



**FEBRUARY 2018**

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## **ROCHESTER AAUW HIGHLIGHTS**

### **GENERAL MEETING**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018**

**10 AM Charter House, Edwards Hall**

Program: Miriam "Duchess" Harris, Ph.D, J.D.

Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA

Professor Harris is the Chair of the American Studies Department at Macalester College. She co-authored the book [Hidden Human Computers: The Black Women of NASA](#), telling the story of how women like her grandmother, Miriam Mann, were recruited to work as engineers for still-segregated NASA in the 1940s. The human computers made critical contributions to NASA by performing mathematical calculations that made the Mercury and Apollo programs successful and made it possible for John Glenn to orbit Earth in 1962.

Professor Harris was a Mellon Fellow at the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated in 1991 with a degree in American History and Afro-American Studies. Six years later she earned a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Minnesota. She did postdoctoral fellowships at the Institute on Race and Poverty at the Minnesota Law School and at the Womanist Studies Consortium at the University of Georgia. In 1998, Harris joined the faculty at Macalester College. She became the first Chair of American Studies Department in 2003, and was granted tenure in 2004. With the desire to expand her education, in 2007, Harris decided to attend law school. In 2009, she won a fellowship from the Bush Leadership Program, which encourages their recipients to create positive change in their communities. In 2010, she enhanced the William Mitchell College of Law's community and created positive change as the first Editor-in-Chief of Law Raza Journal, an interactive on-line race and the law journal. Professor Harris earned a Juris Doctorate in February 2011, and has expertise in Civil Rights Law. In 2015, The Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers chose her to receive "The Profiles in Courage Award."

**FEBRUARY 16** - An additional opportunity to meet our speaker, Duchess Harris. Professor Harris is coming to Rochester on Friday, February 16, and will stay in guest accommodations at Charter House. She will be the dinner guest of Kay Batchelder at Charter House. After dinner there will be a "meet & greet" from 7 - 8 p.m. in the Silver Lake Room on the 22nd floor. Please come if it works in your schedule.

Maryette Braithwaite (282-6753) and Diane Hellie (398-6329)  
Program Vice Presidents

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**—Sara Staab

In the midst of all the coverage of sexual harassment and “misconduct”, continuing examples of pay inequality, and worry over potential backlash against efforts for equality for women, I recommend two pages from the national AAUW website. They list many AAUW accomplishments from last year and “resolutions” to continue the efforts in 2018:

<https://www.aauw.org/2017/12/11/action-activism-advancement-a-year-with-aauw>

<https://www.aauw.org/2017/12/29/7-feminist-resolutions-for-2018>

One of the resolutions listed is to encourage young women to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL). Our branch is in the process of arranging to sponsor a young woman from UMR for the conference in May, using money from our Community Projects Fund and a grant from AAUW of MN.

Keep up the good work!

Sara Staab, branch president  
[507-261-9803](tel:507-261-9803), [jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com)

**MEMBERSHIP**

15 month memberships for new members are available March 15. The dues will be \$88 which includes the \$10 National dues increase.

Contact Diane Neumann [507-951-9144](tel:507-951-9144) or Jo Trachy [507-282-0907](tel:507-282-0907) if you would like a membership package sent to a friend.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

If there is a particular continuing Interest group meeting that appeals to you, please do not hesitate to come! Please let the chair know in advance, if possible.

All members are invited to participate in any of the following groups.

**READING PLUS — MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – 9:15 AM**

Book: “The Summer Before the War” by Helen Simonson

Discussion Leader: Naomi Atrubin

Hostess: TBD

Chair: Judy Argue (269-0673) and Deb Ernster (285-0544)

**BOARD MEETING — MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5 – 7:00 PM**

The board will meet at the Rochester Public Library in Conference Room B.

Please call Sara Staab ([jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com](mailto:jeff.sara.staab@gmail.com), [507-261-9803](tel:507-261-9803)) if you cannot attend.

**WHO'S WHO — TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6 – 1:00 PM**

Book: "Hero of the Empire" by Candice Millard

Discussion Leader: Joyce Wenz, 1414 Stoppel Lane SW (288-2977)

Co-chairs: Alice Laudon (289-3592) and Nancy Grubbs (288-5840)

**BETWEEN THE LINES — DOES NOT MEET IN FEBRUARY**

Chair: Tjalda Nauta ([617-797-5603](tel:617-797-5603))

**AFTERNOON READING — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14 – 1:00 PM**

Book: "A Gentleman in Moscow" by Amor Towles

Discussion Leader: Laura Kor

Hostess & Dessert: Laura Martin, 3928 Autumn Lake Court (289-7895)

Please contact hostess if unable to attend.

Chairs: Judy Auger (282-7922, [judy\\_auger@msn.com](mailto:judy_auger@msn.com)) & Laura Martin (289-7895, [martin.laura@mac.com](mailto:martin.laura@mac.com))

**WORDS WORTH — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14– 1:30 PM**

Book: "The Perfect Horse" by Elizabeth Letts

Discussion Leader and Hostess: Dorothy Gores, [1586 Salem Ct. SW](tel:507-529-2921) (529-2921)

Chair: Barbara Knutsen (285-5122)

**U.S. FOREIGN POLICY — THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – 1:00 PM**

The topic will be "The Waning of Pax Americana" from the 2018 Great Decisions. Nancy and Kay will lead the discussion and hostess at [1900 Ballington Blvd. NW, #308](tel:507-535-2176). If you plan to attend, please notify them at [kmor.nkamp2@gmail.com](mailto:kmor.nkamp2@gmail.com), or phone 535-2176.

Chair: Nancy Kampmeier ([507-535-2176](tel:507-535-2176), [kmor.nkamp2@gmail.com](mailto:kmor.nkamp2@gmail.com))

**READING WITH A PURPOSE — THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22 – 7:00 PM**

Book: "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren

Hostess: Ione Schloegel, [2837 Wellington Lane SW](tel:288-3295) (288-3295)

Discussion Leader: Elaine Schmidt,

Chair: Beth Nienow (287-8647)

**EVENING RAPPORT – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26 – 5:30 PM**

Join us to celebrate the birthday of Beth Nienow (postponed from January) at 300 First in the Fireside room.

Chair: Barbara Knutsen (285-5122)



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