

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).

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<https://facebook.com/AAUWKWG>
<https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>
<https://aauw-mo.aauw.net>

Kirkwood-Webster Groves and St. Louis Combined Branch Meeting

Duct Tape Mysteries

Thursday, November 20, 2025 - 7:00 pm

**Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams, Room 201,
Kirkwood, Missouri 63122**



Duct tape is found at many crime scenes. For example, it is used to tie people up, make explosives, and to package drugs. Duct tape is adhesive and is therefore a rich source for forensic findings, such as hairs, other human biological traces, fingerprints, and fibers. As a consequence, duct tape can play an important role in solving a criminal case.

[Jenny Smith](#), a leading forensic science investigator and a national expert and witness in duct tape investigations and trials, will be the speaker at our third joint monthly meeting with the St. Louis Branch. Jenny is retired with 28 years of experience with the Missouri State Highway Patrol Crime Lab. She holds a BS in Medical Technology from Central Missouri State University and Menorah Medical Center and a Master of Science degree in Pathology from the University of Missouri, Columbia.



The public is invited. Come join us for an exciting presentation on Duct Tape Mysteries.



From Your Co-Presidents ...



Nancy

First of all, we want to send condolences to the family of our member, Elinor Gent, whom we lost this month. She was kind, intelligent, well read, and we will miss her. If you would like to send cards to her family, her address is: 420 S. Kirkwood Rd., Apt. 317, Kirkwood, MO. 63122-6164.

Please get ready for a wonderful Spring Fling Luncheon on Saturday, March 28, 2026. It will be at the beautiful Racket Club of Ladue this year. We'll have a grand piano with lots of music and a wonderful speaker. Tickets will be available in January.

We would like for you to think about who you would like to nominate for the 2026 Metro St. Louis Inter-Branch Council Barbara Lackritz AAUW Service Award for 2026. Each branch may select one person for the award. These awards will be presented on March 28th at our Spring Fling Luncheon. Contact Kay Meyer at (314) 962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com with ideas.

Our wonderful AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves November meeting will be on Thursday, November 20, 2025, at 7PM with Jenny Smith, a leading forensic science investigator and national expert and witness in duct tape investigations and trials. We're meeting at Kirkwood United Methodist Church, 201 W. Adams, room 201, Kirkwood, Missouri 63122. Hope you can attend.

The AAUW Movie Club meets the fourth Monday of every month. The November 24th movie is *Maria*, and the December 22nd movie is *Nonnas*. If you have questions about the movies, please contact Diane Sher at dshe63105@gmail.com or (cell)314-952-3851.

The Adelante Book Group meets at 1:30PM on the fourth Thursday by Zoom. Their next meeting is January 22, 2026. Kay Meyer will review *All the Colors of Dark*, by Chris Whitaker.

The International Relations Lecture Series at the Ethical Society will begin January 13, 2026. The first lecture of the season will be about the "Pandemic and Vaccines." February 10, 2026, the speaker will discuss "Supply Chains." March 10, 2026, the topic will be "Plastics." April 14, 2026, the topic is "Crop Yields and Future Food Security."

Charlotte and Nancy



We were saddened to learn that we have lost two K-WG members. **Elinor Gent's** daughter called to inform us that Elinor died on October 20, 2025, from congestive heart failure. There will not be a service. "She was kind, intelligent, and extremely well read."

We also learned that former member and past branch president, **Bonnie Hawk**, died on September 17, 2025 ([Bonnie Hawk Obituary \(1951 - 2025\) - Kirkwood, MO - St. Louis Post-Dispatch](#)). Visitation and service were on October 9th. Condolences may be sent to Jim Hawk, 2362 Maybrook Lane, St. Louis, MO 63122-5127.

It's pecan time again.

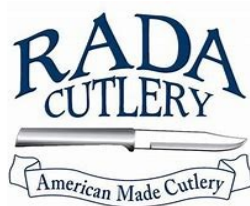
Bake this Pumpkin Spice & Pecan Bundt Cake with Maple Glaze.
Or ask a friend who likes to bake it.

(No one mentioned it, but the following was omitted from last month's newsletter. If you want a copy of the ingredients, let me know. I'll copy and paste from my original. Carol)



- Preheat oven to 350° F and butter and flour a bundt pan.
- With an electric mixer, cream together butter and sugar until light and fluffy, about 3-4 minutes.
- Add eggs one at a time, mixing between each addition.
- Mix in vanilla, sour cream or buttermilk, and pumpkin until combined.
- In a separate bowl, whisk together all the dry ingredients, including the pecans.
- Add to the pumpkin mixture and stir just until combined.
- Transfer to the prepared bundt pan and bake in the preheat oven until a cake tester inserted in the center comes out clean, about 1 hour.
- Remove from the oven and let cool.
- In a medium bowl, whisk together powdered sugar, maple syrup, whole milk, and a pinch of sea salt until smooth.
- Drizzle over the cooled bundt cake and top with pumpkin seeds.

Be sure to order pecans from Kay Meyer. It's our branch's fundraiser for our STEM scholarships.



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**.

It is time again for our KWG Branch to nominate a member for the annual Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council's **Barb Lackritz AAUW Service Award**. This annual award recognizes a member of each St. Louis area branch who has contributed to the goals of AAUW. The criteria for selection for the nominee are as follows:

1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional, or national level(s).
3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional, or national level(s).
4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.



Previous branch honorees were Jean Shull (2005), Ella Bettinger (2006), Carol Davis McDonald (2007), Lynne Roney (2009), Deb McWard (2015), Kay Meyer (2017), Marsha Koch (2019), Jeanne Webdell (2022), Barbara Johnson (2023) Chris Nobbe (2024), and Nancy Hutchins (2025). The nominees receive their recognition at the annual IBC Spring Luncheon in March.

Please submit your nominee for KWG Barb Lackritz 2025 award to Jeanne Webdell (573.754.0943 or Jeannewebdell@gmail.com) or Kay Meyer (314.962.7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com) by Tuesday, November 11.

Public Policy

by Jeanne Webdell

Three important issues involving major changes are presently in the process of being brought to the voters of Missouri sometime in 2026.

The first involves Missouri's eight congressional districts, **which were altered during the special legislative**



session in September. The districts were redrawn to favor seven Republican-leaning districts and one thought to be Democratic. This reduces the Democratic-leaning districts from two to one. Several lawsuits have been filed to challenge this map. There is also a Referendum Petition to put the map to a vote of the people. A group named People Not Politicians is circulating a petition to support this cause, which the **AAUW Missouri state board endorses**. There needs to be approximately 106,000 signatures (by December 11) to get this on the ballot. At the end of October, Missouri Attorney General Catherine Hanaway filed a lawsuit against the petition, arguing that nothing in the Missouri Constitution "expressly says that federal congressional reapportionment may be subjected to a referendum." Hanaway believes allowing a referendum on the map "will invite chaos."

Another issue of concern is **HJR 3 Amendment 4**, which changes the **Initiative petition process** that has been in the Missouri Constitution for one hundred years. It would effectively take away the people's right to one person, one vote. A petition by the group Respect MO Voters is circulating about this bill. The AAUW MO State Board has not endorsed this petition.

The final issue is Amendment 3 which relates to reproductive rights. The Legislature has passed a new amendment with the same amendment number that will nullify the previous Amendment 3. The new amendment will reduce the protection currently existing in the Missouri Constitution. Continue to look for updates on these critical issues.



CALENDAR

Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth

Nov 19	National Advancement Committee webinar on mission alignment and the Five-Star Program	Mar 10	International Relations lecture, 10:45 am
Nov 20	KWG-StL combined branch meeting, 7 pm, Kirkwood United Methodist Church	Mar 26	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>Sula</i>
Nov 24	Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom, <i>Maria</i>	Mar 28	Spring Fling!, Raquet Club Ladue
Nov 25	Quarterly IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom	Apr 14	International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Crop Yields and Future Food Security."
Nov 25	National Ending Violence Against Women Day	Apr 23	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>My Friends</i>
Dec 22	Movie Club, 7 pm, Zoom	May ?	Annual state conference, in person, Columbia, MO
Jan 13	International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Pandemic and Vaccines"	May 28	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>Anna: The Biography</i>
Jan 22	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>All the Colors of Dark</i>	June 25	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>By Any Other Name</i>
Feb 10	International Relations lecture, 10:45 am, "Supply Chains"	Sep 24	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom, <i>Accidentally, On Purpose</i>
Feb 24	Quarterly IBC meeting, 7 pm, Zoom		
Feb 26	Adelante book group, 1:30 pm, Zoom,		

AAUW METRO ST LOUIS IBC

St. Louis 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.

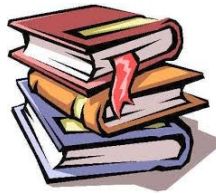
The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next quarterly meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov 25, 2025, at 7 p.m. via Zoom.

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

IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.



Where: Join Zoom meeting:

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

Contact: PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)
[pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222

Passcode: 922338

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

Upcoming selections:

Jan 22 **All the Colors of Dark**, by Chris Whitaker, 608 pages, June 2024, Kay Meyer, facilitator. 1975 is a time of change in America. The Vietnam War is ending. Muhammad Ali is fighting Joe Frazier. And in the small town of Monta Clare, Missouri, girls are disappearing. When the daughter of a wealthy family is targeted, the most unlikely hero emerges—Patch, a local boy, who saves the girl, and, in doing so, leaves heartache in his wake. Patch and those who love him soon discover that the line between triumph and tragedy has never been finer. And that their search for answers will lead them to truths that could mean losing one another.

Feb 26 **Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth**, by Sarah Smarsh, 304 pages, 9-18-2018. Lynne Roney, facilitator. Sarah Smarsh was born a fifth generation Kansas wheat farmer on her paternal side, and the product of generations of teen mothers on her maternal side. Through her experiences growing up on a farm thirty miles west of Wichita, we are given a unique and essential look into the lives of poor and working-class Americans living in the heartland. During Sarah's turbulent childhood in Kansas in the 1980s and 1990s, she enjoyed the freedom of a country childhood but observed the painful challenges of the poverty around her; untreated medical conditions for lack of insurance or consistent care, unsafe job conditions, abusive relationships, and limited resources and information that would provide for the upward mobility that is the American Dream. By telling the story of her life and the lives of the people she loves with clarity and precision but without judgement, Smarsh challenges us to look more closely at the class divide in our country. Beautifully written, in a distinctive voice, *Heartland* combines personal narrative with powerful analysis and cultural commentary, challenging the myths about people thought to be less because they earn less.

Mar 26 **Sula**, by Toni Morrison, 192 pages, 1973. Carol Davis McDonald, facilitator. Sula and Nel are two young black girls: clever and poor. They grow up together sharing their secrets, dreams and happiness. Then Sula breaks free from their small-town community in the uplands of Ohio to roam the cities of America. When she returns ten years later much has changed. Including Nel, who now has a husband and three children. The friendship between the two women becomes strained and the whole town grows wary as Sula continues in her wayward, vagabond and uncompromising ways.

**Save
the
Date**

March 28, 2026

**Spring Fling
at Racquet Club Ladue**

Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch— On November 13 (second Thursdays) the branch program will begin at 10:30 a.m. It will feature Historian Joe Regenbogen speaking on “America’s Evolving Role in the World.” At their Nov, Jan, Feb, March, and April meetings, members may donate up to five books, games, and puzzles to benefit the Dollars for Scholars fund. Un-sold items at each meeting go to a used bookstore.

Ferguson-Florissant Branch—Contact [Joyce Bluett](#) for meeting information, 314-800-8979.

Saint Charles Branch—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. At its Nov 6 meeting, the branch will have an AAUW Fund UN-auction of donated nice quality items, pre-priced baked goods, gift cards, and lottery tickets; all donations will go to AAUW’s Greatest Needs Fund. Members will share a photo, memory, memento, or brief story about a friend or relative who is a veteran.

St. Louis Branch—Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch and St. Louis branches will combine their meetings for the 2025-2026 AAUW year (see page 1).

International Relations Lecture Series



If you are interested in international relations and learning about worldwide issues, you will enjoy these lectures held at 10:45 a.m. on the second Tuesday of January, February, March and April each year at the Ethical Society building on Clayton Rd in Ladue. AAUW and the Tuesday Women’s Association have sponsored these lectures for over 90 years, and they are always interesting.

The Tuesday Women’s Association (TWA) from the Ethical Society will lead the group again since no AAUW people were available to take the leadership. Branches are asked to send in their checks for financial support to the IBC finance officer. The Ethical Society supplies the facilities and equipment at no cost for the lectures. Speakers are paid \$250 from the funds raised by our donations and by passing the basket at the lectures.

“The greatest danger to our future is apathy.”
— Jane Goodall



From the AAUW Missouri State Inclusion & Equity Committee

Jan Scott & Carol Cox

“It is time for women and Blacks to mobilize their collective political power.”

This commentary in the *Missouri Independent* on October 6, 2025, covers much of the inclusion and equity we strive for. “Women and Blacks, together, could make up the largest voting bloc.” And then if we have developed consensus on our favorite goals, wow! What fun we can have.

Find the article at <https://missouriindependent.com/2025/10/06/it-is-time-for-women-and-blacks-to-mobilize-their-collective-political-power/>



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. Request to join the email list? Submit to dsher63105@gmail.com. Prospective-member guests are welcome!

Mon. Nov. 24: Moderator, Sheila Bassoppo-Moyo
Mon. Dec. 22: Moderator, Becky Clausen

Maria
Nonnas



Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81582657369?pwd=aqAKlCdAvoiebBFwc1t97u8UNDYjua.1>

Meeting ID: 815 8265 7369

Passcode: 168308

HELPFUL LINKS ON THE NATIONAL WEBSITE

Upcoming Events Calendar:

<https://my.aauw.org/eventcalendardirectory>

College & University Directory List:

<https://my.aauw.org/collegeuniversitydirectory>

Fellowships & Grants Directory:

<https://my.aauw.org/fellowshipsandgrantsdirectory>

AAUW Webinars:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>

Explore the Issues (Education, Economic Security, Social Justice & Civil Rights):

<https://www.aauw.org/issues/>

Take Action (Two-Minute Activist, Public Policy Priorities, Policy Updates, Advocacy Toolkit):

<https://www.aauw.org/act/>

Get Empowered (Work Smart & Start Smart Salary Negotiation, Fellowships & Grants, Women's Economic Empowerment Initiative, Legal Advocacy Fund, AAUW Webinars):

<https://www.aauw.org/get-empowered/>

Membership (Discounts & Perks, AAUW Five-Star Program, Leader Resources & Tools, Ways to Give to AAUW):

<https://www.aauw.org/membership/>

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund challenges sex discrimination in higher education and the workplace.

AAUW has provided millions of dollars to balance the scales of justice for people working toward gender equity system. Learn more about the law school clinical programs we're supporting.

A Current Clinic Grant Awardee:

[Civil Rights & Housing Clinic, University at Buffalo School of Law](#)

The Civil Rights and Transparency Clinic is a litigation clinic focused on civil rights and civil liberties, spanning constitutional liberties like free speech, privacy, due process, and statutory civil rights against discrimination.

Their Cases: These cases are representative of the clinic's docket.

- Successful appeal to the Fourth Department Appellate Division to overturn a trial court ruling in a housing voucher discrimination case.
- Defending tenants facing eviction in Buffalo City Court.
- A public comment letter to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in support of a proposed rule to reduce housing segregation.
- Litigation to enforce freedom of information requests, such as requests for the government to release accurate statistics on suicides in local jails.
- Legal name change petitions for transgender clients.

Click on the above link to read about their clients, student engagement, and work.

National Conference of College Women Student Leaders

Current Status of NCCWSL 2026: In 2025 NASPA took over the administration of this annual conference. AAUW remains a promotional partner and involved as speakers and participants. NASPA plans to organize NCCWSL in 2026, but a date and location has not been finalized or shared with AAUW as of today. To learn more about NASPA visit: www.naspa.org

NCCWSL Scholarships administered by AAUW: AAUW will continue to offer scholarships for AAUW Student Affiliates to attend NCCWSL. Award amounts are dependent on registration fees, which have not yet been finalized. More information about scholarships for NCCWSL will be available once plans for the 2026 conference have been finalized.

AAUW Updates - October 2025

Susan Barley, AAUW Advancement Committee - 314-229-4240 | barley702@gmail.com

Degree Equivalency Policy for Membership—**CHECK THIS OUT!!**

In May 2025, the AAUW National Board of Directors approved a formal policy for Degree Equivalency for prospective members. The policy can be found on page 4 of the May 14, 2025, Board of Directors Minutes: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2025/07/5.14.25-Board-Minutes-FINAL.pdf>

Upcoming Events

- <https://my.aauw.org/eventcaldirectory>
- Defending Equity in Higher Education: Equity Roll-backs and Curriculum Bans, 10/28 2:30p-3:30p ET
- Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships, 11/6 7p-8p ET
- AAUW Member Recruitment Best Practices, 11/19 7p-8p ET
- Register for all these by clicking the calendar link above, scrolling to the bottom of the page to see upcoming events, clicking on the event of interest and following the prompts (requires log-in through the Community Hub)
- Recording: AAUW Fall Member Gathering: [AAUW's Fall Member Gathering](#)

It's My Vote Campaign. In November AAUW is kicking off our It's-My-Vote! campaign, our nonpartisan voter-engagement effort. To amplify this work, AAUW is pleased to announce that we are a power partner with the League of Women Voters on Unite & Rise 8.5 — alongside YWCA and the National Council of Jewish Women. We also invite you to our "Working in Coalition: Building Power through Partnerships" webinar on November 6 at 7p-8p ET. <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000001f9ZpIAI>

Great AAUW Photo taken by Reuters

- <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cd67q9vq967o>
- [US Supreme Court conservatives appear willing to blunt key Voting Rights Act provision | Reuters](#)

AAUW Opposes Trump's Higher Ed Compact – Stand With Students, Not Political Litmus Tests

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-opposes-trumps-higher-ed-compact-stand-with-students-not-political-litmus-tests/>

AAUW: Government Shutdown and Court-Approved Civil Rights Firings Are a Devastating Betrayal of Students

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/press-releases/aauw-government-shutdown-and-court-approved-civil-rights-firings-are-a-devastating-betrayal-of-students/>

Ms. Magazine – Partnership continues. They will once again be offering free one-year subscriptions to new/renewing members – the promotional link is forthcoming.

News from the Public Policy Committee (APPC)

- Action needed: Use AAUW's Two-Minute Activist tool to submit comments to the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) before October 20 to oppose a voter suppression effort based on disinformation. <https://aauw.quorum.us/campaign/144095/>
- The Public Policy Committee will be holding an upcoming training: Building Strong Coalitions on November 6, from 7-8 pm ET. This is the beginning of a series of trainings and briefings on individual policy topics that will be rolled out in response to the member survey. Here's the registration link: <https://my.aauw.org/event-information?id=a0lQr000001f9ZpIAI>
- Gloria L. Blackwell, AAUW CEO, spoke at a rally at the U.S. Supreme Court on 10/15. You can find AAUW's updated position paper on Voting Rights here: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/position-voting-rights/>

Is Your Contact Information Up to Date with AAUW?

Reprinted from September Mission & Action

AAUW is moving to a new mass email platform to better serve you! Access your AAUW personal snapshot and update your contact information and preferences.

Frequent users, click [LOG IN](#) as usual. Non-frequent users, click [LOG IN](#), then below the blue log-in button, click FORGOT PASSWORD. Enter your email address and click RESET YOUR PASSWORD to receive and confirm a new password to access your Personal Snapshot. Need help? Email connect@aauw.org and enter LOG IN HELP in the subject line.