



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

May 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.



LAST GREAT PROGRAM OF THE YEAR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15TH

Well I think that Spring has finally sprung! And that means that it's almost time for our annual dinner!

Our meeting will be held **Wednesday, May 15th** at the Country Club of Ithaca, 189 Pleasant Grove Rd., when we kick off the next 99 years of women's leadership by our branch. The time is 6 p.m. for social gathering and 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The price is \$32 for either Vegetable Potstickers or Chicken Piccata.

We are very excited to welcome Bevin O'Gara, the Producing Artistic Director of the Kitchen Theatre, as our guest speaker for the evening. Her topic is "Art Isn't Easy". This is Bevin's second year with the Kitchen. Prior to that, she spent 15 years with the Huntington Theatre Company in Boston, Massachusetts. As a director, her credits include numerous plays and musicals including several world premieres.



Bevin O'Gara

I hope you can join us, as we also induct our new officers. Sign up with the form attached to the email newsletter and return your reservation and check to me **NOT LATER THAN May 8th**.

Remember too that if you renew your membership by **May 15th**, you will get to choose a pair of earrings handmade by our very own resident artist, Sharon Barrie. So bring your dues check with you to the annual dinner and be eligible to receive a pair of beautiful earrings.

The program vice-presidents are always looking for ideas and suggestions about programs you would like to see us present. So think about this over the summer and if you have any suggestions, please pass them on to Margaret Nichols or me. See you on the 15th!

Kathy Earnest-Koons - Program V.P.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, May 8: Deadline to make your reservation for Annual Dinner.

Monday, May 13: Book group discusses *Raven Black*.

Wednesday, May 15: Annual Dinner at the Country Club of Ithaca, 189 Pleasant Grove Rd. 6 p.m.

Tuesday, June 4: Dish to Pass diner and book group discussion of *Tracks*.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Small but Mighty

I wish you could have joined Alene Wyatt and me at the New York State AAUW Convention in Cooperstown last weekend. The speakers and workshops gave us a lot to think about and made us very proud of the Ithaca Branch. New York branches range in size from 20 to 328 members. With some 40 members, we are “small but mighty” as Margaret Nichols, our longest serving president, likes to describe us.

We won a platinum award for programming for our Centennial events. We were among the top five branches for contributions to the Educational Opportunities Fund. *Ithaca Insights* was named a Newsletter of Excellence and our website was named a Website of Merit. Congratulations to all!

Alene notes, “I was struck both by how many branches have dissolved and by the energy of some of the ones that are thriving. Some of this comes from women of color in leadership roles. I heard two branches talk about how the social activities are what attract people initially—book groups, bridge, mah jongg, and book sales. Most memorable were the personal stories—the LAF recipient and the child sexual abuse survivor and her campaign to change the law.”



“Small but mighty” Ithaca branch in action.

Work Smart

AAUW needs our help! The Association received grants to build “Work Smart.” This is a free online course in salary negotiation, vital to any of us who deserve more pay, or a better deal on almost anything we need to negotiate. The grants may not be renewed unless one million of us take the course by August. Take the course yourself, about an hour, and tell the younger women in your life about this resource. They deserve fair pay. Go to salary.aauw.org.



Achieving Beulah Land

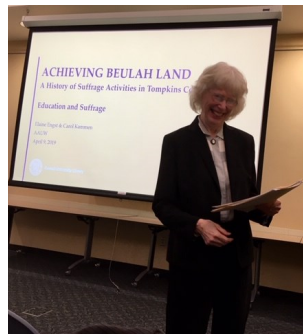
Thank you to Carol Kammen and Elaine Engst for our April program on the Tompkins County women who fought for the right to vote for all women. It took a long time and the collective action of women across the country to bring about this enormous social change—



Juanita Breckenridge Bates, chairwoman of the suffrage party in Ithaca.



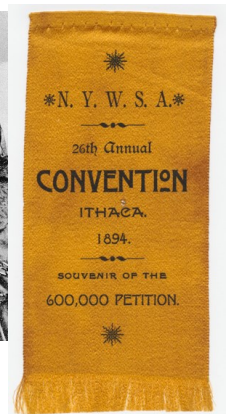
Carol Kammen



Elaine Engst



Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton



More information about women's suffrage in Tompkins County can be found at the Woman Suffrage at Cornell website: <http://rmc.library.cornell.edu/suffrage>.

Come to Cazenovia July 19-21

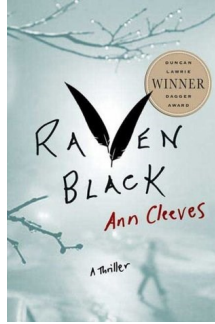
AAUW New York State has invited all of us to the Summer Leadership Conference at Cazenovia College. I hope you will consider this fun, inexpensive weekend focused on building strong branches to take collective action on today's problems. Let me know if you can join us.

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

AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

WHAT A THRILLER!

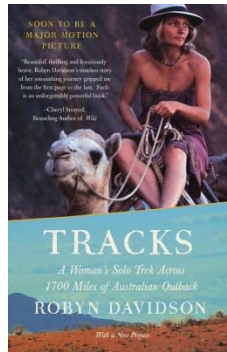
What are we reading in May? It's a mystery.... Well, OK, it is *Raven Black* by Anne Cleeves. The New York Times Book Review calls this atmospheric thriller "chilling... enough to freeze the blood". Set in the Shetland Islands, it is a sinister, psychological novel, the first book in an outstanding, prize winning mystery series. On Monday, May 13, Kathy Earnest Koons will lead our discussion at Sharon Turecek's home. Arrive at 7:00 for coffee and tea or at 7:30 for the discussion. Directions will be sent by email. Everyone is welcome. Bring a friend. Contact Betta Hedlund for more information. bhedlund@mindspring.com



READING AHEAD: JUNE

(PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGED DATE)

On **Tuesday, June 4**, the book group "goes" to Australia. *Tracks* by Robyn Davidson is her account of an exhilarating solo trek with camels from Ayers Rock to the Pacific Ocean. This is a personal journal of an unforgettable adventure by one daring and stubborn woman.



The June meeting will start with an end of the year supper featuring various Australian foods. So search for traditional Aussie recipes, make a dish-to-pass, and come early for this very fun, final book event of the year.

FIVE BOOKS CHOSEN FOR 2019-2020

The book group has voted for five titles on the list of books we will read next year. For your summer reading, they are:

The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry by Gabrielle Zevin

Becoming by Michelle Obama

Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End by Atul Gawande

Educated by Tara Westover

Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

In September, we will choose five more books to read in 2019-2020, so please read widely over the summer and suggest even more books for the fall vote. Titles that were suggested this spring, but were not among the five chosen, will of course be on the fall ballot too.

Betta Hedlund—Book Group Chair

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

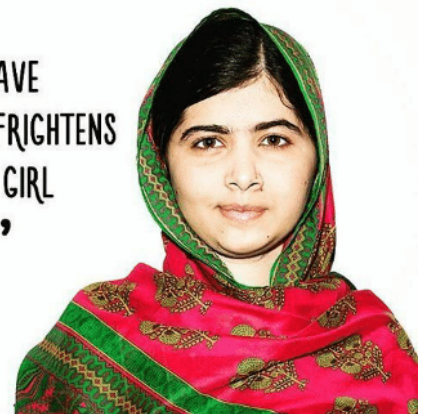
March: *Our Souls at Night*
by Kent Haruf

April: *The Boys in the Boat*
by Daniel James Brown

May: *Raven Black*
by Ann Cleeves

June: *Tracks*
by Robyn Davidson

"EXTREMISTS HAVE
SHOWN WHAT FRIGHTENS
THEM MOST: A GIRL
WITH A BOOK."



Malala Yousafzai ❤️

WOMEN IN SPORTS – WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

AAUW has had a long history of advocacy and research focusing on enforcement of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972. AAUW's Legal Advocacy Fund has supported many cases involving Title IX discrimination.

Current AAUW research indicates that Title IX enforcement still has a long way to go. Girls have 1.2 million fewer chances to play sports in high school than boys. Less than two-thirds of African American and Hispanic girls play sports. More than three-quarters of white girls do.



Katie Scanlon, Syracuse University Director of Student-Athlete Development and Ph.D. candidate, lead a discussion of these issues at the New York State AAUW Convention in Cooperstown. Katie works with both the women's lacrosse and men's basketball teams. She is responsible for developing, implementing and evaluating academic support plans, monitoring tutoring, coordinating with campus advisors and faculty, and assisting with career development plans. She also works with Syracuse University's Registrar to ensure NCAA Certifications for Compliance.

Under the leadership of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, efforts are being made to dismantle Title IX or weaken its protections. Your continued support of AAUW's research and public policy work is critical today to ensure that all women and girls have an equal chance to participate in educational opportunities, including sports.

Kim Edgar - AAUW Action Funds Chair



CHECK US OUT



Keep up to date on our 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**

