

May, 2025
Volume 74, Issue 8

HIGHLIGHTS

AAUW DINNER MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21

5:30 SOCIAL TIME & USED BOOK SALE

6:15 DINNER

CHARTER HOUSE

CITY VIEW ROOM

22ND FLOOR

DODGE COUNTY, INCORPORATED

SPEAKER: SONJA TROM EAYRS

ROSEMARY BRADSHAW 507-226-3945

MARYETTE BRAITHWAITE 507-993-4162

PROGRAM VICE PRESIDENTS



ROCHESTER (MN)
BRANCH



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SEE P. 2

For dinner reservation
instructions.



To make your dinner reservation,
please send a check for \$20 made out
to AAUW to

Rosemary Bradshaw

Apt 233

2205 Second St SW

Rochester, MN 55902

Contact Rosemary for more
information

shawschad@yahoo.com

507-226-3945 (call or text)

DEADLINE MAY 17

Indicate menu choice on check memo line

MEMBERSHIP

For information,
please contact

Kathy Lawrence

507-285-9331

kathy-
lawrence@charter.net

or

Jo Trachy

507-269-0091

Dodge County, Inc.

Sonja Trom Eayrs, author of *Dodge County, Incorporated: Big Ag and the Undoing of Rural America*, is a farmer's daughter, rural advocate, and attorney. For generations, the Trom family has farmed in Dodge County, Minnesota. Sonja recounts her family's litigation against Dodge County officials and neighboring hog operators to prevent construction of yet another industrial-size swine factory farm in the immediate area. She weaves her family's struggle to fight corporate injustices in rural America with the larger story of corporate livestock production in the United States.

Dodge County is a finalist for the Minnesota Book Awards, nonfiction category and has received enthusiastic reviews from Kirkus, Booklist, and others, as well as blurbs from Senator Cory Booker, authors Corban Addison and Christopher Leonard, Humane Society president Kitty Block, and others.

Sonja is involved in several rural advocacy organizations, including the Socially Responsible Agriculture Project, Farm Action, Land Stewardship Project, and Dodge County Concerned Citizens. She also serves as the business manager for the Trom family farm in Dodge County.

USED BOOK SALE

We will have a used book sale at our May dinner meeting. Please bring books to sell and your checkbook or cash to buy books. As we have done recently, there won't be a set price for the books—pay what you wish. Donations are also welcome if you don't bring or buy any books.

At the end of the meeting, please take home any books you bring that haven't been sold.

This year, the money raised will go to the new Higher Education Fund that AAUW has established. —Sara Staab



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.

READING PLUS—MONDAY, MAY 5---9:00 AM

Book: *Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride

Leader: Mary Jo Kelly

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

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

BOARD MEETING—MONDAY, MAY 5—7:00 PM.

The board will meet in person at Fairway Ridge

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

BETWEEN THE LINES—TUESDAY MAY 6—1:00 PM—ZOOM

Book: *James* by Percival Everett

Chair: Karen Krueger brkck@charter.net

AFTERNOON READING—WEDNESDAY, MAY 14—1:00

Book: *The Women* by Kristen Hannah

Discussion Leader: Holly Ebel;

Host: Nancy Brubaker, Charter House

Chair: Judy Auger (judy_auger@msn.com, 282-7922)

WORDS WORTH—WEDNESDAY, MAY 14—1:30

Book: *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

Location: 1900 Ballington Blvd NW #308

Leader: Mary Ann Kleis

No meetings planned for June, July, August.

Read *An Unfinished Love Story* by Doris Kearns Goodwin to discuss in September when

Chair: Mary Ann Kleis makleis@aol.com 507-251-4741

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY—THURSDAY, MAY 22—1:00

Topic: #2 The Evolution of U.S. Leadership in the Global Economy: Dilemmas and Choices

Location: Kay and Nancy's apartment at Homestead

Chair: Sara Staab jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com

No meetings planned for June, July, August

Continued on page 6

Board of Directors

2025-2026

President-Elect

OPEN!

Program VPs

Maryette Braithwaite

Rosemary Bradshaw

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Kathy Lawrence

Jo Trachy

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Carol Hartley

Membership Treasurer

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Amy Caucutt

AAUW Funds Chair

Sara Staab



FROM THE PRESIDENT —

BARBARA KNUTSEN

bknutsen45@gmail.com

507-285-5122

507-535-9175 (cell)



Thanks to our enterprising program vice presidents, Maryette and Rosemary, we again enjoyed a year of informative programming. In **September**, our speaker told of Mayo Clinic's Bold, Forward, Unbound initiative. In **October**, Rochester school superintendent spoke about the Rochester School Referendum that was on the ballot in the fall. Our **November** speaker came to the United States from Kenya to go to college and earn her Ph.D. at Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences in May, 2024. She is doing post doctoral research in Cancer Immunology and Immunotherapy Program. In **February**, Three representatives from NAWIC (National Association of Women in Construction) SE Minnesota introduced us to their personal roles in the construction world. With a variety of education choices, they each "climbed the construction ladder." In **March**, Kim Norton, Mayor of Rochester and Judy Hickey spoke about Statues for Equality, a global movement to balance the gender and racial representation in public art one statue at a time. In **April**, Toni Manskau, a social worker who is a lifelong advocate and volunteer helping those who suffer from bullying, injustice, homelessness, family medical problems, mental illness, chemical dependency, and other issues addressed us. She was a determined campaigner for the paid family and medical leave bill that passed in the MN legislature in 2023. And in **May**, an attorney and rural advocate will speak about how American livestock farming has been wrested from small family farmers and transformed into corporate control of meat production and pricing.

In addition to our programs, Rochester was recognized for nominating the winning candidate for the Young Women for Equity Award. Kathleen Thompson was awarded \$1,000 from the AAUW MN for her role in leading a program at the University of North Dakota introducing young girls to an aeronautics career.

We will again be sponsoring a woman student leader from UMR to this year's North Central Conference of Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Hopefully she will be able to attend one of our fall meetings to tell us about her experiences.

This fall we will meet the recipient of our AAUW scholarship at UMR.

Long-time member, Marilyn Stewart, was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Minnesota for her lifelong commitment to public service and for advocating for a new campus of the University of Minnesota in Rochester.

Be sure to attend our May meeting at Charter House to hear highlights from the AAUW MN Annual meeting and to learn the honorees of our Named Grants. Have a wonderful summer. Be sure to renew your membership so that you can continue to enjoy all our wonderful programs and the benefits of being an AAUW member promoting equity for women and girls.

SPOTLIGHT: Kathleen Thompson Young Women for Equity Award Winner



Kathleen Thompson of Rochester is this year's recipient of AAUW Minnesota's Young Women for Equity Award. A 2022 Century High School graduate, Kathleen is currently a junior in the University of North Dakota Honors Program, double majoring in Commercial Aviation and Aviation Safety. She is a commercial pilot, team member and Vice President of the UND Aerobatic Team.

She is also an accomplished pianist and organist, recently winning at both UND and Fargo Piano Concerto competitions. In 2022, she won first place in the Senior Piano Division in Rochester Music Guild's Scholarship Competition. She serves as staff organist at United Lutheran in Grand Forks.

Kathleen was honored for her leadership role in organizing a Girls in Aviation Day event at the Fargo Air Museum in Fargo. She was inspired by attending a similar event as a young girl. She writes, "I was one of those little Minnesota girls who attended this event, where among other activities, I met a female black hawk pilot and sat in her helicopter. So, I was delighted when the opportunity came to lead and pay it forward in 2024 with the UND Women in Aviation International (WAI) chapter of which I am a student member. Growing up a non-aviator family, if it was not for an event like this to open my eyes, to dream and meet other women in the profession, I would not be where I am today."

Empowering girls to pursue aerospace related careers despite being underrepresented in the industry aligns with the AAUW mission statement to advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, and research.

Congratulations, Kathleen!

AAUW ROCHESTER

626 GATES LN SW

ROCHESTER, MN
55902

Web sites:

National AAUW:

www.aauw.org

MN AAUW:

aauwmn.net

AAUW Rochester:

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

READING WITH A PURPOSE—WEDNESDAY, MAY 28—2:00 PM

Book: *The Lincoln Highway* by Amor Towlews

Host: Ione Schloegel, 2837 Wellington Lane SW

Discussion Leader: Jo Trachy

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

READING PLUS- MONDAY, JUNE 2--9:00 AM

Book: *The Measure* by Nikki Erlick.

Leader: Betty Danielson

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

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

WHO'S WHO—TUESDAY, JUNE 3—9:00 AM

Book: *In Full Flight: One Woman's Quest for Atonement in Africa* by
John Heminway

Location: Zumbro Lutheran Church

Chair: Joyce Wenz (joycewenz@yahoo.com)

BETWEEN THE LINES—TUESDAY JULY 8—1:00 PM

Book: *Horse* by Geraldine Brooks

Location: Zoom

Chair: Karen Krueger brkck@charter.net

Funds raised from our used book sale will be donated to AAUW's
Defend Higher Education Fund.

4513 - Defend Higher Education

The Defend Higher Education Fund will enable AAUW to elevate the critical higher education issues impacting women, mobilize advocates across the country, provide strategic resources to students, staff and faculty on campus, and fuel investments in the infrastructure and technology necessary to move our mission forward. Your support ensures AAUW can effectively fight on behalf of women on campuses across the country and ensure that AAUW remains a trusted and powerful voice for equity.

AAUW Rochester
626 Gates Ln SW
Rochester, MN 55902



ROCHESTER (MN)
BRANCH

AAUW MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL (2025-2026)

Now is the time for most of us to renew our membership. Please try to renew by June 30th when your current membership expires. If you joined later in the year, then your renewal date will be different, or a year from when you joined.

Dues for 2025-2026 are \$113.00 (\$30 local dues, \$9 state dues, \$74 national dues). State and national dues are tax deductible.

You can renew online (this is National's preference) and if you have an email address in the National AAUW registry, you will receive reminders from National that will have a link you can just click. You should have received the email the last week of April.

If you prefer, I'm glad to handle your renewal. Just send me a check.

Make the check payable to AAUW Rochester for \$113.00 and mail to:

Julie Gilkinson, 812 29th Street 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 2 – Cheryl Davidson and Beth Nienow 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 23) owe no dues, but donations are welcome. We appreciate confirmation of your correct address, phone number and email. That information and any donations can be mailed to Julie Gilkinson at the above address.

I hope you are interested in showing your support for AAUW by renewing your membership!

Thank You!

_____ ✂ _____
Name _____
Address _____
Phone # _____
Email _____

Please complete and mail with your check to Julie Gilkinson, 812 29th Street NW, Rochester, MN 55901

