

*The American Association of University Women advances gender equity
for women and girls through research, advocacy and education*



Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Pam Meyers
President

Shirley Breeze
Program Vice President

Carolyn Herkstroeter
Membership Vice President

Volume 61

February and March 2022

Pat Kelemen, Editor

March Is Women's History Month

from aauw.org

Learn about the many trailblazing AAUW members, Fellows, Grantees and award winners who have made their mark! From groundbreaking scientists to top politicians to Supreme Court justices, these women have been shaping history for 140 years.

AAUW Trailblazers

Our members, fellows and award winners pioneer advances for gender equity. Explore how many of us have made our mark — from the past to the present and into the future!

Members of Congress



Rep. Jeannette Rankin

First Woman Elected to Congress
(R-MT, 1917-19; 1941-43).



Rep. Shirley Chisholm

First Black woman elected to Congress (D-NY, 1969-83). First Black American to run for president and First woman to run for presidential nomination from a major political party.



Rep. Patsy Mink

Member of Congress (D-HI, 1965-77).
Co-author of Title IX.

Contact the Ferguson–Florissant AAUW Branch

Pam Meyers 314-921-7109 wpemeyers@gmail.com or Shirley Breeze 314-831-5359 sbreeze@mindspring.com

February-March 2022 - Page Two

Supreme Court Justices



Rep. Nancy Pelosi

First woman Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (2007-2011; 2017-present). Member of Congress (D-CA. 1993-present).



Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Supreme Court Justice (2009-present). Received 2017 AAUW Achievement Award.



Rep. Jackie Speier

Member of Congress (D-CA, 2013-present).



Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

Supreme Court Justice (1993-present). Received 1999 AAUW Achievement Award.



Rep. Edith Green

Member of Congress (D-OR, 1955-74). Proposed Equal Pay Act in 1955 (passed in 1963). "Mother" of Title IX.



Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

First woman U.S. Supreme Court Justice (1981-2006). Received 1988 AAUW Achievement Award.

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Cabinet Secretaries, Government Leaders

National Labor Relations Act, minimum wage, restrictions on child labor and the Social Security Act.



Patricia Roberts Harris

First Black woman U.S. Cabinet Secretary—U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (1977-79). Later also Secretary of U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (1979-80). First Black woman U.S. Ambassador (to Luxembourg (1965-67). First woman Dean of Howard University Law School.



Janet Reno

First woman Attorney General of the United States (1993-2000).



Wilma Mankiller

First woman Chief of the Cherokee Nation (1985-1995). Received 1993 AAUW Achievement Award.



Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala

Director-General of the World Trade Organization, first woman Finance Minister of Nigeria, 1977-78 AAUW International Fellow and 2021 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Awardee.



Frances Perkins

First woman U.S. Cabinet Secretary (Labor Department, 1933-1945). Architect and implementor of many New Deal initiatives, including the Civilian Conservation Corps,



Dixy Lee Ray

First woman Governor of Washington state (1977-81). Fifth woman Governor in United States. Head of Atomic Energy Commission. John Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Award winner for biology. 1967 Seattle Maritime Society Man of the Year.

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First Ladies



Eleanor Roosevelt

First Lady of the United States (1933-45). First Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (1947-52). First Chair of the Presidential Commission on the Status of Women (1961). Started World Center for Women's Archives project with AAUW member Mary Ritter Beard to "write women back into history."



Lou Henry Hoover

First Lady of the United States (1929-33). First woman to receive a geology degree from Stanford University Co-founder and President of the Girl Scouts of America.



Claudia Alta "Lady Bird" Johnson

First Lady of the United States (1963-69).

Humanitarians, Legal and Social Pioneers



Tererai Trent

Author, professor, humanitarian, Oprah's favorite guest. 2001-02 AAUW International Fellow. Received 2017 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award.



Jane Addams

Nobel Peace Prize winner. Founder of Hull House and social activist.



May Wright Sewall

Chair of the National Women's Suffrage Association (1882-1890). President of the National Council of Women of the United States (1897-1899). President of the International Council of Women (1899-1904). Educator and activist.



Carrie Chapman Catt

Head of National American Women Suffrage Association.
Founder of the League of Women Voters and International
Alliance of Women.



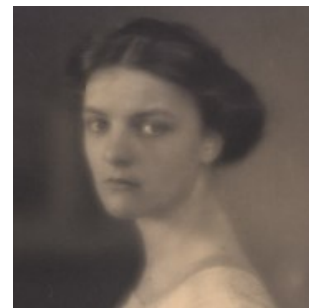
Lilly Ledbetter

Plaintiff in the landmark Supreme Court equal pay and
employment discrimination case *Ledbetter v. Goodyear
Tire & Rubber Co* and gender equity advocate. The Lilly
Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 was passed by Congress and
signed into law by President Barack Obama.



Marjorie Child Husted

Businesswoman behind the Betty Crocker cookbook and
lifestyle brand. Invented gender bias test for men.



Agnes Ernst Meyer

Journalist and owner of *The Washington Post*. Civil rights
activist and philanthropist.



Antonia Hernandez

President of the Mexican American Legal Defense and
Education Fund. Received 1997 AAUW Achievement
Award.



Julia Montgomery Walsh

First woman registered to trade with the American Stock
Exchange (later merged with the New York Stock
Exchange).

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February-March 2022 - Page Six

Academic Leaders



Hanna Holburn Gray

First woman president of a major U.S. university – University of Chicago (1973-93). 1991 Presidential Medal of Freedom winner and received 60 honorary degrees. 1954 AAUW American Fellow. Received 1980 AAUW Achievement Award.



Keisha Blain

Award-winning historian of 20th century U.S. history with specialization in African American history, modern African diaspora and gender studies. Associate Professor of History at University of Pittsburgh and President of the African American Intellectual History Society. 2016-17 AAUW American Postdoctoral Fellow.



Nell Irvin Painter

Leading U.S. historian and Edwards Professor Emerita of American History at Princeton University. AAUW Coretta Scott King Fellow.



Sylvia Ardyn Boone

First tenured Black woman Professor at Yale. Art history and African American studies scholar. 1976-77 AAUW American Fellow.



Nannerl O. Keohane

First woman President of Duke University, former President of Wellesley College. 1966-67 AAUW American Fellow.



Anne Firor Scott

Author of *The Southern Lady: From Pedestal to Politics, 1830-1930*. Professor at Duke University in women's history. 1956-57 AAUW Fellow.

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Virginia Gildersleeve

Dean of Barnard College. Only woman delegate appointed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to the United Nations Conference on International Organization (UNCIO) (the San Francisco Conference) that led to the creation of the United Nations. AAUW board member.

Pioneers in Physical Sciences and Astronomy



Judith Resnick

Second woman to travel in space. Died in 1986 Challenger explosion. 1975-76 AAUW American Fellow.



Johnnetta Cole

First Black woman President of Spelman College. Anthropologist and educator.



Mae Jemison

First Black woman to travel in space. Engineer, physician and NASA astronaut. Received 2007 Achievement Award.



Melissa Harris-Perry

Maya Angelou Presidential Chair at Wake Forest University. She is the founding director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center. Former MSNBC commentator. 2001-02 AAUW American Fellow. Received 2013 AAUW Alumnae Recognition Award.



Nancy Grace Roman

First NASA Chief Astronomer and “Mother” of the Hubble Telescope.

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February-March 2022 - Page Eight



Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin

First full female Professor at Harvard. First Professional Astronomer at Harvard.
1924-25 AAUW International Fellow.



Florence Sabin

First woman elected to the National Academy of Sciences. First woman on faculty and full Professor at Johns Hopkins Medical School. First woman of the Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research. First woman of the American Association of Anatomists. Third woman with statue in the Halls of U.S. Congress. Creator of "Sabin health laws," public health laws still in use today.



Kimberly Ennico Smith

NASA scientist. NASA New Horizons mission that captured images of Pluto. 1997-98 AAUW American Fellow



Jane Chen

Inventor of infant incubator that costs \$25 (vs. \$20,000), making them much more affordable and available worldwide. 2007-08 AAUW Selected Professions Fellow.



Jessica Marquez

NASA Engineer. 2006-07
AAUW Selected Professions Fellow.



Dorothy Boulding Ferebee

President of National Council of Negro Women. Alpha Kappa Alpha President and obstetrician.

Biomedical Pioneers

[please see next column]

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Pioneers in Physical Sciences



Barbara McClintock

First woman to win an unshared Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for her study of genetic transposition or “jumping genes” in maize. Received 1947 AAUW Achievement Award, with a prize of \$2,500, at a time when 95% of available funding was going to men.



Marie Curie

First woman to win the Nobel Prize. First person and only woman to win the Nobel Prize twice. **AAUW members raised \$100,000 to buy a gram of radium for her research.**



Helen Claudia Henry

Polio vaccine team member with Jonah Salk at the Virus Research Laboratory at the University of Pittsburgh. 1955-56 AAUW International Fellow.



Ellen Swallow Richards

First woman to earn a chemistry degree. Pioneer in the home economics field. AAUW co-founder.



Florence B. Seibert

Inventor of the test for tuberculosis. National Achievement Award winner, presented by Eleanor Roosevelt. First AAUW Achievement Award winner.



Chien-Shiung Wu

First woman President of the American Physical Society and physics pioneer. First woman to receive an honorary degree from Princeton and first woman to receive the National Academy of Sciences' Comstock Prize.

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February-March 2022 - Page Ten

Environmental Sciences and Anthropology



Margaret Mead

First woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Curator Emeritus of the American Museum of Natural History. Pioneering anthropologist and activist. Received 1978 AAUW Achievement Award.



Graciela Tiscareno-Sato

Author of award-winning *Latinnovating: Green American Jobs and the Latinos Creating Them*. U.S. Air Force veteran and Air Medal recipient. Author of the first bilingual children's book about women serving in the military, *Goodnight Captain Mama*. White House Champion of Change. 1998-99 AAUW Career Development grantee.



Rachel Carson

Author of the award-winning book *Silent Spring*, which was instrumental in documenting the danger of different

chemical use on the environment inspiring generations of environmentalism. 1956 AAUW Achievement Award.

Leaders in Mathematics and Engineering



Grace Murray Hooper

Pioneering mathematician, computer scientist and rear admiral in the U.S. Navy. Instrumental in devising UNIVAC I, the first commercial electronic computer and naval application for common-business-oriented language (COBOL). The Grace Hopper Celebration at AnitaB.org is the largest annual gathering of women technologists. Received 1983 AAUW Achievement Award.



Dorothy Walcot Weeks

First woman to earn Ph.D. in mathematics at MIT (1930).



Lillian Moller Gilbreth

First woman member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (1926) and the first industrial organizational psychologist.

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AAUW Action Fund on Choice of Senator Kamala Harris for VP

American Association of University Women

August 11, 2020

Washington DC, Aug. 11, 2020 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE)

Kim Churches, CEO of the American Association of University Women Action Fund, issued this statement on August 11, 2020:

"The selection of Senator Kamala Harris as the Democratic vice-presidential nominee signals another welcome milestone for women in American politics. **Senator Harris, the first woman of color on a major-party ticket, has a strong and impressive record of support for the gender equity issues that AAUW has long championed.**

"In her primary campaign, she proposed a six-month paid family and medical leave plan, and she voiced strong support for student loan forgiveness, which would especially benefit women who hold more than two-thirds of the nation's outstanding student loan debt. As a senator, she has supported legislation to help narrow the pay gap, provide protections against workplace harassment and make healthcare more affordable and accessible. She has consistently been a strong advocate for reproductive rights.

"The selection of a biracial woman – the first Black woman and the first South Asian American individual to run alongside a major party's presidential candidate—underscores the ways women continue to make advances in the political arena. When Geraldine Ferraro broke a barrier by becoming Walter Mondale's running mate 36 years ago, only a handful of women held federal

leadership roles: In 1984, just two women served in the Senate and 23 in the House. Today there are 26 female senators and 101 congresswomen, as well as four non-voting delegates. Harris was one of 13 supremely qualified women, including eight women of color, who were reportedly under consideration for the VP role.

"This is not to suggest that we are where we need to be. Women in general, and especially women of color, are still underrepresented in proportion to their numbers in the population. What's more, women candidates are still judged in ways their male counterparts are not: by their demeanor, their smile, the tone of their voice, their wardrobe and hair. We hope that going forward, pundits and voters will look beyond such superficial judgments and focus instead on skills, experience and ideas.

"Still there is much to celebrate: Each new step forward, such as the one marked by the selection of Senator Harris, brings us closer to equality, which will benefit us all. The more women leaders we have, and the more diverse those leaders are, the better we will be able to advance the kind of gender and racial equity agenda that this country so desperately needs."

The AAUW Action Fund advances equity for women and girls through member activism and voter mobilization.



A Note from our Temporary Editor

by Patty Murray

While checking the national website for news to share, I found on the main page the preceding list of important achievements by AAUW women and decided that they deserved an equally prominent, first spot in our *March Is Women's History Month* newsletter.

Contact the Ferguson-Florissant AAUW Branch

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February-March 2022 - Page Twelve

President's Letter

by Pam Meyers, Ferguson Florissant AAUW President

*The Month of March
Has just blown in,
To say that Spring
Will soon begin.
March roars in like a lion,
With a bluster and a slam!
And tiptoes out gently
Like a quiet little lamb.*

This month brings us many awareness events; Women's History Month, Music In Our Schools Month, and of course St. Patrick's Day. I know everyone will be happy to know that Daylight Saving Time starts on Sunday March 13th, and Spring starts on March 20th.

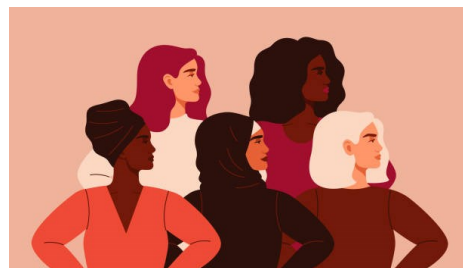
Our Branch is happy to be hosting the Swing Into Spring event (masks of course) in our hometown at Catering To You Banquet Hall. The Barbara Lackritz Award will be presented to five AAUW Branch members. **Carolyn Herkstroeter** has received this prestigious award from our branch. Congratulations Carolyn!

A delicious meal will be served, 50/50 raffles and a raffle for fantastic gift cards up to Fifty dollars. A puzzle for Fundraising for NCCWSL will be set-up and Queens of Swing will be the entertainment. The Registration/reservation form must be sent in with your check by March 12, 2022. It would be great if all of our members would be able to attend this wonderful event.

The MO AAUW has been working on many interesting projects along with all state branches on the following:

- Votes for Women Trail
- Public Policy Gender Pay Equity
- Title IX
- Education Advocacy Colleges and Universities
- Elimination of salary history in the hiring process
- Paid leave
- Voter Registration
- Voter Rights

If any of our members find these projects interesting, then the time is now to become an advocate and researcher. Many of the rights that women in history fought for are slowly being challenged today.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) and Public Policy

The DEI and Public Policy Committee will meet on Monday, March 14, 2022 at 6pm via Zoom. Our committee members will make presentations related to DEI and Public Policy. Hope you can join us!

February is Black History Month. Why the month of February? February is the birth month of two prominent people who played a vital role and spent tireless hours in the contributions and sacrifices to help shape the nation for diversity, equity, and inclusion. It also celebrates cultural heritage by hosting special events, media programs to heighten awareness in African Americans' history and instill in everyone the triumphs a race can have after overcoming so much adversity.

I hope you had a chance to attend an event, watch a media program, read an article to recognize and support Black History month. Thanks for reading this article and appreciate your support.

Lisa Taylor
DEI/Public Policy Chair

DEI / Public Policy Event
All Invited!
March 14, 2022, at 6 pm by Zoom
Meeting ID: 881 5242 5671 Passcode: 202554
Presentations:
Voter Suppression Activities and the Census
by Shirley Breeze
5 Reasons Why Older Women Face Pay Gap
by Pam Meyers

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Annual Potluck/Silent Auction

Our March Branch meeting is a fundraising event. It will be our only fundraising event this year.

Monday, March 21, 2022, from 9:30 - 2:00
Lutheran Church of the Living Christ
2725 Concord Drive on New Halls Ferry Road
Rear parking lot and entrance



The agenda is:

1. **Silent Auction**, sponsored by Lillian Boly. Please bring something used but current (time for spring cleaning!), or something new, including gift cards, to be auctioned. Bidding begins at 10 am.
2. **Potluck Luncheon of sandwiches, salads, and desserts. Coffee and iced tea will be provided. Please send to Shirley Breeze** (see bottom of page) **what dish you plan to bring to the luncheon.** Lunch will begin at 11:30.
3. **Brief planning meeting** to plan the program and speaker for our Spring May Luncheon which will be on Saturday, May 14, 2022. The meeting will begin at approximately 12:15.

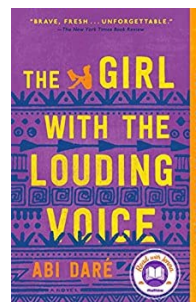
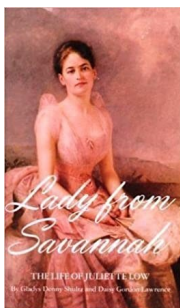
Setup starts at 9:30. Contact Pam or Shirley if you have questions. Please plan to attend and bring guests!

Tuesday Book Group 2022

Next discussion is **Tuesday, March 15** at 11:45am at Patty Murray's home. Please note the time change; my husband has a teleconference on Tuesday mornings and they sometimes go past noon, and they get rather loud. My address is 241 Kings Drive, which is the same subdivision as Shirley Breeze except for a RIGHT turn onto Kings instead of left.

We'll be discussing ***Lady from Savannah: The Life of Juliette Low*** by Daisy Gordon Lawrence and Gladys Denny Shultz. The book is more about her family's remarkable role in American history than it is about the Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. The Ferguson Municipal Public Library has two copies and Amazon offers a Kindle version along with hardback and paperbacks available for purchase.

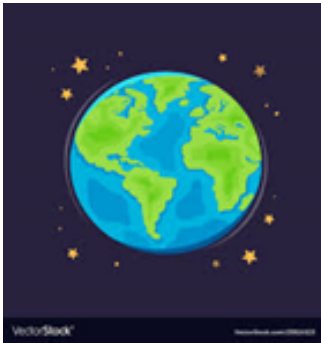
On May 17th our book will be ***The Girl with the Louding Voice*** by Abi Dare.



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February-March 2022 - Page Fourteen



International Relations Lecture Series

Please note the change to Zoom.
Tuesdays at 10:45 am.

The correct Zoom meeting code is
384-422-5785

March 8, 2022

Welcoming Refugees to St. Louis and a Glimpse at the World Refugee Situation

Speaker:

Ariel Burgess, MSW

V.P. of Client Services
International Institute of St. Louis

Ms. Burgess brings over 20 years of experience and practical knowledge to the field of refugee resettlement, having first started in the field when Bosnians were coming to the U.S. and St. Louis. To date, Ms. Burgess and the Institute have been instrumental in bringing Afghans who were evacuated in 2021 to St. Louis. She will give us a glimpse of the worldwide refugee situation and then focus on refugees already in St. Louis, expected refugee arrivals, and how the community can support refugee resettlement.

Coordinator: Sue Williams

Assistant Coordinator: Nancy Hutchins

April 12, 2022

The Waxing and Waning of Democracy Around the World

Speaker:

Olga Bezhanova, Associate Professor

Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville

Olga Bezhanova is an Associate Professor of Spanish Literature and Chair of the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literature at Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. Her book *Growing Up in an Inhospitable World: Female Bildungsroman in Spain* was awarded the Victoria Urbano Prize for the Best Critical Monograph.

After the fall of the USSR in 1991 and the subsequent efforts of countries in Eastern Europe and the Global South to establish democratic regimes, there was a widespread feeling that humanity had achieved what Francis Fukuyama termed “the end of history” and accepted the primacy of representative democracy over other types of political systems. Since then, however, we have seen the initial enthusiasm for democracy weaken in Latin America and countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At the same time, well-established democracies of the West have experienced a series of crises that cast doubt over their capacity to preserve fully democratic systems of government. What is the future of democracy? Will it renew itself in the coming years or are we to prepare for continued weakening of democratic institutions everywhere?

Coordinator: Sharon Poe

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Spring Fling

SWING INTO SPRING IS HAPPENING!

Please see the event flyer and registration form on the next page

Join AAUW members from St. Louis branches for the biggest celebration of IBC Barbara Lackritz AAUW honorees ever!

One member from each of the five St. Louis area branches will be recognized for longtime, dedicated service to AAUW, and we want you to celebrate them with us. Let's show our support by having at least two tables of members from each branch there to share this special day with our honorees.

Proof of vaccination is not required but masks are to be worn except when eating. You and five others will be seated at a large table with plenty of room for distancing. Learn more about Catering To You on their Facebook page.

The event kicks off at 11:30 am with check in and check out of the fabulous raffle prizes offered by IBC branches! Raffle tickets are 3 for \$10 and provide scholarships for local women students to attend NCCWSL! This year's raffles include creative, fun gift cards totaling \$50.

Choose from:

- Spring Spruce Up!** (Home Depot and Lowes)
- Dessert, Anyone?** (Dairy Queen and Nothing Bundt Cakes)
- Dine in Historic Old Time Florissant** (Hendel's Restaurant)
- Wine Connoisseur** (Total Wine and Trader Joe's)
- Happy Gardening** (Greenscape Gardens and Rolling Ridge Nursery)
- A Walk Down Historic Main Street St. Charles**--3 cards totaling \$100!
(The Flower Petaler, Main Street Books, and Frontier Park Café)



There will also be a 50-50 raffle with tickets costing \$5 for 6 chances.

This year you will also be able to buy a *"Piece of the NCCWSL Puzzle,"* a special fundraiser for the **2023 NCCWSL Conference**, which we hope will be in person once again.

The program officially starts with a welcome at Noon. Tables will be called to the buffet one by one to minimize crowding. At 12:45 the Barbara Lackritz honorees will be introduced and presented with a beautiful certificate and bouquet of flowers. Pictures will be taken. Then at 1:15 sit back, relax, and tap your feet (or sing!) to the wonderful music of The Queens of Swing. You are in for a treat! Bet you won't be able to sit still! About 1:45 announcements, including raffle winners, will be made, branch pictures will be taken, and evaluations can be completed so that the event wraps up by 2:30.

Can't attend but want to make a donation or buy raffle tickets? Complete a registration form and send to Carol Davis-McDonald with your check. No amount is too small!

Branches, remember to submit a registration form with payment for your honoree to Carol Davis McDonald. Each branch should plan its own Barbara Lackritz celebration for a branch meeting.

Questions? Contact IBC co-chair Deb McWard, 314-607-2908.

Registration form is on the next page.

****Please note: The entrance to Catering to You is on the lower parking lot.****

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February-March 2022 - Page Sixteen



Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council

"SWING INTO SPRING"

Honoring Barbara Lackritz Awardees

Relishing a great meal "out" with friends

Toe-tapping to the music of [The Queens of Swing](#)

and raising funds for IBC Projects



Saturday, March 26, 2022, 11:30 am – 2:30 pm

[Catering To You](#)

[12775 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033](#)

Park and enter from the lower parking lot; drive down the hill on the right of the building.

Buffet Lunch: Garden Salad, Roasted Top Round of Beef Au Jus, Mushroom Herb Chicken Breast
Scalloped Potatoes, Homestyle Green Beans, Rolls, Drinks, Dessert (indicate special dietary needs below)



Make check payable to: **AAUW Metro St. Louis IBC**

Mail no later than **March 12** to: Carol Davis McDonald, 827 Bergquist Drive, Manchester, MO 63011-4215

Print Name _____ Branch _____

Address _____

Email (required) _____

I am enclosing a check for \$ _____ **TOTAL** for the following:

_____ My Registration (\$35) _____ \$ _____

_____ Guest(s) Registration (\$35 x #) _____ \$ _____

_____ Donation (enter amount) _____ \$ _____

_____ Raffle tickets 3 for \$10 (enter amount) _____ \$ _____

Tickets placed in gift card drawing of our choosing unless you specify otherwise _____

_____ 50/50 tickets 6 for \$5 (enter amount) _____ \$ _____

~ Enter guest names and/or special dietary needs here. ~

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AAUW Celebrates the Nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson

February 25, 2022

AAUW Chief Executive Officer Gloria L. Blackwell issued this statement on President Biden's nomination of Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the U.S. Supreme Court:

Our hearts are full with profound joy, pride and exhilaration that President Biden has nominated the brilliant, inspiring and eminently qualified Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to serve on the Supreme Court of the United States of America.

As an organization that has worked for 140 years to advance the rights of all women, AAUW views her nomination as a historic milestone that will move us more swiftly to gender and racial equity and justice. Her confirmation won't just give a Black woman "a seat at the table," but will bring valuable and much-needed new insights to the highest court in the land to the benefit of us all.

Representation matters—and we are thrilled to see the labor, intellect and advocacy of Black women being recognized, acknowledged and celebrated in this extraordinary moment.

President Biden pledged to nominate a justice with exceptional credentials, unimpeachable character and an unwavering dedication to the rule of law—and he found all of that and more in Judge Jackson.

Her qualifications are outstanding. A Harvard Law graduate, she has served with distinction on the second-highest court in the land, the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. In addition, she held a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship, positions at prestigious corporate law firms, and a role on the U.S. Sentencing Commission. Judge Jackson also worked as a public defender—experience that is sorely lacking on the current court.

Judge Jackson has shown a commitment to the issues that AAUW holds dear, including support for equal justice and the protection of civil and human rights for all Americans.

Her stellar background, combined with her demonstrated commitment to fairness, impartiality and equal justice, all add up to one conclusion: She is the ideal jurist for the job.

AAUW wholeheartedly supports this momentous nomination and will use our voice, resources, passion and activism to ensure that Judge Jackson is quickly confirmed with a unanimous vote by the U.S. Senate. This February, it's remarkable to see Black history in the making!

Preliminary Information for AAUW Missouri State Conference "Celebrating a Century of Success"

Holiday Inn Executive Center, Columbia, MO

2200 I-70 Drive, Columbia, MO 65203

RESERVATIONS 573-445-8531

DEADLINE: April 6 for special AAUW Rates

Room rate \$119/night with up to four persons per room

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION: Cost is \$60 per person before APRIL 6, or \$70 after. Saturday lunch is included. (Friday Celebration Dinner is separate cost of \$50) The AAUW MO Incentive Grant fund is available and can provide \$30 per registration for up to three members per branch.

Friday, May 6 Centennial Celebration Dinner & Program (Special Guests from our Past) 6:30-9:30 pm

Saturday, May 7 State Meeting - Awards, Elections, Installations and More

7:30 to 10:00 am Registration

8:30 am-3:30 pm Keynote Speakers, Breakouts and Programs

Contact the Ferguson-Florissant AAUW Branch

Pam Meyers 314-921-7109 wpemeyers@gmail.com or Shirley Breeze 314-831-5359 sbreeze@mindspring.com

February-March 2022 - Page Eighteen

And this just in from the Washington Post 3/2/2022

D.C. will offer private-sector workers maximum paid-leave benefits, CFO says

By Michael Brice-Saddler

Private-sector workers in D.C. will be able to take up to 12 weeks of leave per year in a dramatic expansion of the city's paid-leave system, the city's chief financial officer said Monday, since the program has cost less than previously forecast and has excess funds.

In the budget passed last year, the council asked the CFO's office to examine the program's revenue and expenditures annually, and to incrementally expand the leave benefits while eventually reducing the employer tax rate if tax contributions exceeded the cost of sustaining the initiative.

But instead of a gradual climb, now those changes will come all at once: Starting this year, eligible workers will be provided with 12 weeks of paid parental, family and medical leave — with a cap of 12 weeks in a year, according to a letter from then-acting chief financial officer Fitzroy Lee. It represents a sharp increase from the current benefit of eight weeks of parental leave, six weeks of family leave and six weeks of personal leave, for a maximum of eight weeks per year. Private-sector workers are also guaranteed two weeks of paid prenatal leave.

Moreover, Lee said, the District can cut the payroll tax rate for employers from 0.62 percent to 0.26 percent. That change will result in a saving of \$202 million for employers in the first year, said D.C. Council member Elissa Silverman (I-At Large), who pushed for the annual CFO review.

"I always said that the CFO's cost estimates for the program were way too high, which meant employers were paying way too much in tax for what their employees were getting in paid leave benefits," Silverman said in a statement, adding that she was surprised the changes were able to occur all in one year rather than over time.

Lee noted in his letter that the Department of Employment Services (DOES), which administers the program, is figuring out how quickly it can implement the changes, which could be as soon as July 1.

The District began taxing private-sector businesses large and small in 2020 to fund the Universal Paid Family Leave Act, which was passed by the council in 2016. The benefits are available to all eligible workers, including workers who spend more than 50 percent of their time working in D.C., even if their jobs provide additional leave benefits. Using the tax revenue, the city currently reimburses employees for 90 percent of their first \$912 in weekly pay and 50 percent of their remaining weekly pay, with a cap of \$1,009 per week.

Last year, as lawmakers sought to increase the maximum benefits to keep up with federal employees who can receive up to 12 weeks of paid parental leave, they asked the city's chief financial officer to evaluate funding for the program each year to determine by how much the benefits could rise, with the goal eventually of reaching 12 weeks across the board.

Using some excess funding from the program last year, the council boosted medical leave benefits from two to six weeks and added the prenatal leave benefit.

But instead of a gradual increase, the changes will come essentially all at once, greatly boosting benefits for workers while also reducing the tax rate for the businesses helping to fund the program. Even with the expanded benefits, the program is still projected to have a surplus of more than \$400 million this fiscal year, and more than \$200 million in the coming years, according to Lee.

In a statement Wednesday, the DC Paid Leave Campaign, which represents a coalition of local businesses that advocated for strong paid leave programs in the District, cited January 2021 data from the DOES that shows 80% of

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workers who applied for medical and family caregiving leave in the program's first six months were either Black, Hispanic, Asian or multiracial — and that 40 percent of people who applied for such leave have incomes under \$50,000.

"The expansion of the DC Paid Family Leave program represents a concrete step towards addressing longstanding racial, economic and health disparities that have only been exacerbated by the pandemic," the statement said. "We are deeply gratified by this announcement today."

The D.C. Council approved the Paid Leave Act in 2016 on a 9-to-4 vote, in the face of intense opposition lobbying from the city's major employers and businesses advocacy groups, which pushed back on the tax rate. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) greatly opposed the bill and opted not to sign the law at the time, similarly citing concerns about the tax and noting that many of those who work in D.C. live in Maryland and Virginia.

Last month, a unanimous D.C. Council introduced legislation that would significantly expand paid-leave benefits for city government workers, including new paid medical leave for qualifying ailments such as cancer.

The employer contribution rate for the private-sector program will be evaluated again in March 2023, according to the letter.

Correction: A previous version of this article incorrectly referred to Fitzroy Lee as acting chief financial officer for D.C. He was acting chief financial officer at the time he wrote a letter about paid family leave but has since been made permanent chief financial officer. The article has been corrected.

Challenges to Voting Rights in Missouri

If you are following the bills in Jefferson City about changes to voting eligibility and citizens initiative petitions, here is some new information from Denise Lieberman of the Missouri Voter Protection Coalition. The coalition's concerns about these changes are included within the bills' descriptions below.

Both the Missouri House and Senate Elections Committees posted late breaking public hearing notices for tomorrow, Wed. March 2 addressing bills that increase the threshold for citizen initiatives, mandate paper ballots that could impede some voters with disabilities, impose strict photo ID requirements and establish a two-tiered absentee voting process and impose limits on voting by mail and more.

HOUSE ELECTIONS HEARING MARCH 2

HJR 131, HJR 132, HB 1595

When: Wed. March 2, 2022, 12pm

Where: Missouri House Elections Committee

Missouri State Capitol, House Hearing Room 6

HJR 131 (Shaul)

Proposed constitutional amendment to modify Art. VIII of the Missouri constitution to clarify that: (i) only US citizens are allowed to vote (which is already the case), (ii) that voters may only cast a single vote for each candidate or issue; and that the political party candidate receiving the most votes in a primary will be the only candidate for that party in the general election

This legislation appears designed to undermine the movement towards ranked choice voting/ elimination of partisan primaries. For further information on the proposed ballot initiative that would allow all candidates to appear on primary ballots and a run-off of top candidates in the general, see: <https://betterelectionsmo.org>

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February-March 2022 - Page Twenty

HJR 132 (Kidd) - initiative petition

Proposed constitutional amendment to change the threshold for passage of proposed constitutional ballot initiatives to require a proposed amendment to receive both a majority of statewide votes, as well as a majority vote in at least half of Missouri's state house districts.

This would make it harder for proposed measures to pass and appears designed to dilute votes in Missouri's more populated areas.

HB 1595 (paper ballots)

mandates paper ballots beginning Jan. 2023. Even with accessibility language regarding assistance with marking devices for voters with disabilities, there are concerns that this legislation could impede the ability of some voters with disabilities to cast a secret ballot - particularly visually impaired voters who could lose the ability to cast a secret ballot.

SENATE ELECTIONS HEARING MARCH 2

SB 670, SB 679

When: Wed. March 2, 2022, 12pm

Where: Missouri Senate Elections Committee

Missouri State Capitol, SCR 1

SB 670 (White)

Photo ID: Enshrines strict photo ID requirements for in-person voting (including in-person absentee) by eliminating non-photo forms of ID Missouri voters currently use and rely upon to cast a ballot; also eliminates funding and obligation of Secretary of State to provide advance notice of voter ID rules

Eliminates ID Missourians rely upon like a voter registration card or student ID, requiring ID you typically must get at the DMV.

More than 200,000 Missouri voters lack a non-expired Missouri photo ID.

Voters of color, seniors and voters with disabilities are least likely to have a non-expired state ID.

Voters whose registration is not in question should not be made to cast a provisional ballot that may not count. The provisional ballot would not count unless the voter returns to polls on Election Day with non-expired photo ID or upon signature match.

Eliminating the SOS's advance notice obligation makes matters worse. Voters need more information about voting rules, not less.

Absentee Voting: Authorizes no-excuse absentee voting, but only for certain voters -- only those who can appear in person at the election office; the bill continues to strictly limit the ability to obtain an absentee ballot by mail - and requires mail-in ballots to be notarized, except for those who are confined or in jail.

Those who can't make it in person to the election office -- hourly or shift workers who can't get there during working hours, those who lack transportation to the election office, those with disabilities or other barriers who need to get ballots by mail would still need to meet one of 6 limited excuses to vote absentee.

Voters without state issued Photo ID would be left out.

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Those who need absentee ballots by mail - people who have to work on Election Day, elderly voters, voters with disabilities or chronic health conditions, or those with caretaker obligations - would still need to meet one of 6 limited excuses to vote absentee - and having to work, being elderly, having health conditions or caretaker obligations alone are not valid reasons to vote absentee in Missouri. These voters would be left out.

The majority of states allow any voter to cast an absentee ballot by mail without providing a reason. Missouri should make no-excuse absentee voting available for all voters.

This bill further limits absentee voting for those confined due to illness or disability and their caretakers - only those actually confined on Election Day itself; and only caretakers who actually reside with the confined person would be eligible to vote absentee.

Prohibits groups from soliciting absentee applications or helping voters pre-fill absentee applications, making it harder for individuals to access voting by mail.

Eliminates requirement that election commissioners, poll workers, challengers and watchers are residents of the election jurisdiction, opening the door to voter intimidation by outsiders.

Makes it illegal to pay those who engage in voter registration, except government workers.

Eliminates electronic voting machines and mandates paper ballots by 2024, which could impede the ability of certain voters with disabilities to cast secret ballots.

Allows SOS to audit local election authority voter rolls and conduct cyber security audits and withhold funds.

Prohibits use of electronic voting machines, except for voters with disabilities.

Allows Missouri voters who have moved from one jurisdiction to another to update address at the polls on Election Day, a positive reform.

Requires that voting machines not be network connected, which is already the case.

This bill is similar to HB2113.

Calendar

March	Women's History Month
March 8	International Relations Speaker Series, Zoom
March 12	Spring Fling registration due date
March 13	Set your clocks ahead for Daylight Savings Time
March 14	DEI/Public Policy Meeting, <u>all invited</u>, 6:00 pm, Zoom Mtg ID 881 5242 5671 pw 202554
March 15	Branch Book Club, Patty's home, 11:45 am, <i>Lady from Savannah</i>
March 21	Branch Silent Auction and Potluck, brief business meeting 10:00 am
March 26	SPRING FLING at Catering To You, 11:30 am Register by March 12th
April 12	Equal Pay Day
April 12	International Relations Speaker Series, Zoom
April 30	AAUW MO State Board Meeting
May 7	AAUW MO State Meeting
May 14	Branch Luncheon at Catering To You
May 17	Ferguson Florissant Book Group

03/02/2022 plm

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