Looking Back

INCREDIBLE WOMEN CAME BEFORE US

We Stand on their shoulders

May 8, 2023

YWCA Annual Meeting

Beginnings

1914 22 women meet

1915 Incorporated as YWCA

1917 NYS Women win the vote

1918 400 YWCA members

1919 Randall building purchased –$9K

1920 Building renovated and opened as YWCA

The 1920s -- Rooms rented to working women on second floor and cafeteria open to all from the community

The 1920's

- The YW women pay off the mortgage in 5 years!
- 1929 Capital Fund Drive for pool and gym
- 1929 Lois Osborn starts 40 yr. role as Ex Director.

1930 Gym Added with successful Capital Drive

1930 Pool Added too!

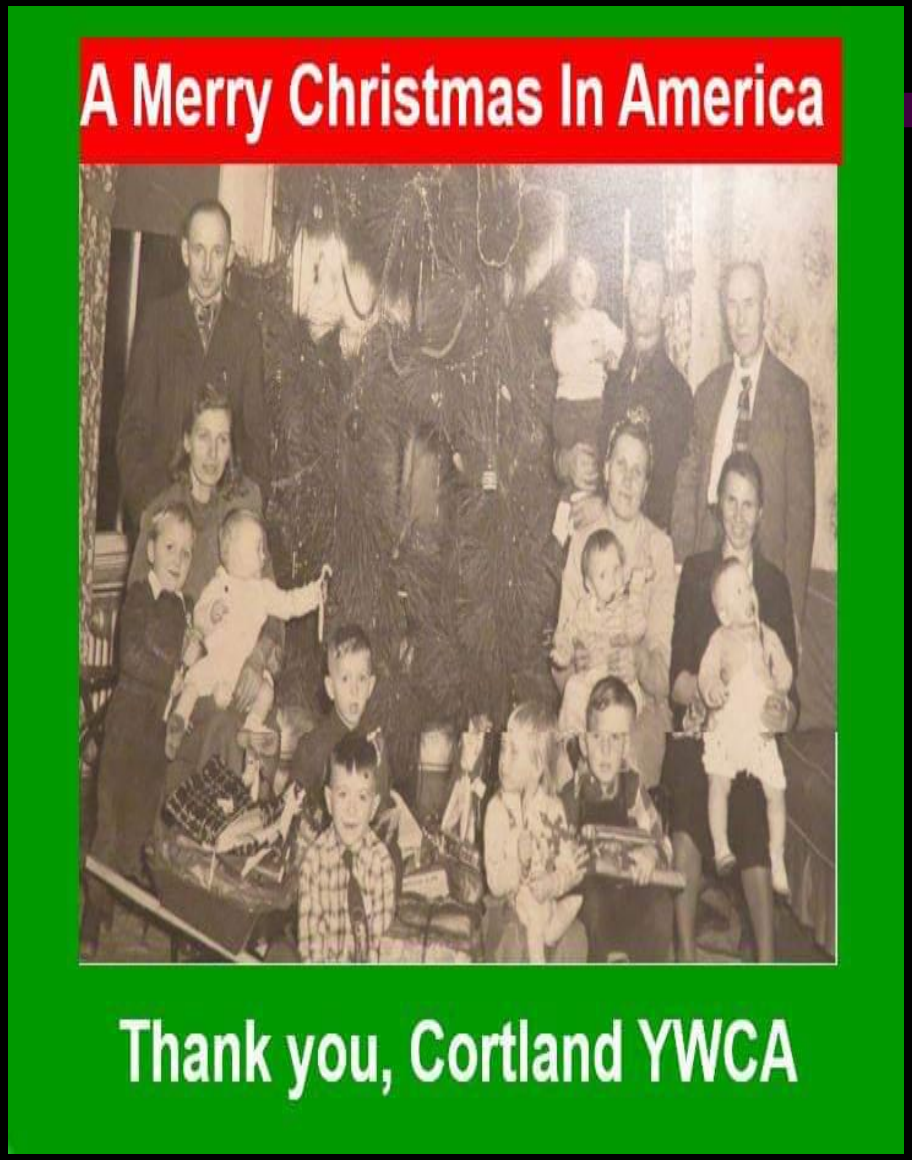
1919 to 2007 History of Child Care

- 1919 Summer Camps start
- 1970 Nursery School & Drop-In began
- 1981 Playground added
- 1982 After School Care added
- 1989-90 Y-Wee Care & Here We Grow Centers open
- 1997 Before and After School Care Programs expanded
- 1997 Universal Pre-K
- 2007 Special Ed services

2016-now History of Child Care

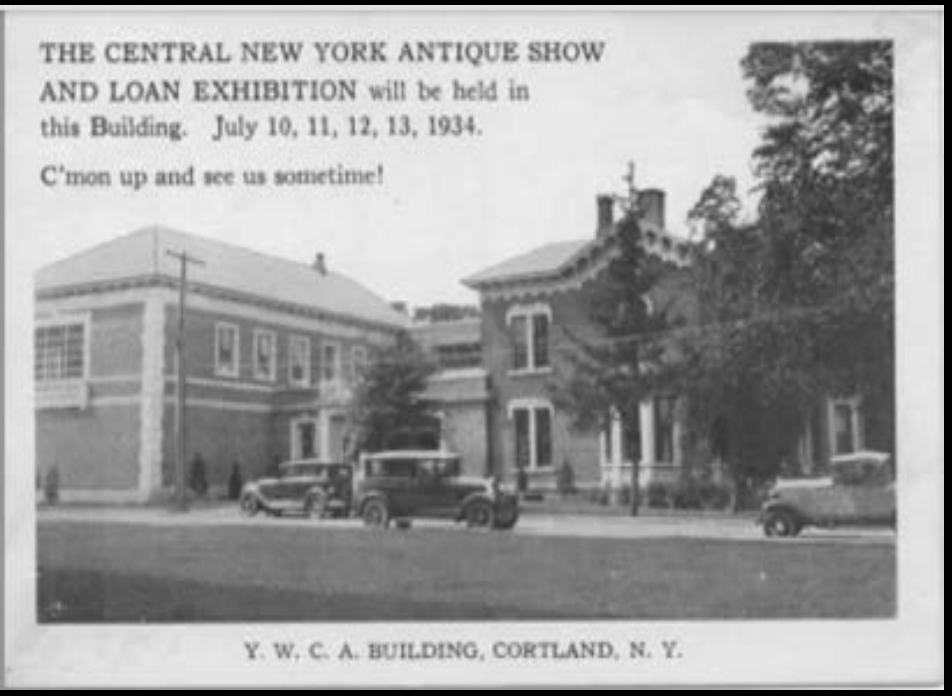
- 2016 Hospital wants Here We Grow building
- 2017-18 Find, consolidate & relocate 2 off-site centers
- 2017 Nursery closes
- 2018 Perfect Storm Crowd Funding Goal$30K $60K raised
- 2018 Parker School closes
- 2018 YWpartners with HeadStart
- 2020 COVID closes Everything; School Age offers essential care
- 2021 Only Here We Grow opens
- 2022 Parker School not feasible

1930's 0n –YWCA History of Giving



- Many Services Clubs
- Newcomers Club
- Overseas Club for war brides 1947
- Girl Reserves/Y-Teens
- School back packs
- Much Christmas giving to low-income families

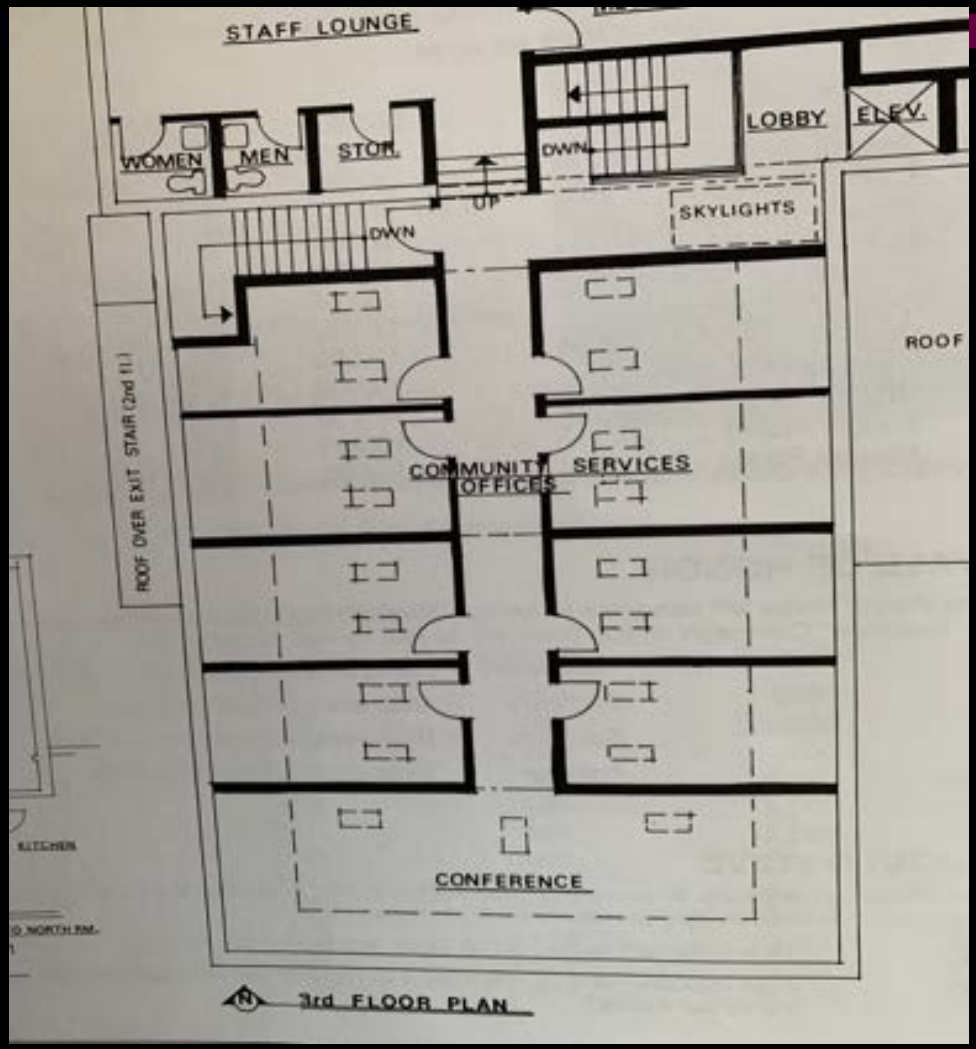
1933 Begins 60 years of amazing Antique shows



1938 YWCA women on steps of William R. Randall's home for Antique Show promotion

William R. Randall Estate

Ex. Dir Holly Greer 1986-1994
Third Capital Drive AVV Addition



Ex. Director Amy Simrell 1994-2013
Fourth Capital Drive

Ex. Dir Kelly Tobin 2014 - now
SHERO of the PANDEMIC

- Health &Fitness close
- 2 Off-site Child Care Centers close
- Childcare for essential workers only

- Few Revenue Sources
- Of Necessity, AVV Stays Open

And We Survived!!

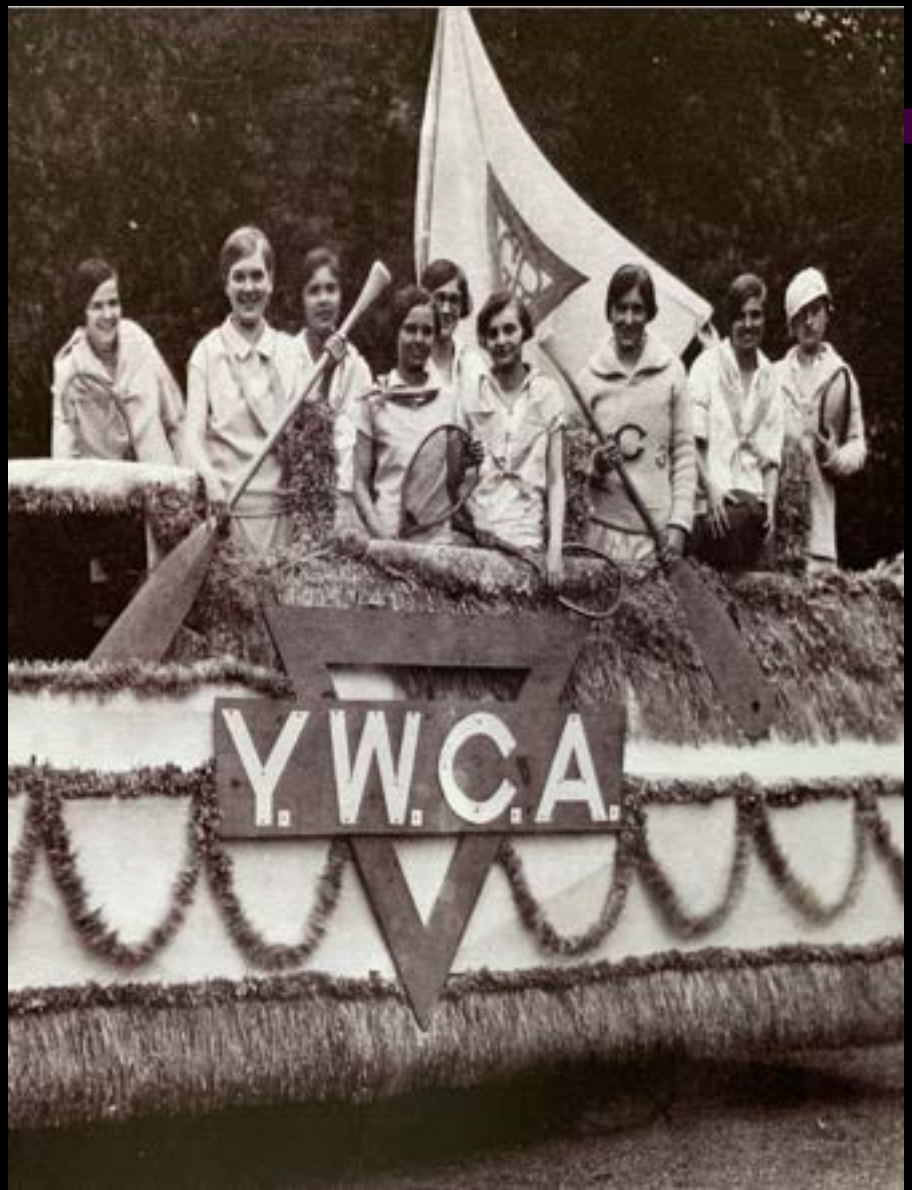
Kelly Tobin -- today!

The YWCA's Social Justice Programs

- Immigrants Programs & educational lectures
- 1977 AVV
- 1980 Bridges for Kids & Safe Dwelling added
- Racial Justice Programs
- Grace Brown House

Sergeant Lee Price was key in mobilizing all the other police units to work with AVV.

History of Teen Participation at YW



- 1918 Girl Reserves
- 1950 Y-Teens
- 1964 The Dolphins competitive swim team
- 2015 GEMS founded

Monica

OFF TO NEW YORK — The 12th grade Y-Teens left yesterday morning for their three-day visit to New York City where they will enjoy a Broadway musical, the Radio City Musical Hall Easter Show, a full day's tour and a morning of shopping. They will be accompanied this year by Mrs. Eugene Fairchild, Y-Teen director, and Mrs. Werner Melinder. Y-Teens are girls in junior and senior high school who belong to the YWCA, an organization open to girls and women of all races, creeds and nationalities. Y-Teen clubs elect their own officers and plan their own activities with the help of their adult advisor. They enjoy splash parties, pizza parties, trips, speakers, movies and mother and daughter banquets, as well as fund-raising projects to raise money towards their New York Trip in their final year. During YWCA Week, the Cortland YW would like to invite all girls in grades 7-12 to join the Y-Teens. Either pay a personal visit or call the YW at 753-1121 for more information. (Cortland Photo Service).

The YWCA's Mentoring Programs

- 1980 Coalition for Children now Bridges for Kids.
- 1998 Model Moms, now at the Grace Brown House
- 2015 GEMS Girls Empowered, Motivated & Successful

GEMS SUCCESSES

Lots of amazing history in this beautiful old building

Now it's time to give it some love.

We Need Help!

Lots Of Help!

Fire escape for Child Care

- Stairs are unusable in winter due to snow and ice – doesn’t meet code.
- Left brick wall needs repointing.

Pathetic Stairs, Door & Wood Trim for Drop-In Center Emergency Exit

To the left of Front Entrance

- Door Rusting Out
- Concrete Crumbing

Need Improved Accessibility

- Ramp is out of compliance with ADA & local code
- Handicapped door openers do not work.

Air Conditioner is ugly & upper windows need replacement

Next steps:

- Survey community re importance of saving the 1869 original, historic YW building.
- Write & Submit grant request to NYS Parks & Rec and Preservation—highly competitive.
- Raise required match for the grant – 25%.