

AAUW

CORTLAND BRANCH



June 2018

NEWSLETTER



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PLEASE RSVP for the June 4 meeting to MaryAnn Gambitta at mgabitt@gmail.com or 423-8356 by April 27.

I want every little girl who is told she is **bossy** to be told she has **leadership skills.** -Sheryl Sandberg



AAUW Cortland Branch Meeting is Monday, June 4 at 5:30 pm at The Sherman House 11 N. Main St. Homer

Our guest speaker for the June 4 meeting will be Dr. Orinthia Montague, President of Tompkins Cortland Community College.

Montague was born in Jamaica before immigrating to the United States. She received a Bachelor of Arts in interpersonal communication from Truman State University in Kirksville, Missouri; a Master of Arts in counseling from Lindenwood



University in St. Charles, Missouri; and a Doctorate degree in higher education administration from the University of Missouri-St. Louis in St. Louis, Missouri. Orinthia T. Montague, Ph.D., became the fourth president of Tompkins Cortland Community College on July 5, 2017. President Montague came to Tompkins Cortland with nearly two decades of experience in higher education leadership, most recently as the vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer at Normandale Community College in Bloomington, Minnesota. As vice president of student affairs and chief diversity officer, she provided leadership, vision, and outcomes that fostered student access, persistence, and completion. She led college efforts and partnerships that involved public and private secondary schools, as well as community and business collaborations, including a partnership with Bloomington Public School District and Hennepin County to provide direct higher educational opportunities to close the gap for underrepresented populations with a focus on homeless students, foster children, and teen parents.

Dr. Montague will speak about her vision for TC3. Please join us and bring a friend. The menu for dinner is: Marinated Chicken, Roasted potato, Seasonal vegetable, Stuffed shells, Tossed salad, Fruit salad, Assorted desserts, Coffee/Tea

From the President:

AAUW Mission

Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy, and research. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls.

HOW THE AAUW CORTLAND BRANCH ADDRESSED THE AAUW MISSION IN 2017-18

Our branch is an active member of the Women's Coalition (AAUW, Zonta, League of Women Voters, YWCA Cortland and SUNY Cortland Gender Studies) with which our members work throughout the year. We help organize candidate and educational forums. We help to raise money for scholarships so that women can return to school and for child-care so that women can work. We also help to foster equity and education through STEM activities for young girls and Start Smart salary negotiation for college students.

Our theme for 2017-2018, *Celebrating Women, Past, Present, & Future*, made for some fascinating programs at our meetings.

September 11, 2017- Jan Dempsey gave a captivating talk, *Behind the Story* where she shared her experiences in the newsroom working for the Syracuse Post Standard. It was particularly timely in light of the issues at the national level surrounding "fake news."

October 2, 2017—Kim Allen led a discussion of *Favorite Women in Fiction*. At her suggestion, each of us came prepared to share something about a female author or female character that we admire from a favorite book. This was an interesting variation on a book discussion that our members found entertaining and informative.

November 6, 2017 - Members and friends celebrated *100 Years of Women's Suffrage in NYS* with a panel of local female political office holders, past and present who discussed their experiences in politics. The LWV and other members of the Women's Coalition, were in attendance to help us celebrate. (Note: Many of our members, wearing white, marched in the June 2017 Cortland Dairy Parade with Women's Coalition members to celebrate this important year.)

December 4, 2017 - We held our Holiday Party and Auction at the YWCA. Our two guest speakers were author Jennifer Jones and illustrator Jane O'Shea who collaborated on a children's book entitled *Forest Feast: An Adirondack Mystery*. They explained how the illustrations were created and selected to accompany the text.

March 5, 2018 - We collaborated with the YWCA, a Women's Coalition member, to organize Philanthropy Phun. We played Bunco at the Center for the Arts in Homer. Janet Ochs led the game and had all of us very engaged, laughing and moving. It was fun and helped the YWCA raise money for child-care, a pressing issue in our community. This helps working parents, many of whom are single mothers, cover the cost of child care.

April 2, 2018—Janet Ochs and SUNY Cortland students presented "Let's Get Tech Savvy," an informative program that emphasized the dwindling and low number of women in computer science, the nature of the college computer science program, and the STEM projects that her students did with local school students. These young women, who are supplementing their major with a computer science minor, spoke confidently and enthusiastically about Janet's (our STEM co-chair) classes.

continued

April 30, 2018—At our Annual Business Meeting, members voted on the budget and confirmed Sheila Cohen and Sara Earl as co-presidents and Mary Ellen Bloodgood as treasurer for 2018-2019. We also celebrated branch history and honored branch founding members. Thank you to Jan Dempsey for pulling this history together and for donating flowers for our honorees. Thank you also to Sara Earl and Sheila Cohen for interviewing Joan Johnson about the early years of AAUW and her participation before and after the chapter became official. Thank you to Kathy Jacobsen for gathering information about the early history from Sandra Decker. Joan Johnson and Grace Bentley were in attendance at the dinner. We honored Sandra Decker from afar. See the history timeline on the following page. It took many years before national would accept Cortland as a branch member.

June 4, 2018—We are celebrating *Women Leaders in Education* with a talk by Orinthia T. Montague, new president of Tompkins Cortland Community College. She will share her vision for the College.

MOVING FORWARD TO ADDRESS THE AAUW MISSION IN 2018-19

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP - Increasing membership is critical for addressing the AAUW mission. Sue Sherman-Broyles has agreed to be membership chair for 2018-2019 and with our members' assistance, we hope to increase membership around our mission and major projects: Start Smart, Tech Savvy, and Scholarships/Funds.

SUPPORTING START SMART - We signed a three-year contract to offer AAUW Start Smart workshops at SUNY Cortland; Meredith Morrell, a counselor in Career Services at SUNY Cortland, will be facilitating those. More facilitators are needed. The training workshops are offered on line; all materials are provided through AAUW national. Please consider facilitating a workshop or recommending someone who might be interested. AAUW will co-sponsor these workshops with SUNY Cortland AAUW branch, Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Minor [WGSS] Committee, Career Services, and Title IX at SUNY Cortland.

PROMOTING STEM FOR GIRLS - Janet Ochs and her students at SUNY Cortland have been doing some exciting workshops to encourage girls to pursue careers in computer science. If we build this committee, we can bring in travelling programs from various STEM facilities throughout our region to address other areas of STEM (for example Kopernik, Observatory in Vestal, or the Physics Bus in Ithaca) and make these available to local girls.

RAISING MONEY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND OTHER FUNDS - Sheila Cohen has clarified details with Tompkins Cortland Community College so that we can finally distribute money we raised over the past two years for the Eleanor Blodgett Scholarship Fund. In addition, our branch and the Ithaca Branch have allocated money from our Tech Savvy funds to provide Tompkins Cortland Community College with a 2018-2019 AAUW college membership for allowing us to host Tech Savvy in 2016 and 2017 on their campus. We will be working with SUNY Cortland to clarify scholarship details as well. The annual Geranium Sale raises money for these grants.

AAUW Cortland Branch History Timeline

1949 - Cortland College first expressed an interest in having their graduates become eligible for AAUW membership.

1952 - Donnal Smith, President of Cortland College, wrote to AAUW national headquarters asking again for this college to be approved. Letters from many alumnae prodded the administration to ask for this approval. When alumnae tried to join other AAUW branches, they were told that Cortland was not an approved college. This was a bias against teachers' colleges at the time.

1952 - A letter from AAUW National told Donnal Smith that it would be several years before Cortland College would be considered due to a backlog of applications.

1953 - A letter from AAUW National told Donnal Smith that they were postponing the consideration of all applications until after the AAUW convention in 1955. The reason given was due to new methods being developed to evaluate programs of liberal education.

1956 - A letter from AAUW National informed Donnal Smith that the committee voted "not to invite you to proceed with your application." The reason was that in the 1955 convention the standard was adopted to require that half the requirements for any degree had to be in liberal courses. According to the committee's interpretation, only one of Cortland's options met this requirement.

1959 - A motion was passed at the AAUW National convention that "when an institution has been placed on the AAUW approved list, recipients of all baccalaureate degrees granted by that institution will be eligible for membership in the Association." It went on to say that liberal content would still be an important factor.

August, 1963 - A letter from AAUW National informed Dr. Donovan Moffett, president of SUNY Cortland that in June the national convention voted to list for AAUW membership eligibility any institution which offers a recognized baccalaureate or higher degree, which is accredited, and which requests listing. Since Cortland was already on the list they would now be considered by the board at their meeting in November.

November 18, 1963 - A letter from AAUW National informed the president of SUNY Cortland that they had officially been placed on the AAUW qualified list.

Start Smart is an AAUW program that teaches young women salary negotiation skills. With assistance from our branch, SUNY Cortland signed a three-year contract with AAUW National to offer Start Smart workshops on campus. Meredith Morrell, career counselor in SUNY Cortland Career Services, has been trained to facilitate workshops. Unfortunately, because of time constraints and logistics, we could not offer workshops this spring as we had hoped to do. However, workshops will begin in the fall. Our StartSmart Committee will work with Meredith, Dr. Mecke Nagel, Nan Pasquarello, and Dr. Jena Curtis to recruit students, and help arrange workshops for the next three years. If you or other women you know might wish to be trained to facilitate workshops, please have them contact Sheila Cohen (607-756-8191).



The geraniums arrived on Tuesday, May 22 from our new supplier— Schaefer's Gardens in Chenango Forks.

The plants were beautiful! All the buyers were very pleased. The mark-up on plants was less this year and so we made less than in the past but we are hopeful that the top quality of these plants will increase sales next year! We did make about \$400 for scholarships. Thank you to Mary Roberts, Kim Allen, Sheila Cohen, Marcia Bulger, Charlotte Farris and Sara Earl for helping the day of the sale. And thank you to all of you who purchased plants!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WWT

Friday, June 1, 2018
The Sherman House Restaurant
11 North Main Street, Homer

Speaker: Cinthia Elkins, Family Physician

**“Women’s Health 101: A Refresher Course—
what we should know, but often forget”**

Buffet style service begins at 11:45 AM

Lunch is \$13, cash or check

Payable at the door to “Linani’s”

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

The Sherman House opens at 11:30 AM

*Women Working Together is sponsored by
the YWCA Cortland*

AAUW Cortland 2018-19 Leadership

Co-Presidents: Sheila Cohen and Sara Earl

Vice President Programs: Dottie Fowler

Vice President Membership: Sue Sherman-Broyles

Finance Officer: Mary Ellen Bloodgood

Secretary: Lenore Schwager

FUNDS (LAF/EF):

Historian: Jan Dempsey

Public Policy: Charlotte Farris

STEM: Jan Ochs and Linda Bonavia

Newsletter: Sara Earl

Yearbook: Sheila Cohen

*Just a
friendly
reminder...*

DUES ARE DUE!

\$85 payable to
AAUW Cortland.
This includes local,
state and national
dues.

Checks can be given to Sara Earl at the meeting
or mailed to Mary Ellen Bloodgood Box 124
Little York, NY 13087. Thank you!

Save the Date!

AAUW-NYS Summer Conference

July 20-22, 2018

Cazenovia College Campus

“Real Tools for Action in Your Hometown”



*“Communications with
Social Media”*

*“Building Effective
Coalitions”*

“Lobbying Made Easy”

*“Tools to Gather
Your
Community”*



Cazenovia, NY

