

Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

November 2014

November Branch Meeting

*Springboro High School Student Introduces
Documentary She Wrote and Co-Directed*

Bailey Webber, a Springboro High School senior, is the featured speaker at Middletown AAUW's November branch meeting held at 7pm on November 10 at First United Methodist Church, 102 S. Broad Street. Webber will discuss the making of *The Student Body: I Am Not a Number*, a film that sheds light on the issues surrounding government-mandated BMI testing and the "fat letters" many students received. Webber began investigating the BMI letters after meeting a sixth grader who had received a letter from the school that said she was overweight. In the film, Webber tells the story of girls who take a stand against the government intrusion and explores the complex issues surrounding childhood obesity. You can learn more about her remarkable endeavor on the website, thestudentbodyfilm.com.



Bailey Webber's accomplishments include interviewing students, lawmakers, and educators, studying the issues surrounding childhood obesity, writing the script for the documentary, filming, and co-directing the film. She has also promoted and discussed the film and obesity issues to local groups, on local television and just recently in New York City. After high school, Webber plans to study broadcast journalism, writing, and filmmaking.

Webber is the daughter of Michael Webber a motion picture producer and documentary filmmaker who co-directed and produced *The Student Body*. He will also attend the branch meeting and respond with his daughter to audience questions about the film. Michael Webber is the director of the award-winning film *The Elephant in the Living Room*, which documents the controversies surrounding ownership of exotic animals. He has many other film credits including directing several independent movies and co-producing the television series *The American Woodshop*. Michael Webber's filmography is listed on the IMDb website. He is a 1989 graduate of Madison High School.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR TIME IS HERE

Friday & Saturday, November 7 & 8 from 9am-3pm, 4312 Walton Court - Middletown. Please invite your family and friends to our Holiday Bazaar. We have a nice variety of holiday items. The Sweet Shop offers many homemade treats to be enjoyed now or frozen for later use. Even if you have not signed up to help on the sale days we invite you to stop by at your convenience to see how it is going and offer extra hands.



DON'T FORGET The preview sale for branch members is **Thursday, November 6, from 6-8pm.** THANKS to all who have contributed in any way to make this event successful.

Calendar of Events

Tuesdays and Saturdays

10am to 12noon

Book Sorting & Pricing

4481 Marie Drive, Kittyhawk Plaza

Thursday, November 6, 6-8pm

Member Preview Sale

Holiday Bazaar

Friday, November 7

Saturday, November 8

9:00am to 3:00pm

Holiday Bazaar

Monday, November 10, 7pm

November Branch Meeting

First United Methodist Church

Tuesday, November 18, 7pm

Voluntary Simplicity

Taking Steps to Manage

Sentimental Stuff

Betty Elworth's home

Thursday, November 20, 7pm

Joy Luck Book Club

The Invention of Wings

by Sue Monk Kidd

Marianne Zsiska's home

Monday, November 24, 7pm

Board Meeting

Ginny Palmer's home

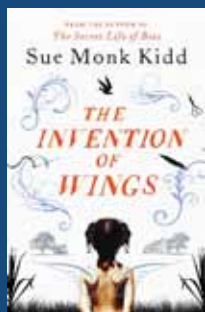


*Sharon
Williamson
with October
brunch
speaker
author
Katrina Kittle.*

“Joy Luck” Book Club

Date: November 20
 Book: *The Invention of Wings*
 Sue Monk Kidd
 Venue: Marianne Zsiska’s home

Hetty “Handful” Grimke, an urban slave in early nineteenth century Charleston, yearns for life beyond the suffocating walls that enclose her within the wealthy Grimke household. The Grimke’s daughter, Sarah, has known from an early age she is meant to do something large in the world, but she is hemmed



in by the limits imposed on women. This novel, by the author of *The Secret Life of Bees*, was selected for Oprah’s Book Club 2.0 last December.

VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY

Betty Elworth will be hosting the November 18, meeting at her home 4306 Rosdale Road, Middletown at 7pm. Becky Ward will be the facilitator of this meeting which will include the discussion of **Taking Steps to Manage Sentimental Stuff** lead by Paula Lindon.

Paula is inviting those who attend to bring something or have in mind items that have special sentimental feelings.

We cordially invite YOU to join us and RSVP to Betty 422-0114 or bjelworth@yahoo.com.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

“People, people who need people, are the luckiest people in the world,” says Fanny Brice in the musical FUNNY GIRL. AAUW Middletown is full of great people, working together to accomplish great things. From late October’s move to the new book sale site to early November’s Holiday Bazaar, many people are working hard to prepare for and conduct two of our major fundraisers.

Our branch is also well-represented in other community endeavors and our members are receiving all kinds of recognition. Elsewhere in this newsletter, be sure to read Jessica Chandler’s article about Deborah Turner. Virginia Ritan, Executive Director of Middfest International, was named the 2014 TV Middletown Citizen of the Year. And, Betty Patterson is now a member of the Advisory Council for Butler County Citizens for Elderly Services. Congratulations to all!

To increase our social time, the Board recommended a no-host (pay your own bill) dinner opportunity before our monthly branch meetings, starting on November 10. I’ve reserved a large table for 5:30pm at The Spinning Fork, 2229 N. Verity Parkway, Middletown. If you’d like to have dinner before the branch meeting with some AAUW people, please let me know by calling 937-545-4974 or emailing palmerve@umich.edu.

Cultural Outing to Islamic Center

We had such a wonderful event in September with having Shakira Ahmad presentation. We are following up with this presentation with a visit to the Greater Cincinnati Islamic Center in December. On Saturday December 6, 2014 The event starts at 1pm we need to leave for the event by 12:15pm We can park by our book sale site and car pool, meeting around noon. This event will last about 2 hours. There is suggested donation of \$2.00 per person for the visit. If you could please try to RSVP to me at my cell phone 513-292-2109 or email worbisimm@gmail.com. These notes regarding dress are written by the center. **Women are asked to bring scarves for head covering and wear either skirts that are at least mid-calf length, or loose fitting pants and long-sleeved blouses. Likewise, men are asked to dress modestly which means that they should wear long pants, which are loose fitting and sleeved shirts. Also, when entering the prayer area it will be necessary to remove your shoes, as the prayer areas are fully carpeted.**

Getting to Know You

Barbara Ballard received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Miami University in 1986. She has worked in the hospital setting ever since in Labor and Delivery, Recovery Room, Postoperative Care, and Cardiology. After 30 years in nursing, she says “I find myself amazed by how much nursing gives back to me daily. It is an honor to give comfort to people, and I am blessed to have a job that keeps me active physically and spiritually.” She is widowed with one son, Christopher, who will be finishing his law degree next spring. She looks forward to exploring the many opportunities to help women through AAUW.

New Book Sale Location!

The Book Sale Committee is pleased to announce that we are now officially in business for 2015. We have completed our move to our new location, **4481 Marie Drive in the Kittyhawk Plaza** and we are working to set up tables, sort books, and price them. We are working on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 to noon. Now is the time to tell your friends and relatives that we need books. Please feel free to drop by any of those days to drop off the books that have been "living" in your garage all summer. Parking is available, but please do not park in the spaces directly across from the site, as those are reserved for Tony's Barber Shop which is located next to us. You may pull up in front of our site to drop off books, but to park your car, please use the other spaces in the parking lot. (We want to be good neighbors and not interfere with Tony's business!) **Also, please note that the date of the sale has been moved to Thursday, March 12-Sunday, March 15.** There are bookmarks available at the site. Please take several and hand them out to businesses and places that you visit. There will be a sign-out sheet available so that we can "hit" as many places as possible!!! If you have further questions or drop off times are not convenient for you, feel free to call Chris, Sharon, Tina or Libby to arrange a drop off time. Thanks to all of you for your patience during this transition period. Our goal is the same as always-to make this 2015 the very best ever!!!!



Looking Ahead



The December 8, at 7pm, AAUW meeting will be entertainment by the Middletown High School Show Choir "Purple Pizazz" at Wildwood Golf Club, 601 Aberdeen Drive.

The speaker for the evening is Karin Maney, Executive Director of the Community Building Institute. She will speak about how the Robert "Sonny" Hill Community Center provides a cradle to career continuum of programming for different levels of education. Karin has been a Director in the non-profit for more than 14 years.

**Mark your Calendars
December 11-17
Light Up Middletown
Sign Up at November's Meeting**

Congratulations Deborah Turner

Written by Jessica Chandler

I am pleased to inform you that Dr. Deborah Turner, AAUW Middletown member, is the recipient of the 2014 Special Recognition Award from the Association of the Education and Rehabilitation of Blind and Visually Impaired - Ohio Chapter. She will be presented with the award at the Annual Conference, November 3 & 4. Her accomplishments are many and I am so proud that Middletown City Schools will be "on the map" due to her hard work and dedication. It is a great day to be a Middie!

Here are some excerpts from my essay to the selection committee which eventually led to her being the chosen candidate.

... As a special education coordinator at Middletown City Schools, Dr. Turner makes sure ALL students with exceptionalities have the highest quality of service... Dr. Turner has demonstrated her willingness to go over and beyond for blind and visually impaired students...Dr. Turner provided iPads for teachers who requested them. After learning more about using this device and its accessibility functions, each of the visually impaired students were given an iPad for daily use at school...I have seen independence

and self-advocacy flourish in my students. Dr. Turner has continued to support the iPad usage by purchasing accessibility apps as they become available.

In addition, Dr. Turner supported district wide access and usage of Bookshare. All special education teachers were added as sponsors and trained on how to access books, add members and provide text in alternate formats to any qualifying student. This has had a huge impact on all students needing accessible text, especially blind and visually impaired students....Dr. Turner was even featured on Bookshare's blog at <http://bookshareblog.wordpress.com/2014/04/school-to-home-access/>

...Dr. Turner has been a mentor to me as a teacher, by helping me tap into many funding resources...Blind and visually impaired students have benefitted from a newly formed relationship between Kohl's Cares and Middletown City Schools. Kohl's Cares sends a team of volunteers monthly to assist in some way with the visually impaired program and they donate \$500 each time!

...She has a willingness to listen, trust the expertise of others, and advocate for ALL students!...It is so nice to have an administrator who gets it. Dr. Turner has served our students well and deserves recognition for her hard work!