

### 100 Years of the 19th Amendment



2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the adoption of the Nineteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which gave women the right to vote. Since then women have voted and have been elected to hold important positions at the national, state, county, and local levels. As we approach November 3, 2020, it is crucial that we exercise our right to vote and make our voices heard.

We will celebrate women's suffrage in our opening meeting on Monday evening, September 14, when Sam Ashworth will give a virtual presentation: "Remember the Ladies: The Long Movement Back to Suffrage." Our Middletown branch had planned to get a preview of the Middletown Historical Society's exhibit on Women's Suffrage at our May 2020 banquet, but that had to be cancelled due to state restrictions on public gatherings during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Historical Society had not yet opened its doors to the public when our 2020-2021 program was planned, so members should look for an email with the necessary link inviting them to join the presentation online. We are opening this program year with online meetings and will evaluate the possibilities for meeting in person as the year progresses.

*Go to page 4 for links to celebrate the Women's Suffrage Centennial.*

### Take Action for our Fall Used Book Sale

As you already know, our spring sale had to be postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. Our new dates are set for September 17-20. This will not be a virtual sale but a face to face, on site sale. We have numerous good quality books to sell in order to make money to fund our scholarships. So now is the time; we need your help to make this year successful.

We have a special sale day/time set aside for branch members only to shop – Wednesday, September 16, from 4-8 pm.

We are encouraging all interested in shopping (members and non-member shoppers) to call 424-1120 (Tina's home phone) to reserve a shopping slot due to the fact that we will be limiting occupancy during the sale.

We will be requiring that face masks be worn during shopping times.

We need floor lamps that we can strategically place in darker areas of the sale site. Also, some floor fans would be helpful to keep the air circulating in the sale space. Please let Libby or Tina know if you can loan us one or two items during the sale dates.

We need all of you to let your contacts know about the sale. Since we did not send out our normal 400 postcards advertising the sale this year due to cost, we are counting on you to spread the word.

We need workers. We plan on having 4-5 members on site at all times during the sale. However, many of our members are health compromised and cannot work with the public during the sale. If you are able, please let Tina know when you can be on site to help out. Hopefully a number of you can sign up to work several hours more than one day of the sale.

## Calendar of Events

**Monday, September 14, 7pm**  
Virtual presentation by Sam Ashworth on Remember the Ladies: The Long Movement Back to Suffrage  
Zoom link will be sent by email for a link to the meeting

**Every Thursday 1:00 pm**  
**Pens Writing Group**  
Zoom virtual meeting

**Saturday, September 12**  
**10:00 am – noon**  
AAUW State meeting with speaker Lisa Matz  
Zoom virtual meeting

**Wednesday, September 16 –**  
**Sunday, September 20**  
64th Annual Book Sale

**Thursday, September 17, 7pm**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Monday, September 28, 7pm**  
Board Meeting  
Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Monday, October 13, 7pm**  
Zoom Virtual Program

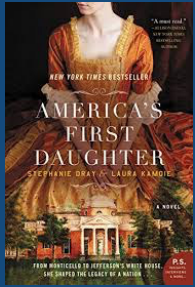
**Thursday, October 15**  
Joy Luck Book Club  
Virtual Zoom Meeting

**Friday, October 18 –**  
**Saturday, October 19**  
Garage Sale and Holiday Sale

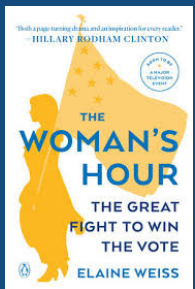
**Saturday, October 26**  
Second Chance Garage Sale Day

## Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, September 17 at 7:00 pm  
**America's First Daughter**  
 by Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie  
 Via Zoom



Virginia Palmer came up with a great idea for this month: to honor member Carol Friedman (who passed away July 21) by reading a historical novel by one of her favorite author teams. This well-researched book about Patsy Jefferson was a *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-seller. Patsy, the oldest daughter of Thomas Jefferson, became his helpmate, protector and constant companion when her mother died, traveling with him when he becomes American minister to France.



We recently celebrated the 100th anniversary of ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving American women the right to vote. If you crave some history that reads like a cliff-hanger novel, try *The Woman's Hour* by Elaine Weiss.



*"How many of us could wear our wedding gowns on our 60th wedding anniversary? Congratulations to Ed and Rose Grau, who celebrated theirs on August 20, 2020!"*



## Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 program year of our AAUW branch. I hope you all had an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors this summer. I have spent time walking in parks and around the neighborhoods of Middletown. The bike trail gives such beautiful views of the river and shoreline.

Committees have been working hard to prepare for this most unique year. Programs will be presented remotely on zoom as long as necessary. You will be sent a link before the meeting and a reminder link the day of our program. You can get on your computer, sit back and enjoy. If you need help to figure this all out, call a board member and one of us will talk you through it. Our board meetings have all been on zoom so we have had practice.

We are celebrating this month with a look at the exhibit Sam Ashworth designed on women's suffrage. We commissioned this exhibit but the COVID-19 virus has kept us from going to the Middletown Historical Society to enjoy it. So, now is the time to view it virtually. Sometime in the future we will go down to the Historical Society and view it in person.

Our branch keeps the focus of AAUW in mind as we plan programs and activities. Make sure you review AAUW's strategic plan on the back cover of the program book. Fundraisers are important to us as we work to provide scholarships to Middletown area students.

After much thought the board decided to proceed with our book sale. We are making it as safe as possible. We appreciate all who can help work at the sale and/or take time to shop.

After a successful book sale, the branch plans to host our garage sale/holiday sale in October. Some of our members have been storing items for those two sales. We have the opportunity to rent the book sale space for one more month so decided to use the space for the garage/holiday sale.

Once again, welcome back to our new program year. Thank you for being members of our vibrant and caring AAUW branch.

## Breaking News About the National Five Star Program!

*By Chris Buchert*

Our Middletown Branch received word that we have earned four of the five stars in the Five Star National Recognition Program. We earned a star in the program area by hosting 3-5 strategic plan-related programs and activities and completing the community resource mapping exercise. We earned a star in the advancement area by donating \$30 per member through individual and branch gifts to National last year and for retaining 90% or more of our members. We earned a star in the communications and external relations area by making sure our website and social media include an economic security focus and work smart online information. Monthly posts are also required. We earned a star in the public policy and research area by some members attending a virtual meeting with legislators, having a branch public policy chair and hosting a public event where Action Network sign-ups are collected. We almost have the fifth star in the governance and sustainability area. We have instituted a succession plan to ensure new ideas in future leadership. We are still working on the best way for our branch to show we align our planning with the AAUW national strategic plan. Thank you to the many members who worked on each area to earn these stars. You can all be proud of yourselves. This was a big undertaking. Congratulations!

## Remembering Members

### Carol Friedman 1934-1920

Middletown AAUW members were recently saddened at the loss of one of our beloved members, Carol Friedman, who passed away on July 21. Carol, a native of Hamilton, graduated from Western College (Miami University) where she met her husband of nearly 64 years, Mike (Myron) in English class. They married and raised their two daughters, Dana and Laurie in Ohio, before moving to Palos Verdes, California, where they lived for 38 years. Carol joined our chapter several years ago when she and Mike returned to Ohio and made Middletown their home to be near their daughter Dana, their grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Carol became a very active and loyal member of our group. She volunteered countless hours sorting, pricing, and working at Book Sales, Holiday Bazaars, and Garage Sales. She was an avid reader and faithful participant in the Joy Luck Book Discussion Group. No matter the activity, Carol could be counted on to contribute her insights culled from a wide background of experiences - 24 years of teaching, involvement in a number of charities, clubs, and the arts, performing in community theater, and love of travel. She was a devoted friend to many and her optimism, cheerful personality, and sense of humor will be deeply missed. Carol's family continued her support of our chapter's mission by suggesting that memorial donations be made to our AAUW Scholarship Fund.

### Nancy McCann 1932-2020

AAUW Middletown extends deepest sympathies to the children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and extended family of Nancy McCann, who passed away July 28, 2020. A 1950 graduate of Middletown High School, Nancy attended The Ohio State University and graduated from George Washington University with her Bachelor's Degree in art history. She traveled the world to work on computer systems for the U.S. Navy for 20 years during the 1980's and 1990's. A member of the Pleasant Ridge United Methodist Church, Nancy enjoyed knitting, weaving, and studying her family genealogy. Nancy first appeared in our Middletown Branch directory in the 1994-95 program year. She served several years as hospitality chair (sometimes co-chairing with her sister Julia Polleys), as EF/LAF chair 2004-2005, and volunteered as she could on our fundraisers. She participated in the Joy Luck Club Book Discussion Group, as an astute reader/discusser and as a gracious hostess. Some book group members recall meetings in Nancy's Arlington Avenue home in close proximity to her bay window weaving alcove. When she could no longer attend group meetings, she continued to read along and remained on the mailing list until she could no longer receive email.

## PENS

Our AAUW Branch has a "special interest" writers' group. We come together to share our writing endeavors. We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback and provide an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE! Whether your passion for writing is creative writing, poetry, memoir, narrative essay, or informative writing—you are welcome to join our writers' group. Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). During the "time of COVID 19" we are

meeting weekly on Zoom, Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. To join our group, contact: Becky Ward; [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com); 513/424-8409.



## Voluntary Simplicity

### Mission of Voluntary Simplicity:

To serve as a support group to continue exploring ways to move toward a sustainable lifestyle, simplifying life, being sensitive to our families, the environment, and the world around us.

Our group has chosen to suspend group gatherings at the present time. Instead of Zoom meetings, we have an ongoing opportunity to share about any topic of interest relevant to the mission of Voluntary Simplicity.

Members may email to Becky Ward any reflection they wish to share on past, current, or future "hot topics." Becky will gather the thoughts and forward them to our VS members, including member's name (unless they wish to remain anonymous). Contact: Becky Ward; [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com); 513/424-8409.

Each month we will have a suggested topic, (but your ideas to share are *not limited to this topic*). September suggested topic: Reflect on the recent tributes to the late Representative John Lewis, including one of his most



powerful quotes: "Do not get lost in a sea of despair. Be hopeful, be optimistic. Our struggle is not the struggle of a day, a week, a month, or a year, it is the struggle of a lifetime. Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in 'good trouble, necessary trouble.' "



## Garage/Holiday Sale

Our branch is hoping to hold a combined Garage Sale/Holiday Bazaar October 16 and 17 at 2204 Central Avenue. We are able to rent the book sale site for an extra month so the board decided to hold the Garage Sale and Holiday Bazaar together. Rose Grau's home does not allow for good social distancing. We will miss having the sale at her home. If we decide not to proceed with the sale, we will work towards having the sale in the spring.

So, save your garage sale items and holiday items. When the book sale is over, members will move items from Rose's home, price and sort. There will be delivery times. Start talking to your friends about saving items for our sale. There will be more information sent out by email in September. If you would like to help Chris Buchert plan the sale event, please email [tcbuch@yahoo.com](mailto:tcbuch@yahoo.com) or call 513-292-0420.



## AAUW Encourages You to Take Action!

Do you want to help advance gender equity and create a more economically secure world for women and girls? Exploring the issues, getting involved, and taking action are only a few keyboard clicks away! Visiting the AAUW website at [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) will inform you about priority issues at the national, state, and local levels and provide updates on important legislation. You can use the website's resources and tools, such as the Two Minute Activist to easily send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family

leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. By signing up to get regular alerts to take timely action, you can help change policies and enact laws to ensure equity for all.

Involvement in the political process is always important, but it is especially so now as we move toward the 2020 election amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The AAUW website outlines key ways to help ensure that every American has the opportunity to cast their ballot in an informed way. To learn about voting issues go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/get-involved-in-elections/> for a discussion of voter access, getting out the vote, and voter education.

## Diversity Chair

My name is Marti Kreps. Our AAUW Middletown president, Chris Buchert asked if I would be our branch diversity chair. I was impressed by last year's report and I will try to highlight ways in which we as an organization try to be aware of planning diversity events, attracting diverse peoples and just what it means to be diverse. This first month though let me introduce myself.

I was attracted to AAUW for several reasons. My Aunt graduated from Vassar College in 1924 and I remember her going to meetings and hearing that she was a founding member in Bloomfield, New Jersey where I grew up. She encouraged my mother to belong. When we retired three years ago and I heard there was an active group, I thought I would check it out. I have found the programs very informative especially to a newcomer in the area. We have heard from many women in entrepreneurial roles and in leadership positions.

I am just now exploring how we take care to be diverse. Next newsletter I will share some things you may not have noticed like the care the program committee takes in providing locations that are accessible for physically challenged persons. There is much more that goes on behind the scenes.

## Lisa Maatz Speaker for Ohio Zoom Conference

AAUW Ohio's delayed spring conference is rescheduled as two online meetings in September and October. Each meeting will be a two-hour Saturday morning ZOOM session offered to members at no cost.

Join the AAUW Ohio ZOOM meeting on Saturday, September 12 to hear the renown Keynote Speaker Lisa Maatz, senior advisor for Ohio Citizen Action. The non-profit engages people in actions for public health, consumer protection, sustainability, and preserving our democracy. Maatz is the freelance online community manager of Real Voices Media supporting civil dialogue and authentic storytelling. Members may remember Maatz as a long-time member of AAUW who served from 2002- 2017 as AAUW National Vice President of Government Relations and Advocacy.



Stay tuned for information from the state about how to connect for the September 12 session. Session two in October is tentatively scheduled for October 10.

## Enjoy these links as we celebrate the Women's Suffrage Centennial

The Suffragist Centennial commemorated through crosstich and crochet:

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

An update on the Suffragist Centennial:

<https://thelebanonchannel.viebit.com/player.php?hash=7kIS9MrHbJ0N>

Several podcasts:

<https://billmoyers.com/story/she-votes/>

<https://www.shevotespodcast.com/>

<https://podnews.net/podcast/1523079598>



## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

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