

**BRANCH MEETING: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 11:15 PROGRAM**  
**WOMEN AND MONEY: WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW NOW**

Our guest speaker at the February branch meeting will be Sandra L. Kobel, a GRAB member and Certified Financial Planner who also holds other distinguished credentials in her field.

Sandra is a seasoned financial services consultant with a unique and diverse background. (You can read more about it at [sandrakobel.com/about-us](http://sandrakobel.com/about-us).)

Sandra will share her experience and knowledge about the financial markets, and how historically they have reacted to a new administration in Washington. In addition, she will talk about the how women's lived experience affects their financial status: longer lifespans than men, wage disparities, career breaks for caregiving. Women also often have different views from men about their money and investing. We'll have an opportunity to find where our own views fit, and whether they're helpful or not. Sandra will also offer tools for those who want to make changes in their own financial lives.

Sandra loves questions and she will take them at the presentation, or you can submit your questions before the meeting to: [sandra.kobel@nextfinancial.com](mailto:sandra.kobel@nextfinancial.com).

Join us for an informative meeting. Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia at [585-370-2235](tel:585-370-2235) or [perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com](mailto:perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com) to make your reservation by **February 8**.

**Lunch will follow the program:** Assorted sandwiches, fruit salad, dessert, beverages.

**Cost of lunch:** \$15.

A Zoom link will be sent to all members with email the morning of the meeting.



**Schedule:**

**11:00 AM** Arrive & sign in  
**11:15 AM** Program  
**12:15 PM** Lunch

**Menu:**

Assorted sandwiches, fruit salad, dessert, beverages.  
**\$15**

**Reservations:**

Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia by **February 8** with your reservation.

**CALL OR TEXT**  
[585-370-2235](tel:585-370-2235)

**EMAIL**  
[perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com](mailto:perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com)

*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.*

FEBRUARY 2025

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE

This column doesn't usually venture into the realm of politics, but the actions from Washington since January 20th have been so offensive and, in some cases patently illegal, that I wanted to offer a few comments.

Donald Trump's views and actions stand in direct contrast and opposition to the ideals and priorities of the American Association of University Women. Our belief that diversity, equity, and inclusion add value to American society is central to what we do as an organization.

The national organization's website contains the following summary of its priorities for policy action:

- *[To] Support a strong system of public education that promotes gender fairness, equity, diversity and inclusivity, and to address the barriers and implicit biases that hinder the advancement of women and girls;*
- *[To] Achieve economic security for all women; and*
- *[To] Guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society.*

We are part of the Resistance.

In another, more cheerful vein, we're about to start our Reading with Innova project. At our November branch meeting, Co-Principal Lindsay Swanson of the Innova Girls Academy offered us the opportunity to read with their students. Now we're ready to roll. Lindsay has scheduled a training session for volunteer readers next Wednesday, January 5. After the training, we'll meet one to one with second graders once a week on Wednesday. We'll work with the students toward the end of their school day, from 2:45 to 3:45 PM. If you're interested and haven't yet signed up, contact Barbara Stevens ([585-235-2548](tel:585-235-2548), [bjstevens30@gmail.com](mailto:bjstevens30@gmail.com)) or Marilyn Tedeschi ([585-414-4979](tel:585-414-4979), [marilyntee991@gmail.com](mailto:marilyntee991@gmail.com)) for more information.



Judy Trabert

## JANUARY MEETING RECAP: MEMORIES OF JOHN LEWIS

By Midge Pia

On Saturday, January 18, GRAB members and guests were treated to an excellent presentation by Dr. Yvonne Asamoah, Mary Paul, Barbara Stevens, and Miss Betty Smith, assisted by Yolanda Asamoah. Yvonne reviewed a recent biography of Lewis by David Greenberg, and she and the other speakers added personal recollections.

John R. Lewis was an internationally known leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. He earned the nickname “The Conscience of Congress” for his wisdom, courage, and moral clarity during his time in the House of Representatives. Lewis is also remembered as chairman of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which coordinated lunch-counter sit-ins, as the leader of a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, AL, and as a speaker at the 1963 March on Washington in 1963.

Yvonne began her presentation with a description of Lewis’s childhood on a farm in Troy, AL, where he preached to the family chickens. She described his education in Nashville at the American Baptist Seminary and Fisk University, where he learned techniques used in non-violent protests. Yvonne described her own experiences in the civil rights movement, where she learned the rules of engagement, which included a strict dress code, decorum, no cursing, and no fighting back.

The biography chronicles the years of the Civil Rights movement, which culminated when Freedom Marchers organized to walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on March 7, 1965, to protest voter suppression. The brutal attacks by police spurred President Johnson to present the Voting Rights Act to Congress on March 15, 1965. The bill became law in August 1965. Later, in 1986, Lewis was elected to the House of Representatives from a Georgia district where he served until his death in 2020.

The presentation concluded with memories from three Rochesterians. Barbara Stevens described meeting Lewis at a workshop in Atlanta, where she was impressed by his ability to describe events in great detail without notes. She recalled his warm and friendly demeanor as he spoke to participants. Miss Betty Smith described John Lewis’s visit to Rochester in 2016, when he and Louise Slaughter came to lunch at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph, where Miss Betty was the cook. When Lewis said he missed Southern cooking, Miss Betty made a “downhome” meal for him and Slaughter, and later, for 300 guests. Lewis also thanked the Sisters for the medical care provided by the order at the hospital in Selma. Earlier, Mary Paul had read an account by one of the Sisters who had treated Lewis for his severe injuries.



Yvonne Asamoah



Yolanda Asamoah

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DOROTHY PECORARO

Dorothy Pecoraro is an educator, 100%. Whether as a teacher, department head, principal, program developer, school administrator, or board member, her life's work has been educating the children and young adults of the Rochester area. She is one of the founders of GRAB AAUW's Women Helping Girls program.

Raised in the City of Rochester, Dorothy attended parochial school and Our Lady of Mercy High School. She graduated from Nazareth College with a BA in Latin, and was hired as a Latin teacher at Benjamin Franklin High School. Later, she earned an MA in education and certification as a school administrator, which prepared her for jobs as a department head, dean of students, vice-principal at Franklin, and Principal at Jefferson Junior Senior High School. In the next stage of her career, Dorothy became the principal of Edison Technical and Occupational Education Center, and then Director of the School to Work program for the City School District. In this role, Dorothy won and administered a \$950,000 grant program. The grant dollars funded projects that taught students from pre-school to adult skills that would be useful in the workplace. The Rochester grant was one of 15 in the country.



And what did she do in her “spare time”? Dorothy has been a long-time member of the boards of Charles Settlement House and the Community Place of Greater Rochester. She was a founding member of the board of Hope Hall, a private school serving students in grades 3 to 12. She served on the advisory board of the U of R's Warner School of Education. And if there was time available after all that, she has been an active league bowler and enthusiastic card player.

As a member of AAUW, Dorothy worked with Bettie Lindley and other members to organize Women Helping Girls with Choices (later Women Helping Girls), which offered pre-teen and high school age girls opportunities to broaden their horizons through workshops and fun at the AAUW, exposure to cultural resources, and a mentoring program. Women Helping Girls evolved over time; in several forms, it served girls from the mid-1990s through the late 20-teens. (Editor's note: We're hoping that our new partnership with Innova Girls Academy will forge connections with a new generation of girls.)

Thank you, Dorothy, for your dedication to the students of Rochester and to AAUW.

## NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION, INC. FEBRUARY 2025

Dear Friends of the Perkins Mansion,

At this time of year, I always look back to the resolutions and promises I made the year before. Last year, the TPMI board added the word “intergenerational” to our mission statement in hopes that the Mansion would become a gathering place of women and girls of all ages. I believe that this is the year that will truly happen. We’re in discussions with Innova Academy, an all-girls charter school serving ages kindergarten through 3rd grade, and the branch is beginning service projects at the school. We are also exploring ways to offer the Mansion as a training center for college students interested in working in the hospitality industry. We’re talking possibilities with WellVentions, our tenants in the carriage house, who teach business and social-emotional skills to high school students. So, by the end of 2025, we’re on track to serve students from kindergarten through college. This direction would be in keeping with the hope expressed by Mrs. Perkins as she handed the deed to her home to the Rochester AAUW Branch President:

“...I wish for the members of this house a wide future. I wish that this house may send out in years to come thoughts and actions that are going to count in making this world of ours a far better one than it is today.”

The Perkins Mansion will be having its 2024 annual meeting on **February 20th**. You will hear the ups and downs of 2024 and our hopes for a bright 2025. Please look for the flyer in this newsletter. Come to the meeting and let your voice be heard by voting. The meeting will be in person and on Zoom. If you are a member of AAUW and indicated your interest in joining TPMI when you filled out your membership application, you are a member in good standing of TPMI. If you are not sure that you joined TPMI through AAUW or by means of the separate TPMI membership process, call us to check your status. We welcome everyone.

Onward and Upward,



*Marilyn*

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

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

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***The Perkins Mansion Annual Meeting  
Please Come in Person or by Zoom***

**Date: Thursday Feb. 20, 2025**

**Time: 5:00 - 7:30 PM**

**Location: 494 East Ave.  
Rochester NY**

**RSVP by Friday Feb. 14, 2025, to Julie Cotraccia at [perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com](mailto:perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com) or (585) 370-2235. An invitation link will be sent to ZOOM participants who RSVP.**

**Hear about the state of The Perkins Mansion. Meet and vote for the Candidates. Vote on the 2025 Budget.**

***Candidates to be Elected to TPMI Board***

**Marilyn Tedeschi - President**

**Cynthia Herriott Sullivan - Secretary**

**Treasurer - Nominations from the floor**

**Anne Miller - Director**

**Ana DeTomaso - Director**

**In order to be eligible to vote, you must be a member in good standing of GRAB AAUW or TPMI by Friday, Feb. 1, 2025. Nominations from the floor will be accepted if nominee agrees in writing to accept the position.**

**Refreshments will be served after the meeting**



## Fine Art and Jewelry Sale

Join us for our **'Raise The Roof'** Fine Art and Jewelry fundraiser, where each purchase directly contributes to preserving the historic roof of our beloved mansion.



Saturday, February 8 and Sunday, February 9, 2025  
1-4 PM

Explore our unique collection of one-of-a-kind paintings, canvas prints, and watercolors by a variety of talented artists, and our stunning mix of vintage and modern jewelry pieces for both daytime and evening wear.

Help us preserve this historic landmark and support the essential work of the nonprofits housed here while adding something truly special to your jewelry and fine art collection. **100% of the proceeds go to our Raise the Roof fundraiser.**

#### LOCATION

494 East Ave. Rochester, NY 14607

#### TICKETS

[theperkismansionevents.eventbrite.com](http://theperkismansionevents.eventbrite.com)

#### DONATION

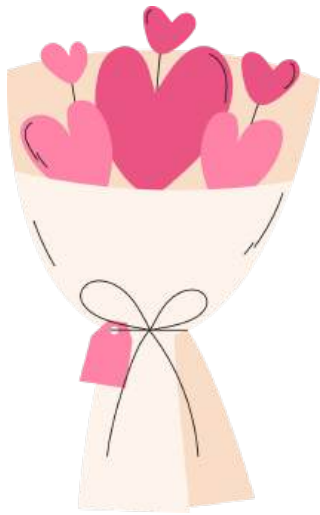
Walk-ins: \$25

Online sign-up: \$20

Members: free

[eventsatperkismansion@gmail.com](mailto:eventsatperkismansion@gmail.com) | (585) 370-2235 | [theperkismansion.org](http://theperkismansion.org)





## GALENTINE'S DAY AT THE MAG I'M GOING. WANT TO COME?

The Memorial Art Gallery is having an event on **Thursday, February 13** to celebrate the power of women's friendship. I think it looks intriguing. I've decided to go, and I wanted to invite any interested members of GRAB to go with me. Here's what the Gallery says:

*Join us for the best day of the year! Come celebrate yourself, your friendships, and the artwork of Alma Thomas.*

*We will have vendors from female-owned businesses, art creating, music, mingling, mini art tours highlighting female artists in our collection at 7 and 8 pm, and more. Join us and treat yourself to a night of art, fun, and friendship.*

**TIME:** 6:30 to 9 PM

**COST:** \$15

**TICKETS:** Get tickets through the MAG website, [mag.rochester.edu](http://mag.rochester.edu)

Let me know if you're going so we can look for each other.

Judy Trabert  
[Judy.a.trabert12@gmail.com](mailto:Judy.a.trabert12@gmail.com)  
[585-319-9314](tel:585-319-9314)

## 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 March: February 20, 2025

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

### FEBRUARY 12

GRAB board meeting

### FEBRUARY 15

Branch meeting

### MARCH 8

International Women's Day Celebration

### MARCH 12

GRAB board meeting

### APRIL 9

GRAB board meeting

### APRIL 22

Branch meeting