

# AAUW

## Middletown Newsletter

April 2021

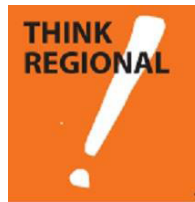
# EQUITY FOR ALL



### APRIL PROGRAM(S)

On Monday, April 12, our program will be a joint meeting on Zoom with the AAUW branch of Miami University's Oxford campus. The speaker will be Tamika Tompoulidis. Tamika is a Career and Personal Development Counselor and a Public Speaking Adjunct Professor in the Communications Department at University of Kentucky. She has quite a local connection. She is a former kindergarten student of Chris Buchert and a former high school student of Debbie Worbis. Additionally, she is the niece of our January speaker, Maria Langendorf. The topic of Tamika's presentation is worthy of consideration for us all: *"Checking Perceptions Before Making Conclusions."*

On Friday, April 23, we will have the opportunity to participate in the Southwest Ohio Leadership Summit--Think Regional: Growth Through Collaboration. The virtual event takes place 8:30 – 12:30, and will focus on the *Power of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*. Please access <http://www.thinkregional.com/events> for information about the agenda. For registration and fee payment of \$20, please access <http://www.apcwc.org/events/april-21-2016>.



### MAY PROGRAM

Our May meeting will be an in-person event!! We will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Middletown Historical Society's Shartle House, 120 N. Verity Parkway. As in the past, we will meet and greet our scholarship winner(s) and install our new officers for the 2021-2022 year. Debbie Worbis and Becky Ward are still processing plans. We will enjoy a boxed meal from McAllister's Deli with an estimated cost of \$10-\$12/each. At our April meeting we will be asking about your intentions to come to the May event and taking orders for which meal you would like to order (there are several options). Please call or email Becky or Debbie with any questions.

### Combined Spring Regional Meeting

The Southwest and Central regions of Ohio AAUW will offer a combined online Spring meeting on Saturday April 17. The meeting offers options to attend a morning session, an afternoon session, or both. The agenda will include Civil Discourse, Crucial Conversations, and Career Tech. A state officer will lead talking points and discussions of national dues changes and the upcoming vote on changing membership requirement.

Look for an email in early April with an agenda and directions for completing registration.

## Calendar of Events

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

**Monday, April 12, 7pm,** Zoom  
meeting: Joint meeting with  
Miami University's Oxford  
campus AAUW group. Speaker  
Tamika Tompoulidis.

**Joy Luck Book Club:** Thursday,  
April 15, 7pm: The Interestings  
by Meg Wolitzer

**AAUW Southwest and Central  
Ohio Spring Regional Meeting**  
Saturday, April 17

**Friday, April 23,** Think  
Regional Growth Through  
Collaboration meeting online,  
8:30am till 12:30pm. Cost  
\$20.00. To register visit: [www.thinkregional.com](http://www.thinkregional.com)  
and choose  
link under events.

**May meeting:** information to  
be discussed during the general  
member meeting April 12

**Garage Sale:** June 11, 12, 18, &  
19. 2200 Central Avenue. We  
can start dropping off items in  
May. Start setting aside items for  
the sale!

**Membership renewal:** Invoices  
are going out in April. Make sure  
to check emails from National  
AAUW and for others that  
receive just mail, those will be  
sent out this month as well.



**stay connected**

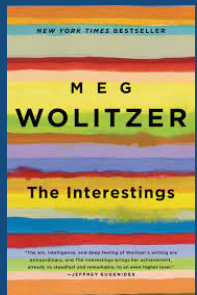
[aauw.org](http://aauw.org)

[aauwoh.org](http://aauwoh.org)

[middletown-oh.aauw.net](http://middletown-oh.aauw.net)

## Joy Luck Book Club

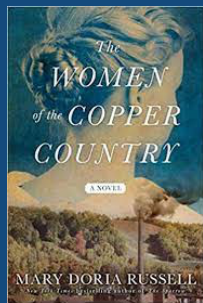
Thursday, April 15 at 7:00 pm  
*The Interestings* – Meg Wolitzer



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.

Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 pm  
*The Women of Copper Country* – Mary Doria Russell



For fans of Mary Doria Russell – one of the most versatile writers in contemporary fiction – here is an inspiring historical novel about “America’s Joan of Arc” Annie Clements, the

courageous woman who started a rebellion in 1913 by leading a strike against the largest copper mining company in the world. (Suggested by Virginia Palmer)



## Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

March 22, nine of our members listened to a briefing from the CEO of National AAUW, Kimberly Churches, and her associate Nichia McFarlane. We were honored to talk with them since we had achieved 5 Star status. Nichia said more small branches (under 100 members) than larger branches had achieved this award. I think that perhaps smaller branches like ours were able to zero in on the requirements and work in smaller groups to develop strategies to align with AAUW missions. One of the reasons the 5 Star program was developed was to encourage better communication between branch, state and national AAUW. That has been a chief thrust of Kim since she became CEO five years ago. Another reason was to better align the mission of branches, state and National. Our branch noticed during the process that we were basically aligned with the purpose and mission of AAUW but needed to reflect on what we were doing and refresh ourselves as to why we did things. We also found ourselves trying some new ideas. National is now working on some other ideas to keep ideas flowing back and forth.

One good thing that has come out of the pandemic is that our national leaders have been able to reach out and talk with branch members and state officers. Zoom has allowed them to learn more of what is going on around the country. Before, visits by national officers were about once every several years. They said some zoom meetings will probably continue after the pandemic. Kim was sitting in her home in Washington DC, Nichia was sitting in her home in Maine and here we were in Ohio. Mel was even driving around in her car listening.

We were briefed on how AAUW is working to make an impact on systemic and structural discrepancies in gender and racial equity. Work Smart was the online program designed to help women with negotiation skills in the workplace. Now with the times we are in, AAUW has developed a webinar for working people so they can better communicate, be seen in the workplace and be seen as being an integral part of the business. AAUW has also concentrated on helping lower level workers (often essential workers) as their jobs are so important.

There are also research projects at National. Some include women working in factories, power and pay gap at high level university and research facilities, student debt and university tenure. You may read some of these completed reports on the AAUW website. These research projects will help AAUW move forward in the journey to make a positive impact on the lives of girls and women.



## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

From Miami Regionals March Minute – their online monthly newsletter

## AAUW's Middletown Branch blazing trails for women in Middletown and beyond

When the pandemic took hold last year, a number of students found themselves without resources to meet the basic needs of food and shelter, much less tuition and books.

Fortunately for several students, dollars from the Regionals Student Emergency Fund were there to assist them. Among the contributors to assist in meeting those needs was the American Association of University Women – Middletown branch. Their gift of \$1,150 in scholarship funds helped with tuition, books and other life necessities for two students this year.

This is just one example of how this chapter has impacted many women in the Middletown area and beyond.

## 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)

## PENS



The current schedule of our "special interest" writer's group is to meet weekly on Zoom at 1:00 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). Recent topics have included events from a camping/canoing trip, a novella ten years in the making, stories told in 53 words, and bittersweet tales of life with our pets. 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.

## AAUW ANNUAL JUNE GARAGE SALE

Friday & Saturday, June 11, 12 and 18, 19 – 9:00-4:00  
2200 Central Avenue – Middletown, OH

**DONATIONS NEEDED** – Invite your family, friends, and neighbors to contribute. A checklist for your convenience.

- \_\_\_ Linens: sheets, towels, pillows, blankets, bedspreads, tablecloths, placemats, rugs
- \_\_\_ Kitchen items: dishes, flatware, baking items, pots and pans, glassware
- \_\_\_ Small appliances: mixer, toaster, coffee maker, crock pot, can opener, blender
- \_\_\_ Games, puzzles, toys, children's books
- \_\_\_ CD's, DVD's, records
- \_\_\_ Shoes, purses, hats, scarves, jewelry
- \_\_\_ Tools of all kinds
- \_\_\_ Decorative items: pictures, vases, wreaths, pottery, lamps
- \_\_\_ Sport equipment: golf, fishing, tennis, bikes, camping gear
- \_\_\_ Furniture
- \_\_\_ Garden tools and equipment
- \_\_\_ Craft and office items
- \_\_\_ Electronics, if they work and are complete
- \_\_\_ Antiques and collectibles



PLEASE NO – clothing, TV's or large exercise equipment

QUESTIONS – Contact Chris Buchert at 513-292-0420 or Carole Schul 513-422-9686.

## AAUW Dues

The AAUW fiscal year runs from July 1 – June 30. National dues are \$62.00. State remains at \$11.00 and our Middletown branch dues are \$10.00. Total is \$83. 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 will again be sending invoices from National AAUW for dues payment. This new way of collecting dues is quick and easy. You have the choice to pay your dues by credit card directly to National or to send a check 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 2021-2022 are as follows:**

**National: \$62.00**

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

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

**TOTAL: \$83.00**

Honorary lifetime members should pay their local dues directly to the branch via check.

Lifetime members pay \$21 to National online via credit card, or write a check and mail to the PO Box.

All other members may pay \$83 to National online via credit card, or write a check and mail to the PO Box.

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 Marti Kreps

As I was growing up, I do not remember much diversity in my grade school class or in my suburban town. During the 1980's and 90's things began to change. A report from Penn State University called, An Overview of Diversity Awareness, states three powerful trends pushed the diversity issue to the forefront. One, the global market in which United States corporations do business became highly competitive. Two, the makeup of the U.S. population began changing dramatically and three, individuals began celebrating their differences instead of compromising their uniqueness to "fit in."

I guess I thought I was open to diversity but I realize it wasn't challenged very much. About twenty years ago, before my parents moved from the home I grew up in, I walked through the County Park behind my house. I was amazed at the diversity. There were soccer leagues representing many cultures. Sadly, I admit, I wondered if I was safe because of the difference.

Before Covid restrictions, my husband and I realized we had traveled to all of the lower 48 states and only needed Alaska and Hawaii to complete visits to all 50 states. So we planned trips. In Alaska, we learned of how whites took native children to boarding schools to essentially remove their language and culture. The goal was to make them civilized, I guess or less different. The same thing happened with the Hawaiian cultures. Now both Alaskan and Hawaiian native peoples work to restore what was taken from them. Hearing their stories made me sad that their heritage was not honored.

AAUW website lists Seven Underlying Principles of Diversity and the first one is that each person comes to terms with their own attitudes, beliefs and experiences about others and gain comfort with difference.



### Make Your Voice Heard

AAUW has always stood for solutions that work for all women and families — and we do not intend to stop now. AAUW's advocacy has made women's voices heard from the White House to Congress to the statehouse, and your voice is needed now more than ever! That's why AAUW has compiled a set of resources to guide you in advocating for women and girls through a variety of tactics and actions.



## Scholarship Report

The Be Wise Camp for our sixth and seventh grade girls has been cancelled again this summer due to the COVID-19 regulations which limit the program's ability to house participants in a college dormitory for the week long Stem activities. The state administrators are meeting to determine if girls who were scheduled to attend during the 2020 and 2021 summer camp sessions and who will be eighth graders next year may be able to attend the 2022 summer session. We are awaiting that decision.

During our monthly AAUW board meeting, we learned about another activity being developed for girls and hopefully scheduled for this 2021 summer.

An email to Ms. Kimberly Churches requesting information yielded the following response:

"It's not a camp per se, it's a two hour STEM session for high school aged girls in predetermined underserved communities that will run in the summer. We are still working on curriculum, and this new pilot program is supported by Arconic Foundation.

Likely won't have more details on results of the pilot until June. Sorry we can't market further yet, but it's still in pilot and development. Best, Kim"

Since that STEM session is for high school aged girls, our Be Wise Camp girls are not yet in the designated age group. Hopefully they will be given a retroactive opportunity with Be Wise next summer.

Currently, the Middletown Community Foundation is interviewing high school senior candidates for the AAUW scholarship.

Beth Miller  
Scholarship Chair

## A thank you note from AAUW for our recent donation

Dear AAUW Middletown (OH) Branch leaders and members,

With 2021 now well underway, all of us at AAUW National continue to work from home safely but nonetheless committed and passionate about our work ahead. Much as we have since the pandemic shutdown, I am confident your national staff will continue to focus on the most pressing issues facing women and girls in this uncertain time. I'm proud of how we've successfully pivoted to virtual programs, increased our advocacy, and continued to work with fierce commitment to ensure that hard fought gains won't be lost in any of the arenas in which we work. If you didn't see our 2020 Year in Review and By the Numbers, check them out here: <https://www.aauw.org/about/years-in-review/>

I just learned from our team that your branch has made a generous donation to support our greatest needs. Please share my deep personal thanks with all those whose passion for AAUW's mission made this gift possible. Your support is especially important now as COVID19 has exacerbated and highlighted inequities that run deep, and we have many challenges to address—in the 117th Congress and the Biden-Harris administration, but also in every sector in our society. Your generosity gives us a head start as we embrace the year ahead with determination, an abundance of resilience and clear-eyed optimism.

Again, thank you so very much on behalf of all of us for your generosity. Please continue to take every precaution, stay safe and be well—but do remain connected with your fellow branch members in virtual programs and activities. And, I hope to "see" many of you on a Zoom AAUW webinar soon.

With gratitude,  
Kimberly Churches (she/her/hers)  
Chief Executive Officer AAUW  
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000, Washington, DC 20005  
202.785.7767 | churchesk@aauw.org | www.aauw.org



## Public Policy

### AAUW Election: Prepare to Vote by Learning the Issues

Starting April 7, AAUW members will be asked to vote to elect members to the national board of directors and on amendments to our Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, including a proposal to eliminate AAUW's longstanding membership degree requirement. Get up to speed on the issues by reviewing the [election page](#) on the AAUW website. Online voting is encouraged, although requests for paper ballots may be requested up to April 16. The postmark deadline for returning paper ballots is April 30. Online voting will continue through May 17 at 5:00 p.m.

### Paycheck Fairness Act

The House of Representatives recently held a hearing to consider the Paycheck Fairness Act. This is an important step toward passage, but AAUW needs our help to keep the issue moving forward. Access the [Activist Toolkit](#) for resources to contact Congress, write a letter to the editor, or speak out on social media. Women who work full-time take home less than men – about 82 cents on the dollar – and many women of color are paid far less. The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed and exacerbated these economic inequalities. Despite existing federal and state equal pay laws, the gender gap persists, impacting millions of women and their families. Congress must ensure that all women have the tools they need to challenge pay discrimination, and all employers have the incentives they need to comply with equal pay laws.

### Equal Pay Days Calendar

Equal Pay Days denote how far into the new year women must work to be paid what men were paid the previous year. Started by the National Committee on Pay Equity (NCPE) in 1996, the goal was to raise awareness about the gender wage gap. Since then, other Equal Pay Days have been added to the calendar to denote that mothers and most women of color face a wider-than-average gap and need to work even longer to catch up to men's earnings.

- **Asian American and Pacific Islander Women's Equal Pay Day** is March 9. Asian American and Pacific Islander women are paid 85 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **All Women's Equal Pay Day** is March 24. Women working full time and year-round are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to a man who works full time and year-round.
- **Mother's Equal Pay Day** is June 4. Mothers are paid 70 cents for every dollar paid to fathers.
- **Black Women's Equal Pay Day** is August 3. Black women are paid 63 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Native American Women's Equal Pay Day** is September 8. Native women are paid 60 cents for every dollar paid to white men.
- **Latina's Equal Pay Day** is October 21. Latinas are paid 55 cents for every dollar paid to white men.

## AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

### Branch President

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

### President Elect

Mel Worbis (513) 292-2109  
worbism@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

Suzu 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

**THINK  
REGIONAL**



**Come Hear Unique Perspectives on the Benefits of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Programs in Southwest Ohio!**

**Join in Helping Improve Actions on DEI Programs to Strengthen the Economic Growth, Job Creation and Quality of Life across our Region!**

**Here's what to do to attend....**

- ❑ **BLOCK** out the date in your calendar NOW!
- ❑ **PLAN** to have your key team members join you.
- ❑ **PURCHASE** your ticket NOW! Go to [www.thinkregional.com](http://www.thinkregional.com) and click on the Registration link.
- ❑ **CONTACT** Michele Abrams at [shellabrams73@gmail.com](mailto:shellabrams73@gmail.com) with any questions.

## **Think You've Heard Everything About Diversity, Equity and Inclusion?**

**Come Join Business, Community and Non-Profit Leaders across Southwest Ohio to hear about the progress of DEI programs and benefits that are being realized in Southwest Ohio Organizations.**

### **Register for the VIRTUAL Think Regional! Summit on DEI Collaboration On April 23, 2021**

This UNIQUE Event is a half day of learning from key leaders in our Region about the exciting programs and activities that are underway and the results being achieved in the key area of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion across Southwest Ohio.

**Our keynote speaker will be Ms. Wendy Waters-Connell, Executive Director, Hamilton YWCA. The YWCA has provided a voice for women's issues for more than 150 years, including programs to aid women in discrimination and harassment issues, and to help women increase employment opportunities and wage growth.**

Other speakers who will share the status and benefits of their DEI programs include:

- **Emiko Moore, Moderator, MLK Alliance and Community Conversations**
- **Noha Eyada, Mason CommUNITY and Mason City Schools Diversity Council**
- **Doug Bolton, CEO, Cincinnati Cares**

#### **Closing Session**

**Braver Angels Overview: Civil Discourse Among Diverse Groups**  
-- David Lapp, Co-Founder; Kouhyar Mostashfi, Board of Directors, Southwest Ohio Chapter.

**This session will discuss the Braver Angels approach for reaching mutual respect and understanding among people with diverse beliefs, backgrounds and life experiences.**

DEI programs are a key factor in achieving our regional goals of Economic Growth, Greater Job Creation and Improved Quality of Life across Southwest Ohio. The Think Regional Summit will provide you with information and motivation to establish or improve the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion programs in your organization and/or community.

**WHERE:** VIRTUAL Event, Totally On Line. Link Provided Before the Event Date.  
**WHEN:** Friday, April 23, 2021 – 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM

**Summit Fee is \$20. Payment can be made at**  
<http://www.apcwc.org/events/april-21-2016>.

**We hope to see you on line at the VIRTUAL Think Regional Summit on April 23, 2021!**