



**Middletown Newsletter**

**January 2019**

## **January Program Offers Fireside Chats**

The Middletown AAUW Board's choice to offer Fireside Chats as our programming for January was an easy decision based on history and need. Fireside Chats have been a part of this organization in the past and are grounded in an American tradition started by Franklin D. Roosevelt who used radio talks to explain his policies to the American people. They offer our organization an opportunity to sit and talk about issues we have studied and share our own thoughts about how to make a difference for women.

Fireside Chats are wonderful formats for January when weather can be an issue. If we have weather emergencies, we aren't canceling an outside speaker and program as we did last year. And, who doesn't want to sit beside the fire to brighten our winter evenings?

Members may attend each fireside. A facilitator will begin discussion of each topic, but members should do some thinking about issues and come with your own talking points as well. Hostesses ask that you try to carpool because of weather issues with parking and that you RSVP to each hostess of chats you plan to attend. Topics, hosts, addresses, and contact information for each are listed below:

**Monday, January 7, 7 pm**  
**Immigration** Host: **Marty Kreps, new member**  
**1808 Galway Circle, Middletown**  
**mkreps@yahoo.com**  
**Discussion Leader: Larry Kreps**

**Thursday, January 10, 7 pm**  
**Global and Local Water Issues**  
**Host and Discussion Leader: Michelle Piepgrass**  
**mvpiepgrass@gmail.com**

**Saturday, January 12, 10 am**  
**Local Education Issues** Host: **Katie McNeil**  
**kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com**  
**Discussion Leader: TBD**

**Tuesday, January 15, 7 pm**  
**Voluntary Simplicity** Host: **Jackie Lankfer**  
**Lankfer.2@gmail.com**  
**Discussion Leader: Becky Ward**

## **Calendar of Events**

### **FIRESIDE CHATS**

**Monday, January 7, 7 pm**  
Immigration  
Host: Marti Kreps, new member  
1808 Galway Circle, Middletown  
Discussion Leader: Larry Kreps

**January 10, 1-2:30 pm**  
Great Decisions: Refugees and  
Global Migration  
Gardner Harvey Library

**Thursday, January 10, 7 pm**  
Global and Local Water Issues  
Host and Discussion Leader:  
Michelle Piepgrass

**Saturday, January 12, 10 am**  
Local Education Issues  
Host: Katie McNeil  
Discussion Leader: TBD

**Tuesday, January 15, 7 pm**  
Voluntary Simplicity  
Host: Jackie Lankfer  
Discussion Leader: Becky Ward

**PENS Writing Group**  
**Thursday, January 10, 9:30 am,**  
Marita Stueck's house

**Thursday, January 17, 9:30 am,**  
Marita Stueck's house  
Thursday, January 17, 7 pm

**January 24, 1-2:30 pm**  
Great Decisions: The Middle East  
Regional Disorder  
Gardner Harvey Library

**Joy Luck Book Club**  
**Thursday, January 17, 7 pm**  
Everything I Never Told You,  
Celeste Ng  
Host: TBD

**You're Invited to Middie XL  
Excellence Live**  
**Thursday, January 31, 6:30 pm**  
Wade E. Miller Arena  
Tickets: [BIT.LY/MiddieXL2019](https://bit.ly/MiddieXL2019)

**Looking Ahead**  
**February Branch Program**  
**Saturday, February 9, 10 am**  
Women in Law Enforcement  
Middletown Police Training Center  
1 Donham Plaza

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

## "Joy Luck" Book Club

Based on the early results of our survey, the selection for January will be our top choice so far, the debut novel of a best-selling author that tells the tale of a Chinese American family living in 1970s small-town Ohio.

**When:** January 17 at 7:00 pm  
**What:** *Everything I Never Told You* – Celeste Ng  
**Where:** Need host

A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, this novel is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, and uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.



**Carolyn Smith,  
Middletown Branch President**



## A Wish List for Middletown AAUW

- ✓ Continued success and creativity in our fundraising efforts
- ✓ Programs that blend member needs and the AAUW mission
- ✓ Social time to forge lasting friendships
- ✓ An eager nominating committee and volunteers to take on officer positions for 2019-2020
- ✓ Wellness, peace, and harmony

## My AAUW New Year's Resolutions

- ✓ Work with the board to finish updating policies
- ✓ Create clear documents and policies in computer and paper formats for the next board
- ✓ Strive for excellence
- ✓ Continue as an active member of Middletown AAUW



**SAVE THE DATE April 11-14, 2019 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Book Sale**





## 2019 Great Decisions

Great Decisions is a national program of the Foreign Policy Association. For 100 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 eight 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 information on the various topics is particularly welcome to participate.

### Group meeting location:

Gardner Harvey Library on Miami University Middletown campus 3200 University Ave  
Parking passes will be emailed to participants as needed.

### Meeting dates, time and topics:

(2nd and 4th Thursdays) 1:00-2:30 pm

January 10	Refugees and Global Migration
January 24	The Middle East Regional Disorder
February 14	Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future?
February 28	The Rise of Populism in Europe
March 14	Decoding U.S.- China Trade
March 28	Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics
April 11	The United States and Mexico: Partnership Tested
April 25	State of the State Department and Diplomacy

Ten booklets have been pre-ordered (for a discount ) and with sharing cost of DVD would be \$35.00 each.

For more information contact:  
Katie McNeil  
kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com  
Cell: 513-470-9031



## January Voluntary Simplicity Meeting

We will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 15, 2019, at the home of Jackie Lankfer, 440 Cambridge Drive, Middletown. Branch members are invited to join our "Fireside Chat" as we define the meaning and vision of voluntary simplicity, and give a brief overview of past topics, including time and money management, decluttering, HYGGE, mindfulness, and living more intentionally. We will also look at topics from Simplify Magazine's issues, including Health and Wellness, Stress, Declutter Your Life, and Overcoming Busy. Please RSVP Becky (discussion leader): [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409 or Jackie (host): [lankfer.2@gmail.com](mailto: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.



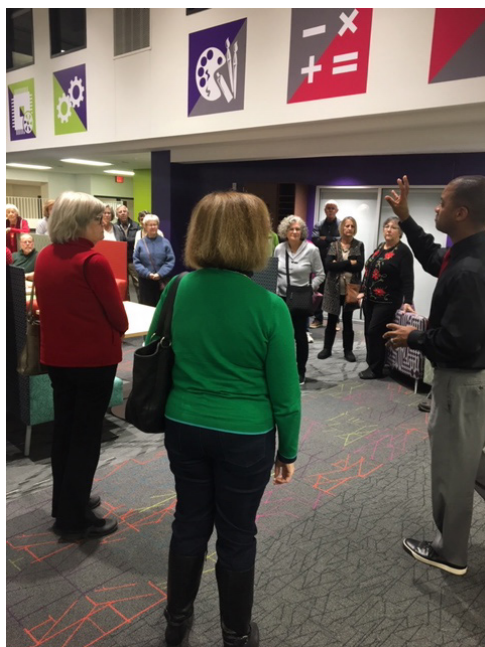
## PENS Creative Writing Group

To start the New Year, our "PENS" group will meet on two Thursdays, 1/10/19 and 1/17/19, at 9:30-11:00. 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). We are a supportive group and have shared written pieces across all genres. 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.





**Marlon Styles, Middletown City School District Superintendent, gives the members and guests a tour of the newly renovated Middletown High School.**



## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

### Branch President

Carolyn Smith  
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### Program Co-Vice Presidents

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