

"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
davis-mcdonald@juno.com

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

National Web Site:
www.aauw.org

Saint Louis Branch Updates:

A Special Tribute to

**250 Notable Women
Who Have Contributed to the City of St. Louis
Over the Past 250 Years**

Come join us for this presentation about **inspiring** trail blazers, freedom fighters, suffragists, and other empowered women. Find out **who** they are and **what** makes them notable!



The Silent March, Locust Street, June 1916: Advocating for Women's Right to Vote.

Saturday, February 21, 2015

2:30 PM

Buder Branch Library, 4401 Hampton Avenue, St. Louis 63109

Admission is free, but registration is requested. Please RSVP by February 19th at the following website:
<https://aauwstlouisbranch.wildapricot.org/> or contact Ellen Irons at ironnew@msn.com or 314 580-0834 for more information.

Our contributing partners are

- St. Louis College of Pharmacy
- St. Louis Community College
- Saint Louis University
- Washington University

Happy February Birthdays!

11 – Jan Scott

26 – Mary Bruemmer

Happy March Birthdays!

1 - Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo

Branch finance officer **Sue Barley** is running for director on the AAUW Board of Directors. Please be alert to the notice from the national office of the election deadline. Per national bylaws changes a few years ago, each AAUW now has a vote; in the past delegates from the branches had to attend the national convention to vote in the election of board members, as well as bylaws and policy changes. You can see Sue's informational website at <http://susanbarley.info/endorsements.html>.

Condolences to **Vette Goods** on the passing of her mother on December 8, 2014.

We were saddened to hear of the passing of honorary life member **Patricia Ann McGee Giles** on November 28, 2014. She was a dual member with St. Louis Branch and was branch treasurer before Carol's long tenure. Her primary branch was Kirkwood-Webster Groves. Pat and her late husband had owned The Wine and Cheese Place in Webster Groves. She played the violin in the Town and Country Symphony. Pat was retired from Washington University.

Congratulations to **Jan Scott**, who has been nominated as president-elect of AAUW of Missouri. Plan to attend the state meeting in Columbia, MO, on May 2 to support her. She will serve in that position for a year and then serve for two years as president. Jan also has been asked to serve as corresponding secretary of CLUW St. Louis.

It was good to visit with branch member **Connie Stoker**, who was visiting St. Louis for short time from her and Gene's home in Maryland. We miss Connie and wish she were back in St. Louis!

INTERBRANCH COUNCIL UPDATES:

Past AAUW of Missouri President Mary Jean Shull

Jean Shull died on December 13, 2014. Jean was a member of the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch for over 35 years. She was branch president (1983-1985)

and currently was serving on K-WG's board as bylaws chairperson and college-university representative. Jean also was St. Louis IBC chair and kept the Downtown Lunch Group going for many years. She served as chair of the St. Louis Equity Roundtable in 1991; this community project gave birth to the St. Louis Area Educational Equity Coalition, which was used to educate local school districts, community organizations, and clubs about AAUW's gender equity program, Shortchanging Girls. She also had been active in the Girl Scouts and with her church, Kirkwood United Methodist. Jean will be missed.

The AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council Barbara Lackritz Service Award committee met recently to review applications submitted by area branches nominating a current branch member who has met the requirements as set forth in the IBC Guidelines. Each branch is represented on the committee. The winner of the award, Debbie McWard (Creve Coeur, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, and Ballwin Chesterfield branches) will be introduced at the IBC Spring Fling on March 21, 2015, at The Highlands in Forest Park.

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL): Deb McWard, Creve Coeur Branch president, has contacted area AAUW partner universities and colleges to solicit nominations for the IBC NCCWSL scholarship. (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.) Carol Davis McDonald, IBC treasurer, has been receiving funds for the scholarship pool that are being donated by the branches and individual members.

Spring Fling: See the attached flyer. Don't forget to put this event on your calendar, and don't forget to register! Our branch is donating two baskets for the raffle, Cats, Cats, and More and Tea Time. If you have anything to add to the baskets, let Jan know.

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:

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 3rd Tuesday of the month at 11:45 AM. Please join us – we have lots of good conversation. For reservations contact Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer@yahoo.com.

- Feb 17** **Ranoush** (Syrian), 6501 Delmar Blvd, U. City (314-726-6874)
- Mar 17** **Rooster** (Crepes), 3150 S. Grand, 63118 (314-772-3447)
- Apr 21** **Hendel's Market Café** (American), 599 St. Denis Street, 63031 (314-837-2304)
- May 19** **Ferguson Brewing Company** (American), 418 S. Florissant Rd, 63135 (314-521-2220)
- June 16** **Three Flags Tavern** (American), 4940 Southwest Ave, 63110 (314-669-9222)

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:

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 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM. Meeting place to be determined. 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 the next few months:

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

"Ladies Tea-Time Trivia"

We are invited to the St. Charles Branch's 3rd annual local scholarship/education fundraiser. St. Charles AAUW scholarships have been awarded since 1938 to St. Charles County high school senior women meeting qualifications of the Branch Scholarship Committee. Experience a unique trivia featuring ten categories of women's interests and general topics (no men's sports questions)! Coffee, tea, soda, homemade sweets

provided. Feel free to bring additional snacks for your table. No alcohol allowed.

WHEN: Saturday, April 25, 2015, 1:00-3:30 PM
(doors open at 12:30)

WHERE: The Fellowship Hall at **Faith United Methodist Church, 2950 Droste Road, St. Charles** (I-70 to First Capitol, left to West Clay, right on Droste. Enter parking lot on Norwich).

COST: \$15, single; \$120, table of 8; \$90, table of 6.
(Singles will be assigned to a table fewer than 8.)
Please send one check per table or send all checks together. Checks payable to AAUW St. Charles Branch. Send check and details to AAUW, 600 Breeze Park Drive, Apt 305, St. Charles 63303. Questions? Call Rose Ann at 636-946-5226.

- Sponsor tabling events at your local college and discuss the Pay Gap;
- Have your CU partners hold a campus bake sale – the women pay 77¢, and the men pay \$1.00, representing the unequal salaries that women are paid;
- Contact local businesses and see if they would offer discounts to women on April 14, 2015, the date when women's salaries equal what men earned by December 31, 2014;
- Support women owned businesses

At every activity be sure you have material from National like Quick Fact Sheets and copies of *The Simple Truth*.

During the January 2015 call, National shared that every Congressional District has an AAUW member as a constituent, and we know 1:1 conversations with constituents is what our elected officials "hear"!

I'm looking forward to another successful rally in April and seeing YOU there!

Yours in AAUW,
Karen B. Francis, 314-739-4425
karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com

STATE UPDATES

SAVE THE DATE!
AAUW of Missouri Annual Meeting
And 2015 Convention

Saturday, May 2, 2015
Holiday Inn Executive Suite Hotel
Columbia, MO

FEATURING

- Linda Hallman, AAUW Executive Director, Keynote Speaker
- Informational sessions to assist branches with planning
- and more

Call Julie Triplett, 314-630-9429
Email julietrip@att.net

EQUAL PAY DAY RALLY – Save the Date!

Mark your calendars and make plans to join the women of Missouri on TUESDAY, APRIL 14, at 10:00 a.m., in Jefferson City for our RALLY UNDER THE DOME!!!

Like last year, AAUW is collaborating with other organizations that advocate for the rights of women. The plans are not finalized, but contact has been made with 10 groups who are advocating for equity for women. I hope your branch has made plans to participate. There will be time in the program for you to talk to your legislators.

In addition to the Rally, I want to pass along the following ideas from other AAUW branches that 'sparked my interest' during my recent monthly State Public Policy Chair conference call with National:

Missouri Women's Network

Report: Missouri Legislative Retreat 2015 Shirley Breeze - January 10, 2015 – Columbia, MO

Women representing the major women's organizations in the state met in Columbia on January 10 to establish legislative priorities for the 2015 Missouri legislative session. This annual event brings together women's groups representing thousands of women; included in this working session were members from AAUW, NOW, League of Women Voters, Missouri Women's Leadership Coalition, Missouri Women's Political Caucus, Business Women of Missouri, and others. There were some university students in attendance also.

The day began with an analysis of the November 2014 elections as they impacted women. There are now 49 women in the Missouri legislature. In the House there are 24 Republican women and 19 Democratic women, the first time the Republican women outnumbered the Democratic ones (26.3%); the national average of women in State Houses is 25.5%. There are six women in the Senate, five Democrats and one Republican (17.6%); the national average of women in State Senates is 20.8%. There are no women

statewide office holders. The national average for women in statewide offices is 22.6%.

Rev. Rebecca Turner, executive director of Faith Aloud, was the keynote speaker at the morning session. She addressed the issues surrounding the unrest in Ferguson, what is being done to remedy the inequities, and the history behind how the situation became so volatile.

In establishing priorities for 2015, the highest priority was identified as the Equal Rights Amendment/Pay Equity and Reproductive Rights. In the second tier of priorities were Social Justice (Racism), Ethics, and Poverty; the third tier consisted of Labor/Minimum Wage/Right to Work/Discrimination, Violence Against Women, and Education. Gun Regulation and Voting Rights were also addressed.

These topics were chosen after a review of the pre-filed bills for the 2015 session and the public statements of legislators as to what they would be sponsoring and working on this session.

These priorities will be used in lobbying efforts with the state legislature. As proposed legislation is debated and voted upon, the women's lobbyists will use the priorities as a guide as where most women in the state want efforts placed. Efforts are also directed at topics where there is no other group working on them.

NATIONAL UPDATES

AAUW is Releasing a New Research Report,

Solving the Equation, Women in Engineering and Computing, on March 26, which will feature the latest data on girls' achievement in subjects related to engineering and computing, how few women are working in these fields, and what can be done. Learn more at this link:

<http://www.aauw.org/research/solving-the-equation/>

Plan to arrange to attend the release personally or in a "WATCH PARTY." From the site:

"A panel of experts from the industry and academia, moderated by leading gender-in-science researcher **Londa Schiebinger**, will discuss the report's findings and what they mean for anyone who cares about tapping the innovative solutions that half our population offers. Send in your questions or comments for the panel and follow along with the discussion using the hashtag #addwomen on Twitter."

This release will take the form of a live streamed video with explanations and a panel discussion. For a watch

party, one needs a good internet connection. If you gather a group to watch, a good viewing opportunity needs to be provided. (Of course, anyone can watch on their personal computer or their smartphone.)

You need to register first for the live stream. There's a link to the registration form on the informational page. The release should occur on March 26, from 1:00 to 2:30 pm central time. There is no cost. Need help? Contact **Joyce Katz** - Joyka234@aol.com.

Lockheed Martin Supports AAUW and Tech Trek

Lockheed Martin has awarded AAUW a grant to support our successful national Tech Trek program, which encourages girls' engagement with STEM. The grant will help more than 1,600 rising eighth-grade girls attend the 21 Tech Trek camps to be held in 2015 at college campuses throughout the nation. As a part of the collaboration, Lockheed Martin employees will volunteer at three Tech Trek sites. (Read more on the AAUW web site.)

Here is the AAUW Calendar Nationally:

Feb Art contest voting, once time per week, at <http://www.aauw.org/contests/>

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 21st

"Women, Their Rights, and Nothing Less"

How can you use AAUW's free online learning module about the suffrage movement? Explore the module to learn how to implement this material into local high school and college and university partner classrooms.

(<http://www.newseumdigitalclassroom.org/digital-classroom/modules/womens-suffrage/default.aspx>)

Quick Facts on Human Trafficking

Use the latest data and AAUW talking points to fight this horrific crime. AAUW believes that global interdependence requires national and international policies against human trafficking. In this downloadable, two-page document, AAUW outlines the

importance of identifying labor and sex trafficking, both international and domestic. In addition, it covers how to improve state and federal policies to protect victims, prosecute offenders, and prevent trafficking.

(<http://www.aauw.org/resource/quick-facts-on-human-trafficking/>)

Washington Update

New Research Suggests that Electing More Women May Be the Key to Ending Partisan Stalemate.

Political scientists at the University of North Carolina and the University of Kansas released a new study this week suggesting that partisan gridlock in Washington, D.C., may be due to the tendencies of male members of Congress to resist bipartisanship. Male respondents to a nationwide survey were less likely to engage in cross-party discussion and more likely to say they would support political opinions without considering others' reasoning. The survey asked these questions of voters, though, not elected officials. Still, the researchers said their findings suggest that more women in Congress might lead to more bipartisan communication and compromise and less political fighting and gridlock.

House Committee Drops Voucher Proposal in What Remains a Bad Education Bill. During the House Committee on Education and the Workforce's consideration of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/No Child Left Behind Act earlier last week, Rep. Messer was forced to withdraw his amendment, which would have allowed Title I dollars to be used at private schools (essentially a voucher proposal). This victory is a credit to you, the entire AAUW activist network, and education advocates everywhere who raised their voices in opposition to private school vouchers. Unfortunately, the "portability" provision which would allow Title I money for low-income students to follow them to the public school of their choice did pass. AAUW opposes "portability" because it will result in fewer resources for schools which need them the most and is a stepping stone to private school voucher efforts (such as Rep. Messer's amendment). A House vote is expected on the bill later this month.

AAUW's how-to guide has everything you need to know about scheduling, preparing for, and making the most of your in-district meeting with your members of Congress (during the meeting and during follow-up).

(<http://www.aauw.org/resource/how-to-hold-a-meeting-with-your-elected-officials/>) Here are two more "top tips":

- **Be persistent in requesting a meeting.** Don't be afraid to follow up your e-mail with a phone call – and your first phone call with another phone call! You can

also ask other members of your branch to request a meeting and work with coalition partners in your community to identify the best messenger to make the request.

- **Be strategic and specific with your ask.** For example, "We would like a half-hour conversation with Rep. ____ to talk about equal pay, an issue that's on everyone's minds! We have a concerned group of his/her constituents who request that Rep. ____ meet with us," instead of a more general ask like, "We would like to meet with the representative."

Finally, writing letters to the editor is another way to bring the issues to our representatives' attention. So good luck with your meetings – and let us know how it goes! You can request AAUW materials and staff support in advance (for free!) and share your results in an easy, online form so we can recognize your efforts.

AAUW Cheer: Rhode Island Gov. Gina Raimondo (D), the state's first woman governor, launched the Rhode Island Pay Equity Tip Line, a hotline allowing workers to report employers who violate the Rhode Island law that bans gender-based wage discrimination.

AAUW Jeer: Yet another study demonstrates an unfortunate point that we have long known to be true: Gender biases are alive and well in the professional sphere. A Northeastern University professor analyzed student reviews on ratemyprofessors.com and charted the words used to describe professors, such as "genius," "annoying," and "funny." The interactive chart is broken down by gender and academic department and shows that women professors were more likely to be judged on their appearance and personality and more likely to be criticized than their male peers.

AAUW Cheer: Rutgers-Camden University School of Law Vice Dean Adam Scales spoke out against sexism in academia after learning that a female law professor had received sexist remarks about her personal appearance in a student evaluation. In an e-mail to the university's entire student body, Scales discussed the harmful implications of gender bias and urged students to use professor evaluations as the "important tool" that they are, not as a tool for gendered comments about professors' appearances.

AAUW Jeer: Of all the ads that ran on Super Bowl Sunday, the one that elicited the greatest backlash was an Always commercial about empowering girls – really. Much like AAUW's Title IX PSA, the "Like a Girl" commercial encourages all of us to change the conversation so that "like a girl" means to be strong, fast, and powerful, instead of the typical gender stereotype of weakness. But some people took to

Twitter to complain that the ad was reverse-sexist (whatever that means!) for focusing only on girls. This backlash just proves how much more progress we need to make in breaking down gender stereotypes – a task that 11 campus teams across the country are undertaking as part of the AAUW Campus Action Project (CAP) grants, sponsored by Pantene.

AAUW Cheer: Following persistent advocacy from AAUW of North Dakota members, the North Dakota House passed a bill yesterday that would ban employers from firing, threatening, or otherwise retaliating against an employee who discusses his/her compensation with another person. This legislation can help close the gender wage gap by allowing employees to speak freely about their earnings and uncover wage discrepancies. AAUW was involved from the start, working with the North Dakota Women's Network to drive messages to the House committee members urging a "do pass recommendation" for the bill and then focusing efforts on the full House before yesterday's vote. AAUW Vice President of Research Dr. Catherine Hill and Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz also briefed the House committee about the causes behind the gender pay gap and the legislative solutions we need to address this very real problem.

AAUW Jeer: During a conference call last month, Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX) commented that some GOP congresswomen — whom he called "our Republican females" — sent the "entirely wrong message" by calling for a rape exception that didn't depend on whether survivors had reported the assault to law enforcement in the 20-week abortion ban bill. Wow. Speaking of entirely wrong messages, they're called "members of Congress," not "our females." And AAUW is glad to see them speaking a little truth to power.

Bits and Pieces

- After a South Dakota news outlet discovered a gap of more than \$41,000 annually between the male and female head coaches' salaries at the University of South Dakota, they turned to none other than **AAUW's Vice President of Government Relations Lisa M. Maatz** for a response. Maatz spoke about the persistence of gender pay discrimination and AAUW's analysis of coaches' salaries for the 2014 March Madness basketball tournament.
- On Tuesday, Sens. Tim Kaine (D-VA) and Claire McCaskill (D-MO) introduced the Teach Safe Relationships Act of 2015, which would include information on preventing sexual assault, domestic violence, and dating violence in public health education classes. AAUW supports this legislation and other

policies that aim to curb sexual harassment and violence in schools.

- The Second Circuit Court of Appeals heard arguments last week challenging the legality of unpaid internships. Unpaid internships have become commonplace throughout the country as students look for opportunities to strengthen their resumes and gain valuable experience outside the classroom, though not all employers follow the rules. AAUW is proud to pay our interns!
- The Department of Labor recently proposed updates to sex discrimination guidelines for federal contractors and subcontractors, which were originally issued in 1970. The updates will address sexual harassment and discrimination based on gender identity and pregnancy.
- Last month the House passed 12 bills to help combat human trafficking. Most of those proposals were passed by a voice vote. AAUW supports the approach of several of the bills and will continue to monitor their progress as they move through the Senate.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Feb 21 | 250 Notable St. Louis Women at Buder Branch Library, 2:30 PM |
| Feb 24 | IBC meeting, Thornhill Library, 7 PM |
| Feb 26 | Adelante Book Group, Barnes and Noble, Chesterfield, 1:30 PM |
| Mar 10 | International Relations Lecture, 10:45 AM |
| Mar 16 | Evening book group, 7 PM |
| Mar 21 | AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council's annual Spring Fling at The Highlands in Forest Park, 11 AM |
| Mar 26 | Adelante Book Group, 1:30 PM |
| Apr 14 | Equal Pay Day Rally, Jefferson City, 10 AM |
| May 2 | AAUW MO annual meeting and convention, Columbia |
| May 9 | St. Louis Branch event |

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.

