

AAUW

EQUITY FOR ALL

Middletown
Newsletter

May 2021



MAY PROGRAM

Your programming committee is excited to announce that our May meeting will be an in-person event!! We will meet on Monday, May 10th, at 6:00 p.m. at Middletown Historical Society's

Shartle House, 120 N. Verity Parkway. As in the past, we will install our new officers for the 2021-2022 year and hope to meet and greet those student(s) to whom we have awarded a scholarship. We will have a light dinner fare from MacAllister's Deli, with a cost estimate of \$10-\$12/each, payable at the event. We have been advised that because of COVID restrictions on indoor gatherings, Shartle House has changed their seating to six tables with four at each table. Also, we have been requested to encourage all to wear a mask during the meeting. If you are not yet comfortable with in-person or if you missed the RSVP date (4/25), we plan to offer access to the event on Zoom. If you have any questions, please call or email Becky Ward, 424-8409, beckward@gmail.com or Debbie Worbis, 513-392-4357, dworbis@gmail.com.



GARAGE SALE

MONDAY, MAY 10th at 10:00 am we will be meeting at the sale site (2204 Central Avenue) to set up tables, cover the tables and get the space ready for the sale. Please let Chris Buchert 292-0420 or Carole Schul 513-267-4010 know if you are coming to help that day. Regular work days start the next day on Tuesday, May 11.

Included in this newsletter is a flyer for the Garage Sale, this is for your information; as well as we encourage you to print copies to share with your family, friends, and neighbors. Consider posting one at places you go: church, salon, library, etc. Bull's Run is not having a sale this year; therefore, we will not benefit from their "leftovers".

PLEASE NOTE: WORKDAYS WILL BE: Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00-12:00, additional times will be scheduled, if needed.

HELP US by bringing your donations clean and in good condition/repair. We do not have water at the sale site which makes cleaning a challenge.



SIGN UP SHEETS FOR THE SALE DAYS will be available at the May branch meeting and also through emails.

THANKS IN ADVANCE for your help with this fund-raising event.

Calendar of Events

PENS group: Every Thursday 1pm: via Zoom meeting reach out beckward@gmail.com to find out more information.

Monday, May 10, 2021: End of the Year Banquet Meeting: 6pm at 120 N. Verity Parkway Middletown. (Middletown Historical Society's Shartle House) Food from McAllister's Deli.

Garage Sale Preparation: May 10, 10am to set up tables: Regular work days begin Tuesday May 11: Work days will be Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 9am until noon. Drop off of items will be the same days from 10am-11:30am. Location: 2200 Central Avenue.

National AAUW voting: Online voting is open till May 17th by 5pm.

Joy Luck Book Club: Thursday, May 20, 7pm Zoom: The Women of Copper Country by Mary Doria Russell. Reach out to Sharon.Williamson@taylorcommunications.com for details.

Membership renewal: Letters and email information should have been received. Please make sure to take care of your dues soon.

Garage Sale: June 11, 12, 18, & 19. Location: 2200 Central Avenue Middletown.

stay connected

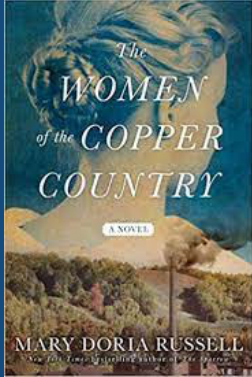
aauw.org

aauwoh.org

middletown-oh.aauw.net

Joy Luck Book Club

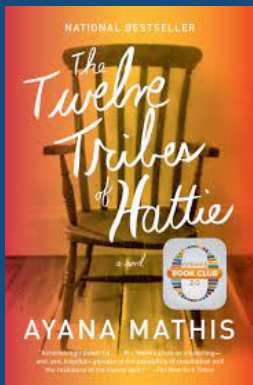
Thursday, May 20 at 7:00 pm
The Women of Copper Country –
 Mary Doria Russell



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)

Thursday, June 17 at 7:00 pm
The Twelve Tribes of Hattie –
 Ayana Mathis



In 1923, fifteen-year-old Hattie Shepherd, swept up by the tides of the Great Migration, flees Georgia and heads north.

She marries and gives birth to 10 children, whose lives are captured here in twelve luminous threads. A New York Times Notable Book and Oprah Book Club selection, this novel tells the story of a mother’s monumental courage—and a nation’s tumultuous journey. (Recommended by several book club members at our December meeting)



Chris Buchert, Middletown Branch President

It has been a great two years as president. I have learned so much more about the mission of AAUW and how our branch participates in that mission. I find myself perusing the national website for information. I have communicated with National through phone calls and emails with staff members. The branch briefing with the CEO of National showed how hard AAUW works to help uplift women and girls.

Being president is sometimes hard work, but is a great job as you get to watch the rest of the board move the chapter forward. The president is a shepherd, guide and cheerleader. The board members each have a vision of what to do in their positions and bring their excitement and knowledge to move the branch forward. All branch members also share their views on the direction the branch should go. I am always impressed by the knowledge, thoughtfulness and dedication of our members.

I felt sad that I would be stepping down from the board since I would no longer see the beginnings of new ideas that direct where the branch is headed next. Melissa asked me to be the AAUW Funds Chairperson so I will be able to still contribute on the board. Thank you Melissa. You should all consider joining the board for a few years. You learn so much and work with a diverse group of women who care about providing a better education for women and girls.

Thank you all! Chris

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 were emailed out from National in April. Look for an email from memberinfo@aauw.org.

Thank you for your prompt payment before June 15.

Public Policies Updates

- There is still time to vote in the AAUW National Election to choose members of the national AAUW Board of Directors and to vote on changes to the bylaws that would open membership to those without college degrees. The election also allows members the opportunity to vote on AAUW's Public Policy Priorities, adopted every two years by member vote, establish the federal action issues on which AAUW members across the country focus their advocacy efforts and guide the work of the national AAUW staff. Voting closes at 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 17, 2021. You should have received an email from national AAUW with a link to vote online. All members without an email address on file with the national office should have received a ballot by mail. All members use their member ID number and an assigned voting ID PIN to vote either online or by mail. These security measures will prevent persons from voting more than once. The AAUW bylaws require that the affirmative (yes) vote of two-thirds of the votes cast are required to amend the bylaws. The Public Priorities can be amended with a simple majority of the votes cast. Additionally, the AAUW bylaws require that submitted ballots equal in number to at least five percent of the votes entitled to be cast by members constitute the quorum required for the vote to be counted. For more information contact connect@aauw.org or call 800-326-2289.
- On April 15, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 217 – 210 to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act with bipartisan support. This critical pay equity legislation now goes to the Senate, where AAUW members' vocal support is now needed more than ever. You have heard the statistics – on average, women working full time in the United States are paid just 82% of what men are paid, and the gap is even wider for many women of color. Despite federal and state equal pay laws, the gender pay gap persists. But Congressional action can help change this. The Paycheck Fairness Act would take meaningful steps to update and strengthen the Equal Pay Act of 1963 including closing loopholes that have weakened that law over time, creating more robust remedies for those who suffer discrimination, and preventing employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose their wages. Please consider using the Two Minute Activist tool on the AAUW website to contact our U.S. Senators and urge them to support this legislation.
- The U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights announced on April 6th that it will conduct a comprehensive review of the department's regulations implementing Title IX. This will include gathering public input on the issue of sexual harassment in school environments. It also announced efforts to make it easier for eligible students to get their educational student loans forgiven under the Total and Permanent Disability discharge program.

DIVERSITY Marti Kreps

I said YES to this job last year thinking this is the right amount of responsibility for me in AAUW. I did not expect to have my awareness heightened so much. It seems I am being challenged every day to go beyond my many narrow views of the differences around me. Last month I mentioned the first Principle of Diversity was examining my own attitudes towards diversity.

The second Underlying Principle of Diversity goes beyond race and gender. We exist along many spectrums: young – old, homeless – affluent, immigrant – native, white – black (no persons are these extremes), rural – urban, minimal schooling – graduate degrees, unskilled laborer – corporate professional.

I took the Myers Briggs Personality Test years ago and in examining my results I discovered that I like completion. I didn't realize that everybody else wasn't like me until I had a colleague who liked keeping the options open with lots of ideas. We clashed. She didn't want to miss any possibilities and I just wanted to get it done. At first, I just thought she was wrong! As I learned how to work with her using her best ideas and helping bring them to reality, we both won. We are even diverse in how we process the world.

We are different on so many levels. If we examined each person in our AAUW group, we would find some fascinating differences that make us interesting and unique.

If I can see the differences in people as beautiful and necessary, IF....



PENS

Our PENS writing group continues to meet weekly on Zoom. Our format is to share a piece of writing with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer—we are flexible). We are a supportive group and encourage each other with constructive feedback. We share laughter, sadness, and lively discussions. Our writing pieces have covered diverse topics across all genres. We all have a story to tell . . . and our PENS group is a safe place to share our stories. Whether you are a published writer or trying to start a habit of daily writing, you are welcome to join our group. Our current meeting time/date is 1:00 p.m. on Thursdays. Our schedule will likely change to accommodate the upcoming work for garage sale and book sale. Please email or call Becky Ward with any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

Updates from the State

April has been a busy month for the AAUW Ohio Board. Officers helped organize two regional conferences and began planning for next year.

The Southwest/Central Regional Conference held on April 17 featured Andrea Townsend, Rush Rogers, and a panel who covered Crucial Conversations and Civil Discourse. Some nuggets from those presentations include:

- We need to develop the ability to consider evidence that contradicts our own beliefs.
- Civil discourse is a mutual airing of views without rancor or contest with the goal of working toward understanding.
- Guidelines for civil discourse are respect, disagree, assume the best intentions, discuss issues (not individuals), and clarify.
- Accept that others want to be seen, heard, and valued.

Presenters used ideas from researcher Brene Brown and Adam Grant's book *Think Again*.

Carolyn Smith and Elaine Nishwitz presented a history lesson on the changes in career education in Ohio.

The Zoom conference hosted 32 participants from 9 branches.

At the conclusion of the Southwest/Central Regional Conference, AAUW Ohio president Mickey Radtkin invited all to attend the April 24 Northwest/Northeast virtual conference by saying, "The agenda is completely different!" Virginia Palmer investigated and found their agenda intriguing enough to sign up and it was well worth another Saturday morning.

The first speaker, Kate Neilson, AAUW National Director of Public Policy, gave an overview of AAUW and talked specifically about the public policy agenda. She then discussed three types of advocacy - creative, media (social and traditional), and lobbying - all of which our branch has carried out to some degree. Members can see her entire PowerPoint here: mcusercontent.com/a2af7b5276213851061401500/files/94276228-c0d7-4597-9bb6-de01f370f829/2021_State_Convention_Presentation.pdf.

The second speaker was Toledo branch member Erin Czerniak, who also serves as Public Policy Chair for AAUW Ohio. Her topic was redistricting in Ohio and the training she has received from the League of Women Voters to participate in their speakers bureau. She demonstrated an online community-mapping tool called DistrictR, which you can try out yourself at www.districtr.org.

Forty-five Ohio AAUW members attended the conference.

At the state board meeting on April 26, officers made plans to continue the Coffee and Convos Saturday book club with *The Moment of Lift*, by Melinda Gates on the docket for this summer.

No college offered to host the overnight BeWise Camp this year. The only camps offered are day camps available to students who live near Columbus.

The board is revamping the Ohio AAUW Starz Awards program to avoid confusion with the new national AAUW STARS award. The Ohio Award will be called the AAUW Ohio Model Branch Award. A tentative date of Oct. 16 is set for the Fall Conference, likely to be an online event.

Membership renewal information has been sent.

Awards from State AAUW

Communication Award for Best newsletter and Program Book
Southwest District Winner – Middletown Branch

Outreach to Members and Community through Social Media, Website and Blog
Southwest District Winner – Middletown Branch

Diversity and Inclusion Award
Southwest District Winner – Middletown Branch



Friday & Saturday, June 11 & 12

Friday & Saturday, June 18 & 19

2204 Central Ave. – Middletown, OH

DROP OFF DAYS – Tues., Thurs. and Sat. from 10:00-11:30, starting Thursday, May 13, through Saturday, June 5.

DONATIONS of new/gently used items are needed. Donations **MUST** be clean and in good condition/repair, ready for the sale.

_____ Linens: sheets, towels, pillows, blankets, bedspreads, tablecloths, 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

_____ Decorative items: pictures, vases, wreaths, pottery, lamps

_____ Sport equipment: golf, fishing, tennis, bikes, camping gear

_____ Furniture

_____ Tools of all kinds, 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

PROCEEDS from the sale are used to support the program and mission of the branch which includes local scholarships and the National AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

FOR MORE INFORMATION – Contact Chris: tcbuch@yahoo.com