



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

March 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.

MARCH PROGRAM - DIVERSITY: FOOD INSECURITY IN ITHACA AND TOMPKINS COUNTY



What's it like to be REALLY hungry? To not have enough money to buy food for yourself or to feed your family? To have to choose between books and food, or rent and food, or medicine and food? We tend to think of these as third world issues - certainly not first world and definitely not here in Ithaca, in our county or on our campuses. And yet that is the reality of food insecurity that surrounds us.

Our March meeting will take place **Saturday, March 21st at 10 a.m.** in the Borg Warner Room West of the Tompkins County Public Library. **Patricia Wynn**, Assistant Vice President for Student and Campus Life at Cornell, and **Reverend Christina Culver**, Executive Director of Loaves and Fishes will speak about "Diversity: Food Insecurity in Ithaca, Tompkins County and at Cornell".

On **Saturday, April 18th**, Elaine Engst and Carol Kammen will speak about "Diversity at Cornell and in Ithaca and Tompkins County". It will be held at the TCPL in the Borg Warner Room East at 10 am. Please put this on your calendar.

Our annual dinner in **May** will feature Professor Patrizia Sione who will speak about the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire. It will be held at the County Club of Ithaca. Stay tuned for more information.

Kathy Earnest-Koons
Program V.P.

Mark your
Calendar



Dates to Remember

Monday, March 16: Book group discusses *Little Women* at the home of Jean Peck

Saturday, March 21: AAUW program, Diversity: Food Insecurity in Ithaca, Tompkins Co. and Cornell at the TCPL Borg Warner Room West at 10:00 am.

Saturday, April 18: AAUW program: Diversity at Cornell and in Ithaca and Tompkins County at the TCPL Borg Warner Room East at 10:00 am.

Monday, April 13: Book group discusses *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss at the home of Norma Goldberg.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

New Public Policy Chair Joins Board

Thank you to Madeleine Hemmings for agreeing to join our AAUW board as our first public policy chair in many years. Madeleine has had a long career working with state education systems and school districts, and labor unions and business organizations to fund career and technical education and to demonstrate the importance of public education to economic development.

Our national and state organizations are leaders in lobbying for these priorities:

- To support a strong system of public education
- To achieve economic security for all women
- To guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse and inclusive society

Our branch supports these efforts, but we have lacked a public policy chair to inform us about specific issues and what actions we can take.

See Madeleine's Public Policy News on page 3 and let her know your priorities so that we can work together on vital issues. Contact her at 277-0682 or madeleine.hemmings@gmail.com.

Food & Wine for Scholarships

Thank you to Kim Edgar for organizing and thank you to all who attended the first fundraiser for our Ithaca branch scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College. (See pictures below.) What fun to experience our community college's expertise, to meet AAUW fellows and a visiting teacher, and to welcome former members and two brand-new members. If you were not able to attend, but would like to make a contribution, here's how: Make your check out to *Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation*. In the memo line write: *AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship*. Mail to: Tompkins Cortland Community College Foundation, P.O. Box 520, 170 North Street, Dryden, NY 13053.

Member News: Leslie Danks Burke Is Running for State Senate

Leslie is running for the New York State Senate against Republican Tom O'Mara in the 58th senate district, which includes Ithaca, Hornell, Bath, Penn Yan, Corning, Elmira, and Watkins Glen. Unfortunately, Tompkins County has been gerrymandered among three senate districts, so not all of us can vote in her race. AAUW is non-partisan, but each of us as individuals can support candidates.

Here's what Leslie told the *Ithaca Times* about her reasons for running: "It's the same thing that's changed for all of us," she said. "As Americans, we have really recognized over the last three or four years that our country needs us. This democratic republic only functions if we are participating. [...] After 2015-2016, I realized that I wanted to put my career as a lawyer on hold to spend as much time as I could doing what I could to help improve our region and our country. I think we're all called to do that." For more information see leslieforsenate.com.

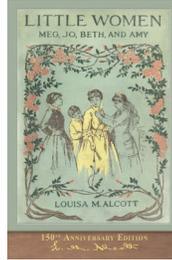
—Jeanette Knapp, jdk454@gmail.com or 272-3367



AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

Reading This Month: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott.

When did you first meet the “Little Women”, the tomboy and author-to-be Jo, sweet and frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and the romantic, spoiled Amy? We’ll meet them again on Monday, March 16 when the AAUW Book Group will discuss the classic novel written more than 150 years ago. It’s sometimes called “the mother of all girls’ books”. Kathy Earnest-Koons will lead the March 16 discussion. Parking is quite limited in the driveway at host Jeanne Peck’s house, so please plan to carpool to this program. There will be an email to the Book Group with driving directions and parking suggestions. If the weather is wintery and the roads hazardous, we will meet in town at Betta’s house. Contact bhedlund@mindspring.com to be added to the book group email list.



Reading Ahead: On April 13, we will discuss *The Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote* by Elaine Weiss. It's 1920 and thirty-five states have ratified the Nineteenth Amendment

One last state is needed. It's the moment of truth for the suffragists after a seven-decade crusade. Weiss describes a drama of courage and cowardice that will give you goose bumps. A timely read in this election year.

The Reading List for Next Year: What else have you been reading? It is time to start to select titles for our reading list for 2020-2021. Come to the March meeting with your suggestions of what to read next. They will be put together on an annotated ballot and we will vote for the first five titles for next year at the April discussion.

| 2019 - 2020 Book Group Selections | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| September: | <i>Educated</i> by Tara Westover |
| October: | <i>The Storied Life of A. J. Fikry</i> by Gabrielle Zevin |
| November: | <i>Becoming</i> by Michelle Obama |
| December: | <i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> by Delia Owens |
| January: | <i>Being Mortal</i> by Atul Gawande |
| February: | <i>Strangers in Their Own Land: Anger and Mourning on the American Right</i> by Arlie Russell Hochschild |
| March: | <i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott |
| April: | <i>Woman's Hour: The Great Fight to Win the Vote</i> by Elaine Weiss |
| May: | <i>Fascism: A Warning</i> by Madeleine Albright |
| June: | <i>The Nightingale</i> by Kristin Hannah |

PUBLIC POLICY NEWS

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Jeanette Knapp has asked me to serve as your Policy Chair which I do appreciate very much. She has included a short vita for me so you know I have 25 years policy experience in Washington, D.C., and some 3 years here in Ithaca working for Connie Cook.

To me, the most important thing about policy is representing the views of the people who belong to the group one is working for. National AAUW has chosen 4 categories of issues to engage in: Civil Rights, Education, Economic Security and Title IX issues. This may seem overly general and dull until you realize that

- Civil Rights means things like removing the deadline for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment, Right to Vote, etc.
- Education Issues means state funding for community and state colleges; reducing student debt, STEM.
- Economic Security Issues include Health Care, Paycheck Fairness Act, Paid Sick & Caregiving Leave, banning mandatory arbitration & nondisclosure agreements.
- Title IX means reduce sexual harassment and violence in schools, expand loan forgiveness programs, cover tuition and non-tuition costs, create access to child care so parents can stay in school.

There are many more. However, if you work together with a group of folks around a common cause, you can make a difference. We can make a difference. Let me know what issues you are interested in. We can research them for more information for and against and develop plans to make the appropriate government and public agencies know how we feel. I look forward to hearing from you. My email is madeleine.hemmings@gmail.com. My phone number is 607-277-0682. If we are not in, leave me a message and I will call you back.

Madeline Hemmings
Public Policy Chair



Madeleine Hemmings

MEMBERSHIP NEWS



Two new members joined at the Wine and Food Pairing Fundraiser. They are Carolyn David and Marilyn Migiel.

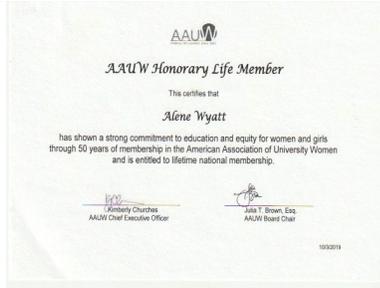
Carolyn likes Mah Jongg and classical music. She is passionate about Mah Jongg and likes to share her knowledge and love of the game with others.

Marilyn is a professor of Italian literature and culture at Cornell University. She lives in Slaterville Springs, where she enjoys cooking, raising chickens, and growing vegetables (especially Italian vegetables) in her home garden.

March is the perfect month for newcomers to join. They receive a 15 month membership for the price of 12 months. Let your friends know about this deal.

ALENE WYATT BECOMES HONORARY LIFE MEMBER

After fifty years of membership in AAUW, Alene Wyatt has been awarded Honorary Life Membership. Our former president, has been newsletter editor, secretary, and treasurer. Currently she is our webmaster, directory creator and computer expert. Our valuable and versatile Alene also graciously hosts book group gatherings and board meetings.



Norma Goldberg
Membership V.P.

JOIN THE LEGACY CIRCLE



There are many ways to make a planned gift to AAUW. You can establish a charitable gift annuity or name AAUW as a beneficiary in your will, trust, insurance policy or individual retirement account, among other options. AAUW's planned giving team, including our Legacy Circle liaisons around the country, would love to talk with you about the many possibilities for including AAUW in your estate plans.

In 1998, former AAUW Educational Foundation President Alice Ann Leidel and the Educational Foundation Board founded the AAUW Legacy Circle to provide ongoing financial support towards "A Legacy of Equity." In 2020, we still have a long way to go to achieve equity for all.

By joining the AAUW Legacy Circle, you can support Educational Opportunities, including fellowships and career opportunities grants, the Legal Advocacy Fund, the Greatest Needs Fund, or other AAUW funds.

There are no set funding amounts to join the Legacy Circle. AAUW's Development Team, along with AAUW Members across the country who serve as Legacy Circle liaisons are available to help you and your financial advisor establish your planned gift. Some of the planned gift programs can lower federal estate taxes paid by your heirs, while continuing to fund the work of AAUW.

Legacy Circle liaisons share their dedication and support of AAUW with 665 other circle members; 19 reside in New York State. Joining the circle is a great way to share your support of AAUW Funds with others sharing the same vision.

As a member of the AAUW Legacy Circle, you will receive a pin designed by Swarovski and Alice Ann Leidel to honor your generosity and commitment to the future of women and girls.

For more information about the AAUW Legacy Circle, please visit: <https://www.aauw.org/files/2013/08/Legacy-Circle-Brochure-nsa.pdf> or call Heather Miller, Major and Planning Giving at #(202)785-7766. Your ongoing commitments and financial support of AAUW Funds is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

Kim Edgar-Action Funds Chair

ATTEND NEW YORK STATE AAUW CONVENTION APRIL 24-26

Celebrate the 100th anniversary of women winning the vote and the 100th anniversary of the New York State division of AAUW. The Theme is Equality Matters. This year's convention will be held near Rochester at the Woodcliff Hotel and Spa in Fairport, New York. One hundred year's ago the first New York convention was held at the Home Economic Building at Cornell University. The first president was one of our branch's founding mothers, Juanita Breckenridge Bates, who served for six years. For more information about the convention see www.aauw-nys.org. Register before Monday, March 23 for the best hotel and registration prices. Several Ithaca Branch members plan to attend. If you would like to join them or carpool, contact Jeanette Knapp, 272-3367 or jdk454@gmail.org

