



AAUW of Missouri

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

RE: News

AAUW promotes equity for all women and girls, lifelong education, and positive societal change.

February 2012

Kirkwood-Webster Groves AAUW Branch Officers 2011-2012

Kay Meyer
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President

Carol Davis McDonald
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VP Membership

Carol Davis McDonald
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VP Finance

Gloria Campion
Recording Secretary

Branch website:
<http://www.kwgaauwmo.org>

AAUW of Missouri website:
www.aauwmo.org

AAUW website:
www.aauw.org

E-mail newsletter items by 20th of month to maramperry@hotmail.com or mail to 646 Yeddo, Webster Groves, MO 63119

Thursday, February 9, 2012 Branch Meeting

*Location: Oak Bend Branch, St. Louis County Library
SE Corner of I-44 and Big Bend, 842 S. Holmes Ave
Social time and networking 6:30 p.m., Program 7:00 p.m.*

OUR PROGRAM: Legislative Update: What's the Latest in Jefferson City? What Can You Do? Guest Speaker: State Rep. Stacey Newman

Budget cuts that affect education. Voter ID. Bills making it more difficult to prove employment discrimination. These are some of the issues coming before the 96th Missouri General Assembly. Come to hear an update and participate in a discussion with Rep. Stacey Newman, who represents the 73rd House District, which covers Clayton, Richmond Heights, Maplewood, and parts of Ladue, Webster Groves, and Brentwood.

Rep. Newman was elected in a special election in November 2009. Before her service in the Missouri House, she was employed as a political consultant. She served as a founder and the executive director of Harriett's List, a statewide political action committee honoring the legacy of Harriett Woods, former Missouri Lt. Governor. Previously she served as the executive director of the Missouri Women's Coalition and the women's vote director for both the Missouri Democratic Party and Democratic National Committee. She also was employed as a flight crew member with Trans World Airlines from 1979 to 1992.

Rep. Newman has served on the board of directors of PROMO PAC, the statewide equality group; the Institute for Women's and Gender Studies, University of Missouri St. Louis; Missouri Progressive Vote Coalition; the National Women's Political Caucus of Metropolitan St. Louis; Central Reform Congregation and Congregation Temple Israel. She is a member of the National Women's Legislative Lobby. She received two undergraduate degrees in both fine arts and education from Emporia State University, Kansas. Rep. Newman taught speech and theatre at the American School in London, England, after graduation.

Rep. Newman, a Democrat, is chair of the House Progressive Caucus and serves on the Task Force on Prevention on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse in Children and the Attorney General's Domestic Violence Task Force, as well as a number of committees.

KWG PRESIDENT'S THOUGHTS FROM KAY MEYER

We had a wonderful meeting January thanks to Christine Nobbe who invited Kirkwood-Webster Groves AAUW to the New Horizons in Space Symposium at the Selvide Middle School in Ballwin. We viewed the student projects that were very creative in showing what the students thought living on a different planet might look like. The speaker was NASA Astronaut Lt. Col. Robert L. Behnken, PhD, USAF who grew up in the St. Louis area graduating from Pattonville Schools and Washington University.

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Lt Col. Behnken brought slides of his space mission aboard the space station and then answered questions from the students. After Lt. Col. Behnken the audience got to meet Lowell Grissom (Gus's brother), get autographs, view Moon rocks and visit with other aerospace experts.

Please note that we will not be having a branch meeting in March due to the Spring Fling. See information below for the details on how to register for the Spring Fling. Our next branch meeting will be on April 12.

AAUW INTERBRANCH COUNCIL'S SPRING FLING

Plan to attend AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council's Spring Fling and celebrate AAUW's many activities in the St. Louis area. The date is March 24th, and the place is Norwood Hills Country Club (carpooling available). Bev Schuetz, who has presented excellent programs for OASIS, will give us a lively, in-depth, and highly entertaining history of undergarments. Attending the Spring Fling will give you the opportunity to have a delicious lunch and to visit and network with members from the other five St. Louis area AAUW Branches. This will be the second year that a fundraiser will be held to raise money for IBC to fund various joint projects and contributions, such as the regional history contest awards, the IBC web site, meeting room rental, and the annual Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award. Ballwin-Chesterfield is responsible for planning this year's fundraiser. They are calling it an All-Dolled-Up Fundraiser of Amazing Accessories for Unique Women (AAUW) - buy a ticket and place your ticket(s) in the basket(s) of the item(s) that you want. Tickets are 1 for \$2 and 3 for \$5. There will be treasures for you to choose donated by each of the six branches.

DONATIONS NEEDED FOR THE IBC AAUW SPRING LUNCHEON

If you would like to donate an item for the KWG Branch donation for the Interbranch Council Spring Fling (see above), please bring it to the February 9th KWG meeting. Kay Meyer's sister Val has donated a beautiful handmade teal messenger bag that we need to fill with accessories like scarfs, belts, jewelery, hats or anything new that you would like to donate. If you are unable to make it to the branch meeting but would like to contribute to the raffle contact Lynne Roney 314-918-5156 lynneroney@sbcglobal.net or Kay Meyer kicmeyer@yahoo.com 314-962-7487.

2011-2012 KWG PROGRAMS

March 24 (Saturday): St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council Spring Fling luncheon, Norwood Hills Country Club.

April 12: Update on Health Care Legislation with guest speaker Judith Smart. Oak Bend Branch Library.

May 10: KWG Awards Banquet, Sunset 44 Restaurant, Kirkwood.

MEMBER NEWS:

Congratulations to Christine Nobbe for receiving the Peabody Logos Leaders in Education Award for the 2011-2012 school year. The award recognizes dedicated education professionals who inspire and motivate youth to succeed. Christine is a teacher at the Center for Creative Learning in the Rockwood school district.

Congratulations and thank you to all of you who purchased items from Plowsharing Crafts at the December get together. We received a check for \$161.49 for our share of the profits that evening.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 22 Diane Ludwig

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

It is time to ask interested KWG members to fill the elected positions of Membership Vice President and Recording Secretary. Carol Davis McDonald has agreed to continue as the branch Finance Officer for two more years. Thank you Carol!!! If you would to become more involved in running the KWG branch call Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or Phyllis Foster 314-822-2282.

AAUW CUBA TRIP SPEAKER TO REVIEW HER NOVEL

Author and educator Debra Brenegan will be in St. Louis Saturday February 18 to talk about her book *Shame the Devil*. Ms. Brenegan was one of our guest speakers on the AAUW Cuba experience in September. The KWG AAUW Branch received a signed copy of Shame the Devil as a gift from Jane Robert a KWG member who also spoke in September about the AAUW Cuba trip. If you are interested in hearing Debra Brenegan discuss her book, she will be at the Kirkwood Public Library Lower Level Meeting Room at 11:30 am. To make a reservation for the talk and a box lunch go to <http://kirkwoodpubliclibrary.org/content-upload/brenegan>. If anyone would like to read *Shame the Devil* contact Kay Meyer kicmeyer@yahoo.com or call 314-962-7487.

AAUW ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

Where: Barnes & Noble, Chesterfield Oaks shopping center, 1600 Clarkson Rd.

When: 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

Contact: Teri Brecht, tebrecht@yahoo.com, or Lynne Roney, lynneroney@sbcglobal.net or 314-727-7175. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

Upcoming books:

February 23: Reviewer: Julie Triplett. **Wench**, by Dolen Perkins-Valdez. Situated in Ohio, a free territory, before the Civil War, Tawawa House is in an idyllic retreat for Southern white men who vacation there every summer with their enslaved black mistresses. Lizzie, Reenie, and Sweet are regulars at the resort, building strong friendships over the years; but when Mawu, as fearless as she is assured, comes along and starts talking of running away, things change.

March 22: Reviewer: Lynne Roney. **Extraordinary, Ordinary People: A Memoir of Family**, by Condoleezza Rice.

April 26: **Handle with Care**, by Jodi Picoult.

May 24: Reviewer: Lorna Anderson. **Gardens of Water**, by Alan Drew.

HELP WANTED

We are looking for someone who would be interested in creating a scrapbook to chronicle the KWG AAUW Branch activities for 2011-2012. We have scrapbooks from our first 40 years as an active AAUW Branch so it is time to start a new book to hold our present pictures of members and events. If anyone would like to become the branch "Keeper of Memories " contact Kay Meyer.

AAUW DOWNTOWN LUNCH

Third Tuesday of the month at 11:45am

- Feb. 21 Maya Cafe (in Maplewood)
2726 Sutton Blvd.
- Mar. 20 Guido's (on The Hill)
5046 Shaw Ave.
- Apr. 17 The Piccadilly (at Manhattan
in S. St. Louis) 7201 Piccadilly Ave.

Please call Jean Shull (314-822-7821) or jshull2@mindspring.com for reservations

EVENING BOOK GROUP

The Kirkwood Webster Groves AAUW Evening Book Group meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm at the St. Louis Bread Company in the Greentree Shopping Center located at the corner of Woodbine and Manchester Road unless otherwise indicated. You are welcome to come at 6:30 and enjoy dinner before the meeting starts. Friends, family and guests are always welcome to join the group discussion. Contacts: Barbara Johnson 314-962-3501 or Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 kicmeyer@yahoo.com

February 20, 2012 **Major Pettigrew's Last Stand** by Helen Simonson Meet at St. Louis Bread Company

March 19, 2012 **Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation** by Cokie Roberts
Meet at Maurita Stueck's house 7 pm

April 16, 2012 **Half The Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity For Women Worldwide** by Nicholas D. Kristof & Sheryl WuDunn Meet at St. Louis Bread Company

May 22, 2012 KWG Evening Book Group planning meeting at Marsha Koch's house 6:30 pm

The KWG AAUW Evening Book Group is now registered with **Left Bank Books**. Left Bank Books will carry and sell the KWG book group selections at a discount to AAUW members. They have a location in the Central West End, 399 N. Euclid, 63108 or Downtown, 321 N.10th Street, 63101. You can also order books on line at www.left-bank.com.

MISSOURI AAUW CONVENTION

in Columbia May 5, 2012

Last year the KWG AAUW Branch gave \$50 to help pay a first time KWG branch member to attend the AAUW of Missouri State Convention. Nancy Hutchins attended last year and enjoyed the experience. It is an opportunity to meet AAUW members in other branches and to see what Missouri AAUW is doing with your \$10 dues. The Convention will be in Columbia, MO, May 4th and 5th at the Marriott Courtyard. May 4 will be a "Get Out the Vote" workshop given by AAUW Public Policy. If you would like to attend the meeting, contact Carol Davis McDonald 314-227-0511 or davis-mcdonald@juno.com.

DO YOU KNOW A COLLEGE WOMAN?

If so, let her know that May 31-June 2, University of Maryland, College Park, is the next NCCWSL conference (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders). This has proven to be a very rewarding and valuable program co-sponsored by AAUW. Noorjahan Akbar will be a Women of Distinction awardee, and Lilly Ledbetter will be the keynote speaker. NCCWSL workshop proposals are being accepted through February 10, 2012, so please spread the word to potential presenters in your networks. Visit www.nccwsl.org

CROSSING THE LINE: SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT SCHOOL

Help AAUW Spread the Word about Our Latest Research Report! Crossing the Line: Sexual Harassment at School, AAUW's new research report on sexual harassment in middle and high schools, which was released online in November, has gotten significant media attention from a number of outlets, including the Associated Press and the New York Times. This report, the first of its kind in 10 years, provides valuable information for all of us who are concerned about the next generation. Parents, teachers, administrators, policy makers, and, most of all, students need this report to shed light on the issue of sexual harassment in schools. AAUW is ready to amplify the conversation and give people the facts and best practices they need to work toward a solution. AAUW needs us to get involved in the discussion while also taking advantage of the opportunity to show our communities what AAUW is all about. This report is an outstanding chance to work with local PTAs/PTOs, school districts, Girl and Boy Scout troops, the YWCA, and the YMCA. If you can, contact a nearby school to find out if there is a Title IX coordinator and if that person's name is publicized. Ask how many sexual harassment complaints have been filed recently and share a copy of the report. Hard copies are available from ShopAAUW (www.aauw.org) or the PDF version can be printed. A PowerPoint presentation can be downloaded (www.aauw.org/learn/research/crossingtheline.cfm); it comes with a script and has everything needed to make a presentation. Crossing the Line will have an impact only if people read and use it. Please ensure that educators, parents, and students have copies of the report.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

The 2012 AAUW Art Contest is already underway, and there is still time to submit your art or photography! The AAUW Art Contest is a showcase of the artistic talents of AAUW members. The contest is open exclusively to AAUW members who may submit their original artwork January 4 through January 31, 2012. Previous non-winning entries from past years can be re-submitted for this year's contest! The six winning entries will be displayed on the 2012 AAUW note cards to be mailed to tens-of-thousands of AAUW members across the country this spring. AAUW members will select three of the six winning designs that appear on the note cards by voting online once a week for their favorites. Past winning artists will serve as judges to select the other three winning entries.

LAF CASE UPDATE

During the first week of January, lawyer Susan Burke filed an appeal for the LAF-supported case *Cioca v. Rumsfeld*. The plaintiffs in the case are 28 current and former members of the military who allege that they were raped by co-workers and that the defense secretary's failure to act on the issue of sexual assault in the military amounts to a violation of their constitutional rights. On December 13, a U.S. district court judge granted the Department of Defense's motion to dismiss the case. Oral arguments will be held in the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in the coming months.

Burke spoke to the LAF committee on January 6 to discuss the importance of the case. She believes the institutional changes needed in the military are unlikely to be won on the courts, so she plans to keep the case in the legal system as long as possible to create a lot of media attention and hopes to inspire public pressure for legislation that can stipulate those necessary institutional changes.

Burke and several of the plaintiffs from the Cioca case are featured in *The Invisible War*, a new documentary about sexual assault in the military that was to premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in Utah on January 20. The filmmakers are working with Burke to create a petition related to the issue that also was to be released that day. AAUW will be posting a program opportunity on the national website on how AAUW members can help bring attention to the case and to the issue. Community efforts will be essential to bring about change.

PUBLIC POLICY

Mark your calendar for April 17th for Pay Equity Day in Jefferson City. We are going to have a two tier approach. State legislators and federal legislators will be contacted simultaneously with our marketing plan. More info to follow. *Crossing the line-Sexual Harassment at School* is available from AAUW. It's free, but shipping is approximately \$5.75.

Many of our members are educators - current or retired. The Public School Retirement System (PSRS) of Missouri is contributed to by all personnel that are certified to teach and are working in public schools in Missouri except in the cities of St. Louis and Kansas City. Such employees are exempt from contributing to the Social Security System while engaged in such employment.

If these employees engage in employment outside of the school district, they contribute to the Social System a certain percentage of their income in such outside employment. Many teachers who contribute to the PSRS also work outside jobs and also contribute to Social Security. One would think, upon retirement, that the teacher would receive a pension from PSRS in an amount reflected by the number of years in the system and would also receive a pension from Social Security in an amount reflected by the number of years in that system.

However, if a teacher has been in the PSRS for over five years, and upon retirement receives full retirement benefit from the system, that teacher WILL NOT receive the full Social Security pension amount that he or she is entitled to, but instead, a reduced amount. This is because a federal law was passed in the 1980's called the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that reduces the Social Security pension to those employees who also receive a full PSRS pension. Is this fair? Of course not.

In addition, a widow (or widower) who is receiving a PSRS pension is NOT eligible for the full widow's (widower's) benefit from the deceased spouse's Social Security that would normally be paid to the widow or widower. This is a restriction called the Government Pension Offset or GPO.

The NEA and the NEA-Retired have been lobbying for several years for the repeal of the unfair WEP and GPO provisions. Missouri is one of 15 states whose educators are impacted by these provisions. Just prior to congressional adjournment, Senators John Kerry

(D-MA) and Susan Collins (R-ME) introduced the Senate version of the Social Security Fairness Act (S 2010) which would repeal the unfair GPO and WEP. The bill is a companion to the House version (HR 1332) introduced earlier last year by Representatives McKeon (R-CA) and Berman (D-CA). Please urge Senators Blunt and McCaskill to cosponsor the bill. This information was provided by MNEA-Retired.

SAVE THE DATE!
WOMEN'S LOBBY DAY FOR APRIL 17
IN JC—HOUSE HEARING ROOM 2

FROM THE AAUW ACTION NETWORK

Your voice was heard! You helped protect women's access to contraceptive services!

After reviewing more than 200,000 comments from the public – many of them from AAUW Action Network members like you! – the Obama administration [announced](#) earlier today that almost all employers will have to include coverage for women's preventive health services, including contraceptive services, starting in August 2012. This is a victory for women's health, and would not have happened without our raising our collective and persuasive voice.

AAUW applauds the administration for releasing this rule, and is relieved the administration worked to protect women's rights to access preventive care including contraceptive services. This decision means that women's preventive services will be covered without co-pay or cost-sharing. As the Institute of Medicine put it when proposing what should be covered, "Positioning preventive care as the foundation of the U.S. health care system is critical to ensuring Americans' health and well-being. Women particularly stand to benefit from additional preventive health services." AAUW couldn't agree more.

SUPREME COURT DECLINES TO HEAR TITLE IX CASE.

In early January, the U.S. Supreme Court declined to hear a case challenging the Department of Education's test for compliance with Title IX. The case, *Equity in Athletics Inc. v. Department of Education*, argued that the elimination of several men's sports teams at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, was unconstitutional. LAF filed a brief supporting the Department of Education and the compliance test, which requires schools to show that they have met one of three tests to comply with Title IX. The court's decision means that the school's move to eliminate the teams will stand.

KEEP THE DATE OPEN

The Five State AAUW Regional Conference "AAUW: Stepping Up to the Future" will be held in Okalahoma City, OK June 8-9, 2012 at the Embassy Suites.

The next KWG board meeting will be Monday March 5, at 7:15 at Phyllis Foster's home 425 W. Woodbine, Kirkwood, MO 63122.

IBC meeting Tuesday,February 28 at 7pm at the Thornhill County Library. Dinner before the meeting 5:00 pm at Houlihan's. Call Kay Meyer 314-962-7487. Meetings are open to any branch member who would like to attend.

LISA MAATZ SHARES "CHICK HISTORY"

AAUW's Director of Public Policy and Government Relations Lisa Maatz created Chick History, <http://www.chickhistory.com/> a blog dedicated to finding new and interesting ways to highlight women's contributions to history, will this year tell the stories of 52 historical women through the voices of contemporary women.

NEARLY HALF OF U.S. POPULATION LIVES IN HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Census data reveal that in the second quarter of 2010 approximately 48.6% of the national population lived in a household that received some form of government benefit. Since the start of the recession in 2007, more Americans than ever are seeking outside assistance through unemployment benefits, subsidized housing, Social Security disability, or the food stamp program (SNAP). Means-tested programs were the largest source of benefits to families; in the second quarter 34.4% lived in a household benefitting from food stamps, subsidized housing, Medicaid, or other programs. AAUW promotes the economic, social and physical well-being of all persons. Essential to that well-being are an economy that provides equitable employment opportunities, a reduction of poverty, and a livable wage.

KIRKWOOD-WEBSTER GROVES BRANCH

AAUW EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION
NAMED GIFT HONOREE FORM

Name of Nominee _____ Date _____

Person making nomination _____ Phone _____

Describe the Nominee's contributions to AAUW, the Educational Foundation the Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW leadership, the advancement of women the promotion of educational equity, service to AAUW or outstanding community service.

Return by February 29, to Phyllis Foster - pl.foster@live.com

AAUW St. Louis Interbranch Council
2012 IBC Spring Fling

Saturday, March 24, 2012
11:30 AM - 2:15 PM

LOCATION

Norwood Hills Country Club

(I-70 and Lucas & Hunt Road, one mile north on west side of street.
Near UMSL in North County 314-521-0682). Ample free parking.

PROGRAM

The History of Undergarments

Beverly Schuetz

Be amazed and amused by this in-depth look at how undergarments reflect the times and shape our lives. Beverly gives a lively and entertaining spin to this seldom discussed topic!

Cost: \$25.00 each; Guests welcome

AGENDA

11:30 AM Registration, Ticket Raffle, Tour Sign-up, Social Time, Cash Bar
12:15 PM Welcome, Luncheon and Awards Presentations

FUNDRAISER

Ticket Raffle - Amazing Accessories for Unique Women (AAUW)

See the treasures presented by each branch; buy lots of tickets, place tickets in basket by item(s) you want; drawings will determine winners! Donation: \$2 each, 3/\$5

Tour Sign-up - Old Stone Meeting House (built 1834; old Des Peres Presbyterian Church on Geyer);

Sign up for a guided historical tour by Dr. Ronald Scott of this unique property.

Tour will take place later in the spring. Cost \$10 person

Menu: Grilled Chicken Forestiere with Steamed Mushrooms, Caesar Salad, Roasted New Potatoes, Vegetable Medley, Gold Brick Sundae, Coffee Tea, Rolls. Note: Special diets accomodated; requires one week's prior notification.

Mail the registration form with your check (payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC) to:

Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215.

Questions? Contact Carol at davis-mcdonald@juno.com or 636-227-0511.

-----Please detach, send form and check; keep top half for reference -----

2012 IBC Spring Fling Registration Form

Deadline: Tuesday, March 15, 2012

Name (please print) Branch

Street Address City Zip

E-Mail Home Phone Cell Phone

___ Special meal(s) requested ___ Check enclosed for ___ persons at \$25.00 each; total \$ ___
(requires one week's notice)

Please list additional names on back and indicate if guest or AAUW member (identify branch).

UPCOMING DATES: Put these on your calendar and make plans to attend!

- February 13: International Relations Lecture Series, 10:45 a.m., Ethical Society, lower level. Program: "Arab Spring- contributing factors/ possible outcomes"
- February 20: Evening Book Group - St. Louis Bread Co., Manchester at Woodlawn, 7:00 p.m.
- February 21: Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 a.m.
- February 23: Adelante Book Group, 1:30 p.m., Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, Wench, by Dolen Perkins-Valdez
- February 28: AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council Meeting, Thornhill Branch Library, 7 p.m.
- March 14: International Relations Lecture Series, 10:45 a.m., Ethical Society, lower level. Program: "Privatization of Space"
- March 19: Evening Book Group - St. Louis Bread Co., Manchester at Woodlawn, 7:00 p.m.
- March 20: Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 a.m.
- March 22: Adelante Book Group, 1:30 p.m., Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center, Handle with Care
- March 24: AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC Spring Fling, Norwood Hills Country Club, 11:30 a.m.
- April 10: International Relations Lecture Series, 10:45 a.m., Ethical Society, lower level. Program: "European Immigration - Impact on Societal and Political Issues"
- April 12: Branch Meeting - Oak Bend Branch Library, 6:30 p.m. Business meeting and Judith Parker on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act
- April 16: Evening Book Group - St. Louis Bread Co., Manchester at Woodlawn, 7:00 p.m.
- April 17: Downtown Lunch Group, 11:45 a.m.
- April 26: Adelante Book Group, 1:30 p.m., Chesterfield Oaks Shopping Center
- May 4-5: State board meeting and annual member conference, Marriott Courtyard, Columbia
- May 10: Annual May banquet and awards evening at Sunset 44 in Kirkwood
- May 31-June 2: 2012 National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL), U MD, College Park
- June 8-9: Five-States Conference, Embassy Suites, Oklahoma City, OK, with Linda Hallman, AAUW executive director; Patricia Ho, national vice president; Dr. Catherine Hill, AAUW research director; Turkish coffee ceremony, optional river cruise, and film showing of Miss Representation



Promoting education and equity for women and girls