



**BEDFORD-LEXINGTON AREA BRANCH
FEBRUARY 2011**

Breaking Through Barriers for Women and Girls

**FEBRUARY PROGRAM
"PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL"
MOVIE AND DISCUSSION
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 AT 11:30 AM
BEDFORD LIBRARY**

PRAY THE DEVIL BACK TO HELL is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades old civil war. It presents an account of the role in unseating Charles Taylor, former President of Liberia. A civil war had been raging for years between the dictatorship of the Liberian president and the rebels who called themselves the LURD. The LURD wanted to overthrow the government. The film's heroine is inspired by a dream to bring Christian and Muslim women together to start a peace movement. With this extraordinary mission, the women, dressed in plain white clothes and with covered heads as a way to shed any differences of class or religion among them, stage a daily sit-in at the fish market that the Liberian president drove past every morning. He refuses to acknowledge them for weeks. The women finally get to present their mission statement to the president, as well as demand peace talks between the government and the rebels. When the peace talks finally come to fruition, a delegate group goes to Ghana to ensure that a resolution is made.

Combining contemporary interviews, archival images, and scenes of present-day Liberia, the film recounts the experiences and memories of the women who stood up to their country's tyrannical leader and brutal warlords in order to bring peace to their tormented country.

Directed by Abigail Disney and Gini Reticker, the film summarizes a long and bitter struggle

and, in particular, shows the bravery and brilliance of ordinary women who formed a peace initiative that restored calm to their country. Given the harrowing plight Liberians still face today, it's clear this documentary has the potential to convince viewers why Liberia was a deserving of sympathy and aid as other better-known African nations in crisis.

A discussion will follow the showing of the film which runs 72 minutes so this will be a longer than usual program.

Remember that this a DAYTIME meetings. If the Bedford Schools are cancelled, the meeting is cancelled because the library will be closed.

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CO-PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

Sue Giurleo and Dot Hart Rand

The January branch meeting provided us with time to discuss and debate Dr. Janet Freedman's presentation, "Do We Still Need Women's Studies?" More than 800 colleges do have Women's Studies, some even offering a PhD.

Dr. Freedman started off by reminding us of all the gains women have acquired since the 1980s which are now in jeopardy: choice in the determination of one's reproductive life, the opportunity for advancement in the workforce, paid maternity leave, and strict enforcement of title IX. Career choices are still limited by gender (will the ERA ever get passed?) and the lack of pay equity is still a problem.

Dr. Freedman had lived through some of these experiences. She started out as a librarian, one of the low status jobs along with nursing, social services and teaching. When she was divorced she knew she had to find a better job.

Now she is a Visiting Scholar at the Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center, which explains her topic. Dr. Freedman believes sexism has not gone away. Some young

women think feminism leads to being a victim, not a winner.

She saw a great need for AAUW members to individually or collectively help out with urging younger women to take up our causes. We need to let them know of the threats we see. Our discussion was far-reaching, lasting until we needed to close. Many members and guests continued to ask more questions in small groups. As I listened to Janet Freedman, the thought occurred to me that many of us would like to update our understanding by reading some of the titles mentioned in her talk. She was happy to email the titles of the books, which are listed on page 4.

Questions: what do you think we should be doing for the younger generations that don't realize how much hard work went into the opportunities they have? Can we leave the subject to Women Studies Programs in colleges?

—Dot

P.S. Please consider going to AAUW's National Convention in Washington, DC on June 16-19. The branch can help with registration costs.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING PROGRAM

What: Please join the AAUW-MA's Boston Branch for dinner and discussion concerning issues regarding Human Trafficking

When: Tuesday, February 1, 2011
Time: 6:15 p.m.

Where: Legal Seafoods, Copley Place, Boston ("T" Accessible) Attendees are responsible for their own food and drink.

Space is limited! Please RSVP to Helen Schwickrath, (617) 625-3066
or Schwicky@hotmail.com

What is human trafficking in 2011? Who is affected? What can we do to help people move from modern bondage to freedom? We will have Barbara Anderson, founder of "All Hands In", (<http://www.allhandsin.net/>) speak with us about her organization and how we can be involved.

SAVE THE DATE!

We will celebrate our branch's 50th Anniversary on Wednesday, May 4 at 6 pm at....(drum roll, please)...the Colonial Inn in Concord Center. Details will be coming in subsequent newsletters but put it on your calendar and invite former members, friends, co-workers to join in the fun.

DECEMBER DINNER PHOTOS (THANKS, CATHERINE BOYD!)



Our EF speaker: Ronit Ridberg





NOTE FROM OUR JANUARY SPEAKER

What a pleasure it was to be with you and your sister members of the Lexington/Bedford AAUW. What an engaged, intelligent -- and welcoming -- group of women. Thanks for the opportunity to spend time with you.

Here, as promised, a list of books mentioned in the talk, along with a few others on feminism and the women's movement. Ask a librarian and you may receive more than you were seeking!

With many good wishes,
Janet Freedman, Brandeis University Women's Studies Research Center, phone 508-997-5481

Recommended Reading on Feminism/Women's Movement (very partial!)

- Boxer, Marilyn. *When Women Ask the Questions: Creating Women's Studies in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Cohen, Marcia. *The Sisterhood: The Inside Story of the Women's Movement and the Leaders Who Made It Happen*. New York: Ballentine, 1988.
- Davis, Flora. *Moving the Mountain: The Women's Movement in America Since 1960*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1991.
- Dicker, Rory. *A History of U.S. Feminisms*. Berkeley, CA: Seal Press, 2008.
- Echols, Alice. *Daring to be Bad: Radical Feminism in America, 1967-1975*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1989.
- Evans, Judith. *Feminist Theory Today: An Introduction to Second-Wave Feminism*. London: Sage, 1995.
- Evans, Sara. *Personal Politics: The Roots of Women's Liberation in the Civil Rights Movement and the New Left*. New York: Knopf, 1979.
- Feminist Memoir Project: *Voices from Women's Liberation*, Edited by Rachel B. Duplessis and Ann Snitow. New Brunswick, N.J: Rutgers University Press, 2007.
- Giardina, Carol. *Freedom for Women: Forging the Women's Liberation Movement, 1953-1970*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2010.
- Hooks, Bell. *Feminism is for Everybody: Passionate Politics*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2000.
- Jackson, Sandra and Ann Russo. *Talking Back and Acting Out: Women Negotiating the Media Across Cultures*. New York: Peter Lang, 2002.
- Maher, Frances and Mary Kay Thompson Tetrault. *The Feminist Classroom*. New York: Basic Books, 1994.
- Radical Feminism: *A Documentary Reader*, Edited by Barbara Crow. New York: New York University Press, 2000.
- Rosen, Ruth. *The World Split Open: How the Women's Movement Changed America*. New York: Viking, 2000.
- The Second Wave: A Reader in Feminist Theory*, Edited by Linda Nicholson. New York: Routledge, 1997.
- Third Wave Agenda: Being Feminist, Doing Feminism*, Edited by Leslie Heywood and Jennifer Drake. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1997.

TITLES MENTIONED IN TALK ON JANUARY 5, 2011

- Belenky, Mary, and Blythe Clinchy, Nancy Goldberger, Jill Tarule. *Women's Ways of Knowing: The Development of Self, Voice and Mind*. 10th Anniversary Edition. New York: Basic Books, 1997.
- Boxer, Marilyn. *When Women Ask the Questions: Creating Women's Studies in America*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2001.
- Gilligan, Carol. *In a Different Voice: Psychological Theory and Women's Development*. 6th Edition. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1993.
- Hooks, Bell. *Feminism is for Everybody. Passionate Politics*. Cambridge, MA: South End Press, 2000.
- Orenstein, Peggy. *Cinderella Ate my Daughter: Dispatches from the Front Lines of the New Girlie-Girl Culture*. New York: Harper Collins, 2011.
- _____. *Schoolgirls: Young Women, Self-Esteem and the Confidence Gap*. New York: Random House, 1995.
- Pipher, Mary. *Reviving Ophelia*. New York: Penguin, 1994. *Shortchanging Girls; Shortchanging Society*. Washington, D.C: American Association of University Women, 1994.

FEBRUARY IN WOMEN'S HISTORY

The following is from the National Women's History Project.

February Highlights in US Women's History

- **Feb 1, 1978** - First postage stamp to honor a black woman, Harriet Tubman, is issued in Washington, DC
- **Feb 4, 1987** - First National Women in Sports Day is celebrated by Presidential Proclamation
- **Feb. 12 1869** - the Utah Territory passes a law allowing women to vote
- **Feb 15, 1921** - The Suffrage Monument, depicting Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and Lucretia Mott, and carved by Adelaide Johnson, is dedicated at the U.S. Capitol
- **Feb 15, 1953** - Tenley Albright is the first American woman to win the World Figure Skating championship
- **Feb 17, 1870** - Esther Hobart Morris became the first American woman Justice of the Peace
- **Feb 24, 1912** - Henrietta Szold founds Hadassah, the largest Jewish organization in American history, focusing on healthcare and education in the Israel and the US
- **Feb 24, 1967** - Jocelyn Bell Burnell makes the first discovery of a pulsar, a rapidly rotating neutron star
- **Feb 25 1986** - Corazon Aquino sworn in as the first woman President of the Philippines
- **Feb 27, 1922** - US Supreme Court upholds the 19th Amendment to the Constitution which guarantees women the right to vote

February Birthdays

- **Feb 1, 1878 (1950)** - Hattie Wyatt Caraway , first woman elected to the US Senate (1932, D-AR) and first woman to preside over the Senate in 1943
- **Feb 3, 1821 (1910)** - Dr. Elizabeth Blackwell, first woman awarded a medical degree in US (1849)
- **Feb 3, 1874 (1946)** - Gertrude Stein, poet, author, art critic; famous for: "A rose is a rose is a rose is a rose"
- **Feb 4, 1913 (2005)** - Rosa Parks, "Mother of Civil Rights Movement;" her arrest for refusing to give up her seat on a segregated bus in Montgomery, Alabama, leads to Dr. Martin Luther King's bus boycott and eventual Supreme Court decision to integrate buses
- **Feb 4, 1921 (2006)** - Betty Friedan, a uthor and activist; wrote "The Feminine Mystique" (1963); cofounder of National Organization for Women (NOW) (1966)
- **Feb 7, 1867 (1957)** - Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of beloved "Little House" books
- **Feb 9, 1944** - Alice Walker, writer, first African American woman to win Pulitzer Prize for fiction, for "The Color Purple" (1983)
- **Feb 10, 1927** - Leontyne Price, Grammy award winning opera singer
- **Feb 13, 1906 (1990)** - Pauline Frederick, journalist, first woman network radio correspondent (1939), first woman to moderate a presidential debate (1976)
- **Feb 15, 1820 (1906)** - Susan B. Anthony, leader of 19th century women's right movement; strategist; lecturer
- **Feb 16, 1870 (1927)** - Leonora O'Reilly, labor organizer; founding member of Woman's Trade Union League; helped found NAACP
- **Feb 18, 1931** - Toni Morrison , Pulitzer Prize winning novelist; first African-American to win Nobel Prize for Literature (1993)
- **Feb 21, 1855 (1902)** - Alice Freeman Palmer, educator; founded predecessor organization to American Assn. of University Women (AAUW) in 1881
- **Feb 22, 1876 (1938)** - Gertrude Bonnin (Zitkala-Sha), writer; Sioux Indian activist; founded National Council of American Indians (1926)
- **Feb 22, 1892 (1950)** - Edna St. Vincent Millay, first woman to receive Pulitzer Prize for Poetry (1923)
- **Feb 27, 1897 (1993)** - Marian Anderson, opera singer, first African-American member of the New York Metropolitan Opera (1955)

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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.

MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: February 18, 2010

BOOK GROUP

The Book Group is reading "Champlain's Dream" by David Hackett Fischer. Charlotte Ford will lead the discussion. We will meet on Wednesday, February 16th at 1:00pm at Dorothy Smith's in Lexington. For more information call Jeanne Stockdale 781-275-8345.

