



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
APRIL 2012**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**“JULIA ROBBINS BARRETT”
SPEAKER: MARY E. KEENAN
BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
7:00 PM, APRIL 4, 2012**

In Haste Julia, by Mary E. Keenan, tells the story of Julia Robbins Barrett (1819-1900). The book is based on primary materials – letters, diaries, ephemera – in the Lexington Historical Society and the William Munroe Special Collections at the Concord Library. As an abolitionist, Julia followed in her father’s footsteps, working to end slavery. After studying at the Boston School of Design, Julia was employed for five years as a carpet designer by the Lowell Company. In 1860 she married a Concord farmer; working together they freed the Barrett farm of the mortgage and even expanded the acreage. Her interest in women’s rights led to her active participation in the campaign for municipal suffrage for women in the 1880s. This independent-minded woman counted Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and other intellectual leaders of the era as friends.

In telling the story of Julia Robbins Barrett, Mary Keenan offers an engaging, highly personal glimpse into the social history of both Lexington and Concord, set against the larger background of contemporary thought and activism over the nineteenth century. Unwilling to restrict her scope of action to the fulfillment of family and town obligations, the vibrant, independent Julia asserted herself through involvement with antislavery and women’s rights. Keenan fleshes out the existing documentation of Julia’s life through the sensitive interpolation of detail and commentary, suggesting motivation and emotion and bringing her subject to life. In Haste, Julia will appeal both to readers whose interest is primarily local and to those looking for the local expression of broader currents.

—Leslie Perrin Wilson, Curator, William Munroe Special Collections, Concord Free Public Library; author, *Historic Concord and the Lexington Fight* (guidebook; 2010)

Julia Robbins led a life informed by her social conscience, a value system instilled as part of her upbringing. Mary Keenan’s thoroughly researched In Haste, Julia restores Julia, and the Robbins family in general, to their rightful place in Lexington’s history.

—Richard Kollen, Historian, Lexington Historical Society, and author of several books on the history of Lexington

Mary E. Keenan, a retired member of the faculty of



Mary Keenan

Lexington High School, has long been passionate about history. As a teacher at the middle schools and high school, she had students explore the many facets of history. Keenan was awarded the Lexington Secondary School Teacher of the Year, the Massachusetts Council for the Social Studies Secondary School Award for Excellence, and the Lexington and Massachusetts DAR Teacher of the Year.

This should be an excellent look into some little-known local women’s history.

Inside this issue:

April Program	1
Co-Presidents’ Message	2
AAUW-MA Annual Mtg/Conf	2
Title IX Settlement	3
EF Update: Thank you	3
Dues Notice	4
Focus on Women in Science	4
May Newsletter Deadline	6
Book Group	6
Membership Campaign	6
April Board Meeting	6

CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

This year the AAUW-MA focus on Human Trafficking started with the State Conference at Endicott College in Beverly. The February meeting, with a viewing of the PBS film, *The Day My God Died*, had break-out groups to create questions to be given to the panelists for March. The two March speakers were from the local perspective --Suzanne Sullivan, the Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts, and then global focus --Anaïde L. Nahikian, the Harvard Project Coordinator of the Project on the Humanitarian Response to Human Trafficking. They spoke to a packed audience of AAUW members and guests and a lively discussion followed. The reaction was very positive and it will create thought-provoking questions as how we, as an AAUW branch, can be more aware and, more importantly, act on our convictions to make a difference. Three examples of possible actions are the following : 1. Support of a Safe House - one example is AmirahBoston (amirahboston.org); 2. the Polaris Project (polarisproject.org/), and 3. Attend the May 5 symposium on Consumerism and the Many Faces of Human Trafficking sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph (csjboston.org). The main idea is that we must be more aware. State President, Liz Fragola, spoke to energize us in our present and future commitment to help stop this affront and continue in our support of ongoing programs.

Joan Zinderman and Alice Wadden

AAUW-MA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

You're invited to attend an intensive voter education, registration, and turnout campaign training seminar hosted by AAUW of Massachusetts as part of the annual conference. Massachusetts's training will be April 21, 2012, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., at the Boston Public Library in Boston, Massachusetts.

At the training, which is **free of charge (thanks to a grant)**, you'll learn about building a voter turnout plan, targeting potential voters, the AAUW Action Fund campaign's special focus on women of the Millennial generation (aged 18-30), and using social media and traditional media for public relations. We'll talk about building relationships with key voting groups and connect you with your state's coalition.

Please attend if you can, go to www.AAUWAction.org to learn more about how you can get involved in the AAUW Action Fund "It's My Vote: I Will Be Heard" voter turnout campaign!

AGENDA

- 8:30-9:00 Member registration and Continental breakfast
- 9:00-10:30 Annual Meeting for all members (see Agenda page 6)
- 10:00-10:30 Break and General registration
- 10:45-1:15 **Voter Training Session I:** Campaign Overview, Training Overview, Millennial Women, Voter turnout Techniques, Planning, Break, Recruiting Volunteers, Building Coalitions, Targeting, Building Relationships
- 1:15-2:00 Lunch & Keynote speaker – Representative Shaunna O'Connell
- 2:15-4:45 **Voter Training Session II:** Registering Voters, Voter Guides, Break, Issue and Candidate Forums, Social Media Marketing/Public Relations, What Comes Next
- 4:45-5:00 Wrap-up and Raffle

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED! GO TO <http://aauwmavoterturnout.eventbrite.com/> TO SIGN UP.

PARTIES ANNOUNCE SETTLEMENT OF UC DAVIS TITLE IX ATHLETICS DISCRIMINATION SUIT BROUGHT BY FORMER STUDENTS

WASHINGTON—The University of California and former UC Davis female student wrestlers Arezou Mansourian, Christine Ng, and Lauren Mancuso announced today that they have reached an agreement to settle the issues remaining after the findings made by a federal judge last August in the liability phase of trial in the case. The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Legal Advocacy Fund supported the plaintiffs in this case and commends the \$1.35 million settlement in their favor.

The U.S. District Court for Eastern California found that the university violated Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 by not sufficiently expanding intercollegiate athletic opportunities for female students at UC Davis between 1998 and 2005, the years that the plaintiffs were in attendance. The court dismissed the plaintiffs' claim against four university employees (all now retired), holding that the employees did not violate the Equal Protection Clause or were entitled to qualified immunity in their handling of the plaintiffs' requests relating to women's wrestling.

The damages phase of the trial on the Title IX claim was scheduled to start on March 5, 2012. The parties chose instead to resolve all remaining issues, including any possible appeals, with payment by the university of \$1.35 million to the plaintiffs' counsel for attorneys' fees and costs incurred during the lengthy case.

"AAUW has supported this case for seven years, and our California members reached out and filled the courtroom during the case's three-week trial last spring," said AAUW Executive Director Linda D. Hallman, CAE. "While we were proud to stand up with these plaintiffs for what's right and fair, we look forward to the day when it doesn't take a lawsuit to enforce Title IX."

"I am pleased with the outcome of the case. At the same time, however, it serves as a reminder that no matter how much progress we have made in the struggle for equality, there is still much more that needs to be done," said Lauren Mancuso, a plaintiff in *Mansourian v. Regents of the University of California*. "I cannot express enough gratitude toward the members of the AAUW for their continuing support in this case over the years and for the inspirational stories of their own personal experiences fighting for the passage of Title IX in 1972."

EF UPDATE: THANK YOU

Dear MA 1002-Bedford-Lexington Area Branch Members,

On behalf of AAUW, thank you very much for your very generous contribution of \$215 on 12/31/11. Your gift has been designated to the 4336-Educational Opportunities Fund...

Gifts from our members and friends provide the resources necessary to break through barriers in five important ways so that together we can:

- Protect the rights of women facing discrimination,
- Educate women, giving them a chance for a lifetime of success,
- Advocate for laws and policies that are fair to women,
- Research to provide understanding of issues that are important to women and girls,
- Lead and develop other women's potential to lead in their schools, communities, and country.

...

Sincerely,

Linda D. Hallman, CAE, Executive Director, AAUW

Bedford Lexington Area Branch AAUW
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL AND NEW MEMBERS, JULY 1, 2012 TO JUNE 30, 2013

Name _____ Address _____

Home telephone _____

Cell/Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Occupation _____ Volunteer work _____

Education
 Undergraduate _____ Graduate _____

Only if changed

Annual Dues

Branch Member	\$79.00	Honorary Life Member	\$0.00
Includes National Association	\$49.00	Member at Large to Branch Member	\$30.00
State	\$15.00	Student Affiliate (Active undergraduate)	\$32.00
Branch	\$15.00	Community Member (No degree but supports goals of AAUW)	\$15.00
Life Member	\$30.00		

\$46 of the \$49 National Association Dues is Tax Deductible!!

Make checks payable to: Bedford Lexington Area AAUW - due June 1, 2012!

Mail to: Robin DeMott, 71 Robbins Street, Acton, MA 01720

Renewals only may pay dues for 2012-13 after 3/15/12 on-line with a credit card at www.aauw.org. Log into the Member Services Database and an option will display on the left to pay your dues.

Please check areas of interest and activity even if you can't be actively involved this year.

AAUW Activities

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> Educational Foundation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Publicity | <input type="checkbox"/> Legal Advocacy Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Programs and Special Events | <input type="checkbox"/> Women's Rights Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Post Flyers and Deliver Brochures | <input type="checkbox"/> Political Action |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Development and Support | <input type="checkbox"/> Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coordinate Rides to Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Refreshments | <input type="checkbox"/> Parenting Issues |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at Meetings | <input type="checkbox"/> Diversity Activities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Liaison to Other Community Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Girls Inc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Library and Town Day Displays | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Telephoning | |

Skills you could share with AAUW

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphic Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website Design and Maintenance | <input type="checkbox"/> Editing and Writing Articles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Program Presentation | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Skills | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

Would you like to attend the following groups?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cinema | <input type="checkbox"/> Support Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bridge | <input type="checkbox"/> Travel Group |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Group (Daytime) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Book Group (Evening) | |

Other interest groups, in which you would like to participate or help organize, such as: current events, eating out, theater, etc.

FOCUS ON WOMEN IN SCIENCE: ADMIRAL GRACE MURRAY HOPPER

The achievements of Admiral Grace Murray Hopper which, most notably, include the invention of the compiler, cemented her place at the forefront of the computing revolution that began in the early 1940s. Trained as a mathematician, her career spanned six decades during which she remained simultaneously connected across several disciplines and industries, including academia, industry and the U.S. military.

Hopper made a life-altering decision in 1943 when she decided to join the World War II effort and enlist with Navy WAVES, for Women Accepted for Voluntary Emergency Service, in December of that year. Her family had strong military ties, thus this was not a totally unexpected move for Hopper; however, it presented her with extraordinary opportunities to contribute to the early development of computing machines. In July 1944, having been commissioned a lieutenant, she became part of the team working on the Bureau of Ordnance Computation Project at Harvard University, along with professor and Naval Reserve officer Howard H. Aiken. Aiken was the principal engineer behind IBM's Harvard Mark I computer, considered the first large-scale automatic digital computer in the United States.

For the Navy, Hopper worked on high-level computing research and development, including formula translation, code optimization and subroutines. She also educated thousands of people on the use of compilers and computer language standardization via speaking engagements throughout the world. In 1983 she was promoted to commodore at a ceremony that took place at the White House in Washington, D.C. She became Admiral Hopper in 1985 when this post was merged with rear admiral. She retired from the Navy in 1986.



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Hopper then became a senior consultant to Digital Equipment Corporation, where she worked well into her 80s. She was awarded a National Medal of Technology in 1991 and was honored with more than 40 honorary doctoral degrees, as well as the first ever Computer Science Man-of-the-Year Award from the Data Processing Management Association in 1969. A U.S. warship was also named in her honor! In 1973, she became the first person from the United States, and the first woman from any nation, to become a Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society.

Hopper died on January 1, 1992, and was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.

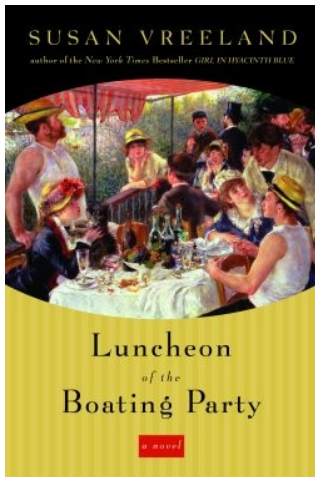
<http://web.mit.edu/invent/iow/hopper.html>

Bedford-Lexington Area Branch
Ruth Ladd, Editor
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Lexington, MA 02420-1206

AAUW's Value Promise

By joining AAUW, you belong to a community that breaks through educational and economic barriers so that all women have a fair chance.

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: April 17, 2012



BOOK GROUP

The book group will be meeting on Wednesday, April 18th at 1:00 pm. Joan Zinderman will be hosting the meeting at the Concord Library in the Trustee's Room. We are reading "Luncheon of the Boating Party", by Susan Vreeland. Dorothy Smith will do the background.

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, April 17

6:30 pm

At the home of
Joan Zinderman

MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

Terry VanDeCarr and Karen Bragaw, Membership Co-Chairs

Throughout the month of February, over 100 Members At Large (MALs) in 19 surrounding communities were contacted by members of our Bedford-Lexington branch, inviting them to join our monthly programs and attend a future get-together to learn about our branch and meet our members.

The membership team wishes to thank each of you who so willingly assumed responsibility for communicating with our MALs. We appreciate the time, patience, and commitment it took to complete this task. The following branch members were involved in the MAL campaign: Dot Hart, Robin DeMott, Joan Zinderman, Janet Khattab, Lois Pulliam, Liz Blumenthal, Joann McLaughlin, Sema Faigen, Connie Rosenberger, Sue Giurleo, Irene Shea, Marilyn Flaherty, Karen Bragaw, and Terry VanDeCarr.

Hopefully, by contacting our MALs we have revived interest in the mission of AAUW, provided knowledge about our branch, and promoted interest in attending our programs; ultimately, we hope this campaign will result in increasing our membership. We wish to welcome Joan Reddy of Lexington, a Member At Large, who attended our March program and decided to become a member of our branch.

Presently, we are working on a get-together for our MALs and others who have expressed interest in our branch activities. If you would like to assist us in this effort, please contact Terry or Karen.