



Middletown
Newsletter

September 2021

September Program and Meeting

September meeting: Monday, September 13, 2021 6:00p.m.

Marshall High: School Environment Without All the Drama

We will gather to enjoy a pot luck supper and then Melissa Worbis will take us on a tour of the facility and describe the school's unique approach to meeting the learning needs of diverse and at-risk high school students ages 15-21. The school's unique approach is to meet each student needs to succeed and help them chart a path to graduation. The school's flexible school hours, individualized learning plans, and lots of support from caring teachers allow each student to work at their own pace, earning credits towards graduation as quickly as they can or as slowly as they need. In 2020 Marshall High School was recognized for the IMPACT project award for its service for the community. The school has also been recognized by its parent company Oakmont Group as a school of example for several years in a row. Please come and enjoy fellowship with our members and learn about this high school.

Marshall High School; 4720 Roosevelt Blvd; Middletown



65th AAUW Used Book Sale

We have books! They are priced and placed in their categories. We are ready for a sale – the 65th AAUW Used Book Sale. Now we need you to help us straighten up (spines up, better books up on the tables) and work the actual sale.

Hours for the sale are

Thursday, Sept. 9, from 4 to 8 pm (this is our \$5.00 presale),

Friday, Sept. 10, from 10 am to 6 pm,

Saturday, Sept. 11 from 10 am to 4 pm,

Sunday, September 12 from noon to 4 pm (this is our \$8.00 bag sale).

New this year is a half-price bag sale (\$4.00) on Saturday, Sept. 18.

At least 2 hours of time per member would be appreciated. Choose your day and time.

Tina Newlin is the scheduler for sale workers. Please sign up at the book sale site on Tuesday/Thursday/Saturday mornings from 10 until noon up until Thursday, Sept. 9, first day of the sale. You can also contact Tina at 424-1120 to schedule; please leave a message if I cannot get to the phone right away.

Note for 2021-2022 programs: Due to the continued concern with the COVID19 virus please keep up to date with any possible changes in our programming venues. Also, be prepared to wear masks during meetings, in certain locations, it is currently required for everyone to wear masks. Each month's newsletter and reminder event emails will provide the latest updates on changes to our meetings or mask requirements.

Calendar of Events

65th Annual AAUW Book Sale:
September 9, 10, 11, 12, and 18,
2021

Same building as the restaurant
Bandanas (2200 Central Ave.
Middletown, OH)

Monday, September 13, 6pm:
AAUW meeting: Topic: Potluck
meal and presentation: Marshall
High School: Tour the building
and learn more about the school.
Look for the zoom option in
reminder email for the event.
Location: 4720 Roosevelt. Blvd.
Middletown, OH 45044

Thursday, September 16, 7pm:
Joy Luck Book Club Topic:
Women's Poetry Roundtable.
Location: Chris Buchert's house

Tuesday, September 21, 7:30pm
AAUW Board meeting: Via
Zoom

Monday, October 11, 7pm:
AAUW meeting: Topic:
Organizational Inclusiveness
Location: MHS Community
Room: 601 N. Breiel Blvd.
Middletown, OH/or join in on
Zoom

Holiday Bazaar: November 5, 6
and 12, 13: Same location as the
Book Sale
DROP OFF DAYS – Tues., Thurs.,
and Sat from 10:00-11:30
Starting Tuesday, October 12,
through Saturday, October 30



stay connected

aauw.org

aauwoh.org

middletown-oh.aauw.net

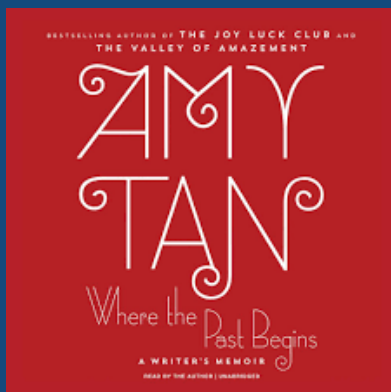
Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, September 16 at 7:00 pm
 Women's Poetry Roundtable
 Chris Buchert's house

For September, please read a female poet of your choice and come prepared to share one of her poems and why you chose her. Whether you pick Emily Dickinson, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Maya Angelou, Dorothy Parker, or try someone new (15 Amazing Lady Poets You Need To Know Right Now) <https://hellogiggles.com/lifestyle/amazing-lady-poets/>, this is a chance to read outside the box.

Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm
 Where The Past Begins – Amy Tan
 Location TBD

In honor of the Joy Luck Book Club's 30th anniversary this October, Virginia Palmer suggested we read this memoir by its author, Amy Tan. Drawing on vivid impressions of her upbringing, Tan investigates the truths and inspirations behind her writing while illuminating how we all explore, confront and process complex memories, especially half-forgotten ones from childhood.



Mel Worbis Middletown Branch President

As we approach the first of our 2021-2022 AAUW programs, I hope that this newsletter finds you well. I hope you all have been able to see family and friends again during this summer! The program committee has put together some exciting meetings. Please know that all meetings will have a zoom option. Two of our winter meetings will be zoom meetings only, as our speakers will be from outside of this area. As we are still living in a pandemic, please keep up with the newsletter and any other contacts, like emails, concerning possible changes to in-person meetings, just in case.

Our first meeting will be a pot-luck dinner at 6pm on Monday, September 13, 2021. We will be visiting Marshall High School (4720 Roosevelt Blvd. Middletown, OH 45044). Marshall High School is a dropout recovery program school. Marshall has just recently added a wing onto the building to hold the career program classes. I will be providing some insight into the school and giving everyone a tour of the building. There will be others from the staff there as well, giving some information about the school. As of September, any person who visits the school must wear a mask. We will also need to use masks when we have our meetings at the Kettering Hospital community room and at Middletown High School. At other times I suggest we wear masks until we are advised differently by the CDC or the State of Ohio.

This summer the board met several times to discuss some changes to our scholarship fund at the Middletown Community Foundation. We wanted to make sure the Community Foundation had a better idea of whom we wanted to receive our scholarships, and we wanted to make sure we had the correct type of account per our non-profit status. We also set up a long-term goal for our organization of trying to grow our fund's principal amount to \$140,000, at which point our scholarship program could be self-sustaining at its current level. This would allow us to keep our scholarships going even if our current fundraising activities don't always continue to be as successful. We currently have \$40,000 in the account. Any donations made directly to the Middletown Community Foundation are tax-deductible. If anyone feels moved to make such donations, please make sure to request that the funds go towards the AAUW scholarship funds.

I want to take a minute to thank those who have recently made donations to our organization for our programming and our scholarships. We as a group thank you from the bottom of our hearts. It is because of members like you that make this group so outstanding.

Talking about fundraising, what a great success the garage sale was this summer! Thank you to everyone who helped in some way with the garage sale. We did an amazing job with the funds raised. Next we have our September Book Sale, and we need everyone to help in some way. Many have helped to prepare for the sale, and we need for others to sign up to work some hours during the actual sale. Make sure to come by and buy books! Thank you to all those who have already helped; the site looks outstanding and filled to the brim. The Holiday Bazaar sale will be in November and will also be for two weekends. We will not be having our preview sale for just AAUW members nor doing the bakery sale. Foods that are sealed will be allowed to be sold. Please reach out to our chair members to see what will be permitted. Again, many thanks to everyone whose contributions make our fundraisers possible!

Update from the State

The Ohio Fall Summit will be held via Zoom on October 16 from 9-12. Speakers will address topics related to this year's theme "Diversity of Membership and Empowerment." Members will register in advance and pay a summit fee of \$10.00 to defray the cost of speakers. Topics discussed to create this year's theme were: the lack of racial and cultural diversity in our branches; the need to attract (and keep as members) representatives of different age groups, cultures, and races; and research that shows members of groups in general are like their leaders. Furthermore, membership and the number of branches are both down. Ohio has 27 branches, maybe 26 if Defiance closes shop.

According to JoAnn Benseler, a scaled-back BeWise Camp for girls was a success for the local girls who were able to attend the day camp. The organization ran two camps, one for 27 girls in 5-6th grade and one for 24 girls in 7-9th grade. Because of Covid-19, plans are still up in the air for next summer's camp. Learn more about the organization and this year's camp at www.BeWiseCamp.org.

On September 8, The Bowling Green Chapter of League of Women Voters and other organizations including AAUW will host a Zoom meeting "Honesty in Education" on House Bills 322 and 327. The bills look to restrain the teaching of some racial issues. The meeting is from 7-8:30 pm. See branch email for more information about the issues and how to register for the public meeting.

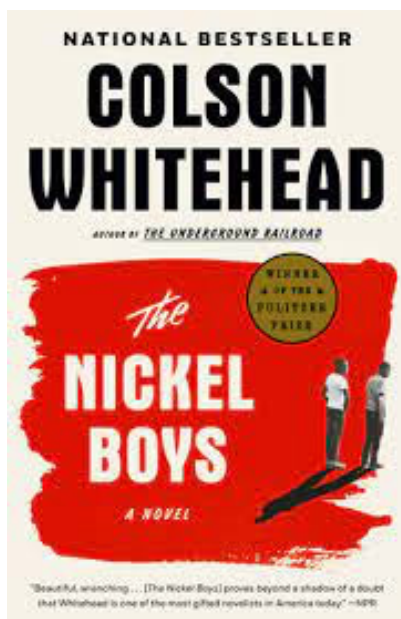
The next Coffee & Convos will be September 18. Leaders Rush Coen, Debbie Wooldridge, and Naykishia Head will lead the discussion of *The Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead.

Very few members voted in last year's vote to expand AAUW membership options. The issue will likely be on the ballot again.

The AAUW Ohio Model Branch Award application forms have been updated and will be emailed soon to branch presidents.

The Spring Conference is scheduled as a one-day event on April 2. At this time, it is planned as an in-person event.

Naykishia Head, State Fundraising Officer, is planning a Pre-Derby Scholarship Gala for Friday, April 29, Covid-19 permitting, of course. More information is forthcoming.



DIVERSITY

Marti Kreps

When you get your program book this fall for AAUW Middletown, you will discover that our theme for this year is Diversity. It was fun to collaborate with the Co-Vice Presidents, Debbie Worbis and Becky Ward as we thought about speakers who would enlighten and challenge us in our desire to embrace diversity for the many values it brings. I did not have the community knowledge they have because they are long time members so I appreciated their many proposed resources. I have appreciated the introduction to the community that programs brought in the past and I know I have more to learn.

This year, we look again at different areas of our educational system with a tour of Marshall High School (September) and information about the immigrants needing Language assistance (November). In October, we'll be doing some activities suggested in a workshop with the National AAUW to help us evaluate our branch as we seek to include newcomers into our group. I really look forward to the Zoom program in January with my daughter who works for a meat packing plant in New London, Wisconsin as the Chaplain. Her stories are insightful and heart wrenching. She's opened me up to empathy for diverse cultural groups. There are other programs equally selected with care so I look forward to this year with AAUW.

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 fictional, 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).

We have returned to in-person gatherings and will follow CDC guidelines during the upcoming year. Our current schedule is to meet weekly on Thursday. Call or email Becky Ward to get updates on dates, times, and locations of meetings: Becky Ward; beckward@gmail.com; 513/424-8409.

HOLIDAY BAZAAR

Friday and Saturday – 9:00-3:00
November 5 & 6 and 12 & 13
2204 Central Ave. – Middletown

DONATIONS of new/gently used holiday items are needed. Donations MUST be clean and in good conditions/repair

___ items that can be re-gifted, new candles, lotions, socks, scarves, gloves, hats, purses, jewelry

___ decorations – trees, wreaths, centerpieces

___ lights, if they work

___ holiday dishes, trays

___ linens – placemats, tablecloths, napkins, towels, pillows winter bed linen

___ greeting/holiday cards, stationary, gift bags, wrapping paper

___ holiday books, games, puzzles, toys

___ handcrafted items – whatever your specialty

DROP OFF DAYS – Tues., Thurs., and Sat from 10:00-11:30 Starting Tuesday, October 12, through Saturday, October 30

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.

SHARE this information with your family, friends, and neighbors to contribute to this event.

INFORMATION – contact Chris: tcbuch@yahoo.com

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

This list is provided to help any members reach out to the correct person in case of any questions, like how to help someone join AAUW.

President:
Mel Worbis

President Elect:
Eleanor Yeager Stewart

Program Co-Chair:
Beck Ward

Program Co-Chair:
Debbie Worbis

Membership Co-Chair:
Mary Millard

Membership Co-Chair:
Jackie Webster

Finance Co-Chair:
Kristen Mulligan

Finance Co-Chair:
Katie DeVilling

Public Policy:
Robin Becker

Communications:
Virginia Palmer

Communications:
Judy Florence

Secretary:
Joyce Triick

Diversity:
Marti Kreps

College University Relations:
Katie McNeil

Scholarship:
Beth Miller

Newsletter Editor:
Suzanne Tadych

AAUW Funds: Chris Buchert

Garage Sale/ Holiday Bazaar
Co-Chair: Chris Buchert

Garage Sale / Holiday Bazaar
Co-chair: Carole Schul

Garage Sale/ Holiday Bazaara
Co-Chair: Rose Grau

Joy Luck Book Club:
Sharon Williamson

PENS: Becky Ward

Book sale Co-Chair: Tina Newlin

Book Sale Co-Chair: Libby Abele

Book Sale Co-Chair:
Sharon Dowden