



Middletown Newsletter

October 2021



DIVERSITY Program and Meeting

Monday, October 11, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
Location: Middletown High School/Cafeteria*

At our October program we will continue our focus on seeking, learning about, and embracing diversity in our lives, our branch, and our community. Our Diversity Chair, Marti Kreps, will offer a program on "Organizational Inclusiveness." Marti will lead us to examine how to become a welcoming branch who seeks inclusiveness and values diversity. Come join our interactive program as we share ideas about how to attract and keep new members and learn ways of working together to welcome new members with diverse perspectives.

**Please note the change in location to the cafeteria and not in the community room as noted in the program booklet.*



Hospitality

Our branch is in need of a member to act as our "Hospitality" chair. The duties are minimal, and could be as simple as putting out a signup sheet at each meeting for members to volunteer to bring refreshments to the next

meeting. Refreshments might include cookies, mixed nuts, grapes, and so on, and one or two choices of drinks. We have a portable cart that holds paper plates, napkins, plastic cups, plastic ware, table covering, and we have a coffee pot. Refreshments for our October meeting will be taken care of by programming co-chairs, but we need someone to plan refreshments for our November, December, March, and April meetings (January/February are Zoom meetings and May is a dinner). Please let Mel (president) or Becky and Debbie (programming) know by the October meeting. Thanks!

Calendar of Events

Thursday, October 7, 1pm -2:30pm and Thursday, October 21, 1pm-2:30pm PENS Writing Group: Meeting at the Gardner Harvey Library @ MUM in study room #110.

Monday, October 11, 7 pm: AAUW meeting: Topic: Organizational Inclusiveness
Location: MHS Community Room: 601 N. Breiel Blvd. Middletown, OH/or join in on Zoom. Meet in the cafeteria and please remember to wear masks.

Thursday, October 21, 7 pm: Joy Luck Book Club Topic: Where The Past Begins – Amy Tan: Virginia Palmer's home and zoom option will also be available.

Tuesday, October 19, 7:30 pm
AAUW Board meeting: Via 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

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.



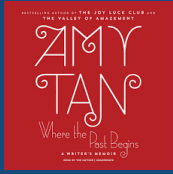
stay connected

aauw.org

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middletown-oh.aauw.net

Joy Luck Book Club



Thursday, October 21 at 7:00 pm
Where The Past Begins – Amy Tan
 Ginny Palmer's home

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.

Thursday, November 18 at 7:00 pm
The Four Winds – Kristin Hannah
 Pam Pearson's home

Suggested by Lynne Rentschler and several others, The Four Winds follows Elsa Wolcott from the Roaring Twenties to the Depression-era Dust Bowl as she makes an agonizing choice between fighting for the land she loves or leaving it behind and go west, to California. The book, which has claimed a place on multiple bestseller lists, is an indelible portrait of America and the American dream, as seen through the eyes of one indomitable woman whose courage and sacrifice will come to define a generation.

Mel Worbis worbismm@gmail.com Middletown Branch President Letter

Hello everyone, I hope you are all ready for the fall weather. Our next meeting is on Monday, Oct. 11, at 7 pm. This event should help us to get to know each other better and to find ways to be more inclusive and inviting to our members. We will be meeting in the cafeteria of Middletown High School, where it is still mandatory to wear a mask. I will provide a Zoom link via email closer to the day of the event for those who wish to join in online.

Thank you again to everyone that helped with the book sale. We had another amazing year, raising over \$6500 for our scholarships. Now it is time to start collecting and dropping off holiday decorations for the Holiday Bazaar. Please check the calendar of events for drop-off and workday information concerning the bazaar. As a side note, the students that helped with boxing up books told me they would be glad to help as needed during the Holiday Bazaar.

Our September event went very well, and I am glad members had the opportunity to see the programs that Marshall High School has to offer. A special thanks to Kelven Moss for speaking with the group. The honorarium funds were put into Marshall's emergency cash fund that Mr. Hall, our principal, uses to help students attend school.

The program books are in, so please email me if you have not received one. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 19, at 7:30 pm via Zoom.

Thank you,
 Mel Worbis

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Chris Buchert AAUW Funds Chair

Our branch contributes to the National AAUW Greatest Needs Fund each year. This fund allows AAUW to respond quickly to critical issues affecting women as they emerge. Some issues that AAUW has addressed are the threat to Title IX or working with the social justice movement such as #MeToo. The Greatest Needs fund also is used for groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other important equity legislation. There are also other AAUW funds but they are restricted to specific needs and cannot be used for anything else. We have chosen to donate to this fund so our contribution is used where it is most needed.

A portion of the money raised at our fund raisers goes to support the AAUW Needs Fund. Our branch \$1000 last year. As individuals some of us have also contributed to this fund. Emails are sent out by National AAUW periodically to solicit donations for the Greatest Needs Fund. If you would like to read more about the Greatest Needs Fund, the Education and Training Fund, the Leadership Fund and the Economic Security Fund, please go to the following link.

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/how-to-support-aauw-through-fundraising/>

HOLIDAY BAZAAR JUST AROUND THE CORNER

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

It is time for the 10th annual holiday bazaar and we need your help to ensure that we have a successful event. **WHAT DO WE NEED?** **INVITE** your family, friends, and neighbors to donate items; as well as attend the event. **DONATIONS** of new/gently used holiday items are needed, we ask that items be clean, in good condition and in working order. (Refer to the Holiday Bazaar flyer for a complete list which you can also find on our website, Facebook page and will be available for you to email) **WORKDAYS** will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 9:00 till noon. Regular workdays will start Tuesday, October 12. This time will be used to price and prepare for the sale. Watch your email for notification of extra time to set up for the sale. **DROP OFF DAYS** will be Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from 10:00-11:30, we invite folks to drop off their donations during this time. This will begin Tuesday, October 12, and end Saturday, October 30. **DAYS OF THE SALE** we will need workers to assist customers, tally up the purchases and keep the merchandise looking great. (Sign up sheets will be available at the branch meeting and at the site.) **BRANCH PREVIEW** will be Thursday, November 4, from 6:00-7:30 PM. We invite you to drop by, look at what we have, purchase if you wish, have a cup of hot wassail, and enjoy a social event. **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. **INFORMATION:** Contact Chris: tcbuch@yahoo.com

PENS

Our AAUW Branch "special interest" writers' group has a new location for meetings: *Gardner Harvey Library (GHL) on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM). We are meeting in study room #110. Our new meeting dates and time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 1:00-2:30 p.m. One thing remains the same: We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to put pen to paper and **WRITE!** Our format is to bring a piece of your own writing to share (verbally) with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). Anyone who has a passion for writing is welcome to join our writers' group. Our next meeting dates: October 7th and 21st. Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409. *GHL follows the safety protocol of wearing masks and staying at a distance of at least six feet.



It's the time of the year! Announcing your Fall Conferences for 2021

Registration is now open! RSVP:

www.aausohiofall2021.eventbrite.com

Theme: Empowerment through an Inclusive Membership

The program includes keynotes speakers and panel discussions.

Keynote Speakers:

Laura Myers, Ohio University's Deputy Chief Strategy and Innovation Officer

Sarah Wyatt, Ohio University's Professor & Director of Molecular & Cellular Biology

Panel Discussion:

Naykishia Darby Head (Moderator, President of AAUW/Bowling Green)

Ramonda Kindle

Shervonne ND

John Zibbel

Empowerment through an Inclusive Membership Is Topic of Fall State Conference

The theme for the October 16 virtual AAUW State Fall Conference is Empowerment through an Inclusive Membership. Keynote speakers, Laura Myers and Sarah Wyatt, both of Ohio University, will address this theme. The theme will be the topic of a panel discussion moderated by Naykishia Darby Head, president of AAUW Bowling Green. This topic is vital to AAUW national and to our own local goals.

Members should sign up for the meeting on the AAUW State website or through the link sent via email. The meeting is 9-12 in the morning with a \$10 registration fee that helps to reimburse speakers.

Named Gift National AAUW Contribution

This is the time to start thinking of who would be a good recipient of our Named Gift National AAUW contribution. Each year our branch sends a donation to the Greatest Needs Fund to honor one or two of our members. We honor a woman(women) who are committed to AAUW and have made a difference in our branch. Look in our program book to see some of our past recipients. Send in one or two names along with why you think the member should be honored this year to Chris Buchert tcbuch@yahoo.com. Please send in names by October 11.

A.A.U.W. MIDDLETOWN HOLIDAY BAZAAR

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

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

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

- _____ items that can be regifted, 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

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



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 Trick

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