



Equity Now

**NOVEMBER
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.

What To Do When Your World Changes In A Heartbeat

Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm

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

How do you cope when your whole world suddenly changes? How do you adjust and figure things out without becoming depressed, angry, fearful and downright worried? We were all faced with that challenge in March 2020. The pandemic is redefining our idea of the "new normal," even now in the autumn of 2022.

Today a phone call might trigger any of us to face dramatic change. We don't need a global pandemic to realize the importance of taking care of our mental health and that of our loved ones. Mental health can affect our physical health and vice versa. It can affect our relationships, our self-confidence and other aspects of daily life. Just as we are all different, the solutions that work for us can also be unique.

Our speaker for our November Meeting is Dr. Robert (Bob) Basil, Psy.D., an expert in the field of mental health. In his practice at the Highview Center in Middletown, he helps people learn to cope and make constructive changes in their lives, families, and personal issues.



Dr. Robert Basil

Dr. Basil is a clinical psychologist, licensed since 1987. He is a partner and clinician at Highview Center and has directed the Mental Health and Deafness Program at the Ellis Human Development Institute of the School of Professional Psychology at Wright State University in Dayton for the past 20 years. Dr. Basil has also provided psychological services to the deaf children at St. Rita School for the Deaf in Cincinnati and the Ohio School for the Deaf in Columbus.

Dr. Basil provides psychological services to Summit Academy, a group of charter schools in Ohio serving children with Attention Deficit Disorder and Social Communication Disorder (previously Asperger's Disorder). In the past, he has served as the Clinical Director of Comprehensive Counseling Service (previously Pastoral Counseling Service) in Middletown, and developed the Domestic Violence Program still being used in the community. He works with children, teens, individual adults, couples and families, specializing in attention issues, hearing and communication issues, giftedness, coping with chronic pain, and family therapy.

Calendar of Events

AAUW Holiday Bazaar
Fri., Nov. 4 and Sat., Nov. 5
Fri., Nov.11 and Sat., Nov.12
From 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Come work, shop and bring your friends to enjoy our final fundraising event of the year.
► 2204 Central Ave. in Middletown

Monday, Nov. 14 at 7 pm
"What To Do Your World Changes In A Heartbeat"
Speakers will be Dr. Robert Basil

► 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.

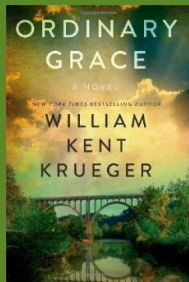
**Zoom links will be provided monthly in reminder emails.*

Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, 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."



Thursday, Dec. 15 at 7 pm
@ Carolyn Smith's home

**Nanaville: Adventures in
Grandparenting** – Anna Quindlen

This bighearted book of wisdom, wit and insight by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist and best-selling author Anna Quindlen will help you celebrate being...or having...a grandmother. Enjoy with us a book of essays that will warm your heart this holiday.

Thursday, Jan. 19, 2023 at 7 pm
(Zoom Only)

The Measure – Nikki Erlick **OR**
The Midnight Library – Matt Haig

Ring in the new year with your choice of two books that will have you thinking about your life in new ways.

Middletown Elves Get Ready for Holiday Annual Bazaar Provides Unique "Shop-ortunities"

AAUW's lovely Holiday Bazaar is almost here, with so many beautiful and fun items for sale. Once again, people in the branch and community have donated their treasures. There are only a few more work days to prepare, then two weekends for selling (see dates below) at 2204 Central Avenue in Middletown.

Please contact Chris Buchert to sign up to help at the sale (text 513-292-0420 or email: tcbuch@yahoo.com). Remember to publicize the event on Facebook and other social media and send emails to friends.

Last Donation Drop-off Days: Oct. 25, 27 and 29 (from 10 – 11:30 am)

Last Work Days: Oct. 25, 27, 29 and Nov. 1 and 3 (from 9:00 – 12:00)

Sale Days: Friday, Nov. 4 and Sat., Nov. 5 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Friday, Nov. 11 and Sat., Nov. 12 from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm



Santa's North Pole supply chain has nothing on Karen, Rose and Chris!



Members-Only Preview on Nov. 3

Join us for a members-only preview night on Thursday, Nov. 3 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Have a glass of cider, browse the items, buy a few if you like, and have fun socializing with other AAUW members.

Eli DiNardo (left), son of new member Melissa Crabtree, has become the Holiday Bazaar team's mascot and chief assistant!

Political Updates Highlight October Meetings

Much of October was focused on political issues and the November mid-term elections, both at the AAUW state and branch level. On October 8, Margie Homan and Sharon Williamson attended AAUW Ohio's Fall Summit in Columbus and Carolyn Smith and Lynne Rentschler participated by Zoom. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell kicked off the meeting from her HQ office, sharing information on how AAUW plans to navigate the near future. She was followed by AAUW Ohio Public Policy Chair Erin Czerniak, Bill Phillis of Ohio Coalition for Equity and Adequacy of School Funding and Tim Johnson of the Ohio Poverty Law Center (at right). We heard about useful websites for tracking issues, such as (<https://RedWine.Blue>), aimed at suburban women, and <https://VouchersHurtOhio.com/> which advocates for public school funding.

October 10 brought a branch meeting on redistricting (a.k.a. gerrymandering) in Ohio, with three guest panelists from the League of Women Voters of the Greater Dayton Area: Dennis Turner, Lucy Anne McKosky and Kim Senft-Paras (L to R). As a follow up to our panel, program co-chair Margie Holman received information about the Ohio Fair Courts Alliance and its efforts.



Common Cause Ohio has a new website for its Judge the Ads Project (<https://JudgeTheAds.org/>), which is encouraging Ohio voters to question and critique political ads. The Project is focusing on rooting out the source of funding for dark money political ads and giving voters tools so that they can make more informed choices about candidates running in the November 8 General Election.



AAUW's PENS Writing Group

Our AAUW Branch "special interest" writers' group continues to meet at Gardner Harvey Library* on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM). We meet in conference room #123. Our next meeting dates are November 3 and 17 from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to **put pen to paper and WRITE!**

Anyone who has a passion for writing is welcome to join our writers' group. If you are stuck for an idea, our "word of the month" to write about is: **light**.

Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409. *Masks are recommended but not required. It's okay to bring a refreshment such as coffee or tea.

AAUW Welcomes New Members

The Middletown/Lebanon branch of AAUW is delighted to welcome a record number of new members in the last year who have been attracted to our organization's mission and energetic efforts on behalf of girls and women. They include:

Amanda Adkins-Ricci
Bonnie McNabb Beckman
Karen Berry
Dora Bronston
Melissa Crabtree
Erin Eldridge
Connie B. Griffis
Charlie Mack
Michelle Morand
Carolyn Dell Patrick
Amy Shreve
Lauren Woods



Meet New Member Erin Eldridge

Erin grew up in Dayton and has lived in Turtlecreek Township for six and a half years with her husband of 41 years. They have two sons, two great daughters-in-law, and three grandchildren. Erin retired last year after 40 years in healthcare, working the first 10 years as a nurse and the last 30 years in risk management. She told us she looks forward to getting to know our group and learning more about AAUW.

AAUW Holds Successful Fund/Friend-Raiser



Guests were greeted with a festive fall theme on Monday, Oct. 24, as they entered The Meadows restaurant for a dinner to raise funds for AAUW Funds.

Immigrants from Communist China Share Road to Entrepreneurial Success



Tables and booths were filled with AAUW members and their friends to enjoy a specially prepared meal and listen to the story of how Ricky and Amy immigrated from China, met in the U.S., and began their careers together at Procter & Gamble. It was the lifetime dream of Amy to open a restaurant, which the couple did as a retirement project.



Amy Woo served a delicious buffet to more than 40 guests.



Owners Amy and Ricky Woo shared their personal journey with guests after dinner, speaking from their bar.





The décor of The Meadows has hardly changed since its opening in 1934. It closed in 2012, was reopened in 2014, and sold to the Woo's in 2019.





Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

First, let me thank Mel Worbis and Margie Homan for their efforts and energy in creating a wonderful social event and fundraising at The Meadows on Oct. 24. What a delightful, informative gathering!

The weeks ahead are also busy and exciting ones for our AAUW members and their friends and family. Our annual holiday bazaar will be Friday, Nov. 4 and Saturday, Nov. 5 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at our venue next to Bandanas Restaurant on Central Avenue in Middletown. Be sure to contact Chris Buchert at tcbuch@yahoo.com and sign up to work a few hours. Encourage those you know to stop by and check out the magnificent array of merchandise for sale. Proceeds from the sale will support our programs and missions, including our local scholarships.

The following Tuesday – Nov. 8 – is an extremely important date. Be sure that you head to the polls and cast your vote! On Monday, Nov. 14, we hope to see everyone at the Kettering Health Center or on Zoom to hear Dr. Robert Basil discuss “What To Do When Your World Changes In A Heartbeat.”

May you have a Thanksgiving surrounded by the love of your friends and family, and may we all remember and share the blessings we enjoy.

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
Until Oct. 29

Work Days
9:00 am – 12:00
Every Tuesday,
Thursday & Saturday
(Until Nov. 3)

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 Worbis

Finance Chairs:

Katie DeVilling
Krisen 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

PENS (Writing Group)

Becky Ward