



# COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

November 2019

## Women's Memory Health- November 11



Dr. Leah Avera, Primary Care Medical Director of Kettering Health Network Middletown will present the November branch program on November 11 at 7:00 pm at Kettering Health Network, Middletown in their Community Room. Dr. Avera will discuss memory health - causes and preventatives for memory lapses for women of all ages. Come prepared with your questions!

Kettering Health Network is located at 6147 State Route 122 in Middletown. Enter through the main entrance, turn right at the registration desk, walk towards the lab window and go through the double glass doors. The Community Room will be the first door on your right.

## HOLIDAY BAZAAR

**Fri. & Sat. Nov. 8th & 9th – 9:00-3:00**

**4312 Walton Court - Middletown**

WORKDAYS will be Monday and Tuesday November 4 and 5. Door will 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, November 7, door will 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 on Thursday, November 7 from 6:00-8:00 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 ninth Annual Holiday Bazaar on Friday and Saturday, November 8 and 9 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.



## Calendar of Events

**November 4 and 5**

**Holiday Bazaar Workdays 9-noon**

Rose Grau's home  
4312 Walton Court, Middletown

**9th Annual Holiday Bazaar**

**Thursday, November 7, Branch Preview 6 – 8pm**

**Friday, November 8, 9am- 3pm**

**Saturday, November 9, 9am-3pm**

4312 Walton Court, Middletown

**Monday, November 11, 7:00 pm**

**Program and Branch Meeting**

Women's Memory Health  
Kettering Medical Center  
6147 W OH-122, Middletown

**Tuesday, November 19, 1 pm**

**Voluntary Simplicity**

Jackie Lankfer's home  
440 Cambridge Drive, Middletown

**Thursday, November 21**

**9:30-11:00am**

**Pens Writing Group**

Maurita Stueck's home  
132 Northwestern Ave. Monroe

**Thursday, November 21, 7pm**

**Joy Luck Book Club**

**Nita Driscoll's home**

320 Thorn Hill Lane, Middletown

**Monday, November 25**

**Board Meeting 7:00 pm**

Chris Buchert's home  
4816 Ronald Drive, Middletown

**Wednesday, December 4**

**Rumpke's Recycling Tour**

Meet to carpool at 11:45am

At Chris Buchert's home

Tour 1:00pm

**Monday, December 9, 7:00pm**

**Around the World with AAUW**

MidPointe Library  
125 S Broad St., Middletown

### LOOKING AHEAD

**April 16, 17, 18, 19**

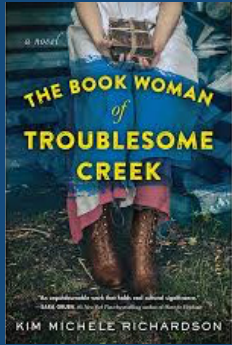
**64th Annual Book Sale**

**April 16 (evening – tentative), 17**

**AAUW Ohio State Convention**

## "Joy Luck" Book Club

**November 21 at 7:00 pm**  
**The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek – Kim Michele Richardson**  
**Nita Driscoll's home, 320 Thorn Hill Lane, Middletown**



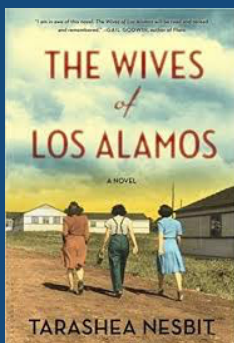
This is a story about the first mobile library in Kentucky and the brave librarians who brought literacy, hope and a human connection to the Appalachian hills. One reviewer called it "a

lush love letter to the redemptive power of books." Sounded right up our alley! Thanks to Nita for the suggestion. Hope you'll join the group this Thursday. Remember to RSVP if you'd like to carpool and/or have dinner.

**December 19 at 7:00 pm**  
**"Best of the Year" Roundtable**  
**Kristen Mulligan's home**

In December we'll gather to share our notes on the best books we've read during 2019. Please come prepared to talk about one book that you loved reading this past year and would recommend to the group. We'll compile a list to share with all book club members after the meeting.

**January 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm**  
**The Wives of Los Alamos**  
**by TaraShea Nesbit**  
 Need a Host



## Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

This year I have been reminiscing about AAUW past, present and future. One of the main reasons I joined our branch was because of the focus on local scholarships. Raising money to help area residents attend college was and still is important to me. The book sale has always had a special place in my heart as it has been a fun and good fundraiser for our branch and community.

Lately I have been broadening by horizons by checking the National website to see what important issues national AAUW is addressing. I have been observing the connections to us here in Middletown. Economic security for women seems even more important today than several years ago.

I think the National Five Star program for the year was designed by National to help make us more aware of how all the branches are interconnected. National hopes we can make even more of an impact in our local communities. Our programs this year are designed to help us think about collaboration and partnership. We plan to connect more with other area organizations to make our local communities stronger.

At our last board meeting we went over the National Five Star Criteria. We looked to see what criteria we might meet during the year.

In the program area, we need to host 3-5 strategic plan-related programs. Our program committee has planned programs for September on the future educational plans at Miami Middletown, October's YWCA program on empowering women, the March program on the gender wage gap and the April community leadership roundtable. Plans are made to also complete a community resource mapping exercise. We are exploring hosting Work Smart online courses with Miami and Cincinnati State. As an aside, I did complete the Work Smart online course and see how it is useful in planning for salary negotiations.

In the Advancement area, branches are asked to donate an average of \$30 per member to the National Greatest Needs Fund. There is enough money allocated to the more specific funds such as LAF at this time. We have already put a \$2000 donation in our budget for this year. Some individuals have already directly donated to the fund. We thank them for their support. We should be fine in this area. We also need to retain 90% of our members from last year. We have already done this. Thank you to everyone for promptly renewing your memberships.

In the communications area, our communications team will keep our website and face book page up to date with monthly references to the National Work Smart Online course.

The Public Policy and Research section may be a bit more challenging. We do have a public policy chair who keeps us up to date on women's issues and legislation updates. She also will collaborate with our state public policy chair. The challenging parts of this section are hosting at least one public event where Action network sign-ups (two minute activist) are collected. We should also conduct a meeting with a U.S. or state representative. We are looking into these two areas.

The last section includes governance and sustainability. We feel we are progressing in this area as we already plan programs to align with state and AAUW strategic plans. We have been focusing on economic security this year. We also work on bringing in new members to gather new ideas, perspectives and leadership. We have tried to have two members for most of the offices to rotate more members into leadership roles. We are considering having a president and president elect to have a smoother succession of officers.

The National Five Star plan looks challenging but I think we will be able to earn some or all of the stars. I think the plan gives us an opportunity to think more globally and ponder how our branch will move into the future.

## Middletown AAUW members meet with Miami University student affiliate members

On Monday, Sept. 23, 2019, Middletown AAUW branch members Katie McNeil, Virginia Palmer, Sharon Williamson, and Maurita Stueck along with several friends shared pizza in a classroom in Oxford with Miami University affiliate AAUW members and then attended a talk by Kate Loeffelman Black. The program was organized by several groups on campus for this alum and moderated by First Lady of Miami University, Dr. Renata Crawford.

Affiliate President, Megan Kelly, and 8 other students shared their interest in AAUW and about their studies. There was an informal discussion about the missions/programs of AAUW and types of branch programs that might be of interest on the campus and what support Middletown members can give to the group. (We will again contribute baked goods to the Equity Pay table the girls organize in the spring.) Visible attendance together at the lecture on Black's book on how women can get elected is an example of one of the activities the girls have organized. Ann Fueher, the University faculty advisor is retiring so the officers approached a political science professor to ask for his assistance.

The campus branch was invited to the Saturday, Feb. 8, 2020, Middletown AAUW book brunch where Miami University Professor and author, TaraShea Nesbitt, will be speaking.

Katie McNeil, College and University Relations

## Group Tour to Rumpke's Cincinnati Recycling Facility

On Wednesday, December 4, a group of AAUW members and relatives are headed down to Rumpke's Recycling Facility at 5535 Vine Street in Cincinnati. This 1:00 tour was inspired by last April's program by Jeff Mitchel on Keep Middletown Beautiful and Earth Day. At the recycling facility we will see where our recycling materials are sorted and what happens to them after that. It ought to be an interesting afternoon.

If you are interested in adding your name to the list of participants, please email or text Chris Buchert. tcbuch@yahoo.com or 513-292-0420.

We will meet at Chris Buchert's home, 4816 Ronald Drive, at 11:45 am on December 4 to car pool.

Participants so far include Chris and Tom Buchert, Marti and Larry Kreps, Robin Becker, Carolyn Smith, Jackie and Ron Lankfer, Paula Cohen, Melanie Kolden-Ramsey, Pam and Loring Pearson, Beth Miller and Mel Worbis. We have made reservations for between ten and twenty people.

## PENS

In November our PENS group will meet only one time, Thursday, November 21. Our meeting time is 9:30-11:00. We will meet at Maurita Stueck's home, 132 Northwestern Avenue, Monroe (Mount Pleasant campus). Our writing has included poetry, memoir, narrative essay, informative, fiction, non-fiction. We have laughed at animal escapades and shared tears of sadness. We encourage each other and give constructive feedback. Our writers' group provides an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE! 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! November is time for NaNoWriMo. Come find out what that is all about! RSVP: email or call Becky Ward backward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

## New Voluntary Simplicity Study

You are invited to join us as we launch a new Voluntary Simplicity study: Civility!

We will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, November 19, at the home of Jackie Lankfer, 440 Cambridge Drive (RSVP Jackie: lankfer.2@gmail.com or 513/424-5168). In our November meeting we will read and discuss about the topics covered in Part One of the book *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P.M. Forni (reference: www.jhu.edu/civility). If you are interested and need a copy of the book, please call or email Becky Ward, backward@gmail.com 513/424-8409. The "character quality" for the month of November is "Gratefulness" (from the city of Hamilton's Character Council). Come join us to learn what it's all about!



Wendy Waters-Connell, executive director of the Hamilton YWCA spoke to members at the October Branch Program at the Gardner-Harvey Library, Miami University Middletown.

## 5 Issues AAUW is Watching in 2020

As the 2020 presidential campaign gets underway, the power of women is on full display. Maybe it's because there are so many women in the race — the largest number in history — or because the candidates are eager to earn our support. Whatever the reason, many issues that matter most to women are receiving attention.

As a non-partisan organization, AAUW doesn't endorse specific candidates. But that doesn't mean we're not advocates for the policies that matter most to us. Indeed, AAUW has a long history of championing policies that advance equality for women in education and the workplace.

So, in the months ahead, AAUW will be watching closely to see where candidates stand on these five issues:

- 1. Equal Pay for Equal Work.** To close the stubborn wage gap, we need leaders who will pass the federal Paycheck fairness Act and advocate for laws and policies that ensure women are not discriminated against at work.
- 2. Investing in Education.** Education is the pathway for women and girls, but too many of our schools are falling short. We need to raise teacher pay, invest in STEM education, protect Title IX and make education a top national priority.
- 3. Reducing Student Debt.** Women hold two-thirds of the nation's \$1.46 trillion educational debt. Policymakers should protect grant programs, champion tuition- and debt-free options and expand loan forgiveness programs.
- 4. Strengthening Social Security.** Because of lower wages and time off from work, women collect about \$320 a month less than men do in Social Security benefits. Our lawmakers need to address the retirement wage gap women face.
- 5. Implementing Paid Leave.** The U.S. is the only developed country without paid family and sick leave.



## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

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