



empowering women since 1881

# American Association of University Women Greater Rochester Area Branch

The American Association of University Women promotes Equity for Women and Girls through Advocacy, Education, Philanthropy and Research.

Volume 134 Issue #3

Women on the Move: Achieving Women's Economic Justice

November 2024

## Schedule:

### 5:00-5:30

Sign-in and conversation,  
wine and snacks

### 5:30-6:30

Program

### 6:30

Dinner

## Menu:

Chicken Parmesan or  
Eggplant Parmesan

Roasted Vegetables on Pasta  
with Wine Lemon Sauce

Caesar salad, garlic bread,  
Italian pastries, beverages.

*Menu adjustments upon request.*

## Cost for dinner:

Members \$20

Non-members \$25

## Deadline for dinner reservations:

November 10

Call [585-244-8890](tel:585-244-8890) and leave  
a message.

## BRANCH MEETING AND DINNER

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20 | PROGRAM 5:30, DINNER 6:30

**“We believe all girls have the potential to be incredible leaders and innovative problem solvers.”**

Do you agree with that statement? If so, you'll want to join us at the branch meeting on **Wednesday, November 20 at 5:30 PM.**

The quote comes from the website of **Innova Girls Academy**, a new, girls-only elementary school in Rochester. Representatives of the school will be at the branch meeting; they'll tell us about Innova, a Rochester City School District charter school, and we'll explore possibilities for the branch to do some hands-on collaboration in support of its students.

Innova Girls Academy is in its second year of operation in the former Blessed Sacrament School at Monroe Avenue and Oxford Street. This year they serve grades K through 3, with plans to add additional classes to grade 5.

We have an opportunity to “adopt” Innova and continue the tradition of Women Helping Girls. Come to hear about what Innova does, what it needs, and how GRAB members and friends can help to foster Girl Power.

*A Zoom link will be sent to all members who have email the morning of the meeting.*



*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.*

GRAB AAUW ~ 494 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14607 ~ Phone: 585.244.8890

**NOVEMBER 2024**

## **FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE**

### **Wine and Cheese Event**

The October 22nd Wine and Cheese gathering is now history, and, as they used to say in the small town society columns, “a good time was had by all.” Eight GRAB members joined 28 guests for beverages, elegant snacks and non-stop conversation. It was fun.

The event was Laurie Ditzel’s idea. She followed up by arranging for us to have a table at a conference for retired teachers; we talked to attendees about AAUW and collected email addresses. Three guests came from that outreach; others were friends and colleagues of current members.

Some guests took a self-guided tour of the mansion, and a few took us up on the challenge of a scavenger hunt designed by Midge Pia. There were three winners.

Many thanks to all who came, to our caretakers and our new Events Coordinator Julie Cotraccia, and to caterer Lisa Wagner of Plunkett’s Fabulous Foods.

The gathering was aimed at membership recruitment, which I see as a long term and multi-faceted process. On one hand, we want to introduce ourselves to people who have never heard of AAUW, and to those who’ve heard the name but don’t know much about us. We can do that by gatherings like the Wine and Cheese party, by increasing our presence on social media, and by inviting friends to come to meetings as our guests. On the other hand we want to make sure that we have programs and activities that make membership an attractive prospect. That includes ensuring that members and prospective members find out about the national organization: what it offers for career advancement, fighting sex discrimination in schools and the workplace, and other advocacy efforts.

Two guests at the Wine and Cheese event took advantage of the offer of a free trial membership to the branch. We welcome Lucia VerSteege of North Chili and Susan Motten of Churchville to GRAB. Several other guests expressed interest in joining the branch, and many said they planned to attend future events. We’ve made a good start. Help us to keep it going.



Judy Trabert

## PERKINS MANSION STAFF: FACES FAMILIAR AND NEW

**Joe Cinanni** has been the sole Caretaker at the Perkins Mansion for a long time. Now he's been joined by **Shea Davis** and **Edmari Fort**, so the Mansion is up to its full complement of three.

In addition, **Julie Cotraccia** has joined Perkins as the new Events Coordinator. She's the person to call if you want to schedule an event or have any questions about the Mansion. Julie's phone is [585-415-2035](tel:585-415-2035).

We asked everyone to provide a picture and a mini-bio. Say hello and introduce yourself the next time you're in the Mansion.



### Julie Cotraccia, Events Coordinator

I was born and raised in Rochester NY. When I'm not at The Perkins Mansion, enjoying decorating and planning events, I am at my beauty salon in N. Chili, styling hair for customers I've had for over 30 years.



### Joe Cinanni, Head Caretaker

I came to the Mansion seven years ago along with my son Joey who visited on weekends. We took advantage of the museums and he learned the hospitality business and how to take care of the Mansion. Joey has grown up and is now entering college. Some members have helped him along the way.



### Shea Davis, Caretaker

I'm Sheahonnie, friends call me Shea. I grew up in Syracuse, moved to Rochester this year. When I'm not helping at the Mansion, I am painting artwork. I also work with a few nonprofit organizations in the Rochester area, working with victims of domestic violence and formerly incarcerated people.



### E. Fort, Caretaker

Hi! Edmari is my name, but you can call me E for short. I'm one of the caretakers of the mansion. When I'm not doing that, I'm working at my HVAC job or doing a side project.

## NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION

November is the month of giving and a time for giving thanks. So, here's a big thank you to all the members and friends who contributed to the success of our Raise the Roof party and game night. We plan to hold several more sales throughout 2025 to pay for our new roof. Elsewhere in the newsletter you'll see a Save the Date flyer. Long time members **Kate Cerulli** and **Lorie Seagren** will be holding a joint jewelry and fine art sales after the holidays, on February 8 and 9. All sale items will come from members who have donated their treasures to the Mansion. If you have jewelry or fine artwork you'd like to donate, please email or call me.

The roof on the main house is almost complete. J. Snyder Construction will start on the Junior House next week. Our beloved Clubhouse will then have a new bonnet with a forty-year guarantee! This is an investment for the younger women who will steward and care for the Mansion. In the spring, we plan to have one more roof-raising fund raiser. Our **Trash and Treasures** sale will offer new or next-to-new items donated by the membership. There is no doubt that you will find something for yourself or your loved ones. Stay tuned!

We have unexpectedly lost our Events Manager, **Kyara Wilson**. I will miss her. We wish her well in her new endeavors. **Julie Cotraccia** from Plunkett's Fabulous Foods has come on board as our Events Coordinator, and we have been blessed with two new caretakers, **Shea Davis** and **Edmari Fort**. We also have a new specialist in technology and design, **Brittany Pietrzykowski**, who is revamping both the GRAB and Perkins Mansion websites. We have added a new Internet connection from T-Mobile to facilitate connections in hard-to-reach areas of the Mansion.

Please note: Call Event Coordinator **Julie Cotraccia's** phone number, **585-415-2035** to book an event at the Mansion. Call the old GRAB AAUW number, **585-244-8890**, to make your reservation for branch events.

Next month, I will introduce new members of the Perkins Mansion Board of Directors. Some will be new; others are names and faces you know with new responsibilities.

May you all have a blessed Thanksgiving. Thank you for all you do for the Mansion and the branch.



*Marilyn*

[marilyntee991@gmail.com](mailto:marilyntee991@gmail.com)

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

---



# The Perkins Mansion

Save The Date !



Fine Art and Jewelry Sale

February 8th and 9th 2025

Saturday & Sunday 1- 4 PM

Every purchase supports preserving the Mansion's historic roof.



## WE'RE DECKING THE HALLS ON DECEMBER 7TH

**Saturday, December 7 from 11AM to 3PM**

Saturday, December 7, 11AM to 3PM, is our date to decorate the Perkins Mansion for the holiday season. Join us for work and fun. The caretakers will bring boxes of decorations from the basement, and we'll sort through them and decide what would look best where. We'll trim a tree, of course, and adorn the fireplaces, the library and the solarium. 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)

[judy.a.trabert@gmail.com](mailto:judy.a.trabert@gmail.com)

### GREATER ROCHESTER AREA BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN

494 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14607

Phone: [585.244.8890](tel:585.244.8890)

Newsletter Staff:  
Editor, J. Trabert  
Design, B. Pietrzykowski

We welcome suggestions or contributions to include in future newsletters.

Deadline for October: November 20, 2024

Please email items to [judy.a.trabert12@gmail.com](mailto:judy.a.trabert12@gmail.com)

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### NOVEMBER 20

Branch Meeting and Dinner

#### DECEMBER 7

Decorate for the Holidays

#### DECEMBER 10

Holiday Party

#### JANUARY 11

Branch meeting

#### FEBRUARY 15

Branch meeting

#### MARCH 8, 2025

International Women's Day Celebration

#### MAY 11, 2025

Mother's Day Celebration