

# TAKING ACTION

## Thorpe Menn Event Celebrates 26 Local Authors

Over 100 authors and guests gathered at the Kansas City Central Library for the 36th 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 2014 Literary Excellence Award was presented to **Maija Rhee Devine** for her book *The Voices of Heaven*. The finalists were: **Suzanne Kelly** for *Stolen Child* and **Deborah Shouse**, *Love in the Land of Dementia: Finding Hope in the Caregivers Journey*. Congratulations to all of the 26 nominated authors!

AAUW-KC honored Crosby Kemper III for a decade of generous support of the Thorpe Menn Award – with his help we have been able to honor and recognize over 150 local authors. Special thanks to keynote speaker Mary Sanchez, *Kansas City Star* Editorial Columnist; Vivien Jennings and Roger Doeren of Rainy Day Books; and all of our table hostesses and volunteers.

We are already making plans for the 37th event in October 2015. If you would like to nominate an author, please email Linda Daugherty at [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".



(l-r) Thorpe Menn Award finalist Suzanne Kelly, winner Maija Rhee Devine, and finalist Deborah Shouse.



Crosby Kemper receives a certificate for his decade of support of the Thorpe Menn Award from AAUW-KC President Winnie Weinrich.

*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 17th 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 6, 2014  
LIDIA'S RESTAURANT

101 West 22nd Street, Kansas City, MO 64108

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

**\$37 per person/ RSVP by December 1**

Send checks (payable to AAUW-KC) to Jane Crigler, 909 W. 86th Terrace, Kansas City, MO 64114, or call 816-523-7781 to reserve and pay at the event. Please let Jane know if you require a vegetarian meal, or if you will need a ride.

**Election Day is NOVEMBER 4, 2014! Your VOTE is Your VOICE!**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## *A few bits of news for you...*

I am excited to report that we've welcomed 12 new members over the past several months! I would like to engage them and our readers by acting as a conduit, to bring issues, information and news, which they feel are important to the advancement of women and girls, to the forefront. Please send me an email ([winnieweinrich@gmail.com](mailto:winnieweinrich@gmail.com)) and let me know what's on your mind.

A big "Thank You" comes to us from the Missouri State Funds Chair letting us know that the 2014-15 grant from the Dora Johnson Fund (completed by the KC Branch in 1988-89) was given as a Community Action Grant to Sociedad Latina in Roxbury, MA for their Mission Possible! Program (MP), which helps Latino youth in Boston succeed in high school and college. The grant will help MP launch a STEM Mentoring Program, to match high school and college girls interested in STEM fields with mentors.

I think some of the results of our combined efforts aren't always emphasized or lauded broadly enough. One example is our newly-released history book, *A Century of Service, Plus 21 Years*, which debuted at the Fall Fling. (Read more below.) Another shining moment was the Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award luncheon in October, where we thanked Crosby Kemper III for his generous support and had the

highest attendance in recent history. When I was preparing to speak that day, I became surprisingly aware that this is the only literary award in Kansas City, and perhaps Missouri.

That speaks volumes about us and our commitment to the community. Thirdly, and with special thanks to Patsy Kile and Eva Bett, we joined forces with our satellite branch, KCKCC, in their silent auction in September – a welcome windfall of \$300+ came into our coffers.

Did you know we have the honor, at UMKC, of an AAUW Fellowship recipient in our midst? I'm so excited for Ms. Adrienne Anderson and looking forward to hearing her speak at the January membership meeting; her graduate field of study is Electrical Engineering!

I hope to see you at the November 11 membership meeting (if you can volunteer a few hours at our display table earlier that day, call me please) and the Wagy Holiday Luncheon on December 6.

One final request, and I'll quit babbling...if you are on Facebook, please "Like" the AAUW-MO page!

Please have happy and safe Holidays and a warm New Year.

*Winnie Weinrich*  
AAUW-KC President



## History Corner

*A Century of Service, Plus 21 Years* was presented fresh-off-the-press at the Fall Fling in September, at the home of Mary Emily Kitterman. The 125-page history book of the AAUW-Kansas City Branch includes the original text published in 1993 on the hundredth anniversary of the founding, plus updates and photographs of the past 21 years.

Edited by Dana Perry and Ardy Pearson, the staff included Corinne Mahaffey as copy editor, and the following branch members as contributors: Marilyn Bables, Clara Black, Linda Berube, Pam Burke, Carol Duncan, Ruth Engel, Rosie Grinstead, Phyllis Hamrick, Stefanie Hatfield, Stephanie Holthaus, Ellen Johnson, Patsy Kile, Mary Emily Kitterman,

Janice McIntyre, Helen Montag, Bambi Shen, Marilyn Shippee, Nicky Stanke, Karen Stelling, Pat Taylor, Frances Weeks and Winnie Weinrich.

Interviews of many branch members who had taken leadership roles in various projects over the years were conducted. Those interviews will be presented in an oral history compilation to be produced later.

Books were given to the Kansas City Public Library and Director Crosby Kemper; long-time members Rosie Grinstead and Fran Weeks received free copies, as did Bambi Shen for an early donation. Besides that 28 books have been sold.

Books will be for sale for \$20 (cash or check) at various branch programs. If you wish to have a copy of the book mailed to you, the cost is \$25. Please contact Pam Burke at [pamelaburke2729@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelaburke2729@hotmail.com) or 816-361-2098, or Ardy Pearson at 816-444-6651.



Ardy Pearson announces the new history book to guests at the Fall Fling.

During the compilation of the history book, several trips were made to the archives in the State Historical Society of Missouri – Western Region on the UMKC campus. Researching members found that documents too often were sparse. Starting November 1, Dana Perry and Nicky Stanke are undertaking a concerted effort to collect materials and bring them to a central location. In order to update the archives with newer materials, Corinne Mahaffey will lead efforts to sort, classify and index the materials collected. If you have any AAUW-related material to submit, please contact Nicky at 816-807-0675 or [nickystanke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nickystanke@sbcglobal.net), or Dana Perry at 816-561-0323 or [dana.perry08@live.com](mailto:dana.perry08@live.com) to make arrangements for pick-up or delivery.



# Help Kansas City Reach Our National Goal!

By Mary Emily Kitterman

Below is a Kansas City Branch Funds Report that outlines the gifts sent by our branch members in support of the national AAUW Funds. According to our most current data, our members have sent 47 gifts for a total of \$2,233. They have been distributed as follows:

- (9110) AAUW Funds (unrestricted gifts) \$640
- (9170) Eleanor Roosevelt Fund (research) \$46
- (4336) Educational Opportunities Fund \$452
- (3999) Legal Advocacy Fund \$495
- (4339) Leadership Programs Fund \$225
- (4339) NCCWSL \$100
- (4337) Public Policy Fund \$50
- (4037) Richardson Fund \$225

The goal set by national for branch giving is \$30 per member. In order to reach this goal, our members will need to contribute \$347 in additional gifts by December 31, 2014.

There are many ways to give to AAUW Funds: you may go online to [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org) and click on the "GIVE" tab in the upper right hand corner; or you may call the national office at 800-326-2289 or 202-728-3307; or you may send a check payable to AAUW Funds to P.O. Box 98045, Washington, DC 20090-8045. If you prefer to restrict your gift to a specific fund(s), please indicate the name or number of the fund.

Contributions to all of these programs are fully tax deductible.

Please call AAUW-KC Funds Chair, Mary Emily Kitterman at 913-381-9616 if you have any questions or email her at [mekgk@aol.com](mailto:mekgk@aol.com).

We are grateful for our branch members for donating to the national AAUW Funds.

## Remembering Elaine Richardson

As you plan your donation to the AAUW Funds this year, please remember Elaine Richardson.

A Research and Projects Fund was started in her name in 1996, but no grants can be given from that until it is completed. Your state board has voted to make the completion a high priority. In fact, at a recent meeting, 100% of the board pledged or gave to that fund, raising over \$1,000 in one afternoon!

About \$20,000 must be raised to complete the fund. If every member in Missouri would donate to the F. Elaine Richardson/Missouri Endowment Fund #4037, the fund would be complete and grants can be awarded.

Elaine belonged to the Excelsior Springs branch (now disbanded) and served on the state board in several capacities over many years. This tribute was a way of recognizing her great service while helping deserving young women. Her daughter, Rebecca Richardson, continues in her mother's footsteps and is an active AAUW member and women's advocate.

Elaine's studies included special summer sessions in England and Paris. For 27 years she taught remedial reading. She was a strong advocate for higher education for girls. Besides her many AAUW activities, she was active in civic affairs in Excelsior Springs.

When you donate to AAUW Funds, please designate your gift to #4037 to remember Elaine Richardson.



## CELEBRATION! WINE & CHEESE! SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2014, 4-6 PM

A pre-2015 party for branch members and guests - Celebration! Wine and Cheese! - will be held on Sunday, December 28, from 4-6 p.m. at the home of AAUW-KC member Ann Kindred and her husband Lynn, 3117 W. 69th Street, Shawnee Mission, KS. The wine will be provided by the Kindreds, and the KC Branch will benefit from free-will donations at the door. (Suggested: \$15)

Reservations are required. Please invite your friends, family and potential members, then call or email Nicky Stanke (816-807-0675/[nickystanke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:nickystanke@sbcglobal.net)) with your guest list. A big thanks to the Kindreds for their generous support!

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



After a broken ankle immobilized Margaret Mitchell in 1926, Mitchell started writing a novel that would become *Gone With the Wind*. Published in 1936, *Gone With the Wind* made Mitchell an instant celebrity and earned her the Pulitzer Prize. (11/3)

Annette Choate	11/20
Cecilia Morehouse	11/22
Dana Perry	11/25
Mollie Caldwell	11/29
Earline Bentley	11/30
Heather Brock	12/5
Diane Krizek	12/7
Ann Kindred	12/10
Ada Wright	12/15
Connie Gray	12/16
Bambi Shen	12/26
Charleen Brain	12/27
Pamela Chaudoin	12/27
Anna Nearing	12/27
Beverly Ryan	12/27



## MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

- **GRANDMOTHER'S AGAINST GUN VIOLENCE**  
**NOVEMBER 11, 2014, 6–8 PM**  
**UMKC MILLER NICHOLS LIBRARY**  
**3RD FLOOR / 5100 ROCKHILL RD. / KANSAS CITY, MO**



Guest Speaker **Judy Sherry** is a grandmother who, with another grandmother in Kansas, founded the Missouri Kansas Chapter of Grandmothers Against Gun Violence (GAG) in Sept. 2013. Sherry currently serves as president of the organization that has more than 200 members in both Missouri and Kansas. Feel free to bring a “brown bag” dinner as food will not be served. Also, we will visit the Human Rights exhibit at the library. (Free-will donation.)

- **AAUW FELLOWSHIP AWARDEE & HEARTSONG SINGERS**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2015**

Make plans to join us at the home of Ardy Pearson, where **Adrienne Anderson**, AAUW's 2014–15 Fellowship awardee, will be our special guest speaker.

- **ANNUAL JOINT MEETING - KANSAS CITY AND SHAWNEE MISSION BRANCHES**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2015**

For more information on upcoming Membership Meetings, please contact Pam Burke at 816-361-2098 [pamelaburke2729@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelaburke2729@hotmail.com).

## KCKCC Corner

By Patsy Kile / Janice McIntyre

Greetings from the West! We have been busier than ever with membership activities.

We co-sponsored the Sept. 13 “Rock the Vote”. Music, community representatives, pizza, and Grandmother Suffragette were all a part of the party.

A successful “Tea Dance” fundraiser partnering with AAUW-KC was held at the Lake of the Forest on Sept. 14. Guests enjoyed live music, refreshments and dance.

On Oct. 24, members and friends visited the wine vineyards of Wyandotte County. The tour helped to raise funds for student scholarships.

Dr. Denise McDowell agreed to chair the AAUW-KCKCC Student Grants Committee. The committee will award tuition and books, leadership development, and discretionary scholarships.

A grant application for AAUW-KCKCC programming dealing with bias has been submitted. If received, it will initiate student action research to determine bias experienced on the KCKCC campus, and provide additional programming related to resources and solutions. Barbara Clark Evans is also working on a Title 9 grant related to bias.

Representatives from AAUW-KCKCC will attend an informational meeting on Nov. 11 for the new AAUW-Johnson County Community College (JCCC) Branch.

For the latest information, check out AAUW-KCKCC on Facebook.



AAUW-KC and -KCKCC members at the Tea Dance: (l-r) Stephanie Holthaus, Mayre Hoffman, Patsy Kile, Winnie Weinrich, Elizabeth Kasckow, Ellen Johnson

## AAUW-KC MONTHLY EVENTS

### FRIDAY FORUM

WALDO BRANCH LIBRARY / 201 E 75TH ST / KANSAS CITY, MO 64114 / 10:00 AM

- NOVEMBER 14 & 28 • DECEMBER 12 & 26

This is an informal discussion group on current affairs, with participants bringing articles of interest or summaries of radio/TV shows to stimulate conversation. Interested? Contact Joanie Shores, 660-200-5809 or [joaneshores1010@gmail.com](mailto:joaneshores1010@gmail.com).

### CUISINE CLUB

- NOVEMBER 20 – MAGNOLIA'S CONTEMPORARY SOUTHERN BISTRO 2932 CHERRY ST / KANSAS CITY, MO / 11:30 AM

- DECEMBER 18 – PLAZA III  
 4749 PENNSYLVANIA / KANSAS CITY, MO / 11:30 AM  
 FEATURING OUR ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE!

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 / 6:00 PM

- NOVEMBER 25

(NO BOOK CLUB IN DECEMBER. WE WILL RESUME JANUARY 27, 2015.)

For BOOK CLUB details, contact **Jane Hatch**, 816-838-7626 or [janehatch@yahoo.com](mailto:janehatch@yahoo.com).

JOIN OR RENEW

**Annual dues 2014-2015: \$79.00**  
 For more details, contact Earline Bentley at [earline\\_bentley@att.net](mailto:earline_bentley@att.net) or (816) 756-5608.

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

