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Branching Out

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Newsletter

December, 2025

Volume 46 Number 5

See the branch directory for telephone numbers and email addresses.



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

Ballwin-Chesterfield Winter Party

Thursday, December 11, 2025 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ballwin Golf Course Events Center

333 Holloway Road, Ballwin, 63011

Reservations \$30 by December 2, 2025

Guests are welcome.

Winter Party Chairs Marcia Block and Kathy Lask



You are invited to join the fun at our annual branch winter party and fundraising event.

Reservations by check only payable to AAUW-BC may be mailed to Sandy Kalin. Include your luncheon choice. Deadline is December 2.

The Art of Entertaining will provide the lunches. They use the highest quality meats, breads, and homemade dressings to ensure a delicious meal. Each lunch includes a sandwich, a small side, and a dessert. A vegetarian salad is also available.

*Chicken Salad Sandwich

*Roast Top Round Sandwich (rare)

*Tuna Salad Sandwich

*Big Bend Turkey Sandwich

*Red, White, and Blue Salad and Roll (vegetarian)

*Gluten free upon request

*Water is provided. You can bring your own drink.

Party Features:

The Valley Park High School Show Choir will provide entertainment.

There will be raffles and fun. Be sure to bring small bills.

Silent auction for Elegant Edibles.

Poinsettias will be available for \$10 purchase.

Do not miss this special event!

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AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

AAUW-BC BOARD MEETING -- NO MEETINGS IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY
NEXT BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 5



Carol Anthony

Janet Sloey

PRESIDENTS CORNER

By Janet Sloey and Carol Anthony

As we approach the year's end, it is good to remember that AAUW B-C is part of the larger effort to provide equal access to education through our scholarships. We work to expand the number of women in leadership by supporting STEM programs. The monthly speakers provided by our

Program Vice Presidents help support our stated mission. Members support our branch with their participation in activities and willingness to step up to continue the fight for equity, inclusion, and diversity.

Please consider contributing to our B-C Boosters effort as well as the AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, Defund Higher Education Fund, or Public Policy Fund. Even a few dollars from each member can help us become one the Five Star branches in the country.

The Winter Party scheduled for Thursday, December 11, promises to be a great time to gather for fun, laughter, and good food. Members might consider inviting a friend or two to join in the fun. Let's be grateful for the community generated by our work together in the cause of equity for all.

Nominations Requested for 2026-2028 Elected Officers and Directors

By The Nominating Committee Bette Bude and Marge Andersen

The branch needs your help in finding members ready and able to be part of our branch's leadership.

The committee is accepting your nominations for the 2026-2028 elected officers and directors. These positions are open:

Co-President

Co-Vice President Program

Co-Vice President Membership

Secretary/Archivist

Finance Officer

Co-Director AAUW Fund

Co-Director Public Policy

For job descriptions for any of these positions, contact Carol Anthony or Janet Sloey.

Who to nominate: 1. Yourself. You know the areas where you can serve! OR

2. You may also nominate a member.

Please follow these steps to nominate a member:

1. Receive permission from the person you are nominating.
2. Use the nomination form on the branch website under Flyers & Forms.
3. Use the form at the end of this newsletter
4. Call or email either Marge or Bette about your nominee.

Members: If you are asked to take a position, please seriously consider accepting the nomination. You will make many friends and make a valued contribution to AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield.

Marge Andersen and Bette Bude are members of the nominating committee and will, with the head of the committee, review your nominees and prepare the slate of officers. Please send your nomination form in by December 20, 2025.

Thank you for participating in choosing your leadership.

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

OUR RIGHT TO READ

By Director of Public Policy Angela Janik

In the new documentary, *The Librarians*, librarians emerged as first responders in the fight on democracy and First Amendment rights raised by the current movement on banning books in public schools and libraries. Since its premier at the 2025 Sundance Film Festival, this film has been shown at numerous national and international film festivals winning awards along the way. For information on the film and to watch a trailer go to <http://thelibrariansfilm.com/>. The film is currently available on the PBS app and PBS Video. It will be available through the Independent Lens Series on PBS in early 2026.

The MO AAUW is a member of the Missouri Right to Read Coalition which formed under the leadership of the National Council of Jewish Women St Louis. This statewide Right to Read Coalition supports Missouri's libraries to remain an open, accessible resource for books and other materials available free-of-charge to the public. You can learn about their activities, volunteer, receive information and sign up for their newsletter by going to <http://ncjwstl.org/right-to-read-coalition/>

We just learned that on November 17, a Jackson County Circuit Court judge struck down a state law criminalizing school employees for supplying "sexually explicit material" to students. In their five-page decision they ruled it unconstitutionally vague and overboard. A win for our educators and librarians.

At AAUW We Are Tackling Gender Equity and Pay Equity from Multiple Angles.

By AAUW Deputy Director of Advancement Tremayne Parquet

Reprinted from October Priority Message

There is no gender equity without pay equity:

- **Offering salary negotiation, financial literacy, and advocacy training** – Each year, we equip thousands of women with tools to negotiate fair pay, manage their finances, and advocate for policies to promote pay equity.
- **Updating *The Simple Truth*** – We are revising our signature report on the gender pay gap to reflect the most current data, examine the root causes of persistent inequities, and highlight the policies and practices that can finally close the gap.
- **Removing barriers to success** – We advocate for a full range of policies to close the persistent gender and racial pay gaps and to address the unequal burden of caregiving that limits women's economic security. This fall, we opposed unqualified nominees to the EEOC and submitted comments against rules that would weaken employers' compliance with equal employment and nondiscrimination laws.

Saint Martha's Donations

By Saint Martha's Delivery Person Pat Shores

St. Martha's is committed to supporting women and children impacted by domestic violence. St. Martha's Director of Community Engagement, Carla Masey, told us what items the shelter needs now. This list has been updated from last year, so please note what our members can give to support the shelter in 2026. Here are the only things for Ballwin-Chesterfield members to donate every month:

- Toilet paper
- Paper towels
- Feminine pads
- New bath towels
- Reusable bags



You will be interested to know that the towels are given to the women and children when they are ready to leave the safety of the shelter and go out on their own. Since there will not be another collection until February, please consider bringing a double donation then.

Thank you from Saint Martha's Carla Maley

Your generosity every month is so appreciated. We are grateful for your organization's support of our work. Thanks for all the great denotations. They will be used!

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

LAST MEETING: November 13, 2025

BRANCH MEETING RECAP

(An email will be sent out to the membership when the video file* is available to view.)

[November Branch Meeting Video](#)

[Joe Regenbogen Presentation](#)

***Carol Anthony** called the meeting to order and announced that meetings would now be held on Zoom, with **Carolyn Brown** uploading the recording to the BC site for future reference. The mission statement was read, and November hostesses and co-chairs were acknowledged.

Janet Sloey, co-president, thanked attendees and requested approval of the October 2025 branch minutes which were posted on the website. She also announced the nominating committee, consisting of **Betty Bude**, **Marge Andersen**, and **Marcia Block**, who are tasked with encouraging members to run for office. **Bette Bude** discussed officer and director positions that need to be filled with nominations being accepted until December 20th.

Carol Anthony announced that **Kathy Lask**, the Secretary, is unable to complete her term due to illness, and **Marge Andersen**, along with **Cay Noble** and **Pat Shores**, will cover the remaining months. She also announced creating a new audio-visual position to alleviate the program coordinator's requirement responsibilities.

Marian Bauer, substituting for **Karen Francis**, provided an update on AAUW Fund activities and encouraged members to support the organization with donations, aiming for a five-star branch status.

Angie Janik discussed various public policy issues in Missouri, including the redistricting referendum and Amendment 4, which has not yet received support from Missouri AAUW or the League of Women Voters. She mentioned that the Missouri Right to Read Coalition, led by the National Council of Jewish Women in St. Louis, is working to combat book banning and encouraged members to read their newsletter and watch the documentary "The Librarians". She also announced an upcoming talk by Chief Justice Mary Russell of the Missouri Supreme Court which is free but requires registration.

Janet Sloey discussed the results of a recent survey which showed members prefer smaller fundraising events like game days and raffles over large-scale fundraisers. She announced plans for a game day event, though details like venue and pricing are still to be determined.

Marian Bauer updated the group on the DFS event at the Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, noting that the government shutdown has delayed the event's scheduling.

Marcia Block and **Elaine Eltomi** promoted the upcoming Winter Party on December 11th which will include lunch, entertainment by the Valley Park show choir, and an Elegant Edibles auction.

Joe Regenbogen delivered a presentation on foreign policy, emphasizing its importance in a globally interconnected world. He highlighted how the United States, despite being only 4.2% of the global population, contributes over 26.3% of the world's wealth and has a military presence in 150 nations. Joe discussed the historical context of U.S. foreign policy, noting its shift from isolationism to a more active global role, and encouraged the audience to consider the implications of these policies. Policies in addressing issues like climate change, the economy and military security sparked discussions on the U.S.'s role in global affairs.

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

AAUW FUND COLLECTION

By AAUW Fund Members Marian Bauer and Pat Shores

At our November meeting many of you were “life savers” and brought your check book to donate to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund, the Defend Higher Education Fund, or the Public Policy Fund. If you could not participate in November, you can still send a check to Pat Shores to be included in the FY25 AAUW Fund collection. Giving online is also an acceptable way to add to the Ballwin-Chesterfield total support collection. Remember that the donations you give to National are tax deductible. Reach out if you have questions. Our contact information is in the directory.

Thanks for supporting AAUW!

MEMBERSHIP FACTS TO KNOW

Ballwin-Chesterfield welcomes new members. As an active and involved AAUW branch, Ballwin-Chesterfield encourages members to share their pride in the branch with their friends, relatives, and neighbors. Membership in the Ballwin-Chesterfield branch promotes new friendships, new interests, and dedication to causes encouraging to all women. It is the perfect opportunity for new retirees and those whose families and grandchildren’s independence may require less of their time, to participate in a new venture.

National AAUW has certain requirements for membership which includes support of AAUW priorities and the holding of at least an associate’s degree from an accredited college. The following is an excerpt from the national AAUW branch’s bylaws, Article III Section 2, Degree Equivalency Policy.

The criteria for individual membership in AAUW is based on an individual having received an associate or higher degree from an accredited higher education institution. The provision also allows membership for individuals who have received the equivalent of an associate degree. The Board of Directors of AAUW may ... assess credentials for membership submitted based on degree equivalence.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES

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

Ethical Society of St. Louis 9001 Clayton Road

Members are invited to attend – for more information, contact Susie Teicher

January 13, 2026

Steve Lawrence, MD, MSc Epidemiology

Vaccines to Prevent the Next Pandemic: Is There a Will to Find the Way?

February 10, 2026

Panos Kouvelis, Ph.D.

Tariffs and You: Global Supply Chains that Matter

REMEMBERING JULIE TRIPLETT



Julie Triplett passed away in October just four days before her ninety sixth birthday. Julie loved AAUW and served in many leadership capacities-as a co-president for Ballwin-Chesterfield, a Missouri state president, and a national trailblazer. We have all been the beneficiary of her dedication to the AAUW mission. Here are our memories of our interactions with a special person.



My favorite conversation with Julie was during a DEI presentation that broke into small groups. We talked of our childhoods and growing up. Julie was such an interesting person with so many life experiences. She was a wonderful role model for aging with stamina and grace and will be remembered and missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing her. --*Kathy Brown*

Julia represented a dynamic leader who provided me with opportunity to pair with Holly Burgess as public policy co-chairs which led me to interacting, exchanging, and growing as an AAUW member. --*Nancy Hutchins*

Julie was a wise, kind woman who brought out the best in others by her example as an accomplished leader and peacemaker.-- *Susan Fenwick*

I was privileged to get to work with and to know very well Julie Triplett in the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield branch. We worked on so many programs together. The one I remember especially was Each One, Teach One with the Wellston school district. Julie was a jewel of a person, and she made it a point to accept people no matter who they were and what they did. She is sorely missed and much loved. *Sandra Murdock*

I got my inspiration to further AAUW goals and principles with being able to observe and admire this wonderful lady. Our country is better because of what Julie did as a dedicated individual to AAUW. --*Pam Kulp*

Julie was a thoughtful and gracious lady, a rare and generous soul whose passion to respect for this beautiful woman. -- *Donna Ross*

Julie was a valuable source of information and advice for me while serving my term as co-president. --*Rosann Swaringim*

Julie's display of leadership in Lit I, an interest group aside from branch meetings, made every book discussion stimulate thought and become a little part of me, expanding my perspectives while appreciating her talent to motivate active participation. -- *Bette Bude*

I had so much admiration for Julia Triplett, a woman with great intelligence, creativity, kindness, and leadership talents. *Mersine Kallaos*

How lucky I was that Julie was one of the first Ballwin-Chesterfield members I met. She extended her gentle warmth and welcoming nature that day and remained so always-may she now be listening to her beloved audiobooks read by angels.-- *Jane Edwards*

Julie was always a supporter of the used book sale. When we used to have one annual event with loads of books, she would take all the books that remained at the end of the sale and make a generous donation to the branch. She would then take the books-several carloads of them-to her church for its book sale. Everyone benefited from Julie's selfless action. --*Mary Kay Wolfe*

Whenever we met, a hug hello and a hug goodbye, that's me and Julie. Kind of simple but we were so happy to see each other again, it's that hug I will miss.-- *Doris Nistler*

Julie Triplett Tributes (continued)

Julia was a delightful member of our Lit 1 group and I always appreciated her knowledgeable comments. She will be remembered. -- *Elaine Frost*

AAUW was in its heyday when you were leading us. Nothing was too daunting for you to take on. --*Debbie McWard*

Julie contributed so much to the AAUW B-C over the years she was a member, where there wasn't a facet that was not better from her efforts. -- *Barb McQuitty*

Julie was an intelligent, kind leader of AAUW and the civic and religious communities. It was my honor to know her, may she rest in peace. --*Marian Bauer*

Julie encouraged me to become more involved in AAUW leadership. We created Munching Matters, Food for Thought, at lunch one day and wrote the idea on a napkin. -- *Karen Francis*

When I think of Julie, I think of her quick wit and wonderful smile. She was a great lady who was always ready to help wherever and whenever help was needed. --*Sande Mawhinney*

Julie's presence was positive to her many friends, colleagues, and family. She is truly missed. --*Joyce Katz*

While I didn't know Julie well, I sure respected and loved her thoughtful contributions to Literature II and her kind, smiling demeanor. --*Beth Ann Murphy*

I saw a bumper sticker for West County Democrats on Julie's car many years ago and I didn't know that there was a Democratic club in this area and was excited to find out. She told me, "Just come and join us." I have been a member ever since. --*Michele Mangnall*

I knew Julie mainly through Munching Matters and enjoyed every one I was able to attend. Not crazy about the name but I think the program is a fine legacy for Julie. I always associate the two. -- *Susan Shriver*

Julie was good at getting new members involved. I'd been a member for about two months when I sat next to her at Out to Lunch. She mentioned there was an opening on the LAF Committee and asked me to join. It was the first of many. --*Marcia Block*

Julie was a beautiful combination of intelligence, gentleness, helpfulness, and generosity. Her influence on those who interacted with her is profound and long-lasting. --*Judy Stagoski*

Julie was a quietly warm, kind, most capable and independent lady who was loved and respected by so many people but especially her AAUW peers. -- *Eileen Lesevoy*

Julie was an iron woman with a delicate touch. -- *Mary Jermak*

Since the day I met her, I have had nothing but love and respect for this beautiful woman. -- *Marilyn Fletcher*

For the last twenty years I followed Julie Triplet's AAUW example, participated in her creative and important projects, and gained a special friend. --*Pat Shores*



Dollars for Scholars Program

MEMBERS, grab a friend and sponsor a *Dollars for Scholars* event to help support our important mission of funding scholarships.

DFS HONOR ROLL

Remember to honor someone special to you by donating to the DFS Honor Roll. Your honoree will receive a personalized tribute postcard and will appear in the next Branching Out newsletter.

Mail your donation check to Jean Light and write "Honor Roll" on the memo line. Email Co-presidents Carol or Janet with the name and address of your honoree.

This month a donation from a Ballwin-Chesterfield member was received in honor of three members' birthdays in November: Elaine Frost, Chris Magilligan and Alice Crippen. Thank you for supporting the DFS Honor roll.

AAUW B-C Board

Elected Officers

Presidents Carol Anthony & Janet Sloey
Finance Officer Jean Light
VP-Membership April Walgren & Sage Taber
VP Program Marcia Block & Kathy Skiles
Secretary/Archivist Kathy Lask
Immediate Past President Sage Taber

Elected Directors

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

Appointed Directors

Branch FUNdraising Carol Anthony & Janet Sloey
Database Sage Taber
Governance Pat Shores
Hospitality Cay Noble & Elaine Frost
Newsletter Joyce Katz, Beth Ann Murphy
& Pat Shores
University Liaison Karen Francis & Mary Jermak
STEM Facilitators Group
Web Manager Carolyn Brown

THIS EVENT IS RESCHEDULED TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

VISIT THE ULYSSES S. GRANT HISTORIC SITE with Marian Bauer and Pat Shores
7400 Grant Road, St. Louis, MO 63123 Cost: \$15.00 to benefit Dollars for Scholars. Send reservations to Marian Bauer.

Ulysses S. Grant is one of the most famous Americans of his era. It is his legacy as a person that resonates so strongly at his White Haven home, now known as Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site. At White Haven, you can experience the nation's division over slavery and its aftermath through one family's perspective.

We will stop by the Visitor's Center, watch the 22-minute film in the Theater, listen to a presentation in the classroom, visit the White Haven house, check out the Park Museum in the historic stable, enjoy the historic site grounds, and explore the Book Store.

Lunch on our own at Helen Fitzgerald's Irish Grill & Pub, 3650 South Lindbergh, St. Louis, 63127.



AAUW B-C Board (continued)

Special Events:

Fall Meeting Marian Bauer and Pat Shores
Winter Party Marcia Block & Kathy Lask
Spring Luncheon Michele Mangnall and Erlaine Eltomi

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

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

Book Groups Welcome All Readers

Download book lists at

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

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

December 18 *We'll Prescribe You a Cat* by Syou

Ishida Hostess and Leader Mary McFarland

Contact Alice Crippen.

Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

No meeting in December because of the holidays.

Next meeting January 26, 2026 *Homeseeking*

by Karissa Chen Reviewer Beth Ann Murphy

Hearth Room Cafe, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village

Contact Erlaine Eltomi or Joyce Katz.

Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.

No meeting in December because of the

holidays. Next meeting January 13, 2026

Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life by Nicholas

Kristof Hostess Terri Ciccolella Facilitator Angie

Janik

Contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

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

No meeting in November or December. Next

meeting January 22, 2026 *All the Colors of the*

Dark by Chris Whitaker Reviewer Kay Meyer

All meetings via Zoom. To join Zoom meeting:

<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83173795268?pwd=tBfxdkYmFSYWGUC1FNzK7nNKzON7g.1>

Meeting ID: 831 7379 5268

Passcode: 701526

Call-in: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

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

No meeting in December. We will meet again January

22, 2026. If you like movies and discussion you will enjoy

this group. Contact Ann Campion Riley or Mersine

Kallaos.

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

a different park each month, April through October.

Next walk will be April 22, 2026.

Contact Michele Mangnall to be added to the contact list.

Play Readers 3rd Monday, 12:15 p.m.

Members of the group will be notified of plans for December.

Contact Marilyn Fletcher.

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

December 17 Out to Lunch will be wonderful at the

lovely Pan D'Olive, 1603 McCausland Ave. We have gone there before and it is always a hit with the group.

Please call or email Barb McQuitty by Saturday,

Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought

Next luncheon Wed., January 24, 2026, 11 am - 2 pm.

Our speaker, Doris Yohe, will share with us her experience of "Travels in a Small Camper." Munching Matters meets at Hearth Room Café, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village, Town and Country 63017. Sign-up sheet will be available at the next B/C meeting. Further Munching Matters meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesdays in February and March, 2026. Speakers to be announced.

For more information contact Doris Nistler.

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

Bridge groups are not meeting in December.

Social Bridge 3rd Monday, 10 a.m.

January 19 Contact Ellen Friedman or Jean Light.

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

January 6 Contact Chris Magilligan or Elaine Frost.

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

January 27 Contact Elaine Frost or Alice Crippen.

2026-2028 Branch Elected Position Nomination Form
P. 1: general information

Nominations Requested for 2026-2028 Elected Officers and Directors
By The Nominating Committee Bette Bude and Marge Anderson

The branch needs your help in finding members ready and able to be part of our branch's leadership.

The committee is accepting your nominations for the 2026-2028 elected officers and directors. These positions follow:

Co-President
Co-Vice President Program
Co-Vice President Membership
Finance Officer
Co-Director AAUW Fund
Co-Director Public Policy
Secretary/Archivist

For job descriptions for any of these positions, please contact Carol Anthony or Janet Sloey.
See the next page for the branch nominating form to send in. *You may also nominate a person by calling or emailing Marge or Bette.

Who to nominate:

- 1. Yourself. You know the areas where you can serve! OR**
- 2. You may also nominate a member.**

Please follow these steps to nominate a member:

1. Receive permission from the person you are nominating.
2. Use the nomination form on the next page, or on the branch website under Flyers & Forms. *

Members: If you are asked to take a position, please seriously consider accepting the nomination. You will make many friends and make a valued contribution to AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield.

Marge Andersen and Bette Bude are members of the nominating committee and will, with the head of the committee, review your nominees and prepare the slate of officers. Please send your nomination form in by **December 20, 2025.**

***You also may call or email either Marge or Bette with your nominee.**

Thank you for participating in choosing your leadership,

2026-2028 Branch Elected Position Nomination Form

The following positions are open for nominations:

1. Co-President
2. Co-VP Program
3. Co-VP Membership
4. Finance Officer (some accounting knowledge)
5. AAUW Fund Co-director
6. AAUW Public Policy Co-director
7. Secretary/Archivist

I have permission from _____

to make the following nomination: I nominate

for the elected position of _____.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

My email: _____ My phone: _____

Please send this form to Marge Andersen or to Bette Bude. Also, you may email it to either or call with your nomination. Phone numbers are listed in the Directory. The deadline for nominations is December 20, 2025.