



## Newsletter of the

# Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch

Founded April 1971 ~ **Celebrating 54 Years!**

2024-2025, No. 5, January 2025

**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**

#### **Co-President:**

Lynne Roney  
roneyeditorial@gmail.com

#### **Co-President:**

Nancy Hutchins  
bodaciouspsycho-  
babe@yahoo.com

#### **Program Vice President:**

Kay Meyer  
kicmeyer51@gmail.com

#### **Membership Vice President:**

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

#### **Finance Vice President:**

Carol Davis McDonald  
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#### **Secretary:**

Marsha Koch  
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<https://kwg-mo.aauw.net/>

## BRANCH MEETING

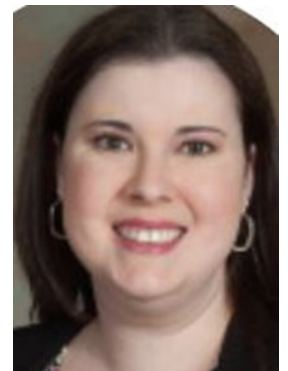
### Thursday, January 16, 2024

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

6:30 p.m. Zoom meeting opens for networking and announcements; 7 p.m. program

### Guest speaker: Jessica Meyers, director of the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission

Jessica Meyers is the director of the St. Louis Area Violence Prevention Commission (VPC), a cross-sector collaborative with more than 75 member agencies. She just celebrated her 6th anniversary with VPC. Prior to her work with VPC, Jessica worked for 14 years doing direct services with victims of violence. For the last 10 years of that, she worked predominantly with murder victims' families and friends. Jessica holds a master's of public administration from Saint Louis University. She is a proud policy wonk and data nerd.



Save the Date: **February 20** Branch Meeting at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 6:30 p.m. Speakers Dana Pownall and Chris Krehmeyer of Beyond Housing.



Nancy Hutchins recommended this: If you would like to find out the status of bills and their progress through both Houses, presentation to the President, if he signs the bill, and when the bill becomes a law, check out this fascinating website: <https://www.congress.gov>.

## *Presidents' Message ...*



*Lynne*

### *In with the New*

We hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season plus a few days of rest, and is ready to plunge into the new year!



*Nancy*



A group of branch members attended the Boar's Head Festival at Peace Lutheran Church on December 8, which kicked off the season in festive style with a mixture of well performed music, beautiful costumes, and merry spirits. Thanks to Barbara Johnson for suggesting this event.

The year ahead will be full of interesting programs and enjoyable get-togethers for AAUW members. We also want to keep up our activism and promote our AAUW mission. We plan to continue partnering with other organizations and sharing our own programs with other branches.

As noted in the article elsewhere in this issue, "KWG Earns National Three-Star Award," we are meeting or exceeding National's standards in several areas. This year an additional focus on advancement (fund-raising) and public policy could add to our list of stars! Having Jeanne Webdell as public policy chair is a great first step.

Come to our meetings by Zoom in January and in person February through May!

*Lynne and Nancy*

## It's almost time for the [AAUW Art Contest](#).

Did you know that women comprise only 30% of the artists represented by commercial galleries, and that women working in art professions are paid almost \$20,000 less per year than men? This is what motivates AAUW to host an annual member art contest. It gives our own wonderful artists the attention they deserve, while raising funds to fight for other women.



## KWG Earns National Three-Star Award

From Tremayne Parquet, AAUW's National Deputy Director of Advancement:



It is with great pleasure that I share some exciting news—AAUW Webster Groves (MO) Branch has achieved three stars in AAUW's FY24 Five Star Program! Your branch attained the Communications & External Relations, Programming and Governance & Sustainability stars. This recognition is a testament to the dedication, hard work, and commitment of your branch members to advancing AAUW's mission of gender equity for women and girls.

The Five Star Program is designed to honor branches that align their work with AAUW's strategic priorities in areas such as Advancement, Public Policy & Advocacy, Governance & Sustainability, Programming, and Communications & External Relations. Earning three stars is an incredible accomplishment, and we are thrilled to celebrate this success with you.

While we will be updating the AAUW website soon to reflect all the branches that have earned stars this year, we wanted to ensure your branch received this good news first. Your achievement will be highlighted alongside other winning branches, showcasing your vital role in supporting AAUW's mission both locally and nationally. State leadership will be informed in the coming days.

Congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you for your continued leadership and dedication to creating a more equitable world. If you have any questions or would like additional resources to help your branch continue its progress in the Five Star Program, please don't hesitate to reach out.

## Women's Walk on Cherokee Street Women Supporting Women

January 18, 2024 - 12:00 N - 4:00 pm

12-2pm: Starting at **Jefferson Ave**, walking **east towards Lemp**, walk/stroll on your own and stop in and support various women-owned businesses. A list of details with a map is in the works, soon to be complete with name/address/description.

2-4pm: **Bluewood Brewery**—women speakers, stories, and music. Due to limited seating, RSVP for reservations inside at Bluewood.

**Questions:** Text/email 314-566-2729 or [francinecase52@gmail.com](mailto:francinecase52@gmail.com).

## Join the Movie Group

Each of us watches a selected movie on Netflix. The movie is then discussed by the group on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact Nancy Hutchins (bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com) or Carol Davis McDonald (davis-mcdonald@outlook.com) for the link.



### Upcoming movies:

Jan 27—*Operation Mincemeat*  
Feb 24—To be decided

## CALENDAR

### 2025

- |        |   |        |  |
|--------|---|--------|--|
| Jan 14 | International Relations Lecture, 10:45 am, <i>Our Planet's Plastic Crisis</i> | Feb 11 | International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, <i>Water Security in a Changing Climate</i>                                     |
| Jan 16 | KWG branch meeting, 6:30 pm, via Zoom RSVP                                    | Feb 24 | Movie Group, 7 pm, Zoom  |
| Jan 18 | Women's Walk on Cherokee Street   | Feb 27 | Adelante Book Group, 1:30 pm   |
| Jan 23 | Adelante Book Group, 1:30 pm  | Mar 8  | International Women's Day  |
| Jan 27 | Movie Club, 7 pm, <i>Operation Mincemeat</i>                                  | Mar 24 | Movie Club   |
| Feb 3  | KWG board meeting via Zoom, 7 pm  | Mar 27 | International Relations lecture, 10:45 am  |
| Feb 4  | Expressions craft group   | Mar 29 | IBC 2025 Spring Luncheon Honoring Sheroes and Barbara Lackritz Honorees<br>150th anniversary of <i>Minor v. Happersett</i> |

# Public Policy

By Jeanne Webdell, Committee Chair

## Take Action on the ERA

On December 17, 2024, National Archivist Colleen Shogan and her deputy, William J. Bosanko, released a statement saying they refuse to publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Dr. Shogan and Mr. Bosanko said that they “cannot legally publish the Equal Rights Amendment.” During her confirmation process, Dr. Shogan in 2022 told lawmakers that she would not add the amendment to the Constitution, saying that Congress or the federal judiciary would make that determination.



AAUW encourages sending a letter to the White House urging President Biden to do everything he can to publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) to the Constitution.

Below is a sample for a letter which you can edit. Or follow the link below [Take Action Now](#).

Dear President Biden,

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) to urge you to do everything you can to publish the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

The demand for the ERA is more urgent than ever to protect against gender discrimination and ensure equality for all of us. Without the ERA in the Constitution, advances in women's rights are at risk of being weakened or even reversed.

Gender equality cannot wait any longer. I urge you to cement your legacy on gender equality and act now to publish the Equal Rights Amendment to the Constitution.

Thank you, and I look forward to your response.

[Take Action Now](#)



AAUW

Official Statement



We are extremely frustrated at the National Archivist's refusal to publish the ERA. Her decision to side with the Trump administration and against legal scholars and the American Bar Association is reprehensible.

Dr. Shogan, publish the ERA. Women around the country have waited long enough.

— GLORIA L. BLACKWELL  
Chief Executive Officer

## Higher education shouldn't come with higher risks.

- Diverse enrollment has declined in colleges and universities since the U.S. Supreme Court decided race cannot be a factor in admissions.
- More than 60% of college students report experiencing sexual harassment.
- Women hold nearly 65% of student debt.

These facts have real, lasting consequences on women. That's why AAUW is gearing up to [FIGHT in 2025 for gender equity in education](#). Here's how:

1. **We will continue fighting for inclusive schools** against attacks on diversity, equity, and inclusion, and by fighting other restrictions undermining inclusive education.
2. **We will fight for safe and harassment-free educational environments** by supporting the 2024 Title IX rules that strengthen protections for survivors and clarify Title IX protections for LGBTQ+ and pregnant and parenting students.
3. **We will fight to reduce barriers for women pursuing higher education** by working to increase financial support for campus childcare, work study programs, and Pell Grant awards to reduce the amount of student loan debt women need to take on to complete a degree.



## 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, February 25, 2024. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.

### Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd, Ballwin. January 9 meeting, 9:30 a.m., speaker will be Joe Regenbogen on Our Controversial Supreme Court, Past, Present, and Future.

**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. No January branch meeting.

**St. Louis Branch**—Winter gathering at LuLu Seafood Restaurant dim sum for Lunar New Year on Sunday, January 26, 2025

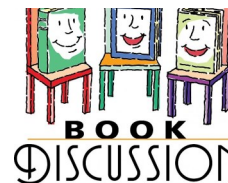
### Expressions Craft Group

This is a fun group that meets on the 1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Next meeting will be on February 4, 2025, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur. Entrance in back, no steps.

Our focus is to make and learn crafts and projects. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome. Contact Kay Meyer at ([kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com)) or Nancy Hutchins ([bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com](mailto: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 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: [PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com)

Zoom access: <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.



All IBC area branch members are invited to attend this important program.

## AAUW St. Louis Branch Program

Sunday, February 23, 2025 — 1:30 - 4:00 p.m.

St. Louis County Library, Mid-County Branch  
7821 Maryland Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105-3875



**Ideas about gender and the behavior flowing from these ideas** are powerfully imprinted on our personal, professional, and social lives. Well-being on all fronts is compromised when misconceptions about gender take hold, serving to limit our ambitions and life choices. Delving into research spotlighting non-binary constructions of gender, this presentation separates fact from fiction, specifically related to beliefs about sex and sexuality, gender identity, and transgender. The challenges and opportunities associated with the blizzard of media reports, anecdotal blogs, and populism fuel both harmful misconceptions about gender as well as surging social activism benefiting non-binary communities are discussed.

Linda Lindsey is recently retired Senior Lecturer at Washington University in St. Louis and Professor Emerita of Sociology at Maryville University. Her teaching and research are under a gender and intersectional umbrella, including courses on diversity, inequality, globalization, and health and society. Consulting with the Asian Studies Development Program, a joint program of the University of Hawaii and East-West Center, allowed for seminars in Asia for college faculty. She presented at the UN Conference on Women in Beijing and continues to present, especially on topics related to sex and gender and Afghan resettlement. Fulbright and other opportunities offered research in Pakistan, Japan, India, China, Jordan, and Peru. A longtime volunteer, she works on behalf of women's advocacy, refugees, and health care for the underserved. She is a past president of the Midwest Sociological Society and has been elected to *Who's Who in American Women* and *Who's Who in America*.

### Besides the date of our next Spring Fling,

**March 29, 2025**, marks the **150th anniversary** of *Minor v. Happersett*, when our own Virginia Minor challenged a St. Louis registrar's decision to block her from registering to vote. Plans are in the works to commemorate this historical event.

Following the ratification of the Fourteenth Amendment, suffragists began to argue that the amendment granted women the right to vote. The movement was known as the "New Departure." From 1868 to 1875, hundreds of women—both African American and white—embraced this movement. Some women successfully voted, while most were turned away, arrested, or fined. In *Minor v. Happersett*, Virginia Minor challenged a St. Louis registrar's decision to block her from registering to vote. A pioneer of the New Departure, Minor argued that women were United States citizens and that voting was a "privilege" of national citizenship protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The Supreme Court rejected Minor's claim. In a unanimous decision, the Court agreed that women were U.S. citizens, but ruled that voting was not a right of national citizenship. Instead, the Court concluded that the Constitution left the question of women's suffrage to the states. The right of suffrage was not protected by the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.







# The public is cordially invited to the International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2024

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

**10:45 am Second Tuesday of January, February, March and April**

The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. The 45-50 minute lectures begin promptly at 10:45 am in the upper auditorium and are followed by a question and answer session. Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted. Free parking is available behind the building. In case of inclement weather, please call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

*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*  
Usha Sathe, Chair

## **January 14, 2025 Our Planet's Plastic Crisis**

**Dana Ripper, M.S.**

There is growing awareness of the plastic crisis amongst people around the world. What we previously thought of as simply unsightly, plastics - particularly single-use disposables - now pose serious climate, water, and air quality threat as well as being detrimental to human health. This presentation will consist of an in-depth discussion of our planet's plastic crisis. From the extraction of component materials to various manufacturing processes, to its end destination in human bodies, waterways, and incinerators, plastic is one issue that needs to be tackled immediately. We'll talk about the various points in plastic production and waste management where change can be made and how you can become involved in that change.



Dana Ripper is the Executive Director and Co-founder of the Missouri River Bird Observatory and a wildlife ecologist who focuses on conservation via ecosystem health. She has an MS in ecology from Arkansas State University (2002) and worked on wildlife research projects across the U.S. before making Missouri home in 2008. In 2010, Dana co-founded the MRBO, a nonprofit organization dedicated to conservation via science, education, and advocacy. Since plastic production and waste mismanagement pose significant threats to climate stability, biotic and abiotic natural resources, and human health and quality of life, one of Dana's major emphases in her work with MRBO is systemic reduction in single-use plastics. MRBO is an affiliate organization of Break Free From Plastic and Beyond Plastics.



*Committee: Kathryn Meyer*

## **February 11, 2025 Water Security in a Changing Climate**

**Jason Knouft, Ph.D.**



Access to clean water is essential for all aspects of society. As the climate changes and access to water becomes more uncertain, perceptions of water security may also change, leading to social, economic, and political instability, and even conflict. This conflict could be addressed through cooperation, or, alternatively, result in the weaponization of water to oppress individuals or gain advantage over rivals. This lecture will explore water security in a changing climate and examine the implications of perceived declines in water security for society.



Jason Knouft is a Professor in the Biology Department at Saint Louis University and the Director of the Freshwater Policy Institute at the National Great Rivers Research and Education Center. He has served as a Climate and Water Security Analyst for the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), an INR deputy representative to the Climate Security Advisory Council, an INR ex officio deputy representative to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's Climate Security Roundtable, a member of the National Advisory Council for Environmental Policy and Technology at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and a Scientific Review Committee member at the National Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center. His research focuses on the investigation of freshwater system responses to environmental perturbations, with a particular interest in water security, climate change, contaminants, land use change, and adaptation strategies to address these issues. Knouft received a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

*Committee: Sue Williams, Kari Estes*

# Our NEW IBC Fundraising Approach — Tribute Donations to Honor Sheroes

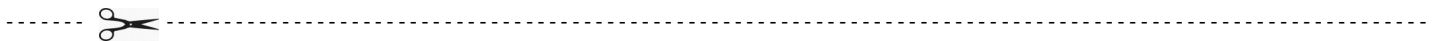
- ♥ **Why does the IBC need to raise funds?** For IBC operating expenses and to support the International Relations Lecture Series in collaboration with the Tuesday Women’s Association of the Ethical Society.
- ♥ **Our past approach has used raffles.** In the past, each branch donated baskets of items, and then we moved to raffling gift cards. We also have had 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 funds needed 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.

♥ **How will this work?** Make a donation to honor a shero in your life. Your shero will receive a card informing them that they have been named, and your shero’s name will be a part of a display at the spring luncheon. A final summary of all names will be published at the end of the campaign.

♥ **How much should you donate?** We encourage you to be as generous as you can. Since this is a fundraiser, the minimum amount to recognize a shero is \$10. Any level above that is appreciated.



Please complete the form below to donate. Any donations received before March 18, 2025, will be recognized at the spring luncheon. The campaign will be open until April 3, 2025, with contributions accepted both prior to AND at the spring luncheon. Questions? Contact the IBC spring luncheon committee fundraising chair (Joyce Bluett, AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch, or your branch’s committee member.



## TRIBUTE DONATION FOR MY SHERO

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

Branch \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

My shero’s name \_\_\_\_\_ Donation amount \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is (pick one): \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of (deceased shero) \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of (living shero)

As part of the recognition, I would like my branch name to be listed: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

I would like my name listed as a donor: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

If yes, \_\_\_\_\_ I want my name on the event display \_\_\_\_\_ I want to be in the final published lists

To honor additional sheroes, add the names and amounts on a separate sheet and mail together.

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Note:** Donations are NOT tax deductible.

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both. It is recommended that you make a copy of your form for your information.



**Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council:** 2025 *Spring Luncheon*

**Honoring Sheroes and Recognizing  
Barbara Lackritz Award Honorees**

**Entertainment: Mixed Nuts, a women's a capella quartet**

**Saturday, March 29, 2005 - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.**

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

**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 broccoli, rolls, butter, self-serve lemonade/coffee/iced and hot tea

**Registration Form**

**Fee:** \$40 - includes meal, program, and entertainment. 50-50 and lotto raffles will also be held!

Registration deadline for luncheon: March 20, 2025

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Branch: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (preferably cell): \_\_\_\_\_

I plan to attend the spring luncheon \_\_\_\_\_ Registration fee: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am paying for \_\_\_\_\_ # of guests x \$40 (list names on back) Total for luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tribute Donation for My Shero**

Name(s) of shero(es) to be honored: (Please also include Tribute Form in your envelope)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luncheon amount due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Shero donation amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_



Barbara Lackritz, MO-IL Convention, 2001

**Note:** Donations are NOT tax deductible..

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Dr, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both. It is recommended that you make a copy of your form for your information.