



## 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

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Pat Kelemen, Editor

### BOARD MEETING

The board will meet on Monday, February 5 at 11:30 at McAlister's in Florissant.

### FEBRUARY MEETING

The February meeting of the branch will be on February 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am. Our speakers for the meeting will be Mrytis Spencer, Community Outreach Coordinator and Andrea Denny, JD, MSSW, who work for the Knight Alzheimer Research Center of Washington University. The topic will be centered around "Alzheimer, A Family Challenge." The meeting will take place at Immanuel United Church of Christ, 211 Church Street in Ferguson. The public is welcome to attend.

This meeting features a pot luck lunch. Bring something to share, such as salad (fruit or green), soup, an entrée dish such as a casserole, or dessert.

### GAME DAY 2018



Virginia Jost checks the dessert buffet table



Afghan donated by Shirley Breeze and the silent auction

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Visit our website at [fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net](http://fergusonflorissant-mo.aauw.net).

Game Day on Monday, January 22 was fun for all who attended. Members and several guests played games and chatted before and after lunch and the raffle. The raffle and silent auction featured opportunities to try for several baskets and collections donated by members and to bid on items in the silent auction. A special donation for the raffle was an afghan crocheted by Shirley Breeze. After lunch Wilzetta Bell conducted the raffle. Lillian Boly was in charge of the silent auction this year. Virginia Jost managed the used book sale. Pam Meyers handled the raffle tickets and Carolyn Herkstroeter registered attendees.

Lunch consisted of croissant sandwiches filled with chicken salad, a wide variety of salads and desserts, and coffee or tea. The food committee planned the menu, set up the room Sunday afternoon, prepared the sandwiches, organized the salad/dessert buffet, and prepared the coffee and tea. The committee included Carolyn Henning, Judy Holmes, Jann Forinash Mueller, Joyce Wolf, Lovene Hartman, Carolyn Herkstroeter, Pam Meyers and Myra Talkington.

Carolyn Herkstroeter took all the photos included her. Others will be added to the website later.

Thanks to all who helped make this event a success; it takes a dedicated group to pull this off. If I omitted the name of anyone who worked on this project, I apologize.



Joyce Wolf and Judy Holmes set up sandwiches



Members and guests enjoy lunch



Guests enjoy lunch



Members at lunch

### **PRESIDENTS' LETTER**

AAUW was very active in 2017 as it has been every year for over 135 years. In 2017, 17,000 people learned to negotiate their salary through AAUW workshops; 270,000 messages were sent to lawmakers by AAUW members and supporters; 35 states held AAUW STEM programs. \$3.7 million was awarded to women and community projects; 8,000 students brought AAUW programs to their campuses.

Nationally, other organizations and entities had successes also. Women's marches were held in January in over 92 countries and all 50 states. Over 5 million people participated. A greater number than usual ran for office in the 2017 elections. According to Emily's List, over 20,000 women have contacted

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the organization about running for office in 2018. The Equal Rights Amendment was ratified in Nevada, leaving two states needed to ratify until the required 38 states is reached.

These successes and many more bode well for our agenda in the upcoming years.  
--Shirley Breeze and Pat Kelemen  
Co-Presidents

### **PUBLIC POLICY by Dr. Gloria J. Johnson**

#### **Men as Allies**

Over the past twenty-five years I have come to realize that if we are going to reduce incidences of domestic and sexual violence against women and children we need men as allies. Men are important in our role to help stop violence against women because the majority of violence (both domestic and sexual) against women that's reported is committed by men.

One reason it has been difficult for men to join us in our fight against domestic violence is that for many years society has seen domestic violence as a family affair and should be dealt with by the family. In the area of sexual violence, somehow society has blamed the victim most of the time because they do not understand that sexual violence is about control and not sex.

There is also the thought that because mostly women are victims, this is an issue to be fought by women. If society continues to see domestic violence as a family problem and sexual violence as a sex problem--and not as community problems--women and their children will continue to be prevented from living safe, full and healthy lives.

It is imperative for society to understand that domestic and sexual violence should be everyone's concern. It touches all of our lives. As men become our allies in the fight of violence against women and children, this establishes a team effort of both sexes to find solutions through various approaches.

If you ask parents their vision of their sons as adult men, the majority would not answer "I want my son to be violent with his spouse, girlfriend or other women." To teach boys how to not be violent requires parents, including men, to address violence and confront the contributing factors that perpetrate violence in our society.

Boys learn mostly from their fathers and other men in their lives how to relate to females. They learn from the relationship messages they see with their fathers, uncles, cousins, neighbors, teachers, coaches, peers and anyone else who is a vital part of their life. Because of this connection, we need men to join with us, end their silence, speak out and confront the issues that lead men to feel it's okay to use violence in a relationship.

--Dr. Gloria Johnson is a Ferguson Florissant Branch member, author, and advocate for the end of domestic and sexual violence toward women and girls.

### **LEGISLATIVE RETREAT 2018 by Shirley Breeze**

On a brisk day in early January, almost 50 decouple met in Columbia to review legislation for the upcoming session in Jefferson City. Also on the agenda was the setting of legislative priorities for work with the legislators in the 2018 legislative session. Fourteen organizations were represented. There were two candidates in attendance,

Peggy Cochran, an expert in education issues, began the day with an overview of the state of education in Missouri and the nation. Following her presentation, several individuals reviewed pre-filed bills on issues which they had been following. These individuals included Pat Shores, Karen Francis, Jamie Tomek, Melissa Alper, Ellen Alper, Nancy Miller, Peggy Cochran, and Shirley Breeze.

The culmination of the day consisted of setting priorities. The priorities chosen (in order of their selection, first being most important) are as follows: voting rights, ethics/campaign reform, reproductive justice, education, judges/courts, labor/pay equity, healthcare, ERA, human trafficking.

--Data for this article was provided by Pat Shores

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**PUBLIC POLICY/DIVERSITY COMMITTEE**

The next meeting of the Public Policy/Diversity Committee will be Saturday, February 10 at 10:00 am in the dining room of the Community Building at Aperion Hidden Lake retirement community. Members are to bring ideas for newsletter articles, programs and topics for the committee to further discuss. Guests are always welcome.

The Community Building (Blue awning over door) is locked to non-residents on Saturdays, so let Judy Holmes know if you plan to come at either [mickey.holmes@att.net](mailto:mickey.holmes@att.net) or 314-355-1125. Judy will be present to let you in that morning, so please try to be on time. If you are late, call Judy's cell at 314-365-1357. She will try very hard to take the cell phone with her and have it turned on and will come to let you in!

**INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

This series is co-sponsored by The Tuesday Women's Association of the Ethical Society and The American Association of University Women. The programs are presented at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Road, St. Louis MO 63117.

Each meeting will begin promptly at 10:45 the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month, January to April, in the upper auditorium. The public is cordially invited. There is no fee, but all contributions are greatly appreciated. Free parking is available in the rear of the building. The 45-50 minute lecture will be followed by a question and answer period. Attendees are invited to bring lunch and to stay and discuss the day's topic. In case of inclement weather, you may call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

The program for February 13, 2018 will be **Mistakes of the Past: Making Sense of the North Korean Crisis.**

Daniel Pieper, PhD, East Asian Studies Department, Washington University in St. Louis is a lecturer at Washington University whose research focuses on the cultural history of modern Korea. He spent seven years living in South Korea, most recently as a Fulbright Junior Researcher in Seoul from 2016-2017 where he witnessed the massive peaceful protest that removed the right-wing Korean president Park Geunhye from power. Dr. Pieper will present a brief history of how thoughtless geopolitical division by superpowers resulted in war, ideological dictatorships, and now the surreal juxtaposition of a hyper-modern model democracy and the last Stalinist state on earth. He will also discuss issues of North and South Korean identity and the disparate perceptions of the North Korean crisis in the United States and in South Korea.

--Assistant Coordinator: Carolyn Herkstroeter

**ST. CHARLES TEA TIME TRIVIA**

Mark your calendar now!! The St. Charles AAUW Trivia will be Saturday, April 7, 1-3:30 pm, SC Faith UMC Fellowship Hall. Get ready for fun questions, laughs, food, baskets, and MORE.

**AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES**

Afternoon at the Movies will meet in the Hidden Lake Theater Room on Monday, February 26, at 2:00 pm. The movie will be "Sunset Song" starring Agyness Deyn and Peter Mullan. All are welcome. Let Judy Holmes know you are coming at [mickey.holmes@att.net](mailto:mickey.holmes@att.net) or 314-355-1125.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP**

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on February 13 at 11:30. Joyce Wolf will be hostess and lead the discussion of *Precious and Grace* by Alexander McCall Smith. Please notify Joyce at 314-839-3888 or [j.wolf14@att.net](mailto:j.wolf14@att.net) if you will attend. Bring a sandwich.

**ADELANTE BOOK GROUP**

The Adelante Book Group will meet at Barnes & Noble on Clarkson at 1:30 on February 22. Deb McWard will lead the discussion of *Then Comes Marriage: United States v. Windsor and the Defeat*

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*of DOMA* by Roberta Kaplan.

**MEET AND EAT GROUP**

The AAUW Meet and Eat Lunch Group will be going to Circa STL, 1090 Old Des Peres Rd., 63121 at 11:30 on Tuesday, February 20. They serve American Food. RSVP Kay Meyer at [kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com) or 314-962-7487.

**CALENDAR**

**February 5--Branch Board Meeting**

**February 10--Public Policy/Diversity Committee meeting**

**February 13--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group**

February 13--International Relations Lecture Series

**February 19--Branch meeting and pot luck lunch**

February 20--Meet and Eat Lunch Group

February 22--Adelante Book Group

**February 26--Afternoon at the Movies**

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