



## Newsletter of the

# Kirkwood–Webster Groves Branch Founded April 1971 ~ Celebrating 53 Years!

2023-2024, No. 9, April 2024

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

**AAUW Vision:** Equity for all. **AAUW Values:** Nonpartisan, fact-based, integrity, inclusion, and intersectionality.

AAUW is open to graduates who hold the associate, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a qualified college or university.

The Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch of AAUW supports the full range of the AAUW mission through its monthly program meetings, special interest groups, and public outreach events, by engaging in social action, collaborating with local organizations and educational institutions regarding AAUW topics, and supporting area young women and girls directly. We are one of five branches in the St. Louis, MO, area that comprise the AAUW Metro St Louis Interbranch Council (IBC).

### **Branch Officers, 2023-2024**

**Co-President:**

Jeanne Webdell  
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jeannewebdell@gmail.com

**Co-President:**

Lynne Roney  
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**Program Vice President:**

Kay Meyer  
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**Finance Vice President:**

Carol Davis McDonald  
314-623-1847  
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**Secretary:**

TBD  
<https://kwg-mo.aauw.net/>

## Come to our annual STEM and business meeting!

Thursday, April 11, 2024

6:30 pm - networking - 7:00 pm meeting

Kirkwood United Methodist Church

201 W. Adams, Room 201 (main level), Kirkwood, MO 63122

Enter through the double glass doors off the parking lot and follow the signs

April is the month we honor our high school STEM recipients and invite a speaker working in a STEM career. We are honored to have an AAUW Fellow getting her doctoral degree in low dimensional topology and foliations from the Washington University Department of Mathematics. Join us and meet **Atzimba Martinez**, who will tell us what topology is and how it is used. We will also get a chance to meet our three STEM honorees and their families.

### Topology 101: The Hole Truth

Ms. Martinez’s research interests include low dimensional topology and foliations. Currently, her research focuses on taut foliations for Montesinos knots. She has participated in many research programs since her undergraduate years and attended various academic conferences with travel awards. She was recently awarded an AAUW Dissertation Fellowship. Apart from being passionate about mathematics, she also is passionate about increasing the number of underrepresented groups in STEM and does her best to get involved with organizations with the same passion.



### **CALENDAR**

Apr 3-May 15—AAUW annual voting

Apr 9 Int’l Relations Lecture, p 6

Apr 11 KWG Branch meeting, STEM awards and speaker

Apr 17 Meet/Greet with Webster U. (see last month’s newsletter)

Apr 22 Zoom movie group, *Maestro*, p 5

Apr 25 Adelante book group, p 5

May 4 AAUW MO annual state conference, Columbia (registration form attached)

May 28 AAUW IBC meeting, p 5

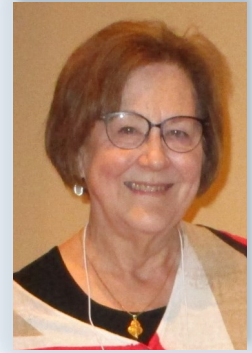


*Jeanne*

## *Lifelong Activism ...*

In March we gathered with other branches to celebrate and congratulate our outstanding members. Christine Nobbe received our branch's Barbara Lackritz Service Award. See elsewhere in this issue for more about Chris.

April, in contrast, sees us moving back out into the community to share AAUW's mission. Here are activities



*Lynne*

coming up in April:

- ◇ Remember to vote between April 3 and noon on May 15 in the AAUW National election. Biographies of the four candidates to be voted on for AAUW Board can be found at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/governance-tools/national-election/candidates/>
- ◇ The other item is a bylaws change to eliminate the degree requirement for membership. The AAUW Missouri Board endorses a "yes" vote so that anyone supporting our mission may join.
- ◇ If AAUW has an email address for you, you should have received an email with a link and password for online voting. You may need to check your spam folder if you don't see the email message. Let Lynne or Jeanne know if you have questions.
- ◇ **April 9** features Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease speaking in the International Relations Lecture Series on the creation and evolution of NATO. AAUW has cosponsored this opportunity to learn about international affairs for more than 90 years.
- ◇ **April 11** is our STEM awards meeting where we recognize and encourage girls who plan to study in STEM fields. We will hear from an AAUW Fellow, Atzimba Martinez, who exemplifies the scholarship that many of us believe is one of AAUW's most important contributions. See page 1 for details.
- ◇ **April 17** is a "Meet and Greet" at Webster University where Debbie McWard and team will introduce Webster students to AAUW and our actions on behalf of equity in education.

And coming up in May:

- ◇ **May 4** is the AAUW Missouri State Conference in Columbia. Several branch members are planning to attend. Let Lynne or Jeanne know if you are interested in attending. A registration form is available on the AAUW MO website, <https://aauw-mo.aauw.net/>.

These are some of the many opportunities for members to participate actively with other women, organizations, and institutions and to share AAUW's passion and expertise.

*Lynne and Jeanne*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Debbie McWard



### 2024-2025 Renewals

When was the last time you went shopping and were not amazed at price increases? Here is some great news! Your AAUW membership dues have NOT gone up!!

Most of you have dues that will not expire until June 30, 2024. If you have given national your e-mail address, you will receive an e-mail notice sometime in April. It is very easy to renew online with a credit card, and you'll get immediate confirmation; so you can wait until the last minute. If you prefer to snail mail your renewal, membership forms will be in the next newsletter. Keep in mind that those will take up to three weeks to process, so plan on doing it early. Those of you who have memberships that expire later in the year will also get a notice at the appropriate later time. This is a new system, so I will track it and send you reminders.

Membership dues: National-\$72.00; State-\$10.00; Branch-\$15.00 for a total of \$97.00. It's worth every penny, don't you agree?

"You cannot shake hands with a clenched fist."  
– Indira Gandhi, first female Prime Minister of India

## THE PERFECT FUND RAISER!



As you know, Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch provides **three \$500 STEM scholarships** every spring to graduating high school women who are planning to major in a STEM field. We continue to search for ideas to raise money for the scholarships. Some members have opted to donate directly to our branch STEM fund (by writing a check to AAUW KWG, STEM scholarship in the memo line). However, we still sell pecans as a fairly good way to raise funds.

By way of other organizations' fundraising, we came across **Rada Fundraising**. It seems to be an easy way to raise a few dollars at 40% profit. Their products last and have been around for a long time. They are 100% American made and make a nice addition to your kitchen or pantry or as gifts. We have a couple of paper catalogs to peruse, but you can also shop online at <https://radafundraising.com/pages/select-your-fundraising-group/> and entering AAUW and MO in the appropriate boxes and clicking on Search. This will take you to: <https://radafundraising.com/?rfsn=7746743.077a60>. Also, at the bottom of their web page, you can click on Support a Fundraiser in the Menu column.

**Pecans for Sale.** We still have pecans left to sell. We have pecan halves available at \$14 a bag and dark chocolate covered pecans, pecan caramel clusters, and cinnamon pecans at \$12 a bag. Contact Kay Meyer if you are interested in purchasing any of the pecans.

## KWG Branch Awarded Stars in National Program



For 2022-2023, the first year our branch entered the National Star Award program, we have been awarded two stars. National Deputy Director of Advancement Tremayne Parquet described the award as follows:

"We are thrilled to inform you that, based on your responses, the AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves (MO) Branch has achieved two stars in the FY23 AAUW Five Star Recognition Program. This achievement is a testament to your dedication and commitment to advancing our mission, and we applaud your leadership and members for your outstanding contributions in the following categories: Communications and External Relations and Programs.

... As you reflect on your branch's achievements, take pride in the positive impact you've made and the lives you've touched throughout the past year. Your ongoing support is inspiring, and we are grateful to have branches like yours as integral parts of our organization."

Our achievement in these two categories can be attributed to our efforts to include a DEI focus and to have mission-based programs. Special thanks go to Nancy Hutchins for our social media posts, to Chris Nobble for the 2022-23 mission-based programs, and to Kay Meyer for ensuring that we included a DEI focus.

--- Lynne Roney



## Christine Nobbe was honored at the IBC spring luncheon with the Barbara Lackritz Service Award



On March 23, 2024, at the annual IBC spring luncheon, Dr. A. Patricia Shores, chair of the IBC Lackritz Service Award Committee, introduced honorees from each branch that submitted a nominee for the Twenty-Second Annual IBC Barbara Lackritz Service Award. This year, Christine Nobbe was

the honoree for AAUW Kirkwood-Webster Groves.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a branch member who:

1. Upholds the mission to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.
2. Provides service to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional, or national level(s).
3. Provides leadership to AAUW at any of the local, state, regional, or national level(s).
4. Provides service and leadership in non-AAUW areas in the community, religious, professional, and/or political arenas.

### Chris's nomination outlined many of the reasons our branch chose her.

- \* Chris works for equity for girls and women in STEM fields through her passion for space exploration and promoting STEM scholarships.
- \* Chris was instrumental in setting up and following up on the Branch's STEM scholarship program for three high schools and has presented programs at state conventions, as well as using her tech expertise to ensure the smooth running of Zoom presentations for the Branch and MO AAUW during Covid.
- \* As 2017-2021 president of the Kirkwood-Webster Groves Branch, Chris emphasized community outreach, encouraging the branch to be involved in the Greentree Festival, a ZeeBee Market sale, and Bookfest St. Louis, and she serves on the State STEM committee.
- \* As a teacher of gifted education, member of space-related professional societies, and Missouri State

Director of Gifted Education, Chris shares her enthusiasm for space and STEM fields with innumerable children and brings them in contact with expert role models, including herself.



Pat Shores, Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch, tells the audience about Chris Nobbe's many accomplishments.



K-WG members who attended. Standing: Mara Perry, Charlotte Parsons, Barb Johnson, Carol Davis McDonald, Deb McWard, Lynne Roney. Seated: Kay Meyer, Chris Nobbe, Jeanne Webdell.



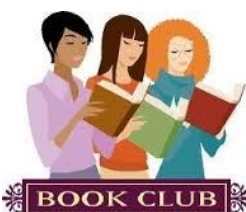
Previous Lackritz honorees: standing, Teri Brecht, StC; Carolyn Herkstroetter, F-F; Pat Shores, B-C; **Jeanne Webdell**, K-WG; **Lynne Roney**, K-WG; Ellen Irons, StL; Karen Francis, B-C, F-F; Joyce Katz, B-C; **Carol Davis McDonald**, K-WG, StL, B-C; Pam Kulp, StC; Jan Scott, StL; **Barb Johnson**, K-WG, StL. Seated: Betty Takahashi, StC; Marcia Block, B-C; Shirley Breeze, F-F; Julia Triplett, B-C.

## AAUW METRO ST LOUIS INTERBRANCH COUNCIL (IBC)

KWG is **one of the five branches** that form the AAUW Metro St. Louis Interbranch Council, more commonly known as IBC. They meet 4 times a year, some virtually and some in person. Each branch is allowed 3 voting delegates, and historically the officers of each branch have served as those delegates.

The purpose of IBC is to foster cooperation among member branches and to financially support programs and projects and to open channels of communication among branches for the sharing of ideas and interests.

The next quarterly IBC meeting will be at 7 p.m. on May 28, 2024, via ZOOM. The website is <https://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net/>. All AAUW members are welcome to attend.



### IBC ¡ADELANTE! BOOK GROUP

This group meets virtually to discuss books written from diverse perspectives.

Where: Join Zoom meeting:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85338959790?pwd=NFNKS01FMXh6bXpiaXh0ci80VC9rUT09>

When: 1:30 pm the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month in September, October, January, February, March, April, May

Contact: [PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com](mailto:PattyMurrayAAUW@gmail.com)

Upcoming selections:

Apr 25 *Crow Mary*, by Kathleen Grissom (368 pgs).  
Teri Brecht, facilitator

May 23 *Lessons in Chemistry*, by Bonnie Garmus (400 pgs). Pat Shores, facilitator.

### Metro St. Louis Branch Programs

**Ballwin-Chesterfield Branch**—April 11, 9 am; business meeting 9:30; program 10:30. Speaker: Julia Brown, chair, LWV St. Louis, on the Electoral College and the Proposed National Popular Vote Interstate Compact.

**Ferguson-Florissant Branch**—Contact [Patty Murray](mailto:PattyMurray@gmail.com) for meeting information, 314-838-7887.

**Saint Charles Branch**—Meets the first Thursday at 1 p.m. at First St. Charles UMC, 801 First Capitol Drive, St. Charles 63301. They met on April 4 to hear member

Grace Poertner discuss her girlhood dolls as object lessons that, in her adulthood, revealed a lack of diversity during her childhood. More recent shopping adventures and acquisitions represent her increasing knowledge of many types of dolls that helped to expand her cultural awareness.

Member Pam Kulp (dual B-C) is a 2024 AAUW Art Contest winner. Her photo entitled “Stunning Water Lilies at MO Botanical Garden” will be one of six AAUW note cards. Pam joins member Joyce Rothermich in receiving this prestigious honor from National AAUW.

**St. Louis Branch**—Contact [Ellen Irons](mailto:EllenIrons@gmail.com) for meeting information, 314-727-9918. The next program is scheduled for April 7, 1-2:30, “Labor, Suffrage and Social Justice – Cynthelia Isgrig Knefler’s Contribution to Our St. Louis History,” presented by Rosemary Feurer, author and history professor at Northern Illinois University, at the IBEW Museum, 2726-28 MLK Drive, 63106.

## EXPRESSIONS!

Expressions is a quasi-craft group that meets at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, **13014 Olive Blvd**, Creve Coeur.



The last Expressions meeting was April 2, 2024. The group will meet again on Tuesday, October 1, 2024. We usually meet the first Tuesday of the month from 1-3 pm. This is the first year Expressions has been open to all AAUW Metro IBC branches. We are looking for crafters who would like to share their skill and ideas with the group. If you have an idea for an interesting craft or simple project for the coming year, contact Kay Meyer ([kicmeyer51@gmail.com](mailto:kicmeyer51@gmail.com)) or Nancy Hutchins ([bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com](mailto:bodaciouspsychobabe@yahoo.com)).

## *Join the Movie Group*

Each of us watches a selected movie on Netflix. The movie is then discussed by the group on the 4th Monday of the month at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Contact [Ellen](mailto:EllenIrons@gmail.com) (St. Louis Branch) for the link.



Upcoming movies:

Apr 22 - *Maestro* (leader: Becky Clausen)





The public is cordially invited to the  
**International Relations Lecture Series (IRLS) 2024**



Ethical Society of St. Louis  
 9001 Clayton Road  
 St. Louis, MO 63117

**10:45 am Second Tuesday of January, February, March and April 2024**

The TWA and AAUW invite you to learn from experts about the most critical issues affecting our global community. The 45-50 minute lectures begin promptly at 10:45 am in the upper auditorium and are followed by a question and answer session. Plan to bring a lunch and stay to discuss the day's topic further.

Admission is free, but donations are gratefully accepted.  
 Free parking is available behind the building.  
 In case of inclement weather, please call 314-991-0955, ext. 224.

*Sponsored by the Tuesday Women's Association (TWA) of the Ethical Society of St. Louis  
 and the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Metro St. Louis Branches*  
 Usha Sathe, Chair

**April 9, 2024** **NATO**

**Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease**



**NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION**

Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease will briefly discuss the creation and evolution of NATO and examine the debates surrounding NATO expansion. She will also assess the interactive relationship between NATO and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

Dr. Kelly-Kate S. Pease is Professor of International Relations at Webster University. She has published extensively in areas related to international relations, international organizations, human rights, and humanitarian affairs. Her books include *International Organizations: Perspectives on Global Governance* (6th ed), *The United Nations and Changing World Politics* (co-author, 8th ed), and *Human Rights and Humanitarian Diplomacy*. Dr. Pease also publishes articles and chapters on human rights, humanitarian intervention, humanitarian assistance, diplomacy, the United Nations, and international criminal law.



*Committee: Sue Williams, Susie Teicher, Patty Murray*

**Do you still cook?**

Here is a recipe from our pecan supplier to give you an idea about how to use the pecan halves: **Pecan-Crusted Chicken Strips**

2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken breasts cut into strips  
 Salt and pepper  
 2 tbsp chopped fresh parsley leaves

For the honey mustard:

¼ cup mayonnaise      ¼ cup Greek yogurt  
 ¼ cup honey            2 tbsp mustard  
 2 tbsp Dijon mustard

For the pecan crust:

1 cup **pecans**            1 cup panko bread crumbs  
 1 tbsp Italian seasoning   ½ tsp garlic powder  
 ½ tsp onion powder

**Preheat oven** to 375°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. **Make the honey mustard** by combining the mayonnaise, Greek yogurt, honey, and mustards. Split and set aside in two small bowls. **Make the pecan crust** by combining pecans, panko, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, and onion powder in a food processor until it looks like crumbs. Set aside in a medium bowl.

**Season the chicken** with salt and pepper. **Dip the chicken** into the honey mustard and then dredge through the pecan crumbs, pressing to coat. Place the chicken on the prepared baking sheet and **bake for 15-20 minutes** or until the chicken is cooked through. Serve immediately. Use 2nd bowl of honey mustard as a dipping sauce!

Source - <http://damndelicious.net/2016/02/28/honey-mustard-chicken-fingers/>

## AAUW NATIONAL

### National News

From Susan Barley  
National Advancement Committee and  
AAUW MO Fund Chair  
March 21, 2024  
barley702@gmail.com



The national Advancement Committee has put together a wonderful webinar on membership, including how to attract, keep, and bring back members. It includes a panel discussion with four branches and lots of resources available. Check the website at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/> to see if the webinar has been posted.

- Our **2023 Year in Review** is live on the website! <https://www.aauw.org/about/2023-year-in-review/>
- **NCCWSL**. We are at 102 registrations thus far - compared to 52 2023 YTD registrations. Help us promote scholarship support and registrations! We have a goal of \$30k in scholarship support; and as of today, we have raised \$22k. Our deadline to close our fundraising drive for scholarships is this week!  
  
Deadline to register: April 14. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/attend/>  
  
Panels and Workshops:  
<https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/nccwsl/agenda/workshops-panels>
- **Gloria was quoted/interviewed** in this *Washington Post* article recently, highlighting our work on pay equity/salary: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2024/03/14/pay-gap-women-foreign-workers/>. (You can set up a free account to view the article by providing your email address.) You can stay up to date on other articles in which AAUW is featured by visiting AAUW's In the News page on our website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/news/media/in-the-news/>
- **Recent webinars** - The February 28th webinar on AAUW's History and Evolution: A Journey Through Time – which was EXCELLENT! - is featured on this page of the website: <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/webinars/>.

**Ms Magazine** - we are continuing our promotional partnership with *Ms. Magazine* - offering a free one-year subscription to members via this link: [https://secure.everyaction.com/VDr6G\\_f5aky8R09HDwKyEQ2](https://secure.everyaction.com/VDr6G_f5aky8R09HDwKyEQ2)

**Five Star** recognition for 2023 is posted online, including FY24 criteria, at <https://www.aauw.org/resources/member/initiatives/5-star-program/>. The next survey will be in September.

**Work Smart / Start Smart and Money Smart.** AAUW National is no longer supporting the license model for salary negotiation training. That being said, we understand that there are some groups that still have active licenses. We will be honoring these licenses through their expiration, but they will not be eligible for renewal.

We will be continuing our Work Smart / Start Smart (salary negotiation) and Money Smart (financial literacy) training. These training sessions will be conducted via a webinar format, and our AAUW National staff will facilitate/lead them. They will occur throughout the academic year. They will be open to the following groups:

**CU Member campuses** - All students, staff and faculty at CU Member campuses are eligible to attend our training. We regularly email our CU representatives to advertise the dates and links to attend.

**Grant-Funded Campuses** - AAUW has grants from Coca Cola Foundation, ETS, and AAUW Honolulu that support students at HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities), and other minority-serving Institutions are eligible to participate in training as well.

WorkSmart Online will sunset mid-June 2024. It is an expensive program to maintain, and we do not have dedicated funding to support its maintenance or the necessary updates.

### Meet Our Fellows and Grantees

AAUW's comprehensive online directory includes biographies and sponsorship information for our outstanding AAUW fellows and grantees going back to the 2004-05 academic year. <https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowships-grants/directory-of-recipients-sponsors/>

**K-WG:** <http://kwg-mo.aauw.net>

**IBC:** <http://stlouis-ibc.aauw.net>

**State:** [www.aauw-mo.aauw.net](http://www.aauw-mo.aauw.net)

**National:** [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

**Facebook:** AAUWKWG - Click [here](#) to join our FB group

## LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

### Looking for An Angel: We Can't Find Those We Can't See



Thursday, April 11, 7 p.m.

In-person program at The Center of Clayton  
50 Gay Ave.

St. Louis, MO 63105

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; program begins at 7 p.m.

[Please let us know you're coming here.](#)

There are currently over 1,300 missing persons from Missouri, and the number grows daily throughout the year. Unfortunately, a plethora of the missing adults and children don't have flyers and are only represented by silhouettes or "no image" at all! If your loved one went missing, would you know what to do or who to call? If you were "allowed" to make a missing person report, how would you expect police to respond? Do police search for individuals reported missing? Would your missing loved one's case make the news? Do you know how to locate and use Missouri's missing persons database?

Speaker: **Theda Wilson**, founder and president of Looking For An Angel, a nonprofit organization she created in memory of her missing murdered child, Christian Taylor Ferguson.

### Lunch & Learn: Challenges in American Higher Education

Wednesday, April 17, noon

Virtual event

[Read more and register here.](#)

Mark S. Wrighton, James and Mary Wertsch Distinguished University Professor and chancellor emeritus at Washington University in St. Louis, will join us to discuss current challenges for American higher education. These challenges include campus unrest stemming from political issues, different views about the war in Israel, aspirations related to establishing diverse, inclusive and equitable communities, and financial shortfalls. These challenges are evident at both public and private institutions. The erosion of public confidence in America's higher education has exacerbated the problems within academic institutions.

Mirowitz Center was the first organization in Missouri to be licensed to teach **Senior Planet from AARP** curriculum – and is the only one licensed to operate in St. Louis County!



### Special Performance

"St. Louis Symphony Orchestra String Quartet"

Monday, April 8

3:00 - 4:00 (in person)

Join us at the Mirowitz Center for a special **St. Louis Symphony Orchestra** string quartet performance that celebrates Spring and our inspiring change of seasons.

To register, [click here](#), call [\(314\) 733-9813](tel:3147339813), or email [program@mirowitzcenter.org](mailto:program@mirowitzcenter.org).

## SENIOR PLANET

FROM ~~AARP~~

### "Online Shopping"

Tuesday, April 16—1:30 - 2:30 pm (in person)

Shopping online and having packages delivered to your home has morphed from a luxury to a necessity for many people, especially those who don't drive. Plus, online stores often have larger inventories and lower prices. Trainer **Jim Salih** tells you how to search for products, make comparisons, and add items to an online shopping cart.

To register, [click here](#), call [\(314\) 733-9813](tel:3147339813), or email [program@mirowitzcenter.org](mailto:program@mirowitzcenter.org).

### Advocacy in Action Lunch & Learn



**When:** Thursday, April 18 | 12:00 - 1:00 PM

**Where:** Zoom [RSVP Here](#)

**Elder Law:** For our April Lunch and Learn, NCJWSTL is thrilled to welcome Martha Brown and Nikki Mitchell of Mitchell, Brown & Associates. Ms. Brown began her career working in probate matters, including guardianship cases. As she built her practice, she began working with Medicare and Medicaid matters. By 1994 she had an elder law practice, although at the time, she didn't realize what it was! Ms. Mitchell works in all areas of elder law for the firm. She is committed to helping clients in need and guiding them through difficult legal processes with compassion.

**Questions? Email Jen Bernstein**  
at [jbernstein@ncjwstl.org](mailto:jbernstein@ncjwstl.org) or call **314.993.5181**