



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President

Gwen Westbrooks
Membership Vice-President

Volume 52

September 2016

Pat Kelemen, Editor

NEXT BOARD MEETINGS

The Board will meet on Monday, August 15 at 11:30 at the Corner Coffee House.

The Board will meet at the Corner Coffee House at 11:30 on Monday, September 12.

MAY LUNCHEON

The May Luncheon was held at Rizzo Restaurant in Florissant on May 21. The program began with Co-Presidents Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen presenting the certificates to the Named Gift Honorees. They are Wilzetta Bell, Lillian Boly, Nancy Gerber, Elaine Simpson, Dorothy Stade, Mary Ellen Starr, Gwen Westbrooks, and the Ferguson Florissant Robotics team. Mary Rice accepted for the late Nancy Gerber, Thelmarene Hooper accepted for the late Elaine Simpson, and Toni Burrow accepted for Robotics. Shirley Breeze presented the Star Branch Certificate that recognizes the accomplishments of the whole branch.

Dr. Molly Metzger, Assistant Professor, George Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, spoke on the topic "How Public Policy Defined the Housing Demographic of North County." She included maps on other visuals to enhance the presentation.



Dr. Molly Metzger
Kelemen



Karen Francis and Wilzetta Bell



Karen, Shirley Breeze and Pat
Kelemen

Karen Francis presided over the installation of officers for the 2016-2018 term. They are Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen, Co-Presidents, Myra Talkington, Secretary, and Wilzetta Bell.

ANNUAL FALL RECEPTION --September 18, 2016

Our branch will open its program year with a reception on Sunday afternoon, September 18 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at the home of Shirley Breeze. All individuals interested in women's equity are invited to attend. State President Jan Scott will be in attendance and make short remarks. An overview of AAUW's

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mission, programs, and activities will be featured at the event, including a review of AAUW's 135 years of advocacy for women and girls. Attendees will learn more about the long-standing advocacy mission of the organization. The new initiatives of the organization will be reviewed; attendees will be presented with opportunities available to become involved in the North County Community. All attendees will receive a copy of the newest research report, *Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership*.

Refreshments will be served. For additional information or to obtain directions to the reception, call 314-831-5359 or 314-831-6884 or email sbreeze@mindspring.com or pkelemen@hotmail.com. Everyone is invited.

If you have the names and addresses of people you would like to be invited to this reception, please send them to Shirley Breeze.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Shirley Breeze

This is an exciting time of year with the history-making elections fast approaching and all the activities of our branch starting again. As we begin the new program year, there are many and diverse activities which you can be a part of and make positive contributions for women and girls. Our branch mentors young people working on robotics projects, we register voters for the national and state elections, we monitor state and national legislation and respond to legislators, we educate the public on a variety of community issues, we work with the people of Ferguson to better existing conditions, volunteer at a number of community events, we participate in rallies for pay equity, honor women for their work for equality, organize Fundraisers to provide leadership monies for our members, participate in National AAUW committees and initiatives, support STEM projects, study public policy issues and act on our knowledge and we have FUN doing all this!

Or is there something else you would like to be a part of it. Let us know. Together we can make it happen.

Join AAUW in one of its activities and become a part of one or more of these exciting activities. Make a difference in the lives of women and girls.

AAUW Working Today for the Women of Tomorrow.

PUBLIC POLICY by Karen Francis

Effort to ensure gender equality continues in Missouri, the U.S.

This article by Karen Francis appeared in the St. Louis Post Dispatch on June 21, 2016

I was honored to be chosen as part of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) delegation to the White Houses's United State of Women Summit earlier this month. As a member of the AAUW Ballwin Chesterfield Branch [also a dual member of Ferguson Florissant] I have been on the front lines in Missouri, fighting for gender equity issues including equal pay; campus sexual assault; paid leave; science, technology, engineering and math education, and more. It was humbling to be given the opportunity to talk to so many women from other areas of the country that are fighting for the same issues that AAUW members know all too well.

For instance, women in Missouri are paid on average 79 cents of what men are paid. Without an updated federal equal pay law like the Paycheck Fairness Act, it is up to the states to act to close the gender pay gap. St. Louis area AAUW members have worked tirelessly on stronger equal pay laws in Missouri. This summit gave us the opportunity to spotlight successes in our communities while focusing on other ways to support women and families.

I was grateful to represent the AAUW branches in St. Louis, the state of Missouri, and, with others in our community, to share the amazing work that is going on in Missouri. I know I am only one voice, but together with other women and men, our voices will become a movement to make gender equality a reality, not only for people in Missouri but nationwide.

--Karen Francis, Chairwoman, AAUW National Public Policy Committee

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PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

On June 13, the yearly Program Planning meeting took place. Judy Holmes arranged for us to meet in the dining room at Hidden Lake. The management provided us with a buffet lunch before the planning began. Our thanks to Judy and to Hidden Lake.

Plans for programs at monthly branch meetings were decided, with members volunteering to head up arrangements for each program. Each planner is urged to consult the **Programming Guidelines** sheet included in the packet Shirley handed out that day (on blue paper). Plans for each event must be made beginning months before the event itself. Deadlines for publicity and the newsletter are included.

Thanks to all who will be doing the program planning.

EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

The 29th Annual Equality Day Brunch will be Saturday, August 20, 2016 from 10 to 2 at Clayton Plaza Hotel, 7750 Carondelet in Clayton. Honorees are Jane Crigler, The Honorable Darlene Green, the Honorable Jeanne Kirkton, and Ann Ross.

The flyer with registration information was sent separately on August 11.

Branch members who attend are eligible for a ½ price reimbursement. Send in the whole \$39 with your registration, then contact Treasurer Pam Meyers for your refund.

RECREATION OF THE LONG YELLOW LINE--September 3

A Celebrate the Vote Festival will be held September 3, 2016 at the St. Louis Public Library, 1301 Olive street, Saint Louis, MO 63103 from 10 am until 2 pm.

In 1916, over 3000 suffragists converged on St. Louis in the sweltering heat during the Democratic convention poised to re-nominate Woodrow Wilson as President. Their sole demand was a plank in the party platform in support of women's suffrage. Wearing white dresses and golden sashes that said "Votes for Women," they lined the street where the delegates would walk from their hotel to the convention center.

The impact of these women, who formed a "walkless, talkless parade," sometimes called "The Golden Lane" was enormous. They accomplished their objective and got the plank on the platform.

A parade, music, including girl bands, speakers, voter registration, shopping and fun are planned.

The event is planned by the St. Louis Public Library, Webster University, and Rebecca Now and Then. More information at facebook.com/CelebratetheVoteFestival/

Pat Shores is organizing a bus from West County to the event and reports there are a few seats available. Contact her at apatriciashores@att.net.

DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The Diversity Committee will meet on September 9 at 10:00 at the home of Judy Holmes at Hidden Lake.

The committee has been working on a proposed change in the national bylaws. Since one of AAUW's national diversity goals is educational diversity, the proposal is to have a new membership category for women and men who support the mission of AAUW but lack the degree requirements. Still in the working stages, the idea is to have limited memberships available. You may have noticed that we have a number of repeat guests who attend branch meetings and support our activities but are currently unable to join.

This proposal for a limited membership may serve as a compromise since previous proposals for full membership for un-degreed people have failed to pass at national conventions.

At the July 18 meeting, the branch Board approved continuing to work on the proposal.

BRANCH OBITUARIES

NANCY GERBER

Long-time AAUW member Anna Wayne Gerber, known fondly to us as Nancy, died May 3,

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2016, after a few years of failing health.

Nancy was a member of a distinguished East Coast family; she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She earned degrees from Vassar and Middlebury College and received her PhD in Romantic Languages at the University of Pittsburgh. She was a professor of Spanish at UMSL. She was proud of authoring "La Literatura Hispanoamericana En La Critica Espanola."

A stalwart AAUW member, over the years Nancy was Branch President (1989-91, 1995-98, 2002-2003, 2006-2010), newsletter editor, active in various book groups, organizer of First Friday Movies, and much more. (Apologies to those who remember Nancy's other roles that have been overlooked here.)

Nancy was a Named Gift Honoree in 1997, 2010, 2013, and 2016 and a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle.

A memorial service on May 23 at the Lutheran Church of the Living Christ was attended by many of Nancy's friends, including several from Ferguson Florissant AAUW and representatives of other St. Louis area branches.

IMA JEAN MAUPIN OCHSNER

Ima Jean Maupin and her family moved to the Bellefontaine Neighbors area in 1959. Ima taught English at Riverview Junior High at first, and moved to the Senior High School in about 1965, where she was part of the English faculty until she retired in 1979. She joined Ferguson-Florissant AAUW in the late 1970s and maintained her membership until 2014. She married Mel Ochsner in 1984 and moved to Creve Coeur. Since it was too far for her to drive, she did not attend meetings, but paid dues because she supported AAUW's goals. Ima was 100 years old, and would have been 101 in September. She passed away on August 6 after declining in health the last two years.

--Lillian Boly

GENEVIEVE FLORENCE FIELDHAMMER

Long time member Genevieve Fieldhammer died August 8 at age 93. She was a member for decades and enlisted her husband Gene to help with many branch activities. For instance, he served as newsletter editor in the late 80s and 90s. He was a Named Gift Honoree along with the other Booksale Men in 1987. They both were Named Gift Honorees in 1982. She was active in sorting books for the branch book sales. Genevieve was branch Secretary at one time. Sylvia Miller remembers attending a branch party at her beautiful historical home in Ferguson. Husbands were invited, and the women wore fancy clothes while the men wore suits. The Named Gift recipients were announced.

Genevieve was academically accomplished, graduating from the University of Nebraska with a degree in Home Economics and completing her Dietetic Internship at Johns Hopkins University,

In 1944 she enlisted in the U.S. Naval Reserve and was one of the very first WAVES, training at Hunter College in the Bronx, NY and being stationed at Camp Shoemaker in the San Francisco area.

After the war, she returned to graduate work at Kansas State University, where she met Eugene Fieldhammer, whom she married in 1950. They lived in several states in the east and Chicago before settling in Ferguson, where they lived for over fifty years.

Most recently in failing health, Gen and Gene resided at Mother of Good Counsel Home on Natural Bridge.

A memorial service will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, August 27, 2016 at Mother of Good Counsel Home Chapel, 6825 Natural Bridge Road, St. Louis, MO.

Her remains will be taken back to the mountains in her beloved Wyoming, where as a young woman she graduated from Cheyenne High School and worked the rodeos.

--compiled from accounts by branch members Mary Ellen Starr, a long time neighbor, and Sylvia Miller, and a long and informative obituary post at www.buchholzmortuary.com.

MIDWEST REGIONAL CONFERENCE JUNE 3-4, 2016 KANSAS CITY KS

Attendees at the 45th Biennial Regional Conference were treated to a wide variety of exciting activities, speakers, and networking opportunities at the meeting in Kansas City

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KS on June 3-4. Keynoting the event was Dr. Catherine Hill, AAUW National Research Vice President. In her remarks she addressed the most recent report, Barriers and Bias: The Status of Women in Leadership. Although statistics are improving for women holding major academic and corporate leadership positions, women still hold a small percentage of the policy-making offices. Katie Simon, National Associate Director of Field Operations, addressed the importance of getting out the vote in this contentious national election year. She also introduced the new materials AAUW has prepared for any activities the branches might take in the next six months. Claudia Richards, AAUW National Senior Branch Relations Manager, joined from the National office and addressed how branches can use new approaches in membership recruitment.

At the Conference Luncheon, Paul Thein, an LAF Plaintiff, discussed his case against the Feather River Community College. The case resulted in major changes for his career and in his family. It is the longest-running case AAUW has supported; he expressed his appreciation to AAUW for the donation of funds for him to pursue it.

On Friday evening, attendees were given an opportunity to view the film The Hunting Ground which addresses the rampant sexual abuse on college campuses.

A wide variety of breakout sessions included public policy issues and information on AAUW activities and procedures. Speakers reviewed the latest in procedures on membership recruitment, fundraising events, and AAUW public policies. Attorneys Denise Lieberman and Peggy Glenn gave insight into Voter Fraud and Achieving Results Through People respectively. Dr. Kelly Sartorius discussed her research on how academic deans of women promoted AAUW from its very beginning. Human Trafficking was addressed by members of the Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch and the St. Charles Coalition Against Human Trafficking in their presentation, which has won financial support through an AAUW Community Action Grant. Dr. Mary Mosley addressed the relationship between racism and sexism and how this is reflected in some recent actions locally and around the country.

The Conference ended with an Open Forum where attendees could have their questions answered concerning current activities and regulations of AAUW and future plans of the organization.

--Shirley Breeze, Reporting

MOVIE DAY--Judy Holmes

We plan to carry on a fundraising event started by the late Nancy Gerber--Movie Day.

We will meet the third Thursday of the month to view a movie in the Theater Room at Hidden Lake Retirement Community. The first movie "The English Patient" will be shown at 2:00 pm on September 15. Please meet in the Independent Living Room as the Theater Room is an area where you need a code to enter.

Judy Holmes is organizing the group. There is a small kitchen, so Judy will provide drinks and other participants may bring snacks to share if they wish. We will have a basket for monetary donations for our fund-raising efforts. Suggestions as to what fund we should support are welcome.

Please let Judy know by phone--314-355-1125 or by [e-mail--mickey.holmes@att.net](mailto:mickey.holmes@att.net) if you plan to attend.

FERGUSON FARMERS' MARKET

Branch members will be "tabling" at the Ferguson Farmers' Market August 13 and 20. Contact Gwen Westbrooks if you can help on August 20.

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Carolyn and Mable at the Farmers' Market August 13

GOTV

Branch members will be working to Get Out the Vote by registering voters/assisting on updating existing registrations due to changes such as address, name, etc., at the Ferguson Library. We will be there on Saturday, September 3, 9 am-12 noon; Thursday, September 8, 5-7 pm; Saturday, September 17, 9 am-12 noon; and Thursday, September 22, 5-7 pm.

With a very important election coming up in November, it is important that all eligible voters are registered. If you can help, contact Carolyn Herkstroeter.

YARD SALE

The yard sale on Saturday, August 13, was very successful. Thanks to Myra Talkington who hosted the event, turning over her garage and driveway for the large number of items branch members donated. She had help from members who sorted, priced and arranged things on Thursday and Friday, and rotating shifts of helpers on Saturday. One of Myra's former students, Becky, was a huge help to all of us. Members who worked on the sale included Joyce Wolf, Pam Meyers, Virginia Jost, Lovene Hartman, Martha Panetti, Karen Francis, Mable Davis, Pat Kelemen, Lillian Boly, Fran Carney, and Judy Holmes.

My apologies to anyone who helped and was not listed here.

The yard sale was a success only because so many members helped.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

The Tuesday Lit Group will meet on September 13 at 11:30 a.m. at Mary Ellen Starr's house. She will review *The Golden Age* by Jane Smiley. Please call Mary Ellen at 521-9232 if you plan to attend. Also, we will have a planning discussion for book reviewers and hostesses for the remaining months of the year. Let's mix it up with biographies, fiction and nonfiction. All members are welcome. Let's see some new and former attendees.

Please bring a sandwich.

ADELANTE BOOK GROUP

The Adelante Book Group will meet at 1:30 pm on September 22 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson. Betty Takahashi will review *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki.

Betty will also bring a copy of the MRTA petition concerning teacher's NoCola. Petition has been extended to Sept. 30 to Jeff City.

CALENDAR

August 20--St. Louis Equality Day Brunch and Ferguson Farmers' Market

August 23-- IBC meeting

September 3--GOTV and Re-creation of The Long Yellow Line

September 8--Voter Registration (GOTV)

September 9--Diversity Committee meeting

September 12--Board Meeting

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September 13--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group
September 15--Movie Day
September 17--GOTV
September 18--Opening Reception
September 22--GOTV and Adelante Book Group

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