

Middfest Speaker begins Program Year Kathy Wilson Co-Program Vice-President

Monday, September 8
Potluck Dinner 6:00pm
Program Speaker 7:00pm
Springhills Middletown

We are excited about a new program year! We will kick off our programs with our annual Middfest meeting. Please join us for a potluck dinner on Monday, September 8 at Spring Hills retirement community. Spring Hills is located near Meijer on the corner of Towne Boulevard and Dixie Highway. We will have dinner at 6:00 p.m. Please email **Becky Ward** at beckward@gmail.com and let her know if you will come to the dinner, and what you will be bringing. At 7:00 p.m., Walter Leap, Middfest co-chair, will speak to us about this year's activities centered on Mongolia. He will tell us about the "behind the scenes" planning for this year and the entertainment that we can expect to see when we visit Middfest. We hope to see you all at Spring Hills to enjoy our program and to catch up with each other after a long summer!

In October we will have a special self-defense program at Middletown Library on Thursday, October 16 at 7:00 p.m. Sarah Haas, a self defense instructor, will teach us some basic moves and personal safety. Every one of us could benefit from this important information. That evening we will be taking a collection of personal care supplies for the Women's Shelter in Middletown. Items could include basic toiletry items, such as deodorant, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. We will deliver these items to the shelter via a representative from the Middletown Community Foundation. We look forward to seeing you all at our fall programs.

AAUW Membership

Sharon Kestermann Membership Vice-President

As we start another year, the AAUW Middletown branch has 36 continuing members and 2 new members. Please join me in welcoming Virginia Ritan and Mary Galdeen to the branch. Our goal is to increase our membership to 45 members this year. Your help is needed to reach and exceed this goal. We have some exciting programs slated for this year. Be sure to invite a friend along for the programs so they see what a wonderful organization we are a part of.



Calendar of Events

Thursday, September 4, 9:00am
Daytime Book Club

Tender at the Bone
by Ruth Reichl
Vicki Frazer's Home
113 Euclid Street, Middletown

Monday, September 8
Potluck Dinner 6:00pm
Program Speaker 7:00pm
Spring Hills Middletown
3851 Towne Blvd. (by Meijer)

Thursday, September 18, 7:00pm
Joy Luck Book Club

The Collected Stories of Katherine Anne Porter
by Katherine Anne Porter
Pam Pearson's Home
4409 Brandon Lane, Middletown

Tuesday, September 23, 7:00pm
Board Meeting

Anita Shew's Home
409 Curryer Road, Middletown

Tuesday, September 30, 7:00pm
Voluntary Simplicity

Becky Ward's Home
149 Kensington St., Middletown

Thursday, October 16, 7:00pm
Self Defense Speaker, Sarah Haas

Middletown Public Library
Community Room

SAVE THE DATE
2009 AAUW National Convention
June 26-28, 2009 St. Louis, Missouri





by Melissa Worbis

The summer AAUW event was to the Cincinnati Union Terminal Museum to see the exhibition on 20 African American women who have had a hand in fighting for civil rights. These women dated back to the 19th century; some were writers, lawyers, congresswomen, civil rights leaders, teachers, and journalists. All of these had an effect on how changes in civil liberties have occurred. At the first meeting of the year I will have a book of leaflets on those women, and you who are interested may read more there.

Some of us also went to the IMAX movie on the human body and the ways our bodies work during our daily routines, as well as when forming a new being. I must say as a woman who has never experienced that yet, I am in awe of all you women who have gone through the miracle of giving birth.

We also explored the history section of the Cincinnati Museum and were taken back into time to see how each new group that has immigrated to the area has at one time been treated unfairly but has eventually helped make Cincinnati the culturally rich city that it is.

From the museum we went to lunch at Suellyn's house in the Price Hill area. What a breath taking view! Her house is beautiful and the neighborhood's effort to rebuild and its commitment to Permaculture is very interesting to observe. To understand more about this movement, you can visit this website <http://attra.ncat.org/attra-pub/perma.html>, and you can ask Suellyn for more details.

From the President's Pen



Hello fellow women of AAUW! I want to start the year with a quick note to get all of you motivated for a great year with Middletown's branch of AAUW. We have such a creative and energetic board this year that I can't help but be excited about this year's programs, fundraisers, and outreach to the community. In fact we have one project idea that encompasses all of these that we will discuss with you at the

first meeting in September. I encourage and challenge every one of you to become involved in at least one program, project, or committee this year. The only way to keep our branch vital and growing is for its members to put forth personal effort. Please make an attempt to attend as many programs and meetings as possible, and make that phone call to board members or committee chairs to volunteer your time. I'll see you in September!

Kelly Valen

Summer Olympics - Melissa Worbis

What an incredible two weeks it has been! The 2008 Olympics have certainly been thrilling to watch, with many wonderful views of China and modern Chinese culture. As always there is never a dull moment. As I write this the Olympics aren't over yet, and while I know this is mainly a women's organization, we must give a round of applause to Michael Phelps for his 8 Gold medals! Did you that women were first allowed to compete in modern Olympic Games in 1912? In the ancient Olympic Games, women were forbidden to participate or even watch, but they had their own similar version called the Heraea. (<http://www.answers.com/topic/olympic-games>)

In the 2008 games women have played a vital role in many countries' medal counts. For example, Natalie Coughlin has earned six medals in swimming, and Nastia Liukin has won five medals in gymnastics, both for the United States. In China it seems that the men may have a slight margin over the number of gold medals won, but the women have contributed greatly to their overall medal count. Many of their exemplary athletes have competed in diving and in gymnastics. In gymnastics, for example, they have won a total of 17 medals compared to the United States 10. In women's gymnastics they won the women's all around competition and also done well on the trampoline. (<http://sports.yahoo.com/olympics/beijing>)

Dara Torres is an amazing female athlete who has overcome what some believe is a handicap, her age. At age 41 she earned 3 silver medals in swimming in Beijing, but she isn't the oldest Olympian competing. Japanese Equestrian Hiroshi Hoketsu is competing in Dressage. In fact for the United States the oldest athlete is John Dane, a sailor, at 58, and there are 17 competitors from all over the world over the age of 40 competing in these Olympics. (www.regardinghorses.com/2008/07/07/235/, <http://dailyrunningtips.com/inspiring-stories/sailor-john-dane-oldest-american-athlete-in-beijing-olympics/>)

Finance report August 2008

Katie McNeil - Treasurer

A donation of \$25 was made to the AAUW Educational Foundation in memory of long time member, former Branch President, **Shirley Willis**.

Association and state membership dues were paid for 37 members.

2008 Booksale profits distribution:

- Middletown Community Foundation: \$2250.00 for recent high school graduate University scholarships
- \$1500.00 will be sent to the AAUW Educational Foundation the end of year
- \$500 to Mason Branch AAUW for their booksale help. This will be given to the AAUW Foundation
- remaining monies will be used for 2009 Booksale start up expenses

2008 garage sale profits distribution:

- Middletown Community Foundation: \$1200 for two (2) non-traditional student University scholarships
- Middletown City Schools Adult Education program: \$500.00 for a new brochure advertising the programs available
- remaining monies will be put into Branch convention fund (St. Louis next June 28)

\$30 was paid toward the cost for attendance to the State AAUW leadership conference –**Sharon Kesterman, Kathy Wilson, Katie McNeil** attended at Ohio Wesleyan on Aug. 16.

Debbie Wordis and I met with the Executive Director of the Middletown Community Foundation regarding the scholarships. The Middletown Branch AAUW fund now has interest enough to pay for one high school scholarship. Please help promote student application for the AAUW scholarships available. Applications are on line with the Middletown Community Foundation.

I have 8 AAUW teal T-shirts left for sale at \$9.00 each. They are very comfortable and invite questions about AAUW. I also have the remaining Women In Middletown books. (\$5.00)

New Scholarship Recipients Selected

Middletown Community Foundation has selected two recipients for our 2008 AAUW Adult Scholarships. Our first scholarship winner is Lorna Tucker, a nursing student, and our other Adult Scholarship winner is Kelly Spurlock, who is studying Computer Science. Congratulations go out to both of these ladies. We hope that both will join us for the end of the year scholarship dinner in May of 2009.

Garage Sale 2008

Rose Grau

A successful garage sale was held at 4312 Walton Court on Friday and Saturday, June 6 and 7. Twenty-six members of the branch contributed to the sale by donating items and/or working. The Voluntary Simplicity group met on Tuesday before the sale and helped with the sorting, pricing and cleaning items for the sale. The tornado siren called the meeting to a close.

The left over clothing items were donated to the clothing depot at the First United Methodist Church. The remaining items were picked up by the Meander Thrift Store which provides support for Abilities First.

The proceeds were \$1,400.00 and was designated to be used for a non-traditional scholarship. If there are funds over and above the scholarship amount, I suggest we consider supporting Rose Marie Stiehl and the GED program. We have provided her with funds in the past and she is most appreciative.

Thanks to everyone who helped with the sale. The challenges of the sale were handled without a problem. We had a malfunctioning door knob which caused for rerouting the customer traffic. Betty Jo and Kathy handled the "squabbling" customers who both wanted the 25 cent plastic file boxes.



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: Kelly Valen 425-9202

Membership Vice President: Sharon Kestermann 539-8175

Co-Program Vice Presidents: Kathy Wilson 423-6193

Suzy Tadych 727-1420

Website: www.orgsites.com/oh/middletown-aauw