



empowering women since 1881

# Ithaca Insights

March 2022 Issue

## 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  
ltollefson@gmail.com  
**Action Fund Chair:** Carolyn McPherson  
cjm6@cornell.edu  
**Public Policy Chair:** Vacant  
**Governance Chair:** Elva Vollbrecht  
elvaandclarke@yahoo.com  
**Historian:** Jeanette Knapp  
jdk454@gmail.com  
**Diversity Equity and Inclusion Chair:**  
Mary-Carol Lindbloom  
**Newsletter Editor:** Vacant  
**Book Group Co Chairs:**  
Jeanette Knapp  
Lin Tollefson  
**Nominations Committee:** Vacant  
**Audit Committee:** Vacant

## 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.



**Olivia Carpenter's Business Success Story on *Via's Cookies*. Thursday, March 24th at 7:00PM. Via Zoom.**

Olivia Carpenter prefers to be called Via is an Ithaca College Business Administration Major and the owner of *Via's Cookies*. She has dedicated her life to social justice and providing the community with delicious cookies. 5% of profits from her sales go directly to struggling BIPOC and LGBTQ+ students. Please join us as she shares her story, plus you can purchase her cookies at **GreenStar**.



## Dates to Remember

**March 14th at 7:30pm: Book Group - *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger. Zoom.**

**March 14th to 25th: UN Commission on the Status for Women. Register [ngocsw.org](https://ngocsw.org)**

**March 15th: Equal Pay Day-NY PowHER. Registration [bit.ly/SalaryRangebrief](https://bit.ly/SalaryRangebrief)**

**March 24th at 7:00pm: *Olivia Carpenter's Business Success Story on Via's Cookies*. Zoom.**

**April 11th at 7:30pm: Book Group - *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. Zoom.**

**April 19th at 7:00pm: Tracy Mitrano's Presentation on her ran for NYS Congress in 2020 and on women in politics. Zoom.**

**April 26th at 7:00pm: Leslie Danks Burke, Branch Member presentation on her run for political offices and the importance of women in politics. Zoom.**

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

An early Happy Spring and Happy St. Patrick's Day as we celebrate Women's History Month.

Hope that you have had a healthy and happy winter season and have great plans to get more involved with your favorite activities as we emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic of the last two years.

As you clearly have noticed, this newsletter lacks the great professional editing that we have all appreciated over many years from Sharon Barrie great expertise and dedication to putting out a superior branch newsletter. Following last summer's AAUW By-laws Proposed Membership Criteria slight margin of defeat by AAUW Members, Sharon decided to give-up her membership. Sharon continued to volunteer her time to producing our newsletter until early this year. Sharon was an extremely active branch member for a number of years and her contributions to the organization are greatly missed.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, Mary-Carol Lindbloom, our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair recommends visiting the Digital Public Library of America's Black Women Suffrage online exhibit: <https://blackwomenssuffrage.dp.la/about>.

Volunteerism and taking an advocate role in the community have been key to the success of the Ithaca Branch for over 100 years and I encourage all members to think of ways you can continue the branch's legacy. Over the last ten years, too many AAUW Branches have disbanded due to the lack of members wanting to become actively involved with branch leadership position and activities. I encourage all of you to think of ways that you can support the branch and the AAUW Mission. Many members enjoy the social aspects of belonging to the branch, so it does not have a challenge, such as using Microsoft Publisher for the first time for you to get involved.

Kim

## Book Group Meets Monday Evening, March 14

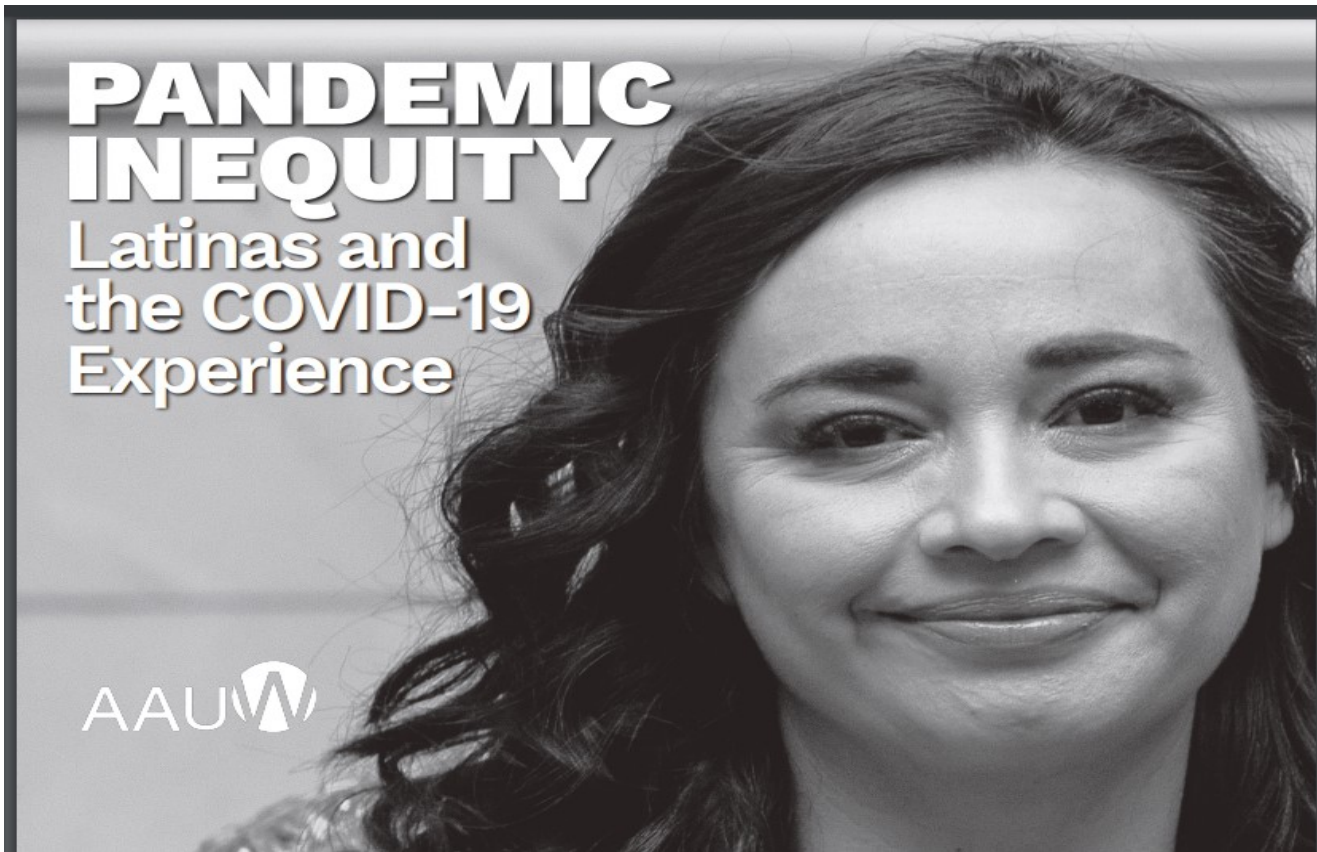
Explore the Secret History of Home Economics

I know. We all have our stories about junior high or high school home economics classes. But after reading this book, I realized that I learned a lot from Miss Kissinger. And my college friends who majored in home ec may well have been better prepared for their futures than the History of the Civil War prepared me for mine.

Celebrate Women's History Month this Monday evening, March 14, by discussing *The Secret History of Home Economics* by Danielle Dreilinger. Among the featured players in this fascinating social history are Ellen Swallow Richards, the co-founder of AAUW, and Martha Van Rensselaer, one of the founders of Cornell University's College of Human Ecology.

AAUW was founded because graduates of the new women's colleges were largely shut out of the professions their degrees should have opened doors to. The home economics profession was begun by women scientists who understood how valuable what they were learning could be to everyday living. Women excluded from most science and engineering jobs found a way out of no way. Ellen Richards was a chemist who helped create Boston's first sewage system.

Please join us even if you have not finished the book. I (Jeanette) will be leading the discussion and look forward to your insights on the value and future of home economics. We meet, via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. for tea (yours) and conversation. Our discussion begins at 7:30. If you are on the Book Group e-list, look for the link on Monday. If you want to be added to the list, let Lin know. All members and guests are welcome.



AAUW funded research lead by Irasema Garzam, J.D. into the devastating economic and health impact that the COVID-19 Pandemic has had on Latina Women and their families. The research included numerous interviews with women whom have faced large consequences as a result of the pandemic which only worsen their economic security and both mental and physical health. Unfortunately, Latinas as a community have compromised the highest levels of infections and deaths from COVID-19.

Latina Women represent 18% of the US women population, yet, they are over-represented in low wage essential frontline occupations, and earn 55 cents for every dollar a white non-Hispanic man earns. The research recommends that Congress increase minimum wage for frontline essential workers, ensure gender pay equity, expand health care insurance coverage, and expand coverage for unemployment insurance benefits. Many of the interviewed Latina Women for this research were undocumented excluding them from the CARES Act of 2020 and they were not eligible for unemployment benefits.

Many Latina Women do not have access to educational resources that would allow them to gain better employment opportunities and economic security. The research recommends that Congress address college affordability by increasing funding for need-based aid and addressing student debt.

The interviews also highlighted the extreme choices that many Latina Women faced over going to work vs. staying home with their children and other domestic responsibilities during the initial months of the pandemic. The research recommends that Congress address the need for more affordable, quality, and available child care facilities across the country. Also, the need to address the lack of paid time-off through earned sick time and paid family and medical leave have been further identified for many Latina Women as

## AAUW RESEARCH CONTINUED

critical challenges that they are facing throughout their lives.

Your support of *AAUW's Economic Security for Women Fund* provides the needed funding to continue to research how access to educational opportunities, pay gender equity, and government programs effect women across the country. Please consider making a donation to the AAUW Fund of your choice.

Last year, our dedicated members donated \$2,416.00 to AAUW Funds. Most of the donations went to the Greatest Needs Fund, the Legal Advocacy Fund., and to the Education and Training Fund. Thank you for your ongoing support of AAUW.

\*\*\*\*\*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS FROM NORMA GOLDBERG, MEMBERSHIP VICE- PRESIDENT

Spring is almost here. That means the time for dues renewal for the 2022/23 year is approaching. National dues will be \$67 (\$64 Are tax deductible), New York \$7, and Branch \$5. The total is \$79. Please consider rounding up your dues. The extra will be used to support members who need a little extra help.

A Lifetime Membership is available until June 30 for \$1,240. This is great for someone who plans to be an AAUW member for many years.

More information on how to renew your membership will be in the April Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### AAUW Community Hub

AAUW recently launched a new Community Hub. Your personal portal into AAUW. Please Create your account login on the AAUW Website. Connect@aauw.org is and the Systems Update Page for support.

## Opportunities to Participate in Branch Projects and Activities

A. Antonia Glasse, a long-time AAUW Member and strong supporter for pay equity gave the branch money in her will. We would like to do a special memorial project honoring her legacy. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Kim Edgar.

B. Several years ago, the branch co-partnered with the Cortland Branch on a Tech Savvy Conference held at TC3. The two branches split the profits for the conference. We would like to form a committee explore the possibility of sending a local college student to the 2023 NCCWSL (AAUW National Conference for College Women Leaders) with the funds. If you would like to serve on the committee, please contact Kim Edgar.

C. We are looking for a member who would like to Co-Chair the AAUW Action Funds with Carolyn McPherson. This opportunity allows a member to explore and pursue different aspects of AAUW Funds and our local scholarship for a non-traditional returning female college student attending TC3.

D. We are looking for a member who would like to become our next Newsletter Editor.

E. This year, Elva Holman Vollbrecht is chairing the Governance Committee. If you would like to participate in the revision of the Branch Bylaws, Strategic Plan, Succession Plan, and possibly a Policies and Procedures Manual for the branch, please contact Elva Vollbrecht.

F. Public Policy Chair: We are looking for a new Public Policy Chair. The position can also be shared among several members. If you are interested in becoming more active with AAUW's Public Policy Initiatives, please contact Kim Edgar.

G. Nominations Committee: For the 2022-2023 Membership Year, our Membership Vice-President and Financial Officer (Treasurer) new Two-Year Terms start.

H. Audit Committee Members Needed. This is a brand new committee that will review our financial records and procedures.

## STAY INFORMED

For local, state and national AAUW updates and links check out our Ithaca Branch website

Go to: [ithaca-ny.aauw.net](http://ithaca-ny.aauw.net)

Also, visit our Ithaca Branch of AAUW Facebook Site.

