

*"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).

**Branch Officers, 2020-2021**

**Co-President:**

Jeanne Webdell  
573-751-0943  
Jeannewebdell@gmail.com

**Co-President:**

Marsha Koch  
314-651-0321  
mkwkoch@outlook.com

**Program Vice President:**

Chris Nobbe  
314-323-0053  
nobbechristine@gmail.com

**Membership Vice President:**

Deb McWard  
314-607-2908  
debmcward@earthlink.net

**Finance Vice President:**

Carol Davis McDonald  
636-227-0511  
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

**Secretary:**

Lynne Roney  
314-223-3426  
lynnroney@sbcglobal.net

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

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

**State:** [www.aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-mo.aauw.net)

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

**Facebook:** AAUWKWG

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



On  
**October 16, 2021**  
from 11:00 a.m. until  
2:00 p.m.

We Celebrate Our  
50th Anniversary  
At Greenbriar Hills  
Country Club

We are pleased to have the **Honorable Judge Robin Ransom** as our guest speaker. Judge Ransom was appointed by Governor Parson in January 2019 to succeed retiring Judge Lisa Van Amburg. A native of St. Louis, Judge Ransom earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Sociology from Douglass Residential College-Rutgers University in 1988. She graduated Juris Doctor from the University of Missouri School of Law in May 1991. In 2018 Judge Ransom was elected the first female African-American as presiding judge for the 22nd Judicial Circuit. She is a member of the Missouri State Foster Care and Adoption Board and the Juvenile Officer Performance Standards Work Group. She also serves as a mentor for The Literacy Project.

We will be sharing branch items from the state archives and other memorabilia - and maybe a few stories from the past. Many guests from other organizations will be attending, as well as a few of our past branch members and AAUW members from our sister metro St. Louis area branches. We hope you are signed up and will join in the fun.

# Greentree Festival Booth Draws Issues-Oriented Visitors

Our branch again had an information booth at Kirkwood’s Greentree Festival that was held September 17-19, 2021. With donations and raffles, we raised \$125 for our STEM scholarships for girls at Affton and Maplewood–Richmond Heights High Schools.



NHS members help set up and take down

Volunteers who staffed the booth were **Marsha Koch, Jeanne Webdell, Kay Meyer, Carol Davis McDonald, Lynne Roney, Deb McWard, and Chris Nobbe**. A great addition this year was the assistance of National Honor Society members from Kirkwood High who helped set up and take down the canopy and tables. Thanks to **Joslynn Gura, Brynn Morrow, Imani Noel, Emma Trask** and their advisers, **Amy Leatherberry and Janet Mees Reinert**.



Jeanne talks about our mission

Approximately 77 people entered the raffle for a “Women of NASA” Lego set donated by **Cathy Gilbert** and “Equality” earrings and bracelet donated by **Barbara Johnson**. Reportedly raffle winners were pleased with their prizes.



People were eager to mark top issues

Visitors to the booth were eager to vote for their top three women’s issues, with reproductive rights gaining the most votes, and many expressing concern over recent efforts to overturn reproductive rights laws. Poll voting results were

- preserve reproductive rights, 113
- health care for all. 74
- eliminate the pay gap, 73
- stop human trafficking, 70
- pass the ERA, 69
- protect voting rights, 66
- promote STEM careers, 38.



Raffle items were eye-catching

A number of people signed up to receive further information on AAUW and our branch. Thanks to all who made it a successful weekend in spite of heat and sudden downpours!



Lynne oversees the table (left)

Kay welcomes passers-by (right)





# Pecans



If you would like to place an order for pecans this fall, please e-mail or call Carol with your order. The prices are the same as last year. Pecans will arrive from Georgia some time in November.

<b>Mammoth Halves, Shelled</b>	<b>\$13.00</b>
<b>Cinnamon Glazed</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Chocolate-Caramel ("Turtles")</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>
<b>Dark Chocolate</b>	<b>\$11.00</b>

This and other recipes were on the Schermer web site (<https://schermerpecans.com/blogs/recipes>)

## The Neiman Marcus \$250 Cookie

from American Cookie: The Snaps, Drops, Jumbles, Tea Cakes, Bars & Brownies That We Have Loved for Generations, Rodale Books, Penguin Random House, 2018.



- 1 c. (2 sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 1 c. dark brown sugar, lightly packed
- 1 c. granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 2 ½ c. old-fashioned oats
- 2 c. all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ¾ tsp. Salt
- 2 c. (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips
- ⅔ c. (4 oz.) semisweet or milk chocolate, grated
- 1 ½ c. chopped pecans

Place a rack in the top third of the oven, and preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Set aside 2 ungreased baking sheets.

Place the soft butter and sugars in a large mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer on medium speed until creamy, 1-2 minutes. Turn off the mixer, scrape down the sides of the bowl with a rubber spatula, and add the eggs and vanilla. Beat on low speed until combined and smooth, 1 minute.

In a food processor fitted with a steel blade, pulse the oats until finely ground, 10-15 seconds. Transfer the oatmeal to a medium-size bowl and add the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt.

Whisk to combine the dry ingredients, and dump the oatmeal and flour mixture into the bowl with the batter. Beat on low speed until just combined, 30 seconds. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.

Fold in the chocolate chips, grated chocolate, and nuts. Drop the batter by heaping 1" tablespoonfuls, 2" apart on the baking sheets. Place in the oven.

Bake the cookies until they just begin to crisp around the edges but are still a little soft in the center, 8-10 minutes. Let rest on the pan for 1 minute, then transfer with a metal spatula to a wire rack to cool. Repeat with the remaining cookie dough. Store the cookies in an airtight container.

## **Pecanapalooza Festival in Ste. Genevieve**

By Kay Meyer

Join the Kirkwood Webster Groves AAUW on Saturday, November 6, 2021, in Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, for the Pecanapalooza Festival. We will be selling pecans at a booth from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for coming to the festival. Enjoy live music, crafts, the pie baking contest, and other fun events. Hope to see some familiar faces at the event.

---

## CALENDAR

### 2021

- Oct 4 KWG board meeting, 7 pm, Zoom
- Oct 7 Anniversary committee meeting, 7 pm
- Oct 12 IBC spring luncheon committee, 7 pm
- Oct 14 Anniversary committee meeting, 2 pm
- Oct 16 KWG 50th ANNIVERSARY BRUNCH**
- Oct 20 Newsletter deadline
- Oct 26 Adelante Zoom organizational meeting, 1:30 pm, contact Deb McWard
- Oct 31 Membership renewal deadline
  
- Nov 6 Pecanapalooza in Ste. Genevieve, MO
- Nov 18 KWG branch meeting
- Nov 28 "AAUW" celebrates 140 Years

*In celebration of the Branch's 50th anniversary, here is the third installment of a bit of our branch history.*



## Do you remember (or did you know)...

**Our Elf Workshop for Kids?** Another community project by the Branch was the annual Elf Workshop for Kids, which provided an opportunity for kindergarten through fifth grade children to make handcrafted gifts for their family members and other special people. The workshop was held on a Saturday in December and became so popular that it



Members volunteered to assist the children with making and wrapping gifts and creating gift tags. Top left: Kay Meyer. Middle: Bea Johns. Top Right: Carol Davis McDonald and Marge Brockmeier. Lower right: Shirley Miller. Pictures by Lynne Roney.

had to be expanded to two Saturdays in December with three sessions each day. Members, as well as Washington University and local high school students, acted as elves and assisted the children in making and wrapping their gifts, and serving refreshments. The project was begun by Kirkwood Junction Business District with KWG as a co-sponsor, but later the Branch took it over. **Lucy Whitaker** (now Barrington) was the glue that held it together for many years.

And don't forget **Greentree Festival**, which still continues (see page 2). Other projects included collecting food for annual food banks; donating books to the Missouri Eastern Correctional Center at Pacific through member **Jean Shull**; clothing for **Dress for Success**; personal care items for **Lydia's House**, a shelter for abused women and their children; and baby items for **Nurses for Newborns**. KWG presented copies of *Show Me Missouri Women*, a publication of AAUW Missouri, to five grade schools and two middle schools in the **Kirkwood School District**. The Branch collected entrance fees at the annual St. Louis County Parks and Recreation's **Winter Wonderland Holiday Lights Display** in Tilles Park.

In 1996-1997 **Patsy Fowler-Farrior** chaired an area-wide **Get-Out-The-Vote Campaign**. The Branch also cosponsored a candidates' forum with the **League of Women Voters** in 2000, and in 2008 KWG cosponsored a candidate forum on health issues. The Branch initiated contact with Webster Groves and Kirkwood high schools on STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and participated in **Science Speakers Night** at Kirkwood High School by manning a display and informational table. **STEM scholarships** currently are being given to Affton High School and Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School seniors who indicate they will pursue a STEM career.

## AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

The AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC) consists of representatives from each of the St. Louis AAUW branches. The following officers from each branch are voting members of IBC: president, program vice president, membership vice president, and a member at large. All members are invited to attend meetings and participate in IBC activities, which include:

- Planning the Spring Fling luncheon fundraiser
- Sponsoring a student to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)
- Co-sponsoring the International Lecture Series held at the Ethical Society building
- Sponsoring the ¡Adelante! book group
- Awarding the Barbara Lackritz Service Award

### IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

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. Anyone can join in the lively book discussion during any month we meet.



Where: Currently via Zoom

When: 1:30 pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: Contact Deb McWard for sign-up  
Send book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht [tebrecht@yahoo.com](mailto:tebrecht@yahoo.com)

Oct 28 *The Broken Heart of St. Louis: Violent History of the United States*, by Walter Johnson

### ANNUAL BARBARA LACKRITZ SERVICE AWARDS

The Interbranch Council voted to change the format of the annual service award. Each IBC branch will select a member to receive this award. **Consider a branch member to nominate.** The honorees will be acknowledged at the Annual IBC Spring Luncheon on March 26, 2022. Please contact Barbara Johnson (314.962.3501) with your nomination, along with a few sentences about your nominee. A list of nomination criteria is on the next page. Nominations should be submitted by **October 31st.**

## AAUW National

U.S. Census data from 2020 shows that as many as 1 in 4 eligible Americans are not registered to vote. We must do more than just register voters—we must ensure everyone is able to access this basic right. Several key Congressional committees have heard testimony that barriers to voter participation remain for people of color and language-minority voters, and the wave of anti-voter bills continues in state legislatures. Yet we know that these hurdles do not reflect the will of the people.

**The freedom to vote is not a political issue—it is a Constitutional right.** Americans of all races, backgrounds, genders, and zip codes have the same right to vote. The *Freedom to Vote Act* will restore federal protections gutted by the *Shelby County v. Holder* Supreme Court case and under attack from the wave of anti-voter bills sweeping the nation, while modernizing the ways in which voters access a secure and convenient process.

Tell your members of Congress to [support the Freedom to Vote Act now!](#)

### Introducing Money Smart

With the generous support of The Coca-Cola Foundation, AAUW is pleased to launch our new [Money Smart program](#), a series of free virtual workshops designed to support women in navigating their personal finances. We particularly encourage women of color to join us for information and resources to help address the disproportionate and systemic fiscal challenges faced by Black and Brown women. These include a vast racial wealth gap and wider-than-average gender wage gap. Please share with your networks!

### STEMEd for Girls: That's a Wrap!

More than 600 girls and 300 parents and caregivers participated in AAUW's inaugural STEMEd for Girls program—a virtual workshop series designed exclusively for high-school girls. The girls took part in six 1.5-hour virtual sessions over two months that showcased how accessible and exciting STEM fields can be. Stay tuned for more information about future STEM events.



(continued—Barbara Lackritz Service Award criteria)

The criteria to consider are as follows:

- \* 1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
- \* 2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
- \* 3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional or national level(s).
- \* 4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.

### IBC BRANCHES - Events:

In case you would like to visit another branch, here are some of their events. For information, check their website or contact a KWG officer who will have contact info.

#### BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH:

Will present **Kristen Sorth**, director, St. Louis County Library System, who will speak about the “Library as a Center of Community,” on October 14, 2021, at 10 a.m., at Trinity Church, 14088 Clayton Road, Town and Country, MO 63017.

This year is the branch’s 40th anniversary. They plan to celebrate on December 9th at their winter fundraiser—Lights of Leadership. They are asking for \$40 contributions from all members who are able, with recognition as a Light of Leadership with their name on a big candle. They will have entertainment, a box lunch, birthday cake, a raffle, and, of course, fun for all.

#### FERGUSON-FLORISSANT BRANCH:

Ferg-Flo, as they call themselves, held a community event on October 2nd on current approaches on climate change. The guest speaker was Rev. **Carleton Stock**, discussing “Climate Change: Where We Are and What We Can Do.” Rev. Stock has studied this topic for years and is an expert on all areas concerning climate change.

#### ST. CHARLES BRANCH:

The program for October is “We Remember Eleanor Roosevelt on Her Birthday ~ October 11, 1884” at 1:00 pm. The program will be presented by Barbara Kay, a/k/a Elizabeth Cady Stanton. Ms. Kay was a history teacher in Illinois. She has spent the past few years portraying a dozen or more famous and infamous women in history. Her portrayal will be Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Suffragette. “In 1840, newly-weds Henry and Elizabeth Cady Stanton attended the World Anti-Slavery Convention in London, where organizers refused to seat women delegates. She and Lucretia Mott resolved to hold a convention devoted to women’s rights.”

#### ST. LOUIS BRANCH:

The branch will be having an in-person event this fall at the Missouri History Museum to see “Beyond the Ballot,” followed by a meal outdoors. Their partnership continues with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri, helping with badges related to our AAUW mission. In preparation, they will be having a volunteer training session soon.

The branch movie club has seen excellent discussions of social justice movies available on Netflix, the latest being “Radium Girls.” The discussion hopefully encouraged an investigation and book by member Linda Lindsey, who was urged to resurrect the material about her father’s death and the radiation that was a likely cause here in St. Louis.

### WHAT LOCAL SISTER ORGANIZATIONS ARE DOING

#### Women’s Voices Raise for Social Justice

**Don't Get Fooled Again:  
Navigating Today's Social Media**  
Thursday, October 14, 7 p.m.  
Virtual Program

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

Identifying disinformation on social media can sometimes be difficult. Learn how to check facts and get tools to prevent the spread of misleading information. The speakers will also provide strategies to convey effective fact-based messages on social media and in our letters to the editor.

#### National Council of Jewish Women-St. Louis

**October Lunch & Learn:  
Food Insecurity in St. Louis**

**When:** Thursday, October 21 | 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM CT

**Where:** Zoom

[RSVP Here](#)

Roughly 850,000 people are facing food insecurity in the state of Missouri alone - and that includes around 220,000 children. People who are food insecure may have to choose between paying for nutritionally adequate food and other necessities such as housing and medical payments. Oftentimes, we are at a loss as to what to do to help.