

Honoring and Supporting the



**POWER OF
WOMEN**

Middletown Newsletter

January 2018

Earth Day Focus of January Branch Meeting

Middletown AAUW will hold our first branch meeting of 2018 Saturday, January 13, 10:30 am-12:00 noon, at Midpointe Library Community Room in Middletown. Jeff Michel, Keep Middletown Beautiful Executive Director will discuss Local Recycling and Earth Day Preparation.

Keep Middletown Beautiful was founded by the late Della Ewalt and has served the Middletown Community for over 25 years. Its goal, Beautification, Education, and Recycling, is actively supported by board members including Sharon Dowden, AAUW member and Keep America Beautiful Vice President. The group maintains Bright Spots in Middletown and coordinates several activities including the River Clean-Up, Arbor Day activities, and a community-wide clean-up in honor of Earth Day.

Winter solstice is behind us. The seed catalogs are arriving. The ground may be frozen, but it is also eager for our hands and energy. Hundreds in Middletown join the effort to Keep Middletown Beautiful. Come learn the details and say hello to AAUW and the New Year.

Looking ahead: Monday, February 12 at 7:00 pm AAUW Middletown will hear Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner of Middletown, discuss Women's Roles in Combating the Opioid Crisis. We will meet at Verity Lodge.

Announcing a New Location for the 2018 AAUW Used Book Sale!

Great news to start off the New Year: the AAUW Used Book Sale has a home for 2018! We will be located on Main Street in downtown Middletown. The actual location is the street level in the Art Central building (the former Masonic Temple). We have been downtown in the past and feel very welcomed to be back downtown again. There is some moving of items and cleaning up which needs to be done before we can begin our work there. Please stay tuned for work days/times and drop off plans. A huge THANK YOU to Sue Wittman!

Boxing Up the Holidays?

When you undecorate and get ready to store the holiday items, don't forget to sort through and box up the unused and unwanted items for the 2018 Holiday Bazaar. Mark the box for AAUW, store where you won't forget, maybe put a reminder note on your October 2018 calendar. Share this information with family, friends and neighbors NOW, so they too can be ready for our event.

Calendar of Events

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
Katie McNeil's Home

Monday, February 12, 7:00 pm
Program & Branch Meeting
Verity Lodge

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Plague of Doves
by Louise Erdrich
Need Host



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

“Joy Luck” Book Club

Thursday, January 18, 7:00 pm

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

by Kelly Barnhill

Katie McNeil’s home

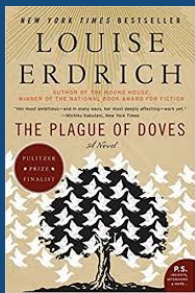
see article for details

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm

The Plague of Doves

by Louise Erdrich

Need Host



A finalist for the Pulitzer Prize, *The Plague of Doves* is a gripping novel about a long-unsolved crime in a small North Dakota town and how,

years later, the consequences are still being felt by the community and a nearby Native American reservation. It is the first part of a loose trilogy that includes the National Book Award-winning *The Round House* and *LaRose*. Erdrich is widely acclaimed as one of the most significant writers of the second wave of the Native American Renaissance.



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

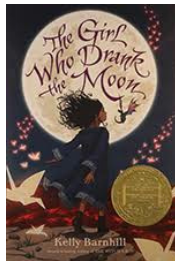
December arrived all full of emotion. It always does. We awed at the heavens. We readied ourselves for the chaos of the holidays, perhaps over-indulging in our favorite way of over-indulging—family, food, gifting, or traveling—the bounty of choice. For many, it brought other emotions, too. Bad news arrived without warning, an unfriendly spirit blown in by the West wind, it seemed.

I finished rereading Dickens’ *A Christmas Carol* during this chaotic time and took a look at the early 1800’s version of December. The weather is cold. The writing is lively. The characters are fun. But Dickens is serious about his messages. Poverty is the offspring of greed. Affliction requires money and care. Joy resides in communion with family and friends.

I wish for us all in Middletown AAUW the strength to continue aid against poverty and affliction. May a calm wind favor you with joys uncountable in the new year.

Newbery Prize Reader Will Attend Book Club in January

The Joy Luck Book Club is pleased to announce that 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.



Fultz has her own shortlist for winners in 2018 for those who might want to read them before the February announcement:

- Orphan Island* (Snyder)
- Clayton Byrd Goes Underground* (Williams-Garcia)
- Her Right Foot* (Eggers)
- Vincent and Theo* (Heiligman)
- Wishtree* (Applegate)

According to Fultz, the general consensus is that this is a weak year in children’s fiction. The National Book Award shortlist, which can lead to Newbery nods, includes only two “young” books in its Young People’s Literature category. The rest are teen.

Last month the Joy Luck Book Club held the 2017 Favorite Books Roundtable and enjoyed Marianna Zsiska’s hospitality. Here are some of our members’ favorite reads during the past year. We share them with you in the hope you’ll find them entertaining and interesting too.

Lynne Rentschler

Midnight in Peking – Paul French

The Round House – Louise Erdrich

The Hummingbird – Steven Kiernan

Y Is For Yesterday – Sue Grafton

Carolyn Smith

A Gentleman In Moscow – Amor Towles

The Sympathizer - Viet Thanh Nguyen

The Man Who Invented Christmas: How Charles Dickens’s A Christmas

Carol Rescued His Career and Revived Our Holiday Spirits – Les

Standiford

Marianne Zsiska

Giants of the Senate – Al Franken

Juliet Blackwell’s *Witchcraft Mystery Series*

Pam Pearson

The Citadel – A.J. Cronin (also *The Keys to the Kingdom*)

Mudbound - Hillary Jordan

Virginia Palmer

Going Into Town – Roz Chast

Women Who Read Are Dangerous – Stefan Bollmann

Footnotes From the World’s Greatest Bookstore: True Tales and Lost

Moments from Book Buyers, Booksellers, and Book Lovers – Bob

Eckstein

Small Great Things – Jodi Picoult

The Atomic Weight of Love – Elizabeth J. Church

Sharon Williamson

The Magic Strings of Frankie Presto – Mitch Albom

The Emperor of Scent – Chandler Burr

Beartown – Frederik Backman

Great Decisions 2018

Great Decisions is a national program of the Foreign Policy Association. For 99 years the mission of FPA has been 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/>

The public is invited to the following ten Great Decision sessions. In addition to the background reading from the program booklet, a DVD with additional background on the topic is shown at each meeting. Anyone with personal background information on the various topics is particularly welcome to participate.

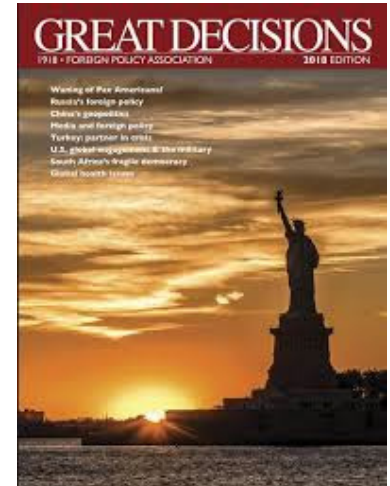
Time: 7-8:30 pm

Location: (Second Thursday each month) Gardner Harvey Library Miami University Middletown campus.

(Fourth Thursday each month) Mid-Pointe Library Middletown

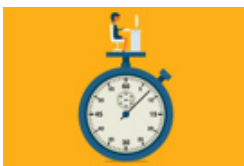
January 22	The waning of Pax Americana?
January 25	Russia's foreign policy
February 8	China and America: the new geopolitical equation
February 22	Media and foreign policy
March 8	Turkey: a partner in crisis
March 22	U.S. global engagement and the military
April 12	South Africa's fragile democracy
April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

Katie McNeil, AAUW public policy chair. For more information call 513-424-4725
(I have pre-ordered 10 booklets at a cost of \$25 each)



January Voluntary Simplicity Gathering

Our Voluntary Simplicity continues to focus on "Intentional Living." We will meet at 7:00 pm 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 come prepared to share your time management skills . . . shortcomings . . . goals.



Please RSVP Becky (beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409) or Jackie (lankfer.2@gmail.com or 513/424-5168).

We continue to follow our Mission of Voluntary Simplicity: 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.

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

Branch President

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

Program Co-Vice-President

Patty Caldwell
H (513)-422-9167
shoppdc@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