



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

March 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Come to our next programs and enjoy the change in the weather.

On Saturday, March 16th at 10:30 a.m.,

Sophia Elie, who is a current AAUW fellow, will talk about her 2018-2019 Career Development Grant, AAUW Fellowship experience and what our support has meant for her education. Originally from Oak Park, Illinois, Sophie holds a bachelors degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She works at PepsiCo as a Food Safety Processing Specialist, while simultaneously pursuing her masters in Food Science and Technology with a concentration in Food Microbiology at Cornell.

The program will be held 10:30 a.m. in the Alice Cook House seminar room located on the corner of University and Stewart Avenues. Parking is along the street on University Avenue. We have advertised this event to all women graduate students at Cornell. I will talk about the various types of fellowships and grants available. It would be great to have many members there to greet our guests and give them a warm welcome. It's always a pleasure to hear from fellows and what our organization has done to help them on their path.



On **Tuesday, April 9th** Elaine Engst, Cornell University archivist (retired), and Carol Kammen, the Tompkins County Historian will present *Achieving Beulah Land* the 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. Several of the founding mothers of the Ithaca branch of AAUW played major roles in the suffrage movement here. We will cosponsor this talk with the TCPL. It will be held in the Borg Warner Room of the TCPL at 7 p.m. You will be glad you attended this program.

On **Wednesday, May 15th** we will kick off the next 99 years of women's leadership by our branch, when we hold our May annual dinner at the Ithaca Country Club. We are excited to announce that our guest speaker for the evening will be Bevin O-Gara, the producing artistic director of the Kitchen Theatre. More information will be in next month's newsletter, but please put it on your calendar.



Dates to Remember

Women's History Month 2019 Friday March 1 and ends on Sunday March 31

March 16th: Sophia Elie will speak at the Alice Cook House at 10:30 a.m.

April 9th: *Achieving Beulah Land* presented at TCPL Borg Warner Room at 7:00 p.m.

May 15th: Ithaca branch AAUW Annual Meeting Dinner

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

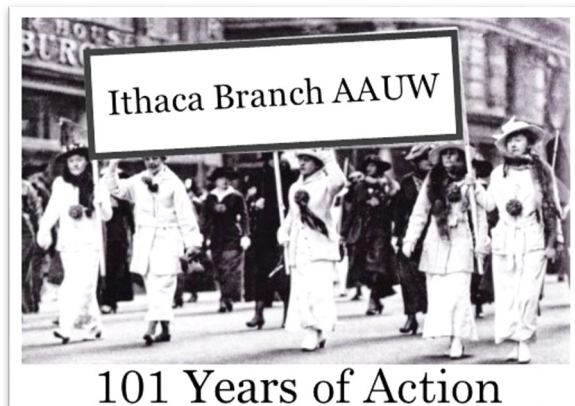
101 Years of Action

Some 50 people came to our February program at the library featuring four local activists. I hope you were inspired by their achievements and advice. Among the surprising observations were “you have to play along to get into the room” and “to start working with people, you need to meet them part way.” Shouting and bullying seem to be in fashion these days, but most of us have learned that it is more effective to make friends than enemies, and persistence is vital.

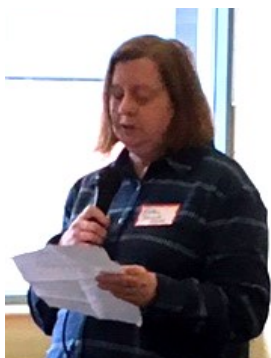
All Members Are Welcome to attend our board meetings. We meet on the first Monday evening of the month at the small cafe at Kendal. Come at 5:30 for dinner. Our meetings start about 6:00 p.m. We welcome your ideas on how we can advance education and equity for women and girls.

Convention Registration Due by March 25. We are carpooling to the New York State AAUW Convention in Cooperstown April 26-28. Let me know if you want to join us and would like to be a delegate. Many thanks to artist Sharon Barrie, our newsletter editor, for our eye-catching ad (above) that will appear in the convention program.

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



PHOTOS FROM BOOK GROUP SPONSORED PROGRAM: “WOMEN AS LEADERS: FOUR LOCAL ACTIVISTS”



Kathy Earnest-Koons, Program V.P.



Left to Right: Liddy Bargar, longtime director of the Samaritan Center of Catholic Charities of Tompkins/Tioga; Tracy Mitrano, educator, lawyer, and 2018 political candidate, Tatiana Jorio, president of Ithaca College Planned Parenthood Generation Action; Anna Gardner, president of Ithaca College Feminists United;



Betta Hedlund, Book Group Chair, introduces the panel.



Tatiana Jorio and Anna Gardner



Women as Leaders program attracted a diverse group of attendees.



Liddy Bargar and Tracy Mitrano

AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

Reading Into Springtime – Escaping Winter with Books

On March 11, ten days before the first day of spring!, the AAUW book group will discuss *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. Haruf strikes a lovely balance between dark and light, between gentle comedy and remembrances of things past. Alene Wyatt will lead the March discussion as well as host the book group at her home at Kendal. Everyone is welcome to attend. Come for coffee and conversation at 7:00. The discussion will begin at 7:30.

In April, we will read and discuss *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*. A recent classic in the history of sports, this is an inspiring account of young Depression-era athletes who beat the odds and came home with the gold. On a spring day, you can go to watch the crews from Cornell and Ithaca College practicing on the Cayuga Lake inlet and channel this book!

For more book group information, please contact Betta Hedlund at <bhedlund@mindspring.com>

Directions to Alene's:

From Triphammer, turn left at the ring road and drive to Parking Area 3.

Two parking options:

- (1) Outside the parking area. Then walk towards the carports, taking the first left on Path 9 until you dead end at Walk P. 396 is the second cottage on your left.
- (2) Drive into the parking area past the car ports. Then turn left onto Path 6 until you intersect with Path 9. Turn left to the 6th cottage on your right.

2018 - 2019 Book Group Selections

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

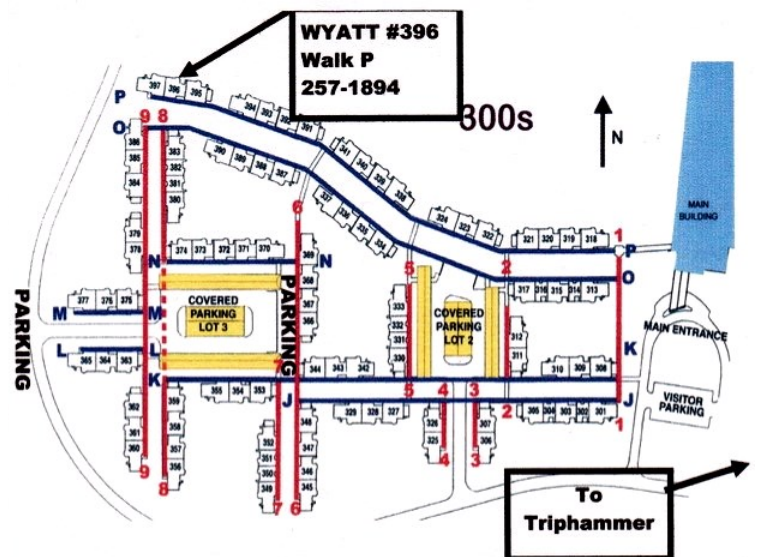
February: *Make Trouble*
by Cecile Richards

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

AAUW Foodies at Loaves & Fishes March 15

Interested in food? Cooking? Eating? Sustainable agriculture? Food insecurity? All members are invited to join our new Foodies Group. We will explore shops and restaurants, farms and markets, and cuisine and cultures in our area. We welcome your ideas.

On Friday, March 15, we will work as volunteers at Loaves & Fishes of Tompkins County. Since 1983, Loaves and Fishes has provided free meals, hospitality, companionship, and advocacy for those in need, regardless of their faith, beliefs, or circumstances. Far more than a soup kitchen, Loaves & Fishes is located in St. John's Episcopal Church at the corner of Buffalo and Cayuga streets in downtown Ithaca.

Come at 9:15 a.m. We will be assigned volunteer tasks and can see a remarkable Ithaca institution in action. We are welcome to stay for lunch. Park on the street. Enter from the back.

Call or email me if you plan to come.

—Jeanne Peck, 273-3181 or sbp8@cornell.edu

March 8, 2019 International Women's Day - #Balance for Better

"Better the Balance, Better the World" is the theme for the 102nd International Women's Day on March 8. This focus on achieving a more gender-balanced world recognizes the economic, political, and social achievements of women. This year is also the 102nd anniversary of AAUW's commitment to providing funding to international women scholars. Since 1917, some 3,600 women from 145 countries have benefited from AAUW fellowships.

In 1917, Virginia Alvarez-Hussey from Venezuela received the first international fellowship funding by AAUW. She attended the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania. She returned to Venezuela and specialized in leprosy treatment. In 1919, British born astronomer and astrophysicist Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin received funding to study at Harvard University. She became the first woman professor at Harvard University and the first astronomy doctorate recipient for her thesis on stars being composed of primarily hydrogen and helium.

During World War II, AAUW assisted European Scholars by providing funding to allow them to relocate to the United States to find teaching positions and educational opportunities at universities and colleges.

The International Fellowship Program was expanded in 1999 to provide International Project Grants to support community-based projects which benefit women and girls in the home countries of some of AAUW International Fellowship Program Alumnae.

For the current 2018-19 academic year, AAUW provided \$3.9 million in Educational Opportunities Funds to 250 women and community projects serving women and girls. There are seven AAUW International Fellowship Recipients at New York Universities. At Columbia University Anca Agachi from Romania is studying Political Science, Lucia Brizio from Peru is studying Public Administration, and Diana Moreno from Columbia is studying Law. At New York University Sara Khan from Pakistan is studying Humanities, Elise Konda from France is studying Music, and Aldana Vales from Argentina is studying Communications. At the City University of New York Graduate Center, Sumru Atuk from Turkey is studying Political Science.

Your support of the International Fellowship Program is welcomed and appreciated throughout the year to allow future women to pursue their academic and career goals.

Kim Edgar-Action Funds Chair

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Remembering Peg Thomas

Long time member Peg (Margaret) Thomas died on February 6 at the age of 98. She was president of the Ithaca Branch from 1972-1974. She credited an AAUW study group on Testing Values in a Changing World, which met from 1967-69, that "raised our awareness of women's issues and women's rights." She took part in the career panel for Girls Scouts, Sister2Sister, and many more branch projects.

Peg attended Dickinson College and graduated from Margaret Morrison College (now Carnegie Mellon University) with a degree in costume design. She used her college drafting courses to get a wartime job (WWII) at the Army Intelligence center in Harrisburg. In 1958 she completed a certificate for teaching home economics from Butler University, and taught for eight years at North Central High School. Peg completed her Master's degree in counseling in 1966, also from Butler. She was a counselor in the College of Human Ecology at Cornell University.

She and her husband, Earl, were among the founding residents of Kendal at Ithaca.

There will be a celebration of Peg's life in the Auditorium at Kendal on Saturday, March 23 at 3 pm.



Girl Scout Career Panel



Girl Scout Career Panel
Seated Kathy E-K and Jeanette Standing Joann Aplin, Carol Stull, Caroline McPherson, and Peg Thomas.



AAUW Garden Party held at Carol Stull's. Peg is on the right.