



empowering women since 1881

# Ithaca Insights

April 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.

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**Programs Spring 2023****Ezra Cornell and the University Land Grab • March 29**

On Wednesday, March 29, at 7:00 p.m., via Zoom, Lin Tollefsen will explore the details of Cornell's land grant. The Morrill Act of 1862 made it possible for states to establish new colleges and universities that emphasized agriculture and mechanic arts. These land grant institutions opened higher education opportunities to farmers and working people, but deprived Native communities of millions of acres of their homelands.

**Celebrate NY Women Presidents • April 8 at 9:15 a.m.**

AAUW-NYS invites you to attend a virtual celebration and panel discussion with women who are presidents of New York colleges and universities. Kim Edgar, Ithaca Branch president, will be moderating the panel of community college presidents. The panel takes place on Saturday morning, April 8, from 9:15 a.m. to Noon. The Zoom link can be reached from the AAUW New York State website: [aauw-nys.org](http://aauw-nys.org).

**NO CHILD . . . • April 16**

Join the Theatre Group at the Kitchen Theatre in downtown Ithaca to see *NO CHILD . . .*, a comedy by Nilaja Sun on Sunday afternoon at 2:00 p.m. If you would like to join us for brunch before the play, we will be gathering at Mix, 205 Elmira Road, at 11:30 a.m. Let Alene know you are coming: [alene@lightlink.com](mailto:alene@lightlink.com). To order your play ticket, see [www.kitchentheatre.org](http://www.kitchentheatre.org) or call 607-272-0570. If cost is an issue, see the Kitchen's Name Your Price Tickets, or contact Jeanette Knapp ([jdk454@gmail.com](mailto:jdk454@gmail.com)).

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**Dates to Remember**

**Wednesday March 29 • 7:00 p.m.** via Zoom

Ezra Cornell and the University Land Grab

**Saturday, April 8 • 9:15 a.m.**, via Zoom

Celebrate New York State Women College Presidents

**Monday, April 10 • 7:00 p.m.**, via Zoom, Book Group

*The Chilbury Ladies Choir* by Jennifer Ryan

**Sunday, April 16 • 2:00 p.m.** Kitchen Theatre

• *No Child . . .*

**May •** to be announced

**Saturday, June 10 •** Annual Meeting and Picnic

Large Pavilion at the Children's Garden

## President's Message

### Happy Spring!

We made it through another Upstate NY winter! This week has brought back a lot of memories of the Spring of 2020 as we mark the 3-year anniversary of COVID-19 NYS PAUSE and all the changes that we have been through. Fortunately, our branch board adapted to the changing conditions that the pandemic has brought us while still continuing to pursue our AAUW-related interests.

I fully acknowledge that Zoom programs and meetings are not ideal, but I encourage you to try to participate in them. Over the last three years, Kathy Earnest-Koons, Barb Stewart and Mary-Carol Lindbloom have coordinated some really worthwhile branch programs for us. In addition, AAUW-NYS, other AAUW-NYS Branches, and AAUW have provided a wide array of programs to us. The AAUW Webinars can be viewed at your convenience vs. trying to fit your schedule around them.

#### Goal is more in-person programs

Yes, Zoom programs and meetings take getting used to, and unexpected technological challenges do occur. However, we have had some funny and memorable things happen while sitting in front of our devices. Logistically, the branch will continue to use Zoom for both programs and meetings. Our goal is to have more in-person programs and get-togethers going forward, but we have to be flexible with the health status in our communities and the logistics involved. I appreciate your membership in the branch and I encourage you to provide any board member with feedback on what we need to do to make Zoom programs and meetings be successful for you.

On that note, we have some really engaging programs coming up this Spring. I encourage you to join us. On Wednesday, March 29th, Lin Tollefsen will present a program on "Ezra Cornell and The University Land Grab." On Saturday, April 8th, an AAUW-NYS College/University Women Presidents' Interactive Panel will be held from 9:15 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. On Sunday, April 16, please join the Theatre Group for the Kitchen Theatre's "No Child." Before the play we will gather for lunch at Mix. See the program news on page 1 for details. Another program, about an AAUW Fellowship success story, is in the planning stages for the last week of April.

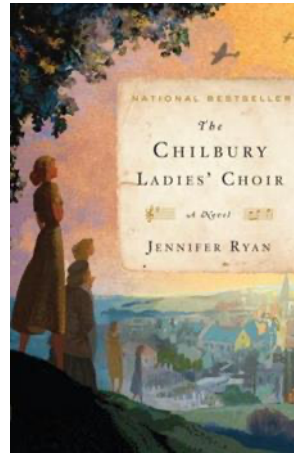
Enjoy the extra daylight hours in the evenings that Spring provides us!

—Kim (kimberlysedgar@gmail.com)

## Book Group

### Meet the Chilbury Ladies Choir

Join us, via Zoom, Monday evening, April 10 (Easter Monday) to discuss Jennifer Ryan's look at women in an English village carrying on during the early days of World War II. If you have ever sung in a choir, this book may remind you of why you came to choir practice every week.



One reviewer describes *The Chilbury Ladies Choir* this way: "What makes the book especially endearing are the frequent passages that point out the pleasing effects of singing in a choir. As Mrs. Tilling states 'Funny how a bit of singing brings us together. There we were in our own little worlds, with our own problems, and then suddenly they seemed to dissolve, and we realized that it's us here now, living through this, supporting each other. That's what counts.'"

#### Charming and Entertaining

The reviewer continues, "Although the war is a backdrop for the novel and genuine drama takes place, *The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* is not exactly serious historical fiction. It contains some sobering segments, but is really a charming and entertaining read."

Kathy Earnest-Koons will lead our discussion. Join us at 7:00 for tea (yours) and conversation. Our discussion begins at 7:30 p.m.

#### *Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie: A Tale of Love and Fallout*

On May 8 we will discuss Lauren Redniss's biography of Marie & Pierre Curie. This book was a finalist for the National Book Award and became a major motion picture that premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2018. Lin Tollefsen will lead the discussion.

If you are on the Book Group e-list, look for the link the day of the discussion. If you want to be added to the list, let Lin know. All members and guests are welcome.

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

Book Group Co-Chairs

## Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

### Help Create Our Plan

AAUW Diversity chairs from around the State had their first meeting with State Diversity Chair and President-Elect Suzanne Young-Mercer on March 14. We learned what NYS branches are doing, as well as to discuss resources and how AAUW of NY might assist us in our DEI efforts. Suzanne invited the diversity chairs to participate in the national DEI meetings, which are held each month. Our branch continues to seek members to help create a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion plan. If you would like to join the effort, please contact me.

#### April Is Diversity Month

Join the national Inclusion & Equity Committee's virtual webinar on Monday, April 24, from 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm. The webinar is designed to aid local branches and states as they prepare to celebrate Diversity Month in April and the World Day for Cultural Diversity on May 21. The webinar is designed to be interactive, with ample opportunities for participants to make suggestions and ask questions. Registration:

[\\_https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_AwboUK\\_gQXuTYhJ\\_67v2Rg](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_AwboUK_gQXuTYhJ_67v2Rg)

#### Black Women's History Month

A reminder that April is Black Women's History Month and to check out the excellent resources available through the History Center in Tompkins County.

[www.thehistorycenter.net/Black-WomensHistory-Month](http://www.thehistorycenter.net/Black-WomensHistory-Month).

*Move When the Spirit Says Move*, which features the life of Civil Rights leader and activist Dorothy Cotton, has premiered! It is at Cinemapolis through April 8. <https://cinemapolis.org/movie/move-when-the-spirit-says-move/> The National Museum of African American History and Culture has a plethora of streaming events in April. <https://nmaahc.si.edu/events> Their collection story features Ramadan.

#### Celebrate Arab American Heritage Month

April is also National Arab American Heritage Month. Check out the League of Women Voter's *Arab American Women in Democracy You Should Know*. <https://www.lwv.org/blog/arab-american-women-democracy-you-should-know> Browse the collections of the Arab American National Museum. <https://aanm.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/heritagemonth/search> Watch for special events at our local colleges and universities.

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

## Family Program at the Johnson Museum

*Bobbie Kohut sent this report from the program our branch helped sponsor on a snowy Saturday:*

There were about 40 people attending—plenty of children and parents. Perry Ground, a cultural educator and traditional storyteller from the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation, was captivating. He was dressed in his native clothing about which he explained the particular materials and definitely the two eagle feathers in his “hat.” The feathers, he said, he was allowed to place in a specific way because of his mother's clan of the Onondaga. He had everyone's complete attention. He was serious in the history of the stories and at times quite funny. He told four different stories and engaged children to be his "helpers" in telling a story. When he asked questions, several children answered with detailed, correct facts (very impressive). It was a fun, informative program, and the children stayed interested all that time! I was very glad I attended.

## Remembering Jeanne & Grace

We lost two of our own this winter. Jeanne Peck died on March 6. Jeanne was a longtime member, fond of books and reading. The Book Group enjoyed meeting at her historic farmhouse in Brooktondale. In addition to insightful discussions, we were fascinated by Jeanne's many antiques and collections. I remember especially the beautiful dolls. For more than 30 years, Jeanne volunteered at the Friends of the Library Book Sale. She was the Book Sale Coordinator in 2001-2002. Since then, you could find her working in the Collector's Corner, where she specialized in birds, art, and children's books.

Grace Saatman died on Feb 23. As the mother of five daughters, Grace cared a lot about education and equity. I first met her when we were Girl Scout leaders. As Membership VP, I was thrilled to discover she was a national member of AAUW who was happy to join our branch. She was a precise and organized treasurer. For more than 40 years, Grace worked with faculty, students, Peace Corps volunteers and international students and scholars at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Cornell. She invited many remarkable women from abroad to our annual Fellowship Dinner for international women graduate students. In 2009 she moved to Lexington, Kentucky, to be near one of her daughters and grandchildren.

We will miss you. Hail and farewell—  
*Jeanette Knapp*

**It is time to renew your membership!** (see p. 4)

Membership News

# It Is Time to Renew Your Membership

Dear Member,

It is time to renew your membership in AAUW. Our membership year runs from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. We are looking forward to exciting programs for the coming year. There have been many this year. Perhaps some of these will be in person. Our dues help to support efforts to improve women’s lives.

There are 2 easy ways to renew your membership:

(1) Use the traditional way: Print or cut out the form below and mail it to me with your check made out to **AAUW-Ithaca Branch**. Please put your name on the form and update any information that has changed in the past year.

Or (2) Renew electronically: Go to [aauw.org](http://aauw.org). Log in. You will be taken to “Personal Snapshot.” Scroll to the bottom and click on “renew.” Follow the prompts from there.

These are difficult times so if necessary pay whatever is comfortable for you. If you are able, please consider rounding up your dues. The extra goes into the branch treasury. This could be used to help anyone who needs a little extra support. If you choose to do this, use the traditional way of renewal.

Please renew your membership before June 30. Call me at 272-3685 or send me an email at [ncg@twcny.rr.com](mailto:ncg@twcny.rr.com) if you have any questions. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,  
*Norma Goldberg*  
Membership Vice President

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**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **City, State, ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**College/University** degree(s) and year(s):  
\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to receive **Ithaca Insights**, our branch newsletter?  U.S. Mail  E-Mail

**Your interests?**  Art  Books  Diversity, Equity & Inclusion  Education  Equal Pay  Food  
 Public Policy  Publicity  STEM  Theater **Other?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Regular Membership** Make your membership check out to **AAUW—Ithaca Branch**

Association	\$67*
State	\$7
Ithaca Branch	\$5
Total	<b>\$79</b>

Mail to: **Norma Goldberg**  
**1167 Ellis Hollow Road**  
**Ithaca, NY 14850**

\*\$64 of the National dues are tax deductible.