

### **Elmira - Corning Branch News & Views** September 2012

AAUW Advances Equity for Women and Girls Through Advocacy, Education and Research

### Julia Lavarnway and Janet Winfield, Co-Presidents

Calendar

Weds., Sept. 19, 2012, 6:30 pm - "The Impact of Women's Votes," CCC -Elmira Center, Madison Avenue, Elmira, NY Sun., Oct. 14, 2012, 1:30 pm - Fall Fashion Show, Downtown Holiday Inn Tues., Oct. 23, 2012, 6:30 pm - "The Junction Canal," Chemung Valley History Museum, Elmira, NY

### Presidents' Letter

Welcome back everyone! I hope you had a great summer with your travels far and wide. Now that we are into our fall work year, I have something to ask of you. The fall fashion show is just a few weeks away on Sunday, October 14 at 1:30 in the Riverfront Holiday Inn. June Ford, who has always been instrumental in getting the raffle baskets together, isn't doing it this year. I need your help!!! This is our biggest fundraiser and only fashion show of the year. Ideas from the board for baskets are: Wine, Coffee and Tea, Body and Bath, Movie Night, Children, Cooking, Halloween, Books, Games, Arts and Crafts. If you could get gift certificates from merchants in the area, that would be WONDERFUL.

I am also asking if you can pick up items when you are out shopping. The super market is full of items that could be used. I L to R: Miriam Smith, Liz Walton, Sue Hamilton, Mort

Sadinsky and Mary Jane Paternoster.

Report from the Scholarship Committee Liz Walton

The Scholarship Committee of Mary Jane Paternoster, Miriam Smith and Liz Walton chose one person to receive both the Return to Learning and Zelda Sadinsky 2012 Scholarship Awards. At the Annual Meeting in June we awarded Sue Hamilton this year \$500 Zelda Sadinsky Scholarship and \$2,000 Return to Learning. It was wonderful to have Mort

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued on page 4)

### Report from the Scholarship Committee

(Continued from page 1)

Sadinsky, Zelda's husband, there to give us a glimpse of Zelda's struggle to earn her College degree while raising five children. Her degree and then membership in AAUW meant a lot to her and Mort continues to honor her by helping other women who go back to college later in their life.

That is why Sue Hamilton was such a worthy recipient this year. Currently she is a second year full time student at Corning Community College pursuing an Associates Degree in Liberal Arts graduating in 2013. She currently has a 3.38 GPA after completing 29 hours of course work. She hopes to continue her studies at Mansfield University and obtain a Bachelor's degree in Graphic Design in 2015.

Sue is 41, a wife and a mother of 9 year old daughter Jessica. After a temporary work assignment through Kelly Services ended, she was ready for something more and a change of focus. Sue decided that earning a college degree would be a wise investment. In her application she wrote" Enrolling in college courses after having graduated from high school more than twenty years ago was a daunting task. I've found the statement, "Education is wasted on youth", to be true. Without the distraction of peer pressure and dating, learning has become much easier. Being an involved parent, married, and caring for our home plus pursuing a degree full time while working two part time jobs can be draining. However, I am proud of what I've accomplished so far and enjoy being a good role model for my daughter. She has been on the high honor roll, has received awards in excellence, and continues to be my inspiration to endure the temporary hardships while excelling."

Sue is creative in many aspects of her life and is a Master Gardner for Steuben County and will have the opportunity to take a class from our April program speaker, Sky Moss who is a CCC Professor and Master Gardner. She also volunteers with the Pony Club, Cornell Cooperative Extension and the Chemung County SPCA. She uses her creative skills to help design posters and ad campaigns.

Two of her letters of recommendation from Dr. Christine Atkins, Assistant Professor of English and David Higgins, Professor of Art summed up Sue for us. Dr. Atkins wrote "The first words that come to mind when I think of Sue are "insightful", "bright" and "hard-working". She established herself early on in my Composition I course as an essential member of the

(Continued on page 4)

#### **Presidents' Letter**

(Continued from page 1)

have already donated \$100 for things for our baskets. Joan Russen and Jan Altilio have offered to help. Our next board meeting is Oct.1 at 4:00 at Steele. Our first meeting of the year is Sept. 19 at 6:30. I live at 956 Scio St. directly across the street from Jan Cummings. Please brings items at those times or leave them on my porch at any times.

Joan Russen is putting together a basket for children. Janet

(Continued on page 5)

### Report from the Scholarship Committee

(Continued from page 3)

class community whose thoughtful comments about writing and the assigned readings enriched our discussions. Sue is extremely articulate and she never fails to gain the admiration and attention of her peers. I would rank her in the top 5% of students I've had in similar or equivalent courses over the last ten years."

Professor Higgins wrote "She has a rare combination of seasoned experience and youthful inquiry, and I expect great things from her as she continues her studies. Susan has been my student this semester in Digital Art, and I must say that her progress in mastering a complicated new software system (Photoshop CS5) has been nothing short of spectacular. That's due in part to Sue's native intelligence and analytical skills, but also to her solid work ethic and genuine interest. In her work she also displays two qualities that cannot be taught – she is creative and she has good taste, and I am confidant she will one day earn a living due to those innate skills. I doubt that a portfolio of her artwork is required for this scholarship, but take my word for it that she is a stellar photographer and digital artist. I have been teaching college art since 1986, and I know a great student when I see one. I am absolutely certain that Sue is a worthy candidate for your scholarship."

Sue Hamilton and other students like her is why we raise money every year for these Scholarships. Thanks you all for the hard work and dedication you all show to make this initiative possible. We hope to see you and all of your friends at the Fashion Show

in October so we may continue to support the Return to Learning scholarship.



Left to Right: Sue Hamilton, Mort Sadinsky

News & Views September 2012 Page 4

### Public Policy Report Pauline Leveen

On Sat. September 22, between 10 AM and 4AM, Elmira College will be holding their OCTAGON FAIR. As in the past, we will have a table to do Voter Registration for the General Election of a President, either Mitt Romney (R) or reelect, Pres. Barack Obama. In addition there will be several local candidates for varied positions in local government. This is an urgent activity for Public Policy. We will also share the table with the LWV.

I URGENTLY need help ANY time between 10 and 4 Call me at 733-6721 of e-mail me at slev-een@stny.rr.cm.

### **AAUW NYS Diversity**

In principle and practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership.

There shall be no barriers so to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

AAUW's mission statement emphasizes its determination to meet the needs of women of all ages, cultures and abilities. Bringing a diverse population into programs and membership is the feature that results in an influential organization that mirrors the community.

## **Books & Bites**Betty Reiter, Chair



Summer is on its way out so I hope you had lots of time to READ.

Books and Bites will once more be meeting each month to allow us to talk about the books we have read. I hope you can make the first meeting on Sept. 22 in the small conference room at Steele Memorial Library. We meet from 2 to 4 PM. It is always a fun and interesting time. Come join us and either tell us about what you have been reading or just come and hear what others have read.

If you cannot make the first meeting, our second will be on October 20th.

See you soon!

### Presidents' Letter

(Continued from page 4)

Winfield is putting together a body and bath basket. Are there others that will contact some members to put a basket together? Jan will do the finishing touches. Let me know the basket that you are putting together.

Thank you for your giving and caring.

Warmly, Janet

### A Message from the AAUW President

In the last presidential election, at least 6 million Americans didn't vote because they missed a registration deadline or didn't know how to register. In 2010, even more people stayed home – especially the young people of the millennial generation, who had made such waves just two years be-



fore. In 2012,
AAUW has become a partner of the National Voter
Registration
Day program
to do our part

to make sure no one is left out this election year – especially those young women who have yet to make voting a habit.

On September 25, 2012, volunteers, celebrities, public officials, and organizations from all over the country will "hit the

streets" for National Voter Registration Day. AAUW is taking this great idea one step further, and declaring this National Voter Registration Week for our It's My

Vote: I Will Be Heard campaign. This time of coordinated grass-roots, social media, and public relations efforts will help increase awareness of voter registration opportunities and the

process to get on the rolls. We'll also take the opportunity to educate voters about the various voter ID rules at play in their states, to ensure that



both newly registered and longtime voters don't face obstacles on Election Day.

I'm so proud of the AAUW members and It's My Vote campaign volunteers, who will be working in their own communities registering tens of thousands of voters in a single day. We'll also be collecting pledges to vote from both new registrants and the already registered; we'll mail these reminders to participants just before the election to remind them of their pledge to vote. Best of all, National Voter Registration Day/Week will be an opportunity to put our political differences aside and celebrate the rights that unite us as Americans. Sounds like a job for AAUW!



Yours in AAUW, Carolyn Garfein AAUW President

### **AAUW VALUE PROMISE**

By joining AAUW, we belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance Legal Advocacy Fund Report on Case Support Rolie Wendorf, NYS Legal Advocacy Fund Vice President

Some landmark cases being supported by AAUW LAF are:

- Cioca et al v. Rumsfeld et al: Sixteen veteran and active duty servicemen and servicewomen who, while serving in the US Military, have been raped, sexually assaulted, and harassed by active duty members of the military filed a lawsuit against the Department of Defense. Several of the plaintiffs from the case, including the named plaintiff Kori Cioca, are featured in The Invisible War, an award-winning documentary about sexual assault in the military.
- Klay et al v. Panetta et al: Ariana Klay is one of eight plaintiffs suing the U.S. military for allegedly creating a culture in which sexual assault and rape are tolerated and in which people who report it face retaliation. The case was filed on March 6, 2012, in the District of Columbia by lawyer Susan Burke. Burke is also the lawyer for the Cioca v. Rumsfeld case. She is featured in the documentary The Invisible War

- along with named plaintiff Ariana Klay and several of the other plaintiffs.
- Bull v. Board of Trustees of Ball State University: Kathy Bull was the head coach for the women's tennis team at Ball State University in Indiana for 21 years. There she advocated for Title IX issues and mentored young female coaches. She was fired midseason in 2009, allegedly as the result of NCAA violations. However, Bull argues that she was fired in retaliation for speaking out in favor of gender equity in the athletic department. In June 2012, LAF-supported plaintiff Kathy Bull reached a settlement with Ball State University. She was awarded more than \$700,000 in cash and benefits.

Much more information about LAF programs is available at http://www.aauw.org/act/laf/. The selection of LAF cases is done by AAUW national.

Source: AAUW-NYS LAF Case Support

#### **AAUW VISION STATEMENT**

AAUW will be a powerful advocate and visible leader in equity and education through research, philanthropy, and measurable change in critical areas impacting on the lives of women and girls.

#### **AAUW Websites**

AAUW - USA http://www.aauw.org/ AAUW - NYS

http://www.aauw-nys.org/ AAUW Elmira-Corning http://www.aauw-nys.org/ branches/elmira-corning.htm

# WITH THE 2012 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION APPROACHING WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AS

DENISE W. KING,

**ELMIRA COLLEGE ADJUNCT PROFESSOR** 

AND POLITICAL CONSULTANT,

**ADDRESSES** 

THE IMPACT OF WOMEN'S VOTES IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS:

TRENDS AND PREDICITIONS







SEPTEMBER 19, 2012

CORNING COMMUNITY COLLEGE ELMIRA CENTER

MADISON AVENUE AT SECOND STREET

MEETING AT 6:30PM

PROGRAM AT 7:00PM