

June 2018

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**AAUW** advances equity for women and girls through advocacy, education and research.

**The AAUW Legal Advocacy Fund** provides funding and a support system for women seeking judicial redress for sex discrimination.

**The AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund** provides funds to advance education, research and self-development for women and to foster equity and positive societal change.

**The AAUW Fund** allows AAUW to put resources where they are most needed.

**AAUW** will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting the lives of women and girls.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING FALL EVENTS!



Do you like sneak previews? Well, hopefully you do because we have one for you. We have been busy planning our Ithaca branch programs for the fall and wanted to let you know about the first two.

**Monday, September 17th** - The first program will center on "The History of AAUW and the Power of Collective Action." Since we have just finished celebrating our centennial, we thought it would be good to see some of the highlights that the organization has accomplished in its 130 years, as well as talk about the power of working as a group to

bring about change. **Our program will be held at the History Center in downtown Ithaca.** We will also have a display chronicling our branch's history.



**Tuesday, October 9th** - I am very excited to announce that we will be very fortunate to have the President Orinthia T. Montague of Tompkins Cortland Community College speak on "Women in Education: Past, Present, Future." **We will be partnering with the Tompkins County Public Library and the meeting will be held in the Borg Warner Room at 7 pm.** Our branch has been supporting a newly endowed scholarship at TC3. We are living in exciting times where all the major institutions of higher education in our area have women presidents.

**Also in October** - The district meeting will be held. Details to follow later.

Kathy Earnest-Koons, kael@cornell.edu



## Dates to Remember

**June 30:** Annual Dues due to Muriel Everhart

**September 10:** Book Group discusses *Elizabeth the Queen* by Sally Bedell Smith

**September 17:** "The History of AAUW and the Power of Collective Action" at the History Center

**October 9:** "Women in Education: Past, Present, Future", 7 pm at TCPL Borg Warner Room

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## New Officers Elected

At our Centennial Celebration and annual meeting in May, new officers were elected. I am the new President. Our new Program Vice Presidents are Kathy Earnest-Koons and Margaret Nichols. Muriel Everhart accepted a second term as Treasurer. Our continuing officers are Alene Wyatt, Membership Vice President, and Sharon Turecek, Secretary.

### Thank you!

A special thank you is due to Pat Sims, our outgoing president. Pat accepted the job, for a second time, after creating our award-winning newsletter for 11 years. Thank you, Pat, for a great job! She retires to continue singing, quilting and visiting grandchildren.

Special thanks are also due to Sarah Johnson, our outgoing Program Vice President. Under her creative leadership our branch joined with Cortland AAUW to organize Tech Savvy programs for middle school girls in 2016 and 2017. She planned outstanding programs, including our District Conference at Museum of the Earth and the annual meeting at Ithaca's Planned Parenthood, which our branch helped to create.

And thank you to the intrepid Centennial Committee: Beverly Baker, Sharon Barrie, Madeleine Hemmings, Sarah Johnson, Pat Sims, and Alene Wyatt. It was a pleasure to chair a group where everyone says "yes" and has better ideas than mine.

### Centennial Scholarship Gifts

Finally, thank you to all who made Centennial Gifts to our AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Our gifts totaled \$1,500. Our scholarship benefits women returning to school, the best possible way to celebrate an organization dedicated to women and education.

### Awards and an Opening

Our branch received awards at the AAUW New York State Convention for our generosity to AAUW fellowships, to the Legal Advocacy Fund, and to the AAUW Fund. Our gifts totaled \$2,000! Thank you to all who gave and to Margaret Nichols and Sharon Barrie for organizing our fund drive. Sarah Johnson received an award for outstanding programs, and Sharon Barrie received an award for her outstanding newsletter. Congratulations!

We have an opening on the board for a new AAUW Funds chair. You can be as creative as you like about helping us raise money for fellowships, equity and AAUW. Call or email me if you are interested.

### Hail and Farewell

I am sorry to report that our long-time member, Sara Beth Canaday, died on April 27. She was an avid reader and particularly enjoyed our Book Group programs at the library, and lunch afterwards. You may remember a lovely holiday gathering at her historic house on Fall Creek Drive. For a description of her life, see the Bangs Funeral Home website.

—Jeanette Knapp  
272-3367, [jdk4@cornell.edu](mailto:jdk4@cornell.edu)



Carol Griffith, New York State AAUW Development Vice President, congratulates new officers, from left, Jeanette Knapp, Kathy Earnest-Koons, Margaret Nichols, and Muriel Everhart.



# ITHACA BRANCH OF AAUW CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF ACTION

One hundred years ago, on May 16, 1918, more than 20 women, all college graduates, met at Ithaca High School, now the DeWitt Mall, to form the Ithaca Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae (ACA). The ACA would soon join with the Southern Association of College Women to become the American Association of University Women (AAUW), then and now one of the foremost national organizations promoting education and equity for women and girls.

The Ithaca Branch celebrated its Centennial on May 16, 2018, with a dinner at the Ithaca Country Club featuring an historic skit and a review of 100 years of action. The celebration continued on May 18 with a presentation by Zoe Spencer, Ph.D., at Kroch Library on the Cornell campus. Professor Spencer was the Gender Equity Task Force chair at Virginia State University, but she alleges she's been retaliated against for identifying deficits in gender equity, including unfair pay for herself and other women faculty. AAUW is supporting her case through the Legal Advocacy Fund, a program that began in the Ithaca Branch.

## Founding Mothers



Left to Right: Jeanette Knapp, Carolyn McPherson, Kathy Earnest-Koons, Bobbie Kohut, and Alene Wyatt perform an historic skit about the origins of the Ithaca Branch of AAUW written by Jeanette Knapp.

One of Ithaca's founding mothers was Gertrude Shorb Martin, the first woman to be elected to the Ithaca School Board. She had been Advisor of Women at Cornell and was executive secretary of ACA. Another founder was Juanita Breckinridge Bates, the first woman to be ordained as a minister in the Congregational Church and chairwoman of Ithaca's Suffrage Party. New York women had won the right to vote

the year before, so these champions of women's rights could turn their attention to other women's issues.

The Great War (World War I), which the U.S. had entered in 1917, was on everyone's mind. The ACA had organized a War Service Committee. It was felt that the best service that educated women could render was to form speaker's bureaus to explain the purpose of the war and how each could assist. Child welfare was another priority, and always of great concern to Gertrude Martin.

Mrs. Martin and Mrs. Bates agreed that a good way to advance this work was to form an ACA chapter in Ithaca and encourage its member to embrace these causes. There were already ACA chapters in Buffalo, Corning, Elmira, Syracuse, Rochester, Jamestown and Oswego. Their first public meeting was at Ithaca High School, where Mrs. Martin had once been a teacher. They invited their friends and put a small notice in the Ithaca Journal Social Calendar of May 15, 1918: "A meeting for the formation of an Ithaca Branch of the Association of Collegiate Alumnae will be held at 3:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon in Room 108 of the High School. All college women interested are urged to be present."

Within two months, when the July meeting was held at the home of Helen Magill White, the fledgling group had 125 members. Mrs. White's husband, Andrew Dickson White, had been the first president of Cornell University. Their first project was Patriotic Education.

Working with the Women's Council for National Defense, headed by Juanita Bates, they set up a directory of 34 men and women who could lecture on war topics in every community near Ithaca. The second project was the Child Welfare Committee. They hired a truck and a nurse with the goal of measuring and weighing each young child in the county. When the war ended, the Patriotic Committee disbanded. The Child Welfare committee continued its focus on child health and supported a day nursery for working mothers.



Professor Zoe Spencer speaks of her ongoing sex discrimination lawsuit and gratitude for the support from AAUW LAF.



An artifact from the Cornell Library's Rare Manuscript Collections was part of a display depicting women's struggle to gain rights prepared by Margaret Nichols.

## 100 YEARS OF ACTION CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

When the New York State division was organized in 1919, Juanita Bates became its first president, a position she held for six years. By October 1920 the organization had acquired enough fame to draw the Governor and Mrs. Alfred E. Smith as dinner guests. The speaker was Harriet May Mills, a Cornell graduate, who was the Democratic candidate for New York's Secretary of State.

In 1921, the Ithaca branch began its support of the Loan Fund for Needy Women Students at Cornell. Through the years, members raised money for students and other causes with card parties, lectures, dinners, teas, and fairs. Their 1927 fundraiser was a musical production of a living chess game.

### **First Co-op Nursery School**

In 1924 AAUW and mothers in the new Bryant Tract area established one of the first co-operative nursery schools in the country. The East Ithaca Pre-School first met in the Elmwood Avenue home of Mrs. Forsyth Ward, the first teacher. Now the school is located at Bethel Grove Community Center.

In the 1930s the Branch was so large a Junior group of recent graduates was created. They visited community facilities and planned entertainment and travel programs. The senior group focused on local and world issues.

In 1942 the Social Studies, Antique Study, and Old Glass groups organized an Antique Show to benefit the Red Cross. In 1949 Helen Vandervoort was chair of the committee that organized Great Books study groups for the community. In 1950, Branch membership reached its high point with 215 members.

In 1959, the Branch held the first of its annual Fellowships luncheons or dinners, a tradition that would continue more than 50 years. Guests of honor were international women who were graduate students at Cornell or Ithaca College. Members said meeting these accomplished young women from around the world made contributing to AAUW fellowships a pleasure.

AAUW is one of the world's largest sources of funding for graduate women. In 2018 AAUW awarded more than \$3.7 million in fellowships and grants. Funds are raised by the 100,000 AAUW members across the country. Over the years the Ithaca Branch has raised money with doll fairs, theater parties, bake sales, dinners, garage sales, working at Cornell elections, and direct contributions. This year many members made Centennial Gifts to the Ithaca AAUW Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College that benefits women returning to school.

### **Begins Ithaca Planned Parenthood**

The AAUW national office, located in Washington, D.C., often selected study topics for the year. Local branches would work on those of interest to their community. In 1966 the Branch held a public forum on the need for a community college. In 1967 a study group on population led to the establishment of Ithaca Planned Parenthood. The study group on Testing Values in a Changing World in the late 1960s was credited for "raising our awareness of women's issues and women's rights."

In 1968 the Branch celebrated its first 50 years with a Golden Anniversary Tea at the home of Agda Osborne, 303 N. Aurora St, now the William Henry Miller Inn.

To bring the world to Ithaca school children, in 1969 members began creating enrichment kits, one box per country. These collections of flags, coins, photos, clothing, dolls, art, etc. from other countries were used in the classroom to make geography fun. This project continued more than 30 years and won local and national awards.

In 1970 a Day Care study group worked for more and better day care. Volunteers from AAUW and other groups established the Gathering Place, a resource center for day care providers and nursery schools. After studying "this beleaguered earth" in 1971, Ithaca AAUW joined other community groups to get glass recycling started in Ithaca.

In 1972, for the first time members were listed in the membership directory by their own names, and not their husband's names. The Art Study Group was also organized that year. The first objective was to learn about the lives and work of women artists. This popular group soon began visiting galleries and artists' studios and continued meeting for more than 40 years.

From 1973 to 1977 the Continuing Education study group worked to expand educational opportunities for women and persuaded Cornell to open courses to extra-mural students. In 1979 the first of four doll fairs was held to raise scholarship funds. The first named scholarships honored Corinne Galvin & Helen Vandervoort.



Alene Wyatt created a slide show of moments in Ithaca Branch AAUW's history, and provided CD copies for all attendees of the Centennial Celebration.



## Branch Supports Cornell 11

In 1980 the Ithaca Branch took on the cause that has had the widest impact. They supported the Cornell 11, the eleven faculty women who sued Cornell University for unfair labor practices—unequal hiring, unequal pay, unequal promotion, unequal tenure decisions, and retaliation for complaining. Under the leadership of Branch president Jennie Farley, Alice Cook and others, they persuaded national AAUW to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). For almost 40 years this fund has provided legal assistance for women facing discrimination in the work place, including the recent successful case of Aileen Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education. The Cornell 11 case was settled out of court and resulted in a much fairer procedure for tenure disputes for women and men.

In 1993 when AAUW released research reports showing how unequally girls and boys were treated in the classroom, the Branch organized workshops on gender bias. The goal was to show local educators how schools often short-change girls and what can be done about it.

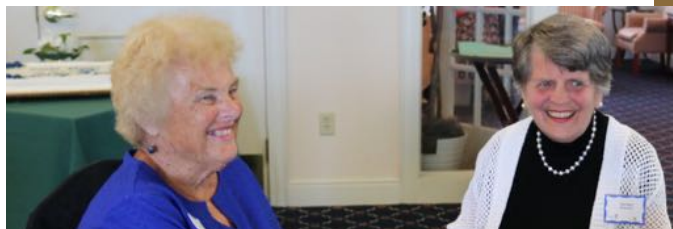
In a cause with statewide impact, in 1998 the Ithaca Branch joined the Tompkins Girl's Hockey Association to lobby for girl's hockey teams in the Empire State Games & New York public high schools.

From 2000 to 2011, led by Mary Grainger and Patti Nozell, the Branch and other community groups held eleven annual sister2sister events for middle school girls. These day-long events had widespread local impact. Girls from across the county met at the Women's Community Building to explore issues vital to them and to meet older students and women already successfully pursuing activism, higher education, and careers.

Beginning in 2002, the Branch organized three Transitions Workshops to help women return to school. In 2015 the Branch organized a STEM Conference at the Museum of the Earth on how to interest girls in science, technology, engineering and math. In another program with widespread impact, in 2016 and 2017 the Ithaca and Cortland AAUW branches held Tech Savvy programs at Tompkins Cortland Community College. Girls in grades 6 to 9 saw that math and science could be fun and that many women have successful careers in science and engineering.

In January 2017 Ithaca Branch members joined thousands of others for the Women's March in downtown Ithaca. They proudly wore blue and green scarves hand-made by Alene Wyatt in AAUW's colors, capping a century of work for education and women's rights.

—Jeanette Knapp



# AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

## WHAT ARE YOU READING? JOIN THE BOOK GROUP

Titles for the AAUW Book Group discussions in 2018-2019 have been selected.

September	“Elizabeth the Queen” by Sally Bedell Smith
October	“Rules of Magic” by Alice Hoffman
November	“Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly
December	“Dear Committee Members” by Julie Schumacher
January	“The Dispossessed” by Ursula Le Guin
February	“Make Trouble” by Cecile Richards
March	“Our Souls at Night” by Kent Haruf
April	“The Boys in the Boat” by Daniel James Brown
May	“Raven Black” by Ann Cleves
June	“Tracks” by Robyn Davidson



The Book Group meets on the second Monday of each month, unless otherwise announced, for these lively discussions, which are led by the various members of the group. The first book, “Elizabeth the Queen”, is the longest one on this year’s list. It could be a good summertime project before the discussion on September 10. Your “beach” reading?

To be included on the Book Group list for announcements, please send an e-mail to [bhedlund@mindspring.com](mailto:bhedlund@mindspring.com)

## HONORING MEMBERS WHO HAVE SERVED

### FORMER PRESIDENTS OF THE ITHACA BRANCH OF AAUW



AAUW Ithaca proudly acknowledges these dedicated women. They are among the ranks of 60 distinguished women who offered their time and energies to further the goals of AAUW by serving as branch presidents and motivating forces behind our 100 years of Action.

L to R: Kathy Earnest-Koons and Virleen Carlson 1998-2000, Beverly Baker 1990-1992, Sarah Johnson 2014-2015, Jeanette Knapp 1996-1998 and present president, Margaret Nichols 2007-2012, Carolyn McPherson 1994-1996, Muriel Everhart 2015-2016, Sharon Terecek 2012-2014, Alene Wyatt 1982-1984, and Pat Sims 2003-2005 and 2016-2018.



## NEWS FROM THE TREASURER

Thank you to all who helped put the Ithaca Branch over the top with our contributions to the funds:

Educational Opportunity \$650  
Legal Advocacy \$615  
Other AAUW Funds \$735  
[Where needed most]

\$2,000 Amazing!

New York State AAUW has recognized this achievement, as well!



Annual dues should be to me by June 30. If you did not receive a renewal form, please see below.

About half of you have renewed, so please check this list, and if your name is NOT here, then I have not received

Baker	Glasse	Knapp	Sharp
Barrie	Goldberg	McPherson	Sims
Driscoll	Graham	McGinnies	Turacek
Edgar	Hedlund	Nichols	Wyatt
Earnest-Koons	Johnson	Rappaport	
Everhart	Kohut	Salton	

your renewal!

Thank you from all of us - together we have a much louder voice!

### Join or Renew Your Membership



### 2018-2019 AAUW Dues

Name \_\_\_\_\_

If new Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check number and amount \_\_\_\_\_

*Please consider  
"Rounding Up."  
Any amount  
welcome!*



Regular Membership:	Association	\$59.00
	New York	\$13.00
	Ithaca Branch	<u>\$10.00</u>
	Total	\$82.00

Special Memberships: Student Affiliate (undergraduates) \$17.00  
Graduate Student \$18.81

How would you like to receive our newsletter? \_\_\_\_\_ US Mail \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail

**Return this form with check payable to Ithaca AAUW to Treasurer  
Muriel Everhart, 37 Janivar Drive, Ithaca, NY 14850**

## MORE PICTURES FROM THE CENTENNIAL DINNER



Gertrude Shorb Marton -  
Kathy Earnest-Koons



Marion Talbot -  
Bobbie Kohut



Juanita Breckenridge Bates -  
Carolyn McPherson



Ellen Richards - Alene Wyatt



Emily Talbot and Narrator -  
Jeanette Knapp



Beautifully knitted scarf  
made by Sarah Johnson  
was one of the door prizes  
at the centennial dinner



### AAUW BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP

Continuing a 100 year history of collective action, our scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College benefits women returning to school. Gifts of all sizes are welcome. As part of this year's milestone celebration please consider a Centennial gift of \$100 or more.

**Make scholarship check out to *Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation* and write *AAUW – Ithaca Scholarship* in the memo line.**