



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

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BOARD MEETING

The Board **not** will meet on February 3. The next Board Meeting will be March 3, 2014. Details to follow.

Carolyn's Corner

I hope everyone who attended Game Day last Monday had a fun time, enjoyed the lunch and went home with some treasures from the raffle or silent auction. I would like to extend a huge thank you and pat on the back to a great group of volunteers. I won't begin to mention names because everyone pitched and made it happen. I do extend a special thanks to those who took charge of the auction, registration, lunch and clean-up. If I wrote down the correct figures from Lillian, we made about \$145 (in addition to our lunch and donations, which exactly paid for the lunch sandwiches!). For those who were not able to attend, don't miss it next year! I have heard from several guests that they had a good time.

As we move on into the new year, we have the following events and activities to look forward to:

WOMEN LEGISLATORS PANEL IN FEBRUARY

ERA CAMPAIGN

HAPPY HOUR TO WELCOME NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS (April)

CONTINUED ACTIVITIES WITH ROBOTICS/STEM PROJECT

And--COMING SOON TO A LIBRARY NEAR YOU: AAUW ON DISPLAY!

Our branch will showcase AAUW at the Jamestown Branch County Library in March (Women's History Month!) and Lewis & Clark Branch during April. Anyone who would like to help with the display set-up, contact Shirley or Carolyn. If you happen to pass by County Library HQ on Lindbergh in February, stop by to see the display set up by the Creve Coeur Branch.

(For details on coming events, see various articles and our monthly announcements/calendar page on the last page.)

I think we are on a roll.

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.

NO BOARD MEETING IN FEBRUARY.

Carolyn

PUBLIC POLICY by Martha Panetti

The Missouri State Legislature is now in session, as you know. You may have seen the article in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch which lists the issues the legislators consider to be of utmost importance. Some want a tax cut, some want to expand Medicaid. Funding for education and the future of the current school transfer law are of major concern, as is the perennial discussion of “right to work” legislation, caps on civil law suits, the state of Missouri highways, ethics rules.

At the same time, there are a number of issues we need to address at the federal level. I’ll start with mentioning some good news! Did you see Ed O’Keefe’s January 16 article in the Washington Post headlined “Women are wielding notable influence in Congress”? Briefly, the article notes that several U.S. Senate committees are now chaired by women. The recent budget deal and spending plans approved by both houses of Congress have women as chairs of the respective Senate Committees. Seven women on the Senate Armed Services Committee have led efforts to change procedures in the military for dealing with cases of sexual assault and rape. The Senate Agriculture Committee is chaired by Sen. Debbie Stabenow.

Did you remember that we’ll soon mark **FIVE YEARS** since President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law? While this was a giant step forward, much more still needs to be done. Lilly Ledbetter recently posted a letter to AAUW members asking us to join the effort to persuade our representatives to pass the Paycheck Fairness Act.

Many of you have seen Maria Shriver on TV recently as she discusses her new Shriver Report on the status of American women. Among other notable findings, the Shriver Report found that equal pay for women would add \$447.6 billion income to the economy and would cut the poverty rate for women in half.

These are just a few of the issues we need to address. Above all, we need to be aware of the many states who have passed/are considering laws to restrict voting rights.

FEBRUARY BRANCH MEETING

Progressive Women State Legislators

The 2014 Missouri legislative session promises to be one filled with bills and activities that will cause controversy and concern on both sides of the aisle.

Learn what several women legislators anticipate from the session, what bills they are proposing, and their thoughts on the status of several initiatives, including funding for education and Medicaid. They will share the bills that are important to them and shed light on their experiences in the male-dominated Missouri General Assembly.

This lively and dynamic panel of women legislators will include the following: Rep. Margo McNeil, Rep. Stacey Newman, Rep. Jeanne Kirkton, Rep. Karla May, State Rep. candidate Tracy McCreery, and Sharon Pace.

This community open forum will be held on Saturday, February 15 at Florissant Public Library, 195 New Florissant Road in Florissant. The meeting starts at 10:00 am, with a continental breakfast from 9:30 to 10:00. Attendees will be allowed time to ask questions of the legislators.

Sponsored by the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women, this event is open to the public. All community members are invited to attend.

There has never been a more important time for issues that are important to women and their families.

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.

ERA FACT

The Equal Rights Amendment was written by Alice Paul in 1923.

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO

Due to the illness of Nancy Gerber, there will be no First Friday Video in February. We all wish Nancy a speedy recovery.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Since winter storms caused cancellation of January Book Group, the program has shifted to February. Book Group will meet on February 4 at 11:30 at the home of Carolyn Herkstroeter. Carolyn will lead the discussion of *The Kitchen House* by Kathleen Grissom. Bring a sandwich. Please notify Carolyn if you plan to attend.

SPRING FLING

The annual Spring Fling for 2014 will take place on Saturday, March 1, 2014. Please consult the flyer included with this newsletter for important details.

SPRING FLING BASKETS

Winter **Cheer** has been chosen for the theme of the basket Ferguson-Florissant Branch will contribute to the Silent Auction at the Spring Fling. We need your contributions! Think about items that would get us through the rest of this challenging **winter**: chocolate, wine and /or wine glasses, CDs, tea, a blanket or and afghan, a good read or fun DVD, more chocolate! Bring your items to the February meeting or call Carolyn Herkstroeter or Shirley Breeze to make other arrangements. We are counting on you. **Thank you.**

LIBRARY DISPLAY

Ferguson-Florissant Branch will have a display of its activities, research reports, etc., in the display case at Jamestown Library for Women's History Month in March. Go by and check it out after March 4.

GAME DAY AND SILENT AUCTION by Lillian Boly

The games and auction day seemed to be enjoyable for those who were present. Some played card games, one group was playing Scattergories, another group played Yahtzee, and there may have been more. The lunch was good, with several delicious salads and desserts to accompany the sandwiches. The raffle brought in \$49.80, and the silent auction was for \$94.25, totaling \$144.05 for the branch treasury.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Breaking the Chains of Human Trafficking

An awareness day on the Human Trafficking issue will be held at Villa Theresa on February 1 from 10:30 to 12:00. Information that will help people decide how they can play a vital part in helping "Break the Chains of Human Trafficking" in the St. Charles area will be presented.

Villa Theresa, 206 N Main, O'Fallon, MO. Please go to the main entrance to sign in for the event.

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.

BALLWIN-CHESTERFIELD FEBRUARY SPEAKER, Thursday, February 13, 2014

Bullying, Cyber-Bullying, and Sexual Harassment, speaker James G. Thomeczek, Founder of Thomeczek LLC and Chair Missouri Council of School Attorneys

Mr. Thomeczek is uniquely qualified to address the topic of bullying and sexual harassment both as an attorney and as an educator in the Pattonville district prior to becoming an attorney. He has more than 20 years of experience representing private and public schools. He is a nationally known authority on special education law.

Bullying is an AAUW priority and a serious concern in our society.

The program will take place at Trinity Lutheran Church, 14088 Clayton Road (At Clayton and 141), Chesterfield, MO 63017. It will begin with coffee and socializing at 8:45 am, followed by a business meeting at 9:30 am. The program will be presented from 10:30-11:30 am.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP, February 27

The Adelante Book Group meets at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield.

For Black History Month, the Adelante Book Group will discuss *Mom, Me, Mom* by Maya Angelou. The reviewer will be Betty Takahashi.

In the book, the legendary author shares the deepest personal story of her life: her relationship with her mother. For the first time, Angelou reveals the triumphs and struggles of being the daughter of Vivian Baxter, an indomitable spirit whose petite size belied her larger-than-life presence.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP

The Downtown Lunch group will meet on February 18 at 11:45 am at Rigazzi's, 4945 Daggett Avenue. Please make your reservation.

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.

February 11, 2014--**Sustainable Agriculture in the 21st Century**

Dr. Gillian Acheson, Chair and Associate Professor of the Department of Geography, SIU Edwardsville

Broadly trained in the relatively new field of human geography, Dr. Acheson pursues interests in geographic education, cultural geography, and the geography of food. Beyond the problem of producing enough food for the 7.1 billion people on the planet today, there are also concerns about the safety of a global food supply and the relationship between agriculture and environmental degradation. This presentation will consider the sustainability of agriculture in light of population growth, environmental quality, and food safety.

GERALDINE FERRARO--PAVING THE WAY

This film by Ferraro's daughter Donna Zaccaro, will be screened Thursday, Feb. 27, 2014 at 7:00 pm at the Plaza Frontenac Cinema. Hosted by the Sue Shear Institute, the program will feature an appearance by Geraldine Ferraro's daughter, filmmaker Donna Zaccaro. Remarks will follow the movie. Advanced tickets are required. They are \$15 and are available at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Contact us by e-mailing Gwen.

CALENDAR

January 30--NCCWSL early registration starts
February--Vote for Favorite Art Design for Note Cards
February 1--Human Trafficking program at Villa Theresa
February 4--Tuesday Afternoon Book group
February 11--International Relations Lecture
February 13--Ballwin-Chesterfield meeting and speaker
February 14--One Billion Rising National Events
February 15--SATURDAY--Legislative Panel
February 18--Downtown Lunch group
February 27--Geraldine Ferraro--Paving the Way screened
February 27--Adelante Book Group
March--Women's History Month
March 1--Spring Fling
March 3--Board Meeting
March 4--Library display begins
March 8--International Women's Day

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