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38th
year!

Allegany County, NY Arts

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Joanne and Cassandra Bull
tabling for Concerned Citizens of Allegany County

Concerned Citizens of Allegany County Educating, Conserving & Preserving Our Quality of Life

www.ccallegany.org

Enclosed photos were submitted by CCAC

*Editor's note: Received via invitation,
the enclosed text has been edited
in a manner as consistent with the original
content as space will allow.*

ALLEGANY ARTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Submit your ads, artsy news & events to
sheila@sheilalynnkart.com

**By August 14th for publication
In our Autumn 2020 Newsletter
Featuring local**

September, October, November 2020 Arts News

A TRIBUTE TO JOANNE ALLEN 1935-2020

Joanne Allen was a wonderful, strong and
passionate woman who impacted many
people -- and her community --
for the better.

Friends who volunteered with Joanne at
Concerned Citizens of Allegany County and
the Allegany Arts Association have created
a special edition of the
Arts Association Newsletter
in honor of our late friend.
Please join us in celebrating her life as we
share these cherished memories and
anecdotes in tribute to her.

Joanne Gifford Allen, age 84, of Rauber
Street, passed away Wednesday, May 13,
2020, at Jones Memorial Hospital.
Employed as an executive secretary for the
Wellsville Central School District for 40
years, retiring in 2005, Joanne was a
census taker for the U.S. Census Bureau
for 10 years until the Spring of 2018.

She was an active member of Wellsville
First United Methodist Church, Allegany
County Democratic Committee, Concerned
Citizens of Allegany County, Alfred State
Alumni Association, Allegany County Art
Association, Allegany Area Writers, and the
Allegany County Historical Society.

As an arts advocate, editor, secretary, and
active member of the Allegany Arts
Association; Joanne facilitated the annual
poetry slam at David A. Howe Library and
never hesitated to provide fundamental
support for our efforts to expand local
access to the arts.

“Joanne was a neighbor of mine 2 doors west on Rauber Street in Wellsville. The week she passed the 7' tall lilac bush that was 5 years in growing came forth with our first lilac blossoms. She was a gift to the neighborhood as well as county community. Several of we neighbors share her Rose of Sharon bushes. Rauber Street does not seem the same without Joanne.” ~ Ron & Gloria Taylor

“Many a day riding with her to protests against fracking and in Watkins Glen against gas storage. She had so much energy, always made everybody happy.” ~ Spike Jones

“My memory of Joanne is doing Student voter registration with her. She was very good with the students & impressing on them not only the right to vote but the necessity to vote. I thought to myself I hope when I’m her age I have her stamina & dedication. Rest In Peace dear lady. ~ Barb Zlomek

“Joanne was passionate for Alfred State & the life of each & every student. Very detailed in direction, passionate for the cause & always trying to find a way to make things happen. Very determined & positive.” ~David Post



Joanne at Alfred State Student Apartments

“Joanne and I served on the Alfred State College Alumni Board of Directors together. She was a joy to be around and brought her positive energy and outlook to all. She enjoyed meeting other alumni and they enjoyed her as well. Such good memories.”

~Jeff Marshall

“Joanne Allen and I met nearly 20 years ago when I became part of the Alfred State College Alumni Association. I eventually became president and she was the secretary. We enjoyed working together, as we were both Executive Secretarial Science alums of ASC, some 15 years apart. We loved to compare our very different experiences at ASC, yet we both became successful secretaries... testimonial to ASC's support of 'Alfred Girls'. Joanne was an amazing woman, successful, ambitious and full of energy. Her dedication to her projects with boundless enthusiasm was much appreciated. I think one of her most endearing personal qualities was her careful, caring support of her friends ...keeping in touch with a phone call or sending cards whether for celebration or support in time of need. Joanne will be missed by more than her family, friends in Wellsville and well beyond Allegany County.”

~Gail

“I was 5 when I helped our parents bring Joanne to Alfred State for her college experience. We brought all of Joanne’s things to the dorm room and then my parents made me get into the car to go home but they intended to leave Joanne there. I cried because it was a pretty rotten deal to go home without Joanne if anyone cared to know what I thought about it.”

~Rebecca Bennett



Joanne with friends
 as an Alfred State College Student

About US

The Allegany Arts Association, a non-profit (501c3) founded in 1982, promotes participation in the arts by all residents of Allegany County, NY. Supported by our members, a grant from Arts Services Initiative of Western NY, and a NYS Council on the Arts Decentralization Grants

Program with support from

Gov. Andrew Cuomo & the NYS Legislature, administered by the Tri-County Arts Council; we provide arts programming and cultural activities for all ages.

The Art News

is published quarterly. We welcome news and photos about cultural activities in the county.

Announcements & Content may not reflect the views of the AAA Board.

We work together with the Allegany County Libraries, Allegany Artisans, the Wellsville Art Association, The Fountain Arts Center, The Wellsville Creative Arts Center, The Belfast Organization for Artists, and many others to expand access to the arts

in

Allegany County, NY.

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“Joanne Allen and I go way back to 1953 when we both began our studies at Alfred State College. We both sang in Cappy's Alfred State Mixed Choir and traveled putting on concerts at a score of Western NY High Schools. She grew up in Phelps, NY and me about 20 miles away on the shore of Cayuga Lake. After graduation we went our separate ways and only came together again when we both served on the Alfred Alumni Council in the early 2000s. Since then Joanne joined our small group of Alums who meet each Fall in the Wellsville to Geneseo area. Joanne had wonderful stories of the people she met as a paid US Census checker. Some people tried hard to avoid her knock on their door. One man was nude and insisted on being interviewed in that state. She said nothing she had not seen before and so she got the info needed to close that case. She was quite the lady and very involved in her political party's candidates. We will miss Joanne's kind ways and her wonderful home made preserves.”

Bob Livingston Alfred '56 -- same as Joanne

.....
“Joanne was one of the first individuals I met as a new-comer to Allegany County and the Concerned Citizens group. Her kind, warm, friendly, intelligent attitude was immediately apparent and I was drawn in. It was clear she was a remarkable ambassador for our county, someone who truly cared about making life better. I am certain that Joanne’s passionate approach will be missed.”
~ Marty Sabato

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“Joanne would ride in the hay wagon for any parade of the Democratic Party. She enjoyed throwing candies to the children at the parade. She also conducted poetry events at the Wellsville Library and gave prizes to the best. I enjoyed stopping by and giving her a platter of food from the Democratic Party event that she was too ill to attend. I then also stopped by and gave her some NY Times, and a Hyacinth bulb that would soon bloom. She sent me a lovely note for that. I miss her.” ~Gudrun Scott

Joanne in Andover’s 4th of July parade



“No matter the project, I could always count on Joanne for an intelligent conversation, informative input, and useful constructive criticism.” Sheila L. Kalkbrenner

Love in the Time of Aging

For Joanne 1935 - 2020

*We walked in the sunshine,
we walked in the showers,
when we were together,
days sped by like hours.
We gathered the moonbeams,
we gathered the starshine,
strewn there by nature,
to be hers and mine.
We loved under blue skies,
we loved when it stormed,
for all our growing age,
a true love was formed.
There were no tomorrows,
there was no past,
everyday a promised now,
so long as they'd last.*

~ Daniel Fox - 2020

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"I became acquainted with Joanne by attending the annual April Poetry Slam she coordinated in Wellsville, NY. As the emcee, Joanne expressed gratitude to each participant for sharing their work with the audience. When inexperienced writers showed some shyness or fear she gently reassured them and made them feel more comfortable. By showing respect for everyone, she built a welcoming atmosphere for all the artists. We can do that too. Let's treat people kindly, as Joanne did. That's a lesson I took to heart." ~Don Ash

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"I first met Joanne when trying to chase down the Allegany Artisans for a writer's group. Joanne was given to excitability; she was so thrilled I called her as that meant that maybe the writers group would continue. So in the beginning it was me, Joanne and one other, whose name I cannot remember. It took a while and then we managed to get the Alfred Writers' Group going. Joanne was extremely enthusiastic and supportive of others. (I do so miss her so...) Then after I suffered my aneurysms, Tracy Cassidy reconstituted the group as the Allegany Area Writers."

~Ly Keese



Joanne at the
AAA Poetry
Slam with
First Place
Winner

"I have known Joanne since the 1980's when we worked together to help establish the Allegany County Domestic Violence Hotline. She has always been a caring, community minded person who also loved to socialize with friends. She was very supportive of our son Adam who wrote poetry and suffered from Muscular Dystrophy. When he died in 2017, Joanne renamed the Poetry Slam in his memory which was a lovely gesture. Heaven has gained an angel. I like to think of them meeting again and enjoying poetry together." ~Kim Gayhart

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"I came to know Joanne little by little over the past ten years, and our paths crossed often at cultural events, meetings, and fundraisers. She was soft-spoken and gentle, moving through the world with an unassuming elegance, yet she was a powerhouse who made things happen by working tirelessly on behalf of organizations and issues. When we last saw one another, she asked me to read aloud from one of her many, many books of poetry. At the end of every poem she would draw in a breath, sigh, and say with music in her voice, "Oh, isn't that just lovely." She appreciated everything, and her appreciation was deep and sincere. Her joie de vivre, her boundless curiosity, her willingness to lend a hand, write a check, stand beside you in solidarity or lead the way forward set such a fine example for those of us who knew her. I wish I had the pleasure of more years of friendship with Joanne, but I cherish the memories made in the years we had." ~ Karen Ash

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"I sat in church (First United Methodist of Wellsville) with Joanne on many occasions. She was a devoted member. When I think of her, I think of her love for her beautiful back yard flowers. Weather was never a factor when it came to tending to her garden." ~Anonymous

“Joanne was a good friend. It was amazing the tenacity she had for many causes. I can remember standing on the lawn of the library holding up signs for citizens’ rights. But when I think of Joanne I think of her red, white, and blue umbrella which she used to further democratic values in Allegany County. She will be sorely missed.” ~ Barbara Hetzel

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“There is no doubt that Joanne Allen reached out for things that she liked, things that were interesting and lovely. She collected books and antiques. She listened to music and applauded dance. She valued well-made, useful items recognizing that the art of design flows from the study of function. One of the places in the world where her interests and joys could be pursued in lectures, study groups, concerts and conversation was the Chautauqua Institution. Joanne spent a week there every summer for over 3 decades. Nancy, the hostess at the Chautauqua Inn, said Joanne roomed at the Inn and after a long day of programming, often ending around 11 pm, the two of them would meet to play Scrabble. In more recent years, Joanne asked that the games be moved to after lunch time rather than at the dregs of the day but Scrabble was a calling for Joanne and she made time and energy for those games. Elizabeth, a long-time Chautauqua friend, said that there was never a program that disappointed Joanne. Most days started with a service at the Methodist house followed by breakfast and a writing class. Throughout the day Joanne met with authors, talked with lecturers, and went to movies, concerts, and plays. Every event taught her something and made her happy. Nancy remembers Joanne as a generous person who handed out her homemade raspberry jelly and bought gifts for people. She often rented a room with twin beds so she could invite a friend to stay and share the experience.” ~ Elaine M. Hardman

“Several years ago, I traveled to Wellsville to do some genealogical research. I cannot now remember where I met Joanne, but we chatted for some time and just felt like we knew each other well. It was a Thursday and she invited me to have dinner with her and her friends. It was so nice. Friendly people and great conversation. After, I joined her at an art exhibit at the library. She was so lovely and welcoming. I will never forget that evening.” ~ Sue Avis

“I will always remember Joanne as a kind and caring woman. My first memories of Joanne were through the First United Methodist Church in Wellsville. We both were active in Naomi Circle, which later became United Methodist Women. She was always supportive and volunteered in our projects. I also had the pleasure of working with Joanne at Wellsville Central School. I was a high school math teacher. I thoroughly enjoyed our little chats when I stopped by the guidance office. She was always helpful and kind to all who entered the guidance office. “ ~ April Palmiter

Joanne Business and Professional Women Gathering



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“Years ago I was talking to Joanne, as she was turning 65, and felt she had to retire. She wasn't ready. She got the biggest smile when I mentioned retirement in education was 75.”
~Sue Vickers
.....

“Joanne and I met when she joined our writer's group. I soon discovered she was clearly open to learning new things and trying new things. She was always becoming — like a chrysalis revealing its hidden beauty — and I love that about her. She never quit striving to renew herself. Joanne and I collaborated on a short story, emailing back and forth, and finishing in person at her house, which (no big surprise) was filled with books. I'm grateful for these memories. Like many others, I love Joanne. She was a brilliant, kind, generous, spirited, wonderful woman and I will miss her. I will miss her. I will deeply miss her.” ~Tracy Cassidy



“Joanne stood tall and resolute as a person who raised 4 wonderful boys now men. A working mother who found time and energy to engage in community activism and assisted in many events. Wellsville and Allegany County were very fortunate that Joanne lived her life here. She also made a delicious raspberry jam! RIP Joanne.” ~Michael McCormick

My Mom;

A strong willed and even stronger minded woman. If she saw to getting something done it was done, thoroughly and with vigor. Being the strong person she was, gave me the tools to be a successful provider and good father to my own children. She was well known, loved, even revered by her community and by her peers. She will be especially missed during the holidays when she would spend time with her grandchildren and great grandchildren. Always with lots of stories, pictures and news clippings of current events abound.

Mom, we love you and you will always be in our hearts.

Love,
Doug



“Something I always said about her: "Joanne is a tiger." The first memory I have of Joanne Allen is at my first Concerned Citizens of Allegany County meeting. I believe she corrected the members more than once about their improper use of Robert's Rules of Order. It was then I knew we would get along. While I did not and still do not know Robert's Rules, looking back I feel like that moment summarized who Joanne was to me. She was a lady who knew her stuff, believed in order and justness, and wasn't afraid to speak her mind. Joanne always paid attention and noticed details that others may have glossed over. She was quick and sharp, and wholly committed to volunteerism, environmentalism, and civil rights. Joanne will continue to live in my heart as a role model for what it means to be a classy, strong, independent woman.” ~Cassandra Bull

“Where do I start--I've been a member with the AAA for a long time---participating in shows, events and teaching classes. Joanne's passion for the arts and education is what brought us together--I always think of her as a feisty, sassy, classy and a little bad ass woman --my kind of person--always fun, filled with wisdom--LOVED her quick wit-- one of my fondest memories was when I was teaching a "Cabin Fever" class at the Fountain Arts Center and she decided to join us--We were doing paper quilting with 8-12 year olds--I was thrilled-I really love when I have students 5 to 95 all working together. She was hesitant and very critical of her work--and after a few suggestions--she produced an absolutely beautiful paper quilt with a tropical foliage theme--it was great--she was so happy and proud of her work--she had it framed---It was a great time--We will all miss her--she had sparkle and spread it where ever she was--a great loss to the art community but forever in our hearts!!” ~Alice Deres

Active and Supportive Allegany Arts Association Members make it possible for the arts to thrive in Allegany County, NY. Thank you for your support, encouragement, and patience while we update our lists!



Joanne and Sandy at 2019 CCAC Annual Meeting

“Joanne was always an inspiration to me in our joint work for environmental causes. She could revive my flagging enthusiasm or restore a realistic perspective with a wise word. Joanne commanded respect from all with her unself-conscious dignity.”
~Deborah Bigelow

“We saw each other often when I was in high school: I was popular in the principals office and I was always late. She treated me very well as I awaited my various fates and judiciously believed my wild tales of tardiness. Later in life we fought the giant Walmart together and I learned about activism. She had no fear in questioning authority during a public meeting and that was a valuable education.” ~ Andrew Harris

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“Joanne, being a tireless contributor to community agencies, groups and causes, will be ever present in the culture and quality of life in Allegany County.” ~ Fred Sinclair

*** OR CURRENT RESIDENT**

Dear Member : Above your name on the address label are 4 numbers. The first two are the year your membership ends, the second two show the month it ends. For example “2001” means your subscription ends in “2020, January”. Please help us save postage and send your renewal soon.

THANK YOU to those who have renewed or begun a membership!

Your membership helps to publish this Newsletter and funds our free Summer Arts Festival and other classes for Allegany County children.
Thank you!

“I am reminded that one of the things Joanne was most proud of was being a member of the Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle, CLSC. It is one of the oldest continuous book clubs in America and aims toward adult education through quality programming as well as being a prototype for book clubs and study groups. I don’t know when, but a few years ago Joanne took the challenge and joined the CLSC agreeing to read the books chosen, met her goal and graduated. The graduating group marched, with a band, to the amphitheater where a ceremony recognized their accomplishments under a special flag made for that particular class. I attended the ceremony. Joanne would be pleased to expand awareness of the CLSC.

These are some past selections. *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood, *Beet* by Roger Rosenblatt, *The Hemingeses of Monticello: An American Family* by Annette Gordon-Reed, *The Cutting Season* by Attica Locke, *Caleb's Crossing* by Geraldine Brooks, *All the Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr, *City of Light* by Lauren Belfer, and *Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital* by Sheri Fink”

~Submitted by Elaine M. Hardman on behalf of Elizabeth M.

This special Memorial Edition of the Allegany Arts Association Newsletter was a collaborative effort made possible by the Concerned Citizens of Allegany County, the Allegany Arts Association, and contributions from Joanne’s friends, family, and the Allegany County Democratic Committee.