



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

January 2022

BOARD MEMBERS

President: Kim Edgar

kimberlysedgar@gmail.com

Program V.P.: Barbara Stewart

bbs2@cornell.edu

Mary-Carol Lindbloom

pleiades416@hotmail.com

Membership V.P.: Norma Goldberg

ncg@twcny.rr.com

Treasurer: Margaret Nichols

mnr1@cornell.edu

Communications: Alene Wyatt

alene@lightlink.com

Secretary: Lin Tollefson

ltollefsen@gmail.com

Action Fund Chair: Carolyn McPherson

cjm6@cornell.edu

Public Policy Chair: Position Available

Governance Chair: Elva Vollbrecht

elvaandclarke@yahoo.com

Historian: Jeanette Knapp

jdk454@gmail.com

Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair:

Mary-Carol Lindbloom

Newsletter Editor: Position Available

Book Group Co Chairs:

Jeanette Knapp

Lin Tollefson

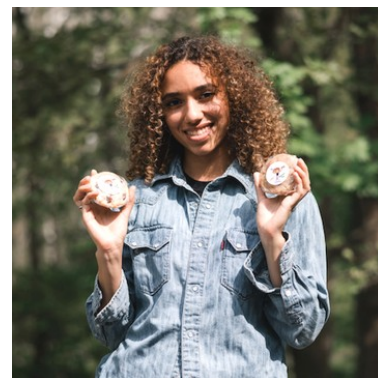


BBBBRRRR! It's winter, and it will be for a while. The good news is that we have a great lineup of programs that are certain to inspire.

On Tuesday, February 1st our Program V.P.s teamed with the book group chairs planned a discussion of the book *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving. This sure to be thought provoking discussion will be

facilitated by Susie Backstrom, president of the City Federation of Women's Organizations, via ZOOM at 7 PM. All branch members will receive a zoom link.

Who doesn't like cookies? Our program on Thursday March 24th will be a presentation by entrepreneur Olivia Carpenter, a local business woman and owner of Via's Cookies. Her presentation will be at 7 PM. Via's cookies are available at GreenStar and Ithaca Bakery, so you don't need to wait for her presentation to be tempted. More information to come.



While final detail are being determined, here's a peek at what's ahead for spring programming: On Tuesday, April 19th "Women in Politics" will be the topic of our discussion led by Tracy Mitrano.

The May program includes a tour of Botanic Gardens Cornell

University and presentation by Tim Stewart, Construction Crew Leader. We will hold our annual meeting at that time which will hopefully include a picnic on site.



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.



Calendar of Events

Tuesday, February 1: Book group discusses *Waking Up White* at 7pm

Monday, March 14: Book group discusses *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger at 7pm.

Thursday, March 24: Presentation by Olivia Carpenter owner of Via's Cookies

Tuesday, April 19: Women in Politics program with Tracy Mitrano

May TBA: Tour of Botanic Gardens Cornell University, Annual Meeting, and picnic.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we begin a new year, I would like to thank the members who attended our December 11th luncheon as we celebrated AAUW's 140th Anniversary. We were very fortunate that Barbara Stewart was able to find Le Bistro to accommodate our luncheon during the busy holiday season and provide us with a delicious celebratory cake. (Pictures on Page 4) Thanks to Mary-Carol Lindbloom for coordinating our two great presentations from Claire Concepcion, 2021-2022 AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient working at Cornell University and Dr. Lady Ajayi, a 2021-2022 AAUW International Fellowship Award Recipient working at Ithaca College. AAUW's long history of financially supporting outstanding women leaders with their academic and career goals was clearly evident listening to our local recipients' stories. Hearing how AAUW impacts the lives of women and girls is one of the major reasons that I have continued my 31-year membership.

Our annual fundraising project was a huge success last November thanks to many members making contributions to both our local TC3 scholarship fund and to various AAUW funds. I want 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.

On January 22nd, AAUW NYS will hold another special meeting to vote on by-laws changes needed to further clarify state officer positions and the timing of their terms. These by-laws changes are a result of some of the issues raised during the June, 2021 Annual Meeting discussions and votes on the state's by-laws involving state officer positions. Additional changes to the new by-laws are still needed and hopefully Carol Griffith, current President-Elect, will form a committee to address these issues. Lin Tollefsen and Mary-Carol Lindbloom have agreed to serve as our branch delegates for the special meeting and vote. I would like to thank them both for their continued participation at the state level on behalf of the branch. All members are welcome to attend the January 22nd Zoom meeting.

As we start our 2022 Programs, I encourage you to join us virtually for our February 1st joint program and book group facilitator-led discussion of Debby Irving's "*Waking Up White, and Finding Myself in the Story of Race*". The Adirondack Branch of AAUW previously held a series of discussions based on the questions posed in the book and members found the experiences worthwhile.

Hope you and your family/friends are in great health and happiness in 2022!

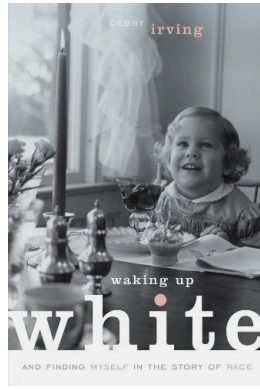
Kim Edgar
Ithaca Branch President



AAUW BOOK GROUP NEWS

Waking up White

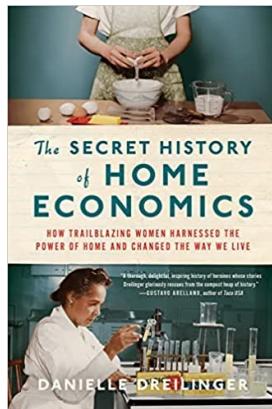
That is what many of us do every day, but these days, waking up has taken on new meaning. Woke for some is a new awareness that black and brown oppression is real and that white privilege is everywhere. On February 1, the Book Group will join all branch members in a discussion of *Waking Up White* by Debbie Irving.



The Black Lives Matter protests have inspired several local churches to begin heartfelt discussions of how to end racism. Reading is a good start in these homebound times. A spirited discussion of that reading can lead to other ideas. Susie Backstrom will be our discussion leader. She is president of the City Federation of Women's Organizations, of which the Ithaca Branch of AAUW is a legacy member.

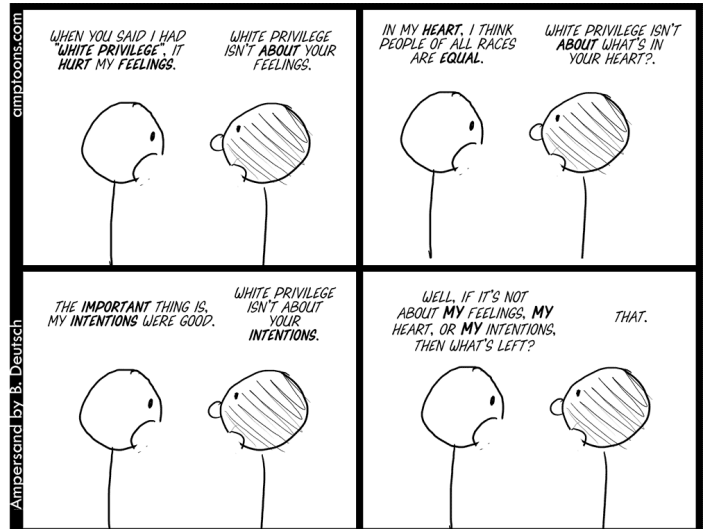
Amazon readers had a lot to say about *Waking Up White*, some good, some otherwise: "For twenty-five years, Debby Irving sensed inexplicable racial tensions in her personal and professional relationships. As a colleague and neighbor, she worried about offending people she dearly wanted to befriend. As an arts administrator, she didn't understand why her diversity efforts lacked traction. As a teacher, she found her best efforts to reach out to students and families of color left her wondering what she was missing. Then, in 2009, one "aha!" moment launched an adventure of discovery and insight that drastically shifted her worldview and upended her life plan. In *Waking Up White*, Irving tells her often cringe-worthy story with such openness that readers will turn every page rooting for her-and ultimately for all of us. "

In March the Book Group is reading *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger. I wasn't a home ec major, but I still found this a fascinating social history as many of my friends and relatives were. Plus, chemist Ellen Swallow Richards, co-founder of AAUW, was also one of the founding mothers of home economics. It is fascinating to read how her work and others opened careers to women in science and improved home working conditions. Cornell also has a prominent place in this book. Join us for our discussion on Monday evening, March 14.



2021- 2022 Book Group Selections

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 Secret History of Home Economics*
by Danielle Dreilinger
April: *The Night Watchman*
by Louise Erdrich
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 .



Lin Tollefsen (ltollefsen11@gmail.com)
Jeanette Knapp (jdk454@gmail.com)

ITHACA BRANCH CELEBRATES AAUW'S 140TH ANNIVERSARY



Muriel Everhart, Ithaca Branch Member and expert cake cutter is pictured with the Anniversary Cake.

Members of the Ithaca Branch celebrated AAUW's 140th Anniversary on December 11, 2021 with two great presentations from Claire Concepcion and Dr. Lady Ajayi and a wonderful luncheon, including a 140th Anniversary Cake. AAUW's long history of financially supporting outstanding women leaders with their academic and career goals was clearly evident listening to our local recipients' stories.

Claire Concepcion a 2021-2022 AAUW Career Development Grant Recipient is currently pursuing her Masters of Public Health Degree, with a concentration in food systems and health at Cornell University. Her experiences and research interests are in trauma response and recovery, as well as, community health and nutrition of marginalized and vulnerable populations. Claire is devoted to helping others lead healthy lives.

Dr. Lady Ajayi is a 2021-2022 AAUW International Fellowship Award Recipient. She is currently an assistant professor of Feminist and Gender Studies at Covenant

University, Nigeria and Chair, Standing Committee on Projects of the African Studies and Research Forum (ASRF) and a 2021-2022 AAUW International Post-Doc Fellow at Ithaca College. Her research draws on the feminist and gender theorizations of international relations and comparative studies to determine the cultures of patriarchy and gendered violence in the global struggle to protect women's rights. At the heart of her writings is the question of how legal and policy struggles, as well as nationalistic and globalizing sentiments, ultimately shape the direction of gender/feminist discourses and constructs around human and women's rights.



Claire Concepcion, 2021-2022 AAUW Career Development Grant Awardee from Cornell University and Dr. Lady Ajayi, 2021-2022 AAUW International Fellowship Awardee from Ithaca College are pictured.

AAUW OF NYS PUBLIC POLICY UPDATE

Nan Scinta, AAUW of NYS Public Policy Vice President provided a brief summary of the current public policy initiatives and activities that are in alignment with AAUW Public Policy Priorities and POWHER NY for 2022. POWHER NY is a network of individuals and organizations working together to accelerate economic fairness for NY women. AAUW of NYS is a member. Nan encourages you to contact your legislators to let them know your opinions on and support of these bills and please feel free to contact Nan for more information at publicpolicy@aauw-nys.org.

Restaurant Workers Wages – S808/A2244: The proposed bill targets eliminating the tipped minimum wage which will help restaurant workers receive fair pay and reduce workplace sexual harassment.

Essential Rights – S1268: An inclusive equality amendment which will give every person full and equal rights under the law.

Comprehensive Sexuality Education – S2584A/A6626: Requires medically accurate, inclusive sexuality education K-12 to develop healthy decision-making.

Abortion Access Package of Bills – Abortion Access Fund – S758/A1926, Abortion Insurance – S7002/A7573, Hospital Transparency – A6334/S5400, and Informed Consent Bill – S4831/A4285: The proposed bills are to ensure that New York protects women's access to abortion services and bodily autonomy.

Fairer Wages for Home, Long-Term, and Direct Care Workers – S5374/6329: The proposed bill would enact provisions to provide minimum wages for home care aides, require at least 150% of minimum wage or other set minimum, direct the commissioner of health to set regional minimum rates of reimbursement for home care aides under Medicaid and managed care plans.

AAUW opposes all forms of discrimination and supports constitutional protection for the civil rights of all individuals. AAUW believes that high-quality public education is the foundation of a democratic society and the key to improving economic prosperity and gender equality.