



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

September 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.

THIS YEAR'S THEME IS "DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY"



It's time to go back to school and there's a nip in the air. That means it's time to start our 102nd year of the Ithaca Branch of AAUW! We just successfully celebrated the 99th anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment on the Commons this past Monday and we are ready to turn our attention to the next phase of our journey.

This year our theme is "Diversity in Our Community".

On **Thursday, September 19th** we will meet at the new site of **The History Center of Tompkins County** now located in the old Tompkins County Trust Bank building in Bank Alley.

Members can come as early as 6 pm to tour the museum. It's fantastic and Tommy is there! It's bright, attractive, interactive and well planned. If you haven't visited yet, it's well worth the trip.

At 7 pm we will assemble in the Ithaca College Gallery to hear Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell speak on the history of diversity in Tompkins County. He is a faculty member at Ithaca College in the Department of Education and the former director of the Center for Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Social Change. He will give us some insights into what it was like for various groups living here in earlier times. Hope you can come.



Dr. Sean Eversley Bradwell

On **Saturday, October 26th** we will host the District III meeting. The theme is "Diversity: It's MORE than you think". It will take place at **TC3**. The flyer and registration form is included in the newsletter and attached to the newsletter email. We have a great lineup of excellent and diverse speakers. Please send your registration in soon.

Mark your calendars and plan on joining us for our outstanding programs this fall with more to come.

Kathy Earnest-Koons
Program V.P.

Dates to Remember



Monday, September 9: Book Group discusses *Educated* in The Den at Kendal at 7 pm

Thursday, September 19: Diversity in Our Community at the History Center of Tompkins County at 7 pm

Saturday, October 26: District III Conference at TC3 8:30 am –3:00 pm in the Robert R. Spole Conference Room

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We Are All Members of the Membership Committee

Pick up a new membership brochure at our September meeting and carry it in your purse. You never know when you will meet someone interested in education and equity issues. There is strength in numbers. Thank you to Margaret Nichols for reviving our Facebook page, which you can find at AAUW Ithaca Branch. And thank you to Alene Wyatt for keeping our website current (ithaca-ny.aauw.net). Refer friends and neighbors to both for more information about upcoming and past activities.

Women's Equality Day

Thank you to Diane Dawson, Kathy Earnest-Koons, Muriel Everhart, Norma Goldberg, Mary Grainger, Carolyn McPherson, Deb Mohlenhoff, and Alene Wyatt for joining me on the Commons to celebrate the 99th anniversary of women winning the vote in the U.S. Together with Ithaca's League of Women Voters and Planned Parenthood, we told folks what our organizations are doing to help women reach full equality. Special thanks to Mary for taking pictures, to Alene for turning our march scarves into sashes, and to WRFI (88.1 FM) for interviewing Sally Grubb and me on air.

We Love the Kitchen Theatre

Thank you to Bevin O'Gara, Producing Artistic Director of the Kitchen Theatre Company and our guest speaker in May. Her topic was "Art Isn't Easy," but she was proof that it is exciting and worthwhile. She was charmed by her choice of a pair of earrings, made by Sharon Barrie, and the chance to speak to a room full of women. Our theater group attends the first Sunday afternoon performances at the Kitchen Theatre. Join us.



We Met the Governor's Representative

Carly Norton, Governor Andrew Cuomo's representative for the Southern Tier, contacted the Ithaca Branch in July and offered to meet with us to hear our perspectives on women's issues. Muriel Everhart, Sharon Barrie and I met her at the Ithaca Bakery. We thanked her for her interest and took the opportunity to emphasize the importance of pay equity for women, better funding for public education, and health care for all.

Diversity: It's More Than You Think

Save the date, Saturday, October 26, 2019, and plan to attend our AAUW District III Conference at Tompkins Cortland Community College. See enclosed/email attached flyer.

Remembering Antonia and Louann

We lost two longtime members this summer. Antonia Glasse, a scholar of Russian literature and a Pushkin expert, died on June 12 at age 86. She and ten other women, former Cornell professors and coaches, sued Cornell for unequal hiring, promotion, and pay. Their case led AAUW to establish the Legal Advocacy Fund, which still supports women suing for equal treatment in the workplace. Antonia joined our branch in gratitude and was an enthusiastic member for 40 years.

Louann Gordon died on July 22 at age 93. She was a teacher of both physical education and special education. In retirement, she and her husband bought a farm and established an apple orchard. When she moved to Ithaca, she joined the Ithaca Branch and was a thoughtful member of our Book Group. We valued her practical observations on the characters in the many books we read.

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

AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

Off to a New Year of Reading

The AAUW Book Group will start this season reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. Alene Wyatt is hosting the September 9 program in The Den at Kendal. Directions and a map will be sent out in an email. We will begin with tea/coffee and conversation at 7:00 and Kathy Earnest-Koons will then lead the discussion starting at 7:30. In her best-selling memoir *Educated*, Tara Westover chronicles her journey through a brutally tough childhood. Home schooled by Mormon Fundamentalist parents, she had no formal education until she left home to enter Brigham Young University at age 17. Westover subsequently earned a Master's degree and Doctorate from Cambridge and she was a visiting fellow at Harvard in 2010. Everyone is invited to the book discussion. Guests and friends are welcome.

Books We Will Read in 2019

At the June meeting we chose five titles for book discussions this year.

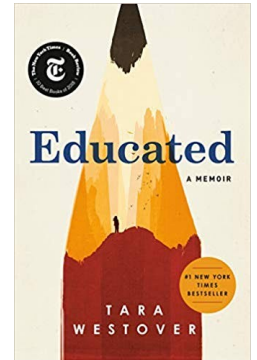
September – *Educated* by Tara Westover

October – *The Storied Life of A.J. Firkey* by Gabrielle Zevin

November – *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

December – *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens

January – *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

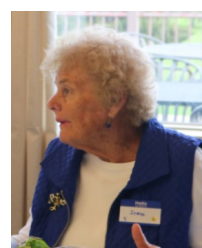
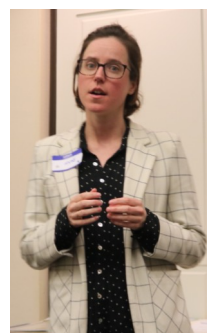


Choosing Four More Books for the Year

To complete the list of books we will be reading in 2019-2020, the group will vote for four more titles at the September discussion. An annotated list of nominated titles will be sent by email to everyone on the Book Discussion list. Come prepared to cheer for or to defend a choice from the list and to vote. If you do not received the Book Group emails, please contact bhedlund@mindspring.com

Betta Hedlund, Book Group Chair

ANNUAL DINNER MAY 2019



ITHACA BRANCH SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



In mid-August, we received fantastic news that our Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College has enough funds that it was awarded for the first time. By mid-August, we had raised \$13,863 for the scholarship fund, enough for our scholarship to be awarded to a non-traditional female student. Thank you so much for your generous donations over the years to make our local branch scholarship a reality.

Contributions to our local scholarship fund are welcome throughout the year. Checks should be made out to Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation and write AAUW-Ithaca Scholarship in the memo line. Checks can be sent directly to TC3, to our treasurer, Muriel Everhart, or brought to a branch meeting. Thank you!

AAUW has announced awarding \$4 million in fellowships and grants to 259 women and non-profit organizations for 2019-20 academic year. An American Fellowship was awarded to Magdala Lissa Jeudy at Cornell University's NYC campus for *"her studies on how 19th Century French naturalist narratives complicate our notions of what is normal and thus disrupt medical constructs of disability, gender, and race. Her career goal is to teach university students and to use her research to contribute to medical policy making at a government or non-profit agency."* Magadala Lissa Jeudy's fellowship was funded through the Buffalo Branch Centennial, AAUW of Buffalo American Fellowship in honor of Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Martha Griffiths Fund, and the NYS Division of the AAUW Centennial Fund.

Contributions of any amount can be directed to specific fellowships and grants funds or the Education and Training Fund (#4450) at any time, either directly to AAUW or through the Ithaca Branch.

Thank you for your ongoing support, and I hope you enjoy the fall season.

Kim Edgar
Action Funds Chair



A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER



The deadline for dues was changed to September 30th for the 2019-2020 AAUW Program year. I believe I now have all dues in for current members, so I want to thank each and every one for supporting our program. The "MDB Roster" online is not yet quite accurate, but is in line for updating shortly.

Muriel Everhart
Treasurer

CHECK US OUT



Keep up to date on our Facebook page: **AAUW Ithaca Branch**. Find us and like us! Our page was created and is maintained by Margaret Nichols.

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**

