

April 2023
Volume 72, Issue 7

HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19, 2023

6:30 P.M. SOCIAL TIME

7:00 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

CHARTER HOUSE

NORTHVIEW ROOM, 3RD FLOOR

211 2ND ST NW

PROGRAM

ROCHESTER CIVIC THEATRE:

THE BIG COMEBACK!

SPEAKER

MISHA JOHNSON

RCT MANAGING DIRECTOR

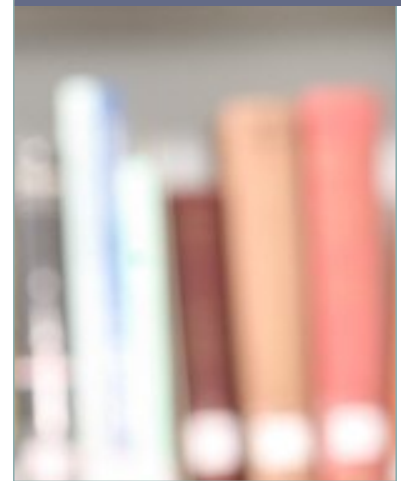
MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)
BRANCH



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about our April pro-
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For membership
renewal information.



MEMBERSHIP

For information,
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

PROGRAM

The Rochester Civic Theatre is alive and well in the hands of Misha Johnson, Managing Directory since 2021. With a new business model, RCT has pulled itself out of financial woes and revived since the pandemic to become a “true performing arts complex.”

Misha Johnson, a Mayo High School graduate, was a member of the Mayo Speech Team. After high school, while in Colorado taking some acting classes, Misha was sidetracked by theater and stayed in Colorado for college. She spend four years training in all aspects of theatre.

Misha returned to Rochester a few years ago when her mother was ill. Lucky for RCT and us, she found a new theatre home in Rochester and jumped in to direct “The Adddams Family” and “Shrek.” Please join us to learn about Misha’s interesting experiences along the way from Rochester to Colorado and back to Rochester.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

All branch members are invited to participate in any of the following groups. Please let the chair or discussion leader know in advance, if possible. Contact the chair, discussion leader, or host for additional meeting information.

BOARD MEETING—MONDAY, APRIL 3—7:00 PM

Location: Zoom. Board members: Notify Barb if you cannot attend.

President: Barb Knutsen 507-285-5122 (home); 507-535-9175 (cell); bknutsen45@gmail.com

READING PLUS—MONDAY, APRIL 3—9:00 AM

Book: **The Violin Conspiracy** by Brendan Slocumb

Leader and Host: Judy Argue

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

Chairs: Gay Segar (507-398-9899; hilltoplg@yahoo.com) and Mary Jo Kelly (507-282-7030, mjcroch@gmail.com)

WHO'S WHO—TUESDAY, APRIL 4—1:00 PM

Book: **River of Gods** by Candice Millard

Location: ZOOM

Chair: Chair: Joyce Wenz (joycewenz@yahoo.com)

BETWEEN THE LINES—DOES NOT MEET IN APRIL

Chair: Tjalda Nauta (617-797-5603; tjalda.nauta@gmail.com)

AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12—1:00 PM

Book: **The Midnight Library** by Matt Haig

Discussion Leader: Julie Troutman

Hostess: Katie Maguire 615 Memorial Parkway

Chairs: Judy Auger (judy_auger@msn.com, 282-7922) and Laura Martin (martin.laura@mac.com 289-7895)

WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12—1:30 PM

Book: **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society** by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Location: Nancy and Kay's at Homestead

Chair: Barbara Knutsen (507-535-9175; bknutsen45@gmail.com)

US FOREIGN POLICY —THURSDAY, APRIL 27 —1:00 PM

Nola will lead the discussion of Topic #6 in Great Decisions, "Famine: A renewed threat in the 21st century"

Location: ZOOM. Contact Sara for information

Chair: Sara Staab (507-261-9803 jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com)

READING WITH A PURPOSE—NO MEETING IN APRIL

Chair: Julie Caesar (288-9209; rstgardener@gmail.com)

Board Election

The election will be held at our April General meeting.

Here is the slate of nominees thus far for the positions that must be elected in odd-numbered years according to our Bylaws:

President Elect

Open

One Program VP

Maryette Braithwaite

One Membership VP

Jo Trachy

Treasurer

Judy Argue

Membership Treasurer

Julie Gilkinson

Public Policy Chair

Amy Caucutt

Nominations will be accepted

From the floor with the nominee's consent.

Please consider serving!

FROM THE PRESIDENT —

BARBARA KNUTSEN

Barbara Knutsen

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



I encourage all of you to attend our April General meeting. In addition to our interesting speaker, we will be having our annual meeting with election of board members. See the list of candidates included in this newsletter. Also, note that the office of President-elect remains open. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, with prior consent of the nominee.

Rochester AAUW will again be sponsoring a student to the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) to be held May 31-June 3. Our candidate this year, chosen by UMR, is Maimuna Aden. She is a second-year student interested in medicine and law “as many times healthcare has legal aspects to it.” We have received a grant from MN AAUW as well as the generous contributions received during the silent auction at the our March luncheon which will be used toward her registration and travel expenses.

The MN State Annual Conference will be held from 10-noon Saturday, April 29. All AAUW members may attend. In April, a registration form for members to indicate that they plan to attend the annual meeting via Zoom will be sent. Once a member's registration is received, a Zoom link, ID number and password to join the meeting given. Planned keynote presentations will be Betty Folliard, founder of ERAMN and former state legislator and Suzann Willhite, president of ERAMN. Live or recorded presentations are anticipated by Senators Tina Smith and Amy Klobuchar. A welcome from AAUW CEO Gloria Blackwell will be included.

AAUW FUNDS REPORT

The Silent Auction at the March Luncheon was a great success. Thank you to everyone who brought items and made donations. We raised \$450 for the NCCWSL scholarship our branch will use to send a UMR student to the leadership conference. —Sara Staab, AAUW Funds Vice-President

PUBLIC POLICY SPOTLIGHT

Many of us in Minnesota and around the country are working hard to ratify the 28th Amendment (ERA) to the US Constitution and pass an expansive ERA bill in the MN legislature (SF37 and HF173). AAUW has always been a strong supporter of ERA. We must keep the pressure on our MN legislators to bring ERA to the floor for a vote this session so that the voters can decide in the 2024 election to add this to our state's constitution. We want this to happen this year so that a campaign can be well organized and funded before 2024.

Go to Minnesota Legislature (mn.gov) link and you will find under both House and Senate, a "who represents me" button to click on to determine who is your rep and senator (you type in your address). Their emails will be supplied so that you can contact to urge their support and action. In case you have forgotten all the reasons we still need the ERA, please refer to a recent Star Tribune editorial by clicking on the link below and share it on your socials!

<https://www.startribune.com/ensure-equal-rights-for-women/600259871/?refresh=true> (@ERAMinnesota)

—Amy Caucutt, Public Policy Chair

Proposed Minnesota State Equal Rights Amendment:



"Equality under the law shall not be abridged or denied by this state or any of its cities, counties, or other political subdivisions on account of race, color, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, ancestry, or national origin."

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (2023-24)

Spring is coming and that means it is almost time to renew your membership in AAUW for the coming year. **Please try to get this done between April 3 and June 30th** (when your current membership expires)

Dues for 2023-2024 are **\$111** (\$30 local dues, \$9 tax-deductible state dues, and \$72 national dues **\$69 is tax deductible**).

You can renew online (this is National's preference). If you have an email address in the National AAUW registry, you will be sent a few reminders from National to renew that will have a link you can just click.

If you prefer, you may send a check made out to **AAUW Rochester** for \$111 to
Julie Gilkinson 812 29th St NW Rochester, MN 55901

*****Please include a note with your name, address, phone number and email address with your check so we can be sure our information is correct in our directory.**

National Life Members (our branch has 4- Emily Anderson, Shirley Edmonson, Beth Nienow & Bonnie Jean Palmen) you just owe for State (\$9) and local (\$30) dues.

Honorary Life Members (those members who have paid AAUW dues for 50 years; we now have 21) –you owe no dues, but donations are always gratefully received. We do appreciate hearing from you, so we confirm your address, phone number and email.

That information and any donations can be sent to Julie Gilkinson at the above address.

Thank You!

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Name _____

Address _____

Phone

Email _____

If not renewing online, please complete and mail with your check to Julie Gilkinson 812 29th St NW Rochester, MN 55901