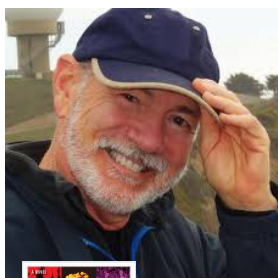




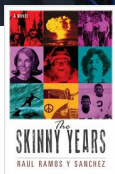
Middletown Newsletter

November 2018



AAUW Hosts Local Hispanic Author

Join Middletown AAUW for our November branch meeting on Monday, November 12 at 7 pm in the Gardner Harvey Library on the Miami University Middletown Campus. Author Raul Ramos y Sanchez, a Cuban-born American citizen and noted Hispanic author will present *Cuba Then & Now: Returning after 50 Years in America*.



On his website, Ramos explains how he came to writing, first through a love of words, then through graphic design and advertising, and finally, after 24 years, turning his knowledge of the exiled Hispanic community into award-winning fiction. Ramos is the author of four works of fiction. Three of his books form a trilogy, *American Libre*, *House Divided*, and *Pancho Land*, published consecutively from 2009-2012. In the style of Tom Clancy, the novels focus on Hispanics in America and the difficulty of divided cultures. Set in a not-too-distant America, they tell the story of an ethnic civil war.

Ramos sees himself as the right person to tell this story. "Most exiles," he explains, "live on the edges of belonging. So do most writers. Being both has left me with a perspective that I've tried to share through my work: Despite a penchant for dividing ourselves by culture, color, and creed, when you strip away the labels, we are much more alike than we are different."

In 2016, Ramos released the coming-of-age novel, *The Skinny Years*, a fictionalized account of families in Miami, Florida who have escaped the revolutionary Castro government. This novel, he says, is a mash up of his early life and what he knows of other exiles in Miami during the turbulent 1960s.

Ramos y Sanchez's books are timely and have won numerous awards. Some will be available for purchase at the branch meeting. *The Skinny Years* is the Joy Luck Book Club read for November.



Two AAUW affiliates met together at Middletown AAUW's September branch program, our local branch and the Miami University Student AAUW Branch. Pictured: attendees at the White Garden luncheon and presidents of the two organizations: Amanda Tetzner and Carolyn Smith.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, November 8, 6-7:30 pm
Holiday Bazaar member preview sale

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

Thursday, November 8 and November 29, 9:30 am-11 pm
PENS Writing Group
Maurita Stueck's home, see article

Monday, November 12, 7 pm
Raul Ramos, Cuban-born American citizen/author
Gardner Harvey Library

Thursday, November 15 at 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
The Skinny Years – Raul Ramos y Sanchez
Host Carolyn Smith

Tuesday, November 20, 11:30 am
Voluntary Simplicity meeting
Cozy's Cottage, VS members RSVP to Becky Ward, See article

LOOKING AHEAD
December 10, 7 pm
Middletown Schools: Building a Better Future - MHS

December 20
Joy Luck Book Club
Short story, *A Christmas Memory* – Truman Capote
Becky Ward's home

December 31, 2018
Schwann deadline for 5% contribution

January 12-17, 2019
Fireside Chats
Various AAUW member homes

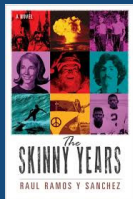
March 23, 2019
Southwest District Spring Summit and Awards Ceremony
Location TBD

April 11-14, 2019
63rd Annual Book Sale
TBD

"Joy Luck" Book Club

November 15 at 7:00 pm

***The Skinny Years* – Raul Ramos y Sanchez
Gardner Harvey Library**



Book club this month will follow along with the topic of our main speaker for AAUW's November meeting, noted Hispanic author Raul Ramos. Raul was born in

Cuba and fled Castro with his mother, becoming a U.S. citizen and long-time resident of Dayton. His most recent book, *The Skinny Years*, is the story of a young Cuban immigrant, Victor "Skinny" Delgado, growing up in Miami in the turbulent 1960s. It started out as a memoir, but Raul told me his real life wasn't dramatic enough, so he turned it into a novel!

The book is available on Amazon, but here is a link if you'd like to order a signed copy for \$16 (which includes shipping): <http://raulramos.com/eventspecial>

Meet the Author: Be sure to attend the main AAUW meeting at MidPointe Library on November 12 to meet Raul in person. He will be speaking on "Cuba Then & Now: Returning after 50 Years in America."

Thursday, December 20, 7:00 pm

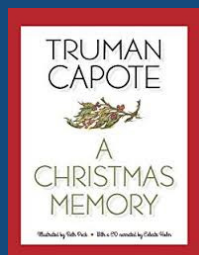
Joy Luck Book Club

Short story, *A Christmas Memory*

Truman Capote

Becky Ward's home

This is a largely autobiographical short story that was originally published in *Mademoiselle* magazine in December 1956 and issued in a stand-alone hardcover edition by Random House in 1966. It has been published in many editions and anthologies since. Focusing largely on country life, friendship, and the joy of giving; it also gently yet poignantly touches on loneliness and loss.



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

We are all busy planning our fall activities and getting ready for winter. Just as we fall back into the cozy and bundled days ahead, I would like to spring forward with you to March and April. I hinted at our last meeting that spring would bring a change in the way we finish up the year with the state AAUW organization. In a nutshell, dear squirrels, here is the news. Our spring Equity Day state conference will no longer exist. Instead, the state districts will each have a summit on various Saturdays in March and April. The AAUW Ohio Southwest District Spring Summit will be held on March 23, 2019. Mark your calendars.

The purpose of the district summits is to create more membership involvement. State conference attendance is down. Only 44 members state-wide attended the fall summit. Cost, lower membership, and distance are all factors in lower attendance rates. With district-level programs, state officers hope that more members attend and that programs reflect the specific interests of each district as well as the themes of the state. Our southwest district includes these active branches: Hillsboro, Logan County, Sidney-Shelby County, Springfield, Mason-Lebanon, Middletown, and Washington Court House.

Only two Ohio AAUW members from the Southwest District attended the fall conference to learn about these changes: Elaine Nishwitz from Sidney-Shelby County and your faithful president! The two of us became the automatic leaders of this summit and are working to create a committee and share responsibilities among the branches for an entertaining and useful meeting. State representatives will attend and present awards and information as they usually do at state meetings.

At present, Elaine is working with Springfield AAUW to find a cost-effective meeting place within their branch. Springfield is the most central location between the active branches of the southwest region. State officer Rush Rogers has agreed to be a keynote speaker focusing on Women's Debt issues. I am connecting via email to other branch presidents so their branches are up to date on this issue. Yes, it's a little scary. Yes, it would have been easier to plan this for next year, but it is here now. I know we can in the Southwest District divide and conquer.



And about April. I have it on good authority that we are already better set this year than last for our book sale fundraiser, the 63rd Annual Middletown AAUW Book Sale! Save the dates April 11-14, 2019 and time to work prior to those days prepping the sale. We encourage you to begin gathering books from your friends. Maurita Stueck has agreed again this year to give up half of her garage for emergency book storage. We Can Do It!



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

WORK DAYS will be Monday and Tuesday, November 5 and 6, door will be open at 9:00 am. Come when you can and help us price and make last minute preparations.

SWEET SHOP items can be delivered anytime on Thursday, door open at 9:00 am, this gives us time to prepare the items for the Preview Sale.

PREVIEW SALE for the BRANCH MEMBERS will be Thursday, November 8 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Come and enjoy some hot cider, sample the goodies, shop if you like, see our event in full bloom and just enjoy the social time with other branch members.

INVITE family, friends and neighbors to come to the eighth annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, November 9 and 10 from 9:00-3:00 at 4312 Walton Court, Middletown. We have a nice inventory of holiday items and always have delicious homemade goodies in the Sweet Shop. We have worked diligently to be ready for this event so now spread the word.

THANKS! Rose at 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com

AAUW Not Participating in Light Up Middletown

Staff from Light Up Middletown recently contacted AAUW-Middletown. As the attraction has become more popular, additional local organizations have indicated an interest in participating. Light Up Middletown has decided to offer this year's volunteer spots usually staffed by AAUW-Middletown to other organizations to ensure that all community organizations have an opportunity to participate. Please continue to support our community by visiting Light Up Middletown, open every evening from 6 pm to 10 pm from Thanksgiving through New Year's Eve.

November Voluntary Simplicity Gathering



For November our group is going on an outing for lunch at 11:30 to Cozy's Cottage in Liberty Township. After a presentation by one of their staff to tell us their story as a farm-to-table restaurant, we will enjoy a meal prepared with local, seasonal, organic ingredients. Voluntary Simplicity participants please call Becky (513/424-8409) or Carolyn (513/360-0128) by Monday, November 12, to confirm your reservation and arrange carpooling.

PENS Creative Writing Group

Our "PENS" group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of the month at 9:30-11:00. We have some changes in our schedule to accommodate the upcoming holidays. In November, we will meet on Thursday, November 8, and then again on Thursday, November 29. We 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: backward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

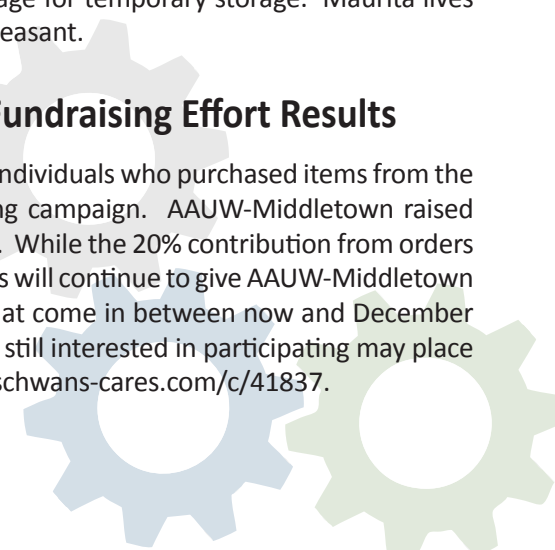


Prepping for Another Used Book Sale - our 63rd!

This coming spring will be our 63rd annual book sale! We have tentative dates of April 11-14, 2019, for the sale. We will be accepting items, sorting, pricing, etc beginning in February. We have limited storage until that time, so please hang on to what you and your friends may have to contribute until then. If there is an emergency and books need to be stored so that they are not lost to us, member Maurita Stueck has offered her garage for temporary storage. Maurita lives in Monroe at Mt. Pleasant.

Schwan Fundraising Effort Results

Thank you to the 8 individuals who purchased items from the Schwan's fundraising campaign. AAUW-Middletown raised \$86 from this effort. While the 20% contribution from orders has ended, Schwan's will continue to give AAUW-Middletown 5% of any orders that come in between now and December 31. Anyone who is still interested in participating may place an order at <http://schwans-cares.com/c/41837>.





ANNUAL HOLIDAY BAZAAR

FRIDAY & SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 9 & 10

9:00AM-3:00PM

4312 WALTON COURT – MIDDLETOWN

DONATIONS NEEDED

Invite family, friends and neighbors to contribute.
We are looking for new /gently used holiday items.

Check list for your convenience.

___decorations – trees, wreaths, centerpieces

___holiday dishes

___linens – placemats, tablecloths, napkins, towels,
pillows, winter bed linens

___holiday books, games, puzzles, toys

___items that can be regifted, new candles, lotions,
socks, scarves, gloves, hats, purses, jewelry

___handcrafted items – whatever your specialty

___homemade items for the SWEET SHOP

AAUW
empowering women since 1881

DROP OFF SATURDAYS:

October 20 – 10:00-2:00

October 27 – 10:00-2:00

November 3 – 10:00-2:00

For alternate drop off times, please call Rose
to set up. 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com



AAUW Public Policy Mission & Action

By Robin Becker



Vote on November 6!

Help to encourage turnout in your community by making sure your friends and family know where and when to vote. This information can be found at canivote.org. If you or anyone you know experiences a problem or witnesses a problem at the polls, call the Election Protection Hotline at 1-866-OUR-VOTE to report it. Before you head to the polls, check out AAUW's Action Fund voter issue guide (aauwaction.org) which provides critical information about key concerns that are critical to women and their families.

The Work Smart Initiative

AAUW is mobilizing a movement to close the gender pay gap – and counting on members to help! Work Smart is a signature AAUW program aimed at empowering women across the country to negotiate for a raise, promotion, or new job. The information is now available online (salary.aauw.org) at no cost. AAUW is encouraging all members to take the course now. The important facts about the status of the gender pay gap will prepare you to be an ambassador for AAUW's efforts. In addition, join AAUW in the Members Mobilize a Million challenge. Working together, our powerful 170,000 members and supporters – each sharing Work Smart with 20 of their contacts -- can reach the first phase goal of training 1 million women!

The average increase in a participant's salary negotiation skills and knowledge after attending an AAUW Work Smart workshop.



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