

Living & Leisure

Notebook

Card night a royal flush at the YWCA

Do you like playing cards but don't want to clean up the mess after the game? Would you like to play cards without any distractions? Are you looking to meet some new people? If so, join players at the YWCA of Cortland on 14 Clayton Avenue. Starting on Oct. 13, the YWCA of Cortland will be hosting "Card Game Night!"

Card Game Night meets the second Monday of the month. The games will be played in the newly renovated Osborn Room that provides comfort and elegance for all participants. It is a cost-friendly affair; members pay a small fee and non-members pay a little extra. The atmosphere is a peaceful escape from the daily grind; and from 6:30-8:30 p.m., players have the chance to shuffle and deal. To get a piece of the action call the YWCA at 607-753-9651 or e-mail health and fitness director Meryl Fish at meryl@cortlandywca.org.

Social Justice meeting Sept. 18

Rita Wright, Aid to Victims of Violence director, will be the lunchtime speaker at the first fall meeting of the Social Justice Cluster of the Cortland Area Faith Communities on Sept. 18. All are welcome at the gathering, which will take place from noon to 1 p.m. at St. Mary's Parish Center, 59 N. Main St., Cortland. Vicky Johnson, new Protestant campus minister and Council of Churches director, will be introduced. Wright's talk is entitled, "EQUAL IN GOD'S SIGHT: When Power is Abused: Domestic Violence in Cortland County." Those attending urged to bring their lunch. Beverages will be provided. Questions may be directed to Norma Rhodes, 607-753-9189.

Self defense for women set Sept. 20

Women do not want to miss this — a one day only class at the YWCA of Cortland that will give them the essential skills needed for self-defense. This intense three-hour session will give women the knowledge and confidence to protect themselves. Self Defense for Women is designed for women, and is taught by instructor Amy Bond, a second-degree black belt in Shido-Kan karate. This class is for women of all ages, and safety is paramount.

The class takes place 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Sept. 20. Fee. Participants will learn skills to last a lifetime. For more information, call (607)-753-9651 or email health and fitness director Meryl Fish at meryl@cortlandywca.org.

Ski training available at Virgil center

The Greek Peak Ski Club which operates out of Greek Peak in Virgil,



Admiral *Grace Murray Hopper* is a professor of mathematics at Vassar College who is recruited to work on the first computer. Later, she creates the first computer compiler, the software that translates human language into the zeros and ones that computers understand, paving the way for personal computers. She is also involved in the development of the business computer language COBOL.

1943

1944

Activist, attorney, and ordained minister *Paul Murray* overcomes both racial and gender discrimination and becomes the first black woman awarded a law doctorate from Yale. Later, she is the first black female priest ordained by the Episcopal Church.



1944

Pediatrician and cardiologist *Helen Brooke Taussig* develops a cardiac catheterization operation that solves the often fatal condition known as "Blue Baby," saving countless infants.

Actress *Angela Lansbury* receives her first Oscar nomination for her performance in *Galahad*; her entertainment career spans more than sixty years.



1944



1944

Nuclear physicist *Chien-Shiung Wu* works on the Manhattan Project, a secret effort to develop the atom bomb.

Her Story

PAGE NO. 123

The Cortland Standard

A copy of a page in "Her Story: A Timeline of Women Who Changed America," by Jill Tietjen and Charlotte Waisman. Tietjen will be in Cortland to talk about the book.

Women's historian to speak at YWCA

Free brunch, talk, open
to public Sept. 17

By KATIE HALL
Living and Leisure Editor

When Jill Tietjen was organizing an essay contest for sixth graders, she knew she'd have to bone up on the subject — "great women in engineering and science."

But she only knew one great woman in science at the time: Marie Curie, and she and fellow contest organizer, Alexis Swoboda, had to come up with a list for the kids to explore.

The pair started delving into history, and Tietjen became fascinated with the women she found. She started to collect a list of outstanding women and their accomplishments. The task would lead to a book project with another woman historian, Charlotte Waisman, who was already compiling her own list of outstanding women.

The two joined forces and published "Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America," which looks at women from 1587 to 2007 who made a lasting impact on society.

"The book is so exciting to me. The women in the book are so interesting," said Tietjen, of Centennial, Colo. "I can open any two pages in this book and look at 10 of these people in these pages. When Charlotte and I started, I didn't know six of these women."



Waisman



Tietjen

Tietjen, an electrical engineer and CEO of Technically Speaking, a consulting company to advance careers in technology for women, will be coming to the YWCA on Wednesday to give a special talk and sign copies of the book.

The session takes place from 9:30 to 11 a.m. Wednesday at the Clayton Avenue facility. It is free and open to the public and YWCA officials will be serving a brunch. People can RSVP if they choose to 607-753-9651. Mando Books — The Local Bookstore is cosponsoring the event and books will be available to purchase and sign.

Amy Simrell, executive director of the YWCA, said Tietjen is on a book tour through Central New York.

"We've asked her to reflect on why women are historically missing from print," Simrell said. And what can be done to encourage change, she said.

The book is in a timeline format, using pictures and graphics to highlight the women with a paragraph or two outlining her contribution.

Graphic designer Laura Klynstra, did a beautiful job formatting the book in an appealing manner.

"Her Story," published by HarperCollins, was a five year project the two started in April, 2003. It was published April 1 of this year. Tietjen and Waisman delved into 200 book for their research.

"We looked everywhere," Tietjen said. "And then people would tell us. They knew we were working on this book project. They would tell us about people. We would see a reference on a woman somewhere, and go find the information. We became almost detectives, or sleuths."

"Some were offhand comments. There's a woman in here, a Mum Bell, 1781. I don't even know how we found her. An offhand comment. We started doing research on her. When you see what she did and found out what she did, she needed to be in the book."

Bell was a slave who listened to men talk about freedom while she was serving them food. She wanted that and found an attorney to fight for her freedom, along with that of another slave, in a Massachusetts county court. She was one of the first slaves to be freed under the Massachusetts constitution of 1780. And because of that, the freedom of the remaining Massachusetts slaves was secured, according to Tietjen and Waisman in the book.

Tietjen pointed to another woman, Esther DeBerdt Reed, who in 1780 organized a women's committee in

Philadelphia to raise money for George Washington's troops. They raised \$300,000 in a door to door campaign.

"Basically, what happens is you get hooked. You find more." There are 866 women in the book and Tietjen figures that the average American personally knows about 200 historical women. And who those women are depends on what part of the country a person lives in, how the people are educated and their career.

"Now we go around the country and we talk to people. 'So and So is not in this book,' they say," Tietjen said. "Tell me about her."

They have another 244 names they've gathered to add on at some point.

The woman who was the catalyst for the project for Tietjen was Admiral Grace Murray Hopper, a professor of math at Vassar College. Hopper was recruited to work on the first computer in 1943. She created the software that translated human language into the zeroes and ones that computers understand, according to authors, thus, paving the way for personal computers.

Tietjen nominated her to the National Woman's Hall of Fame and the mathematician even had a battle destroyer ship, "Hopper" named after her.

Tietjen said she has learned from these women what the movie, "Steel Magnolias," is all about, which she sums up in three words: passion, determination and persistence.