



## Middletown Newsletter

September 2018

We will begin our program year on September 10 at 6:30 at Verity Lodge on the Miami University, Middletown campus. We will begin with a potluck supper. Please bring a main dish, salad, side dish, or dessert, and your own place setting. After supper we will meet with a panel of area leaders in water systems and maintenance to discuss local water topics.

We know that access to safe water is essential for health, sanitation, and safety. In the developed world we take this for granted, but around the world women and girls are spending time and energy in water collection activities that could be spent on going to school and on economic development. Increasing women's access to clean water would free up hundreds of hours annually that could be devoted to more valuable and economically beneficial pursuits.

Given this, we will discuss water delivery in our local communities, analyzing the water sources, processing, waste management, cost, and safety. In the spirit of the AAUW Convention 2018 theme to "Learn. Share. Do", we hope to learn and share about what we can do to help our communities, our nation and world, to maintain and increase water security.

## Garage Sale Report

The annual June garage sale was a success with a profit of \$3,369.91, the most we have ever made. Thanks to all who donated, worked and/or supported this effort in any way, especially those who assisted with the expanded work days on Tuesdays and Thursdays. This sale provides an opportunity to clear out and simplify; it also provides a means of raising funds to support the mission and program of our branch. Job well done!!!

*Dear American Association of University Women,*

*I would like to take the time to show my gratitude for the scholarship I have received. Without this scholarship and without the help of your organization, I may not have been able to attend college, based on a lack of funds....I can not be more thankful that you saw the potential in me and gave me this opportunity. Knowing that an organization of this stature is believing in me will only make me work that much harder. This scholarship will not go to waste because I am now more determined than ever to make something of myself. Thank you again for choosing me as a recipient and I hope to be in touch soon.*

*Sincerely,  
Breyonnah Davis*

## Calendar of Events

**Monday, September 10, 6:30 pm**  
Potluck, Program & Branch Meeting  
Verity Lodge, Miami University  
Middletown

**Thursdays, Sept. 13 & 27, 9:30 am**  
PENS Writing Group  
Maurita Stueck's home *see article*

**Thursday, September 18, 7:00 pm**  
Voluntary Simplicity  
Becky Ward's home *see article*

**Thursday, September 20, 7:00 pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*Home Fire* – Kamila Shamsie  
Becky Ward's home

**Saturday, September 29**  
SCORE Outing (RSVP by 9/15)  
Fort Ancient, Oregon, *see article*

**Saturday, September 29 (all day TBD)**  
AAUW Ohio September Summit  
6770 North High Street, Worthington

**Saturday, October 6, 11 am-1 pm**  
Program and Branch Meeting  
White Garden Inn, Oxford

**Thursday, October 18 at 7:00 pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*Station Eleven* – Emily St. John Mandel  
TBD

**Holiday Bazaar**  
Friday, November 9, 9 am-3 pm  
Saturday, November 10, 9 am-3 pm

**stay connected**

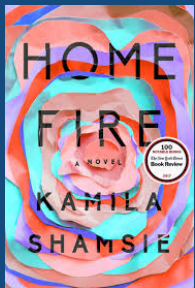
**[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)**

**[aauwoh.org](http://aauwoh.org)**

**[middletown-oh.aauw.net](http://middletown-oh.aauw.net)**

## “Joy Luck” Book Club

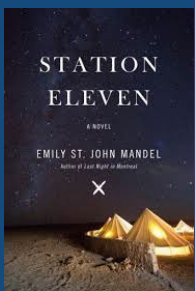
Thursday, September 20 at 7:00 pm  
*Home Fire* – Kamila Shamsie  
 Becky Ward’s home 618 Cambridge  
 RSVP: [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com) or  
 424-8409



Long-listed for the 2017 Man Booker Prize, *Home Fire* is the suspenseful and heartbreaking story of an immigrant family driven to pit love against loyalty,

with devastating consequences. The New York Times reviewer said it “builds to one of the most memorable final scenes I’ve read in a novel this century.” NPR called it “urgent and explosive ... near perfect ... a difficult book to put down.”

October 18 at 7:00 pm  
*Station Eleven* – Emily St. John Mandel  
 Need host



*Station Eleven*, recommended by Ginny Palmer and the choice for this year’s Hamilton “One City One Read”

event, is a science fiction novel that takes place around the Great Lakes after a fictional swine flu pandemic that kills most of the world’s population. Winner of the Arthur C. Clarke Award in 2015, it chronicles a nomadic group of actors and musicians known as the Travelling Symphony. It’s appealing to sci-fi and artsy readers alike.



## Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

I was an educator for 49 years. I retired from full-time teaching after 38 years and spent my last 11 years as a part-time career consultant for Madison Local Schools. I wondered how I would feel as the school year begins. What would be the emotional loss of not identifying myself as an educator? Happily, along came AAUW’s new theme: LEARN. SHARE. DO. With the mission implied by such an educational theme, how could I not feel the excitement of getting back to work after the lull and chaos of summer?

I send out a special thank-you to AAUW members who worked so hard this summer to come up with a program and to help find, finally, a full slate of board members, elected and appointed. I am ever grateful for your hard work. We are, as a group, a working community. As we start this new program year, take a good look at your program book available at the September meeting. Study our offerings. There are many: monthly branch programs, monthly outings, and monthly opportunities to write, read, and study together. What a community, we are! As with all communities, we rely on each one of us to participate in ways that contribute to the success of the branch.

I also encourage you to take a look at our membership roster. It is a little shorter than usual, but every person on that roster has said, by being a member, “I value the work and mission of AAUW.” We are diverse. Some have earned respect from long years of membership, participation, and service. Others are new and ready to help. If there are members you do not know, get to know them. You can LEARN with them through our programs. You can LEARN and SHARE with them through our special interest groups. And together you can DO, i.e. advance equality for all women, by participating in AAUW fundraising activities that support our mission.

I look forward to getting to know members I don’t know well and LEARNING, SHARING, and DOING our good work as we forward Middletown AAUW’s mission. Goodness! I’m getting the jitters. Will I lose sleep? It’s as if school is about to start, and so it is!

## Middletown Community Foundation Names New CEO

Congratulations to Traci Barnett who has been named executive director of the Middletown Community Foundation. Barnett, who recently renovated the Sorg mansion with husband Mark Barnett, has held leadership roles in several national non-profit organizations including the National Kidney Foundation, Goodwill Industries, and the Girl Scouts of America.

The public is invited to an open house to welcome Barnett will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Sept. 7 at the Middletown Community Foundation office at 300 N. Main St.

Middletown Community Foundation manages an array of local scholarships including Middletown AAUW’s scholarships to local high school graduates pursuing further education and AAUW’s non-traditional scholarships for adults returning to school.

## PENS Creative Writing Group

In September we begin our second year of a creative writing group. Our "PENS" group will meet on the second and fourth Thursday, 9/13 and 9/27. Our meeting time is 9:30-11:00am. We will meet at Maurita Stueck's home, 132 Northwestern Avenue, Monroe (Mount Pleasant campus). Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). All writers are welcome to come pursue your creative muse! Please email or call Becky Ward with any questions: [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409.

## Middletown AAUW Offers Branch Cultural Outings

Middletown AAUW will offer SCORE throughout the year thanks to host Katie McNeil. These outings are scheduled for the last Saturday of each month and offer members a chance to explore regional culture: S= Saturday (last of each month); C= Cultural; O=Outings; R= Regional; E= Exploration.

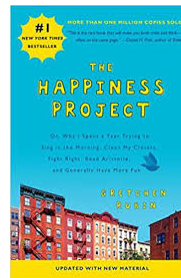
Make reservations for SCORE group tour arrangements with Katie McNeil (513-470-9031 or [kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com](mailto:kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com)) by the 15th of the month of the outing. More details including admission costs, etc. will be made available to those attending. Lunch before or afterwards is optional and up to individuals attending.

Generally anyone with a reservation to attend will meet at the Meijer NE parking area to carpool. (Drivers will appreciate tips for gas.) Unless otherwise noted, meeting time will be at 10 am. The return time will depend on interest of members attending.

The remaining events for 2018 include:

9/29 Fort Ancient Native American Works in Oregonia  
10/27 Pyramid Hill in Hamilton  
11/24 Cincinnati Art Museum  
12/29 Basilica in Covington KY

Check the Middletown AAUW website or Facebook page for more information.



## Voluntary Simplicity: The Happiness Project

Please join us for the launch of a new Voluntary Simplicity year! (Note of interest: we've been meeting since April 3, 2006!) We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, at the home of Becky Ward, 618 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. Becky will share information and lead us in a discussion about September's topic: The Happiness Project . . . and Other Calls to Happiness. Please RSVP Becky: [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409.

## AAUW Ohio September Summit To Be Held in Worthington

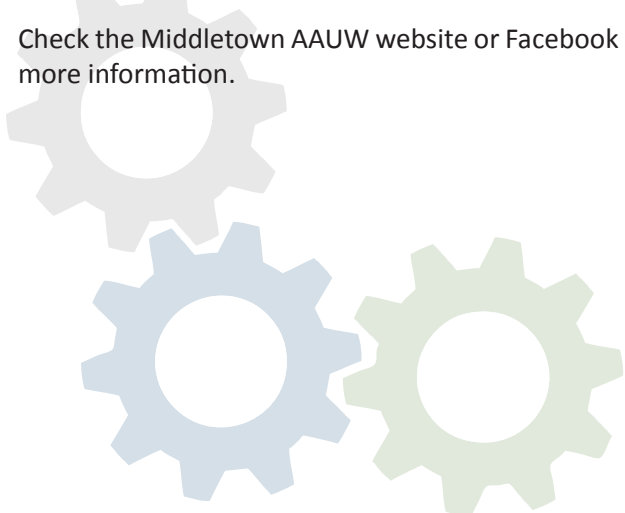
An AAUW Summit offered Saturday, September 29 in Worthington OH will present "Women in Debt/Pay Equity: Two Sides of the Same Coin." The all-day event will be held at All Saint's Lutheran Church, 6770 North High Street. All members are invited to attend the September Summit, a follow-up to a popular 2018 convention program about the AAUW research report Deeper in Debt: Women and Student Loans. Details of the summit will be available soon on the AAUW Ohio website and Facebook page.

## Holiday Bazaar Fri. & Sat. Nov. 9th & 10th - 9:00-3:00 4312 Walton Court – Middletown

We are looking for new/gently used holiday items:

- \_\_\_\_ decorations – trees, wreaths, centerpieces
- \_\_\_\_ holiday dishes – trays
- \_\_\_\_ linens – placemats, tablecloths, napkins, towels, pillows
- \_\_\_\_ holiday books, games, puzzles, toys
- \_\_\_\_ items that can be re-gifted: new candles, lotions, socks, scarves, gloves, hats, purses, jewelry
- \_\_\_\_ handcrafted items – whatever your specialty
- \_\_\_\_ homemade items for the SWEET SHOP

Invite family, friends and neighbors to contribute to our event. Watch for more details. Contact Rose at 513-424-1969 or [edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com](mailto:edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com).



## What's for Dinner?

It's been a long day. You're tired. All you want to do is put of your feet and relax, but the family wants dinner.

AAUW is partnering with Schwan's to help increase funds for our Scholarship Program. When you order from Schwan's from September 1 through October 16, a percentage of your order total will be contributed from Schwan's Cares Charitable Program to the AAUW Scholarship Fund.

Here's what we'd like you to do:

- Consider placing an order.
- Not interested in ordering for yourself? Holiday time is fast approaching. Why not consider ordering an e-gift certificate from Schwan's for someone on your gift list.
- Help us get the word out about the program to everyone in the Middletown area since funds raised are used to support local students. You can do this in several ways:
- Forward this information to your friends, family, and neighbors in case they'd like to make a purchase
- Ask your employer if you can put up a flyer in the lunchroom. AAUW will be happy to provide you with one.
- Ask your church to put a short paragraph in their weekly bulletin about the program.
- Post the link <http://schwans-cares.com/c/41837> on your Facebook account and challenge your followers to make a purchase.

### It's easy to order

#### Online

1. Visit <http://schwans-cares.com/c/41837>
2. Click "Shop Now"
3. Select team member Karen Kirsch
4. Start Shopping

#### Phone

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID 41837.

## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

#### Branch President

Carolyn Smith  
(937) 657-9548  
[csrsmith48@gmail.com](mailto:csrsmith48@gmail.com)

#### Program Co-Vice Presidents

Michelle Piegrass  
[mvpiegrass@gmail.com](mailto:mvpiegrass@gmail.com)

Patty Caldwell  
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#### Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Dora Bronston  
[Drbronston2012@yahoo.com](mailto:Drbronston2012@yahoo.com)

Nita Driscoll  
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#### Financial Officers

Chris Buchert  
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Katie DeVilling  
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#### Recording Secretary

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#### Communications

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#### Newsletter

Suzanne Tadych  
[sashworth@cinci.rr.com](mailto:sashworth@cinci.rr.com)



## Help us raise money with delicious food delivered to your door.

Help the **AAUW Middletown Branch** raise funds for the **AAUW Middletown Scholarship Program**. When you order by October 16, 2018, a percentage of your order will be contributed by Schwan's towards our program. These funds will then be used to provide educational scholarships to students in Middletown, Ohio.

Utilize the Schwan's Cares™ program® to shop online from over 300 high-quality foods that go from the freezer to table in minutes. With Schwan's foods, a quality meal is always within reach.

*Here are two ways to help:*

### Order Online

1. Visit [schwans-cares.com/c/41837](http://schwans-cares.com/c/41837)
2. Click "Shop Now".
3. Select team member KAREN KIRSCH.
4. Start Shopping!

Earn 20% back on food purchases and 40% back on gift cards (perfect for upcoming holiday gifts)!

### Order By Phone

Call 1-855-870-7208 and provide Campaign ID 41837.



## Choose from over 300 delicious foods



MEATS



SEAFOOD



MEALS



FRUITS & VEGETABLES



SIDES



PIZZA



SNACKS & APPETIZERS



BREAKFAST



ICE CREAM & TREATS



DESSERTS