



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Shirley Breeze and
Pat Kelemen
Co- Presidents

Wilzetta Bell
Program Vice President

Carolyn Herkstroeter and
Carolynn Henning
Membership Co-Vice-Presidents

Volume 53

October 2017

Pat Kelemen, Editor

OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Board will meet on October 9 at the Corner Coffee House at 11:30.

OPENING RECEPTION

The annual reception to open the branch year was held at the home of Shirley Breeze on Sunday, September 17. National Board member Sue Barley was the guest speaker. She presented an overview of recent events at the National headquarters. These include a new CEO, Kim Churches, an ongoing staff reorganization, and serious budget considerations. She also answered questions from those present.



Carolynn, Pam, and Tommie



Shirley and Pat



Karen and Sue

OCTOBER LEGISLATIVE FORUM--October 21, 2017

The 2018 Missouri Legislative Session is upon us. What legislation will be filed--and more importantly, what will be enacted? How will these actions affect women?

The October branch meeting will be in the form of a Legislative Forum addressing these issues. Several local women state legislators and state senators will serve on a panel to address the issues which are likely to be debated in Jefferson City.

This Forum will be held on October 21, 2017, from 10:00 to 11:30 am at First Presbyterian Church, 401 Darst, Ferguson. The event begins with refreshments at 9:30 am. Ample parking is available behind the church; the Forum is in the Fellowship Hall which can be reached by using the rear church door off the parking lot.

Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.

EQUALITY DAY BRUNCH August 26

The annual Equality Day Brunch organized by the Missouri Women's Network was held August 26, 2017, at the Clayton Plaza Hotel in Clayton. Two outstanding women were honored. They are **Kathleen Farrell**, the immediate past Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Metro St. Louis, and **Susan Kidder**, the executive director of St. Louis Safe Connections, an organization working to prevent and end domestic and sexual violence.

The featured speaker was **Janette Dean**, who coordinated the passage of the ERA in Nevada. The amendment is just 2 states short of ratification.

PRESIDENTS' LETTER

Welcome to a new AAUW year--returning members, new members, and prospective members. AAUW is a multi-faceted organization working for equity for women and girls. Read the newsletter each month to see the variety of activities of this branch. If you don't see what you would like to participate in, propose that activity to the board and it will become a reality.

A major goal of Ferguson-Florissant Branch is being a part of the North County Community. To fulfill this goal, the branch has activities such as working with the women's businesses in Ferguson, wrapping gifts at Barnes & Noble, and making its meeting topics pertinent to the local area. The October meeting this year is a good example. The Legislative Forum deals with issues facing women and is presented by women legislators of our area. It is always an interesting event.

If you are a new or long-time member, get involved. AAUW has a place and interest for every one of us.

PUBLIC POLICY by Judy Holmes

Probably all of us have someone in our circle of family, friends or acquaintances who has or has had a student loan. Perhaps you have a student loan or had one! All of us have heard or experienced stories about student loans, some not as happy as others.

National AAUW has published a booklet titled DEEPER IN DEBT about women and student loans. They label it an executive summary and recommendations. In this small booklet, AAUW has gathered many pertinent facts and have several public policy recommendations we can and should act upon. The booklet does touch upon the necessity of institutions to prepare students for successful careers by way of counseling.

In this article, I would like to ask you to think about how necessary preparation for seeking and using a student loan is. It is probably preferable to use the largesse of parents, scholarships, grants, employment, any other means of getting an education before seeking a loan.

I am sure you have heard of the word discernment, often in relation to someone who is considering a religious calling. The dictionary says it means insight. I think a period of discernment, or soul-searching, to gain insight would be wise before taking on a loan. We can all use some insight.

It would be a time to communicate with counselors, parents, mentors, fellow students--all sources. It is time to communicate with oneself. Be sure you know what you are getting into.

Most people go to college to prepare for a profession, career, or way to support oneself. Young people often have a difficult time knowing what to plan for the future. Questions that come to mind are many. Do I have the skills or propensity for what I would like to do? Would that profession pay enough to support myself and pay back the loan? How easy is it to get a joy in the profession I chose? Would I mind putting off marriage until I can get the loan repaid? Would it be wise not to have children until the loan is repaid?

Sometimes a year of working before going to college is helpful. Perhaps the military is a way to education or job training. Sometimes there are internships or volunteer work that help one to make decisions about the future. Perhaps you have decided on a goal you want no matter what and just really want to go for it!

I am sure high school and college counselors do try to furnish necessary information and give all guidance they have available. There are often many relatives and friends who are interested in advising.

**Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolyn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.**

But, I think parents and students really need to take personal responsibility for considering options so they can aim for good outcome as to the life goals and the realities of cost. There are alternative paths. No one should aim too low, but sometimes happiness can involve some compromise.

AAUW FUNDRAISING

The major fundraising activity by AAUW's National organization centers around AAUW Fund; Legal Advocacy Fund is also a primary focus of funding. AAUW Fund is primarily used for operations at the National level; i.e., printing, travel, salaries. These are activities that keep the organization moving and keep it vibrant and relevant.

The fundraising activities are on a calendar year basis; therefore, on December 31 of each year, each branch's contributions are calculated. Branch donations to National are important in two vital ways; for the STAR Award recognition and for the Named Gift Recipient designation. The STAR Award is a yearly recognition by the state AAUW. One of the determining categories is the branch's financial contributions. Another important recognition is the ability to honor a branch member by having her be a Named Gift Recipient; this year's award went to Pam Meyers. Each branch is allowed one recipient for each \$500.00 of financial contributions to National.

DIVERSITY/PUBLIC POLICY COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the combined Diversity/Public Policy Committee will be Friday, September 29 at 10:00 am at the home of Judy Holmes, 1736 Catherine Ct. We will be discussing plans for the year for this combined committee, so bring ideas. New members are always welcome, so if you wish to join us please email or call Judy Holmes at mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

The **September** Afternoon at the Movies will be on Monday, September 25 at 2:00 PM. As usual, we will meet at Aperion Hidden Lake Theater Room. The movie will be *The Queen of Katwe* with Madina Nalwanja and David Oyelowo.

In **October**, the date will be Monday, October 23 at 2:00. The movie will be *A Street Cat Named Bob* starring Luke Treadaway and Bob the Cat.

If you have any questions or would like to come, please let Judy Holmes know at mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on October 10 at 11:30 at Cannolis. Pat Kelemen will review *The Secret Chord* by Geraldine Brooks.

This is the remainder of the schedule:

- November 13--book and hostess TBA
- December 11--*Hothouse Orchid* by Stuart Woods. Reviewer and Hostess Lillian Boly at her home
- January 2018--No review
- February 13--*Precious & Grace* by Alexander McCall Smith. Reviewer and Hostess Joyce Wolf at her home
- March 13--Film of *Hidden Figures*. Book by Margot Lee Shetterly. Hostess Myra Talkington. Lunch out, followed by dessert and film at Myra's
- April 9--*The Vanishing American Adult* by Ben Sasse. Reviewer Mary Ellen Starr at Cannolis
- May 14--Discussion on the topic "Breaking Through Barriers" led by Carolyn Herkstroeter at her home

Carolyn suggests reading one or more of the following before the meeting:

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly: Black women computer experts who helped win the space race

Alice by Stacy A. Cordery: Alice Roosevelt Longworth--From White House Princess to Washington Power Broker

**Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.**

The Other Einstein by Marie Benedict: Einstein's wife Mileva strived to find her place in a scientific world dominated by men

Undaunted by Tanya Blank: The real story of American service women

DOWNTOWN LUNCH

The Downtown Lunch group will meet on October 17 at 11:45 am at The Blue Duck, 2661 Sutton Blvd., Maplewood MO 63143 314-769-9940. RSVP to Kay Meyer, 314-962-7487 or kicmeyer51@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

October 9--Branch board meeting

October 10--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

October 17--Downtown Lunch

October 21--Legislative Forum

October 23--Afternoon at the Movies

October 29--Diversity/Public Policy

**Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.**

Contact us by e-mailing Membership Co-Vice Presidents Carolyn Herkstroeter at herkcmw@att.net or Carolynn Henning at carhenning@att.net
Visit our website at fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net.