

May 2024  
Volume 73, Issue 7

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

5:30 SOCIAL TIME & BOOK SALE

6:15 DINNER

ROCHESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

WINGED FOOT II ROOM

(USE BANQUET ENTRANCE)

PROGRAM

WHERE POETRY IS HIDING

SPEAKER

JEAN PROKOTT, ROCHESTER POET LAUREATE

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH



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## May Dinner Menu:

Grilled Salmon, Tropical Fruit Relish, Asparagus, Rice Pilaf

Seared Chicken, Tropical Fruit Relish, Asparagus, Rice Pilaf

Roasted Potato Gnocchi, Vegetables, Herbs

All meals come with garden salad

**PLEASE RSVP BY MAY 1.** Mail a check designating your menu choice (Salmon, Chicken, or Gnocchi), made to the order of AAUW for \$44 to Judy Argue, 1955 Hadley Creek Drive NE, Rochester, MN 55906

## MAY PROGRAM: WHERE POETRY IS HIDING

**Jean Prokott**, Rochester's poet laureate, has a teaching career of over 15 years. She now teaches at Century High School. She has designed original curriculum for over ten courses including Philosophy, Creative Writing, Literature, History of Film, and American Literature. Jean is the recipient of two scholarships from National Endowment for the Humanities: these are Philosophers of Education at Boston University and John Steinbeck at Stanford. She is a graduate of Minnesota State University Mankato's MFA program and has an MS in education from Winona State University.

Her poetry collection *The Second Longest Day of the Year* won the Howling Bird Press Book Prize (Howling Bird Press). She is the author of the chapbook *The Birthday Effect* (Black Sunflowers Press), is a recipient of the AWP Intro Journals Award, and of the John Calvin Rezmerski Memorial Grand Prize with the League of Minnesota Poets. She has poetry and nonfiction published in *Verse Daily*, *Rattle*, and *Arts & Letters*, and elsewhere.

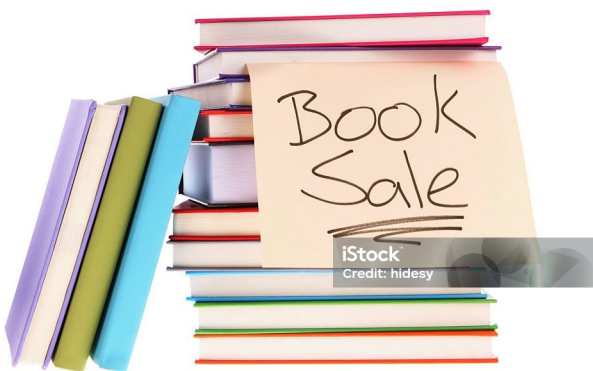
## Rochester Branch Annual Book Sale

The Rochester Branch Annual Book Sale for 2024 will be held at 5:30 p.m. before the May 15<sup>th</sup> dinner and general meeting. To make this book sale successful, we need your contributions of new and/or gently-used **hardcover and paperback books**. Please use this occasion to donate your favorite books from book group selections or individual reading. Place books on the designated tables when you arrive.

This is your chance to find some good summer reading! After choosing books, give whatever \$ amount you want in the donation baskets.

**After the meeting, please take home your donated books that didn't sell.**

Nancy Brubaker  
Finance Chair



## 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, MAY 6—7:00 PM**

In-person meeting at Fairway Ridge social room. 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, MAY 6--9:00 AM**

Book: *The Covenant of Water* by Abraham Verghese  
Leader: Carol Hartley  
Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church  
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)

### **WHO'S WHO--NO MEETING IN MAY**

June 4 book: *A Woman of No Importance* by Sonia Purnell  
August 6 book: *Varina* by Charles Frazier  
Chair: Joyce Wenz, 288-2977

### **BETWEEN THE LINES—TUESDAY, MAY 7—1:00 PM**

Book: *Dust Child* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai  
Leader Julie Gilkinson  
Co-chairs: Karen Krueger [brkck@charter.net](mailto:brkck@charter.net) and Pat Espeset [patespeset@gmail.com](mailto:patespeset@gmail.com)

### **AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, MAY 8—1:00 PM**

Book: *How Civil Wars Start and How to Stop Them* by Barbara F. Walter  
Host: Sharon Rosen, 292-7815, 3101 Tremont 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, MAY 8—1:30 PM**

Book: *The Last Life Boat* by Hazel Gaynor  
Location: Homestead, 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308  
Discussion Leader: Nancy Kampmeier  
Chair: Mary Ann Kleis [makleis@aol.com](mailto:makleis@aol.com)

### **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, MAY 23—1:00**

Sara will lead the discussion of Topic #6, Indonesia. 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. The next meeting will be in September.

### **READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, MAY 22 —2:-00 PM**

Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks  
Leader: Jo Trachy  
Host: Rosemary Bradshaw, 2205 2nd St SW Apt 233  
Chair: Julie Caesar (288-9209) [rstgardener@gmail.com](mailto:rstgardener@gmail.com)

### **READING PLUS- MONDAY, JUNE 3--9:00 AM**

Book: *Dust Child* by Nguyen Phan Que Mai  
Leader: Tjalda Nauta  
Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church  
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)

### **BETWEEN THE LINES—TUESDAY, JULY 2—1:00 PM**

Book: *Mad Honey* by Jodi Picoult  
Leader Kay Eberman  
Co-chairs: Karen Krueger [brkck@charter.net](mailto:brkck@charter.net) and Pat Espeset [patespeset@gmail.com](mailto:patespeset@gmail.com)

## 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)



As we look back on another year of AAUW, there are many highlights to reflect on. In September we were invited to the restored historic Chateau Theater where we learned how it will serve the Rochester arts community. Our speaker in November was Catharine Richert, local MPR reporter and the daughter of one of our new members. We had a successful collaboration with the League of Women Voters for an informative discussion on low cost housing in Rochester. We heard from two teachers who offer innovative classroom experiences for their students, one at UMR and another from Folwell, recipient of the Mayor's Educational Excellence Award. We ended the year with an update on the Jeremiah program and another Rochester award winner, Jean Prokott, poet laureate.

Based on responses from the National AAUW Branch Impact Survey, our branch achieved two stars in the Five Star Recognition program in Advancement & Communications and External Relations.

Based on the nomination by Sara Staab, a Rochester high school student was awarded the Young Woman for Equity Award given by MN AAUW. Congratulations to Isha Kapoor. Read about her achievements on p. 5.

Once again we will sponsor a student leader to attend the National Conference for College Student Leaders, (NCCWSL) to be held near Washington, DC at the end of May. Hopefully, we will be able to meet UMR student Heidi Nguyen at an upcoming general meeting.

Our biggest achievement this year was the enthusiastic response to the suggestion made by Wendy Shannon and Marilyn Stewart for the Rochester branch to establish a UMR scholarship in perpetuity. In just a few months we were able to raise the funds to endow a \$25,000 scholarship for a female student at UMR. The details of the criteria for receiving this scholarship will be finalized sometime this summer by Nancy Brubaker, Lucy Bahn, and Beth Nienow meeting with Lindsey Hemker, Director of Development at UMR.

I look forward to another exciting year beginning in September. I hope you will join us by renewing your membership either online or by sending a check to Julie Gilkinson, membership treasurer. Have a wonderful summer.

#### CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEW UMR SCHOLARSHIP!

To send a donation through check or donor-advised fund or IRA distribution, please use the following fund number/name and address.

2901-AAUW Rochester Branch Endowed Scholarship

Address:

University of Minnesota Foundation

PO Box 860266

Minneapolis, MN 55486



### YOUNG WOMEN FOR EQUITY AWARD WINNER

ISHA KAPOOR

Isha is a student at Mayo High School where she is Co-Chair of the Mayo High School Equity Team. She is the founder of STEMGlow (Guided Learning for Girls of Color), and Founder/Chief Blogger for STEMMirror where she conducts interviews with female leaders in STEM to gain insights on barriers to pursuing STEM careers for women and to learning practical tips on seeking mentorship for students interested in STEM.

STEMGlow and STEMMirror were founded based on advocacy for young girls/women, to encourage them to pursue STEM-related passions and to showcase the obstacles that females often face in the STEM space. STEMGlow is the 1st STEM mentorship program for girls of color in Isha's school district. They provide research mentors, coach 50+ middle and elementary school students, and cover science fair participation costs for low-income students. This program was piloted at John Adams Middle School for the 2023-2024 school year.

The impact of STEMGlow and STEMMirror has been significant. In 2024, through the help of STEMGlow, around 25-30 John Adams students enrolled in the STEM mentorship program qualified for the MN State Science Fair, several of whom placed at both the regional and state science fair levels. The STEMMirror blog has over 2000 total hits, and it is presently used in schools across the state of Minnesota to educate the younger generation about existing inequities in STEM, especially across the gender divide. Isha will be presented with a certificate and a check for \$500 at the AAUW MN Meeting. Isha was nominated by Sara Staab.

Congratulations, Isha! We are so proud of you!

### PARADE!

The League of Women Voters has a spot in the Rochesterfest Parade on June 29th and would like to invite AAUW members to join in the fun. Participants can ride in the trolley or walk the route. We will be promoting the momentous Votes for Women Campaign leading up to 1920 and the 19th Amendment. Dress in white and consider a period style costume or large straw hat. "Votes for Women" sashes and banners will be provided.

More details will be available later. There are only 30 seats available on the trolley, so LWV will need to know how many to expect.

Contact Amy Caucutt if you are interested.

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



## TIME TO RENEW

It is now time for most of us to renew our membership for 2024-25. The AAUW fiscal year ends June 30th and your current AAUW membership expires then. If you joined later in the year, then your renewal date is not June 30.

I hope you are interested in showing your support for AAUW by renewing your membership. We have had some wonderful programs this year & I know there were many good books discussed.

Dues for 2024-2025 are still **\$111.00** (\$30 local dues, \$9 state dues, and \$72 national dues **\$78 is tax deductible**).

Send a check made out to **AAUW Rochester** for \$111.00 to  
**Julie Gilkinson 812 29<sup>th</sup> 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 yearbook/directory.

You can renew online if you have an email address in the National AAUW registry and know your current password. Log into [aauw.org](http://aauw.org) and go to your Personal Snapshot. Update any out-of-date info. Then Click RENEW. Click on **National** for the type of membership you want. Then add a state & branch membership (**MN6031**). Follow the payment instructions. Alternatively, National should send you a couple reminders (in April & May) about renewing that will have a link you can just click and then pay with a credit card.

\*\*\* Please let me know if you renew online as National won't inform me for another month.

Thanks,  
Julie Gilkinson, Membership treasurer

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