



empowering women since 1881

Ithaca Insights

April 2022 Issue

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Nominations Committee: Vacant
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Tracy Mitrano's on Her Run for NYS Congress in 2020 and on Women in Politics.

Please join us for a special Zoom presentation with Tracy Mitrano on Tuesday, April 19th at 7:00pm.

How NY Got Ahead of Roe Getting Overturned. How We're Still Behind, and How We Can Fix That

Please join us for a special Zoom presentation with Leslie Danks Burke on Tuesday, April 26th at 7:00pm.

Leslie Danks Burke, Itaca Branch Member is a mom raising her children in public schools, a lawyer, the daughter of farmers, and has deep and long experience advancing solutions that help working families across our Southern Tier, Finger Lakes, and Central New York region. She's fought for racial equity as a lawyer on immigration and public housing issues. As Chair of the regional Planned Parenthood advocacy arm, Leslie helped lead the effort to codify Roe v. Wade into law in 2019. If elected, Leslie will stand up for us against Albany politicians who are beholden to Wall Street elites, and use her expertise to cut regressive property taxes in half while ending barriers in housing, transit, and healthcare that shove families out of the middle class, and getting our fair share to fully fund our farms, schools, and local jobs.

Dates to Remember

April 6th thru May 16th—AAUW Bylaws and Board of Directors Voting. Contact "connect@aauw.org" for PIN.

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 run 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.

May 9th at 7:30pm. *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See. Leader: Alene Wyatt. Zoom.

May 23rd: Branch Members Honored with Named Gifts Deadline to Norma Goldberg and Carolyn McPherson.

June 1st Week TBD: Annual Branch Meeting, Lecture, and Picnic Lunch at Nevin Welcome Center and Summer House.

June 7 thru 26th: "Hurricane Diane" - Kitchen Theatre.

June 30th: AAUW Membership Renewal for 2022-2023.

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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we continue to experience a typical Upstate New Year Spring, I hope that you are enjoying the signs of spring with Daffodils blooming and our few sunny days.

The COVID-19 Pandemic over the last two plus years has changed a lot of lives and our AAUW Traditions. The AAUW NYS used to recognize the special contributions made by branch members at their Annual Spring Convention through AAUW's Educational Foundation. The Ithaca Branch used to nominate branch members whom had made a difference in the branch for these honors and we listed our past honored members in our annual membership directory. AAUW NYS is no longer holding conventions at this time, so the Branch Board decided that we should continue to this tradition on the branch level at our June Annual Meeting. Since, we missed the 2020-2021 Membership Year due to the beginning of the pandemic, this June, we would like to recognize both the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 Membership Years. Norma Goldberg and Carolyn McPherson have graciously agreed to review the nominations for these branch recognition honors. Please send your nominations to them by Monday, May 23, 2022, along with a brief statement outlining the reasons why the member(s) should be recognized. Thank you for your contributions to our efforts to honor great members in our branch.

Our Program Vice-Presidents Barbara Stewart and Mary-Carol Lindbloom continue to provide us with great presenters and programs. We have been very fortunate to have these programs being offered and I encourage all members to participate in our Two April Programs. Tracy Mitrano's Program on April 19, 2022 sharing her experiences running for political office and Leslie Danks Burke's Program on April 26, 2022 talking current political issues facing women in Upstate NY, especially given the totally shocking and disappointing laws that are being passed in other states greatly impacting women and girls' lives. Please remember that our branch meetings are open to the public, so please encourage your family and friends to join us for these two programs.

In the US, April is National Volunteer Month. Traditionally it is a month dedicated to recognizing the importance of volunteering and honoring the significant contributions volunteers make by generously donating their time, talents, and money to worthy causes, such as AAUW. Thank you so much for all that you have done over the years on behalf of AAUW. AAUW has and continues to improve the lives of women and girls. Plus, I have personally loved the social aspects of membership as I moved around the country pursuing my professional career. I have met many amazing women and had learning opportunities that I never would have experienced without AAUW in my life. Thank you for your involvement with AAUW.

Kim

Kitchen Theatre—Branch Interest Group
HURRICANE DIANE written by MADELEINE GEORGE
Directed by Rebecca Bradshaw
JUN 7 - JUN 26, 2022

In the suburbs of the Garden State, the Greek God Dionysus returns from the heavens in the guise of a butch gardener named Diane, who's hell bent on reversing climate change and restoring earthly order by seducing a band of mortal followers. Where better to begin than with four housewives sipping on giant glasses of Zinfandel? The latest gossip and home improvement plans are brought to their knees by the whirls of ancient myth, ecological revenge and an ecstatic awakening for the ages in this perfect storm of timely tragicomedy.

1 hour 30 minutes, no intermission
Recommended for ages 14+

For More Information about the Kitchen Theatre—Branch Interest Group, please contact Margaret Nichols, Alene Wyatt, or Jeanette Knapp.

Branch News

The Book Group

The Night Watchman Discussion on April 11

This Monday evening, April 11, the Book Group will discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich. This Pulitzer-prize winning novel is not a simple read, but it is an important one. In these days of increasing awareness of BIPOC (Black, Indigenous and People of Color) issues, this book is an eye-opener for some of us clueless folks. *The Night Watchman is fiction, but the attempt to dispossess native Americans in the 1950s was real. Jan Scarlett will lead our discussion.*

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.

The Island of Sea Women

On May 9, the Book Group will be discussing, *The Island of Sea Women* by Lisa See, an historical novel set in Korea. Alene Wyatt will be leading the discussion.

AAUW at the Book Sale

Ithaca's famous Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library Book Sale begins on Saturday, May 6 and continues for 3 long weekends in May. The Book Group will be helping out on Saturday, May 21, from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. If you would like to join us, contact Jeanette.

Questions? Comments? Contact Lin Tollefsen (ltollefsen11@gmail.com) or Jeanette Knapp (jdk454@gmail.com)

Board Embraces AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship

At the April Board meeting, branch leaders voted unanimously to continue to raise funds for the AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College. The endowed scholarship was established by Sarah Johnson, a longtime branch member, to be awarded to a woman with financial need who was returning to school at TC3.

Sarah attended a community college and returned to college later in life. She endowed the scholarship to honor both the branch and TC3's significant contribution to the three Transition conferences that the Ithaca Branch held (2002-2004). These day-long meetings brought women who wanted more education together with educators and peers who could help them figure out how to do this.

The board was grateful for Sarah's gift and voted to continue to raise funds for the scholarship through donations or other fund-raising activities. The scholarship is a visible demonstration of how the branch supports education for women locally. Look for a letter this fall requesting support for the scholarship and other AAUW priorities. As part of the branch's centennial celebration in 2018, the branch invited members and former members to make a centennial gift to the AAUW Ithaca Branch scholarship at TC3. These gifts and the growth of the endowment increased the fund enough that the first scholarship was awarded in the fall of 2019. The scholarship has been awarded each fall since.

An Endowed Scholarship Is Permanent

Some branch scholarships are not endowed. All of the money raised each year goes to the scholarship recipient. If the branch does not raise money the next year or disbands, the scholarship disappears.

Because Ithaca's scholarship is a permanently established endowed scholarship, it will be awarded each year whether or not the branch continues to raise funds for the scholarship. Only the interest, not the principle of the fund is awarded. If the branch continues to add to the fund, annual awards should increase well ahead of the inflation rate and well ahead of the money we may or may not be able to raise each year.

A scholarship that was established by one of our members and subsequently supported by many others is now in both name and fact the AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship.

Questions? Contact Jeanette Knapp, Ithaca Branch Historian, 272-3367 or jdk454@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report, March 2022

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Beginning balance \$2,675.84

Expenses

Newsletter printing/ mailing \$66.81

Ending balance \$2,609.03

BUSINESS SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Beginning balance \$3,001.53

Interest \$0.18

Ending balance \$3,001.71

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Beginning balance \$6,255.14

Interest \$1.44

Ending balance \$6,256.58

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Please join us in welcoming our newest branch member Olivia "Via" Carpenter. Via will be Graduating from Ithaca College in May with a BS Degree in Business Management. Via is the owner of Via's Cookies. Please add Via to your membership directory: Olivia Carpenter, 124 East State Street, Apt. 3, Ithaca, NY 14850, #(740)485-4708, viascookies@gmail.com.

Our 2021-2022 Membership Year was a huge success, we have 8 new branch members. Please welcome them and encourage them to get involved with AAUW and our branch activities. Thank you Norma Goldberg for all your work on membership activities!

Alene Wyatt did a wonderful job with producing our 2021-2022 Membership Directory. Thank you Alene. Please note that our members' contact information should not be shared outside of our branch activities.

Please renew your branch membership for 2022-2023 using the membership renewal form included in this newsletter or renew online. The branch will provide dues assistance to any member anonymously.

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. 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. Financial Review 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

Also, visit our Ithaca Branch of AAUW Facebook Site.

