

"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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K-WG: <http://kwg-mo.aauw.net>

IBC: <http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

State: www.aauw-mo.aauw.net

National: www.aauw.org

Facebook: AAUWKWG

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

Reminder

Join Zoom Meeting [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09)

[pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkF1R1JDZz09)

Meeting ID: 890 5234 8577, Passcode: 644386, By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

AAUW ST. LOUIS METRO INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC) PRESENTS

"ZOOM TO SPRING FLING"

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

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. (continued on next page)



Jeannie says ...

We are learning how to use ZOOM for our branch and board meetings. Here are some **Tips for Meeting Attendees:**

- ◆ Mute your microphone. To help keep background noise to a minimum, make sure you mute your microphone when you are not speaking.
- ◆ Be mindful of background noise. When your microphone is *not* muted, avoid activities that could create additional noise, such as shuffling papers.
- ◆ Check your computer or phone to see where the eye of your camera is. Position your camera properly. If you choose to use a web camera, be sure it is in a stable position and focused at eye level, if possible. Doing so helps create a more direct sense of engagement with other participants.
- ◆ Remember, at many meetings you can choose not to use the video if you aren't dressed, etc.
- ◆ Limit distractions. You can make it easier to focus on the meeting by turning off notifications, closing or minimizing running apps, and muting your smartphone. If possible, find a place away from other people who are not participating.
- ◆ Avoid multi-tasking. You'll retain the discussion better if you refrain from replying to emails or text messages during the meeting and wait to work on that PowerPoint presentation until after the meeting ends.
- ◆ Prepare materials in advance. If you will be sharing content during the meeting, make sure you have the files and/or links ready to go before the meeting begins.

ZOOM meetings can be stressful for many reasons. Hearing is sometimes difficult, as people's sound output varies; and there may be lag time. It is more difficult to communicate because we rely so much on reading people's faces and body language. Positive feedback is harder to give or receive. And we get tired of looking at our own faces on the screen. We find that by trying to stay in front of the screen we can become stiff from reduced mobility. Research has shown that cognitive load is more stressful at a zoom meeting than in person.

For all their difficulties, Zoom meetings have allowed people to meet easily from around our area, the State of Missouri or even around the world.

ZOOM has many features to help reduce stress: Reactions, chat, raise hand, polls, and break-out rooms. We can look at these later. One thing we can do at our board meetings is have a short break about midway through.

As we learn how to be better ZOOM hosts and participants, we can learn how to use ZOOM to do even more things.

(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

International Women's Day—March 8th



F.Y.I.

To view past AAUW webinars, go to aauw.org, click on the search button (the magnifying glass), type in "webinars" in the search textbox, and press the Enter key. All saved webinars will be listed with descriptions. Click on the one you want to view.

Another way to find AAUW webinars and videos, is to go the youtube.org, click on the search button, type in "AAUW" in the search textbox, and press the Enter key.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS FOR APRIL 6 GENERAL ELECTION



Absentee Ballot Applications are available on the St. Louis County Board of Election Commissioners' website for the April General Election.

Ballots may be requested for the same reasons as in the November 2020 election including: *Incapacity or confinement due to illness or physical disability, including caring for a person who is incapacitated or confined due to illness or disability (no notary required)*

The application must be received by 5:00 p.m. on March 24, 2021 at the St. Louis County Board of Elections.

The application may be submitted by
EMAIL - boecabsentee@stlouisco.com

BY FAX - 314.615.1998 OR

IN PERSON or BY MAIL to 725 Northwest Plaza Drive,
St. Ann, MO 63074

Website: <https://stlouiscountymmo.gov/st-louis-county-government/board-of-elections/>

VOTING FOR CHANGE IN AAUW MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Removing the Graduation Requirement

The National Board of AAUW has recommended that the graduation requirement for members be removed. They see the clash this requirement has with our values.



Their reasoning: *AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity, yet the requirement for membership explicitly denies access to membership to those without college degrees. AAUW does not promote equity for all women and girls if the organization maintains exclusionary membership requirements. The membership requirement is not fair, is not right, and is not equity. This is simply the right thing to do.*

Voting will begin on April 7.

KWG NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

At the February meeting of the KWG Board, the following slate of officers was nominated to be next years slate of officers.



Co-presidents:

Jeanne Webdell and Marsha Koch

Program VP: Chris Nobbe

Secretary: Lynne Roney

The election takes place at the annual meeting held at the April 15th branch meeting.

Nominations may be made from the floor with the consent of the nominee.

Visionary AAUW Members Wanted!

Every spring, Missouri recognizes the AAUW Legacy Circle members from our state. It is the time to thank them for their amazing vision and make sure they have the beautiful Legacy Circle pin designed by Swarovski.

Unfortunately, the fight for gender equity will continue into the future after many of us are gone. You can be a part of the future of women and girls for generations to come. This can be done in many ways, such as putting your plans in your will or trust, leaving a set amount or a percentage of your assets to AAUW. You can make AAUW the beneficiary or partial beneficiary of your life insurance policy, an IRA account, or a retirement plan. If you are 75 years old or older, you may set up an annuity by donating stock, resulting in capital gains savings, other tax savings, and dividend checks mailed to you for the rest of your life. The AAUW staff can help you do this.

More information is available at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>. **Heather Miller**, AAUW director of Advancement, 202.785.7766, is ready to answer questions. **Sue Barley**, Legacy Circle liaison, barley702@gmail.com, can tell you more. A simple enrollment form is found on the website. Think about it! Now is the time!

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

Patricia Burroughs-Bishop (Kirkwood-Webster, Ballwin-Chesterfield), coordinator of the International Relations Lecture Series for 2022, announced the following lecture for March 9, 2021, which will be recorded for post-meeting viewing.



To join the meeting, use the one-click:

<https://zoom.us/j/3844225785>. The Zoom meeting I.D. is 384 422 5785.

March 9, 10:45 AM: Our speaker will be **Dr. Anshuman Singh**, UMSL associate professor of Information Systems and Technology. *Artificial Intelligence: An Ethics Perspective*.

Artificial intelligence (AI) has given birth to technologies like autonomous weapon systems, face recognition surveillance cameras, and recommender systems for online shopping and entertainment. The same technologies have also been applied for developing lethal, autonomous, weapon systems; cameras for racial and ethnic profiling; and attention manipulation recommenders. This talk will explore promises and challenges of some of the most impactful AI technologies as we enter a new decade and will also provide an overview of the security and privacy implications of AI in cyberspace.

About Anshuman Singh, PhD

Dr. Anshuman Singh has been an associate professor in the Department of Information Systems and Technology at the University of Missouri-St Louis since Fall 2019. Prior to joining UMSL, he was an assistant professor and cybersecurity program coordinator at the University of Central Missouri. Dr. Singh's specialization is at the intersection of cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. He teaches courses on software assurance and artificial intelligence for business at UMSL. He is currently involved in interdisciplinary research on artificial intelligence maturity in organizations. In the past, he has also worked as a research scientist on DARPA and Air Force-funded research projects on the application of artificial intelligence in cybersecurity. He earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He holds the CISSP and GPEN certifications.



More About The Topic: Want to learn more? Read about artificial intelligence issues: [*A.I. Ethics on Wikipedia*](#) and [*A.I. Regulation on Wikipedia*](#).

Women's History Month

is a celebration of women's contributions to history, culture, and society and has been observed in the month of March in the United States since 1987. Read more about this annual celebration at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/womens-history-month>.

Celebrate Black History AND Women's History - A Northrop Grumman Cygnus rocket, delivering supplies to the International Space Station, was recently named the *SS Katherine Johnson*. It is a tradition to name each Cygnus rocket after an individual who's played a pivotal role in human spaceflight. Creola Katherine Johnson was an American mathematician whose calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed spaceflights. She is noted for breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling as a Black woman and was one of the women portrayed in the movie *Hidden Figures*.

**For Inspiration, Motivation and Celebration
join the Women's March - this Saturday,
March 6 at 10am !!**

A vibrant poster for the 2021 St. Louis Virtual Women's March. The background features a stylized illustration of the St. Louis skyline, including the Gateway Arch, in shades of blue and purple. In the foreground, there are silhouettes of people holding signs and a woman shouting into a megaphone. The text is bold and colorful, with orange and white being prominent. At the bottom, there is a QR code and the website address. The overall theme is empowerment and solidarity.

**2021 ST. LOUIS VIRTUAL
WOMEN'S MARCH**
Saturday, March 6 • 10 AM

Prepare to be energized for
the hard work ahead!

Inspiring speakers

Musical Performances

Free and open to all!

Streaming March 6 at 10 AM
on these platforms:
Website: stlwomensmarch.com
Instagram: [@stlwomensmarch](https://www.instagram.com/stlwomensmarch)
Facebook: [@stlwomensmarch](https://www.facebook.com/stlwomensmarch) or
Facebook Event: fb.me/e/TahWAERO
Sponsor us at:
stlwomensmarch.com/sponsors
For more information, email:
info@stlwomensmarch.com

 stlwomensmarch.com

**WOMEN'S
MARCH**

Programs of Interest

By Ellen Irons, St. Louis Branch President and AAUW MO 19th Amendment Task Force



As the presenter for this program, I wanted to send this program link to everyone as a chance for folks to experience a good introduction to negotiations skills with a lead into Work Smart.

The idea is that negotiating is a LIFE SKILL and that we all need to learn to negotiate whether we are still in the job market or not.

There will be handouts about the gender pay gap, and we will discuss and promote Work Smart. A blurb of the program is below, and I have attached the overview of what will be covered. This is NOT a Work Smart program, but it is similar to what I delivered at a break-out session during the AAUW May 2019 State Leadership Conference in Columbia.

Earn What You Deserve: Navigating the Gender Pay Gap

Saturday, March 20, 2021

1:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Online event

In many families, women are often the main breadwinners, yet their pay doesn't reflect the important contribution they make in the workplace. Women, on average, make almost 20% less than men and even less for minority women. Take action to close the gap faster!

Ellen Irons, president of AAUW St. Louis Branch (American Association of University Women), will provide key information on the gender pay gap issue and involve participants in negotiation skill exercises. The event is free. Handouts will be provided via email. Click here to register: <https://slpl.bibliocommons.com/events/5fd923828a984025003e86c9>

We will involve participants in negotiation skills exercises and talk about ways we can all work to take action to close the gap faster!

Four-Part Series via Zoom on Race in Our Region

It began February 10, 2010. The next session is March 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.jcsrcstl.org/news/greatdivide.html

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



Sent by Marsha Koch:

In "Groundbreakers, Rule-breakers & Rebels," first-time author **Katie J. Moon** tells the stories of 50 female pioneers with ties to St. Louis, from early suffragist Virginia Minor, to cookbook author Irma Rombauer, stunt pilot Marie Meyer, civil rights lawyer Margaret Bush Wilson, and renowned activist poet Maya Angelou. Illustrated by St. Louis artist **Rori!** and published to coincide with the Missouri History Museum's special exhibit Beyond the Ballot: St. Louis and Suffrage, "Groundbreakers" reveals how generations of fearless women changed their city and the world.

Presented in partnership by the St. Louis County Library, HEC Media and the Missouri Historical Society. This one looked interesting. <https://hecmedia.org/posts/groundbreakers-rule-breakers-rebels-50-unstoppable-st-louis-women>

WOMEN'S VOICES RAISED FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE

What Would You Do with \$250,000*? Diversity, the Gender Pay Gap, and You

Thursday, March 11, 7 p.m.

Virtual Program

[Registration is required; please register here!](#)

The gender pay gap and wealth gap is more than just numbers- it's an important symbol of inequality and has significant impact on women throughout their lifetime. On an average, women in America are paid 82 cents for every dollar paid to men. The gap is even more significant for women of color! Women's retirement is only 70% of men's suggesting the pay gap affects women's economic security now and long term. According to the Institute for Women's Policy Research's Status of women in the States, "a typical woman loses hundreds of thousands of dollars over her lifetime due to the wage gap." When economic disparity, wealth income, and wealth inequality are evaluated, the impact and its consequences on women, their families, and our economy are staggering! Our presenters will provide the research, consequences, and possible solutions to solving this critical issue.

Speakers:

- ◇ **Ana Hernández Kent**, PhD, Senior Researcher, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
- ◇ **Robin Lucas**, Grassroots Advocacy Manager at the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

CALENDAR

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

Branch members are excited to honor their own Mary Jermak, honoree for the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award at Spring Fling. Their monthly Zoom meeting is on Thursday, March 11th. The program begins at 10:30 and features Lannis Hall, MD, director of radiation oncology at the Siteman Research Center, Barnes-Jewish St. Peters Hospital. She will discuss Covid-19 and its impact on cancer health disparities. With the help of other dedicated community members, Dr. Hall is working to dispel common cancer myths and educate communities on cancer risk and prevention – and ultimately change and save lives.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

March is the branch's annual business meeting (via Zoom). In addition, Pat Shores, AAUWMO board member who is working on the strategic planning and also with public policy, will give an update on state pay-equity legislation.

St. Louis Branch:

The branch is meeting to work on a project with the Girl Scouts. Their next movie is *Penguin Bloom*. Three guests and a new member attended their February 21 branch meeting.

2021

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Mar | Women's History Month |
| Mar 3 | Deadline to vote in AAUW art contest |
| Mar 6 | St. Louis Women's Virtual march |
| Mar 8 | International Women's Day; Women's Foundation webinar |
| Mar 9 | International Relations lecture, Artificial Intelligence & Data/Ethics & Regulation |
| Mar 10 | The Great Divide: Race in Our Region - Economic Equity |
| Mar 11 | Women's Voices Raised for Social Justice - Diversity, the Gender Pay Gap, and You |
| Mar 13 | IBC Spring Fling, 10:30 - 12:00 |
| Mar 20 | St. Louis County Public Library virtual class on Navigating the Gender Gap by Ellen Irons (AAUW St. Louis) |
| Mar 24 | KWG board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm: Deadline for absentee application |
| Apr 3 | AAUW MO board meeting |
| Apr 6 | St. Louis County election |
| 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 |

**By Nancy Hutchins, AAUW MO, Chair,
I & E Committee**

1. Our Commitment
2. Getting Started with Difficult Conversations
3. Key Terms and Concepts
4. Dimensions of Diversity and Identity
5. What's Next

Wherever you (or your branch) are in the journey to build cultural competence, AAUW encourages you to carefully read through this toolkit, access the resources, and have group discussions to explore the content thoughtfully and respectfully. AAUW MO's active Inclusion and Equity Committee welcomes your participation.

*Exclusion is always dangerous.
Inclusion is the only safety if we
are to have a peaceful world.*
—Pearl S. Buck

Food for Feminine Hygiene: It Doesn't Have to Be a Choice

Hosted by: Women's Foundation
of Greater St. Louis

- MO Rep. **Rasheen Aldridge**, sponsor of HB 406
- MO Rep. **Ingrid Burnett**, sponsor of HB 225
- MO Rep. **Jo Doll**, sponsor of HB 699
- MO Rep. **Barbara Phifer**, sponsor of HB 899
- Director of Outreach and Community Engagement,
- **Charlin Hughes**, St. Louis Area Diaper Bank/St. Louis Alliance for Period Supplies

HB 899: Beginning October 1, 2021, this bill reduces the state sales and use tax rate on retail sales of feminine hygiene products and diapers to equal the reduced state sales tax rate imposed on the retail sale of food.

Register Now



"Zoom to Spring Fling"

AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC)

Saturday, March 13, 2021 10:30 am–12:00 pm

This Zoom event is free to all. Guests are welcome.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89052348577?pwd=dFRlMDNadGlmMINsRzRZNkFIRlJkZz09>
Meeting ID: 890 5234 8577 Passcode: 644386 By Phone: +1-312-626-6799 US (Chicago)

10:15 am – Check-in Socialize Networking
10:30 am – Welcome and Introductions
10:45 am – Barb Lackritz Award – Mary Jermak



Mary Jermak

11:15 am – **"Zooming to the Classroom"** Presenters *Jeanine York Garesche* and *Daniel Shavers* will share how two teachers were able to find ways to give music instruction 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 is currently a Band Director at Brittany Woods Middle School and has been teaching instrumental music in the University City School District since 2001. Daniel, an active freelance musician on both the bassoon and contrabassoon, performs regularly with a number of ensembles in the St. Louis area.

11:45 am – Drawing of Six Gift Card Tree Raffle Winners Other Announcements

For help with Zoom or for more information, contact: Deb McWard 314-607-2908 debmcward@earthlink.net

_____ **Please cut here and send form below with your check-----**

Make raffle or donation check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC** Mail form and check,
no later than **March 8** to: Carol Davis McDonald 827 Bergquist Dr. Manchester MO 63011-4215



Use address label or

Print Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address _____

E-mail (required) _____ Phone _____

_____ I plan to attend **"Zoom to Spring Fling"** and am purchasing:

3 chances for \$10 _____ 6 chances for \$20 _____ 9 chances for \$30 _____

12 chances for \$40 _____ 15 chances for \$50 _____ TOTAL \$ _____

_____ I plan to attend, will not enter the raffle, but will make a donation of: \$ _____

_____ I am unable to attend, but will make a donation or purchase chances of: \$ _____

All chances automatically entered into the drawing to win 1 of 6 gift card(s) of \$50 value. Questions on Raffle- Contact Jean Elliott 314-606-7922 elliotts01@sbcglobal.net You do not need to attend to win.