



# Newsletter of the Saint Louis Branch (Since 1893)

2013-2014, No. 4

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

## Branch Officers 2013-2014

### Jan Scott

Co-President  
314-727-6876  
jan@wypstlouis.com

### Carol Davis McDonald

Co-President  
Newsletter, Directory  
636-227-0511  
davis-mcdonald@juno.com

### Susan Barley

Finance Officer  
Bylaws and Policies  
314-361-2920  
Barley702@gmail.com

### Mary Bruemmer

Director at Large, AAUW Funds  
314-863-0840  
bruemmm2@slu.edu

### Yvette Goods

Director at Large, Public Policy  
314-608-0142  
goodsy@usa.net

### Fran Irwin

Director at Large  
314-352-7380  
fmirwinstl@aol.com

### Branch Web Site:

<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

### State Web Site:

[www.aauwmo.org](http://www.aauwmo.org)

### National Web Site:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

*Empowering Women  
Since 1881*

## BRANCH MEETING BRUNCH

Sunday, February 23, 2014, 10:00 a.m.

The Moon Room of the Moonrise Hotel (next to The Pageant Theater)  
6177 Delmar Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

### ERA Now!

### Instead of Asking, "Why Pass the Equal Rights Amendment," Let Us Ask, "Why Not?"

Shirley Breeze, past AAUW Missouri president, past AAUW regional director, chair of the Missouri Women's Network, and member of AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch, has worked on getting the Equal Rights Amendment passed in Missouri for the past 30+ years. She will join us for our brunch and will give us an update on plans to push the Equal Rights Amendment to reality. AAUW Illinois and AAUW Missouri are working together on an 18-day blitz campaign to urge our legislators to pass the ERA. Please let Jan Scott know if you will come so she can make reservations.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

**Feb 7 Healthcare Exchange Education and Enrollment Symposium** and "Sicko," a groundbreaking film on the American healthcare system by filmmaker Michael Moore.

Presenters: Missouri Foundation for Health & People's Community Action Corp. (Health Exchange Navigators)  
Washington Tabernacle, 3200 Washington Blvd, St. Louis  
Doors open 5:30 pm | Program 6-9 pm  
This symposium is free and open to the public.

**Feb 15 Progressive Women State Legislators**, a community open forum at Florissant Library, 195 New Florissant Rd. Presented by AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch. (For more information call 314-355-8033 or 314-831-5359)

9:00 AM Light, continental breakfast  
9:30-12:00 The panel will share the bills that are important to them personally and shed light on their experiences in the male-dominated Missouri General Assembly.  
Panel: Representatives Jeanne Kirkton, Karla May, Margo McNeil, Stacey Newman, Sharon Pace, and former rep. and 2014 candidate Tracy McCreery.

**Feb 15 What Right to Work Really Means.** After the above forum, zip down I-270 to Westport Plaza to learn how to educate friends and family on why "Right to Work" is WRONG. (What to say in 5 minutes.) The Coalition of Labor Union Women will hold a training session led by Shannon Weber, MO AFL-CIO campaign-political director, at CWA Local at 2258 Grissom Ave, St. Louis 63146, at 12:30 PM. RSVP by phone (314-805-6774) or e-mail (marciacm@sbcglobal.net).

**Feb 27 “Geraldine Ferraro: Paving the Way” – St. Louis Screening**, hosted by the Sue Shear Institute, with featured appearance by Ferraro’s daughter, Donna Zaccaro. Landmark Plaza Frontenac Cinema, 7:00 PM. Remarks following the movie. (Advance tickets required, \$15, at [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).)

**Mar 1 Spring Fling – DON’T FORGET TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION!** Old Hickory Golf Club, 1 Dye Club Drive, St. Peters, MO, 11:00 AM – 2:30 PM. (See attached flyer/registration form  
Speaker: Dr. Anne Flaherty, Former AAUW American Fellow  
Cost: \$25.00; Guests Welcome

**Mar 5 A Morning of Music** - Our own **Jan Scott** will perform with Maturity and Its Muse in the Silver Stages Series (performances by mature St. Louisans for mature St. Louisans). (See attached flyer)  
Location: E. Desmond Lee Auditorium, the MO History Museum, Lindell & DeBaliviere, Forest Park  
Admission: Free  
Doors Open: 10:00 AM  
Performance: 10:30 – 11:30 AM  
Information: Lynn Hamilton 314-420-1444  
E-mail: [lynn@maturityanditsmuse.org](mailto:lynn@maturityanditsmuse.org)

---

## AAUW MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

June 13-14, 2014

Join us at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks for our biennial regional conference. Shirley Breeze is negotiating reasonable hotel and meal rates. There will be a choice of 11 different breakout sessions, a public policy panel, an open forum, an opening reception, and other events and activities. An extra-special treat: Our keynote speaker will be Lisa Maatz, AAUW vice president for Government Relations. Lisa has been described as a “force to be reckoned with” on Capitol Hill. We are so very proud of her accomplishments, which help make AAUW visible while getting things done.

Enjoy the beautiful Ozarks and lake area at this outstanding AAUW conference.

More Information Available Shortly!  
Questions? [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com)

---

## MEMBER NEWS:

### Happy February Birthdays!

11 – Jan Scott  
26 – Mary Bruemmer

### Happy March Birthdays!

1 - Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo  
21 – Melissa Leavy

Welcome to Sheila **Bassoppo-Moyo** who recently joined the St. Louis Branch. She was a member of the Raleigh-Wake Forest (NC) Branch and AAUW NC, was a VP for membership, and participated in several events with AAUW. Sheila’s education background includes a BA in English Lit from Barnard College (1978), an MA in Communications from Syracuse University (1980), an MSc in Sociology from North Carolina Central University (2013), and an EdD in Higher and Adult Education from the University of Memphis (1999). She moved back to St. Louis to be near family and is employed part-time as an adjunct instructor in sociology with the University of Phoenix. She also works for the YMCA and volunteers at Family Love Adult Daycare on DeBaliviere Blvd. Sheila’s interests are chair yoga, writing, all things international (including cultures, music, travel, and education), Negro spirituals and music, tea ceremony and tea history, higher and adult education, popular culture, and the disabled. Her hobbies include zumba, chair yoga, swimming, Silver Sneakers, writing on Zimbabwe, and advanced online facilitating (certified). She does public speaking, teaches chair yoga, and performs tea ceremonies.

We were saddened to hear from **Marilyn Boettcher’s** daughter Anne that Marilyn passed away on October 24, 2013. She was suffering from illness that confined her to her home. Marilyn was a long-time member of the St. Louis Branch, active in one of the book groups, and a dual member of Kirkwood-Webster Groves.



## Why Do Missouri Women Need the ERA?

Following are points to use when talking to your state legislators concerning the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment in Missouri:

- ♀ Missouri women have equal responsibilities. We pay the same tax rates, pay the same tuition rates, and pay the same for consumer goods and services necessary to live.
- ♀ Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia offered his opinion that the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment does not cover gender discrimination.
- ♀ The Iowa Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that it was legal to fire a woman for being too attractive.
- ♀ Missouri women make on average just 78 cents for each dollar paid to men.
- ♀ Each year this amounts to an average wage gap for Missouri’s women of \$9,281.
- ♀ 62% of Missouri women work full or part time.
- ♀ 285,000 Missouri women are the primary breadwinner for their families.
- ♀ The wage gap follows women all the way into retirement: 38% of women 65 and over live at or near poverty.

♀ Women are not equal under US law, and are subject to an array of state and federal laws that can be changed at any minute.

♀ Women still experience limitations to leadership positions in their workplace and in our government.

♀ Missouri women deserve to have our rights written into the Constitution and consistently protected.

♀ Missouri women deserve to have the Equal Rights Amendment passed as part of the three-state strategy introduced in Congress which, if passed, would require only three more states for ratification.

### Shriver Report: The Economy Suffers When Women Suffer

Did you happen to watch the NBC 5:30 PM news when Maria Shriver talked about her new Shriver Report (released in mid-January), [A Woman's Nation Pushes Back from the Brink?](#) It describes the economic insecurity faced by women and families across the country. Regarding the gender pay gap, the report (for which AAUW served as a resource) found that the U.S. economy would produce [\\$447.6 billion](#) in additional income and the poverty rate for working women would decrease by half if women received equal pay. AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz spoke to [Bloomberg](#) about another issue covered in the report: a lack of paid maternity benefits. These benefits are only available to "the most educated, most privileged among us," Maatz said. "You don't see this being offered to waitresses. It's something that can become very class-based and further create income gaps."

### Downtown Lunch Group

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

- 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](mailto:jshull2@mindspring.com).

### 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](mailto:tebrecht@yahoo.com). AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

#### Upcoming books:

- 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. The group meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:kicmeyer@yahoo.com). Here is the reading list for the next few months:

- 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

### 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 in the back (lower level) and enter from either door (lower level). The topics for 2014 are as follows:

Feb 11: [Sustainable Agriculture in the 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### Washington Update

**Task Force Confronts Culture of Rape on College Campuses:** In late January President Obama announced the creation of the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault. This taskforce will come up with best practices to guide schools in preventing and responding to sexual violence. Also, the Council on Women and Girls released a report that revealed nearly one in 5 women has

been sexually assaulted during college. “It’s great news to see plans to increase transparency around enforcement activities identified as a priority. The current information, if available, is scattered online and can be difficult to find — we hope that will change,” said Anne Hedgepeth, AAUW government relations manager.

**AAUW Cheer:** This January New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie (R) signed a bill that will protect pregnant workers from discrimination and unsafe work conditions. The legislation, which AAUW-NJ urged Gov. Christie to sign, expands accommodations for pregnant employees who may need to modify work schedules, take restroom breaks, and mitigate strenuous tasks.

**AAUW Jeer:** Former presidential candidate and Governor Mike Huckabee (R-AR) told a meeting of the Republican National Committee that women were being fooled into thinking they needed contraception provided by the government because they couldn’t otherwise “control their libido.” His speech focused on the Affordable Care Act’s requirement that insurance plans cover preventive services, including contraception, without co-pay or cost-sharing.

**AAUW Cheer:** Aileen Rizo, an AAUW member and math consultant in Fresno, CA, was featured on NBC Nightly News to discuss the pay gap. Rizo became involved with AAUW when she realized she was being paid less than her male colleagues and wanted to take action. She is now preparing to sue her employer. Is she the next Lilly Ledbetter?

**AAUW Jeer:** A Milwaukee voucher-funded school disappeared last month after getting \$2 million in taxpayer money. LifeSkills Academy, a private voucher program in Wisconsin, received over \$2 million in payments before suddenly vacating its premises last month. The school claimed that “loss of funding” forced it to close, although the state education agency said no state funds were withheld. There is no legal mechanism for the state to recoup the voucher funds paid to LifeSkills. Even more disturbing, the husband and wife who ran that program allegedly now live in a gated community in Florida by the beach, records show. As if we needed further proof that vouchers are not a good idea.

---

## Bits and Pieces

- The National Education Association (NEA) announced Thursday that it will give \$60 million in grants to its state and local affiliates nationwide over the next decade to fund the implementation of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (“Common Core”). AAUW supports Common Core, which is a state-led, voluntary effort that establishes a single set of educational standards for K-12 in English and mathematics.
- On Wednesday, Lt. Col. Brian Lofton of the US Special Operations Command Africa was convicted of sexually assaulting a woman. However, the jury allowed him to remain in the service. Once last year’s changes enacted by Congress go into effect, sexual assault convictions will mandate automatic dismissal from the service. (Take action to demand further reform to the military system by

completely removing sexual assault from the chain of command.)

- On Thursday, the Army announced it will open up 33,000 combat positions to women, bringing the total of newly opened Army combat positions since last year to 55,000. Thursday’s announcement coincides with the one-year anniversary of the Pentagon’s announcement that it would lift its ban on women in combat.
- AAUW’s Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz was interviewed by NPR about the Alabama State University’s requirement that its incoming unmarried female president sign a contract that she wouldn’t “cohabitate” in the president’s mansion with a “romantic relation” other than a husband. Maatz said the double standard “felt disrespectful” to the president, an accomplished physicist and university administrator.

---

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Feb 7 Healthcare Exchange Educ. Symposium, 5:30 PM
- Feb 11 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 AM
- Feb 15 Progressive Women Legislators Forum, 9:00 AM
- Feb 15 Right to Work Training, 12:30 PM
- Feb 17 Evening Book Group, 7:00 PM
- Feb 18 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Feb 23 BRANCH BRUNCH, 10:00 AM
- Feb 27 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 PM
- Feb 27 “Geraldine Ferraro” screening, 7:00 PM
- Mar 1 Spring Fling, 11:00 AM
- Mar 5 A Morning of Music
- Mar 8 International Women’s Day
- Mar 11 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 AM
- Mar 15 Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Trivia Night
- Mar 17 Evening book group, 7:00 PM
- Mar 18 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Mar 27 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 PM
- Apr 8 EQUITY RALLY IN JEFFERSON CITY
- Apr 8 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 AM
- Apr 15 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Apr 21 Evening Book Group, 7:00 PM
- Apr 24 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 PM
- May 3 AAUW MO members’ conference
- May 19 Evening Book Group Planning Meeting
- May 22 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 PM
- Jun 5-7 NCCWSL
- Jun 5-State (Regional) Conference
- Jun 16 Evening Book Group, 7:00 PM



---

“Men should think twice before making widowhood women’s only path to power.” — Gloria Steinem