

"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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December Holiday Event!



Join KWG for an evening of holiday fun on Sunday, December 11, 2022. Feel free to bring guests who enjoy good food, good company, and good music. You may attend one or both holiday events:

Dinner at 4:30 PM: Tucker's West

14282 Manchester Road (1 block East of Hwy. 141), 636-227-8062

Menu: <https://tuckersplace.com/menu/>

Tucker's is "first come, first served," so please arrive at 4:30 to be seated. Each person will be responsible for their own drinks and food.

RSVP: Please email, text, or call Chris if you plan to attend so that we have an estimate of the number: NobbeChristine@gmail.com or 314-323-0053.

STLCCC Holiday 2022 Concert, Season of Light, 7:00 PM, with KWG Member Gloria Champion in the Chorus

Manchester United Methodist Church

129 Woods Mill Road Manchester, MO 63011

\$20 general admission (*Early purchase recommended*)

Purchase tickets here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/season-of-light-tickets-465397625827>

Webpage for the St. Louis County Community Chorus:

<https://www.stlccc.org/>

Please email, text, or call Chris if you plan to attend so that we will be looking out for you: NobbeChristine@gmail.com or 314-323-0053.

Happy
Holidays

L O V E P E A C E H O P E



Jeanne

Holiday greetings to each of our treasured AAUW friends!

As we enter the busiest time of the year, we urge you to take time to reflect on the good work of AAUW that your membership supports and the friendships you have made through AAUW.



Marsha

KWG has much to be proud of: funding three local scholarships for high school female graduates pursuing STEM educations, getting out the vote with our "Your Vote is your Voice" yard sign project, and hosting interesting, educational programs. We couldn't do this without the help of dedicated, progressive women like you. Your influence and connections with young people have made an impact on them! Generation X may not join organizations, but they sure turned out to vote for progress for women!

We are challenged to continue to educate people about AAUW fellowships, goals, and programs. There is a need for us to make AAUW a presence in our communities and honor women, like you, who are making a difference in women's leadership for the future.

On March 18, 2023 at the IBC luncheon, we will honor one of our members with the coveted Barbara Lackritz award. Make plans now to join us at this luncheon. One woman from each of the five Saint Louis area branches will be honored.

We look forward to seeing you at our KWG holiday activity on Sunday, December 11, at Tuckers for dinner or at Manchester UMC for a holiday concert or both!

Marsha and Jeanne



By Debbie McWard

Finally, after two years of virtual conferences, the National Conference

for College Women Student Leaders will be held in person at the University of Maryland, May 31 to June 2, 2023. AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council (IBC) is working on recruiting nominees from local area colleges for its scholarship. In the meantime, **if you have any daughters, granddaughters, or young friends** from other schools, you will want to mention that there are National scholarships awarded. The information can be found [on the AAUW website](#).

DECEMBER AAUW FUND GIFTS ARE DOUBLED

The National AAUW Board has pledged to match any December gifts to AAUW up to \$57,000. That means your gift will go twice as far to:

Publish relevant research like our recent survey highlighting how student loans are unfairly burdening women of color, which was released the same day President Biden announced he would cancel a portion of Americans' educational debt.

Offer workshops to inform and inspire teen girls interested in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics)—particularly girls of color—along with dozens of other webinars to empower women at every career stage.

Push legislators to pass state and federal equity laws, while also partnering with employers to ensure their policies promote equal pay for equal work.

Women and girls need you. And, more than ever, our country needs them to build a better future for us all.



The beautiful, award-winning Central Library, City of St. Louis.

Secretary of State vs. Missouri Libraries

Now through December 15, Missouri libraries and members of the public can formally weigh in on a proposal by Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft to block public funding for libraries if they offer books that might appeal to the sexual interests of minors.

Ashcroft proposed his idea in October. The public can comment on the 30-day comment line designed to let the people air their concerns.

Depending on those comments, the rule could be reworked, or it could go before a bipartisan panel of state lawmakers who could vote to send the matter to the full House and Senate.

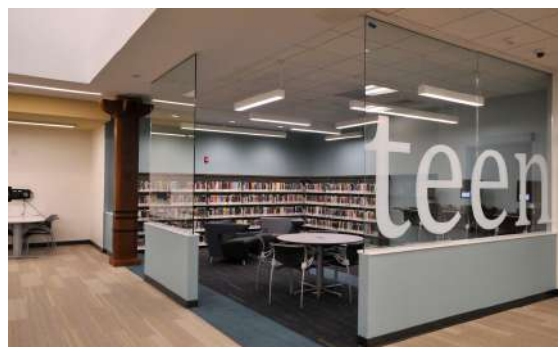
The proposed rule would require Missouri's 160 local public libraries to adopt policies on the age-appropriateness of literature. And under the rule, anyone could challenge access to books. Libraries that violate the rules would risk losing state funding, which is doled out by the Secretary of State's Office through the state librarian. Budget documents report that amount at more than \$3.5 million in the coming fiscal year.

The proposal has generated pushback from libraries and others who say it's an attempt by a conservative politician to ban books. The Missouri Library Association called the rule "an infringement on the professional judgment of librarians and an effort to further stoke division in the communities that libraries serve."

"This set of new rules for the most part represents an obtuse political effort to catch librarians in the act of being librarians and to recast that spotlight in a malicious and libelous hue," the association said in a statement. The Missouri Association of School Librarians also asked residents to "support libraries — public, academic, and school — across Missouri and provide feedback on this restrictive and harmful rule change."

The funding that could be restricted is important to local libraries. The St. Louis Public Library, for example, received \$452,000 in state funding last year, and the St. Louis County Public Library netted \$660,000. By contrast, the Ferguson public library received \$27,755, while Richmond Heights got \$14,410. Libraries can also receive grants from the state. For example, the Kirkwood library won a \$7,357 award to promote literacy last year.

Comments may be submitted to the Secretary of State's office via email at comments@sos.mo.gov or by traditional mail to Office of the Missouri Secretary of State, P.O. Box 1767, Jefferson City, MO 65102. Comments submitted via email must include "15 CSR 30-200.015" in the subject line. The last day to comment is **December 15**.



One of the many designs in the recently renovated St. Louis County Public Library system.



Another big thank you to **Kay and Bruce Meyer** for taking on the receipt, bagging, and delivery of the pecans this year. Your efforts and time are greatly appreciated!



Carol Davis McDonald

Speaking of pecans . . .

A Simple-to-Make Holiday Showstopper

If there's one new cake you add to your list this year, this **Pecan Pie Bundt Cake** should be it. Delicious and easy to prepare, it's a crowd pleaser whether you're serving it for dessert or alongside coffee for breakfast.

Ingredients

3 tablespoons all-vegetable shortening
1½ cups finely chopped pecans, divided
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
1½ cups granulated sugar
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
4 large eggs
2½ cups all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon kosher salt, divided
¾ cup dark corn syrup
½ cup whole buttermilk
¼ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
½ teaspoon ground black pepper
Brown Sugar Glaze (recipe follows)

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 325°. Grease a 15-cup bundt pan with shortening. Sprinkle 1 cup pecans in pan, shaking pan to coat.
2. In a large bowl, beat butter, granulated sugar, and vanilla with a mixer at medium speed until fluffy, 3 to 4 minutes, stopping to scrape sides of bowl. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition.
3. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, and ½ teaspoon salt. In a small bowl, stir together corn syrup and buttermilk. With mixer on low speed, gradually add flour mixture to butter mixture alternately with corn syrup mixture, beginning and ending with flour mixture, beating just until combined after each addition.
4. In a small bowl, whisk together brown sugar, cinnamon, pepper, remaining ¾ cup pecans, and remaining

continued in next column →

CARE AND CONCERN

Words cannot express my appreciation for the many cards, notes and emails that I received from my Kirkwood-Webster Groves

Branch friends after my husband's passing. This does not even cover the many who came to the visitation and/or memorial service. Your kindness and support have helped me through this sad time.



Debbie McWard

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 **Enola Holmes 2** on **December 26**. Discussion will be led by Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo. On **January 23, 2023**, the selection is **Becoming**, and discussion will be led by Diane Sher. **Molly's Game** is planned for February 27.

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.

(recipe continued from previous column)

½ teaspoon salt. Stir in ½ cup cake batter. Dollop half of remaining batter into prepared pan. Spoon brown sugar mixture over batter in pan. Top with remaining batter.

5. Bake until a wooden pick inserted near center comes out with a few moist crumbs, about 1 hour. Let cool in pan for 10 minutes. Invert cake onto wire rack, and let cool for 30 minutes. Pour Brown Sugar Glaze over warm cake.

Brown Sugar Glaze

½ cup firmly packed light brown sugar
¼ cup unsalted butter
2 tablespoons heavy whipping cream

In a small saucepan, bring brown sugar, butter, and cream to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat. Use immediately.

Recipe courtesy of Taste of the South & Bake From Scratch

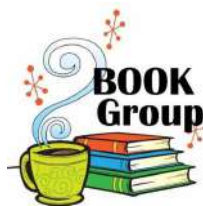
AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

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: 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—December 8—Winter Holiday Fest annual winter fundraiser featuring the Queens of Swing, games, and all sorts of fun.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—A holiday luncheon is planned at Brio's.

Saint Charles Branch—December 1, 1 pm, Faith United Methodist Church, St. Charles. Holiday entertainment with Larry Ruebling and Friends to welcome the season. Music with guitar accompaniment will usher in the holidays.

St. Louis Branch—December 18, 12:30 pm, a holiday celebration at the home of Sue Barley. Lunch and a short program.

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.

Mar 14 Relations Among Taiwan, China, and the United States, by Dr. Henry Rowold. In his IRLS talk, he will share his perspective on the history of China, and Taiwan and the US involvement with these countries. Both the People’s Republic of China and Taiwan have grown from poverty during the last century, and both have become major economic and technological powers. China has the world’s largest population, has sent a person to the moon, has hosted the Olympics, and is vying with the USA to be the largest economic and military power. Taiwan, with a population of 24 million, has an economy rated the world’s 8th to 10th largest and serves as the world’s “chip” center.

Dr. Rowland is a retired professor emeritus of international research of the Institute of Mission Studies at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Before joining the faculty of Concordia Seminary, Dr. Rowold went to Taiwan in 1965 to learn the culture and language.

Apr 11 A Truly Global Problem: Coping with Climate Change, by Dr. Marlene Katz. As a result of the warming atmosphere, changes are occurring that are environmental, economic, and societal. On our planet, everything is connected to everything else. This makes dealing with climate change more difficult while it also makes the impact of corrective changes more dramatic. This presentation will illustrate how human ingenuity is developing solutions to the problems that climate change brings and will emphasize the importance of recognizing both the difficulties of learning to cooperate on a global scale and the necessity for this kind of action. The listener will be challenged to work on ideas that can be connected to actions on complex problems that are being exacerbated by global warming, such as immigration.

Dr. Katz is an educator and speaker on environmental problems. She received her MS and PhD in biochemistry from the University of Chicago. In addition to working as a research chemist at the Southern Research Institute, she taught biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental science for 42 years at several community colleges, universities and liberal arts institutions. Dr. Katz is currently a facilitator at Washington University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Center in addition to serving as a speaker for the St. Louis Zoo, Missouri Botanical Garden, and various church groups and garden clubs.



“There are three stages of man: he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.” —Bob Phillips



Programs of Interest



GUN VIOLENCE: Caring for Trauma Victims

Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m.

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 U.S. is a nation dealing with trauma from gun violence. An [Everytown for Gun Safety](#) survey showed that the U.S. gun death rate is 13 times that of other high-income countries. The crisis is even more profound in the City of St. Louis, with just four zip codes accounting for nearly half of the city's homicides and nearly one-third of all aggravated assaults with a firearm in 2017, according to the [Gifford's Law Center](#). What can be done to address this senseless violence in our community?

At the December program, we'll hear from Barnes-Jewish hospital trauma surgeon, **Dr. Maggie Spruce**, adjunct instructor of surgery at Washington University School of Medicine, who will address the prevalence of gunshot wounds that has created a public health crisis. **Sean Marz**, from [Alive and Well Communities](#), will describe the benefits of trauma-informed care for gun violence survivors.

"The Big Chill" will be the topic of the Women's Voices program on Thursday, January 12, reflecting not only the probable winter temperature but also the chilling effect of current extremism and fundamentalism in our society. Speaker will be Dr. Marie Griffith, who directs the 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.

How Jews Helped Make Missouri

Speaker: Dr. Mara Cohen Ioannides

Wednesday, December 7

2:00 - 3:15 pm (online)



Dr. Mara Cohen Ioannides, Missouri State University professor and St. Louis Jewish Book Festival author, will highlight her book, *Jews of Missouri: An Ornament to Israel*, which was recently published after she spent three years researching Jewish history and life in 74 small towns. Following Dr. Cohen Ioannides' talk, St. Louisan and past board chair of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, Nancy Siwak, will share how her family maintained a Jewish identity in rural Sullivan, Missouri. Hannah Dinkel, director of literary arts at the J, will introduce Dr. Cohen Ioannides.

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



December Lunch & Learn: Advocacy in Action

December Lunch & Learn: Gun Violence Prevention Strategies with Gail Wechsler

When: Thursday, Dec 15 | 12:00 noon – 1:00 PM

Where: Zoom - [Register Here](#)

Gun violence is a leading cause of premature death in the U.S., killing more than 39,000 people and causing nearly 85,000 injuries each year. In 2020, gun-related injuries rose above car crashes to become the #1 cause of death among children and teens in our country. Just a few weeks ago, a 19-year-old former student at St. Louis' Central Visual and Performing Arts High School used an AR-15-style rifle and more than 600 rounds of ammunition to kill a student and teacher and injure several others.

These deaths are preventable.

For our December Lunch and Learn, we are excited to welcome Moms Demand Action's Missouri State Communications Lead and NCJWSTL board member Gail Wechsler, who is an expert on legislative advocacy and school safety as pertaining to gun violence. Every time there is a school shooting, we all seem to be at a loss about what to do. Gail will help guide us in how to better make an impact. Questions? Email Jen Bernstein at jbernstein@ncjwstl.org or call (314) 993.5181.



November Was Native American Heritage Month: To Honor Our Resilient Native American Communities and Grassroots Work Towards Native Self-Determination and Sovereignty.

Here are some political and cultural victories from this Native American Heritage Month so far:

- **Nearly 80 Native candidates -- about half of whom are women -- won their races** up and down the ballot this midterm election.
- **The Native vote matters.** A team of organizers has been mobilizing Native peoples on the ground in key states across the country to overcome voter suppression -- including in Arizona and Nevada, where close races just determined control of the Senate.
- **More museums are reckoning with their racist histories of stealing remains, hair, and sacred objects from Native peoples.** “The return of our remains and sacred objects is one way to help our people heal,” said Kevin Killer, president of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, after the Barre Museum returned what belonged to them. **More institutions are mobilizing to take accountability and urgently repatriate such items, including Harvard’s Peabody Museum.**
- **The second National Training of 2022 for Native organizers** to sharpen their grassroots organizing skills and build effective grassroots movements was just completed. They are building a durable ecosystem of Native leaders who will continue to make transformational change.
- **Next week, Native peoples will gather at the White House for the second Tribal Nations Summit.** In a show of their growing strength, President Biden heeded Indigenous peoples’ call to work to protect tribal treaty rights and strengthen sovereignty. This summit is a chance for tribal leaders to follow up on what administrative agencies have been doing, and to engage with administration officials about important issues facing their communities.

Indigenous people have always organized for their rights -- and they are not stopping now. They are going to keep building off these wins to protect Native sacred places, strengthen their sovereignty, and more.

AAUW National

The Simple Truth: New Calculation, Entrenched Problem

AAUW will soon release the annual update to our signature report, *The Simple Truth About the Gender Wage Gap*. It’s a particularly interesting analysis because, for the first time, AAUW and our coalition partners analyzed the earnings of all workers—including seasonal and part-time employees—to capture a more accurate picture of the post-pandemic labor market. The report found women took home only 77 cents for every dollar men did in 2021.

AAUW Partners on National Science Foundation Grant: Let’s Talk Money

Building on AAUW’s strong pay equity and salary-negotiation research and programs, AAUW has a five-year partnership with the Rochester Institute of Technology and Aspire/ The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU). Let’s Talk Money: Building Community Understanding of the Institutional Compensation System aims to share best practices for faculty compensation to a broad community in higher education.

Mark Your Calendar

Dec 5	KWG board meeting, 7 pm via Zoom
Dec 7	Mirowitz Center talk, 2 pm online
Dec 8	Women’s Voices Raised for Social Justice, 7 pm
Dec 11	Supper at Tucker’s West; St. Louis County Chorus holiday concert, Manchester UMC
Dec 15	Last day to comment on 15 CSR 30-200.015
Dec 15	NCJW Lunch & Learn, 12 noon
Jan 10	International relations lecture on Energy Markets, 10:45 am, Ethical Society
Jan 26	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm via Zoom

That’s all Folks!

For Fans of Adult Coloring

