

"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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Thursday, January 19, 2023

7:00 PM

Log in for Networking at 6:30 PM

Speaker: Emily Hines, Middle School Librarian

Zoom Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3041753234>

A December 5, 2022, article from St. Louis Public Radio stated:

Since August, Missouri schools have banned more than 300 book titles from school libraries in response to a new law that criminalizes having sexually explicit material in schools, according to the writing and literature organization [PEN America](https://www.penn.org/). Titles such as Kurt Vonnegut's *Breakfast of Champions*, Alan Moore's *Watchmen* and George Orwell's *1984* are banned or pending investigation from [libraries and classrooms](#) in various school districts across the state.

Now, Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft wants to impose a [rule](#) that establishes a certification process to require state-funded public libraries to adopt policies on age-appropriate reading materials.

"It'll help parents know what's going on so they can make whatever decision they see fit about what their children check out," Ashcroft said. "This is all about transparency and about parent control, which libraries are saying they believe parents should be in charge." <https://news.stlpublicradio.org/2022-12-05/missouri-secretary-of-state-looks-to-control-public-library-policies-on-age-appropriate-books>

The entire article is worth reading, but more surprising is the list of banned or potentially banned books (click on the libraries and classrooms link above).

Emily Hines, middle school librarian, will be our virtual speaker for Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 7 PM. She will be sharing how her school district is dealing with SB 775 and book challenges. (Book challenges are when parents/community members challenge that a book is appropriate for the school library.)



Jeanne

How did you celebrate New Year's?

Do you have any family traditions such as special foods for good luck, some type of celebration such as making loud noises at midnight, watching midnight at Times Square, or singing Auld Lang Syne?

Are you the resolution type? If so, do you succeed in keeping those resolutions? There are a lot of problems with resolutions.

A survey in 2014 found that 88% of the people fail. One of the problems researchers have found with New Year's resolutions is having unrealistic goals. They also found that one-third of the people didn't even keep track of their progress, almost 25% forgot about them, and about one in 10 respondents claimed they made too many.

Another survey found that men were more likely to keep their resolutions if they set goals in small and measurable terms such as "lose a pound a week" rather than "lose weight." That's probably true for women as well. The surveys make good points we should remember with our own planning and resolutions.

Besides the forward-looking thinking of resolutions and goals, part of New-Year traditions often is reflecting on the past year. An internet blog, *Liquid Planner – the blog for passionate planners*, has six suggestions as you plan the new year. The blog is aimed at businesses but can apply to our branch and to our own lives.

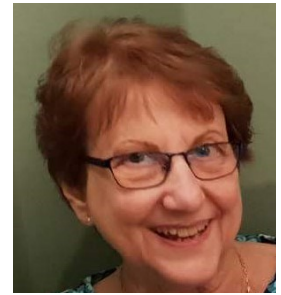
1. *Write down past successes and shortlist the actions you are going to take to replicate those successes for next year*
2. *Review your relationships – talk to people and seek suggestions*
3. *Finish strong as a team – write down highlights and low lights. Say thanks and recognize team members for their contributions.*
4. *De-clutter – mentally and physically. Clean up your to-do list and your stacks of paper.*
5. *Write it all down – lessons learned, good ideas, new objectives.*
6. *Plan for next year – set goals and objectives.*

The branch planning year goes from July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023. Goals were set by the Board that are measurable, achievable, and meet our mission of equity for women and girls. Our goals and their status are:

1. Continue our three STEM scholarships – *Planned for spring 2023.*
2. Continue diversity, equity, and inclusion training – *Has been done with board.*
3. Participate in the Suffrage Trails project – *Research by KWG members to identify additional St. Louis Suffrage Trails locations and suffragists has not been productive but will continue if members express interest. Branch members attended dedications of location markers at two St. Louis Suffrage Trails locations.*
4. Participate in the celebration for Virginia Minor's effort to vote – *Done.*
5. Create and distribute "VOTE" yard signs for the November election – *Done for November but have more signs to sell in upcoming elections.*
6. Revive the Meet & Geek computer training – *Pending.*
7. Organize Get Out the Vote activities – *Held two LWV speaker events on amendments to the Constitution and invited the public.*
8. Fundraise for NCWSSL – *Pending.*

What are your thoughts about 2022 and 2023? What did you learn last year? How can we meet the challenges of a new year?

Marsha and Jeanne



Marsha



FEBRUARY 16, 2023

7:00 PM

Dr. Raven Lloyd, an AAUW Fellow, will present to AAUW-KWG virtually. Her AAUW fellowship project was titled Care as Resistance: Black Women Online. She will talk about her research on race, gender, and digital media.

To learn more about the AAUW Fellowships and Grants, please go to: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/>

The presentation will begin at 7:00 PM with networking opportunities prior to the presentation. This meeting will be held via Zoom.

Join the Movie Group



If you would like to join in, let Carol, Nancy Hutchins, or Becky Clausen know so a Zoom link can be emailed to you. Each of us watches a selected movie on Netflix. The movie is then discussed by the group.

The next movie is **Becoming** on **January 23, 2023**. Discussion will be led by Diane Sher. On **February 27, 2023**, the selection is **Molly's Game**.

The group will keep eyes open for the premier of *Women Talking* in the movie theaters. If it comes to St. Louis in the next few months, we will arrange to go to it in groups or individually and then pick a movie club night to discuss. Stay tuned on this one.

Mark Your Calendar

- Jan 10 International relations lecture on Energy Markets, 10:45 am, Ethical Society
- Jan 16 KWG board meeting
- Jan 19 KWG branch meeting via Zoom, 7 pm
- Jan 23 Movie Group, 7 pm
- Jan 26 Adelante book group, 1:30 pm via Zoom
- Feb 14 International Relations lecture
- Feb 16 KWG branch meeting via Zoom
- Mar 18 IBC spring luncheon

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

Marsha Koch found this interesting video in January 4, 2023, *The Hill* newsletter (<https://thehill.com>). The strategy talked about in this video could have come straight from AAUW!

11 a.m.: Secretary of State Antony Blinken delivered remarks at the first-ever U.S. Strategy on Global Women's Economic Security. [Watch](#)

Secretary Blinken said that women have equal pay with men in 12 countries. Sad that the U.S. is not one of them. According to the report [Women, Business and the Law 2022](#), recently published by the World Bank, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Sweden were the only ones offering full equal rights for men and women, at least from a legal perspective.

A great speaker for area conference: Jennifer Klein, assistant to the president and the director of the Gender Policy Council (formed by President Biden March 2021). The GPC covers a range of issues—including economic security, health, gender-based violence, and education—with a focus on gender equity and equality, and particular attention to the barriers faced by women and girls. It also plays an essential role in the President's efforts to advance equity in government policy for those who face discrimination and bias based on multiple factors—including members of the Black, Latina, Native American, AAPI, and LGBTQI+ communities, as well as persons with disabilities.

Another possible speaker for the area conference: Katrina Fotovat, senior official, Office of Global Women's Issues: <https://www.state.gov/biographies/katrina-fotovat/>. She leads a team of gender experts promoting gender equality efforts including support of women, peace, and security, countering violent extremism, promoting women's economic empowerment, and combatting gender-based violence.

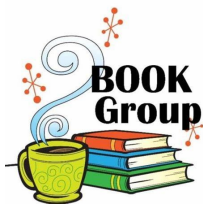
AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

KWG is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next IBC meeting is at 7 p.m. on February 21, 2023, via ZOOM. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>.

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 September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: Deb McWard (314-607-2908).
Send suggestions for book selection titles/authors to Teri Brecht tebrecht@yahoo.com.

Jan 26 *Hidden Valley Road: Inside the Mind of an American Family*, by Robert Kolker; national mentoring (400 p); Jan Barrett, facilitator

Feb 23 *Jackie, Janet & Lee: Secret Lives of Janet Auchincloss and Her Daughters*, by J. Randy Taraborrelli; black history (528 p); Deb McWard, facilitator

Mar 23 *The Girl with Seven Names: A North Korean Defector's Story*, by Hyeonseo Lee (Lee Hyeon-seo) with John David; women's history (320 p); Carol McDonald, facilitator

Apr 27 *The Bookshop of the Broken Hearted*, by Robert Hillman; sexual assault awareness (304 p); Teri Brecht or Karen Francis, facilitator

May 25 *This Tender Land: A Novel*, by William Kent Krueger; Asian-Pacific American heritage; Lynne Roney, facilitator

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—January 12—Branch meeting at 9:30 at Ballwin Golf Course Events Center. Speaker: Nicole Adewale—They Think It's a Man's World, But It Would be Nothing Without a Girl.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—No information

Saint Charles Branch—No meeting

St. Louis Branch—Wednesday, January 18, 6:30 pm, via Zoom—Unconscious Bias and Microaggressions: How to Handle in Real Time. Discussion facilitated by Ellen Irons.

2023 International Relations Lecture Series

Ethical Society of St. Louis
9001 Clayton Road
St. Louis, MO 63117



AAUW is a sponsor of the lecture series, which has been a joint venture with the Tuesday Women's Group (TWA) of the Ethical Society for over 95 years. Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 am on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, January through April, in the upper auditorium. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. Free parking is available in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and to stay and discuss the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

Jan 10 International Energy Markets in Flux by Dr. Lea-Rachel Kosnik. Professor Kosnik will discuss historical and current trends in global energy patterns, including how political shocks such as the war in Ukraine have been affecting particular energy markets. She will offer policy prescriptions on possible ways to regulate energy markets in the future, in particular with an eye towards managing climate change and other global crises.

Lea-Rachel Kosnik is a professor of economics at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She received her PhD from the University of California-Los Angeles after having spent a year as a Fulbright Scholar in Ankara, Turkey, studying hydroelectric power and renewable energy in the Middle East.

(Continued on next page)

(International Relations Lecture Series continued)

Feb 14 Afghan Refugees and their Resettlement in St. Louis: Focus on Education of Women, by Dr. Linda Lindsey.

Dr. Lindsey’s presentation will spotlight the issues, challenges, and resilience of Afghans as they resettled in St. Louis, and the specific issues faced by Muslim women caring for their families under the Russians, the Taliban, the Americans in Afghanistan, and now in the United States.

Dr. Lindsey is a member of AAUW St. Louis Branch. She recently retired as senior lecturer at Washington University and is professor emerita at Maryville University. She received her PhD in sociology from Case Western Reserve University and later an M.A. in education from St. Louis University. Her academic career is under a gender and intersectional umbrella, focusing on inequality, diversity, globalization, and health and society.

SAVE THE DATE

IBC “Annual Event” Luncheon
Recognizing Barbara Lackritz Honorees
Saturday, March 18, 2023

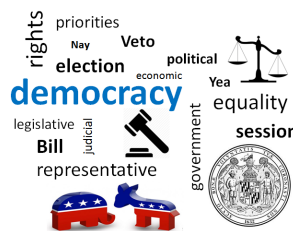
Program speaker: *Acclaimed author Nicole Evelina*
 Registration flyer to follow!

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.

AAUW of MISSOURI



The 2023 LEGISLATIVE RETREAT of the American Association of University Women of Missouri

AAUW MO is facilitating another Legislative Retreat on **Saturday, February 11, 2023, via Zoom, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.**, and we would like you to attend.

The leaders of Missouri organizations will give a brief description of their group, an explanation of their main legislative priority, and the bill number, title, and author they would like us to monitor.

Activists from organizations across the state will share information about the initiative petition, clean slate, book bans, economic issues, educational issues, gun safety, health and reproductive rights, social issues, and voting laws.

The Zoom information will come on or about **Friday, February 3, 2023.**

Contact Karen Francis, AAUW MO president, for more information or for an answer to a question at 314.223.4235 or karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com.

Please join us as we strive to do what Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggests: *Fight for things you care about but do it in a way that leads others to join you.*

Meet Our Fellows and Grantees

AAUW’s comprehensive online directory includes biographies and sponsorship information for our outstanding AAUW fellows and grantees going back to the 2004-05 academic year. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/directory-of-recipients-sponsors/>

AAUW Mission: To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

AAUW Vision: Equity for all.

AAUW Values: Nonpartisan. Fact-based. Integrity. Inclusion and intersectionality.

Programs of Interest



The Big Chill: How Extremism Is Eroding Our Rights

Wednesday, January 18, 7 p.m. (NOTE NEW DATE)

In-person program at The Center of Clayton
50 Gay Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105

Proof of COVID-19 vaccination and a mask will be required for entry.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m., program begins 7 p.m.

Program will also be available on Zoom.

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

"The Big Chill" will be the topic of the Women's Voices program, rescheduled for Wednesday, January 18, reflecting not only the probable winter temperature but also the chilling effect of current extremism and fundamentalism in our society. Our speaker will be Dr. Marie Griffith, who directs the John C. Danforth Center on Religion and Politics at Washington University. Dr. Griffith's research and writing focuses on American Christianity, including the changing profile of American evangelicals and ongoing conflicts over gender, sexuality and marriage.

Co-sponsors: League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, the National Council of Jewish Women St. Louis, and the Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society.

Reading to children at night, responding to their smiles with a smile, returning their vocalizations with one of your own, touching them, holding them—all of these further a child's brain development and future potential, even in the earliest months. — T. Berry Brazelton

Let children read whatever they want and then talk about it with them. If parents and kids can talk together, we won't have so much censorship because we won't have as much fear. — Judy Blume

FDR in our Lives Today

Thursday, January 12

10:00 - 11:00 am (online)



To many, Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) is among the greatest U.S. presidents. FDR intervened during the Great Depression, led our country through WWII, and is the longest-serving president in American history. Before FDR, many Presidential papers and records were lost, destroyed, sold for profit, or ruined by poor storage conditions; FDR consulted historians and scholars for a better alternative and established the National Archives. Join Jeff Urbin, Education Specialist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum, to discuss the impact FDR's policies, priorities, and politics continue to have on our lives today. This three-week program (1/12, 1/19 & 1/26) is part of Mirowitz Center's continuing "Presidential Legacies" series.

To register, [click here](#), call (314) 733-9813, or email skemppainen@mirowitzcenter.org.



January Lunch & Learn: Shopping Ethically with David Cook

When: Thursday, January 19 | 12:00 noon – 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Ethical shopping has been a rising topic for some time now. The phrase "vote with your dollars" has even become a common rallying cry for making ethical decisions with daily purchases. However, as ethical shopping is a broad and sometimes complex topic, it can be difficult to know where to get started.

Fortunately, making ethical purchases is well worth the benefits it can bring to your local community and the world at large (like when you shop at [NCJWSTL's Resale Shop!](#)). Plus, some methods of ethical shopping can be easily added to your normal shopping routine. For our January Lunch and Learn, we are thrilled to welcome David Cook to help us navigate this landscape.

David Cook serves as President of UFCW Local 655. David joined Local 655 in 1977 as a courtesy clerk for Kroger. In 1987, he began his career with Local 655 in the Organizing Department and has worked as a service representative prior to his current position. In addition to his duties with the Local, he is also a delegate to the Greater St. Louis Labor Council, and a trustee for the UFCW Local 655 Pension Fund and the UFCW Local 655 Health and Welfare Fund.

Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call (314) 993.5181.



Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council

2023 Spring Luncheon

Celebrating Strong Women

Recognizing IBC Barbara Lackritz Honorees

Entertainment: *Nicole Evelina*, USA Today bestselling celebrated author and nationally recognized speaker, will share about her love of history, why it is important to keep re-telling strong women's stories, and provide highlights of her newly published book on St. Louis suffragists Virginia and Francis Minor.

Saturday, March 18, 2023, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

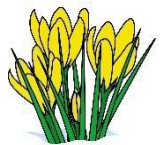
Doors open at 11:15 am

EdgeWild Restaurant & Winery

[Google Map Link to Edgewild location](#)

550 Chesterfield Center, Chesterfield, MO 63017

Choice of one of four lunches at the event: Dijon Chicken; Salmon and Grits; Center Cut Sirloin, OR Stuffed Mushrooms w/ roasted vegetables. House salad, water and iced tea, and Ultimate Chocolate Cake dessert included. (Indicate special dietary needs on back of form.)



Registration fee: \$45 - includes meal, program, and entertainment

Registration deadline: March 3, 2023

For more information, contact Ellen Irons, ironnew82@gmail.com

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

Make check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC**. Mail form and check no later than **March 3** to:
Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr., Manchester, MO 63011-4215

Print Name: _____ Branch: _____

Address: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

<input type="checkbox"/> I plan to attend <i>Celebrating Strong Women</i>	Registration Fee	\$ <u>45</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> I am pre-purchasing gift card raffle tickets of:		
3 tickets for \$10 ___ 6 tickets for \$20 ___ 9 tickets for \$30 ___		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> I am unable to attend but want my tickets entered in the drawing.		
<input type="checkbox"/> I am paying for _____ # of guests X \$45 (list names on back)		\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Here's my additional donation to support IBC projects:		\$ _____
	CHECK ENCLOSED TOTAL	\$ _____