

## BRANCH MEETING: TUESDAY, JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup>, 5:30 PM

## ROCHESTER WOMEN'S HISTORY TIMES TWO

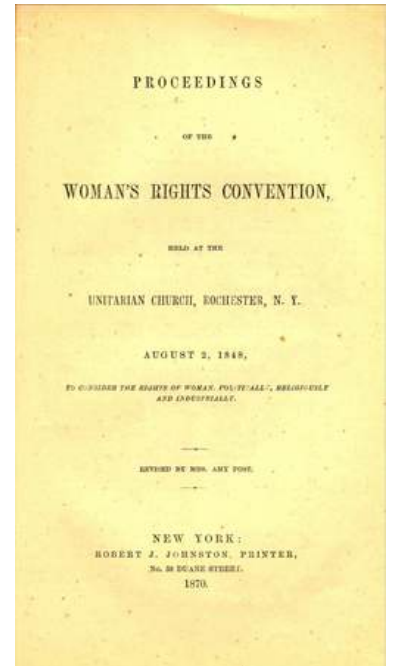
### LAST BRANCH MEETING TILL SEPTEMBER

At our June meeting we'll celebrate Rochester's contributions to women's history with a video premier and a new historical display.

We've talked before about the Radical Rochester video. Two weeks after the more famous meeting in Seneca Falls, Rochester women held the Second Women's Rights Convention on August 2, 1848. This past Fall, GRAB AAUW partnered with a Central New York group, First Amendment First Vote, to produce a short video about the radical ferment in our area that made the second, bolder meeting possible. We'll show the video (about 10 minutes) and talk about how it came to be.

In the second part of the program, we'll hear from the creators of a new exhibit in our second floor display space. Local historians have traced the site of a boarding house run by Abolitionist Maria G. Porter, a friend of Frederick Douglass and a player in the Radical Rochester spirit of the pre-Civil War era. We'll learn about Porter's connection with Harriet Tubman's family and about life in those trying times.

This is the last branch meeting of the program year. Come to see your friends, talk over dinner, and learn a little more about the important women of our area.



Proceedings of the Rochester Women's Rights Convention of 1848



Portrait of Maria Porter, ca. 1880s

#### Schedule:

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

#### Dinner menu:

Chicken Kebabs, Vegetable Kebabs,  
Persian Rice Pilaf, Greek Salad,  
Toasted Pita, Baklava. **Cost of  
dinner: \$25**

#### Reservations:

Call, text, or email Julie Cotraccia  
by **June 12** 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.*

**JUNE 2025****FROM THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN TABLE**

**June 30 is the end of our program year.** We traditionally have had some down time in the summer, and we will follow that custom again this year. The next newsletter will come out at the end of August for September, and the June branch meeting will be the last till September. Later in the newsletter notice that Joan Kohout has offered to organize an expedition to the Susan B. Anthony House if you're interested. I'm sure that family and friends would be welcome to join the group.

**New President Needed:** The recap of the Annual Meeting notes that we did not elect a new President for the year that starts July 1. Our bylaws specify that no member may serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office. I finished my predecessor's term and was elected to two full terms, so I cannot be elected again. I will serve in an Acting capacity as President until a new president can be appointed or elected. I am hopeful that a seasoned or new member will be ready to serve within the next few months. I would be very willing to mentor and coach a new president from the Past President's position. Think about it!

**The NYS AAUW Annual Meeting** will be held in Albany Friday, June 13 and Saturday, June 14. A link to the business meeting on Saturday morning will be shared with all members. Those attending in person can look forward to:

- **AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell** on the future of our movement.
- **Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan** on leadership, policy, and progress for women in New York.
- **AAUW Fellow Muskan Tibrewala** on global coalition building to thwart the rise of authoritarianism.
- **Kelli Owens, Executive Director of the NYS Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence**, on how AAUW branches can support the statewide Enough is Enough campaign addressing sexual assault on college campuses.
- **Exclusive tours** of the **New York State Capitol**, a breathtaking architectural landmark, and **Albany NanoTech**, a world-class research facility at the forefront of semiconductor innovation.

The link for registration is on the NYS AAUW site: <https://www.aauwnys.org/>.



Judy Trabert

## MEETING RECAP

### ANNUAL MEETING: May 22nd

We held the Annual Meeting of the Branch on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We held an election of officers, reviewed the program year that will end on June 30<sup>th</sup>, and celebrated accomplishments and contributions. We had a lot of laughs and a good dinner.

Past-President **Marilyn Tedeschi** conducted the election. There were voting members in person and on Zoom. Two positions were filled for one-year terms. **Cathy Dayan** will be the Vice-President for Program and **Susan Motten** the Vice-President for Membership. (They will be eligible for election to full, two-year terms in the next election cycle.) Two positions, Recording Secretary and Treasurer, were elected for two-year terms. **Yvonne Asamoah**, who has served as Recording Secretary on an appointed basis, was elected. **Midge (Mary Jane) Pia** was elected to a second two-year term as Treasurer. There were no nominees for President; **Judy Trabert** will continue on an Acting basis until a successor is chosen, or until the next election.

Judy Trabert gave the President's Report. She described updates and changes to the GRAB website, including new options for online payment of dues. She talked about the new partnership with Innova Girls Academy; we've helped with Girl Scout badge sashes and listened to second graders practice reading on Wednesday afternoons. Finally, Judy reviewed the membership recruitment efforts and the subsequent 24 new members.

The last part of the program was Commendations. The president thanked four people for their contributions to the success of the branch over the past year, and presented them with flowers. She cited **Midge Pia** and **Cathy Dayan** for their work in orienting Cathy to the Assistant Treasurer for Membership job.

Judy also thanked **Brittany Pietrzykowski**, technology consultant, for her flexibility and patience as she worked with us to solve a variety of website and connectivity problems through the year. The final commendation went to **Julie Cottracia**, who has moved seamlessly into her new role as Events Coordinator for TPMI, including GRAB branch meetings and other activities.

The Annual Report will be sent to all members by email, and will be posted on the website. In addition to the sections discussed above, it includes financial reports and a budget, a list of branch programs, a report from the Education Fund, a report of donations, and memorials to members who died this year.



**Cathy Dayan**

Vice-President for  
Program



**Susan Motten**

Vice-President for  
Membership



**Yvonne Asamoah**

Recording Secretary



**Midge Pia**

Treasurer



## FIELD TRIP TO THE SUSAN B. ANTHONY HOUSE?

We usually don't do branch meetings during July and August, but we have an offer from Joan Kohout to arrange a group tour of the Susan B. Anthony House for us. Many of us have visited the House, or even volunteered there. Or maybe you haven't ever made it to the home of Rochester's most important resident. Whether this is your first or a return trip, it will be more fun with GRAB friends to share the experience.

Interested in learning more? Email Joan Kohout at [jskohout.ny@gmail.com](mailto:jskohout.ny@gmail.com).



*Susan B. Anthony house. Photo from [susanb.org](http://susanb.org).*

# NEWS FROM THE PERKINS MANSION

June 2025

Dear Friends and Members,

Congratulations to **Julie Cottracia** for winning the Perkins Mansion April Quiz. She correctly named Catherine Browning, Edith Thoburn, and Tish McKinney as those who planted the daffodil bulbs under our beloved beech tree. A plaque in their honor hangs on the brick wall at our front door. Julie won two ticket to tour the Susan B. Anthony House and Museum.

## The question for the June quiz is:

How many fireplaces are in the Perkins Mansion?

**Two tickets will go to the first person who emails me the correct answer.**

A special thanks to **Laurie Ditzel, Anne Miller, and Vickie Fumia**, who donated their time and/or treasure to the spring cleanup—mulching, trimming, and planting—of our gardens this year. We hope to have the task completed within the next few weeks. Also, a big thanks to caretakers **Joe, Shea, and E** for their hard work.



The next big project will be to restore the patio to its original slate base. The handicapped ramp and patio will be closed off for at least a week once we get started. Members and tenants will be asked to come in the front or back door until the patio is completed.

We lost one of our long-time tenants this month. We're sorry to see **Reagena Lawrence** of **GRASA** (Greater Rochester After School Alliance) leave. GRASA was a wonderful program of the Rochester Area Community Foundation, which fit well with our other tenants and mission.

I just want to say congratulations to GRAB AAUW for their extraordinarily successful 2024-25 year. They added 24 new members and finished their fiscal year in the black. **GO GRAB!!**

Onward and Upward,



*Marilyn Tedeschi*

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

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

## NATIONAL AAUW ADVOCACY: ONE EXAMPLE

What does national AAUW do with the portion of our yearly dues that goes to them? One thing is advocacy for issues that have an impact on women's education and economic well-being. The "Big, Beautiful Bill" passed by the US House of Representatives and now in the Senate proposes to totally defund Planned Parenthood. National AAUW joined 82 other organizations to sign the letter below:

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries,

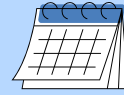
On behalf of the 83 organizations below, we are writing to urge you to oppose any effort to "defund" Planned Parenthood through the reconciliation process. Planned Parenthood is an integral and irreplaceable part of the health care system. We write in support of the millions of patients who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers. One in four people - including one in three women - have visited a Planned Parenthood health center for care.

Planned Parenthood provides over 2 million patients a year with essential, preventive reproductive health care, like birth control, cancer screenings, wellness exams, STI testing and treatment, and more. Planned Parenthood health centers primarily serve women, people with low incomes, Black, Latino, and Indigenous communities, LGBTQI+ people, and others who face barriers to accessing care. The majority of Planned Parenthood patients rely on Medicaid and other federal and state programs to access care, and 64% of Planned Parenthood health centers are located in rural or medically underserved communities. "Defunding" Planned Parenthood would block these patients from getting the care they need.

The consequences of "defunding" Planned Parenthood would be catastrophic, shutting down health centers and stripping millions of patients across the country of access to essential and affordable health care. In many communities, Planned Parenthood health centers are the only affordable provider with expertise in sexual and reproductive health. For those communities, the gap left by Planned Parenthood health centers would mean that many patients would have nowhere to turn for care.

This is the latest in the ongoing, politically motivated attacks against Planned Parenthood. Like any other health care provider, Planned Parenthood health centers are reimbursed through health programs like Medicaid for the services provided to patients. Even though Medicaid funds are not used for abortion other than in rare exceptions, Medicaid funding is being used to target Planned Parenthood health centers and cut off access to health care. Blocking people who rely on Medicaid from getting care at these trusted health centers would hurt patients and weaken the health care system to further an extreme agenda.

We support the essential care that Planned Parenthood health centers provide in communities across the country, and urge you to reject any efforts to "defund" Planned Parenthood.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE 17**

Branch meeting: Premier of  
Radical Rochester video