

# AAUW

## EQUITY FOR ALL

Middletown  
Newsletter

March 2021



### COMMUNITY BUILDING INSTITUTE OF MIDDLETOWN

#### MARCH PROGRAM: Community Leadership Roundtable

On Monday, March 8, at 7:00 p.m., we will enjoy a Zoom presentation by Karin Maney who will lead a roundtable discussion of how AAUW can help coordinate and maximize the impact of other nonprofit organization's community efforts. Ms. Maney is the Executive Director of the Community Building Institute of Middletown, which follows the mission: It takes teamwork to help transform Middletown one student, one family, and one neighborhood at a time.

#### APRIL PROGRAM(S)

Our April program will be a joint meeting on Zoom with the AAUW branch at Miami University's Oxford campus. The speaker will be Tamika Tompoulidis. The topic(s) of Tamika's presentation will fit well with the mission of AAUW at Miami University: to empower women as individuals and our community by helping women gain the confidence to be next generation leaders in the workforce and beyond. Please note the change of date: the program will be Monday, April 12.

On Friday, April 23, we will have the opportunity to participate in the Southwest Ohio Leadership Summit, Think Regional: Growth Through Collaboration. The day-long event begins with a welcome at 8:00 a.m. Morning panels will focus on the Power of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, followed by an afternoon session on Civil Discourse. Please access <https://www.thinkregional.com> for information about the sessions, as well as registration information.



## Calendar of Events

**PENS group: Every Thursday**  
2pm via Zoom meeting reach  
out [beckward@gmail.com](mailto:beckward@gmail.com)

**Monday, March 8, 7pm,**  
**Community Leadership**  
**Roundtable**

Zoom presentation by  
Karin Maney, Executive Director,  
& Verlena Stewart, Assistant  
Executive Director,  
Community Building Institute of  
Middletown

**Joy Luck Book Club:**

**Thursday, March 18, 7pm**

*American Like Me: Reflections*  
*On Life Between Cultures* by  
America Ferrera

**Monday, April 12, 7pm, Zoom**

**meeting:** Joint meeting with  
Miami University's Oxford  
campus. Speaker: Tamika  
Tompoulidis,

**Friday, April 23, 8am**

Think Regional Growth  
Through Collaboration  
location TBA



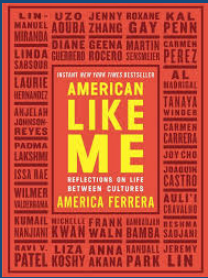
Many thanks to all of the members who dropped off donations at Rose's home for our January speakers working with women through Kingswell and Brave Choices. As you can see in the pictures, we contributed a variety of necessary items from their suggested donations list.



## Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, March 18 at 7:00 pm  
**American Like Me: Reflections On Life Between Cultures – America Ferrera,**

editor

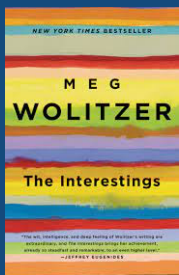


Award-winning actress and political activist America Ferrera invited 31 of her friends, peers and heroes to provide first-person accounts about their experience of growing up between cultures. There are heartwarming, funny and poignant



stories from actors, comedians, athletes, politicians, artists, and writers who are also immigrants, children or grandchildren of immigrants, indigenous people, or people who otherwise grew up with deep and personal connections to more than one culture. They read their own stories in the audio book version, which is an added delight.

Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 pm  
**The Interestings – Meg Wolitzer**



This New York Times–bestselling novel has been called “genius” (The Chicago Tribune), “wonderful” (Vanity Fair), “ambitious” (San Francisco Chronicle), and a “page-turner” (Cosmopolitan). It

begins with six teenagers at a summer camp for the arts during the time that Nixon resigns, then follows their paths through middle age as their talents, fortunes, and degrees of satisfaction diverge.



## Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

The women of our Middletown Branch are so strong in their sense of mission for the wellbeing of the women and girls of Middletown. Our board came to consensus to continue our garage sale, book sale and holiday sale to fund our scholarships for local needs and the AAUW National Fund. Representatives from Cincinnati State and Miami University Middletown have thanked us for helping provide funds for non-traditional students. Our high school scholarships are awarded to first generation students seeking higher education. We are making an impact.

Our sense of mission is seen in our programming as we learn about other organizations that are making a difference in the lives of women and girls. Our speakers have led to conversations about how we can make more of an impact in our community. Ideas are swirling around, waiting to take root. Some of our members are donating items to help women impacted by human trafficking. The diversity articles in our newsletter help us think about expanding our horizons. We are working on our mission of Equity for All.

## Vote on Slate of Officers

The nominating committee, Kristen Mulligan and Becky Ward, are pleased to present the following slate of officers for your consideration. We will vote at our April 12th branch meeting. Thank you to members who have accepted a role as a branch officer, as well as to members who have agreed to continue in their current position.

### 2021-2022 Branch Officers

President: Mel Worbis (continuing)

President Elect: Eleanor Yeager Stewart (new)

Financial Officers: Katie DeVilling (continuing)

Kristen Mulligan (continuing)

Program Co-Vice Presidents: Deb Worbis (continuing)

Becky Ward (continuing)

Membership Co-Vice Presidents: Paula Cohen (continuing)

Mary Millard (new)

Corresponding Secretary: Virginia Palmer (continuing)

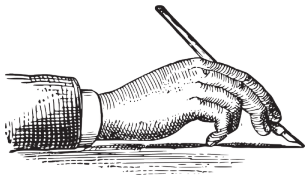
Judy Florence (new)

Recording Secretary: Joyce Triick (continuing)

## Welcome New Members

Please welcome our new member Mary Fondersmith. A Middletonian, Mary is recently retired from Thermo Fisher where she was a ceramic engineer. Mary graduated from Ohio State University and Miami University Middletown. Mary is married and has one son, one daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren. She enjoys reading, traveling, and visiting museums. Her genealogy research takes her ancestry back to Charlemagne. She lives at 1810 Spring Grove, Middletown, OH 42044. Her phone is 513-390-8841 and her e-mail is fondersmithma@yahoo.com.

Our AAUW branch is welcoming a new member, Jackie Webster. Jackie retired this past December from her job as the Quality Control Manager at Quaker Haughton that processes steel. Jackie received her BS degree in chemistry from Wright State University and her MS in analytical science from Miami University. Jackie is also a member of Pi Beta Psi and is an avid gardener and enjoys reading. You can reach Jackie at 937-867-8444 or at Jwebster52@gmail.com. She lives at 327 N. Marshall Rd.



### PENS

The current schedule of our "special interest" writer's group is to meet weekly on Zoom at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday. The purpose of our group continues to be to provide an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE! Each of us chooses a topic about which we want to write. We share our writing with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). We encourage each other, give constructive feedback, and share laughter and lively discussions. Whether you are a published writer or trying to start a habit of daily writing, you are welcome to join our group. Contact: Becky Ward; beckward@gmail.com; 513/424-8409.

### COMING IN JUNE

We are planning the return of the annual Garage Sale in June. The dates are Friday and Saturday, June 11, 12 and 18, 19. The sale will be held at 2200 Central Avenue, the book sale site. This is a great time to be cleaning out closets, drawers, and as the weather warms up, tackle the attic, garage and basement. This effort not only helps you feel better, but it supports the mission of our branch which includes scholarships. Please pass these dates on to your family, friends and neighbors. If you have questions contact Chris Buchert 513-292-0420 or Carole Schul 513-422-9686.



### AAUW Diversity

How do I describe myself? I am a mother, I am a teacher, I grew up in New Jersey, I am retired, I am female, I am married to a male, my roots are in England and Scotland. All of these things are elements of my identity. Try this exercise for yourself. How do you describe yourself? As I look at these things, at this point I cannot change them. They influence who I am. They make me unique.

When you meet someone new, what do you notice? Jane Elsea in her book 4 Minute Sell suggests our society tends to notice these things in order of importance:

- Skin Color
- Gender
- Age
- Appearance
- Facial expressions
- Eye contact
- Movement
- Personal Space
- Touch

Jane Elsea says "When we see another person, we notice, make assessments, and make decisions about how to interact with that individual based on these nine factors. These reactions, based on split-second assessments of others, influence our relationships."

How does my fixed identity influence how I react to these variables? I wondered. I will try to pay attention to what I notice first and how I react. I do notice that during this time of COVID I find I normally get clues from facial expressions. When I am traversing Krogers with a mask on, I want people to see my smile when I yield to their cart or wait patiently for the deli or meat clerk. I feel very unfriendly when I turn away from someone passing.

Hearing the stories in our Book Club choice for this month, American Like Me made me aware of just how many skin colors there are and what their experiences of reactions and prejudice have been. I want to do better.

(Elsea information from AAUW website under: Dimensions of Diversity and Identity)

– Marti Kreps, Diversity Chair



## Southwest Regional AAUW To Meet on ZOOM April 17

Plans are in the works for a ZOOM Southwest Regional AAUW Spring Conference on Saturday, April 17, from 10 am until noon. In keeping with the state's recommendation, the topic will be Education, Equity, and Advocacy. The education topic will focus on education for careers with news from career centers. The Equity topic will allow members to focus on the national AAUW webinar on diversity. Advocacy will include ideas from the two-minute activist, gerrymandering issues, and a discussion of the upcoming vote for dropping the degree requirement for AAUW membership. That voting will occur online from April 17 through May 17.

### Other News:

The AAUW State Board is recommending a focus next year on issues related to paid leave for women, pregnancy leave, and a flexible work schedule.

National AAUW dues will rise to a total seventy-two dollars per year by 2024 with a three dollar increase in 2022, a five dollar increase in 2023, and another five dollar increase in 2024.



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## *A Letter from Your Recipient*

February 09, 2021

Ms. Traci Barnett  
Middletown Community Foundation  
300 N Main St Ste 300  
Middletown, OH 45042-1903

Dear Traci,

I want to personally thank the generous women of the AAUW for granting me this scholarship. I am a sophomore in the nursing program and this is such an honor to receive something from such an empowering group of women. I recently separated from the military, where I was involved in many different organizations to empower women and create equal opportunities for every sailor. I believe this is exactly what the AAUW does for women.

For Love & Honor,

*Karissa Martin*

## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

### Branch President

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

### President Elect

Mel Worbis (513) 292-2109  
worbismm@gmail.com

### Program Co-Vice Presidents

Debbie Worbis (513) 392-4357  
dworbis@gmail.com

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

Kristen Mulligan (513) 295-4646  
mulligankristen1@gmail.com

Katie DeVilling (513) 422-1011  
katie.devilling@gmail.com

### Recording Secretary

Joyce Triick (513) 217-7771  
jtt03@yahoo.com

### Corresponding Secretary Communications

Virginia Palmer (937) 545-4974  
palmerve@umich.edu

### Newsletter

Suzy Tadych (513) 828-8123  
sashworth@cinci.rr.com

### AAUW Funds

Carolyn Smith (937) 657-9548  
csrsmith48@gmail.com

### Scholarships

Beth Miller (513) 320-0547  
bethemiller@gmail.com

### College & University Relations

Katie McNeil (513) 470-9031  
kmcneil@whitegardeninn.com

### Diversity

Marti Kreps (513) 889-6610  
mkreps@yahoo.com

### Public Policy

Robin Becker (513) 424-2913  
robin.becker73@gmail.com