



CCW News

A Cornell Club of Washington Publication
Editor-in-Chief: Claudia T. Benack '74

October 2020

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In Memorium: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg

By Linda Jarschauer Johnson '60



The Cornell Club of Washington mourns the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, '54, beloved Cornellian and special friend to the Cornell Washington community. CCW sends our sincere condolences to the Court, family and friends.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg '54, whose legal career in the fight for women's rights, equal rights and human dignity culminated with her ascent to the U.S. Supreme Court, died from complications of cancer September 18th, 2020 in Washington, DC at the age of 87 years. Just days before her death, as her strength waned, Ginsburg dictated this statement to her granddaughter Clara Spera: "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new president is installed."

"Ruth Bader Ginsburg was a true hero and a giant of American jurisprudence. A relentless champion of equity, she dedicated her life to innumerable, honorable causes, always fighting for what was right," said Cornell President Martha E. Pollack. "While the nation mourns her passing, we can find solace in the indelible imprint that she leaves on American society and on the lives of each of us who found inspiration from her actions and who will carry her spirit with us long into the future."

Ginsburg was born March 15, 1933 in Brooklyn, NY, daughter of Nathan and Celia Bader. She earned her bachelor's degree at Cornell, where she met and married her husband, Martin D. Ginsburg. She is survived by her two children: Jane Carol Ginsburg (George Spera) and James Steven Ginsburg (Patrice Michaels), four grandchildren: Paul Spera (Francesca Toich), Clara Spera (Rory Boyd), Miranda Ginsburg, Abigail Ginsburg, two step-grandchildren: Harjinder Bedi, Satinder Bedi, and one great-grandchild: Lucrezia Spera. Her husband, Martin David Ginsburg, died in 2010.

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In Memorium: Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg (cont.)



Ginsburg attended Cornell on a full scholarship and was greatly influenced by Vladimir Nabokov, who was a major influence on her development as a writer. The jurist's respect for the First and Fifth amendments is rooted in her Cornell research for Robert Cushman in which she tracked "black lists" of the entertainment industry during the McCarthy era. Cornell's Government Department and Cushman encouraged her to go to law school. Justice Ginsburg received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Cornell University, attended Harvard Law School, and received her LL. B. (J.D.) from Columbia Law School.

Following law school, Ginsburg was a professor at Rutgers and Columbia Law Schools, teaching civil procedure as one of the few women in her field. Ginsburg's protection of equality and the advancement of the rights of all people, particularly women, helped to transform American society. Working at the American Civil Liberties Union in 1972, she founded the Women's Rights Project. She researched and argued six gender discrimination cases before the Supreme Court in the 1970s, winning five. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed Ginsburg to the U.S. Court of Appeals in DC. In 1993 she was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate to the Supreme Court to replace retiring Justice Byron White.

It was a heady year for Cornellians in 1993, especially for women. Janet Reno '60 was appointed Attorney General in March and in August Ruth Bader Ginsburg '54 was appointed as Associate Supreme Court Justice. Requests were made immediately to meet with Cornell in Washington (CIW) students and both women agreed to meeting Cornell students each semester; Attorney General Reno from 1993 through 2001 and Justice Ginsburg until 2019. Initially only CIW saw Justice Ginsburg; then was joined by other local universities. Each time the Justice agreed to a group photo, many now posted on Facebook. Once, when I unintentionally scheduled the meeting with the Justice on Slope Day, several students opted to go to Ithaca because, as one explained, she "only had 4 chances to attend Slope Day." How many chances, I wondered, to meet a Supreme Court Justice?

Justice Ginsburg also met on September 12, 2013 with 100 members of CCW in a Supreme Court Conference Room. She "introduced" the former Supreme Court Justices whose portraits hung on the walls, gave a brief presentation on the workings of the Court including the collegiality of the judges, and then answered questions. On another two occasions, September 24, 2015 and June 26, 2017, she met with 250 alumni and guests in the Courtroom. Only CCW members were permitted to register and our membership rose substantially and quickly (49 dues payers in 9 hours) the first time. The Justice preferred a "conversation" format for those two events, in which she answered questions. In addition, more than 150 Cornellians also attended a screening of the documentary "RBG" on May 17, 2018, and heard from one of the co-directors of the film, Julie Cohen, whose parents are Cornell graduates. A long and warm relationship existed between Justice Ginsburg and CIW undergraduates and CCW alumni, who feel saddened by her loss and privileged by our connection.

Justice Ginsburg was an inspiration to generations of women and men alike. Feminism and motherhood were inspirations for Ginsburg whose mother died the day before her high school graduation. Ginsburg, feminism and motherhood continue to be sources of inspiration today for young girls who play Dress Up Who games in white laced collars for Halloween and pop culture who deemed her the Notorious RBG. She emphasized the importance of her mother and mother-in-law who inspired her 2016 book entitled, "My Own Words". Justice Ginsburg's legal writings can be found at the [Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute](#). The Cornell LII is a collection of historic decisions of the US Supreme Court that contains over 300 of the court's most important decisions through the whole period of its existence.

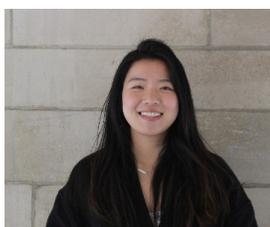
2020 CCW Scholarship Recipients

Meet the Fall 2020 CCW Conable Award Winners

By Alex Payne '09

Each semester, the Cornell Club of Washington provides Conable Awards to current Cornell students participating in the Cornell in Washington (CIW) program. Each Conable Award recipient receives up to \$750, which is funded by the generous donations of DC-area alumni. The award helps students defray the increased costs of spending a semester in DC and away from work-study opportunities that are prevalent on Cornell's campus in Ithaca. Students are selected based on their academic achievements, service commitment, and contributions to Cornell life.

The Scholarship Committee selected Elisa Zhang, Garry Blum, and Arianna Dang as the recipients of the Conable Award.



Elisa is a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in Asian Studies. She grew up near the Chinatown neighborhood in New York City and attended Hunter College High School. At Cornell, Elisa is a Fitness Monitor at Teagle Fitness Center and a US Department of State Benjamin Gillman Scholarship award winner. During her time in Washington, DC, Elisa will be an intern at Voiz, a sustainable technology startup. They've already given her the title of Brands and Partnerships Team Lead.

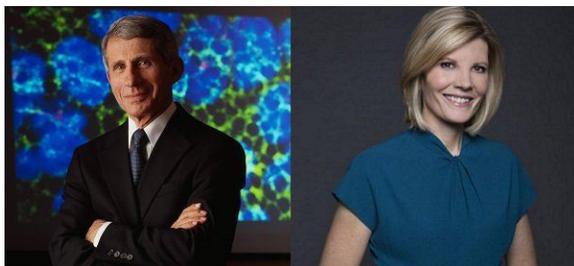


Garry is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in Philosophy. He grew up in Fort Lee, NJ and attended Bergen County Technical High School. Garry is also Director of the Center for the Economy of the Roosevelt Institute at Cornell. While in Washington, Garry is working as an intern for the Government Accountability Office (GAO) focusing on implementation and spending of funds distributed through the CARES Act, a major coronavirus relief package.



Arianna is a junior in the College of Arts and Sciences majoring in China and Asia Pacific Studies. She grew up and attended school in Honolulu, HI. At Cornell, Arianna is an active member of the CRU Christian Fellowship and recipient of the US Department of State Critical Language Scholarship. She also is an English Language Partner with ELSO. During her time in Washington, DC, Arianna is an intern at the Office of Taiwan Coordination in the US Department of State's Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs.

Special Live Stream



Don't miss A Cornell Promise: A commitment to learning from the COVID-19 pandemic with Dr. Anthony Fauci MD '66 and Kate Snow '91. Join Cornellians on Tuesday, Oct. 6th, 11:45 am - 12:30 pm <https://live.alumni.cornell.edu>. They will discuss what we've learned from the pandemic, how it will impact the future of public health, and what is most important as we educate today's Cornellians. (<https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3983835>).

Events at a Glance

Cornell Club Mixer Around the World

October 4, 2020 2:00-3:00 PM Bring your beverage of choice, and make friends with Cornellians virtually. Mingle in small discussion groups centered around Cornell-related themes. Register at <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3991898>. Contact Tony Chen lc465@cornell.edu

Cornell Trustee-Council Annual Meeting (TCAM)

October 8-9, 2020 (Online) <https://cornellclubdc.org/event-2996686>. In lieu of a traditional in-person TCAM, Cornell will be hosting a virtual TCAM on October 8-9.

CCW Virtual Events, Tours and Cornell Live Streams

CCW Virtual Tours at <https://cornellclubdc.org/page-1862736>. CCW Events at <https://cornellclubdc.org/events>. Recent Live Streams from Cornell: <https://live.alumni.cornell.edu/>

Cornell Homecoming 2020

10/09/2020 - 10/10/2020. Join us online for StayHomecoming weekend to share some Big Red pride with your Cornell family. Exclusive downloads and interactive events to celebrate StayHomecoming in true Cornellian style. Go to <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3955312> and Click [Get Ready](#)

CCW Monthly Board & Programming Meetings Virtual Event

October 13, 2020 7:00PM - 8:30PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3970963> and <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3970971>. Monthly CCW Board and Planning meetings, open to all members and others. Contact: Matt Nieman president@cornellclubdc.org. Jim Schoonmaker programming@cornellclubdc.org

International Spirit Of Zinck's Night - 2020

October 15, 2020. Virtual Event <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3971156>. Contact: programming@cornellclubdc.org. CCW invites all fellow alums in DC, Virginia, Maryland and around the world to celebrate the legacy and tradition of Theodore Zinck's for one of the most anticipated Cornell events of the year!

Cornelliana with Corey: A Zinck's Night Celebration of Collegetown and Cornell

October 15, 2020 7:30 PM Virtual Event. Want to learn more about Cornell's history? Join us to hear from the legendary Corey Ryan Earle '07 at one of his 'history happy hours' this fall. Go to: <https://cornellclubdc.org/event-3944251> and click [Choose Your Adventure](#) to register for one or all!

CCW Book Club - An Afternoon With Sung J. Woo '94: Skin Deep

October 25, 2020 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM Virtual Event. <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974764>
Contact Liz Pomper ehp3@cornell.edu

Solve a Crossword Puzzle Together

Join Tony Chen lc465@cornell.edu and CCW members solve a NY Times Crossword Puzzle using video chat.

- October 3, 2020 - 3:00PM- 4:00PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974742>
- October 10, 2020 - 3:00PM- 4:00PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974744>
- October 17, 2020 - 3:00PM- 4:00PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974745>
- October 24, 2020 - 3:00PM- 4:00PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974746>
- October 31, 2020 - 3:00PM- 4:00PM <https://www.cornellclubdc.org/event-3974747>

Volunteer Corner

The Cornell Club of Washington is Cornell's largest all-volunteer regional club and one of its most active. Your membership helps you connect with local alumni through social events and service programs advancing the university's mission through community-engaged discovery and learning that contribute to solving many of the local and world's challenges. CCW offers engaging programs and activities for alumni, students, and friends of Cornell University in the greater Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Communications

Are you a fan of Instagram and Facebook? Help CCW with our communications efforts including our social media and email updates. Contact Steve Piekarec at communications@cornellclubdc.org

Community Service

Are you currently involved in any remote or socially distanced volunteering? We'd love to hear from you! Reach out to Julia Buffinton and Drew Zukosky at communityservice@cornellclubdc.org

Editorial

Interested in assisting CCW with its newsletter and informing the local Cornell community about local goings-on? What to be published? Contact Claudia Benack at newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

Finance Committee

Do you have a background in accounting or tax law? Or want to become more familiar with these areas and how they work in the non-profit context? Contact Mel Zurn at treasurer@cornellclubdc.org

Membership

Invite your Cornell classmates and alums to join CCW. Renew/update your membership, contact, newsletter and email preferences. Contact Annalise Schoonmaker and Justin Kondrat at membership@cornellclubdc.org

Programming

The CCW Programming Committee welcomes suggestions for programs and volunteers to help with them! Contact Jim Schoonmaker at programming@cornellclubdc.org

Technology

Looking for people with website experience to help in the redesign of the CCW website. Contact Webmaster at webmaster@cornellclubdc.org

Nominations

Interested in serving on the 2020-21 CCW Board of Directors? Consider being nominated to serve CCW. Contact Terry Horner at nominations@cornellclubdc.org

CCW History

We need your help whether you are a past or present CCW Board member, Cornell alumnus at large and interested in CCW history from 1966 to the present. Contact CCW Historian, Gladys Stifel, at gls23@cornell.edu

CCW News

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October 2020

Moved? New email? Update your member profile at www.cornellclubdc.org

Do you have ideas for CCW News? Or corrections? Email us at: newsletter@cornellclubdc.org

Event Venues and Speakers Wanted

Do you have a meeting space that CCW could use for lectures or receptions?

Do you know a local Cornellian who would be a great speaker?

Contact Jim Schoonmaker at programming@cornellclubdc.org

Cornell Around the World



CCW News

Do you know a local Cornellian who should be featured in a future newsletter?

Contact Claudia Benack at newsletter@cornellclubdc.org