



*Equity Now*

**MAY 2023**

## Scholarship Picnic/Banquet

**Monday, May 8 at 6:30 pm**

**Art Central Foundation**

**4 North Main St., Middletown**



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.

## Branch Earns Award for Communications



The Middletown chapter of AAUW was presented with a Communications Award at the Spring Combined District Meeting held in Columbus on April 15. Chris Buchert, shown here, attended the meeting and received the certificate honoring our chapter for "For Excellence in Communication with its members and the community through a variety of media outlets."

Read more about the meeting on page 2.

## Calendar of Events

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

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

*While branch programming takes a break during the summer, our group continues working on major fundraisers. Here are some key dates to keep in mind.*

### Fundraising Initiatives

**Rummage Sale**  
**June 9 – 10 and 16 – 17**  
**9:00 am – 4:00 pm**

*Work begins May 2*

**Book Sale**  
**Sept. 7 – 10 and 16 - 17**

*Work begins middle of July*

**Holiday Sale**  
**Nov. 3 – 4 and 10 – 11**

*Work begins by October 3*

Site for all activities above:  
2204 Central Ave., Middletown

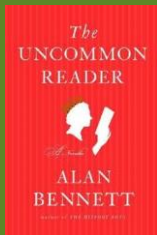
## Joy Luck Book Club

Thurs., May 18, 2023 at 7 pm  
Chris Buchert's home

### "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.

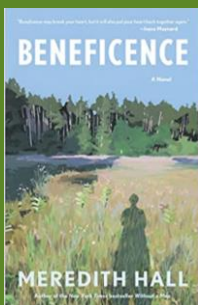
Looking for ideas? Try this novella about Queen Elizabeth visiting a bookmobile near the palace. Fun!



Thurs., June 15, 2023 at 7 pm  
Nita Driscoll's home

### *Beneficence* – Meredith Hall

After a sudden and terrible loss, how does a loving family find their way back to the goodness and peace they once shared? This literary historical novel has been called "hauntingly beautiful", "a masterpiece of compassion," and "a page-turner and an artistic triumph."



## New Officers Picked for Coming Year

At the branch meeting on April 24, the AAUW members present approved the following slate of officers for the 2023 - 2024 program year. Installation of these officers will take place at the May meeting.

**President:** Debbie Worbis

**President-Elect:** Becky Ward

**Program Co-Chairs:** Marjorie Homan and Mel Worbis

**Membership Co-Chairs:** Eleanor Yeager Stewart and Marti Kreps

**Finance Co-Chairs:** Katie DeVilling and Jackie Webster

**Communications:** Virginia Palmer and Judy Florence

**Secretary:** Becky Hamner

## Gender Vocabulary Was Topic at AAUW Ohio Combined District Meeting in Columbus

Chris Buchert and Carolyn Smith represented our branch at the Spring Combined District AAUW meeting on Saturday, April 22, hosted by the Worthington, Ohio branch. The keynote speaker for the morning session was Zac Boyer (they, them) the Director of Programs & Marketing for Stonewall Columbus. The organization, operating for more than 40 years in Columbus is dedicated to increasing visibility, inclusion and connection for the LGBTQ+ community. The organization's vision is "An Ohio Where ALL of US Thrive."

Zac showed charts of pronouns preferred by LGBTQ+ community members and proposed that we try using the pronouns a person has chosen as a way of showing respect. They explained the differences between key words: Gender is not the same as Sex, for example. Sex is a physical attribute; Gender is a brain issue. Gender and Orientation are not the same thing. Gender Identity is often different from Gender Expression because of social issues.



Zac shared a list of rules of engagement, the most important being not to ask personal questions you don't want someone to ask you. Think before you ask. Do you need to know? Would you ask a straight person this? Another rule they suggested was to avoid discussing sex and gender. Talk about the subjects you would talk about with any of your

other friends and acquaintances. You can learn more about the programs and activities of Stonewall Columbus at [stonewallcolumbus.org](http://stonewallcolumbus.org).

The afternoon session of the AAUW District Meeting featured a panel discussing issues in the workplace for marginalized workers. Rush Rogers asked panel members a series of questions. Members who were LGBTQ+, or women, or minority, or had a disability, or experienced ageism discussed what discriminations they faced in the workplace and coping strategies for dealing with them.

During the awards presentation at the end of the meeting, AAUW Middletown was presented the Communications Award.



## Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Eleanor Stewart  
(eleanorygilmore@gmail.com)

May is upon us and that means the months of vital AAUW fundraising are here. Our fundraisers provide essential monies that not only support our yearly operational expenses, but also significantly increase our endowed scholarship fund at the Middletown Community Foundation.

Please keep the upcoming garage sale, book sale, and holiday sale in mind as you sort through your closets and storage areas during spring cleaning and de-cluttering. We are also depending on each member to donate a few hours to set up and manage these important events to assist the chairpersons who invest hundreds of hours into these projects. Of course, we also invite you to check out the bargains that will be available and hope you will encourage your friends and neighbors to donate items and shop with us.

May also brings our annual dinner where we honor our scholarship recipients so I look forward to seeing all of you May 8 for our indoor-picnic themed gathering!

## Author Shared About Her Process and Progress at April Meeting



Award-winning author, actress and playwright Leanna Renee Hieber (upper right) talked at our April meeting about the trajectory of her career as an author and how she uses women's history as material in some of her books. Copies of her newly-released *A Haunted History of Invisible Women*, as well as other titles, were available for sale.



## Nutrition & Food Equity Featured at April Event

Nutrition experts Nancy Parkinson, of Miami University, and Bryn Beeder discussed cooking, nutrition and food equity at a special event for the branch held at the White Garden Inn in Oxford on April 15.



## Garage Sale Work Begins NOW!

**Make a difference in some girl or young woman's life by contributing your effort to our annual Garage Sale. Proceeds go to fund local Scholarships.**

Spring is here, and that means it's time to prepare for our Garage Sale to be held on June 9, 10, 16 and 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Our sale is at 2204 Central Avenue, next to Bandanas Restaurant.



Carol, Rose, Karen and Chris have the tables all ready for workers to display the treasures that have already been donated.

Work dates are every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:00 noon. We're very flexible!

- Come when you can.
- Work all or part of the three hours.
- Some jobs can be done while sitting.

We'll start by putting out the treasures we already have, then more on to pricing. If you are nervous about set prices on your own, we will pair you up with a partner. Pricing is more fun that way.

Drop off days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from Tuesday, May 9 through Thursday, May 25. After Memorial Day we will have time to finish up preparing for the sale.

Be sure to print out the Garage Sale poster and post it at your place of worship, beauty salon, wherever there are people. Use your social media to advertise the sale, too. Word of mouth works, too!

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in May and during the sale. For more information, contact Chris Buchert at [tcbuch@yahoo.com](mailto:tcbuch@yahoo.com).

## Meet New Member Carolyn Dell Patrick



Carolyn Dell Patrick has lived in Middletown and Madison Township her entire life. After graduating from Middletown High in 1969, she attended Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, where she majored in Physical Education and minored in Fine Arts. After receiving her A.A. degree, she attended Eastern Kentucky University and Miami University.

Carolyn has always loved the country and owned 12 acres, with a large woods, pasture, barn, pond creek and orchard in Madison Township. She kept horses there and later built a home on the property where she had a happy career as full-time mother, living with and caring for horses, dogs, barn cats and nature in general.

Living in this equine world quickly progressed into breeding, training and showing rare Andalusian horses, as well as selling and hauling them. Carolyn became one of the first five rare breeders in the country and served on the American Andalusian Horse Association board for many years, including as president. She ran this business, called Del-More Andalusians, for 45 years.

Carolyn was also employed for 25 years in the banking industry, rising to the role of branch manager and licensed financial advisor. She and her husband Greg left the farm almost 4 years ago, but still live in Madison Township, where she is active in political forums and women's issues. She has two successful adult daughters whom she put through college, instilling in them the importance of education. She also has two step-children, four grandchildren, and three step-grandchildren with whom she loves to spend time.

## What is “PENS” Really All About?

On April 7, *Jeopardy* presented its players with the following statement: “PEN International originally took its name from an acronym for . . .” The correct question was: “What is *Poets, Essayists and Novelists?*”

PEN International was founded in London in 1921 to promote friendship and intellectual cooperation among writers everywhere. PEN America was founded in 1922 with the purpose of defending the freedom to write. You can find more information at [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEN\\_International](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/PEN_International) and <https://pen.org/about-us/>.

Our PENS writing group continues to meet the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in conference room 123 at Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus of Miami University. Our meeting dates this month are May 4 and May 18. We offer a Zoom connection to the meeting as needed.

Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: [beckward@gmail.com](mailto: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.

### Of special note...

Our PENS group is excited that one of our writers, Richard Russeth, has been accepted to the prestigious Iowa Writers' Workshop. Founded in 1936, the Workshop has trained graduates that include U.S. Poets Laureate and winners of every major literary award including the Pulitzer Prize. Richard is the brother-in-law of members Carolyn Smith and Mary Millard.

## News About Dues

By now you should have received an email from National urging you to renew for next year. National and state dues are increasing slightly this year, but local branch dues will remain the same.

Your \$93 renewal includes:

- \$72 national (\$69 of which is tax deductible)
- \$11 state
- \$10 local

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

