



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen  
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell  
Program Vice President

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Membership Vice-President

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

### APRIL BRANCH MEETING

#### STEM in St. Louis

The April Branch Meeting featured a panel of three STEM experts, branch member Toni Burrow, Siinya Riley, and Christina Hughes.

Toni Burrow spoke about PAKT, the Robotics teams, the need for Ferguson Florissant School District students to be educated in STEM subjects as well as what another speaker called “soft skills” in order to succeed as they become adults.

Siinya Riley, who has been involved with the STEM program at the St. Louis Science Center for 25 years, presented the latest initiatives of that institution. The program at the Science Center works with area high school students. They work in various STEM areas and also learn the “soft skills” such as interviewing, confident demeanor, teaching other students what they have learned, interning at local businesses and institutions, and more. This program is nationally recognized.

Christina Hughes, Science Coordinator the Hazelwood School District, gave an overview of STEM activities in a major suburban school district. Hazelwood teachers, for instance, are being trained on how to include STEM in elementary science classes. The district is well on the way to having STEM in all levels, K-12. Hazelwood has been an innovator in school STEM programs and is known for its annual STEM Extravaganza.



STEM Panel, from left, Toni Burrow, Christina Hughes, and Siinya Riley

### MAY LUNCHEON

“How Public Policy Defined the Housing Demographic of North County” will be the program for

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the May 21 luncheon meeting.

Recent situations in many North County municipalities have generated a new look at the background of housing in the area. This presentation by Molly Metzger of Washington University in St. Louis will delve into the history of housing practices and how these affected the whole St. Louis area. She conducts research and teaches in the area of housing policy. Her work focuses on segregation, both historic and contemporary.

In addition to this important program, events that traditionally take place at the May Luncheon will be featured. These will include presentation of Named Gift honors and installation of branch officers.

The luncheon will be held at Rizzo's Restaurant, 1839 Dunn Road in Florissant, beginning at 11:30 am. Selections will be made from the luncheon menu.

This event is open to the public and branch members are encouraged to invite friends to join us. Reservations are required so that the restaurant can prepare. Contact Pat at 314-831-6884 or [pkelemen@hotmail.com](mailto:pkelemen@hotmail.com) or Shirley at 314-831-5359 or [sbreeze@mindspring.com](mailto:sbreeze@mindspring.com).

**PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Shirley Breeze  
Ferguson-Florissant Branch in Action**

As we wind down the Branch year, it is good to reflect on all we have accomplished in the last few months and our upcoming plans. We have been visible in a great number of places:

- Presented several informative and inspiring topics at our General Meetings which the public attended: African American authors; Community STEM St. Louis projects; Estate Planning for Seniors
- Mentored elementary school Robotics students
- Hosted a community-wide Writers Event
- Arranged displays at County Library Branches
- Were active and visible at AAUW and community events
  - PAKT Breakfast
  - AAUW Spring Fling
  - Statewide Equity Action Day, Jefferson City
  - Ferguson Indoor Farmers' Market
  - Hazelwood STEM Extravaganza
  - International Relations Lecture Series
  - AAUW Downtown Lunch Group
- Enjoyed out fundraiser, Game Day

Our visibility plans for the next few months include:

- Attending the State AAUW Meeting in Jefferson City
- Attending the AAUW Mid-West Regional
- Registering voters at the Ferguson Library
- Hosting booths at the Ferguson Farmers' Market
- Hosting a gala Spring Luncheon to which the public is invited
- Participating in the Ferguson Community-Wide Yard Sale
- Assisting with arrangements and attending the Equality Day Gala Luncheon

We are an active, busy group, always working today for the women of tomorrow.

Pat and Shirley

**MEMBER SURVEY/PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING**

Please fill out and return the member survey that you received last month. Get it to Pat or Shirley in person or by mail by May 25. These surveys will assist the program planning committee when it meets in June. That meeting will take place at Hidden Lake on Monday, June 13 at 11:30 am at the Hidden Lake dining room. The "committee" consists of all members who attend the meeting where we will plan programs for the 2016-17 branch year. Please come with your ideas for the coming year.

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Thanks to Judy Holmes, who arranged once again for us to have lunch at Hidden Lake for this meeting.

## **CELEBRATION OF WRITERS**

### **Celebrate Writers, Celebrate Authors, Celebrate Ferguson**

Mystery and Romance, Poetry and Biography, Fiction and Social Issues! Eighteen authors gathered at the Corner Coffee Shop in Ferguson on March 19 to autograph and sell books and answer questions about writing and publishing. The event, co-hosted by Ferguson Writers' Group and Ferguson Florissant AAUW, attracted a continuous flow of people browsing, visiting with the authors and having a good time. Ferguson Writers would like to thank our branch for helping to supply coffee for the authors and our members who welcomed people who attended. It was indeed a perfect collaboration and celebration of community and creativity. Thanks to AAUW members Fran Johnson, Susan Donnell, Carolyn Herkstroeter, Toni Burrow (members of Ferguson Writers) and Myra Talkington, Wilzetta Bell, Lillian Boly and Tommie Turner, for representing AAUW.



Fran Johnson



Dr. Gloria Johnson



Lillian and Tommie

### **EQUITY ACTION DAY--a summary of an article by Karen Francis**

On Tuesday, April 12, Equal Pay Day 2016, eighty women and some men from the entire state were in Jefferson City, MO to discuss legislation on a few of the many issues facing women and families--the gender pay gap, violence against women, voter photo ID and human trafficking and to lobby their legislators. Why these issues?

- April 12, 2016 was Equal Pay Day--the symbolic day for the gender pay gap, where women's salaries match what men earned by December 31, 2015. Specifically, among full time, year round workers, women are typically paid 79% of what men are paid. Altogether, the gender pay gap costs the typical woman at least \$400,000 over the course of her career. That number increases for college graduates to \$1.2 million!!
- Violence against women--one in 4 women (24.3%) and 1 in 7 men (13.8%) age 18 and older in the US have been victims of severe physical violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime. The cost of lost productivity in the workplace is estimated as \$727.8 million a year. Over 70% of US workplaces have no formal program or policy that addresses workplace violence.
- Voter Photo ID--the pending legislation would implement a law requiring a state issued photo ID and would amend the Missouri Constitution to allow photo ID by carving out an exemption to the constitutions Right to Vote. 225,000 Missouri voters lack a state ID. This disproportionately affects voters of color, young voters, veterans, the working poor, seniors and voters with disabilities.
- Human trafficking--to endorse and recognize prevention and elimination of all forms of human trafficking, to treat trafficked children as victims, and to end the commercial sexual exploitation of

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children.

Many women's organizations send representatives, including AAUW, National Council of Jewish Women, League of Women Voters, Missouri Women's Network, and several others. Those attending heard from Rep. Stephen Webber, Rep. Stacey Newman, Rep. Jake Hummel, Rep. Michael Butler, Rep. Sue Meredith, Rep. Lauren Arthur, Rep. Jamilah Nasheed, and representatives of activists for women.

Following the briefings, participants lobbied with over thirty individual representatives and senators or their assistants, sharing information.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

It's time to renew membership in AAUW. The renewal form is included with this newsletter. Please fill it out and give/mail it with your check(s) to Pam Meyers before June 1. If you wish, you may also contribute to AAUW Funds or a specific fund at the same time.

### **THANK YOU, CAROLYN**

Our newsletter and website are much enhanced by photos of our events. The vast majority of them are taken by Carolyn Herkstroeter. Without them, our "publications" would not be as lively or interesting.

Thank you for recording our activities with your pictures.

### **NANCY GERBER**

Nancy is now on hospice care (no more dialysis) at Life Care Center, 1201 Garden Plaza Dr., Florissant 63033 (off Parker Road) 831-3752. She would welcome cards and visitors any day.

### **FUND RAISING/GAMES DAY COMMITTEE**

Lunch and planning meeting on Monday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> at the corner Coffee House, 11:30-1:30. Please let Carolyn Herkstroeter know if you will be attending or are interested in planning future fund raisers. 314-867-4755 or [herkcmw@att.net](mailto:herkcmw@att.net).

### **FERGUSON YARD SALE**

The "Ferguson Biggest Yard Sale" is set for May 28, 2016. Once again, Virginia Jost is offering to host the AAUW sale at 4 Raymar Place in Ferguson. **This time the sale has a garden theme.**

Items for sale:

1. Plants--Perennials include Coreopsis, Bee Balm, Spiderwort, Solomon's Seal, Stella d'Oro Day Lily, Herbs, Lemon Balm, and several varieties of Hosta plants. Also a miscellaneous group of plants.

2. Garden Accessories--included bamboo stakes.

3. Books

Donated items will be appreciated. Let Virginia know if you can help for an hour or two the day of the sale.

### **BYLAWS REVISIONS**

Lillian reports that she has been told by Patt Braley, the state bylaws official, that some changes are needed to our newly revised bylaws. Please make the changes in your copy.

- Article VII, Section 1. Composition. The Board of Directors shall include the elected and appointed officers of the Organization. This Organization must have a minimum of two separate officers, one responsible for management of the Organization and one responsible for the financial affairs. In addition, the Organization shall designate a member other than the contacts for administration and finance to record and make available on request the minutes of each noticed branch or affiliated entity meeting and board meeting.
- Article XVII Amendments to the Bylaws. AAUW-mandated amendments shall be adopted by the Organization's Board of Directors without a vote of the Organization's membership. Provisions of

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the Organization's bylaws not mandated by AAUW may be amended by a two-thirds (unless otherwise stipulated by state law) vote of members voting after a quorum is attained. Proposed amendments must be sent to the entire membership at least 14 days prior to the applicable meeting.

### **FERGUSON FARMERS' MARKET**

April Indoor Market--Gwen Westbrooks, Carolyn Herkstroeter, and Virginia Jost represented the branch at the final indoor market of the season on April 16 at St. Stephens. They were able to collect a few names and contact information for people who are interested in AAUW. They will receive a few newsletters.

Gwen is in the process of securing a few dates for us at the outdoor market, probably in August and September. This is a good way to represent AAUW in the community and makes it really easy to buy some wonderful local produce at the same time!

### **GOTV**

In this Presidential election year, it is important that those who want to vote are properly registered--both new voters and those who need to update their registrations. Once again, we will be working to **Get Out the Vote**. Thelmarene has secured four dates for us at the Ferguson Library.

Saturday, September 3, 2016 during the day

Thursday, September 8, 2016 in the evening

Saturday, September 17, 2016 during the day

Thursday, September 22, 2016 in the evening

Opportunities to volunteer will be announced later this summer.

### **A DAY IN THE LIFE by Carolyn Herkstroeter**

Virginia Jost and I attended A DAY IN THE LIFE, a play inspired by true stories of teen trafficking survivors. Co-sponsored by Creve Coeur Branch AAUW, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and Parkway United Church of Christ, an all-girls' theater group from Washington University dramatically told the true stories of young girls caught up in the mesh of trafficking and exploited into prostitution. Their stories are heart-breaking. Recovering their normal lives is daunting, with limited social help. It is very sad and frightening that this happens in our communities--could happen to our daughters and granddaughters. As advocates for women and girls, we need to be aware of ways to advocate for these girls and help them recover their lives.

### **LIBRARY DISPLAYS**

Check out the Ferguson-Florissant displays at the new Lewis and Clark and renovated Jamestown Bluffs County libraries. They are up until the end of April.

### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet at Cannoli's at 11:30 on May 10. Pat Kelemen will discuss *Early Warning* by Jane Smiley. It is the second book in her newest trilogy. Notify Pat if you will attend.

### **ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet May 26, 2016, at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30.

**The original books for April and May are switching.** The May book will be *Go Set a Watchman* by Harper Lee. The reviewer will be Linda Roberson.

### **DOWNTOWN LUNCH GROUP**

The Downtown Lunch group will meet at 11:45 am on Tuesday, May 17 at Evangeline's Bistro & Music House, 312 N. Euclid Ave., 63108. RSVP Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com).

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**CALENDAR**

April 30--State meeting

**May 2--Fundraising Committee Meeting**

**May 10--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

May 17--Downtown Lunch Group

**May 21--Annual May Luncheon**

**May 25--Member Survey due**

May 26--Adelante Book Group

**May 28--Ferguson Yard Sale**

**June 1--Membership renewal due**

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