



Equity Now

OCT. 2023

Program Note: Members will be sent a Zoom invite through emails. Non-members who wish to Zoom should contact Mel Worbis at worbismm@gmail.com for link.

Recycle, Reuse, Recreate: Keeping Fabrics Out of Landfills

Monday, Oct. 9 at 7 pm

Kettering Health Center's Community Room,
6147 State Route 122 in Middletown and Zoom*

At our October branch meeting we will be learning about Thread Up Oxford, a non-profit dedicated to keeping textile waste out of landfills. The organization educates consumers about the impact of our "fast fashion" culture and promotes textile reuse and recycling in the Oxford, Ohio area.



Founder Shana Rosenberg (left) will speak about the group's impact to date and what they are continuing to do in the local community in order to reduce fabric waste. Learn more at their website: threadupoxford.org.

"Fast fashion" means cheap, throw-away, mass-produced clothing that is often made by exploited workers, using toxic chemicals dyes which add to global water pollution.

State Meeting Highlights Reproductive Issues

AAUW Ohio's 2023 Fall Summit was held on Sept. 30 in Worthington. Carolyn Smith and Debbie Worbis represented our branch, where a major focus was on reproductive issues in Ohio and the challenges facing the Amendment to the Ohio Constitution, titled "The Right to Reproductive Freedom with Protections for Health and Safety." This amendment protects the individual's right to make decisions about contraception, fertility treatments, miscarriage care, and abortion, among others.

We encourage you to visit ReadTheAmendment.com order to get familiar with the amendment's language, as the ballot includes vocabulary changes meant to confuse the issue. Members wishing to become more involved can contact Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights.

Other Summit speakers addressed the best ways to mentor our future leaders, resources for tracking legislation currently under consideration, and ways to make our voices heard. Check out the "Calls to Action" list on the last page.

Calendar of Events

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

Learn how Thread Up Oxford works to keep textile waste out of landfills by educating consumers.

Holiday Bazaar Preparation
Sept. 26 – Oct. 26, 9 am – 12:00
▶ 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

Sorting and pricing of donated holiday items will take place every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday morning from 9 am to noon.

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), followed by an optional early dinner at El Meson in West Carrollton.

Holiday Bazaar Events

Open House:
Nov. 2 (6:00 – 7:30 pm)
Come browse, talk to other members and enjoy a cup of cider.

Sale: Nov. 3 – 4 and 10 – 11
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
▶ 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

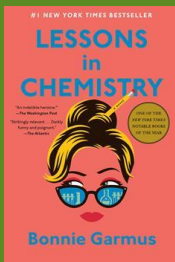
Branch Meeting: "What's Happening in Middletown City Schools?"
Monday, Nov. 6 at 7:00 pm
▶ Middletown High's Community Room, 601 N. Breiel Blvd.

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

Joy Luck Book Club

Thurs., Oct. 19 at 7 pm
Lisa Wilson's home

Lessons in Chemistry –
Bonnie Garmus

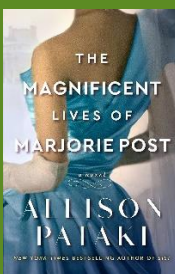


The novel everyone you know is reading about a gifted research chemist in the 1960s whose career takes a detour when she becomes the unlikely star of a cooking show. *Madame Curie meets Julia Child?*

SPECIAL FREE EVENT: Bonnie Garmus is speaking at Miami University Hamilton's Parrish Auditorium at 7 pm on Oct. 24.

Thurs., Nov. 16 at 7 pm
Nita Driscoll's home

The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post – Allison Pataki



Marjorie Merriweather Post was more than heiress to the Post cereal fortune or the society bride of E.F. Hutton. She was a savvy entrepreneur, a global philanthropist and hostess to Presidents. Winner of the French Legion of Honor, Post was also the wealthiest woman in the U.S. for most of her life. Her life's story is a national bestseller.

67th Used Book Sale Beats Goal: Earns \$7,400 of Funds for Local Students

According to Book Sale co-chair Tina Newlin, "We have turned out the lights, closed the door and passed on the keys," as the Book Sale committee transitions the space at 2204 Central Avenue to our Holiday Bazaar team.

She reports that another successful book sale put approximately \$7,400.00 in our branch bank account. "This is the result of many hours of hard work by over half of our branch's members fetching, toting, sorting, pricing, placing books in categories and continual organizing and straightening for the past several months," she said.

Remaining items were given to a variety of thankful recipients, including Warren County Correctional Institution, Lebanon Correctional Institution, Middletown City Jail, Rosa Parks Elementary School in Middletown, Fairwood Elementary School in Hamilton, Art Central Foundation, Pam and Rick Gibbs' Bible Ministry, Love Packages, Atrium Medical Center Friends Program and Goodwill.

Cookbooks were provided to the Culinary Arts programs at Madison High School and Marshall High School. Marshall High School students were a great help in boxing and moving books, then bringing holiday items out of storage for our November holiday sale.

Your Committee Chairs – Libby Abele, Sharon Dowden and Tina – are most grateful for all the help and friendship along the way!

Work Begins on November's Holiday Sale

Our branch has one more sale this year to raise money for our Middletown Community Foundation fund: the Holiday Bazaar in November. "Our fundraising goal is to raise enough money so our scholarships will continue for years," said event co-chair Chris Buchert.

Work began Tuesday, September 26 and will continue every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to noon at 2204 Central Avenue until the sale. The first work is emptying boxes and putting out items for sale. We also need members to put up the Christmas trees and work in our wreath "hospital."

"Please come as often as possible," says Chris. "Many hands make the work go faster. The fellowship is also fun, as we have conversations about the interesting finds being donated."

An open house for members is scheduled on Thursday, November 2 from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Come browse, talk to other members and enjoy a cup of cider.

Be sure to circulate the Holiday Bazaar Flyer attached to this email. It shows items suitable for donation. Donation drop-off days are Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 – 11:30 am starting Tuesday, Oct. 10, through Thursday, Oct. 26.





Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Debbie Worbis
(dworbis@gmail.com)

Congratulations and many thanks to all who worked on our 2023 book sale! We especially appreciate the continued leadership and hard work of Libby Abele, Sharon Dowden and Tina Newlin, our book sale co-chairs. We recognize that it takes the contributions of all of the members who participate in so many ways – collecting, sorting, carrying, pricing, arranging, selling, and also purchasing – to make this sale a success year after year. With the proceeds from this year's sale, we have the funds required to support our local scholarship recipients and BeWise campers.

One of those campers gave an enthusiastic report to members at our opening branch meeting on Sept. 11. Middle school student Makayla Pringle-Foster (shown below at our meeting and at camp) shared her photos with members and talked about the wolf that fascinated her at camp, the friendships she made with other campers, and her own aspirations to eventually become a veterinarian.

We also reviewed the many ways in which AAUW promotes equity through workshops, fellowships and grants, and political action. As I watched the shoppers at the book sale, I was aware that our book sale not only helps our scholarship recipients, but also makes it possible for readers from a range of income groups to build their personal libraries at a very low cost.

Even after the book sale has ended, we contribute books to different groups and institutions. Teachers at schools receiving those donations are then able to provide more reading materials to their young readers, even rewarding some with free books. Students from Marshall High School gain community service experience when they help us to pack up and move the remaining books. Over time, our book sale leaders have found many places that can use the items we don't sell, making this a successful recycling program for hundreds of books.

On Oct. 9 at 7 pm, we will learn about another kind of recycling when we welcome Shana Rosenberg, founder of Thread Up Oxford. I hope you will be able to join us for that program at the Kettering Health Center or on Zoom.



2023- 2024 LEADERSHIP

President:

Debbie Worbis

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



The Time is Write... for PENS

October will mark one year that our PENS group has been meeting at Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM). We meet in conference room #123 on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month from 1:00-2:30 p.m. Our next meeting dates are October 5 and 19.

PENS was on hiatus during AAUW book sale work, and we look forward to coming together again to share our stories and words of wisdom. Anyone who has a passion for writing is welcome to join our writers' group. We encourage each other, give each other constructive feedback, and provide an incentive to **put pen to paper and WRITE!** Our format is to bring a piece of your own writing to share (verbally) with the group (5 minute time frame/each writer). Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513/424-8409.

Special Event: Mound Discovery Center Tour & El Meson

Saturday, Oct. 21

Museum Tour 2:30-4:30 (meet at museum)
1075 Mound Road, Miamisburg, Ohio 45324

Followed by dinner and drinks at:
El Meson Restaurant in West Carrollton

RSVP: sign up at Oct. 9 meeting
or contact Margie Homan **by Oct. 10** at
513-518-3897 or homan.margie@gmail.com
if you wish to attend the tour and/or the dinner

Mound Laboratory revolutionized the history of the Cold War, Nuclear Age and Space Race. Open from 1948 until 2003, this government facility's scientific work was so top secret that some remains classified to this day.



Bring friends, family and prospective members to the event. The tour is \$5.00, to be paid at the museum. Let us know if you are interested in carpooling or able to drive. To learn more about the museum or El Meson, visit <https://moundmuseum.com/> or <https://elmeson.net/>



El Meson Restaurant
903 E Dixie Drive, Dayton, OH 45449
(West Carrollton)

Everyone will pay for their own for meals.

“Call To Action” List

At the end of AAUW Ohio’s Fall Summit on Sept. 30, conference attendees brainstormed Calls to Action. The discussion generated a list of activities that might help branches improve their missions and have an impact on policies that affect women’s lives. The list is below.

- Know the facts.
- Promote ReadtheAmendment.com.
- Participate in Ohioans United for Reproductive Rights text bank.
- Promote the slogan, “Issue I, NO in August, YES in November.”
- Mentor new members.
- Tell the stories you know of women’s lives impacted by lack of reproductive rights.
- Highlight contradictions in political reasoning.
- Be annoying, or persistent.
- Meet the candidates.
- Know what you stand for.
- Involve more young people.
- Connect with Gen Zs who face, all over again, the issues that challenged young Baby Boomers.
- Use positive social media to improve the algorithms of ideas you support. Comment, share, and comment on comments.
- Use 5calls.org to connect with congressional representatives.
- Connect with congressional representatives through AAUW Two-Minute Activist.
- Attend or host an issues forum.
- Support other branches.
- Send branch news to Nancy Stellhorn, AAUW Ohio webmaster.
- Connect to AAUW National through AAUW Virtual Office Hours.

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:
Debbie Worbis

Secretary:
Becky Hamner

Finance Chairs:
Katie DeVilling
Jackie Webster

Membership Chairs:
Marti Kreps
Eleanor Yeager Stewart

Program Chairs:
Margie Homan
Mel Worbis

Communications Chairs:
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Virginia Palmer

**Public Policy & State
Liaison:**
Carolyn Smith

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Scholarships:
Cari Hillman
Maria Langendorf

**Garage Sale & Holiday
Bazaar:**
Chris Buchert
Erin Eldredge
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