



Branching Out

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch

National and State Award-Winning Branch

December 2020

Ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net

Vol. 41 No. 5 40th Anniversary Year



Presidents' Corner

Jan Horner



Sage Taber

We've made it to December in this life-changing year of 2020. News of successful vaccines brings hope that the end of the pandemic could be within our reach. Until that time the branch will continue to do its work for equity for women and girls.

We continue to hold regular meetings via Zoom. We met for Octoberfest on the church parking lot—a welcome in-person gathering. The Eleanor Roosevelt Walk in October was well attended and enjoyed.

Be sure to buy your raffle tickets for the December Party. You can also become one of the *Belles* when you send \$50 or more for the branch fundraiser.

As you think about the future, maybe 2021 is your year to take that leap and consider accepting a leadership position on the board. The nominating committee is looking for dynamic women to serve on the Executive Board. Think about the new friends you can make and the talents you will be able to share with the organization. If this isn't your year to lead, think of which member would be an outstanding addition to the board and ask her if she would be willing to be considered for nomination.

Be assured that your volunteer service for women and girls is very much appreciated. My very best wishes to you during this holiday season.

~Sage Taber,
Co-president

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 and state government advisories.

Winter Fundraiser

Thursday, December 10

9:30 a.m.

Via Zoom



Mark your calendar for December 10 and join us for a celebration of holidays. David Stroughmatt will present *In French Fiddle Tunes and Tall Tales: The French Creole Story of Missouri*, courtesy of the Missouri Humanities Organization. It is sure to be a lot of fun, so invite friends to tune in.

Please email a photo of your celebration: a fancy door, a lavish mantle, yard decorations, a tree, Thanksgiving, your menorah, Kwanzaa, Diwali—whatever you are celebrating. One from last year would be fine since you may not have decorations up yet. Please include yourself if possible, so we know we are looking at your home. Funny is good—we all enjoy a laugh. Send to Marcia Block by December 2 so we have time to prepare a video.

Have you bought your raffle tickets yet? We will draw the winner at the end of our meeting. Someone will win. Why not you? Raffle tickets are available on our website, ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net. They are \$10 for one chance and \$20 for three. Prizes include a luncheon for six, at a mutually agreeable date, hosted by the committee: Marian Bauer, Suzanne Couch, Karen Francis, Barb McQuitty, and Pat Shores. There will also be gift cards for restaurants and St. Louis area attractions. Sell raffle tickets to friends and neighbors and buy some for yourself!

Please send your contributions for the branch operating fund to Pat Shores. Contributions in any amount are welcome, but those who contribute \$50 or more will be *Belles* of the Branch and listed in next month's newsletter.

One thing to be grateful for this year is Zoom and being careful while being together. If we cannot have our usual luncheon, we can at least celebrate virtually.

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

Public Policy

Thank you for all your efforts to Get Out the Vote for the national election. Your efforts contributed to furthering the mission of AAUW.

AAUW encourages members to advocate for issues that reflect its mission. As we move into 2021, the Public Policy Committee will keep you abreast of national and state issues that require attention and the committee will provide members with ways to take action. Explore aauw.org for the issues pertinent to the AAUW mission; become empowered and take action by signing up to be a Two-Minute Activist. For timely issues and announcements, we will use the Friday Notes and *Branching Out* to stay informed.

~Karen Francis & Angela Janik, Co-directors, Public Policy

International Relations Speakers Series

Save these Dates

International Relations

Currently we expect all events will occur on Zoom. Participants can access the events by clicking <https://zoom.us/j/3844225785>.

January 12 - *Freedom of the Press Under Threat*

Speaker: Dr. Yong Volz, UMSL School of Journalism

February 9 - *Pros & Cons of Reparations for Historical Injustices*

Speaker: Dr. Stephen Graves, UMSL Department of Political Science

March 9 – *Artificial Intelligence & Data Security*

Speaker: Dr. Anshuman Singh, UMSL IT Department

April 13 – *Historical Heritage & Racist Monuments*

Speaker: Dr. Akiko Tsuchiya, Washington University Department of Romance Languages & Literatures

~Patricia Bishop, Chair, International Relations

Nominations Requested for 2020–22 Elected Officers

The nominating committee is accepting nominations for the 2020–22 elected officers. These positions are Co-President, Co-VP Program, Co-VP Membership, Finance Officer, Co-director AAUW Fund, and Co-director Public Policy. For job descriptions for any of these positions, please look on the AAUW B-C website, or contact Barb McQuitty. The committee needs your help in finding members ready and able to be part of the branch leadership.

Please follow these steps to nominate a person:

1. Receive permission from the person you are nominating.
2. Use the nomination form on the branch website, ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net under FLYERS & FORMS.
3. Send the completed form to Nominating Committee Chair, Barbara McQuitty, to her email or to her home address in the branch Directory.

The nominating committee is Judy Stagoski, Linda Roberson and Barbara McQuitty. They will review the nominees and prepare the slate of officers. Please send your nomination form in by January 25. Members, if you are asked to take a position, please seriously consider accepting the nomination. It is an honor to be asked to serve. You will make many new friends and make a valued contribution to AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield.

~ Barbara McQuitty, Chair, Nominating Committee

AAUW Fund

Ballwin-Chesterfield members had the opportunity to meet the 2019–20 Community Action Grant recipients at the branch meeting on November 12. Room at the Inn was represented by David Weber and FOCUS St. Louis was represented by Michelle Stevens. We heard how these two organizations are using AAUW grant money to improve the lives of women and girls in our area.

As we enter the season of giving, we are all encouraged to help women and girls by donating to the AAUW Fund. You can do this through the website at aauw.org or by sending a check to Eileen Krahman. Remember that all donations are tax deductible. You will be honored as a Century Club member, if you give a total of \$100 or more, and as a Century Club Plus member for a total donation of \$250 or more. Be part of this special work!

~Marian Bauer, Co-director, AAUW Fund

STEM Updates

Potential COVID-19 Treatment Discovered by a High School Student?

As we all anxiously await a cure and an end to this pandemic, a 14-year-old, Anika Chebrolu, has been working on a potential treatment. She recently won the 3M Young Scientist challenge and \$25,000 for her discovery.

She developed a potential antiviral for COVID-19 infection by finding a molecule from a database of millions of compounds that can bind to the spike protein of the SARS-CoV-2 virus and change its shape. By changing the shape of the spike protein when the molecule attaches, it can stop the virus from infecting human cells. This basically stops the infectivity of the virus in human cells.

During a recent interview, Anika mentioned that there are a lot of girls in the world who do not get the same support as she does from her family to pursue their STEM passions. She encouraged other girls who want to go into STEM, to just know that they are no different and to take any opportunity that they can.

To read her full interview and more about her discovery go to:

www.thelily.com/anika-chebrolu-just-discovered-a-potential-covid-19-treatment-shes-14/

With women making up only 28 percent of the STEM workforce, we must all encourage young women like Anika to pursue a STEM career.

Special thanks to Mary Jermak for bringing this information to the attention of the STEM committee.

~ Carol Greenaway, STEM committee

2020 Eleanor Roosevelt Walk



It was a beautiful morning on October 13 for the Eleanor Roosevelt Walk at Des Peres Park.

Over twenty ladies attended and many stayed for lunch. There were no expenses because the leftover water, root beer and hand sanitizers were provided from Octoberfest. Many, many thanks to all who donated for a total of \$1,670. These donations went to the Education and Training Fund, which includes research that address the barriers and biases that hinder the advancement of women.

Sincere thanks to all.

~Carol Derington, Jean Elliott & Eileen Krahman
Co-chairs, ER Walk



Dollars for Scholars events raise funds for tuition support for local non-traditional women students.

DFS member-planned events give members opportunities to meet in small groups for enriching and educational experiences, and introduce AAUW to non-members. *DFS events are listed in the weekly Friday Note.* Contact Susie Teicher (svteicher@gmail.com) and Janet Sloey (jega115@gmail.com) Co-directors, Dollars for Scholars for more information.

[AAUW Dollars for Scholars Fundraisers | Ballwin-Chesterfield \(MO\) Branch](http://AAUW Dollars for Scholars Fundraisers | Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch)

Branch Interest Groups are primarily social and bring members with similar interests together. Try one! Contact an Interest Group Chair. Consult the front of your Directory for information for all groups and check the Interest Groups section on the branch website:

ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/interest-groups/

Golf
Genealogy
Book Groups
Out to Lunch
Social and duplicate bridge groups

Play Readers
Munching Matters
Movie Group
Expressions



Movie Group

4th Thursday, 10 a.m.

December 31: Via Zoom

Contact *Liz Maher* (lizlbm@sbcglobal.net).

Out to Lunch

3rd Wednesday, 11:30 a.m., December 16

Meet at Cooper's Hawk, 1146 Town & Country Crossing, Town & Country, 63017. RSVP to Linda Seibert, (lindajbseibert63@gmail.com) or by phone.

Book Groups ~ Welcome All Readers

Download the 2020-21 book lists at ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/interest-groups/.

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

December 17: Via Zoom

Book: *Redhead by the Side of the Road* by Anne Tyler

Facilitator: Jeanne Neuner

Contact *Alice Crippen* (jccripp@sbcglobal.net).

Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

December 28: Via Zoom

Book: *The Woman Who Smashed Codes* by Jason Fagone

Facilitator: Joyce Katz

Contact *Joyce Katz* (joycekatz44@gmail.com) or *Erlaine Eltomi* (erlaine.eltomi@att.net).

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

December 8: Via Zoom

Book: *The Cartiers* by Francesca Cartier Brickell

Facilitator: Diane Compton

This group reads non-fiction selections. For more information, contact Marcia Block (mhblock@sbcglobal.net) or Mary Kay Wolfe (mkwolfe@hotmail.com).

AAUW ¡Adelante!

This group is on hold until 2021. More information will follow at a later date.

Activities Calendar December



08 Reading Reality 1 p.m.

10 Winter Fundraiser 9:30 a.m.

12 Deadline for January newsletter submissions

16 Out to Lunch 11:30 a.m.

17 Literature I 9:30 a.m.

28 Literature II 10 a.m.

31 Movie Group 10 a.m.

Coming in January

14 Branch Meeting 9:30 a.m.

12 Deadline for February newsletter submissions

International Relations Lecture Series

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.

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 Krahman
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,
Mary Jermak & Jean Light
University Liaison: Carol Greenaway & Susan Shriver

Special Events

Fall Brunch: Eileen Krahman & Jean Elliott
Spring Luncheon: Jane Hemer & Michele Mangnall

STEM: Barb McQuitty & Susan Fenwick
Web Manager: Joyce Katz
Standing committee chairs are listed in the *Directory*.

New Members Welcome

To join the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, contact Membership Vice-Presidents Judy Stagoski (jms4331@gmail.com) and Pat White (pgwhite02@gmail.com) for membership information.

Annual dues are \$22 for the branch, \$10 for AAUW MO, and \$59 to AAUW national; \$56 of national dues are tax-deductible.

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century.
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/>

The *Branching Out* newsletter is published ten times annually. The deadline for submissions to the January newsletter is December 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.

To submit an item to Care Notes, contact Joan Reed (j6a8r1@aol.com) or Joyce Katz (joycekatz44@gmail.com).

