

"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



AAUW Kirkwood Webster Groves

Tools For Justice

Thursday April 15, 2021 — Via Zoom

6:30 p.m. Social Time — 7:00 Meeting

For more than a century, AAUW has worked for justice, focusing on issues affecting women. New tools are available to help us in our fight. Our meeting will include an update on the work of AAUW on local, state, and national issues.

The program will be in two parts. First, we are honored to have as our guest speaker, Missouri AAUW President **Sue Shineman**, who will be talking about the upcoming AAUW national election to remove discriminatory membership rules and choosing policies for the future that reflect AAUW values. She will give a heads up on the Missouri AAUW meeting in May. Sue has been a member of AAUW since 1971 and is a member of the Independence AAUW Branch, where she has held almost every office. She served as membership VP and president-elect in Missouri AAUW. Sue holds a business degree from Kansas State University. She has worked as a department manager for the Jones Store and later managed temporary staffing agencies. Currently, she is a caregiver and helps clients in their homes. Growth through community outreach and involvement with like-minded organizations is her focus for attracting new members.

Sue has been serving on the Missouri Inclusion and Equity committee along with **Nancy Hutchins** and **Kay Meyer**. In the second part of the meeting, they will give an overview of the new AAUW Diversity, Inclusion, and Equity Toolkit. The toolkit has some exciting features and wonderful resources.

Finally, we will hold a brief election of officers (see page 3).

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260795688?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260795688?pwd=SEUxNmIsRE9SdEQ3RHI3TzdhlzFaUT09)

[pwd=SEUxNmIsRE9SdEQ3RHI3TzdhlzFaUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85260795688?pwd=SEUxNmIsRE9SdEQ3RHI3TzdhlzFaUT09)

Meeting ID: 852 6079 5688 Passcode: 864014

(Unsure of using Zoom? Contact Marsha or Chris for assistance.)

Jeannie says ...

This year, the 65th session of the [United Nations Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW65\)](#), the UN's largest annual gathering on gender equality and women's empowerment, took place from March 15-26 under the theme, ***"Women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life, as well as the elimination of violence, for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."*** The session this year was mostly virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Agreed Conclusions of the conference acknowledge that the COVID-19 pandemic is deepening pre-existing inequalities that perpetuate multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, as well as racism, stigmatization, and xenophobia. Yet, recent data shows that women have been mostly absent from COVID-19 government task forces around the world – women make up only 24 per cent of the 225 task force members examined across 137 countries.

Other leadership roles of women are very limited:

- · Women make up 25 per cent of parliamentarians globally, and only three countries have 50 per cent or more women in parliament.
- · Less than one per cent of parliamentarians are women under 30 years of age.
- · Women make up only 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators, and 6 per cent of signatories in formal peace processes.

In 2020, only 7.4 per cent of Fortune 500 companies were run by women.

- · Just 22 countries in the world are headed by a woman. At the current rate of progress, it will take another 130 years to reach gender equality at the highest positions of power.

The Agreed Conclusions of the conference make strong recommendations for concrete measures, which can enable women's role in decision-making, for instance:

- changing laws and policies that discriminate against women and hinder their equal participation in public life;
- innovative measures to promote women as leaders, executives and managers, in all areas;
- setting targets and timelines to achieve gender balance in all government branches through relevant



measures such as quotas, appointments, or training programs;

- And encouraging political parties to nominate as many women as men candidates and promoted equal leadership in their structures.

Young women are particularly underrepresented in public life and disproportionately excluded from consultations on issues that affect them, despite being involved in activities that call for broader change and address issues such as climate change and poverty.

Other recommendations include measures to eliminate, prevent, and respond to all forms of violence against women and girls in public and private spaces, end impunity of perpetrators, and support victims and survivors' full recovery, for instance through access to psychosocial support, affordable housing and employment.

Recognizing women's important role as agents of change in responding to climate change, the agreement also stresses the need to reinforce women's presence and leadership in all places where decisions on climate change mitigation and adaptation are taken, and to ensure that related policies, plans, and programs account for the specific needs of women and girls.



Scene from the General Assembly Hall during the closing session of the 65th session of CSW. Photo: UN Web TV (screengrab)

"Don't ever make decisions based on fear. Make decisions based on hope and possibility. Make decisions based on what should happen, not what shouldn't." – **Michelle Obama**, former U.S. First Lady

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

Debbie McWard, Membership Vice President

Dues may be paid any time before June, but you are encouraged to put it on your to-do list for sooner rather than later. For the first time, a letter from national was sent to all members with email addresses about membership renewal. I tried it and, using my credit card, found that it was quick and easy. National prefers renewing this way; but if you would rather submit your 2021-2022 dues by mail, a newly designed branch form is included with this newsletter. Just make sure it's mailed to Carol Davis McDonald.



The pandemic hasn't stopped us from making plans for the coming year. Cross your fingers we can have our meetings in person later in the year, but we may be able to do some small group things earlier. The one benefit of Zoom is that we can invite an unlimited number of guests to our events. So, seek out your bored friends, dust off your elevator speech for reasons to join Kirkwood-Webster Groves, and ask them to come. Forwarding our newsletter is a good way to enlighten them. Or visit the websites found in this newsletter.

NEW OFFICER NOMINATIONS

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 annual business meeting.

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



Have you eaten all your pecans?

If you want more, there are still some plain and some chocolate-caramel covered pecans (turtles) remaining.

Email or call Carol.

Plan Wisely - for Today's Needs and for Tomorrow

How do you take care of the people and things that matter most to you – now and for the future?

Through careful planning, you can benefit your loved ones and your charitable interests while investing in equity for women and girls. Some reasons to create a plan include:

- Taking care of loved ones
- Memorializing someone you care about
- Advancing equity for women and girls through AAUW
- Increasing current income for you or others
- Passing more on to heirs with reduced taxes
- Reducing income tax
- Avoiding capital gains tax.

As you consider what is important to you and how to reflect that in your legacy, we invite you to reach out to AAUW. Our knowledgeable gift planning staff is available to assist with any questions you may have. You may also request a brochure by calling or emailing AAUW's National Office.

For assistance, contact Heather Miller at: 202-785-7766 or by email, at millerh@aauw.org or Speak with Susan Barley, AAUW Legacy Circle Team Liaison, barley702@gmail.com.

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Plans are underway for celebrating our Anniversary, 1971-2021. Submit your ideas to Kay or Jeanne.

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 April 13, 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.

April 13, 10:45 AM:

Our speaker will be **Dr. Akiko Tsuchiya**, professor of Spanish in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at Washington University in St. Louis. Her topic will be *Historical Heritage and Racist Art*.



About Akiko Tsuchiya, PhD

Dr. Tsuchiya is the author of a book on the nineteenth-century Spanish novelist Benito Pérez Galdós and has published extensively on nineteenth- and twentieth-century Iberian literatures and cultures. Her research and teaching interests include the realist novel, women's and gender studies, nineteenth-century women's transnational literary and cultural networks, race and colonialism, slavery, and antislavery in the Hispanic world. Most recently, she has become engaged in public debates generated around monuments related to colonialism and slavery in the Iberian world.

Tsuchiya's recent books include, *Marginal Subjects: Gender and Deviance in Fin-de-siècle Spain* (University of Toronto P, 2011) and two co-edited volumes: *Empire's End: Transnational Connections in the Hispanic World* (Vanderbilt UP, 2016) and *Unsettling Colonialism: Gender and Race in the Nineteenth-Century Global Hispanic World* (SUNY Press, 2019). Visit her page (<https://rll.wustl.edu/people/akiko-tsuchiya>) to view her 22-page curriculum vitae.

"We are here, not because we are law-breakers; we are here in our efforts to become law-makers."

— **Emmeline Pankhurst**, leader of the UK suffragette movement

WHAT THE OTHER (IBC) BRANCHES ARE DOING

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch:

The April meeting will feature Mary Jo Gorman, MD, MBA, speaking about "Advancing the Cause: Strategies for Different Stages of Life" on April 8th at 10:30 a.m. via Zoom. To attend, contact the branch at aauwbcpresident@yahoo.com for the link.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch:

The branch is planning their May luncheon with Catering to You. The branch is now on Facebook. Type "AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch" into the Facebook search bar on your screen. Then "like" their page.

St. Louis Branch:

The branch is meeting to work on a project with the Girl Scouts. Their next movie for discussion is *The Chicago Seven*, available on Netflix. They are considering an outdoor location for the May meeting.

CALENDAR

2021

- | | |
|--------|---|
| 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 25 | IBC meeting |
| May 26 | Branch board Zoom meeting, 1-3 pm |
| June | Annual KWG end-of-year celebration, TBD |



Congrats to a World-Changing Woman

In more recent history, 1977-78 AAUW International Fellow [Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala](#) in February became the first African and the first woman to lead the World Trade Organization. We couldn't be more proud!

During her 25 years at the World Bank, she is credited with spearheading several initiatives to assist low-income countries, in particular raising nearly \$50bn in 2010 from donors for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries. Her economic reforms had a far-reaching impact and saved Nigeria at a critical period, according to prominent Nigerian economist, Bismarck Rewane. [Read more.](#)

New Resource—Browse Our Webinars

It's been nearly a year since national started offering regular webinars with compelling content ranging from professional development to social justice to advocacy and more. [Peruse recent offerings](#) or browse by topic on the new archive page.

Congratulations 2021 Art Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 art contest! You all submitted and voted on over 400 entries this year, and we're proud to recognize the following members for their winning entries. Congratulations! We look forward to having their art featured on this year's spring notecards. Meanwhile, [check out their winning work online.](#)



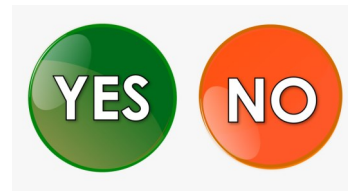
- ♦ Ann Echols, treasurer of AAUW State College (Pennsylvania)—*Indian Paint Brush*
- ♦ Arlene Goch, president of AAUW Atlantic County (New Jersey)—*Hidden Women*
- ♦ Andrea Laudate, president of AAUW San Francisco (California)—*Mushrooms in the Mist*
- ♦ Mary Ellen Segraves, member and past president of Batavia-Geneva-St. Charles (Illinois)—*Bridge to Peace*
- ♦ Janice Arrow Smith, member and past newsletter editor of AAUW Lansdale (Pennsylvania)—*Ebullience*
- ♦ Nancy Willis, communications officer, Wytheville (Virginia)—*Blue Bottles*

Reminder: AAUW Election Opens April 7

Starting April 7, AAUW members will be asked to vote to elect members to the national board of directors and on amendments to our Public Policy Priorities and bylaws, including a proposal to eliminate AAUW's longstanding membership degree requirement. Get up to speed on the issues by reviewing the [election page](#) on the AAUW website, and register for our April 1 [webinar about the education 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.*



ERA Progress:

The House of Representatives voted last month, with bipartisan support, to remove the arbitrary deadline for ratifying the [Equal Rights Amendment](#). It's a huge leap forward toward guaranteeing constitutional equality between men and women. Stay tuned for opportunities to take action in the Senate.

NCCWSL 2021: A Virtual Experience for Young Leaders

This year, hundreds of college women from around the country will gather for two days of virtual leadership training, inspiration and networking at our annual [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL). Learn more about this exciting online event on May 25-26, 2021. AAUW Metro St. Louis Inter-branch Council sponsored one student this year, **Leatrice McNeal** (Webster University). The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch sponsored one student as well, **Nicole Caldwell** (UMSL).



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through research, advocacy, and education.

Kirkwood-Webster Groves

2021-2022 Membership Renewal

July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022

Name	Home #
Address	Work #
City, State, Zip	Cell #
Email	
Signature	Date
Remarks	

In addition to attending monthly meetings with informative speakers, I would like to participate in these branch activities:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Social |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising | <input type="checkbox"/> Technology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Planning programs | |

DUES

National	\$62.00**
State (MO)	10.00
Branch	<u>15.00</u>
TOTAL	\$87.00

Payable to AAUW—KWG
Send to: Carol Davis McDonald
827 Bergquist Drive
Ballwin, MO 63011-4215

****\$59.00 is tax deductible.**