

April 2019

## President

Jeanette Knapp  
jdk454@gmail.com

## Program V.P.s

Kathy Earnest-Koons  
kael@cornell.edu  
Margaret Nichols  
mnr1@cornell.edu

## Membership V.P.

Alene Wyatt  
alene@lightlink.com

## Treasurer

Muriel Everhart  
meverhart@earthlink.net

## Recorder

Sharon Turecek  
sturecek416@gmail.com

## Newsletter Editor

Sharon Barrie  
spibarrie@hotmail.com

## Branch Action Fund Chair

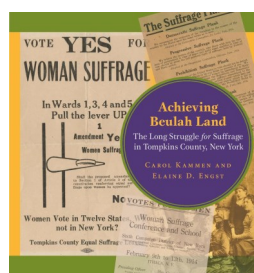
Kim Edgar  
kimberlysedgar@gmail.com

## REFLECTIONS ON WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH (MARCH) AND EQUAL PAY DAY (APRIL 2ND)

As I sit writing this, I am thinking about what a great and relevant program we have coming up for our branch on Tuesday, April 9th. We will have the pleasure of hearing a wonderful talk by two great and dynamic women - Elaine Engst, Cornell University archivist (retired), and Carol Kammen, the Tompkins County Historian. They have written a book called *Achieving Beulah Land*. It is the history of women's suffrage activities in Tompkins County from the 19th century to just after World War I and they will give their insights on this important struggle in the lives of our local sisters of earlier times. 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 and it will be held in the Borg Warner Room of the TCPL at 7 p.m. Hope to see you there.



Carol Kammen



Elaine Engst

## 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.

And don't forget that our annual dinner will be held at the Country Club of Ithaca, 189 Pleasant Grove Rd., on Wednesday, May 15th, when we kick off the next 99 years of women's leadership by our branch. Our guest speaker for the evening will be Bevin O'Gara, the producing artistic director of the Kitchen Theatre. Sign up on the enclosed form and return your reservation to me by May 8th.

Kathy Earnest Koons—Program V.P

## DATES TO REMEMBER

**Monday, April 8:** Book Group discusses *Boys in The Boat* at Jean Peck's house 7 p.m.

**Tuesday, April 9:** *Achieving Beulah Land* TCPL 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 15:** AAUW Ithaca Branch Annual Dinner 6 p.m. at the Ithaca Country Club

**Saturday, May 18:** AAUW Ithaca branch volunteers at book sale from 10:00 – 12:30

**Tuesday, June 4:** Book Group and pot luck supper at Jeanette Knapp's



## 2019 Equal Pay Days:

**March 5, 2019:** Asian American women's Equal Pay Day **85 cents for every dollar**

**April 2, 2019:** All women's Equal Pay Day **80 cents for every dollar**

**April 19, 2019:** White women's Equal Pay Day

**June 10, 2019:** Moms' Equal Pay Day

**August 22, 2019:** Black women's Equal Pay Day **61 cents for every dollar**

**September 23, 2019:** Native women's Equal Pay Day **57 cents for every dollar**

**November 20, 2019:** Latinas' Equal Pay Day **53 cents for every dollar**



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## EQUAL PAY DAY

As I write this, today (April 2) is Equal Pay Day—the day in the next year when a woman's pay catches up with what a man made last year. In the Ithaca area, a woman makes about 83 cents for every dollar that a man makes. It is worse for black women in America: they make about 61 cents for every dollar a man makes. Native American women make about 57 cents, and worst of all, Latina women make some 53 cents—meaning they have to work for almost two years to earn what a man earns in one.

You and your daughters or grand-daughters or nieces are probably underpaid. AAUW is doing something about it. Celebrate Equal Pay Day by taking their free online course in salary negotiation. Go to [AAUW.org](http://AAUW.org). Look for the Work Smart course. It takes about an hour. Then tell the younger women in your life about this resource. They deserve fair pay.



State Street, Ithaca, New York 1917

## RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP & WIN BARRIED TREASURE

Sharon Barrie, our newsletter editor, is the owner and creator of Barried Treasures. She has generously offered a pair of earrings to each of us who renew our membership by the evening of our annual dinner, Wednesday, May 15. See the enclosed renewal.

A year ago, the Association raised its dues from \$49 to \$59. Those funds are used to lobby for all the national women's issues that you and I care about. When you join our branch, you also join and support the national and New York State AAUW. Reluctantly, we have had to raise our dues this year to \$92 to cover the association increase. If this is an issue for you, let me know. We don't want to lose members due to rising costs.

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

## STAY INFORMED



Thanks to Margaret Nichols, we have a new Facebook page: **AAUW Ithaca Branch**. Find us and like us!

For local, state and national AAUW updates and links, check out our Ithaca Branch website created and maintained by Alene Wyatt.

Go to: [ithaca-ny.aauw.net](http://ithaca-ny.aauw.net)



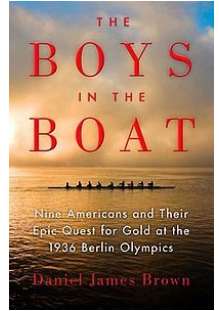


# AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

## April Book Discussion News and Notes

The AAUW Book Group will discuss *The Boys in the Boat* by Daniel James Brown on Monday, April 8. This story of an epic quest for the gold medal in the heavyweight crew race at the 1936 Berlin Olympics is an irresistible account of a group of young college students from the University of Washington beating the odds and finding hope in some desperate times. Local note: Cornell puts in a brief appearance.

We will meet at Jeanne Peck's home for the discussion led by Madeleine Hemmings. Because of limited parking, we need to carpool. You will get an email. Arrive at 7:00 p.m. for tea and coffee. The discussion starts at 7:30. Everyone is welcome.

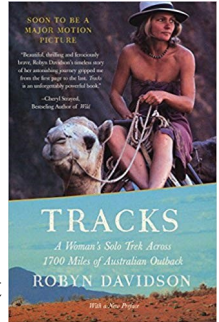


## Choosing Books for 2019-2020

And what will we read next year? At the end of the April book discussion, we will choose titles for our next year of great reading from a list of books that have been suggested by our members. With the intent to choose books by women, about women and women's issues, or about third world countries, we will engage in some lively and friendly debate and then vote for books for the coming year. Can't come to the discussion on April 8? You will have a chance to weigh in online. To receive the list of "nominated" books and a "ballot to vote by email" contact [bhedlund@mindspring.com](mailto:bhedlund@mindspring.com).

## Buy The Best Books at the Best Prices in Town (And Help a Good Cause)

We are looking for some AAUW book lovers to volunteer at the Friends of the Library book sale in May. AAUW will work on Saturday, May 18, from 10:00 a.m.– 12:30 p.m. and we need 4 pricers and 1 greeter. The first five people to sign up for this opportunity have a chance to shop for great books at amazing final weekend prices after their shift. But, a word to the wise, if you want to find our book group's titles for next year, you should visit the sale on the earlier May weekends. Even at first day prices, it's a great bargain. The sale begins the weekend of May 4.

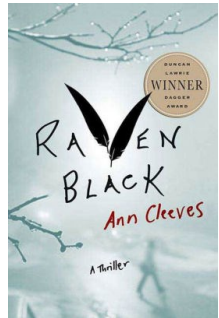


## Note for the Calendar

The June book discussion date has been changed to Tuesday, June 4. Jeanette Knapp will host an "Aussie" themed potluck supper before the discussion of *Tracks* by Robyn Davidson. Shrimp on the barbie anyone? Much more about this later.

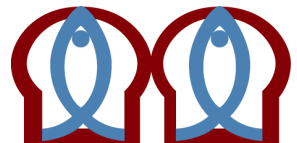
## Reading Ahead for May

Our may selection is *Raven Black* by Ann Cleeves, a chilling, prize-winning suspense thriller set in the Shetland Islands.



## AAUW FOODIES

The Foodies who volunteered at Loaves and Fishes in March were awed to see the volunteer power that supports this remarkable Ithaca resource. The kindness and generosity of both workers and guests is inspiring. Many thanks to Muriel Everhart for guiding our group. Volunteers are always needed. See their website at [loaves.org](http://loaves.org) for more information.



We are still planning our next event. Call or email if you would like to be added to our Foodies email list. I look forward to hearing your ideas.

—Jeanne Peck, 273-3181 or [sbp8@cornell.edu](mailto:sbp8@cornell.edu)

# AAUW AND THE GENDER PAY GAP

In 1896 members provided their employment and salary histories, along with accounts of their work, to the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor. The Bureau analyzed the data and published a report titled “Compensation in Certain Occupations of Women Who Have Received College or Other Special Training.” The report showed that “women were paid significantly less than men for doing the same work.”

Women were well aware that they were not treated fairly. In the report, one comments, **“The woman in industry who finds herself employed in the occupations which are open to men and who frequently performs identical work for a salary or for wages much below those paid her co-workers of the opposite sex is naturally apt to inquire what reason, economic or other, justifies this inequality.”**

There is still a pay gap. In 2018 donations from AAUW members funded a revised edition of *The Simple Truth About the Gender Pay Gap*. The report highlights the long-term impact that the pay gap has on women’s economic status in terms of their ability to pay-off student debt, social security benefits, retirement savings, and older women’s ability to remain financially independent.

Locally, in the 23<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District, women’s median earnings are \$38,980, 83.8% of men’s median earnings of \$46,491.

AAUW members support national equity legislation. In late March, the *Paycheck Fairness Act* was re-introduced and passed in the House of Representatives. The bill is designed to strengthen protections against wage discrimination and holds employers accountable for salary inequities. Employers cannot require past salary histories and employees would have the right to compare wages without penalties. The legislation would provide funding for training on salary and benefit negotiation, such as AAUW’s *Work Smart* Program. The US Senate has not yet voted on the *Paycheck Fairness Act*.

AAUW’s work to improve the economic security of women is as important now as it was in the 1896. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kim Edgar Action Funds Chair



## EQUAL PAY HAS BEEN THE LAW OF THE LAND FOR MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY, YET WOMEN’S PAY STILL LAGS BEHIND MEN’S.



AAUW members Minnie Miles (front row, fourth from right) and Reps. Edith Green (left of president, in white suit), Martha Griffiths (second from right), and Julia Hansen (far right) with President John F. Kennedy as he signs the Equal Pay Act into law on June 10, 1963.

CREDIT: Abbie Rowe, White House Photographs. Courtesy of John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, Boston.