



Middletown Newsletter

February 2019



FEBRUARY 2019 AAUW Meeting Middletown Branch

Our February AAUW meeting will be held on Saturday, February 9 at 10 a.m. at The Middletown Police Department, 1 Donham Plaza. Enter through the main MPD doors on the lower level of the city building.

Please allow plenty of time to park in the city lot on the northwest side of the city building. Go down the stairs to police headquarters, through the main doors, past the dispatchers and down the hall to the city council chambers for our meeting.

Major David Birk will host our organization for a conversation on "Women in Law Enforcement." After Major Birk shares the highlights of MPD activity in 2018, we will talk with a cross section of MPD's women officers who will be participating in a panel discussion.

Come prepared with your questions. We will learn about the challenges and opportunities for women working in law enforcement here in our local community.

A brief AAUW business meeting will follow the panel discussion.

63rd Annual Used Book Sale

As I write this piece for our newsletter, we are experiencing the coldest weather that our area has had in the past 25 years. I hope this finds you inside, safe and warm, and perhaps reading a good book.

Speaking of books, we are planning the next book sale - our 63rd! On the last day of January we are moving our items from storage to our book sale site for this year - 2204 Central Avenue just to the left of Stefano's. Starting on **Thursday, February 7**, we hope to have heat and water and be ready to work and accept book donations from the public. So basically, we plan to be open from 10 am until noon each Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday until the sale on April 11-14. This is about a 10 week turn around. So - start gathering up your own book donations, encourage your friends and family to do the same, and come on down to our book sale site. Workers welcome!

Calendar of Events

Book Site

Thursday, February 7, 10-12
Accepting books and work day
2204 Central Avenue

February Branch Program

Saturday, February 9, 10 am
Women in Law Enforcement
Middletown Police Training Center
1 Donham Plaza

Great Decisions

Thursday, February 14, 1-2:30 pm
Nuclear Negotiations: Back to the Future
Gardner Harvey Library

Thursday, February 28, 1-2:30 pm

The Rise of Populism in Europe
Gardner Harvey Library

PENS

Thursday, February 21, 1 pm
Maurita Stueck's home

Joy Luck Book Club

February 21 at 7:00 pm
Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters In the End - Dr. Atul Gawande
Katie McNeil's home

SCORE

Saturday, February 23, 10 am
Cincinnati Art Museum
RSVP Katie McNeil

March Branch Meeting

Monday, March 11, 7 pm
Gardner Harvey Library, Miami University Middletown Campus
Dr. George Sehi, founder of Women Walking West (W3)

March 23, 2019

Southwest District Spring Summit and Awards Ceremony
Covenant Presbyterian Church,
201 N. Limestone St., Springfield

Saturday, April 6

Dolly Parton Imagination Library Luncheon - WEL
Major's Barn, Monroe, Ohio

63rd Annual Used Book Sale

April 11-14
2204 Central Avenue, Middletown

"Joy Luck" Book Club

The next few months' selections are also top picks in our survey. Thanks to those of you who voted. We had some great write-in nominations, too, and will consider those as well. We're listing books for several months ahead, in response to other feedback at our November meeting.

February 21 at 7:00 pm
***Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters In the End* – Dr. Atul Gawande**
Katie McNeil's home

Through eye-opening research and gripping stories of his own patients and family, surgeon Atul Gawande tackles the challenge of how medicine can not only improve life but also the process of its ending. It has become a global bestseller and is now in paperback.

March 21 at 7:00 pm
Marianne Zsiska's home
***Unsheltered* – Barbara Kingsolver**

A compulsively readable story of two families, in two centuries, who live at the corner of Sixth and Plum in Vineland, New Jersey, navigating what seems to be the end of the world as they know it. It asks: How could two hardworking people do everything right in life and end up destitute?

April 19 at 7:00 pm
***Becoming* – Michelle Obama**

This is the autobiographic memoir of former first lady Michelle Obama. A work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Mrs. Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her—from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work. Due to the popularity of this book, the library holds are long for this item so I scheduled it for the spring.



Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

January offered several small group firesides instead of a major program. Only one was canceled due to weather: education at Katie McNeil's. Thank you, Marti Krebs, Michelle Piepgrass, and Becky Ward for hosting. Your firesides were warm and the discussions about immigration, water, and voluntary simplicity were lively. We hardly had time to miss the monthly branch program.

Remember, our monthly branch program time is listed incorrectly in your program book. See the front page article here for the time and place for Women in Law Enforcement.

January has reminded me of how valuable it is to have a large, active local AAUW branch. In small groups, each varied in members, purpose, and function, last month we studied public policy together, discussed a novel about prejudice and loneliness, wrote, laughed, planned, snacked, and loved each other. Yes, it feels like love to be so involved in this group. Perhaps I feel that way because I just finished rereading *A Wrinkle in Time*, a Newberry Award winner about the power of love. Or perhaps it is because I watched the Fred Rogers biopic released recently. Mr. Rogers used the word "love" when he talked to Congress about the value of PBS. Regardless, if you have been unable to attend our outstanding AAUW events recently, I hope your health and a break in the weather invites you out.

Another value in having a large membership is in sharing leadership roles. The branch has strong programs because we have a history of strong board leadership. A nominating committee is ready to talk to you about roles for next year. Could you be our next president, a membership vice-president, or a program vice-president? You could and the branch needs you. If you aren't ready for big roles, there are other appointed leadership positions that could be your fit.

It's below zero in Ohio as I write this, but I am on a plane to LA for some warmth, sunshine, beach, and family. I look forward to returning, rested and ready to work.

AAUW Regional Summit

The Southwest Region AAUW Spring Summit and Awards Ceremony will be held on Saturday, March 23 at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 201 N. Limestone St., Springfield. The conference includes morning and afternoon sessions with a morning snack and catered lunch. Dr. Molly Helmlinger will present information about using the WorkSmart website and sharing the information with other women who work. Pay equity and managing money will be on the agenda as well.

Come meet members from other branches and state representatives. Come enjoy the state awards program.

Plan to RSVP and pay with a check to Katie DeVilling, P.O. Box 118, Middletown, OH 45042. The cost for the venue, registration, and lunch is \$25. Look for more information and a registration form in an upcoming email.



2019 Great Decisions

Great Decisions 2nd and 4th
Thursdays 1pm Gardner Harvey
Library, Miami University Middletown
Feb.14- Nuclear Negotiations
Feb.28- Nationalism in Europe
Call Katie McNeil 513-470-9031 if
you are interested in participating.

SCORE

Saturday (last of the month) Cultural Outings of Regional Interest
Saturday, Feb.23 10 am -?

Cincinnati Art Museum- Call Katie McNeil if interested
in going. I can set up a tour if we have a group.

**Special exhibit: Art Academy of Cincinnati
at 150: A Celebration in Drawings and Prints
\$12/ Sr.\$6.00**

<https://www.artacademy.edu/>

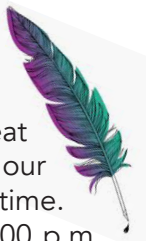


Women Enriching Lives Dolly Parton Imagination Library Luncheon

Mark your calendars now as the annual Dolly Parton Imagination Library Luncheon will be held on Saturday, April 6. The event, sponsored by the Women Enriching Lives committee, will once again be held at Major's Barn on St. Rt. 63 in Monroe, Ohio. Tickets are \$35 each and seating will be limited this year. Thayne Maynard, Director of the Cincinnati Zoo, will be the featured speaker. John Lomax of Channel 12 News will serve as the emcee. Raffle baskets, auction items, and a delicious buffet will be offered.

PENS

Our schedules are getting busier with Great Decisions and book sale pricing. In February our PENS group will only be able to meet one time. We will meet on Thursday, February 21, at 1:00 p.m. 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 or 513/424-8409.



Public Policy By Robin Becker

The Department of Education recently unveiled its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to amend regulations implementing Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. AAUW has reviewed some of the major changes in the NPRM, and the bottom line is clear: the Department of Education's actions amount to a blatant rollback of strong and necessary protections for students, and particularly for student survivors of sexual assault. AAUW vehemently opposes the Department of Education's proposed rule, which would significantly and detrimentally impact women's and girls' ability to access education free from sexual harassment or assault. That is why they are asking every branch to author and submit an op-ed to their local newspaper that calls on the Department to withdraw its proposed rule. The goal is to stop this proposed regulation from ever taking effect, and key to that fight will be the ability to shape public opinion about what's at stake for student safety. A well-placed and persuasive op-ed can be one of the most influential advocacy tools for drawing attention to and getting information into the hands of community members and decision makers alike. AAUW members are leaders in the community, and our voices will be critical to shaping this conversation. If anyone is interested in writing an editorial to be sent to the Journal News, please let me know. Depending on the newspaper's policy regarding editorials, perhaps the letter can be sent from the entire group, rather than one individual. AAUW has compiled the following resources to assist in writing an op-ed:

1. Read AAUW's article "The Attack on Title IX" to learn more about the administration's systematic rollbacks to Title IX protections, including details about the latest proposal.
2. Use the Title IX letter to the editor guide to put together talking points for an op-ed.
3. Check out the advocacy how-to guide on writing op-eds for tips and best practices.

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

Branch President

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

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Michelle Piepgrass
mvpiepgrass@gmail.com

Patty Caldwell
shoppdc@gmail.com

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Dora Bronston
Drbronston2012@yahoo.com

Nita Driscoll
rdriscoll@cinci.rr.com

Financial Officers

Chris Buchert
tcbuch@yahoo.com

Katie DeVilling
Katie.devilling@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Becky Ward
beckward@gmail.com

Communications

Virginia Palmer
palmerve@umich.edu

Newsletter

Suzanne Tadych
sashworth@cinci.rr.com