



**Middletown Newsletter**

**March 2019**

## **MARCH 2019 AAUW Meeting Middletown Branch**



AAUW Middletown Branch meeting will be Monday, March 11, 7pm at the Miami University Middletown Campus Library (Gardner-Harvey).

Our speaker is Dr. George H. Sehi, founder of Women Walking West, also known as W3. The organization's mission is to help foreign born women who are living in the United States legally achieve their educational goals. The organization provides career counseling, tutoring, mentoring, internships and financial support. Dr Sehi is also the founding Executive Dean of Sinclair Community Courseview Campus in Mason, Ohio. Prior to this role he was the Chair of Mechanical Engineering Technology and Dean of the Science, Mathematics and Engineering at Sinclair college's main campus in Dayton. Dr. Sehi has served the educational community in southwest Ohio for more than 30 years.

## **Attendance Important at March 23 District Summit**

Ohio AAUW shook things up this spring with plans for district level summits replacing the state-wide equity day celebration and conference. The purpose of the summits is to get more branch members involved in state-wide initiatives and to focus on women's pay equity and debt advocacy.

Attendees at the March 23 Southwest District Summit will hear a keynote Women in Debt: Issues and Solutions by state public policy co-chair Rush Rogers. We will also participate in a lunch roundtable, How to Get Involved in Advocacy. Afternoon sessions include AAUW Work Smart Orientation conducted by Dr. Molly Helmlinger and a discussion of Title IX Updates led by our own Katie McNeil.

As the biggest branch in the southwest district, it is important that Middletown is represented at this meeting. You can look forward to learning some strategies for having an impact and to meeting state officers as well as basking in a little glory as the districts receive their state awards. Carpooling is recommended.

See the registration form in this newsletter or in your email. If you wish to attend and cannot make the March 8 deadline, contact Chris Buchert or Katie DeVilling. They are serving as treasurers for this event.

Next year, there will be no Ohio spring district conference. The national 2020 spring conference will be held in Washington D.C.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **March Branch Program**

**Monday, March 11, 7 pm**

How W3 Advances Education for Women across the Globe, Dr. George Sehi, Founder of Women Walking West  
Gardner Harvey Library, MUM Campus

### **Great Decisions**

**Thursday March 14, 1-2:30 pm**

Decoding U.S.-China Trade  
Thursday, March 28, 1-2:30 pm  
Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics  
Gardner Harvey Library

### **PENS Writing Group**

**Wednesday, March 13, 1 pm**

**Thursday, March 21, 1 pm**

Host: Marita Stueck

### **Joy Luck Book Club**

**March 21, 7 pm**

Unsheltered, Barbara Kingsolver  
Host: Marianne Zsiska

### **Southwest District Spring Summit and Awards Ceremony**

**Saturday, March 23, 9:30-3:00**

Advocating for Women's Pay Equity  
Covenant Presbyterian Church,  
Springfield

### **Diversity Outing**

**Sunday, March 31, 1:30 pm**

Tour the Center with Cynthia Rovai  
The Center for Holocaust and  
Humanity Education  
Host: Melissa Worbis (See details  
in newsletter)

### **Dolly Parton Imagination Library Luncheon**

**April 6**

Speaker: Thane Maynard,  
Cincinnati Zoo  
Majors Event Barn, Monroe

### **April Branch Program**

**Monday, April 8, 7 pm**

Keep Middletown Beautiful and  
Earth Day Preparation  
Speaker: Jeff Michel  
Thatcher Temple Arts Building

### **63rd Annual Book Sale**

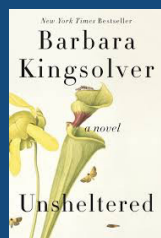
**April 11-14, 2019**

2202 Central Avenue  
(Attached to Stefanos Italian  
Restaurant)

## "Joy Luck" Book Club

**March 21 at 7:00 pm**

***Unsheltered* – Barbara Kingsolver**  
**Marianne Zsiska's home**



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**

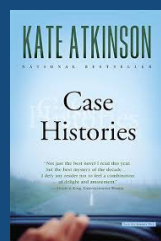
***Becoming* – Michelle Obama**  
**Lyne Renstchler's home**



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.

**May 16 at 7:00 pm**

***Case Histories* – Kate Atkinson**  
**Virginia Palmer's home**



This is the first book in Atkinson's popular Jackson Brodie Mysteries series, called "the best mystery of the decade" by Stephen King. When private investigator Jackson Brodie follow three seemingly unconnected family mysteries in Edinburgh 30 years after the first incident, startling connections and discoveries emerge.



## Carolyn Smith, Middletown Branch President

### *This is an Emergency*

Our nominating committee has been hard at work. As often happens, the committee has come up against a wall of fear when seeking a candidate for the office of president. I know about that wall. I turned to stone myself at the very suggestion of serving as president. When I did agree to be president beginning in 2017, I did so with trepidation.

Let me share with you what I have learned about this role. First, our branch is a busy one. The president has a lot of work to do. The president must learn the requirements, oversee the whole shebang, run meetings, meet deadlines, and advocate for the group. The role does require organization and a time commitment. Those are the givens. Those are some of the reasons members say, "No, not me."

Here are reasons one might say, "Yes." As president, you will develop a real understanding of what AAUW is about, our branch, our state, and our national organization. You will develop a working relationship and an admiration for every member who serves on the board and on the committees that make our operation so successful. You will depend on them. They will step up to make your job easier in as many ways as possible. The board and the membership will be on your side, cheering your success and ensuring that it happens.

I learned that every president is different, with different talents, personalities, background experiences, and passions. It is wise that we limit a presidency to two years because we get to experience those differences as we move forward. After two years, a president is not burnt out, but ready to keep working for the branch with a new knowledge of its purpose. It is also wise to elect a president who has served on the board so that she has seen the leadership of other presidents.

I have learned that a past-president becomes an advocate for future presidents and the future success of this branch. All presidents before me have worked to leave documents, policies, and strategies in good order. Several past presidents have offered me guidance or agreed to serve on committees as they continue to help this branch meet its mission.

My presidency is nearing its end. We should be voting in April on a new slate of officers. Major positions have candidates except for the office of president. As I write this, no one has stepped forward. Know that if you do, I will support you all the way and am following the lead of my predecessors in preparing a notebook for you and a flash drive that will make your job easier. We are required by national policy to have a president. Please, think about what you have to offer and contact the nominating committee, Anita Shew or Jackie Lankfer, if you are the right person for this role.

Perhaps the nominating committee will have found a candidate for president by the time this note reaches publication. Regardless, I hope you will take this message to heart. There are always positions to be filled. If you are new, busy, not that involved, or hesitant, consider saying "Yes" to lesser roles. I look forward to your fabulous ideas!

## Diversity Event at Museum Center

Diversity event to see the newest exhibit at the Cincinnati Union Terminal Museum. The Nancy & David Wolf Holocaust & Humanity Center, a 12,000-square foot facility that is considered to be the first Holocaust museum in America with an authentic connection to its site. It's estimated that 1,000 Holocaust survivors came through the Union Terminal. Please join us and invite friends and family to the event to visit the center. We will go as a group on Sunday, March 31, 2019. We plan to visit the center at 1pm. We should meet in the lobby around 12:45pm and those who wish to go together from Middletown can meet at the parking lot of the Burlington Coat Factory (at the Towne Mall by what used to be Dillards). Those who do wish to meet please be there by noon. Anyone interested in going please call or text or email Mel Worbis. 513-292-2109 or email worbismm@gmail.com. The price is included in the general admission ticket called the Discovery Pass. The center is located within the Cincinnati History Museum. Adult: \$14.50 Seniors: \$13.50.



## March Voluntary Simplicity Meeting

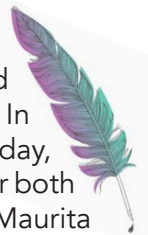
In March, we will meet at Schaefer's Farm Market, 5024 Jacksonburg Road, Trenton, OH. Our speaker is expecting us at the farm at 2:00 p.m. Our own Beth Crout's granddaughter, Elizabeth Schaefer, will talk to us about her family's sixth generation farm, and share information about Community Supported Agriculture (CSA). If weather permits, she will guide us on a tour of their greenhouse(s). Wear tennis shoes in case we trek through light mud. After our farm visit, we will travel to Beth Crout's home for light refreshments and discussion about our visit. Beth's address is 5389 Wayne Madison Road, Trenton, OH. Please RSVP Becky (424-8409 or [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com)) if you plan to attend, and so that we may make plans to carpool. You may choose to take a look at Schaefer's Farm website <http://www.schaeferfarmmarket.com> before our meeting.



*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

Our schedules are busy with Great Decisions and book sale pricing, and we have adjusted our meeting days and time accordingly. In March our PENS group will meet on Wednesday, the 13th, and Thursday, the 21st. The time for both meetings will be 1:00-2:30. 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.





## Miami University Oxford Women's Leadership Symposium

Annual event organized by Alumni Association but open to all. Cost is \$25.00.

Thursday, April 11

For more information and to Register online:  
GivetoMiamiOH.org



### Great Decisions

Foreign Policy Association National study group meets at Gardner Harvey Library Miami University Middletown campus from 1-2:30 pm.  
March 14 - Decoding U.s. - China Trade  
March 28 - Cyber Conflicts and Geopolitics



### SCORE

Save the date! Saturday, April 27 at 10 am  
Bring a friend and join AAUW new and long time friends for a cultural outing. Cincinnati Art Museum and Krohn Conservatory in Eden Park.  
Let Katie McNeil know if you are interested in attending.



Read the article:

*Schools Are Still Underreporting Sexual Harassment and Assault*

at  
<https://www.aauw.org/article/schools-still-underreporting-sexual-harassment-and-assault/>



Twenty members and two guests attended the branch meeting, *Women in Law Enforcement*, February 9. Major David Birk explained that Middletown has 69 officers. Thirteen, or 19%, are women, a high percentage for this



size community. Officers Holly Owens, Cindy Reece, Robin Rollins, and Beth Stewart discussed their work in special events and the neighborhood watch program, patrol and field training, school resource, and narcotics. All shared their histories as officers and some of the interesting encounters they have faced as women officers. Thank you so much for sharing your experiences with Middletown AAUW.

During the monthly business meeting, Ginny Palmer presented the Named Gift Certificate to president Carolyn Smith.

## 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  
shopcdc@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



# Ohio AAUW Southwest District Spring Summit

## March 23, 2019 Registration Form

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### LUNCH OPTIONS

Each lunch includes macaroni salad, chips, and a cookie. Choose one:

Dairy Delight Turkey Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy Delight Ham and Cheese Sandwich \_\_\_\_\_

Dairy Delight Chicken Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Dairy Delight Vegetarian Salad \_\_\_\_\_

✂ =====

Cost of the conference is \$18.00 payable in advance. **Registration forms and checks are due March 8, 2019.** The cost covers rental of the facility, continental breakfast items, and catered box lunch. No refunds can be issued after March 14. Make checks payable to Middletown AAUW, District Summit 2019.

The conference will begin with registration at 9:30 am and end at 3 pm. Expect a light breakfast, drinks and catered lunch at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 201 North Limestone St., Springfield. Send questions about registration to [csrsmith48@gmail.com](mailto:csrsmith48@gmail.com) or call 937-657-9548.

Send registration form and check to:

Chris Buchert, Southwest Summit Registration  
PO Box 118  
Middletown, Ohio 45042