

**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.

*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).

**Branch Officers, 2023-2024**

**Co-President:**

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**Co-President:**

Lynne Roney  
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Carol Davis McDonald  
314-623-1847  
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**Secretary:**

TBD

***JANUARY ZOOM MEETING***

**“Sharing My STEM Expertise as a Volunteer”  
Jill Fahrenholtz, Mechanical Engineer, Rolla, MO**

**Thursday, January 18**

**Networking at 6:30 ~ Program at 7:00**

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



Whatever the January weather, we'll gather by Zoom to hear from Jill Fahrenholtz about several new after-school STEM programs for kids.

Jill is a graduate of Kirkwood High School. She has a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from

Carnegie Mellon University and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Stanford University. Having started her career at Sandia National Laboratories in robotics R&D, she has been a Robotics Project Manager, Prototype Systems R&D, and Department Manager, Robotics Research Computer Science ISRC-Intelligent Systems and Robotics Center.

Jill is active in civic engagement in Rolla through the Rolla Regional Economic Commission and volunteering for robotics teams, Teen Science Cafe, a children's STEAM Science Center, the Million Girls Moonshot, and the very AAUW-like Coterie of Missouri S&T.

We look forward to hearing about her work with children and teens, as well as her interest in robotics, entrepreneurship, and emerging technologies that can affect citizens, business, and industry.

## Presidents' Message

How do you start off the New Year? Besides the usual parties, parade and Bowl Game watching, and perhaps traditional black-eyed peas and hog jowl for luck (anyone?), Jeanne and I want to keep KWG focused on how we can make an impact as a branch. We're completing the National FY23 Branch Impact Survey, and doing so helps us see where we are having success and where we have an opportunity to do more.

Since starting our STEM scholarships for high school girls in honor of our 40th anniversary, almost 14 years ago now, we have helped give 24 girls the opportunity to continue their STEM education and, in many cases, embark on successful STEM careers. That is impact.

We (thanks to Nancy Hutchins, Carol Davis McDonald, and others) have posted items of interest on our Facebook page probably well over 100 times this past year, and we know that more than 100 people read them. That is impact.

Mission-based programs are the heart of most AAUW branches, and we usually have four or more a year, including voter information, inclusion and diversity, and equity focusing on STEM. We make an effort to share these with the community. That is impact.

Through collaboration with other branches via Inter-branch Council, we help send women to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders and support the International Relations Lecture Series. That is impact.

We have to work hard every year to keep our relationships with local universities viable. We are excited about working with an environment nonprofit, Missouri Environmental Education Association, in 2024. These are great areas for increasing our impact. Add them to our Branch's New Year's Resolution list!



Lynne and Jeanne  
Co-presidents

## FUNDRAISING FOR STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

Selling fresh Georgia pecans in a variety of flavors is our primary fundraiser. To place an order,

\* Call Kay at 314-962-7487 or 314-225-9149

\* Email Kay—[kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com)

Or

\* Write Kay Meyer

2443 Mary Avenue

Brentwood, MO 63144-2031

Contributions to help fund three local STEM scholarships are also appreciated. Mail your check to:

Carol Davis McDonald

827 Bergquist Drive

Manchester, MO 63011-4215

## YOU'RE INVITED!



The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch invites all AAUW members to join their **Expressions** group:

**Tuesday, January 9, 1:30-3:30**

**Holy Cross Lutheran Church**

**13014 Olive Blvd, 63141**

Jan Barrett will provide instruction on making 3 beaded earring designs; supplies will be available at a slight charge.

Please let Kay or Nancy know if you plan on participating in this delightful craft.

RSVP to Kay Meyer (314-962-7487) [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com)

or Nancy Hutchins [bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com](mailto:bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com)

## PUBLIC POLICY FYI

- ◆ [AAUW's 2023-2025 Public Policy Priorities](#)
- ◆ AAUW MO's public policy priorities are focused at the local level: eliminate salary history in the hiring process, complete local government gender salary studies, educate seniors about curbside voting, support the citizen ballot initiative, and monitor Title IX, efforts to oppress LGBTQI and trans persons, and restrictions on libraries.
- ◆ There are 1,356 pre-filed bills awaiting the start of Missouri's 2024 legislative session on January 3.
- ◆ [FastDemocracy](#) is a free, easy-to-use tracking app of state and federal legislative bills. Create a free account and easily look up the status of bills by number, status, or keyword.

## 2024 International Relations Lecture Series

(IRLS)

### About IRLS

For more than 90 years this lecture series has been co-sponsored by the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Metro St. Louis Branches. Lectures are held in the upper auditorium:

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

Each meeting begins 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. 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.

**January 9, 2024**

### ***Rising Costs of Health Care in the U.S.: Why Is Our System the Most Expensive in the World and Is That Changing?***

#### **Dr. Timothy McBride**

Dr. Timothy McBride is the Bernard Becker Professor at Washington University in the Brown School and co-Director of the Center for Advancing Health Services Policy and Economics Research (CAHSPER) in the Institute for Public Health (IPH). Dr. McBride is an influential health policy analyst and health economist shaping the national agenda on the uninsured and health insurance markets, rural health care, health reform, Medicare and Medicaid policy, long-term care, and health economics. For two decades, he has been active in working with the U.S. Congress and state policymakers, providing policy advice on a regular basis on health reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and rural health policy. He was the first Associate Dean for Public Health at Washington University, leading the initial development of the Brown School's Master of Public Health (MPH) program to accreditation in 2011. He led the creation of the first Health Policy program at Saint Louis University. A member of several national committees and Boards, Dr. McBride is currently serving as Vice Chair for St. Louis Board of Health and serves on the Justice Services Board for St. Louis County. He is past Chair of the MOHealth-NET Oversight Committee, which serves in an advisory role for the state of Missouri's Medicaid program. In 2012, Dr. McBride was awarded the Outstanding Rural Health Researcher of the Year by the National Rural Health Association and a "Health Care Hero" by the St. Louis Business Journal in 2007.

Committee: *Elaine Miller (TWA), Pam Meyers (AAUW)*

## AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC

### **¡Adelante! Book Group**

January 25, 1:30 pm by Zoom

**Sold**

**by Patricia McCormick  
Reviewer Patty Murray**

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. 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 that 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. 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?

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09)

[pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09](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, January 11  
"Mental Health of Students Post-Pandemic" by Dr. Erin Schulte, Parkway School District  
Social 9, Business Meeting 9:30, Program 10:30  
Ballwin Golf Course Events Center  
333 Holloway Road, Ballwin 63011

**Ferguson-Florissant Branch**—Contact President Patty Murray, 314-838-7887, [pattymurray2011@gmail.com](mailto:pattymurray2011@gmail.com) for meeting information.

**St. Charles Branch**—no January meeting

**St. Louis Branch**—Contact President Ellen Irons, 314-727-9918 or [ironnew@msn.com](mailto:ironnew@msn.com) for meeting information.

# NATIONAL NEWS

From Katrina Sun Breese

Senior Director of Institutional Advancement and editor of AAUW's [Membership Matters](#) . . .

## 2024 NCCWSL Registration Now Open!

AAUW's [National Conference for College Women Student Leaders](#) (NCCWSL) will be held at the University of Maryland, College Park, May 30 through June 1, 2024. Registration is now open! This year's theme is "Dare to Be" — and we're challenging these young women to be bold, be engaged, be a leader! The conference begins Thursday afternoon with a welcome address and networking event. Workshops and panels begin Friday, May 31, ending with the Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony and reception that evening. We close out NCCWSL with a Saturday morning session guaranteed to delight! New for 2024, NCCWSL features a STEM track of sessions, designed to engage young women interested in STEM throughout the conference.

## It's Art Contest Time!

The annual AAUW Art Contest is nearly upon us and we hope that you are excited as we are to start spreading the word in your states and branches! The AAUW Art Contest is an excellent way to showcase members' talent while also supporting AAUW's mission. The winning art has been featured on notecards that are mailed to members and supporters every spring. The next [AAUW Art Contest will begin on January 8!](#) Be sure and check out our Art Contest page and upcoming emails to stay up to date on the schedule and how you or your members can participate. For now, feel free to peruse the gallery of previous winners and perhaps find inspiration for your entry!

## Branch Impact Survey and Five Star Program

[The Branch Impact Survey](#) covering activities and programming held between July 1, 2022, and June 30, 2023, is now live for branch presidents to complete. AAUW national will review survey responses and share how many national stars each branch attained.

## Four-Star Charity Rating

AAUW is a four-star rated charity according to [Charity Navigator](#). This four-star rating is a prestigious recognition that reflects AAUW's steadfast commitment to fiscal responsibility and organizational effectiveness.

## From Susan Barley, our liaison to National and a former National board member . . .

Coca Cola has given AAUW a \$250,000 grant to Greatest Needs. What a great Holiday Gift for AAUW!

The AAUW Board of Directors voted to change the dues for Colleges and Universities (C/U Members), effective spring 2024. The dues will be \$250. Previously dues were \$175. College/University dues have not been changed in a decade. AAUW will be providing C/U members with increased access to programming for students, staff, and faculty to align with the dues changes and provide more value. More information on this programming will be provided in spring 2024.

A reallocation of the \$3 currently allocated to the AAUW Action Fund will move to AAUW Inc. This is a procedural change to streamline AAUW's operations, a key goal for the Board and an added benefit in that it makes the annual dues of \$72 for individual membership fully tax deductible.

## 2024 CALENDAR

January 8	AAUW Art Contest Opens
January 9	IRLS—Rising Costs of Health Care in U.S.
January 18	KWG Branch Meeting via Zoom
January 25	Adelante Book Group via Zoom
January 31	Deadline to Submit Art Contest Entries
February 13	IRLS—Generative AI
February 15	KWG Branch Meeting via Zoom
March	Women's History Month
March 12	IRLS—Global Migration Trends and Implications for the US Asylum System
March 23	IBC Luncheon (in lieu of Branch Meeting)
April 9	IRLS—NATO
April 11	KWG Branch Meeting—note change in date
May 3-4	AAUW MO State Meeting
May 16	KWG Branch Meeting
May 30-June 1	NCCWSL

