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## Branching Out

### The Ballwin-Chesterfield Newsletter

February 2026

Volume 46 Number 7

See the branch directory for telephone numbers and email addresses.



Contact: State: [aauwmo.org](http://aauwmo.org)  
 Branch:  
<https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/>

#### BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD AAUW BRANCH MEETING

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

Ballwin Golf Course Event 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.

November Speaker: Sara Ruiz, Executive Director, the Ashrei Foundation

By Program Chair Marcia Block

Sara Ruiz will speak about Photo ID Access in Missouri and the Ashrei Foundation's efforts to assist clients in obtaining this vital document. Since 2022, Sara has served as the Executive Director of The Ashrei Foundation and before that worked as the Executive Director of the St. Louis Inter-Faith Committee on Latin America. She holds a Bachelor's degree from SLU and a Master's in Latin American Studies from the University of Arizona. She currently lives in South St. Louis City with her husband, Carlos, and son Alexander.



The Ashrei Foundation imagines a just Missouri, where the way we look, where we are from, or who we define ourselves to be does not limit our access to quality and affordable healthcare, education, housing, technology, and economic stability. We strive to heal and repair Missouri through justice and equity.

#### AAUW-BC BOARD MEETING --

NEXT BOARD MEETING: FEBRUARY 5

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.

#### St. Martha's Donations By St. 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 this year. Since the last collection we made was in November, please consider giving a bigger donation to cover the two months we missed in December and January. Here are the only things for Ballwin-Chesterfield members to donate to St. Martha's every month:

Toilet paper	New Bath towels
Paper towels	Reusable bags
	Feminine pads

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## AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS



Carol Anthony

Janet Sloey

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

Greetings to all as we celebrate Black History Month, a month of friendship and love. As we begin February, we continue to strive to improve the lives of others through our mission of gender equity for women and girls.

We are looking forward to the AAUW Game Day on February 20<sup>th</sup> at The Hearth Room, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village, Town and Country, MO. Time is running out for your chance to get a table together to play your favorite game and enjoy a wonderful lunch. Proceeds go to our scholarship fund.

The IBC Spring Fling will be held March 28th at the Racquet Club Ladue.. This will be a time to honor our Ballwin-Chesterfield IBC Barbara Lackritz Award honoree, Bette Bude. We hope members will be eager to attend.

Do not forget that B-C Boosters is an ongoing fundraiser for the branch. We will collect contributions until April, which will be allocated to the Operating Fund, which includes scholarships. You may mail your contribution to Linda Roberson or bring it to a branch meeting. Any amount is welcome. These very important contributions help keep our branch going.

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS** The lecture series continues on the second Tuesday of each month, January through April and is held at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road. For more information, contact Susie Teicher (contact information in the *Directory*).

### Save the Date!

By Immediate Past President Sage Taber

#### IBC Spring Luncheon

**Saturday, March 28, 2026 \$45.00**

**Racquet Club Ladue, 1600 Log Cabin Lane, Ladue**

We will be honoring Sheroes as the fundraiser, so be thinking of the important women in your life you would like to honor. Our branch is presenting Bette Bude with the Barbara Lackritz Award. (see p. 4)

### REMEMBERING ANN BUCKMAN

Elizabeth "Ann" Warner Buckman passed away peacefully on December 23, 2025, at age 91, surrounded by her loving family.

Ann was a long-time member of our branch and maintained her membership to the present despite declining health. In the early 2000's, Ann frequently attended branch meetings and events. She helped establish the Duplicate I bridge group, which continues today.

Ann was born on October 30, 1934, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She attended Carleton College for 2 years, then graduated from the University of Wisconsin with a degree in education. Ann taught in seven states throughout her career as an elementary teacher.

Ann was a founding member of the St. Louis Assistance League and actively participated in AAUW, Kappa Alpha Theta, and the St. Louis Bridge Center. She enjoyed tennis, golf, bridge, reading and spending time with family. She will be sadly missed.

Janet Sloey, AAUW B-C Care Notes

## AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

### B-C BOOSTER SPONSORSHIP HELPS 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.

Donations in any amount are appreciated. These levels are established for recognitions:

\$25-\$49 "Blue Level" supports 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

\$200-\$499 "Gold Level" supports St. Louis Science Fair awards to high school women with outstanding projects

\$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. You may wish to use this form. Indicate your sponsorship level (may be made by individuals or groups).

Sponsorship Level	_____ \$25 Blue
	_____ \$50 Bronze
	_____ \$100 Silver
	_____ \$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 the branch meeting.

### DONATE BOOKS TO BENEFIT DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

By Used Book Coordinator Linda Roberson



Book sales will return to branch meetings in February. Members donate used books, puzzles, and games, and these items will be sold at the branch meetings in February, March, and April. Proceeds from the book sale are donated to Dollars for Scholars. Volunteers will display sale items and take any unsold books, games, or puzzles to the used bookstore.

To have successful book sales 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 paper backs which garner the most money.

Puzzles and games are welcome.

By buying some of these items at the branch meeting before they go to the used bookstore, you are supporting our non-traditional women returning to college with your donations and purchases.

**Our Volunteers for the February Used Book Sales are Patricia Shores, Marian Bauer, and Marilyn Fletcher.**

## AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

### **BETTE BUDE NAMED BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD'S 2025 IBC "SHERO"** **Announcing Ballwin-Chesterfield 2029 Barbara Lackritz Honoree** **By Barbara Lackritz Committee Member Marcia Block**

Congratulations to the Ballwin-Chesterfield 2026 Barbara Lackritz Awardee, **Bette Bude**. She will be recognized at the IBC Spring Luncheon on Saturday, March 28, 2026.



Bette is always to be found doing something amazing for the branch, for gender equity for women and girls, and for the community. She provides both service and leadership in multiple areas. Most recently members know her for the Friday Reminder and the Sips for Scholars DFS fundraiser. She frequently sponsors DFS events, chaired the Nominating Committee, served on the STEM Committee from its inception, the Winter Party Committee, and hosts and leads book club events. In prior years she has served as Branch Co-President, Co Vice President-Program, Public Policy Chair when she co-organized the Stem Cell Community Forum, and Newsletter Co-Editor for eight years. Bette formulated the idea and helped develop the guidelines for the STEM Girls of Promise program. She developed and collaborated with three other STEM members to produce the "[Why So Few?](#)" [Traveling Tool Kit](#)," which was recognized and awarded by AAUW. She initiates and is always available when needed.

Bette taught language arts at the secondary level, especially expository writing in the content areas, for many years, where she led not only in the classroom but in developing curriculum, presenting workshops, and writing and receiving grants for classroom projects. She was active in presenting at national and local conferences. She received the Pillar of Parkway award and was recognized as Parkway Central Middle School Teacher of the Year.

In the community, Bette has been active in her church's outreach activities in the community, including preparing meals, with her 2-person team, for men in a homeless shelter. She developed the curriculum and taught classes through a Concordia Seminary endorsed mission program for Asian immigrants working in the community and for professionals from China working at Washington University and other science centers. Bette also taught in an after-school reading/writing program for school-age residents who were wards of the court at the General Protestant Children's Home.

Bette Bude is certainly worthy of the Barbara Lackritz Award. Please mark March 28 on your calendar and plan to be there to recognize her for her service and leadership.

[Learn more about this award and event.](#)

## AAUW BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH NEWS

### JANUARY BRANCH MEETING REPORT

The January branch meeting was held on Zoom with 36 members participating. Brief reports from branch officers were given. The January speaker Emeara Burns, who is the Fundraising Development Officer for the St. Louis Story Stitchers, spoke about the Peace in the Prairie program which explores how quiet, open landscape fosters meaningful mental-health shifts and supports youth in reconnecting with themselves and their creativity.

A summary of the meeting can be found [at https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/latest-branch-meeting/](https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net/latest-branch-meeting/)

### FINANCE REPORT by Finance Officer Jean Light

The winter party was well attended and a remarkable success! Thanks to everyone who purchased box lunches, raffles, elegant edibles, and made donations. In total, \$3,414 was raised to support the AAUW Ballwin-Chesterfield Operating Fund.

Donations to the AAUW Fund and the B-C Booster program are still welcome and encouraged. If you have already made your donations, thank you! If not, remember that donations to either or both programs can be any amount you wish.

Donations to the B-C Boosters can be paid by check (use the form on page 3) and sent to Linda Roberson at her address in the Directory. Donations to AAUW Fund can be made via credit card on the AAUW national website or by check made out to AAUW (with AAUW Fund in the memo line) and sent to my address in the Directory.



### Save the Date for the 2026 Legislative Briefing Saturday, February 28, 2026, via Zoom from 9 am - 12 pm.

Join with leaders from organizations with strong advocacy positions who are working to influence Missouri Legislative action. The annual briefing is informative in general, but also specific, in that it helps branches determine what specific focus areas they will work on. The Legislative Briefing allows Missouri organizations with common missions to share their activities with others at this free public event. Leaders will briefly overview their organization and explain their main legislative priorities, along with the bill numbers, titles, and the authors they want us to monitor.

### AAUW of Missouri Public Policy Priorities By B-C Public Policy Committee Member Pat Shores

#### The State Committee will:

- Plan, organize, and carry out Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign.
- Set standardized branch goals based on branch and national needs.
- Work with branch designee/president to help organize and implement actions if needed.

#### The Branch will:

Following state provided GOTV guidelines, each branch will track their advocacy work to show our success across the state.

Build on the action items that will be most productive, most effective, and most successful.

#### The Missouri committee has adopted three priorities:

- Voter Priorities
- Support Public Education
- Women's Health Issues

Each priority has multiple specific action items suggested for branches to meet the goal. The Ballwin-Chesterfield Public Policy Directors will decide which action plans are right for Ballwin-Chesterfield to pursue. Go the ballwin-chesterfield website, [https:// ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net](https://ballwinchesterfield-mo.aauw.net), to read the complete Missouri Public Policy document.

## Dollars for Scholars Program

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

### GAME DAY

See the flyer on page 8

**Friday, February 20, The Hearth Room, Clayton Rd. and Rt. 141 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 or 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.

### 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  
Directory Joyce Katz  
STEM Facilitators Group  
Web Manager Carolyn Brown

#### 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

### Missouri Civil War Museum

**Thursday, April 16, 2026 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**By Marian Bauer and Pat Shores**

**222 Worth Road, St. Louis, MO 63125. \$22.00 (\$7.00 for the Museum \$15.00 for Dollars for Scholars) Reservations to Marian Bauer**

Come visit Missouri's Largest Civil War Museum with us. The museum is located at the Jefferson Barracks Historic Site just minutes south of St. Louis. The museum has hundreds of original artifacts on display related to Missouri's involvement in the American Civil War which tell the story of the thousands of men and women who lived during our nation's defining moments in history. We will hear about the history of Jefferson Barracks and the Museum building from the staff and take a self-guided tour of the museum. After about two hours in the museum we'll drive through Jefferson Barracks cemetery and head to lunch.

Lunch is on your own at Café Telegraph Smoke Shack, 2650 Telegraph Road, St. Louis, where the specialties are slow smoked BBQ and brick oven pizza.



## 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.

**February 19** *The Director* by Daniel Kehlman  
Hostess Brenda Bussen Reviewer Chris Magilligan  
Contact Alice Crippen.

#### Literature II 4th Monday, 10 a.m.

Hearth Room Cafe, 265 Lamp & Lantern Village  
**February 23** *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout. Reviewer Linda Roberson  
Contact Erlaine Eltomi or Joyce Katz.

#### Reading Reality 2nd Tuesday, 1 p.m.

**February 10** *The Wide, Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition ... Final Voyage of Captain James Cook*  
by Hampton Sides  
Facilitator & Hostess Jan Horner  
Contact Marcia Block or Mary Kay Wolfe.

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

**February 26** *Heartland: A Memoir of Working Hard and Being Broke in the Richest Country on Earth* by Sarah Smarsh Reviewer Patty Murray  
All meetings via Zoom. To join Zoom meeting:  
<https://us05web.zoom.us/j/83173795268?pwd=tBfxdkYmFSYWYGUC1FNzK7nNKzON7g.1>  
Meeting ID: 831 7379 5268 Passcode: 701526  
For a clickable link to the meeting contact Patty Murray  
[pattymurrayaaauw@gmail.com](mailto:pattymurrayaaauw@gmail.com).

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

#### Social Bridge 3rd Monday, 10 a.m.

**February 16** Contact Ellen Friedman or Jean Light.

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

**February 3** Contact Chris Magilligan or Elaine Frost

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

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

**February 26** 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.

**February 16** Not yet decided for February. Membership will be notified as to date and place.  
Contact Marilyn Fletcher.

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

**No Out-to-Lunch for February.**  
Contact Barb McQuitty.

**Munching Matters: Lunch with Food for Thought**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 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

Our speaker in February will be Elaine Frost. A limited menu will be offered at attendees' expense. Sign-up sheet will be available at the February branch meeting. Next meeting/lunch is scheduled for the 2nd Wednesday in March, speaker to be announced. For more information contact Doris Nistler.

Join the  
Fun!

## AAUW B-C Game Day Friday, Feb. 20, 2026 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



### "The Hearth Room"

Lunch Served at Noon

Includes beverage, garden salad, entree, fruit cup, dessert & gratuity



(Vegan, Vegetarian & Dietary Options available )

**Menu** Includes Your Choice of :

#### **Chicken Salad Sandwich:**

Baked chicken breast, red grapes, celery, & toasted almonds in our special creamy sauce.

Served on a croissant with lettuce & tomato.

#### **Quiche de Jour**

Smoked Ham and Cheddar

#### **Chicken Club Wrap**

This salad style wrap features chicken breast, bacon, cheddar cheese, shredded lettuce, tomato, onion, avocado & ranch dressing.

#### **Veggie Bowl**

Sautéed zucchini, asparagus, mushrooms, onions, garlic & black beans in marinara sauce on white rice. Topped with feta cheese & served with Ciabatta toast



Bring your game. Number of tables are limited!  
Reservation Deadline February 6, 2025



**COST:** \$35 for room and lunch plus a \$10 donation for Scholarships

**\$45 Checks Made out to AAUW B-C**