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Branching Out

The Ballwin-Chesterfield Newsletter

January, 2026

Volume 46 Number 6

See the branch directory for telephone numbers and email addresses.



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

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD-AAUW BRANCH MEETING

Thursday, January 8, 2026 BY ZOOM

January's branch meeting will be held on Zoom. You will receive an email with the link from Carolyn Brown. After you receive this invitation, just click the link and join. There will not be a waiting room, and you will not need a code to enter.



January Speaker: Emeara Burns

Emeara Burns is the Fundraising Development Officer for the St. Louis Story Stitchers, where she has dedicated eleven years to advancing the organization's mission. She is passionate about creating artistic programs and opportunities for at-risk youth, helping them grow into confident, professional artists. Her work supports the continued growth of St. Louis as a vibrant and thriving arts city.

Peace of Mind highlights Story Stitchers' annual Peace in the Prairie program, where inner-city youth spend a transformative weekend immersed in native prairie lands. Through hikes, campfires, creative expression, podcasts, and intentional disconnection from daily stressors, participants experience the healing power of nature. This presentation explores how quiet, open landscape fosters meaningful mental-health shifts and supports youth in reconnecting with themselves and their creativity.

AAUW-BC BOARD MEETING -- NO MEETING IN JANUARY

NEXT BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 5

International Relations Lecture Series

January 13, 2026, 10:45 am

Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, Upper Auditorium

Below is the Zoom information to copy and paste which will be used when lectures cannot be held in person because of bad weather. The reason Zoom is not offered as a convenience for every lecture is that a donation basket is passed through the audience to help raise funds for the program. **ZOOM for WINTRY WEATHER ONLY** (The Ballwin-Chesterfield practice is to cancel in-person meetings if Rockwood or Parkway schools close.)

Meeting ID: 819 6279 7894 Passcode: 412511

For printed newsletters, readers can email pattymurrayAAUW@gmail.com for directions

In this issue:

- p. 1 Meetings, Lecture series
- p. 2 Presidents' message, Public Policy
- p. 3 BC Boosters
- p. 4 Lilly Ledbetter
- p. 5 December party
- p. 6 Dollars Events
- p. 7 Interest Groups

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS



Carol Anthony

Janet Sloey

Presidents' Corner **By Carol Anthony and Janet Sloey**

It is a new year, and new things are happening at AAUW. You can look forward to a new Dollars for Scholars event that will be a larger FUNdraiser than typical DFS events. We have planned a "Game Day" for Friday, February 20, 2026, at the Hearth Room. This is a four-hour event where you can play the game or games of your choice at a reserved table with your friends. We will play from 10 a.m. until lunch which is served at noon. After dessert we will resume our games. There is more information on page 6 of this newsletter.

January's branch meeting will be held on Zoom. You will receive an email with the link from Carolyn Brown. After you receive this invitation, just click the link and join. There will not be a waiting room, and you will not need a code to enter.

If you have not seen or heard about the film "Librarians," it will be aired on PBS during the month of February and is highly recommended. Lastly, we want to thank everyone who helped make our Winter Party so enjoyable. We are looking forward to all that 2026 has to offer in AAUW.

PUBLIC POLICY

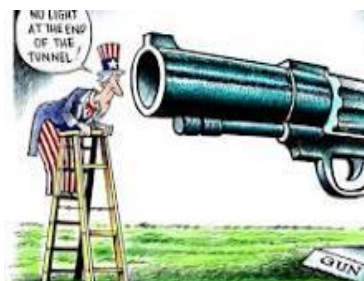
What's New in the Area of Gun Laws? **By Public Policy Committee Member Carol Derington**

Are you aware that Congress is considering a national concealed carry in immediate danger? Well, I wasn't!

FYI The state of Missouri has allowed permitless carry since 2017. Open carry is legal without a permit, and local governments may ban open carrying of firearms unless the person has a valid Missouri issued permit or a permit Missouri honors through reciprocity.

The Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act (HR 38) would force every state to accept the weakest gun laws in the country - enabling anyone to carry concealed guns nationwide, ignoring state laws and undermining public safety. For example, an armed domestic abuser would be able to chase their victim/victims across state lines with impunity. How much more devastating might something this be for our community?

Just another thing to keep your eye on.



AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

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 of 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 or college scholarships for mature women.
\$500	Platinum Level	Helps fund a scholarship for a mature woman finishing a degree.

At the January-April meetings we will be collecting donations 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.

AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

2026 – 2028 SLATE OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

By Nominating Committee Members Bette Bude, Margaret Andersen, and Marcia Block

The branch nominating committee, consisting of Margaret Andersen, Bette Bude, and Marcia Block thanks everyone who participated in the nominating process for the 2026 – 2028 term. The official nominating period ended on December 20 with a full slate of nominees. Each is qualified and willing to represent our members with dedication to the priorities of our local branch and to AAUW national.

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, any additional nominations may be made from the floor at the annual meeting.

REMEMBERING LILLY LEDBETTER

(Reprinted from Carol Davis-McDonalds' December Kirkwood-Webster Groves Newsletter)

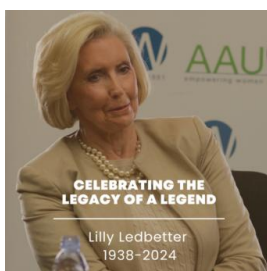
The Movie, Lilly, About Lilly Ledbetter's Fight for Equal Pay, is now on Netflix

The movie follows the true story of Lilly Ledbetter, who led the charge in the historic *Ledbetter v. Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.* case. The *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009* is a landmark federal statute in the United States that was the first bill signed into law by U.S. President Barack Obama on January 29, 2009.

Ms. Ledbetter's story resonated with so many women fighting for fair pay. After almost 20 years of working at Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., Ms. Ledbetter received a note revealing that she, the only female supervisor, was being paid 40 percent less than her male peers. Ms. Ledbetter filed a gender discrimination lawsuit in 1998 that made its way to the U.S. Supreme Court, only to have the court say in 2007 that she had been paid unfairly long enough to make it legal.

Ms. Ledbetter and AAUW had a long-lasting, strong, and productive relationship, and we held her in high esteem as an unwavering icon and trailblazer in the fight for equal pay. Together, Ms. Ledbetter, AAUW, and countless other organizations advocating for equal pay participated in marches, wrote letters, and sent emails which motivated Congress to pass the *Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act in 2009*. Today, we continue her legacy by championing equal pay legislation such as the *Paycheck Fairness Act*, which would give workers new tools for ensuring that employers pay women and men equally for equal work.

As Lilly said in a Q&A session with AAUW, "The gender pay gap is everybody's issue." Lilly Ledbetter never stopped fighting for gender pay equity. The laws at the time failed her, and yet she never stopped advocating for better laws and better pay for women. In her memory and in her honor, AAUW vows to continue the fight.



AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

LATEST BRANCH MEETING

The Annual Winter Party: December 11, 2025

Everyone had a wonderful time at the winter party – good company, good food, a good time. Poinsettias decorated the tables, and lively chatter filled the air as members mingled, bought raffle and Lotto tickets and bid on Elegant Edibles. The Valley Park High School Show Choir provided entertainment. Many thanks to Marcia Block and Kathy Lask, co-chairs and their committee members, the volunteers, and everyone who attended.



Chairs Marcia Block (L) and Kathy Lask,



Welcome Table: Sage Taber, Nancy Price, Joyce Katz, Elaine Frost



Charming Entertainers from Valley Park HS



Raffle and drawings, gifts, poinsettias, candy and goodies added to the fun.



ELEGANT EDIBLES returned
Lavish bids were made on gourmet creations,
mostly homemade specialties



Long-time member Margaret Estes (L) with
Jane Hemer

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.

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
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
2025-6 Directory Joyce Katz
STEM Facilitators Group
Web Manager Carolyn Brown

NEW EVENT! GAME DAY

Friday, February 20

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Hearth Room

Cost: \$45 (\$35 to reserve the room and lunch + \$10 for DFS)

Don't miss a day of play with friends. Bring your favorite game, invite your posse, and enjoy lunch for a February fun day!

Lunch will be served at noon. The menu charge includes beverage, garden salad, entrée, fruit cup, dessert, and gratuity.

Your entree choices are:

Chicken Salad Sandwich

Quiche du Jour

Chicken Club Wrap

Veggie Bowl.

Vegan, vegetarian, and dietary options are available.

Reservations deadline is February 6, 2026.

Sign up at the January meeting or contact Carol Anthony or Janet Sloey to reserve a table. Make check out to AAUW B-C.

Appointed Directors (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.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.

January 15 *God of the Woods* by Liz Moore
Hostess Cay Noble Reviewer Alice Crippen
Contact Alice Crippen.

Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

January 26 *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.

January 13 *Chasing Hope: A Reporter's Life* by Nicholas Kristof
Facilitator Angie Janik Hostess Terri Ciccolella
Contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

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

January 22 *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
For a clickable link to the meeting 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.

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.*

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

January 22 Meet at Talayna's (Olive & Woods Mill Rd., Chesterfield). 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. Our 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.

January 19 To be announced for January. Membership will be notified as to date and place.
Contact Marilyn Fletcher.

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

January 15 *Bartolino's Twin Oaks* 1304 Big Bend, Ballwin, MO 63021
Happy New Year! We are looking forward to getting together at Bartolino's Twin Oaks. It's in the tall apartment building's ground floor. Give yourself a belated gift of a delightful lunch out. Feel free to invite a friend as well. Be there at 11:30 a.m. Call or email Barb McQuitty for reservations by Monday, January 12.
Looking forward to seeing you at Bartolino's Twin Oaks. Be sure to wear your best smile! *Contact Barb McQuitty*

Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought

Wednesday, January 14, 2026, 11 am - 2 pm

The Hearth Room, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village Shopping Center, upper level, Clayton & Woods Mill Rds., Town & Country 63017

Munching Matters features a different B-C member as speaker each month

January's speaker, Doris Yohe, will share her experience of "Travels in a Small Camper." A limited menu will be offered at attendees' expense.

Sign up sheets will be available at the January branch meeting. Further luncheon meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Wednesdays in February and March, speakers to be announced. For more information, contact Doris Nistler.