



empowering women since 1881

# Ithaca Insights

October 2022

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*Ithaca Insights* is the monthly publication of the Ithaca, New York, Branch of AAUW

## AAUW Mission

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) advances gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

*In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization based on age, ability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, geographical location, national origin, race, religious belief, sexual orientation or socioeconomic status.*

## Programs Fall 2022

### *Carry Light, Carry Fire*

Wednesday, October 19, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom • Lisa Harris

Join us on Wednesday evening, October 19th to hear Lisa Harris, a local author and educator, read selections from her latest poetry collection, *Carry Light, Carry Fire*. In addition to three books of poetry, Lisa is also the author of three novels. The Book Group enjoyed reading both *Allegheny Dream* and *The Raven's Tale*. Lisa will welcome questions and discussion of her readings.

### How to Save Reproductive Choice

Wednesday, October 26, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom • Robin Lucas

This is the program we hoped to have in September, but are pleased to welcome Robin Lucas from AAUW's public policy staff for our second October program. She will discuss grassroots advocacy strategies to save reproductive choice for all women. Do invite anyone you know who is concerned about our right to decide our own health care to join us.

### Learning by Leading

Thursday, November 3, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom • Lynn Swain

A new approach to saving our environment is the subject of our November program. Join us Thursday evening, November 3rd to hear Lynn Swain, Director of Development at Cornell's Botanic Gardens in Ithaca. Lynn has a 30-year career working behind the scenes in museums and non-profits. She will speak to us about an innovative program called "Learning by Leading." This program is "cultivating a new generation of environmental leaders through stewardship, co-creation and sense of place."

### Holiday Luncheon at The Bistro

Saturday, December 3, Noon

We will gather at noon to enjoy a lovely luncheon at The Bistro, the old John Thomas Steak House in front of La Tourelle. Our guests will be the new president of Tompkins Cortland Community College, President Amy Kremenek, and our TC3 scholarship recipient, Carin Hopper. More details to follow. Barbara Stewart (bbs2@cornell.edu) will need your luncheon reservation by Nov 21.

Questions? Program suggestions? Contact *Barbara Stewart* (bbs2@cornell.edu), Program Vice President

## President's Message

### Branch Membership Strong!

Our membership renewal numbers are very good, despite COVID and economic conditions. Thank you for renewing your AAUW membership and continuing to support our branch. Many of our members contributed money to help others with their dues, so let me know if you need assistance with dues or other branch activities or know of someone who would like to join but can't afford it. Thank you Norma Goldberg and Margaret Nichols for your work processing memberships.

#### Branch Honorees

At our July Board Meeting, we recognized Jeanette Knapp as the 2021 Branch Honoree for her contributions to the branch over many years, but especially during the initial months of the COVID-19 Pandemic. We also recognized Sharon Barrie as the 2020 Branch Honoree for her outstanding work as our Newsletter Editor and her very active role in branch activities. I have a very fond memory of Sharon donating her designer earrings to members who renewed their memberships before the 2019 annual meeting dinner and getting to select the earrings that I enjoy wearing frequently. Thank you, Jeanette and Sharon!

In August, Elva Vollbrecht met with Margaret Nichols and me to do a financial review of the branch fiscal records from July 1, 2020, to June 30, 2022. Margaret has done a fantastic job with our branch records, and our funds are being managed well. Elva compiled a thorough report that will be shared with members later this fall. Thank you, Elva!

#### Scholarship Funding

Last Spring, Holly Kazarinoff donated \$100 to the branch in memory of AAUW member Joyce Wootton. Joyce was a strong supporter of education, so the Board voted to donate the \$100 to the Ithaca Branch Scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College.

This fall's branch scholarship awardee is Carin Hopper. Carin is a full-time student, a mother to a very active 12-year-old son, and a substitute teacher. Both Carin and TC3's new President Amy Kremenek will be attending our Holiday Luncheon on December 3rd, so you will have an opportunity to meet these two impressive women.

This academic year, AAUW is providing \$6 million in funding to 320 fellows and grantees. Locally, AAUW awarded a Selected Professions Fellowship to Neha Garg. Neha is majoring in Architecture and Design at Cornell University. We will try to plan an event next semester for you to meet her. Your support of AAUW Fellowships and Grants provides much needed financial support for many impressive women pursuing educational and career goals.

This membership year, I encourage you to consider volunteering some of your time and energy to AAUW. We need a Public Policy Chair, Nominating Committee members, and new interest groups.

*Kim Edgar (kimberlysedgar@gmail.com)*  
President, Ithaca Branch

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## Membership

### Two New Members Join

Welcome to our two new members, Lenore Schwager and Diane Doyle. Previously, Lenore was a member of the Cortland Branch, which disbanded last year. She is an active participant in the Book Group.

Our other new member is Diane Doyle. She became interested in AAUW when she heard several of us discussing a book that the Book Group is reading. After graduating from the University of Rochester, Diane was employed by Greece Central School District as a Special Education teacher and mentor for 36 years. She retired to Ithaca in 2014 to be closer to her grandchildren.

There are colorful and informative brochures about AAUW and our branch. If you would like one to carry around, please let me know. You never know when you will meet someone who is interested.

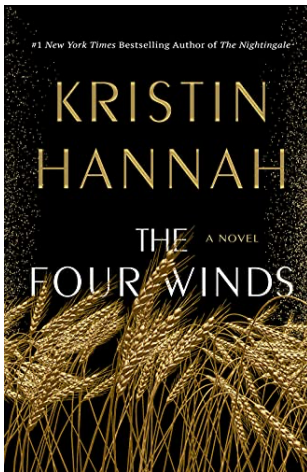
*Norma Goldberg, (ncg@twcny.rr.com)*  
Membership VP

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

Facebook page: [AAUW Ithaca Branch](#)

## Book Group

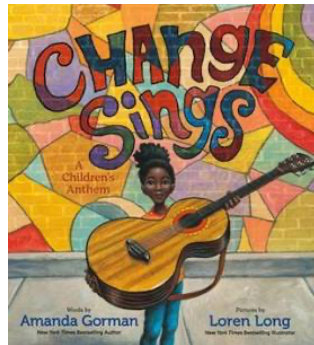
### Women Battle Tough Times in *The Four Winds*



Join us **Monday evening, November 14**, to discuss *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. This historical novel begins in Texas, in the booming prosperity of the 1920s, and spirals through the lean Depression years of the 1930s. We will gather in person at Kendal and via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. for tea and conversation. Kathy Earnest-Koons will lead our discussion, which begins at 7:30.

Our book list and schedule for 2022-23 is on the right. All Branch members and guests are invited to participate. Contact Lin to be added to the Book Group e-list, for directions and the Zoom link.

On **Monday evening, December 12**, we will again meet in person at Kendal and via Zoom to discuss favorite children's books, new and old. Jan Scarlett will lead the discussion of *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman and Loren Long. We are invited to bring our own favorite children's books to discuss.



We had a lovely meeting on September 12th at Jan Scarlett's beautiful countryside pavilion. The weather, which had threatened thunderstorms, held out— just a few sprinkles as we were leaving. Carolyn led an inspiring discussion of *Braiding Sweet Grass* and Native American perspectives.

In October, Joan Reese led a lively discussion of *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi, with fascinating background on the author and this intriguing form of women's work.

Lin Tollefsen (ltollefsen11@gmail.com) and  
Jeanette Knapp (jkd454@gmail.com),  
Book Group Co-chairs

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## Books for 2022-2023

September 12, 2022 • *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* by Robin Wall Kimmerer

October 10, 2022 • *The Henna Artist* by Alka Joshi

November 14, 2022 • *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

December 12, 2022 • *Change Sings* by Amanda Gorman and Loren Long plus favorite children's books

January 16, 2023 • *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk

February 13, 2023 • *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein

March 13, 2023 • *Beautiful Country* by Qian Julie Wang.

April 10, 2023 • *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan

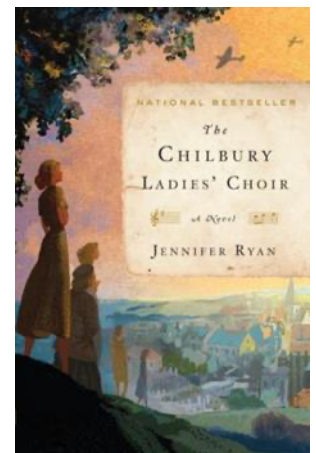
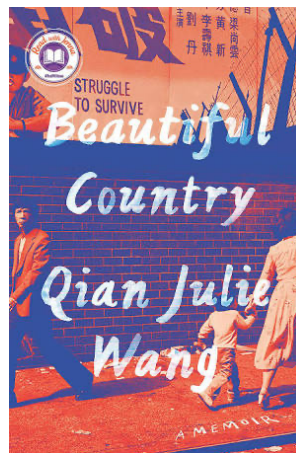
May 8, 2023 • *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout* by Lauren Redniss.

June 12, 2023 • *Gender Queer* by Maia Kobabe

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## AAUW at the Book Sale

October means the Friends of the Tompkins County Public Library Book Sale at 509 Esty Street. The sale began on October 8 and continues on long weekends through Tuesday, October 25. Five members of the Book Group have volunteered to help out on Senior Day, October 19. For information on days and hours, see [booksale.org](http://booksale.org). We hope to see you at the sale.





## AAUW Funds

### TC3 Scholarship Awarded

The recipient of the AAUW Ithaca Branch scholarship at Tompkins Cortland Community College this fall is Carin Hopper, a full-time, non-traditional student at TC3. She stated the following: "I am going to be a Chemical Dependency Counselor. When I graduate from Tompkins-Cortland, I plan on transferring to either SUNY Brockport or Syracuse University where I can finish getting my bachelor's degree in addiction counseling as well as minoring in criminal justice. I want to start and run my own program in my county to try and help people get into recovery. I want to try and help bring change to my community."

### Selected Professions Fellow Studies Socially Equitable Design

We are also fortunate to have Neha Garg, a recipient of the AAUW Selected Professions Fellowship, studying at Cornell University. Neha Garg is a graduate student in Cornell's Architecture and Design Program. She is interested in socially equitable design, as well as issues of housing and domesticity in both rural and urban contexts. She is also interested in design thinking as an early educational tool and is involved in research and teaching in this area. Neha Garg is currently studying in New York City, but will be back in Ithaca in January for the spring semester.

### Empower Women for the Future

In early November we will be sending out an invitation to contribute to the AAUW Ithaca Scholarship at TC3 and to AAUW Funds. Last year we highlighted giving contributions to the following AAUW funds: Educational and Training Fund, American Fellowships, Economic Security Fund, Legal Advocacy Fund, Greatest Needs Fund, and Action Fund. If you would like to know more about any of the AAUW Funds, go to <http://www.aauw.org>.

Contributing to the AAUW Ithaca Branch Scholarship at TC3 and to national AAUW Funds are important ways for us to empower women for the future.

Questions? Contact

Carolyn McPherson, (cjm6@cornell.edu)  
AAUW Funds Chair From the Editor

## From the Editor

### Why I Joined AAUW

I have been a member of AAUW and the Ithaca Branch for some 40 years, thanks to my friend and longtime member, Kathryn Torgeson. We were grading student papers, sharing an office in the basement of the old Roberts Hall at Cornell. She said there was this great group of really interesting women, and I should join. By then I was past La Leche League and ready for more than Girl Scouts, so I did join. And she was right. Jennie Farley, the first head of Women's Studies at Cornell, was president and the branch was supporting the Cornell 11, eleven women who were professors and coaches, suing Cornell University for equal pay and promotion.

Kathryn was a chemist and professional indexer of scientific books and, for many years, the editor of the branch's monthly newsletter. Our branch has been blessed with many talented newsletter editors, and I have occasionally substituted for them, but this is my first time as editor. As I pulled this issue together, I thought fondly of my diligent and creative predecessors, Kathryn Torgeson, Alene Wyatt, Peggy Miller, Pat Sims, Sharon Barrie, Kim Edgar and others and hope to do as well. Kathryn died last fall on November 19, 2021 at age 95. *Hail and farewell.*

Use our newsletter to inform readers about education and equity issues that concern you or to share news of yourself or other members. The deadline for our next issue is November 1.

Jeanette Knapp (jdk454@gmail.com),  
Editor, *Ithaca Insights*

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## Dates to Remember

**Wednesday, October 19** • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Lisa Harris • *Carry Light Carry Fire*

**Wednesday, October 26** • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Robin Lucas • How to Save Reproductive Choice

**Thursday, November 3** • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom  
Lynn Swain • Learning by Leading

**Monday, November 14** • 7:00 p.m. • Book Group  
*The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

**Saturday, December 3** • Noon at The Bistro  
Holiday Luncheon

**Monday, December 12** • 7:00 p.m. • Book Group  
*Change Sings* & other children's books