



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 at 11:00 am on March 3 at DeLeo's.

Carolyn's Corner

THREE CHEERS FOR OUR BRANCH! We just completed two exciting public activities.

On January 25 we sponsored a table at the Hazelwood School District STEM FAIR, promoting AAUW in our support of STEM education, especially for girls. Thanks to Ruth Field, Elaine Simpson, Virginia Jost, Myra Talkington and Toni Burrow and our Robotic young ladies. Toni set up the robot table and the girls did an enthusiastic job of demonstrating and explaining their project. At our table, we exhausted our supply of AAUW handouts and brought home a long list of interested women, including a graduate student in engineering at Washington University.



Robotics board at Hazelwood STEM FAIR

Saturday, February 15, we hosted an exciting and informative panel of women legislators, attended by approximately 45 people. Listening to these dedicated women gave us hope for the future of education and women's issues. They addressed many of our concerns and answered our questions. Thank you, Kathy McKemy, for all the planning and work you put into this, and to Martha Panetti, Lovene Hartman, Shirley Breeze and Judy Holmes for setting up, great refreshments, and smoothly pulling it off.

We now have several things to look forward to: Spring Fling, March 1st, provides us a chance to socialize,

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network, and enjoy a meal and inspiring program with members of our sister branches. Happy Hour for prospective members in April and installation of new officers at our May luncheon. Election of officers in April; installation of officers in May.



Ruth and Elaine at Hazelwood STEM FAIR

AND WE HAVE WORK TO DO AND ISSUES TO ADDRESS:

- Continue to send letters to Barnes & Noble as part of a community effort to keep our Florissant store open.
- Contact your state reps and senators during our AAUW ERA Blitz between now and February 27th (Call, text, e-mail, tweet or fax) and continue the campaign beyond the blitz.
- Volunteer to be a mentor to our robotics girls. No special skills needed. They just need our encouragement and support. There will be a meeting for those who are interested or want to learn more about it in the near future. Contact me. I will be sending a notice re the date.

Now is also the time to jump in and get involved. There are committees/teams to serve on--Fund Raising, Membership, PR--let us know your interests. The following offices are due for election: President, Program VP and Secretary. Please contact Pat Kelemen, chair of the nominating committee, before the March meeting if you would like to serve or recommend someone. The President must have been a member for two years. Contact Sylvia Miller to nominate someone for the 2013 named gift (in whose honor we give our branch contribution to AAUW Funds). The named gift recipient must be chosen by the branch in March.

GO FERGUSON FLORISSANT!

Carolyn



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The Progressive Women Legislators who spoke to the branch meeting on February 15 were (L to R) Rep. Karla May, Rep. Margo McNeil, Rep. Jeanne Kirkton, Rep. Stacey Newman, former Rep. and current Candidate Tracey McCreery, and Rep. Sharon Pace.

MARCH BRANCH MEETING

What Part Did Civil War Nurses Have in the Conflict?

What part did nurses play in the Civil War? How did they live? To whom was their allegiance? What was their training? How were medical supplies obtained for the War? Jan Reppert, who is an RN, will address all of these questions in her re-enactment of a Civil War nurse at the March meeting of the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) American Association of University Women. Ms. Reppert has been doing re-enactments for a number of years based upon her extensive research into nursing during the Civil War. Her performance is from the perspective of a St. Louis nurse and includes the sometimes disturbing realities of the war illnesses, treatments, and deaths.

The presentation will be March 17 at 7:00 pm in the Education Building of Immanuel UCC Church, 211 Church Street, Ferguson. It is part of the recognition of March being Women's History Month. The meeting is free and open to the public.

PUBLIC POLICY by Martha Panetti

It's been gratifying to receive so much positive feedback from the 35 people who attended our branch's panel of progressive women legislators this past Saturday (Feb. 15) at the Florissant Library. People told me they were impressed by the knowledge, energy, and commitment of the 6 legislators on the panel.

Kudos to Kathy Mc Kemy, who planned the program and lined up speakers. Many thanks to the legislators, Sharon Pace, Jeanne Kirkton, Margo Mc Neil, Karla May, Stacey Newman, and candidate Tracy Mc Creery.

Personally, I took copious notes on the many and diverse issues discussed Saturday morning. For example, I learned a lot from Stacey Newman's comments about proposed laws that would require government-issued photo ID to vote. She explained that Missouri's constitution's provisions protecting voting rights are stronger than most. So laws already passed in some states would doubtless be thrown out by the courts after an expensive lawsuit process. It would be necessary to change the Missouri Constitution in order to get a valid law, and Ms. Newman urged us to refuse to sign any petition trying to get this on the ballot and certainly to vote against any such proposition which might appear on the ballot.

While we have all read comments by those who think it would be simple for anyone to get a valid photo ID, Ms. Newman pointed out that women, especially, could lose their ability to vote because 90% of women have changed their names: therefore, they need certified marriage certificates as well as birth certificates. Obtaining these from another state requires time, effort, and money. Consider how difficult it would be to obtain documents from another country!

"Education is my passion," Margo Mc Neil told us, as she spoke of such things as day care standards and health insurance needs in addition to K-12 education. We should decline to sign petitions trying to add to the ballot provisions described as "helpful to teachers;" in fact there are efforts to remove teacher tenure.

Karla May insisted "we need our federal dollars back" as she directed us to a website detailing "[howmuch moneyhasMOleftonthetable.com](http://howmuchmoneyhasMOleftonthetable.com)". Ms. May reminded us that since our Missouri legislators have refused to expand Medicaid, Missouri taxpayers are paying taxes that help fund such Medicaid expansion in other states.

Jeanne Kirkton also spoke of the importance of expanding health care benefits. She told us that St. Louis County has an extremely high waiting list of people waiting for mental health services. For her, a top priority is rebuilding Fulton State Hospital, describing it as a "dangerous place to work . . . having the top number of workman's comp cases."

Tracy Mc Creery urged us to support stronger anti-bullying laws that would include a list of people we are

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trying to protect. In an earlier campaign, she was the first woman in Missouri to be elected as an independent.

Sharon Pace discussed health care and the fact that so many Missourians are unable to pay for needed care. She described her concern about the amount of misinformation most of us are receiving. She referenced the “war on women” as also a “war on the poor.”

I’ve barely scratched the surface of the discussion. But I hope all of you will make a point of getting more information and then following up with phone calls, emails, or letters to your elected representatives.

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. In April, we will have a display at Lewis & Clark.

We would like to have dates for the following branches: Bridgeton, St. Ann, Prairie Commons, and Natural Bridge, Ferguson Library and Baden Branch (city of St. Louis) during any months after April. Carolyn and Shirley will set up in March and April. People are needed to set up displays at the other libraries. Let them know if you can arrange for a date at any of these libraries and/or help with set up.

ERA BLITZ

Carolyn will be sending out a list of state legislators and dates to call during the next two weeks to ask for a vote for ERA. This is our St. Louis area AAUW BLITZ. Any questions, contact our Public Policy Co-Chairs, Martha Panetti and Lovene Hartman.



Rep. Sharon Pace, Rep. Stacey Newman, Candidate Tracy Mc Creery, and Kathy Mc Kemy (L to R) at the branch meeting February 15.

NCCWSL

The board has approved a \$50 donation to help a local college/university women attend the women’s student national leadership conference. This is the same amount we contributed last year.

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.

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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.

FIRST FRIDAY VIDEO

There will be no First Friday video in March.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannoli's in Florissant at 11:30 on March 4. Elaine Simpson will review *Call Me Tom* by James Giglio. Call Elaine if you plan to attend.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 am on March 18 at Feasting Fox, 4200 South Grand. Email or phone Jean Shull to 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.

March 11, 2014:

Israel/Palestine: Is Peace Possible? Speakers Rabbi Susan Talve, Founding Rabbi Central Reform Congregation and **Mazen Badra**, Teacher, Entrepreneur, Peacemaker

Rabbi Susan Talve has led her congregation in promoting ongoing relationships with local African-American and Muslim Congregations and has worked at supporting inter-faith relations in the St. Louis community. Mazen Badra migrated to the US in 2002 from Bethlehem in Israel. A teacher in the Holy Land for 17 years, he has continually promoted dialogue between Palestinians and Jews in Israel. In 2002, Mr. Badra and Rabbi Talve formed an organization called "The Children of Abraham", promoting cooperation and understanding between Palestinians and Jews. Together they will tell us of their insights into this subject.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group meets at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. Meets March 27. For Women's History Month, the Adelante Book Group will discuss *The Girls of Atomic City* by Denise Kiernan. The reviewer will be Vickie Jany. Young women from small towns across the American South were among thousands recruited to work at top-secret Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Drawing on the voices of the women who lived it--women who are now in their 80s and 90s--this book rescues a remarkable, forgotten chapter of American history from obscurity.

CALENDAR

March is Women's History Month

March 1--Spring Fling

March 1--Membership Survey deadline

March 3--Board meeting

March 4--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

March 4--AAUW display at Jamestown Library

March 8--International Women's Day

March 11--International Relations Lecture

March 14--Deadline for application for STEM CONSULTANT

March 17--Branch meeting--Nurses during the Civil War

March 18--Downtown Lunch Group

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March 27--Adelante Book Group
April 8--Equal Pay Day
April 8--Equity Rally, Jefferson City

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