



Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 131 Years!

2024-2025, No. 3, 2024

"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

Diane Sher, Interim Administrator, dsher63105@gmail.com

Carol Davis McDonald, Finance Officer, newsletter, website, Facebook page
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Vacant - Director

Vacant - Director

Jan Scott, IBC Representative
Jan@stlwomenonthemove.com

St. Louis Branch Winter Gathering
Sunday, January 26, 2025 – 11 a.m.

Lunar New Year – Dim Sum

2025 - Snake

at LuLu Seafood Restaurant

8224 Olive Blvd, St. Louis 63132

An award-winning Chinese seafood restaurant, Lulu Seafood and Dim Sum is known for the freshness of the seafood they offer. Patrons can even choose their own seafood, fresh from the tank to be prepared upon request. The Chinese chefs who hail directly from cities like Beijing and Shanghai bring original recipes and expertise to each order. Dim sum, which includes multiple medium portions of various menu items, complete with Chinese tea, is meant for sharing.

Advance registration is needed by January 20 for a good count as a courtesy to Lu Lu's on a very busy day for them. The cost is divided by what your table orders (estimated at \$25 per person) as a group—tables of 10 with lazy susans. Please RSVP to Sally (sopawsam@sbcglobal.net or 314-616-3574) before January 19th. (See Lunar New Year article on page 4.)

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



A Word From President Ellen Irons:

(Since Ellen's health is fading rapidly, she has resigned her position as president of our branch. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude for all she has done over the past decade. She has been a tremendous leader. Entering hospice wasn't an easy decision to make. We are sad and are praying she feels at peace and knows how much we love her.)



AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2024-2025

PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

December

- **Monday, December 23** - Movie Club, *His Three Daughters*

January 2025

- **January 7** - Planning committee meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- **January 14** - International Relations Lecture, 10:45 a.m., *Our Planet's Plastic Crisis*
- **January 18** - Women's Walk on Cherokee Street
- **Sunday, January 26** - AAUW St. Louis Holiday Gathering, 11am at LuLu's Seafood Restaurant – Lunar New Year. Dim Sum.
- **Monday, January 27** - Movie Club, 7 pm, *Operation Mincemeat*

February 2025

- AAUW St. Louis Cultural Event? TBD
- **February 11** - International Relations Lecture, 10:45 a.m., *Water Security in a Changing Climate*
- **Sunday, February 16** – tentative – “Gender – Here and Now.” Linda Lindsey program; room reserved at Mid County Library, 1:30 – 4:00pm (time includes set up and break down).
- **Monday, February 24** - Movie Club, TBD

March 2025

- **March 8** - International Women's Day
- Various events w/The Montessori Adolescent Program School art exhibit for Women's History Month.
- Various events supporting Girl Scouts of Eastern MO Women's History Month Patch Program.
- **Monday, March 24** - Movie Club, TBD
- **Saturday, March 29** - IBC Spring Luncheon, 11am – 2:00 pm, honoring Sheroes and Barbara Lackritz Honorees
150th anniversary of *Minor v. Happersett*

April 2025

- 3rd week – Panel on Ageism - need to develop (develop subcommittee, set date, place, speakers etc.)
- **Monday, April 28** - Movie Club, TBD

May 2025

- Cultural Event? TBD
- **Monday, May 26** - Movie Club, TB

June 2025

- AAUW St. Louis Annual Meeting – Need date
- **Monday, June 23** - Movie Club, TBD

Women's Walk on Cherokee Street - Women Supporting Women

January 18, 2024 - 12:00 N - 4:00 pm

12-2pm: Starting at **Jefferson Ave**, walking **east towards Lemp**, walk/stroll on your own and stop in and support various women-owned businesses. A list of details with a map is in the works, soon to be complete with name/address/description.

2-4pm: **Bluewood Brewery**—women speakers, stories, and music. Due to limited seating, RSVP for reservations inside at Bluewood.

Questions: Text/email francinecase52@gmail.com / 314-566-2729.



AAUW St. Louis Branch Program

February 16, 2025 — 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

St. Louis County Library, Mid-County Branch
7821 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105-3875

**Save
the
Date**

Ideas about gender and the behavior flowing from these ideas are powerfully imprinted on our personal, professional, and social lives. Well-being on all fronts is compromised when misconceptions about gender take hold, serving to limit our ambitions and life choices. Delving into research spotlighting non-binary constructions of gender, this presentation separates fact from fiction, specifically related to beliefs about sex and sexuality, gender identity, and transgender. The challenges and opportunities associated with the blizzard of media reports, anecdotal blogs, and populism fuel both harmful misconceptions about gender as well as surging social activism benefiting non-binary communities are discussed.

Linda Lindsey is recently retired Senior Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis and Professor Emerita of Sociology at Maryville University. Her teaching and research are under a gender and intersectional umbrella, including courses on diversity, inequality, globalization, and health and society. Consulting with the Asian Studies Development Program, a joint program of the University of Hawaii and East-West Center, allowed for seminars in Asia for college faculty. She presented at the UN Conference on Women in Beijing and continues to present, especially on topics related to sex and gender and Afghan resettlement. Fulbright and other opportunities offered research in Pakistan, Japan, India, China, Jordan, and Peru. A longtime volunteer, she works on behalf of women's advocacy, refugees, and health care for the underserved. She is a past president of the Midwest Sociological Society and has been elected to *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.

Higher education shouldn't come with higher risks.

- Diverse enrollment has declined in colleges and universities since the U.S. Supreme Court decided race cannot be a factor in admissions.
- More than 60% of college students report experiencing sexual harassment.
- Women hold nearly 65% of student debt.

These facts have real, lasting consequences on women. That's why AAUW is gearing up to [FIGHT in 2025 for gender equity in education](#). Here's how:

1. **We will continue fighting for inclusive schools** against attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and by fighting other restrictions undermining inclusive education.
2. **We will fight for safe and harassment-free educational environments** by supporting the 2024 Title IX rules that strengthen protections for survivors and clarify Title IX protections for LGBTQ+ and pregnant and parenting students.
3. **We will fight to reduce barriers for women pursuing higher education** by working to increase financial support for campus childcare, work study programs, and Pell Grant awards to reduce the amount of student loan debt women need to take on to complete a degree.

Save the Date

Besides the date of our next Spring Fling, **March 29, 2025**, marks the **150th anniversary** of *Minor v. Happersett*, when our own Virginia Minor challenged a St. Louis registrar's decision to block her from registering to vote. Plans are in the works to commemorate this historical event.

Following the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, suffragists began to argue that the amendment granted women the right to vote. The movement was known as the "New Departure." From 1868 to 1875, hundreds of women—both African American and white—embraced this movement. Some women successfully voted, while most were turned away, arrested, or fined. In *Minor v. Happersett*, Virginia Minor challenged a St. Louis registrar's decision to block her from registering to vote. A pioneer of the New Departure, Minor argued that women were United States citizens and that voting was a "privilege" of national citizenship protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court rejected Minor's claim. In a unanimous decision, the Court agreed that women were U.S. citizens, but ruled that voting was not a right of national citizenship. Instead, the Court concluded that the Constitution left the question of women's suffrage to the states. The right of suffrage was not protected by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.



Celebrating Lunar New Year

The Lunar New Year is a celebration that takes place from the first new moon between mid-January and the end of February. It is a festival that honors old traditions and family ancestors and celebrates the coming spring. There are a number of customs, traditions, and superstitions attached to New Year's celebrations that call back to early Chinese legends.

People traditionally clean their homes before the new year so that they can start the new year afresh. It is something like spring cleaning in the West. In the West it is just a matter of cleaning, whereas, in China it's believed that cleaning will also clean out any bad luck from the past year and make room for good luck to come in.

For this reason, doors and windows are open during this time, as everyone wants to encourage good fortune into their home. It is also important to know that cleaning has to be done by the new year. Otherwise, you may risk sweeping away the good luck of the new year.

Another Lunar New Year custom that is similar to New Year in Japan is the practice of visiting family and friends and giving money to children. During this time, elders typically give lucky red envelopes containing crisp bills to children, as well as unmarried adults younger than them.

Food for Lunar New Year: On Lunar New Year's Eve, families gather together for a large reunion dinner where they eat a special meal full of dishes believed to bring good fortune. It is a time to unleash your appetite.

Dumplings and spring rolls are said to bring wealth, while fish is said to bring prosperity. Lunar New Year is also a time to eat sweet dumplings and desserts such as sticky rice cakes. After the reunion dinner, family members try to stay up as late as possible on the first day of the new year, a practice called "shou sui." Tradition states that staying awake longer will bless your parents with longevity.

Superstitions: At this time of year, the color red appears everywhere; it is no coincidence, though! Many people will put up festive decorations around the house that are colored red due to an old Chinese legend in which red paper hangings scared away an evil beast. It is believed that this color symbolizes good luck and is believed to ward off evil.

There are also a number of taboo activities around New Year—for example, buying shoes is strictly off-limits, as the word has a negative meaning in Chinese. At the beginning of the New Year, having a shower or getting your hair cut is not a good idea as it is believed that this may lead to any good luck also being washed away, and any good fortune that has attached itself to your hair will be lost if it gets cut.

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS IBC

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.

The purpose of IBC is 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 quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd, Ballwin. January 9 meeting, 9:30 a.m., speaker will be Joe Regenbogen on Our Controversial Supreme Court, Past, Present, and Future.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Patty Murray](mailto:PattyMurray@gmail.com) for meeting information, 314-838-7887.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch—Thursday, January 16, 2024, 7:00pm, via Zoom (answer RSVP). Speaker will be Jessica Meyers, director, St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC) on Working to Reduce Violent Crime.

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. No January branch meeting.



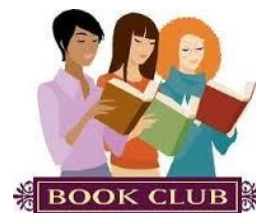
If you would like to find out the status of bills and their progress through both Houses, presentation to the President, if he signs the bill, and when the bill becomes a law, check out this fascinating website: <https://www.congress.gov>.

Expressions Craft Group

1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Next meeting in February Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur

Our focus is to make and learn crafts and projects. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. Contact Kay Meyer (kicmeyer51@gmail.com) or Nancy Hutchins (bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com).

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP



This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Join Zoom meeting:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

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

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

Passcode: 922338

Dial your location: 1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

Upcoming selections:

Jan 23 *Circling the Sun*, by Paula McLain, 384 pages, published July 2015. Deb McWard, facilitator. This powerful novel transports readers to the breathtaking world of Out of Africa—1920s Kenya—and reveals the extraordinary adventures of Beryl Markham, a woman before her time.

Feb 27 *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah, 480 pages, published 2-6-2024. Jan Barrett, facilitator. Women can be heroes—a nursing student joins the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam war.

Mar 27 *The Island of Missing Trees*, by Elif Shafak, 368 pages, published November 2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot war, and the untangling of years of secrets.

Apr 24 *Light on Bone*, by Kathryn Lasky, 298 pages, published 9-6-2022. Teri Brecht, facilitator. Kathryn Lasky has written an exciting new adult amateur sleuth mystery set in New Mexico in the 1930s.

May 29 *Mad Honey*, by Jodi Picoult, 464 pages, published 10-4-2022. Patty Murray, facilitator. A riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. In development for a series/film.



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

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. 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 14, 2025 Our Planet's Plastic Crisis

Dana Ripper, M.S.

There is growing awareness of the plastic crisis amongst people around the world. What we previously thought of as simply unsightly, plastics - particularly single-use disposables - now pose serious climate, water, and air quality threat as well as being detrimental to human health. This presentation will consist of an in-depth discussion of our planet's plastic crisis. From the extraction of component materials to various manufacturing processes, to its end destination in human bodies, waterways, and incinerators, plastic is one issue that needs to be tackled immediately. We'll talk about the various points in plastic production and waste management where change can be made and how you can become involved in that change.



Dana Ripper is the Executive Director and Co-founder of the Missouri River Bird Observatory and a wildlife ecologist who focuses on conservation via ecosystem health. She has an MS in ecology from Arkansas State University (2002) and worked on wildlife research projects across the U.S. before making Missouri home in 2008. In 2010, Dana co-founded the MRBO, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation via science, education, and advocacy. Since plastic production and waste mismanagement pose significant threats to climate stability, biotic and abiotic natural resources, and human health and quality of life, one of Dana's major emphases in her work with MRBO is systemic reduction in single-use plastics. MRBO is an affiliate organization of Break Free From Plastic and Beyond Plastics.



Committee: Kathyrne Meyer

February 11, 2025 Water Security in a Changing Climate

Jason Knouft, Ph.D.



Access to clean water is essential for all aspects of society. As the climate changes and access to water becomes more uncertain, perceptions of water security may also change, leading to social, economic, and political instability, and even conflict. This conflict could be addressed through cooperation, or, alternatively, result in the weaponization of water to oppress individuals or gain advantage over rivals. This lecture will explore water security in a changing climate and examine the implications of perceived declines in water security for society.



Jason Knouft is a Professor in the Biology Department at Saint Louis University and the Director of the Freshwater Policy Institute at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. He has served as a Climate and Water Security Analyst for the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), an INR deputy representative to the Climate Security Advisory Council, an INR ex officio deputy representative to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Climate Security Roundtable, a member of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a Scientific Review Committee member at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. His research focuses on the investigation of freshwater system responses to environmental perturbations, with a particular interest in water security, climate change, contaminants, land use change, and adaptation strategies to address these issues. Knouft received a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Committee: Sue Williams, Kari Estes

Our NEW IBC Fundraising Approach — Tribute Donations to Honor Sheroes

♥ **Why does the IBC need to raise funds?** For IBC operating expenses and to support the International Relations Lecture Series in collaboration with the Tuesday Women’s Association of the Ethical Society.

♥ **Our past approach has used raffles.** In the past, each branch donated baskets of items, and then we moved to raffling gift cards. We also have had 50-50 and lottery ticket tree raffles, which will continue.

♥ **Why do we need a new approach?** We have decided not to hold any more raffles or auctions because none of us wants more stuff. We believe the 50-50 and lottery ticket tree raffles are still worthwhile, but they won’t raise all the funds we need.

♥ **Our new approach.** We will raise the additional funds needed by honoring our sheroes with direct donations. We hope this becomes a new tradition: honoring important women in our lives, living or in memory, through tribute donations.

♥ **How will this work?** Make a donation to honor a shero in your life. Your shero will receive a card informing them that they have been named, and your shero’s name will be a part of a display at the spring luncheon. A final summary of all names will be published at the end of the campaign.

♥ **How much should you donate?** We encourage you to be as generous as you can. Since this is a fundraiser, the minimum amount to recognize a shero is \$10. Any level above that is appreciated.



Please complete the form below to donate. Any donations received before March 18, 2025, will be recognized at the spring luncheon. The campaign will be open until April 3, 2025, with contributions accepted both prior to AND at the spring luncheon. Questions? Contact the IBC spring luncheon committee fundraising chair (Joyce Bluett, AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch, or your branch’s committee member.



TRIBUTE DONATION FOR MY SHERO

My name is _____

Branch _____ E-mail _____ Phone _____

My shero’s name _____ Donation amount _____

My donation is (pick one): _____ in memory of (deceased shero) _____ in honor of (living shero)

As part of the recognition, I would like my branch name to be listed: _____ Yes _____ No

I would like my name listed as a donor: _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, _____ I want my name on the event display _____ I want to be in the final published lists

To honor additional sheroes, add the names and amounts on a separate sheet and mail together.

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____ **Note:** Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both. It is recommended that you make a copy of your form for your information.

Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council:



Honoring Sheroes and Recognizing Barbara Lackritz Award Honorees

Entertainment: Mixed Nuts, a women's a capella quartet

Saturday, March 29, 2005 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Catering to You

12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO

Mushroom herb baked chicken, roast top round of beef *au jus*, salad, red-skin garlic mashers, steamed broccoli, rolls, butter, self-serve lemonade/coffee/iced and hot tea

Registration Form

Fee: \$40 - includes meal, program, and entertainment. 50-50 and lotto raffles will also be held!

Registration deadline for luncheon: March 20, 2025

Name: _____ Branch: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone (preferably cell): _____

I plan to attend the spring luncheon _____ Registration fee: \$ _____

I am paying for _____ # of guests x \$40 (list names on back) Total for luncheon \$ _____

Tribute Donation for My Shero

Name(s) of shero(es) to be honored: (Please also include Tribute Form in your envelope)

Luncheon amount due: \$ _____

Shero donation amount: \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Note: Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both. It is recommended that you make a copy of your form for your information.

National News

From Susan Barley
National Advancement Committee and
AAUW MO Fund Chair
November 23, 2024
314-361-2920
barley702@gmail.com



1. AAUW reacts to 2024 national election results:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-reacts-to-2024-national-election-results/>

2. NCCWSL

- The AAUW Advancement team is organizing a meeting with NASPA staff to discuss promotion of NCCWSL to members in the next 2-3 weeks. There is no more information to share at this point.
- NASPA Event Page Link is here (please note that NCCWSL is not here yet, but may be posted here in the future) <https://www.naspa.org/events>
- Scholarships and Eligibility – AAUW plans to continue to distribute scholarships to Student Affiliate Members who are interested, and as funding becomes available. Student Affiliates can join for free if their college/university is a CU Member and for \$18.81 if their college/university is not a member.
- Donations - For individuals and/or branches interested in making a donation to the scholarship fund, 80% will be designated to direct support and 20% to administrative expenses to manage the scholarship outreach, selection and distribution.

3. National Match Status

- Amount Raised = \$95k+ (up over \$10k from last year!) from Board Directors, Committee Chairs and Members, and from staff.
- Donations to the Greatest Needs Fund by December 31 are matched dollar-for-dollar, doubling your branch's impact!

4. **Online tools for giving.** Link to Smart Giving Tools: https://www.freewill.com/smartgiving/aauw?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=website&utm_campaign=aauw_waystogivepg

5. To view AAUW webinar recordings:

On our website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/>

[programs/webinars/](#)

On YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@AAUW/videos>

6. Office Hours

- Previously, the AAUW team would cancel office hours on days where we had low registration/attendance, and instead addressed questions asked via email. Moving forward AAUW will no longer be cancelling in cases of low attendance
- To register for Office Hours – visit our State and Branch Tools page and scroll to the bottom: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/>

7. **FY25 Five Star Information:** <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>



What Does National Do?

Subject Matter Expertise: Historically, we have produced in-depth studies on topics like gender pay gap and women in leadership roles.

- While we haven't produced reports due to limited funding, we have done high-level analysis of pay gap data recently released. We are frequently asked to comment on topics related to pay equity, student loan debt, and other issues related to gender equity. You can see our recently updated page on Latinas and the pay gap, for example, here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/article/latinas-and-the-pay-gap/>.
- We have tens of thousands of social media followers across all platforms and have well over one million website viewers, ensuring that our brand remains prominent and relevant. AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell has been invited to White House events on at least three occasions recently.
- On a global level, Gloria is AAUW's representative to the UN, and our work in this capacity provides great reputational value related to global gender equity work.