

AAUW Mission: AAUW advances 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.

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).

Branch Officers, 2023-2024

Co-President:

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

Co-President:

Lynne Roney
314-223-3426
roneyeditorial@gmail.com

Program Vice President:

Kay Meyer
314-962-7487
kicmeyer51@gmail.com

Membership Vice President:

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

Finance Vice President:

Carol Davis McDonald
314-623-1847
davis-mcdonald@outlook.com

Secretary:

TBD

OCTOBER 26 PROGRAM

(last Thursday of the month)

6:30 social; 7:00 program

Kirkwood United Methodist Church

201 West Adams, Room 201 (main level)

**WHAT IS AAUW DOING FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS?
A REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT**

More than 150 members from 11 regional states were expected to attend the Regional Conference, which was designed, organized, and hosted by AAUW MO. A panel of four or five KWG members who attended will share what they learned from the many Conference speakers, activities, and members. Topics include:

Current Topics:

- The Causes and Consequences of the Gender Pay Gap
- Women's Health and Reproductive Rights
- Protect Voting Rights and Voting Challenges
- Strengthening Advocacy: Working Across Generational Lines
- Unconscious Assumptions and Implicit Bias
- 1619 Freedom School Project

Trending Topics:

- Intersectionality: LGBTQ+ Issues/Gender Isn't Binary
- Censorship and Legislative Issues Impacting Your Community Library
- On Tribal Lands
- Gen Z Voting Issues and Public Safety
- Ending Period Poverty; the Pink Tax
- Title IX in a Changing Landscape
- Improving Maternal and Infant Outcomes in America
- Gen Z to Millennials: Issues & Advocacy

AAUW Now and Then:

- Current staffing, partners, and research plans
- New ideas for member recruitment, orientation, and retention
- Anticipated changes

Join us for good discussion over a sweet treat and coffee!



Lynne

From
Co-Presidents



Jeanne

Dear Branch members,

You may have recently received a letter from the National AAUW office which focused on the student loan crisis burden for women. The facts are not surprising. Women hold two-thirds of all student loan debt amounting to \$929 billion of the \$1.7 trillion total. This greater burden is attributed to three factors:

1. First women are forced to borrow more money to pay for college.
2. Once they graduate, women typically earn less, amounting to 84 cents on the dollar of what a white man earns. Women of color earn substantially less, and their student debt exacerbates the racial wealth gap.
3. Because of their lower income, it takes women two years longer to pay off their student loan debts which may mean they get started later buying a house or saving for retirement.

As a long-time supporter of education for women, AAUW continues to work to reduce this crisis by:

1. Fighting for protection and expansion of Pell Grants for low income students, thus reducing debt.
2. Working to pass legislation to eliminate the gender pay gap, such as the Paycheck Fairness Act.
3. Streamlining income-driven repayment plans and closing loopholes to assist women in paying off their debt more quickly.

While the facts are discouraging, it is good to see the commitment AAUW is making to help win the fight for equity and justice.

Lynne Roney and Jeanne Webdell, Co-Presidents



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS - TOGETHER!

AAUW CENTRAL STATES CONFERENCE

OCTOBER 19-21, 2023

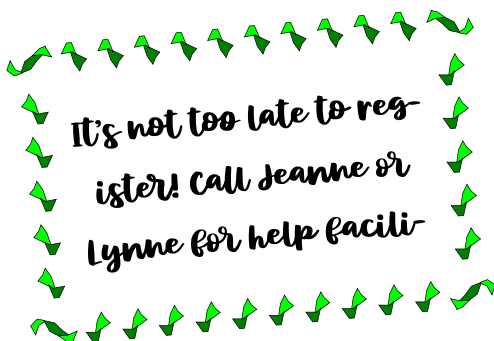
Drury Plaza Hotel St. Louis at the Arch

Keynote Speakers:

Gloria Blackwell, CEO, AAUW

Lisa Maatz, Public Policy Consultant

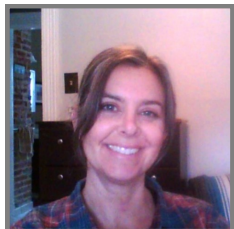
See the program of speakers and activities!



MEMBERSHIP

Thank you to all who renewed your Kirkwood-Webster Groves membership. Your continued support will help us continue to promote the mission and values of AAUW. It was sometimes an arduous task to maneuver the revised website, so give yourselves credit for sticking with it. **Deb McWard, Membership VP**

Welcome our New Members . . .



Lesli Moylan is our newest member, and we welcome her to our branch. I asked her to write a bio for the newsletter and received an amazing resume from her. It's too long for here because of all her accomplishments, but you'll be impressed when you meet her. She has graciously agreed to speak at our November 30 meeting.

Lesli is a mom, wife, daughter, friend, sister, dreamer, and doer. She says she loves the earth, which has been her motivation for everything she's accomplished, except for her family, of course. She is a graduate of Truman State University with a BA in biology. She says it's a BA, not a BS because "I took so many Ecology courses that I didn't fit squarely into the school's view of biology at the time, so they gave me a BA instead of a BS".

She received an M.A. in Sustainability Education from Prescott College in Arizona, focusing on school gardens which help us learn to heal some environmental and social wounds. She managed to juggle an incredible amount of volunteering and jobs while raising two children and helping her husband get through medical school. Four and a half years ago she landed at MEEA, the Missouri Environmental Educational Association; the rest is history, which she can best tell you about. Her focus has been on the *Show-Me Green Schools suite of three programs that guide Missouri schools towards growth in three pillars: lowering their environmental impact, improving health and wellness for students and staff, and equipping students to be students of the environment.*

Her goal is to see one school in each county become green.

She lives with her husband Kyle and two sons, Evan and Jack, in Kirkwood. Please check out the MEEA website, meea.org.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~



Mara Perry is currently the Director of Planning and Development for the City of Webster Groves. She came to St. Louis to attend graduate school at Washington University and never moved back home to the east coast. While working on her Masters of Architecture and Urban Design and Masters of Social Work at Wash. U. she received a Selected Professions Fellowship from AAUW.

She joined the K-WG branch of AAUW back in 1996 while still in school using a membership paid for by the members of the branch the first year. She served on the K-WG AAUW board in different capacities over the years. Mara and her husband Jim live in Webster Groves. Their daughter Olivia just graduated from Webster Groves High School and is attending Maryville University majoring in Interior Design. Olivia received a Saints Scholarship, Tomorrow's Innovators Scholarship and a Design and Visual Arts Scholarship from Maryville University. She is getting signed up as a student member for the Maryville University AAUW branch.

Mara hasn't been active in AAUW for the last few years due to work and family schedules. As a new empty nester, she is hoping to have time to get more involved again.

KWG FUNDRAISING

Kay Meyer

- We are in full swing for the annual pecan fundraising project that supports our three STEM scholarships for high school senior girls.
- Make your choices on the order form attached in the newsletter email; send with your check payable to "AAUW K-WG Branch" to Kay Meyer or email your order to her at kicmeyer51@gmail.com.
- Also, please share copies of the order form with your family and friends to see if they would be willing to support us as well.
- KWG will sell pecans at the [Pecanapalooza](#) in Ste. Genevieve on November 4 and at the Holiday Bazaar in Affton on November 11. Workers



WEBSTER UNIVERSITY CONNECTION

Debbie McWard

Webster University has been a long-time AAUW College University Partner, and the branch has been involved with them from time to time over the years. In fact, the last three years its students have been awarded an IBC NCCWSL scholarship. Now the Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies committee is looking at its programming to increase student awareness about feminist issues. Things will pick begin this fall and pick up in the spring and they welcome our participation. Some of the issues brought up by the *Barbie* movie will be used for campus-wide discussion as a kick-off.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR BARBARA LACKRITZ AWARD

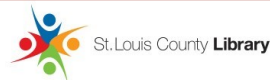
Due October 31

KWG is accepting nominations for the KWG Barbara Lackritz annual service award. Our honoree will be acknowledged at the annual IBC spring luncheon on March 23, 2024. Please submit your nomination to Jeanne Webdell at 573.754.0943 or jeannewebdell@gmail.com.

With your nomination, please include a few sentences about your nominee. 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.

Nominations should be submitted by October 31, 2023. The award is named after Barbara Lackritz, who served as a leader and mentor for AAUW



October 10 - 12, Virtual Screening of "The Right to Read: The Greatest Civil Rights Issue of Our Time"

Watch "The Right to Read", a documentary sharing the stories of an NAACP activist, a teacher, and two American families who fight to provide our youngest generation with the most foundational indicator of life-long success: the ability to read.

Running time: 70 min.

Documentary available to view 12:00 a.m. Tuesday,

AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC

¡Adelante! Book Group

October 26, 1:30 pm by Zoom

The Bluest Eye, by Toni Morrison. Reviewer Betty Takahashi
Pecola Breedlove—an 11-year-old Black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

Meeting ID: **853 3895 9790**, Passcode: **614379**

Dial by your location: **312 626 6799**

Branch Meetings

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—Thursday, October 12

Social time 9 a.m. Business meeting 9:30 . Program 10

[No Sister Left Behind: Changing Lives and Sewing Hope into the Hearts and Minds of Formerly Incarcerated Women presented by Kacie Starr Long.](#)

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center

333 Holloway Road, Ballwin 63011

Light refreshments will be served. Members may bring their own beverage.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact President Patty Murray, 314-838-7887, pattymurray2011@gmail.com for meeting information.

St. Charles Branch—Thursday, October 5, 2023, 1 pm

1933-2023...90 Years of AAUW...Where Did the Time Go?

First St. Charles United Methodist Church

801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301

St. Louis Branch—Contact President Ellen Irons, 314-727-9918 ironnew@msn.com , for meeting information

CONGRATULATIONS!

As reported by NPR on October 9, 2023

Harvard University's **Claudia Goldin** has won the **2023 Nobel Prize** in Economics for her research on women in the labor market. **She studies the changing role of working women through the centuries, and the causes of the persistent pay gap between men and women.**

"She can explain why the gender gap suddenly started to close in the 1980s and the surprising role of the birth control pill and changing expectation," Hjalmarsson said. "And she can explain **why the earnings gap has stopped closing today** and the role of parenthood."

CALENDAR

2023

- Oct 19-21 Regional Conference
Drury Plaza Hotel, St. Louis
- Oct 26 KWG Branch Meeting (note date change)
Kirkwood United Methodist Church
- Nov 4 Pecan Sales at the Pecanapalooza
Ste. Geneviève
- Nov 11 Pecan Sales at Holiday Bazaar in Affton
- Nov 30 KWG Branch Meeting (note date change)
Kirkwood United Methodist Church

2024

- Mar 23 IBC Luncheon

KWG POLICY CHANGES

Updates to the KWG policies were approved by the membership at the September 21 meeting and included:

- Updated fund numbers and name of STEM scholarship
- Removed programs no longer supported by AAUW MO (Named Gift Award)
- Updated funding guidelines for leadership participation in state meetings

2023-2024 ¡Adelante! Book Group

Fourth Thursday at 1:30 pm except June, July August, November, and December

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

Meeting ID: **853 3895 9790** Passcode: **614379** Dial by your location: 312 626 6799

Title	Author No. Pages	Month Reviewer
<p>This Tender Land: A Novel 1932, Minnesota—the Lincoln School is a pitiless place where hundreds of Native American children, forcibly separated from their parents, are sent to be educated. It is also home to an orphan named Odie O’Banion, a lively boy whose exploits earn him the superintendent’s wrath. Forced to flee, he and his brother Albert, their best friend Mose, and a brokenhearted little girl named Emmy steal away in a canoe, heading for the mighty Mississippi and a place to call their own. Over the course of one unforgettable summer, these four orphans will journey into the unknown and cross paths with others who are adrift, from struggling farmers and traveling faith healers to displaced families and lost souls of all kinds. With the feel of a modern classic, This Tender Land is an en-thralling, big-hearted epic that shows how the magnificent American landscape connects us all, haunts our dreams and makes us whole.</p>	<p align="center">William Kent Krueger 464 pages September 3, 2019</p>	<p align="center">September 28, 2023 Lynne Roney</p>
<p>The Bluest Eyes Pecola Breedlove—an 11-year-old Black girl in an America whose love for its blond, blue-eyed children can devastate all others—prays for her eyes to turn blue: so that she will be beautiful, so that people will look at her, so that her world will be different. This is the story of the nightmare at the heart of her yearning, and the tragedy of its fulfillment.</p>	<p align="center">Toni Morrison 215 pages December 28, 1993</p>	<p align="center">October 26, 2023 Betty Takahashi</p>
<p>Sold The powerful, poignant, bestselling National Book Award Finalist gives voice to a young girl robbed of her childhood yet determined to find the strength to triumph. Lakshmi is a thirteen-year-old girl who lives with her family in a small hut on a mountain in Nepal. Though she is desperately poor, her life is full of simple pleasures, like playing hopscotch with her best friend from school, and having her mother brush her hair by the light of an oil lamp. But when the harsh Himalayan monsoons wash away all that remains of the family's crops, Lakshmi's stepfather says she must leave home and take a job to support her family. He introduces her to a glamorous stranger who tells her she will find her a job as a maid in the city. Glad to be able to help, Lakshmi journeys to India and arrives at "Happiness House" full of hope. But she soon learns the unthinkable truth: she has been sold into prostitution. An old woman named Mumtaz rules the brothel with cruelty and cunning. She tells Lakshmi that she is trapped there until she can pay off her family's debt—then cheats Lakshmi of her meager earnings so that she can never leave. Lakshmi's life becomes a nightmare from which she cannot escape. Still, she lives by her mother's words—Simply to endure is to triumph—and gradually, she forms friendships with the other girls that enable her to survive in this terrifying new world. Then the day comes when she must make a decision—will she risk everything for a chance to reclaim her life?</p>	<p align="center">Patricia McCormick 263 pages April 1, 2008</p>	<p align="center">January 25, 2024 Patty Murray</p>

<p>Gender Queer: A Memoir In 2014, Maia Kobabe, who uses e/em/eir pronouns, thought that a comic of reading statistics would be the last autobiographical comic e would ever write. At the time, it was the only thing e felt comfortable with strangers knowing about em. Now, Gender Queer is here. Maia's intensely cathartic autobiography charts eir journey of self-identity, which includes the mortification and confusion of adolescent crushes, grappling with how to come out to family and society, bonding with friends over erotic gay fanfiction, and facing the trauma and fundamental violation of pap smears. Started as a way to explain to eir family what it means to be nonbinary and asexual, Gender Queer is more than a personal story: it is a useful and touching guide on gender identity--what it means and how to think about it--for advocates, friends, and humans everywhere.</p>	<p>Maia Kobabe 240 pages May 28, 2019</p>	<p>February 22, 2024 Nancy Hutchins</p>
<p>The Personal Librarian (Story of Belle da Costa Green 1905-1945) In her twenties, Belle da Costa Greene is hired by J. P. Morgan to curate a collection of rare manuscripts, books, and artwork for his newly built Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle becomes a fixture in New York City society and one of the most powerful people in the art and book world, known for her impeccable taste and shrewd negotiating for critical works as she helps create a world-class collection. But Belle has a secret, one she must protect at all costs. She was born not Belle da Costa Greene but Belle Marion Greener. She is the daughter of Richard Greener, the first Black graduate of Harvard and a well-known advocate for equality. Belle's complexion isn't dark because of her alleged Portuguese heritage that lets her pass as white—her complexion is dark because she is African American.</p>	<p>Marie Benedict and Victoria Christoph 352 pages June 29, 2021</p>	<p>March 28, 2024 Kay Meyer</p>
<p>Crow Mary In 1872, sixteen-year-old Goes First, a Crow Native woman, marries Abe Farwell, a white fur trader. He gives her the name Mary, and they set off on the long trip to his trading post in Saskatchewan, Canada. Along the way, she finds a fast friend in a Métis named Jeannie; makes a lifelong enemy in a wolfer named Stiller; and despite learning a dark secret of Farwell's past, falls in love with her husband. The winter trading season passes peacefully. Then, on the eve of their return to Montana, a group of drunken whiskey traders slaughters forty Nakota—despite Farwell's efforts to stop them. Mary, hiding from the hail of bullets, sees the murderers, including Stiller, take five Nakota women back to their fort. She begs Farwell to save them, and when he refuses, Mary takes two guns, creeps into the fort, and saves the women from certain death. Thus, she sets off a whirlwind of colliding cultures that brings out the worst and best in the cast of unforgettable characters and pushes the love between Farwell and Crow Mary to the breaking point.</p>	<p>Kathleen Grissom 368 pages June 6, 2023</p>	<p>April 25, 2024 Teri Brecht</p>
<p>Lessons in Chemistry Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, Elizabeth Zott would be the first to point out that there is no such thing as an average woman. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute takes a very unscientific view of equality. Except for one: Calvin Evans; the lonely, brilliant, Nobel-prize nominated grudge-holder who falls in love with—of all things—her mind. True chemistry results. But like science, life is unpredictable. Which is why a few years later Elizabeth Zott finds herself not only a single mother, but the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show Supper at Six. Elizabeth's unusual approach to cooking ("combine one tablespoon acetic acid with a pinch of sodium chloride") proves revolutionary. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook. She's daring them to change the status quo.</p>	<p>Bonnie Garmus 400 pages April 5, 2022</p>	<p>May 23, 2024</p>