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# Talk at Seymour Historical Society showcases suffrage struggle

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - The 72-year women’s suffrage struggle that ended in 1920 with the ratification of the 19th Amendment was in the spotlight Sunday at Seymour Historical Society.

Shelton Intermediate School Housemaster Carolyn Ivanoff, dressed in early 20th-century costume, discussed sacrifices made by strong women seeking to gain the right to vote.

Ivanoff said the women’s suffrage plank at the first Women’s Rights Convention in Seneca Falls, N.Y. in 1848 was originally “an after-thought.”

The idea of raising the status of women and allowing them to vote faced fierce opposition.

“Only weak men would support women’s suffrage,” Ivanoff said. “Men did not want to be stuck at home raising kids.”

Ivanoff described the women who launched the suffrage movement as “intellectual powerhouses who had devoted their



Seymour Historical Society members Carolyn Ivanoff, top right, and Elsie Valeski, pose before a program about women's suffrage Sunday at the historical society. March is Women's History

lives to improving society,” and used the Declaration of Independence as a guideline.

They were involved in progressive movements, Ivanoff said, such as abolitionism. “They were very, very controversial,” she said.

Editorial cartoons published during the suffrage movement poked fun at women’s intellect, Ivanoff said. They featured phrases like “protect the home,” and “let the women mind the baby.”

Opposition came not only from men but from women’s groups. Suffragettes faced jail, went on hunger strikes, and faced forced feedings.

Ivanoff said many of the women who fought so hard for the right to vote never lived to see their dreams come true.



Carolyn Ivanoff portrays a suffragette during a presentation about the women's suffrage movement.

# Buy a butterfly, support Seymour family’s memorial scholarship fund

By Patricia Villers

SEYMOUR - Butterflies symbolize rebirth, freedom, and love.

At Lizzie’s Corner Consignment and Gifts, customers can show support and love for the Poeta family of Seymour by buying a butterfly for \$1 to be placed in the shop window.

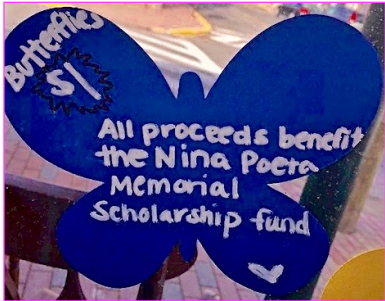


Nina Poeta died in 2014 from a rare form of brain cancer. She was 17, a talented gymnast and Seymour High School cheerleader. Her family has established a scholarship fund with an annual award going to a cheerleader graduating from any public or private high school in Connecticut.

Elizabeth Anderson, owner of Lizzie’s at 19 Bank St., recently launched “Butterfly Kisses for Nina” to raise money for the scholarship fund.

“I’m selling \$1 butterflies with all proceeds going to the Nina Poeta Memorial Scholarship Fund,” she said last week.

“I’ll keep collecting (money) until all the windows at Lizzie’s are covered with butterflies,” Anderson said. “We’d love to see 500 butterflies in the windows.”



Lizzie's Corner

Home Consignment & Gifts

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[lizziescornerconsignment@gmail.com](mailto:lizziescornerconsignment@gmail.com)

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# Ansonia native wins World’s Strongest Lightweight Woman title

Ansonia native Kristen Boulay, 25, became the World’s Strongest Lightweight Woman at the **Arnold Amateur Strongman World Championship** in Columbus, Ohio earlier this month.

She competed against 20 women from around the world March 4, and placed first.

The top four women advanced to Day 2, March 6, where Boulay took first place, earning her the title of the World’s Strongest Lightweight Woman.

To qualify for world competition, she had to win at a local competition.

Boulay took first place at the Hudson Valley Showdown in April 2015. This earned her a spot to go to Nationals, which took place in October in Iowa. She placed fourth at Nationals, which earned her an invitation to the World’s Competition.

Boulay said when she was a cheerleader in college she was encouraged to start weightlifting. She did just that, and she said she “became addicted” to the sport.

Boulay said since she placed first she’s automatically qualified to compete in the world championship next year to defend her title.

Her coach is Dave Cauchon of Oxford, and she trains at HardKore owned by Lou Santella in Derby. She also does event training at Lightning Fitness, owned by Matt Mills, in East Windsor.



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Tickets may also be purchased at [www.teaminc.org](http://www.teaminc.org)

SEATING IS LIMITED, SO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS EARLY!

A graphic with a green background and white flowers. The text "SPRING IS HERE!" is written in a pink, playful font.

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16

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visit: [www.valleyartscouncil.org](http://www.valleyartscouncil.org) for Entry Form and details

3rd Annual RECOGNITION BREAKFAST

Greater Valley Salvation Army Advisory Board

Southern New England Division

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2016

Registration: 7-30am / Breakfast 8:00am

Where: Molto Bene of Ansonia

Keynote Speaker: James Ryan

Master of Ceremonies: Diane Stroman

THE SALVATION ARMY

I ♥

The Valley-Voice CT Newsletter  
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The Valley-Voice is published by:  
Alcam Writing & Admin LLC, Derby, CT  
203-305-9255, 293-893-8623  
[thevalley.voice@gmail.com](mailto:thevalley.voice@gmail.com),  
Blog: <http://thevalley-voicect.blogspot.com>  
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A cartoon character with a yellow face, large eyes, and a wide, open mouth showing a red tongue. It has a black outline and is wearing a black hat.

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