



*Equity Now*

**NOV. 2023**

## Calendar of Events

**Holiday Bazaar Preparation**  
Oct. 26 – 31, 9 am – 12:00  
▶ 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

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

**Holiday Bazaar Open House**  
Nov. 2 (6:00 – 7:30 pm)  
▶ 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

*Come browse, talk to other members and enjoy a cup of cider.*

**Holiday Bazaar 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.

**\*\*NOTE DIFFERENT DAY OF THE MONTH AND LOCATION\*\***

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

**Book Talk with Kendra Herber**  
Monday, Dec. 11 at 7:00 pm

▶ Kettering Hosp. Community Room, 6147 St. Rt. OH-122

*Author Kendra Herber will discuss the many challenges of being an amputee and becoming a teacher, mother, author and triathlete. She will have copies of her book available to purchase.*

**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](mailto:worbismm@gmail.com) for link.

## What’s Happening in Middletown City Schools?

**Monday, Nov. 6 at 7 pm**

Middletown High School’s Community Room,  
601 N. Breiel Blvd. in Middletown and Zoom\*

Our November branch meeting will feature Deborah Houser, Middletown City School District’s (MCSD) first female Superintendent in its 170-year history. It’s exciting to see more women like Superintendent Houser entering leadership roles in our community.

Please note that this is one week earlier than our usual meeting date. Also, we will gather at the high school, not our usual location. A Zoom link will be sent out a few days before.



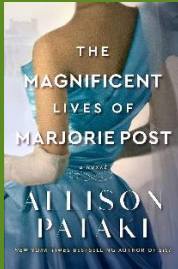
*(Source: Cincinnati Enquirer)*

A press release issued by the district shares that Houser has more than 30 years of experience in the field of education. She spent the past 15 years with MCSD, most recently serving in the role of Assistant Superintendent, a new position created in 2021. In that role, she was a chief architect of MCSD’s “Passport to Tomorrow,” a six-year plan to help inspire students to develop transferable work-force skill sets, leading to life-changing career opportunities upon graduation.

## Joy Luck Book Club

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.

Thurs., Dec. 14 at 7 pm  
Chris Buchert's home

*First Annual Book Swap*



One of the joys of being in a book club is discovering what ELSE people are reading each month. This is your opportunity to bring a book that you loved reading during 2023 and are willing to part with, talk about it at our gathering, and pick up someone else's favorite that she brought. Come prepared to share why you chose this particular book and why you'd recommend it to a friend. If you do a great job, we might just choose it to read during 2024!

## Kick Off the Holiday Season with Our Bazaar

Our sparkling Holiday Bazaar is almost here! There are so many fun and beautiful items for sale. Once again, people in the branch and community have donated their treasures. There are only a few more days to help prepare before our sale opens on Friday, November 3.

The sale takes place on Friday and Saturday, November 3 – 4, and 10 – 11. Please text or email Chris Buchert if you have not signed up to help at the sale. Contact her at 513-292-0420 or tcbuch@yahoo.com.

Remember to publicize the event on Facebook and other social media outlets, send emails to family and friends, etc. We want a good turnout!

### Members Holiday Bazaar Open House

A members-only Open House will be held on Thursday, November 2 from 6:00 – 7:30 pm so you have a head start looking at all the fun items for sale. Have a glass of cider, browse the items, buy a few if you like, and have fun socializing with other members.

## Keeping Textiles Out of Landfills Was Theme of October Meeting

Shana Rosenberg (left), founder of Thread Up Oxford, spoke to a large group in October about recycling fashion and reclaiming fibers. With program co-chair Margie Homan (right).



Hospitality co-chair Mary Millard with festive treats enjoyed by the group.





## Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Debbie Worbis  
([dworbis@gmail.com](mailto:dworbis@gmail.com))

I am writing today after having joined several of our members and their guests yesterday for an interesting, informative guided tour of the Mound Cold War Discovery Center in Miamisburg, followed by dinner at the El Meson restaurant in West Carrollton. I want to thank Margie Homan for arranging this, and I would encourage those who weren't able to attend yesterday to visit the Discovery Center when possible to learn more about this chapter of our nation's scientific and military history.

For our November newsletter, we want to stress the importance of exercising our hard-earned right to vote. We certainly recognize and support our members' right to make their own individual voting decisions on all issues, but the branch newsletter seems to be an appropriate place to share this organization's stance on voting rights and Ohio's current Issue 1.

AAUW endorses the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act (9/19/23), which attempts to restore and modernize the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which has been weakened by more recent Supreme Court decisions that have made it possible for state legislators to advance hundreds of new restrictive voting laws. You can find more information on the Policy Updates page of the national website.

On the national website you will also see that "AAUW members have made the protection of reproductive rights an unwavering policy principle since 1977, including in the 2021-2023 Public Policy Priorities." You can find a more detailed discussion of reproductive rights and health care on the national website. As for Issue 1 in Ohio, a "yes" vote would support establishment in the Ohio Constitution of an affirmative right to abortion, contraception, miscarriage care, and fertility treatment. A "no" vote would leave abortion policy up to lawmakers and the courts.

On a different topic, so many of you have been working really hard to get ready for our annual holiday bazaar, and the resulting display is impressive! Remember that our Members Only Preview is on November 2, when the best selection will be available. Hopefully, you have shared both weekends' dates with your friends to help us bring in a great pool of customers for these holiday decorations and gifts.

Finally, I hope that many of you will attend our program at 7:00 pm on November 6. **This is both a different day than our usual second Monday, and it is taking place at a different site as well.** We will meet at the **Middletown High School Community Room on the first Monday of November** to get an update from Superintendent Debbie Houser on Middletown City Schools. See you then!

### 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



## Members & Guests Meet at Mound and El Meson

Members and guests enjoyed a tour of the Mound Cold War Discovery Center in Miamisburg, followed by dinner at El Meson in West Carrollton on Oct. 21. The museum chronicles the pivotal role that Mound Lab played in the history of the Cold War, Nuclear Age and Space Race.



### The Time is Write... for PENS

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](mailto:beckward@gmail.com) or 513/424-8409.

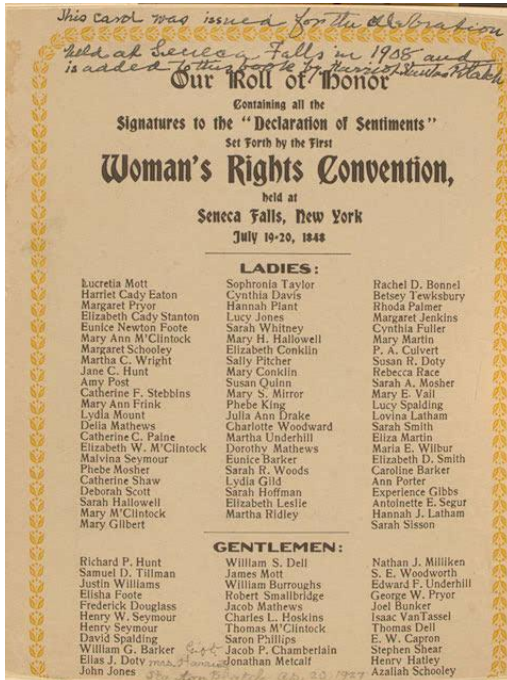


Programs co-chair Mel Worbis is up to her arms in an exhibit that details how people handled nuclear material at the Mound, which operated from 1948 until 2003.



HISTORICAL GLIMPSE

# Seneca Falls Convention – July 1848



Come one, come all! Come to what is regarded as the birthplace of American feminism. Women and some men arrived in Seneca Falls to a beautiful setting in the Finger Lakes region of New York. They were there on a mission for what is thought to be the first women’s rights convention in the United States.

Activist and leader Elizabeth Cady Stanton wrote **The Declaration of Sentiments**, which called for women’s equality and suffrage. This document was modeled after the Declaration of Independence, beginning with the words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal.” These words were a moving beginning to the idea that women truly were equal to men.

There was an argument about only one of the resolutions: women’s right to vote. Finally, after Frederick Douglass, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and her husband argued for the necessity of women voting, the resolution was adopted. On July 20th, 68 women and 32 men signed the Declaration, and the women’s suffrage movement was born.

More than 70 years after that convention, women finally won the right to vote with the passing of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment in 1920, which is now more than 100 years ago.

## 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:**  
Mergie Homan  
Mel Worbis

**Communications Chairs:**  
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Virginia Palmer

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**PENS (Writing Group)**  
Becky Ward