

February 2019

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AAUW MISSION:

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

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.



SPRING PROGRAMS!

Hi, welcome to spring! At least today as I write this it is 60 degrees and beautifully sunny. Makes me think (and hope) that spring is really just around the corner.

On Saturday, February 9th, the Book Group will sponsor a talk, "Women as Leaders: Four Local Activists", at the TCPL Borg Warner Room at 10:30 a.m. This will be a panel discussion with Liddy Bargar, longtime director of the Samaritan Center of Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga; Anna Gardner, president of Ithaca College Feminists United; Tatiana Jorio, president of Ithaca College Planned Parenthood Generation Action; and Tracy Mitrano, educator, lawyer, and 2018 political candidate. Our book group has been reading the book, *Make Trouble*, a memoir by Cecile Richards, which talks about standing up, speaking out and finding the courage to lead.

On March 16th, Sophia Elie, who is an AAUW fellow, will tell us about her AAUW Fellowship and what this support has meant to her. We will meet at the Alice Cook House on west campus in the seminar room at 10:30 a.m.

Our special treat on Tuesday, April 9th is a dynamic talk by Elaine Engst, Cornell University archivist (retired), and Carol Kammen, the Tompkins County Historian. They will speak about *Achieving Beulah Land*. This is a history of women's suffrage activities in Tompkins County from the 19th century to just after World War I. They have written a book by the same title. What I have found really fascinating is the role that several of the founding mothers of the Ithaca branch of AAUW had in the suffrage movement. We will co-sponsor this talk with the TCPL and it will be held at the Borg Warner Room of the TCPL at 7 p.m.

Stay tuned for more info in the next newsletter about our May dinner. Hope to see you at our programs this spring.

Kathy Earnest-Koons
Program V.P.

Dates to Remember

February 9: Book Group co-sponsors panel discussion, "Women as Leaders" at TCPL 10:00 am

February 28: Foodies meet at F. Olivers on the Commons 11:00 am

March 16: Sophie Elie speaks at Alice Cook House 10:30 am

April 9: Elaine Engst and Carol Kammen present *Achieving Beulah Land* at TCPL 7 pm

April 26-28: AAUW NYS Convention in Cooperstown, NY



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

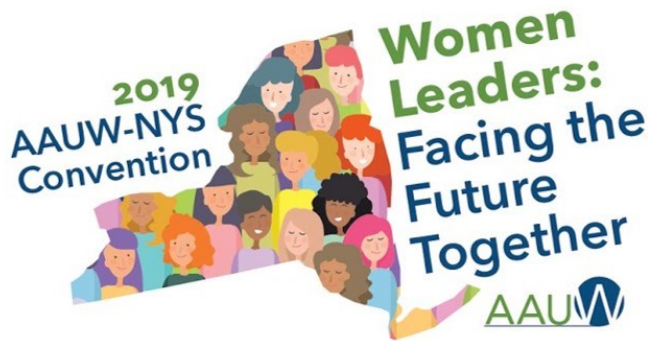
Make Trouble

Whether or not you can come to our program at the library this Saturday, do read Cecile Richards' book, *Make Trouble: Standing Up, Speaking Out, and Finding the Courage to Lead*. She speaks honestly and movingly about a life of standing up for justice and fairness. As a student she sided with the striking janitors. As a union organizer she worked to get nursing home workers living wages. As a parent she worked to keep accurate history and science in children's textbooks.



Her mother, Ann Richards, was the first and only woman to be elected governor of Texas. She quotes her mother, who said that politics "is a contest of wills between folks who are satisfied with how things are and those who are passionate about what could be better. . . . [between those] desperate to hang on to power and those who wanted to widen the circle of opportunity for all Texans."

Cecile Richards advises us to have fun and make friends while we fight uphill battles because we are going to lose more than we win. "If it was easy," she says, "someone else would be doing it."



Come to Cooperstown April 26-28

This year's New York State AAUW Convention will be held at the Otesaga Hotel in Cooperstown. We will be carpooling, so please join us. If money is an issue, let me know. We have money in our budget to help branch members attend district and state meetings. The speakers are inspiring, and I am in awe of the many ways other branches have found to help women and girls. Let me know if you plan to come and if you would like to be a delegate. For more information see <https://aauwnyswp.aauw-nys.org/wp/>

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

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Welcome new member Orinthia Montigue, President of Tompkins Cortland Community College.

Contact Info:

TCCC President's Office

170 North Street P.O. Box 139, Dryden, NY 13053

844-8222 x4367 otm@tompkinscortland.edu

Truman State, Lindenwood Univ., Univ. of Missouri

Also welcome renewing member:

Mary Ellen Cummings

9 Bean Hill Lane

Ithaca, NY 14850

257-4812 maryellencummings@mac.com

Cornell University



If you have a friend who is considering membership, now is the time to join! Dues received after March 1st are good for 15 months -- bargain time!

Add these updates to your branch directory.

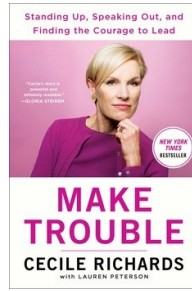
Alene Wyatt

Membership V.P.

AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

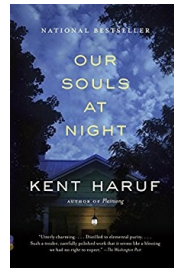


SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, our book group is co-sponsoring a public program with the public library. We will meet at 10:30 in the Borg Warner room at the library. A panel of four women from the community with various experiences in leadership roles will talk about their challenges and successes and add their comments about *Make Trouble*, the autobiography of Cecile Richards. Please invite friends to attend.



READING AHEAD

For the March book discussion, we will read *Our Souls at Night* by Kent Haruf. In this tender and inspiring novel of a man and a woman who, in advanced age, come together to wrestle with the events of their lives and hopes for the future, the author demonstrates that our desire to love and be loved does not dissolve with age. A fine read!



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



AAUW FOODIES

The foodies group will meet Thursday, February 28, at 11:00 am at F. Oliver's on the Commons, (154 Ithaca Commons) for a tasting and comments then go to Taste of Thai, also on the Commons, for lunch around noon.



Coming in March, AAUW Foodies will volunteer at Loaves and Fishes. More information will be in the March newsletter.



Jeanne Peck
Foodies Chair



LAF SUPPORTS DR. NATHALIE GOSSET DEFENDING TITLE VII



For over 40 years the Legal Advocacy Fund has been involved with pay inequity cases, sexual harassment and rape cases, and both Title VII and Title IX compliance violations. LAF has supported women financially and provided legal counsel to women who have been discriminated against at academic institutions and at corporations. In addition, many AAUW members have provided emotional support to these women.

In September 2016, the Legal Advocacy Fund committee adopted the case of AAUW member Dr. Nathalie Gosset while it was in the arbitration phase. The case was brought against the executive director of the Alfred Mann Institute at the University of Southern California, the Head of Human Resources, and the University of Southern California for violating Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 for wrongful termination. Title VII protects employees from sexual harassment and forbids

employers from retaliating against their employees for filing a charge of harassment or speaking out against harassment.

Dr. Gosset worked as an engineer for over 30 years and was hired by the Alfred E. Mann Institute in 2003 as a senior engineering manager. She was promoted to senior director of marketing and technology innovation evaluation, a position directly below the executive director of the Alfred E. Mann Institute. In 2007, after Jonathan Lasch was hired as the executive director of the institute, Dr. Gosset reported several times to Human Resources at the University that she had been repeatedly sexually harassed and threatened by the him. Human Resources failed to investigate the complaints. In February 2015, during a human resources meeting regarding the reported incidents, Jonathan Lasch stated "that he could not guarantee that he would be able to contain his sexually bullying behavior because the bully was in his blood." The institute became an increasingly hostile environment; work-related reprimands were issued. In October, 2015, Dr. Gosset's employment was terminated.

Nathalie Gosset's case is scheduled to be heard in court this year based on the university failure to follow its written policies on investigating sexual harassment claims within 60 days. Her attorney, Lisa Bloom, hopes for a multi-million dollar settlement based on lost earnings and benefits, including Dr. Gosset's daughter's full four-year scholarship awarded by the university through its tuition exchange program.



Over the course of her career, Dr. Gosset had been an active leader with California's Tech Trek Program, which offers middle school girls a week on college campuses exploring STEM academic majors and careers. Her work has encouraged more girls and women to pursue careers in STEM.

Your continued donations and support of the Legal Advocacy Fund provide AAUW with the necessary resources to make societal change for women both at academic institutions and corporations. Donations are welcome at anytime and the branch is recognized annually for our member support to the LAF.

Kim Edgar
Branch Action Fund Chair

STAY INFORMED

For local, state and national AAUW updates and links check out our Ithaca Branch website

Go to: ithaca-ny.aauw.net



GET YOUR NEWSLETTER EMAILED

If you would like to receive the newsletter by email please let me know.

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