

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT:

Category: ~~Women~~ – Education – Community – Cultural and Diversity!

Title: **Leaders & Readers Women's History Month Program**

In honor of the 50th anniversary of the AAUW Foundation, the St. Lawrence County Branch sponsored 50 Books for 50 Years: Sharing Women's History with a New Generation of Readers. Branch EF-VP Lyn Burkett worked closely with Sarah Sachs, the Children's Librarian at the Potsdam Public Library, to update the women's history collection in the children's library. The 50 Books list is available on the branch website at . The booklist was distributed to the 64 other libraries in the four-county North Country Library System (most do not have an AAUW branch in their area) as a tool to update their collections.

To showcase the project and celebrate Women's History Month, we organized **Leaders & Readers: An Afternoon with Women's Words** for March 14, 2009. The afternoon's readings are open to all to listen or to share a short selection from a favorite female writer. We invited local political and education leaders, as well as AAUW members to read, as well as members of the audience.

The event was ~~designed~~ as a fundraiser for both the 50 Books project and EF. Pre-addressed envelopes for both projects were available on site for attendees to use. Obviously this project furthers AAUW's objectives regarding women and girls and to showcase the work of the Educational Foundation. EF-VP Lyn Burkett gave a good overview of AAUW, the Foundation and local branch activities as she introduced the program, along with a membership pitch. It was also an excellent visibility opportunity.

We are planning the Women's Words event as an ongoing Women's History Month program. The venue was a storefront, so the 30 plus attendees filled the space. Most were not AAUW members, so we outreached to many new potential members in the community. Next year we'll need a bigger space and limit readers to no more than 5 minutes in order to allow more selections to be shared.

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Subject: Women authors read at event promoting education of girls

Date: Sun, 15 Mar 2009 6:14 am

Attachments: bilde_Site=WD&Date=20090315&Category=NEWS05&ArtNo=303159931&Ref=AR&maxw=550&maxh=500&title=1 (26K)

Women authors read at event promoting education of girls

By ALEX JACOBS
TIMES STAFF WRITER
SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2009



JASON HUNTER / WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES

Patricia W. Musante, director of the Potsdam Public Library, holds a copy of 'Rabble Rousers: 20 Women Who Made a Difference,' during an event at the St. Lawrence County Arts Council during which people shared short story and poem selections from some of their favorite female writers.

POTSDAM — Women's words filled the St. Lawrence County Arts Council on Saturday, as bookworms read passages and poems from their favorite authors in the name of advancing girls' education.

The American Association of University Women's "Leaders and Readers" event attracted 30 attentive listeners and raised money and awareness for the St. Lawrence County chapter's educational foundation.

The group is compiling 50 young adult and children's books about women's achievements that will be donated to the Potsdam Public Library.

"Our community really does like to read, and our community really does like to learn and better themselves," library Director Patricia W. Musante said.

She told the audience the world had come a long way from the time when Melvil Dewey, he of decimal system fame, refused to employ female librarians.

Reading from one of the books AALW has donated to the library, Mrs. Musante described Dr. Mary Edwards Walker from Oswego, the first female surgeon in the U.S. Army. Dr. Walker served during the Civil War and is still the only woman to whom Congress has awarded the Medal of Honor.

Branch President Lisa M. Wilson, who is also an associate professor of English and communications at SUNY Potsdam, read a selection by Pierrepont Manor author Marietta Holley.

The 1872 chapter was called "Allegory on Women's Right," and described the reaction of Ms. Holley's fictional spokeswoman, Samantha Allen, to her husband's claim that women couldn't vote because it would be "too wearin' for the fair sex." Audience members laughed as the author reasoned that if a woman could handle farm work, she could vote.

Town Supervisor Marie C. Regan, who is a retired professor of American literature at Canton College, the predecessor to SUNY Canton, led a spirited reading of her favorite poems.

She started with Anne Bradstreet, the first woman to be published in Colonial America.

"She tries to emulate the male poets of the time, but every once in a while you get a glimmer of how she really feels. But, then in the last stanza she goes back to being a Puritan lady and says she didn't really mean it," Mrs. Regan said.

The supervisor also read several poems by Emily Dickinson, which she said were "like Kodak pictures of emotion."

<http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20090315/NEWS05/303159931>

Women's Words Featured During Special Readings

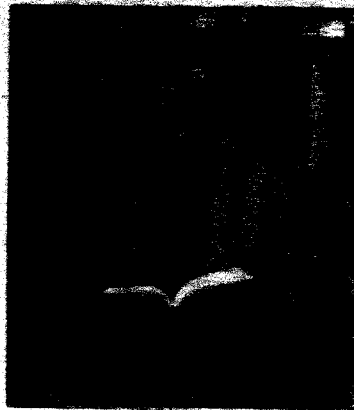
POTSDAM - In honor of Women's History Month and the 50th anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation, the St. Lawrence County Branch of AAUW is sponsoring Leaders & Readers: An Afternoon with Women's Words on Sat., March 14 from 2-3:30 pm at the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, 51 Market Street in Potsdam.

The afternoon's readings are open to all and anyone come to listen or to share a short selection from a favorite female writer. The excerpt may be a poem, part of a book, short story, or play; part of a letter or diary... even a recipe that has special meaning. Women's writings have taken many different forms throughout history, so be creative in your selection.

Among the local leaders who will participate are Marie Regan, the Supervisor for the Town of Potsdam, a past AAUW president, and a founding member of SOAR. This spring she is teaching a SOAR course on The American Dream: The Great Gatsby and Death of a Salesman.

Other scheduled guest readers include Eudora Watson, James Barnes and Victoria Levitt. Watson is a poet, fiction writer, and freelance non-fiction editor. Barnes is the pastor at the Potsdam United Methodist Church. Levitt, who teaches writing at SUNY Potsdam, has published a poetry chapbook, "Talking to Poets."

St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW readers will include Lisa M. Wilson, presi-



LEADERS & READERS

- Town of Potsdam Supervisor Marie Regan is one of the guest leaders taking part in the AAUW-sponsored Leaders & Readers: An Afternoon with Women's Words from 2-3:30 p.m. March 14 at the St. Lawrence County Arts Council, 51 Market St., Potsdam. This Women's History Month program will feature an eclectic smorgasbord of women's writings styles through time. Come and listen or bring a short selection and join in as a reader. (Seymour Photo)

dent, and Lyn Ellen Burkett, Educational Foundation VP. Wilson is planning an excerpt from North Country writer Marietta Holley (1836-1926) whose satiric fictional heroine, Samantha Allen, often opined about women's rights and a woman's proper place in marriage.

In addition to enjoying the reading selections, participants can also learn more

about AAUW's 50 Books for 50 Years: Sharing Women's History with a New Generation of Readers project at the Potsdam Public Library. Branch EF vice president Lyn Burkett worked closely with Children's Librarian Sarah Sachs to create a list of books to update the women's history collection in the children's library.

Most of the 50 Books are for 9-12 year old readers, but some are for young adults and some are for younger readers (as young as four years old). The topics include life stories of (un)common individuals; women's contributions to science and invention, arts and entertainment, religious traditions and sports; their roles in colonial America and the Civil War; and their work to abolish slavery and gain voting rights.

The 50 Books list is available on the branch website at www.northnet.org/stlawrenceaauw/50books.pdf. In addition to direct donations, anyone may "adopt" one of the books on the 50 Books for 50 Years book list through the Potsdam Library's Adopt-A-Book program. Donations to the AAUW Educational Foundation are also encouraged.

The AAUW Educational Foundation - the world's largest source of funding exclusively for graduate women - supports aspiring scholars around the globe, teachers and activists in local communities, women at critical stages of their careers, and those pursuing professions where women are underrepresented.

AAUW Sponsors 50 Books List On Women's History

POTS DAM, Wis.—The Educational Foundation Vice President for St. Lawrence County Branch of AAUW, Len Berkett, Potsdam, started the plan for the 50th anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation, she wanted to design a project that would be a testament to the legacy of the foundation and also funds to continue the scholarship of our past.

She is both part of the 50th anniversary of the AAUW Educational Foundation and St. Lawrence County Branch of AAUW is sponsoring the 50 Books for 50 Years: Sharing Women's History With a New Generation of Readers. Len Berkett worked closely with Sarah Sachs, the Children's Librarian at the Potsdam Public Library, to curate a new women's history collection of the children's library.

In doing so, this is one of 50 books list to use in the 50 other libraries in the North Country Library System, many of which do not have a trained Children's Librarian. In adult 12 and over can be found to have a great book to a teenager, grandchild or those neighbors, or donate to your local library. Start at the top of the list for the 50th anniversary. The 50 Books list is available on the branch website.

www.northcountrylibrary.org/50books.pdf

Most of the 50 Books are for all ages and readers, but some are for young adults and some are for young readers as young as 4-6 years old. The topics include the suffragette, science and invention, crafts and entertainment, labor, American and the two World Wars, and the 1960s-1970s. The list includes the common and diverse of our field and history.

The 50 books are available for purchase from the St. Lawrence County Library



BOREDOM BUSTER BASKET - Potsdam Public Library's Children's Librarian, Sarah Sachs and St. Lawrence County Branch AAUW's Educational Foundation VP, Len Berkett, show off the Winter Family Boredom Buster Basket offered for a silent auction at the Potsdam Public Library to support the 50 Books for 50 Years: Sharing Women's History With a New Generation of Readers project of AAUW to modernize the women's history collection at the library. You can bid until Friday of the basket located by Miss Hollow, Potsdam.

department program.

There is a great selection of the 50 books on a website and a bid basket for the book sale. Some have the right amount of interest, and some are new. Winter Family Boredom Buster Basket, filled with a variety of books for all ages and subjects, is the perfect gift for Miss Hollow, Market Street in Potsdam. The silent auction will be held on Saturday, January 24. Please bring the money with you. Proceeds of the auction will go to support the AAUW 50 Books for 50 Years program.

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at the top. You can bid on whether you want to buy or sell. Attached you will be given what you bid on and what you sell on.

As a member of the 50 Books for 50 Years program, you can bid on the library's new book purchase as well as the other items.

In addition to donations to the 50 Books for 50 Years program, you are also encouraged to donate to the AAUW Educational Foundation. A small amount of money is small on the whole, but it is appreciated.

The AAUW Educational Foundation is a world's largest source of funding for libraries. It provides a variety of support, including seminars and travel, and a variety of other programs.

There are several ways to receive an estimated cost on