



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

February 2020



February Book Brunch Program

Our February branch meeting is a Book Brunch, featuring author TaraShea Nesbit, assistant professor of English (fiction and creative nonfiction) at Miami University. The event, catered by Two Women in a Kitchen, will be Saturday, February 8, at 10:00am, in the meeting room at Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum. Reservations were required. TaraShea Nesbit's first novel, *The Wives of Los Alamos*, was a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, a New York Times Book Review Editors' Choice, a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers selection, an Indies Choice Debut Pick, an Amazon Best Book of the Month, and winner of two New Mexico-Arizona Book Awards. It provoked a lively discussion at

last Thursday's meeting of the Joy Luck Book Group. Her forthcoming novel, *Beheld*, a riveting story of a stranger's arrival in the fledgling colony of Plymouth, Massachusetts and a crime that shakes the divided community to its core, will be published in March.



AAUW Named Gift Awards Announced



Congratulations to Robin Becker and Sharon Williamson, recipients of this year's Middletown Branch Named Gift Award. Becker has served in numerous roles in Middletown AAUW ranging from positions on the board to a nominating committee. Williamson has a long history as chair of the Middletown AAUW monthly book club, prompting lively discussions of book choices related to the issues facing women. This year's named gift of \$2000 went to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

This fund, according to AAUW.org, "allows AAUW the flexibility to respond rapidly to new and emerging challenges facing women and girls." It assures "strength, relevance, and viability of AAUW into the future."



Sue Wittman presented the January branch program at the Art Central Foundation building.

Calendar of Events

Every Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday
10:00 am – noon; some afternoons
Book Sale Sorting and Pricing
2204 Central Avenue

Wednesday, February 5
9:30 am-11:00 am
Pens Writing Group
Location, Call Becky Ward

Saturday, February 8
10:00 Book Brunch
Woodside Cemetery and Arboretum
Community Room
1401 Woodside Blvd.
Speaker: Author TaraShea Nesbitt

Thursday, February 20, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
Marianne Zsiska's Home
4621 Wicklow Drive, Middletown

Monday, February 24, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
Chris Buchert's home
4816 Ronald Drive, Middletown

Wednesday, February 26
9:30 am-11:00 am
Pens Writing Group
Location, Call Becky Ward

Tuesday, March 3
Feast with Friends Fundraiser
Vue 791 Bistro and Banquets
791 Fourth Avenue at Forest Hills
Country Club
5:30 - 7:30 pm

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club

Tuesday, March 31
Equal Pay Day

LOOKING AHEAD

Saturday, April 8
Dolly Parton Imagination Library
Luncheon

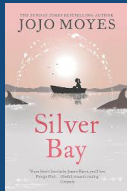
April 16, 17, 18, 19
64th Annual Book Sale

Saturday, April 18
AAUW Ohio State Convention

Thursday, May 28, Noon
Lunch at Browns Run with
Middletown native, Greg Pratt
Author of *Ebola Island*
Proceeds of sale of his book benefit
Middletown Community Foundation

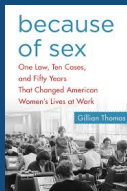
Special Interest Groups

Joy Luck Book Club



February 20, 7:00 pm
Silver Bay – Jojo Moyes
Marianne’s Home

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.

PENS Creative Writing

In February our PENS group will change our meeting day to Wednesday to accommodate book sale work. We will meet on February 5 and February 26 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.



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

Listening to Sue Wittman talk about her life as an employee, small business owner, entrepreneur and civic volunteer is inspiring. She makes a difference in Middletown with the non-profit she built to make visual arts available to everyone. Children who probably would not be able to afford art classes have the opportunity to create in the visual arts classes offered. Art Central Foundation is an important part of the Middletown art scene.

It is almost time to think about nominating some new board members. They will begin their term after the May meeting. At the November Board meeting we voted to elect a president elect. She will work with the president for one year and then be president the next year. Her year as president will include training the next president elect. The board thought this would be a better way to keep continuity for the office of President. That office should become more manageable as there will be two people. Presently we have moved to two officers in Vice-president Membership, Vice-president Program and Treasurer. The goal is to have one person who has served for one year and then have a new person join and serve two years. Sometimes two members take on the position at the same time and work together. There are several special things about the board meetings. I am always impressed by the dedication of the board members as they work together to make good decisions for our branch. I like the discussions with varying viewpoints. The board members have different strengths that are necessary for a strong board.

Two important fundraisers are coming up to help us raise money for our local scholarships and National women’s issues. The board decided to plan the Feast With Friends Fundraiser to give our members an opportunity to invite others to learn a bit more about AAUW, enjoy fellowship, and earn money for our scholarships. We are exploring this new way of fundraising so invite some friends and come and have a great time.

As you know, with the book sale moving around so much the last few years, the book sale has not generated quite as much income as ten or fifteen years ago. Thankfully, this year we have the same space as last year. So, with hard work and great publicity, we hope to raise more money. Keep passing the word and bookmarks out so people stop by to browse and buy our books. Of course, first we need to collect books, sort and price. Thank you everyone ahead of time for your volunteering to make a difference for young people in the Middletown area.

AAUW Annual Used Book Sale

A HUGE “Thank You” to all 17 of you who answered the call and helped with our move this past Tuesday morning. We are back in the same location as last year, 2204 Central Avenue. Areas have been designated and we are ready for books - and YOU. Sorting/collecting begins on Tuesday, February 4, from 10 until 11:30 for collecting and until noon for sorting. Please encourage anyone interested in donating books to bring them to the site on Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays from 10 until 11:30 am. We will be working at the site on Tuesdays/Thursdays/Saturdays (10:00 - noon) from February 4 until the sale starts on April 17. Bookmarks are available at the site for distribution. Your help will be appreciated in distributing them to area businesses and your social groups.



Feast with Family and Friends Fundraiser

Tickets Available for March 3 AAUW Feast with Family and Friends at VUE 791 Bistro & Banquets, the new restaurant at Forest Hills Country Club. Tickets are on sale now through February 22.

Tickets, \$25 each, may be purchased by contacting Carolyn Smith at 937-657-9548 or at csrsmith48@gmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the February 8 branch meeting. Ten dollars of each ticket will be used to support Middletown AAUW local scholarships and to support of the mission of AAUW to improve the lives of women and girls.

This fundraiser is open to all guests. Bring family and friends for a mid-winter outing from 5:30-7:30 on Tuesday, March 3. The buffet feast offers salad, Rania's lasagna or vegan/gluten-free potato-eggplant entrée, bread, non-alcoholic beverages, and baklava. A cash bar will be available.

Get to Know our New Members

A Middletonian, **Joyce Triick**, has used her skills well since graduating from Indiana University with a B.S. in 1966. That year, she married West Point graduate Bill Triick who was headed to Viet Nam. During his absence, Joyce worked as a Med. Tech. at the Middletown Regional Hospital. The Triicks also spent three years in Sydney, Australia.

Her medical technology career included stints in the blood bank, working in bacteriology and at the Fort Knox Hospital. Her final job was at the CVS Pharmacy. During this time, she became the mother of three children, two boys and a girl. She now is the grandmother to four grandchildren.

Joyce has also filled her day by volunteering in the Middletown City Schools in the library and as a substitute teacher. She is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church where she volunteers. Finally retired, she looks forward to joining her many friends in AAUW.

Melanie Kolden grew up in the Chicago suburbs (Wheaton, Illinois) and lived in Maui, Los Angeles and San Francisco before moving to Middletown in 1998. She is a former newspaper copy editor and has worked for such publications as the L.A. Weekly, San Francisco Chronicle, Dayton Daily News, Palm Beach Post, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, Austin American-Statesman and many others. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in journalism from California State University, Northridge and a Master of Arts degree in humanities from California State University, Dominguez Hills. She was recently hired as a proofreader for Frontgate in West Chester through the Creatives on Call

agency. Melanie raised two sons in Middletown: Wes Ramsey is a recent Miami University graduate and Sean Ramsey is currently a student at Miami Oxford. She is excited to have joined the Middletown AAUW group.

Middletown AAUW Branch's Plan to Change our Non-Traditional Adult Scholarships

Our Middletown AAUW Branch has been awarding two eight hundred scholarships each year to adult non-traditional area college students. These scholarships have been administered through the Middletown Community Foundation. Over the last several years, it has become difficult to find very many scholarship applicants. In the autumn Middletown Community Foundation Newsletter, there was an article on the Foundation changing how they used some of their non-traditional scholarship funds.

So, Beth Miller, Scholarship Chair and Chris Buchert, Branch President, were sent out by the Branch board to do some research. They visited Cincinnati State, Middletown Branch and Miami University Middletown. At both locations, the administrators talked about the barriers to filling out scholarship applications. They spoke about how money is needed to help students overcome barriers to attending classes such as transportation and childcare. Beth and Chris asked them what they thought the best way to help non-traditional students would be. Both Cincinnati State and Miami University administrators felt money available for emergency needs would be a better use of our scholarship money. Middletown Community Foundation had already allocated some of their scholarship funds to help serve these emergency needs.

After reporting back to the board, the board decided to pursue changing how they allocate our non-traditional scholarship money to meet the needs of today's students. They voted to allocate \$800 to Cincinnati State-Middletown and \$800 to Miami University Middletown each school year to be used for emergency scholarships throughout the year. The plan was for Middletown Community Foundation to continue to administer these funds.

Beth and Chris made an appointment with Middletown Community Foundation to set up these scholarships, Adult Education Funds. They set up the scholarships so that the \$800 would be sent to the schools in August. An accounting form was also designed to see how the money would be used.

The Branch saw a need and collaborated with Cincinnati State Middletown, Miami University Middletown and the Community Foundation to best serve the non-traditional college students of the 2020's.

AAUW National sends Congratulations on Receiving our First Star for Communications and External Relations in the Five Star Recognition Program!



Dear AAUW Middletown,

Thank you for your participation in the Five Star Recognition Program. After reviewing your submission, we are pleased to inform you that AAUW Middletown has received a star for Communications and External Relations!

We envision a bold future for AAUW that includes using technology to promote initiatives, share ideas, and build community with our members and allies. Your website exemplifies the value of technology in the fight for gender equity.

AAUW has made groundbreaking progress for gender equity through our training programs, impactful research, and bold advocacy efforts. This could not be achieved without the dedicated support of our members. With our continued partnership we will lay the groundwork for the next generation of women leaders.

Congratulations and we look forward to your continued success in the Five Star Recognition Program.

Sincerely,

Kendra L. Davis
Senior Vice President, Advancement and Partnerships



Recycling

Jackie Lankfer discovered that Krogers has a market to recycle other plastics besides their own plastic bags. Chris Buchert confirmed the list Jackie found with our local Krogers. You might be interested in including these items in your Kroger recycling. Some of us were disappointed on our tour to find that Rumpke only recycles a limited number of plastics. If you find other recycling venues, please share them in our newsletter.

Plastic Film Recycling

Several of Kroger's plastic packaging items—in addition to many other items—are recyclable in the plastic film recycling containers located in our store lobbies. The collected items are recycled into new items, like composite lumber and decking. The following items are accepted:

Single-use plastic grocery bags	Stretch wrap
Bread bags	Produce bags
Plastic overwrap for toilet paper, napkin, and paper towels	Plastic overwrap packaging on diapers
Plastic overwrap on bulk items in cases (e.g., water bottles, snacks)	Dry cleaning bags
Plastic retail bags (hard plastic and string handles removed)	Newspaper sleeves/bags
Plastic food storage bags (clean and dry) - (e.g. Ziploc® Bags)	Plastic cereal box liners (do not include if it tears like paper)
Tyvek® house wrap (no glue, labels, other material)	Plastic shipping envelopes, bubble wrap, and air pillows (deflate/remove labels if possible)
All clean, dry bags labeled #2 or #4 (polyethylene film)	



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!

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