

Kansas City Northland celebrates its 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this Spring. Special guest founding member Eleanor Calvert has been invited to share their memories of the branch at the Annual Picnic, May 19.



During the Summer, a delightful written conversation was started about Virjean Burton to her son. Susie Watson gives us permission to follow along with the conversation.

“Dear Bruce:

Wanted you to know that I sent two e-mails to two groups’ yesterday evening about the new phone # and news of your Mom's health. I'm a long time member of **American Association of University Women NKC Branch**. Your mother is a Charter Member from **May 19th, 1958**. There were 32 members at that time. I remember a presentation for her 50th year as a member and pinning a corsage on her at a luncheon where young women were given small scholarships for "Re-Entry" back to school to finish their degrees.

As an FYI, your Mom was also a Named Gift Recipient in 1993. We gift \$250 to our National’s Reply: in honor of outstanding service to our Branch. This last year Virjean served as VP of Membership and was on the Auditing sub-Committee.

We currently have 23 members and will Celebrate our **60th Year Anniversary** as an AAUW NKC Branch on **Saturday, May 19th, 2018**. This is normally a picnic meeting that ends our regular meetings until Fall. Also, your Mom was active in the AAUW NKC Branch's Morning Book Group & also hosted the group before the sale of her home on April

12th, 2017. Many of our AAUW NKC Branch members love and admire your Mom for her guidance, leadership, continuity & stamina! Through our founders from years before, we are still standing up for the rights of women. "Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research."

Her health was mentioned in my Sunday School class yesterday and I was asked to share this as I am the Newsletter person for The Inquirers Class at North Cross UMC. That update was sent to 71 members, plus Sr. Pastor & church Communication Director. We are ALL praying for your MOM as well as your sweet family! PEACE be with you all. Just wanted you to know! Fondest loving regards,  
**SUSIE WATSON**



Virjean's son Bruce's response:

*Hi Susie, Thank you, and everyone, so much for all of the prayers and kind thoughts and reminiscences. I'd always known mom has been a big supporter of*

*AAUW but did not know, or recall, that there was a fifty year member presentation. That's great! I'm copying both of her granddaughters, Ambera and Amanda on this (as well as my wife, Lynda) as they may well not be familiar of this facet of her life.*

*Sincerely,  
Bruce*

# AAUW Kansas City-Northland Branch

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## NKC Schools Convocation Learns AAUW Four Focus Areas

Kate Sargent, Dixie Lee Brown and Sandra Reeves displayed at North Kansas City School convocation to over a thousand teachers and staff with AAUW materials from 7:30 am – 12:30 pm on Tuesday, Aug. 15. The focus was on four areas:

1. **Research That Matters in the Lives of Women and Girls** AAUW conducts groundbreaking research on issues related to gender equity in education and the workplace. Our work influences the national discussion on topics like the pay gap between women and men, sexual harassment in schools and on college campuses, and the underrepresentation of women in science and engineering.
2. **Public Policy** Since AAUW's founding our members and supporters have spoken out about policies important to women and girls. Without their voices, invaluable legislation would have never been passed. In recent years, such legislation included the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, and the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. AAUW is dedicated to making sure every woman is registered and has all the information she needs to cast her vote.
3. **Building a STEM Pipeline for Girls and Women** Our society tells girls and women that they don't belong in science, technology, engineering, and

math (STEM) fields. As early as first grade, children have already developed a sense of gender identity, and most have developed unconscious bias associating boys with math. Toys still reinforce rigid, highly gendered stereotypes that **encourage only boys** to build or engineer. The low number of women and girls pursuing STEM fields is not a status quo we can live with. It has significant implications for women's financial security, economic growth, and global innovation.

4. **Educational Funding & Awards-** Due to the longstanding, generous contributions of AAUW members, a broader community of women continues to gain access to educational and economic opportunities — breaking through barriers so that all women have a fair chance. Local branches fund Re-Entry Scholarships to women going back to college.



**Evening Book Club** meets on the third Monday at Perkins at 6:30 pm. Aug. 21 is The Nightingale by Kristen Hannah. Judy Kile is compiling the book list.

Donna Eisenbarth has Perkins coupons. Branch earns 10% of sales.

**Morning Book Club** takes a summer hiatus starts again second Wednesday on Sept. 13. Sharon Posson will be setting up books and hostesses, [cdposson@aol.com](mailto:cdposson@aol.com) or 816-436-9503.

**BIG Read** is an annual metro wide reading event usually in October. The 2017 book is The Things They Carried by Tim O'Brien about the Viet Nam War. This will be a city-wide promotional with KCPT airing the Ken Burns documentary on Viet Nam. Susie suggested each book club read it.

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