



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Before Covid, when people could still travel freely, I was privileged to visit the Greek Island of Crete and tour ruins of the Minoan culture. Here women played leadership roles as administrators. It was a harmonious culture of equality and prosperity.

In our current toxic environment which has resulted in a divided nation, more women are sorely needed in leadership positions. Though we are all different individuals, women are recognized for their cooperation, their collaboration for reaching consensus. In truth, women's rights are people's rights. Let us renew our efforts to sponsor and elect women to local, state and national leadership offices.

In this recent election let us recognize with eternal gratitude the groups of courageous and tireless African-American women who through their diligent activism, voter registration and getting out the vote may very well have saved our democracy for now and future generations. Now we're in a post-election world we shall continue to pursue social justice, gender pay equity and equal educational opportunities for all!

Joanie Shores
AAUW-KC President



IS CLEARING OUT YOUR OLD PAPERWORK A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

If any of those old papers, including and especially handwritten or typed notes, memos, photos, and letters, are from your time with AAUW, your archivist wants them! She will even pick them up at your convenience. If you don't want them released to the archive just yet, tell her, and she will hold it to the date you specify. Please contact AAUW-KC archivist **Corinne Mahaffey** at **816-645-1350** or corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com



CONTINUED FROM COVER...

REFLECTING ON WHITE PRIVILEGE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

groups of color because of "whiteness". A useful way to think about white privilege is to consider it as an invisible backpack of unearned assets (people do not earn their white racial status). These assets or advantages are in the backpack because of white racial status. People are oblivious to the assets because they are taken for granted and rooted in self-identity; we are often totally oblivious to the assets. The benefits and advantages are not part of everyday conscious awareness or considered as part of white self-perceptions

White privilege also has a systemic dimension. Those who hold white privilege can afford to look away from the lack of rights and the injustices of others as these conditions do not affect their lives. For example, the much-discussed injustices threatening immigrant groups and the highly disproportional law enforcement/legal system driven risks to black Americans are associated, with their incomparable power, to counter-act the power of white privilege.

Can the impact of white privilege transformation increase social justice?

An initial challenge we face is identifying and accepting the power we have from our white privilege. Next is apply the tools and resources of privilege to promote social justice for the many diverse disempowered groups. Early in the 20th century the concept of social justice was very central to the ideologies and programs of virtually all the leftist and centrist political parties in the US that were supporting egalitarian movements through institutional change.

Well into the 21st century we witness and respect a revitalization of commitment to social justice. While social justice may be variously defined among the many large and small current movements they share the goal to create social justice for those groups without sufficient power to gain entitled social justice on their own. There is much opportunity to apply the power of white privilege to support those movements, especially those, like AAUW, that are directly committed to empower women who need social justice forces to expand their power in society for greater equality.

**JOIN
OR RENEW**

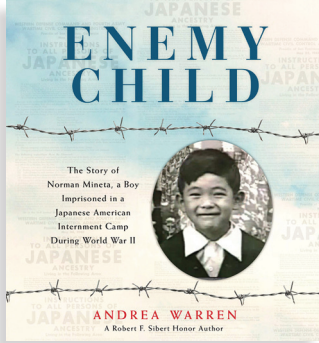
MISSION
AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

2020-2021 ANNUAL DUES: \$89
Dues cover National membership (\$59), State membership (\$10), plus Kansas City membership (\$20). Send **\$89**, payable to **AAUW-KC** to: **Linda Berube, 13020 Grand Ave, Kansas City, MO 64145-1300**, or you can also join/renew at: aauw.org/membership

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.



42ND THORPE MENN LITERARY EXCELLENCE AWARD



The 2020 Thorpe Menn Literary Excellence Award event was held online on October 4th. This year's award was presented to **Andrea Warren** for *Enemy Child: The Story of Norman Mineta, a Boy Imprisoned in a Japanese American Internment Camp During World War II*. First and second runner-ups, respectively, **Shawn Pavey** for his book of poetry *Survival Tips for the Pending Apocalypse* and **Gary DeRigne** for

Angie's War. Congratulations to these winning authors and all of the local authors who were nominated in 2020.

Special thanks to our keynote speaker **Robert F. Sommer**, author and 2019 Thorpe Menn award winner, storyteller **Anita K. Parran**, president of KK Charles Communications and Thorpe Menn reading and event committee members.

If you would like to nominate an author for the 2021 award, please visit the [AAUW-KC website](http://kansascity-mo.aauw.net), under the "Events" tab, for guidelines and instructions. The deadline for nominations is **May 1, 2021**.

COLLEGE CORNER

STEPHANIE HOLTHAUS, COLLEGE/ UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIP CHAIR

Penn Valley Community College Student Life Coordinator, **LaShaundra Randolph**, hosted a virtual meeting October 21 for members of the student group, **Sister Circle**. **Alejandra Perez**, Coordinator of Programs for the Hispanic Development Fund (HDF) and **Stephanie Holthaus** of AAUW-KC addressed participating students.

Alejandra spoke about the census process and voting. Stephanie shared her screen of AAUW's national website and directed the student's attention to the 2-minute activist topic page, as well as facets of the organization's history and mission. She encouraged the students to check out the website, as well as videos available on YouTube.

Members of the Interbranch Council met November 13 via Zoom to discuss Re-Entry scholarship applications, distribution and retrieval dates for next year, as well as the award ceremony, which the group determined will probably be virtual. The members discussed approaching their respective branch members about donating funds that would have been spent on lunches to bolster the scholarship fund. **Debra McArthur** of the Independence Branch led the discussion.

For more information and news, please visit

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



MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM / 10-11 AM

- NOV 27 / DEC 11 / JAN 8 & 22 / FEB 12 & 26 / MAR 12 & 26

You're invited to join the Friday Forum discussion group held on 2nd and 4th Friday's from 10-11 a.m. Held virtually via Zoom, we discuss everything from current events to international issues. During a recent meeting we studied the judicial system as set forth in the constitution. It made for a spirited discussion as we reviewed the good, the bad and the ugly!

Beginning February 12, Friday Forum will feature the Great Decisions series program, America's largest discussion program on world affairs. Background information in the form of a briefing book is provided to participants for study and policy options for the eight most critical issues facing America each year and serves as the focal text for discussion groups across the country. 2021 Great Decisions discussion topics include:

- Roles of international organizations in a global pandemic
- Struggles over the melting Arctic
- Brexit and the European Union
- China's role in Africa

Great Decisions briefing books must be ordered by Dec. 15, 2020. Make your \$25 check payable to **Ardy Pearson** and mail to her at: **1012 W 66th Terr, KCMO 64113**.

Please contact **Linda Berube** at ljbaauw@hotmail.com for information on how to attend via Zoom.

For further information, contact **Joanie Shores** at joanhores1010@gmail.com or call **1-660-200-5809**. We welcome you to join us!

3RD THURSDAY "BOOKS & BREWS" / 6-7 PM

Co-sponsored with the Kansas City Public Library, our book club, "Books and Brews" meetings are held via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 pm. During this time of social distancing and libraries open only for drop off and pick up, our reading and appreciation of the virtual event have both increased! Facilitated by **Jane Hatch** with **Carol Cowles** and **Sue Coy** providing assistance, meetings are lively as diverse opinions and preferences are shared. Books are selected yearly by the membership and members volunteer to lead the discussions. The benefits of this interesting community collaboration are many, including acquainting newcomers to our AAUW-KC community. New members are always welcome!

- **DEC 17 THE LINE BECOMES A RIVER** BY FRANCISCO CANTER
MODERATOR: CAROL COWLES
- **JAN 21 THE DUTCH HOUSE** BY ANN PATCHETT
MODERATOR: SUE COY
- **FEB 18 HOLD STILL** BY SALLY MANN
MODERATOR: PAT McCURRY
- **MAR 18 ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN** BY LISA SEE
MODERATOR: JANE HATCH

Please contact **Linda Berube** at ljbaauw@hotmail.com for information on how to attend via Zoom.

Questions? Contact **Carol Cowles**, carolcowles63@gmail.com / 847-846-3450

3RD THURSDAY CUISINE CLUB

Lunch get-togethers are postponed till further notice due to COVID-19 restrictions.



2020-2021 MEMBERSHIP FORM

MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1, 2020 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2021.

Name _____ Home phone _____

Address _____ email address: _____

City, State, Zip _____ Work phone _____

Month & date of birth _____ Cell # _____

College or University _____ City, State _____ Degree _____

College or University _____ City, State _____ Degree _____

Signature _____

National	\$ 59.00
State (MO)	10.00
Branch	<u>20.00</u>
Total due	\$89.00

Individuals eligible to be admitted to membership are those holding an associate or equivalent baccalaureate or higher degree from a regionally accredited college or university or a foreign institution recognized by IFUW. Degrees eligible for AAUW membership are two-year associate degrees, community, junior and business colleges and two and three year RN diplomas.

New members who join at an AAUW KC event can receive 1/2 off National dues.

National	\$29.50
State (MO)	10.00
Branch	<u>20.00</u>
Total dues	\$59.50

If you prefer to pay by credit card, you can pay online at www.aauw.org: choose **Branch Member**

Questions?
aauwkc@gmail.com

My interest and talents/skills are in the area of: _____

See our website and Newsletters
kansascity-mo.aauw.net

Website: <https://kansascity-mo.aauw.net/>

I would like to participate in these Kansas City MO branch activities:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Club (3rd Thurs.. 6 pm) | Committees: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cuisine Group (3rd Thurs. 11:30) | <input type="checkbox"/> Communications |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friday Forum Discussion (10 am -2nd & 4th Friday mornings) | <input type="checkbox"/> Finance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Great Decisions Discussion | <input type="checkbox"/> Funds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership Meetings (Monthly, dates vary) | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Nominating |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy |

- Special Projects:**
- 100 High School Girls
 - College/University
 - Thorpe Menn Event
 - Thorpe Menn Reading Comm.
 - Work Smart **NEW!**
 - Marketing Committee



When completed, please send this information with check payable to AAUW-KC to Linda Berube, 13020 Grand Av., Kansas City, MO 64145-1300

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