



Kansas City, Missouri Branch

NOV/DEC 2018

TAKING ACTION

JOIN US FOR "AMERICA'S FIRST LADIES" PROGRAM AND OUR 125TH BIRTHDAY PARTY—NOVEMBER 13!

On **Tuesday, November 13** from **6:15–8:30 p.m.** we will gather at **Diastole Scholar's Center** (2501 Holmes, Kansas City, MO) for a program about **America's First Ladies** and a celebration marking the 125th anniversary of our branch!

The evening will begin with a presentation by **Dr. Diana Carlin Pierron** on her research entitled, "**America's First Ladies: More than the Women Behind the Men**". Dr. Pierron retired from faculty and administration at KU and is Emeritus Professor from Saint Louis University. She has written and contributed to several books on women in politics and political debates, and has traveled the world to share her work. In much of her writings, she focuses in on America's First Ladies, including Martha Washington, Lady Bird Johnson, Barbara Bush, Hillary Clinton and Michelle Obama.

Following the program we will enjoy birthday cake and light refreshments to commemorate our remarkable milestone – *125 years of advancing equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.*

Join us for this great program and celebration on **November 13**. And please invite your friends and colleagues to join us as well!

In November 1893, the Kansas City Branch became a part of the AAUW community. On November 13, 2018 we celebrate our 125th birthday, as well as the hundreds of thousands of members nationwide who empower women and girls.



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 21st 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.



"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."

Saturday, December 8 Grand Street Cafe

4740 Grand, Kansas City, MO

11:30 a.m. Social

12:00 p.m. Luncheon

12:30 p.m. Awards Program

\$37 per person. Reservations required by Tuesday, December 4. 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 or Janelle Ramsburg, ramsburg1938@icloud.com.

(Parking is free and easily accessible.)

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

**CO-PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

“Collaboration is a key part of the success of any organization, executed through a clearly defined vision and mission and based on transparency and constant communication.”

—DINESH PALIWAL

WE ARE ON THE MOVE!

Thanks to **Teri Wichman**’s ideas and planning, we enjoyed another Fall Fling, with guests, conversation, refreshments, AAUW information and prizes!

Our year started off with an exciting announcement from **Mayor Sly James**, accompanied by AAUW CEO **Kim Churches** and Women’s Foundation President and CEO **Wendy Doyle**, that Kansas City has adopted AAUW’s **Work Smart** program to train 1,000,000 Missouri and Kansas women over the next five years to successfully negotiate their salaries and benefits. AAUW is currently training facilitators to conduct Work Smart workshops. *You’re invited to participate!* Information about negotiation workshops is available online at <https://salary.aauw.org/ksmo> and to train as a salary facilitator, go to <https://salary.aauw.org/facilitate>. **Patsy Kile, Ellen Johnson, Patty Cahill** and **Vanessa Van Goethem-Piela** are trained facilitators. Please contact them if you have questions. To read more about Work Smart, visit <https://www.aauw.org/article/closing-the-pay-gap-in-kc/>. Thanks to AAUW-KC members **Alice Kitchen** and **Gail James**, who work tirelessly to achieve equity for women in the Kansas City area.

This is a solid beginning to our branch emphasis to *aspire, achieve universal equity for all women*. Gender equity in salaries

will improve the lives of women (and their families) in the present and increase their future retirement benefits. Communities will benefit from consumer spending as well as increasing local and state tax revenue.

Each member of AAUW-KC is valued and has special interests and skills to share as we work towards gender equity. We encourage you to become more involved in the fellowship and action of our branch. Share your expertise by volunteering to serve on a committee. You can access a list of committees and chairs in the previous newsletter available on our website (<https://kansascity-mo.aauw.net>).

At the October 2 board meeting, discussions about branch membership and participation led to the realization that we need to analyze and update our marketing strategy. **Anita Parran** stepped up to lead a new marketing committee. See Anita’s article in this newsletter and consider joining her in this important effort.

Thanks to Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award Event Co-Chairs **Carrie Maidment** and **Anita Parran** along with members **Stefanie Hatfield, Ellen Johnson** and **Kaite Stover**; and Reading Co-Chairs **Jane McClain** and **Corinne Mahaffey**, along with **Kathleen Brandt, Jane Hatch, Christine Mullins, and Andi Palausky**. The 40th Thorpe Menn Award for Literary Excellence Award luncheon was an overwhelming success! Words of welcome and appreciation

were graciously shared by **Crosby Kemper**. Three authors were honored: **Jen Mann, Maril Crabtree**, and the 2018 award-winner **Carey Gillam**. The authors nominated this year in attendance were deservedly celebrated. (Read more on page 4.)

**SPECIAL PROGRAM
ANNOUNCEMENT—INVITE A GUEST!**

Patty Cahill and **Teri Wichman** are planning a special program on **November 13** at **Diastole** with an emphasis on membership and a celebration of our branch’s 125th birthday! We are excited to have **Dr. Diana Carlin Pierron** speak on “**First Ladies: More than the Women Behind the Men**”. The event begins with gathering and refreshments at **6:15 p.m.** Dr. Pierron will begin speaking at **7 p.m.** This event is not to be missed! If you would like a ride or to carpool let me know, **Stefanie Hatfield**, 816-942-4779.

Finally, as we look to this Holiday season, we hope you will join us on **Saturday, December 8** for our annual **Wagy Awards & Holiday Luncheon** at **Grand Street Café**.

Looking forward to pursuing equity together,

Stefanie Hatfield and **Ellen Johnson**
AAUW-KC Co-Presidents, 2018–2019



**JOIN
OR RENEW**

MISSION

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

2018–2019 ANNUAL DUES: \$89

Dues cover National membership (\$59), State membership (\$10), plus KC membership (\$20). Send \$89, payable to AAUW KC to: **Jane Vincent, 6919 W 101st St., Overland Park, KS 66212**, or you can 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.



MAYORAL CANDIDATES QUESTIONED ON WOMEN'S ISSUES

BY LYNN BRUNER AND KAY ENGLER, PUBLIC POLICY CO-CHAIRS

The 2018 Kansas City Mayoral Debate/Town Hall, hosted by the Jackson County Bar Association, Asian American Bar Association and Hispanic Bar Association of Greater Kansas City, was held October 6 at UMKC School of Law. AAUW-Kansas City was asked to provide questions on women's issues to ask the candidates.

These five questions were developed by **Lynn Bruner**, **Kay Engler** and **Stefanie Hatfield**:

- 1) Earlier this summer, the City Council passed a measure directing the city's human resource director to no longer include questions pertaining to prior salary history on applications for employment with the city. Do you support this measure, and if so, how do you think the city could encourage businesses in the city to initiate similar policies?
- 2) Our new Work Smart initiative adopted by Mayor Sly James in cooperation with AAUW National and the Women's Foundation of Kansas City is an AAUW workshop to be presented to 1,000,000

women in Missouri and Kansas. This training will prepare women to negotiate their salaries and contribute to achieving economic security. How would you support this initiative?

- 3) Do you support Proposition B, the \$12 minimum wage initiative?
- 4) In May of 2018, Illinois became the 37th State to ratify the Equal Rights amendment. Missouri is one of 13 states which have not yet ratified the amendment. Do you believe Missouri should become the 38th State to ratify the ERA? As mayor of one of Missouri's two largest cities, what would you do to support that action?
- 5) Much of the focus of the discussions in the development of Kansas City's housing policy has been on housing for families and children. What do you believe can be done to ensure that the housing needs of the city's elderly, another vulnerable population, are met?

As we get closer to the 2019 election, we will publish a synopsis of answers from the candidates in future newsletters.

PRINCIPLES OF MARKETING NEED PRINCIPALS OF MARKETING

According to the **American Marketing Association Board of Directors**: *Marketing is the activity, set of institutions, and processes for creating, communicating, delivering, and exchanging offerings that have value for customers, clients, partners, and society at large.*

As the Kansas City Chapter of AAUW strives to position itself in the larger community and recruit new members, it has become apparent that a marketing plan needs to be developed and implemented. Utilizing the basic principles of marketing, members are urged to consider joining the Marketing Committee that has been recently formed. Over the next months, the committee will concentrate initially on supporting AAUW Public Policy efforts and will also develop an overall comprehensive plan for the organization.

Chairing the committee is **Anita K. Parran** who is joined by member **Kay Engler**. Ad hoc members are **Kathleen Brandt** and **Hortense Burr**. Individuals interested in supporting this effort are asked to contact Anita at akparran@swbell.net or 816-822-0588. *Become a Principal Supporting Marketing Principles!*

FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

We now have over half of our branch members renew their dues. We are moving in the right direction! *Thanks so much!*

The Finance Committee presented a budget to the Board that has been passed. However, we still need dues income from outstanding members in order to work within the budget. Please renew your membership today by contacting Finance Chair **Jane Vincent** at jane@vincents.net or renew online at www.aauw.org. We need your continued support for our programming and special projects!

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM

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

- NOV 9 & 23
- DEC 14 & 28

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 the **Great Decisions** series. For information, contact **Joanie Shores** at 660-200-5809 or joaneshores1010@gmail.com.

CUISINE CLUB

- NOV 15: **Rieger Hotel Grill**

1924 MAIN ST., KANSAS CITY 64108 @ 11:30 AM

- DEC 13: "ANNUAL WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT EXCHANGE" **Tatsu's French Restaurant**

4603 W 90TH ST., PRAIRIE VILLAGE (EAST OF ROE) @ 11:30 AM

RSVP five days prior to the event by calling **Bev Ryan** at 816-333-2159.



"BOOKS & BREWS" 4TH TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

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

- OCT 23 **Lemon Tree: An Arab, a Jew, and the Heart of the Middle East** by **Sandy Tolan** Moderator: **Susan Abelson**
- NOV 28 **How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents** by **Julia Alvarez** Moderator: **Betty Hutson**

No Book Club in December. Book Club is facilitated by Jane Hatch, along with Carol Cowles and Sue Coy providing assistance. Selected books are distributed for the next month and current discussion books are collected at each meeting. Average attendance is 15. Following the one-hour book discussion, those who wish to go to **Governor Stumpy's Grill House** for beverages and dinner (individual choices and checks). New members are welcome. For more details, contact **Jane Hatch**, 816-838-7626 or janehatch@yahoo.com.



THORPE MENN AWARD 40TH ANNIVERSARY



2018 Thorpe Menn Award finalist Jenn Mann, winner (represented by her father Chuck Gillam) Carey Gillam, and finalist Maril Crabtree.



Thorpe Menn Reading and Event Committee members.

KC Library Executive Director **Crosby Kemper** welcomed over 100 guests and authors to the **40th Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award** luncheon on **October 7**. Award-winning author **Loring Leifer** delivered a captivating keynote address, "**Confessions of a Collaborator: My Career as a Cold-Blooded Author**", which provided insight into her life experiences and partnerships as a writer.

The 2018 Thorpe Menn award was presented to **Carey Gillam** for her book, *Whitewash: The Story of a Weed Killer, Cancer, and the Corruption of Science*. First and second finalists, respectively, **Maril Crabtree** for her book of poetry, *Fireflies Gathering in the Dark* and **Jen Mann** for *My Lane Life: Queen of the Misfits*.

Special thanks to presenter and storyteller **Kathleen Brandt**, International Genealogist and Thorpe Menn Reading Committee member; Reading and Event committees; the attentive staff of the Kansas City Public Library; and table hosts and volunteers.

We are already making plans for the 41st annual event set for **October 2019**. If you would like to nominate an author, visit the **AAUW-KC website**, under the "Events" tab, for guidelines and instructions. The deadline for nominations is **May 1, 2019**.

COLLEGE CORNER

BY **PATTI JACHOWICZ AND KATHY KISER**,
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY
PARTNERSHIPS
CO-CHAIRS



KCKCC celebrated Women's Equality Day on August 24 by honoring **Jacqueline Vietti**, who served as acting president for KCKCC in addition to many other accomplishments in higher education. On July 1, 2018, KCKCC welcomed **Dr. Greg Mosier** as their new president.



Dr. Vietti, Barbara Clark-Evens (Intercultural Center Director), Jennifer Gieshen (Women and Gender Advocacy Services Coordinator), Dr. Mosier

On August 31, AAUW-KCKCC student members talked with other campus students about raising their voices at the polls and helped eight students register to vote. AAUW's "**Will Be Heard**" campaign harnesses the power of AAUW members to register and turn out millennial women voters. Check your voter registration status at www.voter.org.

The KCKCC campus with AAUW's participation, celebrated "Day of the Girl" on Oct. 24 with a series of activities especially for women in the Upper Jewell building.



(l-r) Hortense Burr welcomes PV student to AAUW; Kathy Kiser and Carol Cowles sharing smiles and AAUW inspiration!

Women on the Move, a program committed to female student success in college and future careers, kicked off the semester with several orientations including an introduction to AAUW and in early October they hosted a "Real Convo" on resiliency. New for WOTM this year is a collaboration with **Penn Valley's Men of Courage, Culture and Civility** as hosts of "Real Talk", November discussions on today's issues impacting students on a personal, social and community level. AAUW is looking forward to **WOTM Celebration Day** on **December 7**.



The **UMKC Women's Center** advocates, educates, and provides support services for the advancement of women's equity on campus and within the community. AAUW-KC hosted

a table at "**Chill Out with the Women's Center**" welcome-back-to-campus event in August. **Kathy Kiser**, **Kay Engler** and **Carol Cowles** chatted with students about AAUW's initiatives and signed up 38 students for the AAUW Action Network. Members are sent e-mail notices on important policy issues and how to contact their members of Congress. The more people signed up for Action Network, the louder our voices will be.

UMKC's 9th annual "**Walk a Mile in Her Shoes**" was held in September to benefit the **Women's Center** and the **Violence Prevention and Response Program**. AAUW-KC's sponsorship helped provide free registration for male students to walk a mile in women's high-heeled shoes to help raise awareness of the often unreported crimes of rape, sexual assault, and gender violence.



(l-r) Sara Pedram and Women's Center Assistant Director Arzie Umali; "Which pair should I choose?"