

## BOARD MEMBERS

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Lin Tollefson

## 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.



## PROGRAM ON WOMEN'S HEALTH IN TOMPKINS COUNTY

On Tuesday November 16th at 4 p.m. Samantha Hillson, Director of Health Promotion at the Tompkins County Health Department will present an overview of the department's women's health programs, provide a brief Covid update, and anything else we should know to stay healthy as we approach the colder months of the year.

From the Tompkins County Health department Overview and Updates:

Samantha began working at the Health Department in 2013 and has served in different roles, including Tobacco-Free and Healthy Neighborhoods Program coordinator. She is currently the Director of Health Promotion and Public Information Officer. Her focus in public health is on community-based health planning, chronic disease prevention, and promoting and addressing health equity.



Samantha has a Master of Public Health Degree from Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, a Masters of Arts degree from American University in Learning Disabilities, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Urban Studies from Barnard College.

Branch members will receive a zoom link that is also listed below.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4589542755?pwd=TKVwTUhOenZUa2VDQk42Zml1RjRyd09>  
Meeting ID: 458 9549 2755

Passcode: AAUW

Or ...

Dial by your location:

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 458 95492755

Passcode: 320201

Mary-Carol Lindbloom - Program V.P.



## Dates to Remember

**November 8:** Book group will discuss *Olive Again* by Elizabeth Strout

**November 16: Ithaca Branch Program:** Samantha Hillson, TCHD, will discuss Women's Health on Zoom

**Rockland Branch Program** - presentation by Kate Nielson, AAUW's L.A.F. ~ Past, Present, and Future".

The Zoom Link is <https://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net>.

**November 17:** AAUW 140th Anniversary Webinar 4pm

**December 13:** Book group will discuss *Lysistrata* by Aristophanes

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



## Happy 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary AAUW Members!

This month marks the beginning of AAUW's 140<sup>th</sup> year. We have much cause for celebrating our organization that has survived a lot of change over the years, yet has remained focused on promoting lifelong education and equity for all women and girls. AAUW will host a webinar on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> as part of the anniversary celebration.



I am thrilled that the AAUW National Board selected Gloria Blackwell as our new CEO. Gloria has been with AAUW for over 20 years and has been extremely

dedicated and professional in her work with our fellows and grant awardees. I first met Gloria in-person at a Selected Professions Panel Meeting in Washington, D.C. to select MBA students to receive AAUW Educational Foundation Funding for their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their MBA Programs. Gloria's high level of professionalism and willingness to support the panel members was a first impression that I gained over that weekend and it has never altered over the years. Gloria has a lot of challenges to address with AAUW, but I am confident that she will engage others in finding solutions that will benefit all members.

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, AAUW NYS held both a special meeting and a special election of our new President-Elect. Lin Tollefsen and Mary-Carol Lindbloom served as branch delegates for the special election. Thank you to both of you for representing our branch. Carol Griffith, current Development Vice President and our board branch liaison has been elected President-Elect. I wish Carol all the best in her new leadership role and support her in her efforts to re-build AAUW NYS.

November is our annual fundraising month. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Caroline McPherson for serving as our AAUW Actions Fund Chair. Also to Jeanette Knapp for assisting Caroline with the mailing. Your ongoing support of AAUW Funds and to our local branch scholarship for a TC3 Student are greatly appreciated.

I hope you will be able to Zoom into our November 16, 2021 Program with Samantha Hillson from the Tompkins County Health Department on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted women's health and other women's health issues. Also, on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm., the Rockland Branch will have a presentation by Kate Nielson, AAUW Senior Director of Public Policy, Legal Advocacy Fund, and Research, titled "AAUW's L.A.F. ~ Past, Present, and Future". The Zoom Link is <https://rocklandcounty-ny.aauw.net>.

Happy Thanksgiving!  
Kim Edgar  
Ithaca Branch President





# AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

## ***Olive, Again* on November 8 *Lysistrata* on December 13**

Our next two reads could not be more diverse. *Olive, Again* by Elizabeth Strout (2019) is a collection of loosely-related short stories set in a small town in today's Maine. *Lysistrata* is a comic play by Aristophanes (411 BCE) about the battle of the sexes in ancient Greece.

The Book Group meets by Zoom on the second Monday evening of the month. Join us at 7:00 p.m. for tea (yours) and conversation. We'll begin our discussion at 7:30.

You may have met Olive in Strout's first stories about her, *Olive Kitteridge* (2008). In *Olive, Again* the crusty math teacher is retired and learning to cope with being older and alone. But everyone in these memorable stories has to adjust to new realities. Norma Goldberg will lead our discussion.

Our December read is short and funny (everyone is busy in December), but offers surprising insights. *Lysistrata* is one of three comedies by Aristophanes, which are the only surviving plays from classical Greece to portray actual women (not goddesses). Of course the plays were written and performed by men as women were not permitted any public voice. But working together, women discovered that they did have power. Margaret Nichols will lead our discussion.

Books and discussion leaders for 2022 are listed below. The Zoom link for our discussions is sent to the Book Group email list. Let us know if you want to be added. All members and guests are welcome. Join us!

Lin Toffensen (ltollefsen11@gmail.com) &  
Jeanette Knapp (jdk454@gmail.com)

## **AAUW Book List for 2022**

*A Gentleman in Moscow* by Amor Towles, January 10, 2022, Kathy Earnest-Koons

*Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving, February TBA

*The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, March 14, 2022, Jan Scarlett

*The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger, April 11, 2022, Jeanette Knapp

*The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, May 9, Alene Wyatt

*Our Changing Menu: Climate Change and the Foods We Love and Need* by Michael P. Hoffmann, Carrie Koplinka-Loehr, and Danielle L. Eiseman, June TBA, Carolyn McPherson.

(We will meet in person for our June meeting, date and time to be determined. We also hope to share a dish-to-pass dinner, inspired by the book.)



## **2021- 2022 Book Group Selections**

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

November: ***Olive Again***

by Elizabeth Strout

December: ***Lysistrata***

by Aristophanes

January: ***A Gentleman in Moscow***

by Amor Towles

February: ***Waking Up White***

by Debbie Irving

March: ***The Night Watchman***

by Louise Erdrich

April: ***The Secret History of Home Economics***

by Danielle Dreilinger

May: ***The Island of Sea Women***

by Lisa See

June: ***Our Changing Menu: Climate Change and the Foods we Love and Need***

by Michale P. Hoffmann, Carrie Koplinka-Lowhr and Danielle L. Eiseman .

## **MEMBERSHIP NEWS**



Welcome to Phoebe Nolder, our 3rd TC3 Scholarship Fund Awardee. Phoebe enrolled in TC3 at the beginning of 2019 following 12 years of

working in a management position for a local company. She has a love for learning, has raised two grown children in Lansing, and has enjoyed taking in-person courses at TC3. Currently, she is in her last semester online at TC3 for her Associate's Degree. Phoebe is considering her future educational and career options, with plans to work towards a Bachelor's Degree.

## **Congratulations and Best Wishes**

to Mary-Carol Lindbloom on her recent marriage.



## **New Membership Brochures**

Each member will receive our new membership brochure. They are bright and colorful with information about our local branch. Please remember to carry it in your pocketbook wherever you go. You will be ready when you meet someone who is interested in joining.

**Remember** - Each of us is a member of the Membership Committee  
Norma Goldberg- Membership V.P.

# ACTION FUNDS NEWS

## Celebrating 140 Years of AAUW



Julia Brown



Gloria Blackwell

I'm delighted to tell you that in November we have two ways to celebrate the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of AAUW. We can join Association members around the country in an Anniversary Webinar on November 17, 2021, 4 pm. The event will feature AAUW awards and anniversaries plus we will hear from National Board Chair, Julia Brown, and our newly appointed Chief Executive Officer, Gloria Blackwell. The invitation was sent on November 5<sup>th</sup> in an email from Katrina Sun Breese with a link for registration. You are encouraged to sign up and participate in this special event celebrating the past and looking forward to the future. For more information go to [connect@aauw.org](mailto:connect@aauw.org).

A second way to celebrate 140 years is to respond to the Branch letter inviting you to contribute to AAUW Funds. If you would like to know more about any of the AAUW Funds, go to <http://www.aauw.org>. Mail your contributions to: Kim Edgar, 1233 Salt Springs Rd., Chittenango, NY 13037 by Friday, December 3, 2021 for our Branch to be credited by AAUW for 2021.



By the way did you notice the stamp on the Branch mailing with a photo of Chien-Shiung Wu. According to Wikipedia, she is a Chinese-American particle and experimental physicist who made significant contributions in the fields of nuclear and particle physics. Her nicknames include "First Lady of Physics" and "Queen of Nuclear Research."



Thank you for supporting AAUW.

Carolyn McPherson, Action Funds Chair

# NEW FORUM TO EXPRESS IDEAS AND OPINIONS

The Ithaca branch newsletter is adding a new forum to exchange ideas and opinions. News bombards us with troubling issues daily. There are also causes for kudos, celebration and congratulations as well. Letters to the Editor is a space where you can voice your concerns, ideas and opinions. Letters can be emailed to the newsletter editor or any of the branch board members listed on the front cover of the newsletter. We hope to hear from you.



Letter to the Editor:  
After ten years, I have chosen not to renew my AAUW membership. I can no longer ignore the hypocrisy of the degree requirement for membership, a requirement that a recent vote, once again, failed to amend.

This position directly contradicts the values espoused in AAUW's mission and vision statements. To quote:

**Mission statement:** *To advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy.*

**Vision statement:** *Equity for all.*

And from the website: *AAUW seeks to promote **inclusion** and awareness for all members to create an equitable, sustainable and **inclusive membership** reflective of today's world.*

As the youth of today would say, "I call BS!"

AAUW's degree requirement completely ignores its mission and values and implies that while we, that is AAUW, may help you, you are not one of us, you, who lack a degree, are not equal to us. Where is the equity, the inclusion and the diversity AAUW promotes? How is the segregation of non degree people reflective of today's world?

I believe that AAUW's exclusionary practices render it an elitist organization and ignore the fact that most of us earned our degrees because of privilege. While AAUW clearly understands the power an education affords its members, it fails to appreciate what strong advocates of our mission and values women without degrees can be.

Sharon Barrie  
Retired Newsletter Editor