



Equity Now

OCTOBER 2022

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

Redistricting: What It Means For You

Monday, Oct. 10 at 7 pm

Kettering Health Center's Community Room,
6147 State Route 122 in Middletown and Zoom*.



Kim Senft-Paras



Lucy Anne McKosky



Dennis Turner

Redistricting in Ohio has always been a quagmire, but an important one. We are excited to have a panel of members from the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area at our October meeting to help us untangle this aspect of Ohio's voting law. The panel will discuss the history of gerrymandering, Ohio's redistricting process, its impact on voters, and what to expect going forward.

We are honored to have this very distinguished panel:

Lucy Anne McKosky is a longtime LWV member who has worked on redistricting efforts for the past 10 years. After a career in education and technical training, she has devoted her retirement to educating voters, serving as editor of the *Voters Guide* for Montgomery and Greene Counties for the past several years. She also participated in local mapmaking efforts and testified at Redistricting Commission public hearings.

Kim Senft-Paras was appointed Chair of the Redistricting/ Fair Elections Committee for the Dayton LWV in February 2021. The committee was formed to support the Fair Districts Ohio collaborative between Common Cause Ohio and the Ohio League of Women Voters by engaging and educating residents using printed materials, presentations, etc. throughout the community. Like Lucy Anne, she participated in local mapmaking efforts and testified at Redistricting Commission public hearings.

Dennis Turner is professor emeritus at the University of Dayton School of Law. He was one of the original five faculty members who started the law school in 1974. Dennis is also a longtime member of the League and has been working on the issue of redistricting for many years.

Calendar of Events

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 \$30 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. (Note: 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

Monday, Jan. 9 at 7 pm
"Equity for Children with Disabilities" (Zoom only)
Parents of kids with disabilities often face challenges getting resources for their children. This meeting will discuss challenges and solutions for parents and caregivers.

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

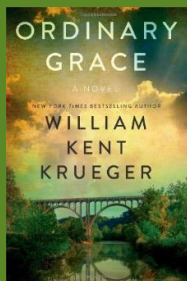
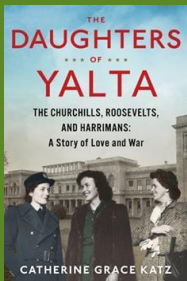
Joy Luck Book Club

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

The Daughters of Yalta – Catherine Grace Katz

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.

We will gather to hear the author speak at Miami University Hamilton's Parrish Auditorium. The lecture is free, but you do NEED TO REGISTER.



Thursday, Nov. 17 at 7 pm
@ Marti Kreps' home

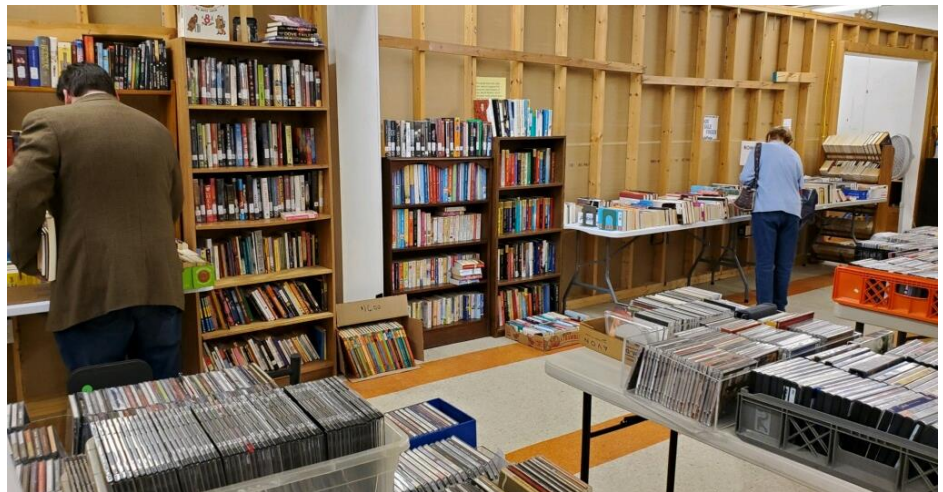
Ordinary Grace – William Kent Krueger

This Edgar Award-winning novel suggested by Marti is a coming-of-age story set in Minnesota in 1961. Told from the main character's perspective 40 years after a murder disturbed his peaceful hometown of New Bremen, *Ordinary Grace* is "a brilliantly moving account of a boy standing at the door of his young manhood....It is an unforgettable novel about discovering the terrible price of wisdom and the enduring grace of God."

Book Sale Yields \$7,500 for Scholarships

Our 66th annual book sale was a success, generating about \$7,500 for scholarships. "The help from our members this year was great," said book sale co-chair Tina Newlin. "Over two-thirds of our membership participated in some way by collecting, donating, pricing, arranging and selling. They even signed up early to work the sale so that recruitment was not required. It was much appreciated!"

As always, there are many books that do not sell. Those have been donated to a variety of organizations, including Art Central, Rosa Parks Elementary School, Love Packages, Rick and Pam Gibbs (for their Bible ministry), Garfield Junior High in Hamilton, Warren County Correctional Institution, Lebanon Correctional Institution, and the Behavioral Health Unit at Atrium Medical Center. Michael McNeil also took large print books to a retirement home in Springfield.



Marshall High School students helped us pack the leftovers for pick-up by One Way Farm and then took 16 boxes of cookbooks back to school for the opening of their Culinary Unit in the spring. This year we are also partnering with Matthew 25 Ministries, which is taking books that One Way Farm cannot.

If you have any ideas of how we may continue to recycle our leftovers, please let Tina know at tnewlin13@gmail.com or 513-594-4520.

Many THANKS to our AWESOME AAUW Volunteers!
Co-Chairs Libby Abele, Sharon Dowden & Tina Newlin



+++PLUS...We're happy to have **new member Melissa Crabtree** join AAUW after learning about our mission and goals at the book sale. Welcome, Melissa!



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

The days are shorter, and autumn is upon us. Fall festivals fill weekend calendars, and AAUW hosts a variety of activities.

For Middletown AAUW members, September means coordinating our annual book sale. Many thanks to Tina Newlin and Libby Abele as well as all the volunteers for making our 66th annual used book sale an impressive success.

In a few short weeks we will be accepting donations for our Holiday Bazaar and will be asking members to help Chris Buchert, Carole Schul and Rose Grau as they organize this event in November.

November is also synonymous with voting, and our next meeting on October 10 at 7 pmat the Kettering Health Network will address redistricting and feature a panel discussion led by the League of Women Voters of Greater Dayton. This should be an enlightening topic in the current political environment. Please join us in person or by Zoom and consider bringing a guest.

Speaking of guests, please invite one to our social fundraiser at The Meadows on October 24. This is a great opportunity to chat and munch, to get to know one another and AAUW better, and to find out more about the amazing couple who run this restaurant.

Enjoy the season and the exciting autumn AAUW events!

Statewide News from AAUW Ohio

State Liaison: Carolyn Smith

The AAUW Ohio Fall Summit, scheduled for Oct. 8 at the Dublin Library and via Zoom, will kick off the year with a theme *Action for Equity in Critical Times*. Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO will be there to tell us how AAUW plans to navigate the near future. Later in the day, Bill Phillis of Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding, Tim Johnson of the Ohio Poverty Law Center, and AAUW Ohio Public Policy Chair Erin Czerniak will join us.

All members are invited to hear what they have to say about news and influencing change. You can register at the Ohio AAUW website at <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net/>. The cost for participation is \$35 in person and \$20 by Zoom.



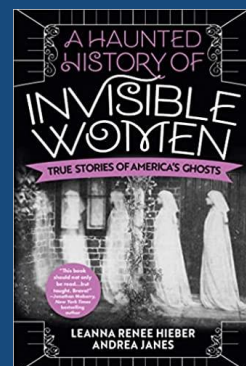
Gloria Blackwell



Feminist Phantoms Coming Your Way

Just in time for Halloween, we announce that one of our spring speakers will be Leanna Renee Hieber, co-author of a recently published book titled *A Haunted History of Invisible Women*.

A graduate of Edgewood High School, Leanna wrote this book with Andrea Janes. Janes founded *Boroughs of the Dead*, a haunted-house tour in New York City, where Hieber was a guide. A review in the *New York Daily News* says the book is based on serious research, while admitting the ladies enjoy a good story.



Plan on attending the branch meeting on April 24 to hear more "true stories of America's ghosts."

More For Book Lovers

State AAUW's Coffee & Convos Virtual Book Club has geared up again. Discussions take place at 10:00 am on the 3rd Saturday of the month.

► **October 22:** *Tales of Two Americas*, edited by John Freeman. Facilitator is Rush Rogers.

► **November 19:** *The Broken Ladder* by Keith Payne. Facilitator is Erin Czerniak.

► **January 21:** *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk: A Novel of Chinese Immigration to the Pacific Northwest* by Kelli Estes. Facilitator is Ann Benseler.



To commemorate the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, you might enjoy *The Uncommon Reader* by Alan Bennett. In this brief fantasy book, a bored queen encounters a book-mobile on palace grounds and begins a late-in-life love affair with literature.



Got Skill with a Quill?

Join AAUW's PENS Writing Group

Our writers' group is returning to in-person gatherings. We will meet at Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM) in Room 123. Turn left along the first row of books in the stacks. Our meetings are on the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 2:30 pm. We will follow CDC guidelines during the upcoming year. Mask are recommended, but not required.

We come together to share our writing endeavors. We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to **put pen to paper and WRITE!** You are welcome to join our writers' group. Our format is to bring a piece of your writing to share orally with the group (5 minute time frame for each writer). If you have questions about PENS, contact Becky Ward at beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409.

September's Meeting Focused on Women and Minority-Owned Businesses in Middletown

A well-attended meeting on Sept. 12 featured speakers from Downtown Middletown, Inc., including executive director Jeff Payne and board members Dr. Celeste Didlick-Davis and Jonda Prather of Jonda's Jazzy Jewels. Dr. Didlick-Davis is founder and CEO of 3 R Development Consulting Firm and on the faculty of Miami University. Prather is a medical device sales representative and retail entrepreneur.



Above (left to right): Dr. Celeste Didlick-Davis, AAUW program co-chair Marjorie Homan, AAUW president Eleanor Stewart, Jeff Payne and Jonda Prather.



At left: Prather, Didlick-Davis, Payne.

Calling All Elves... Bring It On for the Holiday Bazaar

There's a crispness in the air...leaves are falling...and you know what that means. Time to get ready for AAUW's annual Holiday Bazaar!

We are looking for new and/or gently used holiday items. They must be clean and in good condition/repair. Items include:

- ___ Decorations, trees, wreaths, centerpieces
- ___ Lights (must work)
- ___ Holiday dishes, trays
- ___ Linens: placemats, tablecloths, napkins, towels, pillows, winter bed linens
- ___ Holiday books, games, puzzles, toys
- ___ Items that can be re-gifted: new candles, lotions, jewelry, socks, scarves, gloves, hats, purses
- ___ Greeting/holiday cards, stationery, gift bags, wrapping paper
- ___ Handcrafted items, whatever your specialty



Print off copies of the flyer attached with this newsletter to share with family, friends and neighbors. Invite them to contribute and attend the event.

For more information contact Chris Buchert at: tcbuch@yahoo.com

AAUW Holiday Bazaar

Nov. 4 – 5 (Fri/Sat)
Nov. 11– 12 (Fri/Sat)
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
2204 Central Ave.
Middletown

Donation Drop-off
Every Tuesday,
Thursday & Saturday
10:00 – 11:30 am
From Oct. 11 – 29

Work Days
9:00 am – 12:00
Every Tuesday,
Thursday & Saturday
Starting Oct. 9
until the sale

Please come help so the work goes quickly!

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 Wordis

Finance Chairs:

Katie DeVilling
Krisen Mulligan

Membership Chairs:

Mary Millard
Jackie Webster

Program Chairs:

Margie Homan
Mel Wordis

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

PENS (Writing Group)
Becky Ward