



Newsletter of the

Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch

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

2024-2025, No. 8, April 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
ronyeditorial@gmail.com

Co-President:

Nancy Hutchins

Program Vice President:

Kay Meyer

Membership Vice President:

Deb McWard

Finance Vice President:

Carol Davis McDonald

Secretary:

Marsha Koch

Plan to come to our annual STEM meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2025, at

Grant's View St. Louis County Library

9700 Musick Road, St. Louis (Concord), MO 63123

6 p.m. Networking and announcements; 6:30 p.m. program

STEM Guest Speaker, Dr. Annie Valuska

Dr. Annie Valuska brings over 20 years of animal behavior experience to her role as a principal scientist on Purina's Pet Behavior team. After a variety of undergraduate research experiences at Kenyon College, Dr. Annie received her PhD in



Animal Behavior from the University of California, Davis, then went on to serve as the post-Doctoral behavior research fellow at Disney's Animal Kingdom. Since joining Purina in 2013, Dr. Annie has gotten to use her expertise to serve as the "voice of the pet," ensuring that the needs of cats and dogs are kept top of mind in all of Purina's products and outreach efforts. Her passion for pets extends into her personal life – she is an award-winning animal shelter volunteer and board member and currently has a rescued pit bull/shih tzu mix (Arya) and black cat (Jack) sharing her home in St. Louis, MO. Dr. Annie can also be found on TikTok and Instagram (@annieknowsanimals)!

STEM Scholarship Awards

Mary Giunta and Dee Loris, STEM chairs

We hope that Dr. Annie will be an inspiration to our STEM scholarship recipients who are invited to attend this meeting with their parents. Awards will be presented to students **Eleanor Livengood** from Affton High School, **Marlie Duggin** from Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School, and **Elana Feldman** from Valley Park High School.

We will also have our brief annual business meeting.



Lynne

Presidents' Message ...

Springing Forward

After an enjoyable IBC spring luncheon when we honored our Barbara Lackritz Service Award winner, Nancy Hutchins, and a number of our “sheroes” (see list elsewhere in the newsletter), we are looking ahead to the last events of the AAUW fiscal year: our STEM awards, speaker, and election of new officers on April 24, the online AAUW MO state meeting on May 3, and our celebratory wrap-up of 2024-25 on May 29.



Nancy

Many thanks to all who helped plan and host the IBC luncheon from our branch, especially planning committee members Nancy Hutchins, Kay Meyer, and Carol Davis McDonald. Lynne Roney brought the cake. Barb Johnson helped with pecan, jewelry, and t-shirt sales (KWG took in more than \$300!). Sharing experiences and ideas with other branches through IBC is one of the advantages of belonging to this organization.

Please note some date and time differences for April and May. Library hours have changed, and we had to adjust some meeting dates around holidays. The **April 24 meeting** is on the fourth Thursday starting at 6 p.m. at Grant’s View Library, Room 2. The **May 29 meeting** is on the fifth Thursday at 6 p.m. at the same place. The libraries now close at 8 p.m. Plans are underway for a “watch party” on as we gather to follow the Zoom presentation of the AAUW state annual meeting. Check the May newsletter and watch your email for details and any adjustments to this schedule.

It’s been a beautiful spring for daffodils, redbud, and flowering fruit trees. Dogwoods are up next! Enjoy.

Lynne and Nancy

CALENDAR

- Apr 1 Woman of Distinction nomination and 10-Star Award application deadline
- Apr 5 Reservations accepted by county libraries for fall meeting rooms
- Apr 7 KWG board meeting via Zoom
- Apr 8 International Relations Lecture, 10:45 a.m., *Food Insecurity: Hunger and Famine, Now and in the Future*, Ethical Society building
- Apr 8 Election Day
- Apr 24 K-WG Branch business meeting, STEM awards, **6 pm**, Grantsview County Library, Room 2
- Apr 28 Movie Group, 7 pm, Zoom, *The Six Triple Eight*
- May 3 All-members state meeting via Zoom
- May 26 Movie Club (TBA)
- June 23 Movie Club (TBA)

REMINDER: Elections are Tuesday, April 8, 2025—local city council, mayoral, and school board elections, as well as propositions are on the ballot in different municipalities.

Our Lackritz Awardee, Nancy Hutchins!



Lynne Roney (left) introduced the Lackritz Award honorees and presented them with certificates.

Congratulations to Nancy, who was our branch's Barbara Lackritz Service Award winner for 2024-25—especially appropriate because she was instrumental in planning the IBC luncheon this year after the committee chair, Ellen Irons, became ill and passed away. In spite of never having attended a Spring Luncheon before, Nancy got the committee organized and put on a lovely event. Nancy wants to say she appreciates the honor to be included with so many notable AAUW members. We thank you for all your work, Nancy! Well-deserved award.

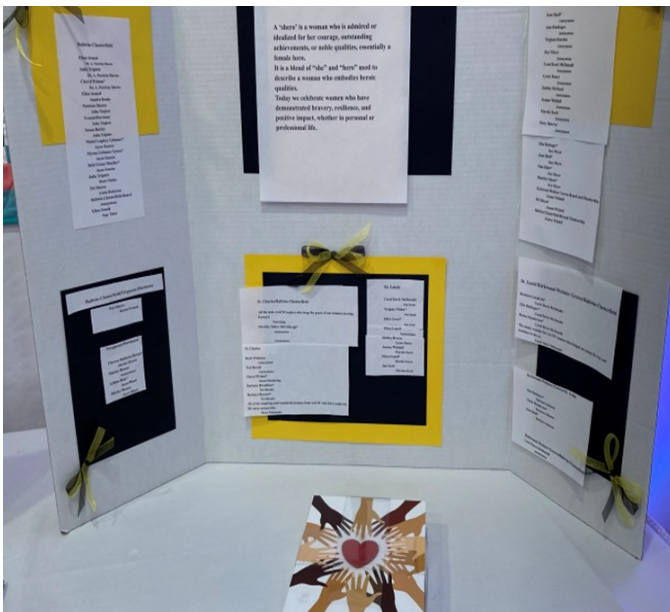
Spring Fling Pics



Kay Meyer, Jeanne Webdbell, Barbara Johnson at the K-WG sales table.



AAUW: Honoring Our Sheroes. Recognition of suffragists, Equal Pay Day, voting rights, and our own "Sheroes."



Kirkwood-Webster Spring Fling attendees. Seated: Kay, Chris, Carol, Charlotte. Standing: Lynne, Barbara, Debbie, Marsha, Jeanne.

← The Sheroes display board listed honorees, their donor branches, and in some cases, their donor.

Sheroes list

Although there were many others deserving of the name “shero,” Kirkwood-Webster members honored the following:

- Shirley Breeze (Ferguson-Florissant, past AAUW MO president)
- The late Ella Bettinger (St. Louis and K-WG, past AAUW MO president)
- The late Helen Henderson (St. Louis and K-WG)
- The late Jean Shull (K-WG, past AAUW MO president)
- The late Barbara Lackritz (Creve Coeur, Ballwin-Chesterfield, past AAUW MO president)
- The many wonderful AAUW women who helped me along the way and continue to do so
- The late Ann Kisslinger (Nancy’s mother)
- The late Virginia Hutchins (Nancy’s mother-in-law)
- Kay Meyer (K-WG, B-C, past AAUW MO president)
- Carol Davis McDonald (StL, K-WG, B-C)
- Lynne Roney (K-WG, past AAUW MO president)
- Deb McWard (K-WG)
- Jeanne Webdell (K-WG, B-C)
- Marsha Koch (K-WG, past AAUW MO president)
- The late Mae Elder (Kay’s mother)
- The late Maurita Stueck (K-WG)
- AAUW K-WG board and membership

program at Tyson Research Center and Shaw Nature Reserve. She has worked in customer service at the Brentwood and Steinberg Ice Rinks, Ces and Judy’s catering, the Maplewood Aquatic Center, and as a volunteer at many community activities. She is serving an internship at the Shaw Institute for Field Training.

Marlie says she has always had an affinity for the outdoors: “I find I am at my happiest when I am outside, in nature. Whether I’m hiking, camping, running, or just looking on in awe at creation. Creation always stands to amaze me. It became apparent to me early on in high school that the importance of conserving nature increases, as environmental degradation increases day by day. I want to play a role in environmental conservation so natural beauty lasts.... Whatever track I end up landing in, it will allow me to do field research, lab work, and travel opportunities. Most importantly, I will work to serve the natural environment.”

Eleanor Livengood from Affton High School had a childhood fascination with math and building that evolved into a passion for engineering and, ultimately, biomedical engineering. She plans to pursue this interest at Southern Illinois University–Carbondale this fall.

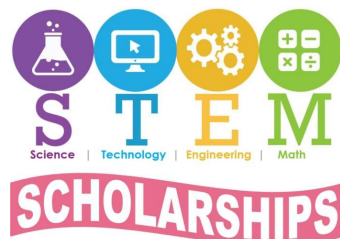
Eleanor has served on the Student Council for 4 years and is student body president. She is a member of the National Honor Society, works on the yearbook, and participates in TEAMS (tests of engineering aptitude mathematics and science) from TSA (technology student association) and a freshman mentoring program. She is on the girls’ soccer team and is captain of the girls’ swim team.

Eleanor was accepted into Missouri Scholars Academy for 2023. She received the St. Louis County 2024 Outstanding Student Leaders Award for Affton High School, as well as a Focus St. Louis leadership award and soccer team awards. Her volunteer work includes a teen addiction service project and the summer reading program and Reading Buddies at the St. Louis County Library. She has worked at Las Fuentes Mexican Restaurant and Midwest Pool Management.

Her interest in engineering comes from a simple moment, as she says: “In first grade, I was asked, ‘What do you want to be when you grow up?’ After less than a minute, I blurted out, ‘Engineer.’ Maybe I was thinking about how much I loved math class or playing with my older brother’s forgotten Lego set.” When she attended Missouri Scholars Academy, she realized she wanted to be a biomedical engineer, inspired by a speaker who was developing cancer vaccines.

(A bio has not been received yet from Alana Feldman.)

2025 K-WG SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Marlie Duggin from

Maplewood-Richmond Heights High School is a leader of multiple service organizations. She is passionate in advocating for and spending time in our natural environment. Marlie is pursuing study and a career in environmental science and possibly forestry and is considering attending the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, or the University of Kentucky, Lexington.

Marlie is a member of the National Honor Society and Key Club and vice president of Student Council. She has been captain of both the girls’ cross country and soccer teams. Marlie has participated in the SIFT

Your presence is requested:

Finding a Path Forward . . . NOW is the Time!

AAUW Missouri State Conference

May 3, 2025 — via ZOOM — 9:00 am-Noon

Sue Shineman and the entire AAUW MO board invite you to spend Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 9:00 a.m.—noon, with AAUW members from across the state as we work to find new paths forward in these changing times. NOW is the time to gather, review, discuss, and make our plans. The May conference will be via Zoom to help save time and expenses.

We are encouraging branches to gather together in Pathway Parties to share the event. There is NO registration fee. Just sign up when the registration link comes through your email in mid-April, so you can receive the Zoom link and the e-packet of handouts that will be sent the week of the conference. **Even if you are attending a Pathway Party, you need to register individually prior to the event.**

Meet The Speakers

Dr. Amber Bengé — Education has always been a hallmark concern for AAUW. As we look for paths forward in this area, we will be briefed by Dr. Amber Bengé, a dedicated educator, advocate, and leader whose career embodies an unwavering commitment to equity and justice. Beginning as a middle school science teacher, today, she serves as the co-executive director of the Missouri Equity Education Partnership, championing educational equity throughout the state.



We have also invited AAUW senior director of Institutional Advancement, **Katrina Sun Breese**, to be part of the day (request pending). Institutional Advancement covers membership and fundraising, both vital for AAUW. With membership always a concern, Katrina will focus on this timely issue and bring us ideas for paths forward.

The business meeting and elections follow these timely presentations. The Star Awards (due April 1) and the AAUW Fund Awards will be made to branches in recognition of their mission-based activities and their support of the AAUW Fund. The Outstanding Members and Woman of Distinction awardees will be announced. See the agenda on the next page.

Save the date, plan your Pathway Party, and get ready to make some new paths! NOW is the time!



AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves raises money
through RADA KITCHEN STORE.

[Click on this link \(https://radafundraising.myshopify.com/?rfsn=7746743.077a60\)](https://radafundraising.myshopify.com/?rfsn=7746743.077a60) that will ask if you want to donate to AAUW KWG. Your purchases will support the fundraiser for **AAUW Kirkwood Webster Groves**.





Finding a Path Forward . . . NOW is the Time!

AAUW MO State Conference May 3, 2025—via ZOOM

9:00 a.m. — Noon

Via ZOOM — Pathway Parties and Individuals
Sue Shineman, AAUW MO President

8:30-9:00	Zoom link open; members sign in	Sue Shineman / April McArthur
9:00-9:10	Welcome and Overview of Meeting	Sue Shineman
9:10-9:50	Keynote AAUW Speaker - Katrina Sun Breese; AAUW Advancement Vice President	
TOPIC: 'AAUW TODAY - Membership & More' / Q&A Time		Intro by Diane B. Ludwig
9:50-10:30	Issues Speaker - Dr. Amber Bengé, Co-Executive Director, MO Equity Education Partnership	
TOPIC: 'The Education Climate in Missouri' / Q&A		Intro by Su Bacon
10:30-10:35	BREAK	
10:35-11:30	Business Meeting	
	Call to order	Sue Shineman
	Credentials Report/Quorum/Standing Rules	Marianne Fues
	Approval of Agenda	Sue S. / All
	Appointment of Readers for Minutes	Sue S.
	Approval of 2024 State Meeting Minutes	Sue S. / Diana Curry-McQuirk
	Finance Report / Adoption of 2025-2026 Budget	Sue S. / Lois Domsch
	Elections: Presentation of Slate of Officers/Elections	Lynne Roney
	/Installation of Officers	Sue S.— Elections; Installation
	Legacy Circle Recognitions	Sue Barley
	Missouri STAR Awards (Branch Action Plans)	Su Bacon/Diane B. Ludwig
	AAUW Fund Awards	Sage Taber/Sue Barley
	Top Branches/Totals/Per Capitas	
	Century Club & Century Club Plus	
	Opportunity Grants	Carol Cox
	State Awards	
	Outstanding Member	Susie Watson
	Woman of Distinction	Karen Francis
11:30-11:40	New Business	
	Recognition of Retiring Officers	Sue Shineman
	Announcements	Sue S. / All

[Register for the AAUW MO State Conference by responding to the special email to be sent in mid-April.](#)

Each person must register to receive the conference e-packet of materials prior to the conference and the Zoom link. Those attending Branch Pathway Parties still need to register individually. Questions? Contact Diane B. Ludwig, Co-Program VP, 573-642-4664 or dbludwig22@aol.com or Su Bacon, Co-Program VP, 816-746-1222 or pigsubacon@aol.com.

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, May 27, 2025. 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. April 10, 2025, 9:00-11:30 a.m. Speaker will be Jamie Grandinetti, St Louis Art Museum director of exhibits, *Effective Strategies for Selecting and Organizing Museum Exhibits*

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Pam Meyers](#) for meeting information, 314-303-6661.

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. April 3 meeting will include lunch at Senior Center. The May 2 meeting speaker will be Sue Moellering's sister, Dr. Jane Biehl, who is visiting from Ohio

St. Louis Branch—The branch is promoting the state conference on May 3. Their business meeting will be held in June at Rich and Charlie's in Crestwood.

MOVIE CLUB

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.



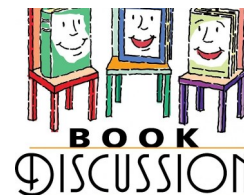
Upcoming movies:

April 28—*The Six Triple Eight*

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?>

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:

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

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

Zoom access: Join Zoom Meeting at
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1>

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222
Passcode: 922338

Dial by your location 312 626 6799 US

Upcoming selections:

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.

Sep 25 *The Sentence*, by Louise Erdrich, 400 pages, 1-9-2021. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Asks what we owe to the living, the dead, to the reader and to the book. Mystery haunting of a small, independent book store.

Do you have a question about
AAUW or our branch, something you
have been wondering? Just ask.
We'll get an answer.
(davis-mcdonald@outlook.com)



The public is cordially invited to the
International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2025

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

March 11, 2025 Modern Geopolitics: The Ghost of Sir John Mackinder Kevin Jon Fernlund, Ph.D.

Kevin Jon Fernlund is a Professor of History at the University of Missouri - St. Louis and is the author of *Lyndon B. Johnson and Modern America* (2009) and *William Henry Holmes and the Rediscovery of the American West* (2000). From 2001 to 2002, he was a Fulbright Scholar in Vietnam and between 2006 and 2012, he directed the Western History Association. His most recent book is *A Big History of North America, from Montezuma to Monroe* (2023).

Dr. Fernlund's presentation is "Donald Trump, America First, and the Ghost of Sir Halford John Mackinder, the Father of Modern Geopolitics," an evaluation of US foreign policy in the second Trump Administration.



Mackinder is often credited with introducing two new terms into the English language: "manpower" and "heartland." The Heartland Theory and more generally classical geopolitics and geostrategy were extremely influential in the making of US strategic policy during the period of the Cold War. Dr. Fernlund spoke earlier this year of how geography shapes global politics, echoing Paul Kennedy's insights on "how distance and terrain and climate affect the affairs of states and men."

Committee: Kathryne Meyer

April 8, 2025 Food Insecurity: Hunger and Famine Now, and in the Near Future Patricia Wolff, M.D.



Pediatrician Patricia Wolff founded the U.S. non-profit *Meds & Food for Kids (MFK)* in 2003 and served as Executive Director until 2020. Since its inception, MFK has saved the lives of almost 1,000,000 children seen in over 50 clinics in Haiti and with Haitian-made Ready to Use Therapeutic Food exported to 17 countries. The MFK approach is to use local labor and local resources to manufacture Medika Mamba, a treatment for malnutrition, which in turn develops the local economy.

For many years, Dr. Wolff spent half her time in Haiti to develop *Meds & Food for Kids*. She is a pediatrician, endocrinologist, and served as President of Forest Park

Pediatrics. Dr. Wolff's many awards include the St. Louis Women of Achievement (May 2017) and the St. Louis Bar Foundation Humanitarian Award (October 2015).



Meds & Food
 For Kids 
 mfkhaiti.org

Committee: Elaine Miller