

"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 social action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and 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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Facebook: AAUWKWG

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

SWING INTO SPRING IS HAPPENING!

March 26, 2022 - 11:30-2:30

(Registration Form and Details Attached)

Join AAUW members from St. Louis branches for the biggest celebration of IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW honorees ever! One member from each of the five St. Louis area branches will be recognized for longtime, dedicated service to AAUW, and we want you to celebrate them with us. Let's show our support by having at least two tables of members from each branch there to share this special day with our honorees. Proof of vaccination is not required, but masks are to be worn except when eating. You and five others will be seated at a large table with plenty of room for distancing. Learn more about Catering To You [here](#).

The event kicks off at 11:30 am with check in and check out of the fabulous raffle prizes offered by IBC branches! Raffle tickets are **3 for \$10** and provide scholarships for local women students to attend NCCWSL! This year's raffles include creative, fun gift cards totaling \$50. Choose from:

- ◆ **Spring Spruce Up!** (Home Depot and Lowes)
- ◆ **Dessert, Anyone?** (Dairy Queen and Nothing Bundt Cakes)
- ◆ **Dine in Historic Old Time Florissant** (Hendel's Restaurant)
- ◆ **Wine Connoisseur** (Total Wine and Trader Joe's)
- ◆ **Happy Gardening** (Greenscape Gardens and Rolling Ridge Nursery)
- ◆ **A Walk Down Historic Main Street – St. Charles--3 cards totaling \$100!** (The Flower Petaler, Main Street Books, and Frontier Perk Café)



There will also be a 50-50 raffle with tickets costing **\$5 for 6** chances.

This year you will also be able to buy a "Piece of the NCCWSL Puzzle," a special fundraiser for the 2023 NCCWSL Conference, which we hope will be in person once again.

The program officially starts with a welcome at Noon. Tables will be called to the buffet one by one to minimize crowding. At 12:45 the Barbara Lackritz honorees will be introduced and presented with a beautiful certificate and bouquet of flowers. Pictures will be taken.

(continued on page 2)



From Co-President Marsha Koch

I am excited to announce the celebration of **Jeanne Webdell's** receiving the Barbara Lackritz Award at the Swing into Spring luncheon on Saturday, March 26.

One of the purposes of this luncheon is to recognize and honor the five members of St. Louis branches who have provided longtime, dedicated service to AAUW. This year our board chose to honor

Jeanne Webdell, my co-president, with the Barbara Lackritz Award. For many years, while a Kirkwood police officer, Jeanne was dedicated to AAUW and served tirelessly in many officer positions. After retirement and in her second career as a United Methodist minister, she temporarily relocated to Louisiana, MO; after 10 years she returned home to Kirkwood and AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch and picked up where she left off, organizing people and activities and serving as an officer. Jeanne is well known in the Kirkwood community, and her passion for AAUW is reflected in all her community activities. She is notoriously a follow-upper and keeps us all on track with our commitments, projects, meetings, emails, and ideas.



Several KWG members have received this award, and, speaking from experience, it is quite an honor to be recognized by your peers. Barb Lackritz was a member of our branch and an enthusiastic advocate for women; she worked tirelessly raising awareness and money for AAUW issues and projects, even while undergoing chemo treatments and advocating for leukemia awareness and research. Unfortunately, she lost her battle with leukemia. She was an inspiration to those of us who knew her.

Another purpose of this luncheon is to raise funds to support the work of the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC). IBC consists of representatives from the five St. Louis branches. It supports the International Relations Lecture Series in partnership with the Tuesday Women's Association at the Ethical Society, prints and distributes (to libraries, churches, etc.) AAUW bookmarks publicizing our branches and Work Smart, and provides annual scholarships to college women to attend AAUW's National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL).

Please join me in congratulating Jeanne for this well deserved honor. CONGRATULATIONS, JEANNE! I hope you will celebrate Jeanne's award with us at our first in-person event in quite some time on March 26; a registration form is at the end of this newsletter.

(continued from page 1, Swing Into Spring)

Then at 1:15 sit back, relax, and tap your feet (or sing!) to the wonderful music of **The Queens of Swing**. You are in for a treat! Bet you won't be able to sit still!

About 1:45 announcements, including raffle winners, will be made, branch pictures will be taken, and evaluations can be completed so that the event wraps up by 2:30.

Can't attend but want to make a donation or buy raffle tickets? Complete a registration form and send to **Carol Davis McDonald** with your check. No amount is too small!

Branches, remember to submit a registration form with payment for your honoree to Carol Davis McDonald. Each branch should plan its own Barbara Lackritz celebration for a branch meeting.

Questions? Contact IBC co-chair **Deb McWard**, 314-607-2908

NOTE: The entrance to Catering to You is in the lower parking lot and not at their storefront in the main lot. There is a short hill to the right of the building which you drive down. Plenty of parking below and a nice, covered entrance. It's an extremely nice banquet center with excellent food.

Pay Equity, the Pandemic, and Latinas

Jeanne Webdell

For the February branch president's meeting, Marsha Koch and I reviewed recent AAUW research concerning the wealth gap and the impact the pandemic has had on women.

One area that I looked at was the effect of the pandemic on Hispanic or Latina women. The 2021 report was titled *Pandemic Inequity – Latinas and the COVID-19 Experience*. The report showed the pandemic worsened the problems caused by the discrimination and poverty that are faced by the Latinx population every day.

Latinas account for 18% of the U.S. female population and are a critical base of support for the U.S. economy. For years Latinas have faced persistent and disproportionate experience with poverty. This is partially due to the fact that Latinas earn 55 cents for every dollar a white, non-Hispanic man makes. Adding to the wage gap problem are the factors of workplace discrimination and occupational segregation.

The pandemic has added to the socioeconomic disparities afflicting Latinas with exposure to the virus at work and in their families where multigenerational households added to the risk. The pandemic caused alarming disparities and inequalities particularly in the areas of infections, deaths and unemployment. Higher rates of coronavirus, deaths, unemployment, isolation, and food insecurity were among the inequities contributing to mental health issues, such as anxiety and depression.

AAUW researchers conducted 21 interviews. The women who were interviewed expressed appreciation about being able to talk about their feelings. One woman with the name Paola, who lived in California, shared - *I have had so many jobs this past year. I worked the night shift*

at a pistachio packing house. As employers go, this one was the best in terms of providing workers with protective equipment to help guard against the virus. In the beginning they weren't giving us anything; but then a worker got COVID, and they started providing masks and gloves. They enforced the rules, too.

Later I worked in the strawberry fields, where most of the workers were 60 or older and considered high risk. The field manager got COVID, and he continued working and interacting with workers. He never took any precautions, even after his wife died of the virus. I told him he should set the example and stay home, but he said he needed to earn money. It was very scary to work under those conditions. I wore a face mask and gloves and took extra masks to share with my co-workers.

When a company making Styrofoam boxes threatened to report me to the state's unemployment office if I did not accept a job from them, I had to take it. I didn't know at the time that this rule was not being enforced during the pandemic. It was a horrible place to work. My shift was from 12 am to 12 pm five days a week. They provided us with face masks, but the safety rules were loosely enforced. Many co-workers ended up getting the virus.

AAUW provides needed and timely research not just for members but for the community. The report on Latinas is an example of the importance of this research and the positive impact it can have by encouraging changes in our laws and communities.

The report recommends passage of legislation that will decrease the pay gap, provide educational opportunities, and offer child care and health care. AAUW supports bills such as the *Healthy Families Act, Family & Medical Insurance Leave Act, Paycheck Fairness Act, and Raise the Wage Act*.

Check out the AAUW website for the complete report



Our April 17th branch meeting will feature **Leslie Gertsch, PhD**, senior research investigator at Missouri University of Science and Technology, which was just chosen by NASA for a two-year moon infrastructure project.



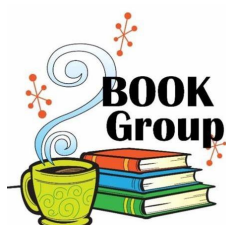
"Whenever you are blue or lonely or stricken by some humiliating thing you did, the cure and the hope is in caring about other people."
- Diane Sawyer

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 (quarterly, fourth Tuesday of August, November, February, and May) 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 Awards

The next IBC meeting will be February 22, 2022, at 7 pm via Zoom. All members are welcome to attend. A link will be sent to you upon request.



IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets in September, October, and January through May to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Currently via Zoom
When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in October, January, February, March, April, May
Contact: Contact Deb McWard (314-607-2908) for sign-up. Send suggestions for book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht tebrecht@yahoo.com

Mar 24 Planning meeting. Send book titles with authors to Teri. Come prepared to select a book and possible month for your review. Open to suggestions. Volunteer(s) needed to host Zoom if Debbie is unable to host.

Apr 28 *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins (novel). Oprah Book Club selection. Companion suggested: *Worst Hard Times* by Timothy Egan (Dust Bowl). Patty Murray

May 26

Sep 22

Oct 27

2023: Jan-May, Sep-Oct

2022 International Relations Lecture Series



Sponsored by the **American Association of University Women (AAUW)** & the **Tuesday Women's Association (TWA)** of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117.

Want to know more about cultural and political changes around the world? Here's your chance! The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. Annually, for 93 years, this Series has put a spotlight on forces driving world news events. Lectures are free & open to the public. Donations are gratefully accepted.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January through April. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period.

All 2022 events are on Zoom:

- Go to the Zoom website - <https://zoom.us/>
- Click "Join a Meeting"
- Enter the Zoom meeting I.D. - 384 4225785

March 8, 2022

Welcoming Refugees to St. Louis and a Glimpse at the World Refugee Situation

Speaker: **Ariel Burgess**, M.S.W.; vice president of client services at the International Institute of St. Louis

Ms. Burgess brings over 20 years of experience and practical knowledge to the field of refugee resettlement, having first started in the field when



Bosnians were coming to the U.S. and St. Louis. To date, Ms. Burgess and the Institute have been instrumental in bringing Afghans who were evacuated in 2021 to St. Louis. She will give us a glimpse of the worldwide refugee situation and then focus on refugees already in St. Louis, expected refugee arrivals, and how the community can support refugee resettlement.

Coordinator: Sue Williams

Assistant Coordinator: Nancy Hutchins

Save the date: April 12th, The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World

IBC Branch 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:

On March 10 at 11 am, the branch's monthly program will feature **Sarah Wetzel**, director of communications for the Better Business Bureau, who will speak about preventing identity theft. The meeting will be in person at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road at Hwy 141, 63017.

FERGUSON-FLOISSANT BRANCH:

The branch will hold a silent auction and potluck for their March event. They meet at 7:00 pm on the third Monday at Immanuel UCC, 126 Church Street, Ferguson, MO 63135.

ST CHARLES BRANCH:

The program for Thursday, March 3rd, will feature **Simona Charles** from the Buder Center for Native American Indian Studies at Washington University where she is a student and a single mom of three. Simona's talk will concentrate on current American Indian life, especially for women, including qualifications for college scholarships. The branch meets at 1:00 pm at First United Methodist Church, 801 First Capitol, St. Charles, MO 63301.

ST LOUIS BRANCH:

The IBC Swing Into Spring luncheon will serve as the branch's March event.

ITEMS OF INTEREST



Rung for Women: Helping Women Climb the Ladder Toward Economic Self-Sufficiency

Thurs., March 10, 7 p.m. (CST)

Virtual event

[Read more and register here.](#)

Learn about Rung for Women, an organization uniquely focused on the economic advancement of women (<https://rungforwomen.org/>). Rung's intensive, individualized career training and support program helps women earning less than \$50,000 a year to climb the career ladder and become economically self-sufficient. Rung's strategy is to introduce women to careers that will offer them the opportunity to quickly achieve living-wage salaries. Recently Rung launched an initiative with Maryville University to create a Geospatial Analyst Training Program. Two Rung leaders will talk about their approach to job training with integrated support services: **Lisa Weingarth**, vice president, institutional advancement, who oversees marketing and communications, development, volunteer management, and government affairs; and **Rhonda Gray**, vice president, strategy & innovation, who oversees the planning and implementation of Rung's strategy, development of new business models, and strategies for expansion.

NWPC SYMPOSIUM:
EQUITABLE NEWS COVERAGE:
THE NATIONAL CRISIS OF
MISSING WOMEN OF COLOR

CONGRESSWOMAN SYLVIA GARCIA
SENATOR MARY KUNESH (MINNESOTA)

PATTY LOEW (ABC ANCHOR)
DR. KAYE WHITEHEAD (ACADEMIC, CIVIL JUSTICE)
MANGAI NATARAJAN (CRIMINOLOGIST)
JUANA MAJEL DIXON (PAUMA TRIBE)

MODERATED BY ELAINE AYALA (SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS)
HOSTED BY DR. CARMEN SCHAYE

NWPC Symposium — Equitable News Coverage: The National Crisis of Missing Women of Color Saturday March 12, 2022 at 1:00 pm CST via Zoom.

This symposium will focus on the disproportionate effects of the lack of equitable news coverage, cross-departmental interagency work involving Missing Women of Color. We want there to be equitable media coverage and inclusive media practices with news outlets across the industry, when it comes to coverage of missing women of color. We must work towards equity, safety, and access for all.

Our goal is to not only educate women from across the United States on this issue, but also to educate women on how they can assemble and organize long-term political strategies, create policy, and fight for missing women of color. It's not just stating the problem, but it is inspiring women to come together and engage in long-term effective solutions and legislation.

Please Join Us!
[REGISTER HERE](#)

March Lunch & Learn: Threats to the Initiative Petition Process

When: Thursday, March 24, 2022 | 12:00 pm—1:00 pm
Where: Zoom - [RSVP Here](#)

Missouri’s initiative petition system has been in place for 115 years and allows citizens to put an issue on the ballot for a statewide vote. This critical tool, used through the years by citizens from all political persuasions is now under attack by lawmakers who want to curtail the people’s power.

The legislature is currently proposing roughly 20 different bills that would make it harder to get an issue on the ballot and increase the threshold for an initiated measure to pass once on the ballot. For some perspective, a large majority of voters recently approved a higher minimum wage, Medicaid expansion, and medical marijuana through the initiative petition process. Under the proposed new threshold, each would have failed.

Ashton Kuehnel will present on why this is happening and what we can do about it. Ashton is a grassroots organizer with the Sierra Club, Missouri Chapter. Ashton has organized around Medicaid Expansion, a just transition to clean, renewable energy and voting protections. She lives in St. Louis City and is a Saint Louis University alum.

GATEWAY HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Presents Session 4 in the Race, Crime, and Justice Speaking Series: Native Americans in America
 Monday, March 7, 2022, 5 pm-6 pm CST

Speaker: Dawn Houser; (Abedabun-Anishinaabe, name meaning “to have a future vision”) is the lead pastor at Aitkin United Methodist Church in Aitkin, Minnesota, and a Native American ministries church planter. As the pastor of Aitkin United Methodist Church, Dawn is also a law enforcement chaplain and hospital chaplain. In November 2020 She was elected to the school board of Aitkin Public School, where she currently serves.

[RSVP](#)

2022 *Mark Your Calendar*

March — WOMEN’S HISTORY MONTH
 Mar 7 K-WG board meeting
 Mar 8 International Women’s Day
 Mar 8 IRLS: Welcoming Refugees to St Louis
 Mar 15 Equal Pay Day
 Mar 26 IBC: Swing Into Spring luncheon (in lieu of branch meeting)

April —
 Apr 1 Star Award application to state is due
 Apr 4 K-WG board meeting
 Apr 12 IRLS: The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World
 Apr 21 Monthly branch meeting: STEM and business meeting

May — Mother’s Day May 8
 May 2 K-WG board meeting
 May 6-7 AAUW MO annual meeting & conference
 May 19 Monthly branch meeting: TBD

May or June — Annual Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch end-of-year celebration – TBD

July — New officers begin term of office

August — Membership get-acquainted gathering

International Women’s Day 2022: In Conversation with Esther Ngumbi, PhD.

March 8, 2022—1:00 p.m. central time

Join AAUW’s CEO Gloria Blackwell for an inspiring conversation with Dr. Esther Ngumbi--author, researcher, educator, mentor, speaker and a champion for change around the issues of hunger, gender, education, youth activism, agriculture, sustainability, and public service. A 2007-08 AAUW International Fellow, she is currently an assistant professor in the Entomology and African-American Studies departments at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. The recipient of multiple national and international awards, Dr. Ngumbi is the founder of organizations that empower farmers and youth in Kenya and has received three U.S. patents for her research.

Dr. Ngumbi believes that everyone has a right to live a dignified life. She has dedicated all of her passion, intellect, heart, and resources to bringing sustainable change in her community and has become a powerful role model for women and girls.

[Register today!](#)

Orange Pecan Monkey Bread

Recipe courtesy of [Taste of the South Magazine](#)

Makes 8 to 10 servings.

For a printable version of this recipe, please [CLICK HERE](#).



Ingredients

- 1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 1½ teaspoons apple pie spice
- 1½ teaspoons orange zest
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt
- 2 (16.3-ounce) cans refrigerated biscuits,* each cut into 6 pieces
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- ½ cup fresh orange juice
- 3 tablespoons dark corn syrup
- ¼ cup heavy whipping cream
- 1½ teaspoons vanilla extract
- Garnish: chopped toasted Schermer Pecans

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 12- to 15-cup Bundt pan with cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, stir together sugars, apple pie spice, zest, and salt. Add dough pieces, tossing to coat. Place dough pieces and any remaining sugar mixture in prepared pan.
3. In a small saucepan, melt butter over medium heat. Remove from heat; stir in orange juice and corn syrup until combined. Stir in cream and vanilla. Pour over dough.
4. Bake until browned and bubbly, about 40 minutes. Spray a knife with cooking spray, and run around edges of pan. Place a plate over pan, and immediately invert bread onto plate. Garnish with pecans, if desired. Serve warm.

Notes

*We used Grands! Homestyle Butter Tastin' Biscuits.

F.Y.I.

To view past AAUW webinars, go to [aauw.org](https://www.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.

AAUW NATIONAL

- ⇒ New research from the **Student Debt Crisis Center** finds that 93% of borrowers are not prepared to restart payments on May 1. Learn how the pandemic, inflation, and the economic crisis are endangering students and borrowers in the [Student Debt X COVID report](#).
- ⇒ AAUW [joined](#) more than 60 organizations in calling on Congress to pass the **Job Protection Act**, a critical expansion of the Family Medical Leave Act.
- ⇒ Join AAUW on March 16 for our **66th UN Commission on the Status of Women** parallel event—an expert panel discussion about gender and work, the double burden and expectations of women’s paid and unpaid work, and solutions that support equity and success in the workforce. [Register here](#) today!
- ⇒ Stay engaged this year with our [Two-Minute Activist tool!](#) You can also check out our [letters, comments, testimony and legal briefs](#) to learn more about **AAUW’s positions and advocacy efforts** on critical issues.
- ⇒ **Discover Your New AAUW Account.** AAUW is pleased to roll out the [AAUW Community Hub](#), a new, improved member platform that replaces the Member Services Database. This system will be used for donations, member renewals and other updates. Visit our [Systems Update](#) page for instructions on how to log in.

AAUW DISCOUNTS

Did you know? AAUW members are given discounts by the following organizations. Membership cards can be printed out from the national website (<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/discounts-and-perks/>).

Insurance

- Geico – auto insurance discount
- LTC Global – long term care insurance
- Nationwide Pet Insurance – 5%+ discount

Travel

- Hotel Engine – private hotel-booking platform
- Collette Tours – 160 tours on seven continents
- Cruises Only – America’s largest cruise company
- TNT Vacations – 900 Destinations
- Car rentals – Dollar Car Rental, Avis, Thrifty, Budget

Other Discounts and Services

- El University – scholarships
- Office Depot/Office Max – save up to 80%
- Constant Contact -- Marketing advisors
- Free Prescription Savings Card – up to 55% savings
- UPS -- mailing discounts
- Shop AAUW

"SWING INTO SPRING"

Honoring Barbara Lackritz Awardees
 Relishing a great meal "out" with friends
 Toe-tapping to the music of [The Queens of Swing](#)
 and raising funds for IBC Projects



Saturday, March 26, 2022, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

Catering To You

[12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033](#)

Buffet Lunch: Garden Salad, Roasted Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Mushroom Herb Chicken Breast, Scalloped Potatoes, Homestyle Green Beans, Rolls, Drinks, and Dessert
 (indicate special dietary needs below)

For more information, contact Deb McWard, debmcward@earthlink.net

✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ~ Please cut here and send form below with your check ~ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂ ✂

Make registration and/or donation check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC**

Mail no later than **March 12** to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215

Print Name _____ Branch _____

Address _____

Email (required) _____

_____ I plan to attend "**Swing into Spring**" and am sending a check for:

My Registration _____	\$ _____	35
_____ Guest(s) Registration _____	\$ _____	(\$35 x #)
_____ Donation (enter amount) _____	\$ _____	
	\$ _____	TOTAL

_____ I am not able to attend but will make a donation of _____ \$ _____ **TOTAL**

~ Enter guest names here. Enter special dietary needs here. ~