



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 on October 5, 2015 at 11:30 at the Corner Coffee House.

ANNUAL MAY LUNCHEON

The annual luncheon was held on May 16, 2015, at Rizzo's in Florissant. The program included Sylvia Miller's announcement of the Named Gift recipients. They are Virginia Jost, Myra Talkington, Judy Holmes, and Lovene Hartman. Shirley Breeze then presented the Star Branch certificate. Our branch is a 10-star branch again this year.

After lunch, Shirley introduced the panel for the day's program, "Historical Reflections of Ferguson." Noted Ferguson historian Ruth Brown outlined the history of the town and member Pamela Meyers, also a member of the Central School Centennial Committee, focused on that historic school in words and photos of the still actively-used school.

Special thanks, in addition to the speakers, went to Myra Talkington, who provided the centerpieces for the tables, and the members of the Named Gift Committee, Sylvia Miller, Fran Carney, and Jann Mueller.

Recently elected officers, Gwen Westbrooks, Membership Vice-President, and Pamela Meyers, Treasurer, were formally installed.



Frann Carney, Judy Holmes and Jann Mueller



Shirley Breeze, Pamela Meyers and Pat Kelemen

EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH

The Equality Day Brunch will take place Saturday, August 22 from 10:00 until 2:00 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Clayton. The reservations deadline is August 15, but limited late reservations are available by contacting Shirley Breeze. See the newest flyer for details.

The featured speaker will be Caroline Frederickson, JD, author of *Under the Bus: How Working Women are Being Run Over*.

SEPTEMBER RECEPTION

The Branch opens its program year with its annual September Reception celebrating AAUW and its advocacy for women.

The September 20 event is from 2:00 to 4:00 pm at 138 Kings Drive (Home of Shirley Breeze). State President Diane Ludwig will be our guest speaker and make a few comments about the recent national convention and activities of the state organization.

This is your opportunity to invite a woman who might be interested in membership. It is a Shape the Future event so a new member pays half of national dues, plus state and local dues (\$44.50 total). A copy of the newest national research, Solving the Equation, which details the status of women in the STEM fields, will be available to each person attending. Refreshments will be served.

If you have someone you would like to invite, we can send an invitation or you can use the one we have available. Check with Pat Kelemen (pkelemen@hotmail.com) or Shirley Breeze (sbreeze@mindspring.com) for additional information or copies of the invitation.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

by Pat Kelemen

The start of a new branch year is a time to think about goals and priorities that will guide our branch in 2015-16. The advancement of equity for women and girls is paramount. The program planning meeting in June decided on several monthly programs that will focus on such issues as women in the state legislature, women veterans, women senior citizens, women African-American authors, and STEM education for women.

We continue our efforts to increase our membership with meet and greet events, tables at the Ferguson Farmers' Market, literature at gift wrapping, excellent publicity by Sylvia Miller, and more. Increasing our visibility at public events makes people aware of who we are and can attract potential members.

The new Diversity committee is designed to attract new members from different parts of the community. The survey from AAUW national that some of us answered this spring identifies several categories of diversity, not just the need for racial diversity that we are so aware of. Some others include gender, age, sexual orientation, educational levels, income, and ability/disability. Our committee is just getting started; it will be interesting to see what develops.

We will continue to work to promote STEM for girls and women. Serving as mentors in the Robotics program offered by PAKT is an important part of this. We are also starting to explore the Tech Savvy program. Tech Savvy events are intense one-day programs for girls and parents. A branch applies to national for a grant, partners with a college or university, and arranges for multiple speakers and programs that inform girls and parents about the opportunities in Tech fields. A branch committee is now being formed. It will investigate exactly what this project would involve and determine if we should apply for the grant next summer, to develop a Tech Savvy event in summer 2017.

"All work and no play . . ." Not everything we do is deadly serious. Several traditional fun events are planned, although even they may touch on the priorities mentioned above. The September reception to kick off the year is always fun. Carolyn is hard at work arranging the entertainment for the holiday event, the Game Day in January is lots of fun as well as being a fund raiser, and the May Luncheon is the highlight of the year.

Here we go!

PUBLIC POLICY

Women's Equality Day History by Shirley Breeze

August 26, 2015, marks the 95th Anniversary of women winning the vote (August 26, 1920) the reason we celebrate Women's Equality Day. The massive, peaceful civil rights movement by women that had its beginnings in 1848 at the world's first women's rights convention, in Seneca Falls, NY, finally resulted in the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution. This effort was led by brave suffragists such as Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucy Stone, Susan B. Anthony, Ida B. Wells, Carrie Chapman Catt, Alice Paul, and many others. Fifteen states and territories granted women the vote before the US did: Wyoming, Utah, Colorado, Idaho, Washington, California, Kansas, Oregon, Arizona, Montana, Nevada, New York, South Dakota, Michigan, and Oklahoma. Missouri is recognized as being where the first woman voted

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after passage of the Amendment. Five days after the Amendment officially became law, on August 31, 1920, Marie Ruoff Byrum voted in a special election to fill an alderman's seat in Hannibal. The Susan B. Anthony giving women the right to vote took 72 years.

With the hard work of Rep. Bella Abzug, in 1971 the US Congress designated August 26 as Women's Equality Day.

The 95th Anniversary begins the start of the big celebration leading up to the centennial celebration in 2020. Several special activities are planned for that year, including putting a woman on the \$10 bill and getting equal representation for women in legislatures across the country. It would also be an opportune time to re-visit the statues and other recognitions of women across Missouri and initiate new ones.

BRANCH DIVERSITY COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Diversity Committee will be Monday, August 17 at 10:00 am at the home of Judy Holmes, 1736 Catherine Court. If you want to attend and have not already let Judy know, please phone her at 355-1125.

INVITATION TO A TEA! From Judy Holmes

*Hidden Lake Retirement Community is recognizing National Women's Equality Day by hosting a tea. **Our own Shirley Breeze will be the speaker!** The Activity Department, the planners for this event, asked me to extend an invitation to all AAUW members to attend.*

The event will be at 2:00 pm August 26 in the Independent Living Dining Room. Please come and enjoy Shirley's talk and the tea. Maybe we can recruit some new members.

You are not required to RSVP, but if you can let me know you are coming, the Activity Department may appreciate it. Just call me at 355-1125 or email me at mickey.holmes@att.net. Let me know if you need directions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! By Membership VP Gwen Westbrooks

The Ferguson Florissant branch of AAUW welcomes three new members so far this year! **Thelmarene Hooper (welcome back), Patricia Hussmann, and Mable Davis** have all joined recently. Check out the bio on Patricia Hussman in this issue of the newsletter and look forward to featured bios on other new members in upcoming issues.

We are pleased to welcome these new members and hope to see them at meetings and involved in our activities. Be sure to introduce yourself to them at our next gathering! Welcome ladies!

We continue to publicize AAUW's mission and the involvement of the Ferguson Florissant branch in our community at every opportunity, including the Ferguson Farmers' Market. The best recruitment tool, though, is a personal invitation to someone you know who might be looking for a way to make a difference. Reach out to a friend and invite them to come along to our next meeting!

Patricia Hussmann

Patti and her husband, Richard, both grew up in the St. Louis area. Florissant has been her home since the early 1960s. Her Husband grew up in Ferguson. They have a grown daughter who currently resides in Oak Park, IL.

Where did Patti go to high school? Mccluer Senior High School in the Ferguson-Florissant School District. She worked as a dental assistant, and after earning an Associates degree in Applied Life Science at St. Louis Community College at Forest Park, she successfully passed her boards and elevated her to that of a dental hygienist. She is now "semi-retired."

Patti's leisure activities include traveling, reading and stamping. She and her family enjoy outdoor activities, especially boating and camping. She particularly enjoys spending time at her family's place on Table Rock Lake outside of Branson, MO.

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Patti has been active with the Girl Scouts, Missouri's Junior Miss Competition, PTA, Greater St. Louis Dental Hygiene Association, and coaching various sports. Now that she is less involved in those activities and is "semi-retired," she would like to spend her time in a productive manner.

Myra Talkington introduced Patti to AAUW and encouraged her to join. Patti loves being involved with people and Myra felt she would be an asset to our organization. I'm sure you will be, Patti. Welcome.

SHIRLEY BREEZE ENDOWMENT

--From Yvonne Morrison

Thanks to the members of your branch for their donations that brought the Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Shirley Breeze endowment to completion in 1990-91. Each year a recipient is chosen to receive this money. This year The Boys and Girls Clubs of West Central Missouri in Sedalia is the recipient and their project name is STEM Girls. Congratulations for making a difference for girls.

Other funds also going to STEM Girls are Alice L. Beeman, KC MO Branch/Dora Johnson, Maryville MO Branch/Opal Eckert, and Ballwin-Chesterfield MO Branch/Silver Anniversary.

FERGUSON FARMERS' MARKET

Thanks to Gwen Westbrooks for making the arrangements for our booth at the Ferguson Market; it is great visibility. And special thanks to Lovene Hartman, Elaine Simpson, and Judy Holmes for "manning" the booth on July 26. Upcoming dates for our booth are August 29, 8-12, September 5, and October 10. Contact Gwen to volunteer.

SEPTEMBER "FUN" RAISER

Tour Earth Dance Organic Farm School

Tuesday, September 22 at 2:30 pm
233 South Dade Ave in Ferguson

Easy walking tour of smaller gardens and sit in shade OR opt for longer walking tour of entire farm. The tour is **free**. The suggested "fun" raiser donation is \$3-\$5 to AAUW Funds. Followed by Ice Cream at Whistle Stop.

RSVP 314-867-4755 or herkcmw@att.net by 10:00 am on 22nd.

Watch for more exciting FUN RAISERS coming this fall. Send suggestions to Carolyn or Lillian.

GARAGE SALE

The branch garage sale will be held at the home of Myra Talkington from 7am to about 2 pm on Saturday, September 19. You may take your donated items to Myra whenever she is at home. Call Myra before you bring your donations. They should be priced. A charity pickup of unsold items will be scheduled for soon after the sale, so any unsold items you want back **must be picked up by you at the end of the sale on the 19th**.

Volunteers will be needed to help Myra set up before and on the day of the sale. Tables for displaying items are needed. And of course, members to help during the sale are absolutely needed.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Book Group will meet September 8 at 11:30 at the home of Myra Talkington. Myra will lead the discussion of *Jayber Crow* by Wendell Berry. Bring a sandwich. Notify Myra if you will attend.

Book group will meet on the second Tuesday of the month. These are the books that have been chosen:

- October 13--*New Biography of G.H.W. 41* by George W. Bush at Cannoli's
- November 17--*The Warmth of the Other Sun* by Isabel Wilkerson at Nancy's Life Care
- December 8--Special Program at Carolyn's or TBA
- January 12--*Death on a Platter* by Elaine Viets at Lillian's

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- February 9--*Early Warning* by Jane Smiley at Cannoli's or Nancy's Life Care
- March 8--*Gray Mountain* by John Grisham at Joyce's
- April 12--TBA Mary Ellen's
- May 10--Title TBA, by Amanda Quick at the Corner Coffee House
- June 14--Planning meeting

Contact Mary Ellen Starr 314-521-9232 for more information

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group meets the third Tuesday of the month at 11:45 am. RSVP to Kay Meyer 314-962-7487 or [kicmeyer 51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com).

August 18--Mary Ann's Tea Room, 4732 McPherson Ave., St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-361-5303

September 15--Everest Café and Bar, 4145 Manchester Ave., St. Louis, MO (The Grove) 314-531-4800

ADELANTE

The Adelante Book Group will meet on September 24 at 1:30 at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson in Chesterfield. Betty Takahashi will lead the discussion of *Redefining Realness: My Path to Womanhood, Identity, Love, and So Much More* by Janet Mock.

CALENDAR

August 17--Diversity committee meeting

August 18--Downtown Lunch

August 22--Equality Day Brunch

August 26--Equality Day Program at Hidden Lake

August 29--Table a Farmers' Market

September 5--Table at Farmers' Market

September 8--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

September 15--Downtown Lunch

September 19--Branch Garage Sale

September 20--Opening Reception

September 22--Earth Dance Fun Raiser

September 24--Adelante Book Group

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