



Equity Now

AUGUST 2025

Celebrating Our Century

In October we will be celebrating a very important milestone in the history of our branch: the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Middletown chapter of the American Association of University Women. We have a variety of fun events planned to commemorate our century of service to the community.

Be sure to save the dates of 9/25/25 and 10/25/25 to celebrate the founding of our branch in 1925. (How's that for tidy planning? So easy to remember!) You can read more about our September Speakeasy event on the following page. Details about our October luncheon will be published in an upcoming issue.

Work Gears Up for September Book Sale

Work has begun on our annual book sale. Members are needed on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 am to noon to help sort and price donated material. Come for whatever length of time you are able.

If you haven't been to our sale site you will be impressed! Go to the back of Towne Mall and look for AAUW signage pointing the way. The entrance is behind Gabe's by Loading Dock Bay B. Contact Marcia Miller at 513-267-0065 or marciamiller289@gmail.com to let her know when you plan to work. (Do not use the home phone number listed in last year's directory.)

Book Sale Dates and Pricing

Thursday, Sept. 11	4 pm – 8 pm (\$5 Pre-sale entry)
Friday, Sept. 12	10 am – 6 pm
Saturday, Sept. 13	10 am – 4 pm
Sunday, Sept. 14	12 pm – 4 pm (\$10 per bag)
Saturday, Sept. 20	10 am – 4 pm (\$5 per bag)
Sunday, Sept. 21	12 pm – 4 pm (\$5 per bag)

Dues Reminder

Have you renewed your membership? We're in the midst of compiling next year's program book and directory, and we don't want your name to be missing. We realize that memberships no longer renew at the same time, so be on the lookout for an email from AAUW National when it's time for you to renew.

Our combined national, state and local dues are now **\$95**. You may pay this in one of two ways: by credit card online or by sending a check to AAUW for \$95 and mailing it to: AAUW, P.O. Box 118, Middletown, OH 45042

Calendar of Events

Rumpke Recycling Tour

Wed., August 6 at 11:30 am

► **This tour has been POSTPONED indefinitely.**

Potluck Dinner & Meeting

Mon., Sept. 8 at 6 pm

► Middletown Historical Society, 120 N. Verity Pkwy.

Bring your own place setting and a dish to share. Drinks provided. Yvette Kelly Fields, Miami University Regional Director of Development, will update us on Miami's Middletown campus.

AAUW Annual Book Sale

Th/Fri/Sat/Sun Sept. 11 – 14

Sat/Sun Sept. 20 – 21

► Towne Mall, Middletown

AAUW Study Group

Thurs., Aug. 21 at 6:30 pm

► Singha Thai Restaurant, 4123 W Town and County Rd., Kettering

Meet the owner and hear her story about immigrating from Thailand and opening a restaurant in Kettering, Ohio.

AAUW Speakeasy: Party Like It's 1925!

Thurs., Sept. 25 at 6 – 8 pm

► West Central Wine + Bar, 1120 Central Ave., Middletown

Bring a friend to this casual kickoff to celebrate our branch's 100th anniversary year.

Celebrate Our Century Luncheon

Sat., Oct. 25 at 12:30 pm ?

► Event Center of Middletown, 3907 Central Ave.

Honor this major milestone for our branch at this gala luncheon, featuring Dr. Anedra Million, trailblazing educator, mental health advocate, and Mrs. Ohio in 2024.

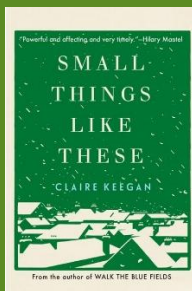
Joy Luck Book Club

Annual Potluck & Movie
Thurs., August 21 at 6 pm
Marti Krepp's home

Small Things Like These – Claire Keegan

This brief historical fiction novella takes place in a small Irish town in 1985, when a coal merchant and family man confronts a local convent's heartless treatment of unmarried women and their babies.

We will have dinner together, discuss the book, then watch the movie. Please bring an appetizer, salad, main dish or dessert to share.



Thurs., Sept. 18 at 7 pm
Nita Driscoll's home

Stephen King Roundtable

Although known as the King of Horror, this award-winning author has explored other genres, including suspense, crime, science-fiction, fantasy and mystery. Select any book or short story by Stephen King, then be prepared to talk about the work and why you chose it.



Come to the Speakeasy: Party Like It's 1925!

Join us for a night of fun, connection and celebration as we honor 100 years of AAUW! We're throwing a Speakeasy-style social on Thursday, September 25 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm at West Central Wine + Bar, 1120 Central Ave. in Middletown. This open house, drop-in event is all about networking, reminiscing, storytelling and celebrating our rich history together.

Here's what you can expect:

- A festive speakeasy theme (Dressing up is optional but encouraged!)
- There will be prizes for the best-dressed guest.
- A secret password to be revealed closer to the date; you'll need it to enter!
- Tickets are \$10 and include one drink ticket, heavy appetizers, desserts and refreshments. A cash bar also will be available.
- There is convenient street parking and a rear lot, and the bar is located on a bus route.



What is a Speakeasy?

Middletown's branch of AAUW was founded in 1925, during Prohibition. A speakeasy was a popular type of bar or club known for being hidden from the public eye, often guarded by a doorman who asked customers for a secret code to enter.

AAUW is the opposite of an exclusive organization, but we may be one of the best kept secrets in town! Take advantage of this casual, affordable event to invite your friends to learn more about our mission and programs.

As we celebrate a century of AAUW we're inviting you to share your story at the event. You'll be reflecting on such themes as:

- A moment in history that shaped your life or your outlook on life
- How life today compares to your childhood or teen years
- Your first paycheck – How much was it? What did you do with it?
- And most importantly, how has AAUW impacted your life?

Start thinking about your answers now. We'll have more details and prompts at the September branch meeting.

Ticket sales and payment options, including electronic purchasing, will be shared soon. You'll also have the option to send a check or cash, if you prefer. Let's make this event great. Invite a friend, a potential new member, your spouse or partner, and raise a glass to 100 years of progress, purpose and powerful women. We can't wait to see you there!

AAUW Middletown Officers for 2025-26 Program Year

Elected officers and appointed committee chairs for our upcoming program year are listed below.

President: Margie Homan

President-Elect:
Amanda Adkins-Ricci

Secretary Co-Chairs: Becky Hamner and Marcia Miller

Finance Co-Chairs: Katie DeVilling and Jackie Webster

Membership Co-Chairs: Beth Miller and Eleanor Yeager Stewart

Communications Co-Chairs:
Jackie Lankfer and Carolyn Smith

Program Co-Chairs: Marti Kreps and Katie McNeil

Scholarship Co-Chairs: Debbie Worbis and Mel Worbis

Diversity: Emily Foote

State Liaison: Carolyn Smith

National Liaison: Jocelyn Gregory

Book Sale Co-Chairs: Marcia Miller Stacey Finnessy, Marianne Zsiska

Holiday Bazaar Co-Chairs: Carole Schul, Chris Buchert, Jackie Lankfer, Bonnie Thompson

Garage Sale Co-Chairs: Karen Berry, Chris Buchert, Erin Eldridge, Jackie Webster

Letter from Our Leader Branch President Margie Homan



As we approach the 100th anniversary of our AAUW branch in Middletown, I thought it was time to say why this is important to us.

On October 21, 1925, twelve Middletown women, all college graduates, got together to sign our charter. We do not know their motivation or reasons. We do have the list of branch presidents going back to 1925, though. Sharon Williamson is doing research on them that we plan to use at our 100-year celebration luncheon. But because most of the early members used their husbands' names, we have not been able to find out much about them.

We do know a little bit about women's lives in Middletown. The average life expectancy was 56.6 years. Now it is 78.9 years. Most women were married and raised their children, worn cotton house dresses at home, and got dressed to go out. Everyone wore hats. Women were supposed to enjoy housework and happily embrace that as their mission in life.

There were a lot of things that women couldn't do. Although women could get a law degree, most law offices hired them as secretaries. Women could not work the night shift. Women who were mothers or pregnant could not work. It was not until 1978 that there was legal protection for working mothers and pregnant women.

However, in 1925 twelve educated women in Middletown, Ohio got together to make a commitment to support the advancement and education of their sex. And 100 years later, we are still doing the same thing.

PENS Challenges Us to "Write On!"

It's almost back to school time...which makes us think of buying notebooks, pencils and pens. What better time to recommit to following your writing muse?

Our PENS writing group meets the first and third Thursday of each month from 1:00 to 2:30 pm in Room 123 of the Gardner Harvey Library on the Middletown Campus of Miami University. Our next meeting dates August 7 and 21.

Please contact Becky Ward at beckward@gmail.com or 513-424-8409 if you have any questions. Everyone has a story to tell. Come share your story with PENS.

Saying Goodbye to Long-time Member, Rose Grau



In late June we said goodbye to Rose Grau, one of our most loyal and active members, at a party at Chris Buchert's home. Rose and her husband Ed have moved to Franklin, Tenn., near Nashville, to be closer to their children. Rose and Ed generously donated the use of their home for many successful garage sales and holiday bazaars over the years.



Visiting with Rose (on sofa) were Joyce Triick, Betty Elworth, Anita Shew, Jackie Webster, Katie Devilling, Jan Runkle, Becky Ward, Lynne Rentschler, Margie Homan, Chris Buchert and others.

New Study Group Launches in August

A new series of events — the AAUW Food & Friendship bi-monthly study group — will launch this month. The group was developed by Emily Foote as an opportunity to connect through cuisine, grow through friendship, and experience the world together.

The first event is Thursday, August 21 at 6:30 pm at Singha Thai Restaurant at 4123 W. Town and County Road in Kettering. The group will meet the owner of Singha Thai and learn about her story immigrating from Thailand and opening a restaurant in Kettering. If you love Thai food, this will be a treat!

R.S.V.P. to Katie McNeil
by August 15 at:
Cell: 513-470- 9031 or
Kmcneil62853@gmail.com



Future events are planned for October 23 at the Sikh Society of Dayton (2320 Harshman Road) to learn about the Gurudwara and meet the owner of a local Lebanese restaurant (tbd) and on February 19 at the Calypso Cafe and Bakery in Franklin (325 S. Main St.) to learn about her experience in Croatia.