



Unifier

UNITED UNIVERSITY PROFESSIONS

FARMINGDALE CHAPTER

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The family and friends of Linda Allen would like to express a heartfelt thank you to UUPF and its members for their support, prayers and donations during the illness. It really meant a lot.

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Women's History Month

Medical Pioneers: Drs. Elizabeth Blackwell and Emily Dunning Barringer

By Daniel Scott Marone

Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell broke through chauvinistic and professional barriers to become the first female in the U.S.A. to graduate from medical school. She established and, at other times, helped to organize low cost medical clinics throughout the nation. She brought her expertise back to her birth country, England, and became the first female to be listed on the UK's General Medical Council. Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer overcame prejudice and legal injustice in denying women access to hospital residency programs, the key requirement to be awarded the "State of New York License to Practice Medicine". She earned further recognition for her groundbreaking pioneering medical research into venereal diseases and for championing the Sparkman Act.



Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell

Elizabeth Blackwell (1821-1910) was born into a Congregationalist family in Bristol, England. In 1832, the Blackwell family moved to New-York City. Six years later, her family moved to Cincinnati. Elizabeth "devoured" books studying art, classic literature, and music. She maintained an Universalist approach to religion and participated in services offered by Jewish synagogues, Quaker meetings, and the "Second-Coming" spiritual revivals conducted

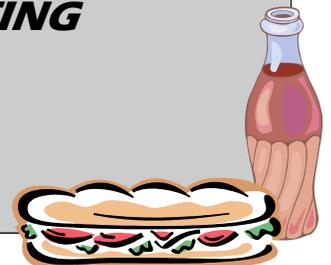
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GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Thursday, March 15, 2018

11:00 am ◆ Gleeson Hall room 104

Please join your fellow UUPF members for lunch.



Professionals' Corner

Unionism

By Harry Gabriel Espailat

When threats appear to be overwhelming, it is a natural response to let someone else handle it, or even worse, ignore the problem altogether. Right now, it seems that many in UUP are disregarding the magnitude of the threats we are facing in our careers. Some have chosen to remain in the shadows, hiding from the truth, while others go to war against the autocrats who are trying to undo what our union founders so furiously fought for, were imprisoned for, and even died for, and which we should be zealously guarding.

The consequences of a negative ruling at the Janus vs. AFSCME case may be the beginning of the dismantling of laws that came into existence to protect the salaried classes. That includes us! As it is now, we do not get proper respect from SUNY. SUNY administration does not even want to sit down to negotiate a fair contract.

Still many assume that all is well. They don't recognize the importance of attending general meetings, rallying with us, or even signing a petition for a fair contract. What's worse is the message they send to SUNY. What SUNY hears is that they do not care about fair raises, permanent and continuing appointment, health care benefits, pensions, etc. Do not fall prey to a false sense of security.

Recently, in West Virginia, teachers went on strike fighting

for fair salary raises, improved benefits, and better working conditions. They fought against the nefarious practices spreading throughout the country which negatively impact the working masses. Under the Taylor Law we are not allowed to strike, but we can send SUNY a message by showing up, continuously voicing our concerns, and becoming active members. The brave teachers in West Virginia did not lose sight of their goals; they stood together as a team and held their ground. They exhibited the stamina and perseverance needed to emerge triumphant.

The support and participation of all of our members is paramount to achieving our goals. Perhaps a reminder of all that has been gained through organized labor will serve as incentive:

- ◆ The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
- ◆ All breaks, including lunch
- ◆ Unemployment Insurance
- ◆ Pensions
- ◆ Child Labor Laws
- ◆ Sexual harassment laws
- ◆ Holiday pay
- ◆ Paid vacations
- ◆ Eight-hour work days
- ◆ Forty-hour work weeks
- ◆ Privacy rights
- ◆ Public education for children
- ◆ Protections against discrimination
- ◆ Fair wages
- ◆ Weekends

These and many other things we take for granted did not fall



from the heavens. They are the result of the hard work by decades of union activism. So next time someone asks you the question, "What has the union done for you?" You can answer, "The same things it has done for you." ◆

Did You Know?

You can only be suspended or re-assigned if your continued presence at work represents a danger to persons or property or would severely interrupt operations. In such case, a written Notice of Discipline (NOD) must be served to you no later than five days after suspension or re-assignment; or

You can be suspended or re-assigned if you have been charged with the commission of a crime. The NOD must be served to you within contractual timelines (Article 19.7 (a)(2)).

President's Message

Last semester UUPF had 1,133 members. And every one of us, all 1,133 of us, should be sincerely grateful to those 80 or so of our members who left their offices on March 1 and walked to the Campus Center for the Contract Rally last week. They came to the rally to support a contract for everyone—those of us who were there and those of us who were not; those of us who are full-time and those of us who are part-time. Because that's the way union members do things—we work together for success. Our goal can never be only “*what's good for me.*”

Union members know that what's *good for me* won't happen unless *what's good for everyone* happens. We can look at education in Wisconsin and the millions of dollars spent for propaganda by billionaires from outside the state. Outsiders understood that it was necessary for unions to be broken. How else could the UW be denied millions in state support? How else could the UW lose state resident enrollment when out-of-

State enrollment increased? How else could tenure be lost?

The strongest advocate for public universities is not the universities themselves. It's their unions.

Conversely, we can look to West Virginia, where unionized teachers worked together, bravely standing up for their students and for decent compensation. And they won what they wanted, needed, and deserved.

So-called union leaders could never have done that alone; only *all the members* could. And they did.

The power of a union is not at the top of some fictional hierarchy, because a union is no hierarchy. It's one force, that, when it holds together, can enhance, enrich, and expand the middle class.

This is especially true of the members of an *education* union like UUP. Along with our coworkers in management and classified staff, we in UUP are the ones who make parents' dreams come true for their children.



We must stand together.

In Solidarity,
Vicki Janik

Mark Your Calendar — Upcoming UUPF Events:

Celebration of Women's Scholarship

11:00 am Thursday, March 29th ♦ The University Club

Pre-Retirement Meeting

3:00 pm Tuesday, April 17th ♦ The University Club

Spring Fling

4:00–6:00 pm Tuesday, April 24th ♦ Changing Times Pub

Academic Members Workshop: Compensation & Workload

11:00 am Thursday, April 26th ♦ The University Club

Did You Know?

UUP does not negotiate your salary. The *Agreement* does list (very low!) salary minima for full-time members.

Local management determines full-time and part-time salaries. Historically, UUP negotiates percentage on base salary increases; infrequent across the board salary increases; blocks of revenue distributed at the discretion of *local management*; and, extremely infrequently, revenue for salary adjustments to members of protected classes.





Our Honored Union History

By Daniel Scott Marrone

Triangle Factory Fire, ILGWU and Fiorello LaGuardia

Founded in 1900, the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union was the first large-scale coalition to represent women in the nation's workforce. Overcoming government red-tape restrictions and ruthless management intimidation, the ILGWU persevered in protecting the needle trade workers, whose ranks included many recent immigrants from Eastern Europe and Italy.

In 1909, the ILGWU called for a walkout due to abominable working conditions within New York City's overcrowded, stifling "sweatshops." Cutthroat clothing manufacturers such as Triangle Shirtwaist Co. were among firms picketed by ILGWU members. This widespread strike was called the "Uprising of 20,000." After a month of tense negotiations, the ILGWU settled with factory

owners, who viewed the ILGWU with bitter acrimony. From this point forward, factory managers would continually harass the needle trade workers and their union. At the Triangle Shirtwaist factories, emergency escape doors were padlocked to thwart ILGWU activities during arduous six-day workweeks.

On March 25, 1911, fire broke out at the Triangle Shirtwaist 29 Washington Place factory. Thread spools and rag scraps quickly became engulfed in flames. Fire extinguishers were missing. Padlocked doors prevented escape. Those that did emerge from the factory plummeted from eight-story, inadequately secure fire escape stairways. One hundred, forty-six young women died in the blaze or fell to their death.

In the aftermath of the tragedy, the ILGWU called for a citywide strike. Corrupt police bribed by factory owners beat women marching in picket lines. Many women on strike were arrested based on bogus prostitution charges. A twenty-eight year old fledgling attorney/politician named Fiorello H. La Guardia volunteered his services to ILGWU. "The Little Flower"



Jubilant ILGWU workers after signing a well-deserved beneficial labor contract in the late 1930s. They surround long-time ally, NYC Mayor Fiorello H. La Guardia.

skillfully represented the union in court and effectuated the release of jailed ILGWU members.

Barely five-foot, two inches tall, La Guardia was nonetheless a towering figure in support of the labor movement across the nation. As a U.S. Congressman, he championed the Norris-La Guardia Act, which forbid management from using "Yellow Dog Contracts" to thwart union membership. He remained devoted to ILGWU throughout his dozen years as New York City Mayor. The ILGWU proved eminently successful. By the 1930s, the ILGWU represented roughly 90 percent of all needle trade workers in the nation. ♦



Victims of the March 25, 1911, Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Medical Pioneers: Drs. Elizabeth Blackwell and Emily Dunning Barringer

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by Baptist Preacher William Miller. At age 20, she became a teacher in rural Asheville, North Carolina. Her next teaching job was in Charleston, South Carolina. In 1846, she decided to become a physician and began an intense reading of medical and anatomy books. That year, she moved back to New-York City hoping to be admitted to a medical school either in that municipality or in Philadelphia. Though she matched her male counterparts regarding qualifications to enter medical school, she was **ineligible** for acceptance due to her gender.

After many medical school rejections, Elizabeth was finally accepted in 1847 to the Geneva Academy Medical School (later incorporated into Hobart and William Smith Colleges, Geneva, NY). There was a stipulation, however, that any of the 150 male students already enrolled at the institution could object and thereby negate her acceptance. Considering the prevailing view at the time

against women entering into the medicine profession, it is remarkable that none of the male students objected to her being admitted. In 1849, Elizabeth Blackwell became the first female in U.S. history to graduate from medical school. She practiced medicine at clinics and hospitals throughout the nation. Late in her career, she returned to her birthplace, England, where she became the first female to be “listed”, i.e., licensed, on the United Kingdom’s General Medical Council. Throughout her distinguished career, she lectured on medicine-related issues while strenuously fostering the right of women to enter into the medical profession. She wrote innumerable magazine and newspaper articles and scores of books, the most prominent of which is *The Influence of Women in the Profession of Medicine* (1890).

Other women followed Dr. Blackwell’s pioneering path in medicine including Emily Dunning (1876-1961), who graduated second in her class at Cornell University’s Medical School in 1901. Due to her gender, however, she was denied entry to hospital residency programs within New York State. Up to 1902, women were not permitted to be licensed physicians in New York. Thankfully that year, Brooklyn-born Seth Low won the NYC Mayoralty on the “Reform/Fusion/Republican Party” ticket. Once in office, Mayor Low rescinded the policy denying females entry into the city’s



Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer

hospital residency programs. The rest of the state soon followed this reform measure. Dr. Dunning overcame the misguided belief that the task of an ambulance surgeon was too strenuous and risky as well as unbecoming for a female. She excelled at New York University Gouveneur Hospital’s ambulance surgeon residency program and was granted the “State of New York License to Practice Medicine” in 1904. Shortly thereafter, she married Dr. Benjamin S. Barringer—hence her full name.

She achieved much recognition during World War I utilizing her experience as an ambulance surgeon by demonstrating how U.S. Army motorized ambulances could be used to rapidly transport back from the battlefield wounded “American Doughboys”. In this way, the

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Ambulance Surgeon Dr. Emily Dunning Barringer



FARMINGDALE CHAPTER

Medical Pioneers: Drs. Elizabeth Blackwell and Emily Dunning Barringer

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 - Tino Posillico
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 - Solomon Ayo
 - Darlyne Mayers
 - Barbara Maertz
 - Yolanda Segarra
 - Kristen Malsheimer

soldiers could be more effectively treated—with many lives saved—at mobile surgical hospitals. (In 1945, these mobile army hospitals became known as M.A.S.H. units.) Following WWI, Dr. Barringer turned to medical research where she attained breakthroughs in the care and treatment of venereal diseases and the effects of these disorders on women’s health. Due to social stigma, treatment of venereal disease was insufficiently studied. As a result, medical practices in this area were outdated and ineffective. Dr. Barringer experimented with alternative venereal disease treatment therapies that led to significant improvements in the alleviation of death and suffering connected with this affliction. She became the nation’s, if not the world’s, leading expert in gynecological medicine and treatment relating to venereal disease.

At the outbreak of World War II, Dr. Barringer strove to recognize the contribution of women in battlefield medicine. She successfully lobbied the U.S. Congress with the Sparkman Act (1943) that authorized the awarding of military officer commissions for women in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. As a result, female

doctors and licensed nurses were then granted officer ranks in the U.S. Army as well as in the U.S. Navy and U.S. Public Health Service. In 1950, Dr. Barringer authored *Bowery to Bellevue: The Story of New York’s First Woman Ambulance Surgeon*. Her book was turned two years later into a MGM film entitled, “The Girl in White,” starring June Allyson as the young Ambulance Surgeon.

In her later career, she moved to and practiced medicine in Connecticut. During her long, fruitful life, she attained a worldwide reputation in the advancement of numerous vital medical and government policy practices. Dr. Barringer passed away in 1961. In 2000, she was posthumously inducted into the prestigious Connecticut Women’s Hall of Fame.

Drs. Elizabeth Blackwell and Emily Dunning Barringer were pioneers in the medical field. A century ago, females represented a minuscule percentage of medical school students. Since then, female student representation has steadily increased. As of 2017, females represent a **majority** (50.7 percent) of students in medical schools (*Association of American Medical Colleges Annual Report for 2017*). ♦

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The UUPF Newsletter welcomes articles and letters submitted by members of the Farmingdale community. Remember, this is your newsletter. Share your thoughts with us. We want to hear from you. Persons who have material they wish to submit should contact Yolanda Segarra at youupf@gmail.com. *The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of UUPF.*