



Columbia Branch Newsletter

CONNECTIONS

Upcoming Activities this Summer: take advantage of summer vacation to join us for a tour and lunch at the National Churchill Museum.

Road trips are always FUN! We are heading to Fulton to continue our AAUW learning adventures and raise monies for AAUW Fund. Branch members will visit the National Churchill Museum in Fulton on **Tuesday, June 27, at 10:00 a.m.** for a private, guided tour with a museum representative, followed by lunch at Bek's Restaurant and dessert at the home of branch president, Diane Ludwig. The cost is \$20 per person and includes the museum ticket. Lunch is additional. Guests are welcome to join in. Find out more about the museum at <<https://www.nationalchurchillmuseum.org>>.

Diane looks forward to welcoming everyone to her condo in Fulton for an afternoon of desserts and enjoyment. You will be on your way home by 2:30. To sign up, contact Linda Evans, AAUW Fund co-chair, 573-310-3589. Car pools are being arranged from the Central Bank of Boone Co. parking lot at 205 S. Keene Street, (at Route WW/East Broadway, off Hwy 63). Call Linda now!

A Recap of our Activities this Spring



Attendees enjoyed brunch, table decorations, and good conversation at the February brunch.



We got off to a great start with the February brunch to raise money for the Eva Johnston Scholarship, named in honor of the founding president of our branch. Many braved the snowy weather for the event. Our goal was to raise \$500 and we exceeded it. Thank you very much for your contributions! The brunch was held February 11 at Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Christine Roberson (above, in black shirt) contributed the quiches, which were heartily appreciated by all as you see. This year's speaker was Leslie Hodges, a doctoral candidate in the Truman School of Public Affairs at MU specializing in social and labor market policy and public program evaluation. Her presentation "Policy Solutions for Gender Inequity in Wages," a spin-off from a talk she had given in Washington, D.C., was very

well received and she clearly enjoyed herself because she sent June DeWeese the following note:

Dear June and AAUW Columbia Branch members,

Thank you very much for inviting me to speak at your brunch last month. It was a fantastic opportunity for me to think more broadly about my own research, and I very much enjoyed talking with many of you about the challenges than working women face in the workplace and in balancing work-life responsibilities. The brunch was delicious as well. I loved the quiche and the fruit kebabs. Please keep up your very important work of promoting policies that advance the economic and social status of women and improve their economic opportunities. Thank you again for including me in the brunch!

Very best wishes, Leslie Hodges



*Immigration Policies: Their Impact on Women ---
Their Impact on All of Us....*

On March 27, some 20 members of the AAUW-Columbia Branch attended Dr. Rebecca Martinez's excellent presentation on "Women and Migration: Challenges of Border Crossing and Incorporation" at the Columbia Public Library. This was a timely topic given the national conversation about the impact of immigration on national security, and Dr. Martinez is well-positioned to speak on it given her faculty appointment in MU's Department of Women's and Gender Studies and her extensive research on the topic. She began by highlighting the shift over recent decades concerning not only "who" migrates but also the tenure of the immigrants' stay in the US. Historically, immigrants from Central and Latin America were male/single/independent. Poor families and villages that lacked work opportunities benefited from the remittances they sent back, and they themselves traveled back and forth across the border, residing in the US only for seasonal work for which US employers needed them rather than seeking to reside here permanently. However, increasingly stringent US policy and border policing have made it exceedingly dangerous and costly for men to travel back and forth across the border. Consequently, today, women who are themselves desperate to escape poverty and violence, are just as likely to migrate as men. They often pay large sums of money to travel under horrific conditions with their children to reunite the family because the father cannot return home.



The presentation was substantive in its discussion of population growth and the narrative of Latina fertility that was "causing" the "browning" of America, employment issues, crime statistics, militarization of the border, and the extremely dangerous circumstances inherent in that crossing, and recounting how difficult it is for women to "incorporate" themselves into American society. Still, it was Dr. Martinez's discussion of a harrowing case example, "Marisole," and her border interrogation experience laced with a sexual threat that made gender issues in border crossings a human rights issue. The case also underscores the tremendous fear and stress with which undocumented immigrants enter this country and which abides with them every waking hour of every day --- especially the threat of being separated from their US-born children. And when you ask why they come, like Marisole, the answer is always for work and a better life for their children.

Dr. Martinez's presentation caused me to reflect. It is often said our great nation is built on the work, inventiveness, and drive of immigrants. How is it then that we cannot find a public policy pathway to addressing this immigration issue in a humane way that acknowledges the facts that the great majority of these undocumented immigrants have risked their very lives to be here, that they are tireless workers in pursuit of the American dream for their children, that they pay more in taxes than they receive in social services, and that their children will contribute much to this country. Where is a modicum of the decency with which we treat international guests who have no stake here or interest in claiming one, or with even the concern with which we treat immigrants from refugee camps? I listened to Dr. Martinez with a heavy heart knowing all four of my grandparents arrived with nothing from Italy. What if they were immigrating today, driven by dire poverty, and willing to get here any way they could?

— Anne Deaton



We enjoyed another brunch at Trinity Presbyterian Church on April 8. There were lovely tables decorated for spring with potted spring flowers and candles wrapped in a few snips of pastel ribbons. The tasty casserole sided with fruit and muffins made it fun to talk with friends. Our speaker, Mollie Landers, introduced us to the Griffiths Leadership Society for Women at MU, which pairs 250 alumnae and women students, and gladly answered many questions from her audience.

Mary Sue Barnard



On April 11, the Columbia Branch of the AAUW co-sponsored a forum at the Columbia Public Library on civics education. Vena Long (left) of the League of Women Voters moderated, and the panelists were (left to right above) Susan Adler, past president of the Council for Social Studies, Nicholas Kremer, Social Studies and Language Arts coordinator for Columbia Public Schools, and Terry Schlemiel of Terry Schlemeier & Associates. It was organized by the League of Women Voters-Boone County and co-sponsors in addition to our branch were the Columbia Public Library and the Missouri Council for the Humanities.

And among the numerous formal events this spring there were also several more *ad hoc* occasions. AAUW Women@Lunch met regularly on the last Thursday of each month. ¡Adelante! also met monthly in a new venue at the Columbia Public Library. And on February 20 a group (pictured right) attended an MU Women's basketball game to cheer the team.



From the President

It is not so much how busy you are, but why you are busy. The bee is praised; the mosquito is swatted.

Marie O'Conner

I love this quote! Are we busy? YES! Definitely! Do we know WHY? In this hectic, interconnected, always-connected world, it is hard to find some time for one's self — and self-reflection. As we embrace a beautiful spring, do take time to stop and smell the roses — and the tulips, and the irises, and the lilacs. Define your 'busy.'

AAUW Columbia is busy too. May brings the year to a close with our annual banquet and installation of new officers. I invite you to celebrate a great year with us. Karen Frances, national AAUW Public Policy chair and AAUW MO Public Policy co-chair, is looking forward to being with us to update us on what's next for AAUW in a changing political climate. We now have a new national CEO, Kimberly Churches, are holding elections for new directors, and the national biennial convention is **June 14-17** in Washington, DC. We do stay busy!!

You should have received your *OUTLOOK* magazine in the last week or two and your PIN number to vote is on the back page, along with your member number. **DO VOTE!** Information on the candidates is in the center section. Missouri's own Sue Barley is running for re-election. She has done a fine job and AAUW MO is very proud of her. We will be able to get our percentage of voters by branch after the election, and I hope to see that at least 50% of the Columbia Branch voted. **YOUR VOTE MATTERS!**

AAUW MO and branches from across the state are headed to Columbia on Saturday, May 6, for the Annual State Meeting at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. I hope you have already registered. Our own AAUW MU Student Group is helping with the opening session; we need to be there to support them. Registration is \$65 and lunch is included. If you haven't signed up, it is not too late. Contact Ellen Johnson, Treasurer, at 816-931-5288 or ellen.johnson@gmail.com.

I'm proud to announce that due to our excellent fundraising, the AAUW Columbia Branch can identify three individuals as Named Gift Honorees this year. They are Grace Butler and June DeWeese for the wonderful programs we've had, and Kaitie Wallace, our dynamic MU student intern. We are delighted to recognize them. Awards will be made at the May 9 banquet so do join us to honor these dedicated and busy women!

In June, I look forward to welcoming you to Fulton to tour the National Churchill Museum, have lunch, and end with dessert and tea at my place. See the announcement on page 1 for all the details.

During the summer, we will hold our annual planning session to determine goals and activities for 2017-18. The date has not been set yet. I do hope you will consider joining us to help set our course for another great AAUW year. I know it will be a busy and productive one!

See you soon!
Diane Ludwig

2016-2017 OFFICERS

ELECTED OFFICERS 2016-2017

President
Diane B. Ludwig.....dbludwig22@aol.com
Program Co-Vice Presidents
June DeWeese.....deweesej@missouri.edu
Grace Butler.....gbutler1111@aol.com
Membership Vice President
Linda Evans.....lindakayslp@gmail.com
Secretary
Bonnie Mullen.....bonmullen@socket.net
Finance Officer
Pat Carlson.....pa_carlson@yahoo.com
Immediate Past President
Marianne Cole Fues....marfues@hotmail.com

APPOINTED OFFICERS 2016-2017

AAUW Funds Co-Chair
Linda Evans.....lindakayslp@gmail.com
Communications
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College/University Relations
Jane Biers.....biersj@missouri.edu
Eva Johnston Scholarship Chair
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Marianne Cole Fues...marfues@hotmail.com

New Officers to be Installed May 9

The following officers for 2017-2018 will be installed at our annual celebration banquet this coming Tuesday. The position of branch Historian is still vacant, please volunteer.

President	Diane Ludwig
Program Vice-President	Linda Evans
Membership Vice-President	Cynthia Loudon
Secretary	Bonnie Mullen
Finance Officer	Pat Carlson

From the editor

My thanks to Mary Sue Barnard, Anne Deaton, Marianne Fues, and Kaitie Wallace for providing write-ups and photographs published in this newsletter. And to Carolyn Mulford and Diane Suhler for sharing news and views of their activities. I would like to encourage everyone to think of taking a photo and sending it to me for the newsletter whenever you attend a meeting or sponsored event.

Kathleen Slane

Upcoming Meeting of ¡Adelante!

The group will meet at 2 p.m. at the Columbia Public Library, conference room B, on the second Saturday of the month (May 13) rather than the first as previously. The May book is *China Dolls* by Lisa See.

Activities of the Student Org

Katie Wallace reports that the students have funding to show a documentary in May. They are considering “The Bro Code,” which will be shown in the MU Women’s Center (ground floor of the MU Student Center, formerly Brady Commons). She will let us know details. They will send a woman interested in leadership roles to NCCWSL.

News from our Members

Diane Suhler reports from a trip to Africa this spring

As an academic, I often feel that there is little connection between what I do in the classroom and what is happening in the “real world.” However, my work in Africa over the past several years has helped me to bridge this gap. In 2008, I began volunteering during my summer breaks with ACDI/VOCA, a non-governmental organization (NGO) that works with farmers and rural communities in developing countries throughout the world. ACDI/VOCA’s Farmer-to-Farmer program recruits persons from the US for volunteer projects aimed at teaching individuals farming techniques, crop management, and financial skills that will help to improve farm operations and standards of living. To date, my work has taken me to Azerbaijan, Uganda, Ghana, and Liberia.

This spring, I have been on sabbatical from my teaching responsibilities and recently completed a training project in Liberia. I worked with Positive Change Women and Girls Initiatives/Female Agriculture Social Enterprise (POCHAWOIN/FASE), a non-profit farm organization in northern Liberia. My assignment was to teach basic financial skills and business management to small farmers, most of whom were women. My project lasted for two weeks and took me to Tubmanburg in northwestern Liberia, a small town in the heart of the area that was ravaged by Ebola in 2014.

Many of the men and women in my class would walk for several hours in order to arrive at class by 9:00 a.m. each morning and repeat this trek at 4:00 p.m. when they would walk home. The “classroom” was a far cry from those to which I am accustomed—a tiny room packed with 25 people in 90+ degree temperatures with one small fan. My students sat packed together on wooden benches and wrote in notebooks that they held in their laps. Lunch was cooked on an open fire in back of the building. While the physical conditions were certainly not ideal, the learning environment was one of the most exhilarating that I have ever experienced. My students were so eager to learn basic financial skills and were filled with the hope that their new-found knowledge would lead to improved farms operation and better lives for their families. I had to insist that we take breaks—they were willing to sit for hours on end without standing to stretch. They challenged me with questions about how to ‘translate’ their new knowledge into applications on their farms. They proudly showed me to their farms so I could see their palm trees and cassava plants and pigs and chickens so that I could understand their farm operations. They proudly introduced me to their families and children.

It was difficult to leave at the end of my project. I truly cherish the friendships that I made and feel enriched by this experience. I am continuing my relationship by helping POCHAWOIN/FASE set up a micro-finance credit operation that will provide small loans to farmers in this organization. I hope to raise seed capital to start this operation and use proceeds from loans to grow it.

(pictures on next page)

Diane Suhler



The Village Farm Community



Working the Farm



Preparing Lunch for the Class

Invitation to Book Signing on May 20

Carolyn Mulford invites members and their friends to help celebrate the release of her fifth mystery, *Show Me the Sinister Snowman*, at Columbia Books, 1907 Gordon Street, 2 p.m., Saturday, May 20.

Light refreshments will accompany a short talk and reading. All five of the series and Carolyn's two historical novels will be available.

In *Show Me the Sinister Snowman*, a blizzard traps ex-spy Phoenix Smith and her friends in an antebellum mansion as she guards an abused wife and investigates a congressman's death.



Further information about the AAUW at the local, state, and national levels is available at the following sites.

Branch website. . . columbia-mo.aauw.net
National website. . . www.aauw.org

State website. . . aauw-mo.aauw.net
Membership helpline. . . 1-800-821-4364