

# TAKING ACTION

## Thorpe Menn Event Honors Past and Present Authors

Authors, members and guests gathered at the KC Central Library for the 35th Annual Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award on Oct. 5. 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 2013 Award was presented to **Samuel Arbesman** for his book *The Half-Life of Facts*. The finalists were: **Hughes Keenan**, *The Harvest Is Past* and **Debra McArthur**, *A Voice for Kansas*. Congratulations to all 17 nominated local authors!

"35 Authors: Where Are They Now?", a special tribute to the past winners, was presented by guest speaker Vivien Jennings, president of Rainy Day Books. The tribute was a compilation of author interviews, research and a video produced by event and reading committee members.

We are already making plans for the 36th event in October 2014. If you would like to nominate an author, please contact Linda Daugherty at (913) 449-1130 or [lindaugherty2000@yahoo.com](mailto:lindaugherty2000@yahoo.com).



Vivien Jennings (right) presents the \$100 Rainy Day Books gift certificate to Janelle Ramsburg. Everyone who purchased a ticket to this year's event was automatically entered to win.



(l-r) 2013 Thorpe Menn Award finalists Hughes Keenan and Debra McArthur. Ben Paynter accepted the winning award for Samuel Arbesman.



### MEMBERSHIP MEETING

- **JACKSON COUNTY CASA OUTREACH**  
**THURSDAY / NOVEMBER 14 / 6 PM**  
**KC LIBRARY PLAZA BRANCH**  
**TURNER ROOM / 4801 MAIN ST / KANSAS CITY, MO**



Guest speaker Megan Hover, Jackson County CASA (Court-Appointed Special Advocates for abused & neglected children), will present information regarding the important work of CASA to secure safe and loving homes for children who have been hotlined for abuse/neglect and are under state custody. Her talk will be of interest to all of us who value family and children, and want the best for both.

Please feel free to bring a "brown bag" dinner as food will not be served.

**Better yet!...Join other AAUW-KC members and friends at 5:00 p.m. at the MIXX restaurant, just across from the library, for dinner before the meeting!**

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013**



**WAGY AWARDS &  
HOLIDAY LUNCHEON**

Read more about this festive and giving event on page 3...



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 35th Annual Thorpe Menn Award luncheon was a powerful reminder of the good work AAUW does in the community. With nearly 100 authors, AAUW members and guests enjoying the event, the 35-year history rolled by us – graciously narrated by Vivien Jennings of Rainy Day Books, our longtime partner in the celebration. Past winners are beacons to the many writers in the Kansas City area, revealing to all of us what a richly literate area we live in. Carrie Maidment and the Event Committee deserve our highest praise and deepest appreciation for their devoted and meticulous work of planning and presenting this event. The readers deserve no less: Pam Chaudoin and the Reading Committee are also to be thanked for helping to make the AAUW Thorpe Menn Award for Literacy Excellence so significant.

Moving on to the great plans for the future: Programs for the rest of the year are shaping up to be informative, thought-provoking and inspiring. I hope you will all watch the calendar for not-to-be-missed dates ahead.

Perhaps a little less exciting, but nevertheless important to the future and ongoing well-being of AAUW-KC, a Bylaws Committee has been formed to review the Branch Bylaws with the eye toward possible revisions, with member approval, next spring. The review was prompted by the History Update Committee member and Branch Archivist Corinne Mahaffey, who in turn was prompted by the suggestion from the Curator at the Western Missouri Historical Manuscript Collection, where Branch archives are kept. It was recommended that the official establishment of that center as the repository for Branch Archives be put into the Branch bylaws, ensuring that the existence and whereabouts of the Branch historical documents be passed on to future members. In addition, a few mandatory clarifying changes to the bylaws have come to us from the national office, and although they don't need member approval, it's fitting that all these amendments take place at once – for efficiency sake, if nothing else. In light of these developments, the Board agreed to review the bylaws to determine if there are any other areas that may need modification or clarification. If any member is so inclined, please take a look at the bylaws and offer suggestions. I'll be happy to take them to the Committee for discussion or you can volunteer to join the Committee in its discussions. Committee volunteers are Renee Carlson, Winnie Weinrich, and Corinne Mahaffey.



(l-r) Thorpe Menn Event Committee: Winnie Weinrich, Ellen Johnson, Anita Parran and Carrie Maidment.

## Nicky Stanke

Nicky Stanke  
President, AAUW-KC, 2013-2014



### BOARD MEETING REMINDER:

THURSDAY / NOVEMBER 7

5:00 PM / WALDO LIBRARY

**JOIN  
OR RENEW**

Annual dues 2013-2014: \$79.00  
For more details, contact Earline Bentley at  
earline\_bentley@att.net or (816) 756-5608.

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



AAUW-KC President Nicky Stanke (seated, third from right) represented the Branch in a panel discussion presented by UN Women on Oct. 23. at the Kauffman Foundation, celebrating United Nations Day. UN Women is a new United Nations agency combining several UN initiatives relating to the advancement and empowerment of women and girls worldwide.



# History Corner

By Ardy Pearson / Dana Perry

## Club members polished up on their German vocabulary, grammar and culture

The German Club was already in existence when Ruth Engel joined Kansas City AAUW in 1970, moving to KC from her Branch in Maryland. At the time Rita Herbert was the teacher; after Rita moved to California to be near her son, Renata Meyer taught the group. Ruth Engel remained a constant member of the club until it ceased to exist on July 3, 2001, when Renata moved to a retirement home. Even after moving into the home, Renata would present German language work sheets to her friends when they came to visit.

Ruth remembers the German Club being a “no nonsense” group of generally six to eight women, sometimes a few more, sometimes less. Some members who participated off and on were Marjorie Bernard, Ardy Pearson,

Katherine Mc Nerney, Nan Schott, Fern Halliburton, Loraine Tipton, Vera Baker, and Marxie Hesler. The group met on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, working at translating and polishing their German vocabulary and grammar. They also read and discussed German poets, including Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Heinrich Heine, Friedrich von Schiller, and Gunter Grass. Ruth is a particular fan of Heine.

The German Club met at various locations throughout the years. For the forty-seven years that AAUW rented space at the elegant Sophian Plaza, they met in the club room there. In 1979, when the Sophian building was converted to condominiums, the German Club had to find a new location. They met at the Twin Oaks Apartment Building, the

UMKC Women’s Center, or at various members’ homes.

Ruth admits she never really mastered the German language, even though she had studied it in college, too. Her brother John had studied German and she wanted to follow his lead. Ruth joined the AAUW German Club because they “had a good time being challenged.” Sometimes the members would go out to lunch together after their lessons (not necessarily to a German restaurant).

***EDITOR’S NOTE:** Members of the History Committee are hard at work compiling stories for a 120 year anniversary oral history compilation. If you would like to be a part of this project or if you have information, photos or artifacts to contribute, please call Historian Corinne Mahaffey, (816) 645-1350 or Ardy Pearson, (816) 444-6651.*

*Nettie Irene Van Der Veer*

# WAGY AWARDS & HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

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

This year marks the 16th year of the WAGY Awards. The fund was established in 1998 from a generous bequest from Nettie Irene Van Der Veer Wagy, a longtime member of the Kansas City Branch of AAUW. Each year Branch members donate to the Fund for that year’s awards. Leadership Memorial gifts are also designated for use in giving grants in the year they were received.

The purpose of these grants is to support programs for women and girls in the Kansas City area. Each year a committee reviews a number



of proposals from area organizations and selects four or five to receive grants from \$1,000 to \$4,000. The grants will be awarded at the luncheon and we will hear from the recipients about their winning projects.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2013  
INDIAN HILLS COUNTRY CLUB

**6824 Tomahawk Rd, Mission Hills, KS 66208**

*(From MO, take 69th St. west to Tomahawk. From KS, take Mission Rd. and turn east on Tomahawk.)*

- 11:30 a.m. Social**
- 12:00 p.m. Seating & Lunch**
- 12:30 p.m. Awards Presentation**

\$37 per person (payable to **AAUW-KC**)

RSVP by **December 3** to Pam Burke, (816) 361-2098 or pamelaburke2729@gmail.com or mail your check to Pam at 8044 Summit St., Kansas City, MO 64114.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- **“THE INVISIBLE WAR”**  
**FILM SCREENING & DISCUSSION**  
**THURSDAY / JANUARY 16, 2014 / 5:30 PM**  
**NATIONAL ARCHIVES AT KANSAS CITY**  
**400 W PERSHING ROAD / NEXT TO UNION STATION**

“The Invisible War” is an award-winning documentary that addresses the way sexual assault is handled by the military. An informal reception will be held until 6:00 p.m., when the film will be shown. A speaker-led discussion will follow. This program promises to be very enlightening and thought-provoking. Please contact Renee Carlson at (816) 373-0373 or [rac609712@yahoo.com](mailto:rac609712@yahoo.com) for more details.

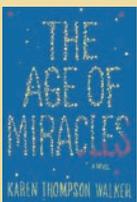
- **STARR WOMEN’S HALL OF FAME LAUNCH**  
**CHELSEA CLINTON / HEADLINE SPEAKER**  
**MONDAY / FEBRUARY 24, 2014**  
**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY**  
**SWINNEY RECREATION CENTER / 5030 HOLMES ST**



AAUW-KC and other organizations from the Kansas City metro area are uniting to form the Starr Women’s Hall of Fame, to recognize women from the Kansas City area and preserve the legacy of their accomplishments. Chelsea Clinton, vice chair of the Clinton Foundation, works with her parents, President Bill Clinton and Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, will speak at the luncheon. For ticket information, contact Amy Loughman at (816) 235-2452.

## AAUW-KC MONTHLY EVENTS

- **NOV 8 & 22 – FRIDAY FORUM**  
WALDO LIBRARY / 75TH & GRAND / KCMO / 10 AM  
This is an informal discussion group on current affairs. Participants bring articles of interest or summaries of radio/TV shows to stimulate conversation. *Interested?* Contact **Joanie Shores**, (660) 200-5809 or [joanashores101@aol.com](mailto:joanashores101@aol.com).
- **NOV 21 – CUISINE CLUB**  
ZOCALA / 620 W 48TH ST / KCMO 64112 / 11:30 AM  
RSVP to **Ellen Johnson** at [ellen.johnson@gmail.com](mailto:ellen.johnson@gmail.com) or (816) 931-5288.
- **NOV 26 – 4TH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB**



WALDO LIBRARY / 75TH & GRAND / KCMO / 6 PM  
**The Age of Miracles** by **Karen Thompson Walker**.  
An award-winning luminous and unforgettable debut novel about coming of age set against the backdrop of an utterly altered world. For more details, contact **Jane Hatch**, (816) 838-7626 or [janehatch@yahoo.com](mailto:janehatch@yahoo.com).

## KCKCC Corner

By Patsy Kile / Janice McIntyre

We are happy to report that our continuing membership campaign is paying off. According to the National AAUW website, we have 42 student members and about 20 faculty, staff and community members.

- Our recruitment continued as we co-sponsored a Brown Bag Luncheon with the Women’s Resource Center, “Are Sexism and Racism Still Alive,” Oct. 17.
- Students were recruited at the KCKCC 2nd Annual Workplace Readiness Week, Oct. 21-25. Activities included workshops, employer panels, a career center, and a film fest featuring “Office Space” and “Nine to Five.”
- AAUW members and guests joined KCKCC Satellite members for a dinner theater with the KCKCC Latin Jazz Band production, “In the Heights,” Oct. 19.
- An ad-hoc committee beginning work on a STEM grant for KCKCC met Oct. 15. They will look at the possibility of a STEM Career Fair with guest speakers from STEM occupations and career ladder possibilities, and a Community Action Project, which may include a production with student interviews on the status of women at KCKCC.

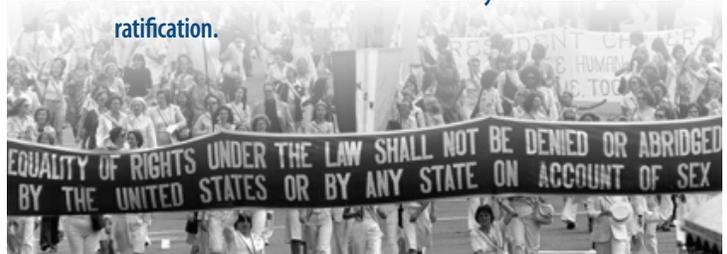
For more information, please email Janice, [drmcdrtp1@aol.com](mailto:drmcdrtp1@aol.com) or Patsy at [patsykile920@gmail.com](mailto:patsykile920@gmail.com).

## ERA FACTS

By Joanie Shores

The complete text of The Equal Rights Amendment:

- Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.
- Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.
- Section 3. The amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.



## NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:



**Condoleezza Rice** is the first black woman to serve as the United States’ national security adviser, as well as the first black woman to serve as U.S.

Secretary of State (2005-09). (11/14)

Alice Knight	11/17
Annette Choate	11/20
Cecilia Morehouse	11/22
Dana Perry	11/25
Mollie Caldwell	11/29
Earline Bentley	11/30