

"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, 2021-2022

Ellen Irons, President
ironnew@msn.com

Candy Low, Finance Officer
candy@dogwoodstudios.org

Susan Barley, Director
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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

[AAUW St. Louis Branch | Facebook](#)

You are invited to attend our AAUW St. Louis Branch program:

**Gender Pay Equity:
Updates and St. Louis
City Actions**

**Sunday, February 20, 2022
2 pm - via Zoom**



Despite civil rights laws and advancements in women's economic status, workplace discrimination still persists. As AAUW's report [The Simple Truth about the Gender Pay Gap](#) explains, the latest numbers from the U.S. Census Bureau once again revealed that women working full-time, year-round are on average paid only 83 cents for every dollar paid to men. **But there is some good news.** There are gains in awareness and individual success stories, and some advancements have been occurring at the local level.

Come hear a panel presentation on:

- Updates on the status of gender pay equity, the national *Paycheck Fairness Act*, bans on asking salary history questions nation-wide, and the current focus of AAUW MO public policy and pay equity advocacy. **Presented by Ellen Irons**
- Updates and progress in the City of St. Louis – passage of ORDINANCE 71095 regarding salary history questions during interviews, changes in the city's personnel department and transparency, and planned action for AAUW St. Louis to meet with Mayor Jones on gender pay equity issues. **Presented by Kathleen Farrell and Jan Scott**



Contact Ellen Irons ironnew82@gmail.com for questions.

Join Zoom Meeting: [AAUW STL Gender Pay Equity Feb 20 2022 5pm](#)

Meeting ID: 881 9671 2737 Passcode: 350842

A Word From President Ellen Irons:

I am filled with gratitude....

On this snowy, wintry day, I am reviewing our Branch activities for the last few months and am filled with gratitude for all of you. Individually and together, we have created warm and interesting events, supported each other intellectually, and reached out into the community for advocacy.

Our visit to the ***Beyond the Ballot*** exhibit at the MO History Museum in late October was a huge success, with nine members attending. **Sue Barley**, our 2022 St. Louis Branch honoree for the Interbranch Council Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award, hosted our ***December holiday party*** at her beautiful home, with special guest speakers **Raven Maragh-Lloyd** from Washington University, and **Ekaterina “Kate” Holdner** from Saint Louis University.



We launched our St. Louis Branch ***Votes for Women Trail project*** in mid-January, with eight of us joyfully reviewing names and committing to research lesser-known suffragists in St. Louis to add to the Missouri Trail. Our monthly ***Movie Club*** has been fun, interesting, and challenging – we have watched and discussed *1000 Pieces of Gold*, *Te Ata*, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society*, and *Passing*. Wow, that’s an amazing mix.

I am grateful that **Kathleen Farrell** and **Jan Scott** have agreed to present with me on ***“Gender Pay Equity – Updates and Actions in St. Louis City” on Sunday, February 20th, at 2pm.*** And we have a **Planning Committee** meeting ***scheduled for Feb 10th***, where we will plan more interesting things for the rest of our fiscal year!

On a note of sadness, we just learned of the passing of **Mary Bruemmer** on December 23, 2021. She was a long-time AAUW St. Louis Branch member and incredible force for improving equity for women and girls over the decades. We will have a full tribute to her in a future issue. Here’s a link to an on-line piece for those interested: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/stltoday/name/mary-bruemmer-obituary?id=32778303>

As in other professions, women are under-represented and undervalued in the art world. Only a third of artists represented by commercial galleries are women, and women working in arts professions are paid on average 74 cents to every dollar paid to men. This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual art contest—to give women artists the attention they deserve.

Entries for the 2022 art contest were open from January 5 to January 31. Voting will be open from February 2 to February 16. The six winning entries will be featured in a collection of notecards mailed to AAUW members in the spring! St. Louis area AAUW members have submitted artwork, so be sure to look for them.



2022 Virtual Missouri Women’s Network Legislative Retreat

Saturday, February 19, 9-11 am

The Missouri Women’s Network (MWN) is a coalition of groups and individuals working for equity for women. The mission of MWN is based on principles articulated in the ***National Plan of Action*** adopted by the Women’s Conference Committee in Houston in 1977. MWN was formed in 1983 in the aftermath of the defeat of the ERA to consider alternatives for keeping the quest for women’s equality alive. See page 10 for details.

March 21 AAUW San Juan Branch Invites St. Louis Branch

to a program on Afghan refugees and their resettlement, from the 1980’s to current times. Speakers are **Linda Lindsey** from AAUW St. Louis and **Susan Rodriguez** of AAUW San Juan. Linda was in Pakistan while refugees were dealing with the Russians in the 80’s and is now working with a St. Louis family. Susan was serving in the US Army in Afghanistan and has dealt with families.

Meeting will be on Zoom at 7 PM AST, 9 PM CST. A link will be provided closer to the meeting date.

“Swing Into Spring” March 26, 2022 IBC Luncheon!

The IBC planning committee is really looking forward to seeing you at the in-person IBC Spring Luncheon at Catering To You in Florissant ([map](#)) on Saturday, March 26, starting at 11:30 am. **Registration is now open** for this elegant, sit-down, hot buffet luncheon where we will celebrate our five Barbara Lackritz Honorees and be entertained by The Queens of Swing. A registration flyer is at the end of this newsletter and on the [IBC Website](#). **Show your support for our Barbara Lackritz Honorees!**

Joyce Katz, Ballwin-Chesterfield
Carolyn Herkstroetter, Ferguson-Florissant
Jeanne Webdell, Kirkwood-Webster Groves
Pam Kulp, St. Charles
Sue Barley, St. Louis

Enjoy the Entertainment . . . The Queens of Swing, reminiscent of female swing bands of the 1940s, are dedicated to restoring the forgotten history of these bands. Over a hundred of these bands responded to the skyrocketing American demand for swing during World War II. With many young men in military service, female musicians took up the slack and provided live music during the stressful years of World War II. In so doing, they provided diversion, comfort, and social contact through music and dance. As they performed, the bands engaged in quiet social revolution and taught people how to be together.

AAUW thanks The Queens of Swing for continuing to provide great music as they fight to keep alive the artistic contributions of female bands to American history.

Contribute to IBC and NCCWSL . . . **Fundraising** this year will generate funds in several ways:

- ⇒ If you can't attend but want to donate, please feel free to send in your registration form with a **direct donation**. All amounts are appreciated!!
- ⇒ At the event itself we will have a **Gift Card raffle**. These will reflect themes chosen by the branches, with six chances total to win gift cards to interesting, fun, or tasty places.
- ⇒ We will have a **50-50 raffle** – always a crowd pleaser!
- ⇒ New this year, you will be able to **purchase a “piece of the NCCWSL” scholarship funding puzzle** by choosing to donate an amount that covers specific expenses such as money for one meal or the cost of air fare. You can help complete the puzzle!



Enjoy the Open Hot Buffet . . . A hot buffet luncheon will be served with Roasted Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Mushroom Herb Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Homestyle Green Beans, Garden Salad, Rolls, drinks, and dessert.

Plan to arrive by 11:30 am to check out the many donation opportunities before luncheon is served at noon. About 12:45 we will begin presentation of our Barbara Lackritz Honorees followed by the marvelous music of The Queens of Swing. The luncheon will wrap up about 2:30 following raffle drawings, announcements, and pictures.

For more information, contact: Deb McWard (debmcward@earthlink.net).

**CONGRATULATIONS
TO SUE BARLEY
St. Louis Branch
Honoree for the 2022
Metro St. Louis IBC
Barbara Lackritz
AAUW Service Award**



We want to warmly congratulate Susan Barley as the St. Louis Branch's 2022 Barbara Lackritz Honoree!! Sue has been an AAUW member for over 41 years, joining the Creve Coeur Branch in 1971 (a charter member), Chesterfield Branch in 1984, Greater Naples (FL) in 2001, and the St. Louis Branch in 2010. She became a lifetime member in 1999 and a Legacy Circle member in 2011. She currently belongs to three branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Louis, and Greater Naples, FL), volunteering for positions in all branches.

Sue has served extensively on national, state, and branch boards and committees, including the national Committee Appointments Task Force chair, 2017 National Convention Committee, 125th Year Anniversary founding leader in 2007, National Legacy Circle team, Leadership Corp, Fund-raising Committee); state committee leadership of bylaws chair, Educational Foundation chair, introduced the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk in 2001, developed the Century Club award system, governance co-chair); and branch committees for the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch (newsletter editor, bylaws chair, Educational Foundation chair, directory chair) and the St. Louis Branch (bylaws chair, AAUW Fund chair).

Sue has served as treasurer of the Greater Naples (FL) Branch, treasurer of the St. Louis Branch, and president and treasurer of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, among many other roles.

Sue has received numerous awards and recognitions for her AAUW service: The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch has honored her as "Outstanding Member" (1989, 1993); "Named Gift Honoree" (2001, 2010), "Outstanding Member – Lifetime Service Award" (2016). St. Louis branch honored her as "Named Gift Honoree" (2015).

Sue has volunteered with the Repertory Theatre of St. Louis, Girl Scouts of America, Girls Scouts of Eastern Missouri, and is a past president of CAVORT (Conference About Volunteers of Regional Theatre). She is very active in her church, Second Presbyterian in CWE and previously was active in Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

On a personal note, Sue was born in St. Louis. Her family moved to Ladue when she was three; she lived there till she was married at the age of 21 to Robert Barley. Their marriage lasted 59 years until his death in 2019. Sue and Bob lived in Buffalo, Detroit, and St. Louis. Their family grew to four with the births of Peter and Jennifer. Peter and his wife Tabitha recently moved to St. Louis. They have a son, Jude Barley. Jennifer lives in St. Petersburg, FL, and Brick, NJ; she is married to Karen Sullivan.

Sue received a BS in Education from Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, IN, and worked as a third grade teacher at Union Free School District #1 in Tonawanda, NY, and also taught at Claymont Nursery School in Ballwin, MO.

Sue is an avid quilter. She has donated quilts for AAUW fund raisers in the past. She has belonged to Piece Mill Quilters here in St. Louis since 1985 and has multiple leadership positions in the organization. She also belongs to the League of Women Voters St. Louis and to Women's Voices Raised, St. Louis. Her interests include quilting, reading, jazz, and traveling, especially to Egypt and Peru. Sue lives off and on in southeast Florida during the winter months.

Sue will be honored at the AAUW IBC Swing Into Spring luncheon on Saturday on March 26, 2022, along with four more honorees from the other IBC branches. You are invited and encouraged to attend. St. Louis Branch will have its own special recognition of Sue at our annual meeting in May.

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.

St. Louis Launches Branch Project to Join in the “AAUW MO - Votes-For-Women Trail” Initiative

On January 14 eight St. Louis Branch members met on Zoom to launch our own project as part of the “AAUW MO Votes-for-Women Trail” initiative. This state-wide project, with Pat Shores as state coordinator, has the goal of continuing the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by guiding branches to find and collectively post new sites to the National Votes for Women Trail (<https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail/>).

Our branch is very enthusiastic in finding names of less-recognized women in the St. Louis area and has already identified three women we will be researching. These women are all in the Beyond the Ballot exhibit, but not yet on the Trail:

Cynthelia Isrig Knefler. Reasons: Connection with labor, Womens’ Trade Union League; she fought racism in the movement and supported Victoria Clay Haley to attend a suffrage conference held at a hotel when Victoria was being turned away because she was a black woman.

Victoria Clay Haley. Reasons: Leader in black women’s suffrage movement, president of the Federated Colored Women’s Clubs of St. Louis.

Rosa Sonnenschein. Reasons: Created and wrote for the *American Jewess*, advocating for the expansion of women’s roles in the synagogue and the Jewish community; supported women’s suffrage while advancing women in parallel activities.

We are just getting started, so we are likely to uncover even more women along the way!

NOTE: if you are interested in joining this project, please contact Ellen Irons at ironnew@msn.com. Or explore bios on your own at this site:

<https://documents.alexanderstreet.com/d/1010596267>



Illustration by Rori! created for the Missouri History Museum exhibit “Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage”

“Always aim high, work hard, and care deeply about what you believe in. And, when you stumble, keep faith. And, when you’re knocked down, get right back up, and never listen to anyone who says you can’t or shouldn’t go on.” – **Hillary Clinton**

Mark your calendar for a virtual book discussion with author and AAUW St. Louis Branch Member **Malaika Horne, PhD**, on her book *Mother Wit – Exalting Motherhood while Honoring a Great Mother*.

Honoring Mill Creek Valley: *Mother Wit* Virtual Book Discussion

February 23rd 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm CST

JOIN THE DISCUSSION VIA ZOOM:

Join by computer: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84101879744>

Join by phone: 1-312-626-6799, webinar ID: 841 0187 9744

The author will read a short excerpt and then be joined by her

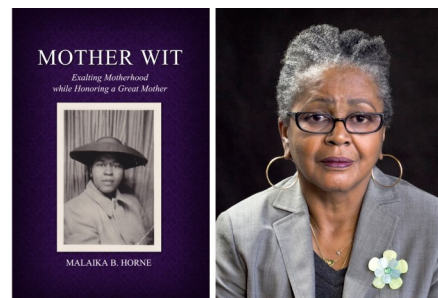
sister **Gwen Moore**, curator at the MO Historical Society, followed by participant Q&A moderated by journalist **Jade Harrell**.

Having grown up in the Mill Creek Valley community, Dr. Horne’s book is “a moving tribute to a devoted mother whose determination, dedication, and strong

character allowed her family to breach barriers of race, class and economic want to achieve measurable success.” – Gwen Moore

Hosted by Great Rivers Greenway, who is working with partners to celebrate the stories of Mill Creek Valley residents as part of the Brickline Greenway project. More at www.BricklineGreenway.org/MillCreek.

Get your copy of *Mother Wit* by Dr. Malaika Horne! You can order through your local book store (like [Left Bank Books](#), [Main Street Books](#), and the [Novel Neighbor](#)). You can also find it through [Dorrance Publishing](#), at the [St. Louis Public Library](#) and on [Goodreads](#).



Malaika Horne, PhD, is a political/cultural writer and commentator. She is the founding director (retired) of the Executive Leadership Consortium at the University of Missouri-St. Louis in the School of Business Administration. She served for several years as a reviewer for the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education. She is also a journalist and academic writer. Her recent book is *Mother Wit – Exalting Motherhood while Honoring a Great Mother*.

Another Outstanding Holiday Party

We had a joyous, in-person, holiday party at the home of **Sue Barley** on December 12, 2021, attended by nine branch members and 6 guests. We had two special guest speakers. **Raven Maragh-Lloyd** from Washington University, 2021-2022 American Fellowship recipient, spoke on her research project: *Care as Resistance: Black Women Online*. Community Action Grant Awardee for 2021-2022 **Kate Holdener** from St. Louis University shared her project: *Increasing Early Interest in Engineering for Young Girls at SLU*.



Left to right: Linda Lindsey, Rebecca Jones CU rep for UHSP, Raven Maragh-Lloyd, Carol Davis-McDonald

Prior to hearing from our speakers, Sue shared some of the history and background of AAUW fundraising, endowments, and the amount of money distributed nationally every year. She emphasized that the endowments are extremely well funded at this time and

that national encourages us to donate to AAUW Greatest Need Fund (unrestricted) rather than to any of the other (restricted) categories. Sue has been VP of AAUW funds for the St. Louis Branch for many years. The branch also voted to send \$140 to national in honor of the organization's 140th anniversary in 2021.

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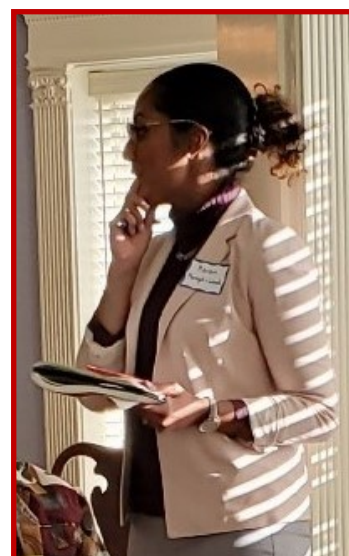


Right: Kate Holdener speaks while Karen Francis takes notes next to Diane Sher.

Left: Lunch-time conversation with (left to right) Jan Scott, Sue Barley, and Kathleen Ferrell.



Kate Holdener's project gets some publicity!



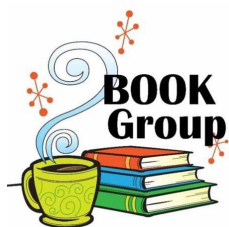
Raven Murtagh-Lloyd tells us about her research project.

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 (quarterly, fourth Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) 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 Awards

The next IBC meeting will be February 22, 2022, at 7 PM via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend. A link will be sent to you upon request.



IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse

perspectives.

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 (314-607-2908) for sign-up
Send suggestions for book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht tebrecht@yahoo.com

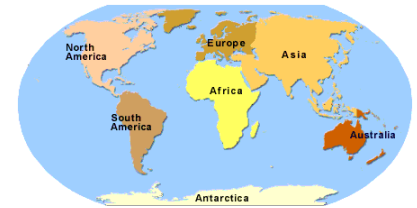
Feb 24 (1) *Clark and Division* by Naomi Hirahara (Japanese American family relocated to 1944 Chicago after WWII incarceration in internment camp) - and (2) *It's Your World* by Chelsea Clinton (environment)

Other suggestions (available in public libraries):

- *American Dirt* (novel) by Jeanine Cummins (Oprah Book Club selection, escaping from Mexico to US)
- *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah (the Great Depression)
- *Worst Hard Times* by Timothy Egan (Great American Dust Bowl)
- *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story* by Lee Hyeon-seo with John David (also YouTube interviews)

2022 International Relations Lecture Series

Sponsored by the **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** & the **Tuesday Women's Association (TWA)** of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117.



Want to know more about cultural & political changes around the world? Here's your chance! The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. Annually, for 93 years, this Series has put a spotlight on forces driving world news events. Lectures are free & open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January through April. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.

All 2022 events are on Zoom:

- Go to the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>
- Click "Join a Meeting"
- Enter the Zoom meeting I.D. - 384 4225785

February 8, 2022 - Climate Change

Speaker:
Carl Bender, PhD

Carl M. Bender is the Konneker Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Physics at Washington University



in St. Louis. Find out the science behind the climate change from Professor Bender. By far, the most serious problem that the earth's population faces is that of climate change. Scientists have been well aware of this problem for more than a century; but in recent years, there have been major advances in measurement and prediction. The latest comprehensive studies are contained in the *Sixth Assessment Report of the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)* published in August 2021. This talk will summarize some of the recent findings and predictions.

Coordinator: Joan Walker

Assistant Coordinator: Pamela Meyer

March 8, 2022

Welcoming Refugees to St. Louis and a Glimpse at the World Refugee Situation



Speaker: Ariel Burgess, MSW; V.P. of client services at the International Institute of St. Louis

Ms. Burgess brings over 20 years of experience and practical knowledge to the field of refugee resettlement, having first started in the field when Bosnians were coming to the U.S. and St. Louis. To date, Ms. Burgess and the Institute have been instrumental in bringing Afghans who were evacuated in 2021 to St. Louis. She will give us a glimpse of the worldwide refugee situation and then focus on refugees already in St. Louis, expected refugee arrivals, and how the community can support refugee resettlement.

Coordinator: Sue Williams

Assistant Coordinator: Nancy Hutchins

April 12, 2022

The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World



Speaker: Olga Bezhanova, PhD

Olga Bezhanova is an associate professor of Spanish Literature and chair of the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her book, *Growing Up in an Inhospitable World: Female Bildungsroman in Spain*, was awarded the Victoria Urbano Prize for the Best Critical Monograph.

After the fall of the USSR in 1991 and the subsequent efforts of countries in Eastern Europe and the Global South to establish democratic regimes, there was a widespread feeling that humanity had achieved what Francis Fukuyama termed “the end of history” and accepted the primacy of representative democracy over other types of political systems. Since then, however, we have seen the initial enthusiasm for democracy weaken in Latin America and countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, well-established democracies of the West have experienced a series of crises that cast doubt over their capacity to preserve fully democratic systems of government. What is the future of democracy? Will it renew itself in the coming years or are we to prepare for continued weakening of democratic institutions everywhere?

Coordinator: Sharon Poe

IBC Branch 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:

On February 10 at 11 am, the branch’s monthly program will feature **Valerie Battle Kienzle** speaking on “Lost St. Louis: Lost Landmarks of the Gateway to the West.” Many iconic landmarks have come and gone in the last 250 years. What was torn down when the Gateway Arch was built? Or what happened to the Lion Gas Building? Or the Chinese community under Busch Stadium? She will detail some of the fantastic forgotten and lost places from our past. The meeting will be in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Hwy 141, 63017

FERGUSON-FLOISSANT BRANCH:

Their January meeting was a discussion of how the Electoral College was started, how it affected elections, and the difference between plurality and majority results

KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER GROVES BRANCH:

On Thursday, February 17, 2022 (6:45 networking, 7:00 meeting), Kay Meyer will lead a discussion on diversity, equity, and inclusion by providing background and vocabulary, including a branch self evaluation. (Link to the Zoom room: us02web.zoom.us/j/3041753234)

SAINT CHARLES BRANCH:

February meeting has been cancelled.

What Local “Sister” Organizations are Doing



Beyond Bathrooms: The Painful Story of Transgender Discrimination

Thursday, February 10, 7 p.m. - Virtual Program

Registration is required; [please register here!](#)

Christopher Lewis, MD, is co-director of Pediatric Transgender Health, director of Differences of Sex Development Clinic, and assistant professor of pediatric

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2022 Virtual MO Women's Network — Legislative Retreat —

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2022, via Zoom
9:00-11:00 am

Join with women from over twelve organizations who have strong advocacy positions and who monitor and work to influence Missouri Legislative action. The Legislative Retreat allows organizations within the Coalition to share their activities with others at this free, open to the public, event. They will cover:

- (1) a brief overview of their organization
- (2) describe the current status of the most critical pieces of MO legislation they are following this session
- (3) share dates of their advocacy activities- lobbying, town halls, etc.

Typical legislation being followed includes bills affecting:

- Gender Pay Equity
- Title IX; Education Voter Registration and Voter Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Gun Violence
- Social and Economic Justice
- Many others

Organizations participating include:

- o A Red Circle
- o American Association of University Women of Missouri
- o Conversation for Critical Change
- o Empower Missouri
- o League of Women Voters, Metro St. Louis
- o Missouri Equity Education Partnerships
- o Missouri Health Care for All
- o Missouri Voter Protection Coalition (MOVPC)
- o National Council of Jewish Women
- o National Women's Political Caucus
- o Planned Parenthood St. Louis
- o Pro Choice Missouri
- o Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice

MO Women's Network (MWN) is a coalition of groups and individuals working for equity for women. The mission of the MO Women's Network is based on principles articulated in the National Plan of Action adapted in 1977. MWN was formed in 1983 in the aftermath of the defeat of ERA to consider alternatives for keeping the quest for women's equality alive. Contact **Karen Francis** at 9300guthrie@gmail.com regarding any questions.

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81166200080?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81166200080?pwd=YUltrZrA5VVJpbVdmTkZ2bmhmREt4d309)

[pwd=YUltrZrA5VVJpbVdmTkZ2bmhmREt4d309](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81166200080?pwd=YUltrZrA5VVJpbVdmTkZ2bmhmREt4d309)

Meeting ID: 811 6620 0080 Passcode: 4264481

Progress and a Few Gaps Noted to Reach our MO State 10 Star Award Goal

Look forward to a Variety of Additional Programs, February – June!

The Branch Planning Committee is meeting Thursday, February 10, to plan our schedule for the rest of this fiscal year which ends June 30. BUT — Because the MO State 10-Star Award criteria is for activities from April 1- March 31, we are looking at any gaps we have and especially working to schedule activities in February and March, which will allow us to reach our goal of the full 10 Stars.

We are reviewing a lot of possible program topics and actions to take. Here's a list of some of our considerations. Please let us know if you see anything you would really like to happen!

- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion – focus on Allyship and the Use of Language for Inclusion
- Presentation from a MO State Board member – STEM, DEI, College-University Partnership
- Program on National Research areas? Two reports of interest are:

<https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Barriers-and-Bias-nsa.pdf> <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Limiting-our-Livelihoods-Full-Report.pdf>

On another note - Would anyone want to become a STEM Chair for our branch and work with the State Committee on this? This would be beneficial to the Branch in many ways!

CALENDAR

2022

February — BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- Feb 8 IRLS: Climate Change
- Feb 10 Planning committee meeting
- Feb 19 MWN: legislative retreat via Zoom
- Feb 22 IBC quarterly meeting via Zoom
- Feb 24 IBC: Adelante book group via Zoom
- Feb 28 Movie Group 7 pm

March — WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

- Mar 8 International Women's Day
- Mar 8 IRLS: Welcoming Refugees to St Louis
- Mar 15 Equal Pay Day
- Mar 26 IBC: Swing Into Spring luncheon
- Mar 28 Movie Group 7 pm

Apr 1 Deadline for 10-Star application

Apr 12 IRLS: Waxing and Waning of Democracy

AAUW NATIONAL

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 \$67 national (\$64 tax deductible), \$10 for AAUW MO, and \$15 for Kirkwood-Webster Groves. Dues for 2022-23 will total \$92.

Consider Lifetime Membership!

This is a great time for current members to upgrade to lifetime membership for \$1,240, a \$100 savings compared to the cost after June 30. Lifetime membership is fully tax-deductible and allows you to put your values into action for many years to come!

AAUW Election: Learn the Issues and Vote

As AAUW members, you have the right to comment on any proposed changes to AAUW bylaws before they are put up for a member vote this spring. Although the [comment period](#) closed at 5 p.m. ET on February 2, 2022, you may still look at the proposed changes. Then weigh in this spring to elect members to the national board of directors and vote on amendments to bylaws.

Sex Discrimination Today Takes a Variety of Forms

Unfair pay, pregnancy discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual assault, and violations of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 can affect both women and men.



AAUW's [Legal Advocacy Fund](#) addresses these barriers by informing people of their rights and using the legal system to seek justice and change. LAF was created in 1981 by AAUW members and has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity through the legal system. We support brave plaintiffs seeking legal redress for equal pay, Title IX, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and tenure denial violations. We allocate \$100,000 annually to help fund landmark cases, such as *Wal-Mart v. Dukes* and *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*, as well as cases with the potential to set future precedents like *Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education*.

National Equal Pay Day

Everyone knows that it's the 21st century! Isn't it time that modern humans finally set this women-aren't-paid-equally nonsense behind them and just give equal pay for equal work? That's what National Equal Pay Day is all about.

Throughout the last century, there has been an ongoing and active fight to solve a problem that has existed far longer than that. Ever since history and work began, women have been paid lower wages for doing the exact same job. And the gap gets even wider when women of color are considered in comparison to white men.

National Equal Pay Day encourages people to get out there and fight for true employment equality for everyone, no matter their gender or the color of their skin! Isn't it time people were paid what they are worth?



The next Equal Pay Day is Tuesday, March 15, 2022. This date symbolizes how far into the year women must work to earn what men earned in the previous year.

Help raise awareness about pay equity. One of the best ways to observe this day is by opening up conversations about the problems within this arena. Whether at work, in the neighborhood, or in an academic environment, it is important that men and women alike become more educated about this severe problem in society.

Year-End Matching Gift Thank You



Thank you for your many special gifts to AAUW's 140th anniversary and the historic year-end matching gift of \$75,000, which was made possible by our board, volunteers, and staff. While we are still tabulating the numbers, we are proud to share that we greatly exceeded this record-breaking match. We could not be more grateful for your support. If you haven't already, please visit our [140th Anniversary hub](#) where you can learn more about the vibrant history made possible through your support and our shared success in 2021. Because of supporters like you, we will accomplish even more together in 2022!

"SWING INTO SPRING"

Honoring Barbara Lackritz Awardees
 Relishing a great meal "out" with friends
 Toe-tapping to the music of [The Queens of Swing](#)
 and raising funds for IBC Projects



Saturday, March 26, 2022, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

[Catering To You](#)

[12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033](#)

Buffet Lunch: Garden Salad, Roasted Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Mushroom Herb Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Homestyle Green Beans, Rolls, Drinks, and Dessert
 (indicate special dietary needs below)

For more information, contact Deb McWard, debmcward@earthlink.net

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ~ Please cut here and send form below with your check ~ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Make registration and/or donation check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC**

Mail no later than **March 12** to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215

Print Name _____ Branch _____

Address _____

Email (required) _____

_____ I plan to attend "Swing into Spring" and am sending a check for:

My Registration _____ \$ 35
 _____ Guest(s) Registration _____ \$ _____ (\$35 x #)
 _____ Donation (enter amount) _____ \$ _____
 \$ _____ **TOTAL**

_____ I am not able to attend but will make a donation of _____ \$ _____ **TOTAL**

~ Enter guest names here. Enter special dietary needs here. ~