



Middletown
Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2021

**DIVERSITY
Program and Meeting**

Monday, November 8, 2021, 7pm
Location: Middletown High School/Community Room

In keeping with this year's focus on the theme of diversity, the program for our November meeting is titled "Newcomers Bring Diversity" and will take place on Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7 pm. So far we still expect to meet in the Middletown High School Community Room at 601 N. Breiel Blvd. Our speaker will be Dani Ortega, who came to Middletown as a newcomer from Colombia. Dani is currently the coordinator of Middletown City Schools' ESL (English as a Second Language) program, and she will speak to us about this program and her work with the Hispanic community here.

If you are especially interested in the topics of English language learners, refugees, and immigration, I would highly recommend the non-fiction book *The Newcomers*, by Helen Thorpe. She writes about the lives of 22 teenagers from different countries around the world who find themselves together in a beginner-level English acquisition class at South High School in Denver, Colorado. Their stories provide a close look at the many difficulties that these newcomers and their families face as they try to survive and adapt to their new lives in the United States.

Holiday Bazaar



Are you ready for the Holiday Sale? The sale is fast approaching Friday, November 5, Saturday, November 6, with a half-price sale Friday, November 12 and Saturday, November 13. If you have not signed up to work, please email Chris at tcbuch@yahoo.com.

Remember 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.

Branch Preview of Holiday Sale

Come to a special branch preview and social time Thursday evening, November 4 from 6-7:30. You are invited to drop by, look at what we have, purchase if you wish, have a cup of hot wassail, and enjoy a social event.

Calendar of Events

Holiday Bazaar Pre-View Sale:
Thursday, November 4, 6pm-7:30pm: Come enjoy previewing the sale and opportunity to socialize with members, and shopping for the holidays.

Holiday Bazaar: November 5, 6, 12, 13, 9am – 3pm: 2204 Central Ave. Second weekend is the half off price weekend. Please reach out to Chris to sign up to help.

PENS: November 4 & 18
1-2:30pm: Gardner Harvey Library room 110. If attending in person, please wear masks.

Monday, November, 7 pm:
AAUW meeting: Topic:
Newcomers Bring Diversity
Location: MHS Community Room: 601 N. Breiel Blvd. Middletown, OH/or join in on Zoom. If attending in person, please remember to wear masks.

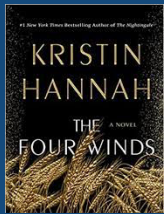
Tuesday, November 16, 7:30 pm AAUW Board meeting: Via Zoom – Newsletter material sent to Mel by Friday night, November 20.

Thursday, November 18, 7 pm:
Joy Luck Book Club Topic: *The Four Winds* by Kirstin Hannah: Pam Pearson's home. Zoom link also be available.

Thursday, December 16, 7 pm:
Joy Luck Book Club Topic: *I was Told it Would Get Easier* by Abbie Waxman

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.

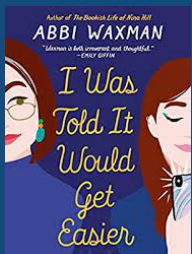
Joy Luck Book Club



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.

Thursday, December 16 at 7:00 pm
I Was Told It Would Get Easier –
Abbi Waxman



Need host

You asked for it: a funny, upbeat book. Here it is, just in time for the holidays. You'll enjoy reading

about this mother-daughter duo from L.A., as they go on a carefully mapped-out tour of East Coast colleges with a bus full of strangers, meeting up with family and old friends along the way. Surprises and secrets threaten their relationship and, in the end, change it forever. It's a heart-warming, laugh-out-loud funny book for anyone who's ever been a mom, gone to college or talked to a teenager.

Mel Worbis worbismm@gmail.com **Middletown Branch President Letter**

As we enter November make sure to find some time to participate with the Holiday Bazaar, to stop by and shop on the preview night. Please reach out to Chris to sign up for times to help with the sale if you haven't had a chance yet.

Our October meeting was a great time of getting to know our members better to finding out ways we are similar and different from each other. A great way to start the discussion of how do we approach our strategies of inviting and including new members into our group.

Our November meeting, "Newcomers Bring Diversity," sounds interesting to be able to learn more about the students and community members from other countries and how these individuals work to be productive members of our community. Please remember that Middletown High school is a location where masks are still required for all visitors.

AAUW National has hired a new CEO, Gloria Blackwell who has been part of the organization for 17 years. The majority of her work as been in helping to manage, "fellowships and grants program, which awarded more than \$70 million to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and overseas," as stated in the national AAUW newsletter. Be on the lookout for more information on the virtual celebration of AAUW's 140 anniversary special, the date for the event is November 17, 2021.

A reminder for all, please make sure to vote during the general elections on November 2, 2021.

Sincerely,
 Mel Worbis

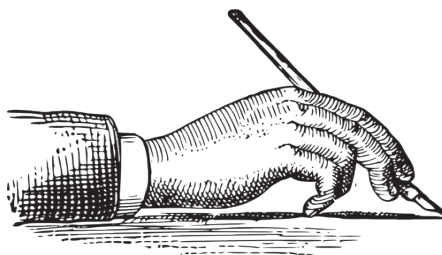
PENS

Last month we announced that our AAUW Branch "special interest" writers' group has a new location for meetings: study room #110 at

*Gardner Harvey Library (GHL) on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM). Meeting dates and time: 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 1:00-2:30 p.m. We are pleased to announce that we are now able to offer the PENS meetings on Zoom. Thanks to Carolyn Smith for setting this up at GHL! Our format is to bring a piece of your own writing to share (verbally) with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). Call or email

Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

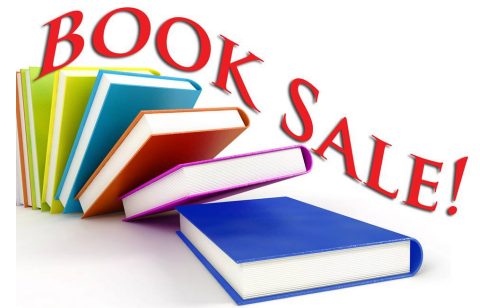
*GHL follows the safety protocol of wearing masks and staying at a distance of at least six feet.



Book Sale a Success

Many thanks to all who made our 65th used book sale a success! In all, at least 44 of our 64 members participated by collecting, sorting, pricing, placing and selling books this year. Our proceeds of \$7,000.+ will allow us to cover our 4- \$1,000 high school scholarships and to be able to award grants to Miami University-Middletown students, Cincinnati State-Middletown students and Be Wise campers. What a thrill to have one of our former scholarship winners, Kelly Robinson, come in to shop at our sale and support our efforts.

We have cooperated with several individuals and organizations in order to disperse books after the sale – Head Start, Love Packages, Atrium Medical Center/Behavioral Health Center, Middletown Police Department/Jail, Sue Wittman/art books, Sam Ashwoth/area yearbooks and items of regional interest, Pam Roark/Bible ministry, Bonnie Thompson/Springboro Coffman YMCA, Debbie Worbis/Crawford Woods Elementary School in Hamilton, Rosa Parks Elementary School/Middletown, One Way Farm and several Goodwill locations. They have helped us and we have helped them. We are very thankful for the new assistance from Marshall High School in boxing up and moving out. Now on to the next project!



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 Keps

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 Bazaaar
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

News from the Ohio Fall Summit

Becky Ward and Carolyn Smith represented Middletown AAUW at the State Fall Summit, a virtual event held October 16th. Forty-one state members signed into the meeting which hosted two speakers and a panel focused on encouraging diverse membership.

Laura Myers, a professor at the Ohio State University North College of Law, opened the session with a motivational presentation: *Metaphors and Sources of Resilience*. She encouraged attendees to be literally and metaphorically grounded to help us move forward in our lives. She shared her own metaphor of a tree as she has gone through various stages of her life and the mottos that have helped her move forward. Her motto now is “When you are lost, climb a tree. Perspective is everything.”

Dr. Sarah Wyatt, a molecular biologist and professor at Ohio State University, shared the workings of The Wyatt Lab and Science Café programs she uses in her outreach to K-12 to foster inclusion of women in science. Her lab runs one of the nine nationwide AAUW Tech Savvy programs, offering to elementary girls programs such as Crime Scene Investigation, DNA Decoding, Bridge Building, and River Restoration.

Naykisha Darby Head led the panel discussing diversity. Dr. John Zibbil, a member of Ohio AAUW, reminded us that women’s issues are societal issues. “It is important for men to listen,” he said.

Shevonne Nelson Gillingham, a cultural workshop trainer gave advice for branches. Among her ideas were to remember that “Money is good, but it is not enough.” Members need to get comfortable with the uncomfortable and ask the hard questions to be able to foster diversity and inclusion.

Romonda Kindle of the University of Michigan taught the group about the needs of BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color). They are the product of systemic injustice. They want to share of themselves. They want organizations that allow them to be true to themselves and who partner with other organization that respect them. They want to join groups where they can find others who are like themselves.

Ohio AAUW President, Mickey Radkin, reminded us to follow the Ohio AAUW Facebook page and message Mickey or Nina there with questions or suggestions. She also reviewed the national website.

Public Policy Chair, Erin Czerniak encouraged members to make an account at MyOhioLegislature to keep track of bills before the Ohio legislature. She offered kudos to the two cities in Ohio that prevent employers from asking about previous salaries—Toledo and Cincinnati. This is a step toward closing the gender wage gap.

At this time, the plan for the State AAUW spring meeting is an in-person conference.