



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

BRANCH MAY LUNCHEON

The annual Ferguson Florissant May Luncheon will be held at Catering to You on New Halls Ferry in Florissant on Saturday, May 19, 2018. The buffet luncheon will be served at 12 noon; doors will open at 11:30. The cost is \$22.00 each and **reservations are required**. The deadline for making reservations is **May 15**. The reservation form is included with this newsletter.

We are very fortunate to have George Hodgman as the guest speaker. He has deep ties to Paris, Missouri and St. Louis. He is a veteran magazine and book editor who has worked at Simon & Schuster, *Vanity Fair* and *Talk* magazine. His writing has appeared in numerous magazines.

His memoir *Bettyville* tells the story of returning to Paris to care for his mother Betty, who is no longer able to care for herself or live alone. It is loving, tender, hilarious and life affirming. You might want to read the book before the luncheon.

REPORT ON THE APRIL MEETING

The Branch met on April 16 for new officer installation and an exceptional program. The meeting was well-attended. Shirley Breeze installed the new Co-Presidents Wilzetta Bell and Pam Meyers, Secretary Joyce Bluett, and Treasurer Joyce Wolf. Karen Francis did the honors for Program V.P. Shirley Breeze. These officers' terms begin July 1, 2018.

Kim Burks, Human Resources Director at Aperion Hidden Lake, was the featured speaker. Her presentation addressed the interesting family in which she was raised, which included a multi-cultural household of 13 adopted children. Some of them were sets of siblings. She also spoke about the complexities of foreign adoptions and of adoptees' later searches for birth families and ancestries.

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.



PRESIDENTS' LETTER by Pat Kelemen

The new officers, including Co-Presidents Wilzetta Bell and Pam Meyers, have just been installed and will begin their terms July 3. This means that I am “out of a job.” So I have been thinking about my four years as Co-President with Shirley Breeze.

In those years, I had the opportunity to work with many active members of the branch. Without their efforts, Ferguson Florissant AAUW would collapse. It happens, branches disband. Our dedicated members make sure it won't happen to us. I learned that not all of the most important efforts are well known or lauded. Women simply go about the business of getting things done. Thank you to each one.

From Shirley I learned how much organization and advance planning is necessary. From the program planning meeting in June to the May luncheon the following year, endless tasks must be accomplished--where will special meetings take place and how are those venues secured--often a frustrating experience. Publicity for our events requires several people, especially Sylvia Miller, and an acute awareness of deadlines. I was oblivious of many of these and other essential details five years ago.

Shirley and I, along with individual representatives of our branch, attended Interbranch Council (IBC) meetings. We worked on finding the venue for last year's Spring Fling. That involved inspecting several possible locations, meeting with event planners, signing contracts, and much more. Beginning next fall, Ferguson Florissant rotates into the position of chair of IBC. Thankfully, Shirley will partner with me as Co-Chairs.

I have learned a lot about leading a branch, but there is so much more. My thanks to everyone who helped me do my part. I am certain that Pam and Wilzetta are ready to preside over the branch. Go for it!

PUBLIC POLICY by Wilzetta Bell

Dealing with Alzheimer's

As most of us grow older, we often have experience of forgetting, misplacing items, or not being able to recall certain information we know all too well. We may say to ourselves, “I wonder if this is the first stages of Alzheimer's?”

More and More, Alzheimer's is discussed among friends and families in the home, in work places, in places of worship, and beyond. People with Alzheimer's participate in support groups and online forums, and advocate for needed change. It is no longer assumed that Alzheimer's a normal part of aging. Instead, it is recognized as a fatal disease that demands better methods of diagnosis and treatment.

Indeed, the dialogue is increasing, but we still have a long way to go. As the baby boom generation ages, Alzheimer's will continue to escalate, threatening families, communities, and nations with economic, physical and emotional devastation. That is why we should press forward with care and support for affected families, and strive to advance research that will one day lead to a cure. That is a day we all look forward to as we age, so that we won't have to say to ourselves when we forget something: “I hope I'm not going into the first stages of Alzheimer's.”

BYLAWS VOTING--Key Dates for AAUW's 2018 Bylaws Amendment Vote

- April 16 Opening date to request paper ballots

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- Mid-April Bylaws proposals published in the spring AAUW Outlook; voter PINS emailed to members or mailed to those without email
- April 25 Voting begins online
- May 7 Deadline for AAUW to receive request for paper ballot
- May 21 Deadline for mailing paper ballot, must be postmarked by 11:59 pm ET
- June 9 Online voting ends at 9 pm ET

All AAUW members are encouraged to vote on these important bylaws amendments.

DUES RENEWAL AND FORM

It is now time to renew your membership in AAUW national, state, and branch organizations. Beginning March 16, 2018, national dues are \$59. Of that amount, \$56 is tax deductible. State dues remain \$10, and branch dues remain \$10, The total to renew is \$79. Those with Life Membership pay only state and branch dues.

A renewal form will be included with this newsletter. Send the form and your check to Pam Meyers. It is now also possible to renew online using a credit or debit card. This method goes through National. Those receiving email from AAUW will have received an email from member info@aauw.org explaining how to do this.

DIVERSITY/PUBLIC POLICY MEETING

The Diversity/Public Policy Committee will meet at 10:00 on Friday, April 27, at Aperion Hidden Lake. All interested members are welcome. Notify Judy Holmes at 314-355-1125 or mickey.holmes@att.net if you will attend. Judy needs to know how many to expect in order to decide if the meeting will be at her cottage or elsewhere in the complex.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. GLORIA JOHNSON AND TONI BURROW

St. Louis Celebrity Seniors, Inc., a 401(c)3 organization, is presenting a Humanitarian Award to AAUW (Ferguson-Florissant) branch member Dr. Gloria J. Johnson in the area of "Reducing Street Violence." This award will be presented to her on April 21st at the Doubletree Hotel at Westport. Congratulations to Dr. Johnson!

Congratulations are also in order for branch member Toni Burrow, who was recently elected to the Ferguson City Council.

PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING

The Program Planning Committee will meet Monday, June 4, at noon at Aperion Hidden Lake for a complimentary luncheon. All AAUW members are welcome to attend. Bring ideas for programs for the next year.

While there is no cost for the luncheon, the dining room does need a head count; therefore, if you are coming, please notify Judy Holmes at mickey.holmes@att.net or 314-355-1125. Let Judy know if you need directions.

SPRING FLING THANK YOU

Thank you to all the branch members who helped make Spring Fling a success. Since I am writing this before the event, I will not try to name all those who contributed. However, several people worked on the preparations. Myra Talkington made the beautiful poster displaying the activities of our branch. Judy Holmes and Joyce Wolf donated the purses for the Pizzazzy Purse raffle Carolyn Herkstroeter and Shirley Breeze donated items to be put in the purses, and so did others whose names I don't know. Branch members ran the registration table where attendees checked in.

ANNUAL STATE MEETING

The AAUW Missouri state meeting, Taking the LEAD, will be held May 4 and 5, 2018, in Columbia, Missouri. New AAUW CEO will attend Friday night and Saturday morning. The cost is \$60

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for early bird registration, with several ways to get reimbursement. Ferguson Florissant Branch will reimburse \$30 to members who have paid the registration fee and then ask for the reimbursement. See the flyers for information about other ways to be reimbursed,

Members who wish to attend only the Saturday events can leave St. Louis by car at 6:30 am and arrive at the conference in time for the continental breakfast. Expect to return to St. Louis by around 6:00 pm. See the flyers included here for details.

FERGUSON FARMERS' MARKET

We will be tabling at the Ferguson Farmers' Market on three dates, July 14, August 25, and September 22.

GIFT WRAPPING AT BARNES & NOBLE

We will be gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble in Ladue on June 16, the Saturday before Father's Day, Friday, November 23, the day after Thanksgiving, and before Christmas on December 21-24. This has been a very successful fund raiser for the branch. It depends on volunteers to staff the wrapping table. Please be as generous with your time as you can.

AFTERNOON AT THE MOVIES

Afternoon at the Movies will not meet in May. We will resume on June 25, Judy Holmes will email members in June to let everyone know what the movie will be and other details. Please call Judy at 314-355-1125 or email her at mickey.holmes@att.net if you have questions.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON BOOK GROUP

Tuesday Afternoon Book Group will meet on May 8 at **11:30** at Cannolis. Carolyn Herkstroeter will lead the discussion on the topic "Breaking through Barriers." Group members are asked to prepare by reading one or more of the following:

- *Hidden Figures* by Margot Lee Shetterly (NF)
- *Alice* by Stacy A. Cordery (NF)--Alice Roosevelt Longworth--From White House princess to Washington Power broker
- *The Other Einstein* by Marie Benedict (Historical Fiction)--Einstein's wife Mileva strived to find her place in scientific world dominated by men.
- *Undaunted* by Tanya Biank (NF)--The real story of American service women

MEET AND EAT LUNCH GROUP

The Meet and Eat lunch group will Tuesday, May 15, at 11:45 at Kathy's Kitchen, 250 S. Florissant Rd., Ferguson MO 63135. RSVP to Kay Meyer at kicmeyer51@gmail.com or 314-962-7487.

CALENDAR

April 27--Diversity/Public Policy Meeting

May 4-5--Annual State Meeting

May 8--Tuesday Afternoon Book Group

May 15--Meet and Eat Lunch Group

May 19--Annual May Luncheon

June 4--Program Planning Meeting

June 25--Afternoon at the Movies

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