

TAKING ACTION

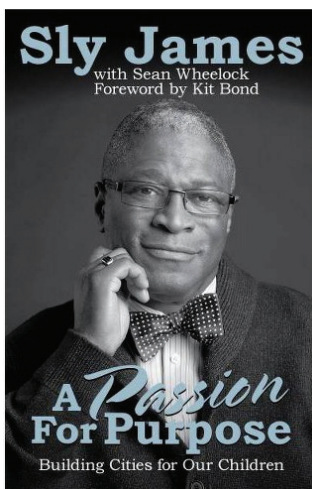
FORMER KANSAS CITY MAYOR SHARES HIS PASSIONS IN OFFICE AND IN LIFE

PATTY CAHILL, AAUW-KC PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENT

Former Kansas City Mayor **Sly James** joined the Kansas City Branch of AAUW and friends on January 19 via Zoom to speak about his recent autobiography, *A Passion for Purpose: Building Cities for Our Children*.

He reflected on his youth, leaving home at 17 to audition for the The Amelia Earhart Memorial Band, not seeing his father for five years, and his service in the Marines during the Vietnam era. He spoke about his work as an attorney and his two terms as Kansas City's Mayor.

His passion showed most clearly when he talked about families and children. One of his major initiatives as mayor, which continues today, is education. He is especially focused on pre-K educational programs. As mayor, he learned that pre-K education leads directly to third-grade reading proficiency. In the first three years children learn to read; after that they read to learn. With pre-K education, children are



four times more likely to graduate college. Without pre-K education, they are six times more likely to live in poverty or go to prison. One of his great regrets as mayor is that his proposed tax increase to fund pre-K education failed. James believes that children need more mentors who are willing to spend time with and encourage them.

He also briefly spoke about the role of mayors being much closer to the needs of the people than those who work in the state legislatures and government in Washington D.C. State and federal politicians are more removed and into fulfilling their campaign promises, and not always as invested in the priorities and needs of the citizens.

After his talk, James went on to graciously answer questions from the virtual audience. His enthusiasm for educating children and helping Kansas City was obvious to all.

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING WITH AAUW-KANSAS CITY & SHAWNEE MISSION BRANCHES HAS GONE VIRTUAL! PLEASE JOIN US VIA ZOOM!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 11 AM



We will welcome special guest speaker **Sara Bly** who will describe and answer questions about the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

The National Popular Vote Interstate Compact will guarantee the U.S. Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The Compact ensures that every vote, in every state, will matter in every presidential election. The Compact is a state-based approach that preserves the Electoral College, state control of elections and the power of the states to control how the President is elected.

Questions may already arise (e.g. How can the legislation work so that the candidate with the most votes across the whole country is elected and yet not change the existing electoral college method?) To that end, you are encouraged to submit questions beforehand to **Jo Denton**, jodenton@att.net or 913-449-7258.

Sara is a volunteer with the National Popular Vote organization (www.nationalpopularvote.com) and served on the executive committee for the successful National Popular Vote campaign in Oregon.

Join Zoom meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81078070174>



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Members, the time has come! **Marianne Cole Fues**, AAUW Missouri Vice President for Membership, urges us to commit! We **MUST** vote to eliminate the degree requirement for AAUW.

Marianne detailed numerous sound reasons. The average AAUW member's age is 72. Every organization must evolve to stay relevant, indeed, to endure! If you are truly a feminist, you want an inclusive organization with no barriers to membership. After all, we at AAUW pride ourselves on breaking barriers—of all kinds!

I'll confess I used to be one of the holdouts. It's been a bit of an ego trip to have AAUW next to my name. And that's a lousy elitist attitude on my part. We are an organization that promotes equity, yet we do not treat non-degree individuals as equal. Times have changed. Society has changed. And no wonder some see us as a group of elitist snobs.

These are strange and difficult times. It's my hope we will shine a light for Equity and Inclusion. Eligible voters will be sent a link beginning April 7, 2021. Let's all do the right thing and make one another proud!

Joanie Shores
AAUW-KC President



OVERVIEW OF AAUW-KC HISTORY

These were remarkable women—these women who in 1893 made the decision to form the Kansas City Branch of the American Association of University Women.

That year **Ida Beagle Mosher** (Mrs. George Clarke Mosher), **Ethel Allen**, and **Jessie Burnham** received letters suggesting that they consider forming a Kansas City Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae, the first in Missouri. Ida called the group together to discuss the possibilities of such an organization; and, upon agreement among the women of the value of such an effort, she traveled to Chicago to discuss with the Chicago branch procedural methods for initiation of a Kansas City Branch. Upon her return, a temporary organization was formed. Known charter members were: **Ida Beagle Mosher**, **Ethel Allen**, **Jessie Burnham**, **Miss Wilder**, **Miss Whipple**, **Eugene Ware**, **Mrs. Kirsher**, **Mary Barstow**, and **Ada Braun**. A fire destroyed the records of the names of the original group, including

those of several women from the University of Kansas who aided in establishing a remarkable program of papers and lectures, both by members and nationally-known speakers, at a time when no other organization was offering such a program. Ida was elected the first official president of the branch.

The policy, outlined by **Ada Braun**, has continued to be a large part of the program of the Kansas City Branch throughout its 127 years of service. Ada, along with **Mary Barstow** of the first college preparatory school in the area, the Barstow School for Girls, defined the purpose of the organization: "...to continue the members' own education begun in college ... to open opportunities to the public through lecture course by securing the best available authorities; to assist girls wishing to continue their education beyond the high school both financially and by guidance."

A statement published in an unidentified local paper in 1910 illustrates the evolving expansion of the mission:

A survey of housing conditions in Kansas City, aid to high school girls, and child welfare work have been added to the

general program, which originally fostered the promotion of college education for women...

Quoted from *A Century of Service (Plus 21 Years) 1893–2014, The American Association of University Women Kansas City, Missouri*, ed. by **Ardyce H. Pearson** and **Dana Perry**, pp. 8–10:

When one realizes that many of these projects were undertaken when Kansas City was a horse and buggy town, and transportation and communication systems were relatively primitive, organized civic and charitable groups were few, and even before women had the right to vote, it is a marvel what these committed women set out to do and what they accomplished.

This beginning was followed by 128 years of activity, changes, innovations, and commitment. In 2021, we celebrate these current members who have been with us for over 50 years: **Carol Chilcote Duncan**, **Ruth B. Engel**, **Rose C. Grinstead**, **Mary Kay McPhee**, **Ardyce H. Pearson**, **Beverly Ryan**, and **Frances L. Weeks**.

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.



UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS:

IN HONOR OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH:

13TH ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING LECTURE, PRESENTED BY UMKC VIRTUAL EVENT, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 6 PM

Guest Lecturer: **Ibram X Kendi**, author of *How to be an Antiracist*.

Registration: https://umsystem.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJ0scuivqDssGt1o4aRL_IVQcQul3HrKZcEb

CASTE: THE ORIGINS OF OUR DISCONTENTS BY ISABEL WILKERSON, PRESENTED BY KCPL VIRTUAL EVENT, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7-8 PM

Isabel Wilkerson, author of the Oprah Book Club pick and New York Times #1 bestselling book *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* will join us via Zoom. The event will include a keynote address from Isabel followed by a moderated question and answer session.

Registration: <https://kckpl.librarymarket.com/events/isabel-wilkerson>
Zoom information will be emailed to all registrants.

DIVIDING LINES: A HISTORY OF SEGREGATION IN KANSAS CITY

Download the new *Dividing Lines* app on Android or iOS and journey through the history of segregation in the Kansas City metro, primarily through its real estate. The tour is designed so that you can safely drive through the city at your own pace and leisure while hearing stories about each area you travel through.

More information and download link: <https://voicemap.me/tour/kansas-city/dividing-lines-a-history-of-segregation-in-kansas-city>

REENTRY WOMAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS VIRTUAL EVENT, SATURDAY, APRIL 17, 10 AM

The ReEntry applications have been sent out to our institutional partners, UMKC, Penn Valley Community College, and Kansas City Kansas Community College. Thanks to an unexpected windfall this year, the amount offered this year is at least \$750 per student. Members of the Interbranch Council expressed the hope that their respective members will donate, perhaps, the amount they would have expected to pay for the annual brunch and increase the scholarship awards even more. Students have been especially impacted by the pandemic this year and any extra amount will certainly help.

The Interbranch Council is pleased to announce that the keynote speaker will be **Joni Wickam**. Wickam served as Chief of Staff for former Mayor Sly James and she is the author of *The Thin Line Between Cupcake and Bitch: Taking Action, Driving Change, and Getting Results*. More information will be forthcoming about getting the link to join this virtual event. Stay tuned!

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY "GREAT DECISIONS" / 10-11 AM

• FEB 12 & 26 / MAR 12 & 26 / APR 23

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, which Joan Shores will moderate on Feb 12

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82194733001?pwd=OGRJdkRlUN0didUlzUzJVNghMN2V4QT09> / Meeting ID: 821 9473 3001 / Passcode: 687073

If you want to join and have not ordered your book (\$25), contact **Ardy Pearson** at pearson@kc.rr.com or 816-444-6651. For more information, contact **Joanie Shores** at joanhores1010@gmail.com or 1-660-200-5809.

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 from 6-7 p.m. Facilitated by **Jane Hatch** with **Carol Cowles** and **Sue Coy** providing assistance, these virtual 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!

- FEB 18 *HOLD STILL* BY SALLY MANN
MODERATOR: PAT McCURRY
- MAR 18 *ISLAND OF SEA WOMEN* BY LISA SEE
MODERATOR: JANE HATCH
- APR 15 *THE NIGHTINGALE* BY KRISTIN HANNAH
MODERATOR: NANCY TAYLOR
- MAY 20 *THE WEIGHT OF A PIANO* BY CHRIS CANDER
MODERATOR: SUSAN ABELSON
- JUN 17 *DEFENDING JACOB* BY WILLIAM LANDAY
MODERATOR: RITA GIENAPP

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81768989160?pwd=eWYrc1lVYzJpZGlyVGVyZg4UFpudz09> / Meeting ID: 817 6898 9160 / Passcode: 069103

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.

Please email **Linda Berube**, ljbauw@hotmail.com with questions on Zoom access.

For more information and news, please visit

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





MEMBERSHIP FORM YEAR 2021-2022

**MEMBERSHIP YEAR RUNS FROM JULY 1, 2021 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2022.
NATIONAL DUES WILL BE \$62.00 FOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR 2021-22.**

NAME		HOME PHONE
ADDRESS		CELL PHONE
CITY/STATE/ZIP		WORK PHONE
DATE OF BIRTH	EMAIL	
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	CITY/STATE	DEGREE
COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY	CITY/STATE	DEGREE

2021-2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES, (WHERE THE MONEY GOES):

National	\$62.00
State (MO)	\$10.00
Branch	\$20.00
DUES TOTAL	\$92.00

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 ARE RECEIVE HALF OFF NATIONAL DUES!

National	\$31.00
State (MO)	\$10.00
Branch	\$20.00
TOTAL DUES	\$61.00

**QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT
AAUWKC@GMAIL.COM**

MY INTEREST AND TALENTS/SKILLS ARE
IN THE AREAS OF: _____

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT US AT
KANSASCITY-MO.AAUW.NET**

I WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THESE KANSAS CITY BRANCH MONTHLY ACTIVITIES:

- Books & Brews (3rd Thursday)
- Cuisine Club (3rd Thursday)
- Friday Forum (2nd & 4th Friday)
- Membership Meetings (Dates vary)

COMMITTEES:

- Communications
- Finance
- Funds
- Membership
- Nominating
- Public Policy
- Marketing

SPECIAL PROJECTS:

- 100 High School Girls
- College/University
- Thorpe Menn Literary Award
- Work Smart



**COMPLETE THIS MEMBERSHIP FORM AND MAIL WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO AAUW-KC:
LINDA BERUBE, 13020 GRAND AVE., KANSAS CITY, MO 64145-1300**

IF YOU PREFER TO PAY BY CREDIT/DEBIT CARD, GO TO WWW.AAUW.ORG (CLICK MEMBERSHIP/BRANCH MEMBERS)

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