

AAUW

CORTLAND BRANCH



October, 2017

NEWSLETTER



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

November meeting	1
Our history	2
Bookchats and Meetings	3
Local Announcements	4

Our Mission:

To advance equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research



November 6 Meeting-

Celebrating 100 Years of Women's Suffrage in New York State

Come celebrate 100 years of women's suffrage in New York State! To commemorate this 100 year anniversary, AAUW will be hosting a dinner and panel discussion on November 6, 2017 at the Cortland Elks Club on Groton Avenue. The dinner is \$18. **Reservations must be made in advance by November 3, 2017 by calling 607-756-8191 or 607-423-8356 or email Sheila at scohen3@twcny.rr.com.**

The panel will feature four highly regarded local women who have held or are currently holding an elected political position: Kathie Arnold, MaryAnn Discenza, Linda Jones and Mardis Kelsen. They will provide their perspective on what women elected to public office bring to government, particularly in Cortland County .

Kathie Arnold is an organic dairy farmer in Truxton. Kathie held a seat on the Cortland County legislature from 2008 to 2013 where she served on a number of committees including chair of the Budget & Finance Committee.

MaryAnn Discenza is serving her second term on the Cortland County Legislature. In the legislature, she is vice chair of the Budget & Finance Committee, chair of Health & Human Service Committee, and also serves on the Judiciary & Public Safety and Solid Waste Committees.

Linda Jones is a Cortland County Legislator representing District LD9. She has served since 2015 and currently sits on the Budget & Finance Committee, Buildings & Grounds Committee, Highway Committee and Personnel Committee.

Mardis Kelsen began her career as Justice of the Cortlandville Town Court and McGraw Village Court. Mardis has been an attorney with a practice in Cortland for the past 19 years.

Please join us to honor these four women, to hear what they have to say about serving as a female in a political position and to **celebrate 100 years of women having the right to vote in New York State.**



Happy Birthday to Grace Bentley who celebrated her 98th birthday on Oct. 24. Grace is one of our chapter's founding members! AAUW members from left to right- Sara Earl, Kathy Jacobsen, Grace Bentley, Jan Dempsey, Ellen Wright and Sheila Cohen.

The Beginning of our Cortland Branch

The seed for a Cortland branch of AAUW began in 1952 with correspondence between SUNY Cortland and AAUW national. Cortland State president Donald Smith requested that the local college be put on the AAUW qualified list. Many letters in our files attest to the determined efforts of SUNY Cortland faculty and administration to be "accepted" by AAUW National. Finally, a letter dated November 18, 1963 to Donovan Moffett, president of SUNY Cortland, from Blanche Dow, AAUW president, stated "Your institution has been put on the 'AAUW qualified list and women graduates, including those graduating before this ruling, are now eligible for membership."

On August 17, 1964, six women met for lunch with two Binghamton AAUW members and made plans for a local branch. On Monday, October 5, 1964 an organization meeting was held at the YWCA with alumnae from 25 different colleges and universities. The following women were elected to serve until permanent officers could be nominated: Sandra Meade, chair; Barbara Kuhlman, secretary; Lois Osborn, treasurer; and Mrs. Edward Telling, membership secretary. In the Spring of 1965, Eleanor Blodgett was elected president. Two members of our branch, Grace Bentley and Sandra Decker, are Charter members of the Cortland branch.



Webinar Discussion with Winona LaDuke from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice

November 9, 2017

THE
Winona LaDuke
CHRONICLES

◆
Stories from the
Front Lines in the Battle
for Environmental Justice

Time: 7:30 p.m. ET **Location:** Online (You just need to [register for the webinar](#) on the AAUW website.) **Cost:** Free

EVENT DESCRIPTION:

Join AAUW and its [Adelante! Book of the Month Club](#) in commemorating Native American Heritage Month as we talk with Winona LaDuke about her book *The Winona LaDuke Chronicles: Stories from the Front Lines in the Battle for Environmental Justice*.

The Winona LaDuke Chronicles is a collection of timely, persuasive, and inspiring stories of indigenous communities — from the Canadian subarctic to the heart of the Navajo Nation. It is an account of LaDuke's personal journey to recovery, beginning when her home burned down in 2008. The book is also a story of strength and resilience — not just LaDuke's own but also that of many tribal and First Nations communities in North America who struggle just to survive. We hope you will join us for a great discussion with this inspiring

ABOUT AAUW'S **ADELANTE BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB**

Female authors are much less likely than male authors to have their books reviewed in major publications like the *New York Times* and *Harper's Magazine*. That's why we created the Adelante Book of the Month Club: to spotlight engrossing stories and writing by women from all backgrounds. We also connect our members to some of the authors we feature through web discussions. Stay in the know about upcoming author discussions or start your own book club.



AAUW Cortland October Meeting

Our Cortland Branch Meeting in October was an enjoyable, informal chat about our favorite female authors and literary characters. At our November meeting, Kim Allen will share a list of all the books mentioned. Favorites ranged from Amelia Earhart to Nancy Drew!

If you are interested in forming an AAUW book group as part of our branch (inviting others to participate as well) please let Kim Allen or Sara Earl know. This could be a fun new part of our Cortland AAUW!

Upcoming Meetings

The December meeting will be Monday evening, December 4th with social hour starting at 5:30 at the Cortland Elks off Groton Ave.

Bring items to auction and books to sell.

Remember, our branch does NOT MEET in January or February.

The March 5th meeting will be our annual fundraiser—Philanthropy Phun Trivia Game.

Women Working Together-WWT Friday, Nov. 3, 2017



Speaker: Karen Pastorello

*Chair of Women and Gender Studies and Professor of History
Tompkins Cortland Community College (SUNY)*

Will discuss her new book "Women Will Vote"

Lunch is \$13, payable at the door

**Cash or check to "Linani's"
Buffet style service begins at 11:45 A.M.**

Please RSVP to 753-9651 or mary@cortlandywca.org

Sponsored by the YWCA Cortland

LOCAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

League of Women Voters upcoming events:

October 30 SUNY Cortland
Pro/Con Panel: Should NY
state hold a Constitutional
Convention?

Voters will decide on Nov. 7



**REMEMBER
TO VOTE ON
Tuesday, Nov. 7**

CORTLAND COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Philanthropy Day challenge

Help your favorite non-profits win big
cash prizes!

Contribute between \$100 and \$5000 to
Cortland Community Foundation.

Put the name of your non-profit of choice
in the memo line.

Mail checks to Cortland Community Foundation at PO Box 466
Cortland, NY 13045 **BEFORE Nov. 15.**

All donations will go to the non-profit of your choice!

PHILANTHROPY
IT TAKES A TEAM



ZONTA Lunch- eon and Fall Fashion Show fundraiser



Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017 at noon

Tinelli's Hathaway House

Fashions by Bev & Co with MC—Kat Walters

NY Women's Centennial Suffrage Conference

Saturday, Nov. 4, 2017

Cultural Education Center, Albany NY
info@nychn.com

First Friday Celebration

Nov. 3, 2017

5-7 pm punch and cookies

YWCA gallery at 14 Clayton Ave.

The YW GEMS girls group will share
their photographs and water colors.

Sponsored by CNY Arts