



Kansas City, Missouri Branch

MARCH & APRIL 2016

# TAKING ACTION

## Two Annual Events in Support of Women and Girls

**100**  
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS



We invite you to join us to celebrate and honor local high school senior girls on Sunday, April 17, 2 to 4 p.m., at the Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center



(3700 Blue Parkway, Kansas City, MO 64130.) Our guest speaker will be **Cynthia Newsome**, KSHB 41 Action News Anchor and reporter. Music performance by singer/songwriter **Kate Rose**, 1 of 25 local students selected to take part in the 2013 GRAMMY Music Revolution Project.

Since 1931, the AAUW-KC branch has sponsored this program which recognizes high school girls from Kansas City, Missouri Public Schools. Senior girls submit essays on their academic performance, community service or leadership experience, and a committee of AAUW-KC members select three applicants who are awarded college scholarships. All of the senior girls who enter the essay competition are celebrated at this event.

For more information, please contact **Earline Bentley** at 816-756-5608 or [ebentley1130@gmail.com](mailto:ebentley1130@gmail.com).

*You're Invited!*



## Reentry Woman of the Year AWARDS BRUNCH

This year's Reentry Woman of the Year event will take place on Saturday, April 23 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon at **Unity Village Dining Hall** (1901 NW Blue Pkwy., Unity Village, MO 64065). This annual event is being hosted by the AAUW-Independence Branch and is presented by the InterBranch Council (IBC). It awards scholarships to women who best exemplify the courage, effort and perseverance to return to the classroom after an absence of five or more years. Come and hear their inspiring stories!

The cost is \$20. For reservations, mail check (payable to **AAUW-Independence**) by April 12 to: **Judy Austin, 520 Partridge, Independence, MO 64055**. Donations to provide for award recipients' brunch costs and Reentry scholarships are welcome. For more information, please call Judy at 816-836-2014 or email her at [judyastin64055@comcast.net](mailto:judyastin64055@comcast.net).

## MEMBERSHIP MEETING

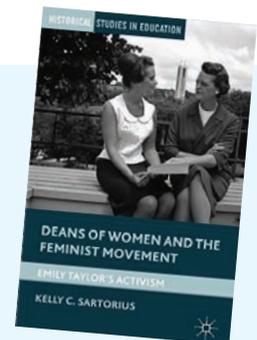
### DEANS OF WOMEN AND THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT RECEPTION & AUTHOR PRESENTATION

**TUESDAY, MARCH 29 / UMKC DIASTOLE CENTER**

RECEPTION 6-6:45 PM / PRESENTATION 6:45-8 PM / 2501 HOLMES ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO

Join us for an evening with **Kelly Sartorius**, Professor of History and Senior Director of Development/External Relations at the University of Arkansas, for a presentation and discussion of her book *Deans of Women and the Feminist Movement*. This book explores how deans of women actively fostered feminism in the mid-twentieth century through a study of the career of Dr. Emily Taylor, the University of Kansas dean of women from 1956-1974. The event is co-sponsored by AAUW-KC and the UMKC Women's and Gender Studies Program (We thank Mary Emily Kitterman for securing our speaker and Dr. Brenda Bethman for reserving the beautiful Diastole venue!)

RSVP by March 25 to **Sara Pedram**, [spedram45@kc.rr.com](mailto:spedram45@kc.rr.com). For more information, please call 816-753-2372.





# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## OUR VOTES AND THE PURSUIT FOR EQUALITY

The season has arrived and I don't mean just winter. The bewildering but nonetheless interesting election year of 2016 is upon us and, yet again, women are in a fight for their rights. Pay equity, the ERA, reproductive rights, eliminating

violence against women, and Title IX are at the forefront of the issues that AAUW stands for. These issues can easily fade into the national political background if we don't educate ourselves and vote for legislators who are with us and will fight the battles for us at the local, state and national levels.

AAUW at the national level promotes the **Get-Out-The-Vote** campaign and KC branch members will do their part again this year. Be sure to watch for further information regarding events, and training opportunities for this very important effort.

How important our votes are to women and girls here in Missouri cannot be overstated. I attended the Annual Legislative Retreat on January 16 in Columbia, along with **Linda Berube, Ardy Pearson, Jane Crigler** and **Joanie Shores**. **State Representative Stephen Webber** was the keynote speaker and described the torturous pathway a bill may take to become law in Missouri. After listening to Rep. Webber, it is small wonder that bills crucial to the wellbeing of women and girls (think ERA) often never make it to or through committees, much less to the House or Senate floors for debate. Rep. Webber answered questions and suggested methods which would help our causes. Significantly, Rep. Webber sponsored an important pay equity bill last year and feels it may get greater traction this year. Our own leadership has taken steps to enhance training for members who wish to lobby their representatives this **April 12**, designated **Equity**

**Action Day**. Branches are encouraged to send as many members as possible to attend the legislative session that day to lobby for pay equity in particular.

We also heard a three-women panel discussion that focused on their knowledge on the Right-to-Work movement, voter suppression and Medicaid Expansion. These are issues likely to emerge during the legislative session and have tremendous impact on women, young

and old, especially those living at or below the poverty level. Putting the pressure on our representatives to do the morally right thing and economically smart thing is vital.

Getting out the vote for the November election is important in order to make sure that the rights we have are not eroded and the ones we want are heard and acted upon. The effort to get out the vote is also

a tribute to those who came before and fought the hard-won battles to gain the vote.

*“Getting out the vote for the November election is important in order to make sure that the rights we have are not eroded and the ones we want are heard and acted upon.”*

*Stephanie Holthaus*  
Stephanie Holthaus  
AAUW-KC President



## Looking for Interviewers

We have been interviewing Kansas City members about their experiences as members of AAUW for the archives at UMKC. There are many of us to interview so we are looking for a few members who can connect and conduct interviews to complete this historic project. If you are interested, please contact Corinne Mahaffey at [corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com](mailto:corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com) or 816-645-1350.

**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 national website ([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.





## College/University Partnership Report:

By Patti Jachowicz, C/U Chair

A meeting was held at the Penn Valley campus on January 28 to discuss the next steps toward formalizing district membership and campus structures to support this AAUW partnership. Participants included **Patti Jachowicz**, **Mary Emily Kitterman**, **Yvette Sweeney**, Dean of Student Development at PV, **Shelby Coxon**, Coordinator of Campus Life & Leadership at PV, **Gabrielle Moore-Jones**, Advisor and Reentry Scholarship Coordinator at PV, and **Linda Nelson**, Associate Dean of Student Development at Longview. It was decided that the MCC district would join on March 15 or shortly after so that renewal would not be until July 1, 2017 (per **Alix Brice**, Membership Representative at National.) Furthermore, it's unlikely the district could process the membership application prior to March 15.

Penn Valley is in the process of forming an AAUW committee that will include the participants mentioned previously in addition to a student and at least one faculty member (STEM preferred). Yvette is reaching out to faculty senators for recommendations.

AAUW-KC will serve as the partner branch for both Penn Valley and Longview as we launch related activities to support programs on both campuses. The Independence branch will be working with Blue River, and eventually, the Northland branch will be connecting with Maple Woods. The InterBranch Council (IBC) goal is to create a cohesive plan with common activities, and campus-specific projects that can be supported by the branch with geographic ties to the area. The first IBC C/U Taskforce meeting was held in early February to begin discussions about working with our partner MCC campuses and other colleges/universities in the area that are already partners.

## KCKCC Corner

By Patsy Kile / Janice McIntyre

AAUW-KCKCC is off to a busy start this semester. Highlights thus far include a new "Spago" and the building excitement of the CAP grant implementation.

The CAP grant Steering committee will meet on Mondays throughout the implementation of the grant from 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the Intercultural Center. The major component for February included a student-administered survey related to perceptions of working conditions for women.

Plans are underway for a production of "Vagina Monologues" at KCKCC. This reader's theater piece will be used as a fundraiser for area family shelters.

## AAUW-KCKCC Member Recognized by Black Achievers Society of Kansas City

**Marisa Gray** did not always appreciate the value of education, even though she grew up in an environment of educators. A self-described "late bloomer," it was not until she started experiencing life for herself that she truly began to understand that education was not only the key, but having a credential was the one thing no one could deny.

"I find great joy in empowering individuals - helping others to discover their individual strength, inner power and their own voice," said Gray, who is the director of workforce and career development at Kansas City Kansas Community College. "Success is sometimes being in the right place, at the right time with the right skills. All you need is a crack in the window to burst through the room. It's also not just who you know, but who knows you."

The Black Achievers Society of Kansas City recently recognized Gray for her commitment to education and the community through a Black Achievers in Industry Award.



**A SOMBER NOTE:** AAUW-KC member **Bambi Shen** passed away suddenly at her home on February 24, 2016. Many of you had the pleasure of meeting her at many of our programs and events through the years, or heard her share her remarkable life story and memoir, *The Uncrushable Rose*. A celebration of life will be held on Saturday, March 5th at 1 p.m. at Unity Temple. All are welcome. Bambi was a vibrant and courageous woman, and will be deeply missed by many.



# SAVE THESE DATES:

## • **WOMEN'S EQUITY ACTION DAY** **TUESDAY / APRIL 12 / JEFFERSON CITY**



Let's show our elected officials what we stand for and join with women from across the state for the 5th Annual Women's Equity Day Rally at the State Capitol Building in Jefferson City. In collaboration with other women's organizations, we will have our voices heard on important issues including **passing the ERA, pay equity, reproductive rights, social justice, violence against women, voter's rights, right-to-work, and public education.** Watch for the registration flyer coming out soon and make your plans to join the excitement.

## • **AAUW-MO ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** **SATURDAY / APRIL 30**

**DOUBLETREE BY HILTON / 422 MONROE ST. / JEFFERSON CITY, MO**

Awards, news, and critical information are all part of the day, starting with a continental breakfast and registration at 8 a.m. **Elizabeth Holden** will be briefing us on national AAUW developments and issues. Most importantly, as the Grassroots Advocacy Manager, she will be advising us on the most effective activities for AAUW during this election year as part of "Advocacy as Mission."

Outgoing and incoming Board members will be meeting for dinner prior to the Conference on Friday evening, April 29, also at the Doubletree.

For room reservations, please call 573-636-5101 and request a room in the AAUW block of rooms. (Double room/\$104 per night.)

**The deadline for the conference and room reservations is April 8.** For a schedule of events and registration form, go online to [www.aauwmo.org](http://www.aauwmo.org).

## **Reentry/NCCWSL Applications Update:**

The 2016 **Reentry Woman of the Year** scholarship packets from our branch have been distributed to campus coordinators at UMKC, Penn Valley and KCKCC. The application deadline is March 15.

**National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL)** scholarship packets have also been distributed to UMKC and KCKCC, our current partner colleges. (Student applicants must be attending a partner college or university.) The application deadline is March 6. It was decided in January that MCC students will be eligible to apply for the NCCWSL scholarship beginning next year, after an AAUW partnership is established on all campuses. The nominations committee is forming now and we need two members to serve (about a month-long commitment). If interested, please contact Patti Jachowicz [pattijacho@gmail.com](mailto:pattijacho@gmail.com).



## • **TITLE IX PROGRAM RESCHEDULED!** **TUESDAY / MAY 17**



Many AAUW members and friends were disappointed when the January 19 Title IX program was cancelled due to extreme winter weather conditions. *Good news...this much-anticipated event has been rescheduled for May 17!* Co-presenters and speakers **Lisa Diven**, WIN for KC Director and **Sarah Morris**, WIN for KC Advisory Board Chair, have confirmed that they are available for the new date. The venue will be determined and full details shared in the May/June newsletter. So stay tuned!

## **AAUW-KC MONTHLY EVENTS**

### **FRIDAY FORUM**

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

#### • MARCH 11 & 25 / APRIL 8 & 22 / 10 AM

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 [joanshores1010@gmail.com](mailto:joanshores1010@gmail.com).

### **CUISINE CLUB**

#### • MARCH 17 / JJ'S RESTAURANT / 11:30 AM 900 W. 48TH PLACE, SUITE 110 / KANSAS CITY, MO 64112

#### • APRIL 21 / AFFÄRE / 11:30 AM 1911 MAIN ST. / KANSAS CITY, MO 64108

#### • MAY 18 / MAGNOLIA'S CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN BISTRO / 11:30 AM 9916 HOLMES RD / KANSAS CITY, MO 64131

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

#### • MARCH 22 / APRIL 26 / 6 PM

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

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

