



# Ferguson-Florissant (MO) Branch

Pam Meyers  
President

Shirley Breeze  
Program Vice President

Patty Murray  
Editor

## March-April 2023 Newsletter

### Spring Fling 2023 Report

Our branch's Pat Kelemen was honored with the Barbara Lackritz Award at the Spring Fling IBC Luncheon on March 18, 2023. This is what was read as Pat received her award. We were happy to see Pat's husband Mike there, along with Pam Meyers, Joyce Wolf, Myra Talkington, Karen Haynes, Patty Murray with guests Erin Murray and Katie Jensen.

#### **Patricia A. Kelemen**

Pat spent thirty years as a junior high and high school English teacher at the Ferguson-Florissant and Hazelwood School Districts where she advocated for gender equity for her students. She also worked with Fifth graders in several schools as a Robotics supervisor.

Pat was Branch President for four years with Shirley Breeze. The dynamic duo led the IBC during that time, too, even though it was not technically their turn.

Pat had an extensive thirty-year career as a the public school teacher. Pat says that all her energy went into teaching responsibilities and her commitment to AAUW.

**Our thanks to Pat for her extensive and dedicated service to AAUW and, once again, congratulations!**



Contact the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch  
Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)

**Swing Into Spring  
March 18, 2023  
Fiscal Summary**

Receipts:	
Reservations	\$2,880.00
Expenses:	
Caterer/venue (66 meals), mic. & speaker, tablecloths, tip, event booking	\$2,331.00
Entertainment	\$200.00
Program printing	\$0.00
Fundraising supplies, Debbie	\$13.48
Name badges/inserts, Carol/Rose Ann	\$0.00
Evaluation forms, Pam	\$0.00
Gratis meals (program), Nicole	\$25.00
	\$2,569.48
Profit = \$310.52	

Lackritz Award Expenses

Program printing	\$0.00
Certificates	\$0.00

Fundraising

Gift card raffle tickets	
With reservation	\$260.00
Gift card raffle tickets, 50-50 raffle, scratch-off bouquet	
On site	\$625.00
Donation checks	\$180.00
Total	\$1,065.00

<https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/annual-spring-fling-fundraiser/>

**One of those "I wish I had said ..." moments:**

At our AAUW Branch booth at the Florissant Fall Festival last fall, a gentleman approached us and engaged Pam in a rather impertinent conversation as to why women are still talking about the right to vote when we already have it.

*I wish I had said ... "Sir, do you still celebrate the 4th of July?"*



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## **Diversity Equity Inclusion / Public Policy**

Hello Branch Members!

I hope all of you had a chance to participate and enjoy some the celebrations for Black History Month. I had the opportunity to participate, and I learn more about Black history each year and every day.

Some of you may have heard of the National Women's Law Center. I receive their newsletter and thought I would share some information with you from their most recent newsletter. The Florida High School Athletics Association wants to force student athletes to provide their menstrual history to participate in school sports. This proposal would violate students' privacy and bodily autonomy and could put them at risk for discrimination.

To stop this action from taking place, we were asked to send an electronic letter to the Board of Directors. There was a huge response and the request was squashed! To be exact, 5,000 messages were received in 48 hours, and the Board held an emergency vote. Not only did the Board of Directors quietly decide against requiring students to submit their menstrual cycle history, they quietly moved from asking a student's "sex assigned at birth." All of this activity was an attempt to monitor trans students and violate their bodily autonomy.

There is still work to be done in this area. We need to protect trans, nonbinary and intersex students who just want to play sports alongside their peers without bullying and exclusion.

Think about this information, not only as we finish celebrating Women's History month in March but also throughout the year.

I will close my article with a quote that was shared at a Black History event. This quote came from **Shirley Chisholm**:

***"If they won't give you a seat at the table, bring a folding chair."***

Hope you enjoyed the article and hope to see you at one of our AAUW Branch DEI and Public Policy meetings.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Taylor, MEd

***From AAUW MO STEM Chair Sandra Murdock***

New STEM Tab on AAUW MO Website

A STEM tab has been added to the home page of the state website. Its purpose is to encourage sharing of STEM programs, events, and other relevant information among branches. It is not difficult to contribute materials to be posted. Just submit write-ups, photos, or forms to the state web manager. Links to STEM-related materials already present on the internet also can be posted. <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/>

An inspiring documentary titled ***"Not the Science Type"*** addresses negative stereotypes and the need for greater diversity, equity, and inclusion in science, technology, engineering, and math.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgHloyZiMCI>

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## Women and STEM

*Slides from our recent branch DEI Meeting*

Dr. Tommie Turner

Director of the Institute for Science and Mathematics, Harris-Stowe State University

### % Women with Bachelor Degrees in STEM (Forbes 04/07/2022)

Contributor: Mark Kantrowitz

- 16% in computer and information sciences
- 21% in engineering and engineering technology
- 27% in economics
- 38% in physical sciences
- 48% in mathematics and statistics
- 63% in biological and biomedical sciences
- 83% in health professional and related sciences (social and behavioral sciences and non-STEM)

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### National Center for Education Statics (NCES) Baccalaureate and Beyond Longitudinal Study (B&B:16/17) 2016-2017

Annual income one year after graduation with Bachelor's degree.

Field of study: Undergraduate	Salary (Male)	Salary (Female)	Difference (\$)	Difference (%)
Computer and information sciences	\$58,004	\$50,717	(\$7,287)	-13%
Engineering and engineering technology	\$54,400	\$49,277	(\$5,123)	-9%
Biological and physical science, science technology, math, and agriculture	\$32,836	\$27,815	(\$5,021)	-15%
Social sciences	\$33,519	\$28,249	(\$5,270)	-16%
Health care fields	\$46,244	\$45,946	(\$298)	-1%

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### U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, September 8, 2022

Table 1.11 Employment in STEM occupations, 2021 and projected 2031 (Numbers in thousands)

Occupation category	Employment, 2021	Employment, 2031	Employment change, 2021-31	Percent employment change, 2021-31	Median annual wage, 2021 <sup>(1)</sup>
Total, all occupations	158,134.7	166,452.1	8,317.4	5.3	\$45,760
STEM occupations <sup>(2)</sup>	9,880.2	10,944.2	1,064.0	10.8	\$95,420
Non-STEM occupations	148,254.5	155,508.0	7,253.5	4.9	\$40,120

**Footnotes:**

<sup>(1)</sup> Data are from the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics program, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Wage data cover non-farm wage and salary workers and do not cover the self-employed, owners and partners in unincorporated firms, or household workers.

<sup>(2)</sup> Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) occupations include computer and mathematical, architecture and engineering, and life and physical science occupations, as well as managerial and postsecondary teaching occupations related to these functional areas and sales occupations requiring scientific or technical knowledge at the postsecondary level. For more information, see <https://www.bls.gov/oes/topics.htm#stem>.

Source: Employment Projections program, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

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STEM *continued*

## GeoFutures: The Future of Geospatial is STLMade 2020 Report

- The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) employs 3,700 workers in the St. Louis region. Average salary is \$75,000. Region's average salary is \$54,000.
- In the City of St. Louis, NGA employs 3,150 workers with an average salary of \$101,000.
- Geospatial-related occupational workforce in St. Louis region is large and has increased by 11% since 2015.
- Geospatial-related occupational workforce in St. Louis region is outpacing national growth to reach nearly 53,000 employed in key geospatial occupations.
- St. Louis' colleges and universities are growing their geospatial-related educational programming and graduate levels by nearly 23% from 2015-2017, a rate more than double that is seen nationally.

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## STL 2030 Jobs Plan

The STL 2030 Jobs Plans sets out a 10-year action plan to lead the nation in inclusive growth by expanding the number of quality jobs (livable wage with benefits) available to all St. Louisans.

5 potential strong clusters/growth drivers in metro St. Louis:

- Advanced Business Services (finance and insurance)
- Biomedical and Health Services (advanced biomedical and pharmaceutical)
- Advanced Manufacturing & Production (advanced software engineering, manufacturing, consumer products and food production)
- Aerospace Automotive & Defense: (anchored by Boeing and GM)
- Transportation and Logistics

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## Resources/Websites

- **The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)** <https://www.bls.gov>
- **United Nations (UN)** [un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day](http://un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day)
- **S.2217-Women and Minorities in STEM Booster Act of 2021** <https://congress.gov>
- **Forbes** [forbes.com/sites/markkantowitz/2022/04/07/women-achieve-gains-in-stem-fields/?sh=771837b15ac5](https://forbes.com/sites/markkantowitz/2022/04/07/women-achieve-gains-in-stem-fields/?sh=771837b15ac5)
- **National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)**: [nces.edu/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019241](https://nces.edu/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019241)
- **2022 IT Labor Market Report**: <https://techstl.com/reports/>
- **5X5 Blueprint (A Five Year Strategic Plan)**: [TechSTL.com](https://techstl.com)
- **September 2022 STL Tech Jobs Report**
- **GeoFutures: The Future of Geospatial is STLMade 2020 Report**
- **STL 2030 Jobs Plans**

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STEM *continued*

**Miss America 2023 shares passion for STEM at GEMS conference**

By Abbey Taylor Milwaukee

PUBLISHED 5:11 PM ET Jan. 12, 2023

KENOSHA, Wis. — Miss America 2023 Grace Stanke made one of her first appearances after being crowned right here in Southeast Wisconsin.

She was the keynote speaker at the 10th annual **Girls Empowered by Math and Science** conference at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside. The event included 450 girls from Racine Unified Middle School, where they heard from experts in the STEM field and took part in different workshops.

“As women in STEM, I wish I had opportunities like this when I was in seventh and eighth grade,” said Stanke.

Stanke is a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she’s studying nuclear engineering.

“The women before me that are holding c-suite positions right now; they removed boulders,” said Stanke. “Right now I’m removing rocks. Hopefully the young girls here today only have to remove pebbles as they’re pursuing a career in stem.”

Seventh grader Alayna Rodriguez said she’s learned from both Stanke and the other speakers.

“It was really interesting,” said Rodriguez. “It was really cool to see her. She’s so pretty in general.”

While STEM might not be for everybody, Stanke wants to inspire the young girls to follow their dreams.

“Be comfortable in who you are,” said Stanke. “That in itself is a powerful thing. You don’t need to rely on what other people think of you. When I was in middle school, that’s all I thought about. What do they think of me? Am I the cool person? It doesn’t really come from other people. It comes from within themselves.”

A message she’s hoping that will stick with the Racine Unified Middle School students as they navigate their future endeavors.

<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2023/01/12/miss-america-2023-shares-passion-for-stem-at-gems-conference->

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Portion from another Spectrum News article about Grace Stanke and the Miss America Pageant

<https://spectrumnews1.com/wi/milwaukee/news/2022/12/16/miss-america-miss-wisconsin-grace-stanke>

... “Going into the competition, I knew I wanted to be 100% myself, and a nuclear engineer is a little bit outside the box for the Miss America organizations. So, I wasn’t sure if they would love it or not,” she said.

But on Tuesday night, that changed. Stanke was awarded the Talent Award in a preliminary round for her classical violin performance of “Storm” from the Summer movement of Vivaldi’s “Four Seasons.”

“That Talent Prelim award really showed that they were interested in having a nuclear engineer, and it was that evening that I realized, ‘This is something that I think is in my future,’ and I started really envisioning that for myself,” she said. ...

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**More STEM News.** On January 20, 2023, Yale University gave special honors to Bobbi Wilson, a fourth-grade student, for her outstanding work on Lantern flies that harm trees and plants.

**Please Google** “[Bobbi Wilson Yale University lanternflies](#)” for additional news stories.

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## The National Votes for Women's Trail

Pat Shores, Votes for Women, Missouri Trail Coordinator

### Alma Nash Historical Roadside Marker Installation

Alma Nash was honored at the installation of the final Pomeroy Roadside Historical Marker in Missouri on Friday, March 24, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. The marker was installed at a small pocket park on the corner of Main Street and Third Street in Maryville, Missouri.

Alma was the lead Maryville woman in the Missouri Ladies Military Band in the National Women's Suffrage Parade in D.C. and the Suffrage Tour of Central Missouri in 1913.

The National Votes for Women's Trail, a project of the National Collaborative for Women's History Sites, has collaborated with the William G. Pomeroy foundation to install historical roadside markers in every state to commemorate events and leaders of the women's suffrage movement. Altogether, Missouri received four roadside markers.

The three previous installations that AAUW and the League supported were arranged by the National Votes for Women Missouri Representative, Cynthia Holmes.

This installation has been arranged by Dr. Elyssa Ford, Associate Professor of History & Honors Program Director, and Coordinator of Public History & Museum Studies Program at Northwest Missouri State University. You can contact her at [www.elyssaford.com](http://www.elyssaford.com).

About Alma Nash's band leading the Washington, DC, parade, in her own words:

*"We did not have time to stop and think about the really important thing we did when our band led the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue. We were not right in the lead when the parade started: a number of women escorts, a number of walking officers of the National Equal Suffrage Association, with our band following, was the order when we first started. We had gone but a short distance when the crowd started closing up toward the line of the parade, and men blockaded a place in the street a short distance ahead. **One of the suffrage officers came rushing back to us and told us to march on ahead and lead; that it would be necessary for the band to open the way proved true.** We were not molested in the least and although the march was slow on account of the crowds, no one offered to stand in our way down the avenue." — Alma Nash, leader of the Maryville Ladies Marching Band, who led the 1913 Women's Suffrage parade in Washington D.C.*

<https://missouriwomen.org/2021/03/21/missouri-women-talk-suffrage/>



Alma Nash and her band pose for a photo preserved at the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum. The band was made up of Nash's music students.

[MARYVILLE] FORUM  
FILE PHOTO

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Votes for Women Trail, *continued*

MARYVILLE, Mo. — Alma Nash was one of those people who never stopped working, and she didn't let the fact that she was born a woman in 1883 limit what she could do.

Nash is most well-known in the state of Missouri for her direction of the Missouri Ladies Military Band, which participated in the women's suffrage parade in Washington, D.C., in 1913, but her involvement in music went much further than that.

After leaving school, she traveled the country as a performer and returned to Maryville in her twenties to open her own music school where she taught lessons in instruments like the banjo, mandolin and guitar. She also performed several different string orchestras and concert bands — some with male and female musicians, and some, like the Missouri Ladies Military Band, with just women.

Nash's groups performed regularly in Maryville and the surrounding communities, and after their success in the national suffrage parade, the Missouri Ladies Military Band performed across the state of Missouri to continue to push for women's right to vote.

Following her father's death, Nash and her mother moved to Kansas City in 1918. There, she continued to give private lessons and taught thousands of students over the next 47 years. She also worked with several Kansas City orchestras, played the piano for silent films and performed on the radio.

Nash worked up until the day she died in 1965.

More information about her extraordinary life by visiting the Nodaway County Historical Society in Maryville.

*Elyssa Ford is an associate professor of history at Northwest Missouri State University and president of the Nodaway County Historical Society.*

[http://www.maryvilleforum.com/features/alma-nash-on-the-march/article\\_beffad7c-9b01-11ec-a9c4-c7cd7b293a56.html](http://www.maryvilleforum.com/features/alma-nash-on-the-march/article_beffad7c-9b01-11ec-a9c4-c7cd7b293a56.html)



Alma Nash, pictured later in life in a display at the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum. As a music teacher for nearly 50 years, she taught thousands of students.

[MARYVILLE] FORUM  
FILE PHOTO

## **Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Marks Women's History Month with More Than \$55 Million in Donations**

**February 27, 2023**

The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum is marking Women's History Month by announcing that it has received more than \$55 million dollars in donations, including from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Pivotal Ventures, Alice L. Walton Foundation, Acton Family Giving, Target Corporation, Bank of America and Tory Burch, to boost the museum's development. These donors are among a growing list of founding donors who have given \$1 million or more to support the initial planning of the museum's building and kick-start program development and the production of digital content for the museum, which will honor American women's accomplishments, the history they have made and the communities they represent.

Additional founding donors include AARP, Jane and Spencer Abraham, the Robert and Lynda Altman Family Foundation, Mary and David Boies, Samantha Berkule Johnson and Scott Johnson, the Barbara Lee Family Foundation Fund at Fidelity Charitable and the Pritzker Traubert Family Foundation. This announcement follows the recent donations from Deloitte and Swiss Re.

"We are so grateful to begin Women's History Month with the support of such a stellar group of donors who are dedicated to bringing the story of the American woman to light," said Lisa Sasaki, interim director of the Smithsonian American Women's

Smithsonian American Women's History Museum  
*continued*

## Future Museums

Congress passed legislation in 2020 establishing two new museums at the Smithsonian. Visit the [National Museum of the American Latino](#) and the [Smithsonian American Women's History Museum](#) websites to learn more.

History Museum. "Together, we will create a museum that celebrates the women who have helped build this country. These donations are pivotal in the realization of this vision."

"The stories we tell about our country's history so often overlook the contributions of the women in every generation whose efforts and ideas helped make us who we are today," said Melinda French Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and founder of Pivotal Ventures. "By paying tribute to the women who shaped our past, the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum empowers and inspires the ones who will shape our future."

"In most U.S. history textbooks, women are described as playing supporting roles to men," said Penny Pritzker, founder and chairman of PSP Partners and former U.S. secretary of commerce. "But we all know that women are not side notes in American history. We are innovators, educators, politicians and more. As chair of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum's

advisory council, I am proud of what this museum will add to the national conversation by recognizing women whose stories have gone unheard for far too long."

Congress passed legislation in December 2020 approving the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum. Since then, the museum has launched online and with in-person events through the Smithsonian American Women's History Initiative, which researches, disseminates and amplifies the history of American women on digital platforms ahead of the construction of the brick-and-mortar museum.

### About the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum

The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum advances the understanding of women's contributions to various fields throughout history that have influenced the direction of the United States. The museum collaborates with other museums and educational institutions to expand scholarly research, public programs, digital content, collections and more to recognize diverse perspectives on women's history and contributions. The legislation creating the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum passed Dec. 27, 2020.

Connect with the museum at [womenshistory.si.edu](https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/smithsonian-american-womens-history-museum-marks-womens-history-month-more-55)

<https://www.si.edu/newsdesk/releases/smithsonian-american-womens-history-museum-marks-womens-history-month-more-55>

When will the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum open?

Based upon previous experience constructing museums, the Smithsonian estimates it will be at least ten years before physical buildings are open to the public.



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## News from National

AAUW Updates February 2023

Susan Barley, AAUW Advancement Committee



**BRANCH AND STATE LOGOS** are now available on the national website: go to

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/state-branch/> Under “State and Branch Tools - Resources at the Ready”, click on “Download AAUW Logos and Branding Materials:” Under “Name” click “State and Branch Logos”, click “Final Logos”, locate your state file; within that file are the logos for the state and each branch!

**MEMBERSHIP COUNT** – For the year 2022, branch membership count was 36,944; national members 14,081; student members 578; College/University members 251.

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF BRANCHES** – This survey was sent to all branch presidents and reflected activities from FY 2022 (July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022). They received 287 submissions, representing 259 branches. AAUW has 667 branches with over 10 members. Most branches report 26-50 branch members.

Survey participation of the states receiving this update: Missouri had 10 participating branches, Arkansas had 2, Kansas had 3, Kentucky had none, Oklahoma had 2.

The information in this survey will be used by national staff to create a new “join AAUW” 2-Page brochure, which they hope to have out in April.

A survey (with refinements from this process) will be conducted annually. It will be used in connection with the 5-Star Recognition Program.

Here are a few highlights...

- In addition to information on specific branch activities, 89% of branches reported they held mission-based programs in FY 2022, 85% had social or interest group activity and 67% had fundraising activity.
- Only 36% of branches reported providing or funding local scholarships. 92 branches supported 525 local scholarships, representing \$236,404 in scholarship funds provided for FY 2022. The scholarships varied – 52% were for high school seniors, 39% for 2-year community college graduates going on to a 4-year institution and 57% provided support for other types of scholarships, primarily re-entry scholarships for women returning to college, 3rd or 4th year undergrads or trade schools.
- 115 branches (44%) reported branch work on STEM activities or programs, ie: Tech Trek, Tech Savvy and Be WISE. 50% of branches reported some activity with Tech Trek, while 40% reported supporting or holding other STEM programs.

**LEGACY CIRCLE** – There are currently 714 Legacy Circle members. This spring, a number of special Zoom meetings will be held for people interested in knowing more about the AAUW Legacy Circle. If you would like to be invited, please let Susan Barley, [barley702@gmail.com](mailto:barley702@gmail.com) know. You can find planned giving information on the AAUW website:

<https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/support-aauw/leave-a-legacy/>

**Congrats AAUW Art Contest Winners** — We’re excited to announce that the winners our 14th Annual Art Contest are: Alissa Crispin, Chobi DebRoy, Jemetta Hunt and Christine Panero. Check out their inspiring works in our online gallery and look for your special notecards featuring the winning entries this spring!

**AAUW National Welcomes New Leaders** — Two new leadership team members have joined AAUW national headquarters: Kendall Ridley, Senior Director of Communications, and Meghan Kissell, Senior Director of Policy & Member Advocacy. Both have outstanding records of accomplishment at national nonprofits, and we can’t wait to see how they move AAUW’s mission forward.

## NCCWSL - The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders

The keynote speaker for NCCWSL 2023 is bestselling author and leading advocate for equity in the workplace,  
**Minda Harts.**

Eve Cohen  
Webster University  
IBC NCCWSL Scholarship  
Recipient

Eve is pursuing a degree in sociology and a minor in psychology. She has been a member of the student Government Association, SGA, in her first year, as a Senator of the School of Fine Arts, Webster Art Coalition, and the Multicultural Association. contributing staff writer and photographer for the Webster Journal.

“Through attending the AAUW conference, I would like to gain more in the way of leadership skills that I can begin to utilize at the University. Ideally, I want to empower other students who may feel underrepresented in order to help create an atmosphere in which students from different backgrounds can unite based on a common experience. Furthermore, I want to inspire others to feel a greater sense of support and community. By utilizing my connections with SGA leadership, I think that I can collaborate to discuss and implement these opportunities.

Additionally, this is also something that I would like to carry over into my career - to empower others to participate in the process of creating sustainable change that leads to greater equity and inclusion.

May 31 – June 3, 2023

University of Maryland,  
College Park

The National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) brings together more than 800 young women from around the country for two and a half days of leadership training, networking, and inspiration.

Our branch’s **Karen Haynes** swerved on the scholarship committee to select the IBC NCCWSL Scholarship recipient. Thank you, Karen, for representing our branch!

Minda's bestselling books include *The Memo: What Women of Color Need to Know to Secure a Seat at the Table*, and *Right Within: How to Heal from Racial Trauma in the Workplace*.

She is assistant professor of public service at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service and the founder of The Memo LLC, a career development company. A rising star, Minda was named the #1 Top Voice for Equity in the Workplace by *LinkedIn* in 2020 and one of the top 100 People Transforming Business by *Business Insider* in 2022.

St. Louis’ branches are sending three students to NCCWSL this year.

Two are from Univ .of Health Sciences and Pharmacy via Ballwin-Chesterfield scholarships, and one is from Webster University via the InterBranch Council (IBC) scholarship, Eve Cohen.

This year’s event will include sessions on career development, mentorship, financial literacy, racial-justice activism and more.

Participants will have an opportunity to explore post-graduate programs, careers in a variety of disciplines (especially STEM), and other opportunities for their future.

One in four is majoring in the STEM fields; other popular majors include business and the social sciences. Most are rising juniors or seniors and represent the rich diversity of their generation.

Programming will focus on the following learning objectives:

- Leadership development: Develop and strengthen a leadership narrative through voice, skill set, and mind-set.
- Professional development: Build a professional toolkit for postgraduate life.
- Activism: Know how, why, and when to act and be a change-maker.
- Women’s issues: Gain a better understanding of issues and policies affecting women locally, nationally, and globally.
- Identity and diversity: Own one’s personal identity and role in increasing and supporting diverse voices.

## Upcoming

### Two Can't-Miss Inclusion & Equity Webinars

AAUW's national Inclusion & Equity Committee is pleased to offer two engaging and informative webinars this spring. On Monday, **April 24**, from 2:00–3:00 p.m. ET, we'll share information with local branches and states as they prepare for Celebrate Diversity Month in April and the World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21. Then, on Wednesday, May 10, from 7:30 pm–9:00 pm ET, we'll provide a hands-on learning opportunity for AAUW members to explore aspects of diversity and intersectionality. Please join us!

*CHECK YOUR EMAIL FOR THE REGISTRATION LINKS. They are too long to type.*

### National History Day in Missouri

from Chair Betty Takahashi

The event will be held at the **University of Missouri - Columbia** on **April 22, 2023**. The theme this year is "Frontiers in History, People, Places, and Ideas." AAUW of Missouri will award three \$100 awards to Junior and Senior Performances and a Documentary award. Branches are encouraged to promote the contest in local middle schools (6, 7 and 8) and local high schools.

The theme this year is *FRONTIERS IN HISTORY, PEOPLE, PLACES, AND IDEAS*.

AAUW of Missouri will award three \$100 awards to Junior and Senior Performances and a Documentary award. (Exact location of the event is not yet available.)



### AAUW MO Annual Meeting ~ May 6, 2023

Changing Lives Through Equity

Plan to spend the morning Saturday May 6, 9:30–noon, with AAUW members from across the state as we join to learn, laugh, and lead AAUW of Missouri. The May conference will be via Zoom to help save time and expenses. There is NO registration fee. Just sign up when registration opens, so you will receive the Zoom link and the e-packet of handouts.

Branch presidents across the state and our state board endorsed the decision to allow branch leaders and members time and opportunity to attend BOTH the state and regional events this year.

We have several exciting features for our state Zoom meeting including a keynote from AAUW Vice-Chair Malinda Gaul and an Issue Alert on a key AAUW priority from a prominent professional in that field. Several options are being considered at this time.

Following these will be the business meeting, elections, and awards. You'll see how well your branch did on the Star Award and in supporting the AAUW Fund. We'll also honor our Outstanding Member and Woman of Distinction.

Malinda Gaul practices employment law in San Antonio, Texas, and has worked with several non-profit organizations to advance the rights of women. She has served in a variety of AAUW positions at all levels, including President of AAUW Texas.

### AAUW Central States Regional Conference – Meet Me in St. Louis! ~ October 19-21, 2023

Join your fellow AAUW members from the central states (14 states invited) for three days of education, stimulation, great ideas, fun, and friendship in exciting St. Louis. This first-time event is Thursday, October 19 through Saturday noon, October 21 at the downtown Drury Plaza Arch Hotel just under the grand St. Louis Arch. St. Louis is a wonderful city to visit in the fall, especially combined with an informative and rewarding AAUW regional event. AAUW MO is proud to be the host state, and we hope all our Missouri branches will be represented to help us welcome everyone.

We will have AAUW national speakers, local and regional professionals, breakout sessions on successful activities from other states, time for networking, free nibbles at the hotel happy hour buffet and free breakfast. Conference registration fees are pending.

The Drury Plaza Arch Hotel is conveniently located in downtown St. Louis within walking distance of the Arch, the Old Courthouse, and the new Arch Grounds. Hotel nightly room rates will run approximately \$220 (including taxes) and includes two queen beds

**Contact the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch**  
**Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)**

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

March-April 2023 Page 13

Upcoming *continued*

(up to four people occupancy). A free airport shuttle is available and covered parking has a nightly fee.

There are also possible side trips and time to share what your branch is doing to further AAUW's mission.

We anticipate 140–150 to be in attendance.

The conference includes something for everyone. Consider making this fall trip to St. Louis a family event. St. Louis is home to many attractions (many of them catering to children), the Gateway Arch, the Science Center, the world-famous Missouri Botanical Gardens, the Old Courthouse (home of the Dred Scott case), and the Butterfly House. There is the Saint Louis Art Museum, Italian restaurants on the Hill, and St. Louis Zoological Park. Check the St. Louis Convention and Visitors' Commission's web site

[www.explorestlouis.com](http://www.explorestlouis.com)

to view a digital copy or to order a printed copy of the 'Official St. Louis Visitor's Guide.'

More information on conference topics and sessions will be available after the Central States Planning Committee meets in February and March. Save the date - - and stay tuned to MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS!

*An addition note from Karen Francis about Meet Me in St. Louis!*

It's been six years since we've joined together for a regional or national conference. There is nothing like being with AAUW members, and learning, sharing, and socializing in a beautiful location. St. Louis will be that place.

Fourteen states have been invited to the Central States Regional, and I want you to experience that AAUW energy firsthand. You may recall we were set for a regional in 2020, but sadly it was canceled because of COVID.

With our state's focus on inclusion and equity, we took into consideration that the cost of two in-person conferences in five months might be a deal breaker. With the support of your branch presidents and the AAUW MO Board, a decision was made to have our annual state conference by Zoom so more members could attend both.

Become a Two-Minute Activist!

Members of AAUW's Action Network receive urgent e-mail notices and text messages when their advocacy is needed most. With our online Two-Minute Activist tool, it takes just minutes and an internet connection to make your voice heard on issues impacting women and girls!

<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>



TAKE ACTION

# Two-Minute Activist

Send emails and texts to your legislators to fight for equal pay, family leave, stopping sexual harassment, equality in education and more. Sign up to get regular alerts to be able to take timely action.

**SIGN UP**

Click on **SIGN UP** to get to the form →

**Contact Information**

First Name  Last Name

Street Address (Optional)  Address Line 2 (Optional)

Postal Code  City (Optional)  State/Province (Optional)

Email  Mobile Phone (Optional)

Remember me so that I can use FastAction next time. 🍪

**Interests**

Civil rights

STEM

Economic Security

Education

Title IX

Pay Equity

**SUBMIT**

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Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)

## Membership Renewals

### It's Time to Renew Memberships!

AAUW opened its online membership renewal form April 1. Here's how to renew your membership:

1. Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and click on the menu item  (Log In) - it's for the Community Hub - at the top right
2. Enter your name and AAUW ID# (or password if you have one) and click on  (LOG IN)
3. Scroll down and click on  (RENEW)
4. Select our branch [#MO7066](#); scroll to the very bottom and click on the [Next](#) button
5. If you belong to more than one branch, choose your primary branch using the drop down arrows; click on the [Next](#) button
6. Ensure that the “[MO-Missouri State Dues](#)” box is checked; scroll to the very bottom and click on the [Next](#) button
7. Choose to make a donation to the Greatest Need Fund; click on the [Next](#) button
8. Scroll down to the “[Payment Type](#)” and select “[Pay Now—New credit card](#)”
9. Enter your card information; click on  (SUBMIT)

Allow time for the system to process your information. When completed, you will have the option to print a receipt.

Existing memberships expire on June 30 each year and have a three-month grace period (until September 30) to renew and keep the same expiration month (June 30). Renewing after the grace period changes the expiration month.

NEW memberships will expire 12 months from the date of joining with a three-month grace period to renew and keep the same expiration month IF they renew before the 16th of the third month. Renewing after the 16th changes the expiration month.

In October 2020, the national board approved a 3-year dues increase schedule. 2023-2024 will be the final year completing this motion.

Our member dues cover only 13% of the national AAUW budget. There will not be an increase in state or branch dues.

National dues \$72 (\$69 is tax deductible)      State dues \$10      Branch dues \$10      **TOTAL \$92**

Contact the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch  
Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)

## AAUW National Vote

### AAUW National Election Kickoff: Look for New Voting Vendor

AAUW National's member election opens **April 6**. Don't miss your opportunity to vote on our directors, bylaws amendments and changes to our Public Policy Priorities. This year, AAUW is using a new third-party vendor to administer AAUW's membership vote. Your ballot and unique voting credentials will be emailed to you directly from

[vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com)

Please add [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com) to your safe sender list to ensure you receive your electronic ballot.

### AAUW National Voting: When and How Do I Vote?

All voting will take place online (computer or mobile device) starting **April 5, 2023, unless a member sends a request to AAUW for a paper ballot.** All members without an email address on file with AAUW national will receive a ballot by mail.

**Voting will close on Monday, May 15 at 4 p.m. CT.** Many branches organize a voting day, which can easily be done via Zoom or another videoconference platform. Schedule this as part of a branch meeting and have everyone vote online together!

**Paper ballots must be requested from AAUW by April 15.** Ballots mailed to AAUW must be postmarked by 11:59 p.m., April 29, 2023. Paper ballots postmarked after that date will not be counted. To request a paper ballot, email your name, address, and member number to

[connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org) or call [800-326-2289](tel:800-326-2289)

Where do I find my ID number and Voting Pin?

PINs will be emailed to members before voting begins and will also be mailed to members without valid and subscribed email addresses on file with AAUW national. Members can also view their PIN by logging into their AAUW Community Hub account and accessing the 'My Ballots' page in their profile.

### Letter to State Leaders regarding the National Vote

Dear AAUW State Leader:

This letter is to follow up with information you can share with your branches and members as you think appropriate about the upcoming vote on the bylaws. The governance committee and the board hope you will encourage members in your state to vote in favor of the proposed revised bylaws.

As you know the bylaws were posted for comment in January. We received a number of comments which have been reviewed by the Governance Committee.

Two of the biggest areas of comment were concerns about the proposed deletion of a specified number of days of advance notice before the Board votes on dues changes, and disappointment that the membership degree requirement was not being addressed in this update. Several eagle-eyed members found a few typos or places where a word had been left out or a sentence could have been simplified or wording clarified further. One caught an unintended deletion of a requirement that a majority of each the national committees must be AAUW members.

The draft that will be presented to members for a vote restored the requirement that each of the national committees must be comprised of a majority of individuals who are AAUW members, fixed the typos and missing

AAUW National Vote *continued*

words and where appropriate simplified or further clarified wording, and restored a 30-day advance notice requirement to inform the membership of possible board action on dues. A 30-day advance notice period was suggested as a compromise by many who commented and understood the drawbacks of the current 60-day notice requirement. The governance committee and the board continue to believe that the membership requirement should be considered in a separate later vote, so as not to hinder approval of revisions designed to enhance AAUW's governance practices.

Other concerns were centered around the provision in the proposed bylaws that would move election of the Chair and Vice Chair to the board rather than continuing with the current practice of having the membership vote on these two positions. The governance committee and the board firmly believe the board is in the best position to understand the skills and experience needed in these positions and to select the right candidates for these roles.

None of the changes to the national bylaws mandate changes to affiliate structure. However, once the new bylaws are approved, affiliates will need to amend their bylaws to reflect changes in the first seven provisions of the new national bylaws. A template will be provided for that purpose and because the changes are mandated by AAUW, they can be made by affiliate boards without the need for a membership vote. Affiliates will have at least two years to make these changes.

Members are being asked to vote to accept the entire document, rather than voting on each article, because the reorganized provisions are all interrelated. Much of the inconsistency in our current bylaws has resulted from piecemeal amendments of individual provisions. The goal is to avoid that problem by asking for approval of the complete document.

Again, please encourage your members to vote in favor of the proposed revised bylaws.

Malinda Gaul

Governance Chair

**Visit these AAUW websites often:**

**[www.aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/mim/](http://www.aauw-mo.aauw.net/connect/mim/) (Missouri in Motion)**

**[www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/](http://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/)**

A reminder to always take your mail inside the post office building rather than using the outside boxes, especially if your envelope appears to contain a check. Someone on one of the Florissant Facebook pages has posted a warning that their checks were stolen, "washed" and rewritten.

Remember that a greeting card, especially one in a colorful envelope, could be a target, too, since many people send gift checks in birthday cards.

Going inside the post office is inconvenient. Sometimes I put mail in the boxes before the posted pick-up times. It's probably thieves who know how to unlock the boxes overnight and go through them.



***Take it inside!***

Contact the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch  
Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)

**2023 International Relations Lecture Series — Final Speaker for the Year**

<https://lectureseries.org/>

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women (AAUW)  
And the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis

**The Ethical Society of St. Louis**  
**9001 Clayton Rd, St. Louis, MO 63117**

The Society is located on the north side of Clayton Road between McKnight Road and Brentwood Boulevard. Events are held in the Upper Auditorium.

**Parking & Accessibility.** It is most convenient to enter

through the rear (north side) of the building for the Lecture Series. The Ethical Society building is fully accessible. You'll find the elevator near the northwest entrance at the rear of the building, which is on the right as you face the building from the back parking lot. There are 5 accessible spaces in the front of the building as well.

Dr. Marlene Katz

**A Truly Global Problem: Coping with  
Climate Change**

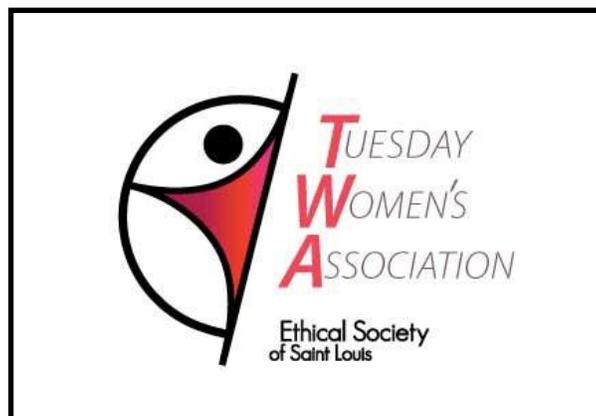
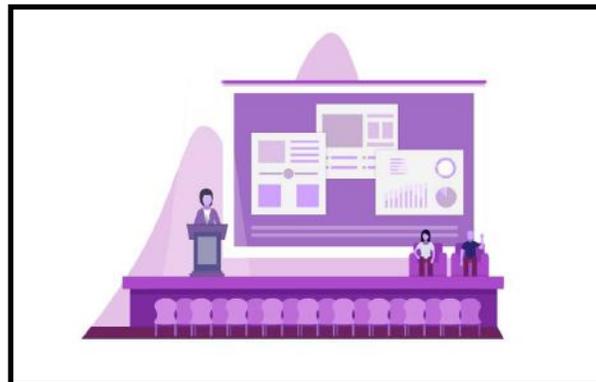
April 11, 2023 – 10:45 AM

About The Topic

As a result of the warming atmosphere changes are occurring that are environmental, economic, and societal. On our planet everything is connected to everything else. This makes dealing with climate change more difficult while it also makes the impact of corrective changes more dramatic. This presentation will illustrate how human ingenuity is developing solutions to the problems that climate change brings and will emphasize the importance of recognizing both the difficulties of learning to cooperate on a global scale and the necessity for this kind of action. The listener will be challenged to work on ideas that can be connected to actions on complex problems that are being exacerbated by global warming, such as immigration.

About the speaker

Dr. Katz is an educator and speaker on environmental problems. She received her MS and PhD in biochemistry from the University of Chicago. In addition to working as a research chemist at the Southern Research Institute, she taught biology, chemistry, biochemistry, and environmental science for 42 years at several community colleges, universities and liberal arts institutions. Dr. Katz is currently a facilitator at Washington University's Osher Lifelong Learning Center in addition to serving as a speaker for the St. Louis Zoo, Missouri Botanical Garden and various church groups and garden clubs.



**Book Club 2022-2023**

Ferguson Florissant AAUW Book Group 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at <u>Noon</u> at Reviewer's home. Please bring a sandwich.		
Date 2022-2023	Book	Reviewer/ Hostess
April 27	<p><i>Eternal</i> by Lisa Scottoline 496 pages, March 23, 2021</p> <p><i>Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro grow up as the best of friends despite their differences. Elisabetta is a feisty beauty who dreams of becoming a novelist; Marco the brash and athletic son in a family of professional cyclists; and Sandro a Jewish mathematics prodigy, kind-hearted and thoughtful, the son of a lawyer and a doctor. Their friendship blossoms to love, with both Sandro and Marco hoping to win Elisabetta's heart. But in the autumn of 1937, all of that begins to change as Mussolini asserts his power, aligning Italy's Fascists with Hitler's Nazis and altering the very laws that govern Rome. In time, everything that the three hold dear--their families, their homes, and their connection to one another--is tested in ways they never could have imagined. As anti-Semitism takes legal root and World War II erupts, the threesome realizes that Mussolini was only the beginning. The Nazis invade Rome, and with their occupation come new atrocities against the city's Jews, culminating in a final, horrific betrayal. Against this backdrop, the intertwined fates of Elisabetta, Marco, Sandro, and their families will be decided, in a heartbreaking story of both the best and the worst that the world has to offer.</i></p> <p><b>From Judy:</b> We will be meeting for a complimentary luncheon at the independent dining room at The Estates of Hidden Lake at noon on Thursday, April 27. Hostess, Judy Holmes, will review Lisa Scottoline's <i>Eternal</i> following lunch. <u>Please let Judy know by Monday, April 24, if you are coming.</u> Phone is <u>314-355-1125</u> Email: <u>mickey.holmes@att.net</u></p> <p><i>Eternal</i> is the story of three young people, Elisabetta, Marco, and Sandro growing up in Rome. Then in 1937 Mussolini leads Italy down a dark path and enacts a barrage of anti-Semitic laws. Then comes World War II and the Nazi invasion of Rome. Spanning decades, the book covers love and betrayal, loyalty and loss, family and food. What war destroys, only love can heal.</p>	Judy Holmes

Be thinking of book titles for next year's branch book group! Mary Ellen will be asking! 😊

**Book Club 2022-2023 Continued**

Ferguson Florissant AAUW Book Group 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursdays at <u>Noon</u> at Reviewer's home. Please bring a sandwich.		
Date 2022-2023	Book	Reviewer/Hostess
May 25	<p><b>Half American: The Epic Story of African Americans Fighting World War II at Home and Abroad</b></p> <p>by Matthew F. Delmont 400 pages, October 18, 2022</p> <p><i>Over one million Black men and women served in World War II. Black troops were at Normandy, Iwo Jima, and the Battle of the Bulge, serving in segregated units and performing unheralded but vital support jobs, only to be denied housing and educational opportunities on their return home. Without their crucial contributions to the war effort, the United States could not have won the war. And yet the stories of these Black veterans have long been ignored, cast aside in favor of the myth of the "Good War" fought by the "Greatest Generation."</i></p>	Patty Murray
June—August	No meetings	---

To easily find our branch's Facebook page, look for the search box which will look similar to the picture below. Type in

**AAUW Ferguson-Florissant Branch, Missouri**

If a posting about the recent Missouri public library defunding in retaliation for the lawsuit is the first post, then you are on the correct Facebook page.



**Branch Monday Afternoons at the Movies??**

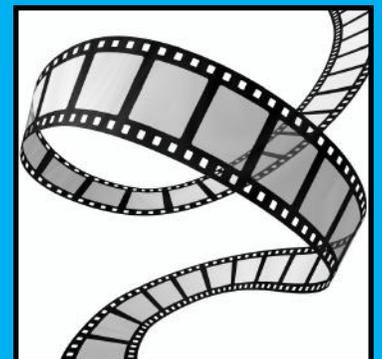
I have Netflix, Amazon Prime, Britbox, Acorn TV and whatever else my grown kids have downloaded to our tv. Seating for 6 to 8. Decent-sized screen.

If someone will take on selecting a movie once a month, or every other month, I will find the movie and host at my house.

As before at Judy's, if I remember correctly, we all bring light snacks if we're able. I will provide beverages. We each bring a small cash contribution.

I hope we can restart this fun event!

-Patty



**Branch News: Carolyn Herkstroeter has a new address which will be sent to branch members.**



**Calendar**

April 1	Saturday	Membership Renewal Opened
April 3	Monday	NCCWSL Early Bird Registration Ended
April 5	Wednesday	AAUW National Voting opens
April 6	Thursday	<b>Birthday</b> Patty Murray
April 11	Tuesday	IRLS, "A Truly Global Problem: Coping with Climate Change " 10:45 am
April 12	Wednesday	DEI/PP Branch Zoom Meeting, All Invited, 6 pm, Zoom Meeting ID <b>886 9724 8133</b>
April 14	Friday	<b>Birthday</b> Karen Francis
April 15	Saturday	Deadline Paper Ballot Request for National Voting
April 22	Saturday	Missouri National History Day, AAUW Awards at Mizzou
April 23	Sunday	<b>Birthday</b> Cathie Lehr
April 24	Monday	Webinar, Celebrating Diversity Month, 1 - 2 pm Central Time
April 27	Thursday	<b>Birthday</b> Toni Burrow
April 27	Thursday	Ferguson Florissant AAUW Book Group, noon, Judy Holmes
April 29	Saturday	Paper Ballot postmarked before midnight for National Voting
May 5	Friday	NCCWSL Regular Registration Ends
May 6	Saturday	Missouri State Conference via Zoom
May 10	Wednesday	DEI/PP Branch Zoom Meeting
May 15	Monday	Online Voting Closes for National Vote
May 20	Saturday	Ferguson Florissant Spring Luncheon, Catering to You
May 21	Sunday	<b>Birthday</b> Carolyn Herkstroeter
May 21	Sunday	<b>Birthday</b> Lovene Hartman
May 25	Thursday	Ferguson Florissant AAUW Book Group, noon, Patty Murray
June 1	Thursday	<b>Birthday</b> Karen Haynes
June 14	Wednesday	DEI/PP Branch Committee Zoom Meeting
June 30	Friday	Membership Renewal Deadline (3-month grace period to keep June as renewal month)
July 29	Saturday	<b>Birthday</b> Joyce Wolf
Sept 30	Saturday	Membership Renewal Grace Period ends (to keep June as renewal month)
Oct 19-21	Thursday	AAUW Regional Conference in St. Louis

**Do you recall the Girl Scouts  
Women's History Fun Patch  
from last month?**



**200 Girl Scouts participated!  
AAUW St. Louis Branch helped  
develop the program.**

April 5, 2023 plm

Contact the Ferguson Florissant AAUW Branch  
Pam Meyers 314-303-6661 [wpemeyers@gmail.com](mailto:wpemeyers@gmail.com)