

"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, 2022-2023

Ellen Irons, President
ironnew@msn.com

Candy Low, Finance Officer
candy@dogwoodstudios.org

Susan Barley, Director
barley702@gmail.com

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Carol Davis McDonald, Director
636-227-0511
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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](#)



"The Equal Rights Amendment - Updates and Why We Need it More than Ever – the Broad Perspective"

Wednesday, November 16, 2022

Program via Zoom 6:30 – 8pm Presentation and Discussion

Background:

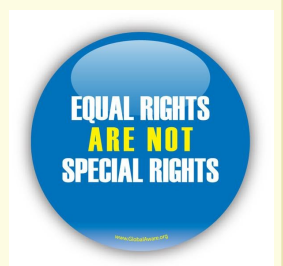
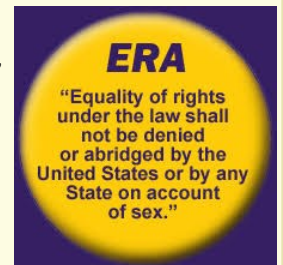
At its October 9 Open House, St. Louis Branch members' top request for a program this year was 'the Equal Rights Amendment- Status Update and What's Happening Now.' Because there is so much interest in this topic, we decided we will do several programs on the ERA over the course of this FY. This is the first of that series of programs.

Program Description:

This program will include presentation on several topics with group discussion encouraged. Topics will include:

- The legal status – nationally and by state
- The support status – who is working on this, breadth of support
- Why is the ERA passage more important now than ever? How recent Supreme Court actions affect the climate.
- What are likely next steps?
- What is the broader perspective? The international perspective? What will it mean to have the ERA become law?

Members are encouraged to bring their own perspectives and thoughts to contribute to the discussion!!



A Word From President Ellen Irons:

AAUW STL - An Active Summer and Early Fall!



A lot has happened since our last “official” newsletter in May 2022.

- ◇ At the AAUW MO State Conference on May 4, we were awarded a certificate for being a 10-Star Branch and recognized for high levels of donations to AAUW.
- ◇ We held our Annual Meeting for the 2021-22 year on Saturday May 21 with 11 women attending, including our newest member, **Carla Morrison**, and a guest, **Jackie Smith**. We were rained out of our planned picnic in Tower Grove Park but enjoyed a wonderful luncheon, socializing, and a program at the beautiful home of **Sue Barley**. **Candy Low** was elected for a second term as finance officer.
- ◇ Our movie club has continued with its monthly discussions with *Mudbound*, *Crip Camp*, *The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind*, *Tick Tick Boom*, *Don't Look Up*, and *The Lost Daughter*. We now rotate the discussion leader, which is really fun! In July we invited Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch members to join us, and **Nancy Hutchins** and **Becky Clausen** are now attending regularly – welcome!
- ◇ On September 21 Ellen Irons led a Zoom presentation and discussion about voting matters – updates on the new laws in Missouri and what is happening nationally with voting rights restrictions laws.
- ◇ On September 24 **Jan Scott**, **Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo**, **Vette Goods**, **Laura X** (not pictured), and **Kathleen Farrell** (not pictured) attended “Dance the Vote!,” an arts event designed to raise awareness at the Missouri History Museum. We had a table to distribute AAUW literature.



- ◇ Sunday, October 9, was our fall Open House – a very successful event attended by 14 members and guests at the home of **Jan Scott**. (Read separate article for all the details.)
- ◇ Our branch members continue to work on three different projects:
 - ◆ Sharing our 250 Notable Women of St. Louis research with the Girl Scouts, currently helping with the design of the 2023 March Fun Patch for Women’s History Month. **Ellen Irons** is doing the primary design, with **Diane Sher** assisting with strategy.
 - ◆ Continuing to work on the Votes for Women Trail Map, having completed two biographies. **Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo** wrote a terrific bio of **Victoria Haley**, and Ellen Irons has compiled a bio on **Cynthelia Knefler**. The next step is to convert these bios to the application forms to submit to the trail for inclusion.

(continued on page 3)

- ◆ Gender pay equity in the City of St. Louis – **Jan Scott, Kathleen Farrell, and Ellen Irons** have continued strategizing a means to approach **Mayor Tishaura Jones** to ask for a pay equity audit to be conducted. We now have a list of supporters for this project of over 10 individuals and groups.

These projects are open to all members. Please let Ellen Irons know if you want to participate in any of them.

- ◇ On October 15 five branch members (**Susan Barley, Kathleen Farrell, Jan Scott, Laura X, and Ellen Irons**) attended the dedication of the marker commemorating the work of Women’s Suffrage Leader **Virginia Minor** at the site of a previous home that currently is occupied by Provident Counseling, 2652 Olive Blvd, St. Louis. These two markers were the second and third Pomeroy Markers in Missouri.



To our newest members!

Carla Morrison joined in June. She graduated with a BA in History (minor in English Literature) in 1979 from Quincy University. She later received a Master’s in Library Science. Carla married her high school sweetheart, a retired farmer. Carla retired from Pikeland Schools, Pittsfield, IL, as a district librarian. She lives in south St. Louis (63110) and volunteers at St. Margaret of Scotland School. Their family is here in St. Louis; this includes a son, her sister, two nephews, one niece, and six great nieces and nephews. And Annie, a rescued Cavalier Spaniel.

Carla said she is a member of MO Botanical Garden, St. Louis Zoo, St. Louis Art Museum, and Tower Grove Park. Her hobbies include gardening, travel to historical sites and museums (most frequent trips are England and London), visiting gardens, reading (YA literature, mysteries, humor, history of cooking, archeology, dinosaurs, historical fiction), and live music at the Sheldon, Fox, and jazz. She is a supporter of charities (e.g., nature, wildlife, women’s rights, voting rights, the environment). She lives in south city (63110) and can be reached at oxfordfolly@gmail.com.

Katy Mike Smaistrla Lampe rejoined the branch on October 7th. She received a B.A. in Women’s Studies and a B.S. in Recreation, Park & Tourism Administration, both from Western Illinois University; an M.S. in Environmental Education from Lesley University; and an Ed.D. in Educational Practice, Heritage Leadership for Sustainability, Social Justice, and Participatory Culture from the University of Missouri-St. Louis (2019). For the past ten years, Katy Mike has been the Sustainable Energy and Environmental coordinator at UMSL. She volunteers for the Fox Park Neighborhood Association as president and, previously, as corresponding secretary; as an English tutor for IHELP; and for the Higher Education Committee at US Green Building Council-Missouri Gateway Chapter (USGBC). She is certified/licensed with USGBC as a LEED Green Associate and as a Green Classroom Professional. She also is credentialed with the Yoga Alliance as RYT-200.

Ruth Reese joined as a result of our meeting on October 9. Her daughter is one of Jan Scott’s flute students. Ruth received B.A. in English Literature (1997) from Loyola University (New Orleans); an M.F.A. in Sculpture (2001) from Washington University; and an M.A.T. in Education (2022) from St. Louis University. She is a St. Louis native. Her hobbies are art, cooking, spirituality, and pedagogy, and she loves to travel. Ruth works full time at MAP St. Louis (Montessori Adolescent Program) as the lead language & literature and visual arts guide and director of restorative justice. She lives in south St. Louis and can be contacted at ruthannreese@gmail.com or 314-954-7638.

Laura Thompson also joined as a result of our meeting on October 9. She received a B.A. in Music (1979) and an M.S. in Geography (1986), both from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She is a retired employee of the U.S. Department of Defense and lives in Crestwood. She can be reached at laura.j.thompson006@gmail.com or 314-749-7172.

Report from our Branch Open House

On a bright, sunny, Sunday afternoon, October 9, our branch held a fall open house at the lovely backyard of **Jan Scott**. Eleven members and three guests attended. We started with our branch's first "Inclusion Infusion" group exercise on equity and inclusion. This is a new activity for the branches that was introduced by the AAUW MO State Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) and involves discussing one DEI topic for a short period of time. Our group thought it was quite valuable, and it was suggested that we cover the topic of "intersectionality" as our next one.

Ellen Irons then facilitated a number of short presentations combined with handouts and small group discussion. Topics covered were the History of AAUW National, the History of the AAUW St. Louis Branch, and a review of key issues supported by AAUW. We also discussed the format of our regional Interbranch Council and the current projects of the St. Louis Branch. Many of our experienced members contributed. **Carol Davis McDonald, Jan Scott, and Kathleen Farrell** all added important historical information and perspectives.

Our last activity was to review a list of possible topics and prioritize our interests for upcoming branch programs. This was a fun, small-group activity that generated lots of energy and enthusiasm. (See article later in this issue for our picks.)

We enjoyed snacks (thanks, Carol and Jan); and at the end, two of our guests joined as members – welcome to Laura Thompson and Ruth Reese! Overall, a wonderful experience!

* More info on the AAUW MO State DEI Committee can be found here <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/inclusion-equity-committee/>



Ellen leads the discussion and records ideas and comments. (Zoom your pdf file to see names of attendees.)



Program Topics Selected!

At our October 9 open house, branch members reviewed and prioritized possible topics for our branch programs. Our top choice is "Updates on the ERA," and this has already been scheduled for our November 16th program.

Other picks included three DEI topics, two webinars, and review of research as shown below. These will be scheduled into our pre-selected program dates:

DEI topics

- Micro-aggressions – what are they, how to counter them
- Bias buster tips in real time
- Difficult conversations, getting comfortable with discomfort

AAUW webinars & research topic

- Exploring Tough Policy Issues Through an AAUW Lens: *Title IX & Transgender Student Rights* (webinar)
- International Women's Day 2022: In Conversation with **Esther Ngumbi**, PhD (webinar)
- Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers (research)

SAVE THE PRE-SELECTED DATES -TOPICS WILL BE ASSIGNED TO THESE DATES VERY SOON!

Wed, Jan 18, 2023 – 6:30pm

Wed, Mar 15, 2023 – 6:30pm

Wed, May 17, 2023 – 6:30pm

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis-area AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are voting members of IBC: president, program vice president or 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.

The purpose of IBC is

- To foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects.
- To open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

What does IBC do?

- Sponsors an annual event at which Barbara Lackritz Awardees are honored
- Sponsors fundraising activities for student scholarships to NCCWSL (AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders)
- Printing of AAUW bookmarks with branch websites for placement in public locations such as libraries
- Special projects
- Share program, interest group, and fundraising ideas among branches
- Collaborate on new projects

Several committees exist to do the detailed work required for:

NCCWSL

- Solicit scholarship applications from C/U members
- Select scholarship recipients
- Lead fundraising activities
- Facilitate scholarship recipients' trips to NCCWSL

Barbara Lackritz Award (has guidelines)

- Provide branches with application information
- Plan and present awards at the IBC annual event
- Prepare a Barbara Lackritz printed program for the IBC annual event

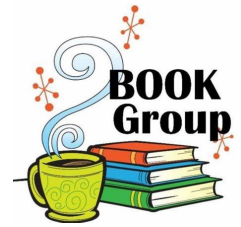
IBC Annual Event (has guidelines and a playbook; one member from each branch)

- Determine date, venue, and menu of the event
- Coordinate selection of speaker/entertainment
- Coordinate fundraising activities at the event
- Publicize the event to branches
- Prepare a printed program for the IBC annual event
- Handle reservations, nametags, registrations, and evaluations

Here are the IBC guidelines: <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/barbara-lackritz/>

The next IBC meeting is November 22, 2022, by ZOOM. Contact one of the officers for the link.

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

Next Selections:

Jan 26 *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, by Robert Kolker; national mentoring (400 p); Jan Barrett

Feb 23 *Jackie, Janet & Lee: Secret Lives of Janet Auchincloss and Her Daughters*, by J. Randy Taraborrelli; black history (528 p); Deb McWard

Mar 23 *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*, by Hyeonseo Lee (Lee Hyeonseo) with John David; women's history (320 p); Carol Davis McDonald

Apr 27 *The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted*, by Robert Hillman; sexual assault awareness (304 p); Teri Brecht or Karen Francis

May 25 *This Tender Land: A Novel*, by William Kent Krueger; Asian-Pacific American heritage; Lynne Roney

Join the Movie Group



Discussion of the next movie will be led by **Nancy Hutchins**, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch. If you would like to join us, [let Ellen know so a Zoom link can be emailed to you](#). The next movie is ***The Imitation Game* (2014) on November 28, 7 pm**. The movie is available on Netflix. It tells the inspiring story of mathematician Alan Turing and his team of code breakers whose work was crucial to British efforts to break German codes in World War Two. Actors: Benedict Cumberbatch, Keira Knightley, Mark Strong, Rory Kinnear, Matthew Goode; directed by: Morten Tyldum.

Other Programs of Interest



Mental Health: Resources for Recovery

Thursday, November 10, 7 p.m.

In-person program at The Center of Clayton
50 Gay Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a mask will be required for entry.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins 7 p.m.

Program will also be available on Zoom.

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

Our speakers, representing two local, community organizations, will share how chronic mental illness can be significantly impacted through psychosocial recovery practices and robust resources. National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), St. Louis's **Jessie Brown** will ensure providers receive the latest updates on accessing valuable resources supportive of their clients and families. **Jennifer Higginbotham** will showcase the Independence Center's evidence-based clubhouse model of integrated mental health care and the impact on psychosocial rehabilitation. Hear first-hand narratives from those not just surviving but thriving with mental illness.

November Lunch & Learn: Advocacy in Action

NCJW's Israel Programming With Kalela Lancaster

When: Thursday, Nov 17 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Did you know? For more than 70 years, NCJW has been supporting women, children and families throughout Israeli society regardless of ethnicity, religion, and economic status. NCJW does its work through a gender lens, empowering Israeli and American women to advocate for a robust civil society. With our grants to Israeli organizations, participation in advocacy coalitions, policy statements, and our pioneering work in education and research, NCJW is a leader of women's and gender rights in Israel.

For our November Lunch and Learn, we are thrilled to welcome Kalela Lancaster, NCJW Israel's Program Manager, who will speak about the impact our programs have had in underserved communities all over Israel.

Kalela Lancaster joined NCJW as Israel Program Manager in November 2021, with responsibility for driving NCJW's strategy to strengthen the feminist field in Israel through a range of capacity building and philanthropic initiatives, and for engaging NCJW advocates in our Israel work.

Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call (314) 993.5181.

GATEWAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

2022 ANNUAL DINNER

Together we can rise up to stop Human Trafficking.

Wednesday, November 16, 2022
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Whitmoor Country Club
1100 Whitmoor Dr., Weldon Spring, MO 63304

Tickets are \$75 per-person
or \$600 table (8 people)

R.S.V.P.

Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it.

Marian Wright Edelman



And a word from Susan Barley, our AAUW Funds chair:

St. Louis Branch Achieves 90% Giving Participation

In 2021, 90% of our branch members made a donation to the AAUW Fund. This was the best participation rate of all Missouri branches. Will we be able to repeat, or even exceed, our success in 2022?

St. Louis Branch members gave a total of \$2,202. This included a branch gift of \$140 in tribute to the 140th anniversary of AAUW. Susan Barley and Carol Davis McDonald were honored as AAUW MO Century Club Plus members, and Nancy Collins, Gwen Cotton (former member), Kathleen Farrell, Ellen Irons, Linda Lindsey, Janet Scott, and Diane Sher were honored as AAUW MO Century Club members. Thank you to all who participated in helping to ensure that AAUW remains a vital force for equity for women and girls.

AAUW Note Cards Arrive in Your Mailbox

The exclusive new collection of AAUW note cards created by the winners of the 2022 Art Contest should have arrived in your mailbox in April. Information about the artists is printed on the back of the cards. Included with the cards is an invitation to make a donation to the AAUW Fund. This is an easy wonderful way to support AAUW and help keep making a difference in the lives of women and girls. Send your check or make your contribution on the AAUW website. All donations are soft credited to the St. Louis Branch.

F.Y.I.

To view past AAUW webinars, 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.

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.

AAUW Community Hub Tips

The new AAUW Community Hub is every member's personal portal into AAUW. It allows people to self-manage their membership, donations, contact details, and personal preferences. Using Community Hub, you can now:

- Renew your individual membership through the Community Hub Personal Snapshot. [Login or create your account](#) to get started.
- Access the [training videos](#) for detailed instructions on how to manage your membership and make donations.

SAVE THE DATE!

IBC "Annual Event" Luncheon
Recognizing Barbara Lackritz Honorees
Saturday, March 18, 2023

Program speaker: *Acclaimed author Nicole Evelina*
Registration flyer to follow!

