



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

March 2020

March Program and Branch Meeting



Meghan Cummings will present the March branch program on Monday March 9 at 7pm at the Miami University Middletown Campus Gardener- Harvey Library lower level.

Meghan is the Executive Director of the Women’s Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. She is also the president of the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals and worked extensively on the chapter’s diversity pipeline program called New Faces of Fundraising. She was named to the 2014 class of the Cincinnati Business Courier’s Forty under 40. She currently serves as the Chair of the Board of Directors for Beyond Civility, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping citizens of civic leaders explore the barriers and bridges to effective dialogue.

The Women’s Fund is a non-profit organization founded in 1995 by Leslie McNeill who saw a need for funding to help women in the community. The Women’s Fund of Greater Cincinnati Foundation focuses on the economic self-sufficiency of women and shared desire to improve it. The Women’s Fund is passionate about creating systemic change that positively affect women and their families. The Women’s Fund meets with community and decision members from Government, non-profits, and Business Community leaders to solve community problems like wage gender gap and race equity in the workplace.

Submitted by Nita Driscoll

AAUW Feast with Family and Friends

Middletown AAUW’s Feast with Family and Friends is all set to go on March 3 between 5:30 and 7:30 pm at Vue 791 Bistro and Banquets on the Forest Hills Country Club campus. You will see old friends and make new ones as you enjoy our stress-free fundraising dinner. Thank you to all those who are participating.

The dinner is a lasagna buffet. Vegans and vegetarians are able to order the potato-eggplant dish instead.



Guests will be able to sign up for AAUW’s two-minute activist and enter their ticket for a drawing at the end of the evening. No program is associated with this event, and guests are not required to stay the full two hours.

Calendar of Events

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

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

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

Monday, March 9, 7:00 pm
Program and Branch Meeting
Exploring the Gender Pay Gap
Gardner Harvey Library, Miami University
Middletown

Tuesday, March 17 - Election Day

Tuesday, March 17
Voluntary Simplicity 1:00-3:00
Carolyn Smith’s home
436 Parkview Court, Monroe

Thursday, March 19, 7:00 pm
Joy Luck Book Club
Nita Driscoll’s home
320 Thorn Hill Lane, Middletown

Monday, March 23, 7:00 pm
Board Meeting
Chris Buchert’s home
4816 Ronald Drive, Middletown

Wednesday, March 25
10:00 am -11:30 am
Pens Writing Group
Location, Call Becky Ward

Tuesday, March 31 - Equal Pay Day

Saturday, April 8
Dolly Parton Imagination Library Luncheon - Middletown High School

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

Saturday, April 18
AAUW Ohio State Convention
Quest Polaris Conference Center
Columbus, Ohio

LOOKING AHEAD

April 24, 2020 8:00-3:00
Think Regional Summit
Voice of America Learning Center
Contact: Shelly Abrams for information
Shellabrams73@gmail.com

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

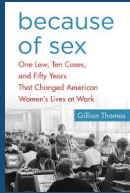
AAUW Garage Sale - June 4,5,6

Joy Luck Book Club

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**

Nita Driscoll's home



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.

April 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm

***The Guest Book* – Sarah Blake**
Need Host

A thought-provoking family saga by best-selling author Sarah Blake that explores the gulf that separates rich and poor, black and white, Protestant and Jew. Strongly recommended by Becky Ward, this novel examines one unforgettable family as they navigate the evolving social and political landscape from their retreat off the coast of Maine. Blake masterfully lays bare the memories and mistakes each generation makes while coming to terms with what it means to inherit the past.

May 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm

***She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite A Movement* – Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey**
Need Host

This is the thrilling untold story of two Pulitzer Prize-winning reporters who broke the news of Harvey Weinstein's sexual harassment and abuse for the New York Times. The Washington Post called it "an instant classic of investigative journalism...All the President's Men for the #MeToo era." CNN described it as "riveting...a vibrant, cinematic read," and the Los Angeles Times calls it "a binge-read of a book."



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

When you receive this newsletter, the first Fundraiser Dinner should be upon us. Thank you for supporting this venture. It will be a wonderful evening of fellowship and sharing AAUW with our friends and family. Ask your friends if they would like to sign up for the two minute activist emails that evening. It gives them an opportunity to make their views known to our elected officials.

The State Convention is coming up soon on April 18. It is time to register for the one day event. There will be some interesting speakers. Lisa Maatz is the key-note speaker and is a nationally known speaker who advocates for women's equity. There will also be other women speakers who are well versed in economics and leadership. As our branch has been studying pay equity for women this year, these speakers will continue to update us on these issues as they share their life experiences. During the afternoon session our branch should also receive some awards. More information is listed on the state



website <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net/> and in the AAUW newsletter *Orbit*. The *Orbit* https://aauwoh.aauw.net/files/2020/02/Orbit2020WinterFinal_AAUW-Orbit_Feb2020_web.pdf lists some fun family activities to do in Columbus that day if family members want to ride along. You can register online <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net/2020-convention-registration/> or mail your

registration. Please let me know if you are going so the branch can reimburse you for all or part of your registration. There will be ridesharing if you wish.

As for the book sale, books keep rolling in. I become excited when I work at the site and see all the ladies sorting and pricing. It is an amazing feat. Keep passing out bookmarks and inviting folks to donate books and come to the sale.

Our nominating committee is hard at work and have started filling positions for next year. It is always good to have new people on the board so we have different ideas and grow as a branch. Thank you to all who volunteer to share your time with our branch as officers, book sale workers, bringing refreshments, learning, or sharing ideas to make our branch and communities a better place to live.



One of the cornerstones of AAUW's initiatives to foster the organization's mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls is the e-advocacy Action Network that encourages subscribers to get involved in pending policy issues. AAUW sends Action Network subscribers an email when important issues are coming up and makes it easy to contact members of Congress through the Two-Minute Activist tool. Our Middletown AAUW branch is currently signing up Action Network subscribers. At the February 8th Book Brunch at Woodside Cemetery Community Room, our branch registered twenty-four individuals for the Action Network. We will also be signing up subscribers at the Middletown AAUW Feast with Friends on Tuesday, March 3rd at Vue 791 Bistro & Banquets, as well as the regular branch meeting on Monday, March 9th at the Gardner Harvey Library at Miami University, Middletown. Please make sure to register yourself at one of these upcoming events, and urge your family and your friends to sign up, too!

Get to Know our New Members

We want to extend a welcome to our new "Shape the Future" member. **Denise Keegan** graduated from Miami University and is a retired elementary teacher from the Edgewood District. She has already become active in our group by working at the book sale site. Her email is dudekeegan21@gmail.com. Welcome to our branch, Denise!

Bring Us Some Books!

Our used book sale site is up and running. In fact, all the books received to date have been priced, categorized and put in place! We need your books and those of your friends - now. Please do not wait until April. We have really been pleased with all the help we have been getting on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. Remember that drop off times are on T/Th/S from 10am until 11:30 am. The last day for book donations is April 11, the Saturday before sale week.

We do have a need for bags for our bag sale on the final day - Sunday, April 19. These must be of uniform size, have handles and be sturdy enough that they won't tear when filled with books. We have found that regular brown grocery bags with paper handles just do not stand up to how we want to use them. Any ideas or sources would be appreciated. We will be glad to check it out.

Help us spread the word. Bookmarks have all the info needed for donating and for sale dates/times. Keep some in your car. Take them to your other meetings. If you can place the info in other newsletters, let us know; we will provide the text. Can you put a request for books in your church bulletin? Any questions, please contact Tina (424-1120), Libby (424-7551) or Sharon D.(505-6266).

Vote - Primary Election March 17, 2020

Reminder and encouragement for AAUW Branch members to vote in the upcoming 2020 Primary Election on Tuesday, March 17. Lots of important candidate choices and ballot issues to be determined. (early voting began Feb. 19; Bd. of Elections office at 1802 Princeton Rd., Hamilton- down Rt. 4 to bypass and right on Princeton (at end).

Go to Butler County Board of Elections website <http://elections.bcoho.us> to learn who is on the ballot and what issues. (Word to the wise- very annoying results if you believe their tab choices!). For a list of who is actually running in the Butler County jurisdiction, go to the Candidate Tools link (in the row at the top) and choose "Who is running?". This gives you the candidates for all the offices AND the ballot issues- at the very end.

One important ballot issue is the Midpointe Library System Levy. A 5-year .75 mil renewal levy that accounts for 40% of the library system budget. Midpointe now has 5 brick/mortar locations- new library in Trenton, new one in Monroe, Middletown, Liberty Twp in Library Way Mall, West Chester as well as the Library on Wheels that services schools, nursing homes, senior centers and homebound residents.

Besides the wonderful resources at these locations and remote access to everything 24/7 with a library card, the Midpointe Library System presents hundreds of programs including the Summer Reading Program. And beginning soon, Midpointe will be taking on the responsibility for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library along with Lane Library. for Butler County as part of the Governor's early childhood initiative.

At the February 24 Middletown AAUW Board meeting, the board voted to support the Midpointe Library System Levy. We feel that strong libraries are essential to the well-being and quality of life of our communities.

So, exercise your right to vote on March 17 or before.
Submitted by A. Shew



REGISTRATION—AAUW OHIO 2020 CONVENTION

Deadline for us to **receive** your Regular Registration is March 31, 2020

Late Registration must be received by April 10, 2020

2020 Vision—AAUW Ohio Convention

Date: Saturday April 18, 2020

Location: Quest Polaris Conference Center, 8405 Pulsar Place
Columbus, Ohio 43240

Your Name: _____
First Name Last Name

Address: _____
Street City, State, Zip

Your Email: _____

Your Branch: _____

Will your branch want space for a table display? _____yes;_____no

Are you a 50-Year Honorary Member of AAUW? _____yes;_____no

Conference registration fee is \$57 by March 31, 2020 \$_____

Late registration fee (April 1 to April 10) is \$60

Includes morning sessions, soup and sandwich lunch, and afternoon sessions. Water, coffee, tea, and hot chocolate will be available all day.

Register early and save! The first ten people to register will receive a rebate of \$8 at convention.

Mail check payable to AAUW Ohio to Renee Spiker, 1005 Somers Street, Zanesville, OH 43701

OR register [online](#)

Due date for **receipt** of your regular registration is **Tuesday, March 31, 2020**
or for late registration, receipt is **Friday, April 10, 2020**.



Garage Sale coming in June

The annual GARAGE SALE is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6. During these dreary days of winter I challenge you to clean out some of those drawers, closets and even tackle the attic and basement. You will feel "lighter" and this effort is for a good cause, supporting the mission of our branch which includes local scholarships

If you have questions, contact Rose at 513-424-1969 or edrosegrau@cinci.rr.com

Diversity Outing

Diversity event for April. Wednesday April 1, 2020, The Mayan Exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center. We will meet at the museum center at 1pm and stay till about 3pm. Those interested to ride together please call Mel Worbis. We will try to leave Middletown by 12:15pm. Please also let Mel know if you plan to go to the exhibit. Call or text her at 513-292-2109 or email worbismm@gmail.com.

<https://www.cincymuseum.org/maya/>

Cost for tickets: Member adults: \$14 Adult \$21 Seniors (60+) \$19.

March Voluntary Simplicity

You are invited to join us as we continue our study of civility, following the book *Choosing Civility: The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Conduct* by P.M. Forni.

In our March meeting, we will discuss about the topics covered in Part Three, pages 159-185, and review the ending notes as time allows. Our summary to the study on civility will include a handout of "George Washington's Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior." We will meet at 1:00 on Tuesday, March 17, at the home of Carolyn Smith, 436 Parkview Court, Monroe. Please RSVP Carolyn (513/360-0128 or csrsmith48@gmail.com). Our Mission of Voluntary Simplicity: To serve as a support group to continue exploring ways to move toward a sustainable lifestyle, simplify life, being sensitive to our families, the environment, and the world around us.

March PENS

In March our PENS group will meet on Wednesday, March, 11 and March 25 from 9:30-11:00, 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 Middletown Branch Officers

Branch President

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

Program Co-Vice Presidents

Michelle Piepgrass (513) 465-4932
mvpiepgrass@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