



AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch

National and AAUW MO Award-Winning Branch

Branching Out

December 2023
Volume 44 No. 5

AAUW Advances Gender Equity for Women and Girls
Through Research, Education, and Advocacy.

ballwin-chesterfield.com

December 14, 2023

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center, 333 Holloway Rd., Ballwin, 63011

Sassy Soiree 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

**Entertainment to be provided by the St. Louis Strutters, plus raffles and games.
Do not miss this event! Guests are welcome.**



Reservation Deadline is December 5, 2023

Reservations were accepted at the October and November branch meetings. If you were unable to sign up then, please send your check to Sandy Kalin. Checks should be made payable to AAUW B-C.

The B-C Booster Club Fundraiser takes place January–April 2024.

All proceeds benefit the branch operating fund.

Food is provided by the Art of Entertaining. All entrees except the salads are served with a side dish and dessert. Salad will be served with a roll and dessert. Drink options are iced tea and water. Mimosas and Bloody Marys (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) will be available for \$5 each.

1. Chicken Salad sandwich
2. Roast Top Beef sandwich
3. Big Bend Turkey sandwich
4. Tuna Salad sandwich
5. Red, White and Blue Salad (meatless)
6. Gluten free upon request

As an added event bonus and back by popular demand—Elegant Edibles returns to help raise money for Dollars for Scholars.

To contact any branch member, please consult your B-C Directory.

President's Corner

Greetings to all!

It is hard to believe, but it is almost the end of the year.

Many of our members attended the Regional Conference at the Drury Inn at the Arch. Karen Francis and Pat Shores are to be commended for the fabulous leadership they exhibited in both preparation and execution of the many tasks involved in a meeting of this size. We can also thank the many B-C members who worked on the site committee, including Carol Anthony, Angie Janik, Joyce Katz, Pam Kulp, Pat Shores, and Sandy Brody. Thanks also go to Mary Jermak and Pam Kulp who served as photographers, and Joyce Katz for capturing all the speaker and Swap Shop session information on the Missouri website.



Sandy Brody

We are ready for the Sassy Soiree on December 14. The St. Louis Strutters will begin dancing at 11 a.m. A wonderful, boxed lunch from the Art of Entertainment will be served after the performance. There will be games, raffles, and mimosas and Bloody Mary's available for \$5, with or without alcohol. We will hold the party at the Ballwin Golf Events Center, our usual branch meeting spot.



Sage Taber

At the same time, we continue to work on the issues that make AAUW great. The work of our national organization can only continue with support from the members through action on policy issues and contributions to the Greatest Needs fund. Please consider donating to this fund. Continue to read *Branching Out* and bulletins from National to stay informed, act when requested, and make contributions when you can.

Thanks to all for your cooperation, perseverance, and support.

Presidents Sandy Brody and Sage Taber

Central States Regional Conference Reflections

Thanks to expert planning and execution, the Central States Regional Conference gave me inspiration, information, creative ideas, and the opportunity to meet members from all over our region.

Marian Bauer

I am glad I attended. It was an opportunity to connect with the AAUW mission on a deeper level, meet other women who are working to secure women's rights and learn about the various ways in which members are striving towards AAUW goals. Plus, Gloria Blackwell is no longer just a photo in a small square! **Sandy Brody.**

Rachel Gonzalez, a Gen Z activist for voting and public safety was my favorite speaker. She was knowledgeable, energetic, and a dynamic speaker who gave me hope for Gen Z. I loved being part of the awesome team that made it a reality to meet me in St. Louis. The energy, excitement, learning and networking with my AAUW sisters made it a fabulous experience. **Karen Francis**

Did you know that most of the interesting and informative presentations at the October AAUW Central States Regional Conference are available to view and download? Most speakers sent their power point and materials to be posted to the AAUWMO website: [https://aauw-mo\).aauw.net/swap-shops-haring-branch-projects/](https://aauw-mo).aauw.net/swap-shops-haring-branch-projects/) (or aauwmo.org/Midwest-conference/). **Joyce Katz**

I particularly liked seeing and meeting all the variety of ladies who are devoted to the AAUW mission and the wonderful, inspiring projects that are being done in the Midwest. I bet the national staff was impressed with this unique conference. **Pam Kulp**

Meeting people from across the states was what I enjoyed most. Everyone was nice, friendly, and supportive. **Ann Riley**

Her Story performers featured recitations and portrayals from Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Sojourner Truth, and Susan B. Anthony. At the end of their presentation, Barbie joined them to discuss how things had changed for women. **Pat Shores**

There were so many excellent speakers and ideas from the Swap Shops. I especially enjoyed learning about the 1619 project and what it really is! **Sage Taber**

I was impressed with the excellent organization and scheduling which allowed for so many speakers and interesting breakout sessions representing projects of many branches. **Erlaine Eltomi**

Introducing Our Newest Members

Please welcome our new members to the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and the AAUW community.

Helen Houle earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Arizona and a master's in education from the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is retired from teaching deaf students.

Carolyn McIntosh holds degrees from Washington University and Winona State University. Before retirement she was a teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing.

Be sure to let the membership team know if you need an information form for potential new members. **Membership Vice-president April Walgren**

The Right to Read

Even though monies were reinstated in the Missouri budget for public libraries, did you know?

- Missouri enacted a law in August 2022 restricting some types of materials in public libraries. Librarians, fearful of criminal prosecution have removed titles from school library shelves <https://www.senate.mo.gov/22info/pdf-bill/tat/SB775.pdf>.
- Secretary of State, Jay Ashcroft, imposed an administrative rule, with the caveat that failure to comply could result in loss of state funding <https://www.sos.mo.gov/cmsimages/adrules/csr/current/15csr/15c30-200.pdf>
- Missouri is one of the nation's top book banning states. It is ranked third with 333 recorded bans by state school districts. <https://pen.org/report/book-bans-pressure-to-censor/>

A statewide coalition of individuals and organizations has convened the Right to Read Coalition. The coalition will oppose any legislative, state policy or other efforts to restrict access to materials in public libraries. AAUW Missouri has joined this coalition. The Public Policy Committee will keep members informed of activities to protect our rights to read. To sign up as an individual go to <https://form.jotform.com/231834150341143> or email righttoreadcoalition@gmail.com.

Public Policy Director Angie Janik

Extra Directory Pickup

Leftover printed copies of the directory will be available at the Sassy Soire December Meeting. Just pick a copy up if you want one. As always, be sure to contact us about any updates you would like made throughout the year.

Directors Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy and Joyce Katz


Support Saint Martha's Hall in January and Beyond

AAUW Fundraising Policy 501, July 1, 2014. AAUW branches raise funds to support AAUW's mission of advancing gender equity. However, individual members can voluntarily give items to support the work of other organizations.

The association between Ballwin-Chesterfield and St. Martha's Hall, a woman's shelter serving abused women in the St. Louis, area began over twenty years ago after a staff member from the Kathy J. Weiman shelter spoke at a branch meeting. That is when we first met Jessica Woolbright, who worked at Weiman then. Jessica is now the Executive Director of Saint Martha's, a safe place for women and children.



We are proud to have served this community of abused women and children over the years with needed items and will continue to do so in the future. If you would like to participate, starting in January, bring your items for St. Martha's to the branch meeting. The Friday notes the week before the meeting will list things St. Martha's would appreciate receiving.

St. Martha' Delivery Team Marian Bauer and Suzanne Couch



Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council
2024 Annual Spring Luncheon

Honoring our Barbara Lackritz Awardees
Women Entrepreneurs: Breaking the Glass Ceiling
with *Bev Schuetz*
Saturday, March 23, 2024 at 11:00 am
Catering to You
12775 New Halls Ferry Road in Florissant
Registration is \$40 and includes Program and Hot Buffet



Bev Schuetz is a popular and dynamic speaker who has created HISTORY TALKS, a series of live presentations available to organizations. She is known for her unique topics, delightful presentations, and thoroughly researched programs. Bev's presentations showcase her unique perspective and special insight on colorful historical subjects.

Bev is a consummate and experienced performer. HISTORY TALKS combines her skills in public speaking, historical analysis, and creative writing. The results are lectures that reward and enrich those attending her presentations.

"Meet the fascinating women who broke barriers to succeed in business where no women had gone before."

Visit historytalks.info



The public is cordially invited to the
International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2024



Ethical Society of St. Louis
 9001 Clayton Road
 St. Louis, MO 63117

10:45 am Second Tuesday of January, February, March and April 2024

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. Plan to bring a lunch and stay to discuss the day's topic further.

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

January 9, 2024 *Rising costs of Health Care in the U.S.: Why is our System the Most Expensive in the World and is that Changing?* **Dr. Timothy McBride**

Dr. Timothy McBride is the Bernard Becker Professor at Washington University in the Brown School and co-Director of the Center for Advancing Health Services Policy and Economics Research (CAHSPER) in the Institute for Public Health (IPH). Dr. McBride is an influential health policy analyst and health economist shaping the national agenda on the uninsured and health insurance markets, rural health care, health reform, Medicare and Medicaid policy, long-term care, and health economics. For two decades, he has been active in working with the U.S. Congress and state policymakers, providing policy advice on a regular basis on health reform, Medicare, Medicaid, and rural health policy. He was the first Associate Dean for Public Health at Washington University, leading the initial development of the Brown School's Master of Public Health (MPH) program to accreditation in 2011. He led the creation of the first Health Policy program at Saint Louis University. A member of several national committees and Boards, Dr. McBride is currently serving as Vice Chair for St. Louis Board of Health and serves on the Justice Services Board for St. Louis County. He is past Chair of the MOHealthNET Oversight Committee, which serves in an advisory role for the state of Missouri's Medicaid program. In 2012, Dr. McBride was awarded the Outstanding Rural Health Researcher of the Year by the National Rural Health Association and a "Health Care Hero" by the St. Louis Business Journal in 2007.

Committee: Elaine Miller, Pam Meyers



February 13, 2024 *Generative AI* **Dr. Anshuman Singh**

Some of the recent advances in AI that can be clubbed under the term "Generative AI" have raised new questions around ethics and safety of AI. Safety recalls in automobiles and other consumer products are common. Today the case for safety recalls in AI products is more imminent than in any other sector given the scale of impact AI has on our society, economy, and discourse. Regulations around AI have not even kept pace with advances that happened in AI a decade ago, and now we are grappling with the impact of Generative AI.

Dr. Anshuman Singh is an AI educator, researcher, entrepreneur, and a hacker in the traditional meaning of the term. He is the co-founder and Chief Academic Officer at an education startup that is building an online AI university. Prior to this, he was the curriculum architect at [DeepLearning.AI](https://www.deeplearning.ai), working with AI pioneer Andrew Ng leading the development of AI courses that have been taken by millions of learners around the world. Dr. Singh was in academia for a decade and was an Associate Professor at the University of Missouri-St Louis until 2022.

Dr. Singh's specialization is at the intersection of artificial intelligence and cybersecurity. In the past, he has also worked as a research scientist on DARPA and Air Force-funded research projects on the application of artificial intelligence. He earned his PhD in Computer Science from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He holds the CISSP and GPEN certifications and is a certified ethical hacker.

Committee: Judi Lohaus, Marge Andersen



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Usha Sathe, Chair

March 12, 2024 *New Horizons: Global Migration Trends
 and Implications for the US Asylum System*

Jessica Mayo, JD

International migration has steadily increased over the past 30 years, and it is projected to continue increasing in light of global warming and violent conflicts. We will examine the current global reality and the United States' role as a prominent destination for immigrants. What is the future that we are co-creating through our response to this enormous challenge – and its accompanying opportunities?



Jessica Mayo is an attorney and Co-Director of the [Migrant and Immigrant Community Action Project](#) in St. Louis. The MICA Project is a community organization committed to working with low-income immigrants to overcome barriers to justice. The MICA Project utilizes legal services, organizing, advocacy, and education to promote the voice and human dignity of immigrant communities.

Committee: Marsha Koch, Alison Wiffenburg

April 9, 2024 **NATO**

Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease



NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION

Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease will briefly discuss the creation and evolution of NATO and examine the debates surrounding NATO expansion. She will also assess the interactive relationship between NATO and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease is Professor of International Relations at Webster University. She has published extensively in areas related to international relations, international organizations, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. Her books include *International Organizations: Perspectives on Global Governance* (6th ed), *The United Nations and Changing World Politics* (co-author, 8th ed), and *Human Rights and Humanitarian Diplomacy*. Dr. Pease also publishes articles and chapters on human rights, humanitarian intervention, humanitarian assistance, diplomacy, the United Nations, and international criminal law.



Committee: Sue Williams, Susie Teicher, Patty Murray

Dollars for Scholars Events

Book, Puzzle, CD, DVR Sale

Donate current books from the last five years. Exceptions made for tried-and-true classics. No textbooks please. Children's books for any age child in good condition are accepted. Please limit your donations to 10 items.

Coffee Concert at Kirkwood Performing Arts Center

Taylor and Monroe Streets, Kirkwood

December 5 Discounted Cost: \$25 (\$15 to DFS)

A Tribute to Gershwin and Ellington with Jan Shapiro.

Complementary coffee, tea, pastry at 9 a.m. Concert at 10 a.m.

Jan Shapiro performs dazzling and soulful jazz interpretations.

Sponsor **Roz Marx**

Coffee Concert at Kirkwood Performing Arts Center

December 19 Discounted Cost: \$25 (\$15 to DFS)

Complementary coffee, tea, pastry at 9 a.m. Concert at 10 a.m.

A Tribute to Billie Holiday with **Kim Fuller Barnes**, a St. Louis native.

Her voice transcends genres, effortlessly blending elements of blues, jazz, and folk to create a unique sonic experience.

Sponsor **Roz Marx**

International Relations Lecture Series, a DFS event

The Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, 63117

January 9, 10:45 – 11:30 a.m.

Cost: \$10 Carpool Available Optional lunch afterwards

Sponsors **Marge Andersen and Nancy Pierson**

Speaker Professor **Timothy D. McBride**, Brown School at Washington University

The Rising Cost of Health Care in the U.S. Why is our system the most expensive in the world and is that changing?

See pages 5 and 6 for information about the four lectures to be DFS events.

An Afternoon of Mah Jongg, January 18, 12 a.m.–3 p.m.

Optional lunch at 11 a.m. (at your expense) at Thirteen Fifty-Six Public House, 1356 Big Bend Road, Ballwin

Enjoy an afternoon playing Mah Jongg for fun and friendship.

Invite non-AAUW member friends who play Mah Jongg to support our scholarship program. Space is limited to six tables.

Sponsors **Janet Sloey, Michele Mangnall, and Jayne Kasten**.

The **Elegant Edible** drawing continues at the January branch meeting. Bring some cash and good luck for a chance to win a home-made delectable dessert made by a fellow member.

The AAUW DFS Honor Roll

Honor a friend or family member. To donate 'in memory of', email **Nancy Pierson** the name of the honoree and the contact information to whom the acknowledgement postcard is to be sent.

Send donation checks, payable to AAUW B-C, to Finance Officer **Jean Light** with Honor Roll on the memo line. Dollars for Scholars donations are not tax-deductible.

AAUW has been transforming women's lives for more than a century.

[ballwin-chesterfield.com](https://ballwinchesterfield.com)

Contact branch officers through <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/contact-us/> or the **Directory**.

Contact Membership Vice-Presidents April Walgren and Susie Teicher for membership information.

www.aauw.org/resources/member/why-join/

The *Branching Out* newsletter is published ten times annually.

- **Board meetings: West County EMS & Fire Protection District Station 1, 223 Henry Avenue, Manchester**
- **The board meets on the first Thursday at 9:30 a.m. September–November and February–May.**
- **Branch meetings: Ballwin Golf Course Events Center.**
- **The branch meeting, September–April, is the second Thursday of the month 9:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m.**
- **The annual May Luncheon occurs on the second Thursday of May.**

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents Sage Taber & Sandy Brody

VP Program Janet Sloey & Kathy Brown

VP Membership April Walgren & Susie Teicher

Finance Officer Jean Light

Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund Suzanne Couch & Karen Francis

Public Policy Angela Janik & Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Sandy Brody & Sage Taber

Directory Ann Patrice O'Shaughnessy & Joyce Katz

Dollars for Scholars Betty Jo Hogan & Nancy Pierson

Governance Marsha Weppelman

Hospitality Carol Derington & Suzanne Couch

Newsletter Editors Mary Jermak, Joyce Katz, & Pat Shores

University Liaison Susan Shriver & Abby Roessler

Special Events

Spring Luncheon Yvonne Ward & Carol Anthony

STEM Marcia Block

Web Managers Joyce Katz & Carolyn Brown

Standing committee chairs are listed in the *Directory*.
International Relations Susie Teicher & Marge Andersen
Care Notes Joyce Katz & Joan Reed
Friday Reminder Bette Bude & Mary Kay Wolfe

Branch Interest Group Events and Calendar

Interest group social events bring together members with similar interests.

Try one! Contact an Interest Group Chair.

See <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/interest-groups/> or pages 9–11 of your Directory.

Book Groups Welcome All Readers

Download book lists at

<https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/interest-groups/>

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

December 21, *I Have Some Questions for You* by Rebecca Makkai will be reviewed by

Mary McFarland

Hostess Mary McFarland

Contact Alice Crippen.

Literature II 4th Monday, 11 a.m.

No Meeting in December

Hearth Room, Town & Country Commons

Contact Joyce Katz or Erlaine Eltomi.

Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.

December 12 *Dinner with the President* by Alex Prud'Homme will be reviewed by Linda Roberson

Hostess: Linda Roberson

For information about this non-fiction book group, contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

AAUW ¡Adelante! 4th Thursday, 1:30 p.m.

The IBC Adelante group will resume in 2024

This IBC group meets by ZOOM* and reads books written from diverse perspectives.

*Contact Patty Murray (pattymurrayaaauw@gmail.com)

Bridge Groups

If you would like to play bridge, contact a bridge group chairperson.

Social Bridge 3rd Monday, 10 a.m.

December 18, Contact Ellen Friedman or Jean Light.

Duplicate Bridge I 1st Tuesday, 11 a.m.

December 5, Contact Chris Magilligan or Elaine Frost.

Duplicate Bridge II 4th Tuesday, 11 a.m.

December 26, Contact Alice Crippen or Elaine Frost

Expressions 1st Tuesday, 1 p.m.

**December 5 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church
13014 Olive Blvd, 63141**

We will make Hershey bar snowmen to be offered at the December Soiree. These cute and delicious treats make great stocking stuffers. There will be a small charge for materials.

Contact Kay Meyer or Debbie Cloud to let them know you will attend.

Movie Group 3rd Thursday, 11:15 a.m.

**December 21 Spiro's Restaurant,
1054 N Woods Mill Rd, Chesterfield, 63017**

All it takes is a love of movies and discussion to enjoy this group.

Contact Ann Riley or Mersine Kallaos.

**Munching Matters-Lunch with Food for Thought
No meeting in December**

January 10, Mimi's Bistro and Bakery

17240 Chesterfield Airport Rd, Chesterfield

Hear about the unique lives of member-speakers.

Call Julie Triplett or Doris Nistler for a reservation or for further information.

Out-to-Lunch 3rd Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.

December 20, Cooper's Hawk

**1146 Town & Country Crossing
Chesterfield, 63017**

Please feel welcome to join this friendly group of AAUW members and guests as we try different St. Louis restaurants each month.

Contact Mary Biggs by email or phone to make a reservation.

Play Readers 3rd Mondays, 12:30 p.m.

December 18

Hostess Suzanne Couch

Join with friends to deepen your enjoyment of favorite plays. Members will be contacted with meeting details.

Contact Marilyn Fletcher to learn more and join.

Walking Group 4th Wednesday, 9:30 a.m.

Resumes in April 2024

Enjoy weekly walks with friends in local parklands!

Get on the contact list by telling Michele you'd like to join.

Contact Michele Mangnall.