



Equity For All

OCT. 2024

Calendar of Events

Middletown's Midpointe Library: Past, Present, Future
Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 pm

► 125 S. Broad St., Middletown

We'll learn more about what's going on at the library from Adam Wanter and member Cari Hillman, community engagement director.

Butler County Warbirds Tour
Saturday, Oct. 19 at 1 - 3 pm

► Butler County Warbirds Hangar at Middletown Regional Airport, 2351 Wedekind Dr.

Tour the exhibit and learn more about the Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II and their history. Limit 25 guests. Requested donation of \$5 paid at hangar to help build scholarships for women pursuing training as pilots. Email Mel Worbis at worbismm@gmail.com if you plan to attend. Guests are welcome.

Annual Holiday Bazaar
November 9 – 10, 15 – 17

► 2204 Central Ave., Middletown

Note: These dates changed from what is printed in our 2024-25 Program Booklet.

Meet Dani McClain
Monday, Nov. 4 at 7 pm

► Location TBD

*Author Dani McClain will discuss the writing of her book, *We Live for the We: The Political Power of Black Motherhood*, and update us on her new projects.*

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

Middletown's Midpointe Library: Past, Present & Future

Tuesday, October 15 at 7 pm

Midpointe Library Community Room (and Zoom)
125 S. Broad Street, Middletown

Our October meeting will be held at Midpointe Library System's Middletown branch. Midpointe serves more than 180,000 people and circulates over 2.5 million items a year. The library is up for a community tax levy in November.



Presenters will be Cari Hillman, Community Engagement Director, and Digital and Special Collections Archivist Adam Wanter. They will talk about the library's history and their hopes for the future of the library system and its impact on our community.

BeWISE Camper Attends First Branch Meeting



Nahla Malone with her dad, Ben

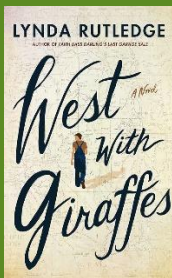
Our first branch meeting was a pot luck dinner on Sept. 9 where we discussed leadership roles, responsibilities, and the needs of our different fundraising events throughout the coming year. We also had a chance to hear from Nahla Malone, recipient of our BeWISE scholarship, about the fun time she had at a residential camp at Muskingum University this summer. BeWISE Camp's mission is to develop interest, excitement and self-confidence in middle school girls in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Joy Luck Book Club

Thurs., Oct. 17 at 7 pm
Lisa Wilson's home

West With Giraffes – Lynda Rutledge

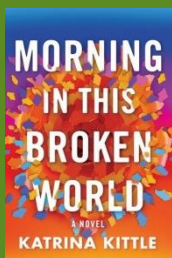
Part adventure, part historical saga, and part coming-of-age love story, *West with Giraffes* is based on the incredible true story of two giraffes who crossed the Atlantic in a hurricane and were trucked across the U.S. during the Great Depression to become the first giraffes of the San Diego Zoo.



Thurs., Nov. 14 at 7 pm
** Note date change**
Becky Ward's home

Morning In This Broken World
– Katrina Kittle

A poignant, life-affirming story of an older widow and a young family who come to rely on each other during the early days of COVID-19. Written by Dayton's own best-selling author Katrina Kittle.



AAUW Ohio Fall Summit

The annual fall conference of AAUW Ohio will be held on Saturday, September 28 in Worthington, Ohio. Our keynote speaker will be Erin Czerniak, TEDx speaker, writer, campaign adviser, and public policy enthusiast.

What: AAUW Ohio Annual Fall Conference

When: Saturday, Sept. 28 from 10 am – 3 pm

Where: All Saints Lutheran Church, 6770 N. High Street in Worthington

Tickets: Go to <https://aauw-oh.aauw.net/>

If registration is closed, members may bring their own lunch and pay at the door.

Along with the Fall Summit, AAUW Ohio is hosting a book chat open to all members (regardless of attending conference) on Friday, Sept. 27 at 7 pm with Jen Psaki, author of *Say More*. Jen will explain her straightforward approach to communication, walking you through difficult conversations as well as moments where humor saves the day. The session is facilitated by Rush Rogers. Look for an email from AAUW Ohio with a link to the Zoom chat.



Letter from Our Leader

Branch President Debbie Worbis

dworbis@gmail.com

We enjoyed a good turnout for our opening meeting of this program year, as we got to hear from Nahla Malone, one of our BeWISE camp scholarship recipients, and then formed groups to prepare for moving forward with our fundraising work.

The next afternoon I logged in to the national AAUW webinar to learn more about their focus this year. The speakers emphasized the importance of active participation, and they reminded all members that we can sign up online for the Two-Minute Activist tool to join the fight for equity.

In this important election year, they reminded us that AAUW is a non-partisan organization focused on issues, not political parties. Many members across the country are involved in voter registration training, while all are encouraged to remember that their vote matters. By checking out AAUW's national website, each of us can review the legislation and issues that we need to promote.

Finally, after promoting reading in our community with our annual used book sale, we will now focus on our public library at our next meeting on October 15. Butler County residents have a chance to support the work of the Midpointe Library System as a library levy will be on the local ballot this November. Please join us in the Midpointe Library Community Room or online at 7 pm for some local library history.

Hear From Our PENS Writers

Our AAUW Branch “special interest” writers’ group has been meeting since February 2018. The purpose of our group is to provide an incentive to *put pen to paper and WRITE!* We encourage each other and give constructive feedback. Our format is to bring a piece of writing to share (verbally) with the group (5 minute time frame per writer). Our group has shared writing pursuits across a wide range: poetry, journaling, travel blog, memoir, preparing a draft for a book. We all have a story to tell. Come share your story with PENS.

We meet the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in Room 123 of the Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus of Miami University (MUM). Upcoming dates are September 19 and October 3 and 17. Call or email Becky Ward if you have any questions: beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409.

Below is a poem from PENS writer Margie Homan. Look forward to other samples from PENS writers in upcoming issues of this newsletter.



The Lion in Me

*I awoke with a roar
Like a beast on the Serengeti
Not really angry just showing my
contempt
For being in the dark
Instead of the sunshine.*

The Cedar Bark Moon

*The full moon slipped through the crack of the darkened room.
He said, “I will make you crazy.”
So she kissed him saying, “You’re too late.”*

Margie Homan on “Why I Write”

I started writing poems early. In the 5th grade, our teacher passed out copies of e. e. cummings’ poem, “in just-spring.” I loved the poem. I started writing poems without capitalizing and with creative punctuation. I thought it was “cool” and one less thing to worry about.

After graduating high school, I wanted to be a Creative Writing major, but you needed a foreign language and that was out of the question for me. So I became an Art Major and never looked back.

I have written poems throughout my life. I find that if I can write a poem about something bothering me, I can put the poem to rest and move forward.

Meet New Member Jocelyn Gregory



With more than 30 years of experience in education, Jocelyn Gregory currently teaches at Butler Tech D. Russel Lee Campus in Fairfield Township. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership, both from Miami University. She also holds an M.B.A. degree from Walden University.

A distinguished member of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Jocelyn serves as the Anti-Grammateus for the Epsilon Kappa Sigma Chapter in Dayton, Ohio. In addition to this role, she is the 7th Anti-Basileus and Advisor of the Upsilon Pi Chapter at Miami University.

Jocelyn is an active member of the New Era Baptist Church in Middletown, where she contributes as a member of the media team. She also has been a dedicated reviewer for the Titus Thompson Memorial Scholarship Fund since its inception more than five years ago.

Fun Event at Garver Farm

About 10 branch members and some of their husbands met for dinner at the Garver Family Farm in Monroe on Sept. 19. Fifth-generation Garver daughter, Alayna (shown below), gave us an entertaining overview of the development of this new facility, which offers a market, deli and wine bar.



Book Sale Concludes; Holiday Bazaar Gears Up!

After finishing another successful book sale which raised nearly \$7,000 for scholarships, we are ready to move forward with our annual Holiday Bazaar. The dates will be two weekends in November (Nov. 8-9 and 15-17). Items will be sold as priced during the first weekend, then 50% off the second Friday and Saturday, and 75% off on Sunday. (NOTE: These dates have changed from what was printed in our 2024-25 program booklet.)

We need your help to prepare for the sale. Beginning Tuesday, October 1, we will work every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon. Please join as often as you are available.

Co-chair Carole Schul said, "We are looking forward to having a successful Holiday Sale. We have a lot of wonderful things in the back already, and plan to start donation drop-offs on Tuesday, October 6."

Diversity Spotlight

Here is a link to an interesting article from 2020 in the *Harvard Business Review* titled "Moving Beyond Diversity Toward Racial Equity."

<https://hbr.org/2020/06/moving-beyond-diversity-toward-racial-equity>

Summary: As anti-racism protests sweep the U.S., it's clear that returning to "business as usual" will be good for business. And yet while it's clear current corporate diversity efforts are lacking, business leaders (particularly white ones) aren't sure what next steps to take. One solution is to move from trying to change some people to fit the organization to focusing on transforming organizations to fit *all* people. Doing this work requires understanding how power works and using it for change; ensuring that conflict is understood and embraced as part of the process; and committing to learning and long-term transformation.

Meet New Member

Tina Yauch



Kristina "Tina" Yauch is a lifelong resident of Middletown and Licensed Independent Social Worker (LISW) who opened her own therapy practice in Middletown this past April.

Tina rose to the position of bank manager before embarking on her college degree. She earned a BA from Miami University with a degree in Sociology and concentration in Criminology, then went on to earn a Master of Social Work degree from University of Cincinnati, having met her husband John in the years between. With two years of post-MSW study [?] and 3,000 hours of supervised social work experience, Tina achieved the license that permits her to be a mental health therapist today.

Tina has worked for National Church Residences, South-western Council on Aging, in the Behavioral Health Unit of Atrium Medical and, for the past 7 years, Centerpoint Health.

Tina was elected to the Political Action for Candidate Election by the Ohio Branch of the National Association of Social Workers. She volunteers with Middletown Community Building Institute's Kindergarten Camp Program and "You Matter," where teens meet monthly to talk. She loves to attend classic rock concerts and play with her rescue Irish Setter, Ruby, and rescue cat, Precious.

2024-25 Program Book Corrections

Chris Buchert:
Delete home phone number (use cell)

Paula Cohen's email:
pwc1016@gmail.com

Pam Pearson's address:
210 Mount Pleasant Place, Apt. 217
Monroe, OH 45050
(phone is same)

New member contact:
Jocelyn Gregory
4831 Springwood Court
Liberty Township, OH 45011
joss50@gmx.us
(513) 702-5066

100 Years Ago...100 More to Go!

In October 2025 our AAUW chapter will turn 100 years old! What a testament to the educated women of Middletown and the area.

Even though most of us don't need a reason to celebrate, this is a big event. So big, that we want to start planning early.

We are looking for a co-chair, members with ideas, and members who want to help. We will welcome all ideas. In particular, we need members to develop a plan and implement it. The committee will meet online in the evenings once a month to get organized and then biweekly when we get closer to the anniversary. All meetings will be as short as possible. We need graphic designers, marketers, people who like to sell and speak to people, historians, forward thinkers, and people who want to help. We will be raising funds for the events so we are not using branch money.

You don't need to be part of the committee to participate, though. Some tasks can be done from your own home and will be short-lived. So help us celebrate the past and keep fighting for women. After 100 years, there is still a lot of work to do. If you have ideas, want to be on the committee or want to help with selected tasks, please email President-Elect Margie Homan at homan.margie@gmail.com. If you have questions, you may call her at 513-518-3897.

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

President-Elect:

Margie Homan

Secretary Co-Chairs:

Becky Hamner
Marcia Miller

Finance Co-Chairs:

Katie DeVilling
Jackie Webster

Membership Co-Chairs:

Marti Kreps
Eleanor Yeager Stewart

Program Co-Chairs:

Mary Reams
Mel Worbis

Communications Co-Chairs:

Judy Florence
Virginia Palmer

Public Policy:

Connie Griffis

State Liaison:

Carolyn Smith

AAUW Funds:

Erin Eldridge

Diversity:

Amanda Adkins-Ricci

Scholarship Co-Chairs:

Cari Hillman
Maria Langendorf

Holiday Bazaar:

Jackie Lankfer
Carole Schul
Chris Buchert (consulting)

Book Sale:

Libby Abele
Sharon Dowden
Tina Newlin

Garage Sale

Co-Chairs TBD

**Newsletter Editor/
Joy Luck Book Group:**
Sharon Williamson

PENS (Writing Group)
Becky Ward