



Equity Now

MARCH 2023

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

Preparing Future Generations of Women Leaders

Monday, March 13 at 7 pm

(Kettering Hospital Middletown & Zoom)

Young people and new graduates are challenging older models of work, pay and professional identity. Our program in March will feature two speakers talking about these changes and how our community is engaging girls.



Dana Bisignani



Mary Maune

Dana Bisignani, director of the Women's Center at the University of Cincinnati and a member of UC's Staff Senate, will speak on the challenges that graduating students – particularly women and femme folks – face in a “post-pandemic” job market, including pay equity and a shifting economy.

Prior to UC, Dana was the Coordinator of Gender and Sexuality at Minnesota State University Moorhead (MSUM), running their Women's Center and Rainbow Dragon (LGBTQ+) Center. She has taught Women's and Gender Studies at both MSUM and Purdue University. Originally from Chicago's South Side, Dana is a veteran community organizer who has worked on successful campaigns and direct actions in Indiana, North Dakota and Minnesota.

Mary Maune, program coordinator of Hamilton County's Commission on Women and Girls, will share the podium to discuss how the Commission works with young women to guide them in the pursuit of careers and leadership opportunities.

The Commission promotes and encourages women to seek leadership positions in society and help girls develop leadership skills. It recommends to the Board of County Commissioners and local governments ways to eliminate sex-based exclusions and restrictions that diminish the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women in political, economic, social, cultural, civil and other spheres.

Calendar of Events

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 \$10, available to 1st 15 people who sign up. Reserve ticket at a meeting or contact worbismm@gmail.com or 513-518-3897 (leave detailed message).

► 8070 Tylersville Road, West Chester, Ohio

Monday, April 24 at 7 pm
Author Talk with L.R. Hieber

Meet actress, playwright, ghost tour guide and writer Leanna Renee Hieber, a best-selling author of more than 14 Gothic, Gaslamp Fantasy, supernatural suspense and non-fiction books for teens and adults.

► Kettering Health Center Community Room, Middletown and Zoom

Monday, May 8 at 6:30 pm
AAUW Scholarship Banquet

Come celebrate our success this year! The banquet will actually be an indoor picnic with picnic food, decorations, and cookies. Wear picnic attire if you wish.

Reserve tickets (\$18) at a meeting or by contacting worbismm@gmail.com or 513-518-3897. Reservations must be paid by April 24.

► Art Central Foundation, 4 North Main St., Middletown

Joy Luck Book Club

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

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

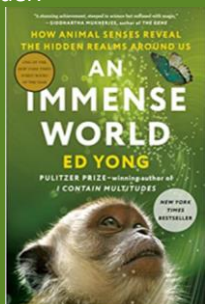
Called “a female steelworker’s soulful portrait of industry life,” this memoir follows a college graduate from a poor area who takes a job at ArcelorMittal steel in order to earn a living. Along the way, she discovers grueling working conditions, but finds hope for the unity of America.



Thurs., April 20, 2023 at 7 pm
Marianne Zsiska's Home

***An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us* – Ed Yong**

From Pulitzer Prize-winning science journalist Ed Yong comes this bestseller about the radically different ways that animals perceive the world. Called “thrilling” by The New York Times and “dazzling” by the Wall Street Journal, this highly readable book is guaranteed to fill us with wonder.

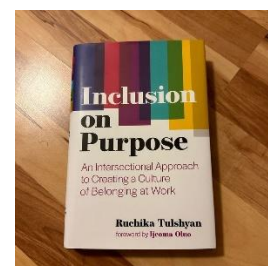


AAUW Ohio Spring Meeting Set for April 15

AAUW Ohio Central District will host the Southwest and Southeast Districts for a Spring District Meeting on April 15. The meeting will be in-person in Columbus and on Zoom. The morning session will feature Stonewall Columbus presenting on the value of uplifting the LGBTQ+ community so everyone thrives. A panel discussion on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion follows in the afternoon, with lunch in between.

An introductory book talk on *Inclusion on Purpose: An Intersectional Approach to Creating a Culture of Belonging at Work* by Ruchika Tulshyan is planned for Friday evening prior to the meeting, on April 14.

Look for specifics on how to sign up through EventBrite on AAUW’s Ohio home page at <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net>.



Tour the Voice of Freedom on March 25

On Saturday, March 25, AAUW Middletown will gather for lunch around 11:30 am at Warped Wing Brewpub in Mason, then visit the **National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting** in West Chester for a 1 o’clock tour that lasts about 90 minutes.

The VOA beamed news from America to millions of people worldwide after WWII, serving as a bright beacon of hope and aspiration.

Tickets cost \$10 each and are available to the first 15 who ask. Please bring your money to the March 13 meeting. Lunch is optional and on your own. Please let Margie Homan or Mel Worbis know if you wish to attend the lunch, the tour or both. Anyone is welcome to attend.



The National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting is located at 8070 Tylersville Road in West Chester, Ohio (For GPS use Crosley Blvd.) Learn more about the museum at <http://www.voamuseum.org/>

Mason Warped Wing Brewpub and Smokery is located at 5650 Tylersville Road in Mason, Ohio, about 2 miles from the museum.



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

Spring is nearly here! My crocuses have been in bloom for more than a week, and my daffodils are ready to burst from their buds. What a wonderful time of the year!

Of course, with spring comes some traditional cleaning. As you go through your closets and basements, remember that three AAUW fundraisers are just around the corner. Our garage sale, book sale and holiday sale are vital to bringing in monies for our projects and fundraisers, so please help us out with your donations. Encourage your family, friends and neighbors to donate as well.

Last month's program with Dr. Carol Levine helped us understand that not every goal is reached the same way. Our March meeting will address pay equity in negotiations for women with Dana Bisignani of UC Cincinnati's Women's Center and also feature Mary Maune of Hamilton County's Commission on Women and Girls. These are topics that I think are vital for today's working woman. Please invite anyone who might be interested to join us.

Our program committee has also arranged a tour of the National Voice of America Museum of broadcasting on Saturday, March 25. (see page 1 and 2 for details)

Our nominating committee is reaching out to members and will compose a slate of officers to present at our March meeting. It is exciting to see so many people willing to work on behalf of AAUW and its missions!



PENS Returns to In-Person Gatherings

Beginning with our March meeting, our PENS writing group will return to meeting in person at the Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown campus of Miami University (MUM). Thanks to members Carolyn Smith and Marti Kreps, **we will also be able to offer a Zoom connection** to the meeting. We meet the first and third Thursday of each month, 1:00-2:30 p.m., in conference room 123 at the library. Our upcoming dates on March 2 and 16. 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.

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

Special Event about Food Equity on April 15

Luncheon & Speaker at the White Garden Inn



Nancy Parkinson, associate clinical lecturer in the Department of Kinesiology, Nutrition and Health at Miami University, will discuss the cooking and nutrition programs she has set up in the community. Nancy was honored as Citizen of the Year in 2022 by the Oxford Kiwanis Club for bringing people from all walks of life together through a multitude of educational and inspirational health and nutrition-related projects.

► When: Sat., April 15 @ 12 noon



► Where: **White Garden Inn**,
6194 Brown Road, Oxford, Ohio

► Lunch: Cheese and meat platter,
fruit tray, artichoke and spinach dip
with baked pita chips

☀ *Food equity is the concept that all people have the ability and opportunity to grow and consume healthy, affordable and culturally significant foods.* ☀

Spring Means Gearing Up for Scholarship Fundraising

The Rummage/Book/Holiday Sales planning committee met to review plans for this coming year's fundraising events. After much discussion, the schedule is as follows:



Rummage Sale

June 9 – 10
June 16 – 17

Work begins by May 2

Book Sale

September 7 – 10
September 16 – 17

Work begins middle of July



Holiday Sale

November 3 – 4
November 10 – 11

Work begins by October 3



Work days to prepare for these sales are scheduled for Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. The committee is striving to condense the period of time needed to set up for our sales. They also discussed ideas to make the sale preparations easier for the workers.

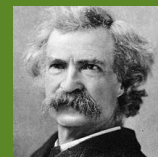
Our Next Member Drop-off Day is Saturday, April 1

10:00 – 11:30 am

(No Fooling!)

There will be a drop-off day for members and their friends at our sale site at 2204 Central Avenue in Middletown, from 10:00 to 11:30 am on Sat., April 1.

This will be a more relaxed time to bring your newly collected items. Please mark boxes for Book or Garage Sale or Holiday Bazaar so we can place them in the correct area.



Mark Twain said:

"April 1. This is the day upon which we are reminded of what we are on the other three hundred and sixty-four."

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
Kristen 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