



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

December 2019

Around the World with AAUW

For our December program we are excited to see photographic slide shows from three of our members in their global travels. Katie McNeil will describe her recent trip to Antarctica, Chris Buchert will share her recent trip to China, and Marianne Zsiska will talk about her adventures SCUBA diving in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Fiji, Solomon Islands).



The meeting will be held in the community room of MidPointe Library (125 S. Broad Street, Middletown) on Monday, December 9, 2019 at 7:00 pm. We will enjoy refreshments, followed by the program and business meeting.



Holiday Bazaar

THANKS to all who contributed to the 2019 Holiday Bazaar. We had nice weather, cold and sunny which created the holiday spirit. We had a steady crowd of folks who were ready to buy and enjoy the merchandise. The proceeds totaled \$3,546.67, this includes the additional \$716.00 made on the extra Saturday Clearance Sale. We received donations from 25 members and friends, 17 members contributed to the Sweet Shop. THANKS to all who faithfully came to the workdays to sort, price, arrange and refurbish items, put the signs up and take the signs down. This is a real group effort but the figures show, it does pay off. We have been having Holiday Bazaars for nine years, our total proceeds, \$18,077.06, WOW that is lots of tinsel.

AAUW Annual Used Book Sale

Soon it will be 2020 and your book sale committee will be getting ready for our next annual used book sale. The sale dates are April 16-19 and we will be in the same location as last year - next door to the former Stefano's. We will be working and receiving donations beginning the first of February.

We do have an immediate need: We have maxed out our storage space and need a place to store 8 - 10 boxes of good books until sale time. Is there any member or friend of a member who could store these books for us? If so, please let Tina Newlin (424-1120) know.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, December 4
Rumpke's Recycling Tour
Meet to carpool at 11:45 am
At Chris Buchert's home
Tour 1:00

Monday, December 9, 7:00 pm
Program and Branch Meeting
Around the World with AAUW
Midpointe Library, 125 S Broad St.

Thursday, December 12, 9:30-11:00
Pens Writing Group
Maurita Stueck's home
132 Northwestern Ave. Monroe, OH

Thursday, December 19, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
Kristen Mulligan's home 218 South Main St.
Middletown, OH

Monday, January 13
5:30 Dinner (optional)
7:00 Program, Tour and Branch Meeting
Rivertown Brewery, 6550 Hamilton-Lebanon Rd
Monroe, OH

Thursday, January 16 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club

Monday, January 27 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
Chris Buchert's home
4816 Ronald Drive
Middletown, OH

LOOKING AHEAD

Tuesday, March 3
AAUW Funds Fundraising Dinner

April 16, 17, 18, 19
64th Annual Book Sale

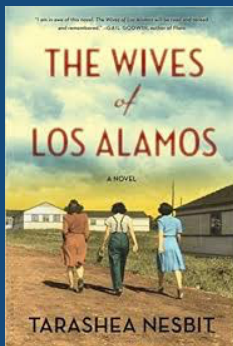
April 17
AAUW Ohio State Convention

"Joy Luck" Book Club

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



PENS Writing Club

With the busy holidays, our PENS group will meet only one time in December, Thursday, 12/12. Our meeting time is 9:30-11:00. We will meet at Maurita Stueck's home, 132 Northwestern Avenue, Monroe (Mount Pleasant campus). 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! Think about starting a new tradition . . . writing a journal of your holiday time with family and friends. RSVP: call or email Becky Ward 513/424-8409 or beckward@gmail.com.



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

I am thankful for.....

The AAUW Middletown Branch women of 1993 who started the scholarship fund at the Middletown Community Foundation

The growth of our Middletown Community Fund to over \$20,000

Board members who give of their time to plan and make our branch so special

Our members who update our branch bylaws and policies

All our members who care about women and work to give them opportunities through scholarships

Our October branch meeting when members discussed the best way to take our non-traditional scholarships into the future

Our members desire to learn and make a difference



The critical thinking skills of our members as they ponder new ideas

Members who show up to work at fundraisers

Leadership skills in our branch

Sherpas (as my husband Tom calls them), the friends and families who support us in our projects

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.

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
and National AAUW Funds
to support women's issues
such as fair pay and economic equity)

Tickets available in January



*The generosity of AAUW
members changes lives.*

As you consider your end-of-year giving, remember our AAUW Scholarship Fund at the Middletown Community Foundation. We are still working towards increasing our base funds to \$25,000 and beyond. Members may donate individually to our AAUW Fund at:

Middletown Community Foundation
300 N Main St, Unit 300
Middletown, OH 45042



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

Branch President

Chris Buchert (513) 292-0420
tcbuchert@yahoo.com

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Michelle Piegrass (513) 465-4932
mvpiegrass@gmail.com

Kristen Mulligan (513) 727-0129
mulligankristen1@gmail.com

Recording Secretary

Becky Ward (513) 424-8409
beckward@gmail.com

Membership Co-Vice Presidents

Jackie Lankfer (513) 320-0494
lankfer.2@gmail.com

Paula Cohen (513) 267-0186
pwc@cinci.rr.com

Financial Officers

Katie McNeil (513) 470-9031
kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com

Katie DeVilling (513) 422-1011
katie.devilling@gmail.com

Corresponding Secretary

Communications
Virginia Palmer (937) 545-4974
palmerve@umich.edu

Communications Assistant

Molly Maugans (937) 380-3960
mmaugans@midpointelibrary.org

Newsletter

Suzy Tadych (513) 828-8123
sashworth@cinci.rr.com