

## Scientific Literacy: Quality Science Education



Dr. Susan A. S. Hershberger,  
Center for Chemical Education, Miami University - Middletown

Our next branch program and meeting will be held on November 9, at 7pm. The location this month is 100 Levey Hall on the Miami University-Middletown campus. Our featured speaker for this month is Dr. Susan A. S. Hershberger, Director for the

Center for Chemical Education at MUM.

After earning a doctorate in organometallic chemistry from Iowa State University, Susan Hershberger has been involved in various chemistry research and chemical education projects at Iowa State University, Indiana University, the University of Minnesota, and Miami University. Her long association with the Miami University Center for Chemistry Education (CCE) began in 1989 when she directed Chemistry Camp, a week of chemistry laboratory experience for middle school students. With CCE, she has developed and taught numerous courses and workshops for teachers of preschool through college and has co-authored teacher resource materials. In addition to her continuing efforts with CCE, she has also taught general and organic chemistry courses at Miami.

## Spend an Evening Volunteering at Light Up Middletown

Help us to earn money for the Legal Advocacy Fund, as well as for our local branch by volunteering to help at the gate of Light Up Middletown, December 18-December 24. All we ask is for two

hours of your time. Remember we will earn \$420.00 plus a bit more since we do Christmas Eve as well. We still need more volunteers and some backup people for anyone who can't fulfill the time slots. Your help would be appreciated. Please contact Betty Elworth by phone or by email.



Dr. Vonnie Bittikofer  
PhD, LPCC, LICDC  
Speaker at the October branch  
program at Atrium Medical Center

## Calendar of Events

Tuesdays, November 3, 10, 17, 24  
Book Sorting 10-12 Lunch following  
Book Sale Site Towne Mall

Thursday, November 5, 7:00pm  
Board Meeting  
Chris Buchert's Home

Monday, November 9, 7:00pm  
Branch Meeting and Program  
Speaker: Dr. Susan Hershberger  
100 Levey Hall, MUM campus

Tuesday, November 10, 9:00am  
Daytime Book Club  
*Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John  
Kelly Valen's Home

Tuesday, November 17, 7:00pm  
Voluntary Simplicity  
Topic: Holiday Reflection  
Rose Grau's Home

Thursday, November 19, 7:00pm  
Joy Luck Book Club  
*Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of  
Food Life*, by Barbara Kingsolver  
Pam Pearson's Home

Monday, November 30, 7:00pm  
Financial Interest Group  
Topic: Annuities  
Chris Buchert's Home

## What about BOB?

Don't forget to "Bring Our Books" to the next Board Meeting or Branch Meeting! A "Bag Of Books" from each member goes a long way...

## Put on Your Walking Shoes

Attention all you walkers and those interested in walking:

Four of us have already had a pleasant walk and chat at Smith Park. We plan on meeting each Wednesday at 10:00 at the front entrance of Smith Park. Call Betty Elworth or email her if you'd like to join us. We don't break any speed records but do enjoy the beautiful fall weather and a relaxed walk with one another.



## President's Corner Reflections from Chris Buchert

As Thanksgiving approaches I have been reflecting on our summer and fall of AAUW happenings. Thank you all for an uplifting fall.

I am thankful for.....

- All our AAUW members
- Members who bring books, pick up books, pass out bookmarks, and sort and price books
- Members with creative ideas such as walking in the Flying Pig Marathon, designing a Facebook page, interesting trips and holding an Ice Cream Social membership event
- Members who attend Branch meetings, board meetings and interest groups
- New members who are learning about AAUW
- Lebanon-Mason Branch members who help with Book Sale preparations
- Members enjoying each other's company at Branch meetings
- Members building friendships with other interesting women
- Members who care about each other
- Members and friends who read our fantastic newsletter

## New Member News

**Name:** Marianne Zsiska

**Education:** Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from Oldenburg, Germany

**Occupation:** Sen. Scientist at P&G Oral Care in R&D

**Family:** Husband Steve – he is an Electrical Engineer and works at Wright Patterson Airforce Base. No children. The rest of my family lives in Germany.

**Pets:** Two cats "Alice and Mabel"

**The last book I read was....** Peter Tremayne's Irish Sister Fidelma Mystery "The Leper's Bell"

**On a lazy Saturday, you can find me...**in bed reading mystery books

**My favorite quote is...**don't really have 'a' favorite quote but I love Yogi Berra's quotes: When you come to a fork in the road, take it

**If time and money were no object, I would like to...**split my time between a) working in a Cellbiology lab at a University and learning cutting edge molecular biology and b) scubadiuving and travelling the world

**I joined AAUW because....**I believe that a good education is important for a productive and fulfilled (and gainfully employed!) life and that women and minorities still are not equally represented in the workplace, esp. in the hard sciences.



## Help kids, help schools, help your branch

Interested in how you can advocate for education, energize your branch, and make money? Would you like to raise the Ohio graduation rate and access to advanced training? One branch project is doing all this and now you can help pass it on and saturate Ohio.

AAUW Ohio's Making History Project is the ultimate in advocacy and public policy. Last year every participating branch increased its membership, and every participating school district raised its social studies test scores. Since 2007 when The New Little Book (NLB) was published, school districts that bought books for their students increased their passage rates an average of 17 percentage points – some by as much as 26 percentage points. This project is helping kids pass the Ohio Graduation Test, the five-part test every student must pass to graduate from high school.

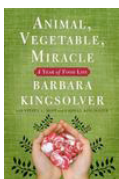
The study guide is ready for you to use. It was written by AAUW branch members and Cleveland area teachers. It only needs wider distribution. You contact your community's parents and schools – teachers, curriculum director, or social studies coordinator – to make them aware of the study guide and its success in the 14 districts that have used it. If your district is doing well, you can help by visiting a neighboring district where students need help or offer the NLB as a great aid to use to tutor kids who have failed. Take the book to the school and let the curriculum director or teacher review it.

Do you need a book? Each branch received a copy of the NLB and a packet about how to participate in the project. Branch members who have read the NLB said, "It reads like a novel, this is fun." An intervention teacher said, "The NLB is well-written. I use it to teach both social studies and writing." If you cannot locate your branch copy, contact one of the coordinators.

Latch on to this successful project for your own branch. Email a project coordinator at [info@newlittlebook.org](mailto:info@newlittlebook.org) or leave a voicemail message at 216-556-4968. Visit our website, [www.newlittlebook.org](http://www.newlittlebook.org), for downloadable book samples, a brochure, evaluations, talking points and more. Coordinators can also help you find a school system in your area that needs this book.

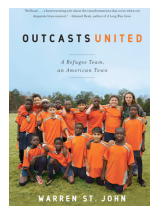
The Ohio's Making History Project is the statewide effort sponsored by AAUW Ohio, building on the New Little Book project of the Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch. We also can provide sample press releases for you to use to gain visibility and new members for your branch.

## Joy Luck & Daytime Book Clubs



Thursday, November 19, 7pm: *Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life*, by Barbara Kingsolver at Pam Pearson's home

Tuesday, November 10, 9am  
*Outcasts United*, by Warren St. John at Kelly Valen's home



## What AAUW is....

We are beginning a new column so members can describe what AAUW means to them.



By Ginny Palmer

At the risk of sounding overly dramatic, I think it's safe to say that I would never have moved here if not for Middletown AAUW. In

the late 1950s the branch was very involved in local initiatives that resulted in the establishment of Miami University Extension Campus in Middletown. When I was finishing my Master's in Library Science at The University of Michigan in 1973, I applied for library jobs at colleges and universities all over the country, including Miami University in Oxford. After receiving the "thanks, but no thanks, we'll keep your resume on file" letter, I forgot all about Miami and continued my job search at the American Library Association Conference in Las Vegas. I was contacted there by someone unknown to me - Virginia Brown, head librarian at Miami University-Middletown. She was looking to hire a new public services librarian and had asked Oxford for any resumes they had on file. She hired me several weeks later and, upon her retirement, I became MUM's library director in 1979.

Unfortunately, I was not smart enough to join AAUW right away. It wasn't until late 1980, when Clare Easton finally convinced me to become a member, that I joined and attended my first meeting. The membership recruitment lessons here are 1) personal invitations are THE way to attract new members, and, 2) never, ever, give up on someone you think is a good potential member. Clare persisted for 7 years!

In my 29 years as a Middletown branch member, I've been president, program vice-president (twice), membership vice-president (also twice), and since 1992, coordinator of the Joy Luck Club Book Discussion Group. I was proud to represent the branch on the State board as SW District Coordinator and Program Vice-President. Now, in retirement, I'm enjoying reconnecting with my friends in the local branch by helping with the booksale and the program committee, and continuing with the Joy Luck Club.

**VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY**

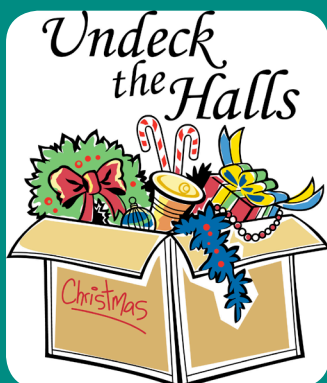
**Holiday Reflections**

On Tuesday, November 17, please join the Voluntary Simplicity Group in the annual Holiday card preparation. In the past, they have gotten a head start on addressing their Christmas cards for the season. They also would like for you to bring some Holiday Reflections to share with the group to set the mood for the upcoming holidays.



**Clean out those closets**

It's inevitable that we will all get some lovely new things during the holidays, let's make sure we have room for them. Now would be a great time to look through the closet (and other areas for that matter) and clear any clutter. Put your finds to the side for our annual garage sale and it will be sure to be a success yet again this year.



**AAUW Minute**

A new column to help members learn (or remember) fast facts about AAUW...in 60 seconds or less.

**Special this month – AAUW Member Wins Nobel Prize**



According to a press release from AAUW...

AAUW celebrates Carol Greider, AAUW member-at-large and winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine along with her two colleagues, Elizabeth Blackburn and Jack Szostak. Greider has been a member of AAUW since 2002.

Greider, Blackburn, and Szostak "discovered that telomeres are made up of simple, repeating blocks of DNA building blocks and are found in all organisms," according to a Johns Hopkins University announcement. Understanding this biological process has paved the way to deeper knowledge of cancer and cellular aging.

"AAUW has a long history of supporting women in the sciences, and we are thrilled to count another Nobel Prize winner among our ranks," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. In 1920, AAUW awarded two-time Nobel Prize recipient Marie Curie a grant to assist with her groundbreaking research on radium. AAUW member Greg Mortenson, author of Three Cups of Tea, was nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize for his work supporting education for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Greider, who holds a doctorate in molecular biology from the University of California, Berkeley, currently works as the Daniel Nathans Professor and Director of Molecular Biology and Genetics at the Johns Hopkins Institute for Basic Biomedical Sciences. She, Blackburn, and Szostak will attend the Nobel Prize awards ceremony in Stockholm, Sweden, on December 10.

"Greider and Blackburn have shown that women can break through barriers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics," said AAUW President Carolyn H. Garfein. "Their accomplishment serves as an excellent example of women making valuable contributions and the need that exists for supporting and encouraging great female minds, as AAUW does with our fellowships, grants, and community of successful women."



## **A Woman's Nation – The Shriver Report**

AAUW provided research and support for the recently published Shriver Report. The complete report can be found at [www.awomansnation.com](http://www.awomansnation.com).

From the website, "For the first time in our history, half of all U.S. workers are women. Mothers are the primary breadwinners or co-breadwinners in nearly two-thirds of American families.

And that changes everything.

Not just for women but also for men. For families. For bosses. For co-workers. For our society.

The battle of the sexes is over. Men and woman overwhelmingly agree on what they want in life, and how they view their roles in marriage, as parents, and in their jobs.

This is a permanent change in our culture. The trend line of women workers rises in the future because the jobs women are most likely to hold are expected to increase compared to men's.

There's far more occurring here than simply a change in workplace demographics. This is a social transformation affecting nearly every aspect of our lives – how we work, how we play and how we care for one another.

For more than one year, Maria Shriver and the Center for American Progress explored this transformation of the way Americans live and work. A transformation difficult to imagine a generation ago when Shriver's uncle, President John F. Kennedy, created the first Commission on the Status of Women in 1961 and named Eleanor Roosevelt as its chair.

Roosevelt would be pleased – and proud -- to know that the footprint of today's American worker is as likely to be a heel as a boot. And she would likely enthusiastically embrace the effect that sea change has had on America.

Included here is research by leading authorities on working families and the United States labor market, government, business, media and faith. The findings combine the work of academics, economists and pollsters with a collection of diverse essays from famous and less well-known Americans as well as on-the-ground reporting from around the country.

Among the findings, is what often happens in the face of sweeping change: Some of our institutions lag behind and don't yet reflect this new dynamic. Government, business, the media and our faith communities, in many cases, still cling to outdated models of who works and who cares for our families.

For example, men now agree with women that government and business need to provide flexible work schedules, better childcare, family and medical leave and equal pay.

And over 80 percent of men and women agree businesses that fail to adapt to the needs of modern families risk losing good workers.

Only by examining this fundamental shift in how Americans live and do business -- and acknowledging the profound changes it has wrought -- can we grow and flourish.

Let the conversation begin."



# Mission

*AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.*

# Vision

*AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.*

# Value Promise

*As a member of AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance*

# Contact Information

**Association:** AAUW Member Helpline: 800-821-4364

Website: <http://www.aauw.org>

**AAUW/Ohio:** Administrative Office: 800-910-7075

Website: <http://www.aauwoh.org>

## **Middletown Branch:**

President: Chris Buchert 424-5458

Membership Vice President: Sharon Dowden 424-1363

Co-Program Vice Presidents: Anita Shew 424-4734

Suzy Tadych 727-1420

Website: [www.orgsites.com/oh/middletown-aauw](http://www.orgsites.com/oh/middletown-aauw)

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