

November 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.

Norma Goldberg  
necg@twcny.rr.com

## Treasurer

Muriel Everhart  
meverhart@earthlink.net  
Alene Wyatt  
alene@lightlink.com

## Recorder

Sharon Turecek  
sturecek416@gmail.com

## Newsletter Editor

Sharon Barrie  
spibarrie@hotmail.com

## Action Fund Chair

Kim Edgar  
kimberlysedgar@gmail.com

## 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.

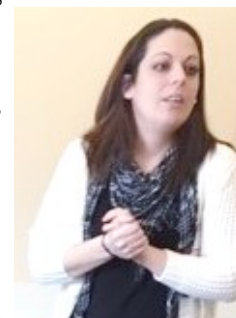
**The AAUW Fund** allows AAUW to put resources where they are most needed.



## DIVERSITY AND HOUSING IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

Halloween is behind us. Thanksgiving is just around the corner. It's time to think about our upcoming November program. Continuing the theme diversity in our community, please join us on Thursday, November 21st at 7 p.m. for a program about housing in Tompkins County and what role diversity plays. Liddy Barger,

Human Services Coalition, and Ellen Morris-Knowler, local realtor with Howard Hanna and board member of INHS, will join us to discuss "Diversity and Housing in Tompkins County". People with lower incomes have difficulty owning or even renting in Ithaca. Middle class people are being pushed out as well. Come for what should be a lively discussion. The meeting will be held at 7 pm in the Borg-Warner Room of the Tompkins County Public Library.



Liddy Barger speaking at an AAUW program February 2019.

## Enjoy Our Holiday Party on December 14

Please join us for our annual holiday party. We will meet in the home of Madeleine Hemmings Saturday, December 14th from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate the season and gather non-perishable food items for the new Cornell food pantry and the Tompkins County SPCA. We hope that our national AAUW fellowship recipient and local TC3 student scholarship recipient can join us so we can meet them.

## Future Meetings

In February the book group will discuss *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild. Stay tuned for more details.

The March meeting features Pat Wynn, Assistant Vice President for Student and Campus Life at Cornell who will discuss "Diversity and Food Insecurity in Tompkins County". Date to be determined.

Kathy Earnest-Koons Program V.P.

## Dates to Remember



**Monday, November 11:** Book group discusses *Becoming*, 7pm at Muriel Everhart's

**Thursday, November 21:** Diversity and Housing in Tompkins County, 7pm at TCPL

**Monday, December 9:** Book group discusses *Where the Crawdads Sing*, 7pm, location TBA

**Saturday, December 14:** Holiday party, 2-4 pm at the home of Madeleine Hemmings

**Thursday, February 20:** Scholarship fundraiser at Coltivare, Ithaca



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Diversity: It's More Than You Think

What were your takeaways from our day-long conference on diversity? I was reminded of how complicated life can be. We all have multiple identities, and it is easy to leap to a wrong conclusion about what people want or need. Let me know your thoughts of how we can make our branch more welcoming. We have begun by varying our programs and the time of day and place they are held and how we publicize them, but I am sure there is more we can do. With your help, we will!



Suzanne Young-Mercer

Kathy Earnest-Koons, Margaret Nichols and Kim Edgar deserve a grand round of applause for organizing our inspiring District Meeting at Tompkins Cortland Community College on Oct. 26. Special thanks to our keynote speaker, Suzanne Young-Mercer, AAUW New York State Diversity/Cultural Director & President of the Rockland County Branch, who drove from New York City to be with us. She pointed out that the women's movement has evolved to encompass issues beyond voting and equal pay. For some the tour of the new child care facility at the college was a highlight. Scholarships are important, but without child care, many women still cannot afford higher education.

## Ithaca is Inclusive

Being both kind and careful in what we say to one another can be crucial. Many thanks to Devon Ritz from Planned Parenthood for guiding us in the new language of gender identity and expression. Her advice was to use the terms people want you to use. Ask what they prefer. The effort will be appreciated. Instead of he or she, some prefer they or them for a neutral singular, which is not as odd as it seems. For example, "Someone left their cell phone." See the Tompkins County Chamber of Commerce website for information about the new decal that is showing up around town and the philosophy of inclusion behind it.



Devon Ritz

## AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship

Our scholarship fund at Tompkins Cortland Community College has grown enough for our scholarship to be awarded for the first time this fall. The scholarship was established by Sarah Johnson, and many members contributed to celebrate our centennial. Our first recipient is Michelle Phillips, who needs an additional degree to qualify for her promotion. She was so grateful that she dashed in to the college's scholarship reception to meet me before hurrying off to her second job. She is still paying off student loans from her first degree.

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



District III Conference





# AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

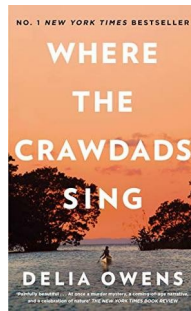
## Reading this Month: *Becoming* by Michelle Obama

We all have a life story. On Monday, November 11, the Book Group will meet to discuss the personal memoir of Michelle Obama. From growing up in a working class household in Chicago, to the day she left the White House residence at the end of her husband's presidency, her story is unique and thought provoking.



Carolyn McPherson will lead our discussion of this best-selling autobiography. We will meet at Muriel Everhart's home at 7:00 for tea and general conversation. The discussion will begin at 7:30. Directions will be sent out in an email to the group. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to be on the email list to receive regular notifications about the book programs, write [bhedlund@mindspring.com](mailto:bhedlund@mindspring.com).

**Reading Ahead:** Next month, we will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing*, a novel by Delia Owens. Put the date December 9 on your calendar – it's going to be a busy holiday season!



## 2020: Books and dates for our spring discussions.

Do you have your calendar for the New Year yet?

**Jan. 18:** *Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

**Feb. 10:** *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* by Arlie Russell Hochschild

**Mar. 16:** *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

**Apr. 13:** *Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss

**May 11:** *Fascism: a Warning* by Madeleine Albright

**June 8:** *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah



## 2019 - 2020 Book Group Selections

Looking for a good read? Here are the books the Book Group is reading this year:

September: *Educated*

by Tara Westover

October: *The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry*

by Gabrielle Zevin

November: *Becoming*

by Michelle Obama

December: *Where the Crawdads Sing*

by Delia Owens

January: *Being Mortal*

by Atul Gawande

February: *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right*

by Arlie Russell Hochschild

March: *Little Women*

by Louisa May Alcott

April: *Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote*

by Elaine Weiss

May: *Fascism: A Warning*

by Madeleine Albright

June: *The Nightingale*

by Kristin Hannah

Find us on  
**facebook**



## STAY ACTIVE WITH ITHACA AAUW CHECK US OUT

Keep up to date with 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](http://ithaca-ny.aauw.net)**

## Welcome Our First Ithaca Branch Local Scholarship Winner – Michelle Phillips



This Fall, through the generous donations of our members, our first scholarship to a non-traditional female student at Tompkins Cortland Community College was awarded.

Michelle Phillips accepted the award and joined our branch in September. Michelle is pursuing a degree in business administration by taking two online courses through the college. Her academic focus is on financial and banking coursework. Currently, she works for Tompkins Trust Company. In order to achieve her career goal of becoming a treasury manager, she needs obtain a business administration degree with a concentration in finance. She also works a second job as a waitress at a local diner. Michelle earned an associate's degree in Hotel/Restaurant Management from Tompkins Cortland Community College in 2009, followed by earning an associate's degree in Travel and Tourism-Event Planning from Herkimer County Community College in

2010. As part of her degree program at Tompkins Cortland Community College, she completed an internship at the Holiday Inn. The Coltivare training facility had not opened while she was pursuing her Hotel/Restaurant Management associate's degree .

On a personal note, Michelle is raising two Labrador retrievers and one German short-haired pointer with her boyfriend. Her hobbies include playing volleyball and being a substitute for a bowling league. Please welcome Michelle to our branch.

Financial support to individually named AAUW Educational Opportunities Fund, to the General Educational Funding and Awards, and/or to the Ithaca Branch of AAUW Tompkins Cortland Community College Scholarship Fund is greatly appreciated throughout the year, either through a branch donation or directly to AAUW Educational Funding and Awards.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Kim Edgar

Action Funds Chair

## DATE SET FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISER

Please plan to join us for our first event fundraiser for the Ithaca branch local scholarship to a non-traditional woman attending Tompkins Cortland Community College. It will be held as part of the annual Ithaca Loves Teachers Winter Recess Festival.

*Save The Date*

The event will be held on  
**Thursday, February 20, 2020**  
at Coltivare Ithaca.

Attendees will have the option to attend a wine and food paring demonstration class starting at 4:00 pm., followed by an open reception starting at 5:00 pm. You can also choose to attend just the Reception.

Registration and payment will be handled through the Coltivare Ithaca's Website as the date approaches.

Please mark your 2020 Calendar with the Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Date.

