



## Celebrate Beginning of New Program Year

Our year begins on Monday, September 14, at 6:00 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 Rebecca Getson. She is a TitleIX Coordinator at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio. She will talk about sexual assault and campus safety.



On October 10th at 11:30 am we will be celebrating AAUW Middletown Branch's 90th anniversary with a luncheon at Brown's Run Country Club. The speaker is Julia Graber from Columbus. She is the CEO of Gender EQA. In 2007 she was honored by the YMCA of Columbus as "A Woman of Achievement" for her lifelong commitment to research and advocacy work for women.

Also attending the luncheon will be AAUW Ohio state president Christine Siebeneck.

## 2015 AAUW National Convention held in San Diego

What do incoming and outgoing branch presidents do as they're in the midst of the leadership transition? Well, Nita Driscoll and I, with generous branch support (registration and airfare - thank you!), attended the 2015 AAUW National Convention, June 18-21, in sunny San Diego, California. From dinner on Thursday until just before lunch on Sunday the days and evenings were full of plenary sessions, workshops, meal events, and networking and socializing. There were about 1,000 in attendance, including most of the AAUW staff from Washington, DC. There are videos of many of the major speakers online at <http://convention.aauw.org/2015/06/17/presentations-and-materials/>, along with descriptions of the workshops accompanied by their PowerPoints and handouts. As Hallmark says, "next best thing to being there!"



Highlights for me included Catherine Lhamon, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, U. S. Department of Education, speaking about Title IX; the panel entitled "What Does it Take to Make a Woman Leader?" and a workshop titled "What Stories are Under your Bed?-How to Preserve Your AAUW State and Branch Historical Collections." Maybe only a retired librarian would geek out on that and be star-struck with Suzanne Gould, AAUW's Archivist and Records Manager, but it was a fun interactive session with great tips.

The last announcement before adjournment on Sunday morning was that the next National Convention will be in Washington, DC, June 14-17, 2017. Let's start planning now to have an even larger contingent from Middletown there in 2 years!

## Calendar of Events

**Saturday, September 12,**  
12 Noon-8pm

Middletown Arts Center  
Governor's Square Downtown  
(volunteer opportunity)

**Monday, September 14, 6pm**  
Potluck and Program  
MUM Verity Lodge

**Tuesday, September 15, 7pm**  
Voluntary Simplicity  
Becky Ward's Home

**Thursday, September 17, 7pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*My Beloved World*  
by Sonia Sotomayor  
Need a host

**Monday, September 28, 7pm**  
Board Meeting  
Nita Driscoll's Home

**Thursday, October 15, 7 pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*The Girl On The Train*  
by Paula Hawkins  
Nita Driscoll's Home

**Friday & Saturday**  
**November 13 & 14**  
Holiday Bazaar

## “Joy Luck” Book Club

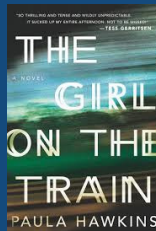
Thursday, September 17 at 7 pm  
*My Beloved World*  
 by Sonia Sotomayor  
 Need host



The group requested a good biography, and this is a very readable memoir by the first Hispanic and third female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. It chronicles her childhood and early legal career, taking us up to the point of her first judicial appointment in 1992.

## Next Month’s Book Club

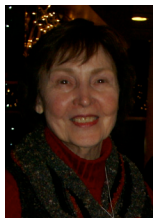
October 15 at 7 pm  
*The Girl On The Train*  
 by Paula Hawkins  
 Nita Driscoll’s Home



A compulsively readable, emotionally immersive, Hitchcockian thriller that draws comparisons to *Gone Girl*, *The Silent Wife*, and *Before I Go to Sleep*. This electrifying debut novel has been embraced by readers across markets and categories.



Ginny Palmer made some creative and patriotic refreshments for July’s book group discussion of *The Astronaut Wives Club*.



## Nita Driscoll, Middletown Branch President

It is an honor to be the President of the AAUW Middletown Branch. I would like to start off by thanking you for your support that enabled me to attend Ohio Annual Equity Day Convention, the National Convention in San Diego, California (along with Ginny Palmer), and the 2015 Summer Leadership Workshop.

My daughter, Dr. Linda Evers and granddaughter Elizabeth attended with me. Linda was invited to join the Columbus Branch and Elizabeth was invited to be an intern in the office of the opening speaker, Kathleen Clyde, State Representative from Columbus. Betty Elworth, state membership chair also represented AAUW Middletown Branch.



Committees have been working hard on programs, membership, special interest groups and projects. A special thank you to Ed and Rose Grau for hosting a very successful garage sale at their home and to Carolyn Smith for providing a canopy and to all members and spouse Dr. Richard Palmer who staffed or stopped by. at the National Night Out on August 4 on John’s Road.

Karen Jones, treasurer would like to thank everyone for their cards, flowers, prayers and visits, She is recovering from a serious accident. She is at home now and able to walk without a walker but not able to drive. She would also like to thank Becky Ward and Judy Florence for taking care of all the finances during her absence.

I am looking forward to an exciting, interesting and informative year as we celebrate 90 years of the AAUW Middletown Branch.

## September Voluntary Simplicity Gathering

Please join us for the launch of a new Voluntary Simplicity year! We will meet at 7:00 pm Tuesday, September 15, at the home of Becky Ward, 618 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. Becky Ward and Carolyn Smith will facilitate a discussion to revisit our past successes. We will also offer structure for our new program year, including familiar topics (decluttering, setting goals) and an in-depth look at newer topics (sustainable living, mindfulness, life’s transitions).

We will continue to follow our Mission of VS: *To serve as a support group to continue exploring ways to move toward a sustainable lifestyle, simplifying life, being sensitive to our families, the environment, and the world around us.*

## Garage Sale Report



The annual garage sale was held in June and realized a profit of \$2,142.85 which will be used to support the mission and program of our branch. Forty members and friends participated or contributed to this effort which provides our members an opportunity to “simplify, clear out and recycle”.

This event is not only a good fund raiser but provides an opportunity to be visible in the community and it gives our membership a chance to work together.

Items that were not sold were sorted and distributed as follows:

- appropriate items to the clothing depot.
- fabric and craft items to Senior Citizens.
- small stuffed animals to Angel Tree.
- donation to the Keep Middletown Beautiful garage sale.
- Salvation Army.
- saved some items for future sale.

A special word of THANKS to all who assisted with this event.

## Coming in November

The annual HOLIDAY BAZAAR will be held on Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14 at 4312 Walton Court in Middletown. This event features new or gently used holiday decorations, dishes, linens, candles, books, games, puzzles and toys, etc.

We also offer the SWEET SHOP which features homemade cookies, cake, pie, bread, jam and jelly or whatever your specialty is. If you have a craft or artistic talent and want to share your product we would love to include it.

There is also a market for items that can be re-gifted. This is a fun event and will include a branch member preview night on Thursday, November 12.

If you have questions concerning this event please contact Rose at: 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com.

## Welcome to our Newest Members!

Help me welcome our newest members—Cari Hillman, Alicia Wellinghoff, Patty Caldwell, Tina Whitaker at our September potluck meeting. These ladies joined this summer at our Membership Dessert event at Beth Miller’s.

Cari Hillman, MBA Marketing graduate of Wright State University, is the voice of the MidPointe Public Library System as Public Relations Manger.

Alicia Wellinghoff is a brand new Miami-Middletown graduate with a Bachelors of Integrated Studies major and looks forward to working in the Middletown area.

Patty Caldwell (also known as Dora Bronston’s sister) has just retired after many years of teaching in the Middletown School system. A graduate of Miami Univ. with a Master’s in Elementary Education, Patty is ready for some new adventures and she’ll find them with our Branch!

Tina Whitaker, another Miami grad, works at the Butler County Educational Services Center in the Early Childhood Programs department as director of Community Engagement and Enrollment.

Kristen Mulligan, a Miami grad with an Accounting & Finance degree, is currently Administrative Manager of the Middletown Community Foundation. She joined us earlier at our May scholarship meeting. Plan to meet all these new members in September!

## Thank You from Scholarship Recipient

Laura Desmond, Scholarship chair, received a Thank You note from the Middletown Community Foundation and Sarah Spect who was a recipient of the AAUW Scholarship 2015.



**stay connected**

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