



Newsletter of the

Saint Louis Branch

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 131 Years!

2024-2025, No. 4, February 2025

"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

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

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

St. Louis Branch February Meeting

Sunday, February 16, 2025 – 1:30 p.m.

Unraveling Gender: Facts, Misconceptions, Issues

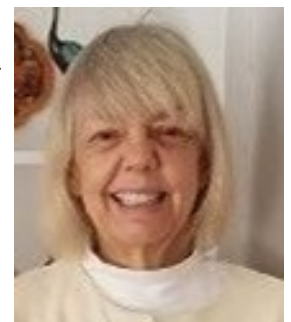
By **Dr. Linda Lindsey**

at the Mid County Library

7821 Maryland Ave, St. Louis 63105

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*.



RSVP to jan@stlwomenonthemove.com

Remember to register for the spring luncheon on March 29th.
Forms are included on pages 9 and 10.

A Word About Our Late President

ELLEN ELIZABETH IRONS

JULY 27, 1952 – JANUARY 15, 2025



Ellen Elizabeth Irons, born in July 1952, died peacefully at home in University City, Missouri, on January 15, 2025, after a short battle with cancer. Her life was filled with creativity, love of learning, and a deep commitment to her friends and community.

Born and raised in Hyde Park Chicago, she graduated from University of Chicago High School and went to California. She attended Pomona College for a year and then spent several years living in San Francisco with a group of friends in “Project One.”

In 1978 Ellen earned her Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from Washington University in St. Louis. She went on to build a distinguished career spanning over 30 years at St. Louis Community College, where she helped businesses develop training and quality improvement programs. Her projects included work for leading manufacturers in the St. Louis area. She had a special combination of expertise in organizational development and understanding how things are made.

She was an avid lifelong reader and writer and belonged to a writer’s group. She was skilled in healing modalities including massage, Tai Chi, healing touch, and had metaphysical practice. She also worked as a life coach.

Ellen was passionate about improving her community (and the world). She volunteered extensively. She contributed over 350 hours to the St. Louis Botanical Garden, helping to digitize the GPS mapping of the Gardens. She was an active member in American Association of University Women (AAUW), St. Louis Branch. Her leadership within AAUW was particularly significant, as she recently served as its president, advocating for education and equity for women. She provided invaluable work to the community radio station, KDHX FM. She employed landscape architectural practices, and she spearheaded several neighborhood projects.

Ellen shared more than forty wonderful years with her partner, Paul Neuenkirk. Together, they cultivated a life filled with shared passions for music, travel, and art, especially photography. Ellen was interested in genealogy, travelling in the US and abroad as far as New Zealand and the United Kingdom to connect with cousins. Ellen’s love for gardening was especially evident in the annual crop of hot peppers and other summer treats from her backyard garden. Ellen took great care of her beloved cats, Rusty and Smokey. She loved nature. Her family lake home in Northwest MN, where she grew up her summers, profoundly influenced her with its beauty and wonderful friends.

Ellen loved her family and friends. She treasured time shared for coffee or lunch and talking about life. She was a faith-filled, spiritual woman who meditated daily and felt guided by her Higher Power. An excellent listener, Ellen was an active and generous member of the recovery community. Her commitment to 12-Step programs helped many people over the years. Ellen’s warmth, intelligence, and generosity touched all who knew her. Her spirit will be lovingly remembered and missed by all.

Preceded in death by her parents, Dr Edwin and Mary Irons, and brother-in-law, Ron Karsnia. Survived by her loving partner, Paul Neuenkirk; his children Chris, Noel, and Nell; Paul’s brother, Ray; her siblings, Ernest (Janet) Irons, Carol Karsnia, Katherine (Douglas) Floyd; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Ellen’s life on Saturday, March 1, 2025, at Kriegshauser Mortuary - West Chapel at 9450 Olive Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63132. Visitation 11:30-1:30. Memorial Service 1:30 p.m., followed immediately with Placement of Ashes at St. John cemetery, 1293 St Cyr Rd, St. Louis, MO.

Memorial contributions can be made by check to the AAUW St Louis Branch at: AAUW St Louis Branch, c/o Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr, Manchester, MO 63011-4215, or online at: <http://aauw.org/>.

Condolence addresses: Katherine Irons Floyd, klifloyd@gmail.com; Paul Neuenkirk, 8426 Tulane Ave, St. Louis, MO 63132.

Thoughts and memories of Ellen

My heart is heavy. Ellen was a wonderful mentor, advocate, leader, and friend. She will be missed by all those whose life she touched. Prayers for her family.

Sue Shineman, AAUW MO President
AAUW Independence Branch



Ellen with her late friend, Carolyn Relling-Surrisi, at the 2019 Equality Day Brunch in Clayton, MO.

I am sorry to hear of Ellen's passing. She was a remarkable woman and I will miss her.

Candy Low, AAUW St. Louis Branch

Who else but Ellen could have orchestrated a Spring Fling event during Covid via Zoom with all the computer skills necessary to pull it off? She was amazingly organized and detailed, and I wonder what she would have accomplished as IBC leader this year. Take a break, dear friend, then let your memory keep us moving forward.

Debbie McWard, AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves

Terrible loss to us all. Terrible hole in our hearts and minds. I hate that she had all that pain. How I loved to call her president. What a role model! Particular condolences to her family and those who worked with her in AAUW. Thanks, Diane, for the moment of silence at our recent gathering.

Laura X, AAUW St. Louis Branch



During a presentation at the 2019 AAUW MO annual conference.

So very sad but a blessing to her that she is no longer in pain. I will miss her dearly.

Sally McGowan
AAUW St. Louis Branch



Ellen with Carol Davis McDonald (It) and Sally McGowan at the 2018 MO Women's Network legislative retreat in Columbia, MO.

Ellen was kind, organized, and passionate about equity for women and girls. She was a good person. I miss her.

Christine Nobbe, AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves and AAUW St. Louis

Ellen received the IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award in 2023.

Ellen was a very nice and friendly person. She was supportive of AAUW. She was actively involved with the AAUW MO Inclusion and Equity committee, board, and the St. Louis Branch. She will be missed. May her soul rest in peace.

Luna Mukherjee
AAUW Kansas City Branch, AAUW MO Inclusion & Equity Committee



Ellen helped develop a patch and program with the Girls Scouts of Eastern MO in 2023.



AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2024-2025

PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

February 2025

- **Feb 1-Apr 30**—*Blessed by the Ancestors*, Black artists art exhibit, City Museum, 10 am-9 pm
- **Feb 5-Mar 2**—*Coconut Cake* at the Black Rep
- **Tues, Feb 11** - International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am, *Water Security in a Changing Climate*, Ethical Society building
- **Thurs, Feb 13**—RETROspective of “How to Get a Date,” MO History Museum, 5-8 pm
- **Sun, Feb 16**—Advocating for Justice, Inez Bordeaux, Ethical Society, 11 am
- **Sun, Feb 16** – **Unraveling Gender: Facts, Misconceptions, Issues**, by Linda Lindsey, Mid County Library, 1:30 – 4:00 pm.
- **Tues, Feb 18**—The Music of Black St. Louis, MO History Museum, 11 am
- **Thurs, Feb 20**—K-WG meeting, Dana Pownall and Chris Krehmeyer, Beyond Housing, 6:30 pm., Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams
- **Sat, Feb 22**—**Statewide legislative briefing, 9 am, Zoom**
- **Mon, Feb 24**—Movie Club, *Emilia Pérez*, 7pm
- **Tues, Feb 25**—*Ramadan Reflections: A Journey of Faith and Community*, Lee Auditorium, MO History Museum, 11 am
- **Thurs, Feb 27**—*Navigating the Intersection of Race and Disability*, MO History Museum, 5-8 pm
- **Feb 28**—African American History Programs Pop-up Collections Display, MO History Museum Library
- **Feb 28-Mar 2**—Art in Bloom, St. Louis Art Museum

March 2025

- **Sat, Mar 1**—**Celebration of Life for Ellen Irons, Kriegshauser Mortuary West, 11:30-1:00 pm**
- **Sat, Mar 1**—House History Workshop, MO History Museum Library, 9:30 am
- **Tues, Mar 4**—*Josephine Baker: Dancer, Singer, Actor, Spy*, MO History Museum | Lee Auditorium, 11 am
- **Wed, Mar 5**—National Equal Pay Day
- **Thurs, Mar 6**—Branch member presentation on one of the Girl Scouts’ four pillars, Girl Scouts of Eastern MO (GSEM) Women’s History Month Patch Program.

Robotics: Christine Nobbe, director STEAM and gifted education specialist MO DESE, 6:00-6:30 pm

- **Sat, Mar 8** - International Women’s Day
- **Sat, Mar 8**—The Montessori Adolescent Program School art exhibit for Women’s History Month, 5-8 pm
- **Mon, Mar 10**—Branch member presentation at GSEM Women’s History Month Patch Program. Entrepreneurship/Outdoors: Sally McGowan, outdoor enthusiast and entrepreneur
- **Tues, Mar 11**—International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am, *Modern Geopolitics: The Ghost of Sir John Mackinder*, Ethical Society building
- **Thurs, Mar 13**—*The Fabric of History: St. Louis Women and Textiles*, MO History Museum, 5-8 pm
- **Wed, Mar 19**—Branch member presentation at GSEM Women’s History Month Patch Program. Life Skills: Candy Low, graphic artist and paralegal
- **Mon, Mar 24** - Movie Club, *The Piano Lesson*, Zoom, 7
- **Tues, Mar 25**—Branch member presentation at GSEM Women’s History Month Patch Program. STEM: Christine Nobbe
- **Sat, Mar 29** - **IBC Spring Luncheon, 11am – 2:00 pm, honoring Sheroes and Barbara Lackritz Honorees**
150th anniversary of *Minor v. Happersett*

April 2025

- **Tues, Apr 1**—10-Star Award application due
- **Fri, Apr 4**—Closing event, art exhibit for Women’s History Month
- **Tues, Apr 8**—International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am, *Food Insecurity: Hunger and Famine, Now and in the Future*, Ethical Society building
- **Mon, Apr 28** - Movie Club, *The Six Triple Eight*, 7 pm

May 2025

- **Sat, May 3**—state conference, Zoom, 9 am
- **Mon, May 26** - Movie Club, TB

June 2025

- **Sun, June 1**—**Branch annual business meeting, Rich and Charlie’s, Crestwood, 12:30 pm**
- **Mon, June 23** - Movie Club, TBD

DID YOU KNOW . . .

that AAUW’s member benefits can enhance your professional and personal life and will save you money along the way? Most important, every time you use one of your benefits, you are also supporting AAUW’s vital work, which is what makes AAUW one of the nation’s most powerful voices on women’s issues.

With each purchase, AAUW receives a royalty that supports equal-pay advocacy, community programs, leadership development tools, the student leadership conference and so much more! [Click here](#) to see the list of perks and discounts.



Sister Suffragists and the Harlem Hellfighter

Here is the play Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo wrote. It has been rewritten and is called ***Sister Suffragists and the Harlem Hellfighter***, directed by Byron C. Saunders and produced by the Frank Silvera Writers' Workshop. In celebration of **Black History Month**, she has posted the video link to the play below. Also below is a link to an article about the play recently published in Broadway World.

Sister Suffragists and the Harlem Hellfighter is a historical drama that brings to life the courageous activism of three African American suffragists—Victoria Clay Haley, Madame C.J. Walker, and Ida B. Wells—and their connection to Sergeant Henry Johnson, who was awarded the French ***Croix de Guerre*** for bravery during World War I and member of the famed Harlem Hellfighters. In the play, the three suffragists attend a conference led by Edna Gellhorn, who helped found the League of Women's Voters and AAUW in Missouri, and Cynthelia Knefler, both of the Missouri Equal Suffrage League. Set against the backdrop of St. Louis in the early 20th century, the play explores the intersection of racial justice, women's rights, and wartime heroism.

Here's the link to the video. Please share with your communities. <https://youtu.be/3wLzZo2K0m8?si=DrjSpp7cS4PSdoCM>

<https://www.broadwayworld.com/article/Frank-Silvera-Writers-Workshop-To-Present-SISTER-SUFFRAGISTS-AND-THE-HARLEM-HELLFIGHTER-20250125>

Happy Black History Month!



MOVIE CLUB - Each of us watches a selected movie on Netflix. The movie is then discussed by the group on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

Upcoming movies: **February 24**—*Emilia Pérez*, **March 24**—*The Piano Lesson*, **April 28**—*The Six Triple Eight*

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAklCdAvoiebBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369

Passcode: 168308

AAUW MO will again host the state-wide

Legislative Briefing on Saturday, February 22, 2025, via Zoom, from 9:00 am to noon

Join with leaders from organizations with strong advocacy positions who are working to influence Missouri Legislative action. The annual briefing is informative in general, but also specific in that it helps branches determine what specific focus areas they will work on. The Legislative Briefing allows Missouri organizations with common missions to share their activities with others at this free public event. Leaders will briefly overview their organization and explain their main legislative priorities, along with bill numbers, titles, and authors they want us to monitor.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89911952509?pwd=DNL3tqU1O6SUEfPHjYjvKbt5UbKZFI.1>

Meeting ID: 899 1195 2509 Passcode: 126137

For more information contact Karen Francis at 314.223.4235 or karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com

The Missouri Legislative Session is in full swing.

Committees have been established, and bills are beginning to be reviewed. The following websites are reliable resources to obtain information on bills passing through the legislative process and their status:

- ⇒ Fast Democracy - <https://fastdemocracy.com/>
- ⇒ MO Voter Protection Coalition - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LFSXE1cBCKeHqMXV4UAK1n9mmYACNEW-QZGly_ufJUUY/edit?gid=770402993#gid=770402993
- ⇒ League of Women Voters STL Metro - <https://my.lww.org/missouri/resources/legislative-bulletins-alerts>
- ⇒ State of Missouri Senate Bills - <https://www.senate.mo.gov/BTSSearch/Default>
- ⇒ Legiscan - <https://legiscan.com/MO/legislation/2025>
- ⇒ State of Missouri - <https://www.mo.gov/government/legislative-branch>

ACT NOW TO SUPPORT BIPARTISAN WOMEN'S HEALTH BILL

Below is a link to a petition from Action Network urging the Missouri Legislature to pass the Bipartisan Women's Health Bill now!

Last session, this critical women's health bill was just one vote from final passage; but despite wide bipartisan support - including from House leadership - this bill failed to pass due to dysfunction in the Missouri Senate. Both sides of the aisle strongly support this legislation that would treat and prevent disease, including congenital syphilis, increase access to contraception, and improve Missourians' health and wellbeing. Sign below to tell our lawmakers to prioritize and pass the Bipartisan Women's Health Bill now!

Take action by using this link. Click here: <https://actionnetwork.org/petitions/urge-moleg-to-pass-the-bipartisan-womens-health-bill-now?source=email&>

You can contact your individual representative or senator as well.

Thanks to Lynne Roney, K-WG Branch president: “Think Globally, Act Locally”...a bumper sticker from the past, but relevant now more than ever. As we watch national and international news showing many of AAUW’s priorities being swept aside, it is tempting to feel powerless. That’s why it’s more important than ever to act and speak on behalf of our values on a local level. You can:

- **Send a 2-Minute Activist message to your elected officials. Sign up [here](#). E-mail will come from Meghan Kissell, senior director, Policy & Member Advocacy, when we should send messages.**
- Make a **personal contact** with your representative. The great thing about St. Louis is that you are likely to see your state legislator at the gym, church, or grocery store. I literally once gave my AAUW elevator speech to then-Rep. Barbara Fraser in an elevator in a downtown building.
- **Volunteer** to be an officer, committee chair, or committee member of our branch. We welcome new leadership to keep our branch active and a vital supporter of AAUW’s voice for equity.
- **Participate** in our branch meetings, Interbranch luncheon March 29, and state conference by Zoom May 3. Keep our local and state organizations strong.
- **Support** local girls going into the STEM field by buying pecans or donating to our STEM scholarships. AAUW is still one of the largest funders of women’s graduate education, and locally we help women going into the STEM field.
- **Subscribe** to AAUW’s national emailed newsletter at [this link](#) or by logging into your member account and choosing “My Preferences.”

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, February 25, 2025. 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. February 13 meeting, 9:30 a.m., speaker will be Carla Maley, director of Community Engagement for St. Martha's Hall, on *The Impact of Domestic Violence on Our Community*.

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

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch—Thursday, February 20, 6:30 pm. Guest speakers: Dana Pownall and Chris Krehmeyer, Beyond Housing, a community development organization dedicated to transforming the St. Louis region's under-resourced communities.

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. February 6 speaker will be Michael Flandemeyer, teacher and Ward 7 council member, on *Travel the Boone's Lick Trail*.



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>.

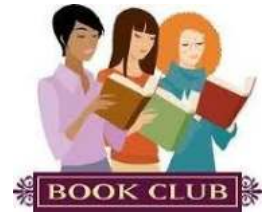
Expressions Craft Group

1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

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/>

<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:

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.

Sep 25 ***The Sentence***, by Louise Erdrich, 400 pages, 1-9-2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. Mystery haunting of a small, independent book store.



The public is cordially invited to the
International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2025

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.



Barbara Lackritz, MO-IL Convention, 2001

National News

From Susan Barley
National Advancement Committee
January 23, 2025
314-361-2920
barley702@gmail.com



Proposed Dues Increase Information

- Proposal: Annual \$5 dues increase from 2025-2029
- Rationale: Supports sustainability of the organization
 - * FAQ and Feedback: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/membership-dues-change-talking-points/>
 - * AAUW has not had a consistent practice of raising dues annually. In 2018 AAUW raised dues by \$10, which, at that time, was the first dues increase since 2008. Dues were again increased in 2021 (\$3), 2022 (\$5) and 2023 (\$5). Dues were not raised this year.
 - * A significant portion of our membership is non-dues paying (Honorary Lifetime Members) – over 6k of our 41k+ members.
 - * Industry Trends
 - The Membership Marketing Benchmark Report surveys hundreds of associations annually and their findings on dues pricing was considered while making the dues increase recommendation. 2021 is the most recent year dues information was included in this report. Only 18% of all associations surveyed, and 22% of individual member organizations, had dues under \$100.
 - In the most recent 2024 Membership Marketing Benchmark Report, survey respondents were asked about the frequency of dues raises:

HOW OFTEN DOES YOUR ASSOCIATION RAISE MEMBERSHIP DUES? (n=530)

- * As Needed 51%
- * Annually 27%
- * Every Other Year 6%
- * Other 10%
- * Never 6%

- Effective: Spring Renewals, April 1, 2025
- Impact: Does not apply to graduate students or student associates
- Deadline for Feedback is January 29, 2025

Proposed Bylaws Changes

- Proposal: Three minor changes
- Rationale: Clean-up after larger bylaws revamp a few years ago
- Expanded Rationale and Feedback: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/national-election/2025-bylaws-changes/>
- Impact: Changes do not impact branch or state bylaws

Public Policy Priorities

- Public Policy Priorities are reviewed and changes voted on every 2 years
- Guiding principles = guardrails for public policy work at branch, state and national
- Biennial action priorities = AND biennial action priorities for our federal work
- Rationale and feedback link: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/national-election/public-policy-priorities-changes/>. Deadline for Comments is January 29th

Fellowships and Grants Awardee Directory is back online <https://my.aauw.org/fellowshipsandgrantsdirectory>

AAUW National's Value to Affiliates and Members:

- ◆ We have opened our monthly salary negotiation and financial literacy virtual trainings to all members, including a 3-part series from FINRA Foundation and an upcoming March webinar from the Social Security Administration <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/womens-economic-empowerment-initiative/>
- ◆ We organize a variety of volunteer groups and committees which members participate in and/or lead including the Archives Corps, Lobby Corps, Fellowships & Grants Selection Panels, Inclusion and Equity Committee and more. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/committees/>
Our Policy team focuses on AAUW's Public Policy Priorities – which our members vote on – with input and support from AAUW's Public Policy Committee. In addition to Action Alerts, the team distributes a monthly Washington Update newsletter. Proposed changes to the public policy priorities can be found here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/national-election/public-policy-priorities-changes/>

(continued on next page)

(AAUW National’s Value to Affiliates and Members continued)

- ◆ AAUW’s communications efforts ensure that we maintain a high level of brand recognition and that we continue to establish ourselves as a leading voice on gender equity. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news/>
- ◆ Every month we provide newsletters both to Member Leaders specifically through Membership Matters but also to our broader membership via Mission & Action. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/leader-resources-tools/state-branch/membership-matters-a-hub-for-branch-leaders/>
- ◆ In addition to the support that our Connect Team routinely provides affiliates and individual members on a day-to-day basis – they also offer twice weekly “Office Hours” to member leaders for real time branch and state support.

AAUW MO STEM Chair, Pam Kulp, provided the following:

Reshma Saujani, “**Teach Girls Bravery, not Perfection**,” presents a TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) Talk that will inspire your branch to motivate girls and young women to reach for their dreams of STEM occupations. If you are unable to connect to the link below, go to Google and request the TED talk. This talk is only 12 minutes long. She is the American woman lawyer, politician, and civil servant who is the founder of the nonprofit organization “Girls Who Code.” http://www.ted.com/talks/reshma_saujani_teach_girls_bravery_not_perfection?subtitle=en

The 2025 [AAUW Art Contest](#) is in progress.

Did you know that women comprise only 30% of the artists represented by commercial galleries, and that women working in art professions are paid almost \$20,000 less per year than men? This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual member art contest. It gives our own wonderful artists the attention they deserve, while raising funds to fight for other women. We have had winners from Metro St. Louis Branches in the past, and two have submitted again: **Susan Fenwick** and **Pam Kulp**. Susan’s two entries are titled *Prairie Smoke* and *Drum Bridge in Spring*. Pam’s submissions are *Paradise of Pink Impatiens* and *Nature’s Palette of Autumn*.



Voting begins on February 3, 2025

Public Policy—AAUW MO Public Policy Chair Alice Kitchen

Members statewide worked for the passage of Amendment 3 with success. Presidents of both AAUW MO, Sue Shineman, and League of Women Voters MO, Marilyn McLeod, submitted a joint letter to the editor of the *St. Louis Dispatch* that was published on October 20. Ads were purchased in four newspapers and banners in a Gen Z magazine.

Fifty-eight percent of Missourians voted Yes on Amendment 3 with 48 percent opposed. Missouri was the first state to undo the extreme ban. With the passage of Proposition A, the minimum wage will increase to \$13.75 on January 1, 2025, and to \$15 one year later and requires all employers to provide paid sick leave.

Given the election results at the state and federal level, the Missouri Public Policy Committee priorities for 2024–25 will be reviewed in December. We will continue to focus on statewide legislative issues as well as the local ones we have been working on. To view AAUW MO Public Policy Priorities, go to https://docs.google.com/document/d/1eF_knsLrsrtuMu8xixv5IEGlvB6VcptAHxp7AQ6_YVM/edit?usp=sharing.

Work continues on the elimination of the use of salary history in the hiring process in municipalities and getting those entities to do a Gender Study of their workforce. The purpose of a Gender Study is to identify disparities in wages based on experience, education, and skills. This differs from equality, which pays people in the same job code the same regardless of the education, experience, and skills.