

"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

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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 Us for our October In-Person Event
Saturday, October 23, 2021, at 10am!**

A group from our Branch is visiting the Missouri History Museum's "Beyond the Ballot" exhibit, followed by lunch.

We will meet at the Museum on Saturday, October 23, at 10 am, tour the



exhibit for about 90 minutes, then go up to the Museum restaurant to determine our lunch options. We are leaning towards eating in the restaurant, but we are sensitive to our members' feelings about the Covid protocols in place there. We will be flexible about "take out" or other options that we might pursue at the time we gather.

Here's a description of the exhibit:

"Women, often portrayed as secondary characters in the city's formation, were actually key to the establishment, survival, and growth of St. Louis. Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage showcases women who made an impact in St. Louis before gaining the vote in 1920.

Through an engaging mix of artifacts, images, media, and interactives, Beyond the Ballot explores women's unique roles in St. Louis history. One major element of the exhibit traces the long history of the fight for woman's suffrage in St. Louis and the events leading up to the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920."

Our branch's project, "250 Notable Women of St. Louis," covered many of the women in this exhibit, so it will be very fun to reconnect with our love for historical research.

A Word From President Ellen Irons:

A lot has happened these last few months...

Since our last newsletter came out in May 2021, so many things have happened with our Branch. Our Annual Meeting on May 16th was held via Zoom due to rain — and was terrific! We heard two excellent presentations with discussion at the end. **Linda Lindsey** spoke on "Working Across the Aisle - Where Are We Now with Bipartisan Partnerships?" **Kathleen Farrell** shared with us "Updates on Key National Legislation - Equal Pay Act, ERA, Voting Suppression Laws, and More." I was re-elected president of the Branch for a second term, 2021 – 2023. Thank you all for your confidence in me. I am honored to serve again.



Also at that May meeting, **Sue Barley** shared with us the AAUW Missouri Recognitions for Branch Giving this year. The St. Louis Branch was No. 8 in the state overall and No. 4 in per capita giving. We have two Century Plus members (\$250 and above—**Sue Barley** and **Carol Davis McDonald**) and four Century Club members (**Nancy Collins**, **Linda Lindsey**, **Diane Sher**, and **Margaret Weck**)! Our Branch has committed to making the topic of giving to AAUW more visible this year, and we will have one or more programs on it.

A special award has been given to **Nancy Collins** - Honorary Life Member. The award was given for 50 years of continuous membership. Nancy joined July 1, 1966. The award was hand delivered to Nancy at her home (see page 3).

At our August 3rd regular branch meeting, we voted and approved adopting the new Missouri Star Award document as our Branch Action Plan/Strategic Plan. This has a LOT of good guidance in it, including adding **Jan Scott** and **Sally McGowan** as new co-chairs for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and **Diane Sher** and **Ellen Irons** as co-chairs for College and University Liaison. (See separate article).

Diane Sher and **Ellen Irons** have continued working with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, exploring diverse ways for our members to partner with them. We are looking at ways to help girls earn badges in areas related to the AAUW mission and will provide a workshop on "The Art and Skills of Negotiating" to their older Girl Scouts in February 2022.

Finally, Movie Club has continued on the 4th Mondays of each month and has been a very inspiring experience. Each month we all watch the chosen movie on our own, then discuss it together in our Zoom gathering. We use discussion questions, research on the facts about the movie (story line or 'the making-of') and we often bring our own personal experiences into the conversation. Our movies over the last few months have been "Audrey," "Philomena," "The Zookeeper's Wife," "The Best of Enemies," and "Radium Girls." We range from 5 to 9 members participating. All are welcome! Contact me for more information to join in this fun and interesting activity.



The Board of Directors of AAUW announced that **Gloria L. Blackwell**, a 17-year member of AAUW, will be the new chief executive officer of the organization, effective October 18, 2021, replacing **Kimberly Churches**, who is pursuing a new opportunity in her career.

Gloria currently serves as AAUW's executive vice president and chief program officer and has extensive experience leading within the organization. She's managed and expanded AAUW's esteemed fellowships and grants program—awarding more than \$70 million in funding to women scholars and programs in the U.S. and abroad. She's spearheaded innovative programs, including the award-winning salary negotiation workshops, which have reached more than 190,000 women nationwide.

Gloria initiated and built partnerships with major funders, local governments and institutes of higher education. And she has significantly expanded the organization's outreach to girls and women of color. But most of all, Gloria has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to AAUW's vision of achieving equity for all.

BRANCH MEMBER NEWS

We are pleased that two former members have re-joined the Branch: **Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo** and **Homa Zafer**.

Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo was born in St. Louis and lived here until junior year. She transferred from Vashon High School to Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, and completed the last two years of high school there. Sheila attended Barnard College and received a BA in English Literature from Florida State University (1978), an MA in Communications from Syracuse University (1980), an MSc in Sociology and an MA in International Development from North Carolina Central University (2013), and an EdD in Higher and Adult Education from the University of Memphis (1999).

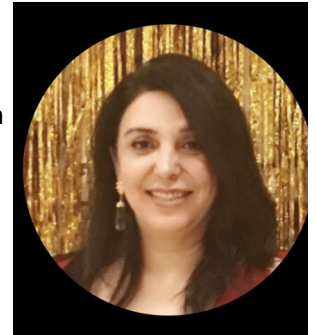


As an assistant professor for Troy State University, she taught the United States military in South Korea and Japan for two and half years. Sheila also lived in Zimbabwe for ten years while married to a Zimbabwean. At that time, she worked for the United States Information Agency and for Zimbabwean organizations, including a news agency, a publishing house, and a consumer advocacy group. Besides these places, she has traveled to Libya, Swaziland, South Africa, England, and Kenya.

Besides traveling, she likes to paint, practice yoga, walk her dog, and enjoys writing. She keeps busy with outside activities, likes taking continuing education classes with the community college, and currently is attending a few writing classes. Sheila is working on a book, which is almost complete, about her experiences in Zimbabwe. Professionally, she is a healthcare coordinator for the St. Louis Area Agency on Aging. "It's really a fun job," she says. She coordinates health education classes and work with subcontractors in this regard. She also works with senior centers, community agencies, non-profit and for-profit organizations that deal with older adults. During COVID she has been attending a lot of Zoom meetings to try to stay connected to what different groups are doing and to share information.

Around 2005, while living in Raleigh, NC, Sheila joined the Raleigh-Wake Forest Branch, was a VP for membership, and participated in several events with AAUW. Sheila joined the St. Louis Branch in 2014 after returning to St. Louis. She said, "I like that AAUW welcomes women from all over the world. It also focuses on community development on a global level." So glad you're back, Sheila!

Homa R. Zafer is executive director and owner of Unified Health Services, LLC. Homa fled Afghanistan during the Soviet invasion at the age of 18. She and her family lived for years in Pakistan and migrated to the U.S. as political refugees in 2000. She proudly served as an Afghan women's rights activist and journalist under the supervision of Human Rights Watch via, CCA, Cooperation Center for Afghanistan, for four years. The women's magazine, *Sadaf*, of which she was editor-in-chief, was a window of opportunity for women to have their voices heard at the time of Taliban's atrocity and brutality in Afghanistan. As an Afghan journalist and women's rights activist, she spent several years of her life defending women's rights issues among the Afghan women who used to live in exile. She helped bring about radical changes in the mid-1990s by disclosing stories and assisting victims of abuse, to name a few.



Once in St. Louis, Homa shared her knowledge at the UN-sponsored program for refugees and immigrants, the Center for Survival of Torture and War Trauma, which addresses domestic violence and other rights violations among women. She worked as an interpreter, advocate, and case worker for BJC, Provident Counseling, and the Center for Survivors of Torture and War Trauma, on whose board she sat prior to that organization's merger with Bilingual International in April 2016. At Bilingual International, Homa worked primarily with Dari, Farsi, and Pashto speakers to help them address social service needs and adapt to life in the US. She appeared on *The Oprah Show* in 2001 and is a videographer and photographer.

Homa received a Bachelor's Degree in Communication and Journalism from Washington University in St. Louis (2007). Over the past few years, she has enhanced and refined her communication and journalism skills by completing a Master's Degree in International Affairs, Middle East and South Asia Politics.

Homa was introduced to the Branch in 2018 by Sally McGowan, who met her on a home inspection. We are excited for her return to the St. Louis Branch.

Welcome
Back
We Missed You

Nancy Brown Collins Has Been Awarded an Honorary Life Membership

Nancy joined the AAUW St. Louis Branch during the 1966-1967 membership year and became a life member several years ago. Until recent years, she has been an active member of the branch and always supports AAUW. She graduated with a B.A. from Harris Stowe in 1947, and received an M.Ed. from St. Louis University in 1955 and an M.A. from Washington University in 1967.

Per bylaws and policies, an individual member who has paid association dues for fifty years shall become a life member and shall thereafter be exempt from payment of association, state, and branch dues.



Nancy proudly displays her flowers and honorary life member award.



Sue Barley (lower right) and Carol Davis McDonald (standing) visited Nancy in her home and presented her with flowers and the award.

Awards at the AAUW of Missouri Spring Conference

Each May Missouri branches convene in an annual members' meeting and conference. This year, due to Covid-19, it was held virtually, via the Zoom video conference program. At the meeting members and branches are recognized for various accomplishments. **Ellen Irons** was honored with an Outstanding Member Award (see next page). Even in the challenging Covid year of 2020-2021, AAUW MO branches were amazingly active. We took advantage of media to share AAUW's mission and got creative in programming. Ten branches were awarded stars for achieving AAUW MO goals to move the mission forward; St. Louis was one of them. St. Louis Branch "presented pay gap program at St. Louis Public Library; partnered with library and Rung nonprofit for women; and shared 250 Notable Women project with Girl Scouts."

Supporting AAUW through financial contributions to the AAUW Fund is another reason to honor members and branches. This May our branch was recognized for the following contributions in calendar year 2020:

- Total Branch Giving: 8th Place (\$1,554.00)
- Per Capita Branch Giving: 4th Place (\$81.79)
- Century Club Members: **Nancy Collins, Linda Lindsey, Diane Sher, Margaret Weck**
- Century Club Plus Members: **Susan Barley, Carol Davis McDonald**

Empowered women empower women.

Support other women. Period.

Real women fix each other's crowns.

Behind every successful woman is a tribe of other successful women who have her back.

Be the kind of woman who makes other women want to up their game.

Individually we are one drop; together, we are an ocean.

One woman can make a difference but together we can rock the world.

Congratulations to Ellen Irons

As chair of the hard working 19th Amendment Task Force, Ellen inspired the committee to put together an invaluable comprehensive guide to help branches and members create exciting events, resources and celebrations. She frequently communicates with AAUW MO members sharing an abundance of ideas to mark the passage of the amendment.



Ellen collaborated with other organizations, made a calendar of state wide events, and put together two outstanding documents – The Archival Summary Article and The Master Resources Document - that will be resources for individuals and organizations for years to come. She also spearheaded the development of 17 proclamations from municipalities all across the state recognizing the 100th year of women getting the vote.

SAVE THE DATE

December Luncheon Meeting

You are invited to a festive December luncheon meeting on Sunday, December 12, at 1 pm at Susan Barley's condo, 4 N. Kingshighway Blvd, in the CWE. Watch for your invitation, including details, in late November. If you have people you would like to invite, please send names, addresses, and emails to Susan, who will extend the invitations. Attendees must be vaccinated and masks should be worn.

Helen Beryl Sher Shopmaker

Past St. Louis Branch President (1957-1959) Helen Shopmaker passed away at the age of 97 on December 15, 2020. Helen was born July 24, 1923, in St. Louis. She was the daughter of Louis B. Sher and Jeannette L. Sher. Helen enrolled at the University of Illinois after graduating from University City High School. At Illinois, she became a member of Phi Sigma Sigma as well as the French and Spanish honoraries, Pi Delta Phi and Sigma Delta Pi, respectively. A Phi Beta Kappa, she was salutatorian of the class of 1945 with a major in Spanish. She also earned a Master's degree from Illinois and taught at Illinois until her marriage on November 9, 1947, to Captain Allen B. Shopmaker, who had earned his veterinary degree at Kansas State University. After he finished his Army service, the couple started a veterinary clinic, Clayton Small Animal Hospital, which they operated for many years.

Active in community activities, she served as president of the St. Louis Branch of AAUW from 1957-59. Shopmaker also served on the Missouri AAUW state board. St. Louis' Springboard to Learning was a particular favorite, and she served on its board of directors.

Following their retirement, Helen and Dr. Shopmaker traveled the world extensively, with particular affinity for Japan, and they both taught English as a second language (ESL) at the International Institute in St Louis for many years for more than 25 years. An avid golfer, Helen played regularly, both at St. Albans Country Club in west St. Louis County and in Florida during the winters, until shortly before her death. She was also a life master bridge player. Helen was recently awarded an honorary doctorate degree from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, to which she contributed her extensive collection of political buttons and memorabilia acquired throughout her lifetime, which collection is on permanent display at the Mercantile Library at UMSL. She was also very active with Springboard to Learning, serving on its board of directors for many years and as its president.

Helen is survived by her brothers, Donald J. Sher (Shirley) of Clayton and Byron D. Sher of Placerville, CA, and by her six nieces and nephews, Adrienne Sher, Benjamin Sher, Katherine Sher, Edward Sher (Fay), Elizabeth Sher (Scott Robinson), and Alice Riccabona (Vincent). She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Dr. Allen B. Shopmaker.

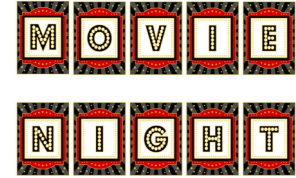
Helen Sher Shopmaker with a 2000 Florida voting booth, part of the Shopmakers' collection. Photo courtesy of UMSL





**IBC “Swing into Spring”
Luncheon Honoring Barb Lackritz Awardees**
Saturday, March 26, 2022, 11:30 am

Entertainment by Queens of Swing.
Registration flyer to follow!



Movie Club continues on the 4th Mondays of the month at 7 pm.

Oct 25 “Thousand Pieces of Gold.”
Contact Ellen Irons for the link to this movie.

Future dates are Nov 22, Dec 27, Jan 24, Feb 28, Mar 28, Apr 25, and May 23. Movies yet to be determined.

It is Time to Think About Year-End Giving

AAUW needs individual member support in order to meet budget needs and to support our vital equity programs. We have just a few more months to meet our 2021 giving goals. As of October 1, thirteen of our twenty AAUW St. Louis branch members have given a total of \$1,318.29 to the AAUW Fund. It is hoped that all our members will join in participation in 2021. Donations may be made online using a credit or debit card, or checks may be sent to AAUW Fund, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090. Your gift is tax deductible and will be soft-credited to our St. Louis Branch.

AAUW MO will recognize donors who give \$100-\$249 as Century Club members and, also, donors who give \$250 or more as Century Club Plus members.

CALENDAR

- Oct 23 “Beyond the Ballot,” MO History Museum, 10 am
- Oct 25 Movie group, 7 pm
- Oct 28 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm
- Oct 31 Membership renewal deadline
- Oct 31 Deadline, Lackritz Award nominations to Carol
- Dec 9 Ballwin-Chesterfield celebrates its 40th anniversary
- Dec 12 Branch luncheon meeting

ST LOUIS BRANCH IS USING THE NEW STATE ACTION PLANNING DOCUMENT

We had a regular Branch meeting on August 3rd, 2021, with nine members attending. We decided on some important changes in our planning and service structure, including:

- We voted and approved adopting the new AAUW MO Star Award document as our Branch Action Plan/Strategic Plan. This is a very comprehensive document that will guide us in many ways this year. If you haven’t seen a copy, contact Ellen Irons, and she will send you one.
- Part of the AAUW Missouri focus this year is to encourage branches to add chairs in specific areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion, college and university liaison, and public policy. AAUW Funds is another important area. Our new and returning chairs are now:
 - Jan Scott and Sally McGowan will jointly share the DEI chair.
 - Diane Sher and Ellen Irons will share the CU rep liaison. Diane particularly wants to get Stephens College connected with AAUW.
 - Sue Barley is our AAUW Funds chair. She has held this position for years and is a strong advocate. We are planning to have Sue give a program to the Branch later this year.
 - Ellen Irons will continue to serve as public policy liaison but would encourage others to get involved. **Anyone wanting to take on this chair, please talk to Ellen.**
- We will continue using the document for further planning this year, as it lists many specific actions for us to be taking.

Many thanks to the AAUW State committee that worked so hard to prepare this very helpful document!

AAUW MISSOURI IS LAUNCHING NEW INITIATIVE FOCUSING ON DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION TO SHARE WITH THE BRANCHES



The AAUW Missouri State Committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion has been working for several months to study our AAUW National goals and resources in this area. The Committee, led by **Nancy Hutchins**, **Kay Meyer**, and **Mable Davis**, has recently launched a state-wide program via a Zoom meeting of all Missouri AAUW branch presidents. The presentation and suggested action steps for the branches involves two main stages. First, teaching awareness of terms, concepts and principles. Second, reviewing together as a branch a series of questions to examine our structure and practices and to see how we might choose to change aspects that would increase our diversity, equity, and inclusion.

This presentation, along with action steps, will be delivered to the Branch during the winter months (date to be scheduled).

A great resource for our members to get background and planning tools in this area is from the DEI Toolkit found on the AAUW website at:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/diversity-officer/>

AND

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/dei-toolkit/plug-play-dei-programming/>

AND

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/equity-network/>

AND a link to MO State DEI: <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/inclusion-equity-committee/>

AAUW MO AUGUST 26TH PANEL FOR THE 101ST CELEBRATION OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT WAS VERY SUCCESSFUL



The AAUW Missouri panel "Women's Suffrage, Racism, and Intersectionality: One year After the 19th Amendment Centennial" was held via Zoom on August 26, 2021, with two inspiring speakers - **Dr. April Langley**, chair of the Black Studies Department and associate professor of English and Black Studies at the University of Missouri-Columbia; and **Dr. Carmaletta Williams**, executive director of the Black Archives of Mid-America in Kansas City. Moderated by **Ellen Irons**, the program asked the speakers three essential questions:

- Can you share with us your perspectives on black women's historical human rights struggle and suffrage?
- What are your thoughts on contemporary social justice in the context of black women's history?
- How do you define or understand intersectionality?

The questions were asked one at a time, allowing the speakers to respond and interact with each other on each topic. This created an inspiring and ever-deepening discussion. Audience questions and answers at the end added another dimension, as the speakers encouraged us all to think about intersectionality in our own lives.

The program drew 86 participants from four states with members of over 12 different AAUW branches and over 10 other organizations represented.

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are voting members of IBC: president, program vice president, membership vice president, and a member at large. All members are invited to attend meetings and participate in IBC activities, which include:

- Planning the Spring Fling luncheon fundraiser
- Sponsoring a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- Co-sponsoring the International Lecture Series held at the Ethical Society building
- Sponsoring the ¡Adelante! book group
- Awarding the Barbara Lackritz Service Award

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

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. Anyone can join in the lively book discussion during any month we meet.

Where: Currently via Zoom

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: Contact Deb McWard for sign-up
Send book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht
tebrecht@yahoo.com

Oct 28 *The Broken Heart of St. Louis: Violent History of the United States*, by Walter Johnson

ANNUAL BARBARA LACKRITZ SERVICE AWARDS

The Interbranch Council voted to change the format of the annual service award. Each IBC branch will select a member to receive this award. **Consider a branch member to nominate.** The honorees will be acknowledged at the Annual IBC Spring Luncheon on March 26, 2022. Please contact Carol (314-623-1847) with your nomination, along with a few sentences about your nominee. A list of nomination criteria is on the next page. Nominations should be submitted by **October 31st.** (continued next column)

(continued—Barbara Lackritz Service Award criteria)

The criteria to consider are as follows:

- * 1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
- * 2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
- * 3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
- * 4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.

IBC BRANCHES - Events:

In case you would like to visit another branch, here are some of their events. For information, check their website or contact a KWG officer who will have contact info.

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH:

Presented **Kristen Sorth**, director, St. Louis County Library System, who spoke about the "Library as a Center of Community," on October 14, 2021, at 10 a.m., at Trinity Church, 14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO 63017.

This year is the branch's 40th anniversary. They plan to celebrate on December 9th at their winter fundraiser—Lights of Leadership. They are asking for \$40 contributions from all members who are able, with recognition as a Light of Leadership with their name on a big candle. They will have entertainment, a box lunch, birthday cake, a raffle, and, of course, fun for all.

FERGUSON-FLORISSANT BRANCH:

Ferg-Flo, as they call themselves, held a community event on October 2nd on current approaches on climate change. The guest speaker was Rev. **Carleton Stock**, discussing "Climate Change: Where We Are and What We Can Do." Rev. Stock has studied this topic for years and is an expert on all areas concerning climate change.

KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER GROVES:

Celebrated their 50th anniversary on October 16th with a brunch at Greenbriar Hills Country Club. The **Honorable Judge Robin Ransom**, a native St. Louisan, was an informative and entertaining guest speaker. She was appointed by Governor Parson in January 2019 to succeed retiring Judge Lisa Van Amburg.

ST. CHARLES BRANCH:

The program for October was "We Remember Eleanor Roosevelt on Her Birthday ~ October 11, 1884" at 1:00 pm. The program was presented by **Barbara**

Kay, a/k/a Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Ms. Kay was a history teacher in Illinois. She has spent the past few years portraying a dozen or more famous and infamous women in history. Her portrayal will be Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Suffragette. "In 1840, newlyweds Henry and Elizabeth Cady Stanton attended the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where organizers refused to seat women delegates. She and Lucretia Mott resolved to hold a convention devoted to women's rights."

What Local "Sister" Organizations are Doing

National Council of Jewish Women-St. Louis

October Lunch & Learn: Food Insecurity in St. Louis

When: Thursday, October 21 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT
Where: Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Roughly 850,000 people are facing food insecurity in the state of Missouri alone - and that includes around 220,000 children. People who are food insecure may have to choose between paying for nutritionally adequate food and other necessities such as housing and medical payments. Oftentimes, we are at a loss as to what to do to help.

Women's Voices Raised For Social Justice

Racial Justice Movie Club

Wednesday, October 27, 7 p.m.

Virtual discussion of documentary: [Documentary: Trust Me](#). **Registration is required; please register here.** "Trust Me" gives viewers an inside perspective into how media outlets capitalize on humans' attraction to stories about violence, how and why humans share misinformation, how web algorithms distort how we see the world, and how the news can impact mental health. Viewers will learn ways to detect misinformation and receive suggestions on how we can limit the spread of false narratives. Participants should watch the documentary prior to the October 27 discussion. *Trust Me* is available on **Kanopy**, which is a free resource available through your local library. Sign in or create an account at <https://www.kanopy.com/>

U.S. Census data from 2020 shows that as many as 1 in 4 eligible Americans are not registered to vote. We must do more than just register voters—we must ensure everyone is able to access this basic right. Several key Congressional committees have heard testimony that barriers to voter participation remain for people of color and language-minority voters, and the wave of anti-voter bills continues in state legislatures. Yet we know that these hurdles do not reflect the will of the people.

The freedom to vote is not a political issue—it is a Constitutional right. Americans of all races, backgrounds, genders, and zip codes have the same right to vote. The **Freedom to Vote Act** will restore federal protections gutted by the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court case and under attack from the wave of anti-voter bills sweeping the nation, while modernizing the ways in which voters access a secure and convenient process.

Tell your members of Congress to [support the Freedom to Vote Act now!](#)

Introducing Money Smart

With the generous support of The Coca-Cola Foundation, AAUW is pleased to launch our new [Money Smart program](#), a series of free virtual workshops designed to support women in navigating their personal finances. We particularly encourage women of color to join us for information and resources to help address the disproportionate and systemic fiscal challenges faced by Black and Brown women. These include a vast racial wealth gap and wider-than-average gender wage gap. Please share with your networks!

STEMEd for Girls: That's a Wrap!

More than 600 girls and 300 parents and caregivers participated in AAUW's inaugural STEMEd for Girls program—a virtual workshop series designed exclusively for high-school girls. The girls took part in six 1.5-hour virtual sessions over two months that showcased how accessible and exciting STEM fields can be. Stay tuned for more information about future STEM events.