

December 2023 / January 2024  
Volume 73, Issue 4



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH

# HIGHLIGHTS

THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS  
HAS INVITED US TO ATTEND  
THEIR HOLIDAY COFFEE

SATURDAY, DEC. 9 AT 10:00 A.M.

ST LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1884 22ND ST NW

PARKING LOT IN REAR OFF 20TH ST NW

THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL

MEETING IN DECEMBER OR

JANUARY

THE NEXT NEWSLETTER WILL BE  
FEBRUARY, 2024



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## Who is Amelia Witherstine and why would we want a statue of her in Rochester?

Born in 1861, Amelia Witherstine was the first woman elected to the Rochester School Board and a Women's Suffrage Amendment supporter. Guest speakers, Judy Hickey and Virginia Wright-Peterson, will share more about the effort to recognize this woman of importance in Rochester's history with a local statue. Statues For Equality is an international project created by sculpture artists Gillie and Marc with a purpose to increase the representation of women in statuary throughout the world.

Judy Hickey is executive director for the Greater Rochester Arts & Cultural Trust. Virginia Wright-Peterson is a local author and is providing historical research for the project. Together they will provide a fascinating look into our local history, the life of Amelia Witherstine, and why it's important to finally honor women in this public way.

### LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS-ROCHESTER

### STATUES FOR EQUALITY & HOLIDAY COFFEE

Saturday, December 9 from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 p.m.

Enjoy a variety of holiday baked goods and coffee, socialize with LWV members and supporters, and get to know Amelia Witherstine and the Statues for Equality Project.

### MEMBERSHIP

For information, please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DEC. & JAN.

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.

### BOARD MEETING—DECEMBER 4—7:00 PM (Zoom)

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

### READING WITH A PURPOSE—THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7—7:00 PM

Book: **The Girl Who Wrote in Silk** by Kelli Estes

Discussion Leader: Ione Schloegel

Host: Jo Trachy 2011 15th St NE

Discussion Leader: Julie Caesar

Chair: Julie Caesar (288-9209; [rstgardner@gmail.com](mailto:rstgardner@gmail.com))

January meeting: To Be Announced

### READING PLUS—MONDAY, DECEMBER 4—9:00 AM

Book: **The Ride of Her Life** by Elizabeth Letts

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

Discussion Leader: Kay Eberman

Chairs: Ruth Stroebel (507-271-3240; [ruthstroebel@yahoo.com](mailto:ruthstroebel@yahoo.com)) and Carol Hartley (916-712-8899; [chartley2@comcast.net](mailto:chartley2@comcast.net))

### READING PLUS—MONDAY, JANUARY 8—9:00 AM—ZOOM

Book: **Small Things Like These** by Claire Egan

Location: Zoom

Discussion Leader: Deb Ernster



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR DECEMBER & JANUARY CONTINUED

### WHO'S WHO—TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1:00—ZOOM

Book: **The Book of Gutsy Women** by Hillary Rodham Clinton and Chelsea Clinton  
Chair: Chair: Joyce Wenz ([joycewenz@yahoo.com](mailto:joycewenz@yahoo.com))

### BETWEEN THE LINES—NO DECEMBER MEETING

### AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13—1:00 PM

Book: **The Memory of an Elephant** by Alex Lasker  
Discussion Leader: Joyce Walker  
Host: Janet Richertt, 1183 Fox Hill Ct. SW 202-640-9756  
Chairs: Judy Auger ([judy\\_auger@msn.com](mailto:judy_auger@msn.com), 282-7922) and Laura Martin ([martin.laura@mac.com](mailto:martin.laura@mac.com) 289-7895)

### WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 13—1:30 PM

Book: **Moonrise Over New Jessup** by Jamila Minnicks  
Please phone 507-535-2176 if you can't be there  
Homestead—1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

### BETWEEN THE LINES—TUESDAY, JANUARY 9—1:00—ZOOM

Book: **Muppets in Moscow** by Kristin Hannah  
Discussion Leader: Sara Staab  
Co-chairs: Karen Krueger [brkck@charter.net](mailto:brkck@charter.net) and Pat Espeset [patespeset@gmail.com](mailto:patespeset@gmail.com)

### AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10—1:00 PM

Book: **The Reading List** by Sara Nisha Adams  
Discussion Leader: Judy Smithson  
Host: Marita Heller, Charter House, 358-7647  
Chairs: Judy Auger ([judy\\_auger@msn.com](mailto:judy_auger@msn.com), 282-7922) and Laura Martin ([martin.laura@mac.com](mailto:martin.laura@mac.com) 289-7895)

### WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10—1:30 PM

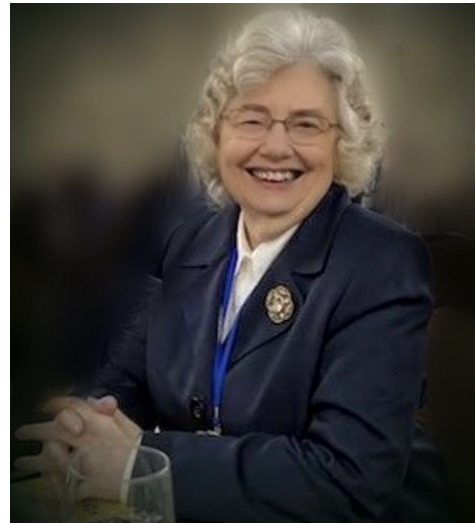
Book: **The Noticer** by Andy Andrews  
Please phone 507-535-2176 if you can't be there  
Homestead—1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

### US FOREIGN POLICY —THURSDAY, JANUARY 25 —1:00 PM

Topic: #4 Economic Warfare and US Policy  
ZOOM  
Chair: Sara Staab ([jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com))

**FROM THE  
PRESIDENT—  
BARBARA  
KNUTSEN**

Barbara Knutsen  
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507-285-5122  
507-535-9175 (cell)



We are well into the holiday season. It seems to come faster every year, with little chance to savor the moments that make it special. However you choose to celebrate, I hope it is a warm celebration with family and friends.

Please consider donating to AAUW Greatest Needs Fund as outlined in the Thanksgiving letter written by Sara Staab, our AAUW Funds chair.

Everyone is invited to learn about the Statues of Equality project on Saturday, December 6, at 10 a.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. This group, which includes several of our branch members, has chosen a woman to be honored with a statue in Rochester. Come learn about their selection and why she was chosen. The Holiday coffee is free and open to the public.

As we have done in the past, there will be no December or January general meetings. But mark your calendars for February when we will collaborate with the League of Women Voters and hear about the homelessness situation in Rochester. Because the weather conditions can cause challenging driving conditions that time of year, the League has offered to set up a Zoom meeting with us. Watch for details in the February newsletter.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

# SAVE THE DATE!



AAUW MN Annual Meeting

April 26-27, 2024

The Confluence Hotel

Hastings, MN

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### NEW MEMBER

Virginia Woodruff

[storymatters@charter.net](mailto:storymatters@charter.net)

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Pauline Krieger

22 45th Street NW

Apt 126

Rochester, MN 55901

### CORRECTION

Cheryl Davidson's phone number is 507-358-0224

Please update your Yearbooks

AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN 55902

**Web sites:**

National AAUW:

[www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org)

MN AAUW:

[aauwmn.net](http://aauwmn.net)

AAUW Rochester:

[www.facebook.com/  
AAUW-Rochester-  
Minnesota-](http://www.facebook.com/AAUW-Rochester-Minnesota-)

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You are receiving this e-mail as a member of the Rochester Branch of AAUW.

AAUW advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Our mailing address is

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