



empowering women since 1881

# Ithaca Insights

January/February 2023

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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.

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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 Spring 2023

## March and April Programs Set February to Be Announced

Program planning for an Ithaca winter is not a simple matter. Some 20 members and guests braved winter winds, but happily no snow or ice, for the December luncheon. We were charmed by our guest, Amy Kremenek, the new president of Tompkins Cortland Community College. She graciously answered our many questions and thanked us for generously supporting our scholarship that benefits women returning to school.

No general program is planned for January, Barbara Stewart, Program Vice President, said details of the February program are not complete yet, but will be announced soon. Watch your email for subject, date and time.

### Learning by Leading • March 7

Join us, via Zoom, on Tuesday, March 7 at 7:00 p.m. for a discussion of a new approach to saving the environment. This program was originally planned for November.

Our speaker will be Lynn Swain, Director of Development at Cornell University's Botanic Gardens. Lynn has a 30-year career working behind the scenes in museums and non-profits. She will speak to us about an innovative program at the Botanic Gardens called "Learning by Leading." The goal is to cultivate "a new generation of environmental leaders through stewardship, co-creation and sense of place."

### NO CHILD . . . • April 16

In April, all branch members are invited to join the Theatre Group at the Kitchen Theatre in downtown Ithaca to see *NO CHILD . . .*, a comedy by Nilaja Sun. We will be attending the Sunday afternoon performance on April 16,

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## Dates to Remember

**Monday, February 13 • 7:00 p.m. • Book Group**

*The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein

**Tuesday, March 7 • 7:00 p.m. via Zoom**

Lynn Swain • Learning by Leading

**Monday, March 13 • 7:00 p.m. • Book Group**

*Beautiful Country* by Quan Julie Wang

## President's Message

### Happy New Year!

As we start a new year, the branch has a number of very positive things going on. First, I would like to welcome our two newest members, Aidan Kelly and Anndrea Mathers to our branch and encourage everyone to make them feel welcome.

Second, thanks to all who voted unanimously to donate the remaining money left to the branch by Connie Reys, a long-time member. The funds will go the Johnson Museum of Art at Cornell University for their Family Education Program. On the first Saturday of the month families are invited to bring their children to the museum to learn about art first-hand. Over the years Connie's bequest has helped to support sister2sister, Tech Savvy, and other projects. The board selected the museum's program, which aligns with Connie's interest in art and AAUW's mission of supporting education in our communities. I have really enjoyed learning about Connie, both as an accomplished AAUW member and as someone who contributed so much to the local community. We will share more information as programs are scheduled and invite you and your family and friends to the programs.

### Gifts Have Great Impact

Third, we had another terrific year of fundraising for both our local Tompkins Cortland Community College Scholarship and AAUW Funds. Thank you! Often we do not get to see firsthand the benefits of contributing to AAUW Funds and the impact that they have on individual's lives. In early December, Charlotte Farris passed away. She was one of the plaintiffs in the Cornell 11 case and a long-time member of the Cortland Branch. Despite the case settlement, Charlotte Farris's career and personal life were greatly changed as a result of her decision to join with other faculty women to sue Cornell University for unequal promotion and pay. Please keep Charlotte Farris, Antonia Glasse and the other Cornell 11 women's fight in mind as some 40+ years later, women are still fighting for equity and reproductive choice.

Finally, I encourage you to participate in the diverse and educational branch programs being coordinated by Barbara Stewart, who has done a terrific job. In addition, plan to attend, virtually or in person, a program being planned by AAUW NYS College/University Chair Maria Ellis and her committee. "NYS Women College/University Presidents and Their Challenges" is scheduled for Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>.

*Kim Edgar (kimberlysedgar@gmail.com)*

## Nominating Committee Members Needed

The offices of President and Program Vice-President of the Ithaca Branch need to be filled for 2023-2025. Please consider volunteering to serve on the Nominating Committee. Your help encouraging future leaders of our branch is critical to our ongoing success. Please contact me if you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee.

If you would like to be President or Co-President or Program Vice-President or Co-Program Vice President, or any other leadership role, also contact me. We need a Public Policy Chair and are always open to new interest groups. Many AAUW branches successfully have members share jobs, and I have personally shared offices in other branches that I have belonged to, so leadership options can be explored.

Thank you,

*Kim Edgar (kimberlysedgar@gmail.com)*

## Pay Equity for Home Health Care Providers

New York AAUW branches have been asked to conduct a survey/questionnaire project on the status of Home Health Care Providers in our local counties. This is a AAUW NYS Public Policy and PowHer Project.

Two members from the Adirondack Branch have been working on the details for the project and can serve as advisors to our branch. The project's deadline is March 31, 2023. If you have either expertise in the Home Health Care field or are interested in volunteering on this salary and benefits equity issue, please contact Kim Edgar (kimberlysedgar@gmail.com) for more information.

The [AAUW of New York's Diversity section](#) has been updated to include more diversity, equity, and inclusion resources—check it out!

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

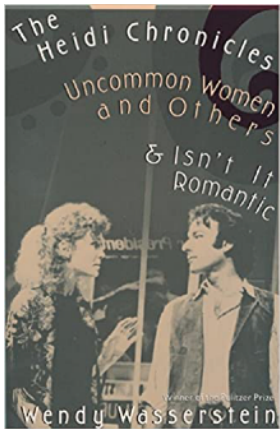
Facebook page: [AAUW Ithaca Branch](#)

## Book Group

### Both Comedy and Drama in

#### *The Heidi Chronicles*

Celebrate Women's History Month early by reading *The Heidi Chronicles* by Wendy Wasserstein. Then join in the Book Group's discussion on Feb. 13. You may have seen this 1989 play at Ithaca College, on Broadway or elsewhere. It won both the Pulitzer Prize and the Tony Award. This look at women and their roles is both very funny and enlightening.

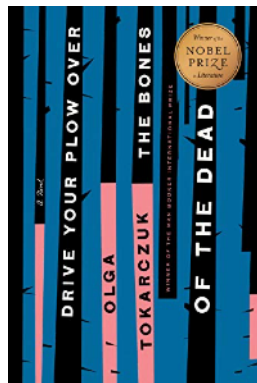


Heidi Holland is a lecturer in art history, an expert on female artists virtually unknown in their lifetimes, though their work is as good as that of the male painters who dominated their ages. Through her experiences, this thoughtful drama explores the price women pay as they search for fulfillment.

We will meet on Monday evening, Feb 13, via Zoom, at 7:00 p.m. for tea (yours) and conversation. Our discussion begins at 7:30 p.m. All members and guests are welcome. Contact Lin to be added to the Book Group e-list. Alene Wyatt will lead our discussion.

### An Uncommon Murder Mystery

In January we discussed *Drive Your Plow over the Bones of the Dead*. This astonishing book is by Olga Tokarczuk, a Polish author who is one of the few women to win the Nobel Prize for Literature. Lin led our discussion of an extraordinary writer and cast of characters. We considered the influence of geography, weather, translation, William Blake, astrology, history and the narrator. We agreed it was no ordinary whodunit.



In March we will be reading *Beautiful Country* by Quan Julie Wang, a memoir that offers insight on the immigration debate.

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

## Membership

### Welcome Two New Members

Aidan Kelly is an administrative assistant for the Feminist, Gender & Sexuality Studies Program at Cornell University. She is a graduate of Binghamton University with a B.A. in English and Rhetoric. She can be reached at aidankelly@cornell.edu or 607-280-0929.

Dr. Anndrea Mathers is Assistant Provost at Tompkins Cortland Community College and an associate professor of English. TC3 is a member of AAUW, and Dr. Mathers is the college's representative to our branch. She is a graduate of Bryan College, the University of Illinois, and Northwestern University and was the recipient of an AAUW research fellowship. She can be reached at ame015@tompkinscortland.edu.

### Favorite Children's Books

In December, when the Book Group discussed *Change Sings*, by Amanda Gorman, illustrated by Loren Long, we each talked of our own favorite children's books. If you are looking for some easy reading to brighten your winter, try our favorites:

*The Phantom Tollbooth* by Norton Juster; Jules Feiffer, illustrator

*The Happy Prince* by Oscar Wilde

*Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo; Timothy Basil Ering, illustrator

*The Tall Book of Mother Goose*, Feodor Rojankovsky, illustrator

*Winnie the Pooh* by A. A. Milne; Ernest H. Shepard, illustrator

*Little House in the Big Woods & others* by Laura Ingalls Wilder

*Love You Forever* by Robert Munsch; Sheila McGraw, illustrator

*Berenstein Bears* books by Stan and Jan Berenstain

*The Rough-Faced Girl* by Rafe Martin; David Shannon, illustrator

*The Little House*, written and illustrated by Virginia Lee Burton

*There's No Such Thing as a Dragon*, written and illustrated by Jack Kent

*Jack Kent's Twelve Days of Christmas*, illustrated by Jack Kent

## AAUW Funds

### Big Returns from Fall Fundraiser

A heartfelt thank you to all branch members who donated funds during our annual mail-in fundraiser for AAUW Funds and for our growing local branch scholarship. We added \$1,090 to our Ithaca Branch AAUW Endowed Scholarship for a non-traditional female student attending Tompkins-Cortland Community College (TC3).

Our branch donated \$1,265 to AAUW Funds as follows:

- Legal Advocacy Fund \$640
- Greatest Needs \$225
- Educational and Training Fund \$125
- American Scholarship \$175
- Career Development \$75
- Action Fund \$25

The exact amount may be higher because branch members can always donate funds directly to AAUW either by mail or via the AAUW website.

In thinking about the future of our scholarship at TC3, Beverly Baker suggests: "It's wonderful that we all try to contribute something toward the TC3 scholarship each year. However, not everyone can contribute each year, but what we can all do is mention it in our wills! Just think what a \$1,000 (or more) —or even just a few hundred dollars—from every member would mean. Our Ithaca branch would have a lasting legacy!"

Thank you for your on-going support of AAUW in empowering women and girls now and in the future.

*Carolyn McPherson, AAUW Funds Chair*

## Public Policy

### Great News!

Governor Hochul signed the Salary Range Bill! This was the #1 priority of PowHer NY this year. This bill requires all New York employers with four or more employees to list salary information for those applying for a job. This is a huge win for accelerating economic equity for women and marginalized groups in New York State.

Watch for my newsletter in early January for details on interviewing your Home Health Care agencies in the counties of your branch. I have specific information for each of you to help make this activity easier for you to complete.

*Nan Scinta, nscinta@roadrunner.com*  
Public Policy AAUW New York State

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

### Remember Poverty, Racial Healing the Heart & the Holocaust

January includes **Poverty Awareness Month**, **Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** (January 16), **National Day of Racial Healing** (January 17), and **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** (January 27).

Here and around the world, more women and girls live in poverty than men and boys, according to [information provided by UN Women](#). Women and girls of color are disproportionately affected. Various AAUW reports and articles on pay equity —also a contributing factor in poverty--indicate that this gap increases [retirement insecurity](#) for women over 65.

**Martin Luther King, Jr. Day** is followed by the **National Day of Racial Healing**. Learn more about racial equity and healing through the webinars and resources available through AAUW and NYS AAUW. The [National Day of Racial Healing](#), "was created with and builds on the work and learnings of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) community partners. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity."

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as **International Holocaust Remembrance Day** because it is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution, and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum developed a [resource page](#) comprised of exhibits, events (including online), audios, videos, and images.

February is both **Black History Month** and **National Heart Month**. Designated months call attention to various aspects of our society and lives, but we should be mindful of African-American accomplishments and the heart throughout the year.

There is an intersection between Heart Month and Black Lives. African Americans are 30% more likely to die of heart disease than non-Hispanic white people [according to information](#) from the Office of Minority Health. More women succumb to heart disease than from any other cause, according to [an article from Columbia University regarding Black women and heart disease](#). The American Heart Association reports, "one-half of Black women living in the U.S. have some form of cardiovascular disease."

*Mary-Carol Lindbloom (pleiades416@hotmail.com),*  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Chair