

October, 2024  
Volume 74, Issue 2



ROCHESTER (MN)  
BRANCH

# HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW GENERAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2024

7:00 P.M. MEETING & PROGRAM

CHARTER HOUSE

NORTHVIEW ROOM

3RD FLOOR

PROGRAM: ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
2024 REFERENDUM

SPEAKER: SUPERINTENDENT KENT PEKEL

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



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For important information about updating your Yearbook directory listing!



# Referendum

## MEMBERSHIP

For information,  
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-  
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

## OCTOBER PROGRAM: ROCHESTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2024 REFERENDUM

We invite you to our meeting with Dr. Kent Pekel to get the facts about the Rochester Public Schools 2024 Referendum.

As part of the general election on November 5, RPS District voters will consider a proposal to increase the school operating levy per pupil annually. This investment would raise revenue for ten years to help protect staffing levels, class sizes, and student programs and services. Without additional funding, the district will be forced to make major cuts that would impact all students.

RPS is at a crossroads. This is a huge decision for RPS district voters.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Wednesday, November 20, 5:30 p.m. Dinner and meeting at Rochester Golf & Country Club. Speaker: Dr. Joanina Gicobi



## 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, OCTOBER 7—7:00 PM.**

Barb will send out Zoom information prior to the meeting.

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

### **READING PLUS- MONDAY, OCTOBER 7--9:00 AM**

Book: *Virgil Wander* by Leif Enger

Leader: Ruth

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--TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1—1:00**

Book: *The Revolutionary Samuel Adams* by Stacy Schiff

Location: Zoom

Chair: Joyce Wenz ([joycewenz@yahoo.com](mailto:joycewenz@yahoo.com))

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

Chair: Pat Espeset [patespeset@gmail.com](mailto:patespeset@gmail.com)

### **AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9--1:00**

Book: *The Outside Boy*

Host: Lynn Torsher/Ginny Arey 1403 Weather Hill Ridge Ct SW 507-287-0631

Discussion Leader: Lynn Torsher

Chair: Judy Auger ([judy\\_auger@msn.com](mailto:judy_auger@msn.com), 282-7922)

### **WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16—1:30**

Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Location: 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Leader: Nancy Kampmeier 507-535-2176

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

### **READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23—2:00 PM**

Book: *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk* by Kathleen Rooney

Host: Ione Schloegel, 2837 Wellington Lane SW

Discussion Leader: Ione Schloegel

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

### **U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24—1:00 ZOOM**

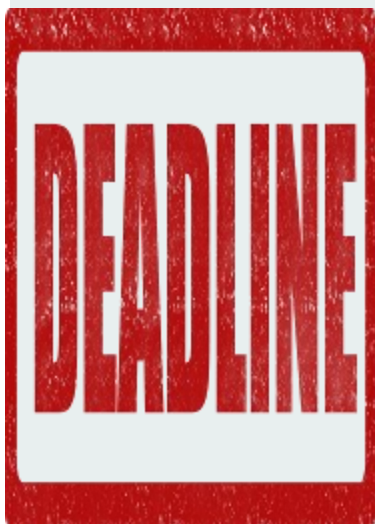
Fran Field will lead the discussion on Great Decisions topic 3 “Risky Science Across Borders.” Group members PLEASE be prepared to lead a discussion at the November or January meeting.

YEARBOOK DEADLINE

## IMPORTANT!

The Yearbook deadline is October 15th to send your corrections or changes to Kathy Lawrence  
kathy-lawrence@charter.net.

You can also call Kathy at 285-9331.



## FROM THE PRESIDENT — BARBARA KNUTSEN

Barbara Knutsen  
bknutsen45@gmail.com  
507-285-5122  
507-535-9175 (cell)



I attended the historical play, “A Time for Women: 150 Years of Leadership” in Lanesboro. It is the story of the suffrage movement illustrated by actresses portraying women activists from southeast Minnesota and Minneapolis. They fought for women both locally and nationally. Sarah Stearns from Rochester worked hard with the MN legislature to pass a constitutional amendment for women to vote beginning in 1867. In 1920, Tennessee was the 36<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment, resulting in the 2/3 majority needed, and the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment was ratified.

Now we are waiting on the ratification of the ERA. Congress has delayed passing the ERA amendment to the national constitution. AAUW will again be supporting the ERA amendment to the MN constitution. We will work with legislators to vote in favor of having the amendment placed on the ballot for MN voters to approve.

Unfortunately, the fight for women’s rights and equality is not over. The 2024 elections matter. This fight isn’t just about one issue – it’s about the foundation of our lives and our futures. Therefore, I urge you to vote for the candidates this year who will continue to support women.

**VOTE!**

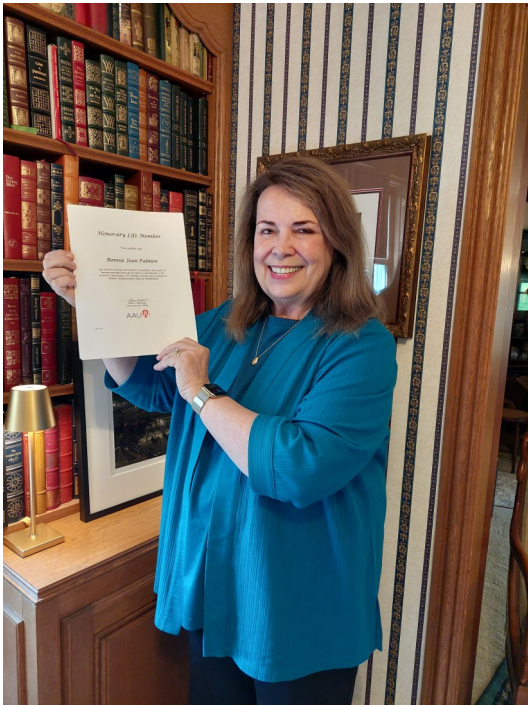
**AUDIT REPORT:** The audit of the financial status of the Rochester Branch AAUW for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024 has been completed. Based upon my review of the financial records and supporting documents submitted by the treasurer and membership treasurer, it appears that the annual financial report properly shows the branch’s financial status.

Barbara L. Swart, Auditor (507-289-5846)

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

## Honorary Life Member:

### Bonnie Jean Palmen



Proudly displaying her certificate confirming 50 years of membership, Bonnie Jean shares, "I have loved AAUW for half a century. I was not always able to participate fully but one of the things I have loved most is how it has brought me together with so many wonderful women."

## RETURNING MEMBER:

### Marge Henderson

I started my AAUW career in 1963 in Ames, Iowa right after college graduation. I was not able to be very active in this branch because I had a set of twin boys born and a husband who needed to study and was not available for babysitting duty. We next moved to Rochester (1965-1967) for Jim to complete a residency in Pathology. At that time AAUW met at the Foundation House which was always a treat. We next moved to Winston-Salem, NC (1967-1969), Seattle, WA (1969-1972), and St. Paul, MN (1972-1983). St Paul had its own club house and members met all day, every Tuesday. Because they had their own nursery, my fourth son and I spent every Tuesday at the AAUW Club House. The last forty-one years (1983-2024) we have been in Milwaukee, WI. I joined the North Shore Milwaukee branch and have held many positions on the board.



I was Treasurer for thirteen years, President three different times, on the State Board for six years and every other position that no one else would fill! I was awarded Honorary Life Time status in 2013. I have now made a complete circle as I am once again back to the Rochester branch.

Every branch I have joined has been very different, but all had one thing in common; the many wonderful women I have met and the many fun events I have attended.

AAUW ROCHESTER

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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.

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