



Branching Out

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Newsletter

March 2025

Volume 45 Number 8

Contact: AAUW.org
1310 L St. NW, Suite 1000,
Washington, DC 20005
205.785.7700

Contact: State:
<https://aaummo.aauw.net>
Branch:
<https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/>

See the branch directory for telephone numbers and email addresses.

Branch Meeting, March 13 , 2025
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.

March Speaker Huvona Watkins, Executive Director, Almost Home
Supporting At-Risk Mothers and Their Children: Creating a Better Future
Two Generations at a Time

Huvona Watkins has been passionate about helping women and children for as long as she can remember. She began her career in the health field before pivoting to the nonprofit sector, where she spent several years advocating for and empowering survivors of domestic and sexual violence.

Currently she is Executive Director at Almost Home. They provide shelter and career preparation for homeless, pregnant women and new mothers, ages 16-21.

This year Almost Home received a Community Action Grant from AAUW, funded in part by Ballwin-Chesterfield's Silver Anniversary Fund.



Presidents' Corner

By Presidents Sage Taber and Carol Anthony

Part of the AAUW mission is to advocate for state and local laws to ensure equity and end discrimination. AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield is working hard to keep everyone informed about current events. The Public Policy Directors, **Angela Janik** and **Marian Bauer**, work tirelessly to bring us the latest news on the national, state, and local fronts. **Bette Bude** and **Mary Kay Wolfe**, the *Friday Reminder* editors, stay abreast of incoming information as do the *Branching Out* team of **Joyce Katz**, **Pat Shores**, and **Beth Ann Murphy**.

The Ballwin-Chesterfield website <https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw> allows you to stay informed about current legislative actions, such as voting, women's rights, and educational issues through the Public Policy section. You can support Dollars for Scholars, both as an event participant or as a host of a future event, download forms; read past newsletters; and become a B-C Booster by accessing the form posted on the website. The state and national websites are easily accessible through the B-C website as well. The state website, <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net> provides details for important events, such as statewide meetings, and the activities of other Missouri branches. The national website, <https://aauw.org> currently features information related to Black History Month, and the many issues directly affecting women.



Sage Taber



Carol Anthony

In this issue:

March meeting, Presidents' Corner	p.1
Board Meeting, Spring Luncheon, Program Committee, BC Boosters, New Members	p.2
In Memoriam, Officer Nominations, Gender Pay Gap, Greatest Needs Fund	p. 3
AAUW Video, International Relations, MO Fellowships	p.4
Dollars for Scholars	p. 5
Interest Groups	p.6
Booster form	p.7
Registration form for IBC Spring Fling	p.8

Ballwin-Chesterfield Board Meeting March 6

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Board of Directors meets on the first Thursday of the month, at 9:30 a.m., at the West County EMS and Fire Protection District Station, 1 Administrative Bldg., 223 Henry Ave., Manchester, MO 63011. All board members are expected to attend. If you are in a two-person position, only one person needs to come but all are welcome. Branch members are welcome to attend any board meeting.

“Dare To Color Outside the Lines” Ballwin-Chesterfield Annual Spring Luncheon

By Chairs: Jane Hemer and Michele Mangnall

Thursday, May 8, 2025 11:00 a.m. Cost: \$45

Marriott West Hotel 660 Maryville Center Drive, 673141

Plans for this year’s Ballwin-Chesterfield Spring Luncheon are in full swing. Reservations will be taken at the March and April branch meetings. A check will be required when the reservation is made.

If you cannot attend either meeting, a check can be mailed to Jane Hemer.

Program Committee Meeting

By Program Committee Chair Marcia Block

To continue with the outstanding Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch speakers that we have heard from in recent years, please stay after the March branch meeting to discuss speaker ideas for next year. Both committee members and those with speaker ideas should attend. If you cannot be there, give your suggestions to Program Vice Presidents **Marcia Block** or **Kathy Brown**.

B-C Boosters

By Chair Marcia Block

You may recall that only \$22 of our annual dues stays with the branch. That’s less than \$3,000 and doesn’t even pay for room rental and speakers. Add about from \$5,000-\$6,000 Dollars for Scholars. That only begins to maintain all our local activities and scholarships. We have budgeted over \$15,000 for everything. So each year we have to come to our members and ask them to help make up the difference. So far our members have generously contributed almost \$4,000. But we need more.

On page 7 of this newsletter you will find a flyer with information on how to contribute. Please be generous and help us reach our goal of \$6,000. Consider how important AAUW’s mission is to you and how long it may have been since you wrote a check to support the branch. Contributions from individuals as well as Interest groups are very welcome. Thank you.

Introducing the Newest Ballwin-Chesterfield Members

By Membership Chair Susie Teicher



The Membership Committee continues its mission to recruit and retain members for our dynamic AAUW Branch. As a part of this effort, we invite you all to welcome our newest members.

Alicia Ott

Alicia is a therapist for faculty at Washington University and researches the impact of institutional policies on the well-being of female faculty. In her free time, she enjoys running, yoga, reading, and comedy shows.

Delores Vermont

Delores is a chemist and a retired chemistry teacher who also enjoys walking and reading in her leisure time as well as knitting and sewing.

Look for these talented women at our meetings. They will be wearing new member yellow ribbons on their badges. Please invite them to join our interest groups and committees.

IN MEMORIAM: ELLEN IRONS

By Pat Shores

AAUW lost an exceptional leader when Ellen Irons passed away in January. Ellen was an active member of AAUW and a friend to many. Please visit the Ballwin-Chesterfield website, <http://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net>, to read about Ellen's life and to learn about the March 1 visitation and service at Kriegshauser Mortuary, West Chapel.

The 2025 – 2027 Elected Officer and Elected Director Nominations

By the 2025-2027 Nominating Committee. Chair **Bette Bude**. Committee Members **Margaret Andersen, Jan Horner, and Jayne Kasten**.

The Nominating Committee thanks everyone who reached out to members and encouraged them to consider accepting leadership positions. Special thanks go to the following members who have agreed to be nominated for the following **Elected Officer positions: Janet Sloey** Co-President; **Kathy Skiles** Co-Vice President Program; **Sage Taber** Co-Vice President Membership; and **Kathy Lask** Secretary/Archivist.

The following members have agreed to continue in **Elected Director positions: Karen Frances** AAUW Fund Director and **Angie Janik** Public Policy Director.

The slate of officers and directors will be announced at the March Branch Meeting. The April *Branching Out* newsletter will feature nominee biographies and photos. Voting will take place at the annual meeting in April. With the consent of the nominee, nominations can be made from the floor before the final vote at the April meeting.



History of the Gender Pay Gap

By Public Policy Committee Member **Jane Hemer**

The history of the gender pay gap plays a significant role in the status of women in corporate, political, and professional leadership roles in our country. After the Civil War and with the rise of the Industrial Revolution, women, particularly those of color, migrated north seeking job opportunities. They were met with enduring biases from men who felt “a woman’s place is in the home” as well as discrimination, segregation, and sexual harassment, all of which caused women in the workforce to accept lower paying positions.

Despite the implementation of laws, biases and barriers continue to persist, affecting women's abilities and career advancements. For women to be successful in leadership, key factors play a part. Higher education is harder to obtain with the high costs of school loans which are difficult to repay with a lower paying job.

Networking and finding mentors or sponsors are harder to secure with lower paying, lower status employment. Sexual harassment and hostile work environments are obstacles that occur in lower paying jobs. Additionally, workplaces still harbor biases that favor traditionally masculine traits of power.

Viable actions by policymakers in Congress and state governments, and leadership training by organizations such as AAUW are needed to overcome the inequities in both the women’s pay gap and women’s leadership levels.

AAUW Greatest Needs Fund Donations

By AAUW Fund Chairs **Karen Francis and Suzanne Couch**

A big thank you to our forty-six Ballwin Chesterfield members who donated **\$5,681.20** to the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund in November. These donations represent 34.5% of our membership total.

Greatest Needs Fund supports our mission and ensures AAUW's ability to respond rapidly to critical issues affecting women as they occur. The Fund also fuels our research and advocacy work and supports key equity legislation like fair pay laws. Your gift to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund ensures our continued organization’s visibility, relevance, and sustainability. Suzanne and I thank you for your generosity and support of the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund.

AAUW Online Winter Member Gathering Video Available

By Pat Shores

The recording of the February 5, 2025, gathering is now available for viewing at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2PDN1kZsNXQ>. Please check it out and discover the national five calls to action.



AAUW 2024-2025 Fellowships & Grants Missouri Sponsors

In the 2024-25 academic year, AAUW awarded \$6.2M in fellowships and grants to 261 women and community-based organizations. AAUW is one of the largest funders of graduate women's education and, since 1888, has provided \$146 million in fellowships, grants, and awards to more than 14,000 women from 152 countries. There are 14 endowments established by AAUW Missouri, AAUW Missouri Branches, and AAUW Missouri members sponsoring fellowships and grants each year.

American Fellowships

Rasheca Logendran (Harvard University, Cambridge, MA)

#1608 Leona J. Beckmann

Baothy Huynh (MGH Institute of Health Professions, Boston, MA)

#1061 Vassie J. Hill

International Fellowships

Monisola Jayeoba (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL)

#1148 Blanche H. Dow

Louise Min Yue Tan (University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia)

#1168 Chloe E. Millikan

Tripty Tamang Pakhrin (Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY)

#1172 Mary Alice Parrish

Career Development Grants

Divieke Angelo (Rutgers State University of New Jersey, Newark, NJ)

#1364 Independence (MO) Branch

Shekesha Shelton (Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ)

#1465 Missouri State Division Anniversary

Katina White (Arkansas State University, Jonesboro, Arkansas)

#4009 Missouri Diamond Jubilee

Carlina Arango (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI)

#4037 F. Elaine Richardson Fund (MO 2003-04)

Jacob Joseph (Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN)

#4112 Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch

Crystal Blair (Southern New Hampshire University, Manchester, NH)

#4280 Maryville (MO) Branch/Opal Eckert

Community Action Grants

Almost Home (St. Louis, MO) Satonya Booker

#1768 Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch/Shirley Breeze

#4286 Ballwin-Chesterfield (MO) Branch Silver Anniversary

Boys & Girls Clubs of the Olympic Peninsula (Sequim, WA) Heidi Capnerhust

#1639 Kansas City (MO) Branch/Dora Johnson

Revised January 2025



Dollars for Scholars Program

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.

USED BOOK SALE TO BENEFIT DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS CONTINUES IN MARCH Facilitators Marian Bauer and Pat Shores

International Relations Lecture Series

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 10:45 a.m. Ethical Society of St. Louis 9001 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, MO 63117
Modern Geopolitics: The Ghost of Sir John Mackinder
Kevin Jon Fernlund, Ph.D.

Kevin Jon Fernlund is a Professor of History at the University of Missouri - St. Louis and is the author of several books. A flyer about this event is on our branch website and in the February newsletter.

BECOME A DOLLARS EVENT SPONSOR

Is there an interesting venue or event to visit in the St. Louis area in the near future? If it catches your interest, it is sure to appeal to others. Everyone enjoys a fun experience, a “day out,” and the chance to see and do something new! Dollars events fund our scholarship program. Members have enjoyed many fine outings while learning new things about our area. Directions for sponsoring an event are found on the branch website section titled *Dollars for Scholars*
<https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/dollars-for-scholars-fundraisers/>
Questions? Don't hesitate to contact presidents Carol Anthony and Sage Taber for help and ideas.

AAUW B-C Board

Elected Officers

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

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 Notes 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? Contact the presidents for help to start a new group.

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

BookGroups Welcome All Readers

Download book lists at

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

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

March 20 *James* by Percival Everett

Reviewer Marcia Block

Hostess Doris Nistler

Contact Alice Crippen.

Literature II 4th Monday, 11 a.m.

March 24 *James* by Percival Everett

Reviewer Marcia Block

Venue Hearth Room, Town & Country Commons

Contact Joyce Katz or Erlaine Eltomi.

Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.

March 11 *Fire Weather: A True Story from a Hotter*

World by John Vaillant Reviewer and Hostess Mary Kay

Wolfe

Contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

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

March 27 *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif

Shafak Reviewer Lynne Roney

All meetings via

Zoom: [https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)

[Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87393625222?pwd=Z8LmoZpCgqVwS6wAZmPoNEcUa0b2Pq.1)

Meeting ID: 873 9362 5222 Passcode: 922338

Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Contact Patty Murray pattymurrayaauw@gmail.com.

Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought
2nd Wednesday in January, February and March 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

March 12 Diane Correll speaker.

All meetings at the Hearth Room Cafe, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village.

If you have not signed up but wish to attend one or all meetings, email Doris Nistler.

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

March 4 Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 13014 Olive Blvd.,

Creve Coeur, MO 63141. Park in back of church and enter

through the last set of double glass doors. This month:

Mindfulness Coloring and Zentangle. Kay and Nancy will

provide supplies and music. Participants may make cards to

keep or give away and should bring their own beverage.

Contact Kay Meyer or Nancy Hutchins.

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

March 27 Meet at Spiro's West, 1054 N. Woods Mill Rd.,

Chesterfield, MO 63017. If you like movies and discussion you

will enjoy this group.

Contact Ann Campion Riley or Mersine Kallaos.

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

March 19 Treat yourself to Out to Lunch and join your AAUW

friends at Edgewild, 550 Chesterfield Center, Chesterfield, MO

63017. Enjoy a relaxing lunch and catch up on all the news. To

reserve a spot, contact Mary Biggs by phone or email by March

12.

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

This group meets April through October and will resume in April 2025.

The group meets at various nearby parks around the area from

Chesterfield to Kirkwood. Each month the selected park will

be noted in the Interest Group section of the newsletter.

To get on the contact list and receive monthly reminders or

alerts regarding each walk, let Michele know.

Contact Michele Mangnall

Bridge Groups

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

Social Bridge 3rd Monday, 10 a.m.

March 17 Contact Ellen Friedman or Jean Light.

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

March 4 Contact Chris Magilligan or Elaine Frost.

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

March 25 Contact Elaine Frost or Alice Crippen

**B-C BOOSTER SPONSORSHIP FORM
HELP US REACH OUR GOALS**

Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch of AAUW has a visual presence in the community, but to maintain some the outstanding programs we need more funding than provided by our annual branch dues of \$22 per member. You and/or your interest group can help sponsor B-C's activities.

\$25-\$49	Blue Level	Helps to support branch local programs not covered by annual dues.
\$50-\$99	Bronze Level	Helps pay for our monthly speakers.
\$100-\$199	Silver Level	Sponsors STEM Girls of Promise at a local high school (Valley Park, Maplewood-Richmond Heights. Pattonville)
\$200-\$499	Gold Level	Supports our St Louis Science Fair awards to high school women with outstanding projects in STEM fields and college scholarships for mature women returning to college to obtain their degree..
\$500	Platinum Level	Supports 1/2 of a scholarship for a mature woman finishing a degree.

At the January-April meetings we will be collecting your contributions and putting names on our poster.

Sponsorship Level _____ \$25 Blue
(May be made by _____ \$50 Bronze
individuals or _____ \$100 Silver
groups) _____ \$200 Gold
 _____ \$500 Platinum

Name (or group) _____

Email and phone _____

Make check payable to AAUW-BC with B-C Booster on memo line. Mail to Linda Roberson or pay at a branch meeting.

Registration deadline for luncheon: March 20, 2025

**Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council: 2025 Spring Luncheon
Honoring Sheroes and Recognizing Barbara Lackritz Honorees
Entertainment: Mixed Nuts, a women's a capella quartet**

Saturday, March 29, 2025, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Doors open at 10:30 am

Catering to You

12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO

Mushroom herb baked chicken, roast top round of beef *au jus*, salad, red-skin garlic mashers, steamed garlic buttered broccoli, rolls, butter, self-serve lemonade/coffee/iced and hot tea

Registration fee: \$40 - includes meal, program, and entertainment

50/50 and Lotto raffles will also be held!

Registration deadline for luncheon: March 20, 2025

Please print legibly:

Print Name: _____

Branch: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: _____

_____ I plan to attend **Honoring Our Sheroes** **Registration Fee \$** _____

I am paying for _____ **# of guests X \$40** (list names on back) **Total for luncheon \$** _____

TRIBUTE DONATION FOR MY SHERO

My Name _____

Branch _____ Email _____ Ph # _____

Amount _____ Shero to be named _____

Information about how to honor your Shero: (Please check the appropriate spaces below.)

1. My donation is (pick one): ___ In memory of (deceased Shero) ___ In honor of (living Shero)

2. As part of the recognition, I would like my Branch name to be listed ___ Yes ___ No

3. I would like to have my name listed as a donor ___ Yes ___ No

a. If Yes, ___ I want my name on the event display, ___ I want to be in the final published lists

Luncheon amount due \$ _____

Sheroes donation amount \$ _____

Total amount enclosed \$ _____

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both.

To honor additional sheroes, add the names and amounts on a separate sheet and mail together.

NOTE: *Donations are NOT tax deductible.*

See the next page for more information and registration form...

Our NEW IBC Fundraising Approach – Tribute Donations to Honor Sheroes

- ♥ **Why does the IBC need to raise funds?** For IBC operating expenses, and to support the International Relations Lecture Series in collaboration with the Tuesday Women’s Association of the Ethical Society.
- ♥ **Our past approach has used raffles.** In the past, each branch donated baskets of items, then we moved to raffling gift cards. We’ve also done 50-50 and lottery ticket tree raffles, which will continue.
- ♥ **Why do we need a new approach?** We have decided not to hold any more raffles or auctions because none of us wants more stuff. We believe the 50-50 and Lottery Ticket tree raffles are still worthwhile, but they won’t raise all the funds we need.
- ♥ **Our New Approach—**We will raise the additional needed funds **by honoring our Sheroes** with direct donations. We hope this becomes a new tradition: honoring important women in our lives, living or in memory, through tribute donations.



How will this work?

Make a donation to honor a Shero in your life. Your Shero will receive a card informing them that they have been named and **your Shero’s name will be part of a display at the Spring Luncheon.** **A final summary** of all names will be **published at the end of the campaign.**

How much should you donate?

We encourage you to be as generous as you can. Since this is a fundraiser, the minimum amount to recognize a Shero is \$10. Any level above that is appreciated.

Please complete the form below to donate. Any donations received before Mar 18, 2025, will be recognized at the Spring Luncheon. The campaign will be open until April 3, 2025, with contributions accepted both ***prior to*** AND ***at the Spring Luncheon.***

Questions? Contact the IBC 2025 Spring Luncheon Committee Fundraising Chair – Joyce Bluett, AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch.

TRIBUTE DONATION FOR MY SHERO

My Name _____

Branch _____ Email _____ Ph # _____

Amount _____ Shero to be named _____

Information about how to honor your Shero: (Please check the appropriate spaces below.)

4. My donation is (pick one): In memory of (deceased Shero) In honor of (living Shero)
5. As part of the recognition, I would like my Branch name to be listed Yes No
6. I would like to have my name listed as a donor Yes No
 - a. If Yes, I want my name on the event display, I want to be in the final published lists

Sheroes donation amount _____

Total amount enclosed _____

To honor additional sheroes, add the names and amounts on a separate sheet and mail together.

Make check payable to AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC. Mail check and form to Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist, Manchester, MO 63011-4215. Use this form for lunch only, donation only, or both.

NOTE: *Donations are NOT tax deductible.*