



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

This is the season of light-filled holidays, and we invite you to join us in celebrating all of them on **Tuesday, December 10**.

On the Saturday before, December 7th, we'll show up at the mansion in our jeans from 11 AM to 3 PM to transform it with light and color. We always have fun. Arrive when you can and stay as long as you want to.

The Tuesday holiday party will feature a light buffet dinner, plenty of good cheer and conversation, and a guest appearance by a quartet of Eastman School of Music students.

We invite you, your family, and guests to celebrate with us.

Cost: \$20.

Reservations: Call or telephone Julie Cotraccia at [585-370-2235](tel:585-370-2235) or perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com to make your reservation.

Deadline for reservations: December 3.



AAUW is a powerful advocate and viable leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a 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.

DECEMBER 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE

We're offering a "new, improved" trial membership until January 31st.

At the October 22 Wine and Cheese party, the Branch offered a no-cost trial membership to introduce guests to AAUW. That offer was for local membership only, and the six-month trial period was slated to end at the end of April. Several women have taken us up on that offer, and we welcome them.

At its meeting of November 13, the Branch board of trustees discussed the trial membership idea and decided to continue it as a pilot program, with some significant changes:

- The signup period for the trial membership begins immediately. It will end on January 31, 2025. The trial membership itself will run till the end of the program year, June 30. Anyone who signed up under the first offer will be "grandmothered" into the new program.
- A person interested in trial membership submits an application for membership as usual. Trial members must meet national membership requirements, i.e., possession of an associate's level degree (or equivalent) or a higher degree. The application is available on our website (rochester-ny.aauw.net). Applications must be received by January 31, 2025.
- Since we'd like to introduce trial members to the full scope of AAUW, the Branch will pay dues at the branch, State, and national levels through the end of the program year on June 30, 2025.
- For the program year that begins July 1, 2025, dues will be the responsibility of the member. We hope that new members will choose to renew.
- At the end of the program year, the board of directors will evaluate the pilot program and decide whether to continue it, either in its present form or with changes.

Sound interesting? Get the word out. Tell your friends, and bring them to meetings.

All the best for the holiday season.



Judy Trabert

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP: INNOVA GIRLS ACADEMY

By Midge Pia

On Wednesday evening, November 20th, we welcomed Lindsay Swanson and Cianni Bouey of [Innova Girls Academy](#). Lindsay is a co-founder, with Brittany Rumpf, of Monroe County's only all-girls elementary school. Cianni is a second grader. The school, in its second year, has 170 students in classes from kindergarten through third grade. The plan is to add a grade each year up to a full complement of grades K through 6.

Innova is a tuition-free Charter School, governed by an independent board which ensures that the school meets or surpasses State standards. All students are residents of Monroe County, with preference given to city of Rochester applicants. Graduates of Innova will eventually be able to transition to the other all-girls Charter, Young Women's College Prep, which serves girls from 7th through 12th grade.



Lindsay Swanson and Cianni Bouey

Innova aims to produce graduates who are leaders and problem-solvers. Its curriculum is organized around STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math). Why all girls and why STEAM? Women, especially women of color, are badly underrepresented in the tech workforce, and graduates of all-girls high schools are much more likely to consider a STEM major in college. And when the school founders surveyed prospective school parents, they found that including the arts was a priority for them. They added a Girl Scout component because of its emphasis on leadership and real-world problem solving.

How can GRAB partner with Innova? Lindsay had two immediate suggestions, and some possibilities. Right now, we can help with one-on-one reading at the end of the school day or prepare Girl Scout "badge kits" for the teachers' use. Other needs: sewing badges on sashes, collecting and donating materials for classrooms. In the longer term: fundraising, music enrichment, a career day. Innova is open to our suggestions as well.

If this sounds interesting, there are two ways to move forward. Let GRAB member Barbara Stevens ([585-235-2548](tel:585-235-2548)) know you'd like to find out more, or volunteer directly with the school at bit.ly/InnovaAAUW. It's an exciting opportunity.



Lindsay Swanson and Cianni Bouey

RADICAL ROCHESTER: LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Last spring we reported that GRAB, in collaboration with the Auburn-based program 1stAmendment1stVote, had applied to the Rochester Area Community Foundation for a \$10,000 grant to make a short video about the Second Women’s Rights Convention. That meeting was held in Rochester on August 2, 1848, two weeks after the more famous meeting in Seneca Falls. The Rochester convention came out of a radical reforming tradition in our area, and we planned to call the video “Radical Rochester: The Second Women’s Rights Convention.”

The grant was awarded in August, and last weekend some of the live action segments were filmed at the Downtown Presbyterian Church, which is adjacent to the site of the Rochester convention.

Three segments were filmed: David Shakes talked about Frederick Douglass’s role in the meeting (not pictured). Reverend Shari Halliday-Quan of the Rochester Unitarian Society described the role of the Unitarian Church in the meeting (top pictures), and Melina Carnicelli and Katrina Brown of 1stAmendmentFirstVote (bottom pictures) filmed introductions to the video.

The project will be finished in the first quarter of 2025, and we’ll be thrilled to show it to you and to the world. Stay tuned.



NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION

Board Members Welcomed

“Make new friends but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold.” We have three new/old friends on the Perkins Mansion Board. **Ellen Lewis** has returned as Hospitality Advisor. Ellen has also volunteered to take the board minutes. **Ana Detomaso** has also returned to the mansion as a Board Director. Ana, a UR graduate, ran an intern program for the United Nations of Rochester when they rented space in the mansion several years ago. Later, she served as an administrator for GRAB. Currently, Ana is project manager for Epicor, which produces innovative software for business growth.



ELLEN LEWIS



ANA DETOMASO



MISS BETTY SMITH

Another “Gold Friend” is **Miss Betty Smith**. Miss Betty was my first client at the Community Microenterprise Center, a not-for-profit that helped entrepreneurs get started in business. In the early 1990s, Betty got help from the Center to produce and market her locally famous hot sauce. She now cooks for the Mother House of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Pittsford where she has cooked for such luminaries as John Lewis and Louise Slaughter. Miss Betty would like to cook for us at the mansion as well. We just bought a baker’s oven for our kitchen. We look forward to her famous chocolate chip cookies and buttermilk biscuits!



KATE CERULLI

Raising the Roof Continues

Much of the money to pay for our new roof came from our Endowment Fund at the Community Foundation. We hope to replenish the fund by means of the fundraising sales planned for 2025. Please come to our Jewelry and Fine Arts Sale in February and Trash and Treasures sale in the spring. **Kate Cerulli** is coordinating the jewelry and **Lorie Seagren** is coordinating the Fine Arts Sale. If you have any donations at all for any of the sales, please call [585-244-8890](tel:585-244-8890) and leave a message. I will return your call.



LORIE SEAGREN

New Drapes in the Dining Room

Speaking of donating, Decorator **Cheryl Bagley** did the drapes in the living room during the 2004 Decorator Showcase House. She came to the Weavers Guild Sale last week and realized she had a pair of drapes that would be perfect for our dining room. She called me and came over the next day and hung them with help from caretaker **Edmari Fort**. The drapes are just beautiful and match the wallpaper perfectly. Notice them the next time you are in the mansion. Thank you, Cheryl!

Best wishes and much appreciation to all who serve at the Mansion,
Onward and Upward,



Marilyn

marilyntee991@gmail.com

[585-414-4979](tel:585-414-4979)



DECORATE THE MANSION ON DECEMBER 7TH

Saturday, December 7 from 11AM to 3PM

Join us for a decorating party on Saturday, December 7, 11AM to 3PM. It's a cheerful combination of work and fun, unearthing holiday decorations from the storage boxes and arranging them on mantels and windowsills. Of course we'll trim a tree, too. We usually get ourselves into the spirit with seasonal music. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree", anyone?

Since decorating is hungry work, there will be a break for pizza sometime in the afternoon.

Friends and family are welcome to join us. We'll find a job for everyone.

Let me know if you can come.

Judy

[585-319-9314](tel:585-319-9314)

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GREATER ROCHESTER AREA BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

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We welcome suggestions or contributions to include in future newsletters.

Deadline for January: December 20, 2024

Please email items to judy.a.trabert12@gmail.com

**Articles submitted are printed at the discretion
of GRAB**

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 7

Decorate for the Holidays

DECEMBER 10

Holiday Party

DECEMBER 11

GRAB AAUW board meeting

JANUARY 11

Branch meeting

FEBRUARY 15

Branch meeting

MARCH 8, 2025

International Women's Day Celebration

MAY 11, 2025

Mother's Day Celebration