

MARCH BRANCH MEETING, MARCH 8

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY *from NOON TO 1:30 PM*

Hattie's Rooftop Bar at the Strathallan Hotel

For the March branch meeting, we will join the University of Rochester's Susan B. Anthony Center and other community organizations to celebrate International Women's Day. The theme for this year is Amplifying Women's Initiatives, and the Anthony Center invites us to *Support the Supporters*.

Marilyn Tedeschi will represent GRAB in a panel discussion about how local organizations are empowering women and girls in Rochester. Other participants will be Krystle Ellis of the Women's Foundation of the Genesee Valley (our neighbor at the Perkins Mansion) and Meaghan de Chateauvieux of the Willow Domestic Violence Center. Jaime Saunders of the United Way of Greater Rochester and the Finger Lakes will moderate the discussion.

The event will feature the panel discussion, lunch, and opportunities for networking with other community members who are interested in supporting women and girls in our area. **Participation is free but you must register in advance. Space is limited, so register now. Use the link below to register:**

www.rochester.edu/sba/international-womens-day-2025-luncheon/

In addition, we'd like you to let us know that you will be attending so we can look for you. Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia to get on our list. ([585-370-2235](tel:585-370-2235) or perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com) The event won't be streamed, so we hope you'll join us in person.

Logistics: The Strathallan Hotel is right down the street from the Perkins Mansion, at the corner of East Ave and Strathallan. We suggest that you plan to park in our lot and walk to the hotel.

We hope you'll join us.



Details:

Date

Saturday, March 8, 2025

Time

Noon to 1:30 PM

Location

Hattie's Rooftop Bar at the Strathallan Hotel

RSVP:

Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia to get on our list:

[585-370-2235](tel:585-370-2235)

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.



MARCH 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE

Three topics this month, all very different:

1. What can we do now?

These are the times that try women's souls, to borrow Thomas Paine's line from the Revolutionary War. In these equally dark times, we cannot give in to despair or apathy. Some options for action:

- Participate in the economic boycotts.
- Download the free 5Calls app and use its guidance to call our senators and representatives to register our anger. You provide your zip code, and the app supplies phone numbers, a choice of issues to talk about and a suggested script. I used the script as a starting point and then ad libbed. Or call them freeform, of course.
- Look at the section of the national AAUW website regularly; it's highlighting Doge and Trump actions that target education equity, and suggesting action to protest them.

Note: All of the above is from Judy, not official.

2. Participate in branch governance.

GRAB will be holding its Annual Meeting, including an election of officers, in late May. The first step in that process is appointing a Nominating Committee. Our bylaws specify that two members of the committee will be members of the board, and three members will be members of the branch who are not board members. If you'd like to dip a toe into governing the branch, this is a great opportunity. The nominating committee meets for a short time, and has a defined task. If you would like to volunteer to serve, let me know. Or, if asked by the chair, please agree to join the committee. It's an important job.

3. To dress, or not to dress, that is the question.

A few months ago, my friend came as a guest to a branch meeting. She reported later that she enjoyed the meeting, but was, she said, surprised and a little put off because we were, as she said, "so dressed up." I hadn't really thought about it before, but I think that I, anyway, dress the way members did when I joined twenty years ago. Maybe I'm dressing up for Mrs. Perkins. Of course, we welcome members and guests in whatever attire they choose, but maybe we're more formal than we need to be. Is it time for a new standard that may be more welcoming? What do you think?

Thanks for your patience with my musing and my cornball style.



Judy Trabert

RECAP OF FEBRUARY 15 MEETING: WOMEN AND MONEY

By Midge Pia

We welcomed Sandra Kobel as our speaker. Sandra is a long-time member of GRAB who is a certified financial planner. Sandra's presentation had three sections: 1) Elections and the market; 2) Unique Characteristics of women as investors and financial decision makers; 3) Actions to improve your financial position.

Section 1:

Investing in the stock market. To maximize earnings an investor needs to stay fully invested at all times. Trying to "time the market" (buy low, sell high) is impossible to do on a consistent basis. Bottom line: the market fluctuates, and you want to be there through both the ups and the downs because no one can predict which trading days will be the best or the worst.

Section 2:

Women and money. The good news is that women today have never been in a better position to achieve financial security for themselves and their families. Women make up almost half the workforce, account for more than half of all workers in management, professional, and related occupations, own millions of businesses, and control a third of all U.S. financial assets. Women's economic clout is significant, and going forward it will continue to grow.

But there's a gender gap in financial literacy. Men score better overall than women. This can make women conservative investors, when they actually may have more financial challenges than men: longer life expectancies; lower lifetime earnings; career interruptions for raising children; outliving husbands, and a greater need for long term health care. Sandra's conclusion was that very conservative investing will not yield the financial results that women need for the long haul.

Section 3:

Six steps to help you take responsibility for your financial well-being:

One. Take control of your money. Regardless of your age, you have responsibility for your financial well-being. So, start learning now.

Two. Become a more knowledgeable investor. Start by getting basic information: investing terms, different types of investments. Ask questions. Take one step at a time.

Three. Advocate for yourself in the workplace, starting with negotiating for your salary. Then, emphasize your work accomplishments, take on big assignments, and ask for raises and promotions when warranted.

Four. Plan for retirement. Start saving now.

Five. Protect your income and assets. Types of insurance to consider: Life, Disability, Home and Auto, Health, Long-term Care.

Six. Create an estate plan, including a will and health care proxy designations. Review your decisions when you have life changes.

NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION

TPMI held its Annual Meeting on February 20th . This was the message that President Marilyn Tedeschi offered to members at that meeting.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

2024 has been an extremely difficult year for me as President and as GRAB AAUW Public Policy Director. Not only have we lost 6 of our long-time worker bee members, but TPMI treasurer **Morgan Hopkins** resigned in June due to illness. Then another board member, **Rachelle Nuhfer**, resigned due to an overload of work and family. At the end of September, **Kyara Wilson**, our events director, suddenly resigned, leaving a gaping hole in our events planning, operations, and communication at the Mansion. Then came a change with the November elections which caused an uproar in GRAB AAUW Public Policy. All in all, I have hope and reason to be excited and optimistic about our future, and here's why:

We now have a 40-year guarantee on the new roof just put on the Mansion and the Junior House. New volunteers are stepping up and helping. **Karen Sue Brown** has cataloged and evaluated the library books Mrs. Perkins left us in the library. **Cheryl Bagley**, interior designer, donated the beautiful draperies in the dining room. **Barbara Hoffman** stepped up and organized the Christmas decorating and donated Lisa's jewelry and beads to our jewelry sale. **Lorie Seagren** has come back as Art Forum director. **Kate Cerulli** has stepped up as TPMI Development Advisor. We have a new member, **Lisa Sandlin**, developing a plan to give her clients at the Health Department the soft skills needed to survive in today's world. We have hired a very competent new events director, **Julie Cotraccia**.

Our tenants are all thriving and growing. Our work with **Innova All Girls Academy Charter School** and the **Girl Scout Troop** at Innova is just getting underway. Our kitchen has been equipped with a new baker's oven which the girls in Prosper Rochester are utilizing on Monday nights to learn to bake cookies and other items they will sell at the market. We are preparing for the worst of times by equipping **Miss Betty Smith's Sojourner Kitchen** at the Mansion with tools and 40-quart pots to cook soups and make bread so that no one will go hungry (just in case). We plan to start our internship program with area colleges. We are looking into making the Mansion have a greener footprint. Cybersecurity, safety, and compliance are being focused on. Cameras have been installed for our protection. Yep, we're going to be fine in 2025. I have hope. Remember, wherever women gather, "**Failure is Impossible.**" Onward and Upward!



Marilyn Tedeschi

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MENTOR FOR A DAY IN APRIL

On **Wednesday, April 23rd**, GRAB AAUW members will have a chance to spend a school day with a student at Young Women’s Collegiate Prep, helping her sort through her strengths, priorities, and challenges in making decisions about her post-high school path. Sound intriguing?

For the third year, members are invited to act as a Mentor for a Day to a senior at YWCP, an all-girls charter school of the Rochester City School District. The event will take place at the Perkins Mansion, within a time frame of approximately 9AM to 2PM. Women from the community as well as GRAB members will participate. Each mentor will be matched with a student, and the pairs will work together through discussions and exercises. The event will include lunch.

GRAB members who’ve participated in the past described the day as stimulating, worthwhile, and fun. The April newsletter will include links for signing up. If this looks like something you’d like to do, put it on your calendar now, and we’ll provide more information as it becomes available.



NEWS FROM “ADOPTING INNOVA”

You’ve heard before at Branch meetings and in newsletters about our plan to partner with the InnoVA Girls Academy, a single-sex charter school in its second year of operation. Well, we’ve started.

On Wednesday, February 26, we had our first Reading Day with second graders at InnoVA. Six GRAB members spent the last hour of the school day reading one on one with students. Here’s the surprise: each student picked out a book and *read to us*; we offered an audience and coaching on hard words. Principal Brittany Rumph told us that children who spend 20 minutes per day reading with an adult become successful readers, and we’re delighted to have the opportunity to give InnoVA students some practice.

We’re also beginning our support the Girl Scout program at InnoVA with some practical help: attaching troop identification and badges to Girl Scout sashes. It’s a bit tricky to get the badges on to stay, so Marilyn Tedeschi and Julie Cotraccia are experimenting with methods to find the most effective. More reports in a future issue!

WOMEN MEAN BUSINESS EXPO

March 22 at ARTISANworks

From our fellow women's organization, NOW, we pass on an announcement of a vendor expo and panel discussion on **Saturday, March 22nd** at **ARTISANworks**, 595 Blossom Rd. The free event will feature shopping at women-owned businesses from **1 to 4 PM**, followed by a panel discussion on DEI, women in leadership, and pay equity at **2 PM**. Attendees may visit the Artisanworks gallery after the event.

Women Mean Business

Vendor expo and panel discussion
ARTISANworks
 565 Blossom Road
 Saturday, March 22nd

FREE ENTRY

- *Local women-owned businesses to shop
- *Resources for women
- *Panel discussion: DEI, women in leadership, pay equity
- *Access to ARTISANworks gallery after event

Vendors: 12pm-4pm
Panel: 2pm-3pm
rochesternow.org

ROCHESTER BRANCH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN EST. 1963

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 March: March 20, 2025

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

Articles submitted are printed at the discretion of GRAB

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 4, 12, 19, 26

Reading at Innova

MARCH 8

International Women's Day Celebration

MARCH 12

GRAB board meeting

APRIL 9

GRAB board meeting

APRIL 22

Branch meeting