



Equity Now

SEPT. 2023

Calendar of Events

Pot Luck Dinner Meeting: “AAUW & Working on Equity”
Monday, Sept. 11 at 6:00 pm
 ► Kettering Hospital Community Room, 6147 St. Rt. OH-122., Middletown *(details at left)*

67th Annual Used Book Sale
Sept. 7 – 10 and 16 – 17
 ► 2204 Central Ave., Middletown *(details and times at left of page)*

Branch Meeting: “Recycle, Reuse, Recreate: Keeping Fabrics Out of Landfills”
Monday, Oct. 9 at 7:00 pm
 ► Kettering Hospital Community Room, 6147 St. Rt. OH-122

Shana Rosenberg, founder of Thread Up Oxford, will talk to us about how this volunteer organization works to keep textile waste out of landfills by educating consumers.

Special Event: Visit to Cold War Discovery Center
Sat., Oct. 21 at 2:30 – 4 pm
 ► 1075 Mound Rd, Miamisburg

Tour the site of a top-secret government facility (Mound Laboratory) that operated at the heart of America’s nuclear age from WWII to 2003, followed by an optional early dinner at El Meson in West Carrollton.

Branch Meeting: “What’s Happening in Middletown City Schools?”
Monday, Nov. 6 at 7:00 pm
 ► Middletown High School Community Room, 601 N. Breiel Blvd.

Debbie Houser, the first woman superintendent of Middletown City Schools, will update us on her school system’s programs.

Pot Luck Dinner To Kick Off Program Year

The 2023-24 program year of AAUW Middletown will kick off with a pot luck dinner for members on September 11 at the Kettering Hospital Community Room at 6147 State Route OH-122 in Middletown. In lieu of a guest speaker we will be hearing about AAUW’s role in the world, with an emphasis on the kinds of scholarships our organization provides.



When: Sept. 11, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Where: Kettering Hospital Community Room

Please bring dish:

- **A dish to share** (A – M names bring an appetizer or salad; N – Z names bring a main dish or dessert)
- **Your own table setting**
- **Drinks will be provided**

We have invited our three BeWise Camp scholarship recipients — Mikaela, Lexi and Zoya — to join us that evening. BeWise Camp is held in the summer to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in middle school girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Back to the Books! Sale Time Nears

Your AAUW friends have been busy all summer long working to prepare for our 67th annual used book sale. We have thousands of books in every category, plus toys, games and more, so be sure to spread the word among your family, neighbors and friends to come and shop. We’re billing it as the biggest used book sale in Butler County!

Thursday, Sept. 7	4 pm – 8 pm (\$5 entry fee gets you first pick)
Friday, Sept. 8	10 am – 6 pm
Saturday, Sept. 9	10 am – 4 pm
Sunday, Sept. 10	12 pm – 4 pm (Fill up a bag for just \$8)

Discount Weekend! Buy a bag for half the price

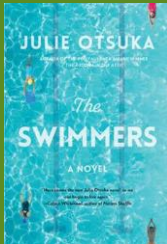
Saturday, Sept. 16	10 am – 4 pm (\$4 per bag)
Sunday, Sept. 17	12 pm – 4 pm (\$4 per bag)



Joy Luck Book Club

Thurs., Sept. 21 at 7 pm
Carolyn Smith's home

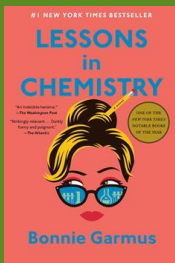
The Swimmers – Julie Otsuka



A slim and brilliant novel about the value and beauty of mundane routines that shape our days and identities...and the cracks that will inevitably appear one day to undermine our bodies and minds. A national bestseller and Carnegie Medal of Excellence winner.

Thurs., Oct. 19 at 7 pm
Becky Ward's home

Lessons in Chemistry –
Bonnie Garmus



The novel everyone you know is reading about a gifted research chemist in the 1960s whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a cooking show. Madame Curie meets Julia Child?

11/16
Thurs., Nov. 16 at 7 pm
Host TBD

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post – Allison Pataki

Successful Rummage Sale Raises \$9k for Local Scholarships

Local girls and women will benefit from the \$8,931 raised for scholarships by AAUW Middletown with our annual Rummage Sale, held two weekends in June.



Branch members and their friends contributed a huge assortment of household goods, while dozens more worked for weeks to prepare and staff the temporary store on Central Avenue. Thanks to all who participated as a donor, worker or shopper!

Plan Ahead for Holiday Sale in November

As soon as the branch's annual Book Sale is completed in September, our crackerjack merchandising team will be back at work preparing for the final fundraiser of 2023, our Holiday Bazaar. "Each year the Holiday Bazaar seems to have more and more lovely items for sale," said co-chair Chris Buchert.

Workers will be needed starting the week of September 25. If you did not have an opportunity to help much at the book sale, perhaps you will have time to help prepare for the Holiday Bazaar, Chris suggests, reminding us that solid prep work is key to a smooth-running sale.

The Holiday Bazaar will take place from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm on:
Friday, Nov. 3 and Saturday, Nov. 4
Friday, Nov. 10 and Saturday, Nov. 11

A special Holiday Open House for members only will be held on Thursday, Nov. 2 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm.

Drop off days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 – 11:30 am beginning Tuesday, Oct. 10, through Thursday, Oct. 26.



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Debbie Worbis
(dworbis@gmail.com)

Welcome back! Our 2023-24 program year will open on Monday, September 11, with a potluck supper, where we will have time to chat and share stories of our summer activities before the program begins. I have invited our BeWise Camp scholarship winners to join us to share a little about their experiences at the camp.

Many of you have been busy working together over the summer, first on the garage sale in June and now on the upcoming book sale. Even with all of the fans, it takes dedication to brave the summer heat as we receive book donations, then separate, price, and move them to the appropriate area so that all will be ready for the September sale beginning on Thursday, September 7.

I am immensely grateful to the many women who have devoted so much time and effort to the sales that make our scholarship donations possible, both for our local recipients and for those who receive scholarships from AAUW at the national level. Our successful garage sale in June, as well as last year's book sale and holiday bazaar, are allowing us to increase our endowment fund with the Community Foundation. If you haven't had a chance to be involved, check out the different ways you might help, as both the book sale and then the holiday bazaar are approaching soon.

I'm looking forward to working with AAUW and our members this year, as we develop friendships while supporting equity and examining fundamental issues that affect our world.



**The Inkwell Is Waiting.
It's Time Again...
for PENS**

Our AAUW branch has been busy with the garage sale in June and upcoming book sale in September, so our PENS group chose to go on hiatus during August and September to devote time to our fundraisers. We will begin meeting again as summer comes to an end and we move into autumn. If you have a passion for writing, come join us and share your words. Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). We encourage each other, give constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to put pen to paper and WRITE!

All of us have a story to tell. On Thursday, September 21, come share your story with PENS. We will meet in Room 123 at the Gardner Harvey Library at Miami University/Middletown Campus (MUM) from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Hope to see you there! Contact Becky Ward at beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409 with any questions.

2023- 2024 LEADERSHIP

President:

Debbie Worbis

President-Elect:

Becky Ward

Secretary:

Becky Hamner

Finance Chairs:

Katie DeVilling, Jackie Webster

Membership Chairs:

Marti Kreps

Eleanor Yeager Stewart

Communications Chairs:

Judy Florence, Virginia Palmer

Program Chairs:

Margie Homan, Mel Worbis

Public Policy & State Liaison:

Carolyn Smith

AAUW Funds:

Erin Eldridge

Scholarships:

Cari Hillman, Maria Langendorf

Diversity:

Amanda Adkins-Ricci

Garage Sale & Holiday Bazaar:

Chris Buchert, Erin Eldridge,
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

Meet Member: Connie Bunnell Griffis



A lifelong resident of our area, Connie Bunnell Griffis earned her B.S. degree in secondary English education from Miami U. in 1973. She was later certified in Educational Media and completed a Masters in Counseling at Wright State U., then added special needs education and reading specialist to her credentials.

She retired in 2009 from teaching after 35 years, working in both the Carlisle and Mason high schools, where she also was advisor to the yearbook and newspaper. She taught in the Eaton Community Schools, too, serving as an intervention specialist at first, then as a reading specialist, English teacher and counselor.

Connie has lived in Madison Township for over 35 years with her husband Ed. She got involved in local Madison schools when her sons, Brandon and Conor, were growing up, then reengaged to oppose the arming of teachers, which led to further involvement in Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America.

Once an avid tennis player, Connie today is deeply involved in political campaigns and has spoken to the Madison School Board and Ohio State Legislature (shown above) about the danger of allowing teachers to go armed at school.

State To Host Fall Summit Near Columbus

AAUW members from throughout Ohio will gather in Worthington, near the state capitol, for a meeting about public policy in action. You may participate in person or by Zoom. Keynote speakers will cover issues involving redistricting and reproductive choice. In addition, Erin Czeniak, our Ohio Public Policy Co-Chair, will share “More Things to Watch in Ohio Politics” and Dr. Anne-Marie E. Walkowicz of Central State University will speak on “Mentoring our Future Leaders.”

Saturday, Sept. 30
10:00 am – 3:00 pm
All Saints Lutheran Church
6770 North High Street
Worthington, OH 43085

Cost
\$25 In Person
(includes lunch)
\$10 Virtual

Keynote Speaker: Redistricting - Mia Lewis, [Common Cause Ohio](#)
 Mia Lewis joined Common Cause during the push to pass 2018’s anti-gerrymandering Issue 1, coordinating teams across Ohio to push for a “Yes” vote. She comes from an organizing and educational background and is passionate about protecting and expanding the right to vote.

Keynote Speaker: Reproductive Freedom - Kim Hady, Programs Manager, [Abortion Access Front](#)
 Kristin Hady has coordinated the volunteer clinic escort program at her local indie abortion clinic for the last seven years, serves on the boards of both Pro-Choice Ohio and The Agnes Reynolds Jackson Fund, and works as the Community Engagement Coordinator for Abortion Access Front.

Register now at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2023-fall-summit-tickets-584063829637?aff=oddtcreator>

District Convenes in Lieu of National Meeting

A three-day regional conference of Central States branches, including Middletown, will be held October 19 – 21 in St Louis, MO at the Drury Plaza Hotel. Speakers will include AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell and public policy and organizational consultant Lisa Maatz.



Plenary and breakout topics will cover voting rights, reproductive rights and women’s health, equity and inclusion, succession planning and leadership, women’s economic security, pay equity and more.

For more information go to:
<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/aauw-midwest-regional-conference/>