



Middletown Newsletter

December 2018

December Tour of Middletown High School

Middletown High School and superintendent Marlon Styles, Jr. will host AAUW's meeting on December 10 at 7 pm in the Middletown High School Community Room. The program will begin with a tour of the high school shortly after 7 pm, followed by a presentation by Styles, Building a Better Future in Middletown Schools.

Guests should park at your convenience and enter the front doors of Middletown High School. Note that the attached new building to the south is Middletown Middle School. You will enter the doors as shown in the photo, more toward the middle of the complex.

This meeting is an opportunity to learn about changes in the buildings and in programming in Middletown Schools as well as an opportunity to have some holiday treats cooked up by our gracious hostesses for this meeting. Guests are welcome, but RSVP Becky Ward if you plan to bring a few non-members with you. A brief meeting will follow.



Looking Ahead

January offers Middletown AAUW four opportunities to get together for fireside chats in the living rooms of some of our members. These chats will allow further discussion of topics we have covered in this year's programming. Whether you attended a program or had to miss it, these are good opportunities to catch up with members and important topics as we gather for some good cheer.

Look for more information later about details of each fireside, but mark your calendar to make the rounds in early January!

February puts us back into major programming with our meeting at the Middletown Police Training Center, 1 Donham Plaza for a presentation Women in Law Enforcement. Please note: the time for this meeting is incorrect in your program booklet. The meeting is Saturday, February 9 at 10 am.

Calendar of Events

Monday, December 10, 7 pm

Middletown Schools: Building a Better Future
Marlon Styles, Jr. Superintendent
Middletown High School
Tour begins at 7
Nominations accepted at meeting for Named Gifts to AAUW Fund

Thursday, December 20, 7 pm

Joy Luck Book Club
Short story, *A Christmas Memory* – Truman Capote
Location: Becky Ward's house

December 31, 2018

Schwann deadline for 5% contribution

FIRESIDE CHATS

Monday, January 7, 7 pm

Immigration
Host: Marty Kreps, new member
1808 Galway Circle, Middletown
Discussion Leader: Larry Kreps

Thursday, January 10, 7 pm

Global and Local Water Issues
Host and Discussion Leader:
Michelle Piepgrass

January 12, 10 am

Local Education Issues
Host: Katie McNeil
Discussion Leader: TBD

January 15, 7 pm

Voluntary Simplicity
Host: Jackie Lankfer
Discussion Leader: Becky Ward

January

SCORE and Great Decisions
Location and dates, TBD

Thursday, January 17, 7 pm

Joy Luck Book Club
Host and book: TBD

LOOKING AHEAD

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

April 11-14, 2019

63rd Annual Book Sale
TBD

"Joy Luck" Book Club

Thursday, December 20, at 7pm

A Christmas Memory

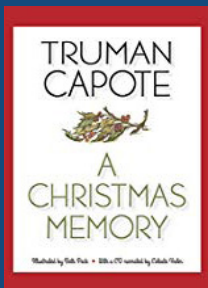
by Truman Capote

Becky Ward's home

618 Cambridge Drive

RSVP: beckward@gmail.com or

424-8409



Originally published in 1956, "Capote's charming memoir of himself, age seven, and the old lady, dear and a bit daft, who was his only friend, was not written for children,

but serves the purpose beautifully. One couldn't ask for better than this touching vignette," rhapsodized the *New Yorker*.



Sharon Williamson with Raul Ramos, November's speaker and author of "The Skinny Years."



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

In my large family, we write Christmas wish lists to make life easy for shoppers. My brother's complete list consisted of the words "Peace and Harmony." My mother will cheerfully purchase a polo shirt and a sweater vest for him, creating a kind of peace within herself—knowing that she is still able to buy a few

Christmas gifts and do her part to create joy.

My brother's list got me thinking about peace and harmony. Is that even something attainable? AAUW has worked for the rights of women and attained many of the goals for women the organization has pursued over the years. Who works for peace and harmony? I found the simple answer to that question in UNESCO, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. UNESCO is dedicated to "building peace in the minds of men and women."

Tabs on the UNESCO website divide the messages of the organization into themes: Education Transforms Lives; Fostering Freedom of Expression; Protecting our Heritage and Fostering Creativity; Learning to Live Together; Building Knowledge Societies; One Planet, One Ocean; Science for a Sustainable Future; Preventing Violent Extremism. Just looking at that list of themes gives me both hope and fear. I am hopeful because the ideas are so well defined and so in line with the needs of our world and even with the goals of our own branch of AAUW. I am fearful because every day in the news I read instances when governments far and wide, including our own, perform acts that dangerously and immorally oppose these themes.

The UNESCO Constitution written in 1945 made several declarations, including this first and most important one: "That since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed." How to attain that peace is described in the 1995 Declaration of Principles of Tolerance. The declaration states: "Tolerance means respect, acceptance and appreciation of the rich diversity of the world cultures, our forms of expression and the ways of individuality expression, it is harmony in diversity, it is a virtue, which makes peace possible."



United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization

In our local AAUW work, we know that dedication to a mission can bring about change. As with all work, success begins at home with tolerance for each other and at work and in the community with accepting and honoring the diverse individuals we encounter. I wish you success in our mission, as well as peace and harmony in the days ahead.

Holiday Bazaar Report

The 8th annual Holiday Bazaar was a successful event. We made a profit of \$2, 650.00 which will be used to support the program and mission of our branch.

Fifty-one members and friends donated, worked or contributed in some way to make this event happen. Fourteen members contributed to the Sweet Shop, which added \$575.00 to our total proceeds.

A big THANKS to all who worked on sorting, pricing and preparing for the sale, putting up/taking down the signs and working on the sale days. And a special THANKS to those who came during the ice storm to dismantle and take the left overs to Goodwill. This is truly a group effort and all help is appreciated.

NOW IS THE TIME to invite family, friends and neighbors to save their unwanted holiday items for us. We have reached the point where we are dependent upon folks outside our branch to provide the inventory. THANKS TO ALL!!!!!!



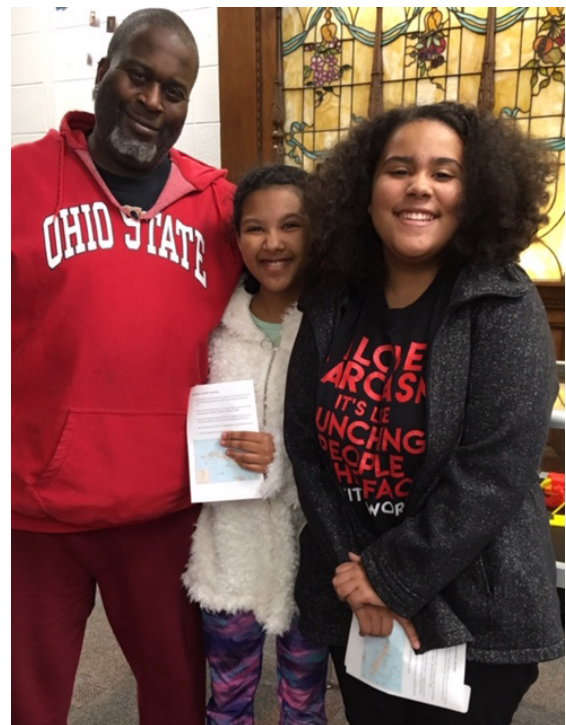
PENS Creative Writing Group

To accommodate the upcoming holidays, our PENS group will only have one meeting in December. We will meet Thursday, December 13th, 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 or 513/424-8409.



Consider AAUW when Giving

The generosity of AAUW members changes lives. As you consider your end-of-year giving, remember that our AAUW Scholarship Endowment through the Middletown Community Foundation is tax deductible. Our board has set a goal of increasing our base funds to \$25,000. Members may donate individually. If you do, earmark the funds for (027) and help our branch meet our funding goal.



Our BeWise camper with her dad and younger sister. Our BeWise camper, Aalissa Smith, with her dad and younger sister. Tatiana Mendez, our other BeWise camper, was unable to attend the November meeting.



<https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

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