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

**Who we are...**

The Saint Louis Branch of AAUW supports the broad goals and actions of AAUW by holding public outreach events, engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We promote a "You Can Do It" approach. We are one of six branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

**Branch Officers, 2014-2015**

**Jan Scott**, Co-President  
314-727-6876  
jan@wypstlouis.com

**Carol Davis McDonald**  
Co-President and Newsletter  
636-227-0511  
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**Susan Barley**, Finance Officer,  
AAUW Funds, Bylaws and Policies  
314-361-2920  
Barley702@gmail.com

**Ellen Irons**  
Director at Large, Programs

**Sally McGowan**  
Director at Large, Public Policy

**Fran Irwin**  
Director at Large, IBC

**Web Sites:**

**Branch Web Site:**  
<http://stlouis-mo.aauw.net>

**IBC Web Site:**  
<http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

**State Web Site:**  
[www.aauwmo.org](http://www.aauwmo.org)

**National Web Site:**  
[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**Saint Louis Branch Updates:**

**December 9, 2014**

**Holiday Celebration and Update Meeting**

**Updates on:**

- 250 Notable St. Louis City Women Names Project
- Spring Fling
- Other Exciting Branch, Regional, and National Events

**Good Eats:**

- Bring a dish to share if you can
- We will provide salad and a few pasta dishes from Pasta House
- Drinks will be provided

**Where:**

At the home of Jan Scott

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the St. Louis AAUW Branch December 9<sup>th</sup> event celebrating the holiday season and presenting an update on the 250 NOTABLE ST. LOUIS CITY WOMEN – NAMES PROJECT. We will have socializing, food, and good cheer and then share updates. For those of you involved in the 250 Names Project, we will also have a brief project planning meeting.

*Send RSVPs to Jan Scott at [jan@stlouiswomenonthemove.com](mailto:jan@stlouiswomenonthemove.com) or (314) 727-6876 by December 7<sup>th</sup>, or contact Ellen Irons, with questions at [airons@stlcc.edu](mailto:airons@stlcc.edu) or 314 580-0834. Please share any food preferences when you RSVP.*

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**Philanthropy - Our AAUW Mission**

Part of AAUW members' mission is philanthropy. Donations, large and small, to the AAUW Fund, are needed to sustain all our programs and activities. Our programs strengthen AAUW's role in the global community and respond to and eradicate the persistent challenges facing women. So far, this calendar year, members from the St. Louis branch have given over \$700. It is hoped that within the next month this amount will increase due to the efforts of all our members. Please consider a gift of \$20 or more.

AAUW Missouri honors and recognizes donors who give a total of \$100, or more, in the calendar year, in the Century Club, and also recognizes donors who give a total of \$250, or more, in Century Club Plus. If you have any questions, please contact **Sue Barley**. Send your checks to Sue, or directly to AAUW.

## Support the AAUW Fund

As the end of the calendar year draws near, many of us are planning our year-end giving. You are invited to make a gift to AAUW in one of the following tax deductible ways:

1. AAUW Funds advances AAUW's mission by sustaining all our programs and activities. Your gift to the Fund will enable many of our "favorite" programs to make an impact in advancing equity for women and girls. Your gift will be used, where needed, for such programs as *Start Smart*, *Tech Trek*, *NCCWSL*, *Tech Savvy*, *Elect Her*, *LAF*, and *Eleanor Roosevelt Fund research*. In addition, by giving to AAUW Funds, you will be contributing to new programs still in our dreams, waiting to be developed.
2. The F. Elaine Richardson/Missouri Endowment Fund #4037 is a Research and Project Fund that was started many years ago and has not yet been completed. AAUW MO has made completion of the endowment to be a high priority in order that the fund may start being used. An exciting raffle has been created to help raise money for this fund. For each \$20 that you donate, your name will be entered in the drawing for the use of a 3-bedroom, fully-furnished home for three nights and four days in beautiful Bella Vista, Arkansas. If you donate \$100, your name will be entered eight times. The drawing will be at the AAUW MO State meeting in May 2015.

If you donate to AAUW Funds, you may send your check, payable to AAUW Funds, to **Sue Barley**, 4 N. Kingshighway Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63108, or send it directly to AAUW, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090. If you donate to the Richardson Endowment Fund, send your check, payable to AAUW Funds with #4037 on the memo line, to Sue. She will make sure all checks she receives are submitted in 2014, and, if appropriate, your name is submitted in the vacation home drawing.

## MEMBER NEWS

**Happy November Birthdays!**  
29 – Sally McGowan

**Happy December Birthdays!**  
23 – Diana Collins

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## INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES:

### November 18<sup>th</sup> IBC Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the Interbranch Council met at the Thornhill Branch Library in Creve Coeur. In attendance from the St. Louis Branch were Jan Scott, IBC Chair; Carol Davis McDonald, IBC treasurer; and Fran Irwin.

KWG Member Kay Meyer gave an update on Jean Shull, past AAUW MO president and chair of the IBC Downtown Lunch Group. Following Jean's car accident, she suffered a fall in her home. She was diagnosed with a broken lumbar vertebra, which was subsequently injected with a glue compound for healing. While in rehab at Bethesda-Dilworth, she began having back pain and found it difficult to stand. She currently is at The Glen at Aberdeen Heights, 505 Couch Avenue, Kirkwood. Kay will be handling the Downtown Lunch reservations for the time being.

Shirley Breeze, Ferguson-Florissant Branch co-president, chair of the Missouri Women's Network, past president of AAUW MO and AAUW regional director, provided an update on the national calendar, election dates, and other national items of interest. She also announced the date of the Women's Issues Legislative Retreat, which will be held in Columbia, MO, on January 10, 2015, 9 AM to 2:30 PM, at the Hy-Vee Grocery conference room (see attached flyer).

Deb McWard, Creve Coeur Branch president, reviewed proposed updates to the IBC NCCWSL (National Conference of College Women Student Leaders) scholarship guidelines. It was agreed that IBC would concentrate on funding one scholarship plus air fare. If funds allow, additional scholarship applicants would be considered. Students must attend an AAUW partner college or university and must have at least one more semester of classes to be eligible for the IBC scholarship. Branches are encouraged to provide at

least \$50 to the IBC NCCWSL Fund, and individuals donations are very welcome.

AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) will sponsor a woman college student to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in the spring. Students who have attended in the past tell us that the experience has been life-changing for them. Money for this sponsorship is designated in the IBC budget, and branches contribute as well. Individual contributions are welcome.  
Contact Carol Davis McDonald, IBC treasurer

Dr. Pat Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, agreed to chair the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award committee and is accepting applications by December 5<sup>th</sup>. The award is given annually to a deserving AAUW member of an area branch.

Plans for the March 21<sup>st</sup> Spring Fling at the Highlands Clubhouse in Forest Park were discussed. The menu was agreed upon. The cost will be \$28, reservation deadline March 6<sup>th</sup>, and Dianne Moran, historical portrayer, will present a program on Rachel Carson, author of *Silent Spring* and recipient of an AAUW achievement award. Each branch is responsible for providing one (or more) raffle basket(s), valued approximately at \$50, for the annual fundraiser; this is the only source of funding for IBC, which includes the NCCWSL scholarship, Spring Fling, visibility, and other projects.

The next IBC meeting is Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM at Thornhill Branch library auditorium. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

## 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). In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224. The topics for 2015 are as follows:

Jan 13: The End of the Ottoman Empire, the Creation of the Modern Middle East

*Speaker: Dr Tahmineh Entessa, Retired Assistant Director of the Graduate Program in International Relations, Webster University.* What role did the politics of oil and the politics of containment of communism play in the creation and maintenance of the modern Middle East? How did the fall of the Soviet Union change the focus of the Western influence in the Middle East? How did these political events create the conditions for the development of terrorist groups? Dr Entessar will answer these questions and enlighten us on how these issues affect us and the world.  
(Coordinators: Marcia Cline, TWA; Roz Marx, AAUW)

Feb 10: The Status of Women in the World

*Speaker: Dr. Farida Jalalzai, Assoc. Professor and Chair of Political Science at the Univ. of Missouri-St. Louis.* This talk will focus on trends in women's office holding worldwide. Dr. Jalalzai will analyze the factors related to women's ascension to legislative and executive office holding and potential effects of women's inclusion on policy outcomes and institutional practices. She will conclude that women's presence in political offices offers tremendous democratic benefits for societies. (Coordinators: Carolyn Herkstroeter, AAUW; Kay Meyer, TWA & AAUW)

Mar 10: Will 3-D Printing Change the World?

*Speaker: Warren Doherty, Market Wide Format Specialist at Konica Minolta.* The present possibilities of 3-D printing are both alarming and inspiring, from the printing of working guns by individuals in homes to creating complex prosthetic body parts. How will such manufacturing be regulated? How will it affect economics, politics, war? Mr. Doherty, from a background of 23 years in the printing and copying field, will explain how this revolutionary technology works, what it has produced in the past, what it is doing in the present, and how it could affect our world in the future. (Coordinators: Susie Teisher, AAUW; Kayla Vaughan, TWA)

Apr 14: Shattered Arctic Ocean in Peril

*Speaker: Randall Hyman, Fulbright Scholar in Journalism.* Randall Hyman has covered the Arctic environment since 1980 for a range of publications, from *Smithsonian* magazine to *National Geographic* books. In 2013 he traveled four months across the High Arctic as a Fulbright Scholar and guest of the Norwegian Polar Institute and then returned in August 2014 as a guest of the National Science Foundation. With each trip to the High North, he has found another reason to return, drawn by the region's austere beauty and perilous future. The Arctic Ocean, in particular,

serves as a crystal ball for the rest of the planet, a reservoir of change, vast yet fragile, and severely impacted by global human activity. In his presentation, Mr. Hyman examines warming waters, melting sea ice, and the secret lives of deep-water clams as harbingers of the future we are forging for our entire planet. (Coordinators: Ruth Hyman and Kathy Kendrick, TWA)

### Downtown Lunch Group

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

Dec 16 Panorama at the Saint Louis Art Museum

For reservations contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or [kicmeyer@yahoo.com](mailto:kicmeyer@yahoo.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:

- Jan 22 – *Orphan Train*, by Christina Baker Kline
- Feb 26 – *The Round House: A Novel*, by Louise Erdrich
- Mar 26 – *My Beloved World*, by Sonia Sotomayor
- Apr 23 – *Calla Lilies: A True Story of Four Sisters and Their Struggle to Survive Abuse, Addiction, and Poverty in America*, by Kay Corbett (AAUW member)
- May 28 – *The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew -- Three Women Search for Understanding*, by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, Priscilla Warner
- Sept 24 – *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love, and So Much More*, by Janet Mock

### 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. Plans were to meet at Kaldi Coffee on Kirkwood Road in downtown Kirkwood. However, plans for January are to meet at The Glen at Aberdeen Heights so that Jean Shull may continue to participate. 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:

- Jan 19 *The Goldfinch*, by Donna Tartt, and from November's canceled meeting, *The Dressmaker of Khair Khana*, by Gayle Tzemack Lemmon
- Feb 16 *The Whistling Season*, by Ivan Doig
- Mar 16 *The Scarlet Sisters: Sex, Suffrage, and Scandal in the Gilded Age*, by Myra MacPherson
- Apr 20 *Still Foolin' Em: Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys*, by Billy Crystal
- May 18 Planning and book selection meeting
- June 15 *Peace Like a River*, by Leif Enger

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## STATE UPDATES

The board of AAUW of Missouri lost two members this past month. **Holly Burgess**, Columbia Branch, passed away after fighting leukemia for more than a year. Holly was active with public policy issues and more recently had been elected as AAUW MO program vice president. **Pam Burke**, Kansas City Branch, died suddenly from a massive blood clot. She was the daughter of **Audrey Shafer**, AAUW MO past president, and served on the board as membership vice president and currently as strategic plan monitor.

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## NATIONAL UPDATES

### Here is the AAUW Calendar Nationally:

- Nov 30 Non-renewed members removed from database
- Dec 5 Bylaws comment period closes
- Dec 10 Human Rights Day
- Dec 31 Deadline for year's contributions for AAUW Funds
- January AAUW's annual art contest begins
- Jan 11 Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- Jan 15 Deadline for best-value registration for 2015 biennial convention, San Diego
- Feb Art contest voting
- Feb 2 "Pledge to reg" for convention winner announced
- March Women's History Month

- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Apr 1 First day to request a paper AAUW ballot
- Apr 14 Equal Pay Day
- May 28 NCCWSL through May 30
- June 18 National convention, San Diego, through 21<sup>st</sup>

### National Report from Shirley Breeze:

- The elections are over; there is a bit of good news from the general dismay. For the first time in history, there are 100 women on Congress – 80 in the House and 20 in the Senate. It is a long way from parity, but it is a start. Remember, our motto is “50/50 by 2020.”
- Make plans to attend the national convention in San Diego next June 18-21. The AAUW web site has a brief first take on the amazing planned workshop topics.
- In February and March 2015, materials will be available on the AAUW web site and in *Outlook* containing the bios of the candidates running for national offices. A paper ballot can be requested on April 1<sup>st</sup>, and on April 15<sup>th</sup> on-line voting opens. Help determine the direction of this exceptional organization by casting your ballot.
- Several helpful leadership aids are on the web site. Quick Facts sheets deal with current policy issues such as Common Core, STEM, Pay Gap, Health Care, Title IX, etc.
- Look for the new research report, *Moving the Needle: Women in Engineering and Computing*, to be published early next year.
- There are two brand new items on pay equity. One is from the Bureau of Labor Statistics entitled *Median Weekly Earnings, 2004-2014*; it compares men's and women's salaries. The other one is from the Institute for Women's Policy Research (9-2014); it is *The Gender Wage Gap 2013: Differences by Race and Ethnicity*.
- AAUW is searching for a staff person to deal with state public policy issues. If you know of someone who would be a good candidate, tell them to visit the web site for information.

### Washington Update

**AAUW Members Lead Fight for ERA Ratification in State House.** The Illinois state legislature's fall veto session began last week, and AAUW of Illinois members wasted no time in resuming their advocacy for the House to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA). AAUW of Illinois and allied organizations successfully urged the Senate to ratify the ERA in May. If the House

does not ratify the amendment before the end of 2014, then advocates will need to start again in both houses during the next legislative session. Special recognition goes to AAUW-IL public policy chairs Jo-An Takamoto Sabonjian and Olga Weidner and AAUW-IL legislative consultant Paula Purdue, who have been working around the clock to move more votes into the "yes" column.

**Department of Education Investigates K-12 School Districts for Title IX Violations.** In addition to the greatly publicized list of 87 colleges and universities under investigation for Title IX violations, the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Civil Rights is also investigating 24 elementary and secondary schools for potential mishandling sexual assault cases. Under Title IX, any K-12 public and private school that receives federal funding is required to respond effectively to sexual harassment or assault incidents. This announcement of elementary and secondary school investigations is part of the federal government's recent increased commitment to preventing and responding to sexual violence.

**AAUW Cheer:** In a victory for rape survivors and their advocates, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. announced on Wednesday that his office has pledged as much as \$35 million to fund rape kit testing across the nation. This funding will allow evidence in up to 70,000 rape cases to receive DNA testing, which could identify or eliminate suspects.

**AAUW Jeer:** Last week, 28 Columbia University students protested the university's rape and sexual assault policy by carrying mattresses around campus—this week, the university responded by charging them \$471 in cleaning fees. The protest was inspired by Columbia senior Emma Sulkowicz's decision to carry her mattress around campus to draw attention to the school's dismissal of her case against her alleged rapist. In last week's protest, the students left their mattresses on the street outside the university president's lawn, resulting in the clean-up fees. On a brighter note, Ultraviolet, one of AAUW's allies in the fight against campus sexual violence and other issues, announced it will pay the \$471.

**AAUW Cheer:** TIME has apologized for including “feminist” in its annual poll of which words should be banned in the coming year. The magazine expressed regret that the word's “inclusion [on the list] has become a distraction from the important debate over equality and justice.”

**AAUW Jeer:** Police in Indonesia have been conducting scientifically unfounded and demeaning

physical tests to determine if female police recruits are virgins, according to a Human Rights Watch report issued in November.

**AAUW Jeer:** In late October Walmart's online store had a subsection of Halloween costumes for plus-size women labeled "fat girl costumes." After a flurry of attacks on Twitter and outreach from the Huffington Post, Walmart deleted the "fat girl" category and relabeled the page "Women's Plus Size Costumes."

**AAUW Cheer:** Three Ohio congresswomen—Reps. Mary Kaptur (OH-09), Marcia Fudge (OH-11), and Joyce Beatty (OH-03)—sent a letter to all Ohio higher education presidents advocating for a stronger commitment to improving and enforcing policies regarding sexual violence on college campuses. The letter listed AAUW as a suggested advocacy group for colleges to reach out to in their development of a plan to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual assault.

**AAUW Jeer:** Goes to not one, not two, but THREE individuals whose statements were so out of touch with the real challenges facing working women that we couldn't choose only one to feature here: Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, and Fox News commentator Kimberly Guilfoyle. Bush didn't know what the Paycheck Fairness Act was; Christie said he is "tired of talking about raising minimum wage" (what about the women who make up nearly two-thirds of minimum wage workers?); and Guilfoyle claimed young women don't "get" voting because they don't have to worry about paying bills, education, crime, or health care.

## Bits and Pieces

- AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz spoke on a panel at the White House, marking the fifth anniversary of the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. Maatz's main role on the panel was to discuss the importance of addressing gender-based hate crimes in prevention and enforcement efforts. Check out AAUW's Facebook page to see a picture of Maatz and the rest of the panel!
- A Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis study analyzed the work of more than 10,000 academic economists and found that mothers produced more research over the course of their career than women without children. Although the findings address a very narrow sliver of the workforce, it's worth noting that moms overall typically face a wider gender pay gap than women without children and the gender pay gap persists at higher levels of education.
- AAUW Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz appeared on Voice of America on October

27<sup>th</sup> to speak about how women voters will affect the upcoming election. The segment was broadcast live in Afghanistan during their primetime hour. Watch the video on YouTube to hear Lisa's answers in English and hear the anchor and translator speaking in Dari!

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## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Dec 9 St. Louis Branch holiday celebration and update meeting at Jan Scott's, 6 PM
- Dec 16 Downtown Lunch Group, Panorama at the Saint Louis Art Museum, 11:45 AM
- Jan 10 MO Women's Network Women's Issues Legislative Retreat, 9 AM, Hy-Vee Grocery, Columbia, MO
- Jan 13 International Relations Lecture, Ethical Society, 10:45 AM
- Jan 19 Evening Book Group, 7 PM, The Glen at Aberdeen Heights
- Jan 22 Adelante Book Group, Barnes and Noble, Chesterfield, 1:30 PM
- Feb 10 International Relations Lecture, Ethical Society, 10:45 AM
- Feb 16 Evening Book Group, 7 PM, TBD
- Feb 24 IBC meeting, Thornhill Library, 7 PM
- Feb 26 Adelante Book Group, Barnes and Noble, Chesterfield, 1:30 PM

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Anything you want to share with our members? Please send articles and information for the newsletter to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215, or [davis-mcdonald@juno.com](mailto:davis-mcdonald@juno.com).

