



Equity Now

FEBRUARY
2023

Calendar of Events

Sat., Feb. 4, from 10 – 11:30
Member Drop-off Day
2204 Central Avenue

This is your chance to drop off holiday décor for next year's bazaar before packing it away for the year. We'll take items for the summer rummage sale and fall book sale, too. Please place items in cartons marked for which sale they are intended.

Monday, Feb.13 at 7 pm
**"Creative Problem Solving:
How to Make Your Own
Equity – One Woman's
Adventure in Art & Science"**

Dayton-based internist
Dr. Carol Levine will share how creative problem solving changed her life and can help our lives. She will tell us how art got her into medical school and how she thrived with challenges that would have stopped others.
► ZOOM ONLY*

Monday, March 13 at 7 pm
**"Preparing Future
Generations of Women
Leaders"**

Dana Bisignani, Director of University of Cincinnati's Women's Center, will discuss how they use programs created by AAUW to help guide women with pay equity negotiations.
► Kettering Health Center Community Room, Middletown and Zoom

Saturday, March 25 at 1 pm
**National Voice of America
Museum of Broadcasting
Tour (optional lunch before)**
Tickets are \$15, available to 1st 15 people who sign up. Reserve ticket at a meeting or contact worbisimm@gmail.com or 513-518-3897 (leave detailed message).
► 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio

***Program Note:** Members will be sent a Zoom invitation through emails. Non-members who want a Zoom link should contact Mel Worbis at worbisimm@gmail.com.

Creative Problem Solving: How to Make Your Own Equity *One Woman's Adventure in Art & Science* Monday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm (Zoom Only*)

Our February guest, Dr. Carol Levine, is truly a renaissance person: a medical doctor, artist, creative thinker, and she raises and shows Borzoi dogs! She will discuss how art and science enriched her life and led a path to achieve her goals.



Ceramic Vase by Dr. Levine

Dr. Levine started her educational life as a student of art and science, graduating from Ohio State as a medical illustrator. She worked for a while in that field, then decided to go to medical school at Wright State University, where she became a doctor and assistant professor. She did all of this in spite of having dyslexia, a learning disability that impairs a person's ability to read.

Branch member and fellow artist Margie Homan will interview Dr. Levine in a relaxed and conversational manner about her journey, art, medicine and creative problem solving.

We'll learn how Dr. Levine's love of art and creative thinking enabled her to discover study tools and develop unique methods of communication with her patients and students. There will be plenty of time for attendees to ask questions and join the discussion.



Painting and Drawing by Dr. Carol Levine

Joy Luck Book Club

Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023 at 7 pm
(Zoom Only)

***The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules* – Catherine Ingelman-Sundberg**

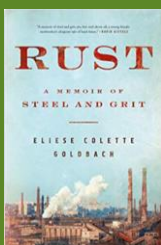
February's pick is a quirky, funny story from a Swedish author who had a notable career as a marine archeologist, journalist and writer of historical novels about Vikings before she became an international bestseller with her series about the League of Pensioners. This is the first of three tales in which the residents of an assisted living facility plan robberies to improve life for others. Think *Ocean's 11* for the elderly!



Thurs., March 16, 2023 at 7 pm
Nita Driscoll's Home

***RUST: A Memoir of Steel and Grit* – Eliese Colette Goldbach**

Called "a female steelworker's soulful portrait of industry life," this memoir follows a college graduate from a poor area who takes a job at ArcelorMittal steel in order to earn a living. Along the way, she discovers grueling working conditions, but finds hope for the unity of America.



AAUW's "Seat at the Table"

Did you realize the important role that AAUW plays in multiple government and NGO leadership councils around the nation and the world? We think you'll be impressed.

State AAUW President Michelle Radtkin recently shared these notes from a National AAUW regional meeting presentation titled "AAUW's Seat at the Table." Funds sent to national help support these ongoing efforts:

- AAUW's CEO and/or staff engaged in the White House Gender Policy Council weekly call
- UN Women
- UN Entity for Gender Equality
- Empowerment of Women
- White House Equal Pay Summit with President and Mrs. Biden
- UN NGO (non-governmental org.)
- Commission on the Status of Women
- Speaker Pelosi's Women's History Month Celebration
- Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR) Power Summit
- UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (special consultative status)
- AAUW research papers shared to other groups to inform their members and to back up lobbying efforts

Our dues, branch donations to the Greatest Need Fund, and personal member donations support these efforts.



PENS Writing Group Adds Members

Our writing group is happy to share that two more writers have joined PENS. We are pleased that they feel welcomed as they become part of the group. We always enjoy listening to the words, stories or poetry of anyone who has a passion to write.

Each of us chooses a topic about which we want to write. We encourage each other, give constructive feedback, and share laughter and lively discussions. We meet at 1:00-2:30 p.m. in conference room 123 at Gardner Harvey Library* on the Middletown Campus of Miami University. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month. Our next meeting dates are Feb. 2 and Feb. 16, 2023. Our Feb. 2 meeting will be on Zoom, and the weather will determine if our Feb. 16 meeting will be on Zoom or in person. Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

**Masks are recommended but not required. You may bring refreshments such as coffee or tea.*



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

Thanks to Margie Homan and Mel Worbis, our AAUW membership is enjoying fantastic programs this year! Tracy Gilchrist certainly inspired all of us in January by sharing the many challenges she has faced and how each of those challenges required her to understand the value and power of strong advocacy. Our February speaker, Dr. Carol Levine, will be just as impressive with her creative approach to the challenges she confronted. Our February meeting is also a Zoom meeting so be sure to check your email for the link to join us on Feb. 13 at 7 pm for “Creative Problem Solving: How to Make Your Own Equity.”

Our AAUW chapter now includes 68 members! We certainly hope that number continues to grow. We encourage you to reach out to those you think may enjoy being a part of our community. Having our meetings accessible via Zoom makes attendance much more convenient for many, and our social gatherings are delightful ways to become better acquainted with one another. We have so much to offer our members and look forward to more new people joining us.

Before you know it, these cold weather spells will be replaced by sunshine and budding flowers and trees, and our three vital fundraisers will soon be upon us. So look around your house and find some books or items for the garage sale and holiday sales. Your friends and neighbors can contribute, too.



Remember... Drop-Off Day (Members Only)
Saturday, February 4 from 10 – 11:30 am

Each and every one of you is a significant part of our chapter, and I appreciate all the energy and time members devote to ensure our success!

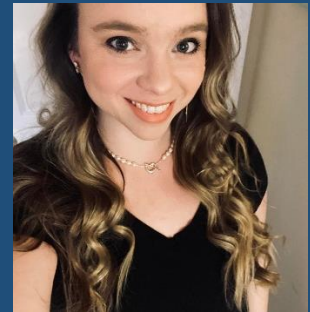
Special Event Coming in March: VOA Museum

On Saturday, March 25, AAUW Middletown will **visit the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting** in West Chester, Ohio. The VOA beamed news from America to millions of people worldwide after WWII, serving as a bright beacon of hope and aspiration. (See page 1 for reservation details)

There is an optional lunch before the tour at Warped Wing Brewpub in Mason.



Welcome New Member: Melissa Crabtree



Melissa Crabtree is a 2009 graduate of Wright State University's College of Nursing. Her passions include equitable access to health care, serving marginalized populations (particularly women and children), and global health initiatives that support health care as a basic human right.

Melissa spent her nursing career in the Emergency Department at Dayton Children's Hospital. She has also worked as a camp nurse at Camp Ho Mita Koda, the oldest and longest-running camp for children with Type 1 diabetes in the world, and served on a medical mission in the Dominican Republic.

Melissa is married, with a 14 year old step daughter, 8 year old daughter, and 4 year old son. She says she is an avid reader, lifelong learner, lover of animals, the outdoors, all things vintage, thrifting, and fossil hunting with my kids. “I discovered the AAUW through last year's book sale and was excited to read about their mission supporting the education and advancement of women,” Melissa said. “I just knew this organization would be a great fit for me. I'm very proud to be called a member.”

“Welcome to Holland” – by Emily Perl Kingsley



I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability - to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine how it would feel. It's like this...When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip - to Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. The Michelangelo David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting. After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags and off you go.

Several hours later, the plane lands. The stewardess comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life I've dreamed of going to Italy. "But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland and there you must stay.

The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine, and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guidebooks. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around.... and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts.

But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy... and they're all bragging about what a wonderful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned." And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away...because the loss of that dream is a very, very significant loss. But...if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things... about Holland.

January Speaker Shares Inspiring Story

At our branch meeting in January, Tracy Gilchrist told us an inspiring story about her personal journey as a mother of two children with Cornelia de Lange syndrome (CdLS). Tracy became a powerful advocate for her daughters, which led her to play a similar role in the lives of other families who have disabled children or are refugees seeking asylum.

She shared a piece by Emily Perl Kingsley, a long-time writer for Sesame Street, that is terrific for reframing one's thinking. It's called "Welcome to Holland." *(see story at left)*

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