

TAKING ACTION

2019 CELEBRATION!

Wine & Cheese Plus!

A BENEFIT FOR DOLLAR\$ FOR SCHOLAR\$

(Suggested donations \$20, or your choice.)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 5-7 P.M.

Plaza Condo of Marian McClellan

4585 Walnut Street • Kansas City, MO 64111

Reservations required. AAUW Members are encouraged to invite friends, family and potential members.

Contact **Hortense Burr** with your guest list by January 7th

913-205-7539 / hjburrkc@cs.com



SAVE THESE DATES



ANNUAL JOINT MEETING AAUW KANSAS CITY & SHAWNEE MISSION BRANCHES

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019, 11:30 AM

Our program will include special guests and speakers discussing Women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math). Make plans to join us for this annual luncheon and program with the Shawnee Mission Branch. The location is **Kingswood Manor, 10000 Wornall Rd., Kansas City MO 64114**. Reservations are \$15 per person.

WOMEN IN THE CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 6:30-8 PM

A panel of women social workers with Journey to New Life and Journey Halfway House will discuss roadblocks to housing, employment, education, financial resources, family reunification, and so much more. This important program will be at the **Waldo Library, Room A, 201 E. 75th St., Kansas City, MO**.

INTER-BRANCH COUNCIL RE-ENTRY WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS BRUNCH SATURDAY, APRIL 20, 9:30 AM

Join us at **Unity Village (1901 NW Blue Pkwy., Unity, MO)** for a tasty meal and to celebrate the 2019 Re-Entry scholarship award recipients. The women will share their personal experiences of daunting challenges and rewarding successes upon returning to college to earn their degree.

Further details about these events will be announced on our website, in an email, by text, and by phone.

<http://kansascity-mo.aauw.net/>





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We celebrate AAUW's Diversity Policy:

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a 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.

Our membership just keeps getting better and better! Our November 13 program was fabulous! Thanks to **Teri Wichman** for securing our speaker **Dr. Diana Carlin Pierron**, **Patty Cahill** for booking the Diastole Scholars Center, **Hortense Burr** and **Kathleen Brandt** for arranging the refreshment bar, and **Ellen Johnson** for the 125th Anniversary celebration cake. We now have a new gauge for rating a meeting. After refreshments and



conversation, we enjoyed an excellent talk by Dr. Pierron, "America's First Ladies: More Than the Women Behind the Men". The festive mood continued with camaraderie and a request was made for a group photo, which included members and guests!

As always, we are in awe of the many gifts and talents of our members. **Patty Cahill** responded to our congratulations with the following:

Stefanie Hatfield asked me to write a couple of inches about myself. I think because she found that I was just elected Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB).

I was nominated by the White House (thank you Senator McCaskill and President Obama), vetted by the FBI (really), and confirmed by the Senate in 2009 to be on the CPB Board. In 2015, I was re-nominated for another five-year term.

CPB distributes \$445 million yearly to qualified, non-commercial public radio and public television stations in the United States, Guam and Puerto Rico. Local broadcasters: KCPT-TV, KTBG-FM and KCUR-FM receive about 15 percent of their funding from CPB.

Appreciation and congratulations to our three AAUW sisters who ran for public office: **Hon. Valdenia Winn** was re-elected to the Kansas House. Although **Laura Smith Everett** was not elected to the Kansas House and **Joan Shores** was not elected to the Missouri House, each one spread their message and educated voters with their vision. We are grateful for their participation in our government.

The season of giving is here! AAUW-KC has many projects that give to others. We awarded **\$10,000 in Waggy Fund grants** and learned about the recipient's programs at the Waggy Awards & Holiday Luncheon on December 8 (read more on page 3). Please consider giving to the Waggy Fund for next year's grants. Be sure to join us for our **January 13** gathering at **Marian McClellan's** Plaza condo, a fundraiser for NCCWSL and Re-Entry scholarships. NCCWSL (National Conference for College Women Student Leaders) will take place from **May 29-June 1, 2019** in College Park, Maryland. We budgeted \$1,000 for local scholarships. **Re-Entry Woman of the Year** awards scholarships to women who have returned to college after a break of five years or more. We participate with the AAUW Inter-Branch Council of Kansas City to give scholarships to these women. An awards brunch is planned for **April 20** at Unity Village.

AAUW-KC's programming is developed based on our Mission. Each member participates in our Goals by giving their time and expertise. We share friendships, reaching out, gathering in, learning, growing, and giving...always striving toward equity for women and girls!

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



P.S. Thanks to the multi-talented **Carrie Maidment** for another fabulous newsletter!

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.

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WAGY AWARDS RECAP:

BY JANELLE RAMSBURG, WAGY FUNDS CHAIR

Each year the Kansas City Branch of AAUW, through its Nettie Irene Van Der Veer Wagy fund, awards grants to local social service and cultural organizations for projects that support AAUW's mission. In 2018, 28 organizations submitted letters of interest. All were interesting and worthy of support. The following were awarded grants at the 2018 Wagy Awards & Holiday Luncheon on December 8.

- **EPIC Inc.**—The Grooming Project seeks to stabilize the lives of single mothers by combining vocational training (pet grooming) with comprehensive support services such as parenting and budgeting.
- **Gordon Parks Elementary School** - For Girls on The Run for At-Risk Girls teaches life skills, such as teamwork, perseverance and hard work while training to run a 5k marathon. This grant purchases running shoes for girls in the third and fourth grade.
- **Journey to New Life** provides a path to success for women after incarceration. Funding goes to Journey House, a transitional housing facility for women after incarceration, for personal hygiene, education and medical and dental expenses.
- **Women's Foundation of Greater Kansas City** - Improvement of Work Force Development for Women through Salary Negotiation Training - Using AAUW-developed curriculum "Work Smart", the program helps women navigate the complexities of negotiating benefit packages, promotions, etc.
- **Unicorn Theatre** illuminates social issues through stories that include race, religion and gender identity. This years play, "The Wolves", is a story of growth and girlhood.

These grants are provided through earnings from the Wagy Fund and donations. If you would like to make a donation for next year's awards, please make your check payable to **AAUW Wagy Fund/Amer01** and mail to: **GKCCF (Greater Kansas City Community Foundation)**, Attn: LaVon Colhour, Manager of Corporate Services, 1055 Broadway Blvd., Suite 130, Kansas City, MO 64105.



2018 Wagy Awards & Holiday Luncheon (l-r): Natasha Kirsch of EPIC Inc.; Johnna McGlaughan of Gordon Parks Elementary School; Ardy Pearson, Wagy Committee Member; Ian Crawford of Unicorn Theatre; Ann Spivak, Vice President of Development, Women's Foundation of Greater KC; Linda Berube, Wagy Committee Member; and Janelle Ramsburg, Chair, Wagy Committee. Not pictured: Susan Hope Roling of Journey to New Life.

START THE NEW YEAR WITH AN AAUW BANG!

BY ANITA K. PARRAN, MARKETING COMMITTEE CHAIR

Make a New Year's resolution to become more involved with AAUW Kansas City by joining the newly minted Marketing Committee.

The committee has been charged with helping position AAUW-KC more solidly in the community and in the process recruit new members. However, there are two prongs to the committee's work. First, the committee will support the AAUW Public Policy positions, and second, develop an overall marketing plan for the organization.

If you have experience in the marketing communications arena – great – BUT not necessary. Individuals who have an interest in expanding their skill set are welcome to share any and all ideas. You'll work with a small group of other members – and your

monthly commitment each month will not exceed one and a half hours. We will "meet" mainly via conference call, which should make it easy for all (and yes, you can wear your bunny slippers).

If you are interested in joining this group, please send an email to **Anita K. Parran**, akparran@swbell.net or call **816-822-0588**. Join **Kay Engler**, **Hortense Burr** and **Kathleen Brandt** as we strive to propel AAUW forward!

For more information and news, visit
<http://kansascity-mo.aauw.net/>





AAUW-KC PENS LETTER TO THE EDITOR REGARDING TITLE IX

The following letter was prepared by **Kay Engler** and **Lynn Bruner**, Co-Chairs of the Public Policy Committee, and submitted to the Editor of the *Kansas City Star*. Currently, we do not know if it will be printed by the newspaper, and if printed, whether or not it will be edited.

Students should not have to experience sexual harassment or violence at school. That's the promise made over 45 years ago by Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which prohibits sex discrimination in any educational institution or program that receives federal funding. But Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos, has proposed a new set of regulations that would fundamentally weaken Title IX and put at risk the promise of equity.

The Department of Education's actions amount to a blatant rollback of strong and necessary protections, particularly for student survivors of sexual assault. The proposed regulations, issued November 16, 2018, would weaken Title IX's protections by narrowing the definition of what constitutes "sexual harassment" or "assault" to potentially exclude much of the abuse students experience. Also, the rule would put in place school processes that make it harder for students to come forward and receive the support they need.

AAUW stands with survivors. We remain committed to protecting and defending Title IX, and pursuing its vigorous enforcement.

We encourage you to join with AAUW in speaking up and fighting back against this attack on Title IX. Public comments are being accepted through January 28, 2019. To voice your opinion, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=ED-2018-OCR-0064-0001>.

AAUW National is asking every branch and every AAUW member to take note of the changes to Title IX being proposed by Betsy DeVos, Director of the Department of Education. These changes will dramatically decrease the protections previously afforded by Title IX to students who are sexually harassed or assaulted. Further, AAUW National encourages all branches and members to take advantage of the comment period to submit their concerns in the manner described in the letter. These comments can be viewed by Congress and may help to forestall the adoption of the proposed regulations. For more information about Title IX, or how to prepare and submit your comments, please go to www.aauw.org. AAUW National has studied this issue thoroughly, and has lots of well-documented information about the importance of Title IX, and how the proposed changes would affect students.

MEMBERS CORNER

BY JANE VINCENT, FINANCE CHAIR

Welcome New 2018 Members! Luna Muk, Christine Mullins and Rochelle DePriest. We look forward to getting to know you and thank you for your commitment to equity for women and girls.

Thanks to current members who have renewed their membership. If you have not paid your dues, please remit by the year's end. Mail checks payable to AAUW-KC for \$89 to: **Jane Vincent, 6919 W. 101st St., Overland Park, KS 66212** or renew at www.aauw.org.

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM & GREAT DECISIONS SERIES

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

- JAN 11 & 25
- FEB 8 & 22

Friday Forum continues till January 25 when we shift to **Great Decisions**, a national grassroots foreign policy discussion program involving study book reading and videos. Friday Forum will resume this summer. For more information, please contact **Joanie Shores** at 660-200-5809 or joaneshores1010@gmail.com.

3RD THURSDAY CUISINE CLUB

- JAN 17—**Charleston's Restaurant**

8817 STATE LINE RD / KANSAS CITY, MO / 11:30 AM

- FEB 21—**Café Trio**

4558 MAIN ST / KANSAS CITY, MO / 11:30 AM

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

NOTE: If KCMO schools close due to weather, Cuisine Club will be cancelled.

BIG NEWS! BOOKS & BREWS NOW ON 3RD THURSDAY

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

- JAN 17—**My Name Is Lucy Barton** by **Elizabeth Strout**

Moderator: **Carol Cowles**

- FEB 21—**Anything Is Possible** by **Elizabeth Strout**

Moderator: **Kay Engler**

"BOOKS & BREWS", co-sponsored by AAUW-KC and KC Public Library, is CHANGING its meeting date to the 3RD THURSDAY of every month. The book discussion is facilitated by **Jane Hatch** with **Carol Cowles** and **Sue Coy** providing assistance. Once a year, we decide on our book list for the year and work with an excellent librarian who gathers books for monthly distribution. Selected books are distributed from a library book bag for the next month and current discussion books are collected at each meeting. Approximately 40 women and men are on the notification list and average attendance is 15–20. Following the one-hour book discussion, those who wish relocate to **Governor Stumpy's Grill House** for beverages and dinner (individual choices and checks). New members are always welcome! Contact **Carol Cowles** at carolcowles63@gmail.com or 847-846-3450 with questions.