

Office for the Aging to honor three seniors

By Kitty Hall-Thurnheer

khallthurn@gannett.com

ITHACA — Three outstanding senior citizens will be recognized at the Office for the Aging's annual luncheon at noon today at the Clarion Hotel.

Sue Ford, of Berkshire, will receive the Outstanding Senior Citizen of the Year award. Ford volunteers as travel coordinator of senior groups in Caroline, Lansing and Groton. She researches events and arranges for transportation, tickets and meals. Ford also served as president of the Lansing Senior Group in 2008 and 2009.

Ilma Levine and Deborah Levin will receive the Outstanding Contribution by a Senior award for volunteering well over 200,000 hours in just under 50 years.

Levine and Levin have a friendship that began in the 1960s while volunteering with



From left, Caitlin Howell, Elizabeth Atkins and Newfield Middle School Principal Cathy Griggs attend an awards ceremony in April at Barnes & Noble. Howell wrote an essay that won Atkins the Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest. PHOTO PROVIDED

children. Sharing a mutual interest in hands-on science, they volunteered in an elementary school for 15 years, working out of their station wagons. Finally, they moved to

a room that hosted science activities and a library of mice, hamsters and other animals.

In 1983, with community support, they founded the Sciencenter. They coordinated

thousands of volunteers to build exhibits, construct the museum building and offer field trips, always emphasizing service to low-income and minority children.

Barnes & Noble awards

Elizabeth Atkins, of Newfield Middle School, was the winner of the Barnes & Noble My Favorite Teacher Contest.

Atkins and the winning essay writer, **Caitlin Howell**, 12, of Newfield, were recognized at an awards ceremony in April where Newfield Principal Cathy Griggs spoke. Howell wrote in her essay that Atkins "changes the way of learning, incorporates fun into her lesson plans, and is an inspiration to students."

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