



Newsletter of the

Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch

Founded April 1971 ~ **Celebrating 53 Years!**

2024-2025, No. 3, November 2024

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, 2024-2025

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BRANCH MEETING

Thursday, November 21, 2024 – 6:30 p.m.

Kirkwood United Methodist Church
201 West Adams, Room 201, Kirkwood, MO 63122

The Election's Over. Now What?

Join us for what promises to be a lively discussion of the 2024 election outcome. Weigh in on issues such as:

- What does this mean for AAUW issues such as reproductive rights and pay equity?
- Does this affect the potential for passage of the Equal Rights Amendment?
- What is the future for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives?
- What role do we as AAUW members see for ourselves



Meet Our Fellows and Grantees

Our comprehensive online directory includes biographies and sponsorship information for our outstanding AAUW fellows and grantees going back to the 2004-05 academic year. It's also an easy way to search for recipients who are benefiting from the generous contributions of AAUW members.

- ◆ Fellowships and grants were awarded to more than 320 women and community projects in 2022-2023
- ◆ In the 2022-2023 academic year, AAUW awarded over \$6 million in fellowships and grants.

[Search the directory](#)

Presidents' Message ...



Lynne

What's Next?

By the time you read this, the November 5 election will be past, and we will be looking to the future, for better or worse. Join our open discussion at the November 21 branch meeting on what's next. Whatever the outcome, KWG will continue to advance AAUW's mission of equity for all.



Nancy

Coming up, a veritable alphabet of activities!

- **Affton Craft Fair** on Saturday, Nov. 9, Affton High School, 9-5. Pecan sales to support our STEM scholarships. Stop by to shop or to work a short shift at our sales table. Contact Lynne for questions.
- **Branch meeting** on Thursday, Nov. 21, Kirkwood United Methodist Church. Details on page 1.
- **Concert of holiday music** on Sunday, Dec. 8. This will be our holiday get-together. Save the date, and look for more details in the December newsletter. We'll attend the Boar's Head Festival at Peace Lutheran Church, South St. Louis County, at 2:30 p.m. Lunch beforehand or dinner afterward to be announced. We have a limited number of free tickets to this medieval-themed concert. Please let Lynne know if you are interested.
- **Delighted** is how we describe our feeling on welcoming two new members: Pat Clark and Karen Ratteree. Pat is active in the Meacham Park Neighborhood Improvement Association. Karen is a real estate agent and dual member with Ballwin-Chesterfield. If you see them at a meeting, please say hello!
- **Expressions!** We want to shine a spotlight on the Expressions Group. This is a craft group for members of all branches in the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council. It meets the first Tuesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m. at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Creve Coeur. You are welcome to attend and contribute your ideas for craft projects. For more information contact Kay Meyer or Nancy Hutchins.

As always, remember you can:

- Subscribe to AAUW's national emailed newsletter. If you previously opted out, you may resubscribe at [this link](#) or by logging into your member account and choosing "My Preferences."
- Send a 2-Minute Activist message to your elected officials. Sign up [here](#).

Lynne and Nancy

CALENDAR

		<u>2025</u>	
Nov 9	Affton craft fair—pecan sales, volunteers needed	Mar 8	International Women's Day
Nov 21	KWG branch meeting	Mar 29	IBC 2025 Spring Luncheon Honoring Sheroes and Barbara Lackritz Honorees
Nov 26	IBC quarterly meeting via Zoom		
Dec 3	Expressions Craft Group		
Dec 8	Holiday Get-Together, Boar's Head Festival, Peace Lutheran Church		

Save the Date!

December 8 Concert

We have a limited number of free tickets to the medieval-themed Boar's Head Festival at Peace Lutheran Church, South St. Louis County, at 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 8. (No connection to Boar's Head lunch meats!) This will be our branch activity for December. Regular branch meetings will be by Zoom in January and February.

A long-standing tradition in South County, the Festival features four choirs, dozens of actors, and gorgeous costumes. These ceremonies date back to Oxford University in England in the 1300s, mixing the Christmas story with medieval music, King Wenceslas, the Beefeaters, and the Yule log. Our group will have lunch beforehand or dinner afterward, details to be announced. Read more at this link: <http://peaceboarshead.org>.

Please let Lynne know if you are interested in going.



Welcome New Members

By Deb McWard
Membership VP

Pat Clark

When asked if she would provide a bit of information about herself, Pat began a list so long about her participation in church and community organizations that it began to turn into book length. Needless to say, she has had an amazing career helping people help themselves. That is how she summarized her passion. Please welcome her to the branch and spend some time hearing what she has done.

Karen Ratteree

Already a member of the Ballwin Chesterfield branch, long-time Kirkwood resident Karen found herself moving from Kirkwood to Fenton and decided she would like to participate in a branch closer to home. She has always been interested in women's issues. A graduate of the University of Missouri with a major in interior design, she found her way into real estate about 7 years ago. She works for Realty Executives of St. Louis. By the way, she is Marsha Koch's cousin.

Pecans!!

Please send a pecan order to Kay Meyer at 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com as soon as possible. This is our fundraising project for scholarships and expenses not covered by your dues. If you are allergic or don't like pecans, they make nice gifts for your mail carrier, neighbors, cleaning lady, pastor, doctor's receptionist, friends, or other service person.



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 quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, November 26, 2024. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch—November 14, program at 10:30 a.m., Ballwin Golf Course and Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd. Speaker Carol Davit, executive director of the Missouri Prairie Foundation and its Grow Native program, on “Why Prairies Matter: New Relevance of a Vanishing Landscape.”

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

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. November 7 program: Annual AAUW Greatest Needs UN-Auction. Bring items you care to donate for the Greatest Needs Fund. Enjoy finger foods and bite-size snacks. Possible silent auction of high-quality items and baked goods. Activity: Share something unique about yourself.

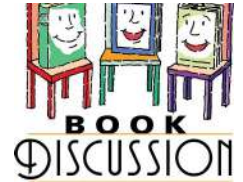
St. Louis Branch—No events until February. Planning meeting only.

Expressions Craft Group

1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Next meeting Dec. 3 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur

Our focus is to make and learn crafts and projects. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. Contact Kay Meyer (kicmeyer51@gmail.com) or Nancy Hutchins (bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com).

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP



This group, started in 1996 as a component of AAUW’s diversity outreach program, discusses books written from diverse perspectives. It currently is meeting virtually.

Where: Join Zoom meeting:

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

When: 1:30 pm the 4th Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Zoom access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/>

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pg.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

Passcode: 922338

Dial your location: 1-312-626-6799 (US Chicago)

Upcoming selections:

Jan 23 *Circling the Sun*, by Paula McLain, 384 pages, published July 2015. Deb McWard, facilitator. This powerful novel transports readers to the breathtaking world of Out of Africa—1920s Kenya—and reveals the extraordinary adventures of Beryl Markham, a woman before her time.

Feb 27 *The Women*, by Kristin Hannah, 480 pages, published 2-6-2024. Jan Barrett, facilitator. Women can be heroes—a nursing student joins the Army Nurse Corps during the Vietnam war.

Mar 27 *The Island of Missing Trees*, by Elif Shafak, 368 pages, published November 2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Two teenagers, a Greek Cypriot and a Turkish Cypriot, war, and the untangling of years of secrets.

Apr 24 *Light on Bone*, by Kathryn Lasky, 298 pages, published 9-6-2022. Teri Brecht, facilitator. Kathryn Lasky has written an exciting new adult amateur sleuth mystery set in New Mexico in the 1930s.

May 29 *Mad Honey*, by Jodi Picoult, 464 pages, published 10-4-2022. Patty Murray, facilitator. A riveting novel of suspense, an unforgettable love story, and a moving and powerful exploration of the secrets we keep and the risks we take in order to become ourselves. In development for a series/film.



Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council: *2025 Spring Luncheon*
Honoring Sheroes and Recognizing Barbara Lackritz Honorees
Entertainment: Mixed Nuts, a women's *a capella* quartet

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Doors open at 10:30 am

Catering to You

12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO

Mushroom herb baked chicken, roast top round of beef *au jus*, salad,
red-skin garlic mashers, steamed garlic buttered broccoli, rolls, butter,
self-serve lemonade/coffee/iced and hot tea

Registration fee: \$40 - includes meal, program, and entertainment

50/50 and Lotto raffles will also be held!

Registration begins in January 2025

The NEW IBC Fundraising Approach – Tribute Donations to Honor Sheroes

Why does the IBC need to raise funds? For IBC operating expenses, and to support the International Relations Lecture Series in collaboration with the Tuesday Women’s Association of the Ethical Society.

Our current approach has used raffles. In the past, each branch donated baskets of items, then we moved to raffling gift cards. We’ve also done 50-50 and lottery ticket tree raffles, which will continue.

Why do we need a new approach? We have decided not to hold any more raffles or auctions because none of us wants more stuff. We believe the 50-50 and Lottery Ticket tree raffles are still worthwhile, but they won’t raise all the funds we need.

Our New Approach—We will raise the additional needed funds **by honoring our Sheroes** with direct donations. We hope this becomes a new tradition: honoring important women in our lives, living or in memory, through tribute donations.

Stay Tuned! More information will be coming in January 2025!



National News

From Susan Barley
National Advancement Committee and
AAUW MO Fund Chair
October 17, 2024
314-361-2920
barley702@gmail.com



Website Audit: AAUW staff is working on updating content and improving navigation of our website content. We will be taking a look at frequently visited pages as well as streamlining content so that it is more easily accessible.

Community Hub Updates: Recently, we communicated important updates regarding improvements to the AAUW membership Join/Renew process with Finance and Membership VPs, and we want to clarify some concerns that have been raised.

To be clear, AAUW’s educational requirement for membership—holding an associate’s degree equivalent or higher—remains unchanged.

The recent updates to the membership Join/Renew process were made solely to streamline the join and renewal process and improve the overall user experience. We have removed the fields requesting university and degree information during this process because many found the process challenging, often resulting in members abandoning the join/renew process or reaching out to our Connect Team for support, causing further delays and frustration.

By excluding these fields within the **initial** join/renew process, we improved the member user experience in the Community Hub. **The degree requirement language from our bylaws is being shared at the onset of the join/renew**

process to clarify eligibility for membership. Regular requests for education, preferences, and demographics will be made to members throughout the year to gather this information.

What Does National Do?

Policy Advocacy: Focuses on national issues affecting women and girls, such as education equity, pay equity, and reproductive rights.

- We coordinate our Public Policy Committees, participate in coalition work and partner with other prominent National organizations to raise awareness about our policy priorities (such as the YWCA for our Gen Z Town Hall in Philadelphia).
- The AAUW National provides monthly opportunities for cross-state collaboration and information sharing between our public policy chairs. We’ve been sharing training resources on voter engagement this summer & fall and will be providing peer-to-peer capacity-building trainings for members who want to get more engaged in legislative advocacy (after the election!).
- In addition to supporting the work branches and states are doing in-state, the national policy team will also be sharing state-by-state data on the pay gap and providing targeted actions that our members can take to support

A CHANGE IN THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE FOR COLLEGE WOMEN STUDENT LEADERS PROGRAM



For 39 years, AAUW has had the honor of bringing thousands of college women to the Washington, DC, area for leadership training, inspiration, and networking at NCCWSL. Beginning in 2025, NCCWSL will be organized and administered by NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. This has come as quite a surprise. While we'll be sad to see such an important program gone from our activities, this may be an opportunity for growth. Until we learn more, we should note that students will continue to be an important focus. And we'll never have to remember exactly what the initials NCCWSL stand for!

Hosting NCCWSL comes at a high cost, but the financial support has not risen to meet the challenge. Ultimately, NCCWSL costs are unsustainable for the health and long-term viability of AAUW. AAUW will have a presence at the conference, as a speaker, exhibitor, presenter and promotional supporter. What will change is the administrative, financial and programmatic oversight, and planning, which will be the responsibility of NASPA.

Lilly Ledbetter (1938-2024)



Lilly spoke at the MO Women's Network Equality Day brunch in 2008 in Clayton.

AAUW honors the recent passing of Lilly Ledbetter and her outstanding legacy, which will impact women well into the future. She was the pioneer of the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act* of 2009 to ensure all women receive fair pay for their work.

Ms. Ledbetter's story resonated with so many women fighting for fair pay. After almost 20 years of working at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Ms. Ledbetter received a note revealing that she, the only female supervisor, was being paid 40 percent less than her male peers. Ms. Ledbetter filed a gender discrimination lawsuit in 1998 that made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, only to have the court say in 2007 that she had been paid unfairly long enough to make it legal.

Ms. Ledbetter and AAUW had a long-lasting, strong, and productive relationship, and we held her in high esteem as an unwavering icon and trailblazer in the fight for equal pay. Together, Ms. Ledbetter, AAUW, and countless other organizations that advocated for equal pay participated in marches, wrote letters, and sent emails which motivated Congress to pass the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009. Then-President Barack Obama signed the measure into law on Jan. 29, 2009, the first bill he signed as president. Today, we continue her legacy by championing equal pay legislation such as the Paycheck Fairness Act, which would give workers new tools for ensuring that employers pay women and men equally for equal work.

As Lilly said in a Q&A session with AAUW, "The gender pay gap is everybody's issue." Lilly Ledbetter never stopped fighting for gender pay equity. The laws at the time failed her and yet she never stopped advocating for better laws and better pay for women. In her memory and in her honor, AAUW vows to continue the fight. Recently, Ledbetter was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award from *Advertising Week* for her activism on Equal Pay. *Lilly*, a movie based on Ledbetter's life, is being shown at screenings across the country.



8-22-2008—Dinner at Bristol Seafood Grill in Creve Coeur the evening before the Equality Day brunch at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Lilly, Marsha, Lynne (on left). Lilly, Lynne, Carol, and Joyce Guard (Creve Coeur Branch) on right.



Past AAUW of Missouri President **Ardy Pearson** died on Monday, November 4, 2024. She was a long-time member and supporter of AAUW, serving in many AAUW Kansas City Branch leadership positions plus as our dynamic AAUW Missouri president.

If you would like to send a card to her niece Cheryl Laaker, she is living in Ardy's home - 1012 W. 66th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64113.

Pictured are, left to right, Gloria Bandstra (KC Branch), AAUW MO President Julia Triplett (Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch), and Ardy Pearson at the 2012 state conference.



As early as 1916, for example, New York became the first state to declare an “American Indian Day,” and several states followed that example; but it wasn’t until 1990, when President George H.W. Bush approved a joint resolution of Congress, that November became a month of programs, ceremonies and activities to celebrate Indigenous peoples.

We’re still getting this right—we can’t balance the injustices of history with one month of commemorations. But we can anchor ourselves in some facts, truths, and compelling missions for the future.

It’s important for all of us to recognize the culture that is part of the fabric of our daily lives—from architecture, medicine, street names, sports, the food we eat, and the way we interact with the environment, to name just a few examples. Here are some more from Anthropology Associate Professor Brian McKenna.

During Native American Heritage Month, and every month, we should remain committed to seeking out and encouraging Native voices and knowledge, being purposeful and proactive in calling for inclusion of Native voices and knowledge.

We must not forget that throughout our history, Native peoples’ cultures, identities, and governments were not welcomed as part of our Nation but as a threat to it. Native people were kept from practicing their sacred traditions, pressured to assimilate, and forced from their homes and ancestral homelands.

This month, as we participate in events for Native American Heritage Month, we can go one step farther, and learn about authentic Native History and contemporary Native issues. Here are some resources from [FirstNations.org](https://www.firstnations.org/), a development institute working to improve economic conditions for Native Americans.

“What most people in this country know — or think they know — about Native Americans is rooted in myths, stereotypes, and half-truths,” they write. “It is a largely false and deficit-based narrative, meaning it focuses on challenges and weaknesses — real, assumed, or exaggerated — rather than being based on strengths and opportunities. These narratives are almost always created by non-Native people, often with the intention to oppress Native nations, peoples and cultures.”

RECIPE TO ROAST A FEMINIST

Assemble your ingredients as follows and mix well.

- 1 dedicated female lobbyist and women’s issues advocate
- Several social issues, including, but not limited to:
 - ERA
 - Education
 - Women’s health care
 - Family violence/rape
 - Child welfare
 - Title IX
 - Pay equity
 - Corporal punishment
 - Father’s rights
- A dash of right-wing radicals

Gradually add a variety of legislative personalities and philosophies into the mix to achieve the appropriate amalgamation

Hint: Try not to add too many ill-tempered personalities at one time, or your feminist may curdle and become extremely tough.

Add some committee hearings, being careful to disburse the hearings equally between the Senate and the House varieties. Carefully fold together all the ingredients for 5 months. Baste the female lobbyist with unusual flavorings, such as an occasional cooperative moment with right-wing radicals.

Hint: Use sparingly!

Vision one stalwart feminist lobbyist convincing an “old boy” legislator “that it’s the right thing to do.” Inspirations from Shawn Hannity to get this feminist really cooking.

As the temperature and temperaments become overheated during the last few days of the 5-month session, for best results be extremely careful to not let your feminist boil over.

This recipe, if followed closely, will guarantee the feminist will emerge as a calm, cool, well-respected and appreciated advocate for all women and their families in the State of Missouri.

Modified from the Nevada Women’s Coalition



Biology May Affect Career Choice

From the White House to community-based organizations, numerous groups and initiatives are encouraging girls and women to pursue STEM education. Will it pay off?

In a new study, career aspirations of nearly half a million 15- and 16-year-olds across 80 developing and developed nations show consistent sex differences. It came down to things vs. people. When asked what kind of job they expect to have when they are about 30 years old, more boys than girls aspired to things-oriented or STEM occupations, and more girls than boys gravitated toward people-oriented occupations. Things-oriented careers such as computer programming and engineering involve work with machines, and people-oriented occupations such as teaching and nursing involve face-to-face interaction.

What's more, the sex differences were larger in countries with a higher level of women's empowerment, such as Finland, Norway and Sweden. For example, in the more egalitarian Norway, around five boys to every girl aspired to a things-oriented occupation. In the more traditional United Arab Emirates, roughly two boys

to every girl aspired to such occupations. Study author David Geary, Curators Distinguished Professor and a Thomas Jefferson Fellow in the Department of Psychological Sciences at MU, says the results show the influence of biology on occupational preferences. "If it was completely social, the sex differences should disappear or become very small [in gender-equal countries], but they actually become larger," Geary says. The researchers attribute this phenomenon to greater national wealth, which allows students to pursue their intrinsic interests unconstrained by economic limitations.

Even though girls in two out of three countries perform as well or better in science than boys and social shifts have offered girls more opportunities to enter STEM fields, Geary says they have not become more interested in such professions over the decades. "Studies that are more than a hundred years old basically show exactly the same patterns," he says, referring to a 1918 survey of almost 1,700 U.S. adolescents. "Lots of money gets spent trying to change things that just aren't going to change."

10/4/89



ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

A Challenge Issued In Abortion Debate

Dear Abby: This is a message to those men and women who try to prevent women from entering abortion clinics and carry big signs that say, "They Kill Babies Here!"

Have you signed up to adopt a child? If not, why not? Is it because you don't want one, can't afford one, or don't have the time, patience or desire to raise a child?

What if a woman who was about to enter a family planning clinic saw your sign, then decided not to have an abortion but chose instead to give her baby to you? Would you accept it? What if the mother belonged to a minority group — or was addicted to drugs, or tested positive for AIDS?

Why are you spending your time carrying a sign? Why aren't you volunteering to baby-sit a child born to a single mother so she can work? Why haven't you opened your door to a pregnant teen-ager whose parents have kicked her out when she took your advice and decided not to have an abortion?

As for the taxpayers who resent paying for abortions, who do you think pays for foster care, welfare, social workers and juvenile delinquency? The taxpayers.

Let's talk about something money can't buy: love. Have you ever visited a home for abused and unwanted children? Have you ever been to juvenile hall and seen the children who have committed crimes because they were born to mothers who didn't want them?

I'm not thrilled about abortion, but I don't think anyone has the right to tell others not to have one unless he or she has done the things I have mentioned above.

So, to those carrying those signs and trying to prevent women from enter-

ing family planning clinics, heed my message: If you must be against abortion, don't be a hypocrite — make your time and energy count.

HATES HYPOCRITES

I couldn't have said it better. Or as well.

AAUW's Response to the Re-election of Donald Trump

"The election results are extremely sobering, especially on the heels of a hyperpartisan, gridlocked Congress," said Gloria L. Blackwell, CEO, AAUW. "AAUW is committed to holding all elected officials accountable about women's rights, bodily autonomy, and access to education and economic opportunity, particularly for women of color."

As president, Trump appointed the three conservative U.S. Supreme Court Justices who supported overturning *Roe vs. Wade* and women's right to abortion care. His Supreme Court picks also helped overturn affirmative action in college admission decisions. Colleges and universities have since reported a downturn in students of color being admitted to their institutions, as a result.

This election cycle, AAUW also championed 10 state ballot measures that would codify into state laws and constitutions women's rights to abortion access without government interference. Of the 10, seven states passed measures to maintain or expand abortion access.

"When women are able to make abortion care decisions for ourselves, we're able to control our health and economic security," said Meghan Kissell, AAUW's senior director for policy and member advocacy. "A second Trump presidency puts this fundamental right further in jeopardy."

This electoral outcome means AAUW will double-down in its preparation for the Trump administration and Congress. The organization will deliver its agenda for the 119th Congress ahead of the new session.

"A functioning democracy demands work every day of the year," said Blackwell. "It is now, after an election, when the real work begins. We must come together and continue the fight to advance equity for women."