

November Program

On Monday, November 9, at 7:00 p.m., we will meet via ZOOM to hear Dr. Rochelle Garner speak about the role of the YWCA in the lives of women and girls in leadership.

Dr. Garner is the Executive Director for Girls LEAD!, one of the programs of Dayton’s YWCA. She has also served in higher education, both in student affairs and teaching. Originally from Lexington, Kentucky, Dr. Garner received her Ph.D. from Miami University in Educational Leadership with a Certificate in Women’s Studies, and both her B.A. and M.Ed. from Howard University in Washington, D. C. She enjoys learning through travel, and has had an opportunity to examine female leadership in Africa, China, and India.

The program Girls LEAD! Stands for Leadership, Education, Activism, and Development. Its mission is to encourage, motivate, and empower girls to develop holistically with strength, courage, and wisdom. The program partners with schools in Montgomery and Preble counties to provide an in-school program focusing on social emotional learning and bullying prevention. During the summer, Girls LEAD! provides a summer day camp for girls between the ages of 11-14 years old in both counties. We look forward to hearing more on November 9 about the workshops and activities provided by this exciting YWCA program.



In October, Kevin Kelly gave a virtual presentation about the mission of the Dayton International Peace Museum: to inspire a local, national, and international culture of peace. Kelly is the director of the museum.



Calendar of Events

Every Thursday 1pm
Zoom meeting PENS group

Monday, November 9, 7pm
Zoom meeting: Girls LEAD!
Program through the Dayton YWCA presented by the executive director Rochelle Garner.

Thursday, November 19, 7pm
Joy Luck Book Club
Coming To My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook: Alice Waters

Monday, December 14, 7pm
Zoom meeting: Topic: How Junior Achievement educates and inspires young people to experience opportunities of work and entrepreneurship.
Speaker: Maria Langendorf, President, Middletown Junior Achievement

Monday, November 23, 7:30pm
AAUW Board
Zoom meeting

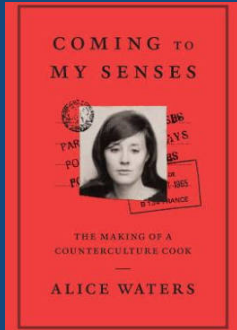
Thursday, December 17, 7pm
Joy Luck Book Club
Zoom meeting

Monday, January 11, 2021, 7pm
Location TBD: Topic: Human Trafficking. Speakers: Jeri Lewis, Advocate, Kingswell Seminary and Beth Bullock, Director of Advocacy, Reach for Tomorrow

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, November 19 at 7:00 pm
Coming To My Senses: The Making of a Counterculture Cook – Alice Waters



Just in time for Thanksgiving, we'll turn our attention to food with The New York Times bestselling and critically acclaimed memoir from

Alice Waters, founder of Chez Panisse, the "little French restaurant" in Berkeley that redefined American cuisine.

Thursday, December 17 at 7:00 pm
TBD – Save the date!

PENS

Our "special interest" writers' group meets weekly on Zoom, Thursdays at 1:00 p.m. We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback and provide an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE! The writing pieces we share cover diverse topics and often lead to spirited discussions.

Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). Everyone has a story to share. To join our group, contact: Becky Ward; 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.

During the ongoing pandemic, our Voluntary Simplicity group has chosen to suspend group gatherings. Until we can safely gather again, be safe . . . practice mindfulness . . . and continue to follow our mission.



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

Our AAUW branch is quite amazing. We pulled off two major fundraisers in just three months before the weather became too cold to keep the doors open for extra ventilation. Many of you worked to set up the book sale and holiday/garage sale. Others joined in for sale days. Some husbands joined in for heavy lifting. Some helped out from home. Others worked on spreading the word and some of you cheered from the sidelines. We all did what we could. I am so proud of each and every one of you. We definitely raised enough money to meet our budgeted scholarships, have some extra to send to National and then save some for next year. Now we can slow down on fundraising for a while.

These last few months have been a bit challenging for me as I have struggled with my broken arm and then shoulder surgery. Rose Grau took over as chief consultant of the Holiday Bazaar/Garage Sale and Carol Schul took over as chief worker in charge. They did a marvelous job of staging the sale along with the team of pricers. When I went to the site the last week before the sale, it looked beautiful. The idea to pass out Holiday Bazaar/Garage Sale flyers at the Book Sale was a good marketing tool. Many of those folks donated and then came to the sale. Some even came back the second weekend to the half-price sale. All the tables, crates and some boxes are being stored at the sale site. We are thankful we did not need to move them. Everything is put away and the floor is swept. What comes next in our AAUW adventure?

Please remember to vote. If you need a ride, I am sure one of your AAUW friends will take you. There are many issues to think about as you decide how to vote. Tom and I usually write down who we want to vote for before we go.

Keep up on reading our branch, state and national websites. Pay equity and receiving a paycheck are of great concern right now as many women have lost their jobs because of the pandemic. Our encouragement of women to pursue higher education is so important. Our local branch scholarship fundraising is an action step that we feel benefits our community and follows the strategic plan of AAUW.

News from AAUW State

The AAUW Ohio Fall Summit and Convention Part II was held via Zoom on October 10. Three speakers highlighted the convention.

Michelle Wilson, Athens Impact founder, discussed aligning your money with your values and encouraged both SRI, socially responsible investing and ESG, environmental, social, and governance investing. Members can learn more about ethical investing online or by contacting Michelle@AthensImpact.com.

Jennifer Lyle's presentation was a life story, hers, of how a concert musician in New York became a mayor of a small Ohio town.

Cynthia Anderson presented *Looking at COVID through a Gender Lens*. She discussed occupational poverty that beleaguers maids, housekeepers, aids, and wait staff and reminded attendees that women account for 60% of COVID job loss.

Two state events are coming up: The first of four state book reads, Coffee and Convos, will meet online to discuss *The Vanishing Half*, a novel by Brit Bennett. Marlene De La Cruz and Naykishia Head will lead the discussion via Zoom from 10-11 am on Saturday, November 14.

Hold the date as we await further details on how to participate in a Virtual Disco Party fundraiser to be held on December 5.

Membership

The Middletown Branch members now can welcome two new members. Lera Aguilar from California and Virginia (Ginny) Stiver a Lebanon transfer. Ginny was educated at Louisville and the University of Tennessee. Her November birthday will be her 95th. She worked as a dietitian at the Ohio Department of Health. Ginny lives at 533 N. State Route 741, Apartment 402. Her phone number is 513-933-4982. She does not have an e-mail address.

Lera Aguilar earned both her BA and MA at California's Cal State Northridge where she got her teaching certificate. Before the Covid hiatus, she was working in community outreach for the Lakota School System. Lera likes to read, garden, and ride her bike. She has three sons and a foster daughter. Lera and her husband live at 7248 Airy View Dr., Liberty Township, Ohio 45044. Her phone number is 513-779-1014 and her email address is Lera1180@aol.com.

Diversity by Marti Kreps

I have been using a Mead Monthly Two-Year Calendar. As I looked ahead to Christmas, I noticed other holidays: Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. It made me curious. Christian holidays were highlighted like Epiphany, Lent, St. Patrick's Day, Palm Sunday, Easter and the Feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe but also Jewish remembrances of Purim, Passover and Rosh Hashanah. I thought celebrating Yom Kippur, a day of amends and forgiveness would be good in any religion.

As I scanned the different months, there were listed holidays that I have only become aware of in the last twenty years. Ramadan is one of them. When someone in my Girl Scout Troop celebrated Ramadan, we decided not to have treats those weeks as she fasted. But there was also more from the Muslim tradition: Eid (Festival of Breaking Fast) and Muharrem (a day when War is forbidden). Thrown in were Mexican holidays of Benito Juarez's birthday, Cinco De Mayo and Revolution Day and Canadian holidays of Canada Day and Boxing Day (a day when gifts are given to the poor).

I am glad my calendar raised my awareness to the diversity around me.

Final Sale Update

The HUGE sale is over, and the space has been cleared. The profit, \$5,170.00 supports the program and mission of the branch which includes scholarships. A core of 12 members put this sale together in 21 days. Fifty-three plus donations were accepted, sorted, priced, staged, and prepared for the sale. An additional 13 members assisted on sale days. This year, 2020 has been different, as was our sale. The larger space was essential to accommodate the inventory of the two sales and deal with the pandemic protocols. Items that were left from the sale were distributed as follows: Paws, St. Vincent DePaul, Goodwill, Purses to Phi Beta Psi, Bulls Run, Vietnam Vets and some items saved for future sales. A HUGE, HUGE "Thank You" to all who donated, worked, or helped in anyway to make this unprecedented sale a success.



The following is a statement by AAUW CEO Kimberly Churches:

The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the U.S. Supreme Court late Monday. After a contentious process marked by one of the fastest considerations of a Supreme Court nominee in recent history, Senators voted largely along party lines to add her to the bench.

Justice Barrett will fill the vacancy left by the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who had been a legendary champion for women's rights and equal justice for all. It is AAUW's profound hope that, in her tenure on the highest court in the land, Justice Barrett will be inspired by the legacy of Justice Ginsburg to uphold the hard-earned rights of women and girls. AAUW has long fought for gender equity, and we are committed to working with all branches of government to ensure the expansion of those rights in the years ahead.

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