

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BRANCH

THURSDAY, MAY 22nd

Gather at 5 PM, Meeting at 5:30

Dinner will follow the meeting, around 6:30

Once a year, the members of the Greater Rochester Branch get together to review the program year that will end on June 30th, elect and install new officers, and talk about what we'd like to accomplish and experience in the new year that starts July 1. This is also our chance to celebrate what we've accomplished this year, and to honor members who've contributed to our successes.

The positions to be filled by election are: President, Treasurer, and Recording Secretary, for two-year terms, and Vice-President for Program, Vice-President for Membership, and Assistant Treasurer for Membership for one-year terms.

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Marilyn Tedeschi (chair), Barbara Stevens, Mary Myers, Laurie Ditzel, and Arlette Miller Smith. **Contact Marilyn at (585) 414-4979** to nominate yourself or someone else for a position. It's possible for two members to share a position, so grab a buddy and volunteer. Abbreviated descriptions of each position appeared in last month's newsletter, which is available on the branch website. Nominations can also be made from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

We hope that you will join us for the meeting and dinner. It's a good way to catch up with old friends and get better acquainted with new ones.

If you can't attend in person, a Zoom link will be sent to all members with email on the day of the meeting.

Call, text or email Julie Cotraccia [\(585\) 370-2235](tel:5853702235) or perkinsmansiondirector@gmail.com to let her know you're coming by **May 12**.

Schedule:

5:00 PM Arrive & sign in
5:30 PM Annual Meeting
6:30 PM Dinner

Dinner menu:

Chicken parmesan and eggplant parmesan, pasta with roasted vegetables, green salad, toasted focaccia bread, dessert and beverages.

Cost of dinner: \$25

Reservations:

Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia by **May 12** with your reservation.

CALL OR TEXT

[585-370-2235](tel:5853702235)

EMAIL

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.

MAY 2025

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE

Two practical topics that you might not think about

Branch meetings and costs.

Two reminders: First, there is never a charge to attend any branch meeting. The cost cited in the Program Description is always a meal charge. Second, if you make a reservation for lunch or dinner, we have to pay the caterer whether you come or not. We understand that plans change and sometimes you don't feel well, but if you have made a reservation, we expect you to pay for your meal. The deadline date in the newsletter is when we have to tell the caterer how many meals we will pay for. We can add reservations after that, but we can't lower the number. So please come to the branch meeting, enjoy the program, eat and drink and talk with your friends. But if you can't, honor your reservation by sending a check or calling Julie with your credit card number.

Where do my dues go anyway?

Most members of GRAB will be getting an email or a mailed letter in the next few weeks asking them to renew their membership for the program year that starts July 1. We'll be asking you to send a check or pay by credit card your \$175 dues. And where does that money go? First, \$74 goes to the National Association, and \$7 to the New York State organization. How about the other \$94? Much of the local dues pays for our beautiful home, the Perkins Mansion. Mrs. Perkins donated her house to GRAB AAUW in 1947; responsibility for maintenance and upkeep of the house has belonged to GRAB since then. At this point, the branch pays part of the expenses of the house through a license agreement with TPMI, The Perkins Mansion, Inc., which owns and maintains the house for the benefit of GRAB. TPMI rents office space and hosts events to pay its expenses. Per the license agreement, our share of the expenses will be about \$7,000. for the current fiscal year. We also pay a share of employee benefits, some expenses associated with branch meetings and recruitment, and tech support services for the newsletter and website. We are the only branch in the country to have its own home. We're currently preparing a proposed budget for the year that starts July 1. Let me or Midge Pia, treasurer, know if you'd like to see it.

And one more, just for fun:

Our June meeting will be the **world premier** of a short video, called *Radical Rochester*, that shows us the issues and people that led up to the Second Women's Rights Convention. The convention took place two weeks after the more famous one in Seneca Falls, in a Unitarian church across the street from the current City Hall. GRAB AAUW helped make the video. Come celebrate with us!



Judy Trabert

RECAP OF APRIL 22nd BRANCH MEETING

Two guests from Keeping Our Promise, Inc. (KOP) reported on the work their agency is doing to resettle Afghans, former employees of the U.S. in Afghanistan, in Rochester with their families. The U.S. employees have been targeted by the Taliban since it took over the country in 2021 after the U.S. withdrew its troops.

Ellen Smith, Executive Director, updated us on the status of resettlement efforts in the current Presidential administration, which has cut off promised funds and barred future refugees. KOP currently has resettlement candidates “in the pipeline” to the U.S., and is working to get them here with donated funds and air miles. Mubaraka Muhammadi, Community Program Director for KOP, works with Afghans resettled in Rochester to make resources accessible in their languages and to bridge gaps between the two cultures. Mubaraka is a photojournalist who previously worked to document positive progress in Afghanistan, such as the Skateistan project, which introduced Afghan children, especially girls, to skateboarding. She said that learning to skateboard not only contributes to physical health but builds confidence and offers a chance to play.

What can we do? KOP always needs donations at keepingourpromose.org. (GRAB paid an honorarium to KOP, and some attendees at the meeting made cash contributions.) There’s a range of volunteer opportunities on the website. Ellen also mentioned that the wives in resettled families can be very isolated; volunteer rides to appointments can help them learn about the community.

We were impressed with the stories of these dynamic and impressive women and the work they are doing.



Ellen Smith



Mubaraka Muhammadi



Garcelle Carter

MEET GARCELLE CARTER, OUR NEW ARCHIVES INTERN

Garcelle Carter is a junior at Nazareth University. She is majoring in Legal Studies, with a minor in Philosophy and Archives, Museums and Public History. Garcelle is a new member of the branch, and also a student intern working to organize and preserve GRAB history. Her statement is below:

A love of history is the core reason as to my new role as AAUW’s archival intern. Along with a collected interest in art history, gothic literature, historic social movements and research, I am a student. My interests can be found in my academic studies, majoring in both legal studies along with museum, archives and public history. My area of interests are within the scope of civil rights and in effort to expand the AAUW archive, I would like to understand the women of AAUW through personal collections. Beginning in May, I will be collecting memorabilia, ephemera and related documents from members. In aim of personalizing the history of the members both past and current, I will also be collecting personal accounts through oral history interviews. The preservation of history is important so, these interviews will be recorded and transcribed for the continued education of current and future members of AAUW. If you are interested in donating to the archive with oral histories or objects of historical relevance, you can contact me using the email, garcelle1426@gmail.com. I am looking forward to uncovering new histories with AAUW. - Garcelle Carter

RECAP: MENTOR FOR A DAY

On Tuesday, April 22nd, around 30 Senior students from the Young Women's College Prep High School were matched with adult mentors from the community to explore their priorities and options for life after graduation. Several members of the Branch participated as mentors: **Karen Cox, Cathy Dayan, Jill Stolt, Marilyn Tedeschi, and Judy Trabert.**

After some fun team-building exercises, each pair explored questions of values and goals. Mentors shared learned wisdom about their careers, and mentees reviewed the steps they might have taken toward choosing a college or enrolling in another type of post-secondary training, including apprenticeships or the armed services.

The traditional deadline for commitment to a college is May 1st. On May 14th, the YWCP Seniors will celebrate their plans with their families at a Decision Day event at the school. Mentors have been invited to attend. Each mentor provided her email address to her mentee; the student may choose to continue the connection.

The day was noisy and cheerful and silly and lots of fun. Adults and students came away with a new connection, maybe a new friend, and knowledge and wisdom shared.

Thanks to **LaQuanna Sparkman** and her able staff for organizing and implementing an impressive event. GRAB AAUW was a co-sponsor of Mentor for a Day, and the Perkins Mansion was an elegant host. All in all, a win-win.



NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION

May 2025

This is a quiz:

1. Who planted the daffodils under our Beech tree in the front yard?
2. Who are the two members who helped her?

Hint: The answer hangs around the corner from the daffodils.

Would you like to win a pass to tour the Susan B. Anthony House? The first member to email me the correct answer will win.



I'm so excited that spring has sprung! It's been a long cold winter. We will be doing a spring cleanup and planting flowers in the yard. **Laurie Ditzel** has put together a plan and **Anne Miller** has pledged to fund most of it. Thank you both!

We are in the process of getting quotes on a new patio. The stamped brick did not hold up after so many years of salt on it. We are looking to return to a slate floor which was original to the mansion.

Another project in the works is adding more cameras, which have proved invaluable to us already.

Cynthia Herriott is reviewing our Disaster Recovery plan and **PJ Estevez** will be writing a plan for a cybersecurity upgrade to keep it in compliance with new regulations. Heveron and Company, our accountants, have asked for an update on the mansion assets. **Lorie Seagren** and her granddaughter **Savanna Richards** have volunteered to take pictures of mansion assets. These photos will be kept in our safety deposit box. Thank you, Lorie and Savannah.

The Perkins Mansion board is looking for a new treasurer, a new attorney and a membership director. Anyone interested in a position and learning what would be required, please contact me.

Thank you all for your love of the Mansion.

Onward and upward.



Marilyn Tedeschi

marilyntee991@gmail.com
[585-414-4979](tel:585-414-4979)

ARTWORK STILL AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

By Lorie Seagren, Art Forum Director

Our sale of artwork continues. The sale includes a wide range of artworks such as original watercolor and oil paintings, lithographs, monoprints, and photographs – something for everyone.

When you make a purchase, you will be able to take it with you. This is similar to an Off the Wall sale. No need to return at a later date to pick up your work. It goes with you at the time of the sale.

If you are interested in purchasing any artwork, please contact me at [\(585\) 721-7368](tel:5857217368) or dseagren@aol.com.

The images are of a few of the remaining pieces. More will be posted as we continue with this project. Remember that all purchases support the Perkins Mansion Roof Replacement project.



Garden Pathway, J.H. Alexander



Water's Edge, Unknown



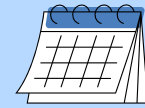
Girl at the Beach, B. Reitz



Rainy Day, London, England, Rennie



Fall Gatherings, Martha B. McFall



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 14

GRAB board meeting

MAY 8 - 18

Don't Miss the Lilac Festival!

MAY 22

Annual Meeting

JUNE 11

GRAB board meeting

JUNE 17

Branch meeting: Premier of Radical Rochester video

