



Branching Out October 2024

Vol. 46 No. 3

Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch
National and State Award-Winning Branch
AAUW Advances Gender Equity for Women and Girls
Through Research, Education, and Advocacy.
Learn more at ballwin-chesterfield.com

Branch Meeting, October 10, 2024

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center

333 Holloway Road, Ballwin, MO 63011

Signups and Social time 9 a.m. Business meeting 9:30 a.m. Program 10:30 a.m.

October Speaker Vivian Gibson *Women of a Certain Age Have Stories to Tell*

By Program Chair Marcia Block

After retiring at age 66, Vivian started writing short stories about her childhood memories. Her memoir, *The Last Children of Mill Creek*, was published in 2020. The book won the 2021 Missouri Humanities Council Literary Achievement Award and the Missouri Library Association named her 2022-23 Missouri Author of the Year. Perhaps one of us has stories like Vivian from our own lives.



Gibson was raised on Bernard Street in Mill Creek Valley, a fifty-four acre area in downtown St. Louis comprising the nation's largest urban-renewal project that began in 1959. After graduating from high school, she studied apparel design at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Fontbonne University. Vivian lived in New York and Liberia and currently lives in St. Louis.

PRESIDENTS' CORNER

By Carol Anthony and Sage Taber

Fall is here and we are busy preparing for 2024-25 AAUW events. The Public Policy Directors, **Angela Janik** and **Marian Bauer**, are working on ways to help us be informed voters on issues that will appear on the ballot in the November 5, 2024, election. Details will follow in the Friday Reminders and on the Ballwin-Chesterfield website.



Sage Taber

Carol Anthony

We have interesting Dollars for Scholars events scheduled in October. With the merging of DFS with **FUN**draining, we would like to encourage members to host an event in the months ahead. A newly updated planning packet with step-by-step directions will be posted on the website, be available through email, or as a hard copy at the branch meeting. Member **Nancy Pierson** has graciously agreed to act as a DFS consultant to help with any event you want to sponsor.

Marcia Block and **Kathy Lask** and their committee have plans underway for a great Winter Party. Stay tuned for more information coming in the next months.

At our September branch meeting, interest groups were presented. We want to remind you that this information can be found in your Directory on pages 8-9, on the B-C website under Calendar and Event & Meetings at <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net>. From the web page, you can access both the AAUW state and national sites which provide details about important events at each level of AAUW.

The work of our national organization can only continue with support from members through action on policy issues and contributions to the Greatest Needs Fund. Please do not forget that our local B-C branch needs support as well. One of the easiest ways to help is through B-C Boosters which will begin in December and run through the spring. No amount is too small to help our branch meet its operating expenses. Another way to show branch support is to invite guests to meetings and events to build our membership. We look forward to seeing you at AAUW events and activities this coming year.

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting Thursday, Oct. 3 9:15 a.m. social time, 9:30 a.m. meeting
West County EMS and Fire Protection District Station, 1 Administration Building, 223 Henry Avenue,
Manchester, MO 63011**

Board members are expected to attend, however only one co-director per position should attend. Contact a president if you are unable to be there. Board meetings are open to all branch members.

Introducing the Newest Ballwin-Chesterfield Member By Membership Chair Susie Teicher

The Membership Committee continues its mission to retain and recruit members for our dynamic AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield branch. As part of this effort, we invite you all to welcome our newest member, **Gloria Perry**, who joined our branch at the September meeting.

Gloria has been a member of AAUW national, and we are pleased she has chosen to join the Ballwin-Chesterfield branch. Her professional background is in nursing and nursing education and she is a professor emeritus of Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville.

In retirement her favorite activities are writing and reading. We expect she will enjoy our book club opportunities and our newsletter team. Look for and greet Gloria at our next meeting. She is the lady with a gold new-member ribbon attached to her badge.



October Finance Officer Report Member Vote Needed for Branch Budget By Finance Officer Jean Light

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch 2024-25 proposed budget was approved by the board at its September meeting. The next step is for members to vote to approve the proposed budget at the October branch meeting. A copy of the proposed budget will be distributed to each member for review before the branch meeting. Contact Jean Light with specific budget comments or questions before the October meeting.

For your information, the branch has a checking account and two CD accounts. The Operating Fund account income comes from two sources, the \$22 portion of the dues that our branch retains and the winter fundraiser. Operating Fund expenses include rental costs for the branch meetings at the Ballwin Golf Club Events Facility, Liability insurance, an AAUW Greatest Needs Fund donation, IBC, NCCWSL and International Relations support, cash awards for high school girls planning STEM college studies, scholarships for four mature women returning to school, AAUW state conference attendance, and officer, director, and committee expenses. Check the Operating Fund on the proposed budget to see the mission-based activities our branch supports.

Member Vote Needed for a Branch Committee Revision

Your Board has voted to merge the Fundraising and Dollars for Scholars committees into one committee, the FUNdraising committee, which will cover all the Branch fundraising activities. National fundraising will remain within the AAUW Fund.

As our Branch membership is fewer in numbers there is some difficulty in finding chairs, so this action is necessary for our important scholarship work and Branch maintenance to continue.

At our October Branch meeting members will be asked to vote on the following:

It is proposed that Branch fundraising and Dollars for Scholars committees be merged into one committee called the FUNdraising Committee.

For questions, contact Sage Taber or Carol Anthony, Presidents

PICK UP YOUR 2024-25 BRANCH DIRECTORY AT THE OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING
For security purposes, member contact information is never published in communications or on the web. You will only find it in the directory.

The printed copies of the 2024-25 branch directory, which contains important branch information as well as member contacts, are ready for pickup at the October meeting. The directory is distributed to members in two ways:

1. A digital copy was emailed to each member on Tuesday, September 3, to save to your devices. It can then be available to you on your computer, your tablet, and your phone.
2. Printed copies may be picked up at branch meetings for all members who want one. They can be placed in the little blue covers you were issued when you joined the branch.

If you are a new member and need a blue directory cover, contact the Membership chairs.

Directory questions? Contact Joyce Katz.

Saint Martha's Hall Collection Schedule
By Suzanne Couch and Marian Bauer

Ballwin-Chesterfield has been supporting women and children who are victims of domestic violence for years. We volunteered, donated items, and worked with Jessica Woolbright at an earlier shelter that was in St. Louis County called The Kathy J. Weiman Shelter. When Jessica moved to St. Martha's Hall we went with her. She is now the Executive Director, and we are helping to ensure that the women who come to St. Martha's Hall receive the support and safety they need to build a life free from violence.

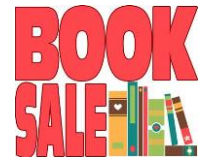
We will be collecting donations for St. Martha's Hall at the branch meetings in October, November, January, February, March, and April. Just leave your articles near the front door and drivers will take them to the shelter. The Friday Notes will be featuring the items the shelter needs a week before every collection month.

Jessica tells us that the shelter does not need clothing or suitcases now. AAUW will concentrate on donating consumable items. Here are the ongoing needs of the shelter and the best items for Ballwin-Chesterfield members to donate every month:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Reusable grocery bags
- Gift cards



DONATE USED BOOKS TO BENEFIT DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS
By Jean Light, Linda Roberson, Pat Shores, and Mary Kay Wolfe



The popular book sale returns at the branch meetings. Members donate used books, puzzles and games, sell the books at branch meetings, and deliver any books remaining to the used bookstore. Mary Kay Wolfe reports that from 2011 to 2023 the used book sales raised \$9,323.96 for our scholarship women. Jean Light says we added \$371 more in 2024. For both the fun and the fundraising, this is an activity that we should continue.

Linda Roberson will have a sign-up sheet at every branch meeting for individuals to volunteer to manage just one month's used book sale by displaying sales items and taking unsold books to the used book store. Watch the newsletter and the Friday Notes to know if the sale will occur, because if no manager comes forward, there can be no sales that month.

To have a successful book sale members are asked to adhere to the following criteria:

- Limit your donations to five items.
- Donate current books in good condition that have been published in the last five years.
- Give hardback and oversized paperbacks which garner the most money.
- Puzzles are welcome.

Buy some of the items at the branch meeting before they go to the used bookstore and support our mature women returning to college with your donations and your purchases.

GREAT NEWS. WE HAVE TWO PEOPLE WHO WILL FACILITATE THE OCTOBER USED BOOK SALES.
THANK YOU TO JEAN LIGHT AND LINDA ROBERSON!

Project 2025: What's at Stake for Education

Excerpted from the August 2024 AAUW National Webinar by Public Policy Chair Marian Bauer

Project 2025 is a 900-page plan of action written by the Heritage Foundation and more than one hundred other conservative groups. It is an explicit effort to further the presidency and to unravel the civil rights gains achieved over the last seven decades. This plan benefits white nationalists and other likeminded groups.

Here are a few examples of how civil rights in education would be affected by this proposal. You can find out more about this plan by going to king@civilrights.org

- Gutting Enforcement of Civil Rights Laws
- Narrowing the Definition of Discrimination
- Abolishing the Department of Education
- Cutting Funding to Public Schools
- Promoting School Vouchers
- Marginalizing Disabled Students of Color
- Encouraging Discriminatory School Discipline

Celebrating the 2024 Women's Equality Day

By Pat Shores

Members of AAUW and the League of Women Voters attended the celebration of the 104th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment which gave most women the right to vote. The event was held at the new Clark Family Library Branch of the St. Louis County Library on August 25, 2024.

Speaker Kathleen Farrell shared the recent progress of national legislation related to women's equity and discussed the challenges to Missouri voters on other key bills including Title IX and the ERA. The group enjoyed the presentation, looked at Rebecca Now's new book, *Borrowed Courage*, and continued the discussion at dinner at Canyon Café.



Kathy Brown, Author Rebecca Now, Karen Francis



Speaker Kathleen Farrell



Marian asks a question



Ballwin-Chesterfield group at dinner. From left: Marian Bauer, Genevieve Gibson-Newman, Angie Janik, Carol Anderson, Kathy Brown and Lorna Anderson. Photographer Pat Shores

SAVE THE DATE

AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council Spring Luncheon Celebrating our Barbara Lackritz Honorees

March 29, 2025 @ 11 a.m.–2 p.m.
Catering to You
12775 New Halls Ferry Road
Florissant, MO

Nominations Sought for the IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award By Barbara Lackritz Chair Sandy Brody

The St. Louis Metro Interbranch Council branches may submit nominations for the Barbara Lackritz AAUW Award in November. Each IBC branch can select a member to receive this award. The honorees will be acknowledged at the annual IBC Spring Fling in March, 2025. [Learn more about this prestigious award here.](#)

Please submit your nomination to **Sandy Brody**, chair of the branch Barbara Lackritz Award Committee. With your nomination, please include a few sentences about your nominee. The criteria to consider 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 state, local, regional, or national level(s).
4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas

Submit nominations to Sandy by October 31, 2024. The award is named after Barbara Lackritz who was a Ballwin-Chesterfield member and an AAUW leader and mentor. **Doris Nistler** was the most recent honoree from our branch.

Save the Date for the Ballwin-Chesterfield Party By Party Chairs Marcia Block and Kathy Lask

What: Our Annual Winter Party

When: Thursday, December 12, 2024, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Where: Ballwin Golf Course and Event Center

Why: Fun and Fellowship

A lovely lunch and entertainmen.

Doris Nistler's Lotto board returns, as does the Pot of Gold. You may be a big winner.

How: Bring your checkbook and sign up at the October or November branch meeting.

Become a B-C Booster and help support our wonderful local programs. All proceeds stay right here.



Recent Highest Recognition from Charity Assessment Organizations

By Gloria Blackwell, AAUW CEO Quoted from the 2024 September AAUW Member Gathering Webinar.

AAUW has recently received the highest rating from the 2024 Charity Navigator organization and the 2024 Candid organization. These high ratings ensure givers that they can donate to AAUW with confidence.

Dollars for Scholars Events

Members, please consider sponsoring a Dollars for Scholars event to help fund our important mission of providing local scholarships. [See the website](#) for past events, and contact the presidents for help.



GOURMET BEAN SOUP MIX AVAILABLE WHILE SUPPLIES LAST

By Pat Shores and Judy Stagoski

Ballwin-Chesterfield bean soup mix packages will be offered for sale at the October and November branch meetings. This healthy gourmet mix of nine kinds of beans, two kinds of peas, and two kinds of lentils will be sold for \$8.00 a bag and will include directions for preparing a vegetarian or a meat flavored soup. Buy some for yourself to enjoy during the long winter season. The soup mixes also make a great gift. Put one in a Christmas stocking; surprise the person who keeps your home clean; or gift one to your neighbor. These bean soup mixes continue a Ballwin-Chesterfield tradition of selling a healthy product and of supporting scholarships for mature women returning to college.

WELDON SPRING SITE INTERPRETIVE TOUR U.S. Department of Energy Office of Legacy Management, 7295 Highway 94 South, St. Charles, MO 63304 Friday, October 18, 2024, at 10 a.m. \$20 for Dollars for Scholars Register at the October meeting or by contacting the event sponsors.



The Weldon Spring Site Interpretive Center offers a window to the past and demonstrates the U.S. Department of Energy's commitment to the future.

See exhibits and learn about the history of the Weldon Spring area, the site's contribution to World War II and the Cold War defenses, area cleanup efforts, and continuing long-term stewardship. Lunch (cost not included) at GIO Modern Italian, 138 Chesterfield Towne Center, Chesterfield, 63005. See the menu at dine@gjostl.com.

Sign up at the October meeting, or send reservations to Pat Shores. Sponsored by Marian Bauer, Erlaine Eltomi, Joyce Katz, and Pat Shores.

AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Board

For pictures and more information, visit our webpage at <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/about-us/meet-our-officers/>

Elected Officers

Co-Presidents Sage Taber & Carol Anthony
VP Program Kathy Brown & Marcia Block
VP Membership April Walgren & Susie Teicher
Finance Officer Jean Light
Secretary/Archivist Mary Jermak

Dollars for Scholars Events

SPECIAL BELLEFONTAINE TROLLEY TOUR, Thursday, October 24, 10 a.m. – Noon (arrive at the cemetery by 9:30 a.m.)

Cost: \$28 (\$18 for private tour and \$10 for DFS)

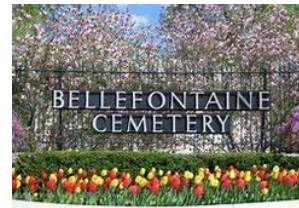
Maximum of 25 participants

Bellefontaine Cemetery, 4947 W. Florissant Ave., St. Louis 63115 (must use this entrance).

Take a journey through St. Louis history as you travel the paths of Bellefontaine Cemetery in a tram on a private tour narrated by a Master Guide. Along the way you will learn about famous St. Louisans such as William Clark, Adolphus Busch, Susan Blow, and James Eads who are laid to rest in the cemetery. In addition to the history of Bellefontaine, you will certainly enjoy the beautiful architecture in the cemetery as well as the nearly 10,000 trees and shrubs in this accredited arboretum. Lunch (cost not included) following the tour – location TBD.

Sign-ups will be available at the October branch meeting. To register earlier, please contact Mary Kay Wolfe (see your Directory). Send your check, made payable to AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield to guarantee your reservation. Write DFS on your memo line.

--Sponsored by Bette Bude, Marcia Block, and Mary Kay Wolfe



AAUW BC Board (continued)

Elected Directors

AAUW Fund Suzanne Couch & Karen Francis
Public Policy Angela Janik & Marian Bauer

Appointed Directors

Branch Fundraising Carol Anthony & Sage Taber
Directory & Database Joyce Katz
Governance Marsha Weppelman

Hospitality Carol Derington & Janet Sloey

Newsletter Editors

Joyce Katz, Beth Ann Murphy & Pat Shores
University Liaison Karen Francis & Mary Jermak
Special Events: Winter Party Marcia Block & Kathy Lask
Spring Luncheon Jane Hemer and Michele Mangnall
STEM Marcia Block & Barb McQuitty
Web Manager Carolyn Brown

Standing Committee Chairs:

International Relations Susie Teicher
Care Notes Janet Sloey
Friday Reminder Bette Bude & Mary Kay Wolfe

Branch Interest Group Events

Interest group social events bring together members with similar interests. Try one! Contact an Interest Group Chair. Have an idea? Start a new group.

See <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/interest-groups/> or the Interest Group section in 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.

October 17 *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*

by James McBride Reviewer Alice Crippen Hostess Brenda Bussen Contact Alice Crippen.

Literature II 4th Monday, 11 a.m.

Venue Hearth Room, Town & Country Commons

October 28 *Making a Difference* by Joe Regenbogen
Reviewer Erlaine Eltomi

Contact Joyce Katz or Erlaine Eltomi.

Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.

October 8 *Random Acts of Medicine* by Anupam B. Jena and Christopher Worsham
Reviewer Marcia Block Hostess Erlaine Eltomi

Contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

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

October 24, via ZOOM

The book list for the year was finalized on September 26, beyond this newsletter's deadline. Please join us October 24th to hear the book review.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1Co>

Contact Patty Murray. (pattymurray2011@gmail.com)

Expressions 1st Tuesday, 1-3 p.m.

Next meeting Dec. 3

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd., Creve Coeur, MO 63141. Our focus is to make and learn crafts and projects. All AAUW members and their guests are welcome.
Contact Kay Meyer or Nancy Hutchins.

Movie Group 4th Thursday, 11:15 a.m.

October 24 Talayna's Restaurant, 68 Four Seasons Shopping Center, Chesterfield 63017

If you like movies and discussion you will enjoy this group.
Contact Ann Riley or Mersine Kallaos.

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

October 16 Wan Fu Chinese Restaurant, 12033

Manchester Rd., Des Peres, MO 63131 You won't want to miss the outstanding, authentic Chinese cuisine!
Contact Ann Hansen by Oct. 9 to make your reservation.

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

October 23 Faust Park 15185 Olive Boulevard, 63017.
Meet at front entrance to the Butterfly House.

Contact Walking Group Chair Michele Mangnall.

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

October 21 Host Suzanne Couch.

Members will be contacted with meeting details.
Contact Marilyn Fletcher.

Bridge Groups

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

Social Bridge 3rd Monday, 10 a.m. October 21

Contact Ellen Friedman or Jean Light.

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

October 1 Contact Chris Magilligan or Elaine Frost.

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

October 22 Contact Alice Crippen or Elaine Frost

Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought

2nd Wednesdays in November 2024, and in January, February and March 2025.

Please note change of venue: all meetings will be at the Hearth Room Cafe, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village, Town and Country, MO 63017, from 11am– 2 pm. Lunch will be ordered from a limited menu at your own expense.

Sign-up sheets for each month will be available at branch meetings.

November 13: Joyce Katz: *AAUW-BC Enters the Digital Age*

Contact Doris Nistler to reserve your spot.