

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

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 five branches in the Saint Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro Saint Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

Branch Officers, 2019-2020

Ellen Irons, President
 314-580-0834
 ironnew@msn.com

Susan Barley, Finance Officer,
 AAUW Fund, Bylaws and Policies
 314-361-2920
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Sally McGowan
 Director

Lorie Jackson
 Director

(Open)
 Director

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 Newsletter, Website
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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



Holiday Lunch
Sunday, December 15, 2019 - 1:00 p.m.
Sue Barley's Condo

You are invited to St. Louis Branch's Holiday Lunch on Sunday, December 15. Come in plenty of time to enjoy a 1 pm lunch followed by a short program. Special guests will be **Michele Bach**, St.

Louis University, AAUW American Fellowship recipient; and **Yemi Akande-Bartsch**, president & CEO of **Focus St. Louis**, winner of the AAUW Community Action Grant.

The lunch will be at Sue Barley's condo, located between Laclede and West Pine. An accurate count is needed, so please let Sue know if you will be there (barley702@gmail.com).

If you have friends you would like to add to the invitation list, please send their names with address and email info to Sue, and invitations will be sent.



Navigating the Gender Pay Gap

March 14, 2020 -- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Schlafly Library, 225 North Euclid Ave., St. Louis 63108

As part of our ongoing public policy work on closing the gender pay gap, **Ellen Irons**, president of AAUW St. Louis Branch, will present a 90-minute program that will cover the most recent facts about the pay gap and will have some negotiations skills hands-on activities. It is a free event, and all are welcome.

This program came about because **Zach Fletcher**, the adult services provider at Schlafly Library, reached out to us. In his email, he said, "Schlafly is in the process of planning some special programming for Women's History Month in March, and we're looking for local organizations who might be interested in partnering with us. I know that AAUW is already doing some Work Smart programs with the St. Louis County Library, so I thought you'd be a good group to reach out to." And, indeed, we are a good partner and glad to be recognized through our other branches' outreach on Work Smart. It is great that we are getting more known in the St. Louis area.



This coming Aug 26, 2020, marks the 100-year anniversary of the final passage of the 19th Amendment:

The “right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

AAUW MO is encouraging our members to find diverse ways to celebrate this milestone and share its importance with as many people as possible. And what better way than through... shopping! Here are a number of sites to check out for a lot of different options.

Hats! - <https://sednainspired.com/product-category/celebrate-2020/>

Variety of Vendors – shirts, cups, calendars - <https://www.2020centennial.org/vendor>

Calendar – beautiful artwork and great text - <https://www.syracuseculturalworkers.com/products/hear-us-roar-2020-womens-suffrage-centennial-calendar>

CALENDAR

2019

- Nov 28 AAUW’s birthday
- Dec 4-10 Computer Science Education Week
- Dec 5 Webinar with CEO Kim Churches, 2 p.m.
- Dec 21 & 22 Barnes & Noble gift wrapping for tips (IBC)
- Dec 31 Deadline for 2019 contributions to AAUW Fund

2020

- Jan 11 MO board conference call
- Jan 18 Legislative Retreat, Columbia
- Feb 16 NCCWSL early-bird registration/scholarship closes
- Feb 24 IBC meeting, Thornhill Branch Library
- March WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
- Mar 10 Missouri primary election
- Mar 28 Spring Fling
- Mar 31 Equity Rally, Jefferson City
- Apr 1 Deadline for MO Star Award application
- Apr 25 MO History Day
- Apr 30 NCCWSL registration closes
- May 1-2 MO state board and annual meeting
- May 26 IBC meeting
- May 27-30 NCCWSL
- Jun 17-20 AAUW Midwest Regional Conference
- Aug 4 MO primary election day
- Aug 22 Equality Day Gala, St. Louis
- Aug 26 Women’s Equality Day

AAUW Fund

by Sue Barley

As a membership organization, AAUW cannot succeed without member financial support. Your dues

make up 15% of the annual budget. The rest of the budget is covered by donations and investments. Due to lack of funds, **this year the annual budget was slashed by one quarter from the previous year's budget.** We lost many longtime, loyal employees at our national office. It is up to the members to make this new budget work to ensure there are enough funds for staff salaries, rent, phone, technology, communications, public policy, programs, and new opportunities.

If you have not made your 2019 donation, or you want to make an additional donation, now is the perfect time to do so. **Through December 31, the AAUW board of directors will match – dollar for dollar – every donation up to \$68,800!** Giving today will double the impact of your gift. All gifts are tax deductible.

If you are unsure about the amount of your gifts so far, go to www.aauw.org and select the MSD tab at the top of the home page. Log in with your member number and special password. If you do not have a password, create one by following the prompts. Your donations this year and last will be listed. From the site you may make a contribution with your credit card by clicking on “Individual Contributions” on the left. You may also make a donation by clicking “Donate” on the home page. If you wish, you may mail a check payable to AAUW, to AAUW, P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. Our branch will receive soft-credit for your donation.



SAVE THE DATE

The annual **IBC Spring Fling** is scheduled for March 28, 2020, at Greenbriar Hills Country Club in Kirkwood. Registration at 10:30 a.m. Details are in the planning stage. A registration flyer will be sent out in late January.

COMING UP

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTER-BRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

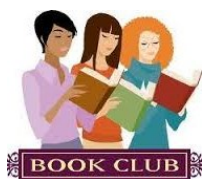
IBC consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis). The following officers from each branch are members of IBC:

- President
- Program vice president
- Membership vice president
- A member-at-large.

All AAUW members are invited to attend meetings (quarterly, third Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) and participate in IBC activities. The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, November 26, 2019, 7:00 p.m., at the Bridgeton County Library. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

IBC BOOK GROUP - Operation Equity: Reading For Results

This group, started in 1996 as a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program, meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.



Where: Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, 1600 Clarkson Road
When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month
Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com

- Jan 23 *Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption*, by Bryan Stephenson. Reviewer: Kay Meyer, Kirkwood-Webster Groves
- Feb 27 *My Black Friend Says: Lessons in Equality, Inclusion, and Cultural Competency* by Heather Flemming. Reviewer: Teri Brecht
- Mar 26 *Myth of the Nice Girl: Achieving a Career You Love without Becoming a Person You Hate*, by Fran Hauser. Reviewer: Lynne Roney
- Apr 23 *The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World*, by Melinda Gates. Reviewer: Lorna Anderson
- May 28 *Because of Sex: One Law, Ten Cases, and Fifty Years That Changed America*, by Gillian Thompson. Reviewer: Debbie McWard
- Sep 24 All members share favorite passages from the book *200 Women Who Will Change the Way You See the World*, compiled by Geoff Blackwell and Ruth Hobday

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch will hold its annual winter fundraiser, this year titled **Winter Belles**, on December 12th (snow day on the 13th). Members will socialize; enjoy complimentary mimosas, wine, and coffee; and bid on items and gift certificates at the silent auction tables. Home-baked elegant edibles will be available for purchase, as well as items in the Boutique. Boxed lunches will be served, accompanied by Parkway South High School's a capella choirs, raffles, and games.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch:

The branch will meet on Sunday, December 8th, at Kirkwood UMC to enjoy the **Saint Louis Wind Symphony Holiday Concert with ReBELLion Handbell Choir**, followed by a potluck carry-in meal at the home of co-president, Jeanne Webdell, who will provide the soups.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

The next general branch event will be the Holiday Event on Sunday, December 15th. Entertainment will be provided by keyboard player Bob Row and singer/trumpet player Brian Casserly. A buffet of light food will be served.

St. Charles Branch:

On December 5th the branch will meet at 1:00 p.m. for a program to include a guest speaker, **Emily Hall**, co-owner of Main Street Books. Emily will review several new books and will bring a variety of books for purchase. Emily graduated from Truman State with a degree in English. When not at the bookstore, she is an avid reader and enjoys spending time with her birds.

College-University News from Debbie McWard

It's application time for the National Conference for College Student Women (NCCWSL), and our local colleges who are AAUW members are now considering which students they'd like to recommend for the IBC scholarship. It is a full scholarship that includes registration to the Conference, as well as travel expenses. The local colleges are Maryville, Webster, UMSL, the St. Louis College of Pharmacy, and Washington University. The IBC scholarship awards are funded by donations from each branch, money often designated from Spring Fling fund raising, and individual donors. If you would like to contribute, let me know. We've been fortunate to be able to send two students the past number of years. Contact me at 314-607-2908 or debmcard@earthlink.net



2020 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

Established in 1929 and presented by the American Association of University Women (AAUW) and the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis.

www.lectureseries.org

Patricia Burroughs Bishop, AAUW 2020 chairperson.



The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but donations allow us to continue to provide excellent programs each year. Please be generous. Free and accessible parking is located both in front and at the rear of the building. Presentations are 45-50 minutes long, followed by a Q & A period. Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 AM the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January to April, in the upper auditorium of the Ethical Society, 9001 Clayton Rd, Ladue. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and enjoy further conversation of the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, check our website or Facebook page for updates, or you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

January 14: **Organized Voter Suppression Tactics: An International Perspective**

Denise Lieberman, J.D., is director of the Power and Democracy Program at Advancement Project, a civil rights organization based in Washington, D.C. A seasoned constitutional and civil rights lawyer for more than 20 years, Lieberman has been at the forefront of voting rights actions in Missouri and across the country. She is also an adjunct professor with Washington University School of Law, lecturing on the international aspects of election issues, as well as other subjects.

Committee: Melodee DuBois (TWA), Ann Williams (TWA)

February 11: **Triple Threat of Global Warming: Ecological, Environmental, and Humanitarian Crises**

Dr. Thomas E. Lovejoy coined the term "biological diversity" and played a central role in the establishment of conservation biology as a science. He helped establish and, since the 1970s, has headed a large-scale experiment to study the effects of deforestation on the diversity of animal and plant species in the Amazon. This work has guided the planning of conservation areas in the region. Lovejoy has advised three U.S. presidents on climate change. From 1987 to 1998 he served as an assistant secretary for the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. From 1999 to 2002, he served as chief biodiversity adviser to the president of the World Bank. Currently Dr. Lovejoy is a senior fellow at the United Nations Foundation and professor at George Mason University. Introduction by **Peter H. Raven**, eminent botanist and

St. Louis Branch Newsletter

former director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens. Committee: Deanna Stevenson (TWA) and Jeannie Webdell (AAUW).

March 10: **Cyber(un)security.**

Joseph Scherrer is Washington University in St. Louis' executive director of the Henry Edwin Sever Institute, director of the Cybersecurity Strategic Initiative, and program director of graduate studies in Information Systems Management & Cybersecurity Management. Following a distinguished 24-year career as a leader and IT and cybersecurity innovator with the U.S. Air Force, culminating as the commander of the Air Force's only combat-coded deployable communications wing, Scherrer retired as a colonel.

Committee: Kay Meyer (AAUW) & Joyce Ryan (TWA)

April 14: **The New Populism: Identity Politics and the Rise of Us-Against-Them Leadership**

Dr. Debra Leiter's focus is comparative politics, primarily Western Europe, and her research examines how the institutional, social, and party system contexts affect the type of information voters have access to, rely on, and use when making political decisions. Leiter joined the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri-Kansas City in 2013. She received her B.A. from the University of California-San Diego and her Ph.D. from the University of California-Davis. She is an award-winning researcher and teacher, having received the Carrie Chapman Catt Prize on Women and Politics and the UMKC CAS Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award.

Committee: Deirdre Gallagher (TWA) & Susie Teicher (AAUW)

Gift Wrapping for Tips

On **December 21** (Saturday) and **December 22** (Sunday) - AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble, Ladue location, to support national leadership training for area college women (NCCWSL). **Please sign up** for a shift or two. This is a fun activity and a chance to spread the word as we wrap gifts for tips. The sign-up list is on a Google document at this link: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1h6ad7Kzb8ywx90laFu7HzD1j_VPI4VSQxO8RBIU5QM/edit. Or contact one of the board members to assist you.



What Local “Sister” Organizations are Doing

MISSOURI WOMEN’S NETWORK 2020 LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

Two dates in case of weather event: January 18th or January 25th.

Location: Hy Vee Community Room, 25 Conley Road, Columbia, MO 65201

Different starting times:

If you want to be trained in **Fast Democracy**, come at 8:30 a.m. Fast Democracy is a federal, state, and local legislative analytics platform that aims to empower political professionals and newcomers alike to be more informed and effective while advocating for policy changes. Fast Democracy can help individuals and advocacy groups remain engaged after the elections by making it easier to participate in the legislative process and hold elected officials accountable. Trainer, Dr. **Anatolij Gelimson**.

If you want to do the discussion and development of the 2020 Legislative Priorities, come later, at 10:00 a.m.

Tentative Schedule:

8:30-9:00 - Registration and Continental Breakfast

9:00-9:45 - Fast Democracy Training

9:45-10:00 - Break

10:00-Noon - Presentations and Pre-filed 2020 Bills Discussion

Noon-12:45 - Lunch on your own at the Hy Vee

1:00-2:00 - Set 2020 Legislative Priorities

Invite a progressive friend to attend! Mail your registration by January 12, 2020, to Pat Shores, 5337 Trailhead Court, Eureka, MO 63025. Include your organization name, your name, mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. For info email apatriciashores@att.net or call 636-448-4387.

**FOR YOUR CALENDAR: Equity Action Day,
Jefferson City, Tuesday, March 31, 2020**

The National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis will present “Advocacy in Action Series” with Mirowitz Center, 8 Millstone Campus Drive, #2000, Creve Coeur (off Schuetz Rd, near N. Lindbergh), on December 10, 2019, and January 1, 2020, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

On December 10th learn the “Legislative Process and Contacting Your Legislator.” Understanding what goes into making a law is more complicated than what we were taught in school. Find out the inside story and when is the

best time to have the most impact when contacting your legislator. NCJWSTL State Policy Advocacy Chair, **Dianna Fine** will lead this session.

To RSVP call 314-733-9813, register in person. Online registration is coming soon (<https://www.ncjwstl.org/events/advocacy-in-action-series-with-mirowitz-center-4/>).

Do Business With Women[®] lunch will feature **Ma-laika Horne** (St. Louis Branch) and **Pat Shores** (Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch) who will present a pay equity program at the monthly lunch on February 28th at Boogaloo Restaurant, 7344 Manchester Rd, Maplewood 63143. The topic is “Closing the Pay Gap: Where’s my \$million?” The luncheon starts at 1:00 p.m. RSVP to **Jan Scott** (St. Louis Branch) at 314-997-6262 or jan@DoBusinessWithWomen.biz.

AAUW of MISSOURI

Save the date of May 2, 2020, for the AAUW Missouri State Meeting. It will be at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, MO, the same location as last year. The board will meet on Friday,



AAUW REGIONAL CONVENTION



AAUW Missouri members are helping to plan the 2020 AAUW Regional Convention at the Hyatt House in East Moline, IL,

June 17-20, 2020. Fourteen states have been invited to participate. With the theme “Remembering the Past [celebrating the Women’s Vote Centennial], Building the Future [economic security, education and training, leadership]” this will be a wonderful opportunity to share and learn with members across the region. A dynamic group of speakers, headed by AAUW CEO **Kim Churches**, has been secured, and breakout sessions will encourage individual participation. Registration will open in early 2020. More information at [this link](#).

PUBLIC POLICY

AAUW MO is now involved with gathering signatures to place Medicaid Expansion on the 2020 ballot as a resolution. As stated in AAUW's 2019–21 Public Policies Priorities, "We support robust and strong Medicare and Medicaid systems and oppose any efforts to undermine them." If you have not yet signed the petition, let Karen Francis (Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch) know.

We recently honored our veterans on Veteran's Day. Did you know that one in ten veterans is a woman? Back in 2012 the film *The Invisible War* was released. It showed the efforts that were underway to address and prevent sexual violence in the military. One initiative was to use the justice system to change the legal precedent that deemed rape as an occupational hazard. AAUW, through our case support program, supported the veterans in three lawsuits against the Department of Defense. Every two years the Department of Defense compiles a report on military sexual assaults. In the recent 2018 report, 13,000 active duty women across the military reported they were sexually assaulted in 2018. That is a four-year high. As a reminder, Violence Against Women and Closing the Gender Pay Gap are the highest priorities of AAUW's Public Policy Programs.

~Karen Francis, Director, Public Policy

MISSOURI WOMEN'S NETWORK

upcoming events

- **MO WOMEN'S NETWORK LEGISLATIVE RETREAT**
See page 5
- **MO WOMEN'S NETWORK EQUITY ACTION DAY**
TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 2020
Jefferson City, MO
Contact Karen Francis:
karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com or 314.739.4425
- **MO WOMEN'S NETWORK 32ND ANNUAL EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH**
SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 2020
Clayton Plaza Hotel, Clayton, MO
Contact Dr. A. Patricia Shores:
apatriciashores@att.net or 636.448.4387

See you there!

AAUW NATIONAL

Last Chance to Apply for Election to the Board

[Submit your application](#) to be elected to AAUW's Board of Directors by end of day November 22. It's a great opportunity to flex your leadership muscles, shape the future and advance the organization's mission of achieving gender equity for women and girls.

Special Webinar from AAUW CEO

Join AAUW CEO Kim Churches for an exclusive member webinar on Thursday, December 5, at 2 p.m. CST, titled: "[Together in 2019, Together in 2020.](#)" She'll talk about AAUW's latest research on sexual harassment, 2020 convenings and other strategic updates.

New Pay Gap Facts

Earlier this month, AAUW released some updated highlights of our signature report *The Simple Truth* about the Gender Pay Gap. The analysis indicates that women do not make less money simply because they choose different careers than men or decide to become mothers. Rather, the undervaluing of women's work, implicit bias against working mothers and direct race and gender bias diminish women's salaries.