



COLLABORATION & PARTNERSHIP

Middletown Newsletter

May 2020

“Work Smart” Programming Experiment

President Chris Buchert and Corresponding Secretary Ginny Palmer are encouraging the use of AAUW’s “Work Smart” salary negotiation online course by planning a virtual event. “Work Smart” is an interactive experience in which participants learn to successfully advocate for themselves and help close the pay gap for women everywhere. A private Facebook event has been created with information about taking the course, leading up to a Zoom discussion scheduled for Saturday, May 30, 2020, at 10am. If you are not on Facebook and would like to participate, please consider taking the online course at salary.aauw.org and emailing Chris or Ginny prior to May 30 if you want to be part of the discussion. Virginia Ellis Palmer

Celebrate AAUW Middletown 2019-2020

- Redesigned our adult non-traditional scholarships to better meet the needs of students in our community. Collaboration with Miami University Middletown, Central State Middletown and Middletown Community Foundation to make this happen.
- Awarded \$4000 for our \$1000 High School scholarship and the \$3000 for the continuing college scholarships even without our book sale. Thank goodness we have been saving money.
- Awarded 3 BE WISE Scholarships
- Awarded \$1000 to MCF for books for young children
- Donated money for GED testing
- Donated money to the National AAUW Fund
- Held our first Feast with Friends Fundraising Dinner
- Provided programs geared to National AAUW’s strategic plan
- Sponsored Middletown Historical society’s exhibit on Women’s Suffrage
- Earned Two Stars so far in the National Five Star program
- Added the President Elect position to our board
- Enjoyed fellowship and raised money at our Holiday Bazaar
- Honored with Awards at the State AAUW Annual Meeting in April AND DURING THE CORONA VIRUS SHELTER IN PLACE
- Continued Joy Luck Book Club and PENS through virtual discussions
- Sent newsletters which kept us up to date on our branch and provided ideas on how to spend our time at home
- Held virtual Board meetings
- We called, sent texts and emailed one other to boost our spirits and keep in touch.

Calendar of Events

Thursdays 1:00 pm

PENS

Virtual meetings

May 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm

Joy Luck Book Club

She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite A Movement – Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey
Virtual discussion

May 30, 2020 at 10:00 am

Work Smart Course

Private Facebook Event

June 1, 2020 7:00

(Tentative date)

Virtual Transitional Board meeting

Thursday, July 23, Noon

Lunch at Browns Run with Middletown native, Greg Pratt Author of *Ebola Island*

Proceeds of book sales benefit Middletown Community Foundation

Book Club Luncheon
JULY 23, 2020
12 PM TO 2 PM

COME JOIN US AT BROWN'S RUN TO CELEBRATE LOCAL AUTHOR GREGOR PRATT. ENJOY A LOVELY LUNCH WITH DISCUSSION AND BOOK SIGNING.

CALL TODAY TO MAKE RESERVATIONS FOR YOU AND YOUR BOOK CLUB. RSVP DEADLINE - JULY 17

BROWN'S RUN | 6855 SLOEBIG ROAD | MIDDLETOWN, OH 45042 | (513) 423-9401

Garage Sale – not scheduled yet

September

Voluntary Simplicity

September 12, 2020

AAUW Ohio State Convention

September 17,18,19,20

64th Annual AAUW Used Book Sale

Joy Luck Book Club

May 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm
***She Said: Breaking the Sexual Harassment Story That Helped Ignite A Movement* – Jodi Kantor & Megan Twohey**
Online Meeting

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."

June 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm
"Pick of The Bookcase" Roundtable
TBD if online or in person

Since we're in such unusual times, Ginny and I discussed having a roundtable session in June. Libraries may still be closed for a number of weeks, it may be hard to get online copies of popular items, and we don't want to force anyone into paying for a book. So let's all pick something off a dusty bookshelf that we've been meaning to read for months or years now, but haven't gotten around to it.

Think of it as AAUW's version of "Open That Bottle Night," originated by the Wall Street Journal, in which bottles of fine wine that were put away for a special occasion are finally used and enjoyed. We could host the world's first "Open That Book Night."

Be prepared to tell us why you chose this particular book and a little about your experience reading it. As in December, I'll compile a list of what people have read to share with others.



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

Amazing how much there is to share this month, even with the slowdown in many of our lives. I have been reflecting on our branch and the mission of National AAUW as we have participated in the National 5 Star program. Working on the 5 Star program is important as it has helped us focus on our mission and how we are connected to a National organization that is working to better the lives of women and girls through education and equity in the workforce.

As I reviewed our year I thought about how we plan our programs and fundraising based on National's strategic plan. Our branch raises money for scholarships that encourage women and girls to further their education. These fundraisers take us into the community to share the mission of AAUW. We do make a difference. We also plan programs that are aligned with National's strategic plan. We have studied economic equity, leadership and educational opportunities during our programs and special interest groups. We are also conscious of becoming more visible in the community with our programming. The Feast with Friends dinner introduced more community members to our AAUW Branch.

Ginny Palmer and I met virtually with members of the Mason Lebanon branch. Their plan is to register as members of our branch as their branch has grown too small. Several members said they are excited to join our branch as they feel we have a vibrant branch that makes a difference. I am excited to welcome them and their ideas. They would like to add their remaining monies to our nontraditional scholarships. That is good news because there will probably be great need in August.

During the last few months we are learning new ways to interact with each other. There have been several virtual meetings- book club, PENS and board meetings. There have been facetime chats, phone calls and letter writing. Thank you for being such caring AAUW members. Thank you to all the 2019-2020 officers and board members. Your dedication and encouragement have helped make this year enjoyable and interesting. You have promoted the mission of AAUW with fundraising and programming for women's education, economic equity and leadership.

Yearly Awards Awarded to Middletown at the State AAUW Annual Meeting

Thanks to all the hard work from our members to achieve these awards!!!!

WEBSITE AWARD - Best Featured Special Interest Groups
 PROGRAM BOOK AWARD - Best Financial Literacy Programming
 NEWSLETTER AWARD – Best Newsletter Large Branch
 DAFFODIL AWARD FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
 STARZ AWARD WITH 9-15 GLITTER POINTS

Hospitality for Branch meetings

Thank you to the members who so willingly donated refreshments to the branch meetings we were able to have this year! It is nice to visit over refreshments at a meeting. Please sign up for assistance when asked for next year. It helps make the coordination much easier!

Remembering Maurita Stueck

Thank you to all the branch members who reached out with expressions of sympathy upon the passing of my mother, Maurita Stueck. She was very committed to AAUW since her graduation from Washington University in St. Louis in 1943. She was a member in several branches in St. Louis, MO.; Redlands, CA.; and finally in Middletown. I grew up meeting international IFUW fellows through a great aunt who was a University of Wisconsin graduate in physical education in 1922 and gave my mother her first membership. Mother worked with several organizations to help encourage women to go to college and served on several University Board of Trustees. She supported women's rights and equity in so many ways. I had a terrific role model and I am glad many of you got to know her the time she was here in Ohio. Branch study groups like the Pens group are such a good way for members to know each other and I encourage members to be a part of one or to start a new one like mother did to get to know other amazing women. Naturally yours, Katie McNeil

Note from Co-treasurer Katie McNeil

The Middletown Branch this spring decided to work with the Association in sending out electronic invoices to branch members for membership renewal. The advantage of this is to allow members to pay by credit card and to ensure membership dues are put to work immediately with the Association. The state dues and the local dues portion all are directly deposited into those bank accounts. Dues of course can still be paid by check to the branch treasurer for submittal to the association. This is done electronically as well by the treasurer with a debit card for the branch. During this time of stay at home directives, I have thought how fortunate we are to have the capability of electronic banking! It is a new way of working but I love efficiencies. The Association has a new website with excellent support for branch membership information and resources for programs at the national, state and local levels. Another advantage of the invoicing is that it gets you familiar with the website! It is also a convenient way to let anyone interested in membership to join. You will be sent another invoice notice in the coming weeks if you have not renewed. If you have any questions please ask a branch officer. See next page for dues details.



Another Book Sale Update

We are still hopeful that there will be a book sale in 2020. As of now, we are planning the sale for September 17-20. However, there are no drop-offs being made or work hours taking place at the site. This gives everyone more time to read and set aside more books to donate to the sale once we are open again. We will certainly let you know when that is.

Meanwhile, encourage your friends to save books for us. If you feel called to action, you might want to consider making a donation to AAUW, earmarked for the book sale, to help in paying the rent (\$100.00) each month while we are waiting. Donations can be sent directly to Treasurer Katie DeVilling or to our PO Box. We are still taking used bed sheets to cover our tables. Questions – call Tina (424-1120).

PENS

Our PENS writing group has been “meeting” weekly on an audio/video conference site at Zoom.us. It lifts our spirits to be able to see and hear each other again while we share our writing pieces. It is our way of “social gathering” while honoring “physical distancing.” We tentatively plan to continue Zoom meetings on Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. Our



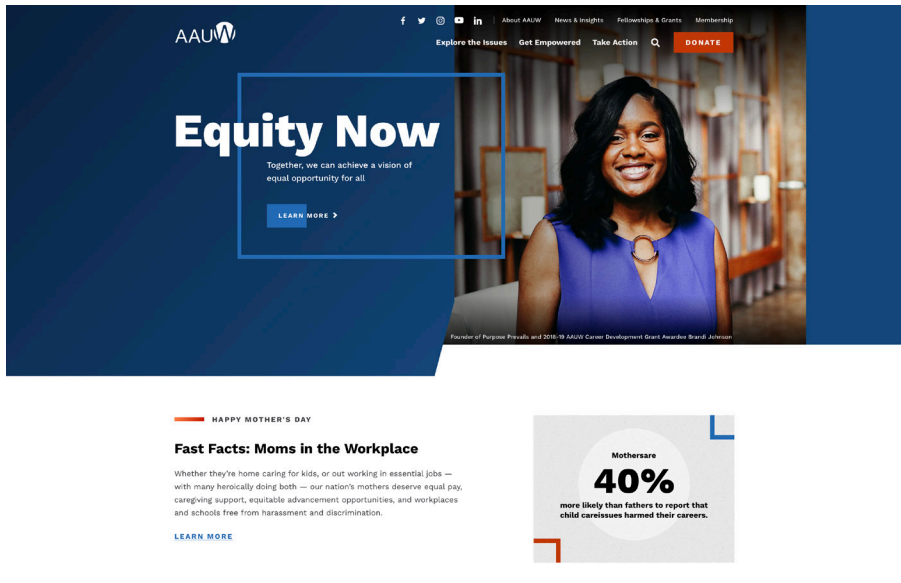
format is to share a piece of writing with the group (5 minute time frame/ each writer). We are a supportive group and have shared written pieces across

all genres. 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.

Voluntary Simplicity

After postponing our March meeting, we had planned to meet in May. It is not likely for group meetings to be opened up by then, and online meetings would preclude participation by members who do not have access to the internet. The consensus of our group is to open up our 2020-21 year in September with a discussion of the last chapter in the book *Choosing Civility* by P.M. Forni. Our summary to the study on civility will include a handout of “George Washington’s Rules of Civility & Decent Behavior.” If you have questions, please call or email Becky Ward, beckward@gmail.com or 424-8409. Looking forward to a dynamic discussion when we meet again in September!

New AAUW National Website



Check out the new AAUW National Website. Browse and learn more about the mission of AAUW or find out something new. Our State president is one of the featured AAUW members who share a tidbit about AAUW.

To learn about and find information pertinent to our branch, you may follow these pathways on the website.

Membership, then Governance and Tools, then State and Branch Tools, then either Access Your Community Equity Resources for Community Resource mapping or Get Recognition for Your Branch's Work for the 5 Star program.

Or, after Governance and Tools scroll down further to the ByLaws Tool Kit, then Strategic Plan.

stay connected

aauw.org

aauwoh.org

middletown-oh.aauw.net

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.

Ideas for At Home Time from Northeast Ohio AAUW

- Keep in touch with family and friends by phone, email, FaceTime, Facebook, etc.
- Write them a letter like the governor suggests – write about a time in your life you haven't told them about yet.
- Start a journal.
- Attack that pile of books you haven't had time to read or get eBooks from the library.
- Plan your garden.
- Do a jigsaw puzzle.
- Sew on those buttons.
- Work in the yard.
- Learn a language or take an online class.
- Watch a movie with Hoopla.
- Try a new recipe.

Here are some other educational interviews from Shelly Abrams of the Mason-Lebanon AAUW Branch. The September 2019 webcast talks about the Women in Military for America Memorial.

<https://thelebanonchannel.viebit.com/player.php?hash=QZimNrr31k6V>

The May 2018 webcast talks about the Women's Suffrage Movement through cross stitch.

<https://thelebanonchannel.viebit.com/player.php?hash=ljhpEgfEbPYe>

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

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