



Equity Now

SEPTEMBER 2022

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



Equity Now in Downtown: Women and Minority-Owned Business in Middletown

Monday, Sept. 12 at 7 pm

Kettering Health Center’s Community Room, 6147 State Route 122 in Middletown (masks required) and Zoom*. Speakers from Downtown Middletown, Inc. will be Jeff Payne and Dr. Celeste Didlick-Davis.

This year AAUW’s national program theme is “Equity Now.” Our Middletown AAUW branch kicks off its program year on Monday, Sept 12, with a discussion of equity in women and minority-owned businesses in downtown Middletown. The program will be first, followed by a break, then a short business meeting.

We are proud to have Jeff Payne from Downtown Middletown, Inc. speak to us about what DMI is doing to promote business in Middletown, especially for women and minority-owned businesses. There have been a few tough years for all businesses, but small businesses have taken more than their fair share of the burden. He will talk about what DMI is doing to help.



Mr. Payne’s guest will be DMI board member Dr. Celeste Didlick-Davis. She is a distinguished adjunct faculty member in the Family Science and Social Work Department at Miami University in Oxford, specializing in family poverty, child development in diverse families, family stressors, social research and critical thinking.

Dr. Didlick-Davis wears many hats. In addition to teaching, she is also founder and CEO of 3 R Development Consulting Firm for small businesses and not-for-profit corporations. 3 R Development is a non-profit that works in the areas of personal responsibility, including Family Programs, Youth Development, Financial Literacy and more. Their mission statement is “To empower individuals to make positive choices regarding their future by allowing them to take ownership of the plans and goals they set for their lives.” We look forward to hearing from both of our speakers.

Calendar of Events

Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 pm
“Redistricting – What it Means for You”

League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area will lead a panel discussion about Ohio’s redistricting and what it means to you.

► Kettering Health Center’s Community Room and Zoom*

Monday, Oct. 24 at 6:30 pm
Fundraising Dinner at The Meadows for AAUW Funds
“How We Got to Middletown: One Immigrant Family’s Story”

Amy and Ricky Woo, owners of The Meadows, will share their personal journey. Buffet dinner is \$25 per person; alcoholic drinks are extra. Tickets must be reserved by Oct. 11, either at member meetings on Sept. 12 and Oct. 10 or by contacting Melissa Worbis at 513-518-3897 or worbismm@gmail.com.

► The Meadows Restaurant, 2102 Yankee Rd, Middletown. (Please carpool; parking limited)

Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm
“Changes That Affect Mental Health and How to Thrive”

Speakers will be Dr. Robert Basil and Suzanne M. Beckmeyer, MSW, LISW-S

► Kettering Health Center’s Community Room and Zoom*

Monday, Dec. 12 at 7 pm
“Working Women: Victories and Challenges”

Speaker will be Diane Rodgers. Meeting will include a light snack prepared by the chef of Central Connections.

► Central Connections, 3807 Central Ave, Middletown

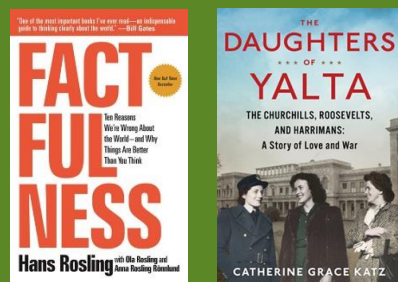
**Zoom links will be provided monthly in reminder emails.*

Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, Sept. 15 at 7 pm
@ Becky Ward's home

Factfulness: Ten Reasons We're Wrong About the World – and Why Things Are Better Than You Think — Hans Rosling

This is a delightful book recommended by Becky that several of us have already enjoyed. It's not too long, very readable, and full of interesting (and uplifting) nuggets about the world we live in.



Thursday, Oct. 20 at 7 pm
@ Miami University Hamilton's Parrish Auditorium

The Daughters of Yalta – Catherine Grace Katz

Suggested by Virginia Palmer, this is the untold story of the three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers (Churchill, Roosevelt and Harriman) to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and of the conference's fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II.

The author will be lecturing at Miami University Hamilton's Parrish Auditorium on the normal day and time of our book club gathering, so we'll plan to attend that instead of gathering at someone's home. The lecture is free, but you do need to register.

Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7 pm
Ordinary Grace – William Kent Krueger

Location TBD – need host

Garage Sale Racks Up Record Revenue

Our spring Garage Sale grossed \$9,470, which is the largest sale we have held to date. “Many folks came out to see what might be fun to buy, and very few left without buying something,” reported event co-chair Chris Buchert. “The last several years we’ve held the sale over two weekends. Our sales have greatly increased, and we sold many more items than before. People were so generous as they cleaned out their closets. Although we still had a number of leftovers we did not have to donate as many items to One Way Farm Thrift Shop.”



Students from Marshall High School helped pack up the remaining items, and we thanked them by suggesting they take any items they wanted. We appreciated their help, and they appreciated our kindness. Most of the net proceeds will go to our scholarship fund or to cover scholarship expenses for the new year. Thanks to all the members who donated, worked, shopped or sent good wishes.



Speaking of Donations...

The schools in Letcher County, Ky. lost two elementary libraries and one middle school library in the recent Kentucky flood. We will be sending them some books left from our used book sale and are looking for a potential delivery by private truck to avoid the cost of shipping. However, in case that does not work out, Tina Newlin will be accepting personal monetary donations through Sept. 18. If you are unable to work the book sale, you might consider this opportunity to make a difference in the life needy children. Thanks to Margie Homan for bringing this need to our attention.

And more for our booklovers...

State AAUW's Coffee & Convos Virtual Book Club is gearing up again. Discussions will take place from 10:00 – 11:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month (except in September). See the book list on <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net/coffee-conversation/>.

► **September 24:** *Limitless Mind: Learn, Live and Lead Without Boundaries* by Jo Boaler. Facilitators are Rush Rogers and Deborah Wooldridge.

► **October 15:** *Tales of Two Americas*, edited by John Freeman. Facilitator is Rush Rogers.



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

The summer months seem to have passed far more quickly than any of us would have liked. I hope that our members accomplished a few of their to-do summer items and also had a chance to enjoy the months of sunshine. This weather is reminding us that autumn is almost upon us and that our first meeting of the year is right around the corner.

This has been a busy summer for AAUW. The garage sale was a tremendous success, and preparations for the book sale are ensuing. Be sure to sign up for a shift or two one of the September weekends to help with the book sale and encourage people to attend. Let's make this as successful as the garage sale!

Our first meeting at Kettering Health Network Community Room on September 12 promises to be a tremendous kick-off to a superb year of programs that have been arranged. Several social events will be included in the calendar so that members can have additional opportunities to enjoy themselves and get to know other members better.

Having been a member of AAUW for a short period of time, I am still trying to become organized as your new president and have been extremely dependent upon Mel Worbis, last year's president, for help and guidance. She has the technology skills that I lack and will be a vital part of helping me through those issues and providing the Zoom links for our meetings. I also am appreciative of Debbie Worbis, a long-time member and the current vice-president, for her assistance. Debbie has been a member of AAUW for quite some time and has been an invaluable aide this summer. Board members, as well as the entire membership, have been wonderful in offering their support and encouragement, and I can only hope to be half as good as those who have held this role before me.

Statewide News from AAUW Ohio

From State Liaison: Carolyn Smith

The AAUW Ohio Fall Summit is scheduled for Oct. 8 and will host national AAUW president Gloria Blackwell as the featured speaker. The all-day event will be both in-person and virtual, with a Columbus area library as the possible venue. Look for more details later. The Spring Conferences will be regional. Currently AAUW OH has 680 members. At the end of last year, Ohio had 23 branches.

Changes at state leave an administration in flux, with president Mickey Radtkin announcing that Nina Corder, the administrative assistant for AAUW Ohio, will leave for a fellowship at the United Nations. Board members Nancy Stellhorn and Erin Czerniak will assist with Facebook and web page duties while the organization searches for a new administrative assistant. Radtkin also announced that long-time officer JoAnn Benseler has resigned her position on the AAUW OH board. Benseler's special duties were managing the Be Wise Camp process and the Model Branch Awards. Radtkin is still looking for someone to oversee the Model Branch Awards. (cont.)

Welcome New Member: Becky Hamner



Our newest member is Becky Hamner. Becky was born and raised in northwestern Ohio and attended Bowling Green State University. After college she joined the Air Force, where she met her husband, Gene, a native Californian. After he left the Air Force, they moved to Lodi, Calif., where they lived for 45 years. Becky was very involved with the local AAUW branch there as well as the Friends of the Lodi Library, serving as recording secretary and president of both organizations and chairing several of fundraisers.

Becky and Gene moved to Ohio last year to be closer to family. Becky's sister lives in West Chester and her brothers live in Dunkirk and Duncan Falls, Ohio. She and Gene have a daughter who lives in Bethesda, Md., with her twin boys.

Becky's spent 21 years serving in the active Air Force Reserve, retiring in 2009 as a Major. She also worked at the Stockton Public library for 12 years and taught in the Stockton Public Schools for 20 years. "I have always been interested in women's issues, education and civic issues in my community," Becky told us. "I look forward to learning more about our new hometown and engaging in activities that promote my interests."

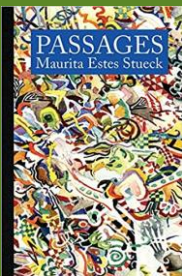
(State News cont.)



Condolence Notes

It is with great sadness that we share news that long-time member **Emilie Marcikic** passed away on Aug. 19. Even as her health declined, Emilie continued to contribute to our fundraising sales and to read along with the Joy Luck Book Discussion Group.

The PENS group also reports that one of its members, **Cathy Maines**, passed away earlier this year. Cathy was with the group for only a short time during her extended illness, but she was brave in her outreach and fellow writers enjoyed the light hearted stories she shared with them.



We would also like to announce that a founding member of PENS, **Maurita Stueck**, has been honored by her family with a newly published memoir. After her passing in 2020, her family lovingly gathered her essays into a book titled *Passages*, published by Bilbo Books Publishing and available on Barnes & Noble and Amazon websites (ISBN 978-1-7364598-2-9). Maurita Stueck was the mother of member Katie McNeil.

At this time only 91 people are following the AAUW OH Facebook page; Radtkin suggested that we need to increase the number of followers. Facebook is a tool that can encourage members of different branches to communicate with each other.

Diversity Chair Sally Dye reports that five branches routinely update her on diversity programming and encourages other branches to do the same. Branches should be encouraged to attend Coffee and Convos because reading and participating in these discussions would contribute to their study of diversity, she said. Branches should send newsletters and conference attendees to State for additional credit with diversity.

Public Policy Chair Erin Czerniak reported that the most important power we have in Ohio to make a difference in the lives of women is to vote and encourage others who value women to vote; especially, to vote for supreme court judges who understand the challenges of women.

Representative Elaine Nishwitz would like to see members more active at school board meetings to combat the idea that Ohio Schools teach Critical Race Theory. CRT is not in our curriculum and is not taught, but the theory is a continual source of school board discussions. Rush Rogers is developing a hybrid presentation for her branch on CRT on February 1. Members from other branches are welcome. Details will follow.

Finding Your Voice, Sharing Your Stories

PENS is a study group of branch members who share the common interest of writing. Chair Becky Ward explains: We began in February 2018 by asking, "Do you have a story to tell? Are you a poet, journalist, essayist, or memoirist? Do you want a motivation to begin writing?" From the beginning, our purpose has been to give constructive feedback and provide an incentive to *put pen to paper and WRITE!*

We have shared written pieces across all genres, including poetry, memoir, narrative essay, political commentary, journal entries, travel blog, book chapters, adventures with pets, events from camping/canoeing trips, stories told in 53 words, resolutions for life, and words of wisdom. We have laughed at animal escapades, engaged in spirited discussions, and shared bittersweet tales of life.



To summarize, we all have a story to tell . . . and our **PENS** group is a safe place to share your story. Whether you are a published writer or trying to start a habit of daily writing, you are welcome to join us and pursue your creative muse! Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). We currently meet on Zoom the first and third Thursday of each month, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. Please contact Becky (beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409 with any questions or to be added to our Zoom group.

It's Back to the Books... September is Book Sale Time!

Our AAUW branch will be holding its 66th annual book sale in September. Donations of books, puzzles, DVDs, CDs, games and records are being accepted Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings from 10:00 – 11:30 am at 2204 Central Avenue, Middletown, OH. The **last day for donations** is Thursday, Sept. 1.

This year's sale will be held for two weekends in September (*see dates at right*) at 2204 Central Avenue in Middletown (the east side of the Bandana's Restaurant building).

Invite friends and family to come with you to shop the one of the largest used book sales in the region, where the proceeds go towards scholarships for area students.

More information can be found on our AAUW website <http://middletown-oh.aauw.net>, Facebook-AAUW Middletown or email **Chris Buchert** at tcbuch@yahoo.com.

How You Can Help

Please go to the sale site on Central Avenue to sign up to work. Or contact **Tina Newlin** at tnewlin13@gmail.com or 513-424-1120. Please try to sign up to work for 6 to 8 hours.

66th ANNUAL BOOK SALE

Thursday, Sept. 8
4 – 8 pm
\$5 Admission to Pre-sale

Friday, Sept. 9
10 am – 6 pm

Saturday, Sept. 10
10 am – 4 pm

Sunday, Sept. 11
12 – 4 pm
\$8 Bag Sale

Saturday, Sept. 17
10 am – 4 pm
\$4 Bag Sale

Sunday, Sept. 18
12 – 4 pm
\$4 Bag Sale

Sign up to work!

SAVE THE DATES! Our annual Holiday Bazaar will be held the weekends of Nov. ④ – ⑤ and ⑪ – ⑫

AAUW Middletown Branch Officers

This list is provided to help members reach out to the correct person in case of questions, such as how to help someone join AAUW.

President:

Eleanor Yeager Stewart

President-Elect:

Debbie Worbis

Finance Chairs:

Katie DeVilling
Kristen Mulligan

Membership Chairs:

Mary Millard
Jackie Webster

Program Chairs:

Margie Homan
Mel Worbis

Communications:

Judy Florence
Virginia Palmer

Secretary:

Joyce Triick

AAUW State Liaison:

Carolyn Smith

AAUW Funds:

Chris Buchert
Erin Eldridge

College & University

Relations:

Katie McNeil

Diversity:

Marti Kreps

Public Policy:

Robin Becker

Scholarships:

Cari Hillman
Maria Langendorf
Beth Miller

Garage Sale & Holiday

Bazaar:

Chris Buchert
Rose Grau
Carole Schul

Book Sale:

Libby Abele
Sharon Dowden
Tina Newlin

Newsletter Editor/ Joy Luck Book Group:

Sharon Williamson