

"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.

The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch of AAUW supports the full range of the AAUW mission through its monthly program meetings, special interest groups, and public outreach events, by engaging in political action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and by supporting area young women and girls directly. We are one of five branches in the St. Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

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National: www.aauw.org

Facebook: AAUWKWG

Click [here](#) to join our FB group

No meeting has been scheduled for February. In lieu of a March meeting, see page 3.

**AAUW ST. LOUIS METRO INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)
PRESENTS**

"ZOOM TO SPRING FLING"

SATURDAY, MARCH 13 - 10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

ZOOM MEETING LINK WILL BE SENT.

ATTENDING THE MEETING IS FREE.

GUESTS ARE WELCOME.



Join your AAUW friends from throughout the St. Louis area at the "Zoom to Spring Fling" event—and you don't have to get (fully) dressed and drive someplace. The program will include speakers; and we belatedly, thanks to Covid-19, will honor **Mary Jermak**, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch (pictured at right) as the Metro St.

Louis Interbranch Council Barbara Lackritz Service Award honoree for 2020.

"Zooming to the Classroom," by presenters **Jeanine York Garesche** and **Daniel Shavers**, shares how two different teachers were able to find ways to teach music virtually, using compassion and encouragement to inspire their students. Jeanine York Garesche, a clarinetist, is known throughout the Midwest as a private instructor, chamber music coach, and clinician. Her students have won top honors at Missouri district and state competitions and honor bands. She also serves on the faculties of the UMSL and Webster University. Daniel Shavers currently is a band director at Brittany Woods Middle School and has been teaching instrumental music in the University City School District since 2001. Daniel regularly adjudicates at events including Missouri All-State Auditions and several area concerto competitions. In addition, he has been the coordinator of the Florence Frager Young Artist Concerto Competition for the St. Louis Civic Orchestra for the past twelve years. He is an active freelance musician on both the bassoon and contrabassoon and performs regularly with a number of ensembles in the St. Louis area.



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Jeannie says ...

In Case You Missed It



For our December meeting, **Kay Meyer** arranged for several Branch members to tour the Missouri History Museum exhibit on the Suffrage movement. Titled "Beyond the Ballot – St. Louis and Suffrage," the exhibit also highlights interesting and groundbreaking women of early St. Louis. **Outside the exhibit room was one of the signs that our branch**

did as a project to celebrate 100 years of the right to vote. The exhibit will be at the Museum until March 20, 2022. The museum, which is located on Lindell Boulevard in Forest Park, requires advance tickets. For information call 314.746.4599.

(continued from page 1)

Our fundraiser this year is a raffle for **one of six gift cards.** Celebrate Spring 2021 as a winner of an AAUW "leaf" from the "Spring Fling Tree." Six winning names will be drawn at the 2021 Zoom Spring Fling meeting on March 13. Each leaf will contain gift card(s) with a value of \$50. Tickets are available in lots of three. Fill in the form (attached) for Spring Fling indicating number of chances. Then mail the money (checks made payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC) and the form to **Carol Davis McDonald**, IBC treasurer, by March 8. The drawing for the leaf winners will be held at the meeting. You need not attend the meeting to be a winner. Gift cards will be sent in the mail the following week.

Although the event is free, we are encouraging members to give donations regardless of whether or not they enter the raffle. The suggested amount is \$20 if possible, but any amount is appreciated. This is the only fundraiser for IBC this year— please be generous!

Registration is now open and the Flyer can be found at the end of this newsletter.

- 10:15 a.m. Check-in, Socialize, Network
- 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 10:45 a.m. Barb Lackritz Award – Mary Jermak
- 11:15 a.m. Program Speaker (to be announced)
- 11:45 a.m. Drawing of Six Gift Card Tree Raffle Winners, Other Announcements

AAUW Art Contest

From St Charles AAUW Artist **Joyce Rothermich**:

"Just a note to let everyone know that I did submit two paintings to the AAUW Art contest this year. They are both flowers. One is called *Morning Rain* with lilies with raindrops. The other is called *Best of Show*. It is pink orchids. I would appreciate your vote. Thanks."



Ballwin-Chesterfield is pleased to announce that artworks from **Susan Fenwick** and **Pickett Lema** are entered in the AAUW annual art contest: Susan's photographs are *Flying Jewels of the Natural World* and *Mad About Orchids*, and Pickett's water paintings are *White Camellia Blooms* and *Lessons Learned*. Look for (and vote for!) Susan's and Pickett's entries and enjoy the submissions of all the talented and creative artists.

Members may VOTE ONE TIME for their favorite 10 images. Six winning entries will appear on note cards that are mailed to tens of thousands of AAUW members across the country. More information is available at Art Contest – AAUW : Empowering Women Since 1881.

AAUW Art Contest Voting is February 10 to March 3

BRANCH MEMBER NEWS

Best wishes for continued improvement in health for **Nancy Hutchins**. She was in the hospital with a case of Covid-19.

Kay Meyer is now an "Uber driver" for husband Bruce to get to work during his busy tax season. Quick recovery wishes for Bruce, who broke his patella in half.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it!

AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2021!

Kansas City, Kansas, Public Library

Virtual Author Talk: Isabel Wilkerson

February 18, 2021, Thursday - 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Isabel Wilkerson, author of the Oprah Book Club pick and New York Times #1 bestselling book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* will join us via Zoom. The event will include a keynote address from Ms. Wilkerson followed by a moderated question and answer session. Zoom information will be emailed to all registrants. Please add events@kckpl.org to your safe list and make sure you use a current email to register. Go to this site to get on the wait list: <https://kckpl.librarymarket.com/events/isabel-wilkerson>

In this brilliant book, Isabel Wilkerson gives us a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores, through an immersive, deeply researched narrative and stories about real people, how America today and throughout its history has been shaped by a hidden caste system, a rigid hierarchy of human rankings.

Beyond race, class, or other factors, there is a powerful caste system that influences people's lives and behavior and the nation's fate. Linking the caste systems of America, India, and Nazi Germany, Wilkerson explores eight pillars that underlie caste systems across civilizations, including divine will, bloodlines, stigma, and more. Using riveting stories about people—including Martin Luther King, Jr., baseball's Satchel Paige, a single father and his toddler son, Wilkerson herself, and many others—she shows the ways that the insidious undertow of caste is experienced every day. She documents how the Nazis studied the racial systems in America to plan their out-cast of the Jews; she discusses why the cruel logic of caste requires that there be a bottom rung for those in the middle to measure themselves against; she writes about the surprising health costs of caste, in depression and life expectancy, and the effects of this hierarchy on our culture and politics. Finally, she points forward to ways America can move beyond the artificial and destructive separations of human divisions, toward hope in our common humanity.

Beautifully written, original, and revealing, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* is an eye-opening story of people and history, and a reexamination of what lies under the surface of ordinary lives and of American life today.

Wilkerson won the Pulitzer Prize for her work as Chicago Bureau Chief of *The New York Times* in 1994, making her the first Black woman in the history of American journalism to win a Pulitzer Prize and the first African-American to win for individual reporting in the history of American journalism.

She has lectured on narrative nonfiction at the Nieman Foundation at Harvard University and has taught at Princeton, Emory and Boston universities. She has lectured at more than 200 other colleges and universities across the United States, Europe and in Asia. Her work has garnered seven honorary degrees, most recently from Bates College and Southern Methodist University. She has appeared on national programs such as CBS's 60 Minutes, NPR's Fresh Air, NBC's Nightly News, MSNBC, CNN, C-SPAN, and others.

In conferring Wilkerson the 2015 National Humanities Medal, the National Endowment for the Humanities honored her "for championing the stories of an unsung history. Her masterful combination of intimate human narratives with broader societal trends allows us to measure the epic migration of a people by its vast impact on our Nation and on each individual life."

"In our era, it is not enough to be tolerant. You tolerate mosquitoes in the summer, a rattle in an engine, the gray slush that collects at the crosswalk in winter. You tolerate what you would rather not have to deal with and wish would go away. It is no honor to be tolerated. Every spiritual tradition says love your neighbor as yourself, not tolerate them."

— Isabel Wilkerson, [*Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*](#)

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

IBC consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches (Ballwin-Chesterfield, Ferguson-Florissant, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles, and St. Louis). The following officers from each branch are members of IBC:

- President
- Program vice president
- Membership vice president
- A member-at-large.

All AAUW members are invited to attend meetings (quarterly, fourth Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) and participate in IBC activities. The next IBC meeting will be Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m., via Zoom. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. Contact one of the above branch officers for the log-on code.

IBC BOOK GROUP - Operation Equity: Reading For Results

This group, started in 1996 as a component of AAUW's diversity outreach program, meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives. AAUW members from all St. Louis area branches are welcome.

This group is on hold. More information will follow at a later date.

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

Monthly meetings are being held via the Zoom™ virtual meeting platform as long as they are unable to safely gather. If you would like to attend their meeting on Zoom™, contact us for the meeting ID and password. The February speaker is **Shawntelle L. Fisher**, founder and CEO of SoulFisher Ministries, on "Life After Lock-Up: The Reality of Re-Entry."

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

They are meeting via Zoom, next meeting on February 15 at 7 PM. The topic is "What is it Like to Teach Music in the Time of Covid?" by two music educators.

St. Louis Branch:

The branch will hold a meeting in February via Zoom. The movie group has been meeting on Zoom as well. The last movie was *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*. They will discuss *The Dig* (Netflix) on February 27th, 7 PM.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

Patricia Burroughs-Bishop

(Kirkwood-Webster, Ballwin-Chesterfield), coordinator of the International Relations Lecture Series for 2022, announced the following lectures, which are being recorded for post-meeting viewing:



February 9 **Pros & Cons of Reparations for Historical Injustices** (via Zoom)

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Graves, UMSL
Department of Political Science

Dr. Stephen Graves serves as the director of undergraduate studies for the Department of Black Studies. He specializes in Black politics, political theory, and American government. His research focuses on Black political ideologies, social movements and the intersection of racism, and American political thought. Dr. Graves is the author of *A Crisis of Leadership and the Role of Citizens in Black America: Leaders of the News School*, a theoretical examination of the concepts of the citizen, citizenship, and leadership. To join the meeting, use the one-click: <https://zoom.us/j/3844225785>. The Zoom meeting I.D. is 384 422 5785.

March 9 Artificial Intelligence & Data Security Speaker: Dr. Anshuman Singh, UMSL Department of Information Technology

April 13 Historical Heritage & Racist Monuments Speaker: Dr. Akiko Tsuchiya, Wash U Department of Romance Languages & Literatures

From Carol Davis McDonald, Finance Vice President

Dues will go up \$3 for fiscal year 2021-2022

As you may recall, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in October to increase the individual member dues for the next three years. Starting in March, the amounts will be \$62 national (previous \$59 plus the \$3 increase), \$10 for AAUW MO, and \$15 for Kirkwood-Webster Groves. Dues for 2021-22 will total \$87, which is \$3 more than last year. AAUW Board President Julie Brown notified members of the dues increase in the Notice of Dues Adjustment, October 30, 2020.

Programs of Interest

Marsha Koch's Notes from Shima Rostami's Human Trafficking Talk for NCJWSTL's Lunch 'n Learn Program

- Report suspected trafficking to your local police or humantrafficking@stlouisco.com.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihFuB4hLQw>
- Capitol switchboard: 202-224-3121 to urge Congress to pass the proposed American Rescue Plan
- COVID-19 and human trafficking: #1 <https://www.gatewayhumantrafficking.org/post/the-silence-of-the-most-innocent-victims-how-the-covid-19-pandemic-has-affected-on-human-trafficking>
- #2 <https://www.gatewayhumantrafficking.org/post/human-trafficking-in-transition-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

More Interesting Programs, sent by Marsha

St. Louis County Library, Kansas City Library, and St. Louis City Library have some excellent recorded sessions with authors.

- This one looked interesting. <https://hecmedia.org/posts/groundbreakers-rule-breakers-rebels-50-unstoppable-st-louis-women>
- The talk by the author Isabel Wilkerson on her book, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontent*, Kansas City Library (see page 3) <https://kckpl.librarymarket.com/events/isabel-wilkerson>
- Book Discussion: *The Last Children of Mill Creek*, with the author, Feb 19, 11-Noon, <https://lpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fe0f77c04332e45003e17b5>

There is a 4-part series of Zoom sessions on race in our region beginning February 10. It has great sponsors.

THE GREAT DIVIDE: RACE IN OUR REGION

Join the interfaith community for monthly conversations on ways systemic racism permeates our city and region. We will learn background from topic experts, hear stories of people directly impacted and learn ways we can take action.

Each Zoom session begins at noon and will last an hour. All are welcome to stay for 30 minutes after for Q&A and discussion.

Registration is required:
www.jcrcstl.org/news/greatdivide.html

FEBRUARY 10TH	ECONOMIC EQUITY
MARCH 10TH	HEALTHCARE
APRIL 14TH	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE
MAY 12TH	COURT SYSTEM



The Great Divide: Race in Our Region

1) Economic Inequities

February 10 @ 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Join the interfaith community for four conversations on the ways systemic racism permeates our city and region. We will learn background from topic experts, hear stories of people directly impacted and learn two ways we can take action.

Each session begins at noon and will last an hour. All are welcome to stay for 30 minutes after for Q&A and discussion.

The first session of the series, on Feb. 10, will explore economic inequities.



When *she* thrives,
we thrive!

Ready to get more
involved in our mis-
sion to advance wom-
en?

Rung is looking for volunteers to support their partners at [Rung for Women](#) and their social capital programs. Women (and men!) at any level of employment are invited to share their expertise and experiences with Rung members who need your support.

Rung empowers women to grow and achieve sustained independence through co-located and coordinated educational, professional, and economic resources. The Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis is a proud co-designer of the Rung program.

Volunteer opportunities include:

- supporting women 1-on-1 through mentorship,
- participating in networking or career exploration events,
- hosting educational workshops on useful career growth skills, and
- facilitating supportive discussions for women within specific career paths.

[See full descriptions of each role here.](#)

Learn more by emailing sarah.hines@wfstl.org or by signing up for a Rung for Women **tour + info session**, hosted by the Women's Foundation of Greater St. Louis! Tours are available on the following dates and require pre-registration.* Click your preferred date to sign up:

- [January 22, 9:00-10:00 am](#)
- [February 19, 9:00-10:00 am](#)
- [March 19, 9:00-10:00 am](#)
- Virtual tours + info sessions are coming soon!

*Space is limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Face masks and a pre-event COVID-19 screening are required.

**COMPLETE A VOLUNTEER INTEREST FORM
TO GET STARTED**

CALENDAR

2021

Feb	Black History Month
Feb 9	International Relations lecture, Pros & Cons of Reparations for Historical Injustice, 10:45 am
Feb 23	IBC meeting via Zoom, 7 pm
Feb 24	KWG board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm
Mar	Women's History Month
Mar 9	International Relations lecture, Artificial Intelligence & Data/Ethics & Regulation
Mar 13	IBC Spring Fling, 10:30 - 12:00
Mar 24	KWG board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm
Apr 3	AAUW MO board meeting
Apr 13	International Relations lecture, Historical Heritage & Racist Art, 10:45 am
Apr 15	KWG Branch meeting
Apr 28	KWG board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm
May 1	AAUW MO annual state meeting
May 20	Branch STEM Award program
May 26	Branch board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm
June	Branch end-of-year celebration, TBD

"If you are successful, it is because somewhere, sometime, someone gave you a life or an idea that started you in the right direction. Remember also that you are indebted to life until you help some less fortunate person, just as you were helped."

– Melinda Gates

*Share your news! Send articles for the newsletter
to Carol Davis McDonald*

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