

Exploring Global Issues of Women & Girls



Middletown Newsletter

December 2014

'Tis the Season

AAUW Middletown's December meeting will begin the Holiday Season at the Wildwood Golf Club, 601 Aberdeen on Monday, December 8 at 7:00 pm. We will be entertained with Christmas music by the Middletown High School Show Choir, Purple Pizzazz under the direction of Marsha Minge. The Show Choir performs at local events and participates in competitions.



Our speaker is Karin Maney. She is the Director of the Community Building Institute Middletown, Inc., a non-profit dedicated to helping community residents transform Middletown into a healthy and sustainable community of choice and opportunity.

As the operator of the Robert "Sonny" Hill, Jr. Community Center, CBI provides cradle to career continuum of programming which targets improvement in Kindergarten Readiness, 3rd grade reading scores, high school graduation rate and job readiness. Karin has over 14 years experience as a director in the non-profit sector and is passionate about how lives and cities can be transformed when a community comes together. Her topic is Cradle to Career.

A Look Ahead to January

Saturday, January 10 at 10:30 am, we will meet at the Midpointe Library. Our speaker is Sister Joan Krimm, Sister of Notre Dame de Namur. She will speak about Human Trafficking and Sexual Slavery. Sister Krimm is a retired teacher and has been a nun for 6 decades. She now works with the FBI.

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 worbismm@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.**



Calendar of Events

Tuesdays and Saturdays

10am to 12noon

Book Sorting & Pricing

4481 Marie Drive, Kittyhawk Plaza

Thursday, December 4, 7pm

Joy Luck Book Club

Reader's Choice (see article)

210 Alamo Road, Middletown

Saturday, December 6, 1pm

Greater Cincinnati Islamic Center

Meet at Book Sale site at noon

Monday, December 8, 5:30 pm

Pre-Meeting Dinner

The Spinning Fork

Monday, December 8, 7pm

December Meeting & Program

Wildwood Golf Club

December 11-17

Light Up Middletown

Friday, December 19

11:45am-12:45pm

School Design Meeting

Middletown City School Office

4th floor of City Building



Top: BeWise campers, Jasmine & Kylie
Bottom: Speaker, Bailey Webber, Carolyn Smith, & Michael Webber



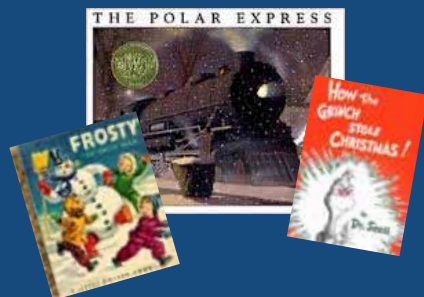
“Joy Luck” Book Club

Date: December 4
 Book: Reader’s Choice
 Venue: 210 Alamo Rd., Middletown

Since everyone is busy at this time of year and there is less time than normal between book club meetings, we won’t be reading a particular book. Instead, let’s follow last year’s tradition and share special memories and our joy of reading in December.

Come prepared to talk about either:

- A favorite book or poem about the holiday season – and why you love it so much (be prepared to read, if a poem!)
- Your favorite book from childhood that was a holiday gift (if you still have it, bring it to show)
- The best book that Santa ever put under your tree...and why you still remember it.



Looking Ahead to January

Date: January 15 at 7 p.m.
 Book: *Under the Wide and Starry Sky* by Nancy Horan
 Venue: Need host

From Nancy Horan, New York Times bestselling author of *Loving Frank*, comes her much-anticipated second novel, which tells the improbable love story of Scottish writer Robert Louis Stevenson and his tempestuous American wife, Fanny.



Virginia Palmer, Middletown Branch President

If you’ve ever wondered about it, this graphic goes a long way toward understanding AAUW Middletown’s position in our community:

You're Invited...Our Design Team Values Your Input...

DECEMBER 15TH – DECEMBER 19TH, 11:45 – 12:45. 4TH FLOOR OF THE CITY BUILDING
 A BOX LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED FOR THE FIRST 40 PEOPLE EACH DAY

This interactive session will involve community members in the redesign of Middletown High School and the design of the new Middletown Middle School.
The session promises to be informative and engaging.




December 15th- City employees that live in the district
 December 16th- Combined Business Partners and Kiwanis Club
 December 17th- Chamber of Commerce and Middletown Community Foundation Board Members
 December 18th- Rotary Club, Not-for-Profits and Ministerial Association
 December 19th- American Association University Women and overflow from earlier in the week.

Notice that our organization, among several others of influence, has a designated day to provide input to Middletown City Schools on the redesign of Middletown High School and the design of the new middle school. One of the major elements of the AAUW mission statement is 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. I would like our local branch to continue our involvement in the local education landscape by being well-represented at this interactive lunchtime event on Friday, December 19, 2014. Please call me at 937-545-4974 or email palmerve@umich.edu and I will communicate our participation to the Superintendent’s office.

Before our December 8 branch meeting, we will continue our new tradition of no-host (pay your own bill) dinner at 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 friends, please let me know by calling 937-545-4974 or emailing palmerve@umich.edu.

Give now to have your support for women and girls matched!

Thanks to the Mooneen Lece Giving Circle, your donations will be matched dollar for dollar up to \$35,000, if made before midnight on December 31, 2014.

Thank you for your support during this holiday season!





Yet Another Successful Holiday Bazaar

The 2014 Holiday Bazaar was successful with a profit of \$2,136.00. This money is used to further the mission and program of our branch. THANKS to all who contributed in any way and/or worked at any time, this is truly a group effort. We had perfect weather and the customers were appreciative of items offered and the reasonable prices which provided them an opportunity to shop for the holidays. The bazaar is a good time for our branch to pull together and work in an informal setting and really get to know each other better. The sweet shop was very successful this year as we offered a nice variety of homemade goodies.

The items left from the sale were distributed as follows:

- a few items held for next year
- a donation to the Clothing Depot
- a donation to the Senior Citizens for their Santa Breakfast
- mugs to the Neighborhood program
- donation to Goodwill

NOW IS THE TIME to think about the HOLIDAY BAZAAR 2015 Yes, as you are decorating and preparing for this season please sort through your things and set aside the items you no longer need, box them up and mark them for AAUW. Then next October you will be ready. Some folks have generously contributed to this bazaar for the last four years and they are cleaned out. Therefore, some new folks need to step up, clean out and help us to continue this tradition. Also, spread the word to your friends and family so they have an opportunity to join us in this effort.

Book Sale Prep in Full Swing

Just a quick reminder that we are working on Tuesdays and Saturdays at the new book sale site (4481 Marie Drive) from 10am until noon in preparation for our annual Book Sale in March. We can always use books and workers, so hopefully you will be able to donate some time and books. We may add additional "work days" after the first of the year. Bookmarks are available at the site—so pick up a few and help us spread the word throughout the community!!! If you need help or have additional questions, please contact Chris, Tina, Sharon or Libby.

Looking Ahead



Diversity Event

This diversity event will be at the Duke Energy Cincinnati Museum Center on Sunday January 18, 2015. The events going on are the Omnimax film about Jerusalem. The film follows the life of three different families of different faiths. We will also visit the Mummies exhibit. The mummies are from around the world and from different time periods. We do need to buy our tickets soon and if we have 15 members or more we can get a group rate. We will meet at the book site to carpool 12:30pm and visit the Mummies exhibit first and then see the movie at 3:00pm. The cost without a group rate is: \$7.50 for the Omnimax movie and \$19.50 for the exhibit for adults \$17.50 for seniors(60+) Museum member adults \$12.50.

Please RSVP to Mel Worbis 513-292-2109 or email worbismm@gmail.com

Voluntary Simplicity

In January we will be looking "within" ourselves. Please join us as we discuss "Taking Steps toward Inner Simplicity" on Tuesday, January 20 at 7pm. The meeting will be held at Carolyn Smith's home.



Great Decisions 2015

This is your invitation to be part of a national program that involves citizens to discover, discuss and decide to give their input on foreign affairs public policy. Members from AAUW have enjoyed for many years the interesting, timely topics.

Great Decision topics for 2015 include:

- Russia and the Near Abroad
- Privacy in the Digital Age
- Sectarianism in the Middle East
- India Changes Course
- U.S. Policy Toward Africa
- Syria's Refugee Crisis
- Human Trafficking
- Brazil in Metamorphosis

I have ordered 10 books for those interested in joining the group on the 2nd and 4th Thursday evenings of January, February, March and April from 7-8:30pm at the MidPoint Middletown Library.



The PBS produced DVD will be shown each meeting on the topics and then discussion follows from the reading. Come to any or all of the evenings. Let me know if you want a guide book for \$20.

Getting to Know You

Ginny Draa grew up in Middletown and graduated from Lemon-Monroe High School. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and Master of Education degrees from Bowling Green State University and taught in Toledo Public and Youngstown City school districts. While serving as a professor in the Colleges of Education and Health and Human Services at Youngstown State University, she also earned her Doctorate in Education. Some of her research work included school uniforms and dress codes, and Cyber Bullying. She retired from YSU in 2011 and returned to Butler County partly to look after her now 92 year old father and partly because she was homesick. She now lives in Monroe and does a small amount of consulting and online teaching while pursuing her passion as a fiber artist. She teach classes, writes instructions, design patterns, enters competitions and sells her work on Etsy.com. One of her designs won Best of Show at this summer's Butler County Fair and another one is currently touring the US for a year as part of a 40 item juried design show. Ginny is looking forward to becoming actively involved in AAUW.



Light Up Middletown Schedule

Thursday, December 11

5:45 - 8:00 Betty Elworth & Wanda Campbell

7:45 - 10:00 Larry & Lois Wood

Friday, December 12

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

7:45 - 10:00 Scott & Suzy Tadych

Saturday, December 13

5:45 - 8:00 Dave & Barb Balsmeyer

7:45 - 10:00 Paul & Robin Becker

Sunday, December 14

5:45 - 8:00 Debbie & Melissa Worbis

7:45 - 10:00 Michelle Piepgrass & Joyce Lehman

Monday, December 15

5:45 - 8:00 Paula Linden & Sharon Dowden

7:45 - 10:00 Lindsay Shockley & Myra Hahn

Tuesday, December 16

5:45 - 8:00 Carolyn & Ron Smith

7:45 - 10:00 Chris & Tom Buchert

Wednesday, December 17

5:45 - 8:00 Jackie & Ron Lankfer

7:45 - 10:00 Laura Desmond & Katie McNeil

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!

