

April 2024  
Volume 73, Issue 6

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024

7:00 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

FAIRWAY RIDGE COOPERATIVE

3400 FAIRWAY RIDGE LN SW

PROGRAM

JEREMIAH PROGRAM:

GOOD NEWS UPDATE

SPEAKERS

LIZ DORN, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

KALLIE KIEFFER, DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Program.....	2
Calendar.....	3
Membership.....	4
From the President..	4
Spotlight.....	5





## APRIL PROGRAM:

### JEREMIAH PROGRAM—GOOD NEWS UPDATE

The Jeremiah program continues to transition and grow, with the campus supporting more families and taking on a Child Development Center. We will hear about the remarkable statistics of the number of families served, the percentage of moms pursuing a degree in the career track college education program, early childhood education and the 2024 scholarship recipients. Jeremiah program welcomes volunteers to help in many ways, one of which is in preparing monthly meals for moms and children. Ask about other opportunities and sign up for the monthly newsletter.

### A timely reminder



Dues for 2023-2024 are \$111 (\$30 local dues, \$9 state dues, and \$72 national dues) \$69 of the National dues amount + the \$9 for the State dues is tax deductible, so \$78 total.

~Julie Gilkinson, Membership Treasurer

# INTEREST GROUPS CALENDAR

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 1—7:00 PM**

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

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

## **READING PLUS- MONDAY, APRIL 1--9:00 AM**

Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Leader: Mary Jo Kelly Location: Zoom

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

## **WHO'S WHO--TUESDAY, APRIL 2—1 PM**

Book: *The Stories of My Life* by James Patterson

Chair: Joyce Wenz, 288-2977

## **BETWEEN THE LINES—NO MEETING IN APRIL**

May book is *Dust Child* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai

Co-chairs: Karen Krueger [brkck@charter.net](mailto:brkck@charter.net) and Pat Espeset [patespeset@gmail.com](mailto:patespeset@gmail.com)

## **AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10—1:00**

Book: *The Wind Knows My Name* by Isabel Allende

Host: Judy Auger, 978 Skyline Ln SW

Discussion Leader: Judy King

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 APRIL 10—1:30**

Book: *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben

Location: Homestead, 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Discussion Leader:

Chair: Mary Ann Kleis [makleis@aol.com](mailto:makleis@aol.com)

## **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, APRIL 25—1:00**

Nola will lead the discussion of Topic #1 The US and the Middle East. Zoom or in-person TBD. Anyone who is interested but isn't on the Foreign Policy email list can email Sara at [jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com) for information about the meeting.

## **READING WITH A PURPOSE—NO MEETING IN APRIL**

## MEMBERSHIP

For information,  
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-lawrence@charter.net

Or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

Trachy.jo@gmail.com



## FROM THE PRESIDENT —

### BARBARA KNUTSEN

Barbara Knutsen

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



HAPPY SPRING!?! Instead of April showers, we are experiencing snow showers as I write this. I hope this roller-coaster weather ends soon.

I am pleased to announce that our branch has been recognized in the 2023 Five Star Recognition Program. Every year AAUW's Five-Star National Recognition Program rewards branches for aligning their work with the AAUW strategic plan and initiatives that foster the mission of advancing gender equity for women and girls. The current program covers branch activities and programs from July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 (FY24). As a result of responses to the Branch Impact Survey, Rochester earned two of the five stars. In the Advancement category, we contributed to the Greatest Needs Fund, retained at least 80% of our membership, and sponsored a student to attend NCCWSL. In the Communications and External relations category, we have Beth Nienow to thank for updating our branch website and for our presence on Facebook.

Beginning April 3 members will be asked to vote on a national bylaws change of membership qualification. The AAUW Board of Directors and the Inclusion and Equity Committee both support the change to pass the bylaws amendment to open membership. They have stated, "our standing as a national organization that advances gender equity with a value of inclusion is at risk if we do not allow all who support our mission to join us. As AAUW has changed to adapt to the changing world, its membership requirements have changed to become more inclusive. This change would allow all who support our mission to stand with us."

One concern being addressed is "Won't we have to change our name? The answer is, "No. We'll be "AAUW." When asked "What's AAUW?", say you are part of a national membership organization that works for gender equity, then describe your local projects and events. There is no need to use each word from the acronym.

Members will receive emails from [vote@simplyvoting.com](mailto:vote@simplyvoting.com) with their unique Elector ID and Password to vote. All members without an email address on file will receive a paper ballot by mail. No additional paper ballots will be sent during the voting period. Voting will close on Wednesday, May 15 at 12:00 pm ET.

Remember that our branch annual meeting is Wednesday, April 17 when we will vote on the board positions of one membership vice president, secretary, AAUW Funds chair, and one membership vice president. Nominations will be accepted from the floor, providing the nominee has given permission. We may also have an update on our scholarship for a UMR student.

# 95TH AAUW OF MINNESOTA ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 26 – 27, 2024

CONFLUENCE = INCLUSION, COLLABORATION, EMPOWERMENT

## REGISTRATION

Registration should be postmarked by MARCH 31, 2024 but late registrations may still be accepted. The Registration form is available on the AAUW MN website and in the Winter 2024 Pine.

## AGENDA

### Friday

2:00 pm Registration Opens

3:00 pm The City of Hastings Tour of City Hall, walk the river trail, shop downtown, see Vermillion Falls

5:00 pm Social Hour, Cash Bar, Bid on Silent Auction Items

5:45 pm Buffet Dinner

6:30 pm Suzann Willhite, ERAMN Co-Founder and President Emeritus

7:00 pm Keynote Speaker, Megan Peterson, Executive Director, Gender Justice

8:00 pm Continue Social Hour, Bid on Silent Auction Items

### Saturday

7:30 am Registration Reopens 7:30 am Breakfast

8:30 am Welcome from Hastings Branch President Lisa Hedin and Mayor Mary Fasbender, Flag Ceremony featuring active Military and Veteran women, and Welcome from AAUW MN President Jan Carey

9:00 am Business Meeting

10:15 am Break

10:30 am Business Meeting

11:00 am Keynote Speaker, Professor Karen Kedrowski, Iowa State University

12:00 pm Buffet Lunch 12:30 pm Congresswoman Angie Craig Video (MN 2nd District)

1:00 pm Michelle Witte, Executive Director, League of Women Voters of Minnesota

1:30 pm Closing of Silent Auction

1:45 pm Hastings Panel of Women Entrepreneurs, Jan Hertel-Moderator

2:30 pm Closing Remarks

The program is subject to include brief, pre-recorded video statements by Sen. Tina Smith, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, U.S. House Rep. Betty McCollum, and MN Lt. Gov. Peggy Flanagan.

**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-)

Copyright 2022 American Association of University Women. All rights reserved.

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 newsletter mailing address is

AAUW Rochester MN

626 Gates LN SW

Rochester, MN 55902

Rochester branch email

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

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**April 26-27, 2024**

## **AAUW MN ANNUAL MEETING**

**“Confluence = Inclusion, Collaboration, Empowerment”**

**The Confluence Hotel & Conference Center**

**Hastings, MN**

**Keynote speakers presenting the issues of the day alongside  
AAUW Mission-based Advocacy.**



**MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW! VISIT <https://aauw-mn.aauw.net/> and AAUW MN FB**