

Honoring and Supporting the



POWER OF WOMEN

Middletown Newsletter

March 2018

Slate of Officers Announced

The Middletown AAUW 2018 nominating committee (Judy Florence, Debbie Worbis, and Becky Ward) is proud to announce the following slate of officer candidates for 2018:

President: Carolyn Smith, returning

Program Co-Vice President: Patty Caldwell, returning; **Michelle Piepgrass**

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Nita Driscoll, returning; **Dora Bronston**

Finance Officer: **Lynne Rentschler**

Recording Secretary: Chris Buchert, returning

Corresponding Secretary: Virginia Palmer, returning

Thank you to the dedicated nominating committee for your efforts and to our new and returning officer candidates for the offer of your service. Voting for our slate of officers will occur April 9 at our branch Meet the Author (Amy Vetter) meeting at Verity Lodge. The branch's Annual Awards Dinner and Installation of Officers is May 8 at Browns Run Country Club.

Come Spend Some "Green"

In celebration of March and of the Book Sale site being up and running, the Book Sale Committee would like to invite members only to come shopping on Saturday, March 17 (a very green day for some) between 1:00 and 4:00 pm. This will help us test the traffic patterns inside our very different space for this year, helping us to be better prepared for the actual sale in May, and hopefully help you to find some great reads. At this point we are planning on another member only sale on the Monday night, April 30, before the sale. So if a Saturday afternoon does not work for you, plan on joining us on a Monday evening (actually it is a fifth Monday, so you may have an opening in your schedule - we hope so).

We still need books that are in good shape. Let your friends know we are in collecting mode. Remember, no textbooks, encyclopedias, VCR tapes or Readers Digest condensed books. We also could use (on loan if you wish) plastic crates, benches or shelving to help with the displays. Come on downtown and spend some "green".



Jackie Phillips discusses women's roles in combating the opioid crisis at the February branch program.

Calendar of Events

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

Wednesday, March 14, 7pm

Diversity Event

Miami Regionals Hamilton

Saturday, March 17, 1-4 pm

Members only Book Sale Shopping
Book Sale Site

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

Tuesday, March 20, 7pm

Voluntary Simplicity

Jackie Lankfer's Home

Monday, April 9, 7 pm

Branch meeting & program

Verity Lodge, MUM

Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm

Joy Luck Book Club

The Atomic Weight of Love

by Elizabeth J. Church

Ginny Palmer's Home

AAUW Used Book Sale

Thursday, May 3, 5-8pm

Friday, May 4, 10am-8pm

Saturday, May 5, 10am-6pm

Sunday, May 6, Noon-5pm

"Joy Luck" Book Club

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.

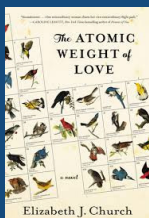
Thursday, April 15, 7:00 pm

The Atomic Weight of Love

by Elizabeth J. Church

Ginny Palmer's Home

A pick from our December Roundtable session, *The Atomic Weight of Love* is a sweeping, debut novel that spans the decades from the 1940's to 1970's. Through an unforgettable heroine who falls in love with her



professor, the novel shows how the women's movement opened up the world for an entire generation.



President's Message: Spring into Action This March Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

There is a certain madness to March that comes from the anticipation of spring. The weather prompts it and we eagerly look for opportunities to step outside and greet this second "new year." This year, Middletown AAUW has no March branch meeting, but we have numerous opportunities for meet-and-greets where you can gather with members socially or to learn or to do good work.

Diversity chair Melissa Worbis has reserved tickets to the Miami University Regionals lecture presented by Wil Haygood on Wednesday March 14, at 7pm in the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center on the Hamilton campus. Haygood will speak about *The 1960s: Why We Are Still Learning from that Unforgettable Decade*. RSVP to Melissa by March 9 if you are interested. She can organize a pre-event dinner or carpool or both. The event is free. Haygood is the author of *The Butler: A Witness to History*. His book is the basis for *The Butler*, the award-winning movie that starred Oprah Winfrey and Forrest Whitaker in 2013.

March is Women's History Month. Miami Middletown offers several events, all free, that focus on first women throughout American history. Some of the women are First Ladies; others are the first in their fields of expertise. Members are encouraged to participate in the MUM book discussion group on March 28 at 12pm in the Gardner Harvey Library. Read *The Movement of the Stars*, a story of a 19th century Quaker woman who studied astronomy. See more information about MUM's Women's Firsts events later in this newsletter.

Miami Hamilton offers several events during March, many that foster creativity in music, painting, and open mic performances. A meditation and mindfulness class occurs each Saturday in March at 2 pm. You can register at will@anactofwill.com. Walk-ins are welcome. Find more information at [muhdowntown](https://www.facebook.com/muhdowntown) on Facebook or phone 513-785-3005.

Don't forget that the book sale site is up and working. Gather and drop-off books and offer to help sort and price. Go in and buy early. An early-buy event is scheduled for March 17, St. Patrick's Day, from 1-4 pm. Find more about this event and other book sale information in Tina Newlin's article in this newsletter.

Ohio AAUW Equity Day is March 23 and 24 at Christopher Conference Center at the Quality Inn in Chillicothe. Registration is open until the day of the conference. So far, Middletown AAUW has two attendees registered and the beginnings of our "Purse for a Change" silent auction basket, a Vera Bradley purse donated by Ginny Palmer. If you have small "pink" items to donate, please send them to Ginny or me by March 18.

PENS, our new writers' club, Voluntary Simplicity, Great Decisions, and the Joy Luck Book Club all welcome you this month as well. I hope to see each of you out and about waking up to what this coming spring has to offer. Let the birds and bees and basketball fans buzz with madness while we all get to work!

"Think Pink" Items Needed

Our contribution to the state convention "Fill a Purse for Change" silent auction will be a very gently used Vera Bradley 100 Handbag in the vintage "New Hope" pattern. This purse, pictured, resembles a loaf of bread and measures 12"x5"x6". We'd like to fill it with small pink items donated by our branch members. Please deliver your donations to Ginny Palmer no later than March 18 and thank you for your participation.



Diversity Event March 14

Wil Haygood to Speak about 1960's at Miami Regionals



Miami University Regionals will host a lecture by Wil Haygood titled *The 1960s: Why We Are Still Learning from that Unforgettable Decade* on Wednesday, March 14 at 7pm in the Harry T. Wilks Conference Center on the Hamilton campus. Please RSVP to Mel by Friday, March 9. Please call/text 513-292-2109, or email me worbismm@gmail.com. If anyone wants to carpool, let me know. We will possibly set up a dinner beforehand. I have reserved 12 tickets, but I can get more.

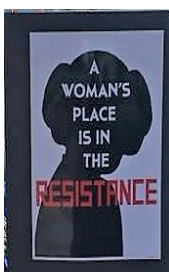
Broadway Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at Miami's Department of Media, Journalism & Film and the 2017-18 Patrick Henry Literary Fellow at Washington College, Wil Haygood will explore the most tumultuous, bloody, fearless, dangerous decade of the 20th century, and how it continues to echo upon present day America. He will talk about some of the iconic figures from that era and why they draw his interest, as revealed in his forthcoming book, *Tigerland*, about an all-black Ohio high school in 1968 that made its way into sports history with grace and glory amidst the tumult.

Haygood's bestselling book *The Butler: A Witness to History* was made into an award-winning film starring Oprah Winfrey and Forest Whitaker. Haygood covered events for the *Washington Post* and *Boston Globe* including Nelson Mandela's release from prison, the ascent of President Obama, Hurricane Katrina, and his own experience as the hostage of Somali rebels.

This event is free and open to the public. For more information call (513)785-3277. An RSVP is encouraged but not required. RSVP online at MiamiOH.edu/Regionals/rsvp. This event is sponsored by the Joyce Manko Fund, Miami University Regionals Department of Justice and Community Studies and the Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services. A reception will follow. Miami University Regionals' Hamilton campus is located at 1601 University Blvd.

So far our branch has enjoyed two diversity outings. On October 3, 2017 several members attended a concert at the Dave Finkelman Auditorium on the Miami Middletown Campus. It was a fun filled night that had the whole audience stepping and clapping to the beats of the different dances. It wasn't just a night of entertainment it was a night of learning and understanding the importance of step in the African American culture.

On January 20, 2018 a few AAUW members joined together with others to participate in the Women's March in Cincinnati, OH. We were part of a march that consisted of about 10,000 to 12,000 marchers protesting in support of women's rights, and the need to encourage people to vote.



March Voluntary Simplicity

Our Voluntary Simplicity group continues to focus on "Intentional Living." We will meet at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, March 20, at the home of Jackie Lankfer, 440 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. We will combine January's topic (cancelled because of weather) and March's topic: Intentional Living--Choosing Where My Time Goes and Choosing Where My Money Goes. We invite you to join us as we talk about how to choose simple pleasures and deal with internal clutter and also self-analysis of spending and being intentional with money.

Our meeting will follow a guided discussion format. Please come prepared to share both your time and money 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.



Creative Writing Group

A new "special interest" writers' group is being formed in our AAUW Branch. We are in the beginning stages of coming together to share our writing endeavors. We have only met one time and we don't even have a name for our group yet. But we know that we will encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE! Whether your passion for writing is creative writing, poetry, memoir, narrative essay, or informative writing—you are welcome to join our writers' group. Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). Please call or email Becky Ward to get details (beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409. More information will follow in future newsletters.



Share with Friends

American Association of University Women (AAUW) 62nd Annual Used Book Sale Donations are being accepted for the Middletown AAUW annual book sale on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30. This year's location is Art Central Foundation Building at 4 N. Main Street. Please bring gently used books to recycle, promote literacy and support raising money for area college scholarships. Park on the street, put on your car blinkers, and an AAUW member will come out and help you unload. The last day for book donations is April 28. For questions and to arrange for book-pick up call 513-424-5168, 513-424-1120, 513-424-7551. More information can be found on the AAUW website:

<http://middletown-oh.aauw.net/fundraising/used-book-sale/>

This year's sale will be held Thursday – Sunday, May 3-6, 2018 at:

Art Central Foundation Building, 4 N. Main Street, Downtown Middletown

You are invited to come to the AAUW Annual Used Book Sale where the proceeds go towards scholarships for area students.

Books Individually Priced - CASH ONLY!

Thursday, May 3 5PM-8PM \$5 admission to pre-sale

Friday, May 4 10AM-8PM

Saturday, May 5 10AM-6PM

Sunday, May 6 Noon-5PM \$7 Bag Sale

In the News



Dolly Parton presented her 100 millionth donated book (free to children ages 1-5) to the Library of Congress in a ceremony on February 27. In the ceremony, Parton read to Washington DC area pre-school children from her book *Coat of Many Colors*, singing many of the words as she did so. According to several websites, Parton started her Imagination Library giveaway in honor of her father who could not read. An avid reader herself, Parton says, in spite of her many responsibilities, she tries to read a book a week.

AAUW Middletown, through our donation to the Middletown Community Foundation Women Enriching Lives committee, supports the purchase and delivery of books to pre-kindergarten children throughout the Middletown area. MCF's celebration of the Imagination Library in a dinner-fundraiser-author exhibit is scheduled for April 7 at Majors Barn in Monroe. Look for details soon.

Great Decisions 2018

(2nd Thursday each month) Gardner Harvey Library MUM campus. (4th Thursday each month) Mid-Pointe Library Middletown 7-8:30 pm

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



WOMEN'S FIRSTS

Women's History Month 2018



All events are FREE and OPEN to the public, unless otherwise noted.

All March Long

Women's Firsts

This display will feature the images of Women's Firsts.

All Day
Gardner-Harvey Library

Display of First Ladies

All Day
Johnston Hall

Sound off Board

Tell us about a "First Woman" in your life.

All Day
Johnston Hall

Wednesday 3.14

Film Showing and Discussion

Excerpts from Films
Chronicle the Later Life of Eleanor Roosevelt.

10:05am
Johnston Hall, Room 012
1:15pm
Johnston Hall, Room 111

Nellie Taft: America's Rules-Breaking First Lady from Cincinnati

Moderated by
Dr. Caryn Neumann

12pm
Gardner-Harvey Library,
Blue Chairs

Wednesday 3.28

MUM Book Discussion Group *The Movement of Stars*

The story of a mid-19th century Quaker woman whose life is transformed by the study of astronomy.

12pm
Gardner-Harvey Library,
Blue Chairs

Women's Journeys Women's Voices: The Refugee Experience

1:15pm
Johnston Hall, Room 142

Wednesday 4.4

First Women

Join a panel of women from various disciplines to talk about women who were first in their areas of expertise: medicine, sociology, bicycling, and being a warrior.

Panelists: Susan Marine, Gina Petonito, Marsha Robinson and Alyssa Straight
11:40am

Thesken Hall, Room 110

Writing Contest

Submission Deadline: Friday, March 25

Please send submissions to:
petonig@miamioh.edu

Miami University Regionals students are invited to submit an essay, poem, prose, fiction, research paper or any form of creative writing. Please submit 2 copies, one without your name.

First Place: \$150
Bookstore gift certificate

Second Place: \$100
Bookstore gift certificate

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH IS SPONSORED BY:

MUM Diversity Council, Office of the Regional Dean, Gardner Harvey Library, Department of Commerce and Office of Diversity and Multicultural Services.

Now Is the Time To Review State and National AAUW News

This very day, or as soon as you have a chance, is a good time to review information on the state and national AAUW websites. Through this review you will be able to update your own information, connect to the Middletown branch website, read the state newsletter Orbit, learn about Equity Day, and look at bylaw amendment changes proposed by the national board of directors.

National

Many of you may have received an email from AAUW National Board of Directors alerting members to proposed changes in the national bylaws. The three amendments propose 1) allowing nonmembers to serve functions on the board, 2) creating staggered officer and nominating teams so that all elected board members aren't new in the same year, and 3) allowing non-university persons who support the AAUW mission to become full members. Of the three proposals, the most contentious, based on reviews and comments on the national website, is the issue of allowing non-university women into the organization.

Those against the proposal site the word "university" in the name, the exceptional history of the organization, the comradery, and the effort of earning the required degree before becoming an AAUW member. They believe their educations are exhibits of what they fight to secure for other women.

Those for the proposal see value in hearing the voices of differently-educated women who support the mission of AAUW. They see AAUW as more about the mission to help educate and uplift women and less about the requirements for membership. They don't want women denied membership because they didn't have the opportunity for formal education that others had.

The board of directors is strongly in support of this amendment and encourages all branches to have discussions and study all three proposals on the AAUW website. Commentary and proposals of new amendments will close on March 22, 2018. Voting will be online between April 25 and June 9, 2018. Study the issues and begin discussions with your AAUW friends so that we will each become informed voters before the official voting begins.

State

The winter issue of Orbit, defines the theme of the AAUW Ohio Convention as "Learn, Share, Do." Featured sessions include help with networking, learning more about public policy, getting financial and dues updates, and practice in creating a branch policy book. The keynote speaker is Angela Clark-Taylor, director of the Women's Center at BGSU. Members who arrive early may attend an information session about the Mounds Heritage Site. Those who stay through Sunday can take a guided trip through the Hopewell Ceremonial Earthworks Site. This issue of Orbit also offers information about each state officer candidate

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

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

Register today online!

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

Branch President

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

Program Co-Vice-President

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

Program Co-Vice-President

Paula Lindon
(513) 539-8659
plindon@gmail.com

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