



Newsletter of the

**Saint Louis Branch**

Founded April 1893 ~ Celebrating 131 Years!

2024-2025, No. 6, April-May 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](http://www.aauwmo.org)

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

##### National Web Site:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

## Your presence is requested: Finding a Path Forward . . . NOW is the Time!

### AAUW Missouri State Conference May 3, 2025 — via ZOOM — 9:00 am—Noon

Sue Shineman and the entire AAUW MO board invite you to spend Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9:00 a.m.—noon, with AAUW members from across the state as we work to find new paths forward in these changing times. NOW is the time to gather, review, discuss, and make our plans. The May conference will be via Zoom to help save time and expenses.

We are encouraging branches to gather together in Pathway Parties to share the event. There is NO registration fee. Just sign up when the registration link comes through your email in mid-April, so you can receive the Zoom link and the e-packet of handouts that will be sent the week of the conference. **Even if you are attending a Pathway Party, you need to register individually prior to the event.**

#### Meet The Speakers

**Dr. Amber Bengé** — Education has always been a hallmark concern for AAUW. As we look for paths forward in this area, we will be briefed by Dr. Amber Bengé, a dedicated educator, advocate, and leader whose career embodies an unwavering commitment to equity and justice. Beginning as a middle school science teacher, today, she serves as the co-executive director of the Missouri Equity Education Partnership, championing educational equity throughout the state.



We have also invited AAUW senior director of Institutional Advancement, **Katrina Sun Breese**, to be part of the day (request pending). Institutional Advancement covers membership and fundraising, both vital for AAUW. With membership always a concern, Katrina will focus on this timely issue and bring us ideas for paths forward.



*Continued on next page*



# Finding a Path Forward . . . NOW is the Time!

## AAUW MO State Conference May 3, 2025—via ZOOM

9:00 a.m. — Noon

Via ZOOM — Pathway Parties and Individuals  
Sue Shineman, AAUW MO President

8:30-9:00	Zoom link open; members sign in	Sue Shineman / April McArthur
9:00-9:10	Welcome and Overview of Meeting	Sue Shineman
9:10-9:50	Keynote AAUW Speaker - Katrina Sun Breese; AAUW Advancement Vice President	
	TOPIC: 'AAUW TODAY - Membership & More' / Q&A Time	Intro by Diane B. Ludwig
9:50-10:30	Issues Speaker - Dr. Amber Bengé, Co-Executive Director, MO Equity Education Partnership	
	TOPIC: 'The Education Climate in Missouri' / Q&A	Intro by Su Bacon
10:30-10:35	BREAK	
10:35-11:30	Business Meeting	
	Call to order	Sue Shineman
	Credentials Report/Quorum/Standing Rules	Marianne Fues
	Approval of Agenda	Sue S. / All
	Appointment of Readers for Minutes	Sue S.
	Approval of 2024 State Meeting Minutes	Sue S. / Diana Curry-McQuirk
	Finance Report / Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget	Sue S. / Lois Domsch
	Elections: Presentation of Slate of Officers/Elections	Lynne Roney
	/Installation of Officers	Sue S.— Elections; Installation
	Legacy Circle Recognitions	Sue Barley
	Missouri STAR Awards (Branch Action Plans)	Su Bacon/Diane B. Ludwig
	AAUW Fund Awards	Sage Taber/Sue Barley
	Top Branches/Totals/Per Capitas	
	Century Club & Century Club Plus	
	Opportunity Grants	Carol Cox
	State Awards	
	Outstanding Member	Susie Watson
	Woman of Distinction	Karen Francis
11:30-11:40	New Business	
	Recognition of Retiring Officers	Sue Shineman
	Announcements	Sue S. / All

Register for the AAUW MO State Conference by responding to the special email to be sent in mid-April.

Each person must register to receive the conference e-packet of materials prior to the conference and the Zoom link. Those attending Branch Pathway Parties still need to register individually. Questions? Contact Diane B. Ludwig, Co-Program VP, 573-642-4664 or [db Ludwig22@aol.com](mailto:db Ludwig22@aol.com) or Su Bacon, Co-Program VP, 816-746-1222 or [pigsubacon@aol.com](mailto:pigsubacon@aol.com).

**Sally McGowan** was recognized at the **2025 AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council Spring Fling** as the St. Louis Branch's Barbara Lackritz Award honoree on March 29th! Sally has provided leadership to AAUW and our branch in many ways.



We thank Sally for the many things she has done for AAUW St. Louis: She initiated research for our *250 Notable Women in St. Louis* that coordinated with the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Louis; researched and added several women to the "Notable" List; coordinated and designed posters and display materials for events like the Women's March, Earth Day booth, Spring Fling, visuals and tabling materials for SLU event and leadership conferences; provided and set up the tent and display materials at our Earth Day tabling events; coordinated entertainment for Spring Fling; represented AAUW in the St. Louis Women's March for Equality, Women in Leadership Conference Tabling Event at SLU; participated and assisted in several Equality Day and Spring Fling Events; was a branch director at large; participated in several committees: Planning Committee, DEI, Cultural Committee, IBC; coordinated and set up of several functions and events; assisted in and organized auction items at events; serves as photographer at most of our events; participated in the readers' theater scene from Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo's play at a branch function; and brought in new members to our St. Louis Branch over the years. And thanks, Sally, for taking pictures on "your day."

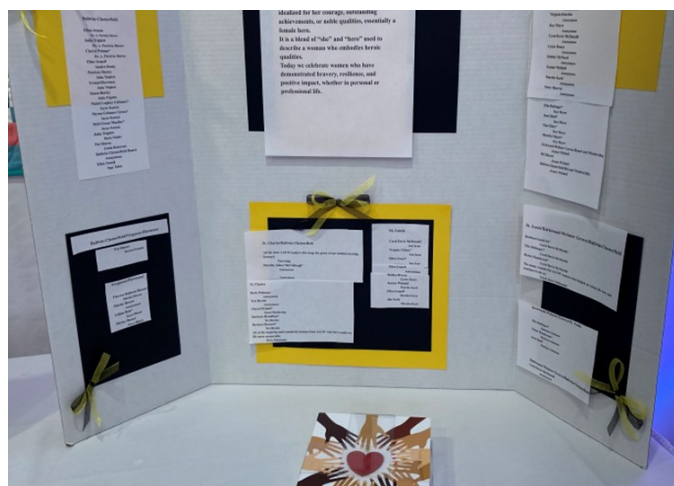


2025 Lackritz honorees: (standing) Grace Poertner (St. Charles), Joyce Bluette (Ferguson-Florissant), Sally McGowan, Jan Horner (Ballwin-Chesterfield, and (seated) Nancy Hutchins (Kirkwood-Webster Groves).



Mixed Nuts, an a cappella quartet, entertained us with many fun songs.

The list of Heroes



Because March 29th was also the 150th anniversary of Minor v. Happersett, when Virginia Minor challenged a St. Louis registrar's decision to block her from registering to vote, Jan obtained a proclamation from St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones.



St. Louis Branch members at Spring Fling: Sally, Sally's sister Sue, Vett, Jan, Diane, and Carol



# AAUW St. Louis Branch Calendar - 2024-2025

## PROGRAMS AND THINGS TO DO

### April 2025

- **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, TBD

### June 2025

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

## What's Happening Around Town, Educationally and Culturally Speaking?

by Sally McGowan

Attend these events alone or go as a group!

- **Thur., April 17, 6-8 pm, 2025 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Program**, featuring MO Sen. Brian Williams, Dr. Shima Rostami, Keaton Strong, Dr. Marty Casey. Millenium Student Center, Room C-17, Arnold B. Grobman Dr, St. Louis, MO 63131. There is no cost to attend and no need to register for this event. For more information, please contact Heather Silverman at [hsilverman@ncjwstl.org](mailto:hsilverman@ncjwstl.org).
- **What's Your Story? "Guiding & Writing Autobiographies"** (free & in person). Every Friday at 12 Noon, May 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 and June 6. Sign up online at [mirowitzcenter.org](http://mirowitzcenter.org) or call 314-733-9813.
- AARP & Mirowitz Center is sponsoring an **Active Aging Resource & Resource Fair** on Sunday, May 4, 2025, from 12noon-4pm. Dozens of companies and organizations to help you discover resources for everything from home care services to senior travel opportunities.
- **Twilight Thursday Concert Series** Starting May 1<sup>st</sup>, 8, 15, 22, 29, 6pm-8pm, Missouri History Museum. Free
- **Sat., May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-3pm.** African American History & Genealogy Society Workshops each month for deep dive into researching your family history. Mo History Museum. Free.
- **Sat, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 1-2:30pm** St. Louis Central Library Program on **"Lost Chinatown and Insights to St. Louis Chinese American History"** Registration required.
- **June 7 & 8 10-5,** Lafayette Spring Home & Garden Tour. See website for ticket info.
- **Sat., June 14<sup>th</sup> @ 10am** at Clark Family Branch Library. Hybrid Program: **Special Places in St. Louis.** Free. Sponsored by St. Louis Genealogical Society. Learn about these one-of-a-kind monuments, churches, streets & locations and their unique character and historical importance in the history of the city. Registration required for virtual but not in person attendance.
- **Sat., July 12, 2pm-3pm** Buder Library, **"Discover St. Louis: Mapping St. Louis"**, a discussion of the historical and present maps of St. Louis to learn about our city's rich history & where we are headed in the future.
- **Thurs, July 24, 6pm-7pm** at Buder Library. **Discover St. Louis: The Holocaust in the Heartland.** Helen Turner, director of education for the St. Louis Kaplan Feldman Holocaust Museum. Delve into the remarkable journey behind the reopening of the museum's doors.

For many of us, the membership renewal deadline is June 30th of each year. Newer members are on an "anniversary" schedule - your renewal is a year from the month you first joined AAUW. Look for a reminder e-mail from AAUW when it's time to renew. (We encourage self-renewal online.) The email will come from [infosf@aauw.org](mailto:infosf@aauw.org). Renewing now or early does *not* change your current expiration month. It will remain the same. National embedded a [video clip to help members with self-renewal](#). For those who prefer to send a check, please complete the renewal form (on the branch website) and mail it with your check to our finance officer, Carol Davis McDonald. Her address is on the form.

## Branch Items of Interest

Thank you to Dr. **Margaret Weck**, who has agreed to be our college-university contact with the University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy (formerly the Saint Louis College of Pharmacy). Now that she has retired after many years of teaching (and other duties as assigned) at the College of Pharmacy, we hope to see more of her in the coming months.



We hope you will attend the AAUW of Missouri annual state conference (see pages 1 and 2), when AAUW St. Louis' past president, the late Ellen Irons, will receive the Woman of Distinction Award. Outstanding Member awards will also be named.

The branch is still accepting donations in memory of Ellen, by check payable to AAUW St. Louis Branch with "in memory of Ellen Irons" on the memo line and mailed to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Ballwin, MO 63011-4215.

"Life is not easy for any of us. But what of that? We must have perseverance and above all confidence in ourselves. We must believe that we are gifted for something and that this thing must be attained."  
— Marie Curie



### Save the Date

Branch Annual Meeting  
Sunday, 6/1/25, 1:00 - 2:30 PM  
Rich & Charlie's, Crestwood  
Watch for invitation via email.  
Prospective-member guests  
are welcome!

## 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:

**April 28**—*The Six Triple Eight*, moderator, Vett Goods

Join Zoom Meeting: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAklCdAvoieBFFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1)

[pwd=aqAklCdAvoieBFFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAklCdAvoieBFFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1)

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369 Passcode: 168308

Request to join the email list? Submit to [dsheer63105@gmail.com](mailto:dsheer63105@gmail.com). Prospective-member guests are welcome!



elcome to the St. Louis Branch, Nancy!

Linda Lindsey's friend, **Nancy English**, has transferred her membership to our branch. Thanks for urging her, Linda. Nancy lives in Glendale and can be reached at 314-304-5863 or [nenglish@fontbonne.edu](mailto:nenglish@fontbonne.edu). She is a retired math professor from

Fontbonne University, but she volunteers at Fontbonne and at Pet Supplies Plus.

Nancy received a B.S. in Mathematics from the University of Oklahoma, an M.A. in Mathematics Education from the University of Missouri-Columbia, and a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from St. Louis University. Her birthday is coming up soon—May 2nd!



**Karen Francis**, AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield and past president, AAUW of Missouri, has been in contact with the YWCA, which supports victims/survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence, striving to provide a safe have and a path to surviving and thriving. Karen writes: “As a follow up from our February Legislative Briefing and part of my "job description"



as past president of working on collaboration opportunities, I recently was able to connect with the YWCA in St Louis. We discussed how we could collaborate. We specifically discussed their mission of empowering women and eliminating racism. I'm sharing some of the ways, we, as AAUW MO-St. Louis region, could support the YWCA. Of course, we would NOT be donating financially, but there are other ways we could collaborate, and I thought your branch might be interested. Please feel free to reach out about any questions you may have. My number is 314-223-4235.”

Listed below are areas of support: Volunteering with their SART; donating nonperishable food items (they recently received a kind donation to start their food pantry and are working on ways to sustain this for folks coming to their drop-in center, seeking safety, fleeing to shelters, etc.); gas cards for transportation (this is a large barrier for them); unrestricted funding (donation to provide hotel stays, emergency medical supplies/medication, etc. when fleeing); household items; toiletries; grocery gift cards.

## Women’s Crisis & Housing Services

- QT and Mobile gas cards
- Aldi, Schnucks gift cards
- Walmart, Target, Dollar General, Burlington, Ross gift cards
- Non-perishable food/canned food
- Cleaning supplies (dish detergent, glass cleaner, disinfectant, bleach, bathroom cleaner, etc.)
- Paper goods – toilet paper, paper towels, Kleenex
- Mattress (twin, full, queen or king)
- Window curtains
- Bed frames
- Baby cribs
- Bedding (twin, full, queen, or king)
- Bed pillows
- Towels, wash clothes, hand towels, and dry towels
- Bathmats
- Shower curtains
- Living room sets
- Dining room sets
- Dressers
- Dishes - plates, bowls, mugs
- Mops, brooms, and dust pans
- Utensils
- Drinking glasses
- Cutlery
- Pots and pans
- Blender
- Microwave
- Toaster
- Kitchen towels
- 13-gallon trash can
- Laundry soap
- Door and window chimes
- Adjustable door security bars
- Expanding accordion file organizers
- Toys (puzzles, art sets, Legos, coloring books, word puzzle books, board games, crayons/markers, crafts, trucks, hot wheels, remote control cars, etc.)

## 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, May 27, 2025. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

### Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

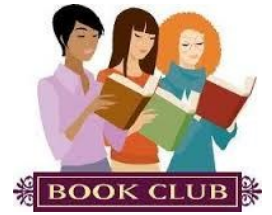
**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd, Ballwin, second Thursday, 9:00-11:30 a.m. April's speaker was Jamie Grandinetti, St Louis Art Museum director of exhibits, *Effective Strategies for Selecting and Organizing Museum Exhibits*. The annual spring luncheon will be held on May 8 at Marriott West Hotel.

**Ferguson-Florissant Branch**—Contact [Pam Meyers](#) for meeting information, 314-303-6661. The branch is planning their annual spring luncheon for May 17, catered by Panera. Guest speaker, Dr. Deb Gaut, a certified leadership and success coach.

**Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch**—The annual STEM meeting will be held on April 24 at Grant's View St. Louis County Library at 6 pm. Scholarships will be given to three high school seniors. Guest speaker will be Dr. Annie Valuska who has her PhD in animal behavior.

**Saint Charles Branch**—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. At their May 2nd meeting, local scholarships will be presented. The guest speaker will be Dr. Jane Biehl from Ohio, who is the sister of member Sue Moellering.

## 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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: [PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto: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:

**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.

**Oct 23** *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning*, by Liz Cheney, 384 pages, published 12-5-2023. Kay Meyer, facilitator. A gripping, first-hand account of the January 6th, 2021, insurrection from inside the halls of Congress.