



# COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

January 2020



## My Journey - January 13

Sue Wittman will present the January branch program on Monday, January 13, at 7:00 pm at Art Central Foundation building at 4 N Main St, Middletown. Sue will share about her journey as a small business owner and how she got where she is now.

Sue is a native of Middletown and a graduate of University of Kentucky with a degree in English Literature and graduate work in Art History. Her career includes work in art museums, galleries or in the custom framing industry since 1985. She has owned and operated Artique Gallery in Middletown since 1989. Since returning to Middletown, she has been involved

in many volunteer efforts in the community. In 2005, she helped found the Art Central Foundation, a non-profit that strives to make the visual arts accessible to everyone. After serving as ACF Board President for 8 years she was hired as the Executive Director. Maura Blandford, who has spent nine years on the Board of the Middletown Art Center, will accompany Sue.

It is our goal to collaborate in the community, especially as it relates to promoting education and opportunities for girls and women. ACF has offered free visual art instruction to over 1,500 local children from 7 school districts; and most recently has produced 11 pieces of public art that brought together a community of young student artists, professional artists and artists from Cuba to create these works.

Come prepared with your questions!

## Scholarship Update

The AAUW Middletown branch is considering modifying our scholarships awarded to non-traditional students (ages 25 years and older). Historically, the Middletown Community Foundation (MCF) has awarded two AAUW scholarships in the amount of \$800.00 annually to area students. The applicants filed out a traditional application process through Middletown Community Foundation.

President Chris Buchert and scholarship chair Beth Miller recently visited with representatives at both Cincinnati State and MUM to review the current application process and discuss any support needed by our AAUW branch. During the meetings, the representatives indicated that many of the non-traditional students face a variety of ongoing barriers to maintain their regular class attendance and continue their education.

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## Calendar of Events

Thursday, January 9

9:30 am-11:00 am

**Pens Writing Group**

TBD, Call Becky Ward

Monday, January 13

7:00 Program

**Sue Wittman – Her Journey**

Art Central Foundation Building

4 N Main St. Middletown

January 16, 7:00 pm

**Joy Luck Book Club**

**The Wives of Los Alamos –**

**TaraShea Nesbit**

Pam Pearson's home

Saturday, January 18

**United We Stand Women's March**

705 Pete Rose Way E

Sawyer Point, Cincinnati

March begins at noon

Tuesday, January 21

1:00 pm

**Voluntary Simplicity**

Mary Millard's home

4904 Oaks Court, Middletown

Thursday, January 23

10:00 am -11:30 am

**PENS Writing Group**

Maurita Stueck's home

Followed by lunch

The Knolls of Oxford

6727 Conteras Road, Oxford

Monday, January 27 7:00 pm

**Board Meeting**

Chris Buchert's home

4816 Ronald Drive, Middletown

Saturday, February 8

**10:00 Book Brunch on Creative Writing**

Speaker: Author TaraShea Nesbitt

Invite your friends

### LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, March 3

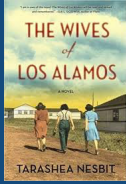
AAUW Funds Fundraising Dinner

April 16, 17, 18, 19

64th Annual Book Sale

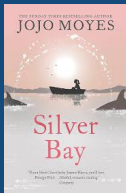
April 17

AAUW Ohio State Convention



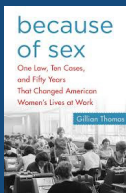
**January 16, 7:00 pm**  
**The Wives of Los Alamos – TaraShea Nesbit**  
**Pam Pearson’s home**

In January we will read a best-selling book by a Middletown author TaraShea Nesbit who will be speaking at our February Book Brunch. Her book is about a remarkable group of real-life women who lived during one of the most monumental research projects in modern history. The book was a Finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, a New York Times Book Review Editors’ Choice, a Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection, an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and winner of two New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards.



**February 20, 7:00 pm**  
**Silver Bay – Jojo Moyes**  
**Need host**

From the best-selling author of *Me Before You* and *After You* comes a surprising and moving romance set in an old-fashioned seaside town on the verge of unwelcome change. Set in Australia, the main character struggles to sustain her family’s hotel and protect her beloved whales from encroaching developers.



**March 19, 7:00 pm**  
**Because of Sex: One Law, Ten Cases, and Fifty Years That Changed American Women’s Lives at Work**

**– Gillian Thomas**  
**Need host**

In honor of Women’s History Month we will be reading a book on how the passage of Title VII and ensuing case law has impacted the lives of women who work in America. Learn how the bravery and tenacity of individual women has had a huge influence down the decades. Our chapter also will earn bonus points for reading a selection from AAUW’s Operation Equity: Reading for Results program list.



**Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President**

What a great fall we have had with AAUW. The programs have been interesting and varied and stimulate my thinking. Being part of the December travel program had me reflecting about different cultures and beauty around the world. I think traveling keeps me grounded in how much I enjoy living in the United States but also helps me appreciate and understand other cultures and people from all over the world. Two cities, Prague being one of them, have memorial statues to 9-11. It is quite moving to see these memorials and realize that people from all over the world care about us.

In the Prague historic district there is a small memorial dedicated to the 343 firemen and rescuers from the New York firefighter corps who perished during the terrorist attacks on the city on September 11, 2011.

Our program committee has been hard at work planning a new program for January. Unfortunately the Rivertown brewery program fell through. We wanted to continue our plan to hear about the journey of a woman entrepreneur and Sue Wittman is going to share her story. I hope to see you at our January meeting. It should be the start of an interesting new year.



Women are the sole or co-breadwinner in approximately two-thirds of American families. So when women bring home less than they have rightfully earned, it hurts women, their families and the economy. Learn more about the gender #paygap at: <https://bit.ly/2Ocqu1O>

**NEW ADDRESSES**

**Maurita Stueck**  
**14 Knollwood Drive**  
**Oxford OH 45056**  
**513.524.7490**

**Katie McNeil**  
**6126 Brown Rd**  
**Oxford. OH 45056**

**PLAN NOW for 2020 HOLIDAY BAZAAR!!**

Pack up those unused and unwanted holiday items NOW, as you clean up from the holidays. Pack the items away but don’t forget where you put them. Remember that we have need for items that can be regifted, so if you get some “white elephants”, save them for us.

## Women's March

AAUW members are invited to join UWS for their 4th Annual Women's March on Saturday, January 18th, at noon. Anyone wishing to drive or carpool should email Kristen Mulligan: [mulligankristen1@gmail.com](mailto:mulligankristen1@gmail.com) We will most likely depart from Middletown around 10am. Information about the event from the UWS facebook page follows:

We're back! Join us on January 18, 2020, at Noon at Sawyer Point Park in Downtown Cincinnati!

We will rally at the P&G Pavillion area at Sawyer Point, starting at 12 pm, with a march following a short program of speakers. We will return to the park after marching for an open mic session, music and interaction with local organizations. This anniversary action is our rededication to the international movement of women's strength, power, and determination. 2020 is crucial to get involved and make change. We will work to elect progressive candidates that represent our values! <http://unitedwestandcincy.com>

On January 21st, 2017, United We Stand (UWS) Cincinnati organized the wildly successful sister march at Washington Park, in Cincinnati's OTR. More than 14,000 marchers of all races, genders, ages, and backgrounds filled Washington Park to show support for women's rights as human rights, and human rights as women's rights. In 2018 we marched again drawing thousands to the banks of the Ohio River! United We Stand Cincinnati remains an independent organization and is not a member of or affiliated with National Women's March Inc.

While the Women's March was a one-day event, the movement it sparked has gained momentum. As women we have used our voice, position, power and feet to stand against anti-woman legislation, income inequality, sexual abuse and harassment, assault on reproductive rights, anti-LGBTQ rights, criminal justice inequality, anti-immigrant rights and much more. We will not be silenced. We will kick off 2020 by speaking out and marching for our values.

Join us at 12 pm on Saturday January 18, 2020 at Sawyer Point in Downtown Cincinnati. And invite your friends!

### Why We March

- We support Reproductive Rights -- we are Pro Choice
- Equal Pay For Equal Work
- Improvements, not reductions, in Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid
- LGBTQ Rights
- Reforms in the Criminal Justice System
- Eradication of Racism, Sexism, and Homophobia
- Indigenous Rights, Immigrant Rights, Religious Tolerance
- Protection of the Climate and an End to Fossil Fuels
- Raising the Minimum Wage to a Living Wage
- Affordable Housing
- Affordable Child Care
- Tuition-Free Public Education through College
- An End to the Rape Culture and all Violence Against Women

## Scholarship Update cont.

Some of these barriers included child care, technology issues, writing essays for the scholarship application process, completing FAFSA forms, transportation (gas, repairs, bus fares), food and housing.

In fact, both representatives stated they maintain emergency funds to support student emergencies and daily living needs that arise which impact student attendance and academic performance.

Given that information, the idea was proposed to create 'flexible last dollar needs' with the current scholarship fund to better meet the current educational needs of a wider pool of our non-traditional students.

The AAUW board discussed the possible modifications and use of the scholarship fund at the October board meeting. Kristen Mulligan suggested we request the original fund agreement from the MCF to learn the parameters of how the fund was originally set up, and determine if changes are needed.

A copy of the Designated Fund written in 1993 was obtained and reviewed at the November board meeting. The Designated Fund indicated the Trustees of the Foundation may "modify any restrictions or conditions on the distribution of funds". In addition, the document states that "AAUW reserves the right to use the principal of the fund on an emergency basis" and that "AAUW also reserves the right of a one time withdrawal to eliminate the fund". After discussion, board members made a motion to replace the non-traditional scholarship with a discretionary fund to meet student needs in a variety of areas. MCF was called the next day to inform them to stop the next scholarship application process in order to allow AAUW to set up the discretionary fund.

The AAUW board is hopeful that this modification to the non-traditional scholarships will lend more flexibility and support to non-traditional students.

The traditional four-year renewable scholarships of \$1000 each will continue as currently awarded.

Beth Miller, Scholarship Chair

## Field Trip to Rumpke

The trip to Rumpke's MRF (Material Recovery facility) was quite interesting. It is one of the largest MRF's in the United States. They sort 55 tons of recyclable materials an hour. Trucks bring in the recyclables and dump them on the floor inside a warehouse so the weather does not hinder the operation. The recyclables are then moved onto the conveyer belt that goes into the facility. Workers pull non-recyclables off the conveyer belts. The different types of recyclables are sorted out to different conveyers. Glass is removed early in the process to prevent breakage from contaminating the other materials. Optical scanners help determine the types of material and when it is separated. Sometime puffs of air make a certain weight of paper move to another line. Magnets pull off steel material. Aluminum is removed by eddy currents. The glass is ground up in tiny pieces by the end of the cycle. During breaks workers have to clean off some of the rollers that become clogged with plastic or other debris. At the end of the process, the different types of recyclables have been bundled into bales, ready to be transported.

Rumpke recycles materials that made them money. That is why they send out their recycling sheets of what is acceptable. We now know that paperback books cannot be recycled. Ugh. I guess we will send our paperback and hardback books that cannot be sold to Goodwill. Plastic bottles and jugs that have narrow tops are the plastics that are the correct weight to be recycled. We need to leave the lids on if we want to send them as loose lids are a nuisance on the conveyor belts. Also, shredded paper should be in clear plastic bags that can be easily ripped apart. Otherwise plastic bags are not welcome. Kroger is the place to take plastic bags. Mostly clean pizza boxes and lids can also be recycled.

We were invited to come back and see where they take the trash. They suggested coming in the fall or spring. We might just go visiting Rumpke again.



*Ann - our guide*



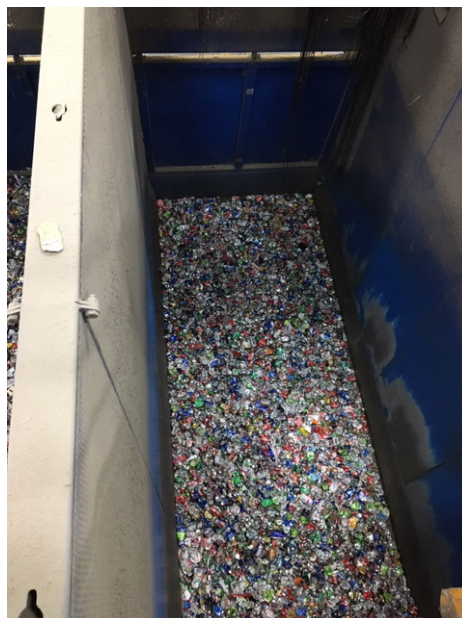
*Assembly line where workers pull out trash*



*Chris watching separating of recyclables*



*Watching the process*



*Cans have been sorted out*



*Watching the process*



SAVE THE DATE  
**Middletown AAUW  
 Feast with Friends  
 Fundraiser**

Social gathering and dinner at  
**VUE 791 (Forest Hills)**

**Tuesday, March 3, 2020  
 5:30-7:30pm**

**Price per person \$25**

(\$10 of each ticket goes toward  
 scholarships & National AAUW Funds  
 to support women's issues such as fair pay  
 & economic equity)

*Tickets available now!*



## PENS

Our writing friend, Maurita Stueck, has been our gracious hostess since the inception of our group in February, 2018. We have enjoyed meeting in her home on the Mount Pleasant campus. In December, Maurita moved to The Knolls in Oxford. She has invited us to her new residence for our meeting on Thursday, January 23. We will meet from 10:00-11:30am and then stay to enjoy lunch with her at The Knolls. We will stay in Middletown for our meeting on Thursday, January 9, from 9:30-11:00am, location TBD. 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.

## AAUW Annual Used Book Sale

With the calendar turning to 2020, another AAUW Book Sale can't be far behind. The book sale committee will be meeting on Thursday, January 2, at Java Johnny's, at 1:30 to confirm guidelines and pricing for the upcoming sale which will be April 16-19, 2020. Anyone interested in helping the book sale committee is welcome to attend the meeting. We should be moving into our site on Central Avenue in early February and will begin working on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday mornings from 10:00 am until noon at that time. Any questions, contact Libby Abele or Tina Newlin. A special thanks to Karen Jones who answered our plea for help in last month's news regarding book storage.

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