



empowering women since 1881

# Ithaca Insights

February 2020

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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.

## FOOD & WINE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Join us Thursday, February 20, in downtown Ithaca for our first events to raise funds for our AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

We are teaming up with Coltivare, Ithaca's trendy farm to table restaurant, which is also the laboratory for the college's restaurant and wine programs.

Coltivare is at 235 South Cayuga Street, near the library. Park in the adjacent parking garage.

At 4:00 p.m., join us in the amphitheater at Coltivare for an interactive cooking demonstration, wine pairing, and tasting presented by Executive Chef Patrick Blackman. At 5:00 p.m. we are hosting a scholarship reception at Coltivare where you can meet two AAUW fellows and our first scholarship recipient at the community college. Light refreshments will be served and there will be a cash bar.



The demonstration and reception is \$45. A ticket for the reception only is \$15. All proceeds from these events benefit our scholarship. Reservations are required and should be made through our branch website: <https://ithaca-ny.aauw.net>. Space is limited at the demonstration, so register now. The deadline is Feb. 13.

Food and Wine for Scholarships was planned in conjunction with the Ithaca Loves Teachers week to raise awareness about AAUW and a creative college program. Anyone attending this event can join AAUW for half our usual dues, so do invite family, friends, and teachers to attend either or both events. Need help registering? Contact Alene Wyatt at [alene@lightlink.com](mailto:alene@lightlink.com) or 257-1894.

See **Meet our Scholar** on page 3.



Cooking Demo | 4 - 5 p.m.  
Scholarship Reception | 5 - 6 p.m.

## FOOD & WINE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Thursday, Feb. 20

TOMPKINS  
CORTLAND  
FOUNDATION

AAUW  
empowering women since 1881

## Dates to Remember

**Monday, February 10:** Book group discusses *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and mourning on the American right* 7pm at Kendal

**Thursday, February 20:** Food and Wine for Scholarships fundraiser at Coltivare, downtown Ithaca starting at 4pm

**Saturday, March 21:** AAUW program "Diversity: Food Insecurity in Tompkins County" 10 am at the Borg Warner Room of the TCPL



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### Housing and Homelessness in Tompkins County

Thank you to Liddy Barger and Ellen Morris-Knowler for insights into housing in Tompkins County at our November meeting. Liddy works for the Human Services Coalition on housing the homeless. She said, "Tell your friends and neighbors that there are homeless in our community. People have full-time jobs, but housing is expensive here. Some 54 percent are 'rent burdened,' paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing, meaning they are one sick kid away from becoming homeless." The rental market is private, and they have no control over the price or condition. When asked where the homeless come from, she answered, "They are home grown." She said funds for security deposits was one of the best things her agency applied for.

Ellen Morris-Knowler, realtor, talked about the expense of buying a home, which has only gone up since Ithaca began appearing on those lists of Best College Towns and Best Places to Retire. She is a board member of Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, which has done a lot over the years to help people rent, buy or fix up their homes.

### Our First Scholarship Happening!

On February 20 experience Coltivare's state of the art demonstration kitchen and see and taste Chef Patrick Blackman's expert dishes paired with the perfect wine. Meet AAUW scholars, teachers, members and prospective members at the reception afterwards. Both events benefit our AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College

The Coltivare venture is our first scholarship fundraiser in a long time. When I first joined the Ithaca Branch, we were holding bake sales and working at the Cornell student elections to raise scholarship funds. There were theater parties, a gourmet dinner, and one year a plant sale and garden party. And then there was the year Antonia Glasse asked us for help with her garage sale. It took us all summer to sort and organize an entire house and horse barn full of treasures. What a lot of money for AAUW fellowships and the Legal Advocacy Fund!

Antonia was a Russian scholar, a proud member of the Cornell 11, and a longtime member of our branch. She died in June. In December our branch received a \$5,000 bequest from her estate. She was passionate about education and equity. We are grateful to her and want to use her bequest to further education and equity for women and girls here in Tompkins County. I welcome your ideas for how to do that.

### Thank You!

I am overwhelmed by your great generosity. In 2019 Ithaca branch members gave \$1,965 to AAUW causes. Almost \$1,000 was donated to Tompkins Cortland Community College in support of our Ithaca Branch scholarship. More than \$400 was donated to Educational opportunities and grants, some \$400 was given to the Legal Advocacy Fund and \$150 to AAUW's greatest needs. Thank you, Kim, for your thoughtful letter and columns, and to all of you for supporting so many AAUW initiatives.

—Jeanette Knapp, 272-3367 or jdk454@gmail.com

## FEBRUARY IS SHAPING UP TO BE AN EXCITING MONTH



On **Monday, February 10th**, Margaret Nichols will lead a discussion of the book *Strangers to Their Own Land: Anger and mourning on the American right*. Alene Wyatt will host this event at Kendall.

Then on **Thursday, February 20th**, our fundraiser for the TC3 scholarship will be held at Coltivare. Register by February 13th.

Our **March meeting, on Saturday, March 21st at 10 a.m.** will be held at the Borg Warner Room of the TCPL. It features Pat Wynn, Assistant Vice President for Student and Campus Life at Cornell, and Rev. Christina Culver, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes. They will discuss "Diversity: Food Insecurity in Tompkins County".

In **April**, the dynamic duo of Elaine Engst and Carol Kammen will again regale us with a talk about "Diversity Issues at Cornell and in Ithaca and Tompkins County". It will be held at the TCPL. Date to be determined.

Finally in **May**, we will hold our annual dinner, featuring Professor Patrizia Sione who will speak about the "Triangle Shirtwaist Fire". It will be held at the County Club of Ithaca. Stay tuned for more info.

Kathy Earnest Koons - Program V.P.

## AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

### Reading This Month: *Strangers in Their Own Land* by Arlie Russell Hochschild

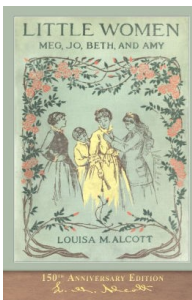
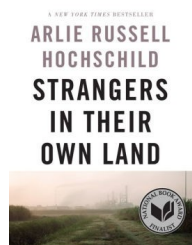
Bewildered liberals have frequently wondered why working-class voters support policies that hurt the working class. Why do they vote against their own self-interest? Why would victims of pollution side with the polluters, for instance? What were Trump voters thinking when they cast their ballots in 2016?

Theories abound. Arlie Russell Hochschild's book *Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right* is perhaps one of the best of efforts to understand right-wing voters, perhaps to emphasize with their plight, and to record their grievances. The author, an influential sociologist, has spent 5 years trying to document how political conservatives think, and what influences their opinions.

Here's an opportunity for us to read and discuss and possibly try to understand America's culture war from the perspective of the white conservatives who feel they are losing it.

The Book Discussion will be held in the "Den" at Kendal on Monday, February 10. Alene Wyatt invites us to come for tea, coffee and conversation at 7:00. Margaret Nichols will lead the book discussion starting at 7:30. Everyone is welcome. To receive regular notifications about the book group, email [bhedlund@mindspring.com](mailto:bhedlund@mindspring.com). Driving and parking directions will be sent out by email before the program.

**Reading Ahead:** On March 16, we will discuss *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott. Read the book if you never have! Or read it again to see how it seems now in our "more mature" years. Or perhaps even go to see the new movie version now being shown.



### 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

## MEET OUR SCHOLARS

These are the scholars you will meet at the Food and Wine for Scholarships reception:



Michelle Phillips

**AAUW** American Fellow **Stephanie Aguillon** is a PhD Candidate at Cornell University studying the evolution of feather color in birds. She uses genomic sequencing to connect changes in the genome to feather coloration. She is working primarily with the Northern Flicker, a widespread North American woodpecker, for her dissertation work.

**AAUW** American Fellow **Magdala Lissa Jeudy** is a PhD candidate at Cornell University studying how 19th Century French naturalist narratives complicate our notions of what is "normal" and thus disrupt medical constructs of disability, gender and race. Her goal is to teach and mentor students and to use her research to contribute to medical policy making for a government or not-for-profit organizations.

**Michelle Phillips**, our branch's first Tompkins Cortland Community College Scholarship recipient, current career goal is "to continue on my path to become the Tompkins County Treasury Manager once my predecessor retires. Going back to school to receive my associate's degree in business is one step in achieving this goal."



Stephanie Aguillon



Magdala Lissa Jeudy



# GIVING CIRCLUE FUNDS AAUW'S LATEST REPORT

## *Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers*

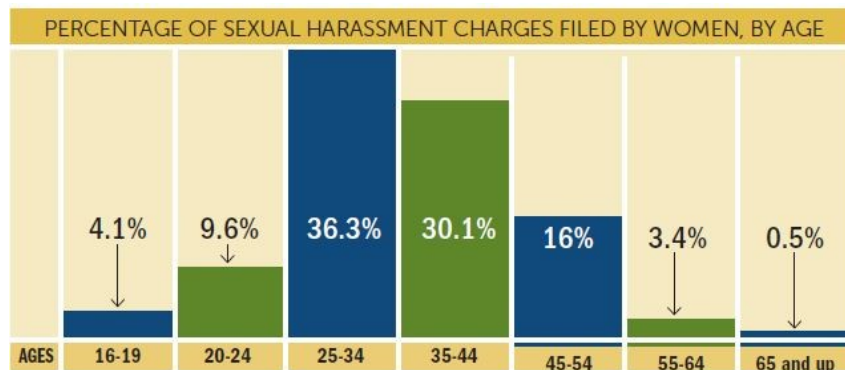
As we start a new decade, I would like to feature a unique part of AAUW philanthropy, the Mooneen Leece Giving Circle. Starting in the late 1990's, the giving circle was founded by California AAUW members who wanted to pool their donations to support AAUW research and community action. The giving circle was named after Mooneen Leece, a long-time AAUW member who was known for her generous philanthropic giving.

Working with AAUW staff, giving circle members annually develop a list of projects that need funding. The projects funded are chosen by consensus. The giving circle has no bylaws, no dues, no traditional AAUW pins and only occasional communications to members. However, when members do get together, they raise a glass to Mooneen Leece and celebrate the AAUW projects that they have funded.

*Limiting Our Livelihoods: The Cumulative Impact of Sexual Harassment on Women's Careers*, published in November 2019, is the most recent research funded by the Mooneen Leece Giving Circle. The research report is uniquely AAUW. In addition to data compiled by the EEOC, AAUW analyzed data from 311 members with a median age of 64 years old. They submitted their career experiences and how these experiences impacted their employment, economic security, and their mental and physical health. Eighty-six percent of member responses indicated that they experienced at least one form of sexual harassment in the workplace. Most did not formally report the harassment.

The report discusses the large role that sexual harassment plays in the careers of many women and how it impacts women's earning potential, access to promotions, and its toll on their mental and physical health. In 2018, older women had 30 percent less income in retirement and were more likely to be living in poverty compared to men. The report provides recommendations to individuals, employers, and lawmakers to reduce sexual harassment in the workplace and to educate the next generation on acceptable workplace cultures.

Contributions can be made by members or branches by donating to AAUW Fund #4229. For more information about the Mooneen Leece Giving Circle and its current list of projects, please contact Sharon Schuster, past president of AAUW, at [sharon@schuster.org](mailto:sharon@schuster.org).



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Please join me in welcoming our newest branch member, Barbara Stewart - [bs@cornell.edu](mailto:bs@cornell.edu).

Our Branch is featuring a special membership offer. New members joining during the Food and Wine for Scholarships event at Coltivare on February 20th will get 15 months for \$72. If you know someone interested in joining, tell them now's the time.

Norma Goldberg  
Membership V.P.

## THANK YOU MADELEINE

Our annual holiday gathering was graciously hosted by branch member Madeleine Hemmings, on December 14th. AAUW American Fellow Magdala Lissa Jeudy presented an overview of her doctoral thesis and academic goals. Food and fellowship made for a delightful afternoon.

