



Middletown Newsletter

MARCH 2022

Program Note: Members will be sent a Zoom invitation through emails. Non-members who wish to join the Zoom meetings should contact Mel Worbis at worbismm@gmail.com to receive the link.



Women as Entrepreneurs

Monday, March 14, 2022, 7:00 p.m.
Kettering Health Network Community
Room

Our March 14 meeting focuses on “Women as Entrepreneurs”, and our speaker will be entrepreneur Ami Vitori describing her experience in that role. A 1991 graduate of

Middletown High School and mother of three boys, Ami brings over 20 years of success in the financial, entertainment, non-profit, and communications arenas. After living in big cities like Washington, D.C., New York, and Los Angeles, she decided to move back to Middletown to be closer to her family. In 2016 she purchased the Torchlight Pass building, once the home of J.C. Penney’s, on Central Avenue. She became involved in the downtown revitalization efforts and after much renovation work, opened the restaurant Gracie’s and then Vitori’s Market, honoring local family traditions.

We look forward to learning more about Ami’s entrepreneurial endeavors in Middletown at 7 pm on Monday, March 14, when we will meet in the Community Room of the Kettering Health Network at 6147 S.R. 122, Middletown 45005. We will continue to offer the ZOOM option for those unable to attend in person.

National Level Webinar Series

AAUW National level webinar series event for this month: Presented by AAUW’s Inclusion and Equity Committee invites you to participate in a virtual webinar series,

Time: Mar 24, 2022 07:00 PM

Topic: Intersectionality Identified

Description: By understanding the dimensions of diversity and how they intersect, we can begin to understand the complex and cumulative impact of discrimination and oppression. In this webinar, participants will learn about intersectionality as well as how to create branch or state programming for members on this concept.

Calendar of Events

Thursday, March 3, and 17, 1-2:30 pm: PENS: Zoom meeting please reach out to Becky Ward call or email her for the zoom information.

Monday, March 14, 7 pm:
AAUW meeting: Topic: Women as Entrepreneurs Presenter: Ami Vitori, Location: Kettering Medical Center; 6147 OH-122; Middletown/or join in on Zoom. If attending in person, please remember to wear masks.

Wednesday, March 16, 3 pm:
Representative Warren Davidson community meeting in the courtroom of Fairfield Township Administrative Building 6032 Morris Rd. Hamilton, OH 45011.

Thursday, March 17, 7 pm: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towles Host: Nita Driscoll’s home (depending state of the pandemic) and zoom link will be provided in a separate email.

Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 pm:
AAUW Board Meeting on zoom.

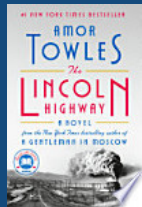
Friday, March 26: Articles for April newsletter are due to Mel. Please email her @ worbismm@gmail.com

April 1-2, 2022: AAUW State Convention: Zoom meeting or in person on Saturday option. Please sign up and learn more about the meeting. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-aauw-state-convention-tickets-263769119537> or visit www.aauw-oh.aauw.net to get to the link for the state convention information.

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, March 17 at 7:00 pm
The Lincoln Highway – Amor Towles
 Nita Driscoll's home



Billed as an exhilarating ride through Americana, this third novel of Towles is a multilayered tale of misadventure and self-discovery, populated

by an eclectic cast of characters, from drifters who make their home riding the rails and larger-than-life vaudevillians to the aristocrats of the Upper East Side. It's packed with revelations about the American myth, the art of storytelling, and the unrelenting pull of history...and has been very popular among several of our club members.

Mel Worbis worbismm@gmail.com Middletown Branch President's Letter

Happy March everyone! It is Women's History Month and our upcoming meeting will be focused on women as entrepreneurs. We will be hearing from Ami Vitori owner of the Torchlight Pass. Ami has also recently served as a council member for the City of Middletown.

An exciting piece of news the Be WISE camp is back this summer. If you know any girls that are about to enter 7th or 8th grade next school year, and would be interested in attending this camp let Beth Miller know so an application can be given to that student. We need to have the applications and funds sent at the beginning of May.

I hope several members might be able to join Robin to go to the discussion with Rep. Warren Davidson this month. Next month we will have the state convention and it would be great to have several members attending the state convention via zoom or in person.

Please continue to gather your items for the garage sale, the book sale, and holiday bazaar. As we move into warmer weather so many of us will be spring cleaning which makes a great time to set aside the items you would like to donate. As the dates for the sales get closer information will be provided for drop off times at the sale site.

Thank you all for such a great year of participating and helping make this organization so wonderful.

Sincerely,
 Mel

President Elect Letter

Mel Worbis was unable to lead our February 12, 10:00 am virtual presentation on Zoom and asked me to step in. Technology and I are acquaintances but not good friends: my computer camera thought I looked better upside down, and the webcam did not want to cooperate. Thanks to all of our members, who simply chuckled and empathized!

Tamika Tompoulidis, who serves as a career counselor, public speaker, and an instructor at University of Kentucky, explained the types of changes that we face in our lives, how we face those changes in a positive manner, and how we adjust to embrace the changes. Eventually we find ourselves in a position to help others cope with the changes they, too, confront. Her charts were quite helpful in guiding us through the information she provided, and her question and answer session clarified some details for us.

Our meeting had no new business, except that a slate of officers was being composed.

Women as Entrepreneurs is the topic of our Monday, March 14 meeting. Ami Vitori, local restaurant and market owner will discuss her path as a business owner. The meeting is in-person at 7:00 pm at the Kettering Medical Center, 6147 Ohio 122, Middletown. Masks should be worn while entering the building.

Temperatures are rising, flowers and trees are trying to bud, and the days are slowly getting longer. Enjoy spring and remember our various fund-raising endeavors as you clean those closets!

Eleanor
 President-elect

DIVERSITY by Marti Kreps

"Has anyone ever heard of Julius Rosenwald?" the elderly docent asked at the Heritage Museum in Pin Point, Georgia. A lone hand cradling a pen went up. The young, African American woman dressed in a bright tie die shirt and scarf wrote constantly during the tour in a journal notebook.

"He was the CEO of Sears and Roebuck," she said.

"That's right," said the dark skinned, white bearded docent. "We had a Rosenwald school here. Rosenwald gave money for many schools for Black people in the south." My curiosity peaked and thank goodness for smart phones. I looked him up after the tour.

Rosenwald revolutionized Sears from a watch company to a catalog clothing and equipment company. He was the head of the Walmart or Amazon of his day. Being Jewish, he rooted for the underdog and believed in sadaka or voluntary giving beyond what was expected of you. After he met Booker T. Washington, he endowed Tuskegee Institute. Washington and Rosenwald devised a plan to provide seed money to African American Communities to build schools. Rosenwald gave at least half of the money, and the community raised the rest and built the school. The plans included a bank of windows for sunlight as many areas had no electricity. They built over five thousand schools from Maryland to Texas. Look him up for the vast list of his benevolences.

Pin Point was isolated before the big bridges connecting the islands were built. The Oyster and Crab Factory, which is now the museum, provided food and a livelihood for the community. Now the Oysters have bacteria from pollution and the waterfront land is desirable for pleasure boats so the community slowly disappeared.

Larry and I chatted with the young woman after the tour. "Are you writing a book?" Larry asked her as we filed out.

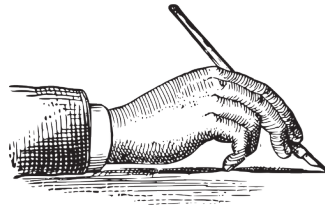
"Maybe some poetry," she said gesturing with her journal, "I am a Professor at Miami University.... Of Ohio. You probably haven't heard of it."

"Oh yes we have," we said. Turned out as we talked, we discovered we had much in common. Travel opens our eyes and our hearts to the struggles of people and the miracles of the past and present.

The Paycheck Fairness Act

You've heard the statistics – on average, women working full time in the United States are paid just 82% of what men are paid, and the gap is even wider for women of color. Despite calls to make the situation better, thanks to the pandemic, it has now gotten worse. A record number of women were forced out of their jobs when the coronavirus hit. Those women with no education beyond high school have been most negatively affected by Covid-19 job losses or cutbacks in hours. The impact of the Covid-19 economic downturn has been even greater for working mothers who, even if their jobs resumed, could not find childcare. Although some federal and state equal pay laws exist, the gender pay gap clearly persists. But Congressional action could help change this. While the Paycheck Fairness Act of 2021 was passed in the House of Representatives 217-210 with bipartisan support, it failed in a party-line vote in the Senate, 49-50. The fight cannot end. The paycheck fairness bill must be reintroduced and passed to provide meaningful steps to update and strengthen existing laws, including: closing loopholes that weakened the Equal Pay Act of 1963 allowing employers to justify paying workers unfairly, creating more robust remedies for those who have suffered discrimination, preventing employers from retaliating against workers who discuss or disclose their wages, prohibiting employers from relying on salary history to set wages, and providing much needed training and technical assistance, as well as data collection and research.

The gender pay gap can finally be addressed when women have the tools they need to challenge discrimination and employers have the incentives they need to comply with the law. It's time for Congress to make real change for all families. You can use the Two-Minute Activist Tool <https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/> on AAUW's website to contact your elected officials to urge them to pass legislation to improve the lives of women and their families. As a voter, you hold an incredible amount of power, especially when a group of constituents focus their voices collectively on an issue. If you are interested in discussing issues in person with U.S. Representative Warren Davidson's staff, please join fellow members on Wednesday, March 16th at 3:00 p.m. in the courtroom of the Fairfield Township Administrative Building at 6032 Morris Rd., Hamilton, Ohio 45011. Please contact Robin Becker if you have any questions or would like to ride together.



PENS

Our PENS writing group continues to meet the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month. We have chosen to continue our meetings on Zoom for the month of March. Our meeting dates will be 3/3/22 and 3/17/22, 1:00-2:30. Our format is to share a piece of your own writing (verbally) with the group (5-minute time frame/each writer). Anyone who has a passion for writing is welcome to join our writers' group. Come share your poetry, stories, journal entries, book chapters, words of wisdom.

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

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 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