



Branching Out

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch

National and State Award-Winning Branch

February 2021

Ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net

Vol. 41 No. 7 40th Anniversary Year



Presidents' Corner

Jan Horner



Sage Taber

February has me thinking about hearts... you gotta have heart, getting to the heart of the matter, follow your heart, the heart whispers "give it a try." Love and caring for families and friends comes from our hearts and spills out to our work in AAUW to build the kind of world we want to see for girls and women in the near and far future.

Membership is the heart of AAUW, giving breath and life to its mission of equity. AAUW members, at all levels, seek to unite with others who share common goals and to welcome diversity and inclusion to the table. The January issue of *Branching Out* presents the AAUW Diversity, Equity and Inclusion resource, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Toolkit, which aims to identify best practices for promoting diversity, equity and inclusion within AAUW.

As AAUW members work to better understand and honor our variety of backgrounds, experiences, and strengths, we know that we are stronger together and will continue towards a common goal of equity.

~Sage Taber, Co-president

Winter Party Update



The following members were inadvertently omitted from the list of Belles of the Branch: Marian Bauer, Suzanne Couch, Karen Francis, Barb McQuitty, and Pat Shores.

We apologize and thank them for their contribution to the branch.

February Branch Meeting
Via Zoom, February 11, 2021
9:30 a.m. – Business Meeting
10:30 a.m. – Program

Life After Lock-Up: The Reality of Re-Entry

Shawntelle L. Fisher
Founder/CEO
SoulFisher Ministries



Shawntelle L. Fisher is an influential leader, speaker, teacher, and dancer who serves with excellence and integrity. Shawntelle became a mother at age 15 and a convicted felon at age 17. After going to prison seven times, she decided to become a Christian and allow God to transform her into the person He had created her to be. This transformation led her back to college and to start The SoulFisher Ministries, a nonprofit she now leads under the direction of her board. The mission of SoulFisher Ministries is to respond to the needs of youth with incarcerated parents and to promote restorative justice for those currently and formerly incarcerated.

Shawntelle holds both a bachelor of educational studies and a bachelor of science in media studies from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She earned dual master's degrees in social work and divinity from Washington University and Eden Theological Seminary, respectively. She is also a Licensed Master Social Worker. Since starting The SoulFisher Ministries in 2012, Shawntelle has raised more than \$2.5 million in funding to support their work in the St. Louis community. She has also provided numerous workshops on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline, re-entry simulations, and trainings with the Missouri Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers.

The next board meeting will be March 4 at 9:30 a.m. on Zoom. All elected and appointed directors are expected to attend. Please contact Sage Taber (sagemo@aol.com) if you are unable to attend.

International Relations Lecture Series

AAUW B-C joins with TWA (Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society) on the second Tuesday of each month, from January through April, to present four free lectures to the community on aspects of international relations.

All 2021 events will be on Zoom. Meetings will begin promptly at 10:45 a.m. To join the meeting, use the one-click link in the Friday Reminder and insert the meeting ID 384 422 5785.

February 9 *Pros & Cons of Reparations for Historical Injustices* **Dr. Stephen Graves, UMSL Department of Political Science**

Dr. Stephen Graves serves as the Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Department of Black Studies. He specializes in Black Politics, Political Theory, and American Government. His research focuses on black political ideologies, social movements and the intersection of racism and American political thought. Dr. Graves is the author of *A Crisis of Leadership and the Role of Citizens in Black America: Leaders of the News School*, a theoretical examination of the concepts of the citizen, citizenship, and leadership.

Save the Date: March 9

Dr. Anshuman Singh, UMSL Associate Professor of Information Systems and Technology ***Artificial Intelligence: An Ethics Perspective***

From the Finance Officer **The 2022 dues will go up \$3**

As you may recall, the AAUW Board of Directors voted in October to increase the individual member dues for the next three years. As a result, when the Financial Officer and the Vice Presidents for Membership offer an incentive plan for the early payment of dues starting in March, the amounts will be \$62 national (previous \$59 plus the \$3 increase), \$10 for AAUW MO, and \$22 for Ballwin-Chesterfield. Dues for 2021-22 will total \$94, which is \$3 more than last year.

AAUW Board President Julie Brown notified members of the dues increase in the *Notice of Due Adjustment*, October 30, 2020.

~Pat Shores, Finance Officer, Pat White and Judy Stagoski, VP Membership

STEM: A Mighty Woman, Katherine Johnson

Excerpts from *Katherine Johnson: The NASA 'Computer' Who Launched a Man into Space and Women into STEM*, by Liz Mundy.

Born in 1918, Katherine Johnson was a precocious child who counted everything from stars to stair steps. She received a full academic scholarship to the historically Black West Virginia State College, from which she graduated summa cum laude with degrees in math and French. She was hired in 1953 to work at what was then called NACA, the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. At Langley, she joined a community of female mathematicians, Black and white, that dated back to...World War II.

In 1958, NACA became NASA; the mission expanded to embrace space; and that's when Katherine Johnson began her work for the space task force, calculating the trajectories of spacecraft. In 1961, the Freedom 7 mission sent astronaut Alan Shepard...hurtling up into space; thanks to Johnson, he also came down, safely.

It does not detract from Johnson's genius to say that in her life of stunning achievement...she also represented a cohort of women who pioneered the STEM field in the mid-20th century, and who are only now beginning to receive credit. There is now a Katherine G. Johnson Computational Research Facility at NASA. Women's contributions to computer science are finally being commemorated in a public way.

[To read the original article, forwarded to us by Bette Bude, see <http://a.msn.com/01/en-us/BB1cfi9q?ocid=se.>]

~ Submitted by Susan Fenwick and Barb McQuitty, STEM Co-directors

AAUW Fund

Why Do We Keep Trying?

The year 2020 was lost in its own reality. From our isolation, we have found that priorities have become simpler, like the procurement of stockpiled household goods or getting food delivered hot and on time. It is easy to lament the days that we spend in confinement; however, we have been among the most fortunate women in today's society. Most of us are no longer in the work force and have the financial means to ride out the pandemic. AAUW recognizes that most working women today are not as fortunate as we are because of the ongoing wage gap.

Before the pandemic, all women were still lagging behind their male counterparts who have similar education. When put alongside white, non-Hispanic men, Black, Latina, and Native American women have seen their wage gaps stay the same or have experienced an increase. The sad truth is that women of color with high school diplomas earned around 66 percent of the salaries of their male counterparts with the same education. Women of color did not see much of a boost if they had college educations; in fact, Black women's earnings ratio actually dropped slightly when they received a degree.

This is why it is so important to support the work of AAUW. Research such as "What's behind the Wage Gap" is recognized and used in important places in this country. We are a leader in women's research and we are influencing the future.

~Suzanne Couch

Public Policy

Thank you to all who supported efforts to get the vote out in the Georgia run-off election by sending postcards to registered voters.

We will long remember the events of January 6 when Congress convened to count the electoral votes submitted by the states and to certify the election of the next President and Vice-President of the United States. AAUW has signed on to the Women's Community Statement on President Trump's removal from office.

Go to <https://www.aauw.org/resources/policy/womens-community-statement-on-president-trumps-removal/> and read the statement and see participating organizations.

We hope you were able to participate in the MO Women's Annual Legislative Retreat on January 16. Thank you for your participation. Stay tuned for the outcomes of this retreat and how you can engage in influencing national, state and local legislators in support of AAUW's mission.

The U.S. House of Representatives started 2021 by re-introducing H.R. 1, the *For the People Act*. This act addresses barriers to accessible voting such as no-excuse absentee voting, early voting opportunities, improvement in voter registration and tracking processes and support of non-partisan redistricting commissions. AAUW MO, in conjunction with the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition, supports passage of H.R. 1. There are two ways you can help:

1. Sign the Declaration for American Democracy petition at [dfadcoalition.org](https://www.dfadcoalition.org).
2. Call your U.S. House of Representative at 1-888-246-5947 to urge their support in passing this act.

Timely information on local, state and national issues pertinent to AAUW's mission will be shared in the Friday Reminder.

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

Meeting During COVID-19

All AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield committees and interest groups are highly encouraged to meet by ZOOM or other electronic method until further notice.

Check with the sponsor of the activity if you have questions.



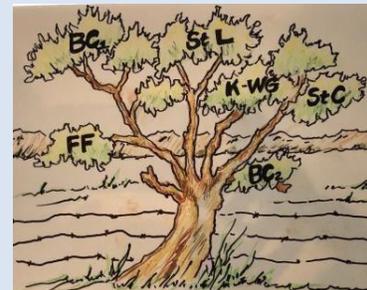
AAUW St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council (IBC)
"Zoom to Spring Fling"
Saturday March 13 10:30 a.m.–noon
Zoom meeting link will be sent

Join your AAUW friends from throughout the St. Louis area at the "Zoom to Spring Fling" event. The program will include a speaker (to be announced) and we will honor Mary Jermak as the Barb Lackritz awardee from 2020). Attending the event is free and guests are welcome.

Our fundraiser this year is a raffle for one of six Gift Cards. Celebrate Spring 2021 as a winner of an AAUW leaf from the Spring Fling Tree. Six winning names will be drawn at the 2021 Zoom Spring Fling meeting on March 13. Each leaf will contain gift card(s) with a value of \$50. Tickets are available in lots of three. Fill in the form below for Spring Fling indicating number of chances. Then mail the money and the form to Carol Davis McDonald by March 8. The drawing for the leaf winners will be held at the meeting. You need not attend the meeting to be a winner. Gift cards will be sent in the mail the following week.

Although the event is free, we are encouraging members to give donations regardless of whether or not they enter the raffle. The suggested amount is \$20 if possible, but any amount is appreciated. This is the only fundraiser for IBC this year... please be generous!

- 10:15 a.m. Check-in, Socialize, Network
- 10:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions
- 10:45 a.m. Barb Lackritz Award – Mary Jermak
- 11:15 a.m. Program Speaker (to be announced)
- 11:45 a.m. Drawing of Six Gift Card Tree Raffle Winners
Other Announcements



Metro St. Louis IBC branches
Ferguson-Florissant, Ballwin-Chesterfield, St. Louis, Kirkwood-Webster Groves, St. Charles

Print this page and return the bottom half to Carol Davis McDonald to enter the raffle.

- ✓ For help with using Zoom or for more information, contact Deb McWard (debmcward@earthlink.net).
- ✓ Raffle for Gift Card Tree – Purchase chances on form below. Contact Jean Elliott (elliotts01@sbcglobal.net).
- ✓ Make raffle or donation check payable to **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC.**
- ✓ Mail form and check no later than March 8 to Carol Davis McDonald at her address listed in the directory.

Name _____ Branch _____
 Address _____
 Email (required) _____ Phone _____

Gift Card Tree Raffle Chances or Donation

___ I plan to attend "**Zoom to Spring Fling**" and am purchasing:
 3 chances for \$10 \$ _____ 6 chances for \$20 \$ _____ 9 chances for \$30 \$ _____
 12 chances for \$40 \$ _____ 15 chances for \$50 \$ _____ **TOTAL** \$ _____
 ___ I plan to attend, will not enter the raffle, but will make a donation of \$ _____
 ___ I am unable to attend, but will make a donation or purchase chances \$ _____

All of your chances will automatically be entered into the Spring Fling drawing to win one of six gift card(s). All gift card prizes will be \$50 value. You do not need to attend to win.



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 Reminder and on the branch website. 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](#)

AAUW-BC members are continuing to do an admirable job of supporting Dollars for Scholars despite the sad fact that we cannot get together to attend these events in person.

Members are responding to the virtual events posted in both the weekly Friday Reminder and on the branch website (above). Some members are sending monthly checks to match what they customarily spent on DFS in the past.

We have collected nearly \$2000 since last July. This money, along with that of book sales, provides the financial assistance that enables deserving women to complete their educations.

An Invitation from Movie Group

February 23 6:30–8 p.m.

Movie Group extends an invitation to DFS supporters to attend a virtual event on Zoom. Kelli Marshall from Chicago Movie Tours will share movie clips and discuss *Gender in Hollywood*. It will be a light-hearted look at how women have been portrayed on film through the years.

There will be time allowed for questions and comments following the presentation. The event is free; however, donations to DFS are encouraged! Interested members may email Liz Maher at LisLBM@sbcglobal.net for a link to the event.

Hope to 'see' you there!

Janet Sloey and Susie Teicher, DFS Directors

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

Date/Time Change to 6:30 p.m.
February 23: Via Zoom
Contact Liz Maher (lizlbm@sbcglobal.net).

Out to Lunch

3rd Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.
February 17: Cooper's Hawk,
1146 Town & Country Dr.,
Town & Country, MO 63017
Contact
LindaSeibert,(lindajbseibert63@gmail.com).

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.

February 18: Via Zoom

Book: *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger

Facilitator: Elaine Frost

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

Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

February 22: Via Zoom

Book: *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek* by Kim Michele Richardson

Facilitator: Jean Light

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

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

February 9: Via Zoom

Book: *Invisible Women* by Caroline Criado Perez

Facilitator: Marsha Koch

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 February



04 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

09 International Relations

Lecture 10:45 a.m.

Reading Reality 1 p.m.

11 Branch Meeting 9:30 a.m.

12 Deadline for March newsletter submissions

17 Out to Lunch 11:30 a.m.

18 Literature I 9:30 a.m.

22 Literature II 10 a.m.

23 Movie Group 10 a.m.

Coming in March

04 Board Meeting 9:30 a.m.

09 International Relations Lecture 10:45 a.m.

11 Branch Meeting 9:30 a.m.

12 Deadline for April newsletter submissions

13 IBC Spring Fling 10:30 a.m.-noon

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 March newsletter is February 12, unless otherwise specified by the department co-editor.

Please submit newsletter items as follows:

- news items to Sandy Brody (sandybrody163@gmail.com),
- DFS notices to Joan Davis (jmdavis@pstcc.edu),
- Interest Group information to Jean Light (jh11234@charter.net).

Visit Ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net, the branch website.

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).