



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Carolyn Herkstroeter, President

Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes  
Program Committee Co-VPs

Ruth Field and Gwen Westbrooks,  
Membership Co-VPs

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

### **BOARD MEETING**

The Board will meet on Monday, April 7, at the Corner Coffee House at 11 am.

### **REPORT ON MARCH BRANCH MEETING**

The March 17 branch meeting began with a program presented by Jan Reppert, RN. She portrayed civil war nurse Emily Parsons from Cambridge, Massachusetts. Emily shared her experiences as a nurse, sometimes in St. Louis, during the war at a time when many soldiers endured amputations, lack of pain medications, and other indignities. Lack of necessary supplies led nurses to beg and cajole civilians in the area to give whatever they could to the hospitals.

During the business meeting, the slate of officers to be elected in April was both completed and announced. Also, the completion of our website and how to access it was given. See the articles below for details.

### **APRIL BRANCH MEETING**

The April 21<sup>st</sup> Branch meeting will center around women's health. The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm in the educational Building of Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson. The presentation is free and open to the public.

**Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.**



Jan Reppert, RN as Emily Parsons



Elaine, a guest, and Gwen assist Emily in showing how nurses searched battlefields looking for the wounded

### ***CAROLYN'S CORNER***

Woo Hoo! We have a website now. Thank you Pat Kelemen and website committee.

Many thanks to our nominating committee: Pat Kelemen, Gwen Westbrooks and Myra Talkington. Recruiting officers is an intense job and you have come up with a great slate. Also, congratulations to Wilzetta Bell on her nomination to a Woman of Distinction. And welcome home to Nancy Gerber after a long recovery from surgery. We look forward to seeing Nancy at meetings again. And maybe even Friday movies at her new apartment!

Thanks to Shirley for setting up the attractive, informative display at the Jamestown Branch Library. The display will move to Louis and Clark for the month of April, and hopefully on to other branches. If you'd like to arrange for and/or help set up the display at your local library, please let me know.

I would like to encourage members to participate in our branch STEM project as mentors for the DOMINANT GIRLS Robotics team. Through Robotics the girls practice math and computer applications,

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problem solving through teamwork, leadership skills and show improved study habits and better grades in school. The girls enjoy our presence at their activity and value our interest and encouragement. We will also be helping with reading skills. Thanks to Toni Burrow, for her dedication of time, effort and love in order to give these girls a chance to succeed.

To volunteer on THURSDAY AFTERNOONS, BEGINNING APRIL 3<sup>RD</sup>, FROM 4:00-5:00 AT DUCHESNE SCHOOL IN FLORISSANT, PLEASE CONTACT ME to schedule which Thursdays you are available.

At our next meeting, be sure to look at the branch scrapbook assembled by our historian, Dorothy Stade. Very nice!

There are numerous more exciting events and activities on the calendar; see dates at the end of newsletter. We are on the move!

*Carolyn*

### **NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS**

The nominating committee of Pat Kelemen, Gwen Westbrooks, and Myra Talkington worked for several weeks to develop a slate of candidates for the offices due for election this spring. The new officers will serve for 2 years. By the end of the branch meeting March 17, we had the following nominees: for Secretary, Myra Talkington; for Program Co-Vice Presidents, Wilzetta Bell and Dorothy Stade; for Co-Presidents, Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen;

Gwen Westbrooks nominated Judy Holmes as Program VP, but Judy declined. There were no other nominations from the floor.

Elections will take place at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Branch Meeting. Nominations from the floor may be made at that time, before voting takes place.

### **VISIT OUR WEBSITE**

Our branch website has recently "gone live," which means that it can be viewed by branch members all over the country. It is not static but will be updated monthly, usually shortly after our newsletter goes out. Newsletters are posted there after being "purged" of personal information like addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc. to preserve privacy. Megan Morrison of site resources at AAUW national takes care of that for us.

To view just our website, go to [fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net](http://fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net). To see it and the other live branch websites, go to [site-resources.aauw.org/current-sites](http://site-resources.aauw.org/current-sites). It is fun and interesting to see what other branches all over the country are doing.

### **MEMBERS' NEWS**

**Nancy Gerber** has finally left the Life Care Center and gone home--to a new apartment, in the same complex, that spares her the need to climb stairs. Her phone numbers remain the same.

**Ruth Field's** son in Michigan died recently. Also, Ruth is preparing to move to the Denver area near her daughter. We sympathize with her great loss and will miss her once she moves away from us.

**Elaine Simpson** has had another surgery and awaits news from the doctors about whether she will need radiation. Stay strong.

**Wilzetta M. Bell** is being honored by the Top Ladies of Distinction, Inc., St. Louis Chapter. The program

#### Spring Luncheon May 17, 2014, at Hendel's Café, Florissant

The Ferguson-Florissant Spring Luncheon is always a lovely event, featuring an interesting program, installation of officers, awarding of Named Gift Recipients, special recognitions, and other exciting activities. Put the date on your calendars and plan to attend. Guests are always welcome.

topic is The Status of Women, "Unsung Heroine Humanitarian Awards Luncheon." Wilzetta is nominated for outstanding service to the community. She is to be honored at the Award Luncheon on Saturday, May 17. Congratulations!

### **SPRING MEET AND GREET**

We will welcome members, friends, and potential members on the porch at Hendel's in Florissant on Tuesday, April 22 from 4-6. Plan to attend and bring guests.

### **SAVE THE DATE--AAUW MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

This conference will take place June 13-14, 2014 at the Lodge of the Four Seasons, Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. The keynote speaker will be Liza Maatz, AAUW Vice-President of Government Relations. Attendees will be able to choose from 11 different breakout sessions, a public policy panel, an open forum, an opening reception for all attendees, and various other events/activities. Reasonable hotel and meal rates will be available.

Enjoy the beautiful Ozarks and Lake area at this outstanding AAUW conference.

More information will be available shortly. If you have questions, contact Shirley Breeze.

### **SAVE ANOTHER DATE--BRANCH PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING**

The program planning meeting for 2014-2015 will take place Monday, June 2, 2014. Judy Holmes will hostess the meeting and luncheon at Hidden Lake.

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on April 1 at 11:30 at the home of hostess Mary Ellen Starr. She will review *It Happened on the Way to War* by Rye Barcott. Bring a sandwich. Please notify Mary Ellen if you will attend.

### **FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO**

First Friday videos will resume on April 4 at 1:30 pm at the new home of Nancy Gerber (see above). The movie will be "Saving Mr. Banks." Still recovering, Nancy says she is unable to manage preparing or serving refreshments. She would appreciate it if some of those attending would bring them and/or help serve them. Notify Nancy if you plan to attend.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS LECTURE SERIES**

The 2014 International Relations Lecture Series, presented by The Tuesday Women's Association of Ethical Society and AAUW meets promptly at 10:45 in the lower meeting room of the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis, MO 63117. Free parking is available in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and to stay and discuss the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

The April program will be presented on April 8, 2014. The topic is Arab Spring and Its Future. The speaker is Dr. Hayrettin Yucesoy, Associate Professor of Arabic & Islamic Studies, Department of Jewish, Islamic, and Near Eastern Languages and Cultures (JINELC), Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Yucesoy will discuss the evolution of the Arab Spring and the situation in Syria within the context of Middle Eastern as well as international politics. The lecture will focus on civil society and politics, regional and global balance of power, and the fragility of democratic negotiation and governance during uncertain times.

### **DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP**

The Downtown Lunch Group will meet at 11:45 am on April 15 at Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar. Please email or phone Jean Shull to make your reservation.

### **ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

**Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.**

The Adelante Book Group meets at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. On April 24 they will discuss *And the Mountains Echoed* by Khaled Hosseini, led by reviewer Linda Robeson. It is a novel about finding a lost piece of yourself in someone else. It explores how we love, how we take care of one another, and how the choices we make resonate through generations.

### **FUN-RAISERS**

Lillian Boly has suggested several interesting fun-raisers that could take place in late spring, over the summer, or in the fall.

- A trip to the Blue Owl at Kimmswick, followed by a trip to the Mastodon State Park
- A trip to Cahokia Mounds--lunch and museum
- Lunch at Pere Marquette
- A trip to Washington, MO
- A trip to Hannibal to see the Mark Twain places
- A day-long trip to Springfield, IL to the new Lincoln Library

If you are interested in any of these, contact Lillian.

### **CALENDAR**

April 1--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

April 4--First Friday Video

April 7--Board Meeting

April 8--Equal Pay Day

Equal Rights Rally, Jefferson City

International Relations Lecture

April 15--Downtown Lunch Group

April 21--Branch Meeting

April 22--Spring Meet and Greet at Hendel's

April 24--Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day

Adelante Book Group

May 2-3--Missouri State Meeting, Columbia

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