



TAKING ACTION

SAVE THESE DATES IN 2023:

LIVE LIFE THROUGH  AN INCLUSIVE LENS

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 6 PM – VIRTUAL EVENT

AAUW-KC's January program will be virtual! So no winter weather travel worries, enjoy the presentation on Zoom while curled up by the fire. Presenter **Cheryl Milton Roberts** will educate, enable and encourage us to "Live Life Through an Inclusive Lens."



Roberts is Senior Equal Opportunity and Diversity (EO/OD) Practitioner for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT). Her focus is on how to identify and learn more about ourselves and the things that impact our perspectives. She is a dynamic facilitator in incorporating diversity, inclusion and equity into development and business model. Roberts holds a bachelor's degree in journalism and business from University of Missouri and master's in human resource development from Webster University. She has obtained her Senior Professional in Human Resources certification. She serves on numerous boards and is an emeritus board member on the New City School Board.

Please register in advance for this program: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwpfuyrqTIsH9DaANR5NWfN-THDry0CLS4q>

AAUW-MO LEGISLATIVE RETREAT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 9–11 AM – VIRTUAL EVENT

Join us on Zoom as leaders of Missouri organizations give a brief description of their group, an explanation of their main legislative priorities and information on bills they would like us to monitor. Activists from organizations across the state will share information about the Initiative Petition, Clean Slate, book bans, economic issues, educational issues, gun safety, health and reproductive rights, social issues, and voting laws.

Please contact **Karen Francis**, AAUW-MO President, for more information: 314-223-4235 or karenbitzafrancis@yahoo.com.

NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN – WHY IT MATTERS TO ME

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 11 AM–1 PM, KINGSWOOD SENIOR LIVING

The Shawnee Mission Branch will host our **Annual Joint Luncheon Meeting** at the **Kingswood Senior Living Community in the Westminster Room, 10000 Wornall Road, Kansas City, MO**. The program will focus on Native-American families, then and now.

Lunch is \$15, mail reservation checks to: **Jo Denton, 10105 W. 121st Street, Overland Park, KS 66213-1635**.



PRO-DEMOCRACY – GETTING CIVILITY BACK INTO POLITICS

THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 6 PM – VIRTUAL EVENT



Russ Carnahan

Join us for this pro-democracy virtual presentation and discussion by **Russ Carnahan** and **Tom Coleman**, both consensus oriented, on bringing civility back into politics. Carnahan is a former Democratic Missouri congressman and served in many leadership roles at state and federal levels. He was co-chair of the bi-partisan Center Aisle Caucus focused on common solutions for all political parties. Coleman, a former Republican Missouri congressman, has served in a variety of leadership roles in and out of government and is an Advisor to Protect Democracy, an organization formed to prevent the declination of democracy in America.



Tom Coleman

Watch your email in late February for the Zoom link or visit <https://kansascity-mo.aauw.net>

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to you all!

We will no doubt have another challenging year in politics, so I'll first remind you that you can use AAUW's **Two Minute Activist** to express your opinion! I would like to direct your attention to **Carol Cowles'** article on public policy and the proposed regulations of the Library Certification Requirement for the Protection of Minors. Another ongoing issue is discussed by **Dr. Luna Mukherjee** in her article, Where Is Justice?

We will be electing new officers again in May so if you have some ideas, want to learn more about how things get done, or want to get more involved, this is your opportunity!

Joanie Shores is again running the **Great Decisions** discussion again, starting in mid-January. We had some very enlightening and timely discussions last year, and I have no doubt we will again.

Books & Brews has a fresh new lineup of books for 2023 and Governor Stumpy's always has the beer! Bring a friend!

I think we have an educational and entertaining lineup of events for 2023. We start with **January 10** and **Cheryl Roberts**. She presented at the State meeting and we enjoyed it so much we thought you would too! It's on Zoom, so no winter driving!

Shawnee Mission will be hosting our joint meeting this year on February 11. It will be great to see everyone again!

We have another Zoom meeting on democracy here in the U.S., jointly hosted by a Republican and a Democratic congressman, on **March 9**.

On **April 15** we will be celebrating the **Reentry Scholarship Awards** with a high tea.

We will be Zooming again in May with our own **Alice Kitchen** as she tells us about gender equity in Kansas City and Missouri from her perspective "in the room where it happens". We will also be voting on next year's officers.

June, of course, is our annual **Celebration Picnic** and the installation of our new officers.

I look forward to seeing you at our events throughout the new year, and I am always happy to hear from you!

In other news, **Karen Francis**, AAUW-MO President, would like to put together an emergency contact list for our members, prompted by a member who became ill in the middle of a Zoom meeting, and we had difficulty following up to see how she was. This list will be used only for emergencies. Please contact me directly at corinne.mahaffey@gmail.com and I will forward your information to AAUW-MO.

Visit our website at <https://kansascity-mo.aauw.net> and follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/KCAAUW/>

Corinne Mahaffey

AAUW-KC President



2022 WAGY AWARD RECIPIENTS

A grand total of **\$9,240** was awarded to local organizations to help fund their programs that promote equity, education, intellectual growth, individual worth, and development of opportunities for women and girls, at the **Wagy Awards & Holiday Luncheon** on December 3 at Pierpont's in Union Station.

- **Front Porch Alliance** received \$2,800 for their Beyond Sex Ed Program.
- **Kansas City CARE Clinic** received \$1,800 to fund three patients in their Dentures for Women with Low-Incomes Program.
- **Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy** received \$1,800 to fund Xello Curriculum for their Changing Lives Through Education Program.
- **Salvation Army – Kansas & Western Missouri Division** received \$1,440 to fund new under garments, socks, and hygiene/beauty products for Gloria's Closet.
- **Unicorn Theater** received \$1,400 to fund performers salaries for the regional premiere production of Marys Seacole.

Please consider making a donation to the Wagy fund! Make checks payable to **AAUW Wagy Fund/Amer01** and mail to: **Kelli Doyle, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation, 1055 Broadway, Suite 130, KCMO 64105**. Or donate online <https://gkccf.kimbia.com/gkccf>



Wagy Award recipient representatives attending the luncheon (L-R): KC CARE Health Center-Sarah McGreer Hoyt; Salvation Army-Major Toni Dorrell; Front Porch Alliance-Je T'aime Taylor; and Kansas City Girls Preparatory Academy-Kara Kahn



HELP US SUPPORT EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Make a donation online today to AAUW National (<https://my.aauw.org/donation-product-detail>) and help support equity for women and girls through education, research and advocacy.

We encourage donations to **9110-AAUW Greatest Needs Fund**. The fund allows AAUW to respond rapidly, in our communications and advocacy, to critical issues affecting women as they emerge –whether it’s a new threat to Title IX, an opportunity to partner with employers, or the dawn of a social justice movement like #MeToo. When donations are not restricted to fellowships or specific projects, we have the dollars we need to pivot as the national dialogue shifts – and get our work covered by major media outlets such as the *New York Times*, CNN and *Fortune*.

Greatest Needs also fuels our groundbreaking research and effective advocacy work to pass fair-pay laws and other key equity legislation.

"SHE NEEDED A HERO,
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE
BECAME"

ANONYMOUS

WHERE IS JUSTICE?

Dr. Luna Mukherjee, AAUW, Stronger Together - Making Equity the Norm

The Justice System is the hope for women and minorities for justice for the abuse they face. But justice is elusive.

“According to the **ACLU**, nearly 60% of people in women’s prison nationwide, and as many as 94% of some women’s prison populations, have a history of physical or sexual abuse before being incarcerated. Once incarcerated or detained, many women and trans and gender non-conforming people experience sexual violence from guards and others.” (<https://survivedandpunished.org/analysis/>)

Physical and/or sexual abuse have serious adverse effect on the health and wellbeing of a person. It requires medical attention - counselling, treatment, rehabilitation and so forth. Deprivation of medical care and/or further abuse can cause severe trauma. This can result in multi-generation harm. It harms individuals, families and communities. It requires a systematic solution.

The **Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)** was renewed in 2022. “VAWA creates and supports comprehensive, cost-effective responses to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking. The law provides survivors and communities with resources for housing, legal assistance, alternatives to criminal responses, and prevention programming.” (<https://nnev.org/content/violence-against-women-act/>)

MONTHLY SPECIAL-INTEREST GROUPS

3RD THURSDAY “BOOKS & BREWS” / 6–7 PM

Cosponsored with the **Kansas City Public Library**, AAUW-KC’s book club, “Books & Brews” meetings are now held in person at the Waldo Branch Library and via Zoom on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. Facilitated by **Sue Coy** with technical support provided by **Linda Berube**. **Carol Cowles** provides assistance. Meetings are lively as diverse opinions and preferences are shared. Following our meeting many members and guests adjourn to local pub, **Governor Stumpy’s**, for further discussion.

Books are selected yearly by Books & Brews members, 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!

UPCOMING MEETING DATES AND SELECTIONS ARE:

- **JAN 19** *FIFTY WORDS FOR RAIN* BY ASHA LEMMIE
DISCUSSION LEADER: KAY ENGLER
- **FEB 16** *THE BOOK OF LONGINGS* BY SUE MONK KIDD
DISCUSSION LEADER: KRISTI BLANCK
- **MAR 16** *THE GIRL WITH THE LOUDING VOICE* BY ABI DARÉ
DISCUSSION LEADER: SUE COY
- **APR 20** *THE 100-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED* BY JONAS JONASSON
DISCUSSION LEADER: MARY WESTON
- **MAY 18** *THE BOOK WOMAN’S DAUGHTER* BY KIM MICHELE RICHARDSON
DISCUSSION LEADER: JANE HATCH

Questions? Contact Carol at carolcowles63@gmail.com or 847-846-3450. Join Books & Brews online at <https://kclibrary.zoom.us/j/94989543348?pwd=dU1tdTJ2NFZ0Ym1FQnlrdU50emlwZz09>

2ND & 4TH FRIDAY FORUM / 10–11 AM

- JAN 13 & 27; FEB 10 & 24; MAR 10 & 24; APR 14 & 28; MAY 12 & 26

FRIDAY FORUM WILL FEATURE THE 2023 GREAT DECISIONS SERIES: This discussion program on world affairs will meet starting January 27, continuing for about six months on every second and fourth Friday from 10–11 a.m. in Room A at the Waldo Branch Library, 201 E 75th St., Kansas City, MO 64114.

Join us as we dive into America’s largest discussion program on world affairs. Prior to each meeting, participants read their GD study book for impartial thought-provoking analysis. Written by carefully selected experts, each article offers policy options for U.S. officials plus questions and tools for discussion. DVD presentations are also included.

2023 GD topics include: Energy Geopolitics, War Crimes, China and the U.S., Economic Warfare, Politics in Latin America, Global Famine, Climate Migration, and Iran at a Crossroads.

Study books can be purchased for \$34.85 from **Joanie Shores**, joaneshores1010@gmail.com or 660-200-5809. Please contact Joanie for further information.



2023 EVENTS, continued from cover page...

REENTRY BRUNCH & SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 10:30 AM

AAUW-KC and the **Kansas City InterBranch Council (IBC)** created the Reentry Woman of the Year scholarships in 1987 to help support the many women who return to college after an absence of five or more years. Every year, area colleges are provided scholarship applications and the IBC collaborates to select recipients.

This 'High Tea' style event will begin at **10:30 a.m., Saturday, April 15, at Joy Coffee, 14300 E. US 40 Hwy., Independence, MO.** Sandwiches and various sweets will be served. The cost is \$30. (Donations are welcome for Reentry scholarships and to pay for scholarship winners to attend.) RSVP by April 6. Mail checks payable to **AAUW Independence Branch** to **Patt Braley, 508 NW Murray Rd., Apt. 214, Lee's Summit, MO 64081.** Please contact **Sue Shineman** with questions or more information: sueshineman46@gmail.com or 816-365-1180.



CURRENT CHALLENGES FOR PUBLIC POLICY AND GENDER EQUITY

TUESDAY, MAY 16, 6:00 PM – VIRTUAL EVENT

A virtual Zoom presentation on the Current Challenges for Public Policy and Gender Equity by **Alice Kitchen**, State Public Policy Chair for Missouri's AAUW branches and Chair of the Gender Equity Task Force for the Kansas City Human Rights Commission.

JUNE CELEBRATION PICNIC AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Watch for more details and information on our 2023 events in your email and online at <https://kansascity-mo.aauw.net/>

PUBLIC POLICY ISSUES IN FOCUS

Carol Cowles, Public Policy

I hope you responded to my earlier call to write or email Secretary of State Jay Ashcroft about the proposed rule: **Library Certification Requirement for the Protection of Minors** (Title-15 CSR 30-200.015) that limits the opportunity to develop critical thinking skills by removing challenging books from public libraries.

At the federal level, we are following the **Pregnant Workers Fairness Act**. Please take the opportunity to sign up for the "Two Minute Activist" (<https://www.aauw.org/act/two-minute-activist/>) which enables you to contact your senator and voice your opinion on pending legislation supported by or opposed by AAUW National.

Under the Leadership of AAUW-KC's **Alice Kitchen**, who serves as State Policy Chair, the following: Advocacy is the work of identifying changes that need to happen to make our environment more equitable for women in daily life, their work life and in their community.

Here are some example issues that lend themselves to change at the local level in municipal, county, university, school board, or corporate level:

1. **Elimination of the use of salary history in the hiring process**
2. **Equal pay advocates practices**
3. **Gender study**
4. **Paid leave: Research project**
5. **Voter education and advocacy: Student engagement activity**
6. **Title IX: Review how local organizations, universities, community colleges, and private colleges are overseeing**

While we are focused on Missouri public policy, we cannot overlook AAUW National public policy priorities: <https://www.aauw.org/app/uploads/2021/06/2021-Public-Policy-Priorities.pdf>

JOIN OR RENEW	MISSION AAUW advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.	2022-2023 ANNUAL DUES: \$97 Dues cover National membership (\$67), State membership (\$10), plus Kansas City membership (\$20). Send check for \$97 , payable to AAUW-KC to Linda Berube, 13020 Grand Ave, Kansas City, MO 64145.
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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.