

# Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 130 Years!

2023-2024, No. 1, December 2023

"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, 2023-2025 Ellen Irons, President ironnew@msn.com

**Candy Low**, Finance Officer cnlx97@gmail.com

Susan Barley, Director barley702@gmail.com

Vacant - Director

Carol Davis McDonald Director, VP Membership, Newsletter, Website 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

AAUW St. Louis Branch | Facebook

National Web Site: www.aauw.org



Please join the AAUW St. Louis Branch at our



# Holiday Gathering

on Sunday, December 17, 2023, 1pm - 3pm

<u>Where</u>: At Linda Lindsey's home in Glendale — 29 Algonquin Wood, 63122-2013.

What: Conversation, food, and inspiration

# <u>Program</u>

- Members share: Updates and intro to new members
- Jan Scott, Ellen Irons, and others share highlights of AAUW Regional Conference, October 19 - 21
- AAUW national & state news
- STL Branch planning and calendars

*Linda will provide munchables and the setting, and we all will bring our own favorite finger-food goodies to share.* 

RSVP if you are coming and what you will bring: Ellen Irons <u>ironnew@msn.com</u>



# A Word From President Ellen Irons:

# The theme for this message is: "Choosing to say YES to life!"

Our St. Louis Branch has been busy the last seven months, but this is the first newsletter we have had since last spring. It can be hard to keep up with the pace of life, and I know many of us have had personal challenges requiring tremendous amounts of energy. But somehow we have kept on and even thrived in many ways. Here's a summary of what our Branch has done – it's pretty cool. And make sure to read through the newsletter for more details of things to come.



- Our annual meeting of 2023 was on May 21 at the home of Linda Lindsey, with eleven members and one guest attending. We greeted Barbara Milon, our newest member, and honored Carol Davis McDonald's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a program and gifts. Ellen Irons was re-elected President for the two-year term of July 1 2023 June 30 2025.
- On August 26, eleven of us celebrated Equality Day @ Pietro's. We heard Kathleen Farrell share updates on the ERA and discussed other legislation.
- Five St. Louis Branch members attended the AAUW Regional Conference Oct 19-21 at the Drury Inn in downtown St. Louis, and we all took away a great deal of energy and inspiration. See separate article.
- One of our Branch members, Ruth Reese, has a current exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum (CAMA), and four of us attended her talk on October 21.
- We have been making plans for a lot of great activities in the next six months.
  - We have completed two applications for the national Votes for Women Trail and will be submitting those and holding events around our two women – Victoria Clay Haley and Cynthelia Knefler.
  - We are celebrating the **130<sup>th</sup> St. Louis Branch anniversary** this year. The big party is still to come!!
  - ◊ It's Virginia Minor's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 27, 2024 this is also worthy of a celebration.
  - ◊ And more...
- Our Movie Club on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month continues with amazing movies and discussions. Just last Monday, we discussed *If Beale Street Could Talk* – a very moving film. Our discussions always make me look deeper; and near the end of our meeting, I found a website with this quote from James Baldwin, the author of the book that the movie is based on. Baldwin writes: "People can't, unhappily, invent their mooring posts, their lovers and their friends, anymore than they can invent their parents. Life gives these and also takes them away and <u>the great difficulty is to say Yes to life."</u>

So I end with Baldwin's thought, with a twist, that despite all the difficulties we face, together we continually choose to say Yes to life! I am so grateful we have each other on this journey.

I hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming December 17<sup>th</sup> Holiday Gathering at the home of Linda Lindsey.

Yours,

Ellen



# Celebration of AAUW St. Louis Branch's 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

When AAUW began in 1881, few women had the opportunity to pursue a degree—prompting founder Marion Talbot to create and build an organization to advocate for women's education.

The AAUW St. Louis branch affiliate was founded in 1893, the same year as the Kansas City Branch. Today, women outnumber men in earning degrees at nearly every level, AAUW National is celebrating its 142<sup>nd</sup> year, and the St. Louis Branch is in the midst of our 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!

Look for several events in February and March 2024 which will share the history, challenges, and highlights of our 130 years.



# 2023 AAUW Fund Giving Draws to a Close

By Susan Barley, Funds Chair

Countdown is on the way toward our 2023 AAUW Fund goal of **100% participation by the St. Louis Branch members**. Donate to the Greatest Needs Fund to support the national budget and to be ready to act and support any unexpected opportunities.

Your contribution is tax deductible and counts toward our 2023 branch giving goals. Your gift will be matched by the AAUW Board of Directors and Committee Leaders. AAUW needs the financial support of all members to help support our fight for equity.

Take an extra step and join a very special group of people to be honored at our state conference by becoming a Missouri Century Club member (\$100 - \$249) or a Missouri Century Club Plus member (\$250+)

Donations may be made online via <u>www.aauw.org</u>, or by check to AAUW, PO Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045.

# Virginia Minor's 200<sup>th</sup> Birthday

Virginia Louisa Minor was born March 27, 1824, 200 years ago. She and four other women launched the Woman Suffrage Association of Missouri in 1867, and for the next five years she was part of the nation-wide movement fighting for women's rights. In 1872 she attempted to register to vote in St. Louis and when denied, her husband sued the St. Louis register of voters on her behalf. Based on rights outlined in the 14th Amendment, she claimed it was illegal to deny her the right to vote because she was a native-born, free, white citizen of the United States and the State of Missouri over the age of 21.



The case was first heard at the Old Courthouse in St. Louis, and eventually went all the way to the US Supreme Court, which ruled that suffrage was not coexten-

sive with citizenship. Although Minor lost the lawsuit, the 1875 case, *Minor v. Happersett*, was a turning point for women's suffrage efforts. The Supreme Court's finding effectively put an end to attempts to win voting rights for women through court decree. Subsequent efforts in the woman suffrage movement in the United States focused on the revision of voting laws of individual states and on the ratification of a separate amendment to the Constitution.

We will be celebrating Virginia's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday at the end of March or early April.

# What our Branch has been doing

# 2022-23 Annual Meeting

Our 2022-23 **Annual Meeting was held Sunday May 21** at the home of Linda Lindsay. We had a delicious potluck lunch, socializing, and we celebrated Carol Davis McDonald's 50th anniversary of joining AAUW with a program and gifts. Candy Low gave a financial report, and Ellen Irons was re-elected as Branch President for the two-year term of July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2025. Eleven members and one guest attended. We all especially enjoyed Linda's tropical island-themed decorations and her lovely outdoor patio!



Left to right: Jan Scott, Linda Lindsey, Barbara Milon, Laura Murra, Carol Davis McDonald, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo, Sally McGowan, Vett Goods



Left to right: Kathleen Farrell, Candy Low, Sally McGowan

Carol was presented with a lovely-framed certificate of AAUW Honorary Life Membership



## **Celebration of Equality Day Luncheon**

The Branch held a luncheon meeting on Saturday, August 26, 2023, from 1 - 2:30 pm at Pietro's Italian Restaurant located at 3801 Watson Rd, St. Louis, MO 63109. We had a good crowd of 12 members in a very noisy - but fun and



educational - luncheon. We were happy so see Barbara Johnson out after her knee surgery and Muni Akhmedova, a St. Louis University graduate student, who joined our branch this year. We honored the 103rd anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment and noted that it is 100 years since the ERA was first introduced

(https://pressley.house.gov/2023/07/21/era-caucus-co-chairspressley-bush-commemorate-100th-anniversary-of-equal-rightsamendment/). Kathleen Farrell shared updates on the ERA and other legislation of interest to AAUW members. Above, left to right: Sheila, Sally, Carol, Linda, Muni, Chris. At right: Kathleen, Barb, Vett



# AAUW Regional Conference October 19 – 21 @ the Drury Inn, St. Louis MO

The AAUW Regional Conference was held October 19-21, 2023, at the Drury Inn in downtown St. Louis. It was a huge success with 14 states and DC represented and 156 people attending. Five members of St. Louis Branch attended: Jan Scott, Kathleen Farrell, Vett Goods, Sally McGowan, and Ellen Irons. It was a jam-packed three days of great speakers on trending topics, keynote speakers on vital AAUW issues, and invigorating Swap Shops on over 32 topics. We thank the organizers of the conference from the bottom of our hearts. (See longer article later in this newsletter about the Conference.)



Above, left: the Missouri "delegation" at the Mid-States Regional Conference. Above, right: AAUW MO President Karen Francis (right) presents AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell with a remembrance of St. Louis

# October 21: Ruth Reese Talk at the Contemporary Art Museum

One of our Branch members, Ruth Reese, has a current exhibition at the Contemporary Art Museum (CAMA). Four of us attended her talk on October 21. Ruth uses clay and repurposed materials to create pieces that explore the idea of metamorphosis. She is inspired by Greek deities such as Nyx, Gaia, and Daphne. The exhibit continues through February 11, 2024.







esse, "All that rema ed of Daphne was I ess" (Ov ining love 2014. Porcelain, paint, wire, glaze. Collection of Bill Perman and Deborah Kraus Photo courtesy Patricia Sher

Left: Jan, Ellen, Ruth, Vett, Chris. Middle: Artist and Member Ruth Reese. Right: the art.

## AAUW St. Louis Movie Club

Our movie club has continued with its 4<sup>th</sup> Monday-of-the-month Zoom discussions with Summerland, Descendant, The Woman King, The Forty Year Old Version, Knock Down the House, Living, and If Beale Street Could Talk, our selections for the last seven months.

#### Upcoming films are @7 pm via Zoom:

December 18, 2023 - Marshall (note - third Monday of the month) January 22, 2024 - Miss Simone

# Events to Celebrate: Two Suffragists Being Added to the Votes for Women Trail

We did it! The St. Louis Branch researched and submitted two names to be added to the National Collaborative of Women's History Sites - Votes for Women Trail. And they are in the process of being added! <u>https://ncwhs.org/votes-for-women-trail</u>. We will celebrate the two additions in March and April 2024 with several events.

#### Victoria Clay Haley – researched by Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo

Our event will share the exceptional history of this incredible woman through biographical readings, newspaper articles and dramatic presentations.

**Here is a brief excerpt about Victoria:** "Victoria Clay Haley was incredibly active during her 49 years of life which began in January 1, 1877, in Macon, Mississippi, and ended sometime after July 1926, in Chicago, IL. In 1913, Victoria Clay Haley was president of the Federated Colored Women's Clubs of St. Louis, when the city hosted a large regional suffrage conference. Haley attended, although the hotel venue of the conference did not usually serve black guests. The hotel management and some fellow attendees requested that she leave, but she held her seat, and her attendance was defended by the conference leadership. ...."



Photo is from the MO History Museum Exhibit – Beyond the Ballot Article from– St. Louis Star, April 4, 1913

#### Cynthelia Knefler – researched by Ellen Irons

Cynthelia Knefler participated in social work at the Self-Culture Hall in the early 1900s. Her social work experience led her to Hannah Hennessy, a local garment worker. Around 1907 Knefler and Hennessey created the Women's Trade Union League (WTUL) of St. Louis. She utilized her position with the St. Louis WTUL to create overlap with suffrage organizations, and suffrage contributions permeate the St. Louis newspapers during the early part of the 1910s. We will celebrated Cynthelia in two ways:

1. Noted labor historian <u>Rosemary Feurer</u> will speak to us about the history of the Women's Trade Union League in St. Louis and the intersection between labor and women's suffrage. <u>https://www.niu.edu/clas/history/about/faculty/feurer.shtml</u>. <u>Presentation Date to be determined</u>.

#### 2. Visit Exhibit on Fannie Sellins and Mother Jones.

Rosemary Feurer's exhibit on Fannie Sellins and Mother Jones (previously at the St. Louis Public Library) will be at the Carpenter's Hall in March. We will plan a Branch outing once dates are known.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO TWO AAUW FELLOWS!

At the Central States Regional Conference, two AAUW fellow winners' achievements were celebrated. **Dr. Claudine Gay** became president of Harvard University this July, and **Dr. Tererai Trent** continues to be recognized as an international voice for women's education and empowerment. We celebrate that our AAUW Fellowships are making a difference.

Dr. Gay, the 30th and the first black president of Harvard, was the daughter of Haitian immigrants. She grew up in NYC and then in Saudi Arabia, where her father worked for the US Army Corps of Engineers. She studied economics at Stanford University and earned her PhD from Harvard in 1998.

Dr. Trent founded Tererai Trent International, which aims to provide quality education in rural Africa. She grew up in a cattle-herding family in rural Zimbabwe. Her education was partially funded by AAUW and Heifer International. She is known as Oprah Winfrey's all-time favorite guest; Oprah gave 1.5 million dollars to Dr. Trent to build a school in Zimbabwe.

#### AAUW METRO ST LOUIS

St. Louis is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

<u>The purpose of IBC is</u> to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next IBC meeting is at 7 p.m. on February 27, 2024, via ZOOM. The website is https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/.



#### IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

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

Where: Join Zoom Meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790? pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09

- When: 1:30 pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May
- Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

#### Upcoming selections:

- Jan 25 *Sold*, by Patricia McCormick
- (263 pgs); Patty Murray, facilitatorFeb 22 *Gender Queer: A Memoir*, by Maia Kobabe(240 pgs). Nancy Hutchins, facilitator
- Mar 28 *The Personal Librarian* (story of Bella Da Costa Green, 1905-1945), 352 pgs; Kay Meyer, facilitator
- Apr 25 Crow Mary, by Kathleen Grissom (368 pgs). Teri Brecht, facilitator
- May 23 *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus (400 pgs). Pat Shores, facilitator.

#### Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—December 14, 11-1—<u>Sassy</u> <u>Soiree</u> at Ballwin Golf Course Events Center. Entertainment to be provided by the St. Louis Strutters, plus raffles and games. Guests are welcome. Reservation deadline is December 5. Contact Carol Davis McDonald for more information.

**Ferguson-Florissant Branch**—Contact <u>Patty Murray</u> for meeting information, 314-838-7887.

**Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch**—The November meeting featured new member Lesli Moylan speaking about "The Positive Potential of the Missouri Environmental Education Association (MEEA)." On December 10 members will attend a concert by the St. Louis County Community Chorus at Manchester United Methodist Church (Member Gloria Campion is a chorus member). Members will then enjoy an early dinner together at a nearby restaurant.

Saint Charles Branch—Thursday, December 7, 1 pm, First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. "Tis the Season" with Pianist Sheila Fletcher.



### YOU'RE INVITED!

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch has invited us to join their Expressions group. Expressions is a quasi-craft group that meets on the 1st Tuesday of each month, 1-3 pm. At their December 5

gathering, they will make Hershey bar snowmen (great stocking stuffers) to be offered at the December Soiree (their annual FUNdraising event). There will be a small charge for materials.

> Holy Cross Lutheran Church 13014 Olive Blvd, 63141 Contact Carol to let them know you will attend.

# 2024 International Relations Lecture Series



Ethical Society of St. Louis 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117

See next page for January's and February's program → The public is cordially invited to the



International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2024

Ethical Society of St. Louis 9001 Clayton Road St. Louis, MO 63117



#### 10:45 am Second Tuesday of January, February, March and April 2024

The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. The 45-50 minute lectures begin promptly at 10:45 am in the upper auditorium and are followed by a question and answer session. Plan to bring a lunch and stay to discuss the day's topic further.

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Free parking is available behind the building. In case of inclement weather, please call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

Sponsored by the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Metro St. Louis Branches Usha Sathe, Chair

January 9, 2024 Rising costs of Health Care in the U.S.: Why is our Dr. Timothy McBride System the Most Expensive in the World and is that Changing?

Dr. Timothy McBride is the Bernard Becker Professor at Washington University in the Brown School and co-Director of the Center for Advancing Health Services Policy and Economics Research (CAHSPER) in the Institute for Public Health (IPH). Dr. McBride is an influential health policy analyst and health economist shaping the national agenda on the uninsured and health insurance markets, rural health care, health reform, Medicare and Medicaid policy, long-term care, and health economics. For two decades, he has been active in working with the U.S. Congress and state policymakers, providing policy advice on a regular basis on health reform, Medicaid, and rural health policy. He was the first



Dr. Anshuman Singh



Associate Dean for Public Health at Washington University, leading the initial development of the Brown

School's Master of Public Health (MPH) program to accreditation in 2011. He led the creation of the first Health Policy program at Saint Louis University. A member of several national committees and Boards, Dr. McBride is currently serving as Vice Chair for St. Louis Board of Health and serves on the Justice Services Board for St. Louis County. He is past Chair of the MOHealthNET Oversight Committee, which serves in an advisory role for the state of Missouri's Medicaid program. In 2012, Dr. McBride was awarded the Outstanding Rural Health Researcher of the Year by the National Rural Health Association and a "Health Care Hero" by the St. Louis Business Journal in 2007.

#### February 13, 2024 Generative Al

Some of the recent advances in AI that can be clubbed under the term "Generative AI" have raised new questions around ethics and safety of AI. Safety recalls in automobiles and other consumer products are common. Today the case for safety recalls in AI products is more imminent than in any other sector given the scale of impact AI has on our society, economy, and discourse. Regulations around AI have not even kept pace with

advances that happened in AI a decade ago, and now we are grappling with the impact of Generative AI.

Dr. Anshuman Singh is an Al educator, researcher, entrepreneur, and a hacker in the traditional meaning of the term. He is the co-founder and Chief Academic Officer at an education startup that is building an online Al university. Prior to this, he was the curriculum architect at <u>DeepLearning.Al</u>, working with Al pioneer Andrew Ng leading the development of Al courses that have been taken by millions of learners around the world. Dr. Singh was in academia for a decade and was an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri-St Louis until 2022. Dr. Singh's specialization is at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. 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. He earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He holds the CISSP and GPEN certifications and is a certified ethical hacker. Committee: Judi Lohaus, Marge Andersen



# Put this on your calendar! Plan to register! A flyer will be sent out in the next newsletter.



Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council 2024 Annual Spring Luncheon

Honoring our Barbara Lackritz Awardees

# Women Entrepreneurs: Breaking the Glass Ceiling Bev Schuetz

Saturday, March 23, 2023 at 11:00 am Catering to You 12775 New Halls Ferry Road in Florissant Registration is \$40 and includes Program and Hot Buffet



"Meet the fascinating women who broke barriers to succeed in business where no women had gone before."

Bev Schuetz is a popular and dynamic speaker who has created HISTORY TALKS, a series of live presentations available to organizations. She is known for her unique topics, delightful presentations, and thoroughly researched programs. Bev's presentations showcase her unique perspective and special insight on colorful historical subjects.

Bev is a consummate and experienced performer. HISTORY TALKS combines her skills in public speaking, historical analysis, and creative writing. The results are lectures that reward and enrich those attending her presentations.

Visit historytalks.info

## Notes from AAUW Central States Regional Conference See <u>Presentation Materials</u> on AAUW MO Website (From the K-WG newsletter)

A larger-than-expected number (165) of AAUW members from 14 states attended the Regional Conference October 19-21, 2023, at the Drury Plaza Hotel downtown. Members clearly were happy to get together in person after conference cancellations during the pandemic and the discontinuation of national conferences.

East and West Coast AAUW groups are rumored to soon follow the Midwest's lead in organizing their own conferences. We can be proud of AAUW Missouri for heading up the organization of this conference. Many St. Louis-area members volunteered or presented at the conference. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell and former AAUW Public Policy staffer, now consultant, Lisa Maatz, were only two of the outstanding keynote and topical speakers. Ideas were shared by branches and at officer-counterpart sessions. Kirkwood-Webster Groves members, Marsha Koch and Jeanne Webdell, presented their branch's yard sale voting sign project.

For an idea of the dense content of the conference presentations, here are summaries of some:

#### Inclusion-Infusion Exercises (Sue Shineman)

- Introduce self to all at table; pair off
- Find something in common with your partner
- Share a time you felt left out
- What was your favorite job? Thing you are most proud of? Best way to set an example?
- Take 5 minutes to discuss a question (at table or group), 5 minutes to share with larger group
- Use DEI Toolkit

#### Keynote: Challenges Facing Member-Driven Organizations (Lisa Maatz)

- Ask what value we bring to our members; how the organization affects the quality of members' lives.
- Think about assigning tasks, not roles.
- Use more technology, such as the Two-Minute Activist, and e-mailed newsletters; make sure members are signed up for them.
- Think about acting locally.
- Think about using partners and coalitions, such as League of Women Voters and unions.
- Tell your story; what is your branch's story? Why are you still an AAUW member?
- Consider free membership, compensating with non-dues revenue (such as small fees for activities).
- Don't spend a lot of time recruiting young members.
- Have an occasional meeting at an active senior living community, such as an interest luncheon.
- Hold unique (i.e., one-time) events that draw people by affinity rather than an issue.
- How does what we are doing impact members' lives? Challenge what they think.
- Streamline meetings.
- What are we going to do at this time that will make an impact on our issues?
- We have to be family friendly.
- Let people who are interested in AAUW rethink what we want to do. Give them a voice immediately.

#### **Trending Topics**

- Sanitary Pads for African Girls (Carol Heisler, Crystal Lake Area Branch)
  - Provide handmake period pads to African villages so that girls do not have to stay home for a week when they are on their periods; members donate fabric and sew the pads.
  - Bags of three pads and one pair of panties are shipped by another organization.

#### Gen Z to Millenials: Issues and Advocacy (panel of Lincoln University students, professor, and Rachel Gonzalez, social justice advocate, Brady)

1901-1927The Greatest Generation1946-1964Baby Boomers

1928-1945 The Silent Generation 1965-1980 Gen X 1981-1996 Gen Y or Millenials

2013-2025 Generation Alpha (usually children of Millenials)

- Some voting locations are hours away from home; no food or drink is allowed to voters waiting in line to vote; gerrymandering.
- Iowa has a new law: If you do not vote, your are removed from the voting roll.
- U.S. v. Rahime is a gun-control case in domestic violence cases that is now before the U.S. Supreme Court. If the Court fails to allow the law to stand, federal prohibition on gun possession for people subject to domestic violence restraining orders (DVROs) will be unlawful.
- See the PowerPoint for additional statistics.
- There are more places to buy firearms than McDonald's and Starbucks combined.
- 1619 Freedom School Project Liberation Through Literacy (Sheritta Stokes, VP of Freedom School Project and co-director of curriculum)
  - The program in Waterloo, Iowa, originated from a donation from Waterloo High School graduate and *New York Times* writer Nikole Hannah Jones, author of *The 1619 Project*.
  - This school is based on the premise that there is liberation through literacy. It is an after-school program taught by black female and male teachers. To encourage reading, students receive \$300 worth of books and a special bookcase.
  - An evaluation of the program shows that students have increased reading skills. A summer school component has been added.
- The 8th International Women's Day Celebration in Manhatten (Usha Reddi, Manhattan Branch)
  - The branch sponsors a dinner on International Women's Day on March 8 each year. In 2023 the dinner was headlined by women from four countries: Mexico, Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Morocco. The community was invited to the program after an optional dinner (\$25) during which each women spoke about life in their country or origin and the United States.
  - Suggested projects: Solicit professional clothing for students; ask students to work on STEM projects in elementary school, write articles for the student newspaper, and help with Women's History Day activities; a luncheon for student leaders and women mentors.

~ End of Notes ~

# Calendar

- Dec 7 St. Charles Branch "Tis the Season," 1 pm (see pg 7)
- Dec 10 K-WG outing to St. Louis Community Chorus Concert
- Dec 14 B-C Sassy Soiree, 11-1 (see pg 7)
- Dec 17 Holiday Gathering, 1-3 pm
- Dec 31 Deadline for 2023 donations to AAUW Fund
- Jan 2 Expressions craft group (see pg 7)
- Jan 9 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am (see pg 8)
- Jan 25 Adelante book group via Zoom, 1:30 pm (see pg 7)
- Feb 11 Legislative Retreat
- Feb 13 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am
- Feb 22 Adelante Book Group, 1:30 pm
- Feb 27 IBC quarterly meeting via Zoom, 7 pm

- Mar ? Exhibit on Fanny Sellins and Mother Jones (pg 6)
- Mar 8 Last Day to register for primary election
- Mar 12 International Relations lecture, 10:45 am
- Mar 23 IBC annual spring luncheon, Catering2You, 11 am
- Mar 27 Virginia Minor's 200th birthday
- Mar 28 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom
- Apr 5 Voting opens (online voting is encouraged) National AAUW Elections (every member votes, through 5-15)
- Apr 9 International Relations lecture, 10:45
- Apr 27 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom

May 30-Jun 1 NCCWSL, DC metro area

- Aug 6 MO primary election
- Nov 5 General Election