

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

AAUW is open to graduates who hold the associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified college or university.

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, 2019-2021

Ellen Irons, President
314-727-9918
irronnew@msn.com

Candy Low, Finance Officer
314-550-0357
candy@dogwoodstudios.org

Susan Barley, Director
(314) 361-2920
barley702@gmail.com

Sally McGowan, Director
314-616-3574
sopawsam@sbcglobal.net

Carol Davis McDonald, Director
636-227-0511
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Carol Davis McDonald
Newsletter, Website

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

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09)

[pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09) (copy and past in your browser if the link doesn't work) - Meeting ID: 890 5234 8577, Passcode: 644386, By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

AAUW ST. LOUIS METRO INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)
PRESENTS

"ZOOM TO SPRING FLING"

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 - 10:30 A.M.- 12:00 NOON

ATTENDING THE MEETING IS FREE.
GUESTS ARE WELCOME.



Join your AAUW friends from throughout the St. Louis area at the "Zoom to Spring Fling" event—and you don't have to get (fully) dressed and drive someplace. The program will include speakers; and we belatedly, thanks to Covid-19, will honor **Mary Jermak**,

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch (pictured at right) as the Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council Barbara Lackritz Service Award honoree for 2020.



"Zooming to the Classroom," by presenters **Jeanine York Garesche** and **Daniel Shavers**, shares how two different teachers were able to find ways to teach music virtually, using compassion and encouragement to inspire their students. Jeanine York Garesche, a clarinetist, is known throughout the Midwest as a private instructor, chamber music coach, and clinician. Her students have won top honors at Missouri district and state competitions and honor bands. She also serves on the faculties of the UMSL and Webster University. Daniel Shavers currently is a band director at Brittany Woods Middle School and has been teaching instrumental music in the University City School District since 2001. Daniel regularly adjudicates at events including Missouri All-State Auditions and several area concerto competitions. In addition, he has been the coordinator of the Florence Frager Young Artist Concerto Competition for the St. Louis Civic Orchestra for the past twelve years. He is an active freelance musician on both the bassoon and contra-bassoon and performs regularly with a number of ensembles in the St. Louis area.

(continued on next page)

A Word From President Ellen Irons



AAUW St. Louis Remains Strong and is Growing!!

Who knew the pandemic would create so many opportunities for us to grow and become stronger? Hard to believe, but our branch has had more activities and involvement of members than ever! Here's a few highlights of the last few months:

- ⇒ We have been enjoying our newly formed Movie Club. Since November, we have watched and discussed *My Octopus Teacher*, *The Social Dilemma*, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and *The Dig*. Our next movie is *Penguin Bloom* (Netflix), which we will discuss on March 22 at 7 pm.
- ⇒ We were invited by Sue Barley to join the AAUW Greater Naples, FL, Branch on Jan 17, 2021, to watch and hear comments on the important film *Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook*.
- ⇒ We held a regular branch meeting on February 21, 2021, with nine members and three guests attending. (See article on following pages.)
- ⇒ Our branch members are working on three different projects:
 1. Sharing our 250 Notable Women of St. Louis research with the Girl Scouts
 2. Exploring partnerships with RUNG, including visiting their new building on Jefferson Ave.
 3. Continuing the celebration of the 19th Amendment Centennial by adding to the Women's Suffrage Trail Map across all of Missouri, especially identify *significant places and historic events of black suffragists (and other women of color)*.

(continued from page 1)

Our fundraiser this year is a raffle for **one of six gift cards**. Celebrate Spring 2021 as a winner of an AAUW "leaf" from the "Spring Fling Tree." Six winning names will be drawn at the 2021 Zoom Spring Fling meeting on March 13. Each leaf will contain gift card(s) with a value of \$50. Tickets are available in lots of three. Fill in the form (attached) for Spring Fling indicating number of chances. Then mail the money (checks made payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC) and the form to **Carol Davis McDonald**, IBC treasurer, as soon as possible to ensure you are entered in the drawing. The drawing for the leaf winners will be held at the meeting. You need not attend the meeting to be a winner. Gift cards will be sent in the mail the following week.

Although the event is free, we are encouraging members to give donations regardless of whether or not they enter the raffle. The suggested amount is \$20 if possible, but any amount is appreciated. This is the only fundraiser for IBC this year— please be generous!

Registration is now open and the Flyer can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- 10:15 a.m. Check-in, Socialize, Network
- 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 10:45 a.m. Barb Lackritz Award – Mary Jermak
- 11:15 a.m. Program - "Zooming in the Classroom"
- 11:45 a.m. Drawing of Six Gift Card Tree Raffle
Winners, Other Announcements



Report from our Branch Meeting February 21, 2021

On a cold, snowy, Sunday afternoon, nine members and three guests all logged on to Zoom and had a terrific time catching up with each other and sharing AAUW business. Here are some of the highlights:

- * Sue Barley gave a great presentation about the upcoming vote on proposed national bylaw changes - The National board strongly recommends voting FOR the change to remove the degree requirement. Voting starts April 7 and goes through May 17th.

See the AAUW national website for details: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/2021-comment-bylaws/>

Link to national's document on Talking Points is: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/12/Brief-Talking-Points-FINAL.pdf>

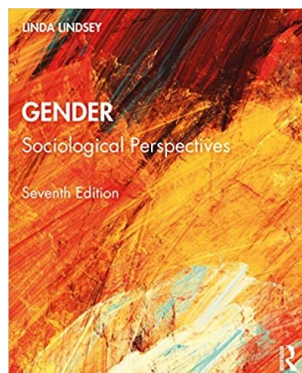
- * We had reports on our projects. Diane Sher, Candy Low, Sally McGowan and Ellen Irons are working with the Girl Scouts, Jan is coordinating with RUNG and Ellen Irons is working on the continued Celebration of the Centennial of the 19th Amendment.
- * Our Movie Club is going strong.
- * Spring Fling is coming up. Make sure to make your donation and plan to come to the Zoom festivities March 13th, 10am - [MARCH-13-2021-SPRING-FLING-FLYER-.pdf](#)
- * Linda Lindsey shared we will be able to get a 20% discount for her newly published book: *Gender, Sociological Perspectives*, 7th Edition.
- * Reminder – Ellen Irons is giving a March 20 talk - Navigating the Gender Pay Gap, 90-minute program, sponsored through the St. Louis Public Library - virtual delivery. Click to register <https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fd923828a984025003e86c9>
- * AND - MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR OUR ANNUAL STL BRANCH MEETING - SUNDAY MAY 16TH 4PM!! We will be looking for an outdoor site for a socially distanced gathering if it is feasible by that time. More to come.

BRANCH MEMBER NEWS



Congratulations to **Linda Lindsey** on the publication of *Gender: Sociological Perspectives*, Seventh Edition. "A landmark publication in the social sciences, Linda Lindsey's *Gender* is the most comprehensive textbook to explore gender socio-

logically, as a critical and fundamental dimension of a person's identity, interactions, development, and role and status in society. Ranging in scope from the everyday lived experiences of individuals to the complex patterns and structures of gender that are produced by institutions in our



global society, the book reveals how understandings of gender vary across time and place and shift along the intersecting lines of race, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, class and religion.

A big welcome to our new member, **Pamela Gempel!** Pam is returning to AAUW, having been a member of the Ferguson-Florissant Branch back in the '70s. She discontinued her membership when life got busy with things like moving, being a foster parent, volunteering with Volunteer Service to America (in South Carolina). She received her B.S. in Elementary Education from SE MO State in Cape Girardeau and worked on her Master's in the summer, receiving an M.A. in Special Education from Columbia University. Pam has spent most of her life as a special ed. teacher in the St. Louis area and five years in Bowling Green, MO. She is enjoying retirement, gardening, yardwork, and various outdoor activities.

GIRL SCOUTS OF EASTERN MISSOURI AND AAUW ST. LOUIS

By Diane Sher

During our October 8th meeting, we discussed the possibility of collaborations with other organizations and sharing our “250 Notable Women of St. Louis City” research. One thought was to explore any interest by the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri in developing a related badge.



While it turns out that creating a badge is not a viable option, discussion of other ideas began later that month. The “250 Notable Women” handout and PowerPoint were shared with GSEM on December 30, 2020. The response was immediate and enthusiastic.

On March 1, 2021, **Bonnie Barczykowski**, CEO, and **Kelly Daleen**, chief marketing and communications officer from the Girl Scouts, and Diane Sher and Ellen Irons from AAUW St. Louis met to discuss some specifics on how the

two organizations might collaborate. It turns out that the categories we used are very helpful and fit well within upcoming programming, starting with Women’s History Month, as well as existing badge requirements.

GSEM produces evening interactive Zoom programs for their members three nights per week. These sessions have as many as 300 girls in attendance. Bonnie and Kelly have already selected several of the 250 women to present and are considering **Jo Anne Harmon** for her work in philanthropy as their first offering on March 16th during a live-from-Troop-XXX segment. They are planning recurring segments on a regular basis featuring more of our women.

Discussions are also continuing for possible use of our game “Did You Know?” as the basis for future mystery guest segments beginning in the fall. The Branch will receive attribution for our research, and the Girl Scouts will handle all their programming. Stay tuned for further updates.

March is Women’s History Month and AAUW St. Louis is part of St. Louis Public Library’s Celebration!



Earn What You Deserve: Navigating the Gender Pay Gap

Saturday, March 20, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Online event

In many families, women are often the main breadwinners yet their pay doesn’t reflect the important contribution they make in the workplace. Women, on average, make almost 20% less than men and

even less for minority women. Take action to close the gap faster! Ellen Irons, President of the St. Louis Branch of the American Association of University Women, will provide key information on the gender pay gap issue and involve participants in negotiation skill exercises. The event is free. Handouts will be provided via email. [Click here to register:](#)

[https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/
events/5fd923828a984025003e86c9](https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fd923828a984025003e86c9)

Visionary AAUW Members Wanted!

Every spring, Missouri recognizes the AAUW Legacy Circle members from our state. It is the time to thank them for their amazing vision and make sure they have the beautiful Legacy Circle pin designed by Swarovski.

Unfortunately, the fight for gender equity will continue into the future after many of us are gone. You can be a part of the future of women and girls for generations to come. This can be done in many ways, such as putting your plans in your will or trust, leaving a set amount or a percentage of your assets to AAUW. You can make AAUW the beneficiary or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy, an IRA account, or a retirement plan. If you are 75 years old or older, you may set up an annuity by donating stock, resulting in capital gains savings, other tax savings, and dividend checks mailed to you for the rest of your life. The AAUW staff can help you do this.

More information is available at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>. **Heather Miller**, AAUW director of Advancement, 202.785.7766, is ready to answer questions. **Sue Barley**, Legacy Circle liaison, barley702@gmail.com, can tell you more. A simple enrollment form is found on the website. Think about it! Now is the time!

VOTING FOR CHANGE IN AAUW MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Removing the Graduation Requirement

The National Board of AAUW has recommended that the graduation requirement for members be removed. They see the clash this requirement has with our values.



Their reasoning: *AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.*

Voting will begin on April 7.

Women's History Month



The YouTube link below will take you to a PowerPoint with a very pretty and meaningful song - "Standing On Your Shoulders."

<https://youtu.be/4ax09Nokve4>

(Thanks, Teri Brecht, AAUW St. Charles)

Inclusion and Equity Committee

A reminder of some books to read:

- *Waking Up White* by Debby Irving
- *White Fragility* by Robin Diangelo
- *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead
- *A Different Mirror: A History of Multicultural America* by Ronald Takaki
- *A Story of Just Mercy: Justice and Redemption* by Bryan Stevenson
- *Dear White People: A Guide to Inter-Racial Harmony in Post-Racial America* by Justin Simien
- *Playing in the Dark: Whiteness and the Literary Imagination* by Toni Morrison

The most common way people give up power is by thinking they don't have any.

— Alice Walker

Whenever one person stands up and says, 'Wait a minute, this is wrong,' it helps other people do the same.

— Gloria Steinem

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

Patricia Burroughs-Bishop (Kirkwood-Webster, Ballwin-Chesterfield), coordinator of the International Relations Lecture Series for 2022, announced the following lecture for March 9, 2021, which will be recorded for post-meeting viewing.

To join the meeting, use the one-click:

<https://zoom.us/j/3844225785>. The Zoom meeting I.D. is 384 422 5785.

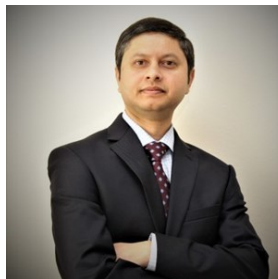


March 9, 10:45 AM: Our speaker will be **Dr. Anshuman Singh**, UMSL associate professor of Information Systems and Technology. *Artificial Intelligence: An Ethics Perspective*.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has given birth to technologies like autonomous weapon systems, face recognition surveillance cameras, and recommender systems for online shopping and entertainment. The same technologies have also been applied for developing lethal, autonomous, weapon systems; cameras for racial and ethnic profiling; and attention manipulation recommenders. This talk will explore promises and challenges of some of the most impactful AI technologies as we enter a new decade and will also provide an overview of the security and privacy implications of AI in cyberspace.

About Anshuman Singh, PhD

Dr. Anshuman Singh has been an associate professor in the Department of Information Systems and Technology at the University of Missouri-St Louis since Fall 2019. Prior to joining UMSL, he was an assistant professor and cybersecurity program coordinator at the University of Central Missouri. Dr. Singh's specialization is at the intersection of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. He teaches courses on software assurance and artificial intelligence for business at UMSL. He is currently involved in interdisciplinary research on artificial intelligence maturity in organizations. In the past, he has also worked as a research scientist on DARPA and Air Force-funded research projects on the application of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity. He earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He holds the CISSP and GPEN certifications.



More About The Topic: Want to learn more? Read about artificial intelligence issues: [A.I. Ethics on Wikipedia](#) and [A.I. Regulation on Wikipedia](#).

International Women's Day—March 8th



Women's History Month

is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, and society and has been observed in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Read more about this annual celebration at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>.

Celebrate Black History AND Women's History - A Northrop Grumman Cygnus rocket, delivering supplies to the International Space Station, was recently named the *SS Katherine Johnson*. It is a tradition to name each Cygnus rocket after an individual who's played a pivotal role in human spaceflight. Creola Katherine Johnson was an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights. She is noted for breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling as a Black woman and was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.

In "Groundbreakers, Rule-breakers & Rebels," first-time author **Katie J. Moon** tells the stories of 50 female pioneers with ties to St. Louis, from early suffragist Virginia Minor, to cookbook author Irma Rombauer, stunt pilot Marie Meyer, civil rights lawyer Margaret Bush Wilson, and renowned activist poet Maya Angelou. Illustrated by St. Louis artist **Rori!** and published to coincide with the Missouri History Museum's special exhibit *Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage*, "Groundbreakers" reveals how generations of fearless women changed their city and the world.

Presented in partnership by the St. Louis County Library, HEC Media and the Missouri Historical Society. This one looked interesting. <https://hecmedia.org/posts/groundbreakers-rule-breakers-rebels-50-unstoppable-st-louis-women>

Other Programs of Interest

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

Branch members are excited to honor their own **Mary Jermak**, honoree for the **Barbara Lackritz** AAUW Service Award at Spring Fling. Their monthly Zoom meeting is on Thursday, March 11th. The program begins at 10:30 and features **Lannis Hall, MD**, director of radiation oncology at the Siteman Research Center, Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital. She will discuss Covid-19 and its impact on cancer health disparities. With the help of other dedicated community members, Dr. Hall is working to dispel common cancer myths and educate communities on cancer risk and prevention – and ultimately change and save lives.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

March is the branch's annual business meeting (via Zoom). In addition, **Pat Shores**, AAUWMO board member who is working on the strategic planning and also with public policy, will give an update on state pay-equity legislation.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch:

Spring Fling attendance is being promoted for March, as well as many educational online Zoom programs celebrating Women's History Month.

Four-Part Series via Zoom on Race in Our Region

It began February 10, 2010. The next session is March 10. It has great sponsors.

THE GREAT DIVIDE: RACE IN OUR REGION

Join the interfaith community for monthly conversations on ways systemic racism permeates our city and region. We will learn background from topic experts, hear stories of people directly impacted and learn ways we can take action.

Each Zoom session begins at noon and will last an hour. All are welcome to stay for 30 minutes after for Q&A and discussion.

Registration is required:
www.jcrcstl.org/news/greatdivide.html

FEBRUARY 10TH	ECONOMIC EQUITY
MARCH 10TH	HEALTHCARE
APRIL 14TH	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MAY 12TH	COURT SYSTEM



WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

What Would You Do with \$250,000+? Diversity, the Gender Pay Gap, and You

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m. - Virtual Program
[Registration is required; please register here!](#)

The gender pay gap and wealth gap is more than just numbers- it's an important symbol of inequality and has significant impact on women throughout their lifetime. On an average, women in America are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. The gap is even more significant for women of color! Women's retirement is only 70% of men's suggesting the pay gap affects women's economic security now and long term. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research's Status of women in the States, "a typical woman loses hundreds of thousands of dollars over her lifetime due to the wage gap." When economic disparity, wealth income, and wealth inequality are evaluated, the impact and its consequences on women, their families, and our economy are staggering! Our presenters will provide the research, consequences, and possible solutions to solving this critical issue.

Speakers:

- ◇ **Ana Hernández Kent**, PhD, Senior Researcher, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
- ◇ **Robin Lucas**, Grassroots Advocacy Manager at the American Association of University Women (**AAUW**)

Celebrate International Women's Day at a free webinar

Food for Feminine Hygiene: It Doesn't Have to Be a Choice

March 8 — 7 p.m.

Hosted by: Women's Foundation
of Greater St. Louis

In 2019, we hosted a Seeking Solutions Symposium on the struggle many women in the St. Louis region face affording period products, also known as period poverty. Now, let's talk about the policy solutions! Join us as we discuss the Missouri state proposed legislation that aims to reduce this barrier facing women and families.

Our panel of policy-makers and experts includes:

- MO Rep. **Rasheen Aldridge**, sponsor of HB 406
- MO Rep. **Ingrid Burnett**, sponsor of HB 225
- MO Rep. **Jo Doll**, sponsor of HB 699
- MO Rep. **Barbara Phifer**, sponsor of HB 899
- Director of Outreach and Community Engagement,
- **Charlin Hughes**, St. Louis Area Diaper Bank/St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies

Period poverty impacts women across the world. There are actions we can take here in our state to ensure women and girls always have access to the basic necessities of life.

Learn more about the bills about this that are being proposed now in the Missouri Legislature:

HB 406: Beginning October 1, 2021, this bill reduces the state sales and use tax rate on retail sales of feminine hygiene products and diapers to equal the reduced state sales tax rate imposed on the retail sale of food.

HB 225: Beginning on July 1, 2022, this bill requires every public school and charter school to provide period products in the restrooms for all middle school, junior high, and high school buildings in which there are students in grades six through 12 at no charge to the students. "Period Products" are defined as tampons and sanitary napkins for use in connection with the menstrual cycle.

HB 699: Beginning October 1, 2021, this bill reduces the state sales and use tax rate on retail sales of feminine hygiene products and diapers to equal the reduced state sales tax rate imposed on the retail sale of food.

HB 899: Beginning October 1, 2021, this bill reduces the state sales and use tax rate on retail sales of feminine hygiene products and diapers to equal the reduced state sales tax rate imposed on the retail sale of food.

[Register Now](#)

Tips for Zoom Meeting Attendees:

We are learning how to use ZOOM for our branch and board meetings. Here are some important tips:

- ◆ **Mute your microphone.** To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- ◆ **Be mindful of background noise.** When your microphone is *not* muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers.
- ◆ **Check your computer or phone to see where the eye of your camera is.** Position your camera properly. If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other participants.
- ◆ **Remember,** at many meetings you can chose not to use the video if you aren't dressed, etc.
- ◆ **Limit distractions.** You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone. If possible, find a place away from other people who are not participating.
- ◆ **Avoid multi-tasking.** You'll retain the discussion better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the meeting and wait to work on that PowerPoint presentation until after the meeting ends.
- ◆ **Prepare materials in advance.** If you will be sharing content during the meeting, make sure you have the files and/or links ready to go before the meeting begins.

ZOOM meetings can be stressful for many reasons. Hearing is sometimes difficult, as people's sound output varies; and there may be lag time. It is more difficult to communicate because we rely so much on reading people's faces and body language. Positive feedback is harder to give or receive. And we get tired of looking at our own faces on the screen. We find that by trying to stay in front of the screen we can become stiff from reduced mobility. Research has shown that cognitive load is more stressful at a zoom meeting than in person.

For all their difficulties, Zoom meetings have allowed people to meet easily from around our area, the State of Missouri or even around the world.

ZOOM has many features to help reduce stress: Reactions, chat, raise hand, polls, and break-out rooms. We can look at these later. One thing we can do at our board meetings is have a short break about midway through.

As we learn how to be better ZOOM hosts and participants, we can learn how to use ZOOM to do even more things.

(Thanks to Jeanne Webdell, K-WG co-president)

AAUW's Commitment to Inclusion & Equity

By Nancy Hutchins, AAUW MO, Chair,
I & E Committee

AAUW puts forth a bold future vision with the AAUW Strategic Plan 2.0. The AAUW strategic plan (2018) provided the foundation and vision to advance gender equity for women and girls. These align with the enormous social, political, and organizational changes seen in the past two years. The AAUW Inclusion & Equity Committee—made up of member leaders dedicated to AAUW’s mission, vision and values—launched the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit (DEI) this fall.



The tool kit is divided into five sections:

1. Our Commitment
2. Getting Started with Difficult Conversations
3. Key Terms and Concepts
4. Dimensions of Diversity and Identity
5. What’s Next

Each section provides resources from a reading list, websites, and videos to offer suggestions for students and the workplace. DEI resources identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion within AAUW with guidelines for how branches, national members, student members, and individual members can demonstrate an understanding of the mission, values, goals, and strategic plan. AAUW encourages ongoing dialogue that will inspire all members to bring these values to their personal and professional interactions. The goal is to turn conversations into actionable goals and strategies for each branch.

Wherever you (or your branch) are in the journey to build cultural competence, AAUW encourages you to carefully read through this toolkit, access the resources, and have group discussions to explore the content thoughtfully and respectfully. AAUW MO's active Inclusion and Equity Committee welcomes your participation.

*Exclusion is always dangerous.
Inclusion is the only safety if we
are to have a peaceful world.
—Pearl S. Buck*

CALENDAR

2021

- Mar Women’s History Month
- Mar 3 Deadline to vote in AAUW art contest
- Mar 6 St. Louis Women’s Virtual march
- Mar 8 International Women’s Day; Women’s Foundation webinar
- Mar 9 International Relations lecture, Artificial Intelligence & Data/Ethics & Regulation
- Mar 10 The Great Divide: Race in Our Region - Economic Equity
- Mar 11 Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice - Diversity, the Gender Pay Gap, and You
- Mar 13 IBC Spring Fling, 10:30 - 12:00
- Mar 20 St. Louis County Public Library virtual class on Navigating the Gender Gap by Ellen Irons (AAUW St. Louis)
- Apr 13 International Relations lecture, Historical Heritage & Racist Art, 10:45 am
- Apr 24 AAUW MO board meeting
- May 1 AAUW MO annual state meeting
- May 16 Socially distanced, outdoor get together

AAUW DISCOUNTS

Did you know? AAUW members are given discounts by the following organizations. Membership cards can be printed out from the national website (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>).

Insurance

- Geico – auto insurance discount
- LTC Global – long term care insurance
- Nationwide Pet Insurance – 5%+ discount

Travel

- Hotel Engine – private hotel-booking platform
- Collette Tours – 160 tours on seven continents
- Cruises Only – America’s largest cruise company
- TNT Vacations – 900 Destinations
- Car rentals – Hertz, Dollar Car Rental, Thrifty

Other Discounts and Services

- El University – scholarships
- Office Depot/Office Max – save up to 80%
- Constant Contact -- Marketing advisors
- Free Prescription Savings Card – up to 55% savings
- UPS -- mailing discounts

Missouri State Public Policy – Legislative Advocacy Report

An important activity of our AAUW Missouri State Board Public Policy Committee is a yearly action-oriented campaign regarding bills in our Missouri Legislature. AAUW members across the state are asked to contact their own representatives and encourage them to support or work against certain bills that are identified as aligning with AAUW's policy priorities.

Pat Shores (AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield) has many years of experience with our state legislators and is once again leading this effort. She is focusing this year on the top priority policy item of AAUW national – closing the gender pay gap. Here are the bills that she/we are following this session:

Missouri Legislature - Current bills (2021) supported by AAUW

SB 59, Karla May, modifies provisions relating to employment practices relating to gender (prohibits paying less wages); 1/6/21 second read; referred to Small Business and Industry Committee, 1/14/21.

SB 111, Lauren Arthur, prohibits employer or prospective employers from inquiring into an employee or prospective employee's salary history; 1/6/21 second read; referred to Small Business and Industry Committee, 1/21/21.

SB 143, Doug Beck, creates new provisions governing employer hiring practices (prohibits inquiring into salary history); 1/6/21 second read; referred to Small Business and Industry Committee, 1/21/21.

H 832, Emily Weber, prohibits employers from engaging in certain forms of discrimination based on gender; 1/14/21 second read, 1/15/21.

HB 1113, Trish Gunby, prohibits employers from discriminating in providing compensation based on gender for the same work; 2/9/2021 second read 2/10/21

Here's a link to look these bills up yourself. <https://house.mo.gov/billcentral.aspx>

If you want to get involved in the weekly campaign to send emails to your own representatives, please contact Ellen Irons at ironnew@msn.com

AAUW Webinars Have a New Home

After closing 2020 with more than 30,000 webinar participants, AAUW is excited to bring you more informative and engaging virtual events through 2021. The webinar recordings have a [new home on the website](https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/) (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>). Head over to the webinar archive to catch up on past events, such as our public policy talks, virtual town hall to open membership, and a discussion about the digital divide in education.

Another way to view past AAUW webinars is to go to aauw.org, click on the search button (the magnifying glass), type in "webinars" in the search textbox, and press the Enter key. All saved webinars will be listed with descriptions. Click on the one you want to view.

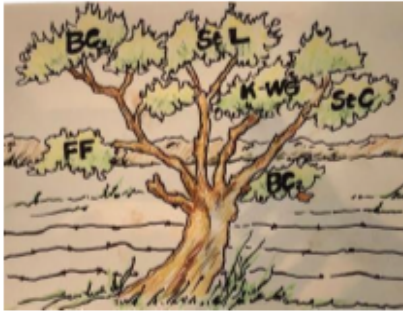
And another way to find AAUW webinars and videos, is to go the youtube.org, click on the search button, type in "AAUW" in the search textbox, and press the Enter key.

From Candy Low, Finance Officer

Dues will go up \$3 for fiscal year 2021-2022

As you may recall, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in October to increase the individual member dues for the next three years. Starting in March, the amounts will be \$62 national (previous \$59 plus the \$3 increase), \$10 for AAUW MO, and \$15 for Kirkwood-Webster Groves. Dues for 2021-22 will total \$87, which is \$3 more than last year. AAUW Board President Julie Brown notified members of the dues increase in the Notice of Dues Adjustment, October 30, 2020.

AAUW FOR LIFE — Now through March 15, current members can upgrade to paid life membership for \$1,121.00, a \$119 savings. Lifetime membership is fully tax deductible and allows you to put your values into action for a lifetime!



“Zoom to Spring Fling”

AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC)

Saturday, March 13, 2021 10:30 am–12:00 pm

This Zoom event is free to all. Guests are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkFIRlJkZz09>
Meeting ID: 890 5234 8577 Passcode: 644386 By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

- 10:15 am – Check-in Socialize Networking
- 10:30 am – Welcome and Introductions
- 10:45 am – Barb Lackritz Award – Mary Jermak



Mary Jermak

11:15 am – “Zooming to the Classroom” Presenters *Jeanine York Garesche* and *Daniel Shavers* will share how two teachers were able to find ways to give music instruction virtually, using compassion and encouragement to inspire their students.

Jeanine York Garesche, a clarinetist, is known throughout the Midwest as a private instructor, chamber music coach and clinician. Her students have won top honors at Missouri District and State competitions and honor bands. She also serves on the faculties of the UMSL and Webster University.

Daniel Shavers is currently a Band Director at Brittany Woods Middle School and has been teaching instrumental music in the University City School District since 2001. Daniel, an active freelance musician on both the bassoon and contrabassoon, performs regularly with a number of ensembles in the St. Louis area.

- 11:45 am – Drawing of Six Gift Card Tree Raffle Winners Other Announcements

For help with Zoom or for more information, contact: Deb McWard 314-607-2908 debmcward@earthlink.net

_____ **Please cut here and send form below with your check**-----

Make raffle or donation check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC** Mail form and check no later than **March 8** to: Carol Davis McDonald 827 Bergquist Dr. Manchester MO 63011-4215



Use address label or

Print Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address _____

E-mail (required) _____ Phone _____

_____ I plan to attend “Zoom to Spring Fling” and am purchasing:

3 chances for \$10 _____ 6 chances for \$20 _____ 9 chances for \$30 _____

12 chances for \$40 _____ 15 chances for \$50 _____ TOTAL \$ _____

_____ I plan to attend, will not enter the raffle, but will make a donation of: \$ _____

_____ I am unable to attend, but will make a donation or purchase chances of: \$ _____

All chances automatically entered into the drawing to win 1 of 6 gift card(s) of \$50 value. Questions on Raffle- Contact Jean Elliott 314-606-7922 elliotts01@sbcglobal.net You do not need to attend to win.