

AAUW

CORTLAND BRANCH



May 2020

NEWSLETTER



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Our Mission:

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

AAUW Branch meetings cancelled

Due to the NY State "Pause" and with extreme concern for our members, we have decided that there will be no AAUW Cortland branch meetings until further notice. The May 6 and June 3, 2020 AAUW Cortland Branch meetings have been cancelled.

We hope it is possible to regroup over the summer with some sort of friendly get-together (picnic? desserts? wine?) and also to discuss what structure our branch meetings will take moving forward.

In the meantime...

DUES are Due. The breakdown is this:

National \$59

State \$13

Local \$13

TOTAL \$85

Please send your check for \$85 made out to AAUW Cortland to Mary Ellen Bloodgood, Treasurer

PO Box 124

Little York, NY 13087

Fundraising Updates

The Geranium and Herb Sale is ON. Plants will be delivered by the nursery to Sheila Cohen's driveway on Tuesday, May 19. AAUW volunteers will deliver plants to the doorstep of all who have ordered. An order form is included as a separate attachment. Solicitations can be done from home via email. Send it out to your contact list. Checks and forms are sent by mail to Mary Roberts as directed on the form. Orders need to be called in to the nursery SOON so please get your orders in TODAY!



Garage Sale at Sheila's on Groton Avenue. Possible Date: Sept. 11-12. August is also a possibility. Please tell your friends who are cleaning out their closets, attics and basements to save items for us. No clothing please. The proceeds from this event go to support the Child Development Council's Scholarship Fund for childcare. Families request emergency assistance and the childcare scholarship money goes directly to the provider (for example the YWCA, Child Development Center on Pomeroy St., or the SUNY Cortland Childcare Center).



The Summer Garden Party will NOT be held this year. We hope to have this happy event next year.

THANK YOU for responding to the email vote about an emergency donation for Covid-19 pandemic relief to our community. A check was sent to the United Way of Cortland County for \$500 which will be matched by the Cortland Community Foundation. A \$500 check was also sent to the YWCA Cortland for the Aid to Victims of Violence program. Unfortunately domestic violence and child abuse numbers are on the rise with families quarantined together for weeks.

Our members have caring hearts. I know many of you have also given personal donations to these and to other nonprofits. The nonprofit landscape may look very different when this is over. Supporting the arts, history, animal shelters, and human service organizations is more important now than ever.



We are missing our dear friend, Ginny Levine...

We will remember her smile and her enthusiasm for things that mattered greatly to her— SUNY Cortland students, her challenging job, AAUW, the YWCA, and her loving family. Cards can be sent to her home at: 4 Madison St. Cortland, NY 13045. Below is her obituary with directions for donations in her name to support SUNY Cortland students.



Virginia (Ginny) B. Levine (73) passed away in her home on Sunday, March 29, following a short battle with cancer. She was born in Oneonta, NY, on March 1, 1947 to parents Mary Elaine (McCabe) Brownell and Kenneth H. Brownell. She was predeceased by her parents as well as her sister, Susan. Ginny is survived by her husband Arnold, daughters Suzanne (Cory) Donnelly and Patti (Darren) Buhr, brother David Brownell, and granddaughters Maya and Kira Donnelly and Mackenzie Buhr. Ginny completed her B.A. in Spanish at State University of New York at Albany, and her M.A. and Ph.D. in Spanish Language and Literature at Penn State. Ginny was a vital member of the Cortland community and was loved by so many. She was dedicated to the students, faculty, and staff at SUNY Cortland since 1987. During her time at the college she served as a Spanish professor, Associate Dean, and as the Chief of Staff and Vice President for Policy and Accreditation. She received the Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Professional Service in 2011. She was also active in New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers, American Association of University Women, served on the board for the Cortland YWCA, and was a Girl Scout leader. There is no doubt that she has left her legacy in the community and will be remembered by many. Arrangements are being handled by Wright-Beard, Cortland. At this unprecedented time in our world calling hours will not be held. Instead, a Celebration of Life will be hosted by the family in the summer or fall—and what a celebration it will be of a life well lived! In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to a memorial fund established in Ginny's name at SUNY Cortland to support students. The link for donations is: RedDragonNetwork.org/ginny



The State Board of Elections Democratic Commissioners have voted to cancel the Presidential Primary Election in New York.

Voters registered in a party will still have the opportunity to vote for Congressional and State representatives in the June primary.

Stay tuned for an announcement about the release of the League's electronic ballot guide Vote411.org. Our guide will show voters all the candidates who will appear on their ballot in June.

Covid-19 Crisis Brings AAUW Issues to Light

According to AAUW CEO Kim Churches:

“Equal pay isn’t always about the size of the paycheck, and COVID-19 is giving us an up-close and personal view as to why the issues we advocate for at AAUW are so very relevant and critical now.

Women hold the majority of part time work and make up the majority of the low-wage workforce.

So many women lack basic benefits like paid sick leave or family leave.

Retired women are twice as likely as men to live at or near poverty.

Women are more likely than men to be poor or struggling.”

AAUW is needed now more than ever. Advocating in Washington DC for policies that protect women’s interests, granting money to cover legal fees in discrimination cases, assisting women with scholarships to continue ground-breaking research— AAUW does it all. Donations to AAUW are always welcome.



Today (during a pandemic) IS the rainy day.

What are YOU doing during our NY State “Pause?”

Your Co-Presidents, Kim and Sara, always like to hear from our membership. Please feel free to share book or movie recommendations, recipes, or favorite self-care tips and we will share with our members. And if you need help, we are a phone call away.

Kim Allen 756-5821

“I am very sorry for the reason, but I appreciate the opportunity to take a pause in my life. The quiet in my mind that it produces has been fertile ground for creative ideas to flow. I have done some interior decorating that I have long put off, now having a clear path. I take long walks alone or with another, to replace my normal workouts which have introduced me to areas, not previously explored. I took a five week virtual class based on Coby Kozlowski’s book, One Degree Revolution: How the Wisdom of Yoga Inspires Small Shifts that Lead to Big Changes, taken virtual yoga classes from my local teachers and far away teachers, and enjoyed being in my garden. I connect with family and keep my quarantined mom with what she needs, sharing my baking adventures. I keep my reading light. J.D. Robb and James Patterson. I hope everyone is doing well.”

Sara Earl 423-1011

I vacillate, as I have done every day in my first year of retirement, between feeling the need to be “productive” and the wish to curl up with a good book. One day I will worry about the fate of the world, and the next I am happy to be in the country living my relatively normal routine. Every morning begins with an exercise class. The past month has found me cleaning out every drawer and closet in my house (good for the yard sale). I do Zoom meetings with my parents and kids as well as some committees/Boards. This “pause” has encouraged me to touch base with friends all over the country. The dog is getting some serious hikes in and she is thrilled. If anyone is interested in a good read, I have a copy of Where the Crawdad Sings and am happy to drop it, or my 1000 piece jigsaw puzzles at your door. I wish you all well and to take to heart what my 95 year old mom always says, “This too shall pass.”