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## Newsletter – February 2020

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### ***Iron Jawed Angels***

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 2 pm  
Bennington Free Library Rotary Room

The last film in our suffrage series casts aside sepia-toned images of earnest women suffragists in favor of plucky, wildly funny (and, yes, sexy) suffragists who took the fight for the 19th Amendment to the streets and risked everything to get it across the finish line. It traces the generational transfer of leadership from Carrie Chapman Catt (Anjelica Huston) to Alice Paul (Hilary Swank) and other young activists. This feature film by Katja von Garnier premiered in 2004.

### ***Support for***

### ***Visually Impaired Vermonters***

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 12:30 pm  
Federated Church of East Arlington

First Monday Meeting guest speaker Debbie Holmes is a representative of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI) that offers training, services, and support to visually impaired Vermonters. Ms. Holmes teaches living and technological skills to help maintain independence.

Bring a sandwich for your lunch. RSVP to  
Jan Day [mday2837@comcast.net](mailto:mday2837@comcast.net) (442-9299) or  
Nancy Schoerke [nts1016@comcast.net](mailto:nts1016@comcast.net) (447-0829)

### ***Play Reading and Birthday Party for Susan B. Anthony***

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 2 pm (for members only)  
Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 108 School Street, Bennington

Two hundred years ago, on February 15, 1820, Susan B. Anthony was born in Adams, MA. Help us celebrate her birthday by joining us in a piece of birthday cake and the reading of a surprising and funny play: “The Woman of It or Our Friends, The Anti-Suffragists (A Satirical Comedy in One Act),” written in 1914 by Mary Shaw, an actor and Suffragist.

We are very lucky to have Ruth Giordano, of Williamstown, MA, offer to “direct” our play reading. She says this of herself: “Throughout my life, I’ve dedicated myself to performance art: dance, drama, opera, film, costumes & puppetry. I’ve worked in most departments at most every level. My current passion is for sharing great stories with people in my immediate community. For me, community and communication are at the heart of the theatre experience.”

Come to our meeting prepared to celebrate, share in the fun of the play by either reading a part or being part of the audience, and enjoy community and communication with other Branch members.

## ***From the Parlor to the Polling Place: Stories and Songs from the Suffragists***

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Oldcastle Theatre



Singer and historian Linda Radtke, in period garb and “Votes for Women” sash, celebrates the centennial of the passage of the 19th Amendment, specifically highlighting the decades-long persistence of Vermonters, both women and men. Music was essential to the movement: each state convention of suffragists began and ended with songs such as “Shall Women Vote?” “New America,” “Giving the Ballot to the Mother,” or “Voting as we Pray,” as well as rousing Christian hymns.

Touring the state in 1870, suffragist Lucy Stone urged resistant citizens to see women’s involvement in civic life as “Enlarged Housekeeping,” expanding women’s traditional efforts to nurture hearth and home to a wider focus to improve the greater community. (The Rutland Herald reporter expected “Harpies and Amazons,” and was impressed by suffragists’ mild and rational approach!)

Both the songs and stories in Radtke’s engaging presentation, accompanied by pianist Arthur Zorn, highlight Vermonters’ efforts from 1840-1921, as they lobbied in churches, at “parlor meetings” at town halls and at the State House for total enfranchisement.

Linda Radtke was a Vermont high school teacher for thirty-one years and now produces the VPR Choral Hour on Vermont Public Radio. She has a special interest in local history, and enjoys doing research on each town she visits with her programs.

A classically trained singer, Linda is a member of Vermont’s professional vocal ensemble, Counterpoint, the Oriana Singers, and the Arioso Chamber Ensemble. She also sings with a vocal quartet, Ah!Capella, sponsored by the Vermont Symphony Orchestra, which brings music to Vermont schools.

## AAUW Calendar

Saturday, February 1, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Iron Jawed Angels will be screened in the Bennington Free Library Rotary Room followed by a discussion. This is the third and final film in the Suffrage Film Series. See page 1 for details.

Monday, February 3, 2020 at 12:30 pm

First Monday Meeting at the Federated Church of East Arlington on Ice Pond Road. The guest speaker will be Debbie Holmes, a representative of the Vermont Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired (VABVI). See page 1 for more information.

Wednesday, February 12, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Claudia Dalton. Information: Suzanne Kirkpatrick [suzykirkpa@gmail.com](mailto:suzykirkpa@gmail.com) (314-496-5628).

Saturday, February 15, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Suffrage play reading and 200<sup>th</sup> birthday party for Susan B. Anthony. Members only. Location: Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, 108 School Street, Bennington. See page 1 for additional details.

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Suzanne Kirkpatrick.

Wednesday, February 19, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. The book to be discussed is *A Spark of Light* by Jodi Picoult. Information: Mary Feidner [mfeidner@comcast.net](mailto:mfeidner@comcast.net) (442-7845) or Margaret Howland [howlanma@yahoo.com](mailto:howlanma@yahoo.com) (802-681-7555).

## AAUW Calendar Continued

Wednesday, February 26, 2020 at 1:00 pm

Scribble Sisters Meeting at the home of Suzanne Kirkpatrick.

Saturday, February 29, 2020 at 2:00 pm

Reenactment Performance at BPAC/Oldcastle. "From the Parlor to the Polling Place." Singer and historian Linda Radtke will highlight the decades-long persistence of Vermonters, both women and men, in the suffrage movement. See page 2 for additional information.

Monday, March 2, 2020 at 12:30 pm

First Monday Meeting at the Federated Church of East Arlington on Ice Pond Road. Bring a sandwich for your lunch. Information about the program and speaker will be in the March Newsletter.

Wednesday, March 18, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *The Sisters: The Lives of American Suffragettes* by Jean Baker.

Saturday, March 21 2020 at 2:00 pm

Reenactment Performance at BPAC/Oldcastle. "A Woman Ain't I?" (Sojourner Truth.) Born a slave in New Paltz, New York, Isabella Baumfree walked away from slavery and in her travels evolved into Sojourner Truth: maid laundress, evangelist, abolitionist and suffragist. Kathryn Woods Tells Sojourner Truth's story in her own words, speeches and songs.

Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 12:00 noon

Book Group meeting at the Martha Canfield Library in Arlington. *Code Girls* by Lisa Mundy.

## ***AAUW Scholarships Awarded Program Nears \$50,000 Milestone!***

by Judy Murphy

The Bennington Branch Scholarship Committee has awarded \$2600 in scholarships and \$350 for textbooks, which will help further the college education of five non-traditional women students during the spring semester at the Community College of Vermont (CCV).

With the five scholarships, AAUW's Scholarship Program has reached a total of \$41,939 in scholarships and \$6,475 for textbooks for a grand total of \$48,414! Forty-two different students have benefitted from 97 one-semester awards to date.

The Scholarship Fund is built by donations of our Silent Angels, fundraisers at Oldcastle Theatre, memorial gifts, and profits from the books published by the Scribble Sisters. Funds for textbooks are collected by AAUW book group members in memory of the founder, Marge Carter. Her husband has generously matched the book group collection each year.

### Wendy Lyons

Wendy Lyons, 51, of Bennington, was awarded a scholarship of \$800. This sum, along with grants she has received, will cover tuition for the five courses she needs to obtain an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts at CCV. This is Ms. Lyon's fifth scholarship. She plans to transfer in the fall to Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts to study for a bachelor's degree.

In addition to her studies, she has volunteered at the Greater Bennington Interfaith Community Services (GBICS) in Bennington and served an internship with The Kitchen Cupboard.

In a letter recommending Ms. Lyons, Dr. Stephannie R. Peters, Ed.D., wrote, "Wendy is very passionate about contributing to our community, and helping others. She is a leading member of the CCV student group, and also very involved in her church...Wendy is involved in working with the most vulnerable population, as evidenced by her commitment to the work at GBICS and her attendance last summer at a national conference about homelessness."

Ms. Lyons wrote in a letter to the committee, "Thank you so much for my scholarship. I am so grateful for this scholarship and how much it has helped me in the past. Getting this scholarship five times has been amazing. I will never forget your kindness and generosity to me. I am also proud to be a member of this organization that helps women become stronger in their educational endeavors. Again, thank you!"

### Cassandra Furciniti

Cassandra Furciniti, 30, of Bennington, is receiving her third scholarship in the amount of \$500, plus \$100 for textbooks. She continues to follow her lifelong dream of opening her own daycare center, studying Early Childhood Education at the Community College of Vermont.

Ms. Furciniti credits her current course in Child Development with showing her why she wants to be an Early Childhood Educator and feels that learning about genetics, DNA and all of the different developmental delays a child could have will help in her career.

In addition to attending college and caring for her two children, ages 1 ½ and 3, Ms. Furciniti works full time as Assistant Staffing Coordinator at The Companies of J. J. Young.

In a letter of recommendation, Jeannie Jenkins, her academic advisor at CCV, wrote, “I have been impressed by Cassie's ability to not only set goals for herself but also to have the maturity to understand what she needs to do to balance her school and work life. Her communication skills, leadership ability and commitment to early childhood education are all notable. She is a leader in class, has strong written and oral communication skills, and demonstrates the ability to be both an independent thinker and learner.”

“I would like to thank all the Bennington Branch Members for awarding me the AAUW scholarship again this semester,” Ms. Furciniti wrote, “I would also like to thank Jennifer Kern for pushing me to apply every semester and helping me whenever I have questions. I would not be where I am today without all of your help.”

#### Kayla Badger

Kayla Badger, of Danby is 33 and the single parent to two daughters, aged 7 and 10. She will receive a \$500 scholarship and \$100 toward textbooks.

Ms. Badger is studying Early Childhood Education at CCV. She has worked with students at VPI South and was highly recommended by her supervisor there. Haley Votra wrote, “Kayla is a steadfast individual with the ability to strive for excellence in all areas. She is a willing and active participant

in any learning opportunity... always willing to put in the time and effort it takes to achieve the professional, personal, and academic goals she placed for herself.”

Michael R. Luzader, a teacher at Currier Memorial School in Danby, highly recommended Kayla, who was hired to assist a needy student in his classroom. “She developed a rapport with her student quickly and was soon able to work with her student as well as a small group of others. It was clear that she was more interested in helping students learn how to do for themselves, and not simply getting to the 'correct' answer....However, her strongest asset is her inherent sense of responsibility. When she says she is going to do something, she simply does it. I was always able to count on her follow through.”

In an essay Ms. Badger wrote about hunting with her father, “I noticed it brought my father and me closer than we have ever been. I enjoy our talks about memories we have made hunting together at our deer camp...my father has taught and continues to teach me about the mountains and knowledge of how deer use the mountains...I learn more and more from him every year and cannot wait to teach/tell my own girls about these things.”

In a letter of thanks, Ms. Badger wrote, “I am writing to thank you for the AAUW Scholarship. This means the world to my children and me. I am very excited as a single mother to be able to further my education through CCV with the help from the AAUW Scholarship. Thank you again.”

## Melissa Champine

Melissa Champine, 53, of Manchester Center, is a self-employed massage therapist who will be studying to earn an Allied Health Certificate at CCV. Having this certification will give her the ability to work in a medical setting. Ms. Champine received a scholarship of \$400 and \$150 toward textbooks.

Ms. Champine has three children and the youngest is 16.

Steve Schmaltz, a family friend of 20 years, stated in a letter regarding her application, "She is very civic minded and generous with her time and energy...Over the years, she has taken in many children from at-risk families, opening her house and heart to provide them with a stable and loving home. She does this without any financial compensation because the lives, safety, health, and welfare of these children are of the utmost importance to her and her family."

The Coordinator of Student Advising at CCV, Darcy Oakes, M.Ed., MBA, stated in a recommendation, "Her enthusiasm for education and for learning is apparent, and Melissa is clearly a life-long learner, engaging throughout her career in many and frequent opportunities for ongoing professional development."

In a letter to the Scholarship Committee, Ms. Champine wrote, "I want to express my deepest appreciation for your choosing me to be a recipient of this amazing scholarship! I cannot begin to tell you how much relief this gives me. I will be able to focus on my studies and not have nearly the financial stress. As a non-traditional student I understand the value of education and the importance of putting all of your effort into your studies. Thank you again, I am forever grateful."

## Crystal Myers

Crystal Myers, 31, of Bennington, was awarded a scholarship of \$400. After seven years in the field of childcare, her goal is to work in an elementary school as either a guidance counselor or a social worker. Ms. Myers received an Associate Degree in Child Development in 2011, which she utilized during her career in child care. She now just needs to complete seven courses to add an Associate Degree in Liberal Arts at CCV.

She is a single mother of two children, ages one and six.

Asa Morin, LICSW, who taught Ms. Myers Human Growth and Development at CCV, stated, "One of the many strengths that I see in Crystal is that she is able to apply the material in real life situations in a way that is both practical and appreciative of the culturally and socioeconomically diverse life situations that individuals face."

Stephanie M. Eames, Postpartum Specialist at Catamount Connection in recommending Crystal for the scholarship, wrote, "Crystal has long talked about wanting to serve as a role model for her children by securing a career. What she does not realize is that she already serves as a role model with her perseverance and resilience. Every obstacle is met with a level head and drive to succeed."

Ms. Myers wrote, "Thank you for considering me for a scholarship. I'm deeply honored that you have chosen me. I am very grateful and I look forward to finally be able to get myself a nice computer/tablet for my remainder of college. Thank you so much."

(Note: The Scholarship Committee assessed Ms. Myer's financial needs and determined a computer was essential.)