



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

April 2020

April Programming Cancelled, May Postponed

First of all, thank you for your participation in our March Feast with Friends fundraiser dinner. We raised \$785!

Middletown AAUW's April programming has been cancelled. The tour and roundtable discussion with leaders at Community Building Institute in Middletown will be offered during the next programming year.

We have decided to postpone the meeting scheduled for May 11, until after the Covid-19 epidemic has eased and we are all back to a new "normal" schedule!

Along with our induction of new officers for the 2020-2021 program year, and a celebration dinner for our scholarship recipients, we were going to have a sneak preview of the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage Exhibit curated by Sam Ashworth at the Middletown Historical Society, which has been sponsored by our AAUW Chapter.

Women were active in politics long before we were afforded voting rights. The WCTU (Woman's Christian Temperance Union) was instrumental in lobbying congress to adopt the 18th Amendment in December 1917, prohibiting the manufacture, sale, or transportation of alcohol which was ratified by the states in January 1919. The amendment was implemented through the National Prohibition Act (Volstead Act) in October 1919 and took effect January 1, 1920.

Continued on page 3



Francis Willard



Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 16 7:00
Joy Luck Book Club
Virtual discussion

Pens Writing Group
Postponed but may be virtual

April 24, 2020 8:00-3:00
Think Regional Summit
(postponed until April 2021)
Shellabrams73@gmail.com

April 27, 2020 7:00 – 8:00
Virtual board meeting

LOOKING AHEAD

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

June 2 Election Day

September 12, 2020
AAUW Ohio State Convention

September 17,18,19,20
64th Annual AAUW
Used Book Sale

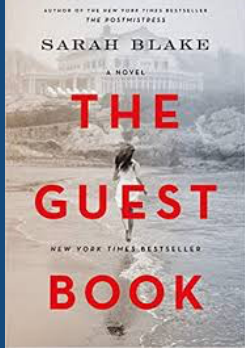
AAUW Garage Sale
Postponed

Thank you for your participation in our March Feast with Friends fundraiser dinner at Forest Hills' VUE 791.



Joy Luck Book Club

April 16, 2020 at 7:00 pm
The Guest Book – Sarah Blake
 Virtual discussion
 with Sharon Williamson



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
 To be determined



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

Members, life has changed so much in the last month. I hope you are all finding ways to keep well and enjoy life. Although there are many cancellations, articles in the newsletter are included to stimulate your mind. On our AAUW meeting day, you might listen to the webcast on suffragettes or try one of the other activities that are listed. That will give you a special day to think about your fellow members.

Our board met virtually March 23 to discuss necessary branch business. I think we enjoyed the opportunity to talk with each other. The slate of officers for next year was announced. Please read that article carefully. We decided to send three girls to Be Wise camp if the camp is held this summer. We selected delegates to vote for the State AAUW officers. I made a report on our progress for the 5 Star National Program. All the sign-ups for the Action Network Two Minute Activist moved us closer to earning another star. Our branch was also recognized for retaining at least 90% of our members from last year. We will know more about our progress by our next newsletter.

One important item we discussed was dues for the 2020-2021 program year. We start collecting dues in April. We are excited to use invoices from National this year. You can send in your dues electronically if you like or send a check to our treasurer. We are moving forward in our use of the internet. Our past treasurers feel this way to pay dues will make branch dues bookkeeping much easier.

If you have an activity you would like to share in next month's newsletter, please send it to me. Stay well and learn something new this month.

Book Sale Update

The 64th AAUW Used Book Sale has been postponed until September 17-20. We are no longer working at the site or receiving drop-offs there until further notice. We sincerely appreciate all the wonderful help we have had to this point. We were ready for a sale.

In cooperation with Steve O'Neil, we are able to leave all of our work as is and not have to break it all down and put it into storage. We will continue to pay a nominal rent (\$100) per month for this privilege. In the past some of our AAUW members have been willing to make a donation toward the rental of storage space. If you wish to participate in this way, please send your check to Katie DeVilling at our PO Box address and earmark it for book sale rental. This is one way that those of you who are unable to work on the sale in any other way can participate. Please keep saving your books and those of your friends for us. If you have old bed sheets we could use to cover our tables during storage, please let Tina (424-1120) or Libby (424-7551) know. Thanks!

Garage Sale News

At this time, not sure when we will be able to have our annual summer Garage Sale, so stay tuned.

However, what an opportunity to clean out, sort out, organize and downsize unneeded items. There is plenty of time now, so clean out one drawer or one closet at a time, no excuse!

Cover article continued

At the same time, women's suffrage was finally coming into fruition. The first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls took place in 1848. It wasn't until August 18, 1920 that we won the right to vote.

Prohibition and Women's suffrage converge in an interesting way in the election of 1920, especially for those of us interested in Middletown History. The election featured Republican Ohio Senator Warren G. Harding with running mate Calvin Coolidge versus Democratic Ohio Governor James Cox (of Jacksonburg and Middletown) with running mate Franklin D. Roosevelt. Harding overwhelmingly won the election with 404 electoral votes to James Cox' 127. James Cox even lost in Butler County, Ohio! Many historians believe that a main reason was that Harding (himself a drinker) had the support of the Ohio Anti-Saloon League- a Republican organization- whereas James Cox (a 'teetotaler') did not.

Shelly Abrams of the Mason/Lebanon Branch has a Women's Suffrage Centennial webcast on the Lebanon website listed below. Shelly is interviewing Katherine Durack who tells some tales of interesting women from the suffrage movement. Go to the website and scroll down until you see the title Feelin' Good. Hopefully you will be feeling good after watching the thirty-five minute webcast.

<https://thelebanonchannel.viebit.com/?folder=ALL>

Slate of Officers for 2020-2021 Program Year

The Middletown AAUW nominating committee, Michelle Piepgrass and Carolyn Smith, put forward for your consideration the following slate of candidates for 2020-2021:

President: Christine Buchert

President Elect: Melissa Worbis

Membership Co-Chairs: Paula Cohen and Jackie Lankfer

Program Co-Chairs: Rebecca Ward and Deborah Worbis

Co-Financial Officers: Katie DeVilling and Kristen Mulligan

Recording Secretary: Joyce Triick

Corresponding Secretary: Virginia Palmer

Branch by-laws require distributing this list in March and voting in April to be ready for installation in May. The coronavirus outbreak will alter this procedure.

If you wish to nominate a candidate for any of these positions, ask the candidate first, then submit the name to president Chris Buchert by April 7.

News from Ohio AAUW

Four Middletown members will be delegates at a state on-line annual meeting April 25 to elect state officers. Serving as delegates are Chris Buchert, Ginny Palmer, Carolyn Smith, and Melissa Worbis.

AAUW Ohio Convention 2020 Rescheduled...

AAUW Ohio is watching developments of our current health crisis as we project when we might gather for a combined Convention 2020 and Fall Summit. Assuming now that the bans on gathering will ease by fall, the Ohio Board has chosen a September date. Please save September 12, 2020 to plan to gather at the Quest Polaris Conference Center in Columbus.

We have confirmed the new reservation date at the venue. Our speakers are willing to change their commitment to September 12. If you were sorry to miss our keynote, Lisa Maatz, you will have a chance to renew her acquaintance on September 12. Michelle Wilson and Dr. Cynthia Anderson have also assured availability on the new date.

The board anticipates that the cost of the combined convention and summit will remain the same as convention alone. Those who have already registered for Convention 2020 may choose to leave their registration in anticipation of the fall event or they may email president.aauwoh@gmail.com by May 1 to request a refund.

Voluntary Simplicity

Our Voluntary Simplicity group had planned to complete our book study on Civility at our March meeting. We ended up cancelling that meeting, and have decided to postpone future meetings until further notice. Practicing social distancing is one of the ways we can take care of each other during the crisis our country (and the world) is experiencing. It is a way to follow our mission

"To serve as a support group . . . being sensitive to our families . . . and the world around us." We will meet again once the crisis has subsided.

PENS

Our PENS writing group has decided to suspend meetings until further notice. Until we are able to resume meeting together, Carolyn Smith is working to establish an audio/video conference site to enable our PENS group to "meet" online. We will set "meeting" dates for April once we get the conferencing site up and going. Until then, we encourage everyone to KEEP WRITING! KEEP YOUR SPIRITS HOPEFUL!



Dear Chris, I am Dorothy Morehead's Daughter, and I wanted to notify you, and the other AAUW members that my Mother died on December 2nd, 2019. Mom was in Denver with us for seven years and declined after breaking her Femur. I apologize for the late notice.

AAUW was always close to her heart. She loved the Book sale and was very proud that she was contributing to Scholarships for Women. It was very kind of you to pay her Annual dues for her last year. We tried to find a chapter here, but it just wasn't the same and her heart stayed with you in Middletown. We were lucky to have her with us for 96 years. She was passionate about education and all three of her children have College Educations and Masters degrees. Thank you all for staying in touch with her, it meant a lot to her to still be included.

I will be sending you a check soon for your Scholarship fund.

Sincerely yours,

Julianne Terrill

Julie Terrill

Julie, before Dorothy moved to Colorado to be near her family. I was able to share with Julie how much we valued and loved her mother. Julie sent us a letter to let us know how much her mother enjoyed being a part of our AAUW branch.

– Chris Buchert

Dorothy Morehead

It is with great sadness to share that long time member Dorothy Morehead passed away December 5. The board had been worried about Dorothy because her recent mailings have been returned to us. I remember having such fun with Dorothy as we worked getting ready for book sales through the years. She was an honorary life member of AAUW and a Middletown branch past president. Her energy and sense of humor energized the rest of us. Dorothy and I were in an aerobics class together. She liked to keep moving. I met her daughter,

AAUW Dues

The AAUW fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30. National dues are still \$59.00. State remains at \$11.00 and our Middletown branch dues are \$10.00. Total is \$80. Lifetime members do not pay National dues. They owe \$21. Honorary lifetime members do not pay national or state dues. They owe \$10.

This year our branch is sending invoices from National AAUW for dues payment. We are excited to try this new way of collecting dues. You have the choice to pay your dues by credit card directly to National or to send a check to our Finance Officers, Katie McNeil and Katie DeVilling. If you send a check, you may send it directly to them or to PO Box 118 Middletown, OH 45042. Make checks payable to Middletown AAUW.

Please contact one of the Finance officers if you do not intend to renew your membership for next year.

To review:

Dues for the 2020-2021 are as follows:

National: \$59.00 (\$56.00 is tax deductible)

State: \$11.00 (paid lifetime members only pay state, local)

Local: \$10.00 (used for our Middletown branch)

TOTAL: \$80.00

Honorary lifetime members should pay their local dues directly to the branch. Lifetime members pay \$21 and may send that amount to National or write a check. All other members may pay \$80 to National or write a check.

Invoices will go out in April. Look for an email from memberinfo@aauw.org. An email from our branch will be sent to you before the email invoices are sent.

Thank you for your prompt payment before June 15.

Diversity "Outings"

Take a tour of your favorite museums virtually.

Taft House Museum: <https://taftmuseum.org/experience/virtual-programming/>

Vatican Museums: <http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/it.html>Flemish

Artists: Rijksmuseum <https://www.rijksmuseum.nl/nl/rijksstudio?ii=3&p=0&from=2020-03-26T17%3A36%3A31.8865854Z>

Stuck at Home? These 12 Famous Museums Offer Virtual Tours You Can Take on Your Couch (Video) <http://a.msn.com/03/en-us/BB119nm6?ocid=scu2>

We will try to do the Mayan Exhibit as soon as there is a possibility to visit the museum safely. – Mel Worbis

stay connected

aauw.org

aauwoh.org

middletown-oh.aauw.net

March Program Meeting

A small but mighty group of our members gathered in March to hear our speaker Meghan Cummings. She is the director of the Women's Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation. The foundation collects data in the greater Cincinnati area (Butler County is included) about employment, pay and economic trends. It is fascinating to see that employment growth in the next ten years or so will be for higher paying positions or lower paying positions. There are not as many traditional middle class positions that will be available. Meghan's figures reinforced my thoughts about the influx of jobs I have noticed in the tourism, dining out and retail sectors. Her figures also show that women's wages will continue to lag behind men's. If you are interested in learning more about the Cincinnati Women's Fund research you can check out their website at cincinnatiwomensfund.org.



Enjoy MidPointe from Home

The Library may be closed for the time being, but MidPointe has lots of options to enjoy from home!

eLibrary

MidPointe's eLibrary is full of free downloadable eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital magazines, music and movies. Ohio Digital Library, cloudLibrary and hoopla all offer different content, explore to find what you and your family enjoy! As a bonus, MidPointe is extending the hoopla borrowing limit from 10 to 15 items a month!

Find MidPointe's eLibrary here: <https://www.midpointelibrary.org/page/elibrary>

Databases

The Library offers dozens of educational and entertaining databases. Craft using step-by-step instructions with "CreativeBug." Learn a new language with "Mango." The popular genealogical research resource, "Ancestry," typically only for in-library use, is available at home through April 30. Find databases here: <https://www.midpointelibrary.org/page/research>

Virtual Programs

MidPointe is bringing programming to your door! Check out the Library's YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTuQ4g1Mb1SP3H_0a94vS3g) for "Virtual Storytimes." Keep an eye on MidPointe's Facebook for art programming for all ages and a bedtime storytime coming soon!

Temporary eCards

Don't have a library card? No problem! MidPointe has a new solution. Apply for a temporary eCard here: <https://forms.gle/LzFr4g4etQCctNYx5>

A card number and pin will be emailed to you within 24 hours. Cards will expire August 1, 2020. – Cari Hillman

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

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