



TAKING ACTION

JOIN US FOR A PANEL DISCUSSION WITH LOCAL



“WOMEN RELIGIOUS LEADERS”



You will be fascinated by this membership meeting/program slated for **Tuesday, November 21 – Women Religious Leaders**. Our panel will consist of four women religious leaders: a **Jewish Rabbi**, a **Christian Minister**, a **Representative of Islamic faith**, plus our moderator, a **former Catholic Nun** and now a leader with NETWORK, a national Catholic social-justice lobby. They will share their roles and experiences as women in religion. Time will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Location to be announced.

SAVE THE DATES: AAUW-KC UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- **Tuesday, January 16, 2018** – Usher in the New Year at our monthly membership meeting, our program keynote speaker is Missouri State Auditor **Nicole Galloway**.
- **Saturday, February 17, 2018** – Make plans to attend this annual joint luncheon with our friends from AAUW-Shawnee Mission at JCCC. Our keynote speaker will be **Michelle Carter**, professional journalist, author of *From Under the Russian Snow*—memoirs from her 1995 journalistic travels in Russia, and AAUW-KC member.
- **March 2018** – Be intrigued by **Dianna Carlin Pierson**, keynote speaker at our program **Women Trailblazers**. Dianna is renowned for her work as biographer for Michelle Obama. Time and location to be announced.

We look forward to seeing you there! —**Joanie Shores** and **Judith McGunegle**, Program Co-VPs

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 20th 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.



Saturday, December 2 Grand Street Cafe

4740 Grand, Kansas City, MO

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

\$35 per person. Reservations required by Tuesday, November 28. Mail checks payable to AAUW-KC: Ellen Johnson, AAUW-Wagy, 4505 Headwood Dr. #7, Kansas City, MO 64111. Questions? Contact Ellen at 816-931-5288 or ellen.johnson@gmail.com.

(Parking is free and easily accessible.)

“One of my favorite AAUW-KC events of the year!”

“It is inspiring to learn about the community organizations who do such good work for women and girls.”

“Always a festive event to start the holiday season!”



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AAUW-Kansas City is off to a great start for 2017–18!

We have a great group of leaders working together to advance equity for women and girls through education, philanthropy, advocacy, and research. Thanks to **Teri Wichman**, Membership VP, for her leadership on Fall Fling and reaching out to bring in new members and retain current members. Another successful Thorpe Menn event was held on **October 7** under the leadership of **Carrie Maidment** and **Ellen Johnson**, chairs of the event; and **Jane McClain** and **Corrine Mahaffey** who led the reading committee.

Great mission-based programs are being planned and our Public Policy team is working hard to help us learn more about issues that affect women and girls today. It was great to see many of you at the **October 17** membership meeting program Women in the Media at KCUR, and I'm looking forward to visiting with you again at the **November 21** meeting featuring a panel of

“Women Religious Leaders,” and the **December 2** Waggy Awards Luncheon at Grand Street Cafe.

Are you interested in helping women learn about AAUW-KC and promoting our membership? Will you be a mentor for a new member? Are you able to underwrite the membership dues for someone who can't afford it? The AAUW-KC board is looking for ways to offer financial assistance to members and new members for membership dues, provide mentoring to new members, and promote AAUW's mission and the work we do throughout the Kansas City area. If you can help with any of these initiatives, please contact me at ljbauw@hotmail.com.

Finally, would you be willing to join our 'calling committee,' a small group of members who call and remind other members about upcoming events? If so, email **Judith McGunegle** at judithmcgunegle@yahoo.com to let her know you can help.

Keep Marching Forward!

Linda Berube

AAUW-KC President



FALL FLING REAPS SEVEN NEW MEMBERS

BY TERI WICHMAN, MEMBERSHIP VP

On **September 16**, nearly 30 members and prospective members gathered at All Soul's Unitarian Church for our annual Fall Fling. Food, conversation and laughter filled the time and space as we all learned about or looked back on how AAUW works for women and girls, and how we can participate. The focus of this year's gathering was on committees like Public Policy, activities like Book Club and Friday Forum, and our upcoming programs.

We would like to welcome the following women who joined our branch at this year's Fall Fling: **Dori Bader, Cindy Farrow, Michele Fricke, Kathy Kiser, Heather Neds, Andi Palausky,** and **Susan Stuart**. Also thanks to all of those who followed up to renew their memberships. We don't want to lose anyone, so if you still need to pay your 2017–18 dues, please do! Also, let me know if there are any committees, events or activities you would like to be contacted about. (See Teri's contact information below.)



JOIN OR RENEW

MISSION

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

2017–18 ANNUAL DUES: \$79

Dues cover National membership (\$49), State membership (\$10), plus Kansas City membership (\$20). To join and for information, please contact Teri Wichman at **816-868-5536** or teriwichman@gmail.com. You can register and pay online at 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.



PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

BY RIVA CAPELLARI AND CAROL COWLES, PUBLIC POLICY CO-CHAIRS

AAUW-KC members who are interested in public governmental and political issues are urged to join our Public Policy Committee! Please email **Carol Cowles** at carolcowles63@gmail.com or **Riva Capellari** at rivacapellari@gmail.com. We promise to be thoughtful about using your time effectively to advocate for policy issues that impact the lives and futures of women and girls. In Missouri, we have been tasked by National AAUW to concentrate on two advocacy efforts this year: the protection and enforcement of **Title IX** and eliminating the **Gender Pay Gap**. Here are ways we are planning to deliver on this call to action:

- We are involved in equal justice efforts through AAUW's membership in the **Greater Kansas City Justice Coalition**, activists who meet monthly to serve as a clearinghouse for community actions focused on justice and injustice.
- Last year, AAUW-KC was fortunate to participate in a program which provided information about expanding the role of **Title IX** to include sexual assault prevention and investigation. We plan to mobilize and continue to support this expansion, which is now being challenged by Education Secretary Betsy DeVos.
- Several AAUW-KC members are working to bring Kansas City into **CEDAW (Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women)** by pushing for a study on pay equity in Kansas City.

Here are some of the events Public Policy chairs Riva and Carol have been involved with recently:

- **Women's Equality Week (WEW)** – The excellent attendance at AAUW-KC's Building Coalitions through Courageous Conversations on **August 22** at the National Archives, reinforced the power of enhancing the effectiveness of our work through synergy with other organizations. Program attendance was 60 to 70 enthusiastic women and men. **Rev. Diana Hughes**, former administrator at All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church, led the interactive session, instructing on the foundational aspects of respectful consensus building. Carol and Riva made a presentation on successful feminist coalitions of the 60s and 70s.
- **In collaboration with the College/University Partnership Committee**, our committee participated in the **UMKC Women's Center** welcoming event. **Sara Pedram** and Carol added 19 students to the National AAUW "2-Minute Activist" program, and at least as many indicated they would be joining AAUW as undergraduate students.
- On Labor Day 2017, Riva marched with **Stand Up KC** and other organizations in support of the Kansas City \$15 minimum wage and union representation for fast food workers. The majority of these workers are women, some of whom are single mothers raising

children. There were several speakers, including city council members and fast food workers who told us about their struggles to make ends meet on their minimum wage pay.

- **Advocacy and Action Progressive Conference** – Riva and approximately 150 to 175 people attended the conference led by moderator Missouri State Representative **DaRon McGee**. Guest speaker **Dr. Lawrence March** spoke to the fallacy of the current administration's approach to spurring the economy, i.e. cutting taxes for the wealthy. Following lunch were breakout sessions on improving our public education system, the value of home ownership, and how to change laws/policies through petitions. The day adjourned with an informative and energizing speech by **Congressman Emanuel Cleaver II**. It was refreshing to see so many young people in attendance, including many students from UMKC.

We need your energy and time to cover more of these important community events that align with our call to action. Please join us! If you are already involved, through your association with another organization, or individually, just let us know! Finally, if you have not already done so, sign up to be a 2-Minute Activist: <http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM

WALDO LIBRARY / ROOM A / 201 E 75TH ST, KCMO 64114 / 10 AM

- NOV 10 & 24
- DEC 8 & 22

Current events discussions cover everything from amazing to zany! A good sense of humor and lots of laughter define our group. Bring a current events story/article to share. In January, we switch to a Great Decisions series to learn more about the world.

MODERATOR **Joanie Shores**, 660-200-5809 / joaneshores1010@gmail.com.

3RD THURSDAY CUISINE CLUB

- NOV 16: **Chez Elle**

1713 SUMMIT, KANSAS CITY 64108 @ 11:30 AM

- DEC 21: "ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE" **Plaza III**

4749 PENNSYLVANIA, KANSAS CITY 64112 @ 11:30 AM

RSVP to **Winnie Weinrich**, winnie_weinrich@live.com / 816-808-7926.



4TH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

WALDO BRANCH LIBRARY / 201 E 75TH ST, KCMO 64114 / 6-7 PM

- OCT 24: **Sarah's Key** by **Tatiana de Rosnay**
- NOV 28: **Underground Railroad** by **Colson Whitehead** (2017 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction)

- **Happy Holidays!** NO BOOK CLUB IN DECEMBER

MODERATOR **Jane Hatch**, 816-838-7626 / janehatch@yahoo.com.



THORPE MENN AWARD EVENT HONORS 33 LOCAL AUTHORS

Local authors and guests gathered at the Kansas City Central Library for the Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award luncheon on **October 7**. The award was established in 1979 by AAUW-KC to honor Thorpe Menn, a longtime book editor at *The Kansas City Star*. He supported all aspects of Kansas City’s cultural life, especially local authors and artists.

The 2017 Thorpe Menn award was presented to **Loring Leifer** for her book, *Angels with Angles: The Rogue Nuns behind Operation Breakthrough*. The finalists were **A.J. Culey** for her book series titled *Tyrabbsaurus Rex* and **Erich Wurster** for *The Coaster*.

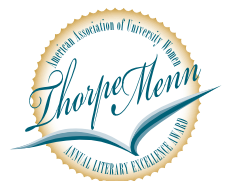
Special thanks to our keynote speaker **Patrick Dobson**, honored writer, scholar and poet; the attentive staff at the Kansas City Library; and all of our table hosts.

We are already making plans for our 40th annual event set for **October 5, 2018**. If you would like to nominate an author, please visit the [AAUW-KC website](#) and go to the Thorpe Menn page under “Events” for guidelines and instructions. The deadline for nominations is **May 1, 2018**.



Some of the members of the 2017 Thorpe Menn Reading and Event Committees.

2017 Thorpe Menn Award-winner Loring Leifer (center) and finalists (l-r) Erich Wurster and Amy Culey.



COLLEGE CORNER

BY PATTI JACHOWICZ, COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

KANSAS CITY KANSAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE

As the fall leaves scatter across the KCKCC campus, AAUW student and professional members are gathering to plan for the future. Since **Katie Jones** and **Shai Perry** became our AAUW college/university representatives, they have worked with students to recruit new members at the Student Bash in September, established a calendar of activities, and conducted the first student meeting on **October 4**, while **Janice McIntyre** has extended AAUW’s outreach to the Pioneer Center Campus in Leavenworth.

Our most challenging project has been a team preparation of a College/University CAP grant application on the leadership gap for women in public and private

workplaces, submitted **October 1**. Two of the proposed topics in the grant are *implicit bias* and *women in politics*. Our next ambitious project is a November and April Start Smart Workshop in partnership with the **Women’s & Gender Advocacy Center**, led by **Jennifer Gieschen** and **Linda Warner**.

Other important news: **Barbara-Clark Evans**, Director of the Intercultural Center, was named Title IX Compliance Officer for KCKCC; **Janice McIntyre** is running for KCKCC Board of Trustees; and **Katie Jones** will be leaving us for a KU Research Grant position.

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE – PENN VALLEY

The Women on the Move program is well underway. Students were greeted in **September 2017** by Penn Valley’s new president, **Dr. Tjjuan Lee** (pictured), and encouraged to connect and support fellow female students.



On **November 16**, **Patti Jachowicz** will moderate Self-Empowerment through Career Planning, a panel discussion represented by administration, faculty and staff to discuss the power that active engagement in career planning activities has on building self-confidence and academic success.

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY

The UMKC Women’s Center’s mission is to advocate, educate and provide support services for the advancement of women’s equity on campus and within the community. AAUW-KC has been a strong supporter and collaborator of the center for many years. On **October 5**, our branch hosted an information table at the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes: The International Men’s March to Stop Rape, Sexual Assault, and Gender Violence. **Linda Berube** and **Carol Cowles** talked with table visitors about AAUW’s advocacy to support and protect Title IX and about the benefits of joining AAUW.