

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

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**Empowering Women
Since 1881**

BRANCH MEETING

Saturday, November 2, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

**Whelpley Hall, Room 4120, St. Louis College of Pharmacy
4588 Parkview Place, St. Louis 63110**

(Free parking in garage – directions below, map on page 5)



Our November 2nd meeting will be a review and discussion of AAUW's latest research publication, *Women in Community Colleges: Access to Success*. If you haven't already received a copy, it can be downloaded at:

<http://www.aauw.org/research/women-in-community-colleges/>

(Parking: Use the St. Louis College of Pharmacy parking garage on Children's Place, which is just off Taylor Avenue. At the garage entrance, tell them you are attending the AAUW meeting hosted by Professor Margaret Weck. At the campus entrance near the guard station, walk straight ahead, past the student union, to Whelpley Hall.) If you get lost, please call Carol's cell phone (314-623-1847).

Human Trafficking – A Challenge to Action

November 8, 2013 – 8:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Malaika Horne

Come broaden and deepen your understanding of provocative and sensitive issues by attending *Lifelong Learning @ UMSL* at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, North Campus, 8001 Natural Bridge, Normandy, MO. The aim is to create learning communities for older adults (50 and older) who have a love of learning and seek to be more active and engaged.

The first will be a symposium November 8, 8:00 AM to 12:30 PM, at the UM-SL JC Penney Conference Center. A light breakfast will be served.

The topic is: *Human Trafficking – A Challenge to Action*. Dr. Ruth Iyob, UMSL professor and noted author in the field, will deliver the keynote address along with three panelists who are practitioners: Rebecca Feldmann, attorney, Legal Services of Eastern Missouri, and Amanda Colegrove, director, Rescue and Restore, a coalition under the auspices of Catholic Charities. These two aforementioned agencies assist victims in addition to fighting various aspects of this horrendous crime. The third panelist is Kimberly Ritter, senior account manager for Nix Conference and Meeting Management and leading the company's initiatives in combatting trafficking in hotels.

Lifelong Learning @ UMSL is designed to enrich the group by empowering individuals as they grow and learn together. By attending these sessions, participants will be engaged in extraordinary discussions, inspiring reflections, and actions. While we target older adults (over 50), we seek to

have intergenerational involvement, so all ages are welcomed. Therefore, we forge connections across age groups, cultivating relationships, bridging social capital and promoting civic engagement.

We're also happy to announce a budding partnership with AAUW, as addressing human trafficking is a big concern for this important organization. The major funder of this program is Zonta Club of St. Louis.

Registration of \$30* has been extended to November 6. The student fee is \$10. Go to the UMSL PCS website (<http://www.umsl.edu/~pcs/noncredit-offerings/lifelong-learning.html>) and click on Register. To register by phone, call Mattie Lewis, 314-516-5655.

For more information, contact Malaika Horne, director, Lifelong Learning @ UMSL, 314-516-4749 or hornem@umsl.edu.

(*When I signed up, I received a \$10 discount. Carol)

MEMBER NEWS:

Please welcome our newest branch member **Aubrey Adams** – Aubrey is employed full time as a post-doctoral research associate at Washington University in St. Louis. She received her BS in Geology from the University of Florida (2004), concentrating on seismology, tectonics, and deep earth structure. She received a PhD in Geosciences from Pennsylvania State University in 2010, also focusing on seismology, tectonics, and deep earth structure. Please add her contact information to your directory: 1 Brookings Drive, Campus Box 1169, St. Louis, MO 63130, (W) 314-935-7372, e-mail aadams@seismo.wustl.edu, and birthday, 9-23.

Dec. 16, 2012. Aubrey Adams in the ice tunnels below Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica. (The tunnels are COLD! Like caves in the rest of the world, they maintain the average ambient temperature. Here, that's between -50 and -60. My eyelashes were frozen (although that happens all the time here) and my balaclava kept freezing to my face. Also, the zipper to my parka froze shut from the moisture in my breath!) (<http://news.wustl.edu/news/Pages/24923.aspx>)



Happy November Birthdays!

29 – Sally McGowan

Happy December Birthdays!

23 – Diana Collins

Happy February Birthdays!

11 – Jan Scott

26 – Mary Bruemmer



Support the ERA!

The only right guaranteed to women in the US Constitution is the right to vote.

All other rights depend on laws, which can be ignored, weakened, or repealed.

Leadership Training

Do you know any women who would make great candidates? Maybe all they need is a little nudge from you to run for public office.

On Sunday, **November 3, 2013**, 1:00-4:00 PM, the **National Women's Political Caucus of Metro St. Louis** will host a campaign training seminar for progressive women candidates and others wanting to be more involved in politics at 816 South Hanley Road in Clayton (free parking). The training will include messaging tips on education, choice, and other key issues. Both training materials and refreshments will be provided.

If you agree that we need more progressive women in public office, I hope you will spread the word about this training. The goal is to get more women on the ballot in November 2014.

If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Fraser at 314-863-8948 or Mary Wochner at 314-221-0739. (www.nwpc-stl.org)

Learn at Lunch: Gun Control

Presented by: League of Women Voters and Moms

Demand Action for Gun Sense in America

When: Monday, November 11, 2013 - 11:30 AM-12:30

Where: First Congregational Church, Memorial Hall,
Elm & Lockwood, Webster Groves, MO

If you can get away, this is the first Brown Bag Event of the Fall! Please bring a lunch and drink. Dessert and coffee provided by the League. The presentation will last approximately 30 minutes with Q & A afterwards.

"I am also very proud to be a liberal. Why is that so terrible these days? The liberals were liberators—they fought slavery, fought for women to have the right to vote, fought against Hitler, Stalin, fought to end segregation, fought to end apartheid. Liberals put an end to child labor and they gave us the five day work week! What's to be ashamed of?"

—Barbra Streisand

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:

- Nov. 19 Nico
6525 Delmar Loop
Dec. 17 Lemp Mansion Restaurant
3322 DeMenil Pl.

For reservations contact Jean Shull at 314-822-7821 or 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. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Upcoming books:

- Nov 28 No meeting (Thanksgiving)
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:

- Nov 18 *Every Day Is a Good Day: Reflections by Contemporary Indigenous Women*, by Wilma Mankiller
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

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)

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
Feb 11 Israel/Palestine: Is Peace Possible?
Mar 11 How is Climate Change Affecting Agriculture World Wide?
April 8 Arab Spring Update

The Gender Pay Gap: Missouri

According to the most recent statistics from the US Census Bureau, the median earnings for US women working full time, year round, were just 77% of the US men's median earnings – a gap of 23%. Progress to close the gap has stalled during the last decade, and the gap is even larger for women of color. This pay gap begins early in women's careers. According to AAUW's research report, *Graduating to a Pay Gap*, women only one year out of college, working full time, were paid on average just 82% of what their male counterparts were paid. After controlling for hours worked, occupation, college major, employment sector, and other factors associated with pay, the gap shrinks but does not

disappear. About one-third of the gap cannot be explained by these factors commonly understood to affect earnings.

Fifty years after passage of the Equal Pay Act, it's clear the pay gap is unlikely to go away on its own. That's why the AAUW and its more than 165,000 members and supporters are leading a nationwide campaign to close the pay gap and end pay discrimination. Go to FightForFairPay.org for more information.

Median earnings for men in **Missouri** were \$42,974 compared to women's median earnings of \$32,868 – an earnings ratio of just 76%.

Member of Congress (2012):

Clay (D), MO-1 – Earnings ratio: 82%

Wagner (R), MO-2 – Earnings ratio: 65%

What's better than the Equal Pay Act's 50th anniversary? A Paycheck Fairness Act birthday!

AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund

Do You Know Your Rights? What would you do if you faced discrimination or harassment? Legal advocacy begins with workers and students who know their rights in the workplace and on campus. The LAF section of the AAUW website offers a wealth of easy-to-understand information about your legal rights. Explore our new LAF Employee Rights and Information Center through the Know-Your-Rights-at-Work resource page, and learn about the laws that govern your rights in the workplace. Go to Know Your Rights on Campus to learn about your rights as a student, student athlete, or faculty member. You can also find information about the process of filing a discrimination complaint and where to go for legal assistance. AAUW members can be the first line of defense to protect workers and students from discrimination. As parents, friends, co-workers, and teachers, we can educate others about their rights, their responsibilities, and the ways LAF can help. Know your rights!

Federal Circuit Rules in Favor of Veterans Seeking Disability Benefits after Sexual Assaults. In an encouraging step for survivors of military sexual assault, a federal appeals court recently ruled that a veteran's failure to report a sexual assault is not evidence that the assault did not occur. In *AZ v. Shinseki* and *VA v. Shinseki*, two veterans sought disability benefits for post-traumatic stress disorder that they said stemmed from sexual assaults they suffered while on active duty. Because the veterans did not file complaints at the time the alleged assaults occurred, their service records did not contain any mention of the assaults. Relying on the veterans' failure to report as evidence that the assaults

never occurred, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims denied disability benefits.

On appeal, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit held that the "VA may not treat a claimant's failure to report an alleged sexual assault to military authorities as pertinent evidence that the sexual assault did not occur." The court recognized that "many service members fear that the act of reporting a rape to military authorities will subject them to personal and professional reprisals." **While other courts are not required to follow it, the ruling is promising.** The Federal Circuit's ruling recognizes the real barriers to justice faced by survivors of military sexual assault. AAUW is working to break down those barriers by supporting the lawsuits of survivors and supporting legislation to improve the military's handling of sexual assaults.

Washington Update

This week, the White House invited AAUW to attend an event with President Obama and Vice President Biden and asked AAUW to have a representative on the stage with the President and Vice President. Why? Because OUR actions demanding immigration reform have been noticed in Washington, D.C.

Since AAUW members voted in June to add to our public policy priorities support for "the civil and human rights of all immigrants, including a fair and just path to legal status," AAUW activists have sent messages to representatives from almost every congressional district, demanding immigration reform now. In addition, the AAUW Action Fund Lobby Corps has delivered this message to over 200 Senate and House offices.

An AAUW intern who is a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") student was chosen for the honor of representing all of us. After graduating with honors from high school in June, she is now in her first year in the honors college at Montgomery College in Takoma Park, MD. She's taking general education courses now and hopes to one day to become a marine biologist.

House Passes Bipartisan Bill Protecting Students from Predators

Last week the House passed the Protecting Students from Sexual and Violent Predators Act (H.R. 2083). The act requires public schools to conduct comprehensive background checks for employees or applicants with unsupervised access to children and

prohibits school districts from hiring anyone convicted of violent crimes such as rape, sexual assault, or child pornography. Currently, legislation on background checks and hiring practices is inconsistent across states; H.R. 2083 seeks to make the process more uniform nationwide.

AAUW supports policies that create safe learning environments. In addition to policies protecting students from teachers who have violent criminal backgrounds, we also need policies to protect students from peer-to-peer bullying and sexual harassment, as detailed in AAUW's report, *Crossing the Line* (2011).

Bits and Pieces

- Last week the Obama Administration clarified that people who sign up for health insurance through the exchanges by March 31, 2014, will not have to pay the penalty even though their health insurance will not have gone into effect by that date.
- The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) announced that the start of the 2014 tax filing season will be delayed by one to two weeks due to the federal government shutdown. The April 15 filing deadline will remain because that date is fixed by statute.
- A new survey released last week reaffirms the "STEM shortage," meaning that businesses are struggling to find qualified employees to fill job openings in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).
- AAUW supports efforts to supplement our own home-grown STEM workforce through a STEM education initiative implemented as part of immigration reform legislation. **The initiative would be funded through fees collected from U.S. employers who recruit foreign STEM workers and used to educate the next generation of American STEM workers.** Write your representative today and ask him or her to include this fund in any immigration proposal!
- The NAACP has appointed Lorraine C. Miller as interim president and CEO. Miller will begin serving in this role on November 1; current NAACP President and CEO Benjamin Jealous has announced he will step down at the end of the year. Miller will be the first woman to serve in the president-executive secretary's role since 1916.
- On Monday, New Jersey became the 14th state in the country to recognize same-sex marriage. As the marriages began, Governor Chris Christie (R) announced that he was dropping his challenge to the law.
- Last Monday seven current and former UConn students filed a Title IX complaint against the university alleging school administrators were indifferent to their campus sexual assault claims. High-profile anti-

discrimination attorney Gloria Allred is representing the students.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

- Nov 2 St. Louis Branch meeting, SLCOP, 10:00 AM
- Nov 3 NWPC-SL's campaign training, 1:00-4:00 PM
- Nov 8 Lifelong Learning @ UMSL, 8:00 AM
- Nov 11 LWV Learn at Lunch, 11:30 AM
- Nov 19 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- Nov 28 Interbranch Council meeting, 7:00 PM
- Dec 1 Deadline for International Relations Applications
- Dec 17 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- 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
- Dec 7 Holiday potluck brunch, 11:00 AM
- Dec 17 Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 AM
- May 3 AAUW MO members' conference

