



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

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Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes
Program Committee Co-VPs

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Membership Co-VPs

Volume 49

November 2013

Pat Kelemen, Editor

NOVEMBER BRANCH MEETING--by Judy Holmes

The November Branch meeting will take place on Monday, November 18 at 7:00 pm in the Educational Building at Immanuel Church of Christ, 221 Church Street in Ferguson. The meeting and program are open to the public and members should feel free to bring a guest.

The topic for the program is Immigration.

The current immigration situation in the United States has caused concern on both sides of the political spectrum. To learn more about some of the issues, the November 18 branch meeting will present information on services offered to new Americans and the larger community by the International Institute of St. Louis.

Kelly Moore, Community Relations and Program Development Supervisor at the Institute will be the speaker. Ms. Moore has been with the International Institute for ten years. After graduating from Bradley University, she spent some time in the Peace Corps in West Africa, dealing with water sanitation.

BOARD MEETING

The board will meet at 11:30 am on Monday, November 4 at the Corner Coffee House in Ferguson. All members are welcome to attend.

Carolyn's Corner

What a great October program! Many thanks to Toni Burrow for recruiting this excellent panel and to Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes for orchestrating the presentation. It is good to know that school administrators, counselors and teachers are working together with their students, from kindergarten through high school, to address the issue of bullying, and striving to make our schools safe places for our children and grandchildren. Thanks to everyone who helped to set up, greet panelists and guests, and take down afterwards. It was a great evening, one of the best we've had!

Photographs of members of the panel representing Hazelwood and Ferguson Florissant School Districts follow.



We were pleased to have members of the girls' robotic team join us last night. These are our STEM girls and they are amazing! Toni Burrow has spent many hours helping to prepare them for the competition, October 27, and I hope some of us can attend and support them. Again, thank you to everyone who has volunteered as a mentor to the team.

We have much to look forward to, including the Gender Studies Seminar, October 26 from 9 to 5:30 at UMSL, Lifelong Learning Human Trafficking Program, November 8 from 8 to 12:30 at UMSL, and Immigration issues at our branch meeting November 18. Please sign up for holiday gift wrapping at Barnes and Noble in December. We will decide at the November meeting to which cause we will be contributing the proceeds.

I would like to extend our ongoing thanks to Wanda Young, keeper of the key, for providing us with a meeting place, and to Immanuel UCC for the use of their facilities.

Carolyn Herkstroeter
President

ROBOTICS--by Toni Burrow and Carolyn Herkstroeter

Pakt's Youth ImPakt Program--Art Enrichment and STEM (AES)

In a collaborative partnership with Pakt Community Resource Center, members of Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch have enjoyed serving as mentors to "The Dominant Lego Girls" Robotic Team. Working through FIRST Lego League, an international Robotics organization, the teams are given a specific project and robots, made of Legos, must be programmed to solve problems associated with the theme. The FIRST Lego League challenge for this year is "Nature's Fury". The teams for this year are working to solve problems in natural disaster situations.

MEET THE STEM GIRLS!

This is what the girls on the team said about being involved:

Ja'Maya (6th grade): "I thought it would be a great opportunity to help me in school and give me a great scholarship." Her favorite subject is math.

Arianna (8th grade): "My mother wanted me to do it, but it seemed like it would be fun." Her favorite subject is English. She likes to sing.

Anastasia (6th grade): "Building the robots would keep me occupied." Her favorite subject is math.

Dominique(6th grade): "What made me decide is that I thought it would be a good chance to know the other girls and to learn how to do robotics." Her favorite subject is language arts.

Laurnyn (7th grade): “It would be a good experience.”

Kayla (6th grade): “We were asked if we wanted to be in this class. It would be a good opportunity for us. I thought I would enjoy it.” Her favorite subject is math.

Ke’Santi (6th grade): “I thought it would be a good opportunity, a new experience, different from a regular program, where I could be involved, not just static.” She likes writing next best to math; also science and reading.

The first round of competition is Sunday, October 27th at Bishop Dubourg High School, 5850 Eichelberger St., 63109, in south St. Louis. For information about times, or if you would like to car pool, contact Carolyn,
The individual judging on presentation and team work is in the morning and the teams compete with their robots in the afternoon. Let’s support our amazing girls!

PUBLIC POLICY--by Martha Panetti

As I write on Monday, October 14, 2013, there is still no solution to the shut down of the federal government and the looming deadline to raise the debt ceiling. I hope there will be a satisfactory settlement by the time you read this.

No doubt many of you have been joining AAUW and others in urging Congressional leaders to reopen the government. Those elected to lead know that the current impasse can not continue indefinitely. They also know perfectly well that America’s bills must be paid. We have been so blessed in this country. Personally, I am extremely thankful that I live in this country, that I have enjoyed the many opportunities offered, including the right to criticize my government or praise it.

Are you covered by the U.S. Constitution? The 19th Amendment gives women the right to vote. But that is the only right protecting women that is in the constitution. For example, Title IX continues to be attacked and some of its provisions have been defunded. Laws, after all, can be changed. Amending the constitution is more difficult. The Equal Rights Amendment needs to be ratified.

“An occupational hazard?” No doubt you are aware of the problem of sexual assault in the military and differing opinions on what to do about it. The recent letter from AAUW Executive Director Linda Hallman illustrates just how serious this issue is.

In her letter to AAUW members, Director Hallman tells the story of a young woman who, while serving as a military intelligence analyst in a war zone, was attacked by two U.S. servicemen who not only raped her, but videotaped and then publicized the video of the attack.

Even more disturbing: the response from officials when this woman filed a complaint.

The chaplain: told her she **didn’t act like a rape victim . . . not jumpy enough.**

Her commanding officer: told her **if she continued to press charges, he would charge her with adultery (she’s married) and alcohol consumption in a combat zone (her attackers forced alcohol down her throat).**

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit: ruled **Rape is an OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD of the military.**

Action suggested: You can sign the “Message of Encouragement” enclosed in Director Hallman’s letter

AAUW celebrates 125 years of Fellowships and Grants

AAUW’s long tradition of supporting women’s education began in 1888 when we awarded our first fellowship, \$350 to American scholar Ida M. Street. Since that time, AAUW has awarded nearly \$100 million to 12,000 fellowship, grant, and award recipients from more

and you can send a contribution to AAUW Funds to help AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund work to correct this policy.

ERA FACT

The Equal Rights Amendment, Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.

WANTED:

Someone to coordinate the schedule for holiday gift wrapping volunteers in December.

Barnes and Noble in Florissant

Please contact Carolyn,

ANNUAL YEARBOOK

Lillian Boly says that the 2013-14 yearbook is ready. She will distribute them at the October branch meeting and the November 5 book group meeting. Yearbooks will be mailed to those who are not present at either of these events.

Also, there is more information to add to the entry for new dual member Amy Weisser. Amy holds the following degrees: BS Journalism at SIU Carbondale and Masters in Social Welfare, University of Kansas. Please add this information in your yearbook.

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO

The First Friday video will be shown on November 1 at 1:30 at Nancy Gerber's apartment. The movie will be "Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines," a slapstick comedy about an air race from London to Paris in 1910. It is not very new, but enjoyable.

Please contact Nancy if you plan to attend.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on November 5 at Cannoli's at 11:30. Pat Kelemen will review *My Beloved World* by Sonia Sotomayor. Let Pat know if you will attend.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome Carletta Washington, Amy Wiesser, and Myra Talkinton as new members of our branch.

The AAUW Shape the Future Membership Recruitment Campaign has increased incentives. This is the new statement:

Increased Incentives for Membership:

When a member joins at an AAUW public event, she gets national dues reduced by one-half. For every two members who join your branch, your branch gets one free national membership, up to a maximum of five. The five free memberships can be given to existing members.

We have already earned one new membership with Carletta and Myra's joining. Amy is a new dual member.

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD BRANCH MEETING

On Thursday, November 14, Ballwin-Chesterfield branch will present **Women in the Missouri Prison System** by George Lombardi, Director of Missouri Department of Corrections.

Mr. Lombardi has served in a number of capacities during his 35 years in the Missouri Department of Corrections including warden and assistant director. In January, 2009, he was confirmed as Director.

Director Lombardi has a staff of 11, 500, 75,000 probation and parolees and 30,000 inmates under his supervision across the state of Missouri. He has received many awards including the first Mel Carnahan Public Service Award from the University of Missouri Harry S Truman School of Public Affairs.

The Director will address a variety of issues relating to women in the Missouri prison system, special programs such as Paws for Parole, and the insights he has gained in his long and outstanding career.

Coffee and socializing, 8:45am, Business Meeting 9:30 am, Program 10:30 to 11:30 am at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road (at Clayton Road and 141), Chesterfield, MO 63017.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

The Downtown Lunch Group will meet at Nico, 6525 Delmar Loop, on Tuesday, November 19, at 11:45. Please call Jean Shull for reservations.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet on October 24 at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson. *Icy Sparks* by Gwyn Hyman Rubio will be reviewed by Janice Rumfelt.

CALENDAR

October 24--Adelante Book Group

October 25--Early registration deadline for Lifelong Learning program on Human Trafficking at UMSL

October 26--AAUW Gender Studies Symposium

October 27--Robotics First Lego League competition

November 1--First Friday Video

November 4--Branch Board Meeting

November 5--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

November 8--Lifelong Learning program on Human Trafficking at UMSL

November 14--Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch Meeting

November 18--Ferguson Florissant Branch Meeting

November 19--Downtown Lunch Group

December 1--Deadline for International Fellowships Applications

December 10--ERA first introduced in US Senate in 1923

December 13--ERA first introduced in US House in 1923

December 15--Deadline for Career Development Grants Applications