsement process is helpful for citizens to have confidence that the candidate they vote for is most supportive of their views.

Respectfully,

Katie McNeil

Public Policy Chair-Middletown Branch AAUW
Middletown City School Board member