



# TAKING ACTION

## 100 CITIES FOR CEDAW

Convention on the **E**limination of all forms of **D**iscrimination **A**gainst **W**omen

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10 / 6-8 PM / MINSKY'S PIZZA**

**5105 MAIN ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO**

*Do you want to end gender discrimination in the Kansas City area? Close the wage gap between men and women? Stop gender-based violence and prevent domestic homicides?* Adopting CEDAW—U.N. Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women — as local law has been proven to address all these issues and more.

**Gail James** and **Alice Kitchen** will be our special guests on **November 10** (Minsky's Pizza on Main) to speak about their efforts on bringing the "100 Cities



for CEDAW" initiative to Kansas City. History of CEDAW: In 1980, President Jimmy Carter signed CEDAW, but the U.S. Senate has never ratified it. In 1995, 40 municipalities, 20 counties and 15 states passed resolutions endorsing CEDAW ratification. In San Francisco and Los Angeles, these resolutions have made a measurable difference in public safety, budgetary allocations, employment, pay equity, and more. Learn how we can join

this effort right here in Kansas City!

We will gather at 6 p.m. to enjoy a pizza and salad supper. Program is from 6:45-7:30 p.m. with Q&A following. **Dinner cost (all inclusive) is \$15. Your advance payment by check is due by Tuesday, November 3, payable to AAUW-KC.** Mail to: Cities for CEDAW, 4428 Harrison St., Kansas City, MO 64110. *Questions?* Email [spedram45@kc.rr.com](mailto:spedram45@kc.rr.com). PLEASE NOTE: The Visitation Church parking lot is available (next to Minsky's) as well as on-street parking. *Join us for a delightful meal and enlightening program!*

*Nettie Irene Van Der Veer*

## WAGY AWARDS & HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

*Join us for this festive event to honor and award local community organizations for their work in advancing education and equity for women and girls.*

This year marks the 18th year of the Wagy Awards, underwritten by a generous bequest from Irene Wagy, a longtime member of the KC Branch of AAUW, and donations from Branch members. Awards from \$1,000 to \$4,000 are made for projects benefitting women and girls in the Kansas City area.



## SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015 MISSION HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

(Club Room) 5400 Mission Dr., Mission Hills, KS 66208

- 11:30 a.m. Social**
- 12:00 p.m. Luncheon**
- 12:30 p.m. Awards Program**

**\$35 per person. Reservations required by Monday, November 30.** Mail checks payable to AAUW-KC: Wagy Holiday Luncheon, 4428 Harrison St., KCMO 64110. *Questions?* Email [spedram45@kc.rr.com](mailto:spedram45@kc.rr.com). Call Jane Crigler at 816-523-7781 for door-to-door rides to/from the event.

*Directions: From Ward Pkwy., turn west on 55th St. Follow to stop sign and curve to the right. Look for fence and gold sign. Park on south side of the building and enter the south door. The Club Room is just down the hallway.*

*"One of my favorite KC-Branch events of the year!"*

*"It is wonderful to hear about the projects for women and girls that the Wagy Awards help support each year."*

*"Always a festive event to start the holiday season!"*



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*In the time-honored fashion of a race track announcer, "They're off and running!"* They, of course, being the officers, committee chairs and members who volunteer so much of their time and effort to AAUW-KC. Branch member activities and public events do take time and a lot of work! The return value to the branch makes the time and effort absolutely worthwhile. By broadcasting AAUW's mission as often as possible, the branch recruits like-minded individuals and benefits from positive publicity.

The Annual Fall Fling, Thorpe Menn Literary Award Luncheon and Inclusion and Diversity panel were great successes evidenced by the comments passed around among the members, and email messages dropped into inboxes following the events. To some who attended the Fall Fling, the number of planned activities and events for 2015-2016 was nothing short of amazing! *How do we do it?* Well, the dedicated members who step forward to give of their time, talents and love help make AAUW's mission actually happen in the Kansas City region.

But these few and dedicated cannot do it alone. So, this is a call to those who have not yet picked up the phone and called an officer or committee chair to volunteer. We need you, we need some of your time and, of course, your talents.

A final thought...when we lose a member for whatever reason, be it a move to another part of the country, a death, or when someone has too much on their plate and must choose a different interest, that very unique person is difficult to replace. Recruitment and retention, then, are very important aspects of the organization. Take those opportunities that come your way to talk about AAUW and what it stands for. Be persuasive and welcome yet another very unique person into this really exceptional organization with exceptional women.

Women who value other women in all their humanity, perfections and imperfections alike, form the core of AAUW-KC. So, let's be off and running for more members, even more dedicated volunteers and, most of all, a never-ending circle of women devoted to equity for women and girls.

*Stephanie Holthaus*

Stephanie Holthaus  
AAUW-KC President



## Dedicated Volunteer Needed

The AAUW-KC board needs someone to take over the position of secretary. The board meets once a month at the Plaza Library between 5:30-7 p.m. We are looking for someone with intense attention to detail for note taking during board meetings. Computer abilities is a plus, but long-hand note taking is fine, too. We are a flexible and ultra-friendly group and are ready to welcome you on board! Please call Stephanie Holthaus at 816-309-8021 or email [steffi64110@yahoo.com](mailto:steffi64110@yahoo.com).

JOIN  
OR RENEW

### MISSION

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research.

### 2015-2016 ANNUAL DUES: \$79

Dues cover National membership (\$49), State membership (\$10), plus KC membership (\$20). Send \$79, payable to AAUW-KC to: Nicky Stanke, 1101 Walnut St #905, Kansas City, MO 64106, or you can pay online at [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

Visit [aauwkc.org](http://aauwkc.org) for more news and calendar of events.





# Annual Fall Fling and Membership Recap

By Stefanie Hatfield

AAUW-KC's annual Fall Fling held on September 12 was well attended, interesting and delicious! Thanks to Stephanie Holthaus, Sara Pedram, and membership committee members Earline Bentley, Renee Carlson, Cynthia Ginn and Marian McClellan for welcoming and introducing guests.

We extend a hearty welcome to our newest members and look forward to their active participation:

Melinda Buie  
Carol Cowles  
Kay Engler  
Alicia Hooks  
Karen Stakem Hornig  
Katie Jones

Bridget Kurkowski  
Teri Nelson  
Carol Stowe  
Pamela Walden  
Linda Warner  
Marjorie Williams

Twenty-seven current members have yet to renew: it will be helpful to receive those memberships so we can complete our 2015-2016 directory.

*Looking forward to an outstanding year!*

## Response from AAUW National Regarding Planned Parenthood

As you may be aware, we are facing another possible government shut down involving Planned Parenthood. We recently contacted AAUW regarding AAUW's position about this. Here is national's response to our questions about how AAUW is responding:

*Over the past few weeks AAUW has responded to the highly and deceptively edited videos regarding Planned Parenthood and fetal tissue. We stand with Planned Parenthood and agree that these videos were created as part of a planned, coordinated attack against women designed to build public support for ending government financial assistance to Planned Parenthood for providing health care to low income women.*

*The week that the videos were released we included a letter in Washington Update, [advocacy@aauw.org](mailto:advocacy@aauw.org), from Lisa Maatz, Vice President of Government Relations, to update activists.*

*AAUW has subsequently sent letters to the House and Senate urging members to oppose defunding Planned Parenthood. AAUW advocates can continue to weigh in with their Members of Congress.*

*Seth Chase, AAUW Interim Field Director*

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

• **PLAZA LIGHTS HOLIDAY WINE & CHEESE**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2016 / 4-6 PM**

• **METROPOLITAN ENSEMBLE THEATER**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 / 2 PM**

Watch for more details at [www.aauwkc.org](http://www.aauwkc.org) and in the next edition of *TAKING ACTION*.

## KCKCC Corner

By Patsy Kile / Janice McIntyre

AAUW-KCKCC had a busy October! Students held an evening reception and meeting on the 15th, in the courtyard on campus. The main student membership meeting will be held October 29 from 4-5 p.m. at the Intercultural Center.

Our new "SPA GO" will be available till October 30, daily from 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Receive spa offerings at half-price with coupons available for prizes on a bingo card. Contact Mayre Hoffman, 913-901-9949 for more information.

The "My Shelf to Yours" three-day book sale was held in October. AAUW-KCKCC hosted a table selling donated small gift items and books.

The KCKCC Women's Resource Center held a Brown Bag luncheon on October 22. "Dynamics of Power and Control" was the subject of discussion.

The third Wine Tour of Wyandotte County was on October 23. Janice McIntyre was our tour guide and organizer. The chauffeured group visited four local wineries, and the tour concluded at the Midwest Hot Air Balloon Festival.

A CAP grant was submitted on September 27. This grant will enable KCKCC to have research, publications and programming for the Spring 2016 semester. The activities of the grant are related to women and work environments in the engineering and computer-science fields. An announcement about this grant will be made in November.

Study Buddies started with science experiments and homework help. Held on Wednesdays at the University Methodist Church (Parallel Pkwy.), this program is making a positive difference for Parker Elementary students. Enrichment activities help students discover that learning can be fun. If you are interested in visiting or participating, call Patsy Kile at 913-484-6252.

Check out AAUW-KCKCC on Facebook.



# Thorpe Menn Event Celebrates 26 Local Authors

Over 100 authors and guests gathered at the Kansas City Central Library for the 37th annual Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award in early October. The award was established in 1979 by AAUW-KC to honor Thorpe Menn, longtime book editor of *The Kansas City Star*, who supported all aspects of Kansas City's cultural life, especially local authors and artists.

The 2015 Literary Excellence Award was presented to **Barbara Stuber** for her book *Girl In Reverse*. The other two finalists included **Arlin Buyert** for "*Oh Say Can You See*" and **Alarie Tennille**, *Running Counterclockwise*. Congratulations to all of the 26 nominated authors!

AAUW-KC honored Vivien Jennings, founder and president of Rainy Day Books, for over a decade of generous support of the Thorpe Menn Award. Special thanks to keynote speaker Maija Rhee Devine, noted Korean-born author and 2014 Thorpe Menn winner, and all of our table hostesses and volunteers.

We are already making plans for the 38th event in October 2016. If you want to nominate an author, email [thorpemenn@gmail.com](mailto:thorpemenn@gmail.com) or visit [www.aauwkc.org](http://www.aauwkc.org) and go to the Thorpe Menn page under "Events" for official rules and guidelines.



Thorpe Menn Reading and Event committee members.



2015 Thorpe Menn Award winner Barbara Stuber (center), with Mistress of Ceremonies Anita Parran (left), and Event Co-Chair Carrie Maidment.

## AAUW-KC MONTHLY EVENTS

### FRIDAY FORUM

WALDO BRANCH LIBRARY / 201 E. 75TH ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114

• NOVEMBER 13 & 27 / DECEMBER 11 / 10 A.M.

If you enjoy current events, if you laugh lots and have a good sense of humor, then you are indeed qualified to join the group! If convenient, you're invited to bring an article to share from a newspaper, magazine, cartoon or book. **Moderator, Joanie Shores, 660-200-5809 or [joaneshores1010@gmail.com](mailto:joaneshores1010@gmail.com).**

### CUISINE CLUB

• NOVEMBER 19 / WEBSTER HOUSE / 11:15 A.M.

1644 WYANDOTTE ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO

• DECEMBER 17 / PLAZA III / 11:30 A.M.

4749 PENNSYLVANIA / KANSAS CITY, MO

Featuring the annual White Elephant gift exchange!

• JANUARY 21 / MICHAEL FORBES / 11:30 A.M.

128 W. 63RD ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO

RSVP to Ellen Johnson at [ellen.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.johnson@gmail.com) or 816-931-5288.

### 4TH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

WALDO BRANCH LIBRARY / 201 E. 75TH ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114

• NOVEMBER 24 / 6 P.M.

(NO BOOK CLUB IN DECEMBER. WE WILL RESUME JANUARY 26, 2016.)

For book club details, please call Jane Hatch at 816-838-7626 or email her at [janehatch@yahoo.com](mailto:janehatch@yahoo.com).



## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



Clara Barton was a teacher and the first woman to gain employment in the federal government. Barton risked her life to bring supplies and support to soldiers in the field during the Civil War. At age 60, she founded the American Red Cross in 1881 and led it for the next 23 years. (12/25)

11/4	Alicia R. Hooks	12/16	Connie Gray
11/20	Annette Choate	12/18	Karen Stakem Hornig
11/21	Marilyn Bables	12/26	Bambi Shen
11/22	Cecilia Morehouse	12/27	Charlene Brain
11/25	Dana Perry	12/27	Pam Chaudoin
11/29	Mollie Caldwell	12/27	Anna Nearing
11/30	Earline Bentley	12/27	Beverly Ryan
12/10	Ann Kindred		

## Your Vote Counts! Tuesday, November 3rd

This is an off-year election, as the President will not face election and only special elections to the United States Congress will be held, including a special election for Speaker of the House. There will also be gubernatorial and state legislative elections in a few states; as well as numerous citizen initiatives, mayoral races, and a variety of other local offices on the ballot.