



## Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen  
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell  
Program Vice President

Gwen Westbrooks  
Membership Vice-President

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

The board will meet at the Corner Coffee House at 11:30 on Monday, October 10.

### **ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION**

The fall reception for the branch took place at the home of Shirley Breeze on Sunday, September 18. About 16 members and guests attended. State President Jan Scott spoke about “Changing the climate for women and girls” as a mantra for the branch and state members going forward. She explained that this phrase succinctly states AAUW goals. Branch member and state Public Policy co-chair Karen Francis talked about ways women can secure a place at the table and be heard in business and community meetings.

As usual, a wide variety of refreshments provided by members was served. Thanks to Shirley for once again hosting the event, to Jan and Karen for their talks, and to all who brought the delicious refreshments.



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Karen, Jan, Pat and Shirley  
--Thanks to Carolyn Herkstroeter for photos

Lillian, Jan, and Toni

## **OCTOBER BRANCH MEETING**

### **The Hunting Ground**

*The Hunting Ground* is a documentary film about the incidence of sexual assault on college campuses in the United States and what is perceived to be a failure of college administrations to deal with it.

This film will be shown as the Saturday, October 15, meeting of the Ferguson-Florissant (North County) Branch of the American Association of University Women. The presentation will begin at 10:00; it is about one and one-half hours in length. Refreshments will be available at 9:30 am prior to the showing.

It will be shown in the lower level meeting room of the Lutheran Church of the Living Christ, 2725 Concord Drive (at New Halls Ferry Road) in Florissant. Parking is available at the rear of the church. The program is free and open to the public. For more information, call Wilzetta (517-8973), Shirley (831-5259) or Pat (831-6884).

### **PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Shirley Breeze**

Every season seems to be busier than the previous one. And that is certainly true of AAUW members and the Ferguson-Florissant Branch. As we move closer to the crucial national election, our voter registration activities become even more important. Our branch will have held six different sessions of voter registration. What a feather in our cap!!

Now, we must do two things: we must encourage everyone we know--friends, relatives, neighbors--to get out and vote; and we must become very familiar with the special Constitutional Amendments and the Proposition (see the special attachment to this newsletter) that will be on the Missouri ballot. These items will affect every Missouri resident for years to come.

### **MISSOURI LEGISLATURE--2016 BALLOT MEASURES**

Included with this newsletter is an attachment describing the 2016 Ballot Measures that have been certified for the November 8, 2016 general election. This information is important to all residents of Missouri.

### **DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

The Diversity Committee met on September 9. The members discussed the completed Proposed Bylaw Amendment to establish a separate category of membership with no degree requirement. This will be submitted to National for the 2017 Convention.

The committee also discussed what to work on next. Some current writings submit that sexism

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and racism are so related that they should be dealt with together. Other topics under consideration are the issue of women's right to vote versus civil rights for African-Americans before, during, and after the Civil War--a conflict of priorities for African-American women. Also being considered are mental health issues and continued efforts to increase diversity in our branch.

The committee will probably meet next after the New Year.

### **PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT**

Branches may submit proposed bylaw amendments to be voted on at the national convention. The process involves writing the amendment and submitting it to National during the fall prior to the convention--in this case, now for the June 2017 convention. Proposed bylaw amendments are reviewed at several levels at National and may be rejected, returned for revisions, or accepted. Our proposal has been submitted.

Amendments to open full membership to people without four year, two year or R.N.s have been submitted and voted down several times. Our proposal calls for a somewhat limited membership for those without degrees, and the hope is that this compromise will be acceptable. The Diversity Committee became involved because the current membership requirement makes educational diversity for AAUW very hard to achieve.

The heart of this proposed amendment is as follows:

Eligibility. Anyone who supports AAUW's mission and pays AAUW dues, but does not possess a degree, shall be eligible for a membership category known as an advocate.

An advocate can participate in all programs and activities of the organization, be recognized as an AAUW member, and speak as a member of the organization.

This category of membership would not be eligible to vote in AAUW national elections nor hold national office. At the branch level and state level, these individuals could not hold offices of president or vice president but could hold other offices as determined by individual bodies and participate fully in the activities of the group.

The process of getting a proposed amend to the convention floor and having members vote on it is a long one, which we have just begun.

### **EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH**

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Women's Equality Day brunch was held on Saturday, August 20 at the Clayton Plaza Hotel. The theme was "Celebrating the Golden Lane," honoring the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic walkless parade of women held in 1916 outside the Democratic National Convention in the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis.

This year's honorees were introduced by Pat Shores and previous honorees. Jane Crigler was introduced by Laura X, the Honorable Darlene Green by Dianne Modrell, the Honorable Jeanne Kirkton by the Honorable Margo McNeil, and Ann Ross by Judith Parker.

Keynote speaker and author Margo McMillan spoke about *Celebrating the Golden Lane*. She is a feminist working for equality and a conservationist, as well as a lobbyist and educator.

Several branch members attended the brunch.

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Shirley



Wilzetta and Laura X



Shirley and Rep, Jeanne Kirkton



Shirley and Margo McMillen



Lillian

**RECREATION OF THE GOLDEN LANE**



Demonstrators on the steps of the St. Louis Public Library

On September 3, hundreds of women, many dressed in white, wearing sashes, and carrying

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yellow umbrellas, met at the St. Louis Public Library. They came to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the demonstration by suffragists in 1916. Those women stood along the route delegates to the Democratic National Convention walked to enter the sessions in the Jefferson Hotel. Their goal was to influence the party platform, and they succeeded in getting a plank supporting the right to vote for women.



Carolyn and Mable



Karen and Shirley

### **CRAVING CIVILIZED CONVERSATION?**

Your friends at Ferguson Florissant AAUW would like to invite you to a tea, coffee, sparkling water conversation about issues, priorities and perceptions of both Presidential Candidates, Trump and Clinton. This conversation is meant to be a respectful hour or more of listening to one another with an ear to what might be our personal views of how and why we support the candidate we are about to choose or have already chosen. This conversation is about priorities, issues, accumulated data, not merely heartfelt opinions. If you think this conversation might be useful for you, mark SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016 from 2-5 pm at the home of Susan Donnell, 420 North Clay in Ferguson. Bring all the data, reasons and examples to support your point of view; that's all you need to bring. If interested and can attend, contact Susan at [sadamsdonnell@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sadamsdonnell@sbcglobal.net) or phone her at 521-8819 for more information. Your vote matters as does your point of view. Let's get together and share.

### **GOTV**

Many branch members have staffed voter registration tables for the last month and a half, starting with 2 Farmers' Markets in August and followed by 4 events at the Ferguson Public Library in September. We joined other AAUW branches in Missouri and members of other civic and community organizations in encouraging every eligible citizen to register before October 12 and then vote November 8.

Thank you to every member who helped with voter registration, some more than once. They include Gwen Westbrooks, who arranged for our table at the Farmers' Markets, Carolyn Herkstroeter, Lillian Boly, Lovene Hartman, Susan Donnell, Carolyn Henning, Tommie Turner, Virginia Jost, Mable Davis, Dorothy Stade.

--Pat, Gwen, and Shirley

### **MOVIE DAY by Judy Holmes**

The newly re-formed Movie Group met September 15 at the Hidden Lake Theater Room to view *Jane Eyre*. The originally planned movie, *The English Patient*, had been removed from Netflix choices. The fundraiser donations totaled \$16.00.

In October, Afternoon at the Movies will feature *The Painted Veil*. We will again meet at Hidden Lake Theater Room at 3:00 pm on Thursday, Oct. 20. **Note the time change** to accommodate a schedule. If you plan to come, please let Judy know by email at [mickey.holmes@att.net](mailto:mickey.holmes@att.net) or by calling 314-355-1125.

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Judy will provide drinks and those attending are welcome to bring snacks to share if they wish. This is a fundraiser for AAUW, so there will be a basket for monetary donations.

#### **TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

The Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on October 11 at 11:30 at the home of Myra Talkington. Myra will review *When Books Went to War* by Molly Manning. Bring a sandwich. Notify Myra if you plan to attend.

#### **ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet Thursday, October 20, 2016, at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30. The book to be discussed is *What is Visible: A Novel*, by Kimberly Elkins. The book was chosen for National Disability Employment Month.

#### **RECIPE**

Several members have requested the recipe for the cookies Joyce Wolf brought to the reception. She is happy to share.

##### **Graham Cracker Cookies**

30 graham cracker sections

2 sticks of butter

1 cup brown sugar

1 cup chopped pecans or walnuts

Line a cookie sheet with sides with parchment paper. Place graham crackers on cookie sheet. Boil sugar and butter until slightly thickened. Add nuts. Spoon over graham crackers. Bake at 350 for 10 min. Cool before removing from pan.

#### **CALENDAR**

**October 2--Conversations**

**October 10--Branch Board Meeting**

**October 11--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

**October 15--Branch Meeting, *The Hunting Ground***

October 20--Adelante Book Group

**October 20--Afternoon at the Movies**

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