

*Honoring and Supporting the*



**POWER OF  
WOMEN**

Middletown Newsletter

February 2018

## February Program Looks at the Opioid Crisis



Jackie Phillips, Health Commissioner of Middletown will speak on the topic “Health News: Women’s Roles in Combating the Opioid Crisis” on February 12 at 7 pm at Verity Lodge on the Middletown Campus of Miami University. Phillips has been involved with health care for almost 40 years. She has a wide range of experiences in public health that make her a valued educator in this community and an excellent resource for AAUW Middletown’s study of the opioid crisis.

Phillips holds a Master’s Degree in Public Health from Boonshoft School of Medicine –Wright State University, in Dayton. She earned a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from Miami University and an Associates Degree in Nursing from Kettering College of Medical Arts.

Much of her knowledge in child development came from work with renowned physician Dr. T. Berry Brazelton who authored many books on emotional and behavioral touchpoints in children. Her other training includes Homeland Security/Bioterrorism, Emerging Diseases Preparedness, and Public Information Communication.

Commissioner Phillips has worked to maintain the health status of the whole community through professional memberships such as Ohio Public Health Association, the South West Ohio Health Commissioners Association, United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Abilities First, Community Behavioral Health, and other affiliations throughout the Middletown/Butler County community.

On November 16, 2017, Butler County Public Health Departments, Butler County Coroner’s Office, Butler County Mental Health and Addictions Recovery Services together issued a Public Health Alert for Butler County referencing “Increase in Opioid Overdose Activity.” The alert, directed at medical personnel, drug users, and community members, was prompted by four overdose deaths in a 24-hour period.

The AAUW mission to advance equity for women and girls starts with educating ourselves and others. We must solve the problems in our community that challenge this advance. The opioid crisis is a major challenge; it needs solved now.

## Details for the Month of March

Middletown AAUW will have no branch meeting scheduled in March. The book sale, often scheduled in March, will be held the first week of May. Two events impact March for us. Women’s History Month offers an opportunity for a diversity outing related to that topic. Contact Melissa Worbis (513-292-2109) if you have an outing suggestion.

The second event is presenting a slate of officers. That slate is generally offered to the membership at a branch meeting in March for voting in April and installation in May. We have a nominating committee hard at work: Judy Florence, Becky Ward, and Debbie Worbis. If the slate is ready, it will be announced at the February branch meeting. If not, look for the slate in the March newsletter.

## Calendar of Events

Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays  
10am-12noon – Book Sorting

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

**Thursday, February 15, 9:30-11am**  
Middletown AAUW Writers Club  
Host Maurita Stueck  
Mount Pleasant Retirement Center  
132 Northwestern Ave, Monroe

**Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*The Plague of Doves*  
by Louise Erdrich  
Sharon Williamson’s Home

**Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*The Hello Girls*  
by Elizabeth Cobbs  
Brown’s Run Country Club  
Compliments of Nita Driscoll

**AAUW Ohio Equity Day  
& Convention 2018**  
*Learn. Do. Share.*

**March 23-24, 2018**  
**Christopher Conference  
Center, Quality Inn,  
Chillicothe, Ohio**

**Register today online!**  
**Hurry! Early Bird Rates  
end Feb. 10!**

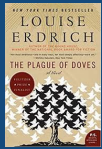
## “Joy Luck” Book Club

Thursday, February 15, 7:00 pm

*The Plague of Doves*

by Louise Erdrich

Sharon Williamson’s Home



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.

Thursday, March 15, 6:00 pm

*The Hello Girls*

by Elizabeth Cobbs

Brown’s Run Country Club

Dinner compliments of

Nita Driscoll



Suggested by Emilie Marcikic, this book is the story of how America’s first women soldiers (part of the U.S. Army Signal Corps) helped win World War I by mastering the latest technology of their time: the telephone switchboard. When the operators sailed home, the army unexpectedly dismissed them without veterans’ benefits. Thus began a 60 year battle that a handful of survivors carried to triumph in 1979 with the help of NOW, Senator Barry Goldwater and a crusading Seattle attorney.

Nita Driscoll has once again given us the generous offer of hosting for dinner at Brown’s Run Country Club in March. We’ll ask for reservations prior to the March date.



## President’s Message: A January Respite

Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

January gave Middletown AAUW a brief respite. All the power belonged to Mother Nature, when we cancelled two events—the Keep Middletown Beautiful program, “Local Recycling and Earth Day Preparation” and the Voluntary Simplicity January meeting. Voluntary Simplicity will combine programs in March to catch up. The board will put the Keep Middletown Beautiful program back on the calendar for next year.

Perhaps January should be a time for respite. I, for one, had some extra time for reflecting on the state of things, for renewal, and engaging in other AAUW opportunities. I visited and did some mopping at the book site; it is up and operational. I worked with Becky Ward and Maurita Stueck on ideas for a new writing group; it is ready to accept members. I attended my first ever Great Decisions; we studied Russia/United States relations; next up for Great Decisions is a study of China.

There are lots of reasons to study China—trade, super power status, involvement with North Korea . I just read in *The New Yorker* that the “Me, Too” Movement has spread to China. The patriarchal government there will be a challenge for women who speak out about sexual abuse. According to the writer, Jiayang Fan, a Chinese woman now living in the U. S. published information on a Chinese social website about sexual abuse by her advisor, a renowned college professor. The story had over three million hits and prompted women in China to report abuse by the same man. He was later dismissed from his post. You can find the article *China’s #Me, Too Movement* published online February 1, 2018.

But-- in President Trump’s state of the union address one of the missing topics was the issue of sexual abuse which has been in the media forefront for weeks. Though women battle for power, forces everywhere conspire against that power—by omission, denigration, or more abuse. The January respite is over. We fight back. We examine the issues, take a position, and speak out. I look forward to seeing you this month!



## Used Book Sale Report

Who cares whether or not that Groundhog sees his shadow on Friday, February 2! We are ready to begin work on our Spring 2018 AAUW Used Book Sale. So come on down to our site for this year – 4 N. Main Street in downtown Middletown (The Temple Arts Building). Bring us some good used books. Collect from your friends, neighbors and family. Stay for a while and help us organize – pricing, sorting, arranging. We will be open beginning Tuesday, February 6, from 10:00 AM until 12 noon, each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from now until the sale. If coming to work, there is ample free parking behind the building; walk through the alley between Temple Arts and J.C. Shew, Attorney at Law, office, then come on in the front door. If dropping off books but not staying, please pull up to the curb in front of the site, put on your flashing (hazard) lights, and we will come out to help unload. We are directly across the street from Cincinnati State.

Many thanks to members (Robin Becker, Sharon Dowden, Tina Newlin, Debbie Worbis), husbands (Tom Buchert, Ron Lankfer, Joe Newlin), son David Newlin and grandsons Blake and Scott Newlin who all assisted in the move from storage to the sale site on a very cold, snowy Monday (January 15). Special thanks to Sue Wittman, Art Central Foundation, for the use of the space this year. And Kudos to Carolyn Smith, our esteemed Branch President, who really knows how to manage a string mop and bucket!

## Writing Group to Meet

Do you have a story to tell? Are you a would-be poet, journalist, essayist, or memoirist? Do you want a motivation to begin writing? If your answer is “Yes” to any of these questions, then you are invited to attend the first meeting of Middletown AAUW Writers February 15 from 9:30-11:00 am. Writers will meet at Maurita Stueck’s house in Mount Pleasant Retirement Center at 132 Northwestern Avenue, Monroe.

For our first meeting, writers will discuss their writing history and goals. Writers may also choose to read for five minutes from a piece of their own writing. At future meetings, writers will come prepared to read five minutes and to listen and offer feedback to others. The format will be to listen to other writers and ask questions that celebrate and encourage the writer. Feedback will be non-critical. Writers attending the first meeting will help further organize the structure and name the group.

Organizing members offer to function as leaders in the group: Carolyn Smith, facilitator; Maurita Stueck, hostess; Becky Ward, communications.

For questions or to let the group know you are coming, email BeckWard@gmail.com or leave a message at 513-424-8409. All are welcome including interested friends.

## 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



**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

## Voluntary Simplicity

Winter temperatures and snow caused a cancellation of January’s Voluntary Simplicity. At the regularly scheduled March meeting, we will combine January/March topics: “managing our time” and “managing our money.” Information will follow in the March newsletter.

**4th Annual  
Women Leadership Symposium  
Miami University Oxford  
Thursday April 12 8am-5pm**

*Effort to encourage and support  
women in leadership*

**For more information and registration  
go to [www.MiamiOH.edu/Miami/Women](http://www.MiamiOH.edu/Miami/Women)**