



Branching Out

AAUW Ballwin–Chesterfield (MO) Branch

National and State Award-Winning Branch

November 2020

Vol. 41 No. 4 40th Anniversary Year



Presidents' Corner

Jan Horner



Sage Taber

It is hard to believe it is already November. We are grateful to our board and committee members who have found creative ways to provide quality programs to support the mission of AAUW and the goals of the branch during these unusual times. The Membership Committee has a new program to recognize the birthdays of members. The creative Fall Brunch Committee postponed the annual September event and took it to the parking lot for an Octoberfest. All speakers are available to present via Zoom, thanks to the Program Committee. Dollars for Scholars may not be able to offer you actual trips to interesting places, but they find interesting ideas online and hope that you will consider making contributions so that we can continue to offer scholarships to non-traditional female students.

Every part of the communications department—Friday Notes, Newsletter, Website and Directory—has been working overtime to assure we have the most up-to-date branch information in a safe and effective way. Then, of course, we must not forget the Public Policy Committee that has been busy keeping us aware of the election issues of importance to women and how to be sure our vote counts.

We appreciate all members who are participating in ZOOM meetings and attending interest groups and events. Please consider giving generously to the annual branch fundraiser, selling your raffle tickets, or a committee. We can always use more people with creative ideas or extra time. If you have a great idea or would like to be more involved, Sage and I would love to hear from you by phone or email.

As 2020 comes to an end, we do hope that you will consider financial support to AAUW Funds so that the national programs can continue to grow. Contributions can be made either online or to Eileen Krahnman. More information is available under AAUW Funds in this newsletter.

No matter how you participate, we are grateful to every member for your support of the branch with time, talent and treasure.

-Jan Horner, Co-President

November Branch Meeting

Via Zoom, Thursday, November 12, 2020

9:30 a.m. - Business Meeting

10:30 a.m. - Program

A Divided America: Growing Economic Divides

Ana Kent, Ph.D. Policy Analyst

Center for Household Financial Stability

The Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

Dr. Kent conducts primary and secondary research and data analysis on household balance sheet issues. Her primary research interests at the Fed include economic disparities and opportunity, wealth outcomes, class and racial biases and the role of psychological factors in making financial decisions.



Dr. Kent will highlight income and wealth inequality in the United States and will disentangle existing racial, educational, and generational wealth gaps, including changes over time. Research by the Center has found that these three demographics are strong predictors of who is building wealth in this economy and who is not. In general, younger, less-educated, and Black or Hispanic families are, from a wealth-building perspective, "struggling," while older, better-educated, and white families are, generally "thriving."

Kent received her doctoral degree in experimental psychology from Saint Louis University, her master's of science from St. Louis University and bachelor's degree from Notre Dame.

Inside

p.2 **General Information, Winter Fundraiser, Directory**

p.3 **Public Policy, Ballwin-Chesterfield News**

p.4 **AAUW Fund**

p.5-6 **DFS, Interest Groups and Calendar**

The next board meeting will be November 5 at 9:30 a.m. All elected and appointed directors are expected to attend. Please contact Sage (sagemo@aol.com) if you are unable to attend.

- The *Branching Out* newsletter is published ten times annually. The deadline for submissions to the December newsletter is November 12, unless otherwise specified by the department co-editor. Send news items to Sandy Brody (sandybrody163@gmail.com). Send DFS notices to Joan Davis (jmdavis@pstcc.edu) and send Interest Group information to Jean Light (jhl1234@charter.net).
- The branch website is Ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net. Web Manager Joyce Katz posts announcements on Facebook at Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch of AAUW. "Like" the page to receive updates.
- Contact Membership Vice-Presidents Judy Stagoski (jms4331@gmail.com) and Pat White (pgwhite02@gmail.com) for membership information.
- To submit an item to Care Notes, contact Joan Reed (jj6a8r1@aol.com) or Joyce Katz (joycekatz44@gmail.com).

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board

ELECTED OFFICERS

Co-Presidents: Jan Horner & Sage Taber

VP Program: Carol Anthony & Yvonne Ward

VP Membership: Judy Stagoski & Pat White

Finance Officer: Pat Shores

Secretary/Archivist: Leslie Weir

Ex-Officio Immediate Past President: Jean Elliott

ELECTED DIRECTORS

AAUW Fund: Marian Bauer & Eileen Krahnman

Public Policy: Karen Francis & Angela Janik

APPOINTED DIRECTORS

Branch Fundraising: Marcia Block & Linda Kridel

Directory: Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy & Joan Hewitt

Dollars for Scholars: Susie Teicher & Janet Sloey

Governance: Marsha Weppelman

Hospitality: TBA

Newsletter Editors: Sandy Brody, Joan Davis, & Jean Light

University Liaison: Carol Greenaway & Susan Shriver

Special Events

Fall Brunch: Eileen Krahnman & Jean Elliott

Spring Luncheon: Jane Hemer & Michele Mangnall

STEM: Barb McQuitty & Susan Fenwick

Web Managers: Joyce Katz

Standing committee chairs are listed in the Directory.

Winter Fundraiser



Alas, we must again meet at a distance. However, we plan an entertaining speaker, time to share your holiday plans and decorations, and a drawing for the raffle. Stay tuned for specifics.

Have you sold any raffle tickets yet? There are great prizes, and you might be the winner! More sheets of tickets may be downloaded from the website or by contacting Pat Shores.

We do need contributions to run the branch and all our activities. Even during the pandemic, expenses continue. We gratefully accept contributions in any amount, but if you contribute at least \$50 you will be named a Belle of the Branch and be acknowledged on the branch website. Checks may be mailed to Pat Shores (address in the directory). Write Belles or Fundraiser on the memo line

~Marcia Block and Linda Kridel,
Co-directors, Branch Fundraising

Directory 2020-21

By now you should be enjoying your 2020-21 Online Directory. We assume that you have received it. If not, please check your spam folder. If you did not receive it, contact Ann Patrice or Joan so we can solve the problem.

If you have any questions about the Directory, please contact us.

~Joan Hewitt and Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy,
Co-directors, Directory

Meeting During COVID-19

It is highly encouraged that all AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield committees and interest groups meet by Zoom or other electronic methods when conducting business. Those choosing to conduct in person gatherings do so at their own risk and should review and adhere to local, state, and government advisories.

Public Policy

Many have voted in the November 3 election, but you, your family, or friends, may not have yet done so. What can you still do? Remind everyone TO VOTE; their vote is their voice. Let all know they can vote at the board of elections or at the satellite offices. Reminder—there are two ways to vote by mail, either absentee or mail-in. If you are using an absentee ballot, and selected option 2 or 7, your ballot does not need a notary and can be dropped off or mailed. If you are using a mail-in ballot, or absentee ballot for any other reason, it must be notarized and be **sent by mail**. Find a notary at <https://notaryhub.movpc.org> of the nonpartisan Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. For questions or concerns, call 1-866-OUR-VOTE. For more information on absentee v. mail-in ballot, go to <https://www.ncjwstl.org/voting-know-your-rights-responsibilities/>

AAUW encourages members to advocate for its issues. AAUW MO opposes Amendment 3–VOTE NO on #3. The AAUW Action Network states that “we fight for a just and fair Supreme Court” by telling the Senate to prioritize the American people and wait to hold the Supreme Court hearing until AFTER the inauguration. You can do this by texting: saveourcourt to 21333.

We also are in the final days of Domestic Violence Awareness Month—another AAUW priority “freedom from violence and fear of violence...” Domestic violence was already an epidemic before COVID, but the health crisis has caused a spike in incidences of violence. One in four women and one in ten men have experienced contact sexual violence. A local crisis intervention hot line currently has seen a 44 percent increase in calls. If you or someone you know who might need help, have them call Safe Connections 24-Hour-Crisis Helpline, 314-531-2003, or the National Domestic Violence Hot line, 1-800-799-7233.

~Karen Francis and Angie Janik,
Co-directors Public Policy

AAUW B-C and Security Online

Ballwin-Chesterfield has online presence in several areas: emails to members, a website, and a Facebook presence. To provide protection for members, the branch no longer provides “live” links to personal email addresses when publishing online, as these may be picked up by unwanted sources. The plain text email addresses may be copied and used for personal purposes. Links to commercial and public sources will remain “live” (i.e. www.aauw.org).

Security on the internet is provided in several ways. Individuals may purchase security from their computer store or a private source. Many providers, such as Apple and Microsoft, provide free security for their products. Always look for the padlock when making online purchases or commercial contacts, as this indicates the site is secure.

~Joyce Katz, Webmaster

Octoberfest

Thank you so much to everyone who participated and helped to make October 10 a great day for the Octoberfest. The weather was exceptional. The food and drinks were delicious. But above all, the company was outstanding! A fellow member stated, “There is no letter “I” in the word team.” This was the truth on our Octoberfest Day!

Thanks, Team AAUW B-C!

~ Jean Elliott and Eileen Krahnmann,
Co-directors Fall Branch



AAUW Fund

The AAUW Fund is the process by which affiliates (branches) such as Ballwin-Chesterfield help promote the work of the national organization. AAUW promotes equity for women and girls. By donating to this fund, members carry out its bold strategic vision for the future. Within the fund there are four major funds: Greatest Needs, Education and Training, Economic Security and Leadership. All donations are tax deductible. For a total donation of \$100 or more during a calendar year, you are honored as a Century Club member; for \$250 or more you will be honored as a Century Club Plus member. You may donate by sending checks to Eileen Krahman, or go to AAUW.org and search for donate. Be part of the great work.

~Marian Bauer, Co-director, AAUW Fund

New Legal Advocacy Fund Cases

AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has accepted two new cases. They are as follows:

Beth Page, et al. v. Mark Green Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

This is a pay equity case between three foreign service officers and USAID, relating to salary history and a violation of the equal pay act.

Glasson v. Google

This is a pregnancy discrimination case brought by a former Google employee who also claims she was retaliated against.

~Marian Bauer, Co-director, AAUW Fund



Renewed STEM Momentum

In the national newsletter, *Mission & Action*, AAUW recently made the following exciting announcement concerning AAUW's emphasis on STEM. "Thanks to a generous bequest from AAUW member and scientific pioneer Nancy Grace Roman, AAUW is pursuing several important STEM initiatives this fall. Roman, who died in 2018, served as NASA's first chief astronomer and is known as the mother of the Hubble Telescope."

Here are the planned STEM initiatives that are getting underway.

- Assessing how parents influence high-school girls' choices about whether to pursue science, with the goal of identifying barriers to STEM participation and solutions for overcoming them. The information gleaned will strengthen communications with parents and support of first-generation college students, particularly women of color, in choosing STEM.
- Researching where women — especially women of color — are not gaining in STEM fields. These findings will enable matching women STEM majors with the most promising jobs of the future in computer science, technology, engineering and the physical sciences.
- Building an inclusive, ever-growing group of AAUW Fellows and alumnae to serve as STEM role models and mentors for women.
- Bolstering AAUW's fellowships and grants in STEM careers.

Be sure to keep an eye out for future news on how these objectives are being met.

~ Susan Fenwick and Barbara McQuitty, Co-directors STEM



DFS events raise funds for scholarships, give members opportunities to meet in small groups for enriching and educational experiences and introduce AAUW to non-members.

Proceeds from Dollars for Scholars events support scholarships for local nontraditional women students.

Contact Susie Teicher (svteicher@gmail.com) and Janet Sloey (jega115@gmail.com)
Co-directors, Dollars for Scholars

A Message from Janet Sloey and Susie Teicher

Dear Members,

Despite our being unable to hold in-person events for Dollars for Scholars right now, the need for contributions to our scholarship program remains. Thank you to those members who are making monthly donations and sending them to Pat Shores. We will continue contributing ideas for virtual experiences in the Friday Notes and hope you find time to peruse some of our offerings. Please help us keep building our DFS account, so that we may still offer financial assistance to deserving women.

~Janet Sloey and Susan Teicher, Co-directors, DFS

Please note that all branch Interest Groups are cancelled in accordance with current restrictions except those listed below.

Book Groups ~ Welcome All Readers

Please RSVP by the Friday before the meeting. Download the 2020–21 book lists from the **Interest Groups** page on the branch website.

Literature I 3rd Thursday, 9:30 a.m.

November 19: Via Zoom

Book: *American Dirt* by Jeanine Cummins

Facilitator: Jane Miller

Contact Alice Crippen (jccripp@sbcglobal.net).

Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

November 23: Via Zoom

Book: *The Great Santini* by Pat Conroy

Facilitator: Beth Ann Murphy

Contact Joyce Katz (joycekatz44@gmail.com) or

Erlaine Eltomi (erlaine.eltomi@att.net).

Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1:00 p.m.

November 10: Via Zoom

Book: *Woolly: The True Story of the Quest to Revive One of History's Most Iconic Extinct Creatures* by Ben Mezrich

Facilitator: Terri Ciccolella

Contact Marcia Block (mhblock@sbcglobal.net)

or Mary Kay Wolfe (mkwolfe@hotmail.com).

Activities Calendar



November

03 Election Day

05 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

10 Reading Reality 1 p.m.

12 Branch Meeting 9:30 a.m.

Deadline for December newsletter submissions

18 Out to Lunch TBA

19 Literature I 9:30 a.m.

23 Literature II 10 a.m.

Coming in December

03 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

10 Winter Fundraiser 9:30 a.m.

12 Deadline for January newsletter submissions

Please be aware that all events are subject to change to be in accordance with current restrictions. Check with the sponsor to confirm the event will be held.