

Social Security Overview and Benefits You Should Know



AAUW invites you to an important presentation with Jasmine N. Chandler, Esq., who will clarify how Social Security works and what's changing in 2025. Attendees will learn how benefits are funded,

what it takes to qualify, and the differences between retirement, disability, and survivor benefits.

Chandler will also cover eligibility for widows, dependents, and disabled adult children—valuable information for families planning ahead. With new tax rules and credits for older beneficiaries, this topic is especially timely.

Join us to gain practical insight into one of the most important programs affecting women's financial futures. Jasmine Chandler's experience in Social Security law and advocacy will leave you better prepared and empowered to make informed choices.

Best,
Komeisha

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

6:45 pm

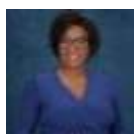
Bertram Woods Branch, Shaker Heights Library
20600 Fayette Road, Shaker Heights, OH 44122

And on Zoom

Please copy and paste the link below to register for our November meeting.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gpytlguDSfmKq6Hnpi76Kw#/registration>

You will get an email with the link to log in for the meeting. Register anytime; log in at meeting time, 6:45, to chat before prompt 7:00pm start.



We're excited to invite you to a special theatre outing on **Sunday, December 7th at 3:00 PM** to see *I Wear My Dead Sister's Clothes* as well as dinner at La Playa .

This play explores sisterhood, memory, and identity through a deeply emotional and poetic lens. Blending humor and heartbreak, it reflects on the stories we carry and

the ones we inherit from the women who came before us. We hope you come out to experience a thoughtful and meaningful play as well as dinner to share as a group.

Event Details

Show: *I Wear My Dead Sister's*

Clothes (Cleveland Public Theatre, 6415 Detroit Ave., Cleveland, OH 44102))

Dinner: La Playa Mexican Food & Mariscos (6410 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102)

Date & Time: Sunday, December 7, 3:00 PM

Estimated Ticket Cost: \$20

If you're interested in attending, **please reach out to Kay Rasmusen by November 30, 2025** so she can coordinate ticket reservations. Both spaces are ADA friendly, but please also let Kay know if you will need accommodations.

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of theatre, reflection, and fellowship. I've truly enjoyed our winter outings and I'm looking forward to making more memories with everyone.

Warmly, *Komeisha*
Komeisha Rose

Feel free to share this poster with your friends.

Cleveland Public Theatre

P R E S E N T S

I Wear My Dead Sister's Clothes

Explore sisterhood, memory, and identity in this moving, poetic play that blends humor and heartbreak. Join AAUW - HHL for an afternoon of theater and shared dinner.

Dinner: La Playa Mexican Food & Mariscos
6410 Detroit Ave, Cleveland, OH 44102

Date & Time: Sunday, December 7th · 3:00 PM

Estimated Ticket Cost: \$20

RSVP with Kay - krasmusen@hotmail.com
By 30-Nov-2025



Branch News: President's Column; Looking ahead to January

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I believe this provides us with a shared sense of possibility: democracy strengthens every time we choose to show up, ask questions, and stay engaged. Progress is built slowly-- one conversation, one connection, and one vote at a time.

Best, *Komeisha*

Looking ahead to January

January 28, 2026, 6:45 pm

In person at:

Bertram Woods Library

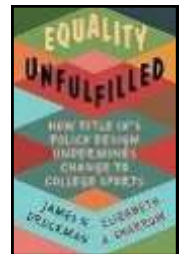
20600 Fayette Road

Shaker Heights, OH 44122

and on Zoom



We hope you'll join us as we start the new year with a powerful conversation on equality in women's sports. For our January 28, 2026 meeting, we'll be discussing *Equality Unfulfilled* by Elizabeth Sharrow and James Druckman. This book focuses on Title IX and why true equality in college sports is still a work in progress.



The book revisits the promise of Title IX, passed in 1972, and asks a simple but important question: if this law opened the door for women's athletics, why do so many inequalities still remain? Through surveys with student-athletes, coaches, administrators, and fans, the authors show how institutional culture, sex-based segregation, and money-driven decisions continue to hold back real change.

This book is meaningful and timely, and the message transcends far beyond sports. It offers insight into the barriers any marginalized group faces when pushing for fairness, and what it really takes to make equality everlasting.

We hope you'll join us in January for a thoughtful, energizing discussion to kick off the year.

Best, *Komeisha*

Zoom link to pre-register:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/91234567890?pwd=ZQ5S8ZQ80eXj4wQ>

President's Column—Komeisha Rose



A Conversation for Change: Reflections from AAUW's October 22 Voter Symposium

October 22, 2005, was a night to remember for AAUW-HHL branch members and friends for our Voter's Symposium. This evening felt less like a meeting and more like a spark. An honest, energizing conversation about the future of our rights and our democracy.

Representatives from Ohio Equal Rights and the League of Women Voters joined community members to bring clarity, guidance, and a sense of purpose to a moment when many voters are searching for direction.

The speakers broke down the complexities of Ohio's redistricting landscape, helping attendees understand why fair maps shape every issue that follows. Ohio Equal Rights also offered an accessible, heartfelt explanation of where the Equal Rights Amendment stands today. Equity remains unfinished business and these protections still matter. Both organizations shared practical voting information, reminding everyone that informed participation is one of the most powerful tools we have.

The conversations from the night of the voter symposium kept me on edge as we prepared for yet another important election. Though we have more work ahead of us, I am holding onto the light shed upon us by seeing the victories for candidates like Mary Sheffield, Mikie Sherrill, and Zaynab Mohamed each representing diversity stepping into spaces where their voices truly shape policy and community change.



AAUW Ohio Updates; Birthdays; Grapevine



AAUW News from Ohio —Nancy Stellhorn

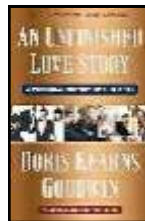


AAUW Ohio with a Little Cyber News—
November 2025 – Nancy Stellhorn

Broad and narrow reading—broadly defined. And why is a Christian group posting about it? What is a brand logo and why doesn't AAUW have one? I read about DEI and try to keep up with Ohio ERA, but we all need to read bits and pieces about internet and social media safety, too.

Have you heard about the PayPal scam? If you have used PayPal to make a payment, could you owe Geek Squad? Would you respond to the email to find out? If so, you just got scammed. The sender could send your computer bad code. Does that make computers evil? Should you stop using yours? Or should you do a little narrow reading that helps you understand what people do and just use your common sense? You're smart. You got this. I believe in you.

Join the book discussion Saturday November 17. We are discussing Doris Kearns Goodwin's easy to read book about her time working in the White House when she was married to Dick Goodwin, a speechwriter working for John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson and later with the president's brother, Robert Kennedy, and Eugene McCarthy on their presidential campaigns. The book has been called a "combination of memoir, history and biography." Those who lived then will find this personal history fascinating. Join us for *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*.



Nancy

Birthdays:

November:

- 11 Donna Black
- Cindy Goldberg

December:

- 17 Betty Slick
- 23 Kathe Mayer

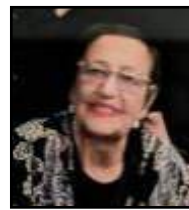
January:

None



AAUW—Heights-Hillcrest-Lyndhurst Branch
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Grapevine



"Betty DaVinci!" beamed a friend at the Mentor Centers for Kidney Dialysis. Amazingly enough AAUW member Betty Naime Slick found her true talent while undergoing kidney dialysis thrice a week!

Betty had never lifted a paintbrush in her entire life. She protested a lot when the art therapist asked her to try her hand at painting! But with the gentle insistence and encouragement of her amazing teacher Dawn Knez, Betty finally gave in. And produced her first ever painting, the cedar trees of her native Lebanon (#3) at the "young" age of 74!

Since then, to her own amazement and disbelief Betty has produced 16 paintings in a year and a half! She donated her "Dreamer" painting (#1below) to the CDC 50th year Gala celebration at the Marriott in March of this year! It was auctioned for \$135. Celebrity news anchor Tiffani Tucker was there to congratulate her (#2) and even dance with her!

Betty's paintings were featured twice on the cover of the CDC which serves 16 centers as well as the CDC calendar. This Christmas her painting of a candle (#4) was entered in a competition for a CDC Christmas card. Betty so impressed the committee that the moment they saw her entry they said, "That's it! We don't need to see any more entries!"



October meeting Recap—Kay



Recap of Every Vote Matters, Make Yours Count!

Our October 2025 meeting was a symposium led by our President Komeisha Rose. We were grateful to have Dr. Lis Regula from Ohio Equal Rights and Wendy Deuring from League of Women Voters Greater Cleveland/Cleveland Hts., University Hts. Chapter as our guest speakers.

Dr. Lis Regula lives in Columbus, Ohio where he co-chairs Ohio Equal Rights and serves as Advocacy Associate for Men Having Babies, as well as sitting on the Boards of League of Women Voters of Ohio and Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio.

The Ohio Equal Rights organization has submitted the The Ohio Right to Marry Amendment and The Ohio Equal Rights Amendment to our State Legislature to overturn a 2004 vote that defined marriage as between one man and one woman. He discussed why an Ohio ERA is important. This legislation, if passed, Ohio will have more protected classes than any other US state. The amendment would protect citizens from discrimination based on race, color, creed or religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression regardless of sex assigned at birth, pregnancy status, genetic information, disease status, age, disability, recovery status, familial status, ancestry, national origin, or military and veteran status.

Our other speaker was Wendy Deuring from Cleveland Heights. She joined the League of Women Voters in the 80s and has a passion for voting rights and good governance. She has moderated candidates' forums and worked at the polls. She shared that The SAVE Act was stalled in the Senate. This was good news for AAUW, as we had advocated against it, because it added barriers for women voting. If a woman had changed her name on marrying and then moved, she would have to provide more background information to register to vote there.

Dr. Regula told us that to support Ohio Equal Rights go to their website and sign up to be a volunteer. You can volunteer to gather signatures or to do fundraising. You can sign up for the newsletter or become a partner.

It was an honor to have Dr. Regula and Wendy Deuring as our guest speakers. We hope to collaborate with them in efforts to encourage people to support The Ohio Equal Rights Amendment and The Ohio Right To Marry Amendment and to encourage the people in our communities to vote and to promote good government.

"AAUW is committed to open and fair elections that are broadly accessible to all voters, nonpartisan voter education efforts that will promote equitable political participation and representation in appointed and elected office, and expanding voting rights."

Where We Stand: Equal Rights Amendment

"To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society, AAUW advocates the recognition and publication of the Equal Rights Amendment."

Kay

Also happening in November—

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, Northeast Ohio Branch met at Stani's in Mentor, for lunch and a presentation by Deanna Adams, the author of *Women of Rock & Roll*.



On Saturday, December 13 they will be attending a Vespers Concert at Morley Music Hall on the campus of Lake Erie College at 4 pm.

They don't have a formal meeting in January; but they do have a board meeting.

Your Opportunity to Register and Listen to a Court Case involving the Equal Rights Amendment

On Monday November 17, 2025 at 2 pm, *EQUAL MEANS EQUAL v Donald J. Trump* will be heard in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

You can listen to the case by registering after November 14th. Go here to register, enter **Equal Means Equal** in the search area: <https://tinyurl.com/ERACase>

To learn more about the case, watch this 7 min. video: <https://tinyurl.com/29xv79p2>



Check out our branch website for the latest branch information

<https://hhl-oh.aauw.net>

and our blog: <https://aauwahl.wordpress.com>

and find us and like us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com>

[groups/1364957294373532](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1364957294373532)

Diversity—Cindy Goldberg, Co-Chair



Misty Copeland, an amazing talent who overcame so much to star in the world of ballet

As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to celebrations and activities that make the season so special. One such activity is attending the ballet. When one pictures the stage, there is a common expectation of what we will see and who we will be performing. Misty Copeland showed us that there is more than one way to be an outstanding ballerina. Her story shows us how talent and dedication can lead to amazing achievement. I hope this story will be an inspiration to us all.

From Wikipedia:

Misty Danielle Copeland, born September 10, 1982, is an American **ballet** dancer and author. She has danced primarily for the American Ballet Theatre (ABT), one of the three leading classical ballet companies in the United States. On June 30, 2015, Copeland became the first African American woman to be promoted to principal dancer in ABT's 75-year history.



Copeland was considered a prodigy who rose to stardom despite not starting ballet until age 13. Two years later, in 1998, her ballet teachers, who were serving as her custodial guardians, and her mother fought a custody battle over her. Meanwhile, Copeland, who was already an award-winning dancer, was fielding professional offers. The legal issues involved filings for emancipation by Copeland and restraining orders by her mother. Both sides dropped legal proceedings, and Copeland moved home to begin studying under a new teacher, who was a former ABT member.

In 1997, Copeland won the Los Angeles Music Center Spotlight Award as the best dancer in Southern California. After two summer workshops with ABT, she became a member of ABT's Studio Company in 2000, its corps de ballet in 2001, and an ABT soloist in 2007. As a soloist from 2007 to 2015, she was described as having matured into a more contemporary and sophisticated dancer. She retired from ABT in 2025.

In addition to her dance career, Copeland has become a public speaker, author, celebrity spokesperson and stage performer. She has written two autobiographical books and narrated a documentary about her career challenges, *A Ballerina's Tale*. In 2015, she was named one of the 100 most influential people in the world by *Time* magazine, appearing on its cover. She performed on Broadway in *On the Town*, toured as a featured dancer for Prince and appeared on the reality television shows *A Day in the Life* and *So You Think You Can Dance*.

In closing, please reflect upon what it takes to overcome barriers. Misty Copeland had tremendous talent, but her barriers were

extreme. Her talent and devotion to her art overcame these barriers and hopefully can encourage young people today who wonder about their future. What can they be in a world full of challenges? I hope this story will brighten your day and bring smiles in a world where smiles are greatly needed.

Wishing you all a most wonderful holiday season, however you celebrate. May the holidays be filled with joy and love.

Fondly,
Cindy
for the Diversity Committee.

AAUW Diversity Policy: In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks an inclusive membership, workforce, leadership team and board of directors. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.



Forum Page—It's About Justice



It's About Justice— Meryl Johnson



SB 50 is bad for Ohio teens, workers, and businesses. Gov. DeWine can stop it (Excerpt-Read the entire article on the Policy Matters Ohio website.)
Policy Matters Ohio—November 7, 2025—Contact: Ali Smith

Bill would deregulate child labor

A coalition of education advocates, labor organizations, and child welfare experts is calling on Governor Mike DeWine to veto Senate Bill 50, legislation that would allow 14- and 15-year-olds to work until 9 p.m. during the school year. The bill, which has passed both chambers of the Ohio General Assembly, threatens to put Ohio businesses at risk of federal labor violations, undermine student success, and expose young workers to increased risks of exploitation and injury.

Putting Ohio businesses at risk of federal labor violations

The dangers of deregulating youth labor laws are already evident in Iowa, where similar legislation last year led to confusion among employers, increased violations, and weakened enforcement. Iowa's changes have created a legal minefield for businesses since federal law supersedes state law in this area. Iowa employers found themselves in violation of existing federal law, resulting in steep fines and reputational damage. One Subway franchisee was fined \$73,000 for scheduling teens in accordance with Iowa's new law. Ohio businesses could rack up similar fines navigating the conflicting law between the state and the federal government.

"The federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) limits 14- and 15-year-olds to work until 7 p.m. during the school year. State law also allows employers to pay these young people less than the Ohio minimum wage. SB 50's proposal to allow work until 9 p.m. would create confusion among employers and complicate enforcement," said Isbel Alvarado, case manager with the Central Ohio Worker Center. "Many small businesses are unaware that federal law supersedes state law, and as a result, young workers could be illegally scheduled."

The largest industry employer of teenagers is leisure and hospitality. In Ohio, of the child labor violations verified by the USDOL with Findings Start Dates from 2019 to 2023, 78% of violations were committed by Full and Limited-Service Restaurants.

Iowa passed a similar bill to SB 50 in conflict with the FLSA. As a result of the mismatch in law, many Iowa businesses racked up tens of thousands of dollars in fines in violation of the FLSA.

"SB 50 sets Ohio up for the same chaos and harm that was seen in Iowa," said Alvarado. "It invites legal confusion, undermines federal protections, and puts both children and employers at risk."

Action: Please call Governor DeWine at 614-466-3555 right away and tell him to veto Senate Bill 50.

Meryl

Itsaboutjustice@gmail.com
Listen to Meryl every Saturday
on
"Its About Justice?"
1:00 to 2:00 pm
WRUW. 91.1 FM





As the leaves turn and branches gear up for a dynamic season of programming and engagement, I want to take a moment to express my deep appreciation for the work you're doing in your communities. Your leadership, whether in recruitment, advocacy, events, or partnerships, forms the backbone of AAUW's mission to empower women and girls across the country.

In this issue, you'll find essential updates to help you stay on track and inspired: insights into a Fellowships & Grants awardee, important changes in the Five Star Program, and upcoming webinars with a special emphasis on our Member Recruitment session that will offer some of the most practical takeaways for branch and state leaders. And much more!

Thank you all for your commitment and your efforts, and I'm honored to serve alongside you on this journey.

Warm Regards,
Katrina Sun Breese
Senior Director of Institutional Advancement

It's Time for It's My Vote!

In November, AAUW is kicking off It's my Vote!, our nonpartisan voter engagement campaign. To amplify this work, AAUW is pleased to announce that we are a Power Partner with the League of Women Voters on Unite & Rise 8.5 — alongside the National Council of Jewish Women.

I wanted to make sure you saw CEO Gloria L. Blackwell's statement today on AAUW's significant concerns about a new U.S. Department of Education regulation that changes how nonprofit employers qualify for Public Service Loan Forgiveness (PSLF).

"Let's be clear: this rule is not about protecting taxpayers. It creates a new subjective test for which nonprofits 'deserve' relief, and that invites the federal government to pick winners and losers in public service." - Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO

Take AAUW's pledge to act for gender equity – or renew your commitment – and share Gloria's statement on social media, with your branch, and in your community.

Thousands of you weighed in on the proposed rule in September – thank you for making your voices heard. Now, we need you to join AAUW in raising awareness on the impact of this rule, which could risk essential community services like legal aid, immigrant support, and gender-based violence response.

Speak out by sharing AAUW's statement and your story – whether you're an educator, nonprofit employee, or concerned advocate, your voice matters.

We know the impact will fall hardest on women and communities of color, who are disproportionately represented in public interest and nonprofit roles that are often lower paid. Thank you for standing with them alongside AAUW.

Meghan Kissell
Senior Director, Policy & Member Advocacy



AAUW HHL Branch is involved in the community



Luggage for Foster Kids:

Every Child Needs a Family. Unfortunately, not every family has the means to house a child that needs them. There are over 2000 children in DCFS custody through no fault of their own. Many continue to live unstable lives and can be moved from pillar to post because of the actions of adults who are not always able or competent to care for them.



Last year, I asked you to imagine not being able to take any of your belongings with you if you were being relocated to the care of strangers. I asked you to imagine the psychological impact of having to move everything you own in a large garbage bag at a moment's notice. You listened and we were able to donate lightweight luggage to the Department of Child and Family Services. We won't stop at a few items. This year, we are looking to donate more small, carry-on sizes approximately 22 x 14 x 9 inches. Please help by contacting us on Facebook to arrange a pickup. *Donna*

Continue to collect your "no longer wanted or needed" long-sleeved shirts for donation to the National Farmworkers Association drive for distribution to those farmworkers that need them.



If you have any other ideas about how AAUW HHL can be involved in the community, share those ideas with either Kay or Donna.



It costs you nothing to do this. Your help is needed to provide mammograms for those who cannot afford one.