



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

SEPTEMBER 2018

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AAUW MISSION:

To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.

AAUW VISION:

Equity for all

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 AND THE POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION



Dr. Risa Lieberwitz

Continue our Centennial Celebration at the History Center on Monday afternoon, September 17. Our featured speaker is Risa Lieberwitz, professor of Labor and Employment Law in the School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

Our program will highlight the power of collective action to bring social change. Invite friends and neighbors to learn what we have done and what we can do today to advance equity for all. This event, which is free and open to the public, is

Monday, September 17, at 4:30 p.m. at the History Center, 401 E. State Street/MLK Jr. Street, in downtown Ithaca. You can also see our Ithaca Branch history display there.

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MORE EVENTS THIS FALL

To keep you looking ahead and getting your calendar in order for the Fall, here are the exciting programs coming your way for the Ithaca branch.



Dr. Orinthia Montague

Tuesday, October 9th - How lucky we are here in Tompkins County to have **three** women presidents at the major institutions of higher education! What an exciting opportunity for **our** branch to be able to host the newly inaugurated President of Tompkins Cortland Community College, Dr. Orinthia Montague, who will speak on "Women and Education: Past, Present, Future." This meeting will be held at the Borg Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library at 7 pm. Our branch is proud to support an endowed scholarship at TC3. We also will be sponsoring a canned food drive to support the student food pantry at TC3, so please bring a non-perishable food item to donate.

Saturday, October 27th - AAUW District 3 Conference, Cortland - Details to follow

Saturday, November 10th, 10:30 am - Margaret Nichols - "A Rare Book Look - Dangerous and Banned Books" - Kroch Library, CU

Sunday, December 9th, 2 pm— Members' holiday get together — collect canned goods/animal food for non-profits - Sharon Barrie's



Dr. Margaret Nichols

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall Events Planned

Membership is the strength of all organizations. Invite friends and potential members to one or all of our events this fall. On Monday, September 17, at 4:30 p.m. we are continuing our Centennial celebration with a program at the History Center. "AAUW and the Power of Collective Action" will be a good introduction to our branch and what we can do today to advance equity for all.

On Tuesday, October 9, you will have an opportunity to meet the President of Tompkins Cortland Community College at our 7:00 p.m. program at the Tompkins County Public Library. On Saturday, October 27, join our Ithaca Branch delegation to the AAUW District 3 Conference in Cortland. More details soon.

New AAUW Funds Chair

Kim Edgar has agreed to be our new AAUW Funds Chair. She worked on the Ithaca-Cortland TechSavvy programs and helped organize the AAUW state convention in Corning. Under the leadership of Sharon Barrie and Margaret Nichols, our branch has given generously to AAUW fellowships and grants, to the Legal Advocacy Fund, and to the more recent AAUW Fund. If you have ideas for fundraising projects in addition to our fall appeal, let Kim know at kimberlySEdgar@gmail.com.

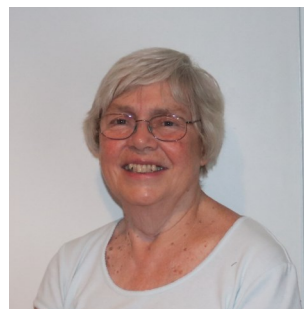
Join an Interest Group

All of our interest groups welcome new members. Betta Hedlund is now chair of the Book Group, which meets monthly at member's homes. To be added to her list, send Betta an email at bhedlund@mindspring.com.

The Theater & Movie Group attends Kitchen Theatre plays at the 4:00 p.m. Sunday preview. The first play is September 9. With a leader, we could go to dinner together afterwards and also plan some movie outings.

The Foodies Group also needs a leader. We have had some wonderful outings and luncheons and would like to continue. Let me know if you are interested in either of these groups.

Jeanette Knapp, 272-3367, jdk4@cornell.edu



POWER OF COLLECTIVE ACTION (CONTINUED FROM P. 1)

At an earlier AAUW program, Professor Lieberwitz discussed the systemic inequality of capitalism and some of the structural changes necessary to free all women. These include universal health care, child care, and pay equity. She said that the role of the state is central. "These are dismal times right now. That's why we marched to sustain ourselves together." She pointed out that social movements are always collective achievements.



Since May 1918, the Ithaca Branch has promoted collective action and social change locally. In 1980 the Ithaca Branch led a collective action that has had wide impact. Our branch supported the Cornell 11, the eleven faculty women who were suing 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, Elizabeth Gordon, and others, The branch persuaded national AAUW to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF). For almost 40 years this fund has assisted women fighting discrimination in the work place, including the recent successful case of Aileen Rizo v. Fresno County Office of Education.

LAF is also assisting Professor Zoe Spencer, who spoke at Cornell in May about her suit for equal pay. (See Zoe Spencer on p. 4.)

STAY INFORMED

For local, state and national AAUW updates and links check out our Ithaca Branch website. Go to: ithaca-ny.aauw.net



AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

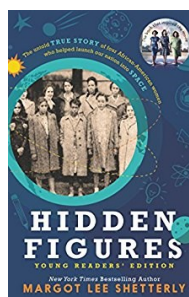
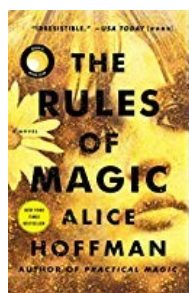
AAUW BOOK DISCUSSION – TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

The first book discussion of the year will be on Tuesday, September 11. Because Rosh Hashanah falls on our usual second Monday, you have an extra day to finish “Elizabeth the Queen, the Life of a Modern Monarch”! Kathy Earnest-Koons will lead the discussion of this biography by Sally Bedell Smith. We will meet at the home of Norma Goldberg for coffee/tea and scones at 7:00 p.m. and will begin our discussion at 7:30 p.m.

Reading Ahead: The book for the October discussion is “The Rules of Magic” by Alice Hoffman. In this novel, “for the Owens family, love is a curse that began in 1620, when Maria Owens was charged with witchery for loving the wrong man.” Not a bad read for the month of Halloween.

Note: Another date change. The October discussion will be held on Monday, October 15.

In November, we will return to the usual second Monday of the month for a discussion of “Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly. Some copies of this recent best-seller will be available from the Friends of the Library Book Sale in October.



2018 -2019 Book Group Selections

Looking for a good read? Here are the books the Book Group is reading this year:

September: ***Elizabeth The Queen***
by Sally Bedell Smith

October: ***The 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 K. 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 Cleeves

June: ***Tracks***
by Robyn Davidson

SAVE THE DATES AAUW- NYS CONVENTION APRIL 26TH THRU 28TH, 2019 COOPERSTOWN, NEW YORK

Please add the 2019 Cooperstown Convention being held at The Otesaga Resort Hotel from April 26th thru 28th to your calendar.

In addition, to AAUW Mission-Focused Programming, the weekend will include:

- Group visits to the Fenimore Art Museum, Farmer's Museum, and Baseball Hall of Fame, including time to ride on the Empire State Carousel.
- Opportunities to play golf, go for guided walks, swim in the heated outdoor pool, participate in two different styles of yoga classes, and time to visit the Hawkeye Spa.
- Time to explore local wineries, breweries, unique shops, etc., before the tourist season starts.

Cooperstown has lots to offer you and your friends, along with attending a great convention!



AAUW ACTION FUND ADVANCES EQUITY FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ithaca Branch Members can show their ongoing support of AAUW's Advocacy and Educational Programs both on the national and local levels. For example, the AAUW Action Fund provides educational resources to inform members and the public regarding issues that impact the lives of women based on the current adoption of the *AAUW Public Policy Program*.

This fall, the AAUW Action Fund will release voter guides to provide nonpartisan information about candidates' positions on the issues based on their voting records in the Senate and Congress, their public statements, and their campaign position papers. The voter guides are not intended to be an endorsement of any politician or political party. For more information about the voter guides, please visit aauw.org or e-mail VoterEd@aauw.org.

As we approach the 2018 elections, let's support open discussions regarding issues that affect our lives and our community by critically evaluating each candidate's positions on economic security issues such as: pay equity, discrimination, social security privatization, retirement security and the politician's efforts to pass both Federal and NYS Budgets that support women.

Your ongoing financial support of the AAUW Action Fund provides funding for AAUW's Voter Educational Resources and lobbying efforts. It is greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Kim Edgar
Branch Action Fund Chair



ZOE SPENCER COMES TO ITHACA

In honor of our centennial, AAUW awarded the Ithaca Branch a grant to bring a current Legal Advocacy Fund (LAF) plaintiff to Ithaca. Thunderstorms in Washington delayed her flight and her program. But on May 18, almost 100 years to day of Ithaca's first AAUW meeting, Professor Zoe Spencer spoke movingly about her ordeal to a small but enthusiastic audience at Kroch Library on the Cornell campus.

Zoe Spencer, a professor of sociology at Virginia State University, was chair of the Gender Equity Task Force at her historically black college. When she discovered that two newly hired, male professors were being paid significantly more than she was, with less experience and fewer classes and students than she was teaching, she complained.

As she explains in her blog, "the moment I challenged the gender inequity inside those walls, my black male administrators showed me without question that patriarchy and sexism are not exclusive to white males and white institutions. The more I fought to change the system, the more the administration fought to sustain it."

Knowing that she was worth more than what they were paying her, she sued. It has been a long, expensive fight, but she said that one of the upsides has been AAUW and its Legal Advocacy Fund. LAF began right here in Ithaca when our branch supported the Cornell 11.

AAUW is now supporting her case. She was very grateful for the much needed financial help and for the encouragement and support. If you write a check for the Legal Advocacy Fund this fall, you can designate your gift to support Zoe Spencer and her fight for equal pay. Read more about her case on our website ithaca-ny.aauw.net or at AAUW.org.

