

TAKING ACTION

WAGY AWARDS GIVEN TO THREE DESERVING KANSAS CITY ORGANIZATIONS

As always, this year's Wagy Awards & Holiday Luncheon was festive and rewarding as we learned about the good work the organizations receiving awards do and the specific programs the Wagy Funds support. The event was held on December 6 at Lidia's Restaurant and was attended by 30 guests and representatives from the organizations being honored. After partaking of fine Italian cuisine, guests observed a moment of silence in memory of Pam Burke, AAUW-KC Co-Program Chair, who had done the event planning and had passed away suddenly a few weeks prior. Then it was on to presentations by the representatives of the three organizations. Here is a bit about each of the organizations and the awards received. Clearly, we cannot capture in this write-up the passion these groups bring to their work nor the voices of those who benefit from their work. For that, one needed to be at this event.

AMETHYST PLACE, INC. provides treatment based supportive housing for homeless, low-income, high-risk women who



Representatives from Amethyst Place, Inc., Connecting for Good and True Light Family Resource Center's Emancipation Station gave presentations about their work in the community.

have a history of chronic alcohol and/or drug abuse and their children. They are a campus of 38 fully furnished apartments, serving 60 families per year including their 120 children, more than half preschool age.

Julie Carmichael, Founder of Amethyst Place's EnCompass Mentoring Program, and Christina Benz, a resident of Amethyst Place and participant in the mentoring program, and a mentee of Julie's, received a check for \$3,672

which will be used to support the mentoring program which currently consists of 20 moms and 40 mentor pairs (professional women who are already friends and have established, healthy relationships which they can model for the moms. Program participants attend to two meetings a month where they share a meal and where the moms can learn ways to improve their health-related behaviors, care of their children, and life-course development. Clearly the mentor/mentee friendships that result far surpass just the learnings that take place during the meetings, as we learned from Christina and Julie.

CONNECTING FOR GOOD works to ensure that low income and under resourced Kansas City residents have an Internet-connected computer in their homes. To help people become active digital citizens, Connecting for Good offers three equally important programs to the community - connectivity, affordable refurbished computers and digital literacy, conducting free classes and one-on-one and hands-on digital tutorials at its centers and

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MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

• AAUW FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE & HEARTSONG SINGERS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015 / 6:30 PM

Our January membership meeting with a theme of "Vocal Results" will be held at Ardy Pearson's home (1012 W. 66th Terr., Kansas City, MO 64113). Beginning at 6:30 p.m., the ladies of Heartsong from the KC Women's Chorus will serenade us with their dulcet tones, then AAUW fellow, Adrienne Anderson will speak to us about her quest and how she is using the AAUW grant to further her Electrical Engineering BA in the Medical field at UMKC. Please call or email Ardy to let her know you will be attending, 816-444-6651 / pearson@kc.rr.com

• ANNUAL JOINT MEETING OF THE KANSAS CITY & SHAWNEE MISSION BRANCHES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015 / 11:30 AM

We will join with the Shawnee Mission Branch for a luncheon program at Lakeview Village (14001 W. 92nd St., Lenexa, KS) in the Southridge Building, 5th floor. Shawnee Mission members will present a program on travel. \$15.50 per person/RSVP by February 10. Your check is your reservation, please mail to Elizabeth Luck, AAUW-SM, 9910 Rosewood Lane, Overland Park, KS 66207.





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Looking Back for a moment, before Moving Forward into the New 2015...

Nationally, one of many successes we can all celebrate is President Obama's increasing of pay protections for women. AAUW's Lisa Maatz stood with our friend Lilly Ledbetter and the president as he signed two executive orders that banned federal contractors from retaliating against workers who discuss their salaries. Thanks to these measures, the U.S. Department of Labor will now collect wage data to help identify patterns of discrimination and support compliance. We will continue to fight for equal pay for equal work for everyone.

Sadly, our branch lost three precious members in 2014: Alice Mae Knight in April – loved her shopping, hats, gardening and AAUW. She had a lifetime membership in two hospital Auxiliaries as well; held a Master in Social Work from KU, worked as a youth counselor and branch manager for the YMCA, counselor for Mattie Rhodes and an executive at Planned Parenthood. She and her husband, a career Army officer, toured and traveled the world, enjoyed dancing and the arts, both performing and static. He also attended many of the AAUW functions with her, notably the annual Wagy event.

A few years back, when I served on the "Get Out the Vote" Committee, I received a very informative phone call with Betty Jane Bond. She was an attorney, and extremely involved in the women's movement and the advocacy and personal sacrifice that it took to get the ERA through the U.S. Congress. Of course our discussion brought her right back to all those moving times. She was a very vocal advocate for women's rights and enormously gratified when the Title IX legislation became law.

And most recently, of course, dear Pam Burke...At the Wagy Holiday Luncheon I could feel how shocked we all still felt about her sudden loss; as we automatically looked for her smiling face at the reception/name tag table, then missed her all over again. I was privileged over the last few years to be her roommate and driving buddy for State and Regional AAUW functions. We had lots of road time to talk about her happiest times in AAUW, and what meant the most to her – like

reading, sharing, higher education, Wagy, Thorpe Menn and 100 High School Girls topping off her list. She was extremely supportive and loving, and devoted to the women and mission of AAUW. We will all take a long time getting over her loss.

Now as we say a final goodbye to these three special ladies, let's please dry our eyes, and begin to *Look Forward to 2015*. I'd most particularly like to focus on leadership as we come into this new year. Many of our members have previously served on committees, the Board, or even at State and National levels – and I thank you personally for doing so. Now I hope you will continue participating, if not directly as high-profile leaders, then as "seekers" for the latent talent and desire in our newer members (remember that new face you saw at Wagy, or was it Thorpe Menn? Fall Fling? UMKC or KCKCC?) There are three opportunities we should mark our calendars in this regard: the "Training for Trainers Webinar: Teach Leadership at Your Branch or State" webinar on Jan. 12, the MO State Convention on May 2, and NCWSSL in late May. We may not personally attend all, but I encourage you to mentor, guide, influence, and otherwise cajole and plead – in your own winning ways, naturally – to bring the next generation of leaders into focus and attendance at these events. I and Stephanie Holthaus both will be tuned into the webinar; reservations open in February for the State Convention (where we will be among the very first to benefit from a new National AAUW Leadership Training opportunity); and we must make up for last year (when we sent no one) by sending at least six campus women to NCWSSL this year. More on this program next time, but don't wait for me – *Seek and you shall find; lead and she will follow.*

Winnie Weinrich

AAUW-KC President



BOARD MEETINGS: JANUARY 6, WALDO LIBRARY, ROOM B, 5:30 PM; FEBRUARY 3, PLAZA LIBRARY, SMALL MEETING ROOM, 5:30 PM

AAUW-KC RAFFLE IN MEMORY OF PAM BURKE
\$5 for 1 ticket or \$10 for 3 tickets earns you a chance to receive one of Pam's AAUW bags or her "Women in Charge" hat with five AAUW pins.

See Dana Perry at future AAUW events to purchase raffle ticket(s). Drawings will take place at the annual June Picnic.



In Memory
Pamela S. Burke





continued...

2014 WAGY AWARDS

mobile computer labs held in places like libraries and community centers.

Marian McClellan, AAUW member and a volunteer with Connecting for Good, spoke about the great work this organization is doing and then introduced Michael Liimatta, President of the organization, who accepted a check for \$3,225 which will “buy” 43 refurbished computers for women and girls in Kansas City who, after taking Connecting for Good’s free classes, are unable to afford the cost of a computer.

TRUE LIGHT FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER’S EMANCIPATION STATION offers homeless, near homeless and community women a safe place to stay during the day while they search for employment and permanent housing. Classes, taught by volunteers, are offered that aim to teach skills that empower women to become self-sufficient and more productive community members.

Alice Piggee-Wallack, True Light’s Executive Director, and Kelli Wright, Board Member, were presented a check for \$2,000 to purchase equipment and supplies for Emancipation Station’s Creative Outlet for Women program. These funds will allow an already-successful sewing program to expand to teach participants simple quilting techniques with the hope that their work will evolve into an art form that is displayable and marketable. The quilts they create will tell a story – the maker’s story.

As most readers know, the WagY Fund was established through a bequest from Irene Van Der Veer WagY which is held and managed by the Greater Kansas City Community Foundation. Funds available through this endowment are supplemented by donations from AAUW-KC members and friends. A WagY Committee of reads applications from organizations who are seeking grants in amounts ranging from \$1,000 to \$4,000 and selects from among these. This year’s committee members included Cynthia Ginn, Ellen Johnson, Sara Pedram, Dana Perry, Winnie Weinrich and Chair Jane Crigler. LaVon Colhour, Manager of Community Investment at the Foundation, provided staff support.

WANTED: MEMBERS TO SERVE

The Nominating Committee is seeking members interested in serving on the AAUW-KC Board in the following positions: President-Elect, Secretary, Program Chair, Membership Chair and Finance Officer. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Nicky Stanke, Chair, Nominating Committee at nickystanke@sbcglobal.net or 816-807-0675. If there is someone you think would be well suited to any of these positions, send in your ideas. Committee members will make the contact. Thanks. (Because of the adjusted publication schedule, we will have to have the nominees selected by mid-February to publish in the March-April newsletter to be voted on at the May General Membership meeting.)

KCKCC Corner

By Patsy Kile / Janice McIntyre

Greetings to all AAUW-KC members. We send you Best Wishes for the Holiday Season and the New Year from across the river. Your support and guiding light continue to inspire us.

The Wyandotte Wine Tour, Oct. 24th, was a vino success. Thank you to all. We earned over \$200 for scholarships on a lovely fall day with good friends. A repeat performance is projected for May 2015. Contact Janice McIntyre at drmcrdtp1@aol.com to put your name on the list.

The Fall 2014 End-of-the-Semester Celebration was held Dec. 11th, at the KCKCC Conference Center. Twelve AAUW-KCKCC professional members had an opportunity to taste authentic roasted chestnuts and a light dinner. Business included a review of Fall activities, plans for Spring, and a vote for a student “contingency” emergency scholarship.

Although AAUW-KCKCC did not receive the Campus Action Grant for 2015, members agree that the activities in the grant related to perceptions of bias, gender fairness in the workplace and campus/community resources should be implemented for the spring semester at KCKCC. AAUW-KC member Barb Stransky will initiate the project with a study of perceived bias in her Sociology classes.

Another successful semester of the Parker Elementary Study Buddies has been completed. Parents are grateful for the program and report children making academic progress. Coordinator Patsy Kile has done a grand job with this AAUW-KCKCC sponsored community program. You are appreciated.

AAUW-KCKCC leader Barbara Clark Evans was named one of three Deputy Title IX Coordinators for KCKCC. The newly distributed KCKCC “Title IX Information Sheet” establishes an updated procedure for a safe campus. Thank you for your hard work Barbara.



AAUW-KC members at the 2014 WagY Awards & Holiday Luncheon.



SAVE THESE 2015 DATES

• **WOMEN'S ISSUES LEGISLATIVE RETREAT** **SATURDAY / JANUARY 10 / 9 AM–2:30 PM** **HY-VEE GROCERY CONFERENCE ROOM**

(SECOND FLOOR) 405 E. NIFONG BLVD., COLUMBIA, MO

Speakers will review 2014 Legislature and analyze mid-term elections. Group will set 2015 Legislative Priorities. For more details, email Shirley Breeze at sbreeze@mindspring.com. Anyone interested in carpooling to Columbia early that morning, please contact Linda Berube at ljbauw@hotmail.com or 816-809-0139.



Envision, Empower, Embrace: Inspiring Change for Women

A UNA Women Event in Celebration of International Women's Day

• **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY EVENT** **THURSDAY / FEBRUARY 26** **GRACE & HOLY TRINITY CATHEDRAL**

(FOUNDER'S HALL) 415 W. 13TH ST., KANSAS CITY, MO

International Women's day is celebrated all over the world. It is a day when we celebrate the many social, economic, and political achievements of women, while also focusing attention on the many areas that still need further action. The evening will include dinner, entertainment and a keynote speaker. We will also have a raffle and silent auction with proceeds benefitting MOCSA (Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault) and Voices Against Violence. Advance tickets are \$20 and \$5 for students. For tickets and more information, visit www.una-kc.org or email unawomenkc@gmail.com.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS



"My life is my journey, and mine alone. I either feel good about something, or if I don't, I know I made a mistake [and I] learn from it." —Comedian, talk show host, advocate for young girls, environment, animals, and more... **Ellen Degeneres (1/26)**

1/15	Jane Hatch
1/16	Karen Major
1/18	Judith McGunegle
1/20	Latricia Joyner
1/23	Brenda Bethman
1/23	Sara Pedram
1/24	Jane McClain
1/28	Janice McIntyre
2/1	Kathleen McGowan
2/11	Stefanie Hatfield
2/14	Cathy Blake
2/18	Ardy Pearson
2/27	Betty Shouse

**JOIN
OR RENEW**

Annual dues 2014-2015: \$79.00

For more details, contact Earline Bentley at earline_bentley@att.net or (816) 756-5608.

Visit aauwkc.org for more news and calendar of events.

• **MARTHA J. STARR WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME** **FRIDAY / MARCH 13**

AAUW-KC has been supporting and participating in the Starr Women's Hall of Fame since its beginning last fall, 2013. The hope of the Committee is that the Hall of Fame will serve not only as historical markers for the extraordinary women in our community but also as an inspiration for the young women today and tomorrow. Seven women make up the inaugural class: **Marjorie Powell Allen, Kay Barnes, Myra J. Christopher, Adele Hall, Shirley Bush Helzberg, Dorothy H. Johnson, and Martha Jane Phillips Starr.** Their induction will take place on March 13 at a luncheon featuring Robin Roberts as keynote speaker. **The event is sold out.** For more about the women and the Starr Hall of Fame, please visit www.umkc.edu/starrhalloffame.

• **EQUAL PAY DAY RALLY** **TUESDAY / APRIL 14 / JEFFERSON CITY**

More details as plans develop.

• **100 HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS** **SUNDAY / APRIL 19 / 2–4 PM** **BRUCE R. WATKINS CENTER**

The annual AAUW-KC 100 HSG event awards three local high school girls with \$1,000 college scholarships. Anyone interested in serving on the committee may contact Earline Bentley at earline_bentley@att.net or Maureen Hurley at maureenhurley36@gmail.com. Meetings will be held beginning in late January 2015.

AAUW-KC MONTHLY EVENTS

FRIDAY FORUM

WALDO LIBRARY / 201 EAST 75TH ST / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114 / 10 AM

• JAN 9 & 23 / FEB 13 & 27

An informal discussion group on current affairs. Participants bring articles of interest or summaries from newspapers, magazines, radio and TV to stimulate discussion.

From February through May 2015 we will be holding discussions based on *Great Decisions*, a briefing book published by the Foreign Policy Association, using video presentation. Meetings will take place at the Waldo Branch Library at times determined by participants to discuss controversial topics on the international scene.

Contact Joanie Shores for more details, 660-200-5809 or joaneshores1010@gmail.com.

CUISINE CLUB (THURSDAY)

• JAN 15 / HOULIHAN'S FAIRWAY

2820 WEST 53RD (FAIRWAY SHOPS) / FAIRWAY, KS 66205 / 11:30 AM

• FEB 19 / SUMMIT GRILL

500 WEST 75TH ST / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114 / 11:30 AM

RSVP to Ellen Johnson at ellen.johnson@gmail.com or 816-931-5288.

4TH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

WALDO LIBRARY / 201 EAST 75TH ST / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114 / 6 PM

• JAN 27 / DEAR LIFE BY ALICE MUNRO

• FEB 24 / CITIZENS OF LONDON BY LYNNE OLSON

For Book Club details, please contact Jane Hatch, 816-838-7626 or janehatch@yahoo.com.