

Honoring and Supporting the



**POWER OF
WOMEN**

Middletown Newsletter

December 2017

Sue Whitman Presents Mixed Media: Art and Philanthropy for December Branch Meeting

Sue Whitman, Director of the Art Central Foundation at Pendleton Art Center, will present "Mixed Media: Art and Philanthropy" at the Middletown AAUW Branch Meeting December 11 at 7 pm at the Pendleton Art Center. This "play date" will allow members to enjoy holiday refreshments and an art activity while we learn about Whitman's combined passions of art and community service.

Through the Art Central Foundation, Whitman hosts original art exhibitions from local, regional, and nationally known artists while also operating Artique framing service in Studio 101 of Middletown Pendleton. Whitman, who has served over 9 years on the Board of the Middletown Art Center, uses her business as an opportunity to donate art and framing services to many local churches.

Whitman's sense of community involvement began at a very early age. She and her sister, Nancy, often organized summer neighborhood carnivals and art competitions in the backyard, donating the money to the American Cancer Society. As a teen, she traveled with her church youth group from the First United Methodist Church as a participant in the Appalachian Service Project. Her group helped repair homes in Kentucky and Tennessee.

As an adult, Whitman continued giving to the community through involvement with the Central Academy Team Board through fund raisers and school projects and spent six years as a Cub Scout Leader and Merit Badge Counselor for Boy Scouts. She has also volunteered for many local events including: Middfest International, the US Balloon Nationals, the Ohio Challenge, and the NAACP.

A graduate of Middletown High School, Whitman continued her schooling at the University of Kentucky, earning a Bachelor's Degree in English Literature and a Master's Degree in Art History.

Our meeting will be held upstairs in the Pendleton. Parking is available on the street and behind the building. Plan to enter through the front doors. Those who come a little early can tour the lobby art and studio fronts and, perhaps, find an open studio for a quick peek inside.



*Beth Miller
welcomed the
BeWise campers
who shared their
experience at the
November branch
meeting and
program.*

Calendar of Events

Thursday, December 7 through
Wednesday December 13
5:45pm-10:00pm
Light Up Middletown

Monday, December 11, 7:00pm
Program & Branch Meeting
Pendleton Art Center

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
"Favorites" Exchange Roundtable

Saturday, January 13, 10:30 am
Program & Branch Meeting
MidPointe Library Community
Room in Middletown

Tuesday, January 16, 7:00 pm
Voluntary Simplicity
Jackie Lankfer's Home

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Barnhill
Need host



stay connected
aauw.org
aauwoh.org
middletown-oh.aauw.net

"Joy Luck" Book Club

Thursday, December 14, 7:00 pm
"Favorites" Exchange Roundtable
Need host

One of the things we like best about book club is hearing from members about other good books they are reading. So in December we ask you to come prepared to talk about 1 or 2 of the best books you read in 2017. We'll go around the group and spend 10 minutes each sharing our picks. It's a great way to think about the highlights of your past year of reading and to start creating a "to read" list for 2018. Thanks go to Lynne once again for this great idea.

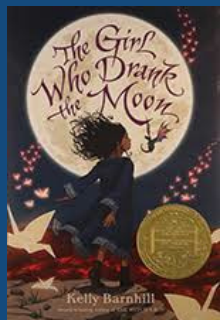
Be sure to bring something to write notes on and a copy of your book to pass around, if that's possible.

What was *your* favorite book of 2017?

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 pm
The Girl Who Drank the Moon
by Kelly Barnhill
Need host

Elaine Fultz, District Library Media Specialist at Madison Local Schools, will join us to talk about this year's Newbery Medal winner, *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*, and what

it's like to be a reader for the coveted Newbery prize. Carolyn Smith will lead the discussion for us that evening.



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

Eliminating Ghosts

Middletown AAUW fundraisers have been serendipitous for my Dickens collection. At the book sale last spring, I found Carlo Devito's 2014 *Inventing Scrooge: The Incredible True Story behind Dicken's Legendary 'A Christmas Carol.'* At the holiday bazaar, I picked up *Christmas Stories by Charles Dickens*, a 1955 Doubleday edition illustrated by Walter Seaton. Inside, I found "A Christmas Carol," "The Chimes," and "A Cricket on the Hearth."

My interest in the origins of A Christmas Carol began a year ago at about this time, when I read Les Standiford's 2008 *The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dicken's 'A Christmas Carol' Rescued His Career and Revived our Holiday Spirits*. That's a long title for a book of 226 pages that covers the short period of six weeks when Dickens, waning in popularity and deeply in debt, wrote *A Christmas Carol* and changed the course of his life and the very nature of Christmas celebration. Dickens moved on to become one of the most revered authors in the English language. Christmas moved from a secondary religious holiday to a secular/religious holiday celebrating peace, humanity, Christmas feasting, and Victorian costumes throughout the world.

As a youth who grew up in poverty with a father who had been tossed in debtor's prison, Dickens felt duty-bound to keep his own family out of debt and to shine a light on miserly behavior especially in the workplace. It won't spoil the reading of the book to look at the final paragraph where Standiford writes:

"Eliminate ignorance, Dickens dreamed in his *Carol*. Eliminate want. A tall order then, and a tall order now. But one does not need to be a social scientist to know that he identifies the true sources of misery in this world. And it is a mark of Dickens's genius that we return eagerly to his hopeful vision—millions of us now—year after year. And vow to do the best we can."

That vow goes hand-in-hand with our AAUW work for women. We use scholarships to help eliminate ignorance and poverty. We fully understand the misery caused by greed. But I write this article in today's climate—one in which woman after woman has risen up to say enough and have called out powerful men for their sexual abuse. I'd like to think that Charles Dickens was exempt from all that, and mostly, he was. He remained faithfully married to his wife Catherine for 20 years, the father of their 10 children. Then suddenly he divorced his wife and likely had a long-term love relationship with a 17-year-old actress.

What we know of that story is what played out in the news about the famous author. His denials. The endowment he left for Catherine.

But what do we know of Catherine? Where is her story?

We find a little of it in letters from Dickens she left to her daughter with advice to give them to the British Museum as proof that Dickens had once loved her. We know Catherine's father was a journalist and that Catherine, herself, wrote and published cookbooks. She was, at one point, an actress. Sisters came to live with her to help with household chores. She had a mental breakdown after the death of one of her children. How much of her life was hidden by Dickens' fame, and how much of her misery was a result of his power? I'd like to know her story. And I'd like a hopeful vision for women who battle that age-old misery, powerlessness, even today.

These books are on my December reading list. I also hope to see Bharat Nallrudi's film *The Man Who Invented Christmas* before the year ends. In all of these, I will be looking for Catherine Dickens.

Holiday Bazaar was GREAT

GREAT weather, it was cool and sunny and folks seemed to be in the spirit of the season.

GREAT crowd, steady flow of people and GREAT shoppers.

GREAT inventory received from 25 members and 14 friends.

GREAT Sweet Shop with homemade items from 14 members.

GREAT help from branch members on the work days and sale days.

GREAT profit - \$ 2,972.80 – the most we have ever made on a bazaar.

GREAT big THANKS to all who contributed in any way.

Need a Location for Book Sale

Now that our wonderfully successful Holiday Bazaar is over, you must be wondering “When is the Used Book Sale going to be?” The question should really be “Where is the Used Book Sale going to be?” Finding a place is what drives setting the dates for the sale. We are still searching. We currently have a couple of appointments to see several properties but would still welcome any ideas that you, our members and/or friends, may have. Please contact any one of your committee - Tina Newlin, Libby Abele and Sharon Dowden. Thanks for thinking of us!

Looking Ahead to January Meeting

Save the day for January’s branch meeting at the MidPointe Library Community Room in Middletown on Saturday, January 13, 2018 at 10:30 am. Morning snacks and coffee will greet members as presenter Jeff Michel, Keep Middletown Beautiful Executive Director, helps us with Local Recycling and Earth Day Preparation.

Volunteer with Light Up Middletown

Santa needs our help! We will be volunteering at Light Up Middletown from Thursday, December 7 through Wednesday, December 13. Two shifts (5:45 to 8:00 pm and 7:45 to 10:00 pm) of two people are needed each evening. Shifts are available Friday, December 8, Saturday, December 9, Sunday, December 10 and Tuesday, December 12 (7:45-10:00 pm). Please contact Cari Hillman (chillman@midpointelibrary.org or 513.705.8511) to reserve your volunteer time. Thank you!



Light Up Middletown Schedule

Thursday, December 7

5:45 - 8:00 Chris & Tom Buchert

7:45 - 10:00 Joe & Tina Newlin

Friday, December 8

5:45 - 8:00 Suzy & Scott Tadych

7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Saturday, December 9

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

7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Sunday, December 10

5:45 - 8:00 Ron and Carolyn Smith

7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Monday, December 11 BALLOON GLOW

5:45 - 8:00 Cari Hillman & Josh Ward

7:45 - 10:00 Cari Hillman & Josh Ward

Tuesday, December 12

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

7:45 - 10:00 OPEN, PLEASE VOLUNTEER!!!

Wednesday, December 13

5:45 - 8:00 Jackie & Ron Lankfer

7:45 - 10:00 Katie & Michael McNeil



Thank you from Hope Taft

I finally had time to inventory the 3 suitcases plus that were filled either donations from AAUW members. And I was thrilled by what I found! It's amazing and all so useful!

Here is a brief tally:

3 suitcases
 100 envelopes. #10 size
 750 envelopes.. A2 size
 220 envelopes 3.58x6.5 size
 40 envelopes large orange 10x12
 2 boxes crayons. 24 colors each
 75 pencils
 70 pens
 2 rulers
 Bag of erasers for pencils,
 18 markers
 1 box of paper clips
 72 sheets of construction paper
 40 sheets of border paper
 26 books
 2 boxes sandwich bags
 4 boxes quart size plastic bags
 1 box gallon size bags

 5 pair sun glasses with cases
 5 pair reader glasses
 1 clip on sunglasses

 53 hand soaps
 63 personal size body lotion
 4 jars Vaseline
 30 tubes of toothpaste
 39 adult tooth brushes. Some with carry cases
 4 children's toothbrushes with paste

 Vitamin B12. 1000mcg 400 tablets
 vitamin B12 50mcg. 30 tabs
 Naproxen sodium 220mg. 26 gels. Aleve
 Aspirin 81 mg. 36 low dose chewable tabs
 Ibuprofen. 200 mg. 625 tabs
 Acetaminophen. 500 mg. 230 cap lets
 Calcium carbonate. 750 mg. 156 tabs. Anti acid
 Bismuth su salicylate. 262 mg. 96 tabs. Anti diarrheal
 Loperamide hydrochloride. 2 mg. 48 tabs. Anti diarrheal
 Eye lubricant. 2 bottles, 5 oz ea



From left to right: Patty Caldwell, Nita Driscoll, Carolyn Smith and Hope Taft with our donations for Tandana Foundation.

Wow! There must be schoolteachers in the group to give so many useful school and office supplies. And there are many others who have travelled and understand the value of over the counter medicines that work wonders! There were other things too that were too numerous to count.. Like shampoos and conditioners , shower caps, etc.

TANDANA is so grateful for the outpouring if generosity. It will make out efforts to provide good medical care to the people of highland Ecuador possible. I will be taking all these supplies and more with us when I go again in April. We would love to have any other your members who want to , to come with us. They can learn more on the website. [Www.tandanafoundation.org](http://www.tandanafoundation.org)

Please share my thanks with everyone. These items in addition to to donation will make a big difference.

Hope Taft
 President Tandana Foundation

Charitable Giving

Two thank-you letters received in November highlight branch giving this season. A letter from Hope Taft itemized the donations presented by members to the Tandana Foundation at the November branch meeting. Taft assures us that the Tandana Foundation is changing the perception of America and quotes Marcela Muenala of Ecuador: "Tandana is the only serious foundation that helps all the people in the communities without lying to them. Others say they are going to help,...and then never return." How wonderful for our branch to learn about this foundation and to help in its mission.

Middletown Community Foundation Executive Director Duane Gordon sent a thank-you for the additional \$1300 added to our AAUW Scholarship Endowment (027) from our bonus earnings at last spring's garage sale.

The generosity of AAUW members changes lives. As you consider your end-of-year charitable giving, remember that our AAUW Scholarship Endowment through the Middletown Community Foundation is tax deductible. We have set a goal of increasing our base funds to \$25,000. Members may donate individually. If you do, earmark the funds for (027) and help our branch meet the new funding goal.



Great Decisions 2018

The mission of the Foreign Policy Association today, as it has been throughout its 99-year history, is to serve as a catalyst for developing awareness, understanding, and informed opinion on U.S. foreign policy and global issues. Through its balanced, nonpartisan programs and publications, the FPA encourages citizens to participate in the foreign policy process.

More information can be obtained on the FPA website. <http://fpa.org/about/> AAUW members and the public are welcome to the following discussion study evenings.. Ten background reading books have been ordered and can be obtained from me for a cost of \$25 after the first of the new year. In addition to the reading, a DVD with additional background on the topic is shown at each meeting.

Please consider joining the program on the following dates: (2nd & 4th Thursdays, Jan. through April.) 7-8:30 pm Places are still being arranged and will be announced.

- January 22** The waning of Pax Americana?
- January 25** Russia's foreign policy
- February 8** China and America: the new geopolitical equation
- February 22** Media and foreign policy
- March 8** Turkey: a partner in crisis
- March 22** U.S. global engagement and the military
- April 12** South Africa's fragile democracy
- April 26** Global health: progress and challenges

Katie McNeil-Middletown branch Public Policy chair



January Voluntary Simplicity Gathering

Our Voluntary Simplicity continues to focus on "Intentional Living." We will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, at the home of Jackie Lankfer, 440 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. Our topic will be Intentional Living: Choosing Where My Time Goes. We invite you to join us as we talk about how to choose simple pleasures and deal with internal clutter. Please RSVP Becky (beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409) or Jackie (lankfer.2@gmail.com or 513/424-5168).



Pictured above is the Wildflower Café where several members enjoyed lunch provided by local farms that are highlighted on the blackboard.

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

Branch President

Carolyn Smith
(937) 657-9548
csrsmith48@gmail.com

Program Co-Vice-President

Patty Caldwell
H (513)-422-9167
shopdc@gmail.com

Program Co-Vice-President

Paula Lindon
(513) 539-8659
plindon@fuse.net

Membership Co-Vice-President

Tina Whitaker
(513) 856-8046
mwhitakertina@gmail.com

Membership Co-Vice-President

Nita Driscoll
(513) 423-5198
rdriscoll@cinci.rr.com

Recording Secretary

Chris Buchert
(513) 292-0420
tcbuch@yahoo.com

Financial Officer

Jackie Lankfer
(513) 320-0494
lankfer.2@gmail.com

Newsletter

Submit articles & event dates to:
Suzanne Tadych
sashworth@cinci.rr.com