
"AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research"

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**Empowering Women
Since 1881**

BRANCH HOLIDAY BRUNCH

Saturday, December 7, 2013, 11:00 a.m.

Sue Barley's Condo

I hope you all participated in the brunch at Sue's. I heard it was a very lovely event! I was sorry to miss it, but Florida called. My husband likes to spend his birthday in warm weather. The trip was great, but I lost my cell phone; so those of you who have it in your phones, it currently has been suspended till I decide what to do. Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season! - Carol

WOMEN'S ISSUES LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

Saturday, January 11, 2014

HY VEE Community Room (Grocery, Second Floor)

405 E. Nifong Boulevard, Columbia, MO

Learn How the Legislators Make an Impact in Jefferson City and What Can Be Expected from the 2014 Legislative Session

Tentative Schedule:

Saturday, January 11

9:00-9:30 Coffee, Juice, Rolls

9:30-9:45 Welcome, Introductions, Review of 2013 Legislative Session

9:45-12:00 Speaker/Presentations/ERA Working Session

12:00-12:30 Lunch at Hy Vee (each individual purchases lunch from buffet at Hy Vee)

12:30-2:30 Set Legislative Priorities

Bring a Progressive Friend - Everyone is Welcome

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION (NO COST) with your name, address, telephone number, full mailing address, and e-mail address by January 7, 2014, to Grace Butler, 531 W. Botner Rd., Columbia, MO 65202 (telephone 314-831-5359 or 573-449-8062; FAX 314-831-3288). For late reservations E-mail sbreeze@mindspring.com or gbutler1111@aol.com

Spring Fling

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council's annual event. A flyer will be sent later.

- Date: Saturday, March 1, 2014
- Time: 11:00-2:30 pm
- Place: Old Hickory Golf Club, 1 Dye Club Drive, St. Peters

- Speaker: Dr. Anne Flaherty, Former AAUW American Fellow
- Cost: \$25.00; Guests Welcome
- Mail reservations to Lynda Hendren, Phone: 314-576-5261, E-mail: lynrose@earthlink.net
- Deadline: February 20, 2014
- Fundraising: Basket Raffle (donated by each branch and IBC) and Wine Auction (donated by Pam Lackritz Kuehling, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch)

Human Trafficking – A Challenge to Action, the symposium that was held at UM-SL on November 8, 2013, was an interesting and informative morning. Congratulations to Malaika Horne for a job well done. We are looking forward to the next symposium.

MEMBER NEWS:

Happy December Birthdays!

23 – Diana Collins

Happy February Birthdays!

11 – Jan Scott

26 – Mary Bruemmer



Support the ERA!

An April 2012 poll for Daily Kos and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) found that 91% of Americans believe that men and women should have equal rights affirmed by the Constitution. A 2001 Opinion Research Corp. poll showed that 96% of US adults believed male and female citizens should have equal rights, and 88% said the Constitution should guarantee equal rights, but 72% of the respondents mistakenly assumed that the Constitution already includes such a guarantee.

CEDAW – We’ve been waiting more than 30 years to stand up for women’s equality. Ratify the treaty already! In the Summer 2013 issue of *Ms Magazine*, Donna Brazile wrote an article about CEDAW – the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women – in which she pointed

out that 187 members of the United Nations have adopted CEDAW; but the US is 1 of just 7 nations that still have not ratified the treaty. “Though President Carter signed CEDAW in 1980, the US Senate has never fulfilled the constitutional requirement to ratify. By not doing so, we’re in questionable company with Iran, Somalia, Sudan, and South Sudan, as well as the two small Pacific Island nations of Tonga and Palau.” Please write our senators about CEDAW. With 20 women in the Senate (the highest number yet), we can urge them to take the lead on a bipartisan basis. Go to <http://www.mccaskill.senate.gov/?p=contact> and <http://www.blunt.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact-roy> to send messages. Another site (for both) is http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm?State=MO

If you support freedom of choice, you are invited to join the Missouri Freedom of Choice Council in for a cocktail reception in celebration of choice on the anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*:

Thursday, January 23rd 6-8 p.m.

ACLU-MO’s St. Louis Office

Located at 454 Whittier Street

For details, please call: (314) 531-8616

To R.S.V.P. send your name and contact information with a check (or credit card information) for \$10 (student & low-income ticket), \$35 (friend of choice), \$50 (choice supporter), or \$75 (champion of choice) to:

NARAL Pro-Choice Missouri

P.O. Box 56574 St. Louis, MO 63157-3574

Downtown Lunch Group

Here are the places to be on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:45 AM. Please join us – we have lots of good conversation:

Dec 17 Lemp Mansion Restaurant, 3322 DeMenil Place (off Cherokee St)

Jan 21 Element, 1419 Carroll St. (east of Lafayette Square)

Feb 18 Rigazzi's, 4945 Daggett Ave.

Mar 18 Feasting Fox, 4200 South Grand

Apr 15 Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar

For reservations contact Jean Shull at 314-822-7821 or jshull2@mindspring.com.

“Like a compass needle that points north, a man's accusing finger always finds a woman. Always.”

— Khaled Hosseini

AAUW ¡Adelante! Book Group

Where: Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, 1600 Clarkson Rd.

When: 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Upcoming books:

- Dec 26 No meeting
 Jan 23 *Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead*, by Sheryl Sandberg
 Feb 27 *Mom & Me & Mom*, by Maya Angelou
 Mar 27 *The Girls of Atomic City*, by Denise Kiernan
 Apr 24 *And the Mountain Echoed*, by Khaled Hosseini
 May 22 *The Secret Daughter*, by Shilpi Somaya Gowda

Evening Book Group

This is a joint group with the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. If you are interested in joining, the group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM at the St. Louis Bread Company (unless otherwise indicated) in the Greentree Shopping Center in Kirkwood located at the corner of Woodlawn and Manchester Road. You are welcome to come at 6:30 PM for dinner before the discussion. Friends, family, and guests are always welcome to join the discussion. Contacts: Barbara Johnson, 314-962-3501, or Kay Meyer, 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com. Here is the reading list for 2013-2014:

- Dec 15 No meeting – happy holidays!
 Jan 20 *The Big Roads: The Untold Story of the Engineers, Visionaries, and Trailblazers Who Created the American Superhighways*, by Earl Swift
 Feb 17 *The Absolutist*, by John Boyne
 Mar 17 *Why Women Should Rule the World*, by Dee Dee Myers
 Apr 21 *Enemy Women*, by Paulette Jiles
 May 19 Planning meeting
 June 16 *The Girls of Atomic City: The Untold Story of the Women Who Helped Win World War II*, by Denise Kiernan

“Do not stop thinking of life as an adventure. You have no security unless you can live bravely, excitingly, imaginatively; unless you can choose a challenge instead of competence.”
 — Eleanor Roosevelt, *The Autobiography of Eleanor Roosevelt*

International Relations Lecture Series

AAUW joins with the Ethical Society’s Tuesday Women’s Association to present four stimulating lectures featuring topics concerning international relations. The lectures are presented at the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Road, 63117, on the second Tuesday of January, February, March, and April from 10:45-11:45 AM. Those who wish may bring a brown-bag lunch and eat with the speaker and others in attendance after the lecture. The lectures are free, and the community is welcome. Park at and enter from the back (lower level). The topics for 2014 are as follows:

Jan 14: Privacy in a Wired World: Five Privacy Myths. Speaker: Neil M. Richards, Professor of Law, Washington University, St Louis, MO. Neil Richards is an internationally-recognized expert in the fields of privacy, First Amendment, and information law. His recent work explores the complex relationships between free speech and privacy in cyberspace. Public discussions about privacy are often dominated by a series of beliefs, such as “Privacy is Dead,” “Young People Don’t Care About Privacy,” “If You Have Nothing to Hide, You Have Nothing to Fear,” “Privacy Is Censorship,” and “Privacy Is Bad For Business.” Unfortunately, all of these statements turn out to be incorrect, and putting these privacy myths to bed is the only way we can protect our privacy in the digital age. His book, *Intellectual Privacy*, will be published by Oxford University Press in 2014.

Feb 11: Sustainable Agriculture in the 21st Century. Speaker: Dr. Gillian Acheson, Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Geography, Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville, IL. Broadly trained in the relatively new field of human geography, Dr. Acheson pursues interests in geographic education, cultural geography, and the geography of food. Beyond the problem of producing enough food for the 7.1 billion people on the planet today, there are also concerns about the safety of a global food supply and the relationship between agriculture and environmental degradation. This presentation will consider the sustainability of agriculture in light of population growth, environmental quality, and food safety.

Mar 11: Israel/Palestine: Is Peace Possible? Speakers: Rabbi Susan Talve, Founding Rabbi Central Reform Congregation, and Mazen Badra, Teacher, Entrepreneur, Peacemaker. Rabbi Susan Talve has led her congregation in promoting ongoing relationships with local African-American and Muslim congregations and has worked at supporting inter-faith relations in the

St. Louis community. Mazen Badra migrated to the US in 2002 from Bethlehem in Israel. A teacher in the Holy Land for 17 years, he has continually promoted dialogue between Palestinians and Jews in Israel. In 2002, Mr Badra and Rabbi Talve formed an organization called "The Children of Abraham," promoting cooperation and understanding between Palestinians and Jews. Together they will tell us of their insights into this subject.

April 8: [Arab Spring and Its Future](#). Speaker: Dr Hayretin Yucesoy, Associate Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (JINELC), Washington University in St Louis. Dr Yucesoy is interested in all humanist disciplines, but his primary research specialty has been the history of "medieval Middle East," in particular, political practice and thought, historiography, messianic beliefs and movements, and cross-cultural/trans-regional connections and encounters. Dr. Yucesoy will discuss the evolution of the Arab Spring and the situation in Syria within the context of Middle Eastern as well as international politics. The lecture will focus on civil society and politics, regional and global balance of power, and the fragility of democratic negotiation and governance during uncertain times.

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

U.S. Supreme Court Preview Call Engages AAUW Members with the Court. On October 24th LAF Program Manager Mollie Lam and Regulatory Affairs Manager Beth Scott co-hosted a conference call with AAUW members to discuss important cases before the Supreme Court this term. Reproductive rights, affirmative action, and health care coverage are on the court's docket in the coming year. If you weren't able to attend the call, you can read Beth and Mollie's [blog post](#) and [listen to a recording of the call](#). We are truly gratified by the many e-mails AAUW members sent to congratulate LAF on the call and to ask for more events like this one. We particularly wish to thank AAUW Huntsville (AL) Branch member Heather Harwell, AAUW Huntsville (AL) Funds Co-Chair and Co-Vice President Sarah Ragan, and Haley Harwell (pictured above, left to right), who joined us at the AAUW office in Washington, D.C. for the call. Following the visit, Heather Harwell told us, "Words cannot express the motivation and resolve we all felt as we left that night. ... The values AAUW represents are what drew me to the organization when I was an undergraduate, and those same merits continue to inspire me." If you plan to visit the D.C. area, please [set up a time](#) to visit the office!

U.S. Supreme Court Will Not Consider Oklahoma Law Banning Medication Abortion. During the October 24 Supreme Court call, we discussed *Cline v. Oklahoma Coalition for Reproductive Justice*. In that case, the Oklahoma Supreme Court overturned a 2011 Oklahoma law that severely restricted the use of medications to end pregnancy. Before hearing the case, the U.S. Supreme Court had asked the Oklahoma Supreme Court to clarify whether the law banned medication abortion altogether. Last week, the Oklahoma Supreme Court confirmed that the law did in fact ban all medication abortion. In response, the U.S. Supreme Court announced that it would not hear the case, which means that the Oklahoma Supreme Court's ruling overturning the law will stand. Although the Oklahoma law has been overturned, a similarly restrictive state law in Texas may soon make its way to the U.S. Supreme Court. Stay tuned for more information as the Texas case progresses.

Washington Update

AAUW Cheer: Albuquerque became the first city in the country to enact a law encouraging equal pay. The law will give a bidding advantage to contractors who promote equal pay in their companies.

AAUW Jeer: The U.S. Department of Education backtracked on an earlier commitment to require schools to disclose more information about students' civil rights, such as whether schools have Title IX coordinators and how many students were bullied because of their sexual orientation. According to the announcement on December 6th, the requirements will be delayed until the 2015-2016 school year. This data collection will provide a critical perspective on the bullying and harassment that students too often endure on the basis of race, sex, and disability. AAUW has called for this data to be collected for several years, and we are disappointed this requirement is being delayed.

VAWA Becomes the Law of the Land: President Barack Obama signed a comprehensive Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA) into law. We're proud to have helped lead the fight for VAWA's passage. Please continue to support AAUW as we help implement the campus safety provisions in VAWA.

Five Women Recognized with the Presidential Medal of Freedom: Five received the 2013 Presidential Medal of Freedom, including astronaut Sally Ride, activist and 2003 AAUW Achievement Awardee Gloria Steinem, and media icon Oprah Winfrey.

Equal Pay Takes Front and Center: President Obama elevated the issue of pay equity in his inaugural address and State of the Union address. We are also thankful for the progress that has been made on equal pay this year, including the Department of Labor's rescinding two documents that had become barriers to investigating workplace pay discrimination claims.

Attention Members: We have migrated the branch web site to Site-Wise, the company that handles the national web site, as well as state and many branch web sites. The new address is <http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>. (Updates to begin as soon as I learn WordPress)

Bits and Pieces

- The 113th Congress is on track to be the least productive Congress in modern history. Congress has passed 52 public laws since January, with only 44 of those being "substantive," according to calculations by the Pew Research Center. This number is compared to the average of 70 substantive bills usually passed in Congresses between 1999 and 2012.
- On December 3rd House Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) announced that three congresswomen – Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL), and Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA) – will take new positions in the influential House Democratic Steering and Policy Committee.
- A U.S. Department of Education report providing national statistics on student pathways into and out of STEM fields cited AAUW's *Why So Few? Women in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics* (2010) report.
- AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa Maatz spoke to Politico about the importance of encouraging the Department of Education to go further to address Title IX compliance and campus-based sexual assaults.
- AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman, CAE, published a University Business op-ed urging increased federal funding for community colleges. AAUW's recent report, *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success* (2013), identifies promising programs that, if funded, would improve women's lives in and beyond the classroom.
- A video created by The Representation Project shows how many ways the media has negatively represented women and girls this year. The video includes advertisements by American Apparel, musical performances by Miley Cyrus, Rihanna, Robin Thicke, and news clips portraying women and girls in a negative light.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec 7 Holiday potluck brunch, 11:00 AM
- Dec 17 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Jan 11 Women's Legislative Issues Retreat
- Jan 14 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 AM
- Jan 20 Evening book group, 7:00 PM
- Jan 21 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Jan 23 Adelante book group, 1:30 PM
- Mar 1 Spring Fling
- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 15 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Trivia Night
- Apr 8 EQUAL PAY RALLY IN JEFFERSON CITY
- May 3 AAUW MO members' conference
- Jun 5-State (Regional) Conference
- Jun 5-7 NCCWSL



"I am no bird; and no net ensnares me: I am a free
human being with an independent will."
— Charlotte Brontë, Jane Eyre