



Equity Now

APRIL 2023

Calendar of Events

Saturday, April 1 at 10 – 11:30
Member Drop-Off Day

Please mark boxes for Book or Garage Sale or Holiday Bazaar so we can place in correct area.
▶ 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

Saturday, April 15 at 12 (noon)
Food Equity Event

Registered Dietitian Nutritionists Nancy Parkinson and Bryn Breder will talk about their work in the community. RSVP by April 12 (\$12)
▶ White Garden Inn, 6194 Brown Road, Oxford, Ohio 45056
(See page 3)

Saturday, April 15, 10 am - 3pm

AAUW Ohio Central District will host the Southwest and Southeast Districts Spring Meeting in Columbus. (See page 2)

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

Meet Leanna Renee Hieber, author of more than 14 Gothic, Gaslamp Fantasy, supernatural suspense and non-fiction books for teens and adults. (See more at left)

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 worbisimm@gmail.com. Reservations must be paid by April 24.

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

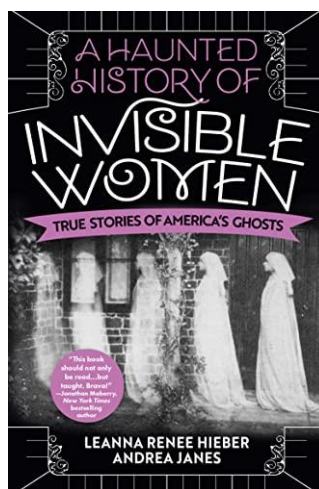
***Program Note:** Members will be sent a Zoom invitation through emails. Non-members who want a Zoom link should contact Mel Worbis at worbisimm@gmail.com.

Author Talk with Leanna Renee Hieber

Monday, April 24 at 7 pm

(Kettering Hospital Middletown & Zoom)

Award-winning author, actress and playwright Leanna Renee Hieber will talk about the trajectory of her career as an author and how she uses women's history as material in some of her books, such as the newly-released *A Haunted History of Invisible Women*.



Leanna grew up in Middletown and graduated with a BFA in Theatre and a focus in the Victorian Era from Miami University. She began her theatrical career with the Cincinnati Shakespeare Company and began adapting works of 19th century literature for the stage. Her one-act plays have been published, awarded and produced around the country. Her fiction career began with *Dark Nest*, which won the 2009 Prism Award for best novella. The *Dark Nest Chronicles* are now reissued via Scrib'd, with Hieber doing the audiobook narration.

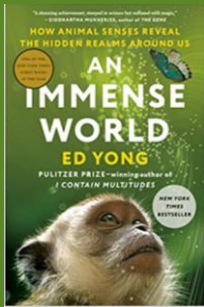
Hieber's debut novel, *The Strangely Beautiful Tale of Miss Percy Parker*, landed on Barnes & Noble's bestseller lists and was named a favorite of 2009 by 14 book blogs. Copies of her latest book will be available for purchase at the meeting.

Joy Luck Book Club

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.

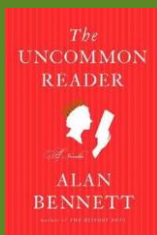


Thurs., May 18, 2023 at 7 pm
Need Host

“A Royal Roundtable”

To commemorate an historic event unprecedented in our lifetimes – the coronation of a British monarch on May 6 – we are holding a “Royals Roundtable” in May. You are invited to read anything about (or by) a member of the British royal family, current or past.

Looking for ideas? Try this novella about Queen Elizabeth visiting a bookmobile near the palace. Fun!



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

Members Inspired by VOA Museum

On Saturday, March 25, a group of members visited the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester.



(Left to right) Margie Homan, Jackie Webster, Virginia Palmer, Sharon Williamson and Debbie Worbis.



The museum has preserved the actual site where VOA broadcasts were beamed worldwide to people who risked their lives to listen. In addition, there are displays of vintage radios and antique household appliances, recordings of historic radio transmissions and more.



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

Those famous April showers arrived a tad early this year, but hopefully they have not dampened our spirits as we await warmer weather and our spring AAUW activities!

The next few months offer some wonderfully fun and interesting activities, including a visit to the White Garden Inn in Oxford and a picnic themed end-of-year dinner. I think everyone will agree that Margie Homan and Mel Worbis have done an exemplary job of creating educational and entertaining programs this year.

Spring means the advent of preparing for our three annual fundraisers as we strive to reach our scholarship endowment goal at the Middletown Community Foundation. As you embark upon spring cleaning, be sure to set aside any items suitable for our garage sale, book sale and holiday sale. We will have some drop-off times starting in May so watch for announcements.

Our state communications award application was submitted by Ginny Palmer who, with Carolyn Smith and other members, helped me with the Glitter Award application. Mel Worbis and Deb Worbis were instrumental in finalizing the application before it was submitted. Kudos also goes out to Carolyn for her work on the diversity award, with the support of diversity chair Marti Krebs.

I could not perform the duties of this job without all the remarkable efforts of everyone else!



PENS Continues In Person

Our PENS writing group will continue 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 April 5 and 20. 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.*

Thinking Ahead...

Here are some key dates to put on your calendar:

Rummage Sale: June 9 – 10 and June 16 –17 (Work begins by May 2)

Book Sale: Sept. 7 – 10 and Sept. 16 –17 (Work begins middle of July)

Holiday Sale: Nov. 3 – 4 and Nov. 10 – 11 (Work begins by October 3)

Special Event about Food Equity on April 15

Luncheon & Speaker at the White Garden Inn



Nancy Parkinson

Bryn Beeder

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 will be joined by Bryn Beeder, also a Registered Dietitian Nutritionist.

► 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 (Cost \$12)

► Reserve your spot with Mel Worbis by April 12. Call or text her at 513-292-2109 or email at worbismm@gmail.com.

Picnic Theme To Highlight Scholarship Banquet

Member Margie Homan has been busy making table favors for the Scholarship Banquet that embody its picnic theme. Attendees will have the opportunity to take home some of her artwork, including sculpted toadstools, butterflies, caterpillars, flowers and other tokens of spring.



What Do We Teach Our Children?

By Marti Kreps, Branch Diversity Chair

I looked with interest at my fourth-grade grandson Ben's study sheet. A big A+ in red headlined the top. The heading announced "Inventors of Ohio." I recognized Orville and Wilbur Wright and Thomas Edison. Some of the Ohio inventors were not familiar to me, like Tyler and Semple who invented chewing gum; Spangler, inventor of the vacuum cleaner; and Kettering, who invented the first automobile self-starter.

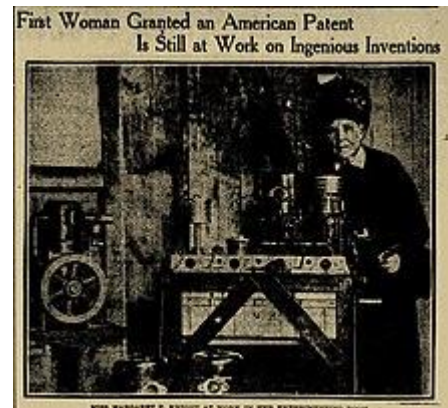
Later in the evening as I pondered this list of all men who made a difference it dawned on me: They were all men! I wondered at the absence of women. Weren't there any women inventors? It led to a Google search. I found several notable inventions around the beginning of the 20th century.

Josephine Cochrane from Ashtabula, Ohio, invented the dishwashing machine. She grew up in a family of inventors and engineers, but as women of her day, she wasn't educated in the sciences. To keep her fine china

from being chipped in the sink, she invented a turning wheel that was powered by a motor to squirt soapy water over dishes. She won an award for design at the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. Her commercial dishwasher business grew and eventually became KitchenAid.

Lyda Newman invented a hairbrush with synthetic bristles. She was the third African American Woman to receive a patent in 1898. The brush was more durable and easier to clean than those made of animal hair. The bristles more effectively treated the thicker texture of African American hair.

I also found stories like those of Margaret Knight from Maine who invented a paper-folding apparatus to make grocery bags. (see below) She applied for a patent, but a man claimed it as his own and argued that no woman could be capable of designing such a machine. Fortunately, her copious detailed hand-drawn blueprints offered evidence to her invention whereas Charles had nothing. Margaret received her patent in 1871.



Garrett Morgan, an Ohio man listed on Ben's list of inventors, had difficulty marketing his invention of a gas mask solely because he was an African American. He hired a white actor to promote it, and when it was discovered that Garrett invented it sales fell off.

What will I share with my grandson to enlighten him? It seems now that there are barriers being erected to learning about our past failures in history. There are those who would block telling the history of slavery and unfairness to women as young people should not be taught anything that creates "discomfort, guilt or anguish". I wonder if these stories add to feelings of guilt in our youth or do they invoke empathy? As I read the stories, I found myself more empathic. I think telling the stories is important.

Historical Women to Be Celebrated at April Event in Sharon Woods

Lauren Woods, Education Director at Heritage Village Museum in Sharon Woods and local branch member, has invited AAUW to attend the museum's "Heroines of Our History" event on April 29 from 12 noon to 4 pm. Heritage Village is a historical village of antique buildings that have been relocated to Sharon Woods in Sharonville, 20 miles north of Cincinnati and 25 miles south of Middletown.

They are inviting non-profits like us to set up a table in a 10 x 10 foot area at no cost to reach out to more women who might be interested in joining.

The event will celebrate some of the extraordinary women who lived in our region and made history. There are reenactors in historical clothing portraying various women, including Lydia Beecher, the step-mother of Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Emily Warren Roebling, the wife of Washington Roebling and daughter-in-law of John Roebling who was herself an engineer and took over the construction of the Brooklyn Bridge. They will also have a line-up of Unsung Heroines who were a Tavern Owner, Nurse, Printer, Seamstress, Shop Keeper, a Quaker and a Spiritualist. The event includes vendors and hands-on activities as well including bridge making, poetry boards, and a demo of a treadle sewing machine.

A boxed lunch is available prior to the main tour and event. If you are interested, please contact Virginia Palmer for details. Email: palmerve@umich.edu or call/text 937-545-4974



Meet New Member Amanda Adkins-Ricci



Amanda Adkins-Ricci is a Miami Valley native, born and raised in Carlisle, Ohio. She studied education, receiving her degree in early childhood education from Wright State University and completed her MBA at Indiana Wesleyan University.

Amanda joined Premier Health in 2002 and has been a leader in the Revenue Cycle division for over 15 years. She is currently the System Vice President of Revenue Cycle. Passionate about healthcare and community outreach, Premier was a natural fit.

Amanda is actively involved in many community organizations. She is currently serving as a member of Dayton's American Heart Association Heart Walk Executive Leadership Team, the vice president of The Co., and president-elect of the Southwest Ohio chapter of HFMA. Serving on these committees provides Amanda the opportunity to invest in the Dayton/Cincinnati community and contribute to the continuing education, personal growth, and development of area leaders while fostering new relationships with industry trailblazers.

Amanda currently resides in Franklin with her husband and two rescues. As a family, they enjoy traveling, animal rescue and conservation, supporting the creative arts, and serving the community they love.

News About Dues

Did you know there are multiple ways to be an AAUW member? To be a member of our local branch, you pay three components: national, state and local dues.

National and state dues are increasing slightly this year, but local chapter dues will remain the same. Here are the three components that make up your \$93 renewal:

- \$72 National (\$69 of which is tax deductible)
- \$11 State
- \$10 Local Chapter

AAUW National will be sending out dues reminders via email beginning in April. These emails will prompt members to renew online. We are told that National has made improvements to its payment portal and are looking forward to a better user experience.

Another change is that new members will renew on the anniversary date of their joining AAUW. This means there will be rolling renewals for members throughout the year. So it's always a great time to join AAUW! There's no need to wait until a new program year begins.

With this new process, it would be very helpful if you are able to renew your membership via National's online portal. However, if you need to send a check instead, please wait until May to do so. Our branch will not be soliciting renewals until May.

You may also make a one-time payment of \$1,340 to become a Lifetime Member. This amount is fully tax deductible. Students at a member college or university may join National for free. Student members at other institutions pay just \$18.81 annually.

If you have further questions, please call or text Kristin Mulligan at 513-295-4646.

What Do I Get For My Money?

By joining AAUW, you help support a non-profit organization that's led the fight for fair pay and economic opportunity for women since 1881.

AAUW lobbies at the national and state level to push for policies that advance gender equity. It supports strong laws to close the wage gap, provide paid sick time and parental leave, protect pregnant workers, curtail sexual harassment and more.

AAUW is providing \$6 million in funding to more than 320 fellows and grantees in the 2022-23 award year. These exceptional recipients will pursue academic work and lead innovative community projects to empower women and girls.

Locally, our branch gives more than \$7,000 each year for scholarships to girls and women in our community.

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